Wisconsin has one of the most active collections of eBooks and digital audiobooks in the nation.

For most Wisconsin communities, the public library is the primary place for public access to hi-speed Internet.

Wisconsin Residents Use Libraries

- 44.8 million physical items checked out
- 1.5 million uses of public internet computers
- 15.5 million wireless internet uses
- 7.5 million BadgerLink successful retrievals
- 1.7 million attendees at public library events
- 7.9 million eBooks, e-audiobooks, and videos downloaded

2022 Data. Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Public Library Systems

- Serve 381 libraries
- Offer technology infrastructure and training
- Coordinate delivery of books statewide
- Provide online catalogs and digital resources
- Supplement local library budgets
- Provide continuing education opportunities
- Offer consulting and leadership

Wisconsin College & University Libraries

- Serve nearly 450,000 students and their local communities
- Support traditional, online, and University of Wisconsin Flexible Option
- Provide research support for more than $4.3 billion in federal grant research


School Media & Technology Centers

- Serve 823,804 students
- Support technology instruction and classroom teachers
- Primary funding source is Common School Fund

2022-2023 September enrollment. Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Did You Know?

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The Benefits of Wisconsin Public Libraries

Communities Need
• Reliable, affordable resources
• Access to information
• Learning opportunities
• Gathering spaces

Libraries Offer
• Cost-effective sources for books, digital resources, and technology access
• Free and reliable access to the Internet and published materials
• Resources, programs, and expertise to increase individual, business, and community knowledge
• Places for gathering to learn and connect

The Benefit of Wisconsin Public Libraries

Literacy
• Offering early literacy programs such as 1000 Books Before Kindergarten to help ensure children are ready for school
• Participating in partnerships with schools to help improve student literacy through summer reading programs, teaching research skills, and helping develop information and financial literacy
• Providing important resources for homeschool families

Workforce Development
• Partnering with the state’s Workforce Development Centers to extend resources and services to job seekers in communities throughout Wisconsin
• Offering online classes and other learning opportunities designed to increase skills of people seeking employment opportunities or other career advancements
• Providing meeting spaces to conduct interviews both in-person and via technology

Information Technology
• Providing technology training to residents who need assistance
• Offering reliable, hi-speed internet access and wi-fi hotspots to ensure residents have reliable broadband access
• Offering spaces for innovation centers and creative learning labs designed to maximize in-person learning opportunities using technology not readily accessible to individual residents

Knowledge, Creativity, & Learning
• Access to creative application of information and data
• Ability to efficiently acquire, analyze, manage, and apply information and data
• Access to cutting-edge research, consultation services, and learning spaces to experiment and innovate
• Support for business development in biotechnology, engineering, computer science, agriculture, biofuels, health care, and more

The Benefits of Wisconsin Specialized Libraries

WISCONSIN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
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