Wisconsin Libraries
By the Numbers

Wisconsin Residents Use Libraries

- **46.8 million** physical items checked out*
- **1.7 million** uses of public internet computers
- **15.7 million** wireless internet sessions
- **8 million** resources retrieved from BadgerLink databases
- **2.3 million** attendees at public library events
- **19.4 million** eBooks, e-audiobooks, videos, and other digital media downloaded*

These figures include data from Wisconsin public libraries, technical colleges, and the Universities of Wisconsin.

2023 Data. Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. National Center for Education Statistics. (2024). IPEDS : Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System : Academic Libraries Survey. [Washington, D.C.?] :[National Center for Education Statistics].

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

Did You Know?

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

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 more than 450,000 students and their local communities
- Support traditional, online, and University of Wisconsin Flexible Option
- Provide research support for more than $1.8 billion in research

2023 data Source: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Higher Education R&D Survey, 202

School Media & Technology Centers

- Serve 814,002 students
- Support technology instruction and classroom teachers
- Primary funding source is Common School Fund

2023-2024 September enrollment. Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Special Libraries

Serve a variety of information needs:
- Health care
- Government
- Research institutions
- Business
- Penal Institutions

The Benefits of
Wisconsin 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

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 online

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