



# Wisconsin Libraries

## By the Numbers

### Wisconsin Residents Use Libraries

- 37.7 million physical items checked out\*
- 1.77 million uses of public internet computers
- 14 million wireless internet uses
- 8 million BadgerLink successful retrievals
- 2.5 million attendees at public library events
- 12.1 million eBooks, e-audiobooks, and videos downloaded\*

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

2024 Data Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; IPEDS: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System; Academic Libraries Survey

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 467 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

### School Media & Technology Centers

- Serve 772,250 students
- Support technology instruction and classroom teachers
- Primary funding source is Common School Fund

2024-2025 September enrollment. Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

### Wisconsin College & University Libraries

- Serve nearly 458,000 students and their local communities
- Support traditional, online, and University of Wisconsin Flexible Option
- Provide research support for more than \$1.8 billion in federal grant research

Source: National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) [IPEDS Data Center](#) (2024); [NSF HERD survey](#) (2023)

### Special Libraries

- Serve a variety of industries:
  - Health care
  - Government
  - Research institutions
  - Business



# 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

## The Benefits of Wisconsin Specialized Libraries



### 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

