



Leadership. Advocacy. Communication.

Why Floridians Value Their Public Libraries

Floridians love their libraries – Over 57 percent of Floridians have library cards. That’s more than 12.3 million people. *2018-19 - Florida Department of State*

Floridians really enjoy reading - Florida libraries circulated over 99 million items – books, cds, dvds, etc., in 2018-19.

Books, music and movies - There are over 41 million items in Florida public libraries. Of these, over 10.4 million are e-books, 1.6 million are audio and 3.4 million are video.

Floridians vote for libraries with their feet – Florida residents visited public libraries about 62.6 million times in 2018-19 for an average of over 2.9 visits per person.

Libraries help children learn and prepare them for school – Libraries help young children learn to read and help parents and caregivers learn to support that learning. Florida libraries conducted over 116,240 programs for children in 2018-19 with over 3.3 million children attending – and children checked out over 31 million items!

Floridians come to libraries for technology and job search - There are over 17,290 public access computers available in Florida libraries. Floridians used these computers 13.2 million times in 2018-19 and over 2.9 million Floridians received technology instruction in libraries. Frequently use is for job seeking! Many libraries offer free wireless access!

Many Floridians use libraries from their home, school or office - Floridians visited library websites over 74.8 million times in 2018-19, using services like the Florida Electronic Library that offer electronic information and online help.

Librarians help you find what you’re looking for - Library staff answered over 18.4 million reference questions in 2018-19 and 427,000 of those questions were answered using online reference services.

For many, the library is their lifeline to essential government services – Library staff help the public transact their E-Government business using library computers for services including Unemployment Compensation, Medicare, Fla. Dept. of Children and Families, immigration, and the IRS. Library staff are important members of disaster management teams and following disasters, library computers help survivors locate family members and apply for insurance and assistance.

91% of Americans say public libraries are important to their communities – “Library Services in the Digital Age,” *Pew Internet & American Life Project, January 2013*

Florida libraries are efficient - Florida libraries served the public at an average cost of \$28.89 per person in 2018-19 compared with a national average of \$44.89 2019. *IMLS*

Good return on investment - Florida’s public libraries return at least \$10.18 for every \$1 invested. 2013 - *Florida Department of State*

Thank you for supporting Florida libraries!

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