

From the American Library Association Web Site.....

Library Usage

- 68% of adults in the U.S. have public library cards, the greatest number since the ALA began collecting data in 1990. Americans visit their libraries more than 1.3 billion times and check out more than 2.1 billion items annually.
- Americans go to school, public and academic libraries 50% more than they go to the movies!
- An American Library Association poll conducted in 2006 found that 92% of respondents expect libraries to be needed in the future, and nearly all Americans (96%) agree that libraries play an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed.

Quotable Facts

- There are about 16,600 libraries in the county, including branches.
- Library usage continues to rise. Public library visits exceeded 1.3 billion recently.
- The average person spends 2 ½ times more per year *on salty snacks* than they do on the cost of their library!

Library Funding

- Libraries are already doing “more with less.” In almost every state, library funding has been cut.
- Speak up now and save your library. Talk to people, write your representatives, communicate with decision makers. Show your support for your library in letters, e-mails and phone calls.
- Millions of people use their libraries each year, but without adequate support, these resources may not be there when you need them.

Libraries & the Economy

- Libraries are part of the solution when a community is struggling economically. From free access to books and online resources for families to library business centers, libraries support lifelong learning as well as business interests.
- More and more, businesses expect applications via online; libraries provide computers for many thousands of individuals who do not have computers at home.
- Investing in libraries is an investment in education, lifelong learning and quality of life in our communities!
- Libraries are among the most effective of all public services, serving more than 2/3 of the public with less than 2% of all tax dollars.
- Nationally, the average cost to the taxpayer for library resources is about \$31 a year.

Funding Fast Facts

- College libraries receive less than 2 cents of every dollar spent on higher education.
- School libraries spend an average of \$10 per child for books (less than ½ the cost of a hardcover school library book).
- We have already been cut to the bone! Libraries can't live on love alone.
- We need your support to protect budgets for libraries!