



# MAINE PUBLIC LIBRARIES SNAPSHOT

## A Day in the Life...

On a typical day in September 2009,  
Maine libraries

- Welcomed 37,582 people
- Loaned 35,849 books, movies and more
- Helped 9,257 people to access the Web
- Assisted 85 job seekers
- Offered 158 programs for all ages
- Taught 1,003 people computer skills



"The library has always been a part of my life. I remember way back before I could read, or even go to preschool, my mom would take me to the library. Then my sister, and finally I could go by myself.

I have now been going to my local library for at least sixteen of my nineteen years alive. It has been a fun, safe pleasant environment to grow up in. I feel at home and comfortable the moment I walk through the red double doors to the library.

So for you the library might be something different, but for me it is a second home."

Submitted by Josh, Sagadahoc County

**"A fun, safe  
pleasant  
environment  
to grow up  
in"**



## Maine's Public Libraries Snapshot Day, Sept. 2009



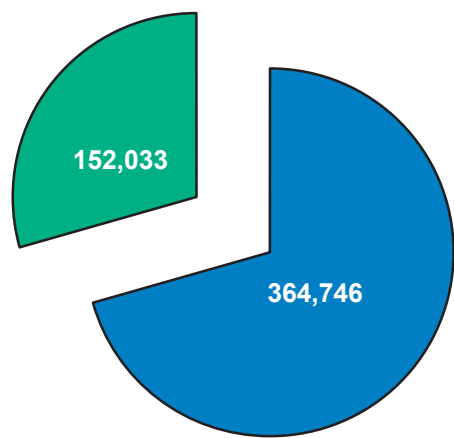
The information contained in this booklet reflects the activity of 259 libraries providing public library services across Maine. This data was collected via the 2008 Public Library Annual Report for fiscal years completed December 31, 2008 or from the information captured on Maine Libraries Snapshot Day, September 2009.

The national public library data included was obtained from Public Libraries Survey: Fiscal Year 2007 (IMLS-2009-PLS-02), Institute of Museum and Library Services, Washington, DC.

All quotes used throughout this booklet were gathered from Maine citizens at libraries on Snapshot Day in September 2009. Most photos were taken at Maine public libraries on Snapshot Day.



# Libraries Enhance Learning



■ Children's Attendance

■ Adult Attendance



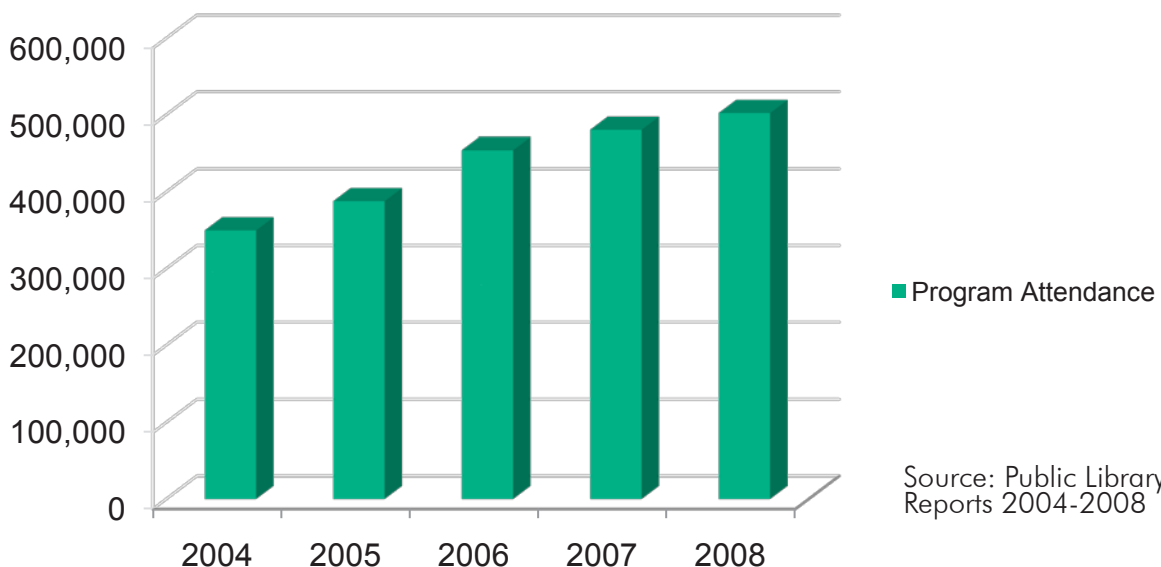




**“The library has given me knowledge, skills, and education to further my career.”**

## **Libraries are the people’s university**

### **Program Attendance**



Source: Public Library Annual Reports 2004-2008



# Maine Libraries Connect People to Jobs

"I have been using the Belgrade Library and its Internet service for approximately 8 months. I used the Internet service to apply online for employment positions. I am unemployed and am unable to afford Internet access at this time. Having the ability to use the library for this purpose has provided me with a temporary position with the possibility of permanent placement."

Submitted by Vicki, Professional,  
Kennebec County

**"The free  
computer  
access was  
instrumental  
in finding my  
new job!"**

## Did You Know?

- 75% of job seekers use the Internet.
- Nearly 4 million jobs are posted online.
- In 2008, the State of Maine processed nearly 2 million online transactions.\*
- Fewer than 44% of United States top 100 retailers use paper applications now.
- 78% of libraries in rural areas are their communities' ONLY source for free Internet access.

Sources:

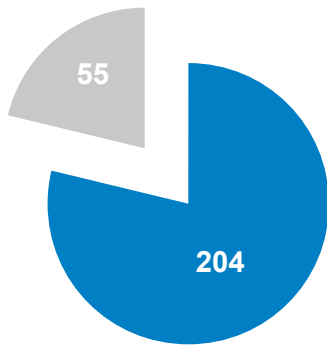
"Job Seeking in U.S. Public Libraries." *Issues Brief: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study*. American Library Association, February 2009. Print.

\*Andrews, Dan. "Ten Years of Maine.gov," *State of Maine Office of Information Technology Newsroom*. Office of Information Technology, 1 Dec. 2009. Web. 19 Dec. 2009.





## WiFi in Maine Public Libraries



- Libraries with WiFi
- Libraries without WiFi

Source: 2008 Public Library Annual Report



**"It is the ONLY computer access I have. The computer service is inestimable for those without established hook-up."**

**"The computer lab is a good place for me to refresh my resume, find information, and fill out job applications."**





## Heart of the Community

"Like so many of you, I am a voracious reader, and also like so many of you, I passionately support my local library.

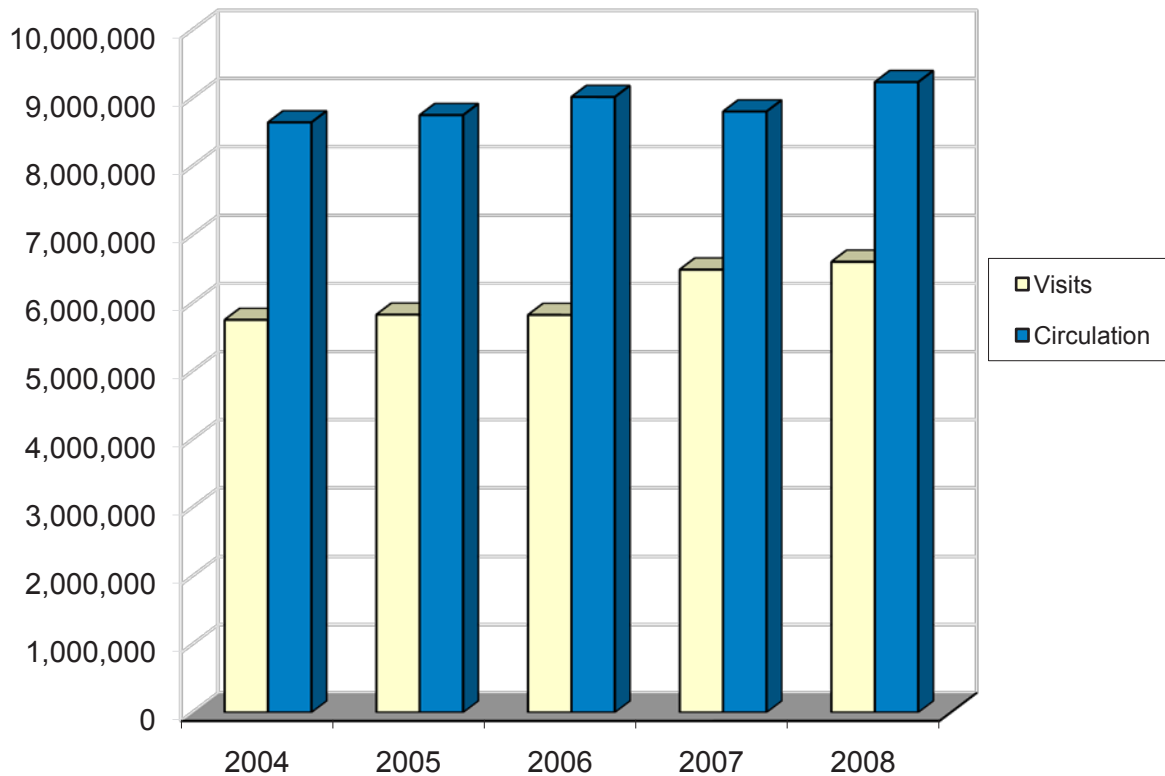
I'm endlessly grateful to Mr. Carnegie, his vision and his initial support of that great egalitarian project, the every town public library. I live in a small Maine town - I don't think we've topped 10,000 in population yet - but we have what I consider a first-class library."

Submitted by Mary, Educator - Cumberland County





## Service Trends, 2004 - 2008



Source: 2008 Public Library Annual Report

**“A gathering place...**



**...a place of social connection”**

## Did You Know?

On one day in September 2009, 37,582 people visited Maine libraries.

The 2009 average daily attendance at:

- Bangor Folk Festival was 35,000
- Yarmouth Clam Festival was 30,000
- Portland Sea Dogs game was 5,964

Source: Verified with venue organizers

56% of Maine's population holds a library card – that's 743,716 people compared to 45,000 deer hunting permits issued annually. Source: Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife



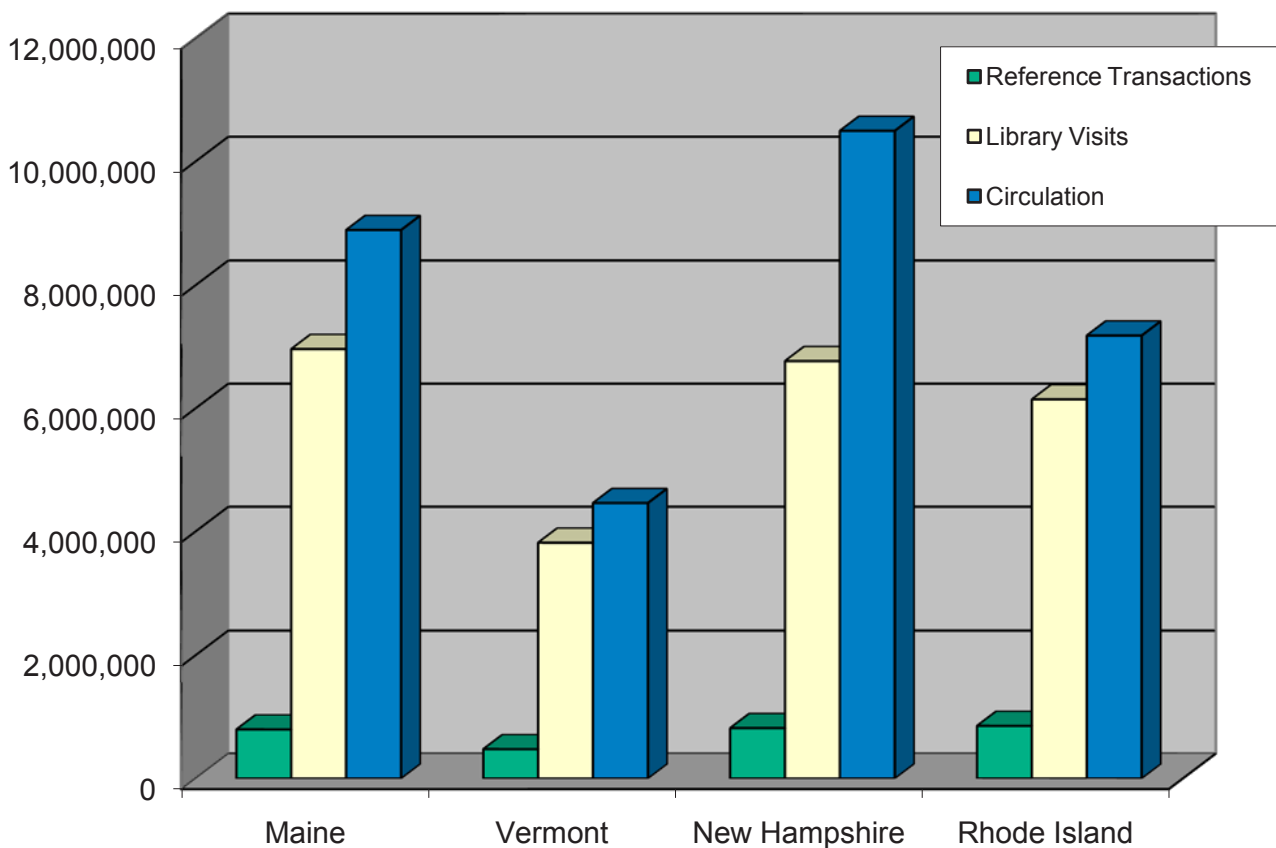


## National Comparisons

	Maine Ranking	Maine Average	National Average
Operating Income per Capita	30th	\$32.50	\$37.66
State Operating Revenue per Capita	43rd	\$0.15	\$2.52
Reference Transactions	40th	0.67	1.00
Visits	18th	5.87	4.91
Circulation	25th	7.50	7.42

Source: Public Libraries Survey: Fiscal Year 2007 (IMLS-2009-PLS-02), Institute of Museum and Library Services, Washington, DC.

## Regional Comparisons



## Maine's Public Libraries 2007 vs 2008

Source: 2007 & 2008 Public Library Annual Report

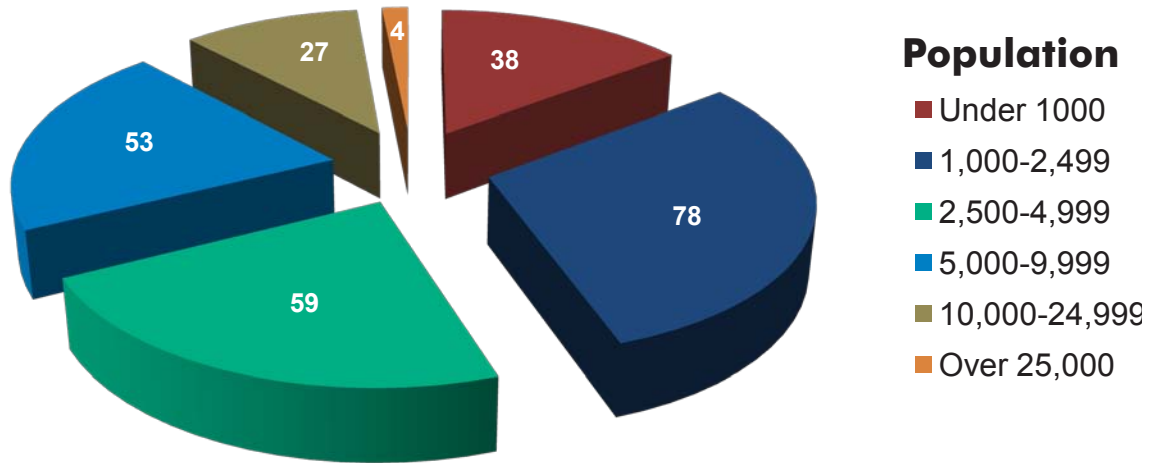
	2007	2008	% Change
Total Library Visits	5,873,213	6,605,629	+ 11%
Total Library Visits per Capita	4.47	5.02	+ 11%
Total Circulation	8,840,746	9,234,607	+ 4%
Total Collections	6,366,601	6,136,483	- 4%
Total Collections per Capita	4.85	4.67	- 4%
Total Library Program Attendance	457,893	516,779	+ 11%
Library Program Attendance per Capita	0.35	0.39	+ 11%
<b>Operating Expenditures per Capita</b>	<b>\$25.21</b>	<b>\$29.96</b>	<b>+ 16%</b>



Lithgow Public Library, Augusta



## 64% of Maine libraries serve towns with populations less than 5,000



Source: 2008 Public Library Annual Report



Thompson Free Library, Dover-Foxcroft

## people

Maine Libraries  
employ Maine  
citizens.

LL Bean:  
8,001-9,000

Bath Iron Works:  
5,001-6,000

Unum:  
3,001-3,500

Home Depot:  
1,201-1,500

**Maine Public  
Libraries:  
1,236**

Central Maine  
Power:  
1,001-1,200

Source: Maine Department  
of Labor, Center for  
Workforce Research and  
Information

## books

Mainers will  
find more than  
6,136,483  
books, movies,  
magazines and  
audio books in  
the state's public  
libraries.

**That's over  
4 items for  
every resident  
in the state!**

## computers

Maine public  
libraries are the  
number one  
point of online  
access for people  
without an Internet  
connection.

**Library  
computers  
were used  
more than  
1,000,000  
times in 2008.**

If Maine citizens  
used these  
computers for  
only one hour  
at a commercial  
provider, they  
would have paid,  
on average, \$9  
per hour,  
a \$9 million value.



Source: Library Value Use Calculator  
[www.maine.gov/msl/services/calculator.htm](http://www.maine.gov/msl/services/calculator.htm)



## value

Maine residents checked out more than 9 million items during 2008. If residents had personally purchased these books, videos, CDs, etc...

**The cost would have exceeded \$14 million!**

**\$5.66 represents the value of library services to Maine communities for every local dollar spent.**

This return on local investment (ROI) is determined by dividing the total value from the Library Value Use Calculator, by total local dollars invested.

## kids

In Maine last year, libraries educated and entertained over 364,000 people with children's programming.

**Library programs are free of charge!**

If attendees were charged a commercial admission fee of \$4 per child, they would have paid \$2,188,476.

## adults

In 2008, 152,033 adult Mainers attended educational, informational or recreational programs offered by Maine libraries. If the average cost of commercially produced entertainment is \$10 per person, then **these programs were worth \$1,520.330.**





Maine citizens say...

- Libraries save money for families.
- You can get it all for FREE from the library - great investment.
- I use the public access computers to job search & investigate graduate education.
- The library is the heart of the community.
- The library is our lifeline.
- My children can read a huge variety of books that I can't afford to purchase.
- A service for all ages!

### **Maine Libraries need your support!**

All quotes used throughout this booklet were gathered from Maine citizens at libraries on Snapshot Day in September 2009. Most photos were taken at Maine public libraries on Snapshot Day.



64 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0064  
Tel: 207-287-5620  
Fax: 207-287-5624  
[www.maine.gov/msl/](http://www.maine.gov/msl/)

A special thanks to Wynne Nafus Sayer, South Dakota State Library, for the concept of this booklet and use of the layout design. Thanks to the Maine Regional Library System for underwriting the printing costs for this booklet.