Maine Public Libraries Snapshot 2009

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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

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: 152,033
- Adult Attendance: 364,746

education
“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:

WiFi in Maine Public Libraries

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Maine Ranking</th>
<th>Maine Average</th>
<th>National Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating Income per Capita</td>
<td>30th</td>
<td>$32.50</td>
<td>$37.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Operating Revenue per Capita</td>
<td>43rd</td>
<td>$0.15</td>
<td>$2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference Transactions</td>
<td>40th</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visits</td>
<td>18th</td>
<td>5.87</td>
<td>4.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circulation</td>
<td>25th</td>
<td>7.50</td>
<td>7.42</td>
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Regional Comparisons
### Maine’s Public Libraries
#### 2007 vs 2008

**Source:** 2007 & 2008 Public Library Annual Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>% Change</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Library Visits</strong></td>
<td>5,873,213</td>
<td>6,605,629</td>
<td>+ 11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Library Visits per Capita</strong></td>
<td>4.47</td>
<td>5.02</td>
<td>+ 11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Circulation</strong></td>
<td>8,840,746</td>
<td>9,234,607</td>
<td>+ 4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Collections</strong></td>
<td>6,366,601</td>
<td>6,136,483</td>
<td>- 4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Collections per Capita</strong></td>
<td>4.85</td>
<td>4.67</td>
<td>- 4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Library Program Attendance</strong></td>
<td>457,893</td>
<td>516,779</td>
<td>+ 11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Library Program Attendance per Capita</strong></td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>+ 11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating Expenditures per Capita</strong></td>
<td>$25.21</td>
<td>$29.96</td>
<td>+ 16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
64% of Maine libraries serve towns with populations less than 5,000

Source: 2008 Public Library Annual Report

Thompson Free Library, Dover-Foxcroft
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! Main Librarias 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

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

Source: Library Value Use Calculator
www.maine.gov/msl/services/calculator.htm
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.

$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.
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.

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