

Utah Public Library Factoids

2018



QUOTABLE FACTS



The total number of visits¹ to public libraries in Utah outnumber the passenger traffic out³⁴ of Salt Lake City International Airport.



Participants in library programs⁹ would fill the Maverik Center 159 times³⁵ or the Vivint Smart Home Arena 104 times³⁶.

QUOTABLE FACTS



There are more public libraries³⁷ than McDonald's restaurants³⁸ in Utah.



More people visited Utah public libraries¹ than all National Parks, Monuments, Recreation Areas and Historical Sites in the state – combined.³⁹

QUOTABLE FACTS



The average household in Salt Lake County⁴⁰ pays \$186.57 per year for library service.⁴¹ For the same amount you can buy:



- 77 gallons of gasoline⁴²
- 7 adult fiction hardcover books⁴³
- 6 Utah Jazz basketball tickets⁴⁴
- 3 PS4 new release games⁴⁵
- 2 Adult day ski lift tickets⁴⁶
- 1 ticket for fishing without a valid license⁴⁷

HIGHLIGHTS OF SERVICE

Utahns USE their public libraries all year . . .

Over 15 million people visited their public libraries¹.
This averages more than 5 visits per person.²

Utah libraries rank 10th in the country in the number of visits per capita³ and 8th in reference transactions per capita.⁴

HIGHLIGHTS OF SERVICE

Utah kids LOVE their libraries . . .

Utah public libraries rank 1st in the nation on the number of children's materials borrowed per capita.⁵

Almost 16 million children's items were checked out.⁶

In addition, there were 23,812 children's programs⁷ which represent 64% of all reported library events.⁸

Almost 2 million people attended library programs.⁹

HIGHLIGHTS OF SERVICE

Utah residents SUPPORT their public library . . .

Almost 2 MILLION Utahns have library cards.¹⁰

Library operating expenditures included:

- From City or County Government funds \$97,536,160¹¹
- From State of Utah funds \$1,164,497¹²
- From Federal Government funds \$377,084¹³
- From Other funds \$4,090,347¹⁴

HIGHLIGHTS OF SERVICE

Utahns ACCESS digital media from home

Utah's Online Library

- More than 50 premium online databases¹⁵
- More than 18,000 electronic books¹⁶
- More than 20,000 digital audiobooks¹⁷
- More than 700 streaming videos¹⁸

HIGHLIGHTS OF SERVICE

Utah residents CONNECT at the public library

All public libraries in Utah offer WiFi Internet access and about half of them reported being the only providers of free public Internet access in their community¹⁹

Utahns connected to the Internet using library computers more than 2 million times²⁰

HIGHLIGHTS OF SERVICE

Utahns get their MONEY'S WORTH at the library . . .

Utah residents borrowed more than 36 million items from their libraries.²¹ This is more than 12 items per person in one year²²

Utah ranks 3rd in the nation in the total number of materials borrowed from public libraries per capita²³

Utah residents had access to more than 6 million books²⁴, more than 600,000 CDs²⁵, and over 650,161 DVDs²⁶

HIGHLIGHTS OF SERVICE

On a TYPICAL day Utah public libraries . . .

Welcome 51,508 people²⁷

Lend 119,914 items²⁸ of which 52,210 or 44% are children's materials²⁹

Answer 8,294 reference questions³⁰

Present 123 library programs³¹ for 6,298 people attending³²

Connect 8,755 times to the Internet³³

For more information, visit:
library.utah.gov/public-library-statistics