

Utah Public Library Factoids

2020



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 117 times³⁵ or the Vivint Smart Home Arena 76 times³⁶.

QUOTABLE FACTS



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



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

QUOTABLE FACTS



The average household in Salt Lake County⁴⁰ pays \$178.71 per year for library service.⁴¹ For the same amount you can buy:



- 80 gallons of gasoline⁴²



- 6 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 14 million people visited their public libraries¹. This averages more than 4 visits per person.²

Utah libraries rank 4th in the country in library programs attendance³ and 5th in Internet computer use sessions 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 29,311 children's programs⁷ which represent 66% of all reported library events.⁸

Almost 1.5 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 \$105,949,121¹¹
- From State of Utah funds \$619,515¹²
- From Federal Government funds \$209,169¹³
- From Other funds \$3,548,333¹⁴

HIGHLIGHTS OF SERVICE

Utahns ACCESS digital media from home

Utah's Online Library

- More than 50 premium online databases¹⁵
- More than 42,000 electronic books¹⁶
- More than 35,000 digital audiobooks¹⁷
- More than 1,500 streaming videos¹⁸

HIGHLIGHTS OF SERVICE

Utah residents CONNECT at the public library

14.3 percent of people living in Utah do not have a broadband Internet connection. Libraries bridge this gap by offering WiFi Internet access.¹⁹

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 37 million items from their libraries.²¹ This is more than 12 items per person in one year²²

Utah ranks 6th 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 500,000 CDs²⁵, and over 600,00 DVDs²⁶

HIGHLIGHTS OF SERVICE

On a TYPICAL day Utah public libraries . . .

Welcome 47,477 people²⁷

Lend 123,384 items²⁸ of which 51,898 or 42% are children's materials²⁹

Answer 8,173 reference questions³⁰

Present 145 library programs³¹ for 4,650 people attending³²

Connect 7,477 times to the Internet³³

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