

Public Libraries in the United States Survey

FY 2010

Fast Facts

Fast Facts from the Public Libraries in the United States Survey 2010

- Libraries provided 3.75 million programs (more than ever before) with 61.5% designed for children.
- Circulation increased to 2.46 billion materials, the highest ever reported. Circulation of children's materials is on the rise comprising one-third of all materials circulated.
- The number of e-books tripled since FY 2003.
- The number of computers for patron use doubled in past 10 years.
- Physical visits to libraries decreased 1.1 percent in 2010. (note: the survey does not collect data on online visits or transactions of public libraries.) Physical visits remain strong with an overall 10-year increase of 32.7 percent from FY2001-FY2010. On average, Americans visited a public library 5.3 times per year, a ten year increase of 21.7 percent.
- Revenue for public libraries went down 3.5 percent from FY 2009. Adjusting for inflation, the loss amounts to \$407.79 million. The 10-year figures show that libraries lost most from state government (down 37.6 percent from FY 2001 to FY 2010) and federal government (down 19.3 percent from FY 2001 to 2010).
- Revenue from local government also decreased slightly, by 2.7 percent from FY 2009. Over the last ten years (FY 2001 to FY 2010), however, local government revenue has increased by 23.5 percent, after adjusting for inflation, and local government now provides a larger proportion of the total revenue stream.
- The survey indicated first decrease in expenditures in ten years (adjusted for inflation and per capita) with a 3 percent decrease since FY 2009.
- Public libraries lost staff. Since FY 2008, staff decreased by 3.9 percent. FY 2009 is the first year since the recession that libraries lost librarians. There was a decrease of 2.2 percent from FY 2009 to FY 2010.