

What we know about Wisconsin libraries



Wisconsin libraries support your constituents through:

- ✓ Job training and economic development
- ✓ Information access and technology training
- ✓ Resources needed to compete and prosper in the 21st century
- ✓ Services and resources that support the UW Flexible Option
- ✓ Programs that foster lifelong learning

Wisconsin communities love their libraries because they:

- ✓ Model cost-efficiency by sharing resources
- ✓ Provide resources for work, school and personal growth
- ✓ Provide access to technology and teach people how to use it—a critical skill for personal success!
- ✓ Contribute to economic development
- ✓ Enhance the quality of community life

Wisconsin communities need strong legislative support for their libraries!

The Wisconsin Library Association (**WLA**) and Wisconsin Educational Media & Technology Association (**WEMTA**) are comprised of nearly 2300 librarians, trustees, friends and community members. WLA has worked to promote literacy and access to information for all ages since 1891. WEMTA works to strengthen educational quality by supporting school library media and instructional technology professionals.

Wisconsin residents checked out **63.6 million items** from public libraries in 2012, averaging **1.2 million per week**. Children's materials represent more than one-third of the check-outs.

For more information contact:
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Education supported by Wisconsin libraries



Student success and test scores improve when:

- ✓ Schools have full time library media specialists
- ✓ Student/teacher activities involve library resources
- ✓ Students and teachers have access to information resources and technology

Legislators need to support:

- ✓ Common School Fund to purchase library materials
- ✓ Educational technology investments
- ✓ Affordable broadband access for ALL libraries
- ✓ Adequate professional staffing for school media and technology support
- ✓ University of Wisconsin's Shared Electronic Collection
- ✓ Updated standards for school library media centers

Wisconsin communities support

- 382 public libraries
- 2700 school media centers
- 79 academic libraries
- 450 government, health and corporate libraries

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Information Access & Technology



Wisconsin residents need access to technology provided by our libraries

Legislators need to support

- ✓ BadgerLink funding through Universal Service Fund
- ✓ Sufficient, coordinated and affordable networking and Internet access for ALL libraries
- ✓ Technology for Educational Achievement (TEACH)
- ✓ Statewide delivery of library materials
- ✓ Access to government publications and state heritage through the Wisconsin Historical Society
- ✓ Enhanced communication technology for educational and information resources

BadgerLink offers 44 databases with access to magazines, newspapers, reference books, and multi-media at a huge cost savings to local communities. Wisconsin residents conduct more than 95 million searches annually in BadgerLink

Public libraries offer 100,000 e-books through a statewide consortium. Wisconsin residents downloaded 1.3 million e-books in 2012. Wisconsin ranks 3rd nationally in the volume of e-books use.

98% of public libraries provide free Wi-Fi to their communities.

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Job Training & Economic Development



Job seekers need libraries!

- ✓ Most employers now require applicants to apply online
- ✓ About 20% of Americans do not have Internet at home
- ✓ Librarians teach: job searching strategies, setting up email accounts, writing resumes and applying online
- ✓ Libraries host job fairs and space for job counseling

Small businesses & entrepreneurs rely on libraries!

- ✓ Small businesses provide 52% of all jobs in Wisconsin
- ✓ Libraries are a go-to source for entrepreneurs starting up or expanding small businesses
- ✓ Businesses use libraries for research information and assistance, meeting facilities and employee training

Public libraries generate \$4 in economic activity for every \$1 they receive in tax payer support.

The average per capita cost to support public libraries is less than the price of one hard cover book.

As state and local governments transition more services to electronic access to save tax dollars, public libraries help their citizens and communities adapt.

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