

# Utah Public Library Factoids

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2018



## QUOTABLE FACTS



The total number of visits<sup>1</sup> to public libraries in Utah outnumber the passenger traffic out<sup>34</sup> of Salt Lake City International Airport.



Participants in library programs<sup>9</sup> would fill the Maverik Center 159 times<sup>35</sup> or the Vivint Smart Home Arena 104 times<sup>36</sup>.

## QUOTABLE FACTS



There are more public libraries<sup>37</sup> than McDonald's restaurants<sup>38</sup> in Utah.



More people visited Utah public libraries<sup>1</sup> than all National Parks, Monuments, Recreation Areas and Historical Sites in the state – combined.<sup>39</sup>

## QUOTABLE FACTS



The average household in Salt Lake County<sup>40</sup> pays \$186.57 per year for library service.<sup>41</sup> For the same amount you can buy:



- 77 gallons of gasoline<sup>42</sup>
- 7 adult fiction hardcover books<sup>43</sup>
- 6 Utah Jazz basketball tickets<sup>44</sup>
- 3 PS4 new release games<sup>45</sup>
- 2 Adult day ski lift tickets<sup>46</sup>
- 1 ticket for fishing without a valid license<sup>47</sup>

## HIGHLIGHTS OF SERVICE

### Utahns USE their public libraries all year . . .

Over 15 million people visited their public libraries<sup>1</sup>.  
This averages more than 5 visits per person.<sup>2</sup>

Utah libraries rank 10th in the country in the number of visits per capita<sup>3</sup> and 8th in reference transactions per capita.<sup>4</sup>

## 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.<sup>5</sup>

Almost 16 million children's items were checked out.<sup>6</sup>

In addition, there were 23,812 children's programs<sup>7</sup> which represent 64% of all reported library events.<sup>8</sup>

Almost 2 million people attended library programs.<sup>9</sup>

## HIGHLIGHTS OF SERVICE

### Utah residents SUPPORT their public library . . .

Almost 2 MILLION Utahns have library cards.<sup>10</sup>

Library operating expenditures included:

- From City or County Government funds \$97,536,160<sup>11</sup>
- From State of Utah funds \$1,164,497<sup>12</sup>
- From Federal Government funds \$377,084<sup>13</sup>
- From Other funds \$4,090,347<sup>14</sup>

## HIGHLIGHTS OF SERVICE

### Utahns ACCESS digital media from home

#### Utah's Online Library

- More than 50 premium online databases<sup>15</sup>
- More than 18,000 electronic books<sup>16</sup>
- More than 20,000 digital audiobooks<sup>17</sup>
- More than 700 streaming videos<sup>18</sup>



## 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 community<sup>19</sup>

Utahns connected to the Internet using library computers more than 2 million times<sup>20</sup>

## HIGHLIGHTS OF SERVICE

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

Utah residents borrowed more than 36 million items from their libraries.<sup>21</sup> This is more than 12 items per person in one year<sup>22</sup>

Utah ranks 3rd in the nation in the total number of materials borrowed from public libraries per capita<sup>23</sup>

Utah residents had access to more than 6 million books<sup>24</sup>, more than 600,000 CDs<sup>25</sup>, and over 650,161 DVDs<sup>26</sup>

## HIGHLIGHTS OF SERVICE

### On a TYPICAL day Utah public libraries . . .

Welcome 51,508 people<sup>27</sup>

Lend 119,914 items<sup>28</sup> of which 52,210 or 44% are children's materials<sup>29</sup>

Answer 8,294 reference questions<sup>30</sup>

Present 123 library programs<sup>31</sup> for 6,298 people attending<sup>32</sup>

Connect 8,755 times to the Internet<sup>33</sup>

**For more information, visit:**  
[library.utah.gov/public-library-statistics](http://library.utah.gov/public-library-statistics)