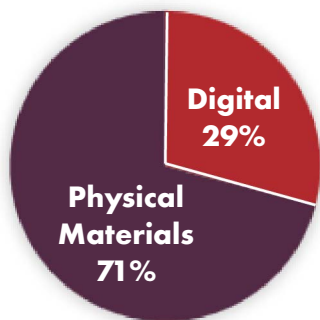


# 2026 PUBLIC LIBRARIES FACTS & STATS

Every year financial and service data is collected from South Dakota's public libraries via the Public Libraries Survey – a statistical survey of all public libraries in the U.S. State-level statistics reported in this publication comprise information collected for calendar year 2025.

## COLLECTION USE

South Dakotans checked out **7.3 items** per resident.



**54%** of library checkouts were children's materials.



**100%** of South Dakotans have access to **49 research databases** provided by the SD State Library.

**89%** of libraries offer ebooks, downloadable audio, and/or streaming video.

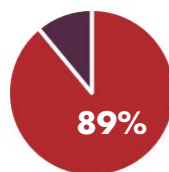
**72%** of libraries do not charge fines for overdue materials.

**66%** of libraries shared their physical collections via interlibrary loan.

- 45,000 items borrowed
- 37,000 items loaned

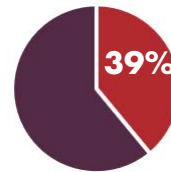
## LIBRARY SERVICES

South Dakota public libraries provide access to information, spark creativity, & support opportunity for all.



**89%** of South Dakota residents are served by a local public library.

**39%** of South Dakota residents have a library card.



### Library Visits

People visited South Dakota public libraries **2.8 million times** last year.

### Circulation

South Dakotans checked out **6.1 million items** including physical and digital materials.

### Library Internet Access

Visitors used library WiFi and public computers to access the internet **1.5 million times**.

### Activities

South Dakota libraries hosted **406,000 people** through program events and activities.

### Reference

Librarians answered **236,000 questions** including informational and technical assistance.



106 central libraries 18 branches  
5 bookmobiles

## PROGRAMS

Libraries hosted **334,000 people** at **17,000 programs**.

### Attendees

- Early Literacy **31%**
- Children **30%**
- Teens **6%**
- Adults **15%**
- General Interest **18%**



**99 libraries** offered summer reading activities that drew a total of **119,000 participants**.

Library staff helped **16,000 people** through one-to-one programs like homework help, test proctoring, and homebound deliveries.

Libraries offered **2,000 activities** like take-home craft kits and story walks to **55,000 visitors**.

Libraries produced **21 recorded programs** viewed by **1,000 people**.

## ONLINE ACCESS

South Dakota libraries offer essential technology services.

**97%** of libraries provide public computers and internet access.

**97%** of libraries provide free public WiFi used 1.1 million times.

**95%** of libraries have a website that provides access to ebooks, research databases, and more.

**81%** of libraries have online catalogs so patrons can search and reserve items from home.

## PEOPLE POWER

It takes great people to make great libraries.



**590** people work to provide library services across South Dakota.

**600** library trustees guide the mission, funds, and policies at their local public libraries.

**1,200** people volunteered **500 hours** at their local public libraries.

**29%** of libraries have a Friends of the Library group that supports the library through volunteer work, advocacy, and fundraising.

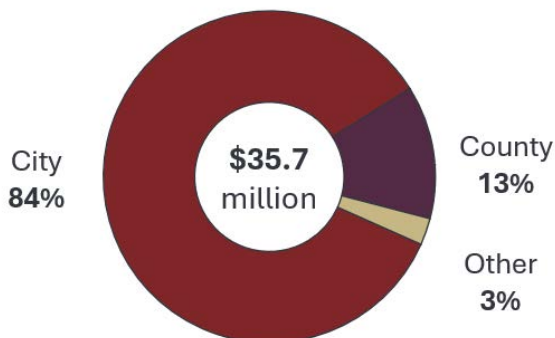
**12%** of libraries have a Library Foundation to secure additional funding that enhances library services.

## BEHIND THE SERVICES: LIBRARY FUNDING

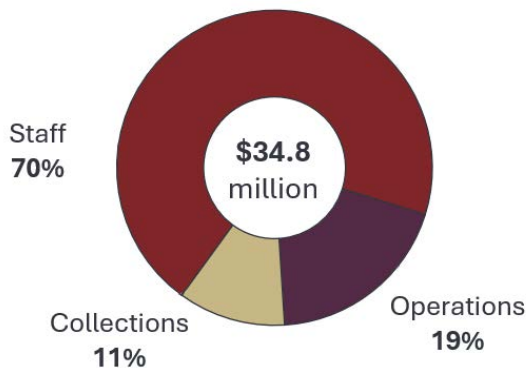
Local support enables libraries to maintain the staff, operations, and collections needed to deliver high-quality services.

South Dakota's public libraries spent an average of **\$43/resident** providing library services.

### Local Government Revenue



### Total Operating Expenditures



Libraries spent an average of **\$4.58** on new materials per resident.

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

South Dakota public libraries offer practical services that improve everyday life.

### Growing Readers & Learners

**94%** combat summer slide by hosting summer reading programs.

**86%** support young learners through early literacy and school readiness programs.

### Tools, Tech & Spaces

**66%** provide meeting /study rooms reservable by the public.

**42%** have "libraries of things" that lend tools, gear, and everyday items.

**20%** lend laptops, tablets, or hotspots.

### Skills for Work & Life

**62%** offer adult education services.

**36%** provide job search and workforce support.

### Everyday Support

**79%** partner with outside organizations to strengthen community services.

**67%** deliver outreach services that support underserved groups.

**34%** offer wellness and health-information support through trusted programs & partnerships.

### National/Regional Comparisons FY 2023

FY 2023, Per Capita*	SD	IA	MN	MT	NE	ND	WY	USA
Total Operating Expenditures	\$39.20	\$48.76	\$41.72	\$31.51	\$44.11	\$36.75	\$59.08	\$46.80
Collection Expenditures	\$4.58	\$5.17	\$4.42	\$2.80	\$5.19	\$4.36	\$3.97	\$4.89
Registered Users	0.40	0.58	0.56	0.41	0.59	0.36	0.52	0.48
Library Visits	3.19	3.78	2.68	2.78	2.99	2.29	4.15	2.47
Total Circulation	6.68	6.51	8.85	4.81	7.90	5.34	7.49	6.04
Percent of Circulation that is Children's Physical Materials	40%	37%	39%	34%	47%	36%	39%	37%
Program Attendance / 1,000	354	630	185	263	402	329	564	288
Public Computers / 5,000	5.63	7.20	4.28	4.42	6.92	4.46	6.84	4.11
Wireless (WiFi) User Sessions	1.57	1.00	2.76	2.20	1.54	1.97	0.28	1.28
Percent of Total FTE Staff that are Librarians w/MLS Degree	12%	18%	25%	21%	14%	18%	12%	24%

\*Per capita population is based on unduplicated population of legal service areas.

