Why we need public libraries...
Public libraries provide a community hub for all kinds of resources for everyone:
• Free access to books and research materials
• Access to computers and internet and assistance with using them
• A safe and multi-purpose space for learning, work and meetings
• Educational and enriching programs for all ages

South Dakota’s public libraries provide assistance to community residents in important areas:

| Workforce development: Assistance with job skill resources, job applications, resume writing |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1-to-1 assistance  | Have programs | Making Plans  | No Assistance |
| 61%  | 5%  | 13%  | 23%  |

| Education: Access to educational resources, homework assistance, test proctoring, materials for English language learners |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 63%  | 13%  | 1%  | 23%  |

| Consumer health: Assistance with accessing health information and services, completing insurance paperwork |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 53%  | 5%  | 5%  | 37%  |

| Social services: Assistance with accessing and filling out government forms, connecting people with needed services |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 59%  | 8%  | 3%  | 30%  |

South Dakota’s public libraries are accredited.

Start with the SDSL Public Library Standards

Cover image: Prairie scenic photo from SD Tourism; Each dot represents a public library outlet.

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The South Dakota State Library offers support and resources to your local public library:

- Training opportunities for library staff & trustees
- Consulting services: administration, trustees, grants, library standards, statistics, school/public library collaboration
- Ideas for summer reading programs and events for all ages
- Online digital resources covering subjects such as genealogy, business, health & medicine
- Resource sharing via SD Share-It interlibrary loan services
- Reference services for your library staff
- Braille & Talking Book Library materials and assistance
- Library news, opportunities and ideas through the Cornerstone e-newsletter, discussion lists, and social media

We are here to help!
605.773.3131 - library.sd.gov

LIBRARIES BUILD COMMUNITIES

RECOMMENDATIONS

Space
- Implement flexible spaces to accommodate individual exploration, group projects, and community events.
- Ensure accessibility to all residents in terms of hours of operation, layout, and atmosphere.
- Be the community living room and a safe and inspiring place for kids.

Staffing
- Promote librarians as leaders beyond the library in community improvement plans.
- Encourage collaboration between public library and school library staff.
- Encourage librarians and staff to grow their professional skills and knowledge through SDSL staff certification program.

Content and Access
- Develop programming that supports all ages and groups and interests.
- Have an interactive website with home/office access to library collections.
- Invest strategically in digital library collections.
- Support access to the library’s digital collections and those provided by SDSL.
- Promote and support digital citizenship and citizen privacy.

Governance and Infrastructure
- Address systemic issues that inhibit the development of high-quality library programming.
- Leverage funding to strengthen the public library.
- Survey the community about convenient open hours, service and programming interests.
- Appoint library board trustees who are engaged in the community and eager to keep informed on issues affecting libraries.

Accountability
- Analyze library programs and services through usage data and program statistics.
- Communicate with local leaders, community groups and schools with regard to library support of your community’s goals.
- Include library goals in community improvement plans.
- Use SDSL Accreditation Standards as a means of self-assessment to evaluate progress—then apply for accreditation!

SOUTH DAKOTA LIBRARY FACTS

83,000 South Dakota residents do not have convenient access to a local public library.
1,000 South Dakota K-12 students do not have access to a public or a school library.
41% have SDSL certified library staff who upgrade their professional skills through continuing education.
25% of SD public libraries are currently accredited through SDSL, demonstrating that they meet quality library service benchmarks.
16% of SD public libraries have a MLS degree librarian on staff.

For every $1 spent on libraries, residents receive an average ROI of $4 on the programs & services they use!