Connecticut Public Libraries

Statistics from the Connecticut State Library

Our Libraries as Great Collections
Connecticut’s public libraries hold a total of 15 million physical items.

- 86% are books.
- 4.1 books for every person in the state (national average is 2.4)
- The average public library holds 82,458 physical items

Our Libraries as Valued Destinations
19 million people visited Connecticut’s public libraries last year.

- 5.3 visits per capita (the national average is 4.4)
- They asked 2.9 million reference questions
- 2.2 million people attended programs
- 4,366 library internet computers were used 3.6 million times

Over 24.2 million items were borrowed from public libraries in fiscal 2018

- 7 items per person
- 66 thousand items per day

Support for Our Libraries
Operating expenditures for Connecticut’s public libraries was $199 million

- About the same as the New York Yankees payroll!
- Only 1.2% of town/city taxes go to support public libraries
- CT citizens donated $13.2 million to their local public libraries
- Per capita support of libraries is $55.

Statistics from “Connecticut’s Public Libraries, A Statistical Profile, 2017-2018” and cover Fiscal Year 2018