

HOW S.C. LIBRARIES STACK UP: 2010

Here are a few ways South Carolina's libraries impact the lives of its citizens

Using S.C. libraries to find a job

In South Carolina, we go to libraries to find jobs, create new careers and help grow our small businesses.

We borrow books, journals, music, and movies. We learn to use the latest technology. We get the tools and information needed to reenter the workforce. We get our questions answered, engage in civic activities, meet with friends and co-workers and improve our skills at one of the many public libraries in South Carolina.

Every day, our state's public libraries deliver millions of dollars in resources and support that meet the critical needs of our communities.



Winner of the Day in the Life of South Carolina Libraries photography contest. Lee County Public Library.

A typical day in the life of S.C. libraries

IN ONE DAY

162,760

people visit S.C. libraries.

IN ONE DAY 64,929 people used a computer in a South Carolina library.

IN ONE DAY S.C. library patrons checked out 127,177 books, DVDs, CDs, electronic books, and other library items.

In comparison, the 2009 Clemson Carolina football game had 80,574 attendees.



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Who's visiting the digital library?

Many library services and collections are now available to users online, including books and reference services. The digital library is expanding!

Every academic library in South Carolina reports offering reference service by e-mail or on the Web.

Nearly 200,000 electronic subscriptions were held by SC academic libraries in 2008.

Users of DISCUS, South Carolina's Virtual Library, retrieved more than 8.5 million items in 2008, a 12% increase over the previous year.



Online video messaging between library patron and librarian.
Richland County Public Library.

S.C. school libraries in need of new books

According to the 2008-2009 Library Media Specialists Annual Survey, conducted by the S.C. Department of Education, the average copyright date for the print collections in school libraries is 1995.

Closer examination shows that the oldest collection reported has a copyright date of 1979. The average copyright date for the general science print collection is 1995 with the oldest collection reported with a copyright date of 1974. The average copyright date for the applied science print collection is 1999 with the oldest collection reported with a copyright date of 1968.

Of the approximately 1200 schools in S.C., 908 completed the survey.

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT S.C. LIBRARIES!

Children need to be reading, people are looking for jobs and updating their resumes. Sometimes people want to read a good book. Not everyone can afford to have computers at home; therefore we need to keep our libraries up and running.
- P. Seymore

Our S.C. libraries provide so much more than reading materials. We must keep them staffed and operating to full capacity.
- J. Innes

As an elementary school teacher, I KNOW first-hand that libraries are essential in communities to increase and improve literacy.
- K. Small

Where would we be without our local public library? More uninformed, and in today's society there is no time/space for ignorance!
- C. Spivey

Nothing is as important to a free society as the provision of information to all who need it, young and old. South Carolina libraries, working together with a common interest and a common goal, can ensure the future of free access to information, to literature, and to library services.
- David Goble, Director, S.C. State Library