












The Seattle Public Library's **2023 Impact at a Glance**

293,000 active patrons, a record high	
13.4 million total checkouts	 7.4 million digital checkouts  6 million physical checkouts
340,000 public computer sessions	
3,500 programs with 103,000 attendance	
90+ more weekly open hours than in 2019	
1,100 K-12 attendees of after-school Homework Help	
234,000 reference questions answered	
580 one-on-one business and legal consults	

• **3,300** tax returns filed • **24,000** Museum Pass reservations • **147,000** checkouts of Peak Picks books • **15%** increase in digital book checkouts • **8th** in the world for digital book loans • **750+** early learning programs • **6,500** Summer of Learning participants • **950** bus ticket booklets distributed **For more information, go to www.spl.org/Impact**



Four years of fine-free borrowing

In January 2020, the Library eliminated overdue fines forever. Funded by the 2019 Library Levy, this change immediately restored Library access for nearly 18,000 patrons. Four years later, the impact continues. The percentage of patrons with suspended Library accounts has been cut by half and return rates haven't been affected.

"[No overdue fines] is like winning the lottery! This sounds like a small thing, but it is a BIG thing."

– Library patron



The magic of early learning

With the return of in-person story time in 2023, children once again gathered with caregivers and librarians across the city to listen to stories, sing, move and build literacy. We also worked with community partners to restart in-person Kaleidoscope Play and Learn, a neighborhood-based play group for children from birth through age 5 with a focus on underserved communities.

"Partnering with the Library allows us to introduce more resources for families."

– Xiomara Melgar, South Park Branch
Kaleidoscope Play and Learn Facilitator



Connections, care & coffee

The Library's new Social Services Team is guided by trauma-informed care principles and the belief that you can't enjoy full access to library services if basic needs aren't met. In 2023, they provided 930 referrals to resources, as well as a regular "Coffee and Conversations" gathering at the Central Library, offering a chance to talk and a welcoming vibe.

"You have helped me so much. This situation is so difficult, and it is so hard to find anyone who cares."

– Patron who worked
with the Social Services team



Expanding the freedom to read

To fight censorship and protect the freedom to read, the Library launched a Books Unbanned program for teens and young adults, funded by The Seattle Public Library Foundation. More than 7,000 young people across the country signed up for a Books Unbanned card, which offers free access to our collection of e-books and e-audiobooks.

"I want to actively engage with the world and new ideas."

– Books Unbanned cardholder,
age 17, North Carolina



The Seattle Public Library's **2023 Statistical & Financial Summaries**

Facilities: Central Library, 26 neighborhood branches and Mobile Services **Staffing:** 675 (part- and full-time)

Physical circulation

Print	4.7 million
Media (CDs, DVDs, audiobooks)	1.2 million
Equipment (laptops, tablets, Wi-Fi hotspots, Kill A Watt power meters)	42,000
Total physical circulation	6 million

Digital circulation

E-books and e-audiobooks	5.5 million
Streaming and downloadable media	1.9 million
Total digital circulation	7.4 million (17% increase)
Total circulation	13.4 million (8% increase)

Patron activity

Active patrons in the last 12 months	293,000
New cardholders	75,000
Number of borrowers (of physical materials)	124,000
Number of borrowers (of digital materials)	175,000
Assisted information questions answered	234,000
Classes, events and activities	3,500
Program attendance	103,000
Public computer sessions	341,000

Holds placed

Physical holds placed	2.4 million
Digital holds placed	3.1 million (16% increase)
Total holds placed	5.5 million

Collection size

Central Library collection	1 million
Branch collections	814,000
Total physical collection	1.8 million
Digital collection	995,000
Total collection size	2.8 million

Operating budget

Personnel	\$70.2 million
Books and materials	\$10.7 million
Maintenance, security and utilities	\$4.4 million
Equipment	\$1.4 million
Supplies	\$747,000
Other (City Central costs, software, training and programming support)	\$6.4 million
Total operating budget	\$93.9 million

Our operating budget figures include gifts from The Seattle Public Library Foundation, which accounts for 4.7% of the 2023 budget. Note that the amount and conditions of Foundation grants are at the sole discretion of The Seattle Public Library Foundation's independent Board of Directors.