



The Seattle Public Library's **2025 Impact at a Glance**

3.4 million in-person visits	
430,000 active cardholders	
12.7 million total checkouts	7.2 million digital checkouts 5.5 million physical checkouts
10th in the world for digital checkouts	
5,800 programs with 130,000 attendance	 (65% increase in programs since 2023)
400,000 public computer hours	
10,000 meeting room bookings	
43,000 story time attendance	

- **2.1** million pages printed • **25,000** SPL mobile app downloads • **6,500** hot spot checkouts
- **12,000** Suggest a Title submissions • **5,000** participants in Seattle Reads
- **3,600** Global Reading Challenge 4th and 5th grade participants • **536** research appointments at the Seattle Room • **24** checkouts every minute **See more at www.spl.org/Impact**



Literacy: Homework Help “like AI but better”

In 1989, the Library introduced after-school academic help at the Douglass-Truth Branch. More than 35 years later, nine Seattle library branches offer weekly drop-in Homework Help sessions for K-12 students. In 2025, over 6,000 students worked with volunteer tutors on everything from reading to math to college essays – no registration or library card needed, and snacks always provided. In fall 2026, we added sessions designed for teens. One student reported: “Teen tutoring was just like AI but better!”

“My children do better with a tutor than at home, and they learn different methods of math, reading, and writing.”

– Parent of Northgate Branch Homework Help student



Literacy: Growing English Language Learning Programs

In August 2025, the Library received a two-year, \$450,000 grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York to expand our free English language learning programs. With demand for English learning far outpacing offerings in the Seattle area, this was welcome news for immigrants and refugees. We are adding more English classes and conversation circles, adult tutoring, and digital literacy classes, as well as piloting free onsite childcare and offering transit solutions. Classes help students build not only language and job skills, but community.

“For me, this class is the only chance to speak English. It’s my only chance to meet friends.”

– English Conversation Circle participant



Empowerment: Priceless Business Programs

How much are the Library’s free business services worth? In 2025, the Urban Libraries Council’s Business Value Calculator found that the annual value of services, books, tools, and resources that the Library provides to small business owners was worth \$8.3 million. A record 4,100 patrons attended more than 150 business workshops and programs through the Library last year, including 19 programs for Spanish speakers; and almost 400 people attended one-on-one business appointments or legal consults.

“I was blown away by what the Library offered! Before, I was Googling tools and it always pointed to paid options.”

– Entrepreneur and business services patron



Enrichment: Book Bingo Goes Big

For the 11th year of our adult summer reading program, we joined with King County Library System and longtime partner Seattle Arts & Lectures to offer Book Bingo at 77 libraries around King County. A record 1,700 people in Seattle (and 2,700 in King County) turned in Book Bingo cards, collectively reading 29,000 books. Participants sent in hundreds of comments sharing benefits of the program, such as “being pushed to read things I wouldn’t usually” and experiencing “11 beautiful new worlds, one page at a time.”

“I’ve shed the cobwebs from my brain. I’ve read more than I have in a long while. Thank you.”

– Book Bingo participant