

DRAFT 10.2

THE ORGANIZATION OF NEW JERSEY'S PUBLIC LIBRARIES

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<http://harvester.census.gov/imls/data/pls/index.asp>.

Copies of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.njstatelib.org>.

INTRODUCTION

From the picturesque historic one-room building in Beach Haven, to the state-of-the-art modern facility in Princeton—the buildings may differ, but the mission is the same...

Public libraries exist to provide, promote, and support the use of information to make a difference in the lives of their residents and communities. While the technologies may have changed, the need for public libraries has remained the same – even increased – with 73% of public libraries reporting in 2007 that they were the only source of free public access to computers and the Internet in their communities.¹ The crucial services provided by libraries are highlighted in times of economic instability – nationally, library visits and circulation have increased more than 10% since the last economic downturn in 2001.² In New Jersey, circulation of print materials has increased from 5.46 circulations per capita in 2000 to 6.62 in 2007.

1 American Library Association. (2008). The state of America's libraries. Retrieved from <http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/mediapresscenter/presskits/2008statereport/publiclibraries.cfm#468558>.

2 American Library Association. (2009). Slow economy fuels surge in library visits. Retrieved from <http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/mediapresscenter/presskits/sloweconomyfuelslibraryusage/index.cfm>

New Jersey's public libraries strengthen the democratic foundation of our society and confer economic value to the state by:

Promoting Knowledge:

- By providing free access to information that residents need for work, school, health, family life, community life, and pleasure.
- By providing free access to computers, the Internet, and other essential information technologies
- By providing expert reference services to ensure that residents get the information that they need
- By offering instruction related to technological and informational literacy

Creating Community:

- By providing a safe public place for people of all ages, families, and groups to pursue knowledge individually and together
- By distributing governmental and community information to residents
- By fostering community dialog through public events around relevant topics
- *Fostering Diversity:*
- By providing resources and programs on a diverse array of literature, music, film, and art
- By promoting exposure to diverse cultures through multicultural resources, reading programs, displays, and events

Despite the increasing importance of public libraries in our information-driven age and knowledge-driven economy, state and federal funding has decreased to 10% of operating budgets in 2005, compared to 14% in 2000.³ New Jersey's public libraries depend heavily on local funding – and this dependence is increasing. Under what legal authority do public libraries organize and receive funding? How do they use funds to improve the health of our communities? This report outlines the organization, funding, and service areas of New Jersey's four types of public libraries: association libraries, county libraries, joint libraries, and municipal libraries.

³ OCLC (2008). From Awareness to Funding: A study of library support in America. Retrieved from <http://www.oclc.org/reports/funding/default.htm>.

As New Jersey's public libraries continue to become ever more relevant and essential to the growth and life of healthy communities statewide, we hope that this document helps policymakers and residents understand the structure within which public libraries operate to strengthen our communities.

March 2009

PART 1

**NEW JERSEY'S PUBLIC LIBRARIES:
ORGANIZATION, FUNDING & SERVICE AREA**

ORGANIZATION

Legal Authority

Association Libraries

Association libraries are incorporated and organized under N.J.S.A. 15A, the major statute which governs the formation and operation of all non-profit organizations in New Jersey. Some association libraries also choose to file with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) corporation for tax exempt status.

County Libraries

Laws governing the formation and operation of county libraries are found at N.J.S.A. 40:33-1 et seq.

Joint Libraries

Laws governing the formation and operation of joint libraries are found at N.J.S.A. 40:54-29.3 to 29.25, and at N.J.S.A. 40:54-1, et seq.

Municipal Libraries

Laws governing the formation and operation of municipal libraries are found at N.J.S.A. 40:54-1, et seq.

Formation

Association Libraries

The establishment of association libraries is governed by the New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation Act (N.J.S.A. Title 15A). The library files an application to reserve their corporate name with the Secretary of State, to be renewed annually. One or more individuals or corporate entities signs a certificate of incorporation, which is then filed in the office of the Secretary of State.

After incorporation, the chosen board of trustees meets to adopt bylaws, elect officers, and transact any other relevant business.

County Libraries

Thirteen of the fourteen county libraries were established by referendum (N.J.S.A. 40:33-2) and one, Cumberland, was covered under special legislation allowing establishment by resolution (N.J.S.A. 40:33-5.1). Morris County Library was originally established by referendum and was additionally covered by N.J.S.A. 40:33-15 et seq. which allowed it to provide library service through a two-tiered system.

In order to establish a free county library, a petition requesting the creation of a county library, signed by a minimum of three hundred qualified voters, is submitted to the board of chosen freeholders. The board then submits the question of establishing a county library to the voters at any general or special election. A majority vote is required for the referendum's adoption (N.J.S.A. 40:33-1 to 33 - 5).

In order to establish a free county library in counties with populations less than 150,000 in 1963 (Cumberland County), the board of chosen freeholders may adopt a resolution that establishes such a library for all of its municipalities (N.J.S.A. 40:33-5.1).

Twelve of the fourteen county libraries were formed specifically to provide library service to those municipalities within the county that did not maintain municipal or joint libraries (N.J.S.A. 40:33-1). Should a municipality later decide to withdraw from the county system, it may do so as long as it forms a municipal library (N.J.S.A. 40:33-13b). Two county libraries having special legislation, Cumberland and Morris, serve all municipalities within the county and no municipality may withdraw from the county library.

Joint Libraries

In order to form a joint library system, the governing bodies of two or more municipalities prepare a joint library agreement subject to approval by each respective municipality. An ordinance approving the joint library agreement is filed, along with a copy of the agreement, with the State Librarian and the Director of the Division of Local Government. The question of uniting is then submitted to the legal voters of the respective municipalities at the next general election and is subject to majority approval (40:54-29.3 to 54-29.9).

Municipal Libraries

To establish a municipal library, the municipality's governing body proposes a referendum to establish a free public library to be voted on during a general or special election. The municipal clerk must publish public notice of the referendum in at least five public places and in two newspapers for at least ten days previous to the election. The referendum is subject to a majority vote.

Municipal libraries formed under any general law prior to N.J.S.A. 40:54-1 et seq. are subject to the aforementioned statutes (Deputy Attorney General memorandum, June 21, 1979).

Governing Board

Association Libraries

N.J.S.A. 15A:1:1 et seq. specifies the structure and terms of a nonprofit organization's governing board.

County Libraries

The county's board of chosen freeholders appoints a five-person county library commission for the governance of the county free library (N.J.S.A. 40:33-7). Counties with fewer than three library commission members who are residents of the municipalities can increase the size of the commission to seven members, of which a majority shall be comprised of the municipality's residents within five years. County libraries in counties that have undergone reorganization are governed by their respective reorganization laws. Atlantic County Library and Mercer County Library are under the authority of the county executive but retain an advisory library board or commission. Sussex County Library and Morris County Library operate as divisions of the county, without a library board or commission.

Joint Libraries

Joint libraries are governed by a board of trustees. Trustees for each municipality include the mayor or the mayor's alternate, the superintendent of schools or the superintendent's alternate, and three citizens appointed by the mayor of each participating municipality (N.J.S.A. 40:54-29.10).

Municipal Libraries

Municipal libraries are governed by a library board of trustees composed of the mayor or the mayor's alternate, the superintendent of schools or the superintendent's alternate, and five to seven citizens appointed by the mayor (N.J.S.A. 40:54-9).

Advisory Board

New Jersey's rapidly growing and changing population offers a constant challenge to the state's public libraries, which seek to serve all residents within their service areas. In addition to a formal governing board that is responsible for the operation of the library, some libraries have advisory boards that may include residents of all ages, cultures, religions, socio-economic levels, and economic sectors. Advisory boards offer valuable community input, volunteer support, and outreach services to the state's evolving public libraries.

FUNDING

Local Financing for Operations

Association Libraries

Association libraries may receive funding from the municipalities in which they are located or any other municipality (N.J.S.A. 40:54-35). Those association libraries receiving public funds pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:54-35 must be open to the public. Most association libraries serve municipalities that are also members of a county library system, and the association libraries may receive services paid for through the county library dedicated tax.

County Libraries

County libraries are supported by all municipalities that have established membership in the county library system (N.J.S.A. 40:33-9, or N.J.S.A. 40:33-18 and 33-19 for Morris County Library). Funding is provided through the apportionment of the budget sum among the member municipalities. The sum is raised by taxation and must be no less than 1/15 of a mill per dollar on the assessable property valuation of the municipalities in the county library system (N.J.S.A. 40:33-9).

Joint Libraries

Joint libraries are mainly supported by the local property taxes of their member municipalities. A minimum level of funding for joint libraries has been established 1/3 of a mill on each dollar of assessable property within the service area based on the equalized valuation as certified by the Director of the Division of Taxation (N.J.S.A. 40:54-8). Additional amounts needed, as judged by the member municipalities' governing bodies, may also be raised by taxation. Increases are limited to 15% of the previous year's expenditures. Increases beyond 15% must be approved by the State Librarian.

The joint library agreement provides for the apportionment of the annual and special appropriations among the municipalities based on the assessed valuations of the municipalities, their populations, or other such factor as agreed upon by the governing bodies. The appropriations are adjusted annually by the board of trustees.

Municipal Libraries

Municipal libraries are mainly supported by local property taxes. A minimum level of funding for municipal libraries has been established at 1/3 of a mill on each dollar of assessable property within the municipality based on the equalized valuation as certified by the Director of the Division of Taxation (N.J.S.A. 40:54-8). Additional amounts needed, as judged by the municipality's governing body, may also be raised by taxation. Increases are limited to 15% of the previous year's expenditures. Increases beyond 15% must be approved by the State Librarian.

State Aid

State Aid is available to all types of public libraries. While the law allows for many different types of State aid (see N.J.S.A. 18A:74-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 15:21-1.1 et seq.), Per Capita State Aid is the only grant program currently funded by the legislature. It is a grant that rewards political entities for support of public library service. In order for a municipality to be considered for receipt of Per Capita State Aid, it must be certified that the library is in conformance with all pertinent laws and regulations including the specific laws and regulations applicable to each type of library.

Per Capita State Aid is calculated according to a formula that includes the annual amount of funding from the legislature, each municipality's/county's level of support to the library calculated as a ratio (current year local tax support to the library divided by the prior year's equalized valuation of the political entity or entities), the population of the library's legal service area and the library's compliance with the minimum standards established by regulation (N.J.A.C. 15:21-2.1 et seq.). There are five aid categories, ranging from \$.50 to \$1.50 per capita. Minimum standards are based on the size of the legal service population and include such categories as: appropriate number of state-certified librarians, collection size, annual collection growth rate, periodical subscriptions, number of open hours per week and staff training.

Network Aid

Network Aid is provided by the New Jersey Legislature to the New Jersey State Library and is administered by the State Librarian and staff of the Library Development Bureau. This category of funding is provided to support the programs and services of the New

Jersey Library Network, which is comprised of the New Jersey State Library as well as the state's regional library cooperatives and their members. The funds are used for the support of the regional library cooperatives for such activities as delivery of library materials, continuing education and innovative pilot projects; to support the licensing of statewide resources; and to provide financial support for New Jersey State Library staff responsible for statewide projects and programs.

Federal Aid

Annual federal funding is provided through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). This program is administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Each state receives an appropriation, to be used for the purposes of LSTA, based upon both a base grant as well as a population-based allocation. In New Jersey LSTA funds are used to support the programs, services and staff of the New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped; to provide funding for innovative programs in the areas of literacy and diversity; additional funding for statewide resource licenses; funds to support the statewide interlibrary loan system as well as the union list of serials and New Jersey's virtual reference service QandANJ.

Private Grant Funding

The primary source of private grant funds awarded to the New Jersey State Library has come from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Grants from this foundation have provided computer hardware and software for poverty-eligible public libraries, computer training labs in some of these same libraries, computer training for library staff as well as programs to address the technology needs of rural and Hispanic populations. In addition, the State Library is administrator of the Tischler endowment, a fund which is designated to support collection development for small and needy libraries in the state.

For a list of recently administered grants, see Appendix B.

Library-Generated Revenues

Libraries of all types charge fines and fees for materials that are lost or returned late and charge nominal fees for the use of computer printers and photocopiers.

Donations

Many libraries also rely on grants and donations from foundations, local businesses, Friends of the Library groups, and individual residents.

Capital Funding

Association Libraries

To fund capital projects, such as construction, expansion, rehabilitation or acquisition of buildings, lands, or equipment, association libraries may request increased support from the municipality, solicit individual and corporate donations through a fundraising drive, or apply for government or foundation grants.

County Libraries

The board of chosen freeholders of a county library system is empowered to raise and appropriate money for the acquisition, maintenance, and operation of library property in the same manner as moneys raised and appropriated for other county purposes pursuant to the Local Budget Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-1 et seq.). The board of freeholders may also issue bonds or levy ad valorem taxes upon the county's taxable property to pay the principal and interest on such bonds pursuant to the Local Bond Law (40A:2-1 et seq.).

Joint Libraries

Municipalities participating in a joint library share the costs of capital improvements and acquisitions according to the apportionment in the joint library agreement. Each member municipality may raise and appropriate money pursuant to the Local Budget Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-1 et seq.) for municipalities.

Municipal Libraries

Municipalities may raise, borrow, and appropriate funds for capital improvement according to the Local Budget Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-1 et seq.) and Local Bond Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:2-1 et seq.).

Contracts for Service

Interlocal library services agreements are governed by the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act (N.J.S.A. 40A:65 et seq.). Under this act, any local unit may enter into an agreement with any other local unit or units to provide or receive any service that each unit is empowered to provide or receive within its own jurisdiction. This applies to municipal, joint, and county libraries, as well as regional library cooperatives and consortia. Agreements involving association libraries are governed by N.J.S.A. 15A.

SERVICE AREA

Association Libraries

Association libraries provide service to the residents in the municipalities in which they are located; acceptance of municipal funds requires that the association library is available for public use. Some association libraries are supported by and also serve neighboring municipalities.

Most association libraries are also members of a county library system and rely on the county library for services such as reference question referral, interlibrary loan of resources and materials, access to electronic databases, staff training, and technology support.

County Libraries

Most county libraries serve all residents of the county that are not served by their own municipal public library, unless the municipality has established membership in the county system by resolution. In Cumberland County and Morris County, all municipalities are served by the county library, regardless of their local library status. County libraries may also enter into shared services agreements with other local units for the provision of services pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:65 et seq.

Joint Libraries

Joint libraries provide services to residents of its member municipalities, as specified in the joint library agreement, as well as residents of municipalities with which there are agreements for shared services.

Municipal Libraries

Municipal libraries serve all residents within the municipality's limits, as well as residents of municipalities with which there are agreements for shared services.

PART 2

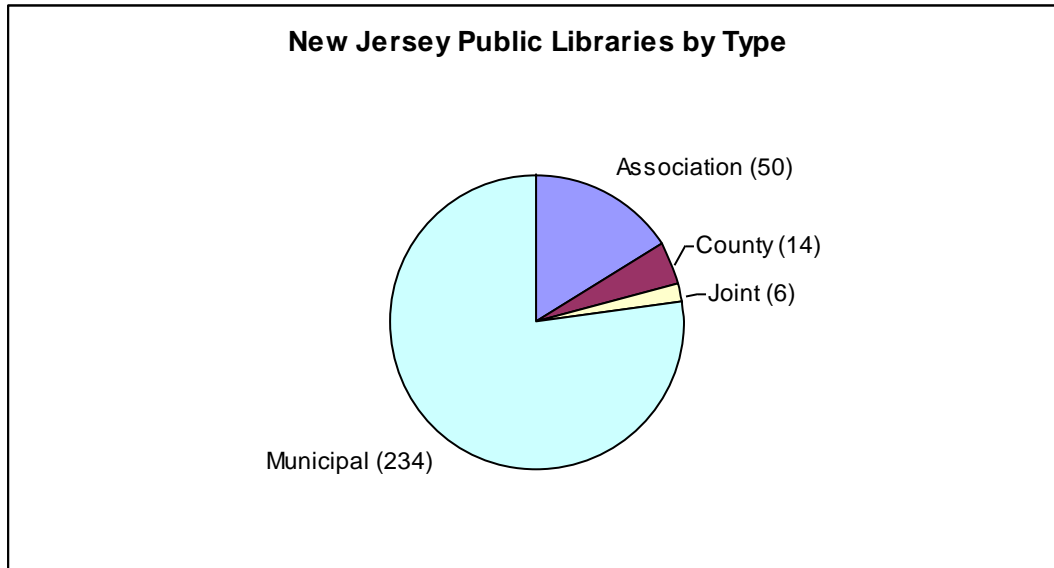
**LIBRARIES IN OUR COMMUNITIES:
POPULATIONS SERVED, LOCAL FINANCING,
AND EXPENDITURES BY LIBRARY TYPE**

New Jersey's more than 300 public libraries serve over eight million people. Public libraries are categorized into four types: association libraries, county libraries, joint libraries, and municipal libraries. The library's type, in addition to other historical, local, and demographic factors, determines the library's service area, funding sources and mechanisms, and operation.

This section outlines the types of public libraries in New Jersey and the service areas, population demographics, funding and expenditure patterns associated with each library type. The charts and graphs illustrate the characteristics that define each library type.

The data represented in this section is from the 2007 annual public library survey administered by the New Jersey State Library.

I. How Many Libraries and What Type?



Each public library in the state is categorized as one of four types according to the statutes authorizing its establishment process, governance structure, and maintenance regulations. According to the New Jersey State Library’s list of public libraries, there are: 50 association libraries, 14 county libraries, 6 joint libraries, and 234 municipal libraries. A complete list of public libraries by type is found in Appendix A.

Regional Libraries

In addition to the four types in existence, the law (N.J.S.A. 40:33-13.3 to 13.18) provides for the establishment of regional libraries. Two or more counties can establish a regional library by joint agreement between the respective boards of chosen freeholders. There are no regional libraries currently in existence.

Federation of City-County Libraries

Any combination of county or counties and municipality or municipalities can establish, by contract or agreement, a federation of their libraries for the purpose of providing cooperative library services to their residents (N.J.S.A. 40:9A-1 to 9A-4).

While each type of library has a defined service area, regional and statewide entities and networks exist to ensure equitable and efficient service throughout the state.

Regional Library Cooperatives

The primary function of New Jersey's four regional library cooperatives is to enhance library services to New Jersey residents by promoting cooperative sharing of resources, information, and expertise among its member libraries. The cooperatives accomplish this by operating a statewide delivery service structure, engaging in group negotiation of resources, facilitating communication among member libraries, providing professional development for library staff, and promoting best practices across their membership.

Regional library cooperatives operate as nonprofit organizations serving public, school, academic, special, and institutional libraries, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 15:22-1.4 to 22-1.6. Together, the cooperatives form the New Jersey Library Network. Services are funded from state tax dollars appropriated for the New Jersey Library Network and administered by the State Library. There are no fees for member libraries.

The four regional library cooperatives are: Central Jersey Regional Library Cooperative (CJRLC), Highlands Regional Library Cooperative (HRLC), Infolink (serving the eastern part of the state), and South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative (SJRLC).

New Jersey State Library

Established and maintained according to N.J.S.A.18A:73-26 et seq., the New Jersey State Library is comprised of four divisions.

- The Office of the State Librarian oversees the operation of the New Jersey State Library. State Librarian Norma Blake is the foremost advocate of New Jersey's libraries within and outside the state and was recently recognized by *Library Journal* as “Librarian of the Year 2008”⁴ for her achievements in promoting statewide access to knowledge and raising the visibility of libraries and librarians.
- The State Library Information Center provides collections and reference assistance primarily to the state government, but also to other libraries, Thomas Edison State College staff and students. The library is open to the public.
- The Library Development Bureau administers per capita state aid and state and federal grant funds, coordinates resource sharing through the New Jersey Library Network, and sponsors continuing education opportunities for library professionals throughout the state.

4 For full article, go to <http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6515854.html>.

- The Library for the Blind and Handicapped provides services for any state residents with print disabilities, including people who are blind or visually impaired, or who have a physical impairment that makes it difficult to hold a book or turn pages, or who have a learning disability with a physical basis. LBH also offers services to those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

New Jersey Library Association

NJLA advocates for the advancement of library services for New Jersey residents, provides continuing education and networking opportunities for librarians, and supports the principles of intellectual freedom and democratic access to library services. Established in 1890, it is the oldest library organization in the state.

Federal and State Depository Libraries

The Federal Depository Library Program exists to provide local, no-fee access to Government information in impartial environments with professional assistance. There are 26 selective depository libraries and one regional depository (Newark Public Library) in New Jersey.⁵

The Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program designates libraries in each state to receive and house copies of U.S. patents and patent and trademark materials, to make them freely available to the public, and to actively disseminate patent and trademark information. There are two patent and trademark depository libraries in New Jersey: the Newark Public Library and the Library of Science and Medicine at Rutgers University.

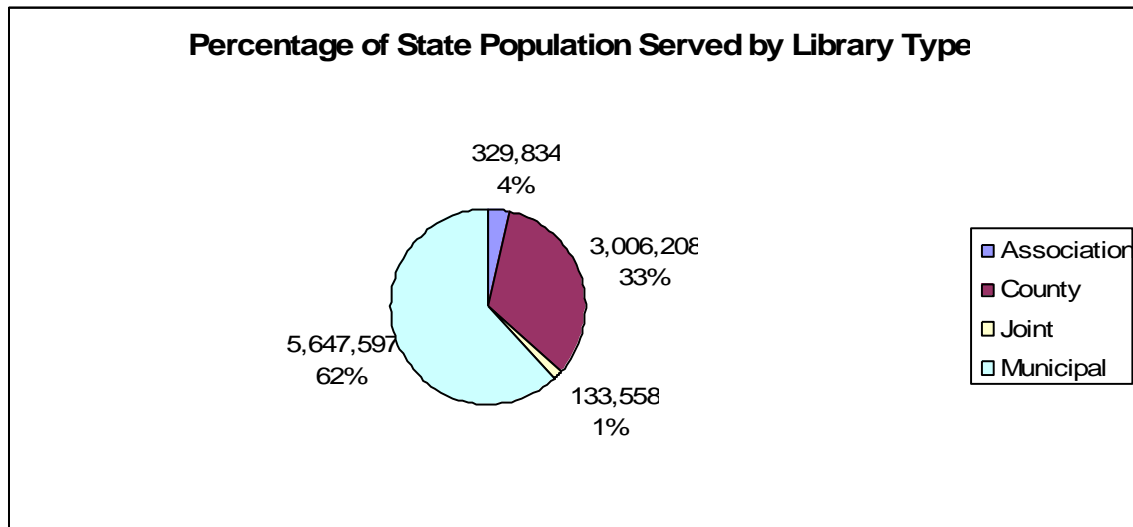
Access to New Jersey government documents is available to the public at 34 public and academic depository libraries throughout the state.⁶

5 Complete list available at <http://catalog.gpo.gov/fdlpdir/FDLPdir.jsp>.

6 Complete list available at http://www.njstatelib.org/NJ_Information/NJ_by_Topic/NJ_Depositories.php.

II. Libraries and Their Communities

Fourteen of New Jersey's twenty-one counties have county library systems. The seven counties without county library systems cluster in the densely populated northeast region of the state.



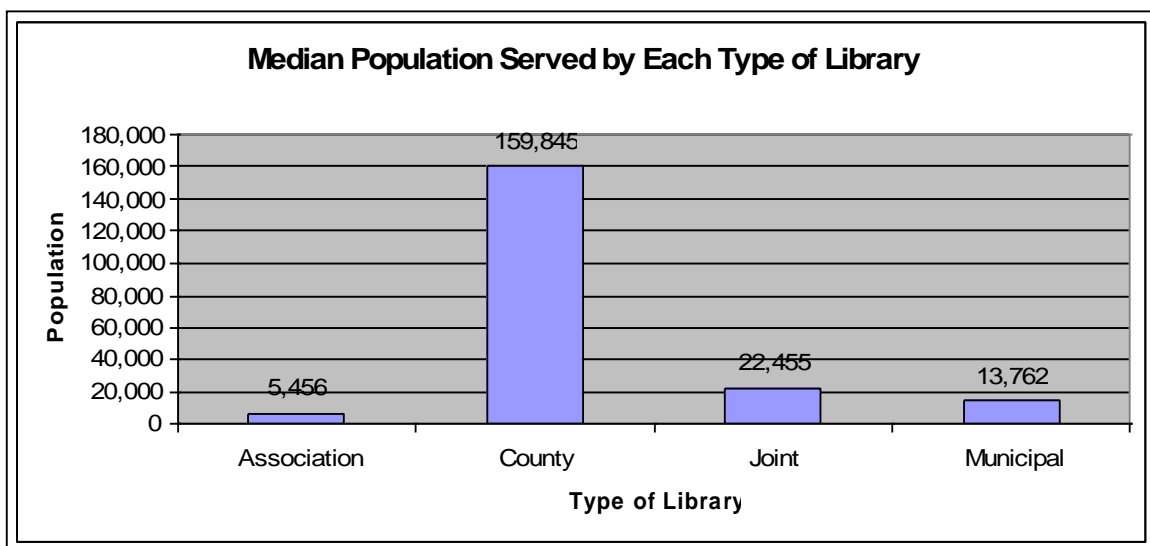
Municipal and joint municipal library systems together serve 63% of New Jersey's residents, representing 240 local library systems. Association libraries, which serve 4% of the state's population, differ from the other types in that, as nonprofits entities, they have no predetermined service area. Nonetheless, all serve one or at most two municipalities.

While all public libraries fall into one of these four types, most also participate in reciprocal borrowing networks or have other types of agreements with neighboring municipalities and counties in order to increase access to resources and services for their residents. For example, a library may be a member of a library automation consortium and also have an agreement with a neighboring library for reciprocal borrowing privileges.

For a list of regional library networks and cooperatives, see Appendix C.

Comparing library types according to the range and median populations served by each shows that county library systems have the largest service populations overall, as well as the greatest range in population size. County libraries serve a median population of 159,845, with individual county libraries serving populations from 64,903 (Warren County Library) to 509,638 (Ocean County).⁷

Joint libraries, comprised of two or more municipalities, serve the next largest populations, with a median population of 22,455, and ranging from 8,917 (Chester Borough & Township) to 40,340 (Morristown and Morris Township).⁸ Municipal libraries, serving a median population of 13,762, serve a wide range of population sizes—from 1,195 (Milford) to 273,546 (Newark).⁹



Association libraries serve the smallest populations overall, with a median population of 5,456 and ranging from 1,384 (Elmer) to 26,847 (Millville).¹⁰

7 The mean population of a county library is 214,729.
 8 The mean population of a joint library is 22,260.
 9 The mean population of a municipal library is 23,784.
 10 The mean population of an association library is 6,597.

III. Focus on Local Funding

New Jersey's libraries rely on various types of funding to maintain and develop their services to the state's residents.

Federal funds take the form of grants made to individual libraries, or grants administered by the State Library. Federal funds are often for the purpose of capital improvement or special services development; they generally do not support operational expenses.

Most state funds are governed by the State Library Aid Law (N.J.S.A. 18A:74-1 et seq.). The largest program is Per Capita State Aid to libraries which provides for municipalities and counties supporting a library system to receive per capita funding from the state at varying levels. The grant amount is dependent on the library's annual expenditure in relation to the municipality's or group of municipalities' equalized valuation, the service area population and the amount of funding provided by the legislature for the program.

At the local level, library funding differs widely depending on library type. Municipal, joint, and county libraries are subject to a statutory minimum level of support from their municipalities; many receive support beyond the minimum levels. Municipalities may provide funding to association libraries, but are not required to do so.

Statewide, local library revenue per capita is \$53.32.

Municipal libraries have a median level of local funding per capita of \$59.40.¹¹

This relatively high median amount disguises the enormous range in per capita support based on the economic base of the municipality being served—from \$13 (Bridgeton) to \$288 (Fairfield).¹² Municipal libraries benefit from a history of local library governance and acceptance of the library as an essential civic institution at the local level.

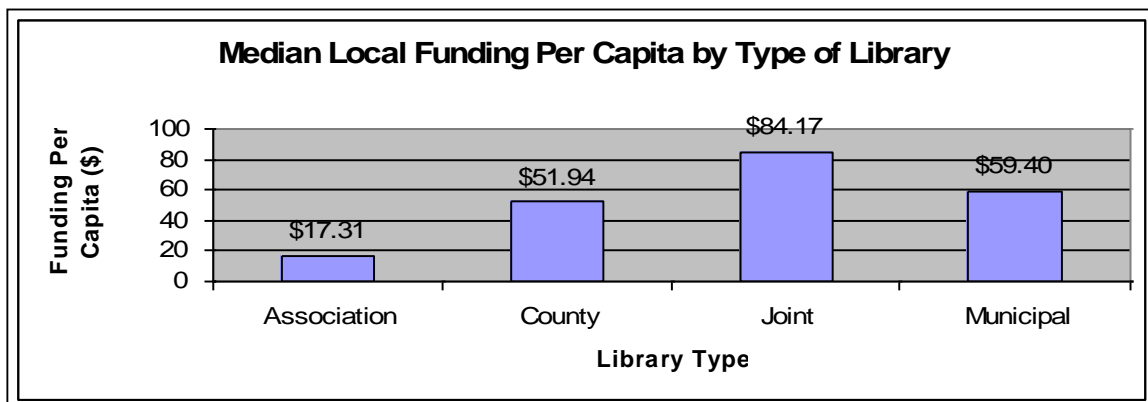
¹¹ The mean value of per capita local funding for municipal libraries is \$73.04.

¹² This does not include Ocean City (\$496), Beach Haven (\$616), and Avalon (\$1089), whose per capita funding figures do not account for the significant increase in population during the summer.

County libraries' median level of per capita local funding is similar to the municipal level at \$51.94.¹³

With only six joint municipal libraries in the state, the median per capita local funding figure of \$84.17 masks a wide diversity of local funding support levels – from \$38.77 (Matawan-Aberdeen) to \$126.47 (Bedminster-Far Hills) per capita. The small number of joint libraries and their widely ranging profiles discourages the generalization of this library type.

As nonprofit organizations, association libraries are not regulated by municipal or county governing bodies nor are they bound by law to be supported by dedicated property tax revenues. However, most association libraries in fact serve a single municipality and rely principally on municipal funds; half of the fifty association libraries are also members of county library systems.¹⁴ With only thirty-three of the fifty libraries having responded to the 2007 New Jersey Public Libraries Survey, no meaningful conclusions can be drawn about the nature of association libraries' levels of local funding. Local funding ranges from \$1.08 (Elmer) per capita to \$110.99 (Old Tappan), with forty of the fifty libraries serving populations under 10,000.



Property Taxes

In total, property taxes supply 94% of municipal library income, 87% of joint library income, 94% of county library budgets and 85% of association library budgets.

¹³ The mean value of per capita local funding for county libraries is \$62.19.

¹⁴ Association libraries that are members of county library systems are denoted by asterisks in Appendix A.

Association and joint libraries' budgets are comprised of slightly lower percentages of local tax support due to proportionately heavier reliance on other income such as gifts and fees. Many libraries across the state have been challenged by declining budgets as municipal dollars are being dedicated to other local needs - such as safety and municipal infrastructure - at a time when libraries need more funds to keep up with the demands of the information society.

Libraries receive support based on property taxes in two forms. The first is a direct appropriation to the library. Since all but association libraries have a minimum mandatory library appropriation, there is a base level of funding for libraries regardless of the region's economic condition and competing local interests within the jurisdiction. According to data collected in 2007, 63% of municipal libraries were above the minimum mandatory library appropriation of 1/3 mill with 11% above 1/2 mill and 2% above 1 mill. Libraries receiving an appropriation above the minimum amount are generally situated in municipalities with relatively low tax rates for the population served.

In addition to the direct appropriation, many libraries receive services and additional support to supplement the municipal/county appropriation. Municipal and county libraries on average receive 6% and 8% respectively of their total budget from additional support and services, with joint libraries receiving less than 1%, and association libraries receiving 15% of their budget from additional local support. Types of operating support provided include insurance, employee benefits and building and lawn maintenance.

Additional Local Tax Support and Services

Since the appropriation from the municipality or county may not always provide a sum sufficient for the proper maintenance of libraries, many municipal, county, and joint libraries rely on additional municipal/county support to supplement the municipal/county appropriation. Municipal and county libraries on average receive 6% and 5% respectively of their total budget from additional support and services, with joint libraries receiving less than 1% of their budget from additional local support. Types of operating support provided include insurance, benefits and building and lawn maintenance.

Dependence on additional local tax appropriations is subject to local economic conditions and competing priorities. Many libraries across the state have been challenged by

declining budgets as municipal dollars are being dedicated to other local needs—safety, municipal infrastructure, schools—at a time when libraries need more funds to keep up with the demands of our information society.

Capital Costs

Despite the growth of electronic resources, the physical library building remains at the center of the library's mission. Library buildings house the physical materials in the library's collections, provide a point of access to materials and the expertise of librarians, and provide a public space for members of the community to interact.

All municipalities, regardless of the type of library they support, are authorized to issue bonds for the purpose of capital improvement or property acquisition, as stated in the Local Bond Law (40A:2-1). Local governing boards may levy ad valorem taxes upon all taxable property within its borders to pay the bond's principal and interest.

APPENDIX A: NEW JERSEY PUBLIC LIBRARIES BY TYPE

Association Libraries (49)

Atlantic Highlands*	Harding Township*	Old Tappan
Bass River Township*	High Bridge*	Oxford Township*
Berlin Borough*	Holland-Alexandria*	Penns Grove-Carneys Point
Beverly*	Little Silver*	Pennsville
Brielle*	Manasquan*	Ringwood
Burlington City*	Mendham Borough*	Riverside*
Chesterfield Township*	Mendham Township*	Rochelle Park
Clementon*	Millville*	Rumson*
Delanco*	Monmouth Beach*	Sea Bright*
Demarest	Morris Plains*	Sea Girt*
Eatontown*	Mount Holly*	Southampton Township*
Elmer	Mountain Lakes*	Tewksbury*
Fair Haven*	Neptune City*	Tinton Falls*
Florence Township*	Newfield*	Union Beach*
Frenchtown*	Northvale	Woodstown-Pilesgrove
Gibbsboro*	Norwood	
Hanover Township*	Oaklyn*	

***also a member of a county library system**

County Libraries (14)

Atlantic County Library	Mercer County Library
Burlington County Library	Monmouth County Library
Camden County Library	Morris County Library*
Cape May County Library	Ocean County Library
Cumberland County Library*	Somerset County Library
Gloucester County	Sussex County Library
Hunterdon County Library	Warren County Library

***All municipalities are members of the county library system**

Joint Libraries (6)

Bedminster-Far Hills
Chatham Borough & Township
Chester Borough & Township

Matawan-Aberdeen
Morristown & Morris Township
Princeton Borough & Township

Municipal Libraries (234)

Absecon	Camden City	Elmwood Park
Allendale	Carlstadt	Emerson
Alpha Borough	Carteret	Englewood
Asbury Park	Cedar Grove	Fair Lawn
Atlantic City	Cherry Hill	Fairfield
Audubon Borough	Clark	Fairview
Avalon	Cliffside Park	Fanwood
Avon-by-the-Sea	Clifton	Flemington
Bayonne	Closter	Florham Park*
Beach Haven	Collingswood	Fort Lee
Belleville	Cranbury	Franklin Lakes
Belmar	Cranford	Franklin Township
Belvidere	Cresskill	(Gloucester County)
Bergenfield	Denville*	Franklin Township
Berkeley Heights	Deptford Township	(Somerset County)
Bernards Township	Dover*	Freehold Borough
Bernardsville	Dumont	Garfield
Bloomfield	Dunellen	Garwood
Bloomington	East Brunswick	Glen Ridge
Bogota	East Hanover*	Glen Rock
Boonton Town*	East Orange	Gloucester City
Bradley Beach	East Rutherford	Hackensack
Bridgeton*	Edgewater	Hackettstown
Butler*	Edison	Haddon Heights
Caldwell	Elizabeth	Haddonfield

Haledon	Keyport	Maywood
Hamilton	Kinnelon*	Metuchen
Harrington Park	Lambertville	Middlesex
Harrison	Leonia	Middletown
Hasbrouck Heights	Lincoln Park*	Midland Park
Haworth	Linden	Milford
Hawthorne	Linwood	Millburn
Highland Park	Little Falls	Milltown
Hillsdale	Little Ferry	Monroe
Hillside	Livingston	Monroe Township
Hoboken	Lodi	Montclair
Ho-Ho-Kus	Long Branch	Montvale
Hopewell Borough	Long Hill Township*	Montville*
Irvington	Lyndhurst	Moorestown
Jamesburg	Madison*	Mount Arlington*
Jefferson Township*	Mahwah Township	Mount Laurel
Jersey City	Manville	Mount Olive*
Kearny	Maplewood	Mountainside
Kenilworth	Margate City	Neptune Township
New Brunswick	Palisades Park	Plainsboro
New Milford	Paramus	Pompton Lakes
New Providence	Park Ridge	Rahway
Newark	Parsippany-Troy Hills*	Ramsey
North Arlington	Passaic	Randolph Township*
North Bergen	Paterson	Raritan
North Brunswick	Paulsboro	Red Bank
North Haledon	Pennington	Ridgefield
Northfield	Pennsauken	Ridgefield Park
Nutley	Pequannock Township*	Ridgewood Village
Oakland	Perth Amboy	River Edge
Ocean City	Phillipsburg	River Vale
Old Bridge	Piscataway	Riverdale*
Oradell	Pitman	Rockaway Borough*
Orange	Plainfield	Rockaway Township*

Roseland	Stratford	Wayne
Roselle	Summit	Weehawken
Roselle Park	Teaneck	Wenonah
Roxbury Township*	Tenaflly	West Caldwell
Runnemede	Totowa Borough	West Deptford
Rutherford	Trenton	West Long Branch**
Saddle Brook	Union	West Milford
Salem	Union City	West New York
Sayreville	Upper Saddle River	West Orange
Scotch Plains	Verona	West Paterson
Secaucus	Vineland*	Westfield
Somerville	Waldwick	Westville
South Amboy	Wallington	Westwood
South Brunswick	Wanaque	Wharton*
South Orange	Washington	Willingboro
South Plainfield	Washington Borough	Woodbridge Township
South River	Washington Township	Woodbury
Sparta	(Gloucester County)	Wood-Ridge
Spotswood	Washington Township	Wyckoff
Spring Lake Borough	(Morris County)*	
Springfield	Waterford Township	

*all municipal libraries in Cumberland and Morris counties are also part of the county library system

**member of county library system by municipal resolution

APPENDIX B: STATE LIBRARY ADMINISTERED GRANTS

2006-2008

Library Services and Technology Act	\$4.3 million
Laura Bush 21 st Century Librarian Program	\$1 million
Public Library Literacy Leadership Program	\$200,000
Statewide Diversity Leadership Program	\$100,000

For more on the individual grants listed above, go to

<http://www.njstatelib.org/LDB/Grants>.

APPENDIX C: REGIONAL LIBRARY COOPERATIVES AND NETWORKS

Regional Library Cooperatives

- Central Jersey Regional Library Cooperative (CJRLC)
Mercer, Monmouth and Ocean counties.
<http://www.cjrlc.org>
- Infolink, the Eastern New Jersey Regional Library Cooperative
Essex, Hudson, Middlesex and Union counties.
<http://infolink.org>
- Highlands Regional Library Cooperative (HRLC)
Bergen, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex and Warren counties.
<http://www.hrlc.org>
- South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative (SJRLC)
Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem counties.
<http://www.sjrlc.org>

Regional Library Networks

- Bergen County Cooperative Library System (BCCLS)
A consortium of over 70 libraries, mostly in the Bergen County area.
<http://www.bccls.org>
- Burlington Libraries Information Consortium (BLInC)
A consortium of Burlington County libraries.
<http://www.bcls.lib.nj.us/libraries>
- Cumberland Libraries United Electronic System (CLUES)
A consortium of libraries in the Cumberland County area.

http://www.clueslibs.org/about/member_libraries/default.html

- Libraries of Middlesex Automation Consortium (LMxAC)
A multi-type consortium that provides automation solutions to its member libraries.
www.lmxac.org
- Libraries of Gloucester and Salem Information Network (LOGIN)
A consortium of municipal public libraries, academic libraries, and the Gloucester County Library.
<http://www.login-libraries.org>
- Morris Automated Information Network (M.A.I.N.)
A consortium of municipal public libraries and the Morris County Library.
<http://www.mainlib.org>
- PALSPlus: the computer consortium of Passaic County Libraries
A consortium of libraries in Passaic County.
<http://www.palsplus.org>
- Reciprocal Borrowing and Lending Consortium (ReBL)
A consortium of libraries in Essex County.
<http://library.shu.edu/rebl.htm>
- Sussex Warren Electronic Lending Library
A consortium of municipal libraries and Sussex and Warren County Libraries.
<http://www.sussexcountylibrary.org/swell.htm>

APPENDIX D: IMPORTANT WEBSITES FOR NEW JERSEY LIBRARIES

Education and Continuing Professional Development

- School of Communication, Information and Library Studies, Rutgers University
<http://www.scils.rutgers.edu>

Statewide Resources and Services

- The New Jersey State Library
<http://www.njstatelib.org>
- The New Jersey Knowledge Initiative
<http://www.njki.org>
 - JerseyClicks
<http://www.jerseyclicks.org>
 - QandANJ
<http://www.QandANJ.org>
- The New Jersey Library Association
<http://njla.org>
- Statewide Services Providers
http://www.njstatelib.org/LDB/Statewide_Services_Handbook/sshadds.php

Library Statistics

- Institute of Education Sciences National Center for Education Statistics, Library Statistics Program
<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries>
- Statistics for NJ Public Libraries
<http://www.njstatelib.org/LDB/Statistics>