

Quotable Facts About New Jersey's Public Libraries



Did You Know That In 2008...

- ◆ More than 48.5 MILLION visitors were welcomed in New Jersey's public libraries, 2.5 MILLION above 2007, indicating a strong and growing demand for public libraries.
- ◆ In New Jersey, nearly 80% of the public libraries offered password free web access via Wi-Fi. Public libraries also served as community centers / knowledge hubs providing free access to a wealth of resources and services such as books, audio materials, high value subscription databases, and public programming among many other services.
- ◆ New Jersey residents had nearly 31.2 million items available to them at NJ public libraries and checked out nearly 59.8 million items in one year, a saving of \$1,495 MILLION that they could have channeled to other goods and services.
- ◆ Through the statewide interlibrary loan program, NJ public libraries loaned and borrowed over 3.8 million items saving the residents nearly \$95 million in purchasing.
- ◆ New Jersey public libraries provided free internet access to its residents through the use of nearly 6400 PCs which would cost about \$6.4 MILLION to buy. These PCs were used 11.8 million times. If the customers had used these computers for one hour at commercial providers, they would have paid about \$12 per hour, or \$141.6 million statewide.
- ◆ New Jersey public libraries entertained and educated over 3.7 million residents with free programs such as computer classes and book talks in one year. At an average minimum fee of \$10 per program, the cost for programs for residents would total \$37 million.
- ◆ Public librarians across the state answered nearly 8.4 million information questions in the year, services valued at \$21 million dollars if using a commercial service.

- ◆ New Jersey public libraries were open an average of 55 hours per week including night and weekend hours.
- ◆ New Jersey public libraries were well used with an active membership of 4.4 million cardholders. Each NJ library card holder checked out an average of 13.5 items in the year.
- ◆ The New Jersey Talking Book & Braille Center loaned an average of 30,000 talking books per month.
- ◆ Close to 9 MILLION uses were made of New Jersey libraries' licensed online subscription services to access information using the resources available on JerseyClicks, www.jerseyclicks.org and the New Jersey Knowledge Initiative, www.njki.org.
- ◆ The 24/7 online service QandANJ.org, <http://qandanj.org/> answered over 2,900 questions a month online with 85% of customers rating the service as good or excellent.
- ◆ Over 150,000 children and teens read nearly 3.2 million books in the Summer Reading Program held in NJ's public libraries.

Facts based on
“New Jersey Public Library Statistics 2008”

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