

Taxpayer Return on Investment in Florida Public Libraries

For every tax dollar received, Florida public libraries in 2008 provided \$8.32 in value.

Florida Libraries Support a STRONG ECONOMY

Jobs Created - A job is created for every \$3,491 of public support to Florida libraries.

Income or Wages Increase - Income (wages) increases by \$22.97 for every dollar of public support to libraries.

Gross Regional Product Increases - The value of all goods and services produced in the state of Florida increases by \$10.57 for every dollar of public support to libraries.

Library User Quotes

“I owe the library for finding a job in this tough economy.”

“I needed access to a computer for job hunting on a daily basis. I was able to visit the library to accomplish this.”

“[I] Learned how to use Excel.”

Florida Libraries Provide ESSENTIAL Services

Public libraries help people learn new things no matter their age.

Public libraries improve communities by helping people learn new skills that lead to better jobs.

Public libraries attract good businesses to the area.

Library User Quote

“Indispensable, essential and important to a sense of community...”

Essential Services Include:

E-Government

Careers and Educational Choices

Health Information and Resources

Educational Support

Personal Growth and Development

Children and Youth Activities

Funding

Visits to public libraries increased over seven percent between 2007 and 2008 while funding increased less than one percent.

Nearly 90 percent of public library funding comes from local sources.

Public Library Support by Source 2008

Local Revenue is 89.89 percent.

State Revenue is 5.06 percent.

Federal Revenue is 0.34 percent.

Other Funds (grants, fees, and fines) are 4.71 percent.

Return on Investment

For every tax dollar received, Florida public libraries in 2008 provided \$8.32 in value. The value provided by Florida public libraries increased significantly from 2004 to 2008.

	2004	2008	
Total Revenue Investment	449.3	668	(millions)
User Investment (cost to use library services)	1.72	2.9	(billions)
Cost to Use Alternatives	4.05	7.19	(billions)
Total Net Benefit to Users	2.33	4.29	(billions)
Community Economic Benefit Lost	447	1,149	(millions)
Lost Use Benefits	155	79	(millions)
Economic Return	2.93	6.23	(billions)
Return on Investment	6.54 to 1	8.32 to 1	

Florida Public Library Annual Revenues and Visits

Fiscal Year 2001 to 2002 annual revenues equal \$421,231,349 and public library visits equal 66,700,716.

Fiscal Year 2002 to 2003 annual revenues equal \$442,949,293 and public library visits equal 67,695,407.

Fiscal Year 2003 to 2004 annual revenues equal \$476,548,877 and public library visits equal 70,233,253.

Fiscal Year 2004 to 2005 annual revenues equal \$515,446,820 and public library visits equal 72,760,556.

Fiscal Year 2005 to 2006 annual revenues equal \$583,396,628 and public library visits equal 72,049,402.

Fiscal Year 2006 to 2007 annual revenues equal \$656,291,588 and public library visits equal 78,711,153.

Fiscal Year 2007 to 2008 annual revenues equal \$661,542,672 and public library visits equal 84,255,007.

Definitions

Revenue Investment: The revenues supporting public libraries including federal, state and local funds; fees and fines; and cash gifts and donations.

User Investment: The investment by users in their time, travel, purchases, etc., necessary to use public libraries or specific services.

Cost to Use Alternatives: The estimated costs to use alternatives to the public libraries should they cease to exist, and should users decide to pursue alternatives (measured in terms of time and other expenditures).

Total Net Benefits to Users: The added cost to use alternatives to the public library. This is equivalent to the cost to use alternatives minus the user investment.

Community Economic Benefits: These are benefits that flow from the public library such as library spending with vendors, contractors, etc., in the state; revenues generated by vendors and contractors in the library (e.g., copying, coffee shop, gift shop); and spending that occurs as a result of library use (e.g., restaurants, stores, coffee shops).

Lost Use Benefits: These are benefits derived from use that would be lost if the public libraries did not exist.

Economic Return: The results of public library use that can be expressed in economic terms.

Return on Investment (ROI): The relationship between the total economic benefit and the total investment in public libraries.

Gross Regional Product (GRP): An indicator of the economic well-being of an area measured in terms of the total economic output. The GRP numbers in this report refer to the State of Florida only.

Seal of Florida

Florida Department of State

Division of Library and Information Services

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