



**Public Library  
Statistics 2005**

Prepared by

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## Overview

### Background

In Alberta, public library services are supported through shared funding between the provincial government and participating municipalities. The Public Library Services Section of the Libraries, Community and Voluntary Services Branch of Alberta Municipal Affairs and Housing is the agency responsible for overseeing the Alberta *Libraries Act and Regulation* and for the development of public library services in the province.

Public library boards are responsible for submitting an Annual Report to Alberta Municipal Affairs and Housing reporting statistics related to services and library programming. The statistical information from each library's annual report provides the data published in the Public Library Statistics. Financial details are taken from Statements of Receipts and Disbursements and financial reports filed by each library board.

### Availability and Access

In 2005 Public Library Service was available to 98.1% of Albertans from 310 service points offered by 230 municipal and community library boards. Seven Regional Library Systems supported 241 service points/libraries by offering a range of services including: acquisitions, cataloguing and processing of library materials, rotating collections in various formats, technology support, network services, staff and trustee training, electronic subscription services, reference services and consultation on library service issues. Membership in a regional library system allows libraries to take advantage of economies of scale when purchasing goods and services and provides access to expertise in the areas of library service, management and governance. In 2005, just over one million people (33% of the population) were served by libraries supported by a library system.

Across the province, access to library catalogues through portals such as The Alberta Library's TAL Online continues to boost lending between libraries. Interlibrary Loan service has become a cornerstone of library service in Alberta with almost 1.6 million transactions during the year, a 10.8% increase over 2004. Many libraries report that this service has had a huge impact on staff time, but recognize the tremendous benefit of improved access to resources for library users. Recent efforts to streamline delivery processes has resulted in quicker ILL turnaround times. Consequently, patrons are receiving their interlibrary loan requests faster than ever before.

In total, 41.9 million items were either borrowed directly, interlibrary loaned or used in-house at Alberta's public libraries.

### **E-Services**

Use of online and electronic library services continued to grow in 2005. Each week, 135,996 patrons availed themselves of the 2079 public library workstations available in Alberta's public libraries. Public library workstations were in use an average of 40% of the time during library hours. Reference transactions occurring electronically continue to increase, rising to 59.2% in 2005. In recognition of the demonstrated role libraries play in providing equitable access to electronic/online information resources, the Government of Alberta initiated its ongoing support for libraries' Supernet connectivity. In 2005, the Province began covering the monthly connection fees for public libraries.

### **Programs**

Programming continued to be a core service of public libraries across Alberta. Almost one million Albertans took part in one of the 46,468 programs offered in public libraries in 2005. Programming for adult patrons in 2005 covered a range of topic areas, including technology training, author readings, ESL and programs for Seniors. Programming for children drew 512,165 participants. Of those, 258,540 (50%) participated in literacy programs at their local library. A major library initiative promoting literacy is the annual Summer Reading Program put on by many of Alberta's public libraries. The theme in 2005 was *Quest for Heroes!*

### **Funding**

Public library service is a municipal service. As such, the lion's share of funding for public libraries comes from local municipalities. In 2005, local support accounted for 69.1% of total library revenue. Provincial support made up 13.8% of total library revenue. Both local and provincial support increased in 2005: there was a 9.2% increase for local support and a 5.2% increase in provincial support. (It should be noted that provincial support as represented here only includes library grants. It does not include other provincial funding for public library supports such as APLEN, Supernet connectivity or Resource Sharing.) These increases have been indispensable in helping libraries meet the needs of a growing provincial population in the midst of ever-escalating costs.

Alberta libraries continue to experience positive growth in usage and provision of quality service to the constituents of Alberta.

Bonnie Gray  
Manager, Public Library Services

# Public Library Statistics 2005

## 2005 Summary

### Population

Population of province, 2005 estimate .....	3,182,178
Population served by public libraries.....(98.1%)	3,122,327
Population with no local library service .....	(1.9%) 59,851

### General Statistics

Total book stock in public libraries (volumes) .....	8,706,660
Bookstock per capita served .....	2.79
Total materials in public libraries .....	9,755,146
Items per capita served .....	3.12

### Output Statistics

Total public library circulation .....	32,808,686
Circulation per capita served .....	10.51
Number of library cardholders in public libraries .....	1,266,504
Percentage of Albertans with library cards.....	39.8%
Number of programs offered by public libraries .....	46,468
Number of participants in programs .....	990,019
Number of reference questions asked.....	4,800,398
Online reference as a percentage of all reference .....	59.2%
Interlibrary loans borrowed .....	824,152
Interlibrary loans lent.....	797,136
Annual visits .....	17,380,647
Number of remote library website/catalogue visits .....	20,487,634
Customer satisfaction on a scale of 5.....	4.5
Customers finding what they wanted.....	87.6%

**Financial Data**

Total local support for public library service.....	\$81,518,534
Local support per capita served .....	\$26.11
Total provincial grants to public libraries.....	\$16,326,676
Provincial support per capita served.....	\$5.23

**Library Management and Personnel**

Number of FTE staff in public libraries.....	1,548
Number of FTE staff in system headquarters .....	133
Number of hours open .....	487,991
Average number of hours open per week .....	31.4

**Notes**

- + indicates the Board is a joint board operated by two or more councils
- n/a non-applicable
- n/d no data
- \* represents only Alberta population

# Five Year Comparative Public Library Statistics

<b>Alberta</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2000</b>
Provincial population	3,182,178	3,066,257	2,879,743
Population served by public libraries	3,122,327	2,986,932	2,773,867
Percentage with library Service	98.1%	97.4%	96.3%
Population with no local library service	59,851	79,325	105,876
Total volumes in public libraries	8,804,759	8,347,177	8,073,187
Volumes per capita served	2.82	2.79	2.91
Total non-book items	1,062,611	1,169,119	1,809,326
Total public library circulation	32,808,686	32,336,012	28,851,158
Total local support for public libraries	\$81,518,534	\$74,638,015	\$56,132,618
Total provincial grants to library boards	\$16,326,676	\$15,970,463	\$13,001,910
Local support per capita served	\$26.11	\$24.99	\$20.24
Provincial support per capita served (library grants)	\$5.23	\$5.35	\$4.69
Circulation items per capita served	10.51	10.83	10.40

# Definition of Library Types

## **Library System**

Established by agreement between municipalities and/or school authorities as provided for under Section 13 of the *Libraries Act*, RSA 2000, Ch.L-11. A system is supported by local taxes and is governed by a board consisting of one member appointed by each participant, and additional members appointed in accordance with the *Libraries Regulation*. There are seven library system boards with 18 sites/service points. Edmonton and Calgary are excluded from systems. Several library systems have operating service points. The statistics related to the holdings and activities at these services points are listed under Library Systems – Output Measures. Statistics related to the activities undertaken by library systems as service providers to libraries are found in [Appendix A](#) – Library Systems Service Summary.

## **Municipal Library**

Established by passage of a bylaw under Section 3 of the *Libraries Act*, RSA 2000, Ch.L-11. A municipal library is supported by municipal taxes and is governed by a board of not less than five and not more than ten members, all appointed by the council of the municipality. Not more than two members of council may be members of the Board. In 2005, there were 230 municipal library boards and 310 sites/service points, including 2 bookmobiles.

## **Community Library**

Established, governed, and supported by an association of persons, whether incorporated or not, and authorized by the Minister, under Section 25 of the *Libraries Act*, RSA 2000, Ch.L-11, to provide library services to the public in a given area. It is governed by a board which is a corporation. There is one community library board remaining in the province, operating one service point.

# Notes

## **Information Sources**

Data for this publication comes from the *Annual Report and Survey of Public Libraries* distributed to all library boards in the province. Financial data is derived from financial reports and audits provided by each board.

## **Financial Data**

Because there is no standard reporting form and reports are not limited to operating costs, financial information may include debt charges, and transfers to and from other accounts. We have attempted to represent the information provided by each board as accurately as possible.

Direct payments are amounts reported by municipalities that either supplement or replace board expenditures in the areas noted. These arrangements are authorized by agreement between board and council.

## **Population per FTE staff**

Boards with less than one FTE have had this calculation based on the equivalent of one FTE (35 hours per week). This is due to the fact that many of these boards either use volunteer staff, are open very few hours or if they are in a school have an arrangement with the school to use its staff.

## **Cardholders Per Capita**

Several of the small libraries serve people in surrounding rural areas with a population base greater than the village itself. In these libraries, the number of card holders may be greater than the actual population of the village.

# Definitions of Terms

<b>All Materials</b>	Includes audio visual materials, toys, games, micro materials, etc.
<b>Appropriation</b>	Tax appropriation by municipality which appoints the library board and includes payments made directly by councils.
<b>Area</b>	Multiply by 10.76 to obtain square footage. In the case of libraries with more than one service point, the area for the main library is given
<b>Averages</b>	Average of all reporting libraries.
<b>Bookstock</b>	Includes paperbacks whether catalogued or not.
<b>Circulation per Hour</b>	Total circulation divided by sum of the weekly hours divided by 50 weeks.
<b>FTE</b>	Full-time equivalent in paid staff hours based on a minimum of 35 hours in the week.
<b>Hours Open</b>	Number of hours per week including all branch hours where applicable.
<b>Operating Expenditure</b>	Excludes debenture payments.
<b>Totals</b>	Total (data) of all reporting libraries.
<b>Turnover</b>	Calculation of bookstock turnover (Bookstock Circulation divided by Total Bookstock)

### LIBRARY BOARDS THAT CHANGED STATUS IN 2005

M.D. Big Lakes	Joined Peace Library System
Wheatland County	Joined Marigold Library System
Village of Tilley	Joined Shortgrass Library System
Village of Barons	Joined Chinook Arch Regional Library
Village of Minburn	Joined Northern Lights Library System
Cypress County	Joined Shortgrass Library System

### JOINT BOARDS (+)

Library Board	Municipalities Served	Service Points
Barrhead Library Board	Town of Barrhead, County of Barrhead	Barrhead, Neerlandia
Lac La Biche Library Board	Town of Lac La Biche, Lakeland County	Lac La Biche, Plamondon
Pincher Creek Library Board	Town of Pincher Creek, Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9, Village of Cowley	Pincher Creek
Sheep River Library Board	Town of Black Diamond, Town of Turner Valley	Black Diamond
Slave Lake Library Board	Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124, Town of Slave Lake	Flatbush, Slave Lake, Smith
Stettler Library Board	Town of Stettler, County of Stettler	Stettler
Westlock Library Board	Town of Westlock, Westlock County	Fawcett, Jarvie, Vimy, Westlock