

Australian Public Libraries Statistical Report 2024–25

HIGHLIGHTS

The *Australian Public Libraries Statistical Report 2024-2025* provides a snapshot of Australia's public library services. The data tells a compelling story: in 2025 public libraries remain valued community institutions, providing access to knowledge, technology, opportunity and connection, and, if anything, this role is more important as cost of living grows and misinformation abounds.

Key statistics



1,733

library service points



61 million
digital loans



7.2 million
program participants, online
and in-person

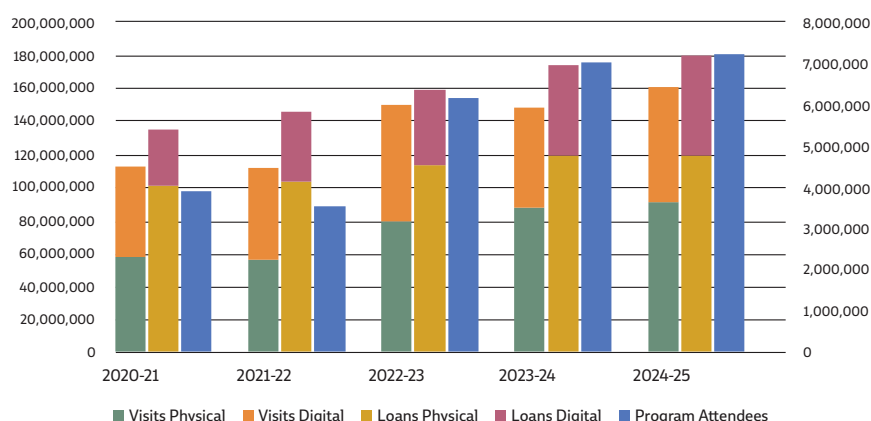


180 million
instances of collection usage

The story in numbers

- 90.5 million in-person public library visits, 70 million website visits
- 180 million loans - 119 million physical and 61 million digital
- 47 million collection items were available to the public, with an investment of \$135 million to keep them current and relevant
- 1,733 service points, including 1409 branches, 90 mobile libraries and 234 other outlets (including self-serve kiosks, library depots and collection (vending machines)
- a record 434,000 library programs attracted 7.2 million attendees
- 1,884 bookable rooms and meeting spaces were occupied for 938,000 hours
- On average, Australians accessed 6.6 library items across the year

Visits, loans and programs over 5 years



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Key trends

**180
million**



instances of collection usage
across the year

**97%
increase**



Wi-Fi/public computer use
since 2021-22

**81%
increase**



meeting room use since
2021-22

Public library use continues to increase

- Physical and online visits increased 8.5% from 2023-24
- Both physical and digital borrowing increased, with digital borrowing growing fastest

Public libraries are important to digital inclusion

- Digital collection use has increased 80% over the five years since 2020-21
- Wi-Fi and public computer use is up 9.6% since last year and 97% since 2021-22

Libraries are flourishing as places of connection

- Use of meeting rooms is up 24% since 2023-24 and 81% since 2021-22
- The number of book clubs increased by almost 20% over the past four years
- Program sessions and attendance have almost doubled in five years

Growth in the face of funding and professional constraints

- Despite increased activity, overall funding for libraries decreased 0.6% in 2024-25 to \$1.383 billion; adjusted for inflation, per capita spending has decreased 13% over five years.



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