

March 2025

LIBRARY SERVICES & TECHNOLOGY ACT (LSTA)

AND ARKANSAS PUBLIC LIBRARIES



☎ 501-682-2053

🌐 library.arkansas.gov

Arkansas Libraries Quick Facts

Results from the 2023 Public Library Survey



6,392,111

In-Person
Library Visits



1,460,743

Library Card
Holders



7

Bookmobiles



219

Public Library
Locations



8,035,530

Physical Items
Borrowed



8,712,824

Ebooks



1,770,927

Downloadable
Audio & Video
Units



67,927

Interlibrary Loans



764,519

Uses of Public
Computers



1,980,821

Wireless
Sessions*



561

Lending Hotspots



941,698

Total Attendees
to All Programs



344

Computer Coding
Programs for
Ages 0-18



464

Workforce
Readiness &
Employment
Programs



4,352

Kindergarten
Readiness
Programs



707

GED Prep, Tech
School & College
Readiness Programs

LSTA: Enhancing Library Services for All Arkansans

Highlights

- **Literacy.** Statewide programs such as Summer Reading support, book club kit lending, and the Arkansas Digital Library Consortium (ADLC) help small and rural libraries provide literacy activities in their local communities.
- **Training & Development.** Programs such as the Arkansas Library Leadership Institute (ALL-In), weekly webinars, and technical training for library staff increase knowledge, confidence, and expertise in the library workforce.
- **Technology Support.** Public libraries received commitments totaling \$984,700 to support highspeed internet access and WiFi through the E-Rate program. ASL provides direct assistance to public libraries in the administration and filing of E-Rate applications.



Literacy

Summer Reading
ADLC
Library for the Blind
Book Clubs
Preschool Storytime



Training

ALL-In
Directors Summit
Webinars
Youth Services Workshop
Board Training



Technology

E-Rate Support
Hot Spot Lending
WiFi
Digital Skills Training
Cybersecurity

The Arkansas State Library uses Library Services and Technology Act funding to provide enhancements to library services that are available to all Arkansans.

Literacy

Consortial programs such as ADLC, the statewide summer library program, interlibrary loan, and rotating book club kits, pool the buying power of Arkansas public libraries to provide value added library services that meet the needs and demands of local communities. Federal funds ensure that every Arkansan has access to quality reading programs and materials.



ADLC

1,731,555

eBooks borrowed from 143 participating libraries

Summer Reading

Through the Summer Reading project and its activities, the Arkansas State Library supports the vital efforts of public librarians and educators to prevent grade level loss in reading that occurs during the summer months. The State Library provides four fully developed programs for libraries to customize to local needs.

Arkansas River Valley Library,
Dardanelle, AR

"The number of total hours of reading reported for independent readers 5 and up was over 10,000."

-- Berryville Public Library

13,000+

Arkansas children participated in their local Summer Reading Program in 2024.



Training & Development

Training and development programs such as continuing education, the youth services project, and consulting services build staff capacity and expertise in the library workforce throughout the state of Arkansas.

Continuing Education



- Public Library Directors Summit
- Arkansas Library Leadership Institute
- Library Board of Trustees Training
- Friends of the Library Training
- Youth Services Workshop
- Library Foundations Training
- Customer Service Training

2,310

Viewings of continuing education webinars by Arkansas library workers.



Technology

Technology in public libraries improves the economic health of rural communities by providing access to essential tools required for job search and career development, rural entrepreneurship, and online education. Programs such as Traveler and Mockingbird leverage collective buying to reduce duplication of resources and increase access to quality resources in rural communities throughout the state.

Traveler 

\$53 Million

Saved by Arkansas schools and public libraries annually by the statewide Traveler subscription.

Traveler provides statewide access to a collection of subscription digital resources for all Arkansas residents. ASL's subscription to Traveler resources saves Arkansas schools and public libraries about \$50 million annually. Traveler

E-Rate Support 

\$1,154,490

Requested in E-Rate funding year 2023 by Arkansas public libraries.

Arkansas public libraries consistently request approximately \$1 Million per year to afford robust broadband connections and up-to-date internal connections equipment to provide internet access and Wi-Fi to library patrons. Without these valuable E-Rate funds, libraries may not be able to afford adequate internet access to support entrepreneurship, digital skills training, education, and civic engagement in their communities.



Mockingbird

57

Libraries participate in catalog sharing through Mockingbird.



The Mockingbird project, launched in 2022, allows participating libraries throughout the state to share their catalogs with other libraries and library users for one stop searching.



Contact Us



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The Arkansas State Library serves as the information resource center for state agencies, legislators and legislative staffs; provides guidance and support for the development of local public libraries and provides the resources, services, and leadership necessary to meet the educational, informational and cultural needs of the citizens of Arkansas.

