



Vermont Library Association

The Vermont Library Association (VLA) is a nonprofit educational organization working to develop, promote, and improve library and information services and librarianship in the state of Vermont. Organized in 1893, VLA is a chapter of the American Library Association.

Libraries in Vermont:

-  Vermont is home to 113 municipal libraries, 73 incorporated libraries, 334 school libraries, and 16 academic libraries.
-  Vermont's libraries are vital community centers which provide free access to information through a wide range of print and digital resources and offer educational, recreational, and community programs for people of all ages.
-  Libraries drive economic development, provide Vermonters with the resources to build skills and search for employment, and serve as an important resource and venue for Vermont's creative sector.
-  Libraries meet a wide array of community needs, were critical hubs for 2023 flooding response and recovery, and currently fill social service gaps.

VLA's Legislative Priorities:

- Avenues for capital funding:** *Many Vermont libraries face immense capital needs in order to offer spaces that are safe and accessible for all. According to the Vermont Department of Libraries, Vermont library buildings are in need of \$260 million worth of basic improvements and deferred maintenance.*
- Interlibrary loan program stability:** *Amid threats to federal funding, Vermont must ensure the stability of the state's robust interlibrary loan program, the sole existing mechanism which provides equitable access to library resources for patrons statewide.*
- Inclusion of local libraries in early literacy initiatives:** *Vermont's libraries play a pivotal role in fostering early literacy. Efforts to promote early literacy must build and strengthen connections between young Vermonters and their local libraries.*

- Support for S. 232, which would:

- Broaden opportunities for capital funding by adding library-specific language to grant program eligibility and supporting those seeking funding with guidance from the Department of Libraries and Vermont Bond Bank.*
- Support the Statewide Summer Reading Program through the Department of Libraries and highlight library programming in the Afterschool and Summer Special Fund statute.*
- Create "Vermont Library Day" to promote and celebrate the critical role Vermont's libraries play throughout the state!*



Fun Statistical Facts



Annual Visits: 2,514,354

This averages out to every single Vermonter visiting libraries more than 3.8 times in a year.



Physical Item Circulation: 2,970,883

That's the equivalent of every single book in Fletcher Free's collection (in Burlington) being checked out more than 25 times.



Interlibrary Loans: Provided – 92,592 Received – 104,830

At \$12.00 per item, it would have cost Vermont libraries over \$1.2 million to purchase them independently.



Library Programs: 30,786

If you ran fast enough, you could attend an average of 84 library programs in Vermont every day of the year.



WiFi Sessions: 908,116

If Vermont patrons had to buy a \$3.00 cup of coffee to use the public WiFi, this would have cost them over \$2.7 million in total.