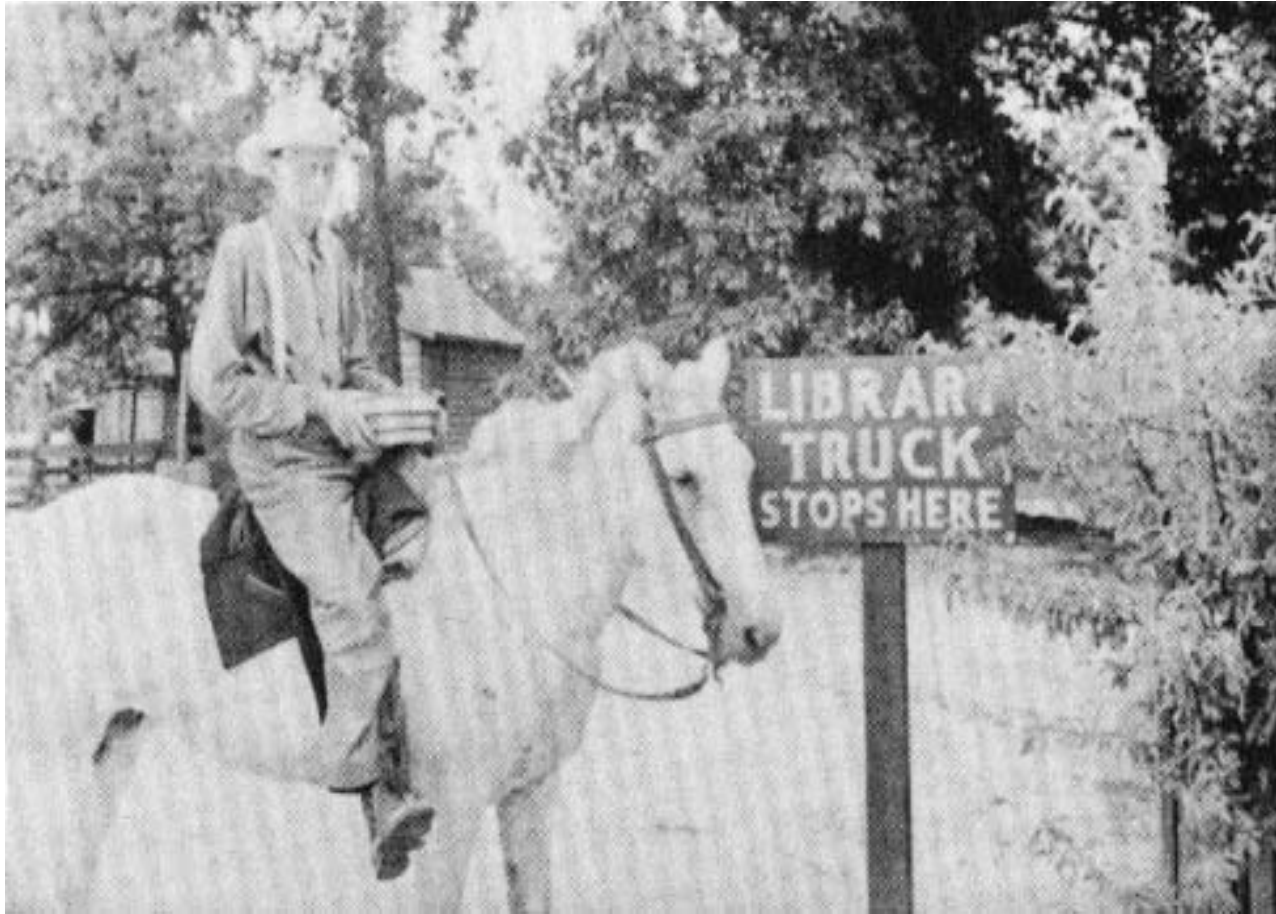


# Economic Crisis and US Libraries

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# Number of Libraries in U.S.

- **Public libraries**                    **16,592** (includes branches)
- **Academic Libraries**            **3,617**
- **School Libraries**                **99,783**
- **Special Libraries**               **9,066**
- **Armed Forces Libraries**    **296**
- **Government Libraries**    **1,159**

**Total**    **123,129** (estimate)

# Economic Crisis and US Libraries

## Usage Up

- Use of libraries always goes up in U.S. in tough economic times.
- Last 'major' recession was in early 1980's before Internet. Free Internet a big attraction now.
- Libraries seeing usage up 5-50%

## Budgets Down

- Majority of funding for libraries is local. State and municipal budgets have major shortfalls.
- Little federal stimulus money set aside for libraries

# Libraries Response to Crisis

- Career Development/Resume Writing/Interviewing Workshops
- Creation of Websites of Local Employers
- Computer Classes
- Financial Planning/Investment Classes
- Meeting Space for Support Groups
- Meeting Space for Government Officials for Talks on Economy
- Free Computers and WiFi
- Resources for businesses

## Advocating in a Tough Economy Toolkit

*"During tough economic times, people turn to libraries for their incredible array of free resources, from computers to books, DVDs and CDs, for help with a job hunt or health information. The average annual cost to the taxpayer for access to this wide range of resources is about \$31, the cost of one hardcover book. In good times or bad, libraries are a great value!"*

2008-2009 ALA President Jim Rettig



### Contents:

[Introduction](#)

[I. Talking Points](#)

[II. Making the Case](#)

[III. Outreach to Patrons and the Public](#)

[IV. Talking to the Media](#)

[V. Working with Government Officials and Legislators](#)

[VI. Staging a Rally](#)

[VII. Library Checklist](#)

[Contacts](#)

[Resources](#)

### Surviving in a Tough Economy: An Advocacy Institute Workshop



ALA Annual Conference,  
Chicago  
Friday, July 10 from 2- 5 p.m.

[Learn More!](#)

### American Recovery & Reinvestment Act 101



Libraries help America get  
back to work. **Know your  
stimulus.**

### Slow Economy Fuels Surge in Library Use



Media coverage of libraries'  
role during the current  
economic crisis. [View  
here.](#)

### ACRL Advocacy Resources



Tools to help you articulate  
the value of academic and  
research libraries.

[Find out more...](#)

### Press Center



Information for the media on  
the role of libraries in tough  
economic times  
[View press kit](#)

### Share Your Advocacy Tips



How is your library  
advocating in these tough  
economic times? [Tell us  
your story!](#)

### AASL Toolkits for Tough Times



Learn how to build  
stakeholder support for  
school library media  
programs with two new

AASL Toolkits.  
[Find out more!](#)

# ALA Press Releases

For Immediate Release  
February 10, 2009

## State funding for many public libraries on decline

- **CHICAGO – Forty-one percent of states report declining state funding for U.S. public libraries in fiscal year 2009, according to a survey of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) conducted by the American Library Association (ALA). Twenty percent of these states anticipate an additional reduction in the current fiscal year.**
- While reductions have been seen from coast to coast, the southeastern section of the country has been the hardest hit, with declines as large as 30 percent in South Carolina and 23.4 percent in Florida in FY09 compared with FY08. Per capita state aid in South Carolina has fallen back to 2003 levels, at the same time inflation has averaged between 2.5 and 3.4 percent annually. Additionally:
- Alabama: 9 percent reduction
- Georgia: 8 percent reduction
- Louisiana: 7.1 percent reduction
- Mississippi: 5 percent reduction

“At the same time demand for public library services are skyrocketing, the funding needed to maintain these services is in jeopardy in many states,” said ALA President Jim Rettig. “Unfortunately, declines in state funding often are compounded by reductions at the local level, creating a snowball effect that threatens library staffing, hours open to the public, collection development and technology maintenance.

# Supporting Learners in U.S. Public Libraries



## Education Is Job One for U.S. Public Libraries

The public library is a key agency in supporting the educational and learning needs of every person in the community. They are a vital resource for helping young children learn to read, for providing homework help for all levels of school, for a wealth of resources for homeschooling families, and for adult learners preparing to take the GED or continuing their education.

In fact, competitiveness in the 21st century demands that people not stop learning when they leave the classroom. Staying relevant in a rapidly changing workforce will require familiarity and facility with technology, as well as increased skills in successfully navigating information online. Libraries are part of a seamless web of educational opportunity that brings together trained information professionals and an array of resources that can be utilized inside the library or online 24/7.

While public libraries are known as great places to study and a complement to libraries in schools, universities, and colleges, the role of technology in our public libraries in supporting education is less well-known. This brief outlines many of the resources public libraries offer learners of all ages, some of the challenges libraries face in meeting growing demand for computer and Internet resources, and how increased funding would enable public libraries to offer increased assistance and resources to their communities.

## Did you know ?

83% of public libraries offer online homework resources?

73% of libraries report they are the only source of free Internet access in their community?

About 50% of teens have gone online from a library?

More than three-quarters of parents of homeschool students use the public library to support their children's educations?

American adults report the most common purpose for using public library computers is to meet educational needs?

Visits to public libraries grow every year and now top 1.3 billion?





# SNAPSHOT:

ONE DAY IN THE LIFE OF NEW JERSEY LIBRARIES  
F E B R U A R Y 1 9 , 2 0 0 9

Snapshot

Snapshot:

Results

Comments

Photos

Videos

Tips For Librarians

Did you know that 40,000 people visit Disneyland every day? That's pretty amazing, isn't it?

What's even more stunning is that on February 19, 2009, more than four times that number - 161,367 people visited New Jersey's libraries.

That number, though, is only part of the picture. The New Jersey State Library and the New Jersey Library Association launched a project called *Snapshot: One Day in the Life of New Jersey Libraries*. Its purpose? To capture the impact that New Jersey libraries have on their communities on a typical day.



We asked librarians from all types of libraries to participate, and participate they did: public and academic libraries, school and special libraries, hospital libraries and government libraries; from the tiniest facility to the largest county systems. We created a quick survey to capture the daily activities of libraries across the state, and hundreds of libraries sent us their survey results.

The numbers were impressive. More than 160,000 people walked through our libraries' doors and librarians answered nearly 20,000 reference questions.

The comments submitted by library customers were the most wonderful, heartfelt endorsements imaginable.



"This library is a sacred place where you can let your imagination roam. You can live in history, and research anything you don't know the answer to. It is a social forum, a neighborhood meeting place and a safe haven for children. This library may be small but it is the "heart of our town..."

"This library is truly my second home! It enriches both my social and intellectual lives. The resources it provides are for a wide spectrum of people and I feel my library card is the most

# Media on Libraries and the Economy

Since August 2008

894 Stories (national and local)

- Print Circulation - 116,791,032
- TV Viewings - 322,547,563
- Internet Stories Reach - 502,790,408

# National Television

**CBS NEWS VIDEO**



SEARCH  GO [Log in](#) [Register](#) [Help](#)

- Editors' Picks
- Evening News
- 60 Minutes
- 48 Hours
- The Early Show
- Face The Nation
- Politics
- U.S.
- World
- Health
- SciTech
- Entertainment
- Only On The Web
- Caught On Tape
- CNET TV



## Notebook: Libraries

Americans are saving money, and keeping the looming recession at bay, by going to their local libraries to rent books, CD's, and DVD's. Katie Couric reports.

Comments: 0

# National Newspaper Coverage

**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.**

***Folks Are Flocking to the Library, a Cozy Place to Look for a Job***

***Books, Computers and Wi-Fi Are Free, But Staffs Are Stressed by Crowds, Cutbacks***

**USA  
TODAY.**

***Libraries see increased use in recession***

**USA  
TODAY.**

***Many lose when libraries cut back***

***Cindy Argiento - Greensboro, N.C.***

**I was sad after reading that libraries are closing more branches because of dwindling tax dollars.**

**ALA** American  
Library  
Association

# Local Media



## PROJECT ECONOMY

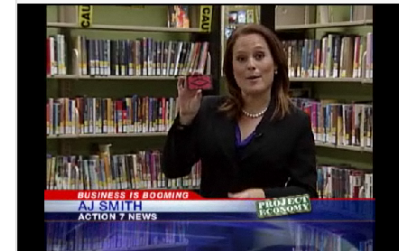
### Libraries Get More Customers In Tough Economy

POSTED: 10:57 pm MST March 2, 2009  
UPDATED: 11:51 pm MST March 2, 2009



ALBUQUERQUE, N.M -- Many businesses are seeing fewer customers, during the tough economic time, but the library is getting more business.

"I have noticed more and more going to the libraries," said library visitor Tom Stone.



philly.com

## The Philadelphia Inquirer

### *Council gets an earful on library cuts*

Now more than ever city residents need help in a failing economy, and libraries are a critical community resource for poor people of all ages, supporters told City Council yesterday.

## DAILY NEWS

NYDAILYNEWS.COM

### *Save my library, Bloomberg! Canarsie girl's letter begs mayor to stop cuts*

A 9-year-old [Canarsie](#) girl has penned an impassioned plea to [Mayor Bloomberg](#) to save the [Brooklyn Public Library](#) as the latest round of budget cuts....



# Saving Cuts to Library Budgets

## THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

### ***Library Funding Restored by Legislature***

Up to \$23 million in 2009-10 funding for libraries was restored by the state Legislature over the weekend.



### ***Library gets great news***

The Iredell County Public Library and its patrons are rejoicing this week over news that the library will not be closed on Sundays, reducing hours or laying off any of its part-time employees.

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[Legislative Alerts and Updates](#) • [Current Legislation](#) • [Key Votes](#) • [Capitol Hill Basics](#)

## Action Alert

### Urge Defeat of Georgia House Bill 278

If you believe in the value of school libraries you need to act now!

Georgia House Bill 278, now being reviewed by the Senate Education and Youth Committee, will decimate funding for school libraries and media centers across Georgia by rolling dedicated funding for school libraries into general operating budgets of school systems.

Georgia House Bill 278 is summarized as follows: "[T]o be entitled an Act to amend Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to temporarily waive certain expenditure controls relating to funds earned for direct instructional costs, media center costs, staff and professional development costs, and additional days of instruction; to provide for automatic repeal; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes."

What this means for Georgia school libraries:

- This dedicated funding has already dropped from \$19.54 in 2003 per student FTE to \$15 FTE for elementary and \$13 for middle and high schools.
- These dedicated funds have already been diverted in many cases and will disappear entirely if HB 278 passes, leaving school libraries with no budgets.
- Library orders have already been cancelled in mid-process as systems take back dedicated funds already delivered since HB 278 has language making it retroactive to July 2008.
- Kids who read and learn 21st century literacy skills succeed. School libraries make it happen.
- Studies from across the country show that funded and staffed school libraries improve students test scores.

Please contact your Senator immediately to urge the defeat of this bill!

## Take Action

### 1 COMPOSE MESSAGE

Message Recipients:

Delivery Method:

# Federal Stimulus Funds

- Only \$200 million specifically set aside for libraries
- Biggest opportunity is getting some of \$8 billion in stimulus funding for to increase broadband access and speed at libraries



# Economic Crisis and US Libraries

To Be Continued in 2010