

Quotable Facts About New Jersey's Public Libraries



Did You Know That In 2007...

- ◆ More than 46 MILLION visitors were welcomed in New Jersey's public libraries, more than eight times the number of visitors to NJ state parks (5.5 M).
- ◆ In New Jersey, each public library served an average of nearly 18,000 people. Public libraries serve as community centers / knowledge hubs providing free access to a wealth of resources and services such as books, internet access, high value subscription databases, public programming, etc.
- ◆ New Jersey residents had nearly 32.4 million items available to them at NJ public libraries and checked out nearly 56 million in one year.
- ◆ Through the interlibrary loan program, the NJ public libraries loaned and borrowed over 3 MILLION items saving the residents nearly \$75 MILLION in purchasing.
- ◆ New Jersey public libraries provided free internet access to its residents through the use of 6000 PCs which would cost about \$6 MILLION to buy. These PCs were used 10.3 million times. If the customers had used these computers for one hour at commercial providers, they would have paid about \$12 per hour, or \$123.6 million statewide.
- ◆ New Jersey public libraries entertained and educated over 3.4 million residents with free programs in one year. At an average minimum fee of \$10 per program, the cost for programs for residents would total \$34 million.
- ◆ Public librarians across the state answered nearly 8.1 million information questions in the year, services valued at \$20.25 million dollars if using a commercial service.

- ◆ The New Jersey public libraries were open an average of 55 hours per week.
- ◆ New Jersey public libraries were well used with an active membership of 4 million cardholders. Each NJ library card holder checked out an average of 14 items per year.
- ◆ The New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped loaned an average of 35,000 talking books per month to its nearly 12,000 active customers.
- ◆ Close to 8 MILLION uses were made of New Jersey libraries online subscription services to access information using the resources available on JerseyClicks, www.jerseyclicks.org and the New Jersey Knowledge Initiative, www.njki.org.
- ◆ Q and A NJ answered over 2,400 questions a month online. <http://qandanj.org/>.
- ◆ Close to 155,000 children read nearly 3 million books in the Summer Reading Program held in NJ's public libraries, which is 25 times the number of books published in the United States in a year.

Facts based on
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