

Quotes from Library Users

Indispensible, essential and important to a sense of community. The library is not just books and buildings; it is our cultural repository and vital for education. Without the library, the community would not be nearly as valuable and livable.

I have rediscovered the public library this past year and would say it is my most treasured find of the year. I would willingly pay more taxes to be able to access what I think is the best public library system around.

My mother lives with us full-time and was recently put in hospice care. The materials, staff, and other information available made it possible for me to gain a lot of knowledge for learning and performing necessary duties as a daughter. Libraries are most definitely an ESSENTIAL PART of absolutely everyone's lifestyle, whether they/we are aware or not.

The library has wonderful (free!) children's programs that help my toddler socially and intellectually.

My family loves the library because it opens a world up to us.

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Definitions

Revenue Investment: The revenues supporting public libraries including federal, state and local funds; fees and fines; and cash gifts and donations.

User Investment: The investment by users in their time, travel, purchases, etc., necessary to use public libraries or specific services.

Cost to Use Alternatives: The estimated costs to use alternatives to the public libraries should they cease to exist, and should users decide to pursue alternatives (measured in terms of time and other expenditures).

Total Net Benefits to Users: The added cost to use alternatives to the public library. This is equivalent to the cost to use alternatives minus the user investment.

Community Economic Benefits: These are benefits that flow from the public library such as library spending with vendors, contractors, etc., in the state; revenues generated by vendors and contractors in the library (e.g., copying, coffee shop, gift shop); and spending that occurs as a result of library use (e.g., restaurants, stores, coffee shops).

Lost Use Benefits: These are benefits derived from use that would be lost if the public libraries did not exist.

Economic Return: The results of public library use that can be expressed in economic terms.

Return on Investment (ROI): The relationship between the total economic benefit and the total investment in public libraries.

Return on Investment for Florida Public Libraries



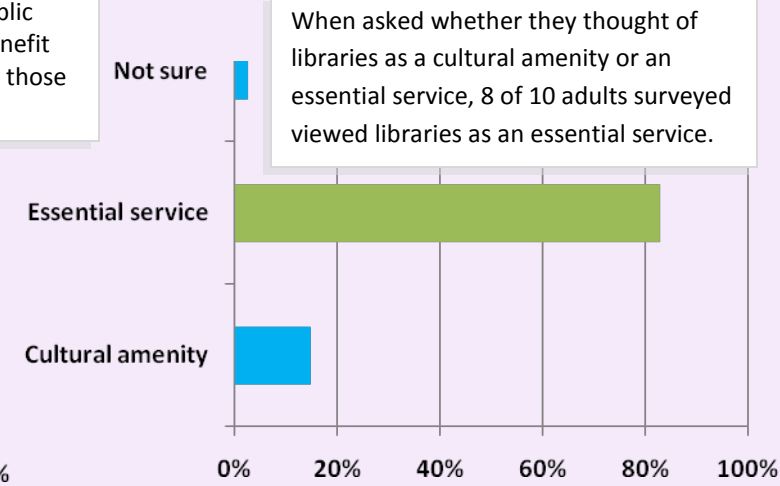
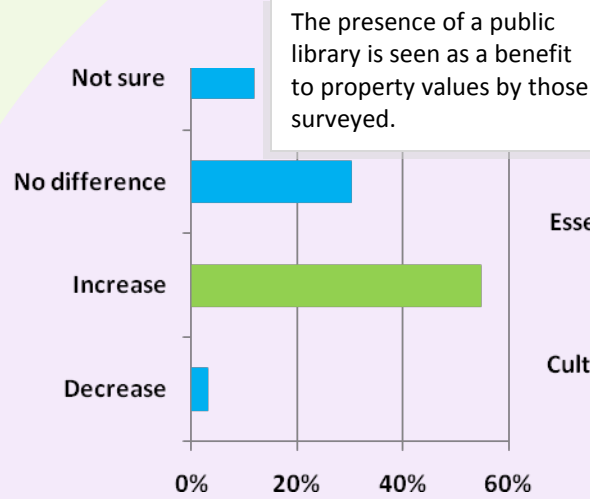
The Florida Department of State's Division of Library and Information Services has commissioned the Haas Center for Business Research and Economic Development at the University of West Florida to update the Florida public libraries return on investment study performed in 2004. Preliminary findings for a portion of this study are provided here, with a final report to be made available to the public in late spring/early summer 2010.

This study has been funded under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the Florida Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services.

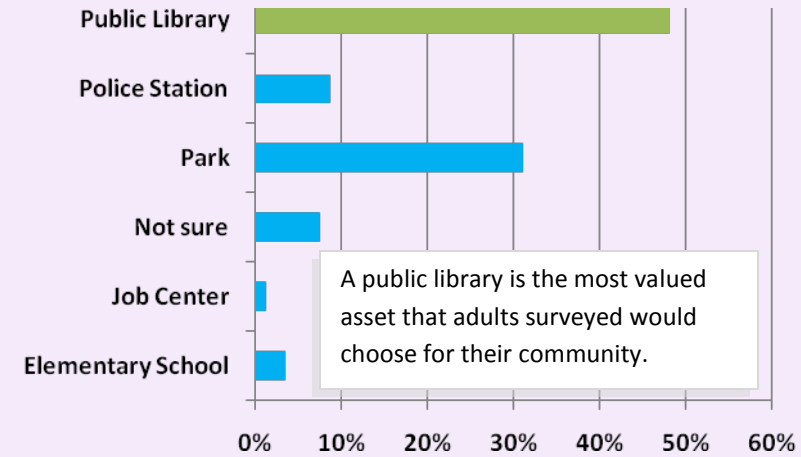
Return on Investment

For every tax dollar received, Florida public libraries in 2008 provided \$8.32 in value. The value provided by Florida public libraries increased significantly from 2004 to 2008.

	2004	2008
Total Revenue Investment (millions)	449.3	668
User Investment (cost to use library services) (billions)	1.72	2.9
Cost to Use Alternatives (billions)	4.05	7.19
Total Net Benefit to Users (billions)	2.33	4.29
Community Economic Benefit Lost (millions)	447	1,149
Lost Use Benefits (millions)	155	79
Economic Return (billions)	2.93	6.23
Return on Investment	6.54 to 1	8.32 to 1



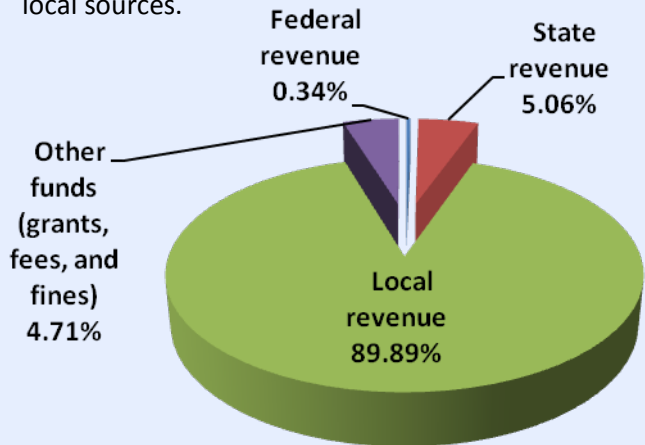
Social Value



Funding

Visits to public libraries increased over 7% between 2007 and 2008 while funding increased less than 1%.

Nearly 90% of public library funding comes from local sources.



Public Library Support by Source 2008

Florida Public Library Annual Revenues and Visits

