



How Canadian Public Libraries Stack Up



Canadians go to libraries to find jobs, create new careers and help grow our small businesses. We borrow books, journals, music and movies. We learn to use the latest technology. We get our questions answered, engage in civic activities, meet with friends and co-workers and improve our skills at one of the 600* Canadian public libraries.

Here are a few ways that Canadian public libraries stack up.

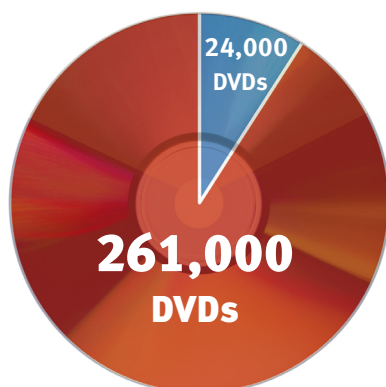
*There are 607 public library locations covered by the Canadian Urban Libraries Council's "2010 Canadian Public Library Statistics" report.

Every month,
204,000 Canadians
get job-seeking
help at their
public library.



Source: OCLC, 2011, primary research

Movie night



Canadian public libraries circulate 10 times more DVDs than Zip.ca each day.

Canadian public libraries:
261,000 DVDs
Zip.ca: **24,000 DVDs**

Sources: OCLC, 2011, primary research;
www.momentous.ca/zip

No ticket required

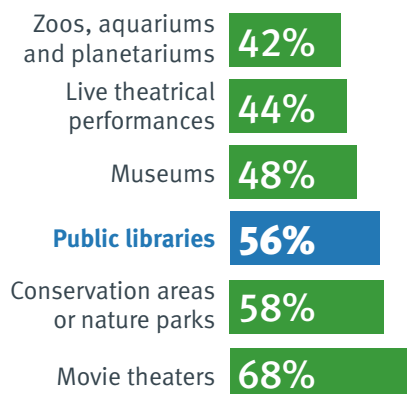
Category	Count
Library visits	100.2 million
Movie attendance	112.2 million
NHL attendance	4.8 million



Canadians visit the library almost as much as we go to the movies and 20 times more often than we attend Canadian NHL games each year.

Sources: Canadian Urban Libraries Council, "2010 Canadian Public Library Statistics"; Statistics Canada, *Motion Picture Theaters, 2010*; ESPN, *NHL Attendance Report, 2011–2012*

Our cultural journey



Canadians enjoy cultural trips away from home.

Over half of Canadians visit public libraries annually.

What we carry



Nearly two out of three Canadians have library cards—about as many as have passports.

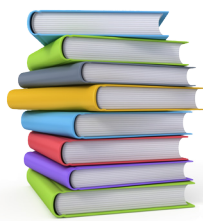
64%
have a
passport

How Canadian Public Libraries Stack Up

Libraries are at the heart of our communities—a resource for people of any age to find what we need to help improve our quality of life.

Books, books, books

Canadians borrow twice as many books from libraries as we buy from bookstores; although there are almost a third fewer libraries than bookstores in the country



2,100,000 books borrowed from **600** public libraries



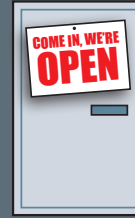
1,200,000 books purchased from **1,700** bookstores

Sources: Bowker, *Library and Book Trade Almanac*; National Reading Campaign, National Book Count

Taking care of business

76,000

times every month



business owners and employees use resources at public libraries to support their small businesses.

Source: OCLC, 2011, primary research

Let's meet

Nearly **200** public libraries offer meeting rooms, which are used by over **28,000** people each month.



Source: OCLC, 2011, primary research

Surfing the 'net

Canadian libraries offer over **8,500** Internet workstations, which are used over **18 million** times annually.



Source: Canadian Urban Libraries Council, "2010 Canadian Public Library Statistics"

Hot spots

3,200,000



Most Canadian public libraries provide free wireless Internet access for their users.

540 Canadian libraries with free Wi-Fi support **3.2 million** Wi-Fi connections annually.

Sources: OCLC, 2011, primary research; Canadian Urban Libraries Council, "2010 Canadian Public Library Statistics"

Getting technical

Over **300** libraries offer technology training classes, which are attended by nearly **16,000** people each month.

Source: OCLC, 2011, primary research



OCLC is a nonprofit library cooperative.

OCLC conducted primary research in 2011 by inviting librarians via a post on various e-mail lists to answer a questionnaire gauging use of their public libraries for job-seeking, small business support, meeting room usage and other activities. 159 librarians from six provinces participated.