



PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARIES

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR



DEAR GOVERNOR SHAPIRO,

The Advisory Council on Library Development, in collaboration with the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, prioritizes communication between the library field, your office and the Department of Education to keep you informed on the achievements and activities of Pennsylvania's libraries by way of this report.

Pennsylvania's libraries change lives. Citizens of all ages benefit from the resources and programs offered by librarians in communities across the Commonwealth.

- Parents and caregivers value library books and activities that help children prepare for school and become readers. They know that libraries provide support for early literacy through the development of language, reading, and social skills in preschool children. In this way, libraries have a positive impact on brain development, vocabulary and comprehension.
- As children enter their school years, librarians are expert guides for information literacy, a skill set that is invaluable in today's digital world. Showing students how to find, evaluate, use, and create information in a credible and authoritative manner enables them to make informed decisions and to steer clear of misinformation and disinformation. They learn to distinguish between well-sourced information and propaganda.
- Job seekers come to the library to find the learning resources, technology, and training they need to help them find well-paying jobs in today's economy. The library is a one-stop shop for testing, online job applications, and resume building, and is a key connector to state employment agencies.
- Libraries provide continuing education for learners of all ages: homework help and tutoring; reading programs for children, adults, and seniors; access to online courses; and a host of programs for a wide range of interests. Libraries change lives.

Sadly, challenges to library materials are on the rise across the country, including here in our Commonwealth. Book bans seek to violate the freedom of expression and the right to read. They also limit the educational and cultural value that libraries have historically offered to Pennsylvania's citizens. Now, with the advent of artificial intelligence (AI), exciting new opportunities will be available, while at the same time real challenges will develop concerning privacy, bias, and accountability.

Professional librarians with Master's degrees in Library and Information Science are trained to develop collections that represent the needs and interests of their communities. Today, more than ever, they are showing great courage in standing up to critics who fight to limit access to materials that they find offensive. As for AI, librarians are already at work figuring out how this technology can be responsibly introduced to students and library users to enhance learning and make work easier.

Libraries are more than just buildings or collections of books. They are community hubs that provide access, opportunity, and empowerment for all Pennsylvanians. They are essential for a healthy democracy and a vibrant society. Libraries change lives - for the better.

We are grateful for your support of libraries and intellectual freedom, for your leadership, and for your recognition of the vital role that libraries play in Pennsylvania's economy and system of education. We are pleased to share this report on the state of our libraries with you.



SINCERELY,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Garm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

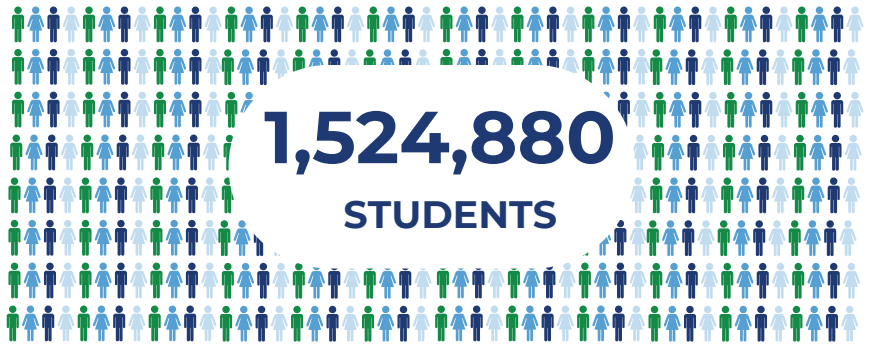
Mary Garm, Chair
Advisory Council on Library Development
April 2024

PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARIES IMPACT

SCHOOL LIBRARIES


1,530
LIBRARIANS

SERVING



PUBLIC LIBRARIES


466
PUBLIC
LIBRARIES

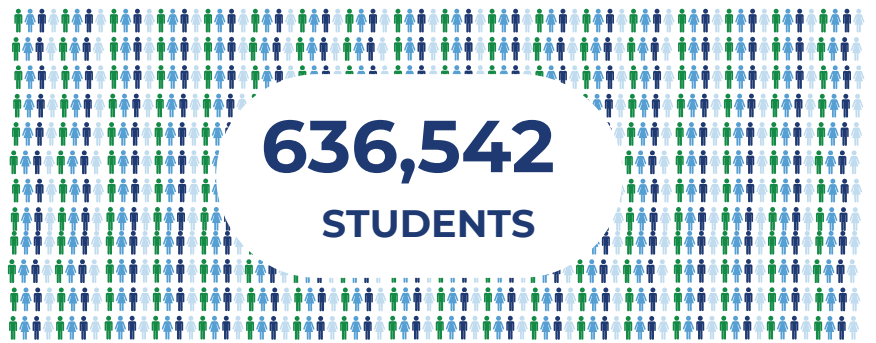
SERVING



ACADEMIC LIBRARIES


211
ACADEMIC
LIBRARIES

SERVING



PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARIES IMPACT

2022 Public Library Data

4,391,263

REGISTERED BORROWERS

166,345

PROGRAMS WITH
2,911,813 ATTENDEES

21,815,633

LIBRARY VISITS

3,453,781

REFERENCE
QUESTIONS

54,782,327

MATERIALS
CIRCULATION

20,329,888

CHILDREN'S MATERIAL
CIRCULATIONS

56,379

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS WITH
1,847,598 ATTENDEES



53,705,098

WEBSITE VISITS



20,901,273

ELECTRONIC
CONTENT USE



5,564,208

WIRELESS
SESSIONS



1,970,544

INTERNET
COMPUTER USES



STORIES FROM AROUND PA!

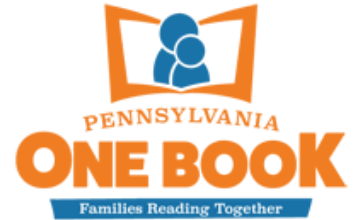
Early Childhood and Youth Programs



**MY FIRST LIBRARY CARD
NORTHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY**



**PENNSYLVANIA ONE BOOK
LITERACY PROGRAM**



**MARYSVILLE RYE
LIBRARY**

“Integrating early childhood programs within Pennsylvania's public libraries is essential, as it offers a unique and accessible platform for early learning, fostering our youngest citizens' cognitive, social, and emotional development. When partnering with libraries, these programs provide a rich, resource-filled environment that not only supports the educational needs of children but also serves as a community cornerstone, encouraging lifelong learning and engagement for families across the state.”

**ROBERT LAMBERT, PRESIDENT
YORK COUNTY LIBRARIES**



**GROWING UP WITH LIBRARY BOOKS
BERKS COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM**



**CATS IN BLOOM
DEGENSTEIN
COMMUNITY
LIBRARY**



**BOOKS FOR
NEWBORNS
BENSON MEMORIAL
LIBRARY**

STORIES FROM AROUND PA!

Early Childhood and Youth Programs



**BUILDING MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS
MILTON HERSHEY SCHOOL**



**INTERACTION SERIES WITH AUTHOR
WOODLAND HILLS HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**



**MURDER MYSTERY
ABINGTON
COMMUNITY
LIBRARY**

“Youth programs in libraries help to satisfy natural curiosity and wonder. Literacy is the foundation of these programs which includes finding answers to questions through research, reading books for pleasure, or exploring STEM projects to create and grow.”

**ALLISON MACKLEY, VP FOR
EDUCATION BERKS NATURE**



**CURSIVE CLUB
ABINGTON
COMMUNITY LIBRARY**



**SUSTAINABILITY
SPEAKER SERIES
SAINT MARYS AREA
MIDDLE SCHOOL**



**SUPER POWER
SUMMER
NORTHLAND
PUBLIC LIBRARY**



**HOMESCHOOL LAB
PROGRAM
SCHUYLKILL VALLEY
COMMUNITY LIBRARY**



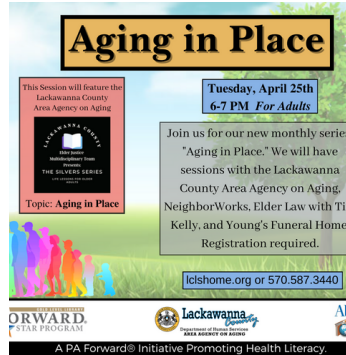
**SCASDREADS ALOUD
STATE COLLEGE AREA
SCHOOL DISTRICT
LIBRARY**

STORIES FROM AROUND PA!

Lifelong Learning Programs



**NURSING HOME STORY TRAIL EXHIBIT
BERKS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM**



**AGING IN PLACE AND HEALTH CARE SERIES
ABINGTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY**



**BOOKMOBILE
HAVERFORD TWP
FREE LIBRARY**

“Throughout Pennsylvania, public libraries provide the tools, programs, and services to help Pennsylvanians of all ages continue to learn and grow. Whether it is learning the ABC’s or applying for social services online, public libraries remain community centers for lifelong learning.”

**BETH MELLOR, RETIRED DIRECTOR
OAKMONT CARNEGIE LIBRARY**



**AUTHOR SERIES
FREE LIBRARY OF
PHILADELPHIA**



**WEDNESDAYS WITH
FRIENDS
BALDWIN BOROUGH
PUBLIC LIBRARY**



**ADULT DISCOVERY &
LEARNING SERIES
UPPER DUBLIN
PUBLIC LIBRARY**



**ADULT CRAFTING
POTTSTOWN
REGIONAL PUBLIC
LIBRARY**



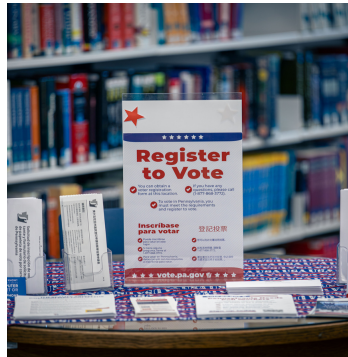
**PA FORWARD®
FINANCIAL LITERACY
CLEVE J.
FREDRICKSEN
LIBRARY**

STORIES FROM AROUND PA!

Civic Engagement



**VOTER AND POLL WORKER REGISTRATION
EAST SHORE AREA LIBRARY**



**HISTORY AND HOT
CHOCOLATE
SAEGERTOWN AREA
LIBRARY**



**OPEN MIC NIGHT
CARNEGIE FREE
LIBRARY OF
SWISSVALE**



**CATALOG AND
PRESERVE HISTORY
CENTRE COUNTY
LIBRARY**

“Libraries have wonderful formal programs that engage the public in community issues. Sometimes it is the simplest informal interaction that has an impact. I remember the aftermath of 9/11. People came to the library in a daze, just wanting someone to talk with to help make sense of the situation. That is one of the superpowers of libraries.”

**DAVID BELANGER, RETIRED DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES
TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION**



**SOCIETY OF
AMERICAN
BASEBALL
RESEARCH
JAMES V. BROWN
LIBRARY**



**PUNXSUTAWNEY
PHIL'S HOME AND
STORYTIMES
PUNXSUTAWNEY
MEMORIAL
LIBRARY**



**AMERICA250PA
PARTNER
ANNIVERSARY OF
DECLARATION OF
INDEPENDENCE**



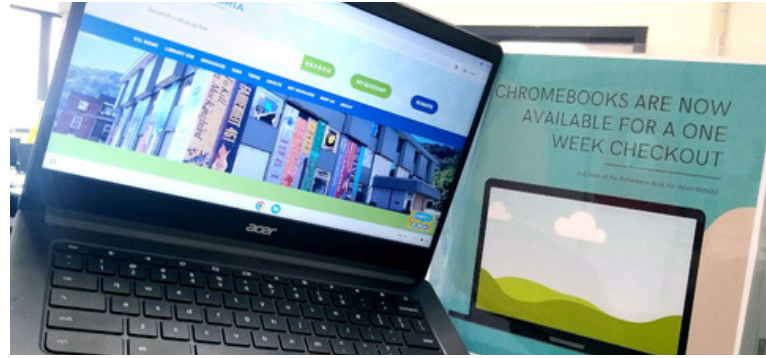
**RESEARCH TO
SOLVE A COLD CASE
CENTRE CO.
LIBRARY**

STORIES FROM AROUND PA!

Technology & Digital Literacy / Career & Workforce Development



**ADULT LITERACY ESL CLASSES
KENNETT LIBRARY**



**CHROMEBOOK CHECKOUTS
CAMBRIA COUNTY LIBRARY**



**FAFSA COMPLETION WORKSHOP
STATE LIBRARY OF PENNSYLVANIA**



“Libraries across the state of Pennsylvania are centers for workforce training. Whether it's computer classes, partnerships with PA Career Link® or English as a second language classes, local libraries are a hub for the development of current and future workers in Pennsylvania.”

**MARSHA EVERTON
CORPORATE DIRECTOR & ADVISOR**

“Libraries promote equity by bridging the digital divide and empowering learners of all ages to navigate the digital world effectively through resources, programming, and training. Libraries also play a crucial role in democracy and combatting misinformation. In our digital era, libraries can lead the way by teaching library users how to responsibly utilize emerging technologies, including generative AI.”

**REBECCA FETZNER-LONG, MANAGER
ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY**



**POP-UP COMPUTER
LAB
CAMBRIA COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM**



**DIGITAL LITERACY
FOR BUSINESS
START-UP
KENNETT LIBRARY**

STORIES FROM AROUND PA!

Academic Libraries



PENN STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Photo credit: Penn State University Libraries



DOUGLASS DAY TRANSCRIBE-A-THON PATTEE LIBRARY AND PATERNO LIBRARY

Photo Credit: Penn State University Libraries



CAMBRIA MEMORY PROJECT – JOHNSTOWN FLOOD COLLECTION

Photo Credit: Hervey Laney, Pennsylvania
Highlands Community College Library



PRIDE+ COLLECTION FOR BANNED MATERIALS - PENN STATE BRANDYWINE CAMPUS LIBRARY

Photo Credit: Penn State University Libraries

“Academic libraries continue the mission of creating lifelong learners and training an information literate workforce.”

BARBARA ZABOROWSKI
DEAN OF LIBRARY SERVICES AND SPECIAL PROJECTS
PENNSYLVANIA HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

STORIES FROM AROUND PA!

Battlegrounds: Funding Challenges and Censorship



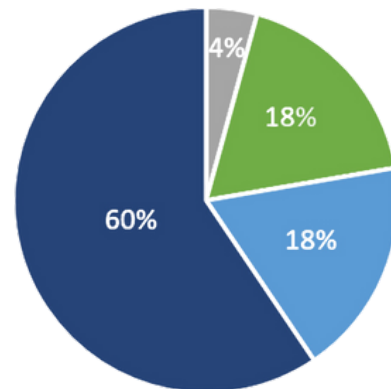
**COOKIE CAKE WALK FUNDRAISER
COOPER-SIEGEL COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

Librarians across Pennsylvania are increasingly tasked with fundraising responsibilities, not just for enhancements but for essential needs such as payroll and utilities. Unfortunately, sustainable funding from municipalities remains scarce for most libraries. Simultaneously, there is mounting pressure—particularly in rural areas—to censor or segregate LGBTQ-related materials within library collections.

**DALE HAMBY, PRESIDENT
LIBRARY SYSTEM OF LANCASTER COUNTY**



**ANNUAL BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER
QUARRYVILLE LIBRARY**
Photo Credit: Andy Blackburn, Lancaster Online



**LIBRARIES AND
LIBRARIANS AS
FUNDRAISERS
QUARRYVILLE
LIBRARY**

■ Federal ■ State ■ Local Government ■ Other Sources



**SAFE AND COMFORTABLE PLACE FOR TEENS
VALLEY COMMUNITY LIBRARY**



STORIES FROM AROUND PA!

Battlegrounds: Funding Challenges and Censorship



**SUPPORTING LGBTQIA+
VALLEY COMMUNITY LIBRARY**



**SUPPORTING INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM
NATIONAL COLLABORATION**



CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH



LIBRARIES ARE FOR EVERYONE

LIBRARIES ARE FOR



EVERYONE

LIBRARIES WORK!

CHILDHOOD LITERACY

EARLY LEARNING

YOUTH PROGRAMS

LIFELONG LEARNING

CAREER & WORKFORCE

DEVELOPMENT

DIGITAL LITERACY AND EQUITY

TECHNOLOGY ACCESS

INFORMATION SCIENCE

HEALTH LITERACY

FINANCIAL LITERACY

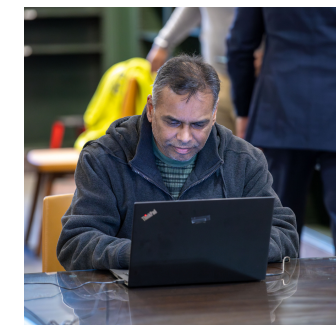
CIVIC AND SOCIAL LITERACY

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

FUNDRAISING

COMMUNITY HUBS

KNOWLEDGE-BASED DEMOCRACY



PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

MARY GARM*

GAC Chair
Susquehanna County

DALE HAMBY

GAC Vice Chair
Lancaster County

DAVID BELANGER*

Chester County

MARSHA EVERTON

Cumberland County

* **Professional Librarian**

REBECCA FETZNER-LONG

Erie County

ROBERT LAMBERT*

York County

ALLISON MACKLEY*

Dauphin County

ELIZABETH MELLOR*

Allegheny County

BARBARA ZABOROWSKI*

Cambria County

PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARY PARTNERS

Office of Commonwealth Libraries
Pennsylvania Department of Education
Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA)
Pennsylvania School Library Association (PSLA)
Pennsylvania Academic Library Consortium (PALCI)
Hosting Solutions and Library Consulting (HSLC)

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