In FY2013, the number of annual visitors to Missouri public libraries exceeded the combined attendance to many of the state’s other major attractions.

Public Library Visitors 30.3 million
State Park Visitors 18.1 million
Cardinals and Royals Baseball 5.1 million
St. Louis & Kansas City Zoo’s 4.4 million
Silver Dollar City 2 million
Firearm Deer Hunting Permits 600 thousand

Nearly 5.5 million Missourians (91.4% of the state’s population) have access and use the 364 public library outlets. The combined total number of Wal-Mart outlets (Walmart & Supercenter-127, Neighborhood Markets-17) and the total number of Walgreen’s pharmacies (214) are fewer than the number libraries available to Missouri citizens.

Missouri citizens used the over 4,900 public library computers 6.8 million times in FY2013. On average, each computer is used nearly 1,400 times per year to apply for employment, access information, complete homework or research, and connect with others.

Ninety-seven percent of public libraries provide a high-speed connection for their patrons.

Summer reading programs enhance student achievement and prevent fall-off of reading skills during summer break. Summer reading programs had 233,000 youth and teen participants at public and school libraries. Furthermore, more than 44,000 Children’s programs were conducted at Missouri public libraries in FY2013, with a total attendance of 1.54 million children.

Attendance data was attained from attraction websites, information requests, and the Departments of Conservation and Natural Resources publications. Library data is from the FY2013 Public Library Survey.
Missouri Public Libraries Add Up

General Information
Population in Library Districts 5,472,183
Library Card Holders 3,293,338
Library Outlets 364
Bookmobiles 24
Total Paid Staff (FTE) 3,144

Library Materials
Books and Magazines 17,194,119
Audios 948,180
Videos 1,062,384

Internet Access
Total number of public Internet access computers 4,917
Annual usage of Internet access computers 6,799,344
Use of each Internet access computer 1,383

Activity
Visits to Library Outlets 30,298,106
Reference Questions Answered 3,345,020
Total Circulation 55,969,212
Children’s Materials Circulation 14,918,516
Attendance at Children’s Programs 1,544,030

Annual Funding in Missouri for Public Library Services

Local $209,926,434
Property tax, sales tax
Other $14,446,771
Private grants, donations
State $3,504,001
State Aid: Per Capita, and Equalization (FY2013 distribution)
Federal $1,816,792
IMLS-LSTA state programs and other Federal grants received by libraries

Total Library Funding $229,694,178

Data compiled from FY13 Public Library Survey