



PUBLIC LIBRARIES

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WHAT WE DO

The City's three independent library systems (the Libraries): Brooklyn Public Library (BPL), New York Public Library (NYPL), and Queens Public Library (QPL), provide a wide range of free library services for all New Yorkers.

The Libraries oversee 220 local library locations across the five boroughs of New York City, including five research library centers. The Libraries offer free and open access to books, periodicals, non-print materials, electronic resources, mobile and streaming technology, and internet access. They also provide reference and career services, professional development, and educational, cultural, and recreational programming for adults, young adults, and children. The Libraries' collections include 377 electronic databases and more than 65 million books, periodicals, and other circulating and reference items.

FOCUS ON EQUITY

As part of the City's social infrastructure, the Brooklyn Public Library, New York Public Library, and Queens Public Library prioritize equitable access to resources for patrons across all five City boroughs. The commitment to equity starts with collections. There are vast disparities in access and exposure to books among homes and communities across the City, and children in lower-income neighborhoods are less likely to read at their grade level. The Libraries invest in robust collections, as well as book giveaways serving children in low-income neighborhoods and book deserts—areas where reading materials are difficult to obtain. In addition, the Libraries offer collections that reflect the interests and needs of the diverse communities they serve. To encourage New Yorkers' ongoing use of their libraries and ensure everyone has access to library resources no matter their circumstances, the Libraries do not charge late fines on overdue materials.

Library programs and services, particularly those centered on education, further advance the Libraries' focus on equity. Through programs like storytimes, family literacy workshops, and Pre-K partnerships, the Libraries have established themselves as the leading providers of early literacy programming and services in the City. All three systems conduct vital after-school programming, which helps students in historically disadvantaged neighborhoods keep pace with their more affluent peers. Young adult patrons have access to Teen Centers, college and career readiness counseling, one-on-one tutoring, and other innovative programs to promote learning and development in safe and inclusive spaces.

Equity is integral to the Libraries' adult offerings as well. This includes financial literacy resources, one-on-one career services, and technology classes that help patrons develop professional competencies such as coding and website development. These services are particularly valuable for New Yorkers who are searching for jobs, seeking to build their professional skills, or impacted by the digital divide—the gap between those who have access to and can effectively use information and communication technologies and those who lack such access. To support New Yorkers without access to a computer or internet at home, the Libraries offer computers available for public use. In addition to in-person programming and services, the three systems offer virtual classes and online resources, which allow the Libraries to reach individuals who are unable to visit their local branch. In partnership with the New York City Department of Housing Preservation & Development, the three library systems launched Neighborhood Tech Help, a program designed to improve technology skills of New Yorkers in hard-to-reach communities through in-person, one-on-one support. The City's public libraries also provide vital resources for immigrants such as English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and civics classes. Between the three library systems, programs such as digital literacy classes, book discussions, storytimes,

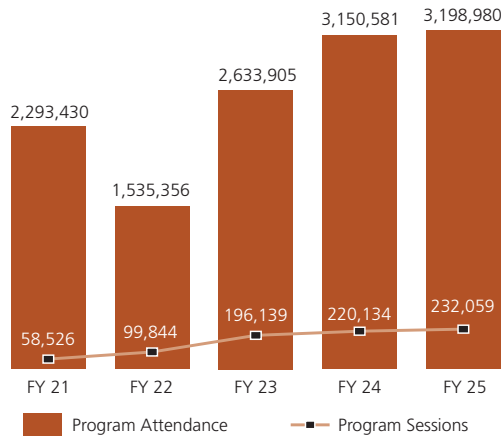
financial literacy, computer classes, “Know Your Rights” forums, health and wellness programs, and music and arts events are offered in over 20 languages, depending on the service and location. Programs may be offered in Arabic, American Sign Language, Bengali, Cantonese, English, French, Haitian Creole, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Nepali, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Urdu, Yiddish, and more. Through a collaboration with the Mayor’s Office on Immigrant Affairs, library staff were trained to launch and lead classes at English Learning and Support Centers at select branches. In Fiscal 2025, these locations hosted expanded English language classes, including a new beginner-level course.

The Libraries’ commitment to equity yields a credibility and trust that make them strong partners for the public, City agencies, and community-based organizations on a wide range of initiatives. Libraries also function as cooling centers, voting locations, and dependable sites for community outreach for elected officials and government agencies. The three systems’ credibility, along with their reach, is why the Libraries are a valuable partner for civic engagement and voter education initiatives, including distribution of voter education materials and trainings with the City’s Campaign Finance Board on voting protocols as part of their NYC Votes program. The Libraries are additionally a critical partner to the New York City Civic Engagement Commission and the New York City Council’s Participatory Budgeting initiatives, which play an important role in engaging with communities to be involved in capital budgeting decisions. Additionally, in Fiscal 2025, the Living Libraries initiative, which focuses on jointly developing new libraries and housing in mixed-use developments to support families in New York City, announced plans to create a brand-new state-of-the-art library with 100 percent affordable housing at the Grand Concourse Library in the Bronx. More such libraries are planned in other boroughs and will be announced in Fiscal 2026.

Providing trusted, safe, and reliable spaces for all New Yorkers is key to encouraging patrons’ engagement with these programs and services. All three systems work diligently, with limited resources, to renovate existing branches and build new locations when possible, balancing the needs of each neighborhood while prioritizing urgent building repairs. The Libraries assess the conditions and needs of every branch, particularly regarding critical infrastructure, to ensure buildings are properly and equitably cooled, heated, and accessible.

The Libraries continue to be spaces that are uniquely equipped to advance equity in New York City. Whether as a student taking advantage of a new Teen Center, an adult building a new professional skill set, a toddler discovering the joys of storytime, or an immigrant seeking vital resources to navigate their transition to New York City, every New Yorker can count on their libraries for access to the tools, resources, and development opportunities they need to find success in their lives.

Program Attendance and Program Sessions at Library Systems



BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
★ Average weekly scheduled hours	47.0	47.0	47.0	48.0	48.0	*	*	Neutral	*
Libraries open seven days per week (%)	11%	11%	11%	8%	13%	*	*	Neutral	Up
★ Libraries open six days per week (%)	100%	100%	100%	100%	98%	*	*	Neutral	*
★ Circulation (000)	5,004	9,318	9,867	9,570	9,786	9,600	9,600	Up	Up
Reference queries (000)	17	446	71	34	2,884	*	*	Up	Up
Electronic visits to website (000)	1,702	3,008	3,859	5,089	9,733	4,000	4,000	Up	Up
Computers for public use	2,586	2,586	2,600	3,208	3,208	*	*	Up	Up
Computer sessions (000)	13	331	602	790	839	*	*	Up	Up
Wireless sessions	431,804	NA	NA	2,108,600	1,685,161	*	*	NA	Up
Program sessions	15,823	25,383	55,767	73,337	83,631	*	*	Up	Up
★ Program attendance	749,651	387,494	596,753	816,216	840,287	*	*	Up	*
★ Library card holders (000)	1,364	1,472	1,409	1,581	1,728	1,500	1,500	Up	Up
Active library cards (000)	846	494	591	604	662	*	*	Down	*
New library card registrations	70,391	143,441	180,069	238,926	202,833	*	*	Up	*
★ Total library attendance (000)	812	2,979	4,064	5,984	6,035	*	*	Up	*
★ Critical Indicator 🌟 Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⬆️⬆️ Directional Target * None									

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY—BRANCH

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
★ Average weekly scheduled hours	48.0	48.4	48.4	48.0	49.1	*	*	Neutral	*
Libraries open seven days per week (%)	0%	8%	8%	0%	8%	*	*	Up	Up
★ Libraries open six days per week (%)	64%	100%	100%	100%	100%	*	*	Up	*
★ Circulation (000)	9,958	14,310	16,530	17,168	17,006	14,500	16,000	Up	Up
Reference queries (000)	1,023	3,801	4,231	4,614	5,043	*	*	Up	Up
Electronic visits to website (000)	20,212	26,015	23,449	28,333	24,160	19,000	20,000	Up	Up
Computers for public use	4,173	3,748	4,409	4,409	5,012	*	*	Up	Up
Computer sessions (000)	2	929	1,222	1,370	1,529	*	*	Up	Up
Wireless sessions	232,185	591,454	1,353,853	2,402,971	2,680,733	*	*	Up	Up
Program sessions	24,745	43,103	84,154	88,586	90,447	*	*	Up	Up
★ Program attendance	445,185	505,595	1,031,424	1,216,843	1,239,847	*	*	Up	*
★ Library card holders (000)	2,420	2,111	2,075	2,310	2,375	2,000	2,100	Neutral	Up
Active library cards (000)	522	722	867	1,327	1,404	*	*	Up	*
New library card registrations	157,253	295,448	407,167	444,783	447,636	*	*	Up	*
★ Total library attendance (000)	1,439	5,346	7,341	8,006	8,695	*	*	Up	*
★ Critical Indicator 🌟 Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⬆️⬆️ Directional Target * None									

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY—RESEARCH

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
★ Average weekly scheduled hours	48.0	49.4	51.0	49.7	51.2	*	*	Neutral	*
Libraries open seven days per week (%)	0%	33%	33%	0%	33%	*	*	Up	Up
★ Libraries open six days per week (%)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	*	*	Neutral	*
Reference queries (000)	67	112	272	278	294	*	*	Up	Up
Program sessions	3,775	2,623	3,062	2,812	3,064	*	*	Down	Up
★ Program attendance	291,539	101,663	126,555	151,468	154,828	*	*	Down	*
★ Total library attendance (000)	4	1,796	3,456	3,953	4,738	*	*	Up	*
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator “NA” Not Available ⬆️⬆️ Directional Target * None									

QUEENS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
★ Average weekly scheduled hours	33.5	37.8	44.3	45.0	45.0	*	*	Up	*
Libraries open seven days per week (%)	0%	1%	3%	1%	5%	*	*	Up	Up
★ Libraries open six days per week (%)	55%	55%	86%	90%	92%	*	*	Up	*
★ Circulation (000)	3,685	6,738	7,719	8,698	10,875	7,000	7,000	Up	Up
Reference queries (000)	199	714	1,028	1,206	1,272	*	*	Up	Up
Electronic visits to website (000)	2,787	3,354	3,248	3,498	4,943	3,500	3,500	Up	Up
Computers for public use	4,054	6,095	5,174	4,275	3,268	*	*	Down	Up
Computer sessions (000)	15	495	732	840	982	*	*	Up	Up
Wireless sessions	378,799	466,572	583,803	1,755,367	2,656,581	*	*	Up	Up
Program sessions	14,183	28,735	53,156	55,399	54,917	*	*	Up	Up
★ Program attendance	807,055	540,604	879,173	966,054	964,018	*	*	Up	*
★ Library card holders (000)	1,491	1,457	1,548	1,541	1,655	1,500	1,500	Up	Up
Active library cards (000)	948	869	726	716	746	*	*	Down	*
New library card registrations	16,107	55,286	92,854	103,778	114,944	*	*	Up	*
★ Total library attendance (000)	1,563	3,945	5,676	6,332	6,586	*	*	Up	*
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator “NA” Not Available ⬆️⬆️ Directional Target * None									

AGENCY RESOURCES

Resource Indicators	Actual ¹					Plan ²		5yr Trend
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	
Expenditures (\$000,000) ³	\$429.9	\$431.0	\$473.1	\$461.6	\$506.7	\$497.6	\$523.1	Up
Personnel	3,721	3,889	4,108	4,043	4,217	4,360	4,345	Up
Capital commitments (\$000,000)	\$45.8	\$142.1	\$73.2	\$149.9	\$169.3	\$275.4	\$308.0	Up
¹ Actual financial amounts for the current fiscal year are not yet final. Final fiscal year actuals, from the Comptroller’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, will be reported in the next PMMR. Refer to the “Indicator Definitions” at nyc.gov/mmr for details. ² Authorized Budget Level ³ Expenditures include all funds “NA” - Not Available * None								

SPENDING AND BUDGET INFORMATION

Agency expenditures and planned resources by budgetary unit of appropriation.

Unit of Appropriation	Expenditures FY24 ² (\$000,000)	Modified Budget FY25 ³ (\$000,000)
Brooklyn Public Library, 001 - Lump Sum Appropriation (OTPS) ¹	\$129.0	\$141.3
New York Public Library - Branch, Agency Total ¹	\$167.7	\$185.1
003 - Lump Sum - Borough of Manhattan (OTPS)	\$25.8	\$26.4
004 - Lump Sum - Borough of the Bronx (OTPS)	\$24.3	\$24.6
005 - Lump Sum - Borough of Staten Island (OTPS)	\$11.0	\$11.1
006 - Systemwide Services (OTPS)	\$105.3	\$121.7
007 - Consultant and Advisory Services (OTPS)	\$1.4	\$1.4
New York Public Library - Research, 001 - Lump Sum Appropriation (OTPS) ¹	\$32.5	\$35.9
Queens Public Library, 001 - Lump Sum Appropriation (OTPS) ¹	\$132.4	\$144.4

¹These figures are limited to the City's contribution and planned contribution respectively. ²Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2024. Includes all funds. ³ City of New York Adopted Budget for Fiscal 2025, as of June 2025. Includes all funds. "NA" Not Available * None

NOTEWORTHY CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

- The previously published Fiscal 2024 figure for 'Circulation' in New York Public Library—Branch was revised from 17,028 to 17,168 after a review of historical data.
- The previously published Fiscal 2024 figure for 'Total library attendance (000)' in New York Public Library—Research was revised from 3,989 to 3,953 after a review of historical data.
- The Fiscal 2026 target for 'Circulation' in New York Public Library—Branch was raised from 14,500,000 to 16,000,000.
- The Fiscal 2026 target for 'Electronic visits to the website' in New York Public Library—Branch was raised from 2,000,000 to 2,100,000.
- The Fiscal 2026 target for 'Library card holders (000)' in New York Public Library—Branch was raised from 2,000,000 to 2,100,000.
- Brooklyn Public Library improved its process for reference queries data capture, leading to a significant increase in Fiscal 2025.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For additional information go to:

- NYC Civic Engagement Commission and City Council's Participatory Budgeting initiative:
<https://council.nyc.gov/pb/>

For more information on these libraries, please visit:

- Brooklyn Public Library: www.bklynlibrary.org.
- New York Public Library: www.nypl.org.
- Queens Public Library: www.queenslibrary.org.

