



PUBLIC LIBRARIES

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, especially for children in lower-income neighborhoods who are less likely to read at their grade level. The Libraries invest in robust collections, as well as book giveaways that serve 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 that 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 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 and Development, the three library systems launched Neighborhood Tech Help, a program that provides in-person, one-on-one support to help New Yorkers in under-served communities improve their technology skills.

Demand for library services remains high across all three systems. In the first four months of Fiscal 2026, the Libraries expanded the number of program sessions offered and collectively served more attendees than during the same period in Fiscal 2025. Over this period, program attendance increased by six percent at BPL to 290,939 attendees, eight percent at NYPL Branches to 410,100 attendees, 29 percent at NYPL Research Libraries to 57,500 attendees, and 15 percent at

QPL to 363,292 attendees. Similarly, demand for electronic resources also grew: wireless sessions rose modestly at all three systems, and electronic visits to the three libraries' respective websites increased substantially—50 percent for BPL to 4,168,000, 82 percent for NYPL to 14,728,000, and 21 percent for QPL to 1,968,330. However, NYPL's figures were temporarily elevated in September and October 2025 due to bot traffic; prior to that anomaly, monthly visits typically ranged from 2 million to 2.2 million.

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, a partnership which has since been renewed and expanded.

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 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.

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.

BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY25	FY26
★ Average weekly scheduled hours	47.0	48.0	48.0	*	*	48.0	48.0
Libraries open seven days per week (%)	11%	8%	13%	*	*	12%	15%
★ Libraries open six days per week (%)	100%	100%	98%	*	*	98%	85%
★ Circulation (000)	9,867	9,570	9,786	9,600	9,600	3,210	3,445
Reference queries (000)	71	34	2,884	*	*	973	1,033
Electronic visits to website (000)	3,859	5,089	9,733	4,000	4,000	2,717	4,168
Computers for public use	2,600	3,208	3,208	*	*	3,208	3,208
Computer sessions (000)	602	790	839	*	*	295	276
Wireless sessions	NA	2,108,600	1,685,161	*	*	563,585	582,239
Program sessions	55,767	73,337	83,631	*	*	27,117	29,606
★ Program attendance	596,753	816,216	840,287	*	*	274,774	290,939
★ Library card holders (000)	1,409	1,581	1,728	1,500	1,500	NA	NA
Active library cards (000)	591	604	662	*	*	655	686
New library card registrations	180,069	238,926	202,833	*	*	67,911	74,216
★ Total library attendance (000)	4,064	5,984	6,035	*	*	2,096	2,010
★ Critical Indicator 🌟 Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⬆️⬆️ Directional Target * None							

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY — BRANCH

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY25	FY26
★ Average weekly scheduled hours	48.4	48.0	49.0	*	*	49.0	49.0
Libraries open seven days per week (%)	8%	0%	8%	*	*	8%	14%
★ Libraries open six days per week (%)	100%	100%	100%	*	*	100%	94%
★ Circulation (000)	16,530	17,168	17,006	16,000	16,000	5,584	5,880
Reference queries (000)	4,231	4,614	5,043	*	*	1,989	2,085
Electronic visits to website (000)	23,449	28,333	24,160	20,000	20,000	8,079	14,728
Computers for public use	4,409	4,409	5,012	*	*	5,012	4,968
Computer sessions (000)	1,222	1,370	1,529	*	*	508	529
Wireless sessions	1,353,853	2,402,971	2,680,733	*	*	949,390	976,224
Program sessions	84,154	88,586	90,447	*	*	26,921	30,700
★ Program attendance	1,031,424	1,216,843	1,239,847	*	*	381,053	410,100
★ Library card holders (000)	2,075	2,310	2,375	2,100	2,100	NA	NA
Active library cards (000)	867	1,327	1,404	*	*	1,367	1,483
New library card registrations	407,167	444,783	429,029	*	*	178,234	189,442
★ Total library attendance (000)	7,341	8,006	8,695	*	*	2,951	3,093
★ Critical Indicator 🌟 Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⬆️⬆️ Directional Target * None							

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY — RESEARCH

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY25	FY26
★ Average weekly scheduled hours	51.0	49.7	51.0	*	*	51.0	51.0
Libraries open seven days per week (%)	33%	0%	33%	*	*	33%	33%
★ Libraries open six days per week (%)	100%	100%	100%	*	*	100%	100%
Reference queries (000)	272	278	294	*	*	96	106
Program sessions	3,062	2,812	3,064	*	*	963	1,000
★ Program attendance	126,555	151,468	154,828	*	*	44,441	57,500
★ Total library attendance (000)	3,456	3,953	4,201	*	*	1,436	1,481
★ Critical Indicator	🌀 Equity Indicator	"NA" Not Available		⬆️⬆️ Directional Target	* None		

QUEENS BOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY25	FY26
★ Average weekly scheduled hours	44.3	45.0	45.0	*	*	45.0	45.0
Libraries open seven days per week (%)	3%	1%	5%	*	*	4%	13%
★ Libraries open six days per week (%)	86%	90%	92%	*	*	91%	90%
★ Circulation (000)	7,719	8,698	10,875	7,000	7,000	3,617	3,792
Reference queries (000)	1,028	1,206	1,272	*	*	414	442
Electronic visits to website (000)	3,248	3,498	4,943	3,500	3,500	1,625	1,968
Computers for public use	5,174	4,275	3,268	*	*	2,293	3,814
Computer sessions (000)	732	840	982	*	*	329	369
Wireless sessions	583,803	1,755,367	2,656,581	*	*	831,562	834,809
Program sessions	53,156	55,399	54,917	*	*	16,966	19,300
★ Program attendance	879,173	966,054	964,018	*	*	316,932	363,292
★ Library card holders (000)	1,548	1,541	1,655	1,500	1,500	NA	NA
Active library cards (000)	726	716	746	*	*	709	783
New library card registrations	92,854	103,778	114,944	*	*	40,303	39,259
★ Total library attendance (000)	5,676	6,332	6,586	*	*	2,260	2,291
★ Critical Indicator	🌀 Equity Indicator	"NA" Not Available		⬆️⬆️ Directional Target	* None		

AGENCY RESOURCES

Resource Indicators	Actual			Sept. 2025 MMR Plan	Updated Plan	Plan	4-Month Actual	
	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY26¹	FY27¹	FY25	FY26
Expenditures (\$000,000)²	\$473.1	\$461.6	\$507.6	\$523.1	\$527.3	\$491.4	\$194.4	\$207.4
Personnel	4,108	4,043	4,217	4,345	4,311	4,173	4,154	4,236
Capital commitments (\$000,000)	\$73.2	\$149.9	\$200.1	\$308.0	\$294.9	\$115.5	\$7.0	\$26.3
¹February 2026 Financial Plan.		²Expenditures include all funds		"NA" - Not Available				

SPENDING AND BUDGET INFORMATION

Agency expenditures and planned resources by budgetary unit of appropriation.

Unit of Appropriation	Expenditures FY25 ¹ (\$000,000)	February 2026 Financial Plan FY26 ² (\$000,000)
Brooklyn Public Library, 001 - Lump Sum Appropriation (OTPS) ¹	\$141.4	\$146.5
New York Public Library - Branch, Agency Total ¹	\$185.7	\$192.5
003 - Lump Sum - Borough of Manhattan (OTPS)	\$26.4	\$26.5
004 - Lump Sum - Borough of the Bronx (OTPS)	\$24.6	\$24.7
005 - Lump Sum - Borough of Staten Island (OTPS)	\$11.1	\$11.1
006 - Systemwide Services (OTPS)	\$122.3	\$128.8
007 - Consultant and Advisory Services (OTPS)	\$1.4	\$1.4
New York Public Library - Research, 001 - Lump Sum Appropriation (OTPS) ¹	\$35.8	\$37.9
Queens Public Library, 001 - Lump Sum Appropriation (OTPS) ¹	\$144.6	\$150.3

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, 2025. Includes all funds.

NOTEWORTHY CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

- The previously published Fiscal 2025 figure for 'Average weekly scheduled hours' in New York Public Library—Branch was revised from 49.1 to 49.0 after a review of historical data. The previously published Fiscal 2025 four-month actual value was also revised from 49.0 to 49.1. For New York Public Library—Research the Fiscal 2025 figure was revised from 51.2 to 51.0 and the Fiscal 2025 four-month actual figure was revised from 51.2 to 51.0.
- The previously published Fiscal 2025 figure for 'New library card registrations' in New York Public Library—Branch was revised from 447,636 to 429,029 after a review of historical data.
- The previously published Fiscal 2025 figure for 'Total library attendance (000)' in New York Public Library—Research was revised from 4,738 to 4,201 after a review of historical data.
- Several previously published Fiscal 2025 four-month actual values for New York Public Library—Branch were updated, as data is often preliminary at the time of publication. 'Circulation' was revised from 5,592 to 5,584, 'Electronic visits to the website (000)' was revised from 8,100 to 8,079, 'Program sessions' was revised from 27,700 to 26,921, 'Program attendance' was revised from 380,000 to 381,053, 'New library card registrations' was revised from 196,841 to 178,234, and 'Total library attendance (000)' was revised from 2,900 to 2,951.
- Several previously published Fiscal 2025 four-month actual values for New York Public Library—Research were updated, as data is often preliminary at the time of publication. 'Program sessions' was revised from 891 to 963, 'Program attendance' was revised from 39,759 to 44,441, and 'Total library attendance (000)' was revised from 1,505 to 1,436.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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

