

Public Libraries in Vermont

What is a public library?

Public libraries are places for education, enjoyment, and self-help and offer opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to learn and to pursue self-improvement. Libraries usually offer materials that visitors can check out, as well as use of the building and amenities. Library staff are typically available to answer questions and help visitors with using the library.

What do public libraries offer?

Most materials in a library can be checked out by patrons for a period of time, and then returned to the library at no cost to the patron. Materials can include:

- Books for adults and children
- Newspapers
- Tools
- Audio books and music
- Magazines
- Movies

Many libraries offer free events to visitors. There are many kinds of events libraries offer:

- Educational events for adults and children
- Art events
- Story times and other children's activities
- Music events

Many libraries also offer technology to their visitors. Types of technology can include:

- Computers with internet access
- Free wi-fi
- Books in electronic formats
- Printers and scanners
- Online resources and classes

Libraries usually have basic amenities for visitors:

- Seating
- Restrooms and drinking water
- Tables to do work and homework
- Meeting rooms or quiet study areas

How can you become a member of the library?

Library membership is free if you live in the same town as the library. Most libraries will ask for your name, address, and a phone number or email address. Some libraries ask for your ID. The library does not share your personal information with anyone unless required by law. In most cases, you do not have to have a library membership to visit the library.

Get answers to questions

Librarians are available to answer any question a library user might have about anything. Even if a librarian can't answer your question immediately, they will do research and get back to you when they've found the answer.

Get information online (Databases)

In addition to books, libraries provide access to information online through databases. These databases are free to use and are full of articles, eBooks, videos, and images to help you with any of your information needs. They include information for everything from academic research to articles and instruction for your home projects and hobbies and are a great place to find information online.

Get books

Librarians can help you find a book when you know the title or author. They can also make recommendations for your next book based on your interests and information needs.

Your library may not have every book you want to read when you visit. Luckily, librarians can help you borrow books from other libraries in your state and beyond. Librarians can help you borrow a book from other libraries using Interlibrary Loan. When the book you asked for arrives, you can check it out and return it directly at your local library.