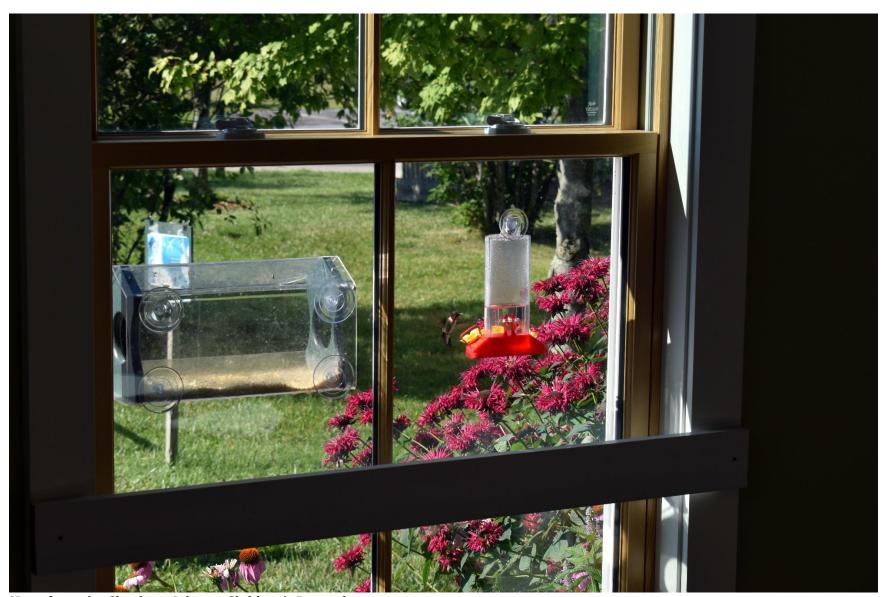# Vermont Public Library Statistics Summary
FY2021 Annual Report

View from the Charlotte Library Children's Room during summer.

Statewide Totals from the 2021 Report

Library Hours Open - 108,925
   (that's the equivalent of more than 12 all-night diners
   each open 365 days a year)

Print Materials - 2,371,213
Video Materials (Physical) - 211,157
Audio Materials (Physical) - 113,503
Non-Traditional Physical Items - 8,555

Registered Borrowers - 265,708
   (ignoring duplication, that's about 42% of the state)
Annual Visits - 671,148
Reference Questions - 174,140

Database Usage - 216,518
eBook/eAudiobook Circulation - 641,099
Physical Circulation - 2,235,377
   (that would be a stack over 35 miles high if returned all at once)

ILL's Provided - 69,347
ILL's Received - 76,479
   (which would have potentially cost libraries over $900,000 to buy on their own)

Programs (In-Person and Virtual) - 9,831
Program Attendance – 118,151
Non-Library Sponsored Programs - 2,137

Public Computer Sessions - 66,009
WiFi Sessions - 379,805
   (that comes out to 1,040 sessions a day, 365 days a year)

Superlatives for FY2021

Highest numbers, broken down by service population:

	Pop above 5,000	Pop 2,500-5,000	Pop 1,000-2,500	Pop below 1,000
Visits	Fletcher Free – 86,290 Brooks – 58,000 Pierson – 48,386 (Median value – 7,496)	Poultney – 16,798 Maclure – 13,589 Enosburgh – 7,561 (Median value – 1,638)	Bent Northrop – 10,000 Dailey – 8,833 Lincoln – 7,500 (Median value – 1,696)	Greensboro – 4,759 Alice M. Ward – 2,772 Sherburne – 1,557 (Median value - 659)
Circulation (incl. E-Usage)	Fletcher Free – 433,345 Kellogg Hubbard – 330,471 Brooks – 155,964 (Median value – 34,314)	Norwich – 45,962 Stowe – 41,589 Carpenter Carse – 39,485 (Median value – 15,307)	Putney – 20,467 West Harford – 19,507 Dailey – 19,075 (Median value – 5,038)	Sherburne – 20,409 Greensboro – 10,312 Peacham – 6,614 (Median value - 2,677)
ILL's Sent	Rutland – 7,138 Brooks – 7,030 Springfield – 6,357 (Median value - 688)	Norman Williams – 3,079 Georgia – 1,421 Lanpher – 1,126 (Median value - 301)	West Rutland – 1,226 H.F. Brigham – 889 Pettee - 435 (Median value - 95)	Sherburne – 531 Middletown Springs – 173 Greensboro - 127 (Median value - 20)
Program Attendance	Kellogg Hubbard – 10,020 Burnham – 5,425 Pierson – 4,246 (Median value – 1,292)	Manchester – 5,628 Charlotte – 2,667 Enosburgh – 2,440 (Median value - 450)	Barton – 1,787 Warren – 1,659 Worthen – 1,609 (Median value - 260)	Readsboro – 1,608 Sherburne – 1,440 Greensboro - 989 (Median value - 83)
WiFi Use (sessions)	Brooks – 42,121 Kellogg Hubbard – 23,244 St. J Athenaeum – 23,144 (Median value – 3,379)	Norwich – 15,826 Maclure – 10,302 Enosburgh – 7,091 (Median value - 1,400)	Putney – 12,154 Westford – 11,435 Dorset – 7,739 (Median value - 651)	Greensboro – 14,695 Alice M. Ward – 5,000 Roxbury – 2,382 (Median value – 416)
Hosting Non-Library Programs	Pierson – 325 Brandon – 151 Quechee – 120 (Median value – 0)	Solomon Wright – 70 Martha Canfield – 55 Arvin A. Brown – 42 (Median value – 4)	Pawlet – 208 Pope – 192 Gilbert Hart 106 (Median value – 3)	Sherburne – 80 Middletown Springs – 12 Greensboro – 5 (Median value - 0)
Square Footage	Fletcher Free – 48,348 Rutland – 24,167 St. J Athenaeum – 22,146 (Median value – 10,850)	Manchester – 18,400 Norman Williams – 15,000 Jones – 11,500 (Median value – 3,229)	Huntington – 7,015 Fletcher Memorial – 7,000 Worthen – 5,200 (Median value – 2,130	Sherburne – 7,540 Greensboro – 5,996 Peacham – 4,224 (Median value – 924)
Non-Traditional Items	Fletcher Free – 375 Springfield – 222 Dorothy Alling – 178 (Median value – 41)	Fairfax – 260 Martha Canfield – 233 Georgia – 225 (Median value – 38)	Warren – 157 Platt – 145 Jaquith – 125 (Median value – 21)	Alice M. Ward – 132 Peacham – 62 Middletown Springs – 57 (Median value – 22)
Reference Questions	Fletcher Free – 21,516 Dorothy Alling – 16,613 Rockingham – 11,410 (Median value – 1,750	Lanpher – 9,000 Poultney – 7,618 Norwich – 6,400 (Median value – 449)	Whitingham – 2,000 Craftsbury – 1,688 Alburgh – 1,092 (Median value – 255)	Sherburne – 5,043 Greensboro – 959 Middletown Springs – 620 (Median value – 100)

FY2021 Comparison by Year (median numbers)

Survey Year	Pop.	Weeks Open	Hours Open	Square Footage	Librarian Hours	Total Staff Hours	Local Tax Support	Per Capita Tax Support	Other Local Income	Total Revenue
2017	1,925	52	1,560	2,670	32	43	$46,671	$25.03	$9,843	$76,656
2018	1,849	52	1,560	2,700	33	48	$48,949	$27.02	$9,907	$80,020
2019	1,907	52	1,550	2,700	35	49	$48,991	$27.78	$9,496	$83,104
2020	1,918	39	1,281	2,713	35	51	$65,790	$29.62	$9,446	$89,422
2021	1,867	33	600	2,713	38	50	$74,944	$30.55	$10,111	$93,843

Survey Year	Collection Expenses	Staff Expenses	Other Expenses	Registered Patrons	Visits	Per Capita Visits	Physical Circ	e-Circ
2017	$7,607	$47,659	$16,521	916	8,060	3.6	11,479	1,437
2018	$9,123	$47,414	$19,700	978	7,991	3.99	9,075	921
2019	$8,323	$49,046	$18,991	1,010	8,625	3.83	8,526	1,189
2020	$8,653	$52,765	$18,616	1,102	6,046	2.76	7,881	1,202
2021	$8,823	$57,409	$19,596	1,095	1,571	0.72	6,121	1,528

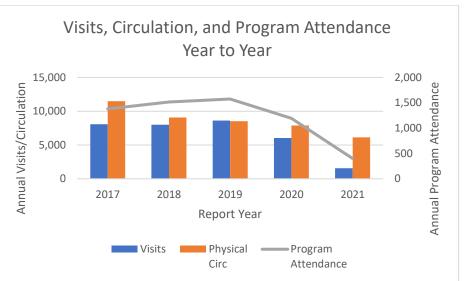| Survey Year	e-Circ	Programs	Program Attendance	Program Attendance Per Capita	Public Comp Uses	WiFi Sessions
2017	1,437	121	1,379	0.64	1,300	1,534
2018	921	138	1,516	0.64	1,055	689
2019	1,189	133	1,574	0.68	949	1,200
2020	1,202	107	1,193	0.62	604	1,500
2021	1,528	37	400	0.13	100	1,400

Analysis by Year

It's important to remember that "survey year" means it was submitted in 2021, not necessarily it came from 2021. For example, roughly 1/3 of libraries were reporting Jan-Dec '20, and nearly 2/3 were reporting Jul '20-Jun '21, with a few reporting Jan-Dec '21.

However, we can still see a significant drop in visits, circulation, and programming in the 2020 report, and an even stronger drop for the 2021 report. Also take note of the public computer usage, which was already showing a gradual decline but dropped precipitously during the pandemic. On the other hand, e-circulation and WiFi sessions are headed upwards through the pandemic, with a slight decrease in the median WiFi numbers for 2021.

Otherwise, numbers such as staff hours, tax support, total revenue, and the like, show a continued upward slope for the last 5 years.
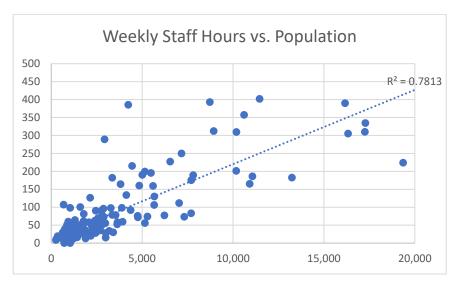
FY2021 Comparison by Service Area Population (median numbers)

2021 Medians	Pop.	Weeks Open	Hours Open	Square Footage	Librarian Hours	Total Staff Hours	Local Tax Support	Per Capita Tax Support	Other Local Income	Total Revenue
Pop Under 1,000	730	40	493	924	18	22	$25,688	$32.90	$5,283	$33,363
Pop 1,000-2,500	1,583	36	459	2,130	30	32	$40,077	$29.74	$9,042	$59,788
Pop 2,500-5,000	3,232	26	690	3,229	54	73	$104,035	$30.91	$7,200	$118,379
Pop Over 5,000	8,267	28	964	10,850	163	197	$385,605	$32.50	$17,510	$417,676
All Libraries	1,867	33	600	2,713	38	50	$74,944	$30.55	$10,111	$93,843

2021 Medians	Collection Expenses	Staff Expenses	Other Expenses	Total Collection Size	Registered Patrons	Visits	Per Capita Visits	Physical Circ	e-Circ
Pop Under 1,000	$2,947	$22,612	$6,177	7,466	429	659	0.94	1,885	657
Pop 1,000-2,500	$6,056	$36,957	$12,028	11,108	726	1,696	0.88	3,686	1,027
Pop 2,500-5,000	$10,394	$80,552	$26,791	17,657	1,646	1,638	0.52	9,618	2,601
Pop Over 5,000	$28,472	$311,805	$61,421	40,445	4,330	7,496	0.5	23,996	8,709
All Libraries	$8,823	$57,409	$19,596	14,480	1,095	1,571	0.72	6,121	1,528

2021 Medians	Programs	Program Attendance	Program Attendance Per Capita	Public Comp Uses	WiFi Sessions
Pop Under 1,000	9	83	0.13	22	416
Pop 1,000-2,500	23	254	0.13	97	651
Pop 2,500-5,000	50	450	0.15	112	1,400
Pop Over 5,000	100	1,292	0.13	533	3,379
All Libraries	37	400	0.13	100	1,400

Analysis by Service Area Population

Weekly Staff Hours vs. Population

R² = 0.7813

Correlation with Population	Correlation
Staff Hours	0.8839
Revenue	0.8810
Visits	0.7616
Total Collection Use	0.8392
Program Attendance	0.4095
WiFi Sessions	0.3256

The table on the right measures how strongly a change in one variable correlate to a change in the other variable, considering all reporting libraries. A correlation of 1 is a perfect relationship, and a correlation of 0 shows no relationship. We can see that revenue and staff hours (chart on the right) strongly correlate to population. Total collection use likewise (and unsurprisingly) relates closely. Visit numbers actually has a bit less correlation, though there is likely some variability because of the pandemic. Program attendance and WiFi show relatively low correlation.

Annual Staff Hours, Patrons, and Visits by Population

Annual Staff Hours — Registered Patrons — Visits

FY2021 Comparison by Incorporated and Municipal (median numbers)

2021 Medians	Pop.	Weeks Open	Hours Open	Square Footage	Librarian Hours	Total Staff Hours	Annual Staff Hours per Capita	Local Tax Support	Per Capita Tax Support	Other Local Income	Total Revenue	Total Revenue per Capita
Incorporated	2,828	36	540	3,600	45	58	1.10	$53,312	$25.36	$21,491	$104,622	$39.61
Municipal	1,883	31	680	2,518	37	49	1.15	$82,329	$34.29	$6,338	$91,434	$44.15
All Libraries	1,867	33	600	2,713	38	50	1.15	$74,944	$30.55	$10,111	$93,843	$40.50

2021 Medians	Collection Expenses	Staff Expenses	Other Expenses	Total Collection Size	Registered Patrons	Visits	Per Capita Visits	Physical Circ	e-Circ
Incorporated	$10,117	$65,210	$24,050	18,574	1,420	2,287	0.78	8,929	2,275
Municipal	$8,755	$55,805	$17,962	11,615	922	1,385	0.7	5,549	1,293
All Libraries	$8,823	$57,409	$19,596	14,480	1,095	1,571	0.72	6,121	1,528

2021 Medians	Programs	Program Attendance	Program Attendance Per Capita	Public Comp Uses	WiFi Sessions
Incorporated	44	400	0.13	253	1,751
Municipal	32	401	0.13	86	1,210
All Libraries	37	400	0.13	100	1,400

Analysis by Municipal vs. Incorporated

Our data shows some interesting things about incorporated and municipal libraries. Incorporated libraries tend towards a higher population than municipals, and a slightly higher for total income. Municipal libraries (unsurprisingly) receive more tax support (particularly visible in the per capita number), while incorporated libraries receive more "other income" (like donations and other fund raising).

If we look at the per capita numbers (e.g. by dividing the population), we can see a few things. Looking at annual staffing, incorporated libraries have about 96% of the total staffing hours of municipals. For total revenue, incorporated libraries receive just under 90% of what municipal libraries do. Visits are just a touch higher for incorporated libraries, and program attendance is identical.

FY2021 Comparison by Fiscal Year Dates (median numbers)

2021 Medians	Pop.	Weeks Open	Hours Open	Square Footage	Librarian Hours	Total Staff Hours	Local Tax Support	Per Capita Tax Support	Other Local Income	Total Revenue
All Libraries	1,867	33	600	2,713	38	50	$74,944	$30.55	$10,111	$93,843
Jan-Dec 2020 (46)	1,648	31	591	2,720	36	46	$40,039	$25.53	$12,261	$74,755
Jul 20-Jun 21 (91)	2,579	35	600	3,080	40	57	$104,035	$33.81	$8,655	$117,329
Jan-Dec 2021 (13)	2,279	44	396	3,330	31	38	$38,350	$16.67	$13,693	$93,212

2021 Medians	Collection Expenses	Staff Expenses	Other Expenses	Total Collection Size	Registered Patrons	Visits	Per Capita Visits	Physical Circ	e-Circ
All Libraries	$8,823	$57,409	$19,596	14,480	1,095	1,571	0.72	6,121	1,528
Jan-Dec 2020 (46)	$6,556	$44,159	$17,932	12,563	855	2,617	1.19	5,022	1,294
Jul 20-Jun 21 (91)	$11,557	$74,127	$21,826	17,657	1,259	1,385	0.63	8,434	2,274
Jan-Dec 2021 (13)	$7,864	$46,713	$26,085	14,215	1,035	1,313	0.42	5,382	1,789

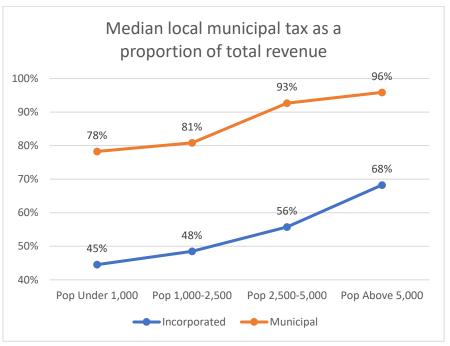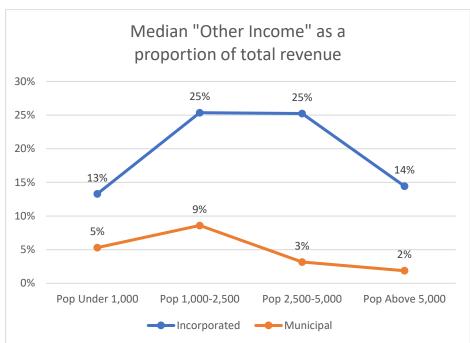| 2021 Medians	Programs	Program Attendance	Program Attendance Per Capita	Public Comp Uses	WiFi Sessions
All Libraries	37	400	0.13	100	1,400
Jan-Dec 2020 (46)	32	301	0.15	208	1,778
Jul 20-Jun 21 (91)	47	501	0.13	76	1,300
Jan-Dec 2021 (13)	14	152	0.07	25	300

Analysis by Fiscal Year Dates

In normal years, the start and end date of a libraries' fiscal year doesn't have a great impact on statistics, besides demographic differences - the June-July libraries have a higher population and significantly higher budget. But with the pandemic, a six-month difference in reporting period can have an effect.

However, the numbers are a bit confusing. Jan-Dec '20 libraries have almost double the visitation of July '20-June '21 libraries. Is that purely because of the period before the pandemic (January-Mid-March)? Is it because smaller libraries tended to stay more open during the pandemic? WiFi is likewise higher for Jan-Dec '20 libraries than July '20-June '21.

On the other hand, programming events and attendance are much closer between the two groups (programs and attendance are higher for July '20-June '21, while per capita attendance is a smidge higher for Jan-Dec '20. Though size may play a role, it's also likely this shows libraries eventually getting through the worst of the pandemic, at least for programming.

FY2021 Analysis of Revenue from Local Tax Support and Other Income

Median local municipal tax as a proportion of total revenue

100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%

Incorporated: 45% (Pop Under 1,000), 48% (Pop 1,000-2,500), 56% (Pop 2,500-5,000), 68% (Pop Above 5,000)
Municipal: 78% (Pop Under 1,000), 81% (Pop 1,000-2,500), 93% (Pop 2,500-5,000), 96% (Pop Above 5,000)

Pop Under 1,000   Pop 1,000-2,500   Pop 2,500-5,000   Pop Above 5,000

Incorporated   Municipal

Median "Other Income" as a proportion of total revenue

30%
25%
20%
15%
10%
5%
0%

Incorporated: 13% (Pop Under 1,000), 25% (Pop 1,000-2,500), 25% (Pop 2,500-5,000), 14% (Pop Above 5,000)
Municipal: 5% (Pop Under 1,000), 9% (Pop 1,000-2,500), 3% (Pop 2,500-5,000), 2% (Pop Above 5,000)

Pop Under 1,000   Pop 1,000-2,500   Pop 2,500-5,000   Pop Above 5,000

Incorporated   Municipal

- Local Tax – All funding provided by a municipality.
- Other Income – Donations, book sales, private support, fundraising, and non-resident fees.
- The remainder of funding (not shown) includes transfers (amounts from savings accounts and endowments) and grants. Because these are median figures, percentages for a given row would not necessarily add up to 100% even if these were included.

(thanks to Gary Deziel from UVM Extension for his work on these charts)

	Population	Number of respondents	Local municipal tax as a proportion of all revenue	Other income as a proportion of total revenue
All VT Libraries	All	142	79%	9%
Incorporated	All	52	54%	21%
	Pop Under 1,000	3	45%	13%
	Pop 1,000-2,500	19	48%	25%
	Pop 2,500-5,000	17	56%	25%
	Pop Above 5,000	13	68%	14%
Municipal	All	87	90%	5%
	Pop Under 1,000	13	78%	5%
	Pop 1,000-2,500	40	81%	9%
	Pop 2,500-5,000	16	93%	3%
	Pop Above 5,000	18	96%	2%

- Local Tax – All funding provided by a municipality.
- Other Income – Donations, book sales, private support, fundraising, and non-resident fees.
- The remainder of funding (not shown) includes transfers (amounts from savings accounts and endowments) and grants. Because these are median figures, percentages for a given row would not necessarily add up to 100% even if these were included.