

Why Libraries Matter

A Concise Overview of What Public Libraries Do

Healthy public libraries are important to democratic societies because they allow everyone, regardless of income, to make informed decisions about their government, their health, their education, and their consumption of goods.

Democracy only truly exists and thrives as long as there is equitable access to all information in all formats. This is one of many reasons why public libraries are essential to modern civilization and ultimately the future of every person.

Excellent public libraries also allow anyone, regardless of income, to educate *themselves*. This gives everyone an opportunity to achieve personal and occupational success. Education empowers you to do and understand more.

The public library is a critical component of our public education system. Libraries are sometimes called “The People’s University.” While students and teachers benefit greatly from libraries, those who cannot afford the escalating costs of education may also take advantage of our resources.

Libraries also provide people with access to information technologies, such as research databases, electronic books, word processors, and other data on the World Wide Web. Thrall also works every week to bring quality Internet-based resources to your attention through our website (www.thrall.org). Many people would have no access to the Internet if they did not have a public library to visit.

Unlike search engines, which are increasingly commercial and plagued by irrelevant results or questionable content, public libraries enjoy helping you find the best information available wherever it is. We are not motivated by profit: your information needs motivate us, and we enjoy helping you excel!

Through our combined resources, dedicated personnel, and networking with other institutions and academic entities, libraries contribute in countless positive ways to the well being of individuals and communities by creating and sustaining substantial opportunities for advancement and personal fulfillment.

We encourage you to visit and explore your local library. Any Reference librarian will be more than happy to introduce you to the many collections and free services available to you. All you ever have to do is ask, and your journey toward a better life can begin right away at the library!