
EXPLORING DATA FROM THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES SURVEY (PLS) TO MAKE PEER COMPARISONS

DAN HENSLEY AND MARISA PELCZAR

To prep for the activities,
visit www.ims.gov/search-compare

WHO ARE WE?



Marisa Pelczar*

**Institute of Museum and Library Services
Office of Research and Evaluation**



Dan Hensley*

**Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
Staff Development, Adult Services**

*The views and/or opinions expressed in this presentation do not necessarily represent the views and/or opinions of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the United States government, and/or the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

SESSION OBJECTIVES

In this session, you will:

- Learn the benefits of peer comparisons and benchmarking
- Explore PLS metrics to identify peer libraries in the Search and Compare Tool
- Benchmark your library against state or national estimates using PLS Benchmarking Tables
- Compare library data side-by-side to analyze similarities and differences
- Understand library context and community needs using other available data

PROGRAM NOTES

We will be spending time online
with the
Library Search and Compare Tool.

[https://www.ims.gov/
search-compare](https://www.ims.gov/search-compare)

- This first 60 minutes of this session will blend instruction with hands-on activities
- The last 30 minutes will be a partner activity (if you want to leave when we start this part, that's okay!)

Step 1: Look up your library in the Tool and note the FSCS ID

Step 2: Click on your library's profile and scan the data. Any surprises?

Step 3: Type questions or comments in chat

Library Search & Compare



Note the FSCS ID

CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH

4400 FORBES AVENUE, PITTSBURGH, PA 15213
 Service Area Population: 392,273
 Locale: City (11)
 Fiscal Year: 2022

Central Libraries: 1 Branch Libraries: 18 Bookmobiles: 0

Search: carni

Fiscal Year: 2022

State: PA

Local: (All)

Legal: (All)

Libraries: 0

Population: 0

OPERATING REVENUE (\$)	
Total Operating Revenue	37,569,186
Local Revenue	27,776,034
State Revenue	6,160,233
Federal Revenue	466,208
Other Revenue	3,166,711
Capital Revenue	3,392,267
Capital Expenditures	1,182,929

PROGRAMS OFFERED	
Total Library Programs	1,951
Children's Programs	826
Children's Program 0-5	228
Children's Program 6-11	598
Young Adult Programs	394
Adult Programs	629
General Interest Programs	102

OPERATING EXPENDITURES (\$)	
Total Operating Expenditures	35,460,239
Staff Expenditures	20,550,471
Total Collection Expenditures	5,107,225
Print Expenditures	1,451,815
Electronic Expenditures	3,441,758
Other Collection Expenditures	213,652
Other Operating Expenditures	9,802,543

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE	
Total Program Attendance	30,225
Children's Program Attendance	9,108
Children's Program Attendance 0-5	3,313
Children's Program Attendance 6-11	5,795
Young Adult Program Attendance	1,611
Adult Program Attendance	8,497
General Interest Program Audience	11,009

Display data: Totals Per Person

Select Library to Compare: AK0002 ANCHORAGE P... ➤

COLLECTIONS	
Total Physical	1,430,077
Books and Other Print Material	1,206,149
Audio - Physical	62,544
Video - Physical	94,734
Other Physical Circulation Items	66,650
E-Books	192,899
Audio - Downloadable	98,544
Video - Downloadable	5,498

CIRCULATION	
Total Circulation	3,402,839
Print Material Circulation	2,410,917
Electronic Material Circulation	991,922
Other Physical Circulation Items Circulation	18,647
Circulation of Children's Material	890,096
As Percentage of Total Circulation (%)	26
Other E-Content Use	668,664

PAID STAFF (FTE)

LIBRARY SERVICES

TECHNOLOGY

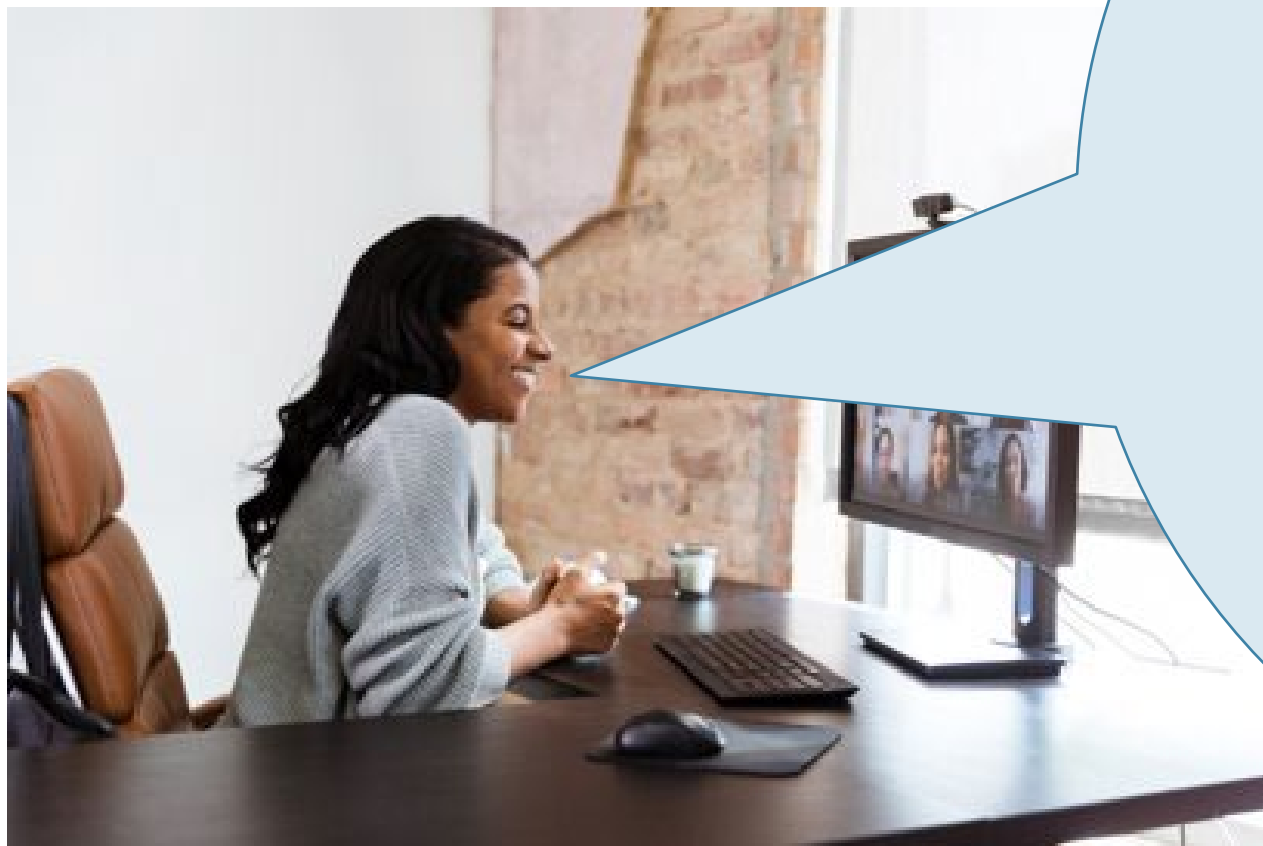
IMAGINE THIS SCENARIO...

You are a member of the team tasked with drafting your library's next strategic plan.

During a kickoff meeting, stakeholders are presented with a data sheet from the previous year.



IMAGINE THIS SCENARIO...



*This is interesting, but when I look at indicators for my own business, I always want to see how I **compare with my competitors.***

I know that libraries don't necessarily compete with one another, but some context would help me understand these numbers.

You know your field – are there other libraries we can compare ourselves to?

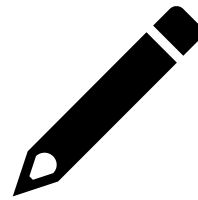
ACTIVITY I: INSTRUCTIONS

Which libraries do you think of as your peers?



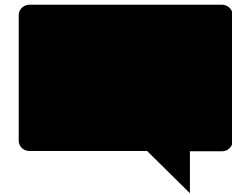
Think

1. Who do you think of as being “similar”?
2. Which libraries are adjacent to yours?



Write Name of Library

1. Your library (line 1)
2. Two libraries anywhere that you consider like yours (lines 2-3)
3. Two libraries that are nearby (lines 4-5)



Chat

Prepare to share in the chat in a few moments!

EXAMPLE – CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH

Top of Head Comparisons

- Cincinnati and Hamilton County, OH
- Rochester, NY

Why these?

- Regional Comparison (Rust Belt/
Ohio River)
- Similar size

Adjacent Communities

- Akron, OH
- Cleveland, OH

Why these?

- ~2 hours away

IN THE CHAT & ACTIVITY SHEET...

Which libraries do you think of as your peers? Why?

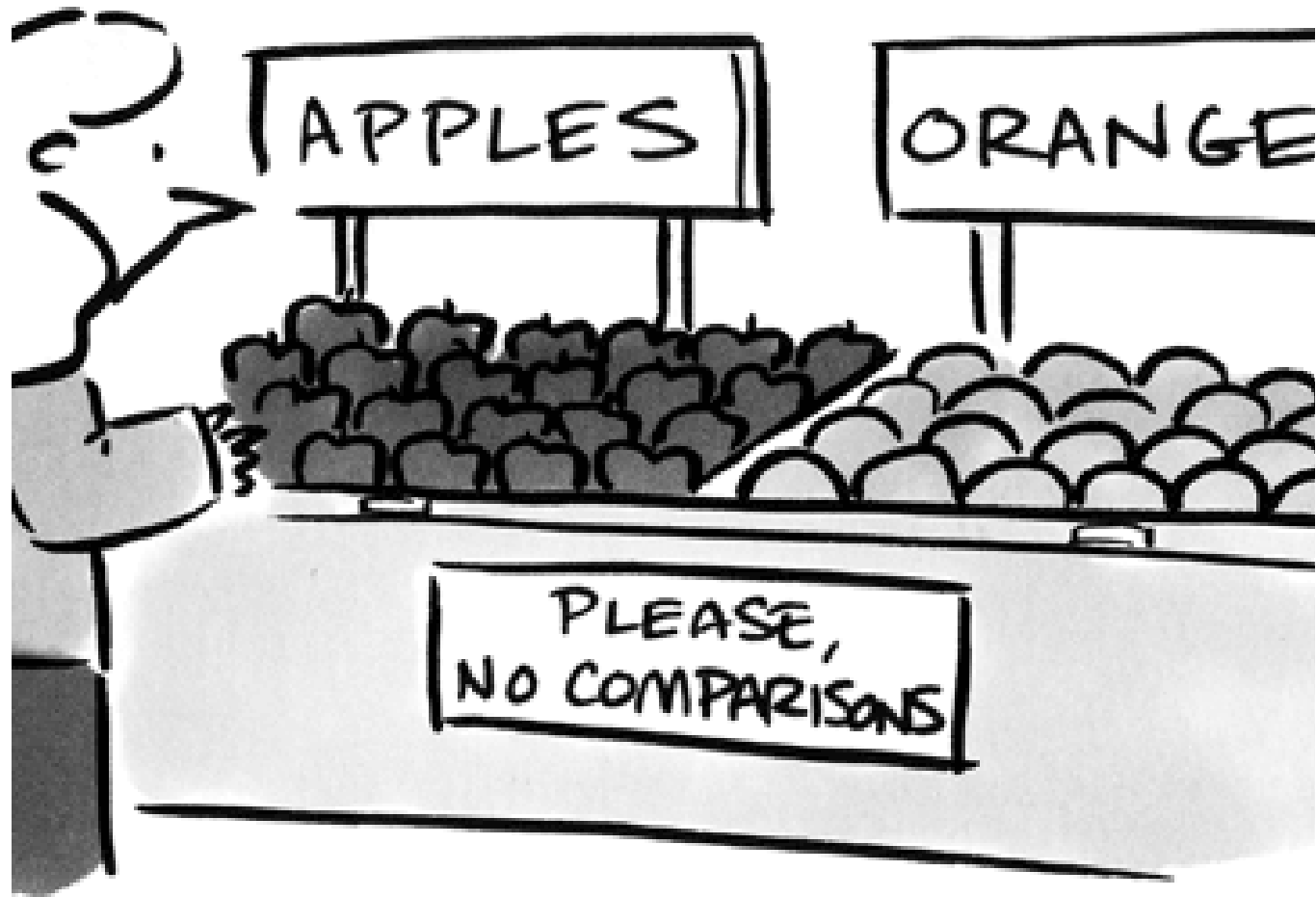


Activities Packet

EXPLORING PUBLIC LIBRARIES SURVEY DATA FOR PEER COMPARISONS

Worksheet for Activities 1 and 2

	Description	Library Name	FSC ID
Activity 1	1: Your Library	Carnegie Lib <u>Pgh</u>	PA0042
	2: <u>Top</u> of Head" Peer 1	Cincinnati/Ham <u>Cty</u> OH	OH0049
	3: "Top of Head" Peer 2	Rochester NY	NY0521
	4: Adjacent Library 1	Akron-Summit <u>Cty</u> OH	OH0002
	5: Adjacent Library 2	Cleveland OH	OH0051



PEER COMPARISONS AND BENCH- MARKING

WHY COMPARE LIBRARIES?

Benchmark Performance:

Identify strengths and areas for improvement.

Resource Allocation:

Inform decisions on staffing, collection, and tech investments.

Strategic Planning:

Set realistic goals and develop effective strategies.

Advocacy & Funding:

Build a case for increased support.

WHY COMPARE LIBRARIES?

Accountability & Transparency:
Measure performance and justify decisions.

Innovation & Best Practices:
Adopt new ideas and improvements.

Collaboration:
Partner on programs and resource sharing.



BUILDING A PEER GROUP

- Libraries geographically near you
- Libraries with similar
 - Population size served
 - Locale (rural/suburban/city)
 - Number of branches (one building vs. multi-branch system)
 - Legal status (Municipal, Library district)
 - Operating revenue
 - Staff (FTE)
 - Services (programming, computers)

KEY METRICS FOR LIBRARY BENCHMARKING

Resource
Inputs

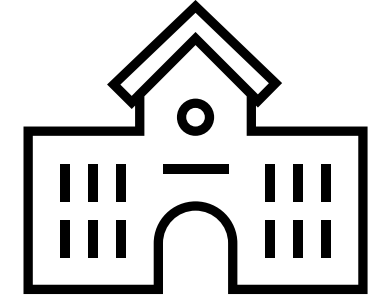
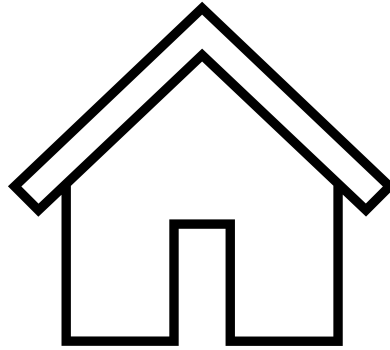
- Revenue
- Staff
- Materials by type
- Programs by type

Outputs &
Interactions

- Visits, registered users
- Reference transactions
- Circulation by type
- Program attendance by type

Total
&
Per Person
or another
standardized
metric (ratio)

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TOTAL & PER PERSON COMPARISONS



Metric	Library A	Library B
Population Served	500,000	150,000
FTE Staff	30	15
FTE Staff Per 1k People	0.06	0.10
Total Revenue	\$2,000,000	\$1,500,000
Revenue Per Person	\$4.00	\$10.00

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU USE TO BENCHMARK?



Average
Formula

=

Total Sum of All Numbers
Number of Item in the Set



- Compare your data to state, national and locale (urban, rural, etc.) averages
- Delve into your library's own performance over time
- Review trends in peer group metrics

Home > Data > Library Search & Compare

Search for Libraries

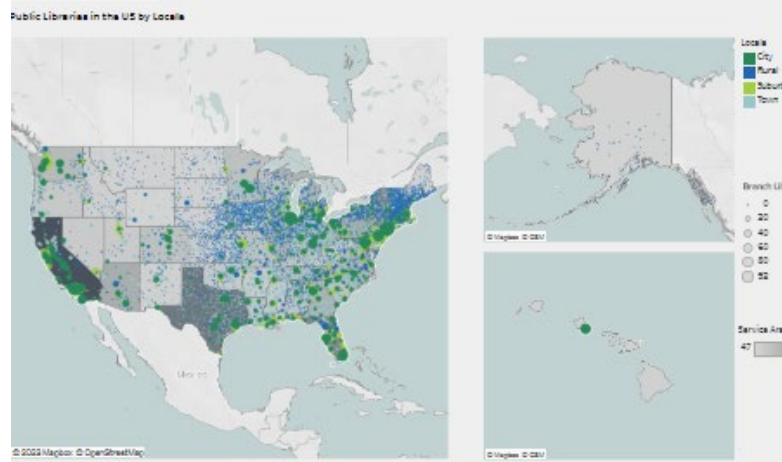
Explore data on: Demographic

Use the pull down menu to search by FSCS ID or library name to add/remove libraries to My Libraries

My Libraries: No Libraries Selected

Search Results: Click on a library's name to view detail!

FSCS Key	Library Name	Locale	Legal Basis	FSCS Public Library?	Service Area Population	Central Library
FA0001	ANCHOR POINT PUBLIC LIBRARY	Rural (42)	Non profit Association or Agency	Y	2,123	1
FA0002	ANCHORAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY	City (51)	County/Parish	Y	283,970	1
FA0003	ANDERSON COMMUNITY LIBRARY	Rural (43)	Municipal Government (city, town or village)	Y	275	1
FA0006	ANISHKAWIN CONSORTIUM LIBRARY	Town (36)	Multi-jurisdictional	Y	0,179	1
FA0007	ARIZONA PUBLIC LIBRARY	Rural (42)	County/Parish	Y	0,942	1
FA0008	CANTWELL COMMUNITY LIBRARY	Rural (43)	Non-profit Association or Agency	Y	150	1
FA0011	CHENING PUBLIC LIBRARY	Rural (43)	Non profit Association or Agency	N	43	1
FA0014	COLD BAY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Rural (42)	Non profit Association or Agency	Y	76	1
FA0015	COOPER LAND RUN COMMUNITY LIBRARY	Rural (42)	Non profit Association or Agency	N	476	1
FA0016	CORDOVA PUBLIC LIBRARY	Rural (43)	Municipal Government (city, town or village)	Y	2,944	1
FA0017	CORVALLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY	Rural (43)	Municipal Government (city, town or village)	Y	1,096	1
FA0018	CROFTON PUBLIC LIBRARY	Rural (43)	Municipal Government (city, town or village)	N	-3	-3
FA0019	DELAWARE COMMUNITY LIBRARY	Rural (43)	Municipal Government (city, town or village)	Y	1,109	1
FA0020	DILLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY	Rural (43)	Municipal Government (city, town or village)	Y	2,226	1
FA0021	EAGLE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Rural (42)	Non profit Association or Agency	Y	72	1
FA0023	FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARIES	City (23)	County/Parish	Y	97,159	1
FA0025	FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH COMMUNITY/SCHOOL LIBRARY	Rural (43)	Municipal Government (city, town or village)	Y	440	1



USING THE PUBLIC LIBRARY SEARCH AND COMPARE TOOL

WWW.IMLS.GOV/SEARCH-COMPARE

USING FILTERS, CREATING MY LIBRARIES, AND EXPLORING AND EXPORTING DATA

Search for Libraries

Fiscal Year
2022

State
PA

Locale
City

- (All)
- City
- Rural
- Suburban
- Town

Cancel Apply

Population
0 4,586,431

Visits
0 18,162,641

Programs
0 111,454

Explore data on:
Demographic

Use the pull down menu to search by FSCS ID or library name to add/remove libraries to My Libraries

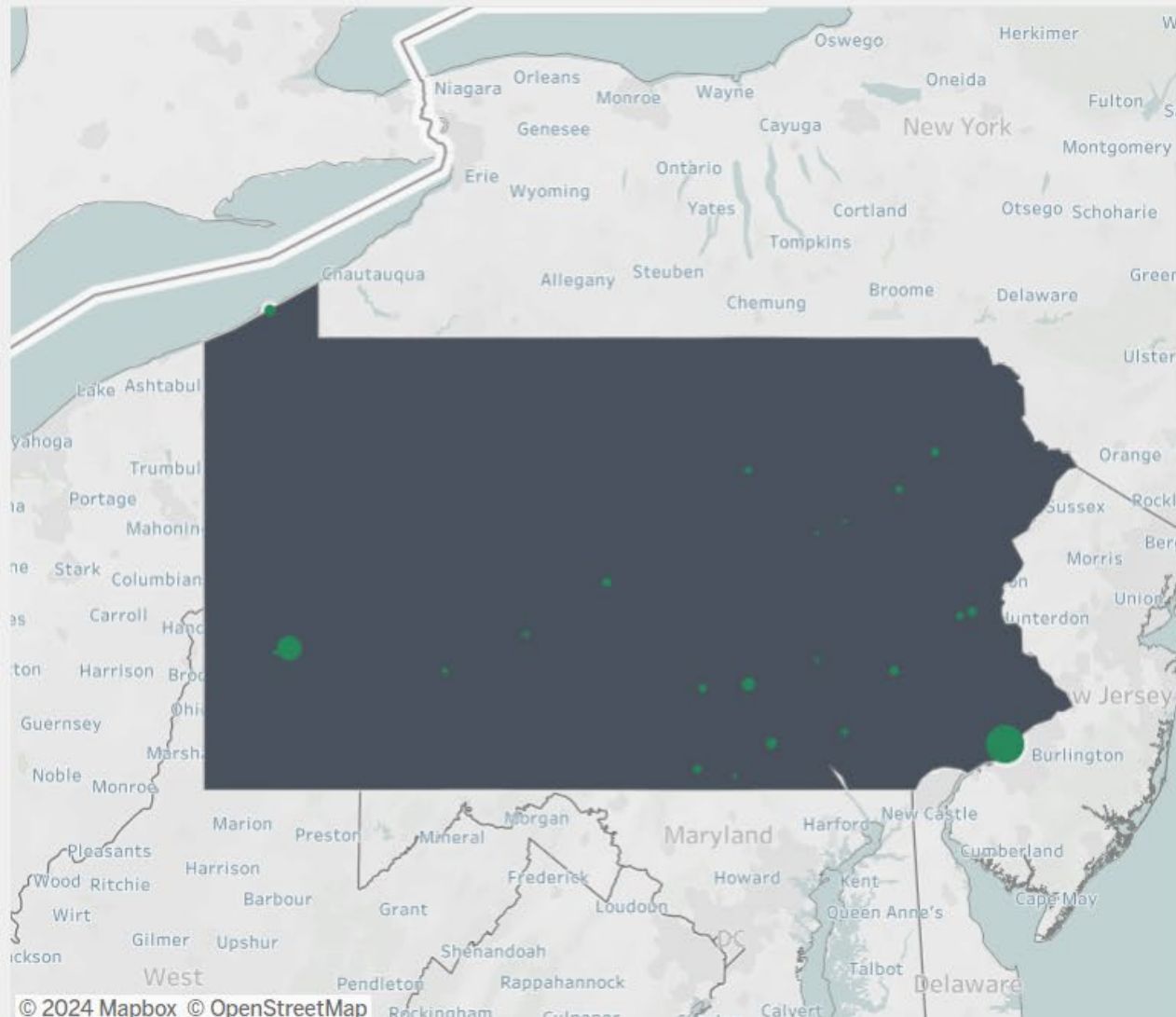
Add/Remove to My Libraries
(None)

My Libraries
No Libraries selected

Search Results
Click on a library's name to view detail 22 results

FSCS ID	Library Name	Locale	Legal Basis	FSCS Public Library?	Service Area Population	Central Library	Branch Libraries	Bookmobiles
PA0042	CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH	City (11)	Non-profit Association or Agency	Y	392,273	1	18	0
PA0136	CAMBRIA SYS ADMIN UNIT	City (13)	Non-profit Association or Agency	Y	95,861	1	0	0
PA0166	SCHLOW CENTRE REGION LIBRARY	City (13)	Non-profit Association or Agency	Y	94,625	1	0	0
PA0176	ADAMS SYS ADMIN UNIT	City (13)	Non-profit Association or Agency	Y	103,852	1	5	0
PA0181	GUTHRIE MEMORIAL LIBRARY - HANOVER'S PUBLIC LIBRARY	City (13)	Other	Y	50,419	1	0	0
PA0188	YORK SYS ADMIN UNIT	City (13)	Other	Y	282,763	1	8	0
PA0192	LANCASTER PUBLIC LIBRARY	City (13)	Non-profit Association or Agency	Y	214,988	1	1	0
PA0205	READING PUBLIC LIBRARY	City (13)	Other	Y	130,706	1	3	0

Public Libraries in the US by Locale

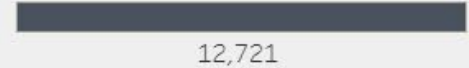


Locale
■ City

Total Paid Staff

- 6
- 200
- 400
- 600
- 899

Service Area Population (In Thousands)



EXPLORING DATA IN THE SEARCH

Search for Libraries



Fiscal Year

2022



State

PA



Locale

City



Legal Basis

(All)



Library Buildings



97

Population

0

4,586,431

Visits

0

18,162,641

Explore data on:

Paid Staff (FTE)



Use the pull down menu to search by FSCS ID or library name to add/remove libraries to My Libraries

Add/Remove to My Libraries

(None)



My Libraries

No Libraries selected

Search Results

Click on a library's name to view detail

Sortable!

22 results

FSCS ID	Library Name	ALA-MLS Librarians	Total Librarians	All Other Paid Staff	Total Paid Staff
PA0385	FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA	256.5	375.7	523.4	899.1
PA0042	CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH	113.8	113.8	252.3	366.1
PA0222	DAUPHIN COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM	11.3	13.1	81.3	94.4
PA0423	ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	10.3	11.3	65.1	76.4
PA0188	YORK SYS ADMIN UNIT	12.8	12.8	50.1	62.9
PA0205	READING PUBLIC LIBRARY	11.3	15.6	32.9	48.5

LOOK UP FSCS ID OR THE LIBRARY NAME IN MY LIBRARIES DROP DOWN MENU TO ADD THEM TO YOUR SET

Search for Libraries ⓘ ▼

Explore data on: Demographic ▼

Fiscal Year: 2022 ▼

State: PA ▼

Locale: City ▼

Legal Basis: (All) ▼

Library Buildings: 0 97

Population: 0 4,586,431

Visits: 0 18,162,641

Programs: 0

Use the pull down menu to search by FSCS ID or library name to add/remove libraries to My Libraries

My Libraries

FSCS ID	Library Name	Locale	Legal Basis	FSCS Public Library?	Service Area Population	Central Library	Branch Libraries	Bookmobiles
NY0521	ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY	City (12)	Municipal Government (city, town or village)					
OH0002	AKRON-SUMMIT CNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	City (12)	County/Parish					
OH0049	CINCINNATI AND HAMILTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	City (11)	County/Parish					
PA0042	CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH	City (11)	Non-profit Association or Agency	Y	392,273	1	18	0

Search Results

Click on a library's name to view detail 22 results

FSCS ID	Library Name	Locale	Legal Basis	FSCS Public Library?	Service Area Population	Central Library	Branch Libraries	Bookmobiles
PA0385	FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA	City (11)	Non-profit Association or Agency	Y	1,603,797	1	51	0
.....	Non-profit Association

Add/Remove to My Libraries

(None) ▼ ⬇ 📄 📊

oh005 ✕

- OH0050 PICKAWAY CNTY DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY
- OH0051 CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
- OH0052 CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
- OH0053 CLEVELAND HEIGHTS-UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS PL
- OH0054 CLYDE PUBLIC LIBRARY
- OH0055 COLDWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY
- OH0056 COLUMBIANA PUBLIC LIBRARY
- OH0057 COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN LIBRARY
- OH0058 CONNEAUT PUBLIC LIBRARY
- OH0059 COSHOCTON COUNTY DISTRICT LIBRARY

“SAVE” YOUR SET

Search for Libraries

Fiscal Year

State

Locale

Legal Basis

Library Buildings

Population

Explore data on:

Use the pull down menu to search by FSCS ID or library name to add/remove libraries to My Libraries

Add/Remove to My Libraries



Click here to open My Libraries in a new tab and copy/share the URL
NY0521,OH0002,OH0049,OH0051,PA0042

My Libraries

FSCS ID	Library Name	Locale	Legal Basis	FSCS Public Library?	Service Area Population	Central Library	Branch Libraries	Bookmobiles
NY0521	ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY	City (12)	Municipal Government (city, town or village)	Y	211,328	1	10	0
OH0002	AKRON-SUMMIT CNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	City (12)	County/Parish	Y	381,648	1	18	3
OH0049	CINCINNATI AND HAMILTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	City (11)	County/Parish	Y	830,639	1	40	0
OH0051	CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY	City (11)	School District	Y	374,557	1	23	1
PA0042	CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH	City (11)	Non-profit Association or Agency	Y	392,273	1	18	0

BOOKMARK OR COPY/PASTE THE URL TO SAVE IT

My Libraries | Institute of Museum and Library Services

imls.gov/MyLibraries?FFYear=2022&FSCSKey=NY0521,OH0002,OH0049,OH0051,PA0042

library research Academic Libraries PLS History Learning agendas Room Marisa's room Creating and Using... Rural America 2022 Public Library... Public Library Data... Analytics | Home CO 4 Project Tracker... USA Performance®...

INSTITUTE of Museum and Library SERVICES

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My Libraries
Displaying data for Fiscal Year 2022

DOWNLOADING DATA: MAIN SEARCH PAGE

Home > Data > Lik

Explore data
Demograph

Select Data to Download
 Search Results
 My Libraries

FSCS Key	Library Name						Libraries	Bookmobiles
		Rural (43)	Municipal Government (city, town or village)	Y	1,065	1		
		Rural (43)	Muni (city,			-3		
		Rural (43)	Muni (city,			1		
		Rural (43)	Muni (city,			1		
		Rural (43)	Non-p Agenc			1		
AK0001	ANCHOR POINT	City (13)	Count			1	0	0
AK0002	ANCHORAGE PL	Rural (43)	Muni (city,			1	4	0
AK0006		Rural (43)	Non-profit Association or Agency	N	421	1	0	0
		Rural (43)	Municipal Government	v	551	1		

9,215 results

26

Download Crosstab

Select a sheet from this dashboard

DownloadSea...

LibraryCount...

Select Format

Excel
 CSV

4
Download

3

←
↓

AT THE LIBRARY LEVEL

CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH

4400 FORBES AVENUE, PITTSBURGH, PA 15213
Service Area Population: 392,273
Locale: City (11)
Fiscal Year: 2022

Central Libraries: 1

Branch Libraries: 18

Bookmobiles: 0



Display data:

Totals

Per Person

Select Library to Compare

AK0002 ANCHORAGE P... >

OPERATING REVENUE (\$)	
Total Operating Revenue Per Person	95.77
Local Revenue Per Person	70.81
State Revenue Per Person	15.70
Federal Revenue Per Person	1.19
Other Revenue Per Person	8.07
Capital Revenue Per Person	8.65
Capital Expenditures Per Person	3.02

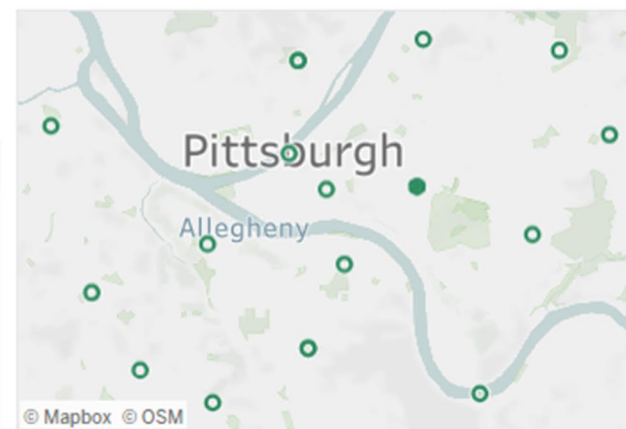
PROGRAMS OFFERED	
Total Library Program Per 1K People	5.0
Children's Program Per 1K People	2.1
Children's Program 0-5 Per 1K People	0.6
Children's Program 6-11 Per 1K People	1.5
Young Adult Program Per 1K People	1.0
Adult Program Per 1K People	1.6
General Interest Program Per 1K People	0.3

COLLECTIONS	
Physical Per Person	3.6
Books and Other Print Material Per Person	3.1
Audio - Physical Per Person	0.2
Video - Physical Per Person	0.2
Other Circulated Physical Item Per Person	0.2
E-Books Per Person	0.5
Audio - Downloadable Per Person	0.3
Video - Downloadable Per Person	0.0

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA ON LIBRARY BRANCHES

BRANCHES

Library Name	FSCS ID	Seq	Locale	Type	Square Feet	Total Hours	Total Weeks Open
CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH	PA0042	002	City (11)	Central Library	148,845	2,876	52
ALLEGHENY LIBRARY	PA0042	003	City (11)	Branch Library	15,005	2,584	52
BEECHVIEW LIBRARY	PA0042	004	City (11)	Branch Library	8,000	2,131	52
				Branch			



Branch Locale

■ City

Outlet Type

○ Branch Library

* Central Library

LIBRARY TRENDS

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ALLEGHENY LIBRARY	PA0042	003	City (11)	Branch Library	15,005	2,584	52
BEECHVIEW LIBRARY	PA0042	004	City (11)	Branch Library	8,000	2,131	52
				Branch			

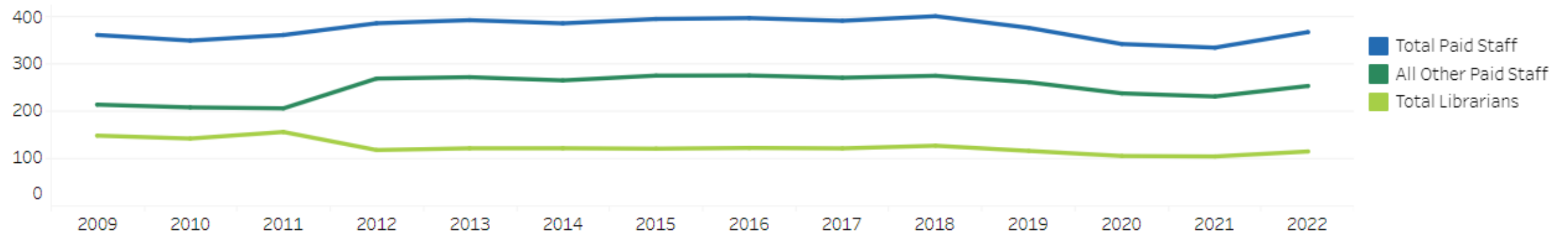


- Electronic Information
- Library Collection
- Library Programs By Type
- Library Program Attendance By Type
- Revenue and Expenditures
- Staff
- Services
- Circulation
- Capital Revenue and Expenditures
- Service Area Population

TRENDS

Select Fiscal Year
 (All) ▼

Staff ▼



CONTEXTUAL COVID-19 INFORMATION

DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THIS LIBRARY

Physically Closed Branches to Public	Continued Public Services While Closed	Provided "Outside" Physical Circulation Services	Previously Issued E-Library Cards	Issued E-Library Cards	Added or Increased Electronic Material Access
No	No	No	*	No	*

*Not Collected in FY 2021 or FY 2022

Provided Live Virtual Programs	Provided Recordings of Programs	Previously Provided External Wi-Fi Access	Began Providing External Wi-Fi Access	Increased External Wi-Fi Access	Re-Assigned Staff to Other Government Agencies or Non-Profits
*	*	*	No	No	No

PUBLIC LIBRARY DATA PDFS

Revenues, Expenditures, and Staff

Programs and Services

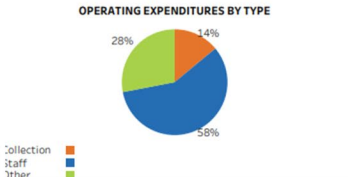
Library Collections

CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH
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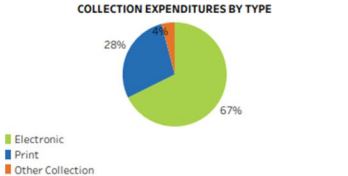
Programs and Services
 Library Collections

REVENUE, EXPENDITURES, AND STAFF

Fiscal Year 2022



Category	Total	Per Person
Total Operating Revenue	37,569,186	95.77
Local Revenue	27,776,034	70.81
State Revenue	6,160,233	15.70
Federal Revenue	466,208	1.19
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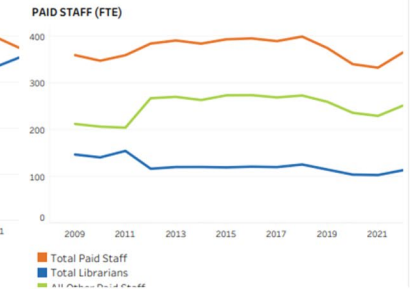
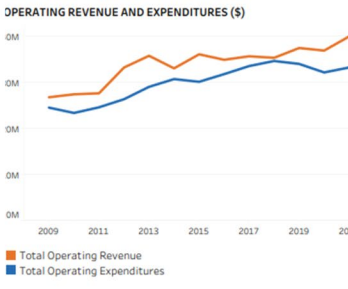


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Total Collection Expenditures	5,107,225	13.02
Print Expenditures	1,451,815	3.70
Electronic Expenditures	3,441,758	8.77
Other Collection Expenditures	213,652	0.54
Other Operating Expenditures	9,802,543	24.99



Category	Total	Per 1K People
Total Paid Staff	366.1	0.9
Total Librarians	113.8	0.3
ALA-MLS Librarians	113.8	0.3
All Other Paid Staff	252.3	0.6

FTE stands for full-time equivalent. Libraries report FTE based on a measure of 40 hours per week. For example, 60 hours per week of part-time work by employees in a staff category divided by the 40-hour measure equals 1.50 FTEs.
 -9 = Suppressed for personally identifiable information

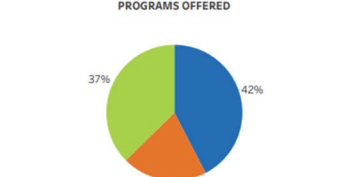


CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH
 400 FORBES AVENUE PITTSBURGH, PA 15213
 Service Area Population: 392,273
 Locale: City (11)
 Central Libraries: 1 Branch Libraries: 18 Bookmobiles: 0

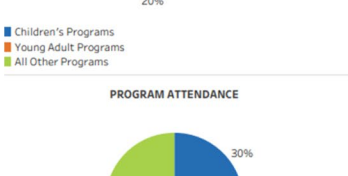
Revenue, Expenditures, and Staff
 Library Collections

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

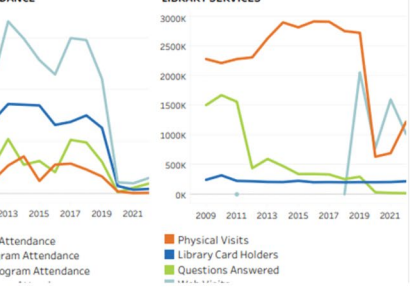
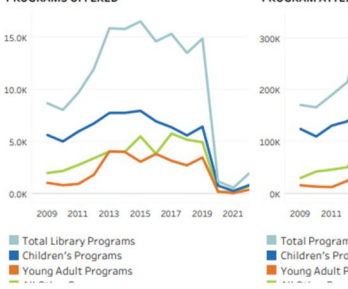
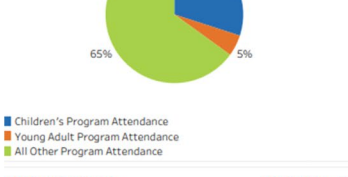
Fiscal Year 2022



Category	Total	Per 1K People
Total Library Programs	1,951	5.0
Children's Programs	826	2.1
Young Adult Programs	394	1.0
All Other Programs	731	1.9
Asynchronous Programs	-	-



Category	Total	Per 1K People
Total Program Attendance	30,225	77.1
Children's Program Attendance	9,108	23.2
Young Adult Program Attendance	1,611	4.1
All Other Program Attendance	19,506	49.7
Asynchronous Program Attendance	-	-

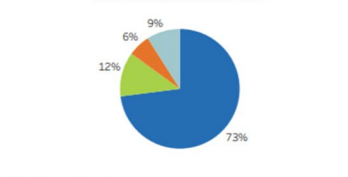


CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH
 4400 FORBES AVENUE PITTSBURGH, PA 15213
 Service Area Population: 392,273
 Locale: City (11)
 Central Libraries: 1 Branch Libraries: 18 Bookmobiles: 0

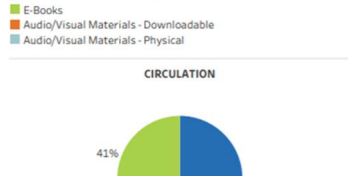
Revenue, Expenditures, and Staff
 Programs and Services

LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

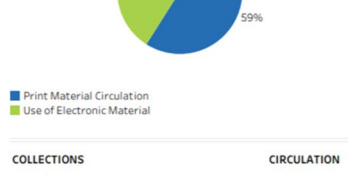
Fiscal Year 2022



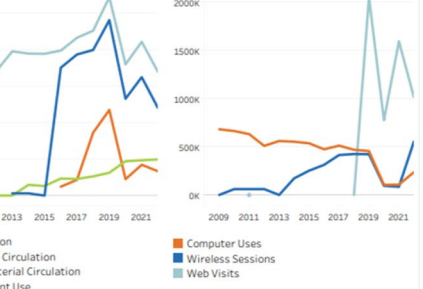
Category	Total	Per Person
Physical	1,430,077	3.6
Books and Other Print Material	1,206,149	3.1
Audio (Tapes, CDs)	62,544	0.2
Videos	94,734	0.2
Other Circulated Physical Items	66,650	0.2
Digital	-	-
E-Books	192,899	0.5
Audio (Downloadable)	98,544	0.3
Video (Downloadable)	5,498	0.0



Category	Total	Per Person
Total Circulation	3,402,839	8.7
Print Material Circulation	2,410,917	6.1
Electronic Material Circulation	991,922	2.5
Other Physical Item Circulation	18,647	0.0
Circulation of Children's Material	890,096	2.3
As Percentage of Total Circulation (%)	26	26
Other E-Content Use	668,664	1.7



*Internet Computers is per 1K people and all other measures displayed in the table are per person.



LIBRARIES SIDE-BY-SIDE

CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH

4400 FORBES AVENUE, PITTSBURGH, PA 15213
 Service Area Population: 392,273
 Locale: City (11)
 Fiscal Year: 2022

Central Libraries: 1 Branch Libraries: 18 Bookmobiles: 0

OPERATING REVENUE (\$)	
Total Operating Revenue	37,569,186
Local Revenue	27,776,034
State Revenue	6,160,233
Federal Revenue	466,208
Other Revenue	3,166,711
Capital Revenue	3,392,267
Capital Expenditures	1,182,929

OPERATING EXPENDITURES (\$)	
Total Operating Expenditures	35,460,239

PROGRAMS OFFERED	
Total Library Program	1,951
Children's Program	825
Children's Program 0-5	228
Children's Program 6-11	598
Young Adult Program	394
Adult Program	629
General Interest Program	102

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE	
Total Program Attendance	30,225

Display data: Totals Select Library to Compare: AK0002 ANCHORAGE P...

oh004

- OH0040 CARDINGTON-LINCOLN PUBLIC LIBRARY
- OH0041 DORCAS CAREY PUBLIC LIBRARY
- OH0042 CARROLL COUNTY DISTRICT LIBRARY
- OH0043 MERCER COUNTY DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY
- OH0044 CENTERBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY
- OH0045 WASHINGTON-CENTERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
- OH0046 GEauga COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
- OH0047 SELOVER PUBLIC LIBRARY
- OH0048 CHILLICOTHE AND ROSS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
- OH0049 CINCINNATI AND HAMILTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
- OH0049 CINCINNATI AND HAMILTON COUNTY, PL OF

video - Downloadable 5,498

CIRCULATION	
Total Circulation	3,402,839

Libraries Side-by-Side

Select Library to Compare

NY0521 ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

FF Year

2022

Page 1 of 2

CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH
(PA0042)

ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY (NY0521)

City (11)

City (12)

Service Area Population	392,273	211,328
Central Libraries	1	1
Branch Libraries	18	10
Bookmobiles	0	0

OPERATING REVENUE (\$)

	Total (\$)	Per Person (\$)	Total (\$)	Per Person (\$)
Total Operating Revenue	37,569,186	95.77	16,408,644	78.55
Local Revenue	27,776,034	70.81	12,851,398	61.52
State Revenue	6,160,233	15.70	569,353	2.73
Federal Revenue	466,208	1.19	0	0.00
Other Operating Revenue	3,166,711	8.07	2,987,893	14.30
Capital Revenue	3,392,267	8.65	4,197,214	20.09
Capital Expenditures	1,182,929	3.02	967,077	4.63

OPERATING EXPENDITURES (\$)

	Total (\$)	Per Person (\$)	Total (\$)	Per Person (\$)
Total Operating Expenditures	35,460,239	90.40	15,988,294	76.54
Staff Expenditures	20,550,471	52.39	13,156,286	62.98
Total Collection Expenditures	5,107,225	13.02	1,083,904	5.19
Print Expenditures	1,451,815	3.70	400,410	1.92
Electronic Expenditures	3,441,758	8.77	507,232	2.43
Other Collection Expenditures	213,652	0.54	176,262	0.84
Other Operating Expenditures	9,802,543	24.99	1,748,104	8.37

PAID STAFF (FTE)

	Total	Per 1K People	Total	Per 1K People
Total Paid Staff	366.1	0.9	202.0	1.0
Total Librarians	113.8	0.3	51.1	0.2
ALA-MLS Librarians	113.8	0.3	42.2	0.2
All Other Paid Staff	252.3	0.6	150.9	0.7

PROGRAMS OFFERED

	Total	Per 1K People	Total	Per 1K People
Total Library Programs	1,951	5.0	2,724	13.0
Children's Programs	826	2.1	872	4.2
Young Adult Programs	394	1.0	298	1.4
All Other Programs	731	1.9	1,554	7.4
Asynchronous Programs				

Libraries Side-by-Side

Page 2 of 2

CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH
(PA0042)

ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY (NY0521)

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

	Total	Per 1K People	Total	Per 1K People
Total Program Attendance	30,225	77.1	50,572	242.1
Children's Program Attendance	9,108	23.2	26,848	128.5
Young Adult Program Attendance	1,611	4.1	3,237	15.5
All Other Program Attendance	19,506	49.7	20,487	98.1
Asynchronous Program Attendance				

LIBRARY SERVICES

	Total	Per Person	Total	Per Person
Physical Visits	1,223,424	3.1	644,528	3.1
Web Visits	1,018,121	2.6	217,110	1.0
Library Card Holders	219,194	0.6	106,068	0.5
Questions Answered	18,304	0.0	116,995	0.6
Inter-Library Loans to Other Libraries	441,533	1,125.6	124,409	595.6
Inter-Library Loans from Other Libraries	525,650	1,340.0	26,329	126.0

COLLECTIONS

	Total	Per Person	Total	Per Person
Total Physical Items	1,430,077	3.6	904,176	4.3
Print Materials	1,206,149	3.1	742,948	3.6
Audio - Physical	62,544	0.2	61,834	0.3
Video - Physical	94,734	0.2	96,133	0.5
Other Circulated Physical Items	66,650	0.2	3,261	0.0
Digital				
E-Books	192,899	0.5	79,327	0.4
Audio - Downloadable	98,544	0.3	36,967	0.2
Video - Downloadable	5,498	0.0	3,561	0.0

CIRCULATION

	Total	Per Person	Total	Per Person
Total Circulation	3,402,839	8.7	840,583	4.0
Physical Material Circulation	2,410,917	6.1	667,465	3.2
Electronic Material Circulation	991,922	2.5	173,118	0.8
Other Physical Items Circulation	18,647	0.0	305,022	1.5
Circulation of Children's Material	890,096	2.3	155,774	0.7
As Percentage of Total Circulation (%)	26		19	

TECHNOLOGY

	Total	Per Person	Total	Per Person
Internet Computers	635	1.6	257	1.2
Computer Uses Per Year	237,065	0.6	72,974	0.3
Wireless Sessions	556,077	1.4	84,366	0.4

OTHER SOURCES OF PLS BENCHMARKING DATA



Data Catalog

Research & Evaluation >

Data Catalog ✓

Public Libraries Survey >

State Library Administrative Agency Survey >

Public Needs for Library and Museum Services Survey

Museum Data Files

Administrative Discretionary Grant Data

National Museum Survey

Heritage Health Information



Library Search & Compare

This web-based tool provides an easy way to query, browse, view, and download data about individual libraries from the Public Libraries Survey. You can also find your library's ESCS code: The ESCS



Public Libraries Survey (PLS)

Conducted annually since 1988, PLS is your definitive source on the state of public libraries in the United States. Explore the PLS data to find key information on over 9,000 public library systems.



PLS Benchmarking Tables

These sortable tables showcase 3 years' worth of key indicators of public library use, financial health, staffing and resources at the national, state, and library service levels.



State Library Administrative Survey (SLAA)

Collected annually and biennially of SLAA Survey is your source on the state library agencies in the United States. Explore the

Number and Percentage of Public Libraries

Revenue and Expenditures

Services, Resources and Programs

Staffing and Size

Fiscal Year

2022

Report by

State

Select a Table

- Table 1. Number of public libraries, population of legal service area, unduplicated population of legal service area, and state population estimate
- Table 1. Number of public libraries, population of legal service area, unduplicated population of legal service area, and state population estimate
- Table 2. Percentage distribution of public libraries, by type of administrative structure
- Table 3. Number of public libraries with branches and bookmobiles, and number of service outlets, by type of outlet
- Table 4. Percentage distribution of public libraries, by average number of weekly public service hours per outlet
- Table 5. Percentage distribution of public libraries, by type of legal basis
- Table 6. Percentage distribution of public libraries, by type of interlibrary relationship

Download

Table 1. Number of public libraries, population

State	Number of Pu	Population in Thousands
NATIONAL		
New York	755	20,127
Illinois	623	11,719
Texas	539	26,826
Iowa	536	3,167
Pennsylvania	445	12,721
Michigan	396	10,056
Wisconsin	381	5,949
Massachusetts	363	7,027
Kansas	318	2,545
New Jersey	294	8,704

BENCHMARKING TABLES BY POPULATION

**WHERE DOES
YOUR LIBRARY
FIT?**

Service Area Population	Number of Public Libraries	Library Visits In Thousands	Library Visits Per Capita	Total Circulation In Thousands	Total Circulation Per Capita
1,000,000 or more	35	89,050	1.45	282,412	4.60
500,000 to 999,999	61	83,272	1.89	313,892	7.13
250,000 to 499,999	119	80,851	1.97	243,864	5.94
100,000 to 249,999	370	102,167	1.78	288,965	5.04
50,000 to 99,999	576	84,633	2.14	223,212	5.64
25,000 to 49,999	980	85,395	2.55	202,427	6.04
10,000 to 24,999	1,739	81,349	2.97	163,702	5.97
5,000 to 9,999	1,492	35,365	3.34	62,369	5.89
2,500 to 4,999	1,239	15,520	3.46	26,358	5.88
1,000 to 2,499	1,453	9,279	3.85	15,609	6.48
Less than 1,000	955	2,655	4.83	4,008	7.29
NATIONAL	9,019	669,536	2.08	1,826,818	5.67

Fiscal Year: Report by:

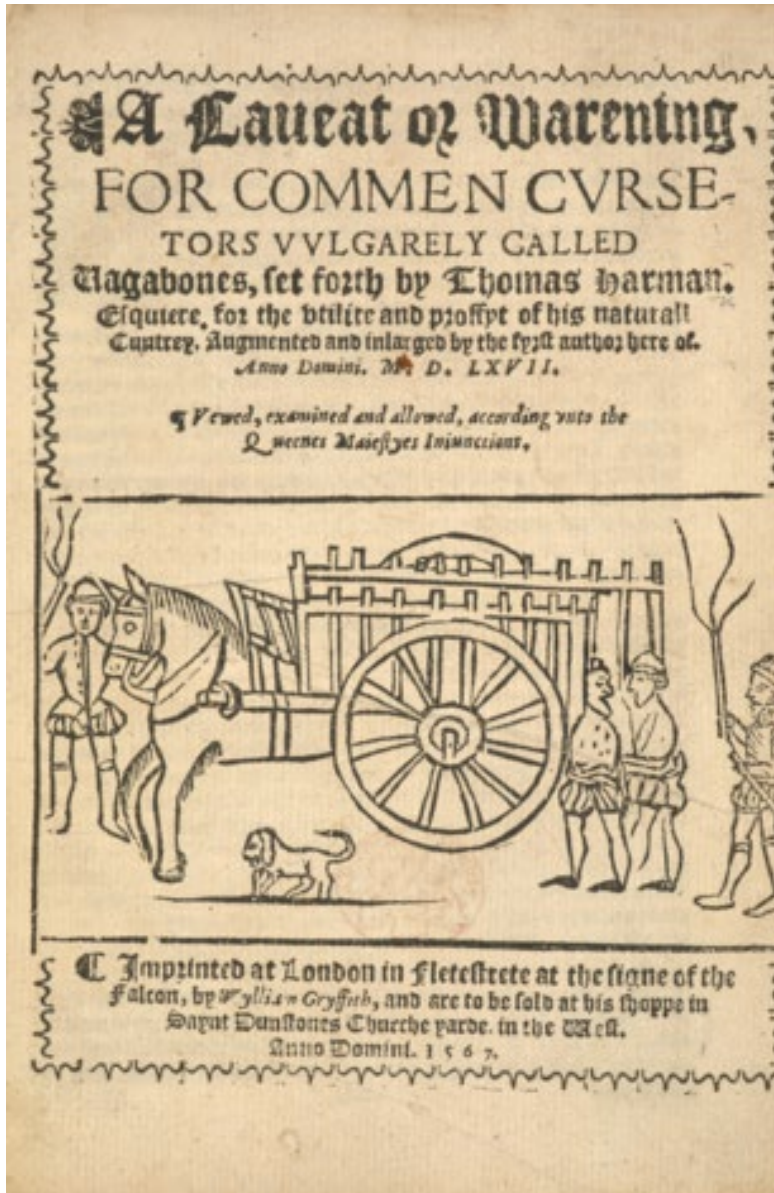
Select a Table

- Table 14. Number of public library services and library services per capita, by type of service
- Table 15. Number of interlibrary loans provided to and received from per 1,000 population
- Table 16. Total, children's and young adults' programs offered in public libraries
- Table 17. Total, children's, and young adults' program attendance in public libraries
- Table 18. Number of public-access Internet computers in public libraries and user sessions of internet computers
- Table 19. Number of wireless sessions in public libraries per capita
- Table 20. Number of public library print materials, e-books, and print serial subscriptions per capita, by type of material
- Table 21. Percentage distribution of public libraries, by size of print materials collection
- Table 22. Number of public library audio and video materials per capita, by type of material, format
- Table 23. Average and median number of public library audio and video materials, by type of material, format,
- Table 24. Total electronic collections in public libraries and percentage distribution of electronic collections, by source of electronic collections
- Table 25. Total collection use, total circulation, physical materials circulation, electronic materials circulation, and retrieval of electronic information per capita

Download

Table 14. Number of public library services and library services per capita, by type of service

State	Number of Public Libraries	Library Services per Capita	Interlibrary Loans per 1,000	Children's and Young Adults' Programs	Internet Computers and Sessions	Wireless Sessions per Capita	Print Materials, E-books, and Serials	Audio and Video Materials	Electronic Collections	Collection Use and Circulation
NATIONAL	9,019									
New York	755									
Illinois	623									
Texas	539									
Iowa	536	9,950	3.14	19,961	6.30	7,585	38.00	1,855	0.59	
Pennsylvania	445	21,854	1.72	54,782	4.31	20,330	37.11	4,391	0.35	
Michigan	396	21,020	2.09	61,831	6.15	21,057	34.06	3,989	0.40	
Wisconsin	381	19,274	3.24	44,701	7.51	17,011	38.05	2,610	0.44	
Massachusetts	363	22,205	3.16	52,682	7.50	19,937	37.84	3,620	0.52	
Kansas	318	8,455	3.32	20,324	7.99	8,188	40.29	1,660	0.65	
New Jersey	294	21,814	2.51	42,988	4.94	17,323	40.30	3,887	0.45	



WORKING WITH PLS DATA

CAVEATS AND QUIRKS

COVID'S EFFECT ON LIBRARY DATA AND ANALYSIS

- IMLS paused many edit checks that compared year-to-year data in recent years due to COVID
- If you see a “strange” per person calculation or other metric, investigate the case and determine if it's worth including in your peer comparison set.

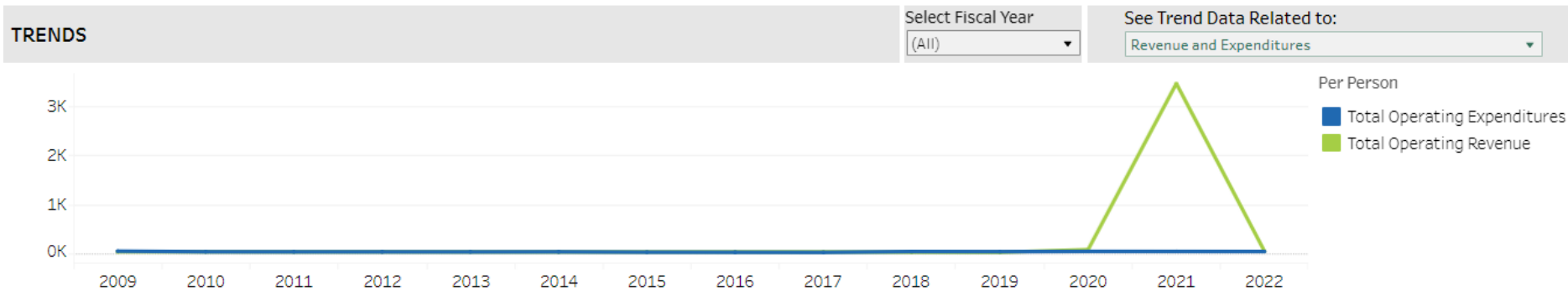
Service Area Population: 3,874
 Locale: Town (33)
 Fiscal Year: 2021

Central Libraries: 1 Branch Libraries: 0 Bookmarks: 0

OPERATING REVENUE (\$)	
Total Operating Revenue	13,247,412
Local Revenue	13,243,412
State Revenue	4,000
Federal Revenue	0
Other Operating Revenue	0
Capital Revenue	0
Capital Expenditures	50,000

OPERATING EXPENDITURES (\$)	
Total Operating Expenditures	137,025
Staff Expenditures	94,351
Total Collection Expenditures	42,674
Print Expenditures	40,974
Electronic Expenditures	700
Other Collection Expenditures	1,000
Other Operating Expenditures	0

PAID STAFF (FTE)	
Total Paid Staff	3.0
Total Librarians	3.0
ALA-MLS Librarians	1.0
All Other Paid Staff	41 0.0



NEGATIVE NUMBERS—WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

Code	Meaning
-1	The library didn't report the data element, or the library didn't report sub-items so the total cannot be calculated (e.g., new programming variables by age).
-3	The library was temporarily closed in that reporting year.
-9	If a library has 2 or fewer FTE, IMLS suppresses the salary expenditures to protect individual identity. Exclude case only if analyzing salary. This makes salary expenditure analysis almost impossible for small libraries, but analysis of total operating expenditure can still be useful.

FEDERAL-STATE COOPERATIVE SYSTEM (FSCS) STATUS

- A public library is an entity that is established under state enabling laws or regulations to serve a community, district, or region, and that provides at least the following:
 - An organized collection of printed or other library materials, or a combination thereof;
 - Paid staff;
 - An established schedule in which services of the staff are available to the public;
 - The facilities necessary to support such a collection, staff, and schedule; and
 - Is supported in whole or in part with public funds.

ACTIVITY 2: THE SCENARIO CONTINUES...

The stakeholder group found the conversation about peer libraries to be so interesting that they have asked your team to present a list of peer libraries, along with some data, at the next meeting. They want to focus the conversation on the three main areas that your library is examining currently – programming, visitor count, and staffing, and they are interested in libraries with similar budget and number of staff.

Your team looks to you to lead the effort.



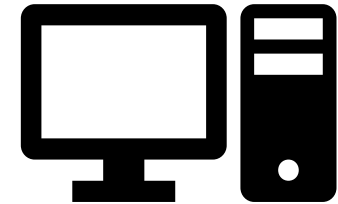
You just took that RIPL webinar! You know how to do this, right?

TRY IT OUT...



The Basic Procedure

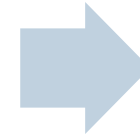
Research
Use Search and Compare to build your list



Filter



Sort



Look at one library up
and one down

Combinations to Try

Filter by	Sort by	Add to lines	Purpose
Locale (urban, rural)	Population	6+7	Similarly situated libraries
Legal Basis (e.g., county, municipal)	Population	8+9	Similarly structured libraries
Number of outlets	Paid staff	10+11	Similarly sized libraries
Operating Revenue	Paid staff	12+13	Similarly funded libraries

Activities Packet

EXPLORING PUBLIC LIBRARIES SURVEY DATA FOR PEER COMPARISONS

Worksheet for Activities 1 and 2

	Description	Library Name	FSC ID
Activity 1	1: Your Library	Carnegie Lib Pgh	PA0042
	2: "Top of Head" Peer 1	Cincinnati/Ham Cty OH	OH0049
	3: "Top of Head" Peer 2	Rochester NY	NY0521
	4: Adjacent Library 1	Akron-Summit Cty OH	OH0002
	5: Adjacent Library 2	Cleveland OH	OH0051
Activity 2	6: Same Locale by Population 1	Arlington VA	VA0005
	7: Same Locale by Population 2	Wichita KS	KS0226
	8: Similar Legal Basis by Population 1	Mont Co Norristown PA	PA0336
	9: Similar Legal Basis by Population 2	Bucks County PA	PA0309
	10: Similar # of Outlets by Staff Size 1	Nashville TN	TN0135
	11: Similar # of Outlets by Staff Size 2	St. Louis MO	MO0036
	12: Similar Revenue by Staff Size 1	Harris County TX	TX0101
	13: Similar Revenue by Staff Size 2	Tulsa OK	OK0093

TRY IT OUT...

15
minutes



Research
Use Search and Compare to build your list



The Basic Procedure

Filter



Sort



Look at one library up
and one down

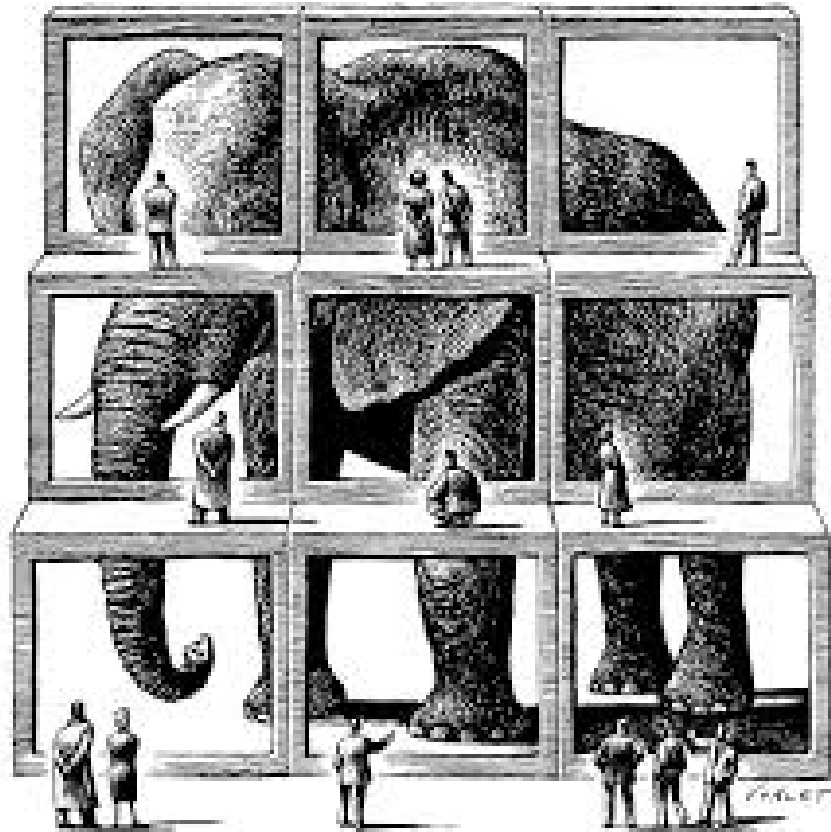
Combinations to Try

Filter by	Sort by	Add to lines	Purpose
Locale (urban, rural)	Population	6+7	Similarly situated libraries
Legal Basis (e.g., county, municipal)	Population	8+9	Similarly structured libraries
Number of outlets	Paid staff	10+11	Similarly sized libraries
Operating Revenue	Paid staff	12+13	Similarly funded libraries

BRING IT BACK

In the chat

- What did you discover?
- Any surprises?



UNDERSTANDING CONTEXT IN COMMUNITIES

CONTEXTUALIZING YOUR COMMUNITY

American Community Survey (ACS) Data Profiles

Data Profiles have the most frequently requested social, economic, housing, and demographic data. Each of these four subject areas is a separate data profile. The Data Profiles summarize the data for a single geographic area, both numbers and percent, to cover the most basic data on all topics.

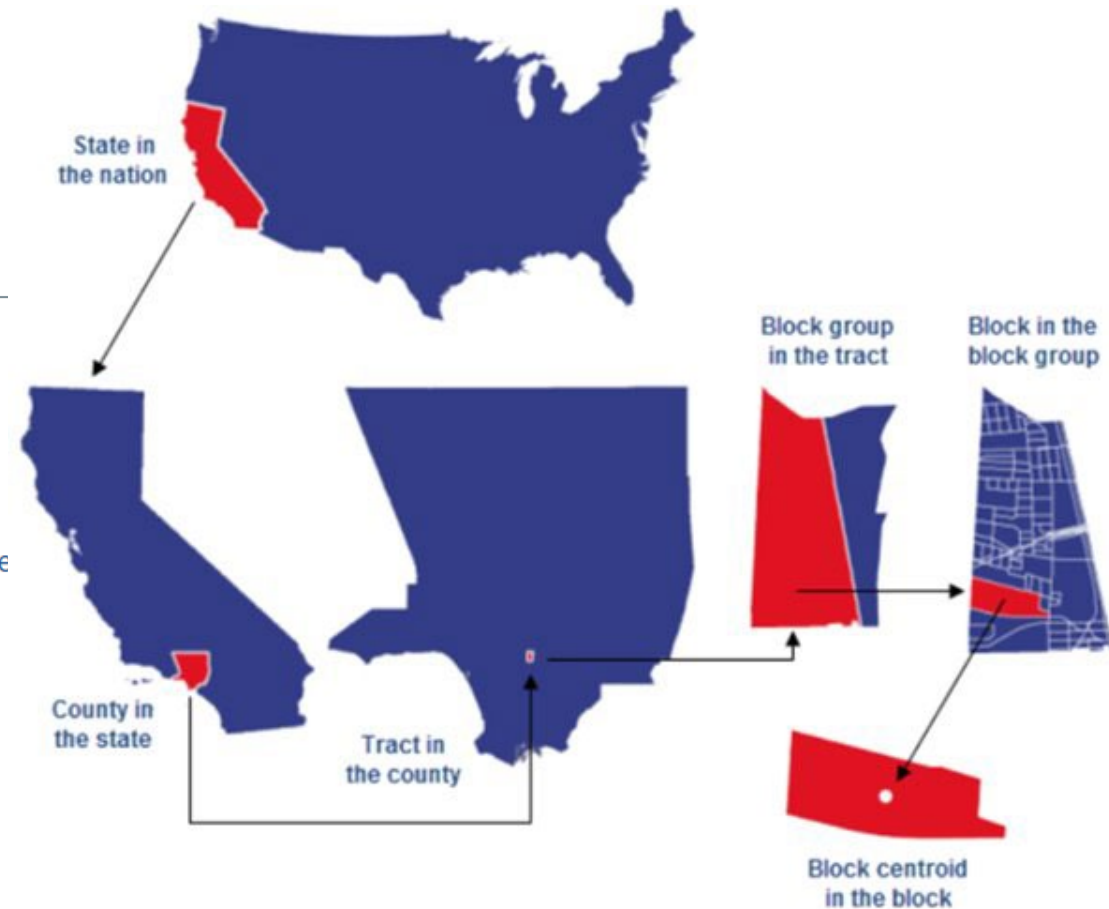
2022 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014

2018 - 2022 ACS 5-Year Data Profile

Select a Geography Type

- Nation
- State
- County
- County Subdivision
- Place
- Census Tract
- ZIP Code Tabulation Area
- Metropolitan/Micropolitan Statistical Area
- American Indian Area/Alaska Native Area/Hawaiian Home Land
- Congressional Districts

Pittsburgh, PA Metro Area



WHAT CHARACTERISTICS CAN ACS TELL YOU ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY?

Social and Demographic

- Population by age/sex/race
- Language spoken in the home
- Education
- Households and families
- Nativity and foreign-born status
- Geographic mobility
- Disability
- Health insurance
- Computer and internet use

Economic

- Income
- Poverty and participation in government programs
- Employment status and type of employer
- Industries / Occupations
- Commuting to work

Housing

- Housing inventory and occupied housing characteristics
- Financial characteristics and housing costs

EXAMPLE: PLACE DATA PROFILE

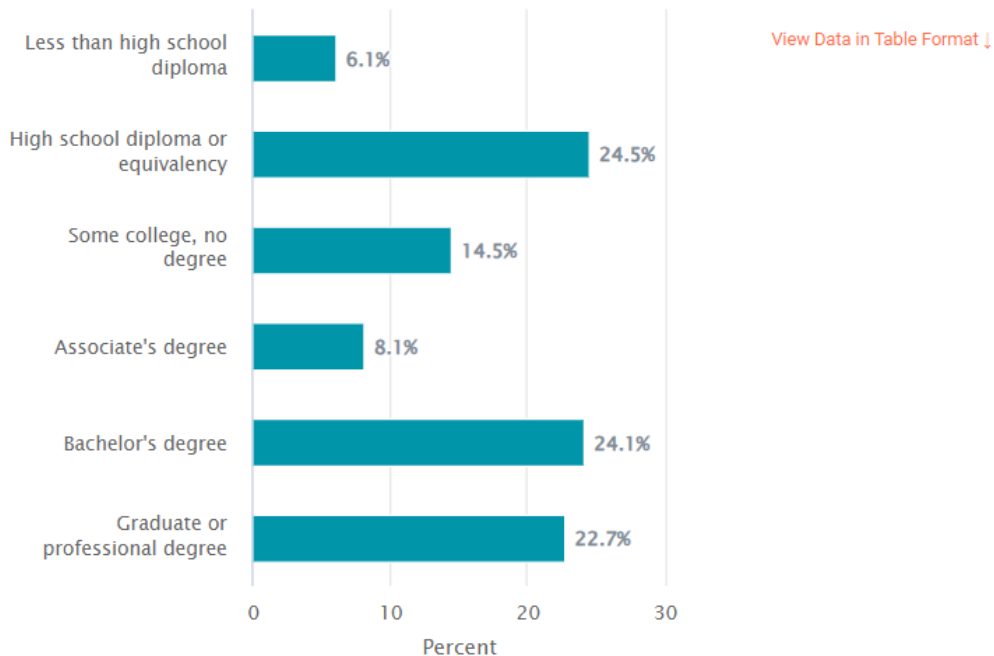
Education



In 2018-2022, 93.9 percent of people 25 years and over had at least graduated from high school and 46.7 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. An estimated 6.1 percent did not complete high school.

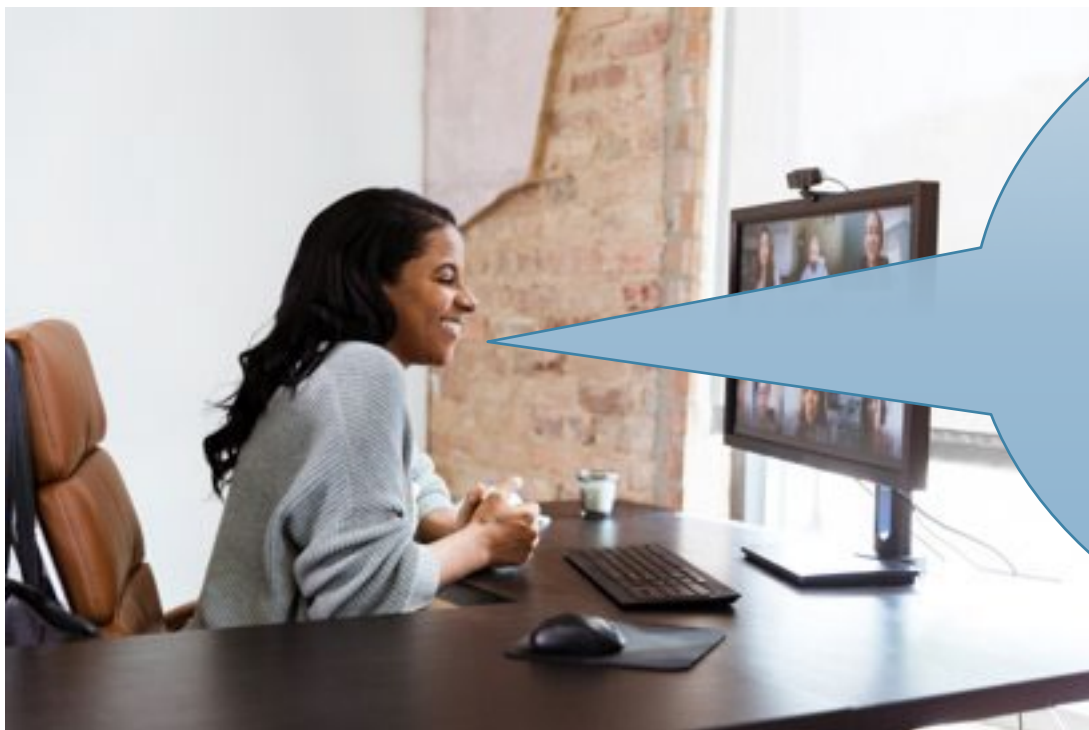
The total school enrollment in Pittsburgh city, Pennsylvania was 82,591 in 2018-2022. Nursery school enrollment was 3,301 and kindergarten through 12th grade enrollment was 30,664. College or graduate school enrollment was 48,626.

Educational Attainment of People in Pittsburgh city, Pennsylvania in 2018-2022



ACTIVITY 3: BACK TO OUR SCENARIO...

A prominent stakeholder says...



Thanks for doing all this great prep work. I can't wait to see what peer library information you have discovered.

I'm especially curious to know how we stack up against our football rivals.

ACTIVITY 3 INTRODUCTION

Talk

Work in small groups and role-play with the provided data.



Library Staff Member *describe*:

- Why these might be considered peers
- Which metrics are most meaningful to you
- Which are less meaningful, or at least require some more context
- Other data you would like to see

Stakeholder *ask*:

- How does the library's performance in various categories stack up?
- Does this hint at things that should be included in the next strategic plan?
- Does this data show larger trends that you should be aware of but maybe can't counteract?

IMPORTANT NOTE

The goal of this exercise is to

- 1) practice reading tables of peer comparison and benchmarking data,
- 2) identify potentially interesting comparisons, and
- 3) talk about it with another person.

For this exercise, you don't know any other context than the data that is provided, so go ahead and let yourself speculate a bit.

15 MINUTE SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Activity 3

Prompt

"Thanks for doing all this great prep work. I can't wait to see what peer library information you have discovered. I'm especially curious to know how we stack up against our football rivals."

Do this:

10. Introduce yourself to your partner and choose roles – one of you will be the library staff member, the other will be the inquisitive stakeholder. (1 minute)

11. Independently review the data on the next page. (4 minutes)

Library Name	Operating Revenue		Total Paid Staff		Registered Users		Programs (#)		Programs (Attend.)		Total Circulation		Annual Visits		Outlets
	Total	Per Person	Total	Per 1K	Total	Per Cap	Total	Per 1K	Total	Per 1K	Total	Per Cap	Total	Per Cap	

Anchor Point	\$15,015,678.00	\$51.96	78.6	0.3	121,075	0.4	806	2.8	24,661	85.3	948,351	3.3	159,427	0.6	5
Pleasant Shores (in-state)	\$5,500,168.00	\$55.61	49	0.5	42,031	0.4	368	3.8	5,377	55	310,201	3.2	46,625	0.5	3
Wheeler (out of state)	\$10,941,822.00	\$47.70	68	0.3	165,743	0.7	339	1.5	2,696	11.8	1,058,883	4.6	220,667	1	7
Planesville (out of state)	\$11,887,198.00	\$41.64	143.6	0.5	186,277	0.7	1,103	3.9	24,779	86.8	3,675,464	12.9	542,192	1.9	5
Ohio County (out of state)	\$8,760,539.00	\$52.87	78.0	0.5	73,619	0.4	359	2.2	8,898	53.7	1,530,023	9.2	259,636	1.6	5
Hillsville (out of state)	\$12,148,814.00	\$75.71	76.0	0.5	92,565	0.6	274	1.7	8,806	54.9	1,635,908	10.2	151,645	0.6	2
State Avg.	\$40,711.00	\$63.81	317.6	0.5	5,365	0.5	98	9.6	3603	365.2	43619	4.31	14,206	1.4	1.2
National Avg	\$1,659,171.00	\$192.00	15.3	0.4	17622	0.5	217	6.1	4,541	128.1	172,233	4.86	46,221	1.3	1.8

look for figures that jump out at you, such as: numbers that indicate relative strengths numbers that you should be prepared to offer as opportunities for further

rivals? Is that really a good benchmark? look for figures that jump out at you, such

see the library excelling?

more explanation for you to understand? from the perspective of your role. (10 minutes)

two minutes to share what stood out to you. 2 the time discussing the data.

up on the exercise is to get practice reading tables of benchmark data, identifying potentially interesting comparisons, and talking about it with another person. For this exercise, you don't know any other context than the data that is provided, so go ahead and let yourself speculate a bit.

NOT FEELING WORKING WITH A PARTNER?

We get it!

You're welcome to leave
the call now if you'd
prefer to continue
independently using the
instructions in your
packet.

IN YOUR CHAT GROUP...

15
minutes

Talk

Work in pairs and role-play with the provided data.



Library Staff Member

- Be confident (in your fake data)
 - You are the expert in your library (regardless of how confident you are about data)
- Say what you know and don't know
- Explain what the data might mean
- Discuss other context

Stakeholder

- Be (gently) inquisitive
- Ask for clarification (even if you are just speculating)
- Put on your layperson hat – what might not be obvious to an outside stakeholder?
- What do you want to know more about?

BRINGING IT HOME: WHAT YOU SHOULD DO NEXT

- Keep the list you made in Activities 1 and 2
- Build a "My Libraries" list in Search and Compare & save the URL for easy access
- Download your data or enter it into the provided template
- Think about, talk about, and dig into the data
- Make new field combinations and repeat





THANK YOU!

Marisa

mpelczar@imls.gov

Dan

hensleyd@carnegielibrary.org