

21st Century Libraries Initiative

why participate? the power of comparative data for effective planning

Why use data to compare libraries?

Data is Impartial We all love our libraries, and all of our libraries provide valued service to grateful users. Yet, are our libraries as great as they could be?

Data Illustrates Possibilities Data provides clear goals to which MVLS libraries can aspire.

Why use this data?

Inputs, Outputs and Outcomes The State Annual Report provides a basis of comparison among all NYS public libraries.

- Input data measures community investment in the library, (local public funding, paid FTE staff, and library materials spending).
- Output data measures how much the community uses the library, (library borrowing, program attendance, and annual visits).
- Outcomes measure the impact of library services, i.e. Library Impact Stories.

Population Based Comparisons Expressing data in terms of population allows for meaningful comparisons.

- Local funding, library materials funding, borrowing, and visits are expressed per capita.
- Class and event attendance is expressed per 100 residents.
- Paid FTE staff is expressed per 10,000 residents.

Why these Model Libraries?

Excelling in Investment & Use All the model libraries compare well to regional and state averages.

Communities Like Ours Model Libraries are from towns, villages, and cities like those in the Mohawk Valley with similar economic and educational profiles.

With Sustainable Operations Model libraries also share the following characteristics:

- Sustainable local public funding that can not be cut;
- Annual public budget votes; and
- Meaningful service areas with no large neighboring unserved jurisdictions.

Be inspired to make your library a Model 21st Century Library

Meet the Model Libraries

Albany Public Library is a school district public library serving the Albany City School District; funded through a school district vote.

Oneida Public Library is a special district library serving the Oneida City School District and funded through a special district vote.

Catskill Public Library is a school district public library serving the Catskill School District and funded through a school district vote.

Kinderhook Free Library is an association library serving and funded (414 vote) through the towns of Stuyvesant & Kinderhook.

Cuba Circulating Library (on the border of Allegany & Cattaraugus counties) serves half of the Cuba-Rushford School District, and is funded through a school district vote.

Lyme Free Library, in Jefferson County, is an association library serving the Town of Lyme and funded through a vote with the Lyme School District.

Library Benchmark Statistics and Model Libraries

plan for progress using comparative data



	Library Inputs							Library Outputs						
	Population	Operating Budget (Expense)	Total Public Funding	Per Capita Public Funding	Total FTE Staff	Staff per 10,000 Pop	Library Materials Expense	Per Capita Library Materials	Total Annual Borrowing	Per Capita Annual Borrowing	Annual Class/Event Attendance	Class/Event Attendance per 100 pop	Annual Total Visits	Per Cap Annual Visits
SCPL	154,727	\$5,465,583	\$4,873,254	\$31.50	47.18	3.05	\$481,724	\$3.11	1,132,246	7.32	29,656	19.17	1,008,000	6.51
Albany	97,839	\$8,817,657	\$8,354,377	\$85.39	115.00	11.75	\$660,543	\$6.75	1,022,420	10.45	57,249	58.51	861,524	8.81
Amsterdam	24,186	\$307,334	\$230,000	\$9.51	6.10	2.52	\$16,422	\$0.68	54,526	2.25	4,247	17.56	57,455	2.38
Gloversville	19,244	\$428,209	\$393,695	\$20.46	11.90	6.18	\$45,613	\$2.37	68,902	3.58	5,360	27.85	93,325	4.85
Oneida	15,411	\$430,602	\$348,555	\$22.62	13.13	8.52	\$51,384	\$3.33	63,331	4.11	8,330	54.05	83,419	5.41
Cobleskill	14,295	\$254,769	\$263,095	\$18.40	4.88	3.41	\$25,018	\$1.75	64,276	4.50	2,210	15.46	29,816	2.09
Catskill	12,473	\$679,960	\$630,867	\$50.58	10.25	8.22	\$51,820	\$4.15	88,315	7.08	3,569	28.61	71,000	5.69
Johnstown*	11,943	\$364,483	\$314,000	\$26.29	7.00	5.86	\$41,515	\$3.48	84,174	7.05	5,568	46.62	74,465	6.24
Fonda	6,808	\$71,126	\$27,716	\$4.07	1.21	1.78	\$5,487	\$0.81	26,451	3.89	1,419	20.84	13,024	1.91
Schoharie*	6,873	\$130,881	\$66,000	\$9.60	1.04	1.51	\$8,979	\$1.31	20,298	2.95	2,801	40.75	16,101	2.34
Kinderhook	6,486	\$240,014	\$217,353	\$33.51	3.88	5.98	\$26,659	\$4.11	55,547	8.56	7,234	111.53	68,882	10.62
Middleburgh	6,433	\$159,635	\$122,500	\$19.04	2.00	3.11	\$17,059	\$2.65	28,343	4.41	4,688	72.87	10,423	1.62
Canajoharie	6,320	\$223,181	\$950	\$0.15	5.5	8.70	\$9,645	\$1.53	32,807	5.19	1,560	24.68	29,782	4.71
St. Johnsville*	5,736	\$112,771	\$70,000	\$12.20	2.40	4.18	\$4,625	\$0.81	8,839	1.54	1,595	27.81	8,663	1.51
Fort Plain	5,592	\$130,968	\$82,750	\$14.80	2.50	4.47	\$8,839	\$1.58	21,546	3.85	5,142	91.95	52,000	9.30
Cuba	4,575	\$203,957	\$157,175	\$34.36	4.72	10.32	\$14,405	\$3.15	39,189	8.57	4,162	90.97	29,900	6.54
Fort Hunter	3,699	\$23,630	\$26,500	\$7.16	0.63	1.70	\$2,262	\$0.61	2,493	0.67	107	2.89	1,460	0.39
Northville	2,981	\$130,258	\$139,329	\$46.74	1.40	4.70	\$10,249	\$3.44	22,665	7.60	1,833	61.49	17,869	5.99
Lyme	2,185	\$82,092	\$61,819	\$28.29	1.75	8.01	\$13,935	\$6.38	18,708	8.56	2,804	128.33	12,561	5.75
Sharon Springs	1,846	\$48,573	\$43,860	\$23.76	0.73	3.95	\$4,448	\$2.41	12,671	6.86	713	38.62	7,640	4.14
MVLS w/o SCP	138,499			\$10.77		3.30		\$2.35		3.23		27.00		2.97
MVLS Totals	293,226			\$22.36		3.40		\$2.73		6.30		24.00		6.07
Capital District	1,048,398			\$37.21		6.70		\$4.43		9.22		39.00		6.69
New York State	19,378,244			\$55.88		6.59		\$5.43		7.27		40.00		5.50

All Data is from the 2015 State Annual Reports with 2 exceptions:

Four libraries - Amsterdam, Fort Hunter, Gloversville and Schoharie - had significant increases in local public funding approved in 2016. For those libraries, the local public funding data includes the amounts approved via 2016 votes.

The most recent NYS data is for 2014. This information is from the DLD website at: <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/libs/palstats.htm>

Total population data for MVLS w/o SCP, MVLS, Capital District and NYS, is total geographic population, including served and unserved areas.

* Library population data is chartered service area population with 3 exceptions. For Johnstown, Schoharie and St. Johnsville this chart includes the school district population.

Using Comparative Statistics

1. Compare your library to similar MVLS libraries—coded by color based on population.
2. Compare your library to the MVLS, Capital District, and NYS averages at the bottom of the chart.
3. Compare your library to the model library(s) in your population group—indicated with darker highlighting of the same color.

How can your library become a Model 21st Century Library? What areas can you target for change, emphasis and improvement?