

2011 Library Jurisdictional Comparisons

Canadian Libraries Serving a Population Over 500,000 sorted by population

Source: Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC) 2011 and 2010 data.

Library Systems	Population Served				# of Branches				Population Served / Branch				Square Footage				Square Footage / Capita			
	Rank	2011	Rank	2010	Rank	2011	Rank	2010	Rank	2011	Rank	2010	Rank	2011	Rank	2010	Rank	2011	Rank	2010
Toronto Public Library	1	2,790,200	1	2,773,000	1	98	1	99	3	28,471	3	28,010	1	1,853,725	1	1,865,210	2	0.66	2	0.67
Montréal, Bibliothèque de	2	1,649,519	2	1,651,235	2	44	2	44	6	37,489	6	37,528	2	686,423	2	685,573	8	0.42	8	0.42
Calgary Public Library	3	1,090,936	3	1,071,515	8	17	8	17	9	64,173	9	63,030	5	445,341	5	421,183	9	0.41	9	0.39
Ottawa Public Library	4	927,118	4	917,570	3	33	3	33	2	28,094	2	27,805	4	449,536	4	424,582	7	0.48	7	0.46
Edmonton Public Library	5	812,201	5	782,439	8	17	8	17	8	47,777	8	46,026	6	432,777	7	404,432	5	0.53	5	0.52
Mississauga Library System	6	738,000	6	734,000	8	18	8	18	7	41,000	7	40,778	7	395,166	6	406,666	4	0.54	4	0.55
Winnipeg Public Library	7	691,800	7	684,100	6	20	6	20	5	34,590	5	34,205	8	342,701	8	342,701	6	0.50	6	0.50
Vancouver Public Library	8	644,214	8	629,992	5	22	5	22	4	29,282	4	28,636	3	500,093	3	494,110	1	0.78	1	0.78
Hamilton Public Library	9	531,057	9	519,109	4	24	4	24	1	22,127	1	21,630	9	318,683	9	318,683	3	0.60	3	0.61
Brampton Library	10	523,911	10	504,600	9	6	9	6	10	87,319	10	84,100	10	107,962	10	107,962	10	0.21	10	0.21

Toronto Public Library <i>excl. Toronto Reference Library</i>	1	2,790,200	1	2,773,000	1	97	1	98	3	28,765	3	28,296	1	1,427,190	1	1,438,675	5	0.51	4	0.52
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Library Systems	Collection Size				Collection Size / Capita				Materials Budget				Materials Budget / Capita				Items added / Capita			
	Rank	2011	Rank	2010	Rank	2011	Rank	2010	Rank	2011	Rank	2010	Rank	2011	Rank	2010	Rank	2011	Rank	2010
Toronto Public Library	1	11,129,221	1	11,012,633	2	3.99	1	3.97	1	\$16,976,164	1	\$17,371,560	4	\$6.08	4	\$6.26	6	0.28	6	0.29
Montréal, Bibliothèque de	2	4,119,345	2	4,060,115	4	2.50	5	2.46	3	\$6,666,413	3	\$6,854,498	9	\$4.04	7	\$4.15	10	0.16	10	0.16
Calgary Public Library	5	2,280,260	4	2,298,502	7	2.09	7	2.15	2	\$6,732,900	2	\$7,457,000	3	\$6.17	3	\$6.96	1	0.45	1	0.45
Ottawa Public Library	4	2,355,859	3	2,444,781	3	2.54	3	2.66	5	\$4,700,211	6	\$4,892,000	5	\$5.07	5	\$5.33	3	0.35	4	0.37
Edmonton Public Library	6	1,823,093	6	1,953,354	6	2.24	4	2.50	4	\$5,529,150	4	\$6,228,410	1	\$6.81	2	\$7.96	2	0.37	2	0.43
Mississauga Library System	8	1,325,554	8	1,306,117	9	1.80	9	1.78	9	\$2,480,966	8	\$2,431,222	10	\$3.36	9	\$3.31	7	0.27	8	0.27
Winnipeg Public Library	7	1,594,188	7	1,612,232	5	2.30	6	2.36	7	\$2,944,059	7	\$3,178,658	7	\$4.26	6	\$4.65	5	0.31	7	0.29
Vancouver Public Library	3	2,635,846	5	2,193,161	1	4.09	2	3.48	6	\$4,065,106	5	\$5,267,332	2	\$6.31	1	\$8.36	8	0.26	5	0.30
Hamilton Public Library	9	1,077,439	9	1,100,196	8	2.03	8	2.12	8	\$2,544,222	-	-	6	\$4.79	-	-	4	0.31	3	0.41
Brampton Library	10	636,630	10	599,061	10	1.22	10	1.19	10	\$2,218,030	9	\$1,762,505	8	\$4.23	8	\$3.49	9	0.24	9	0.19

Toronto Public Library <i>excl. Toronto Reference Library</i>	1	6,628,449	1	6,521,800	4	2.38	6	2.35	1	\$13,208,517	1	\$13,309,367	6	\$4.73	5	\$4.80	8	0.26	8	0.26
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Source: Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC) 2011 and 2010 data.

Library Systems	Total Circulation				Circulation / Capita				Total Visits				Visits / Capita				In library use			
	Rank	2011	Rank	2010	Rank	2011	Rank	2010	Rank	2011	Rank	2010	Rank	2011	Rank	2010	Rank	2011	Rank	2010
Toronto Public Library	1	33,252,235	1	32,324,416	6	11.92	5	11.66	1	19,064,857	1	18,352,210	3	6.83	4	6.62	1	7,798,010	1	7,808,931
Montréal, Bibliothèque de	5	10,475,369	5	10,277,388	10	6.35	10	6.22	2	6,527,744	2	6,419,818	9	3.96	9	3.89	3	2,479,700	3	2,444,720
Calgary Public Library	2	17,006,665	2	16,363,870	2	15.59	2	15.27	4	5,350,000	5	5,459,541	7	4.90	7	5.10	2	2,604,784	2	2,508,272
Ottawa Public Library	4	11,156,138	4	10,559,495	5	12.03	6	11.51	6	5,275,850	6	5,254,500	6	5.69	6	5.73	4	1,970,900	5	2,074,650
Edmonton Public Library	3	13,372,504	3	13,528,955	1	16.46	1	17.29	5	5,303,482	4	5,602,576	4	6.53	2	7.16	7	1,290,050	4	2,235,719
Mississauga Library System	7	7,725,096	7	7,614,310	8	10.47	8	10.37	7	4,753,900	7	4,225,450	5	6.44	5	5.76	5	1,935,150	7	1,606,050
Winnipeg Public Library	10	5,367,912	10	5,423,042	9	7.76	9	7.93	9	2,689,454	9	2,684,867	10	3.89	8	3.92	8	1,075,550	9	946,100
Vancouver Public Library	6	9,983,426	6	9,458,415	3	15.50	3	15.01	3	6,523,630	3	6,161,647	1	10.13	1	9.78	6	1,901,000	6	2,048,850
Hamilton Public Library	8	6,906,628	8	6,347,007	4	13.01	4	12.23	8	4,089,150	8	3,473,950	2	7.70	3	6.69	9	1,027,850	8	982,500
Brampton Library	9	5,905,285	9	5,485,949	7	11.27	7	10.87	10	2,092,269	10	1,431,525	8	3.99	10	2.84	10	481,150	10	620,500

Toronto Public Library excl. Toronto Reference Library	1	32,744,547	1	31,820,118	6	11.74	6	11.47	1	17,787,986	1	17,008,821	5	6.38	4	6.13	1	6,846,121	1	6,675,356
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Library Systems	In library use / Capita				Reference requests				Reference requests / Capita				Programs Offered				Programs Offered / Capita			
	Rank	2011	Rank	2010	Rank	2011	Rank	2010	Rank	2011	Rank	2010	Rank	2011	Rank	2010	Rank	2011	Rank	2010
Toronto Public Library	2	2.79	3	2.82	1	2,380,327	1	2,239,668	4	0.85	5	0.81	1	31,804	1	28,706	4	0.0114	5	0.0104
Montréal, Bibliothèque de	9	1.50	8	1.48	5	827,127	5	818,670	8	0.50	8	0.50	2	19,554	2	20,477	2	0.0119	1	0.0124
Calgary Public Library	4	2.39	4	2.34	2	1,532,752	2	1,390,012	2	1.40	3	1.30	3	10,475	3	10,174	7	0.0096	7	0.0095
Ottawa Public Library	5	2.13	5	2.26	6	632,050	6	681,750	6	0.68	6	0.74	4	10,414	4	10,165	5	0.0112	3	0.0111
Edmonton Public Library	7	1.59	2	2.86	3	1,350,367	3	1,223,366	1	1.66	1	1.56	5	9,966	5	7,945	1	0.0123	6	0.0102
Mississauga Library System	3	2.62	6	2.19	9	333,900	8	417,100	9	0.45	7	0.57	8	5,043	8	2,972	8	0.0068	10	0.0040
Winnipeg Public Library	8	1.55	9	1.38	8	346,909	9	324,380	7	0.50	9	0.47	9	3,239	9	2,839	9	0.0047	9	0.0041
Vancouver Public Library	1	2.95	1	3.25	4	901,585	4	932,120	3	1.40	2	1.48	6	7,447	6	7,216	3	0.0116	2	0.0115
Hamilton Public Library	6	1.94	7	1.89	7	423,950	7	452,500	5	0.80	4	0.87	7	5,670	7	5,591	6	0.0107	4	0.0108
Brampton Library	10	0.92	10	1.23	10	151,593	10	172,150	10	0.29	10	0.34	10	1,696	10	2,636	10	0.0032	8	0.0052

Toronto Public Library excl. Toronto Reference Library	2	2.45	3	2.41	1	2,110,387	1	1,966,218	5	0.76	6	0.71	1	30,769	1	27,739	5	0.0110	6	0.0100
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Library Systems	Program Attendance				Program Attendance / Capita				Annual Hours of Library Service				Annual Hours of Library Service / Capita				Annual Hours of Library Service / Branch			
	Rank	2011	Rank	2010	Rank	2011	Rank	2010	Rank	2011	Rank	2010	Rank	2011	Rank	2010	Rank	2011	Rank	2010
Toronto Public Library	1	865,495	1	791,231	2	0.31	2	0.29	1	263,323	1	275,600	1	0.094	1	0.099	6	2,687	3	2,784
Montréal, Bibliothèque de	2	305,070	2	303,203	7	0.18	7	0.18	2	120,300	2	120,393	6	0.073	5	0.073	4	2,734	4	2,736
Calgary Public Library	3	270,992	3	252,587	4	0.25	4	0.24	6	54,168	5	53,040	9	0.050	9	0.050	1	3,186	1	3,120
Ottawa Public Library	6	204,714	6	194,956	5	0.22	5	0.21	3	80,113	3	80,113	4	0.086	4	0.087	8	2,428	7	2,428
Edmonton Public Library	4	251,624	5	211,036	3	0.31	3	0.27	7	51,648	6	50,789	8	0.064	7	0.065	2	3,038	2	2,988
Mississauga Library System	7	118,087	8	67,014	8	0.16	8	0.09	5	54,350	9	42,700	5	0.074	8	0.058	3	3,019	8	2,372
Winnipeg Public Library	9	73,073	9	62,185	9	0.11	9	0.09	9	47,825	8	46,024	7	0.069	6	0.067	9	2,391	9	2,301
Vancouver Public Library	5	240,233	4	218,733	1	0.37	1	0.35	4	57,408	4	55,677	3	0.089	3	0.088	7	2,609	6	2,531
Hamilton Public Library	8	113,842	7	103,206	6	0.21	6	0.20	8	48,362	7	48,533	2	0.091	2	0.093	10	2,015	10	2,022
Brampton Library	10	46,720	10	41,752	10	0.09	10	0.08	10	16,150	10	16,150	10	0.031	10	0.032	5	2,692	5	2,692

Toronto Public Library <i>excl. Toronto Reference Library</i>	1	826,673	1	750,311	3	0.30	2	0.27	1	260,148	1	272,298	1	0.093	1	0.098	6	2,682	3	2,779
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Library Systems	Total use ¹				Total Use / Annual Hours of Library Service				Total use / Capita				E-visits				% of E-visits to Total Use			
	Rank	2011	Rank	2010	Rank	2011	Rank	2010	Rank	2011	Rank	2010	Rank	2011	Rank	2010	Rank	2011	Rank	2010
Toronto Public Library	1	98,614,003	1	98,756,757	7	374	7	358	4	35.34	3	35.61	1	23,403,526	1	27,003,433	4	23.7%	3	27.3%
Montréal, Bibliothèque de	7	21,661,799	7	21,355,806	10	180	10	177	10	13.13	10	12.93	10	1,043,140	10	1,092,007	10	4.8%	10	5.1%
Calgary Public Library	3	33,603,165	4	32,213,355	3	620	3	607	7	30.80	6	30.06	5	5,564,901	6	5,195,019	7	16.6%	7	16.1%
Ottawa Public Library	2	35,389,777	2	32,339,933	6	442	6	404	3	38.17	4	35.25	2	14,993,219	2	12,468,060	1	42.4%	1	38.6%
Edmonton Public Library	4	32,304,217	3	32,251,682	2	625	2	635	2	39.77	2	41.22	4	9,033,029	3	7,700,000	3	28.0%	4	23.9%
Mississauga Library System	6	24,900,391	6	22,217,284	5	458	4	520	5	33.74	5	30.27	3	9,218,962	4	7,404,339	2	37.0%	2	33.3%
Winnipeg Public Library	10	12,068,439	9	11,551,089	9	252	9	251	9	17.44	9	16.89	9	1,630,816	9	1,480,664	9	13.5%	9	12.8%
Vancouver Public Library	5	26,698,485	5	26,152,122	4	465	5	470	1	41.44	1	41.51	6	5,173,939	5	5,385,076	6	19.4%	6	20.6%
Hamilton Public Library	8	17,092,689	8	14,930,213	8	353	8	308	6	32.19	7	28.76	7	2,621,500	7	2,342,050	8	15.3%	8	15.7%
Brampton Library	9	12,399,696	10	10,896,196	1	768	1	675	8	23.67	8	21.59	8	2,620,641	8	2,276,897	5	21.1%	5	20.9%

Toronto Public Library <i>excl. Toronto Reference Library</i>	1	94,687,556	1	94,610,423	7	364	7	347	4	33.94	4	34.12	1	23,403,526	1	27,003,433	4	24.7%	3	28.5%
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Source: Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC) 2011 and 2010 data.

Library Systems	Total Expenditure		Cost / Use ²		Cost / Capita							
	Rank 2011	Rank 2010	Rank 2011	Rank 2010	Rank 2011	Rank 2010						
Toronto Public Library	1	\$196,767,444	1	\$186,153,056	3	\$2.00	3	\$ 1.88	2	\$ 70.52	2	\$ 67.13
Montréal, Bibliothèque de	2	\$76,857,777	2	\$75,785,361	1	\$3.55	1	\$ 3.55	6	\$ 46.59	6	\$ 45.90
Calgary Public Library	7	\$38,774,603	3	\$51,682,177	10	\$1.15	5	\$ 1.60	9	\$ 35.54	5	\$ 48.23
Ottawa Public Library	3	\$50,145,899	5	\$48,902,118	6	\$1.42	7	\$ 1.51	4	\$ 54.09	4	\$ 53.30
Edmonton Public Library	5	\$44,612,714	4	\$50,633,240	7	\$1.38	6	\$ 1.57	3	\$ 54.93	3	\$ 64.71
Mississauga Library System	6	\$39,480,994	7	\$32,493,205	5	\$1.59	8	\$ 1.46	5	\$ 53.50	7	\$ 44.27
Winnipeg Public Library	8	\$26,692,858	8	\$26,403,757	2	\$2.21	2	\$ 2.29	7	\$ 38.58	8	\$ 38.60
Vancouver Public Library	4	\$48,402,383	6	\$47,876,468	4	\$1.81	4	\$ 1.83	1	\$ 75.13	1	\$ 76.00
Hamilton Public Library	9	\$19,997,712	-	-	9	\$1.17	-	-	8	\$ 37.66	-	-
Brampton Library	10	\$15,298,678	9	\$14,223,939	8	\$1.23	9	\$ 1.31	10	\$ 29.20	9	\$ 28.19

Toronto Public Library excl. Toronto Reference Library	1	\$174,266,879	1	\$163,613,917	3	\$1.84	4	\$ 1.73	2	\$ 62.46	3	\$ 59.00
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Notes:

1. Total use includes: Annual In Person Visits, Annual Circulation, Interlibrary Loans borrowed, Interlibrary Loans loaned, In-House Use of Library Materials, Program Attendance, Reference Transactions, E-visits, Use of Electronic Databases, Public Wireless Connections, User Sessions on Library Computer Workstations.
2. Cost / Use is calculated using Total Expenditure divided by Total use.

Mitigating factors include:

- The range of services provided by the library system. Toronto Public Library offers a comprehensive range of library services including research and reference, district and neighbourhood libraries to address the needs of Toronto's diverse population.
- The age and location of the physical infrastructure which can impact the efficiency of service delivery. At amalgamation, Toronto Public Library inherited an existing infrastructure, from 7 municipalities, with strong neighbourhood advocacy to maintain the status quo. The branch infrastructure was not rationalized to address the new municipal boundary to efficiently meet the current geographic and population needs of the City; Newer municipalities, such as Calgary and Brampton are developing an infrastructure based on current service needs factoring in new development, population density, transportation patterns and the location of other city services.
- The inherent operational and capital costs and inefficiencies associated with an aging infrastructure with non standard facility design and multiple floors
- The range of support services included within the library's operating budget. The current Canadian Public Library Statistical Report does not include a methodology to standardize the cost base for libraries and there are differences in what is included in statistical measures and how the measures are counted with most differences in newer electronic measures.