



Dollar value of your library services

Materials Borrowed \$66,324,975

+

Computer Use \$2,801,484

+

WiFi Use \$3,798,812

+

Program Attendance \$3,113,627

+

Info Seeker Questions \$2,158,680

+

Online Database Downloads \$25,585,575

Total Retail Value of Library Services \$103,783,153

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2021 Library Tax/Erie County Funding \$25,917,341

=

\$4.00

**in services
for every
\$1 funded**



Erie County Population (based on 2020 Census) 954,236. Value per capita \$108.76 per resident.



How much money did Erie County residents save in 2021 by using Library services?

Borrower Savings

Over \$66,324,975!

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 5,173,555 & \times & \$12.82^1 \\ \text{Total} & & \text{Estimated} \\ \text{circulation} & & \text{retail value}^1 \\ \hline & = & \$66,324,975 \\ & & \text{Total savings} \end{array}$$

Computer User Savings

Over \$2,801,484!

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 233,457 & \times & \$12/\text{hr} \\ \text{Computer} & & \text{Estimated retail} \\ \text{sessions} & & \text{cost to reserve a computer} \\ \hline & = & \$2,801,484 \\ & & \text{Total savings} \end{array}$$

WiFi User Savings

Over \$3,798,812!

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 477,838 & \times & \$7.95^2 \\ \text{WiFi sessions} & & \text{Estimated retail cost} \\ & & \text{per session}^2 \\ \hline & = & \$3,798,812 \\ & & \text{Total savings} \end{array}$$



- 1) Average cost top 3 titles from NY Times best sellers - 2/2022.
Music download estimated retail value, Apple iTunes Store: \$.69, \$.99, \$1.29 each.
Average cost 2 night Redbox rental (movies borrowed from library free for 7 days).
Average cost of Billboard's 2021 Top 5 albums @ Amazon, Target & Walmart
2) WiFi session - Boingo.com approx. \$7.95 per hour.

In Library & Virtual Program Attendee Savings

Over \$3,113,627!

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 134,659 & + & 95,980 \\ \text{In Library} & & \text{Virtual} \\ \text{attendees} & & \text{attendees} \\ \hline & = & 230,639 \\ & & \text{Total attendees} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 230,639 & \times & \$13.50^3 \\ \text{Attendees} & & \text{Estimated} \\ & & \text{retail cost} \\ & & \text{of program}^3 \\ \hline & = & \$3,113,627 \\ & & \text{Total savings} \end{array}$$

Info Seeker Savings

Over \$2,158,680!

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 143,912 & \times & \$15.00 \\ \text{Questions} & & \text{Estimated} \\ & & \text{retail value} \\ \hline & = & \$2,158,680 \\ & & \text{Total savings} \end{array}$$

Online Database User Savings

Over \$25,585,575!

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 1,705,705 & \times & \$15.00^4 \\ \text{Total \#} & & \text{Estimated retail value} \\ \text{of articles} & & \text{to access articles online}^4 \\ \hline & = & \$25,585,575 \\ & & \text{Total savings} \end{array}$$

- 3) Average cost for family outing at the zoo or Explore & More
4) Average cost text article from database site. For online resources that provide full text articles, average cost is \$15.00. Many cases only citation available. (Elsevier, Jstor)

This worksheet is adapted from Massachusetts Library Association, Chelmsford Public Library and Maine State Library.

For every
\$1
funded,



the Buffalo &
Erie County
Public Library
returns

a minimum of
\$4.00
in services!

Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries
added to the
quality of life
in our great community
during the COVID-19 pandemic.




In 2021, during a pandemic year, there were **1.57**
million visits



Libraries are important; they bring people and ideas together and are unique in their offerings. This second pandemic year, residents of Erie County had free access to over 3.3 million resources and reference materials including books, e-content, virtual programs and more. Some services and hours were curtailed during the year. The Library's website (www.BuffaloLib.org), social media, and WiFi provided 24/7 access to information.

The enclosed information quantifies the value of just a few of the FREE library services available to all.

 **Erie
County
Taxpayers**
2021

**Your Library . . .
A Great
Return
on Your
Investment**

