

# Vermont Public Library Statistics Summary & Analysis FY2022 Annual Report



## Statewide Totals from the 2022 Report

### Hours, Visits, and Borrowers

- Library Hours Open - 221,657 (up 103% from 2021)  
*That total is more hours than 25 all-night convenience stores, open every day of the year.*
- Annual Visits - 1,735,745 (up 159% from 2021)  
*This averages out to every single Vermonter visiting libraries more than 2.5 times in a year.*
- Registered Borrowers - 276,196 (up 4% from 2021)  
*Ignoring duplication, that's about 42% of the state's population.*

### Circulation and Usage

- Physical Circulation - 2,848,079 (up 27% from 2021)  
*That's the equivalent of every single book in Fletcher Free's collection being checked out more than 25 times.*
- eBook/eAudiobook Circulation - 668,866 (up 4% from 2021)  
*Assuming an average of 3 hours of length, this content helped entertain patrons through more than 2 million hours of commutes and waiting rooms.*
- Database Usage - 863,541 (not comparable with 2021)  
*Assuming the New York Times publishes 150 original (non-syndicated) articles a day, that would be the equivalent of reading nearly 16 years of issues in their entirety.*

### Interlibrary Loan

- Provided - 78,323 (up 13% from 2021)
- Received - 87,475 (up 14% from 2021)  
*At \$12/item, that would have cost VT libraries over a million dollars to buy on their own.*

### Programming

- Programs (In-Person and Virtual) - 17,299 (up 76% from 2021)  
*If you could run fast enough, you could attend an average of 47 library programs in Vermont every day.*
- Program Attendance – 205,677 (up 74% from 2021)  
*That averages out to more than 550 attendees statewide every day of the year.*
- Non-Library Sponsored Programs - 7,225 (up 238% from 2021)  
*That averages out to more than 135 programs statewide held every week.*

### Items in the Collection

- Print - 2,647,313 (up 12% from 2021)  
*Assuming an average of 1.5 pounds, that would weigh almost as much as 13 blue whales.*
- Video - 224,340 (up 6% from 2021)  
*Assuming an average of 1.5 hours and watching 24 hours a day, it would take you more than 38 years to finish this movie marathon.*
- Audio - 116,706 (up 3% from 2021)  
*Assuming an average of 3 hours of content and 60 mph of speed, you'd have entertainment for a road trip to the moon and back 43 times.*
- Non-Traditional Physical Items - 10,636 (up 24% from 2021)  
*If we imagine these are all puzzles, and assuming it takes four hours to solve one, it would take you nearly five years to complete them all.*

### Computers & Reference Questions

- Public Computer Sessions - 119,193 (up 81% from 2021)  
*That averages out to more than 325 sessions every day of the year.*
- WiFi Sessions - 748,334 (up 97% from 2021)  
*If patrons had to buy a \$3 cup of coffee to use the public WiFi, this would have cost them more than \$1.4 million.*
- Reference Questions - 213,395 (up 23% from 2021)  
*If you spent 1 minute on each question, it would take you 148 full days (24 hours long) to answer all of these.*

## Superlatives for FY2022

Highest numbers, broken down by service population:

	Pop above 5,000	Pop 2,500-5,000	Pop 1,000-2,500	Pop below 1,000
<b>Visits</b>	Fletcher Free – 135,465 Kellogg Hubbard – 103,212 Ilsley – 94,032 (Median value – 19,596)	Norman Williams – 42,000 Richmond – 29,052 Manchester – 22,338 (Median value – 7,349)	Pettee – 18,241 Craftsbury – 9,837 Cavendish Fletcher – 8,343 (Median value – 2,483)	Sherburne – 23,647 Peacham – 5,593 Jamaica – 3,328 (Median value – 1,014)
<b>Circulation (incl. E-Usage)</b>	Kellogg Hubbard – 393,248 Fletcher Free – 339,454 South Burlington – 167,057 (Median value – 43,474)	Norwich – 51,177 Richmond – 45,954 Charlotte – 45,855 (Median value – 14,677)	Proctor – 28,546 Huntington – 19,567 Greensboro – 18,854 (Median value – 5,120)	Sherburne – 20,828 Peacham – 6,708 Alice Ward – 5,635 (Median value – 2,132)
<b>ILL's Sent</b>	Springfield – 5,850 Brooks – 5,418 Rutland – 4,047 (Median value – 784)	J. G. McCullough – 3,022 Georgia – 2,434 Norman Williams – 2,021 (Median value – 337)	Fletcher Memorial – 1,599 Guilford – 815 H.F. Brigham – 605 (Median value – 80)	Sherburne – 494 Jamaica – 312 Middletown Springs – 166 (Median value – 12)
<b>Program Attendance</b>	Dorothy Alling – 8,435 Fletcher Free – 6,034 Rutland – 5,893 (Median value – 2,406)	Manchester – 5,793 Norman Williams – 5,556 Charlotte – 4,683 (Median value – 450)	Worthen – 2,343 Whitingham – 2,189 Warren – 2,003 (Median value – 590)	Sherburne – 5,724 Peacham – 1,837 Readsboro – 1,092 (Median value – 221)
<b>WiFi Use (sessions)</b>	Brooks – 70,904 Kellogg Hubbard – 65,026 Ilsley – 64,488 (Median value – 3,379)	Rockingham – 18,713 Putney – 18,499 Norwich – 16,744 (Median value – 2,280)	Greensboro – 22,729 Pettee – 11,120 Craftsbury – 11,080 (Median value – 500)	Alice M. Ward – 5,100 Peacham – 1,670 George Peabody – 1,500 (Median value – 200)
<b>Hosting Non-Library Programs</b>	South Burlington – 674 Kellogg Hubbard – 530 Brown – 443 (Median value – 18)	Enosburgh – 212 (corrected) Norman Williams – 176 Norwich – 111 (Median value – 13)	Pope – 185 Fletcher Memorial – 154 Gilbert Hart – 112 (Median value – 3)	Peacham – 104 Winhall – 104 Sherburne – 102 (Median value – 0)
<b>Square Footage</b>	Fletcher Free – 48,348 Rutland – 24,167 St. J Athenaeum – 22,146 (Median value – 9,507)	Manchester – 18,400 Rockingham – 17,000 Norman Williams – 15,000 (Median value – 3,400)	Huntington – 7,015 Proctor – 7,006 Fletcher Memorial – 7,000 (Median value – 2,028)	Sherburne – 7,540 Peacham – 4,224 Alice M. Ward – 3,114 (Median value – 962)
<b>Non-Traditional Items in Collection</b>	Fletcher Free – 503 Aldrich – 293 Dorothy Alling – 211 (Median value – 43)	Norwich – 389 Georgia – 263 Fairfax – 257 (Median value – 42)	Rochester – 363 Platt – 160 Warren – 160 (Median value – 22)	Alice M. Ward – 120 Readsboro – 82 Peacham – 73 (Median value – 20)
<b>Reference Questions</b>	Fletcher Free – 25,177 Brooks – 13,130 Essex Free – 9,000 (Median value – 1,670)	Poultney – 6,968 Manchester – 6,894 Norwich – 5,822 (Median value – 968)	Whitingham – 2,000 Alburgh – 1,998 North Hero – 1,898 (Median value – 267)	Sherburne – 8,745 Readsboro – 531 Alice M. Ward – 425 (Median value – 62)

## Comparison by Year (median numbers)

Survey Year	Pop.	Weeks Open	Hours Open	Square Footage	Librarian Hours	Total Staff Hours	Local Tax Support	Per Capita Tax Support	Other Local Income	Total Grants	Total Revenue
2018	1,849	52	1,560	2,700	33	48	\$48,949	\$27.02	\$9,907	\$1,015	\$80,020
2019	1,907	52	1,550	2,700	35	49	\$48,991	\$27.78	\$9,496	\$743	\$83,104
2020	1,918	39	1,281	2,713	35	51	\$65,790	\$29.62	\$9,446	\$590	\$89,422
2021	1,867	33	600	2,713	38	50	\$74,944	\$30.55	\$10,111	\$2,020	\$93,843
2022	1,880	52	1,352	2,720	40	50	\$66,000	\$30.15	\$13,066	\$8,366	\$108,463

Survey Year	Collection Expenses	Staff Expenses	Other Expenses	Registered Patrons	Visits	Per Capita Visits	Physical Circ	eCirc
2018	\$9,123	\$47,414	\$19,700	978	7,991	3.99	9,075	921
2019	\$8,323	\$49,046	\$18,991	1,010	8,625	3.83	8,526	1,189
2020	\$8,653	\$52,765	\$18,616	1,102	6,046	2.76	7,881	1,202
2021	\$8,823	\$57,409	\$19,596	1,095	1,571	0.72	6,121	1,528
2022	\$9,064	\$61,120	\$21,627	1,025	4,543	1.94	7,181	1,605

Survey Year	Programs	Program Attendance	Program Attendance Per Capita	Public Comp Uses	WiFi Sessions
2018	138	1,516	0.64	1,055	689
2019	133	1,574	0.68	949	1,200
2020	107	1,193	0.62	604	1,500
2021	37	400	0.13	100	1,400
2022	72	815	0.30	313	1,500

## Analysis by Year

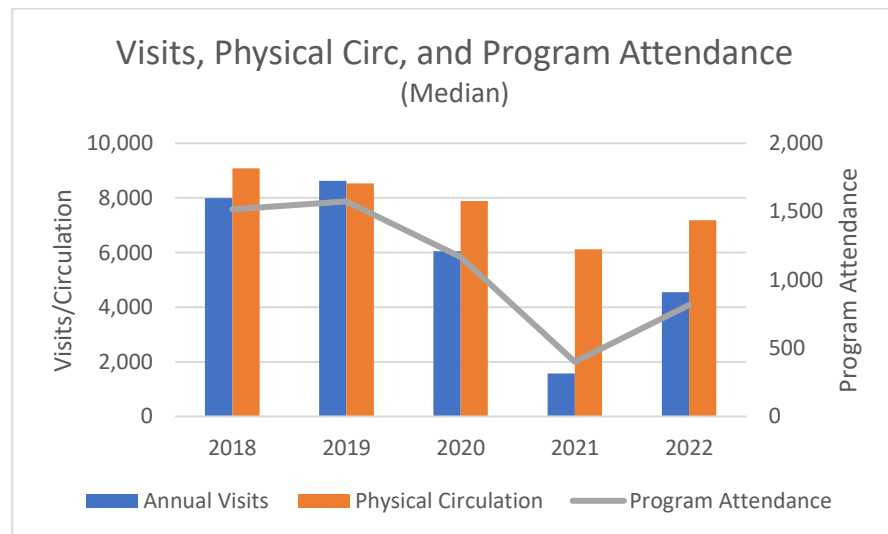
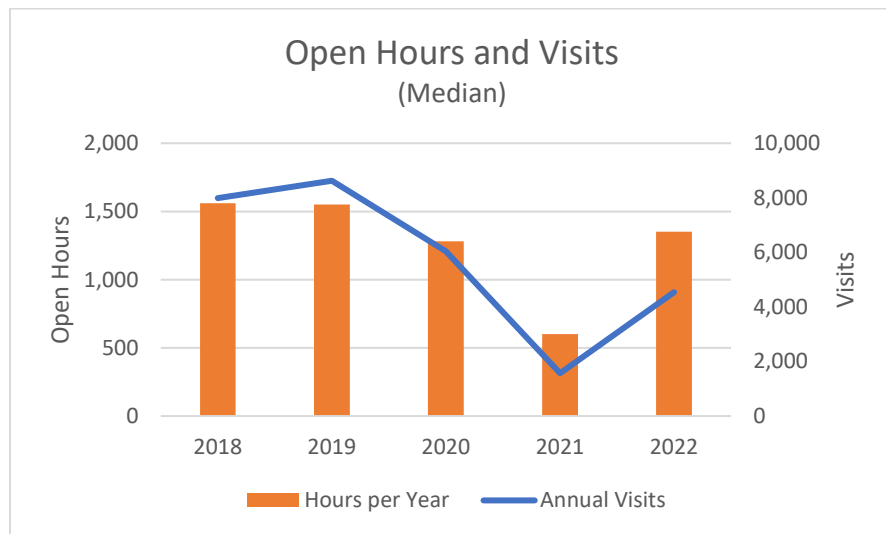
Data from the 2022 report shows that statewide median numbers are continuing to recover from pandemic lows (as seen in the 2021 report), but haven't reached the levels of pre-pandemic. Keep in mind that roughly a third of libraries are reporting on the period January-December 2022, which may have showed stronger lingering pandemic affects than July 2022-June 2023.

We see a significant rebound in most of the numbers that were down because of the pandemic: Open hours (obviously), visits, programs/attendance, and to a lesser degree physical circulation. Public computer usage is likewise up, though not at the level of 2020; whether that's a slower rebound or part of the gradual decrease in that statistic is hard to say at present.

Otherwise, financial numbers like tax support, total revenue, collection/staff/other expenses) all continue to climb.

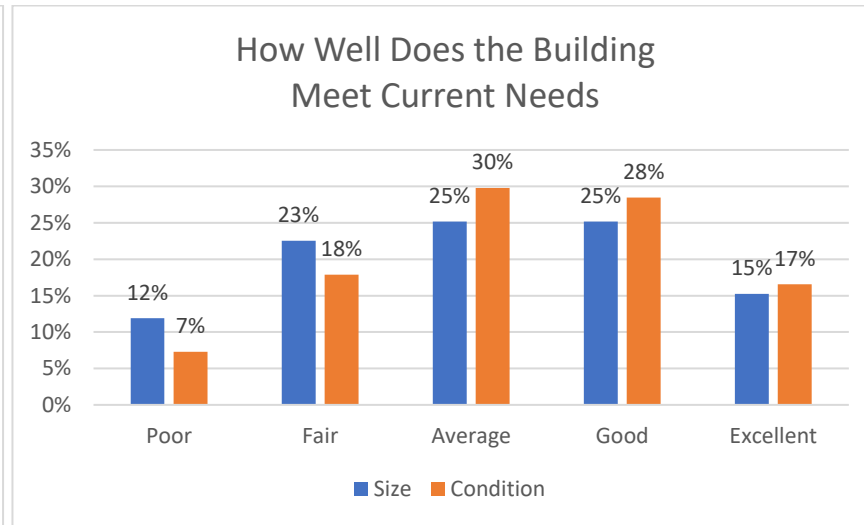
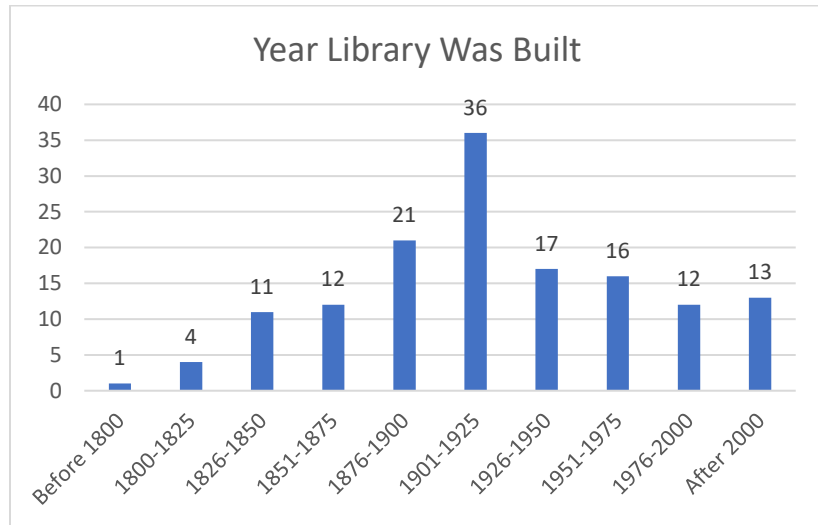
Note – It appears that the *Local Tax Support* numbers for 2020 and 2021 exaggerate an increase that is actually happening. The median figure can be a bit more sensitive to exactly which libraries respond. This seems to be more the case in 2021, when we received fewer submissions, and the non-reporting libraries tended to be on the smaller side, nudging the median number up a few steps. The averages do show a gradual increase, but with smaller jumps than the median.

Median numbers tend to be more indicative of the experience of more libraries than the average (which is skewed by the largest libraries), but they can still have odd results occasionally.

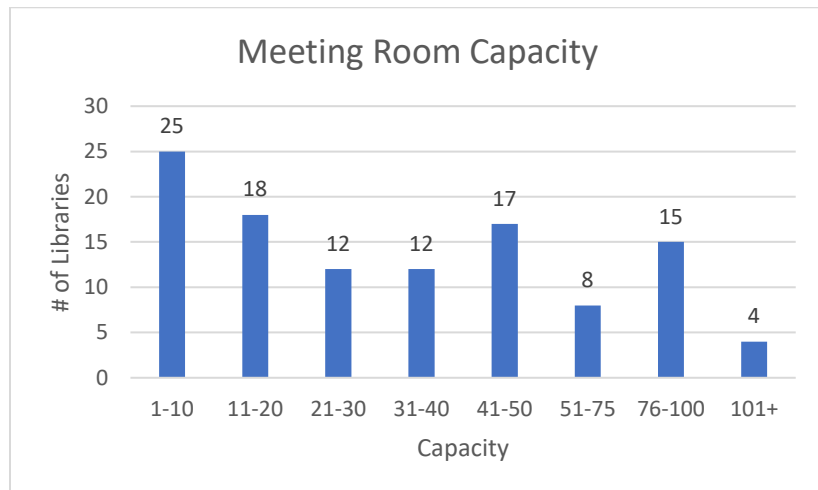


## FY2022 Facilities Questions

With the 2022 report, we added a series of questions about library facilities.



Meeting Rooms – 108 out of 152 libraries reported that they have a meeting room. Most libraries make this room available to the public (only 4 say no), while at least a few libraries are not responsible for the meeting room in a shared building, but report that it's accessible to the public.





## FY2022 Comparison by Service Area Population (median numbers)

2022 Medians	Pop.	Weeks Open	Hours Open	Square Footage	Librarian Hours	Total Staff Hours	Local Tax Support	Per Capita Tax Support	Other Local Income	Total Revenue
Pop Under 1,000	732	52	861	962	17	20	\$22,034	\$32.58	\$5,250	\$31,593
Pop 1,000-2,500	1,451	52	459	2,028	26	30	\$35,166	\$21.20	\$11,267	\$59,690
Pop 2,500-5,000	3,120	52	1,710	3,400	56	78	\$104,500	\$32.74	\$10,939	\$137,690
Pop Over 5,000	8,015	52	2,236	9,507	160	195	\$402,034	\$31.95	\$20,092	\$454,365
All Libraries	1,880	52	1,352	2,720	40	50	\$66,000	\$30.15	\$12,456	\$108,463

2021 Medians	Collection Expenses	Staff Expenses	Other Expenses	Total Collection Size	Registered Patrons	Visits	Per Capita Visits	Physical Circ	e-Circ
Pop Under 1,000	\$3,607	\$20,793	\$4,466	7,413	476	1,014	1.69	1,728	443
Pop 1,000-2,500	\$5,422	\$33,070	\$10,070	10,401	563	2,483	1.45	4,300	940
Pop 2,500-5,000	\$13,369	\$86,385	\$28,366	18,744	1,632	7,349	2.41	12,426	3,068
Pop Over 5,000	\$27,275	\$308,077	\$86,606	35,805	3,761	19,596	2.74	37,451	8,177
All Libraries	\$9,064	\$61,120	\$21,627	13,911	1,025	4,543	1.94	7,181	1,605

2021 Medians	Programs	Program Attendance	Program Attendance Per Capita	Public Comp Uses	WiFi Sessions
Pop Under 1,000	20	221	0.25	26	200
Pop 1,000-2,500	45	590	0.33	110	500
Pop 2,500-5,000	105	1,129	0.33	425	2,280
Pop Over 5,000	206	2,406	0.28	1,022	5,916
All Libraries	72	815	0.13	313	1,500