

2017 LEGISLATIVE SNAPSHOT

Public Library Statistics

From the Montana State Library

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SNAPSHOT #1

The Public Library Annual Statistical Report from the Montana State Library provides information on the status of public libraries in Montana. The requirement that all 82 Montana public libraries submit statistics to the Montana State Library is an essential standard of public library service, according to the Administrative Rules of Montana Public Library Standards. These statistics are in turn submitted to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) allowing peer comparisons among libraries across the country.

- In fiscal year 2015, Montanans borrowed more than **6 million items** from their libraries; approximately 10 percent of those items were e-books.
- More than **460,000 Montanans** have public library cards.
- Librarians answer more than **470,000 research questions** annually on subjects ranging from how to write a resume, to completing homework assignments, to Montana hunting regulations, and more.
- Library supporters invest more than **\$28 million** annually to serve Montanans.

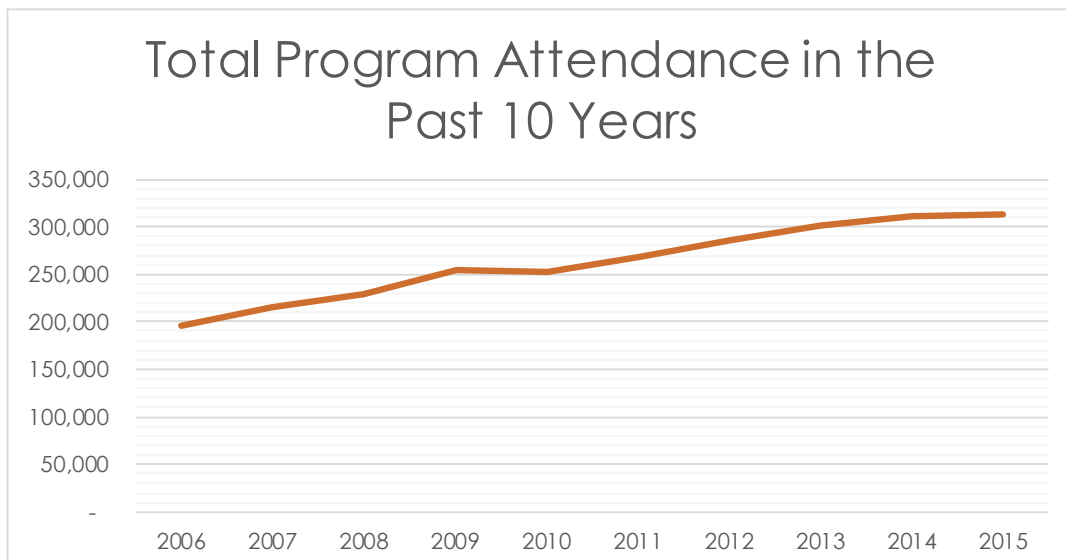
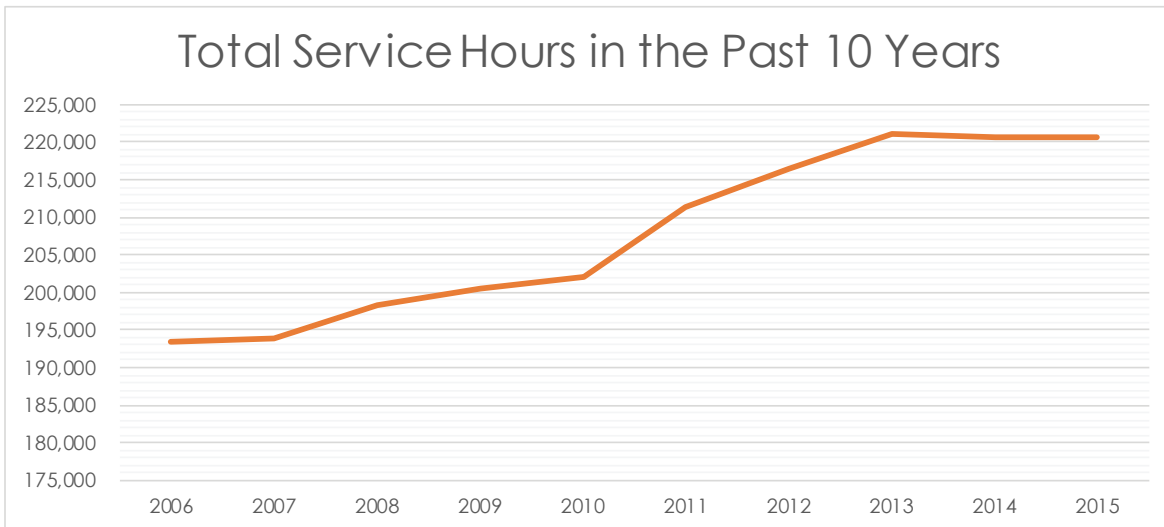
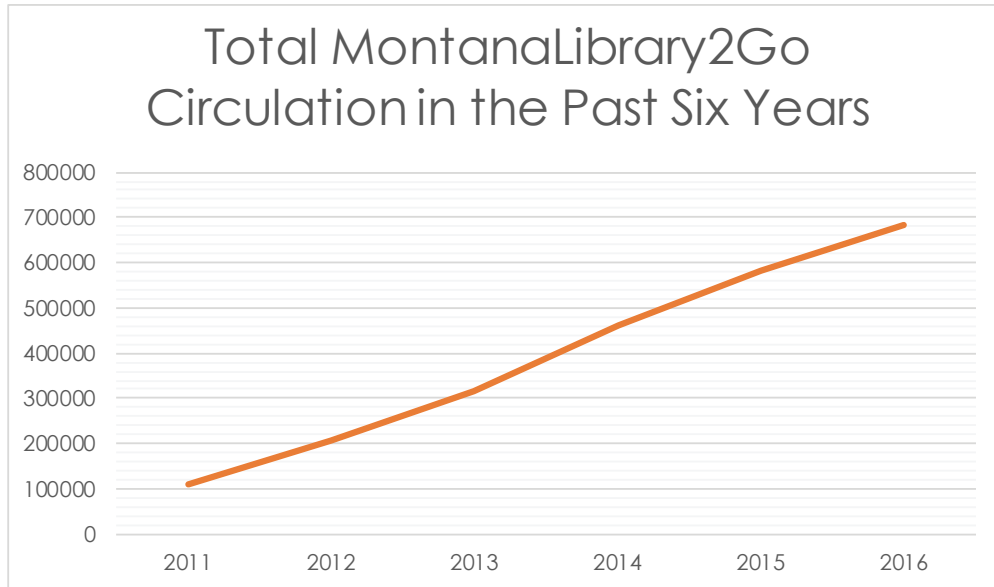
Library Programs

In a five-year period, Montana libraries offered more than 74,000 programs such as Books and Babies, experiential story times, Legos and robotics clubs, and Humanities Montana lectures. Nearly 1.5 million Montanans attended those programs.



Source: Montana State Library, 2015 Public Library Statistics

Public Library Statistics, continued



Source: Montana State Library, 2015 Public Library Statistics