
TEN REASONS TO VALUE LIBRARIES

1. **Public libraries are community hubs that bring people together and close the opportunity gap by connecting people to essential services and resources.**
2. **Libraries build and support communities of lifelong learners and help Californians enjoy the social and economic benefits that learning brings.**
3. **Public libraries deliver a positive return on the funds invested in them. Every \$1 invested in a library yields between \$2 and \$10, with the most common return being between \$3 and \$6.**
4. **Libraries are economic engines. They support personal economic development and community development.**
5. **Books are just the tip of the library iceberg. Through digital labs, makerspaces, career centers and business resources, memory labs, public programs, community partnerships, and online resources, public libraries help communities explore, learn, connect, and have fun beyond their traditional “library” brand.**
6. **Libraries help individuals and communities stay healthy and well.**
7. **Public libraries support vulnerable community members, including early learners and families, teens and seniors, veterans, people new to the United States, and people experiencing homelessness or mental illness.**
8. **Library technology increases digital equity and supports the information needs of a 21st Century society.**
9. **Library workers are “second responders” in a crisis. Library programs and services build community resilience year-round.**
10. **Public libraries are free and open to all.**

