



## **Libraries--still loved and valued by Americans**

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It is not uncommon to hear someone say "why do we need libraries--we have the internet". I was glad to see in a recent Report from the Pew Research Center that more than half of all Americans 16 and over had used a library in the past year, either in person or via the Web. In addition, 77% said Public Libraries provide them with the resources they need and 66% say closing their local library would have a major impact on their community.

While 24% of adults support the idea of removing books in order to make room for community or tech-oriented spaces, 31% say libraries should not do this.

The lending of print books is still the most popular activity at libraries with 64% of users reporting checking out a book in the last 12 months while 29% said they used a computer at the library.



Even though this survey shows that print books are still the core of library services, digital services are also popular. 80% of those surveyed indicated that they felt that libraries should offer programs to teach people how to use digital tools such as computers and smart phones. An emerging service is WiFi connections, some people even saying they connect to a library's WiFi system at times the library is not open. So--libraries are an important tool for promoting literacy in our communities. In addition, 37% of Americans said that public libraries contribute "a lot" when deciding what information they can trust and librarians are listed in the top three "trusted professions".

Support your local library!

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