

FAST FACTS

Recent Statistics from The Library Research Service

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PUBLIC LIBRARIES, EDUCATION, TECHNOLOGY AND COLORADO KIDS

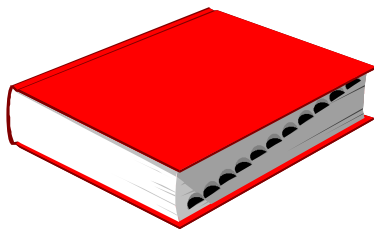
Ninety-five percent of Colorado households report having one or more members who used the services of a public library within the past year, according to a 1996 public opinion poll by MGA Communications, Inc. For households including children under age 18, that figure is 96 percent—a negligible one percent difference. Beyond that basic fact, however, there are many noteworthy differences in the responses from households with children and those without children.



- **Families with kids use public libraries more often.** Households with children are more than twice as likely to visit libraries on a weekly basis and more than 20 percent more likely to visit libraries once or twice a month.
- **Families with kids are more likely to use library technology.** Two out of three households with children report using library computers to find information not available locally. Less than half of households without children report such use.



- **Families with kids are more likely to use libraries for education-related purposes.** Two out of three households with children report using library materials to complete school projects compared to less than one-third of households without children.



- **Families with kids are more likely to visit libraries seeking more current information and newer ways of accessing it.** More often than households without children, households with children visit libraries: 1.) to borrow books on tape and videos (12 v. 20 percent, respectively); 2.) to use a personal computer (10 v. 15 percent); 3.) to read newspapers and magazines (10 v. 14 percent); and 4.) to access the Internet (3 v. 11 percent).

- **Families with kids are more supportive of expanding the role of computers in libraries.** Compared with households without children, those with children are more likely to support libraries adding freestanding computers for personal use (31 v. 40 percent respectively) and networked computers that provide access the Internet and other online information (29 v. 42 percent).



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