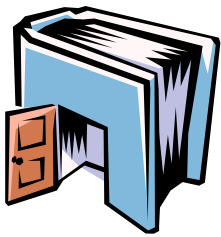


FAST FACTS

Recent Statistics from the
Library Research Service

Impact of State & Local Budget Cuts Felt by Public Library Users

Numbers for Library Visits, Circulation & Reference
Questions Declined in 2002



While Colorado public libraries thrived from the 1990's into the new millennium, state and local budget cuts that began to take effect in mid-2002 (i.e., at the beginning of the 2003 fiscal year) had a notable negative impact on public library users.

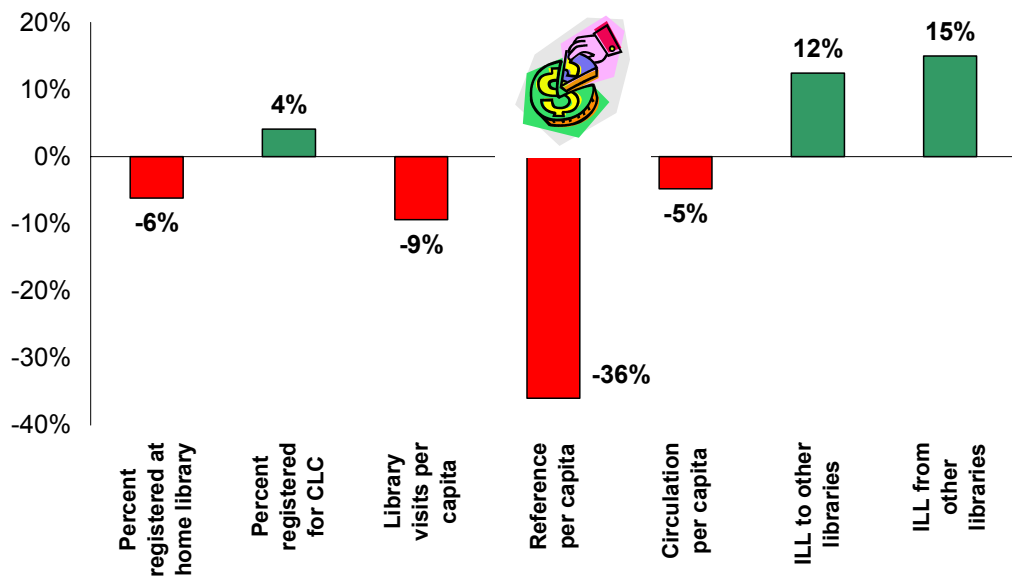
Between 2001 and 2002, Colorado library users ...

- visited libraries 1.6 million fewer times,
- borrowed 742,266 fewer items, and
- asked 381,097 fewer reference questions.

During this interval, local libraries lost almost 101,000 borrowers from their own communities.

At the same time, over 20,000 additional library users requested and were granted borrowing privileges at libraries other than their home libraries—presumably among the most beleaguered—through the Colorado Library Card program.

Percent Change in Selected Output Measures for Colorado Public Libraries, 2001-02



Public libraries tried to assist each other in meeting user needs, though they decreased loans from their own collections to other libraries by over 4,000. Finding their own collections lacking, public libraries had to borrow almost 27,000 more items from other libraries.

Contact About This Issue

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Fast Facts – No. 197 – July 23, 2003
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Selected Output Measures for Colorado Public Libraries, 2001-02

Statistic		2001	2002	Change	Percent Change
Registration (library cards)					
Resident Borrowers					
	Total	2,845,170	2,744,229	(100,941)	-4%
	Percent of LSA population	68.0%	63.8%	-4%	-6%
Non-Resident (CLC) Borrowers					
	Total	285,841	305,855	20,014	7%
	Percent of LSA population	6.8%	7.1%	0%	4%
Library Visits					
	Total	26,611,277	24,971,782	(1,639,495)	-6%
	Per capita	6.4	5.8	(0.6)	-9%
Reference Questions					
	Total	5,739,811	5,358,714	381,087	-7%
	Per capita	1.4	0.9	0.5	-36%
Circulation					
	Total	43,460,273	42,718,007	(742,266)	-2%
	Per capita	10.4	9.9	(0.5)	-5%
InterLibrary Loan (ILL)					
	Items To Other Libraries	197,851	193,442	(4,409)	-2%
	Items From Other Libraries	181,669	208,663	26,994	15%

