

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW: LIBRARY

FUNCTION:

The library's charge is outlined in statute (RSA 202-A) and overseen by Library Trustees who are elected by the voters. Through the full-time Library Director and full time Children's Librarian/Assistant Director, plus 3 part-time staff members, and 2 Library Circulation Desk Clerks, the department serves an average of 150 people per day that we are open. In 2016, we had 10,609 people attend programs, from children through adults. Services provided to the community include computer and web access (9,796 people logged into the public computers or accessed our wireless Internet connection via their own devices to utilize our connection), outreach programs for youth and teens, summer reading programs, story times, author visits, adult art & crafting workshops, history & genealogy programs, natural history & wildlife programs, exam proctoring, museum and state park passes, notary services, homebound book delivery, book delivery to the schools in town, and meeting space. We provide important family activities such as performers, science, technology, engineering, arts, and math related activities and literacy building programs for all ages, as well as a location for groups such as the Barrington Bloomers and other committees to meet.

The library also participates in the inter-library loan program helping to get our patrons materials we cannot afford to purchase, and loaning to other libraries as a reciprocal service. We are one of the busiest libraries in the state for ILL services. We are circulating 87,282 items yearly as of 2016. In 2017 we have 3,984 registered patrons as of July 1st (about 45% of the population, and children under age 5 using the library are NOT counted in this number as they don't get cards until after that age) and our people counter noted 44,838 visits by citizens in 2016. We also provide downloadable materials such as e-books and audio books (9,970 items in 2016). Last year, at least 51% of registered card holders checked out items, and many more who did not check out materials, utilized program services, tech help, and public computers/wireless access.

With increasing demands for greater inventory, services, and meeting space, the library struggles to provide the level of service and materials requested by the community in the current facility. The library also plays an important role in providing access and information about Barrington and other local services for the community. Most recently, we have seen an increase in our program attendance and the requests for further adult educational opportunities, such as art classes, computer classes, and history/genealogy assistance. We are also utilized by many people wishing to file taxes online that don't have access at home, and we are being utilized by the ECLC & full day Kindergarten on a regular basis as a library resource for their students. Each kindergarten class comes weekly for story time (this is above our already weekly 5 sessions we offer to pre-school children) and book selection. We provide multiple copies of books for multiple middle school book groups, have our tech librarian teach students to utilize e-readers and downloadable books, and do school visits to inform children of statewide reading lists. We also circulate copies of BMS books during the summer to meet demand for summer reading titles for students.

The library serves as the hub of the community, where people can meet, get to know one another, educate themselves and their families, and come together to discuss a wide array of topics.

Name	Population	Circulations	Per Capita	Hour Open Per Week	Sq. Foot of Library	FTE Staff
Weare	8836	36,177	\$21.93	37	5,536	3.9
Barrington	8806	87,282	\$35.29	49	3,740	5.64
Seabrook	8768	41,993	\$57.16	42.5	19,000	6.98
Hampstead	8547	85,262	\$56.16	52	15,000	6.94
Franklin	8469	27,279	\$34.57	44	8,750	3
Litchfield	8330	26,409	\$24.33	39	2,545	3.6

The above libraries have close populations to our own at this time. As you can see, our \$35.74 per capita budget for 2018 is well within the range of all these communities serving the similar sized populations and we are circulating more items by far, and have open hours that rival libraries with much larger budgets. If you look at a budget as a means to provide service, our incredible circulation stats show that our budget is serving a large contingent of the Town for very little money. (Above Stats from the 2015 Library Statistics Survey (2016 not yet available). 8,806 Population for Barrington to Come Up with Per Capita Figure Based Upon NH Office of State Planning Estimated Population for Barrington in 2015 (newer data not posted). FTE means full time equivalent...the total of all hours worked by staff divided by 40.

Many online databases we provide are currently provided by the State Library through Federal monies. Should funding be cut at the state level, we would have to pick up costs for those databases we wish to keep.

Thus far, for 2018, it looks like the ones we have currently will continue to be supported by the State **BUT the Federal program that funds these...the IMLS, is one of the programs cut in the proposed Federal Budget. This could profoundly affect what databases we get for free and the costs associated for inter-library loan services.** Our downloadable books consortium fee will increase due to a fee structure shift and increased usage. We are also further expanding digital collections/download/streaming services for content to patrons through the addition of the Hoopla Service.