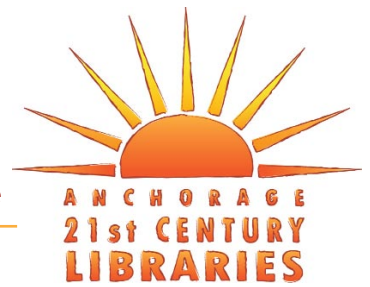


# INVESTING *in the* FUTURE of our ANCHORAGE PUBLIC LIBRARIES



Overcome the Past and Invent the Future of Public Library Service in Anchorage

*Libraries are traditionally used more heavily when economic conditions are poor and Anchorage's public libraries provide a good return on the dollars invested.*

For every dollar invested in our libraries, the Municipality receives between \$1.42-\$2.46 of value, according to an ISER study. Benefits specifically mentioned included:

- Strengthening communities
- Fostering economic growth
- Serving as a center for humanities
- Cultivating the workforce of the future
- Improving children's literacy

## The Good

### *Record-High Usage*

- 60% of Anchorage residents hold current library cards.
- Our libraries get more visits than total attendance at the Sullivan Arena.
- Highly productive staff members handle about 1,000 more checked-out items than at similar "peer" libraries.
- People throughout the community use libraries.

## The Bad

*Strong need for more "stock-in-trade," books, non-print materials and electronic resources*

- Not enough Internet computers
- Not enough bandwidth to support public computer use
- Not enough service outlets (we have only 4 branches compared to 9 in other similar communities)
- Low number of visits per person and visits per registered borrower

## The Ugly

*Extremely low staffing level*

- 86 full-time staff compared to 143 among peer libraries
- Spends 22% less per person on new library materials
- 40% fewer full-time staff than the average for its peers
- Can't maintain collection quality (\$3.58 spent on library materials compared to \$4.58 per capita among peer libraries)

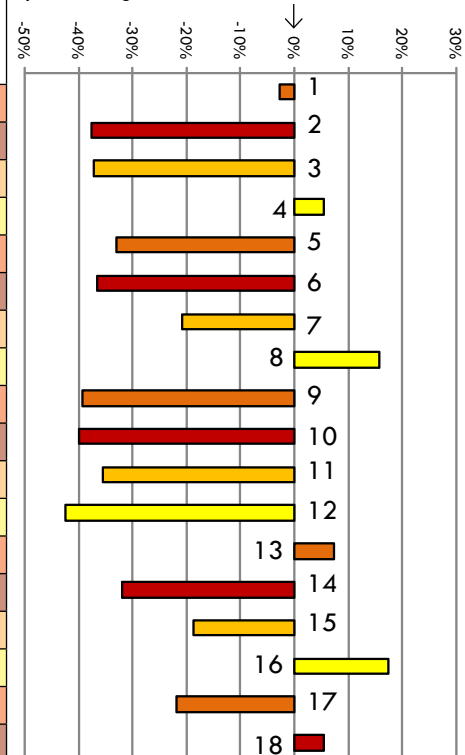
*A lot less money is spent on staffing and materials versus on intergovernmental charges and other costs*

- 55% of budget for staff vs. 66% among peers
- 36.5% of budget = "other costs" vs. 21% among peers
- Intergovernmental Charges represent 32% of the 2009 budget and have accounted for 54% of the budget increase since 2004.

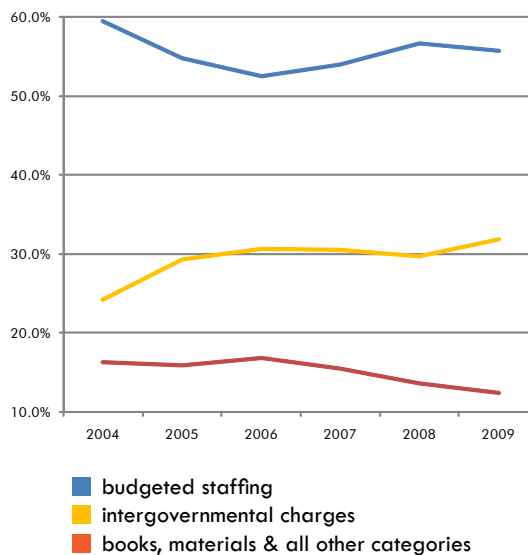
Anchorage Public Library Performance Measured Against the Performance of 35 "Peer Libraries" (serving populations of 250,000-350,000).

#	Category	Anchorage Public Library (FY 2008)	Mean for 35 Peer Libraries (FY 2008)	% Diff.
1	Population	284,994	293,033	-3
2	Circulation	1,599,025	2,563,341	-38
3	Library Visits	871,036	1,387,530	-37
4	Number of Registered Borrowers	170,686	161,831	5
5	Reference Questions Answered	219,043	327,145	-33
6	Circulation per Capita	5.61	8.84	-37
7	Holdings (# of Volumes)	605,000	763,842	-21
8	Total Operating Expenditures	\$ 11,895,415	\$ 10,269,556	16
9	Circulation per Registered Borrower	9.37	15.46	-39
10	Total Staff (Full-Time Equivalents)	86.0	142.97	-40
11	Library Visits per Capita	3.06	4.75	-36
12	Library Visits per Registered Borrower	5.10	8.86	-42
13	Registered Borrowers as % of Total Pop.	59.89%	55.83%	7
14	Reference Questions Answered per Capita	0.77	1.13	-32
15	Volumes per Capita	2.12	2.61	-19
16	Operating Expenditures per Capita	\$ 41.74	\$ 35.53	17
17	Materials Expenditures per Capita	\$ 3.58	\$ 4.58	-22
18	Circulation per Staff Member	18,593	17,636	5

"0%" baseline marks the mean performance for "Peer Libraries." APL performance is displayed as a percentage difference above or below the baseline.



Over the past five years, the percentage of the Anchorage Public Library's budget spent on staff and library materials has dwindled while intergovernmental costs have accounted for an increasing percentage of the total. The erosion of the Library's buying power for service-related resources severely limits its ability to maintain high-quality service to the people of Anchorage. A careful examination of ways to limit the growth or reverse the rapid upward trend of IGCs that impact the Library's budget is clearly in order. APL and the Municipality both have a stake in reducing these costs in order to direct tax dollars to direct services that benefit Anchorage residents.



## Vision for Library Service in Anchorage: building a vibrant, strong, successful community

### *Accessible*

- The Library works to remove all barriers that hinder the public's access to information.

### *Dependable*

- The Library is a dependable source of reliable information.

### *Efficient*

- The Library is a good steward of the funding entrusted to it and strives to achieve excellence in everything it does.

### *Involved in the Community*

- The Library is fully engaged in community life and collaborates with government, businesses and the non-profit sector to strengthen the Anchorage community.

### *Responsive*

- The Library is constantly seeking new ways to respond to the library and information needs of the entire community.

### *Sustainable*

- The Library works to ensure that the people of Anchorage will always have the information resources they need to live successful and productive lives.

### *Innovative/Dynamic*

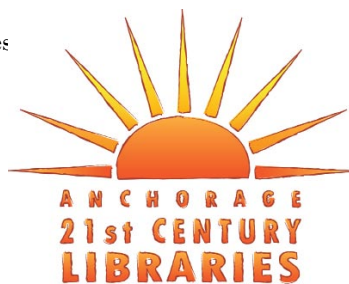
- The Library is a recognized leader in utilizing technology and innovative approaches to deliver information and library resources where and when they are wanted.

### *Inclusive/Comfortable*

- The Library welcomes all who wish to learn and grow and it provides conveniently located facilities that offer comfortable, stimulating learning environments.

## Reaching Out

- Anchorage 21st Century Library Summit
- Citizen Sounding Board
- Focus Groups
- Target Interviews
- Town Hall Meetings in November
- Online Survey + Comment Form
- website: [www.Anchorage21stCenturyLibraries.org](http://www.Anchorage21stCenturyLibraries.org)



*“A public library outranks any other thing a community can do to help its people.”*  
– Andrew Carnegie

