

This table displays Kentucky's ranking compared to other U.S. states and the District of Columbia.* Metrics are per capita except where otherwise noted. A star (★) indicates Top Ten status.

Highlights:

- Top 10 nationally in **program attendance**
- Strong **electronic material circulation growth**
- Lower-tier **collection expenditures**
- **Stable staffing** relative to population

Kentucky's public libraries consistently rank in the top third of U.S. states for community engagement and digital access, despite comparatively lower funding levels.

*Source: Public Libraries Survey, IMLS (2013-2023)

Kentucky Public Library Rankings by Year

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2023	Change from Previous Year
Income & Expenditures									
Total income	20	21	20	24	23	22	21	22	↓
State income	21	24	22	23	23	26	21	29	↓
Local income	16	18	18	18	18	18	16	17	↓
Other income	27	29	29	35	33	33	33	28	↑
Operating expenditures	33	33	33	33	32	32	31	33	↓
Collection expenditures	25	23	20	19	20	22	19	38	↓
Other operating expenditures						25	28	38	↓
% Expenditures for salaries and benefits					38	37	36	17	↑

★ General interest programs offered									10	
★ General interest program attendance									1	
Technology, Internet, & Access										
★ Public-use Internet computers/outlet	6	7	7	7	7	7	6	9		↓
★ Internet computer user sessions						19	21	19	8	↑
★ User sessions per computer						23	23	23	7	↑
Internet terminals per 5,000 people	24	23	25	22	22	22	22	22	22	=
Wireless sessions							19	34	20	↑
Registered borrowers	19	18	19	16	14	19	11	15		↓
Library visits	32	32	35	34	34	34	34	34	34	=
Staff										
Total paid FTE staff †	24	24	24	25	23	24	25	23		↑
ALA-MLS Librarians, % of total librarians					47	47	47	43		↑
Paid FTE Librarians †	10	9	9	8	8	7	6	14		↓

* per 1,000 people

† per 25,000 people

Notes:

Empty fields indicate that no data was available for that metric/year.

After 2019, PLS began separating children's programming by age group. Thus, two new, age-delineated fields appear for 2023.