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.

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	V
State income	21	24	22	23	23	26	21	29	V
Local income	16	18	18	18	18	18	16	17	V
Other income	27	29	29	35	33	33	33	28	↑
Operating expenditures	33	33	33	33	32	32	31	33	V
Collection expenditures	25	23	20	19	20	22	19	38	V
Other operating expenditures						25	28	38	V
% Expenditures for salaries and benefits					38	37	36	17	↑

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

ections & Circulation									
number of bookmobiles	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	=
Print materials	40	37	35	35	32	32	30	31	\
Audio materials (physical)	37	37	35	32	31	31	32	32	=
Audio materials (downloadable)					19	23	25	23	↑
Video materials (physical)	36	32	30	31	28	27	25	24	↑
Video materials (downloadable)					8	13	19	30	\
Number of e-books					7	7	7	13	\
Reference transactions			7	7	7	11	10	11	\
Total circulation	30	28	26	28	27	27	29	34	\
Children's material circulation					31	31	33	33	=
Electronic material circulation						30	27	21	↑
ramming*									
Total programs offered					15	17	17	18	V
📌 Total program attendance					10	11	9	7	↑
Children's programs offered					20	24	22		
Children's program attendance					24	23	24		
Children 0-5 programs offered								13	
Children 0-5 program attendance								15	
Children 6-11 programs offered								27	
📌 Children 6-11 program attendance								6	
YA programs offered					26	22	19	21	\
YA program attendance					11	9	6	3	↑
Adult programs offered								19	
Adult program attendance								14	

📌 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	V
nternet computer user sessions					19	21	19	8	↑
duser sessions per computer					23	23	23	7	↑
Internet terminals per 5,000 people	24	23	25	22	22	22	22	22	=
Wireless sessions						19	34	20	↑
Registered borrowers	19	18	19	16	14	19	11	15	V
Library visits	32	32	35	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	V

^{*} per 1,000 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.

[†] per 25,000 people