

The San José Public Library's mission is to enrich lives by fostering lifelong learning and by ensuring that every member of the community has access to a vast array of ideas and information.

LIBRARY

The San José Public Library (SJPL) consists of 25 libraries, including the main Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library downtown, and branches in neighborhoods across the city. The Library offers materials in various formats and languages including books, CDs, DVDs, eBooks, online learning tools, and online database services. The Library also provides programs such as computer programming, English as a Second Language, citizenship classes, summer learning, literacy assistance, and story time. In addition to library services, SJPL leads two Citywide initiatives: the Education and Digital Literacy Strategy and SJ Access, a digital equity initiative.

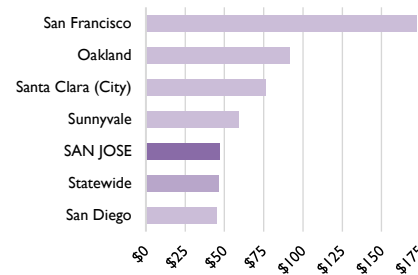
The City’s libraries were open for about 59,900 hours in 2022-23, comparable to pre-COVID levels. In 2022-23, the majority of branches added Sunday hours, operating at 48 or 51 hours per week. The Library also offers eResources so residents may borrow digital books and resources online at any time through the Library’s website at sjpl.org.

In 2022-23, the Library’s operating expenditures totaled \$56.4 million. This includes personal and non-personal expenditures. The Library was responsible for an additional \$7.8 million in Citywide expenses. Staffing totaled 396 full-time equivalent (FTE) authorized positions, with a total of 584 staff. Volunteers contributed over 34,000 hours to the Library in 2022-23, including math and coding tutoring, hosting homework clubs, and reading to children.

KEY FACTS (2022-23)

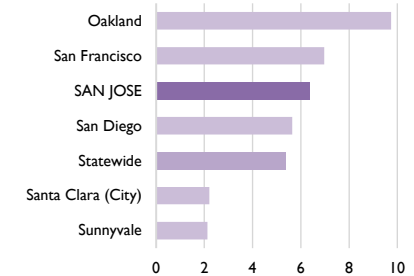
Libraries open	25
Total library materials	2,407,800
Number of eBooks/eMedia available to users	402,100
Number of items checked out (including eBooks)	7,487,900
Number of registered borrowers	667,300
Number of reference questions	329,100

Expenditures Per Capita (2021-22)



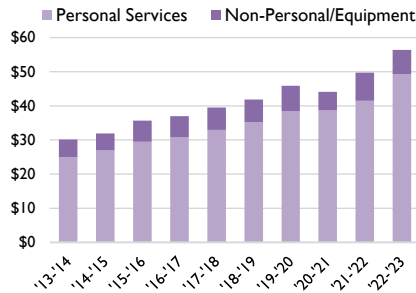
Source: [California State Library, 2021-22 Summary Data](#) (most recent available data)

Hours Open Per 100 City Residents (2021-22)

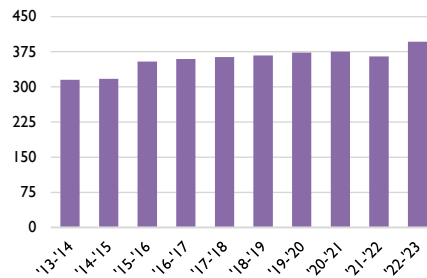


Source: [California State Library, 2021-22 Summary Data](#) (most recent available data)
Note: City residents refers to people in legal area.

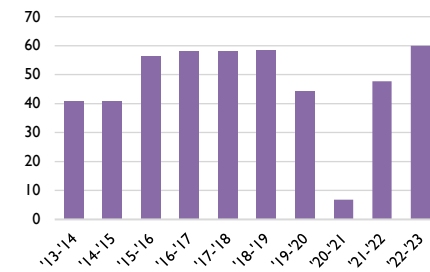
Library Operating Expenditures (millions)



Library Authorized Positions



Total Hours Open Annually (thousands)



Note: Open hours in 2020-21 were impacted due to COVID-19.

LIBRARY COLLECTION AND CIRCULATION

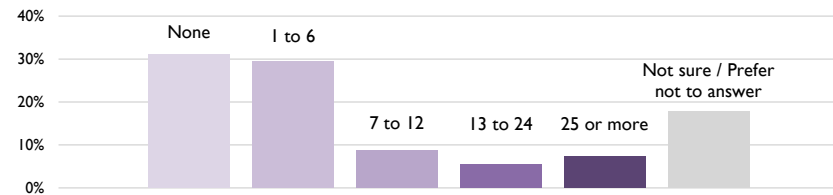
In 2022-23, the Library’s collection totaled over 2.4 million items, including nearly 1.7 million print materials (such as books and periodicals), and over 402,100 eResources (such as eBooks, eMusic, and eMovies). The Library also provides access to subscription-based online resources on a variety of topics, such as career development, technology training, consumer resources, language learning, and online high school classes.

Total circulation in 2022-23 (including eBooks) was 7.5 million, an increase from 6.9 million last year. eResource circulation (eBooks and eMedia) totaled 1.8 million. The latest available comparison data shows that San José’s 2021-22 circulation per capita was higher than the statewide mean.

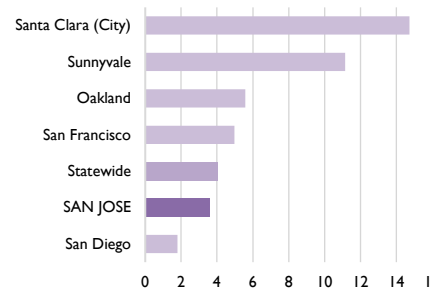
Fifty-one percent of respondents to the community survey indicated they, or someone in their household, used San José libraries at least once in the last 12 months. Library borrowers placed about 579,400 online holds to reserve materials in 2022-23, up from 570,300 last year.

About 15 percent of the Library’s collection comprises materials in languages other than English (about 368,700 items). The Library actively collects materials in 19 languages, including Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Hindi, Persian, Tagalog, Russian, Korean, and Japanese. In total, the Library maintains materials in over 93 non-English languages.

Community Survey 2023
Number of times a household visited a San José Library or used the City’s library services online

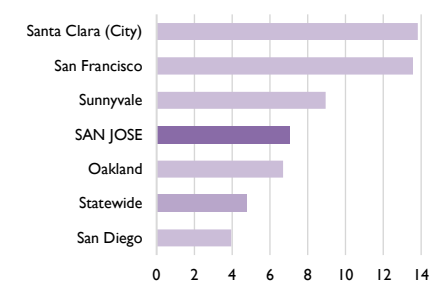


Materials Per Capita (2021-22)



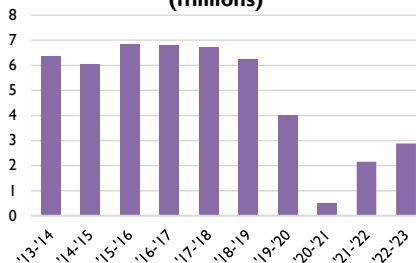
Source: [California State Library, 2021-22 Summary Data](#) (most recent available data)
Note: Refers to physical and electronic materials.

Circulation Per Capita (2021-22)

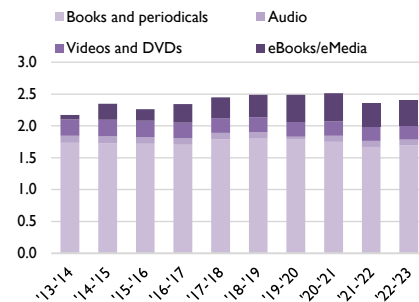


Source: [California State Library, 2021-22 Summary Data](#) (most recent available data)
Note: Refers to physical and electronic materials.

Number of Estimated Visitors to Main and Branch Libraries (millions)

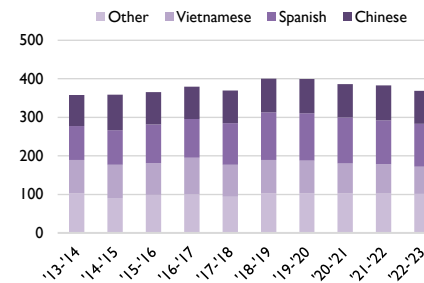


Total Collection (millions)

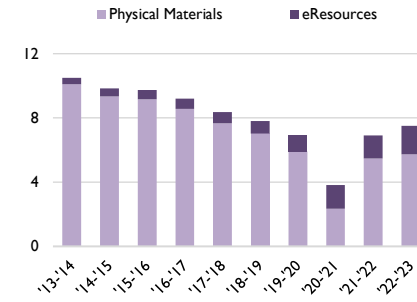


Note: In 2014-15, the methodology to tabulate eBooks changed. Prior data may not be comparable. 2021-22 was adjusted from 3.5 million to 2.4 million due to retabulating eBooks and eMedia.

Non-English Collection (thousands)



Total Circulation (millions)



Note: Prior to August 2017, the Library and San Jose State University shared their catalog, and these years include circulation for the shared catalog.

LIBRARY

The Library promotes reading and literacy, supports school readiness, and leads the City's Education and Digital Literacy Strategy, which was adopted in 2018. Programs include preschool and early education initiatives, story time, summer learning, digital literacy, adult and family literacy programs, and more. More information about Library programs can be found at sjpl.org/events.

In 2022-23, libraries offered 12,400 programs, with total attendance of 237,800. These programs include SJPL Works, the Library's business and workforce development center. SJPL Works offered 381 business programs in 2022-23, with nearly 2,000 participants attending in-person and virtual sessions.

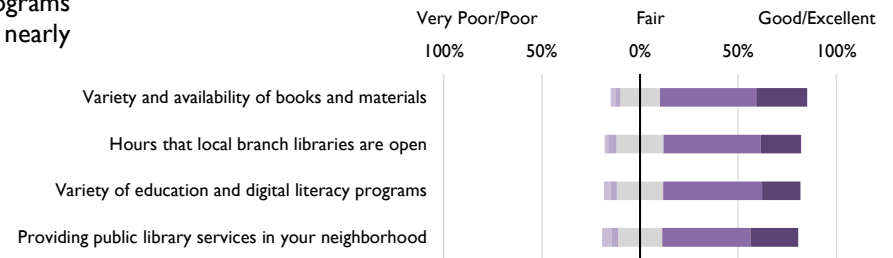
The Library has spent the last several years building out the Education and Digital Literacy Strategy. Weekly storytimes programs provide foundational support for developing early literacy skills and have continued at nearly all library locations. In 2022-23, 1,600 storytime programs were held for 51,500 people. Storytime programs are hosted in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese. 150 Storytime programs were hosted at Bridge Library locations (discussed on the next page) with nearly 4,000 attendees.

See *CSA Dashboard chapter for additional measures related to Library activities.*

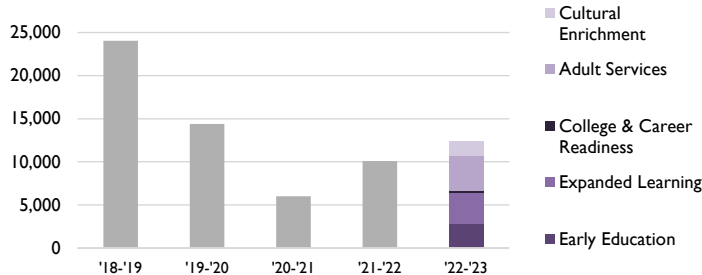


Source: San José Library Department

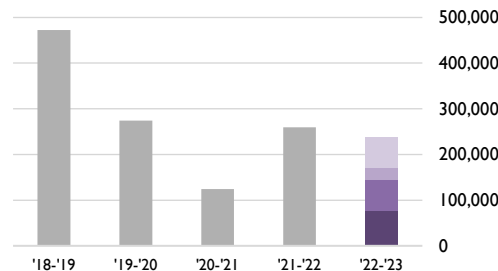
Community Survey 2023 Ratings of Services



Number of Programs

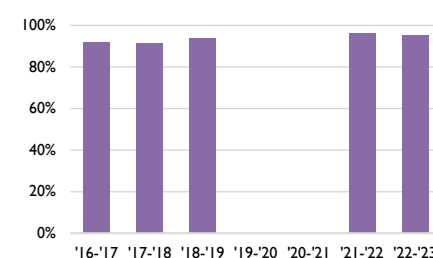


Number of Program Participants



Note: 2018-19 data is presented to compare programming with the last full year of operations pre-COVID. During that time, Library has worked on adopting quality standards for programs, which has resulted in fewer programs being offered. The 2022-23 data is presented by current program categories.

Percent of Library Customers Rating Staff Assistance as Good or Excellent



Source: Library customer surveys.
Note: Due to COVID-19, Library did not conduct surveys in 2019-20 and 2020-21.

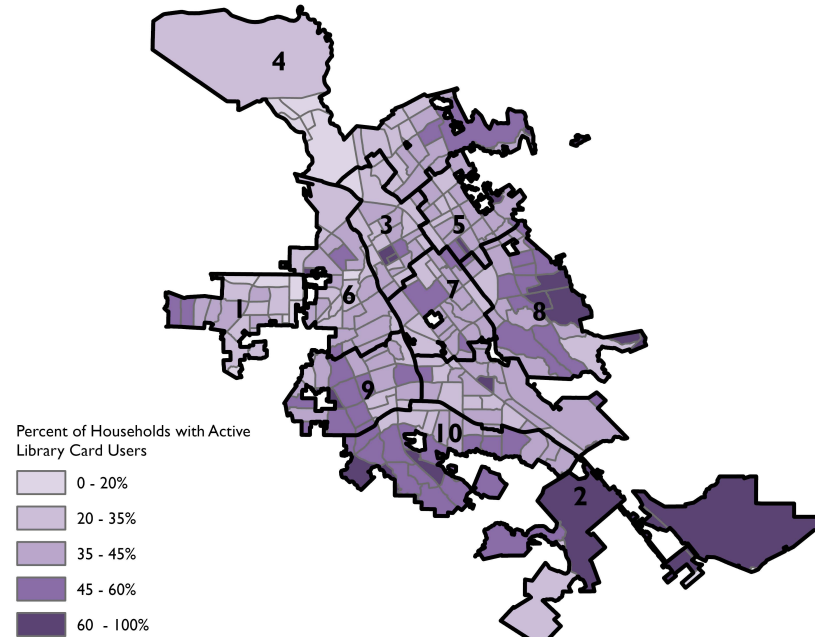
SAN JOSE BRANCH LIBRARY OPERATION

In 2022-23, City libraries had over 2.8 million visitors, of which 966,700 went to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. main library. While the total number of visitors to all City libraries increased by 723,800 visitors from last year, visits are still below pre-COVID levels. During 2018-19, Library estimated a total 6.2 million visitors, of which 2.3 million visitors went to the main library.

The Library also operates Bridge Libraries in 13 Family Resource Centers to serve neighborhoods without ready access to branch libraries. Bridge Libraries provide books, library staff assistance, and library resources for families using a Family Resource Center. Bridge Libraries allow community members to borrow books and return them when they are ready, removing barriers that prevent families from using library resources.

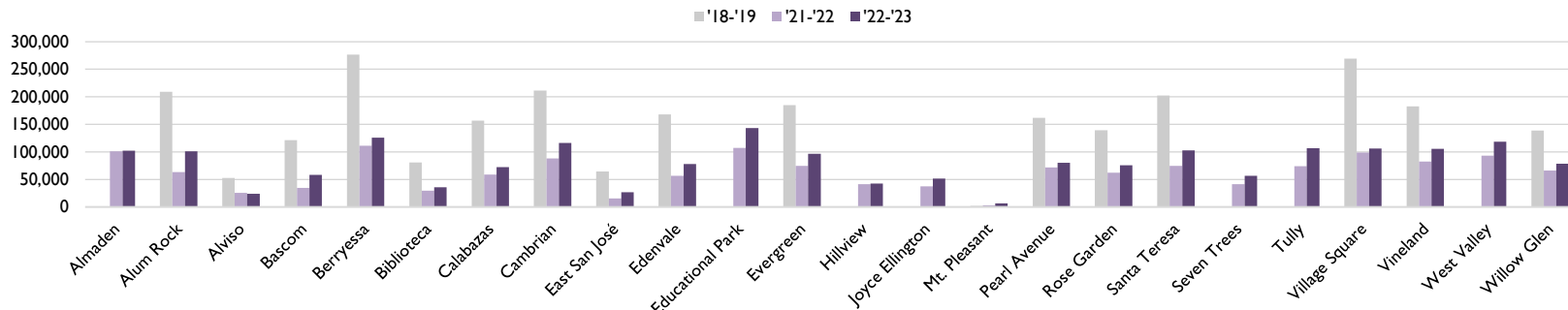
The Library continues to lead SJ Access, the City's initiative to provide residents and students with access to digital devices. There were nearly 216,000 computer sessions on library-owned computers in 2022-23. Visitors can also check out chromebooks, laptops, and tablets. The Library had 2,300 computing devices available for checkout at 25 library locations. Additionally, the SJ Access program offers WiFi services to enable customers to use their own devices. In 2022-23, there were 7,400 hotspots available for checkout. The Library estimates there were 3.6 million WiFi sessions held via indoor and outdoor branch library WiFi (excluding Mount Pleasant).

Households with Active Library Card Users



Source: City Auditor map of households with active library card users in 2022-23.

Branch Library Visits



Note: 2018-19 data is presented to compare branch visits to the last full year of operations pre-COVID. In 2018-19, Almaden, Educational Park, Hillview, Joyce Ellington, Seven Trees, Tully, West Valley branches experienced gate count infrastructure issues. 2018-19 visits for these branches are not presented in this data, but are included in the 2018-19 total visitor count as presented elsewhere.

