



## Ten Facts about Americans and Public Libraries

The Pew Research Center [PRC] - a non-partisan fact tank and subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts – conducts research on behalf of its *Internet & American Life Project*.

In December 2013, the PRC published the results of a survey focused on “How Americans Value Public Libraries in Their Communities.” From that survey of 6,224 diverse Americans, ages 16 and up, the PRC learned these **10 facts about us and our relationship with reading and our public libraries:**

1. E-book reading is growing, but printed books still dominate the reading world.
2. The rise of e-book reading is tied to the steady increase in ownership of tablet computers and e-readers. (Over 50 percent of adults own a tablet or e-reader.)
3. Americans appreciate libraries, especially for the role they play in communities.
4. Mothers love libraries!
5. Access to books, media, and quiet, safe reading places top the list of favorite library services.
6. The public’s highest priorities center on children and literacy.
7. Library websites are catching on.
8. Older teens and young adults are sometimes the most likely to desire new library technologies.
9. One challenge libraries face is simply making people aware of all the services they offer.
10. Library use ebbs and flows for many Americans.