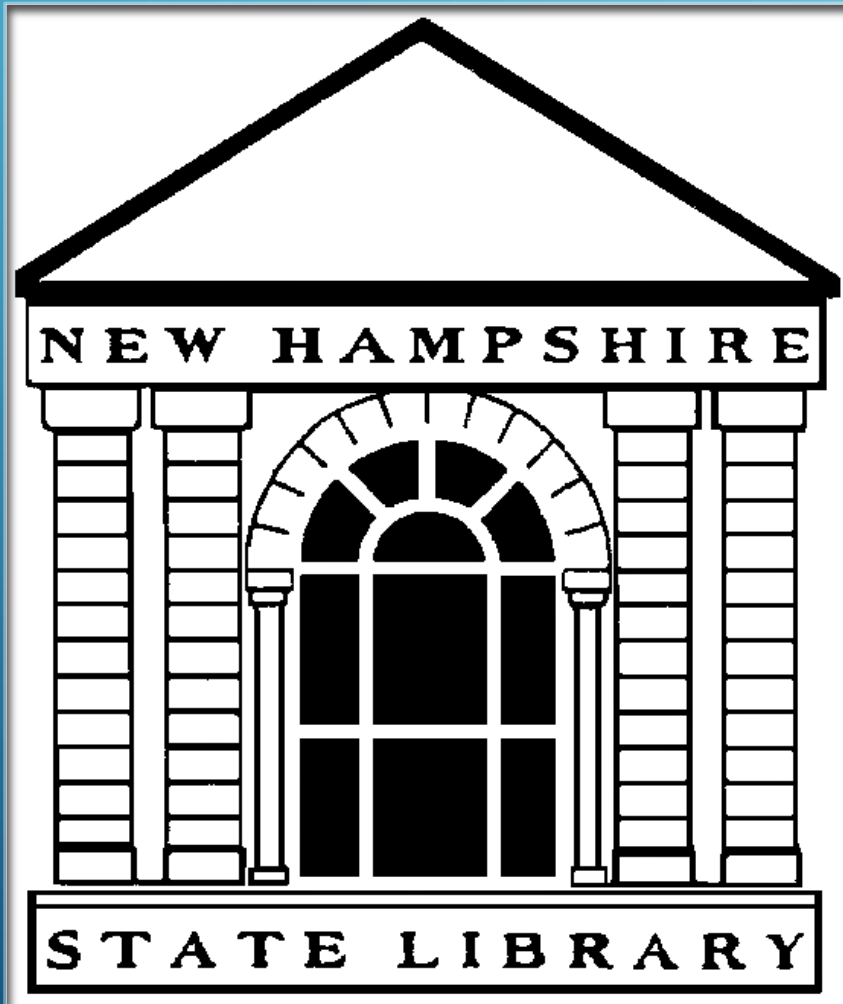




LIVE FREE AND GROW: HOW THE NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBRARY COMMUNITY WILL SURVIVE AND THRIVE

PRESENTED AT THE NHLTA CONFERENCE

MAY 27, 2026



MINDY ATWOOD

ASSISTANT STATE LIBRARIAN



OVERVIEW

Introduction

How do we talk about libraries?

How can NHSL help your library?

Where do we go from here?



INTRODUCTION



WHO AM I?



Courtesy photo, used with permission





Courtesy photos, used with permission





Courtesy photo, used with permission





STATE LIBRARY

Courtesy photo, used with permission



The background is a solid dark blue color. In the four corners, there are decorative white line-art elements that resemble circuit traces or a network diagram. These lines connect to small white circles, creating a sense of connectivity and technology. The central text is white and reads:

HOW DO WE TALK ABOUT LIBRARIES?

“

ABOUT EIGHT-IN-TEN ADULTS (78%) FEEL THAT PUBLIC LIBRARIES HELP THEM FIND INFORMATION THAT IS TRUSTWORTHY AND RELIABLE AND 76% SAY LIBRARIES HELP THEM LEARN NEW THINGS.

”



Pew Research Center

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2017/08/30/most-americans-especially-millennials-say-libraries-can-help-them-find-reliable-trustworthy-information/>

“

“...RESEARCH FROM LIBRARIES SUGGESTED THAT PROGRAMS FACILITATING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION HAD PROMISING RESULTS ON CHILDREN’S READING MOTIVATION AND READING SKILLS.”



Research on Motivation, Literacy, and Reading Development: A Review of Best Practices

Final Report for the Institute of Museum and Library Services

Ozen Guven, PhD
Yasmina Haddad

SEPTEMBER 2023



Screenshot for educational/non-commercial use





IMAGE FOUR PEOPLE AROUND A TABLE AT A LIBRARY BY MICROSOFT CORPORATION

LIBRARIES ARE FOR EVERYONE!

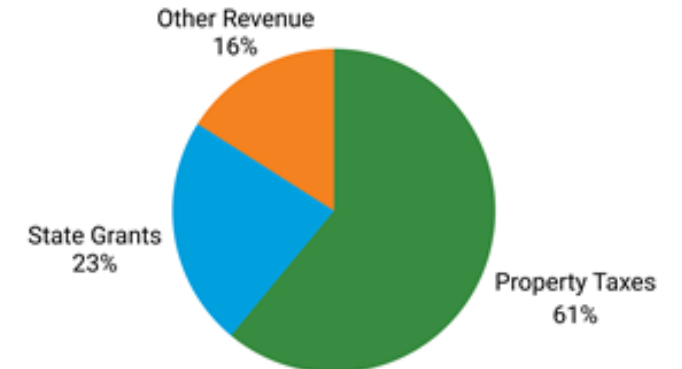


HEAVILY 90%
OF LIBRARY
FUNDING
TOWNS FROM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
OPERATION
AND MAINTENANCE

Heavy Reliance on Local Property Taxes

Property taxes account for about 63% of all state and local tax revenue in New Hampshire, the highest share in the nation. Local governments also rely more heavily on property taxes than anywhere else, with about 61% of their revenue coming from this source.

Local Government Revenue Sources



[HTTPS://CANDID.ORG/BLOGS/TODAYS-FUNDING-CRISIS-FACING-US-PUBLIC-LIBRARIES/](https://candid.org/blogs/todays-funding-crisis-facing-us-public-libraries/)

[HTTPS://NHFPI.ORG/RESOURCE/PROPERTY-TAXES-IN-NEW-HAMPSHIRE-HOW-THEY-WORK-AND-HOW-THEY-COMPARE/](https://nhfpi.org/resource/property-taxes-in-new-hampshire-how-they-work-and-how-they-compare/)

Screenshot for educational/non-commercial use

LIBRARIES ARE...



Screenshot for educational/non-commercial use



Courtesy photo, used with permission



Photo credit: Julia Furukawa/NHPR

TRUSTWORTHY

CONTRIBUTE TO
EARLY LITERACY

ARE PUBLIC
SPACES FOR
EVERYONE



SO WHAT?

“

ABOUT EIGHT-IN-TEN ADULTS (78%) FEEL THAT PUBLIC LIBRARIES HELP THEM FIND INFORMATION THAT IS TRUSTWORTHY AND RELIABLE AND 76% SAY LIBRARIES HELP THEM LEARN NEW THINGS.

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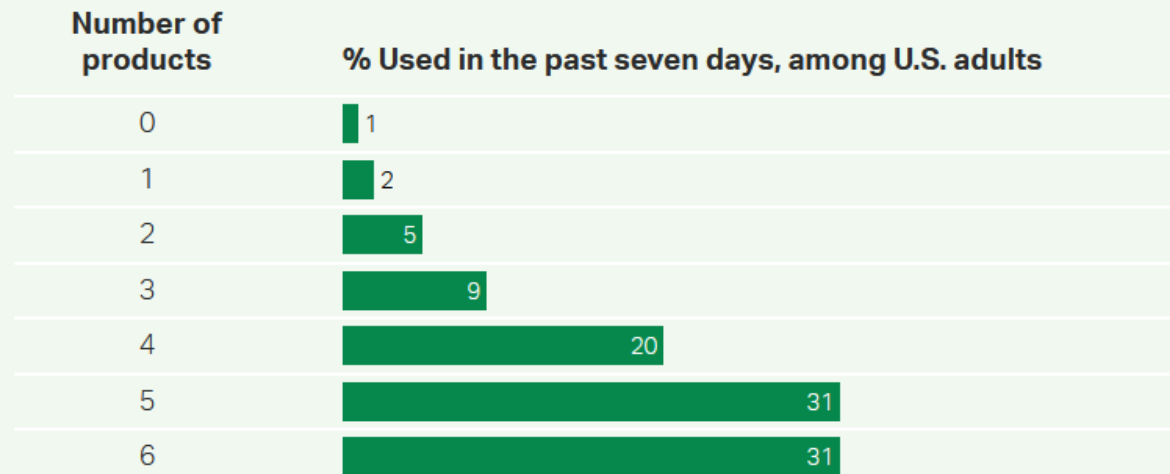


Pew Research Center

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2017/08/30/most-americans-especially-millennials-say-libraries-can-help-them-find-reliable-trustworthy-information/>

Nearly All Americans Use at Least One AI-Enabled Product Weekly

Number of common AI-enabled products used in the past seven days



The six common AI-enabled products listed were: personal virtual assistant (e.g., Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant, Apple Siri, Microsoft Cortana), navigation app or website, weather forecasting app or website, social media, streaming service, or online shopping website or app.

Due to rounding, percentages may sum to 100% ± 1 percentage point.

Telescope/Gallup, Nov. 26-Dec. 4, 2024

[Get the data](#) • [Download image](#)

GALLUP

[HTTPS://NEWS.GALLUP.COM/POLL/654905/AMERICANS-EVERYDAY-PRODUCTS-WITHOUT-REALIZING.ASPX](https://news.gallup.com/poll/654905/americans-everyday-products-without-realizing.aspx)

Screenshot for educational/non-commercial use



PLAIN
ENGLISH
PLEASE!

Libraries are trusted institutions. That matters because, for example, with the rapid increase of AI-enabled products, people are going to need help learning how to use AI and how to figure out what's real and what's not. People are already turning to their New Hampshire public libraries to help them and we're ready!



“

“...RESEARCH FROM LIBRARIES SUGGESTED THAT PROGRAMS FACILITATING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION HAD PROMISING RESULTS ON CHILDREN’S READING MOTIVATION AND READING SKILLS.”



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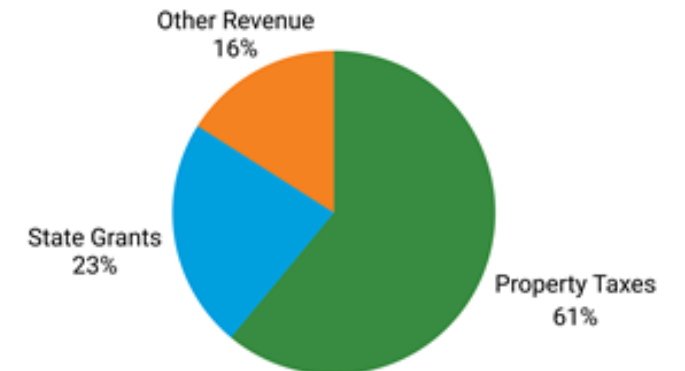
Courtesy photo, used with permission



Heavy Reliance on Local Property Taxes

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[HTTPS://NHFPI.ORG/RESOURCE/PROPERTY-TAXES-IN-NEW-HAMPSHIRE-HOW-THEY-WORK-AND-HOW-THEY-COMPARE/](https://nhfpi.org/resource/property-taxes-in-new-hampshire-how-they-work-and-how-they-compare/)

Screenshot for educational/non-commercial use



PLAIN
ENGLISH
PLEASE!

Libraries and their
professional staff
provide an excellent
return on taxpayers'
dollars.



HOW CAN THE STATE LIBRARY HELP YOUR LIBRARY?





Libby.

The library reading app

WE'RE MORE THAN JUST VANS AND LIBBY!

Courtesy photos, used with permission





New Hampshire State Library / LibGuides / NHSL LibGuides / Home

NHSL LibGuides: Home

Contact NHSL

New Hampshire State Library

20 Park Street
 Concord, NH 03301
 603-271-2144
 Staff Listing
 Map of Public Libraries
 NH Library Directory

Hours

Monday 8:00 am-4:00 pm
 Tuesday 8:00 am-4:00 pm
 Wednesday 12:00 pm-4:00 pm (late opening)
 Thursday 8:00 am-4:00 pm
 Friday 8:00 am-12:00 pm (early closing)

Check It Out!

CHECK IT OUT!



Advancing a Culture
 of Creativity in

Guides

Technology Guides

- Database Support
 by Bobbi Lee Slossar Last Updated Feb 19, 2026 189 views this year
- Digitization for Librarians
 by Bobbi Lee Slossar Last Updated Feb 19, 2026 105 views this year
- Emerging Technology
 by Bobbi Lee Slossar Last Updated Mar 30, 2026 341 views this year
- New Hampshire Downloadable Books: For Librarians
 by Bobbi Lee Slossar Last Updated Jul 10, 2025 188 views this year
- New Hampshire Downloadable Books: For Readers
 by Bobbi Lee Slossar Last Updated Mar 9, 2026 2103 views this year
- Public Library Survey
 by Jennifer Finch Last Updated Jan 21, 2026 67 views this year

Library Development Guides

- Food Literacy
 by Deborah Dutcher Last Updated Feb 19, 2026 106 views this year
- Learning Pathways for Librarians and Library Staff
 by Mindy Atwood Last Updated Mar 16, 2026 323 views this year
- Niche Academy



New Hampshire
State Library
 A Division of the New Hampshire
 Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

Contact Us



Home About Us Collections Services Talking Books For Librarians

Home > For Librarians & Library Staff > For Librarians & Library Staff

> LibGuides - Resources for Librarians

- > Statutes
- > Library Employment
- > Library Organizations
- > Library Statistics
- > NHAIS Help Desk
- > Professional Development
- > Listservs
- > For Librarians & Library Staff
- > Van Delivery Service
- > Book Bag Program

For Librarians & Library Staff

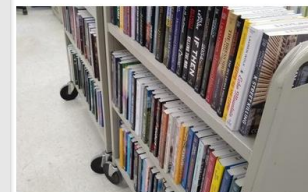
Resources for librarians and library staff.

This page is for the New Hampshire library community. It contains information for librarians working New Hampshire, particularly public librarians.

The main source of information specific to public librarians and the needs in New Hampshire are available through the LibGuides created for library staff. They can be accessed via our [NHSL LibGuides web page](#).

The NH statutes that relate to public libraries can be found on [NH Statutes](#).

For more information about how municipal government in New Hampshire works, visit the [New Hampshire Municipal Association](#) web site and take advantage of the many resources they have available. All 234 New Hampshire towns are members of this organization. If your library receives municipal taxpayer dollars for funding, library staff can become members and access a wide variety of training.



WHERE DO WE
GO FROM HERE?



“



THE RULE OF 7

”

[HTTPS://WWW.UMARYLAND.EDU/CPA/RULE-OF-SEVEN/](https://www.umaryland.edu/cpa/rule-of-seven/)



MORE
DATA,
PLEASE!



University of
New Hampshire

The Survey Center

States of Opinion Project



STATES OF OPINION PROJECT™

Screenshots for educational/non-commercial use

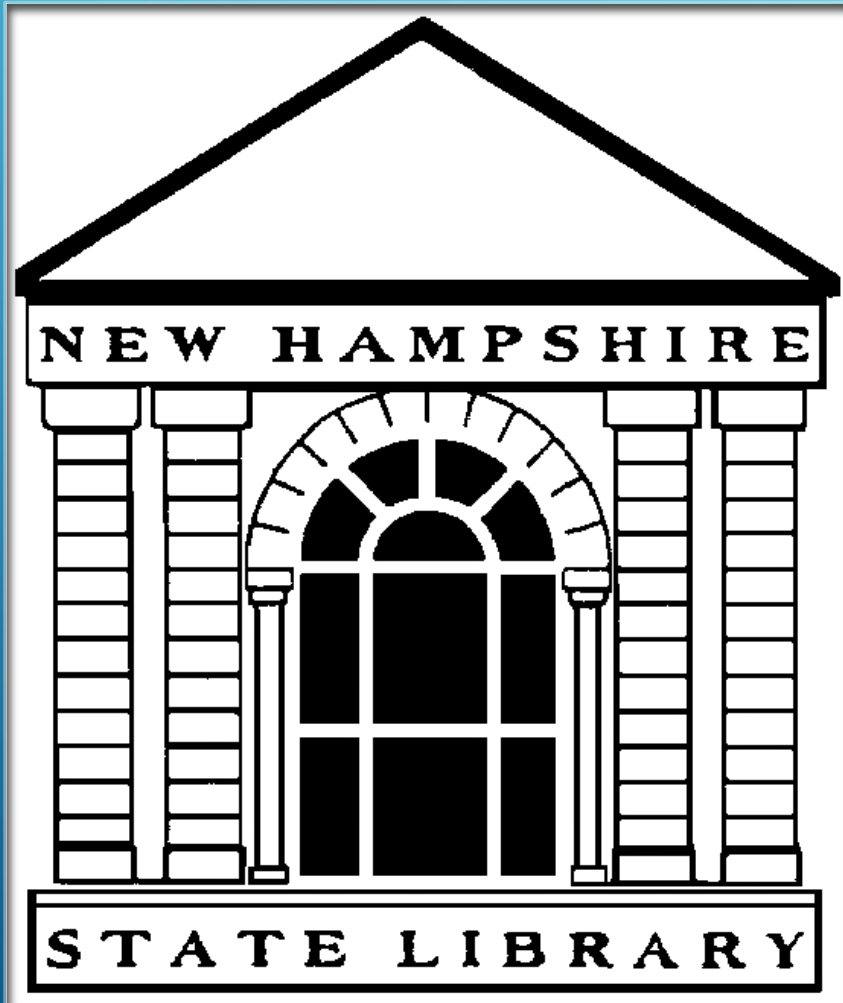




DON'T GO IT ALONE!

Image: person leading three camels in the desert by Microsoft Corporation





Thank you!

MINDY ATWOOD
ASSISTANT STATE LIBRARIAN

mindy.atwood@dncr.nh.gov

603-271-2393 (desk)

603-573-6402 (mobile)



ADDITIONAL SOURCES

- [Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life](#)
- <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/business/ai-statistics/>
- <https://www.webjunction.org/news/webjunction/ai-programming-for-patrons.html>

