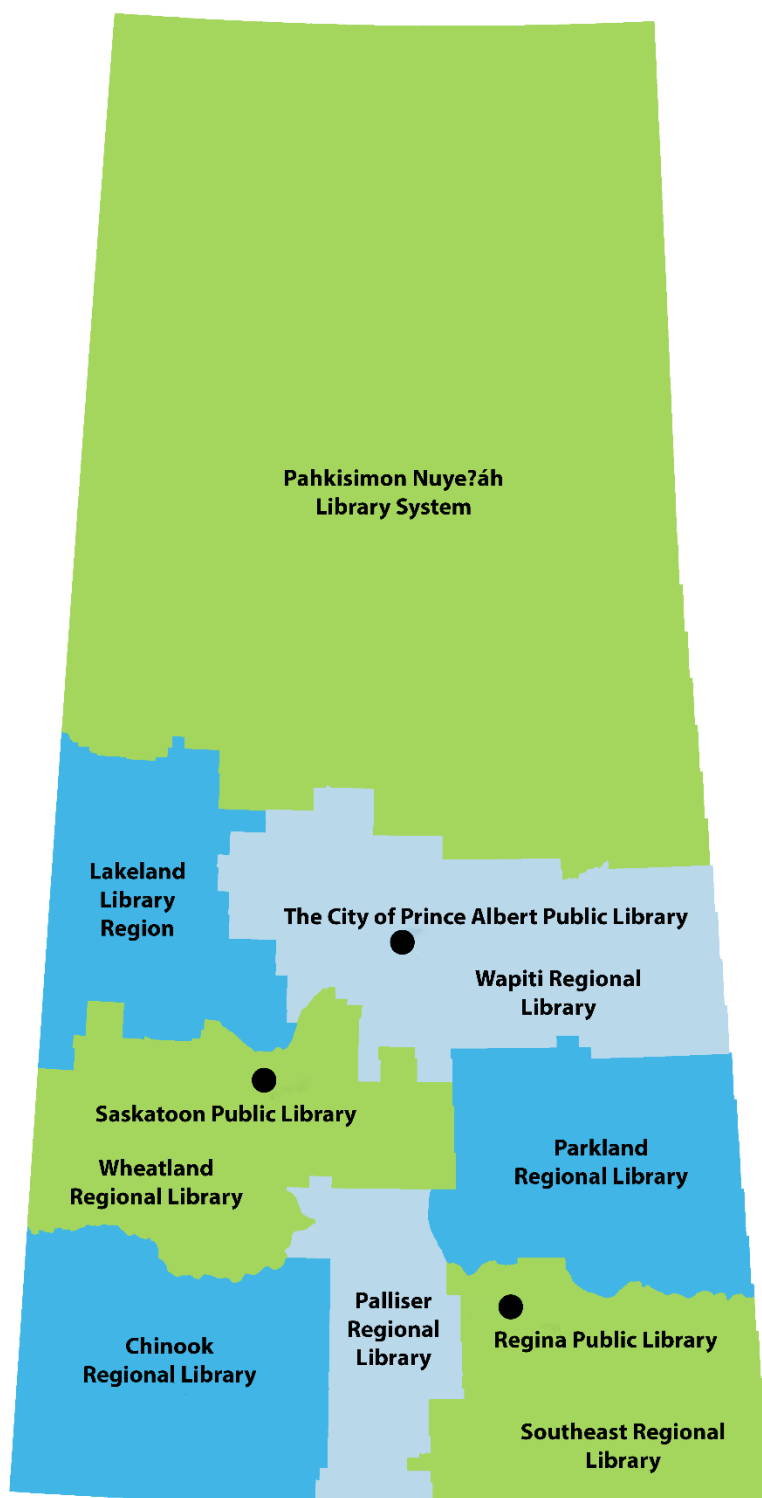


Public Library System in Saskatchewan

2022 Year in Review



Introduction

The public library systems in Saskatchewan are established under *The Public Libraries Act, 1996* (the Act). As defined by the Act, the purpose of the provincial public library system is to ensure equitable access to basic library services for all Saskatchewan residents.

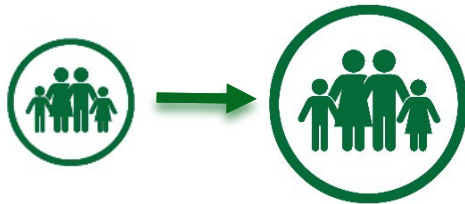
In 2022, the public library system consisted of 11 library systems that delivered library services through a network of local branches and member libraries. The public library systems referred to in this report are:

- Municipal Library Systems
 - The City of Prince Albert Public Library Board (Prince Albert)
 - Regina Public Library (Regina)
 - Saskatoon Public Library (Saskatoon)
- Regional Library Systems
 - Chinook Regional Library (Chinook)
 - Lakeland Library Region (Lakeland)
 - Palliser Regional Library (Palliser)
 - Parkland Regional Library (Parkland)
 - Southeast Regional Library (Southeast)
 - Wapiti Regional Library (Wapiti)
 - Wheatland Regional Library (Wheatland)
- Federation of Northern Libraries
 - Pahnkisiimon Nuyeh?áh Library System (PNLS)

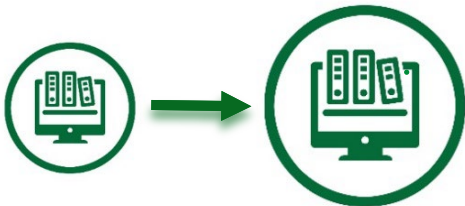
The purpose of this report is to provide a statistical summary of the public library system in 2022. Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this information. However, if errors are identified, they should be reported to the Provincial Library and Literacy Office (PLLO), Ministry of Education. Unless otherwise indicated, this report uses the definitions from the Provincial and Territorial Public Library Council, Canadian Urban Libraries Council, and Saskatchewan Information and Library Services Consortium. Data sources for this report include the 11 public library systems' annual reports, integrated library system reports, provincial statistical data reports, environmental scans and e-resources vendor reports.

Highlights

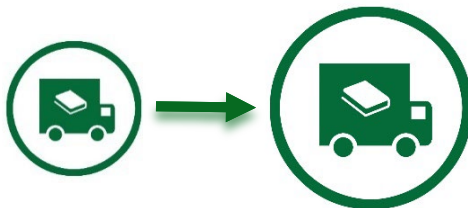
For Saskatchewan, in 2022:



Over **3.36 million** in-person visits to public libraries, a 74 per cent increase from 2021



More than **7.9 million** physical and electronic items such as books, e-books, CDs and DVDs were checked out, a 38 per cent increase compared with the circulation in 2021, almost at the pre-pandemic level



Approximately **825,000** items were shipped from one library system to another library system for holds requested, a two per cent increase over the pre-pandemic level



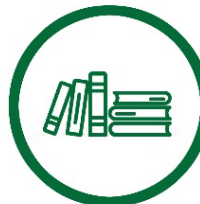
305 public library locations were supported by **665** full-time equivalent employees



35,700 library programs were delivered by Saskatchewan public libraries, a 60 per cent increase from 2021



3.68 million physical items and e-books were available to the public



351,500 new items were added to library collections



Over **131,500** library cards were used in 2022, and **44,700** new library cards were issued



Library patrons asked more than **572,000** questions

Library System Facts

Library	Chinook	Lakeland	Palliser	Parkland	PNLS	Prince Albert
Area (sq. Km)	51,080	36,693	25,221	43,500	262,281	67
Population	47,414	80,125	55,489	85,266	36,082	37,756
Registered Library Cards	12,841	20,914	18,591	19,078	8,567	10,917
Total Open Hours	24,469	26,219	19,998	43,146	15,639	3,886
Number of Branches	31	32	20	55	11	2
Number of Joint Venture Libraries with Schools	1	-	-	2	10	-
Number of First Nations Bands	2	24	-	22	31	-
Total Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	30	33	37	39	30	26
Additional Service Locations (Non-Full Service Locations)	13	4	1	7	-	-

Library	Regina	Saskatoon	Southeast	Wapiti	Wheatland
Area (sq. Km)	179	227	45,983	60,736	51,094
Population	226,404	266,141	103,137	88,856	106,636
Registered Library Cards	101,133	121,838	29,455	21,556	29,451
Total Open Hours	25,992	27,900	48,991	44,446	42,709
Number of Branches	9	9	47	44	45
Number of Joint Venture Libraries with Schools	1	-	3	8	2
Number of First Nations Bands	-	-	20	25	1
Total FTE	181	169	41	36	43
Additional Service Locations (Non-Full Service Locations)	-	-	3	3	-

Library Patrons

Saskatchewan residents have shown they value public libraries. They returned to their libraries, both in-person and/or online. Library services were gradually restored in more than 300 libraries across the province over the past two years. At the end of 2022, the total number of registered patrons was greater than the 2019 level. In addition, the number of new cards issued increased seven per cent over the same period. All library systems continued expanding their print and electronic resources to meet emerging needs.



Over **131,500** library cards were used in 2022, and **44,700** new library cards were issued



Over **3.36 million** in-person visits to public libraries in 2022, which returned to 75 per cent of the pre-pandemic level

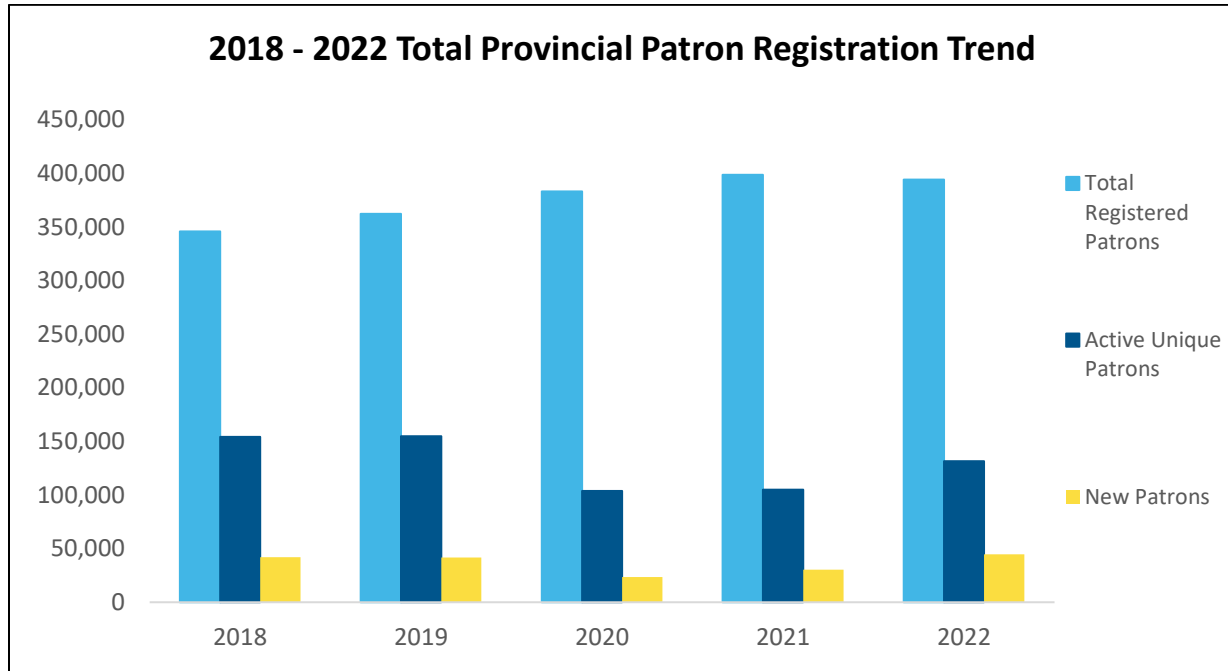


Library patrons asked over **572,000** reference and resource questions by phone or in-person

Library cards to population served is an indicator for library patron participation in each library system. Library patron participation is highest in Regina and Saskatoon at almost 50 per cent of their population.

Library System	Number of Library Cards at the end of 2022	Population Served	Percentage of Library Cards to Population
Chinook	12,841	47,414	27%
Lakeland	20,914	80,125	26%
Palliser	18,591	55,489	34%
Parkland	19,078	85,266	22%
PNLS	8,567	36,082	24%
Prince Albert	10,917	37,756	29%
Regina	101,133	226,404	45%
Saskatoon	121,838	266,141	46%
Southeast	29,455	103,137	29%
Wapiti	21,556	88,856	24%
Wheatland	29,451	106,636	28%
Total	394,341	1,133,306	35%

The chart below describes more detail concerning library use. It includes the total number of registered patrons (Total Registered Patrons), the number of patrons who used the libraries in 2022 (Active Unique Patrons) and patrons who registered for new library cards in 2022 (New Patrons). Over the past three years, total registered patrons, active unique patrons and new patron registrations all increased, and by 2022 were over or close to pre-pandemic levels.



Library Collection



305 public library locations supported by **665** full-time equivalent employees



3.68 million physical items and e-books



351,500 new items were added to library collections



Over **7.9 million** physical and electronic items were checked out, a 38 per cent increase from 2021

In 2022, Saskatchewan public libraries spent over \$8.04 million on new library materials to enhance their collections. This includes physical items such as books, magazines, DVDs, CDs, Literacy Kits and e-resources such as database subscriptions, e-books, e-magazines and streaming audio and video.

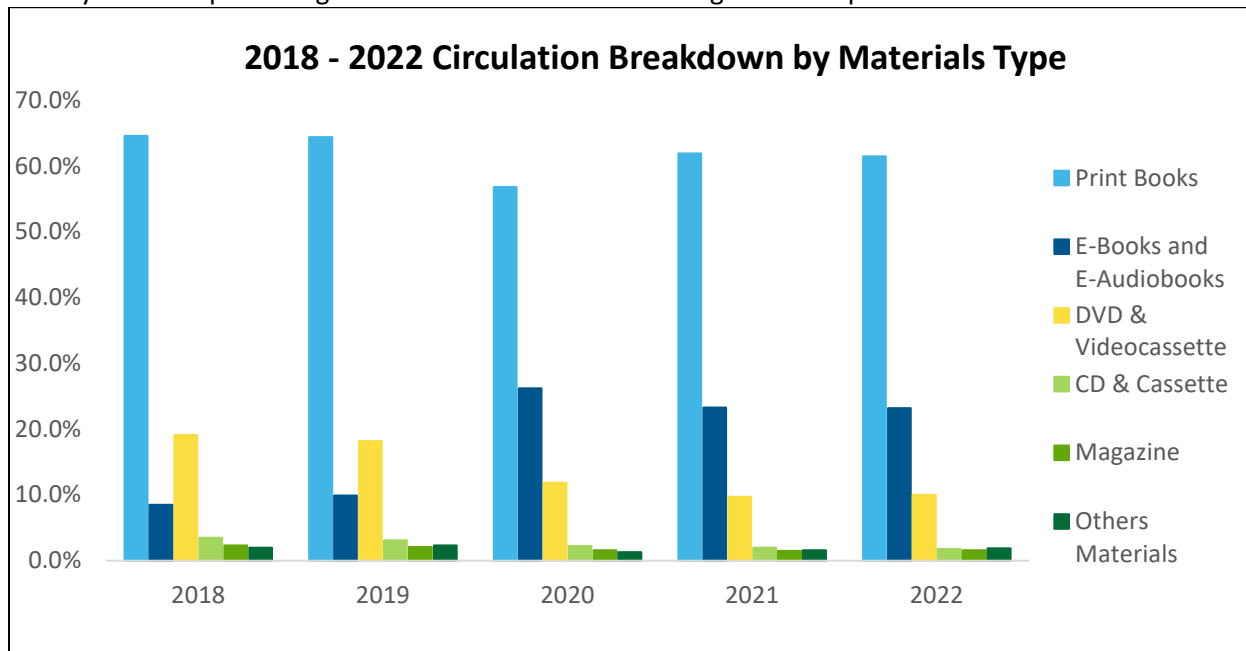
Saskatchewan public libraries pivoted during COVID-19 and provided access to their collections and services in innovative ways. While regular use of libraries is near pre-COVID levels; some of the service innovations are being maintained. For example, more users preferred electronic resources, driving up demand for OverDrive products which eventually required more investment in libraries' OverDrive collection.

OverDrive checkouts for all public libraries in Saskatchewan have gone up year over year and the provincial total circulation surpassed one million each year since 2022. According to OverDrive, very few library systems/consortia in the world have surpassed one million checkouts. Saskatchewan public libraries' 2022 OverDrive checkout saw a 10 per cent increase from 2021 even with the return to in-person library services in 2021.

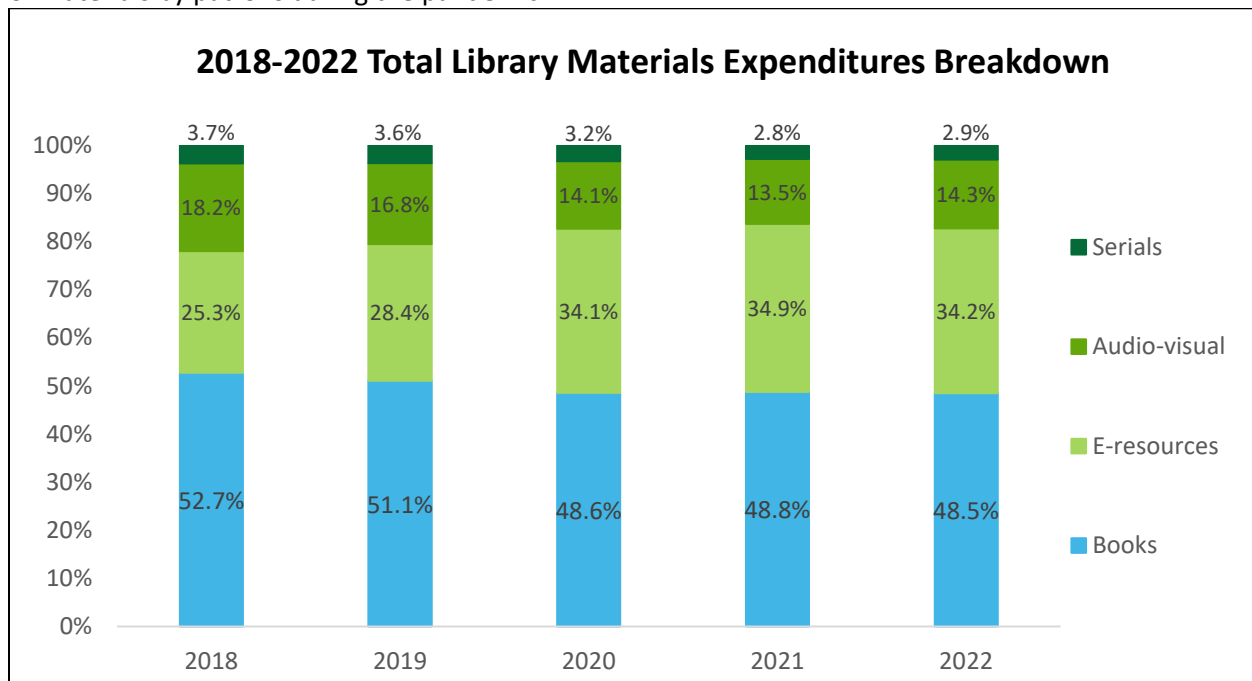
OverDrive is a shared downloadable e-book and e-audio book collection that all 11 public library systems and the Provincial Library collaboratively licensed. Library patrons can access these materials online through web browsers or the "Libby" App for mobile devices. Together, the public library systems purchased more than 40,000 copies of e-books and e-audio books in 2022. Moreover, a magazine collection subscription was renewed from Overdrive, which provides supplemental leisure reading for Saskatchewan residents.

In addition to the provincial OverDrive collection, many public library systems also provided other popular e-book, e-audiobook, streaming TV, movies and music services to their patrons such as Hoopla, Tumblebooks, Flipster, Kanopy, Freegal Music and Naxos Music. Together there were over 130,600 e-book and e-audiobook checkouts and more than 130,500 downloads of stream music, movies and TV shows from these libraries in 2022. Moreover, some libraries such as Regina and Saskatoon provided free access to online professional learning resources such as LinkedIn Learning, and Gale Courses for library patrons.

The following chart illustrates the use of different library material types in the province between 2018 and 2022. It shows that while print books' use has remained steady since 2018, the E-Books and E-Audiobooks' use dramatically increased starting in 2020 and has become consistent over the past three years. The percentage of DVDs and CDs use fell during the same period.



The following chart shows the percentage that all public library systems spent on library materials between 2018 and 2022, including books, audio-visual, periodical and electronic materials. It also illustrates the increase in library spending for electronic resources to meet the high demand for this type of materials by patrons during the pandemic.



Resource Sharing



Over **1,900,000** holds were placed by more than 71,000 patrons in 2022, a **1.2** per cent increase over 2019



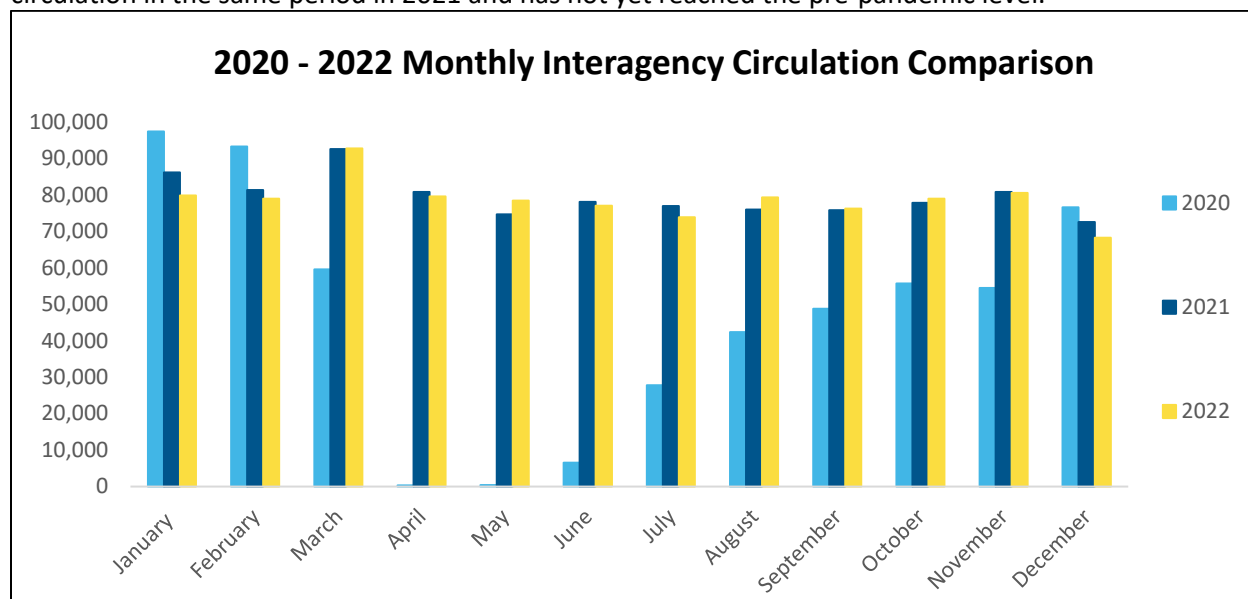
Approximately **825,000** items were shipped from one library system to another library system for holds requested, a **2** per cent increase over the pre-pandemic level

ONE PROVINCE, ONE LIBRARY CARD

All 11 public library systems and the PLLO provide equitable access to the materials held at over 300 public library branches through a universal library card. *One Province, One Card* allows a library patron to:

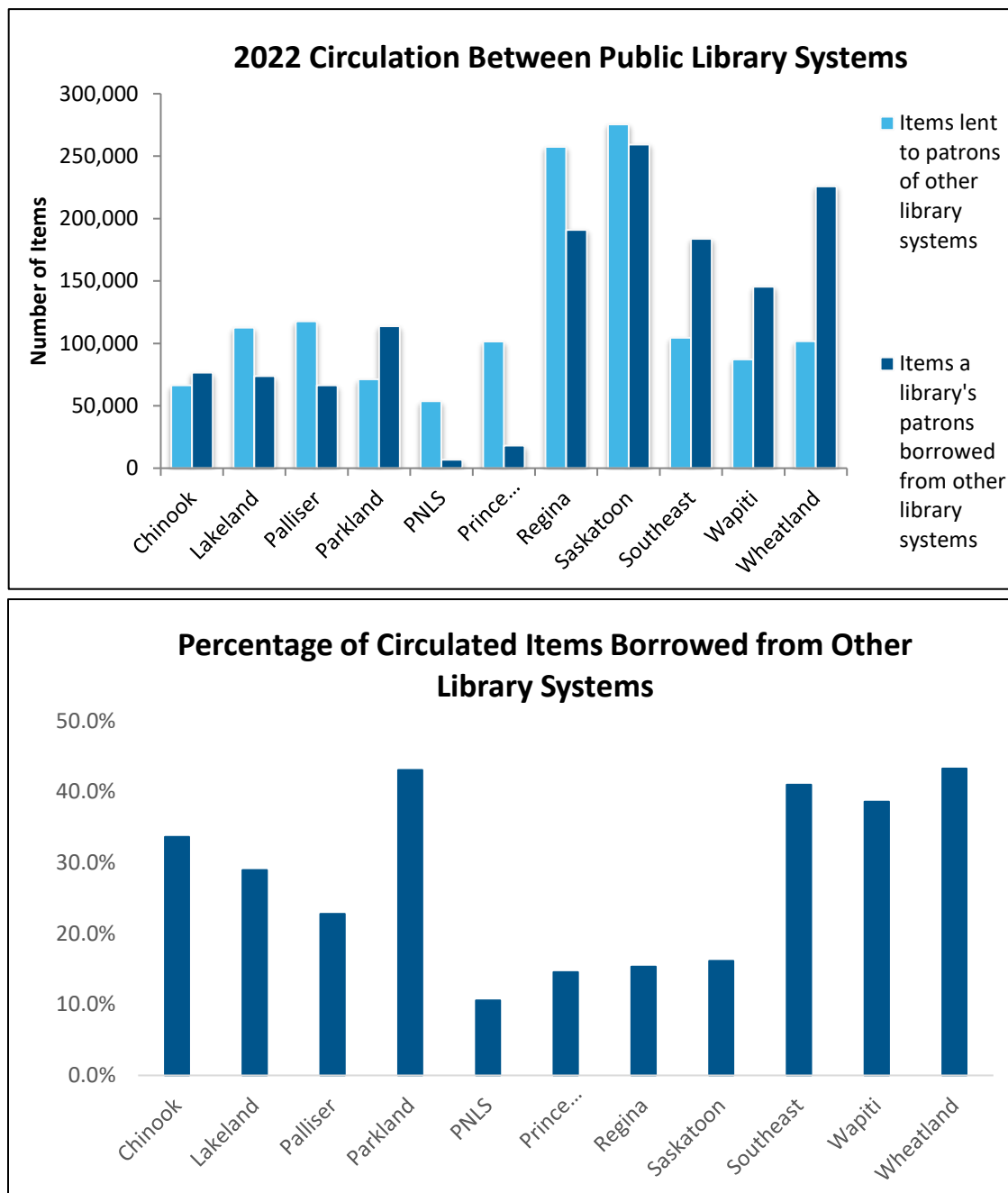
- register for a library card at any library branch of the patron's home library system;
- search for public library materials on a single database with over one million records;
- request to have library materials from any branch in the province delivered to a preferred library location for pickup using the hold request system; and,
- return materials to any branch in the province that is most convenient for the patron.

The chart below illustrates the monthly interagency circulation between 2020 and 2022. This includes when libraries were closed from March 16 to June 29, 2020 and stopped shipping materials between libraries. The chart shows that the monthly interagency circulation in 2022 was very close to the circulation in the same period in 2021 and has not yet reached the pre-pandemic level.



The following first chart illustrates the borrowing of materials between library systems. This resource sharing plays an important role in supporting equitable access within the provincial public library system. For individual library systems, especially regional libraries where most of their branches are in rural areas, resource sharing allows their patrons to access a broader range of collections from libraries across the province, either in person (reciprocal borrowing) or via online requests (holds).

The second chart below shows that a significant portion of regional libraries' physical materials circulation were from outside of their library system, demonstrating again the consistent high use of resource sharing by residents in Saskatchewan.



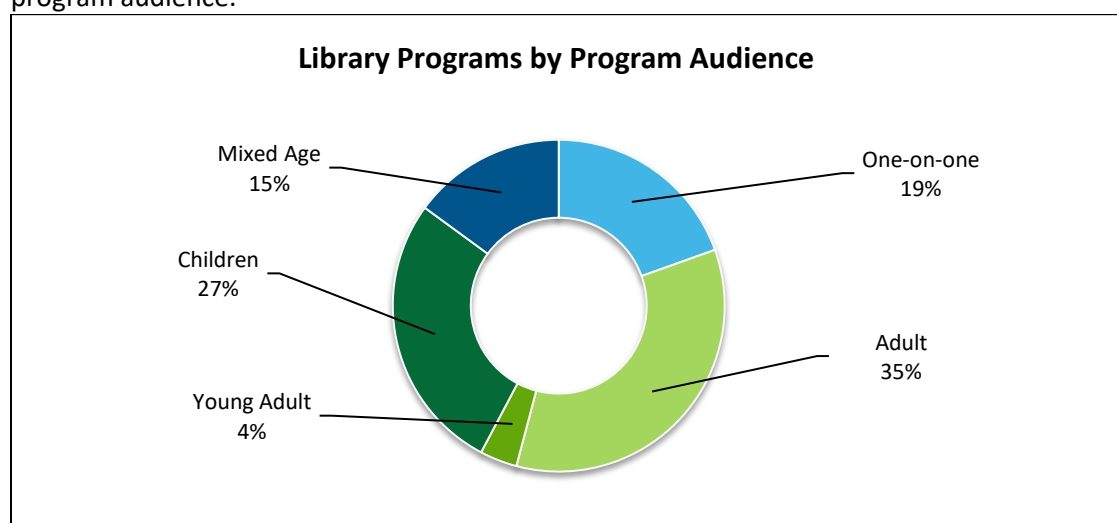
Library Programming



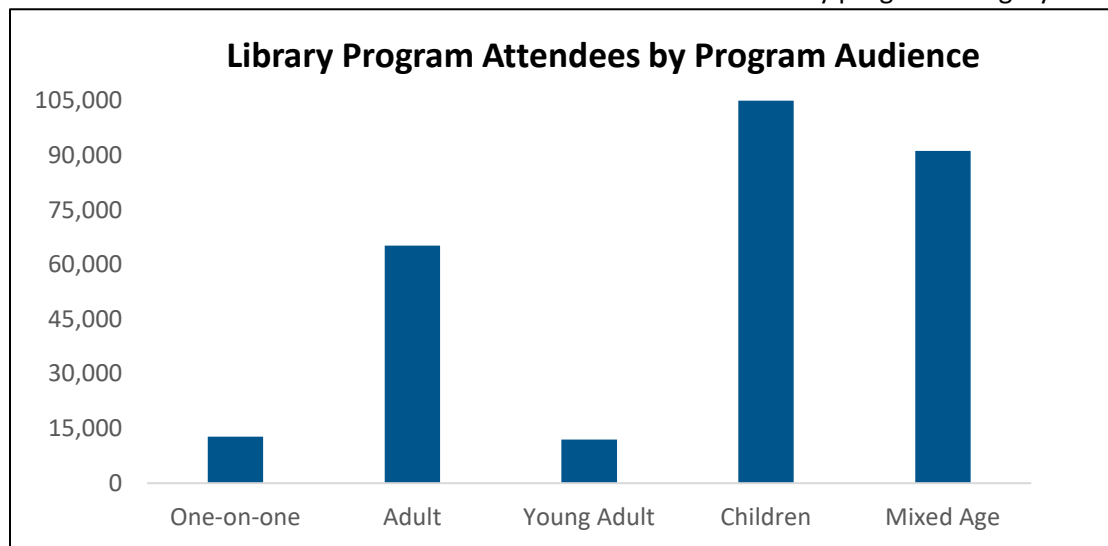
Almost **35,700** library programs were delivered by all public libraries across the province, including both in-person and online; more than **322,500** people attended a program in 2022, a 17 per cent increase from 2021

In 2022, the majority of public libraries in the province saw in-person programming return to the pre-pandemic level. In addition, many new programs, such as virtual programs and take-home kits created during COVID-19 were still well used, and expanded to meet patrons needs. Many libraries continued setting up Storywalk®/storytrails in local communities to attract children and their families outdoors.

The following chart illustrates the percentage of library programs provided during 2022 based on program audience.



The chart below shows the total number of attendees for each library program category in 2022.



Saskatchewan Aboriginal Storytelling Month

Saskatchewan Aboriginal Storytelling Month is held in February of each year to observe and respect traditional protocol around sharing traditional stories after the snow has fallen. It involves public libraries, schools, colleges and universities and Indigenous organizations.

Saskatchewan Aboriginal Storytelling 2022 was held both in-person and online. Fourteen organizations hosted Indigenous storytelling events in 91 locations across the province, with support from local businesses and community partners. Forty-three storytellers and Elders shared emotional and culturally rich stories, teachings and memories with over 8,200 people. Saskatchewan Aboriginal Storytelling Month continues to be an important component of reconciliation in Saskatchewan.

Summer Reading

TD Summer Reading Club (TDSRC) is a national program to engage children in the joy of reading and to address summer learning loss. In 2022, participation in this program in the majority of Canada returned to a pre-pandemic levels as most libraries were open to the public again.

In 2022, in Saskatchewan, 262 libraries participated in TD Summer Reading Club. This number is slightly lower than 2021 yet, the total registration rose to 9,011, an 18.6 per cent increase from 2021. Ninety-eight per cent of activities were delivered in person, either in the libraries or in local communities. Due to limited program evaluation reporting by libraries, the total number of activities and attendances in the province was not available.

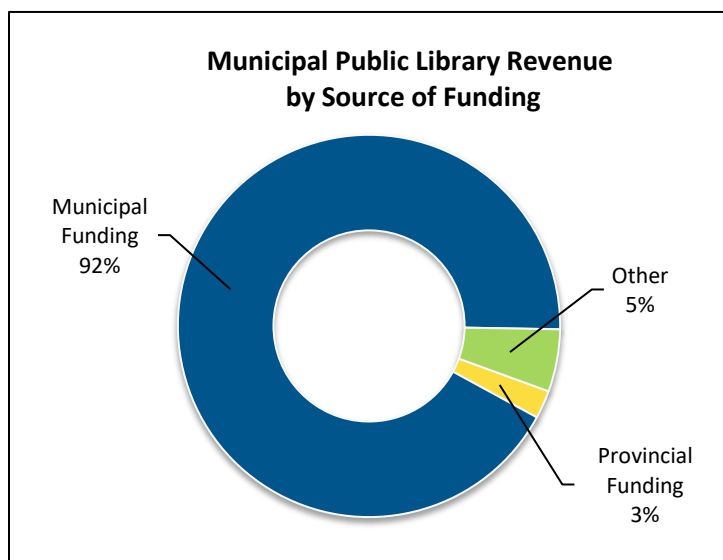
Regional Park Pass Lending Program

Six regional library systems participated in the Regional Park Pass Lending Program, a pilot partnership among Saskatchewan Library Association, Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association and Regional Parks of Saskatchewan. From June 1 to September 15, 2022, patrons of these library systems could borrow a pass with a seven-day loan period from their local branch. This provided the patron with free access to nearly 100 regional parks across the province. In the 2022 pilot program, the 800 regional park passes distributed through participating Saskatchewan public libraries circulated over 5,500 times.

Family Literacy Hub and Libraries Initiative

To strengthen the relationship between Family Literacy Hubs (FLHs) and public libraries in Saskatchewan and to foster literacy friendly homes, a Pete the Cat Special Project was launched in 2022. Through this initiative FLHs partnered with local public libraries to host various events for children under the age of six and their families. Using book giveaways and family literacy programs, children and their families were welcomed to the library so they would be comfortable using library services and potentially obtain a library card. FLHs were encouraged to make events relevant to Indigenous and/or newcomer families. A total of 1,200 copies of *Pete the Cat Checks Out the Library* by James Dean and 200 of *Pat le chat Pat visite la bibliothèque* translated by François d'Isabelle Montagnier were made available to FLHs to distribute. More than 750 children attended various family literacy events in 31 communities with more than 200 new library cards issued and nearly 400 additional library materials checked out at these events.

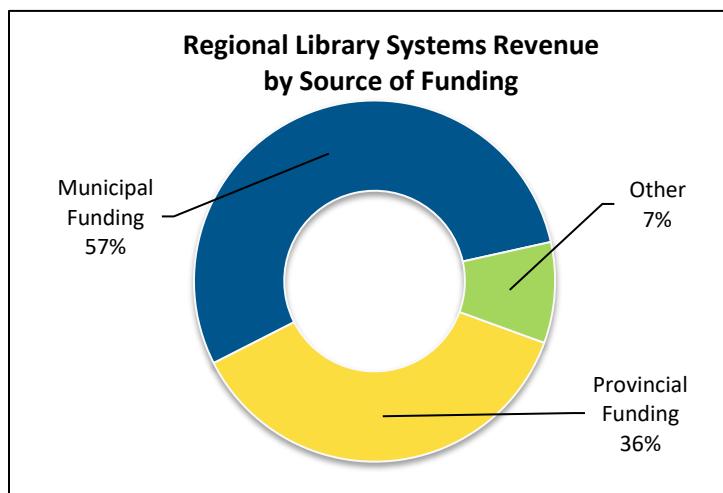
Funding



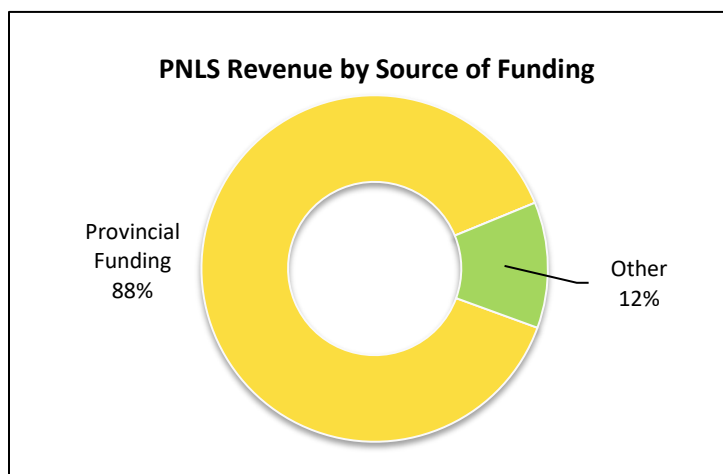
\$8.46 million provincial resource sharing grant was distributed to 11 public library systems

The Government of Saskatchewan provides grants to the public library systems to facilitate provincial resource sharing.

In the Municipal Library Systems, most of their funding is provided by their respective municipality. More than 92 per cent of the systems' funding comes from the cities of Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon. Provincial funding for the municipal libraries was \$1.386 million in 2022-23.



In the Regional Library Systems, provincial funding represents 36 per cent of the total funding. Funding from the municipalities made up 57 per cent. Provincial funding was \$6.078 million for all seven regional library systems in 2022-23.



In the northern library system, PNLS, the Ministry of Education provided the majority of the funding, which was \$999,000 for 2022-23.

"Other" funding sources varied, including fundraisers, donations, other provincial or federal grants and interest income.

Provincial Library and Literacy Office

PLLO, a branch of the Ministry of Education, provides the policy framework that supports cooperation in both the provincial public library system and the multitype library system, as well as opportunities for literacy supports for Saskatchewan families.

The PLLO's activity is legislated by two Acts: *The Public Libraries Act, 1996*, which defines public libraries and their relationships with provincial and municipal governments; and *The Libraries Co-operation Act*, which establishes the Multitype Library Board.

Some of the key legislated responsibilities of the provincial government include:

- Providing cost-effective and appropriate central services to public libraries by acting as a central library;
- Developing province-wide library policies;
- Establishing committees and task forces as necessary to assist in the development and coordination of planning services;
- Coordinating the development of standards for public library services; and,
- Coordinating resource sharing among public libraries.

Saskatchewan Information and Library Services Consortium

Saskatchewan Information and Library Services Consortium is a non-profit organization established to govern the Single Integrated Library System (SILS), which connects all public libraries in the province via the universal library card, ensuring equitable access to library resources and online services. The PLLO is a member of the consortium and collaborates on joint library services projects. An annual grant was provided to SILS to support innovation, research and development, and improvements to services. In addition, the PLLO provided cataloguing support for all public library systems.

Interlibrary Loan

The PLLO grants support a coordinated interlibrary loan service between the public library systems and other libraries within and outside of Saskatchewan, ensuring residents have access to additional library resources not available in Saskatchewan's public library collections. In 2022, changes to interlibrary loan processes were implemented that, after initial testing, improved the speed of service delivery.

Services to library patrons with print disabilities

The PLLO provided funding to the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) and the National Network for Equitable Library Services (NNELS) for an accessible library collection and service for Saskatchewan residents with print disabilities. CELA provides more than 1 million items in accessible formats including audio, braille and e-text, while NNELS provides alternate format for open content or copyright materials available online from Canadian and Saskatchewan publishers, for a total of almost 47,300 items. All these resources are available to public library patrons who have print disabilities. In 2021, more than 78,600 CELA items were circulated to more than 830 patrons, and there were 660 downloads for the NNELS titles by Saskatchewan residents.

In 2022, there was an exploration of materials to support more diverse print disabilities. This led to the purchasing of 1,800 dyslexia friendly books that were distributed through public library systems. These materials were promoted by participating library systems during Dyslexia Awareness Month in October 2022.

Collections and Resources

The multilingual collection at the PLLO provides public libraries with the ability to support newcomers and local communities by offering materials in their first languages for literacy, learning and recreational reading. In 2022, the multilingual collection had about 63,100 print books in 30 languages and over 5,600 e-books in 16 languages from OverDrive. PLLO sent out more than 23,000 books from its multilingual collection to public library systems in 2022.

The PLLO also provided a library science collection to support staff development, continuing education, and professional resource and policy development for every type of library in Saskatchewan. All PLLO collections are accessible province wide.

Key Statistics for 2022

Library	Population Served*	Registered Library Cards	New Library Cards	Hours Open to Public
Chinook	47,414	12,841	1,155	24,469
Lakeland	80,125	20,914	4,597	26,219
Palliser	55,489	18,591	1,808	19,998
Parkland	85,266	19,078	1,927	43,146
PNLS	36,082	8,567	1,023	15,639
Prince Albert	37,756	10,917	1,072	3,886
Regina	226,404	101,133	11,892	25,992
Saskatoon	266,141	121,838	13,539	27,900
Southeast	103,137	29,455	3,004	48,891
Wapiti	88,856	21,556	1,867	44,446
Wheatland	106,636	29,451	2,766	42,709
Total	1,133,306	394,341	44,650	323,395

*Per the 2021 Census

Library	In-Person Library Visits (rounded)	Items Borrowed (rounded)**	Programs Delivered (rounded)	Program Attendance (rounded)
Chinook	124,000	325,000	2,000	11,500
Lakeland	170,000	443,000	1,200	13,400
Palliser	166,000	403,000	1,900	23,600
Parkland	108,000	346,000	1,200	18,400
PNLS	15,000	66,000	100	12,500
Prince Albert	100,000	161,000	300	3,700
Regina	1,170,000	1,979,000	7,700	90,900
Saskatoon	1,168,000	2,481,000	4,000	50,800
Southeast	Not available	586,000	13,500	58,000
Wapiti	185,000	465,000	2,300	18,200
Wheatland	158,000	690,000	1,600	22,700
Total	3,364,000	7,945,000	35,800	323,700

**Including OverDrive audio/e-books

Library	Library Materials (rounded)**	New Items (rounded)**	Library Material Expenditures (\$ rounded)
Chinook	233,000	14,000	180,000
Lakeland	280,000	19,000	327,000
Palliser	303,000	16,000	376,000
Parkland	313,000	21,000	292,000
PNLS	351,000	14,000	128,000
Prince Albert	122,000	14,000	327,000
Regina	518,000	106,000	2,768,000
Saskatoon	550,000	93,000	2,441,000
Southeast	351,000	18,000	422,000
Wapiti	316,000	18,000	371,000
Wheatland	341,000	18,000	411,000
Total	3,678,000	351,000	8,043,000

Note: Small discrepancies in the totals may occur due to rounding.