

- The 24 public library systems have a total of 183 branch libraries, and 3 regional library systems.
- More than **3 million Marylanders** have library cards (55%).
- **AskUsNow!** <http://askusnow.info/> has answered over 225,000 reference questions since its conception in 2003
- The Sailor website, which provides access to databases and digitized collections unique to Maryland, logged close to 2 million page views in 2007.
- **MPOWER CAT** connects Maryland residents to a world wide catalog of library resources.

*Marylanders can use their library cards to borrow and return books in ANY public library in the state*

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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## **Quotable Facts About Maryland's Public Libraries**

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2008

- Public libraries had **28 million visits** in 2006. Ravens football has about 500,000 in attendance in one season.
- Librarians answered more than 7 million questions in 2006.
- Attendance at library programs – story hours, book talks, technology classes – topped 1.5 million.
- 16.3 million Maryland public library holdings (including books, audio and video) are available for loan through **MARINA**, a statewide interlibrary loan system.  
[www.sailor.lib.md.us/marina](http://www.sailor.lib.md.us/marina)
- **SAILOR** provides statewide access to the Internet for public libraries, schools and local governments

- More than 6,800 public access computers are available at Maryland libraries.
- **AskUsNow!** is a 24/7 live online interactive service that uses the expertise of librarians to provide answers to questions, research guidance, and help in navigating the Internet.



A cooperative service of Maryland Libraries

- 100% of Maryland public libraries are connected to the Internet and provide **wireless access**.
- Marylanders checked out an average of 9.5 items per person for a total of 52 million items circulated.
- Marylanders love their libraries. Libraries scored a **grade of “A”** for performance.

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Sources

1. Maryland Public Library Statistics  
Fiscal Year 2006
2. AskUsNow!  
<http://askusnow.info/>
3. Sports attendance information from:  
**ESPN/NFL**  
<http://sports.espn.go.com/nfl/attendance>