

Table 71: Statistics of library reader services, 1990-2025

Year	User Entrance	Items Loaned	Number of readers checkout	Reference Inquiries	Searches in online databases ³	Interlibrary Loan		Promotional Events ⁴	
						Received from Outside Libraries	Provided to Other Libraries	Participants	Events
1990	389,344	263,008	—	20,066	3,234	1,602	10,652	3,874	—
1991	623,113	272,184	—	23,196	49,702	1,397	15,640	1,335	—
1992	1,249,270	265,943	—	23,192	60,019	1,069	22,270	1,676	156
1993	1,260,372	272,387	—	25,963	66,085	1,498	25,646	2,359	224
1994	1,323,831	319,960	—	29,905	72,087	1,195	46,904	4,504	383
1995	1,304,606	403,321	—	34,756	115,164	1,448	116,844	5,754	394
1996	1,252,066	496,038	—	37,961	741,530	1,427	114,251	4,750	282
1997	1,167,409	478,843	163,170	35,779	1,109,923	2,469	96,312	1,991	184
1998 ¹	823,174	742,807	146,653	55,212	144,913	3,175	14,054	1,442	58
1999	1,693,639	528,917	171,757	30,815	762,895	5,077	18,360	9,098	408
2000	1,673,204	557,653	178,083	40,915	1,604,080	5,651	18,237	10,127	391
2001	1,658,345	581,729	192,948	48,551	2,326,536	7,156	18,975	8,626	449
2002	1,671,006	649,829	217,035	57,326	2,468,688	6,837	22,129	9,120	458
2003	1,575,021	697,329	232,854	61,357	2,980,313	8,154	21,340	8,705	327
2004	1,738,967	695,638	224,548	56,315	5,070,808	11,864	28,797	11,350	406
2005	1,753,967	703,456	238,558	58,503	5,508,697	11,088	30,294	7,627	364
2006	1,830,720	728,762	263,134	54,423	10,164,033	8,940	27,776	7,616	390
2007	1,895,895	757,251	282,008	55,193	11,535,939	8,480	37,745	8,776	472
2008 ²	3,522,037	811,254	302,063	62,017	12,806,174	11,998	38,162	8,907	458
2009	3,593,434	842,467	295,090	62,296	17,100,122	11,073	44,369	13,059	543
2010	3,377,040	829,489	280,648	62,535	30,827,451	10,888	42,290	30,687	557
2011	3,071,380	777,877	258,236	70,938	30,433,051	8,456	37,360	34,831	498
2012	2,903,487	737,283	243,888	72,738	27,754,648	6,548	37,139	40,391	575
2013	2,720,501	676,334	219,719	88,803	39,190,820	5,772	38,242	34,658	546
2014	2,556,187	612,319	196,734	85,672	30,594,217	6,708	32,753	41,443	478
2015	2,649,949	593,132	174,670	75,436	24,126,267	6,520	34,216	45,992	695
2016	2,556,837	545,462	174,690	70,581	30,391,461	4,572	31,148	46,021	585
2017	2,708,143	491,899	152,268	69,765	32,624,109	4,349	30,973	48,322	602
2018	2,790,173	491,980	142,791	54,377	21,929,441	4,162	29,831	44,799	448
2019	2,743,305	560,380	130,603	46,495	18,493,361	3,866	27,358	35,501	415
2020 ⁵	2,120,363	555,600	123,664	44,013	17,613,014	3,356	26,128	34,372	239
2021	1,578,865	464,250	93,192	40,884	14,041,563	3,053	18,346	45,884	289
2022	1,934,962	490,427	81,960	54,523	13,155,128	2,993	18,550	36,886	297
2023	2,240,576	439,686	81,656	60,846	11,402,730	3,544	18,840	45,958	341

2024 ⁶	2,490,522	417,350	79,366	47,637	12,197,285	2,394	17,350	66,899	340
2025	2,433,257	346,088	68,857	56,021	12,337,613	1,901	11,674	75,754	302

Notes:

- 1.The Library was going through relocation between July 1, 1998 and November 14, 1998, during which time flexible measures were taken for all reader services.
- 2.From 2008 onwards, the statistics for “User Entrance” includes Study Room users.
- 3."Searches in online databases” includes searches of library electronic resources, e-journals, and online catalog.
- 4.From 2010 onwards, the statistics for “Promotional Events” includes exhibitions and speeches.
- 5.The statistical numbers decreased in 2020 because of the COVID-19 outbreak.
6. From 2024 onwards, the statistics for “Reference Services” include AI virtual librarian services.