In 2019, before COVID-19, Québec’s public libraries had observed a steady improvement in their performance indicators. As is the case for all cultural institutions, the years 2020 and 2021 obviously show a decline in those indicators because of the pandemic and the complete closing of libraries during the first stay-at-home period. Despite this, Québec’s public libraries have remained vital and vibrant, continuing to prove how essential they are to the communities they serve.

1,042 public libraries

96.4% of Quebecers have access to a library in their city or town.
In 2019, 2,771,686 QUEBECERS had a library membership.

32.4% of the population

From 2009 to 2019, more and more Quebecers took out library memberships.

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF REGISTERED LIBRARY PATRONS

The initial data available for 2020 point to an increase in memberships, allowing new patrons to benefit from services online or remotely.

More than 28.5 MILLION DOCUMENTS available all over Quebec

→ Books, movies, videogames and more!
In 2019, Quebecers borrowed 54,496,889 documents.

The pandemic has led to a surge in digital loans.

The Pretnumerique.ca platform, used by Quebec libraries to lend e-books to patrons, hit the 15-million-loan milestone on October 15, 2021!
More than 1M CHILDREN enjoyed a guided ACTIVITY at their library in 2019.

A major economic driver!
In 2019, public libraries purchased $45.4 M WORTH OF DOCUMENTS from accredited booksellers in Québec.

Our preliminary estimates for 2020 show no decrease in purchases despite the library closings, thanks to investments by municipalities and the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec, along with the hard work put in by library teams to enrich their collections.

2019, visits to public libraries in Québec rose steadily.

24,873,572 visits in 2009
29,086,382 visits in 2019

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Sources: Observatoire de la Culture et des Communications of the Institut de la Statistique du Québec (OCCQ), Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec (MCCQ), Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BANQ), Association des Bibliothèques publiques du Québec (ABPQ), Bibliopresto and others. Detailed information and years of record available at semainebibliotheques.ca/source_infographique_2021.pdf