

Impacts on the Library Community

- School librarians help students learn to find, evaluate and communicate information and ideas – skills they need as adults to live and work in an information-based society. Research shows a direct correlation between high quality school library media programs and student achievement.
- One of the most valuable resources for library patrons is the computer at their local library. Reduced library hours means reduced access to the free Internet service that can help them find jobs, a place to live and keep in touch with distant relatives. As the economy has faltered, library use has increased.
- The library has become a necessity for many senior citizens, especially those on a tight budget. Libraries serve as community centers – with film series and author readings, workshops, access to email and the Internet, and books, magazines and newspapers – all for free.
- We no longer live in a 9-to-5 society. Students, professors, businesses and families expect and rely on information being there for them when they need it. Funding cuts threaten access to 24/7 online reference, homework help and electronic databases.
- The next time you look for the latest best seller, your favorite magazine, a book you need for your research paper or the newest movies out on DVD, you might not find them on your library shelf. Materials budgets have been slashed or eliminated in many school, public and academic libraries.
- Librarians are key to finding the right answer every time @ your library. Funding cuts mean fewer children's librarians and storytimes, closed school libraries and reduced staff to help library users find what they want and need. Libraries work because library workers make them work.

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50 E. Huron Chicago, IL 60611 Call Us Toll Free 1-800-545-2433

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