

Snapshot: One Day in the Life of Guilford Library

Snapshot Day is a project of the Connecticut Library Association, Connecticut State Library, and the Connecticut Library Consortium. Its purpose is to capture the impact that Connecticut libraries have on their communities on a typical day and to capture some valuable statistics, stories, and photos. The data collected from more than 150 participating libraries will be used as librarians lobby the legislature for continued support.

Guilford Free Library participated in Snapshot Day on Tuesday February 9. We collected data and asked patrons to complete surveys. Here are our results:

Library Visits:731

Total Circulation:1275

Library Cards Issued: 27

Reference Questions(children's & adult services):170

Users of Public Internet Computers:178

Website Visitors:449

Library Programs:5

Total Attendance of Programs:190

Patrons were asked to respond to the following question: **Why is the library important to you?**

- I love books and my kids love the play area. We love the library.
- Look at the art displays, find out about programs in the community, I could never afford the number of books and media that I borrow.
- A free library provides education in every area of learning to all citizens. It is the cultural center of a civilized society, and the repository of its values. Guilford Library is superb.
- Numerous services-Guilford Library is wonderful-especially the children's room.
- Nothing else like it!
- Great personal resource!
- It has helped my job search and I find entertainment through books & movies where I otherwise cannot afford to.
- I depend on the library for great reads and you never fail.
- Research and books, sometimes brought in from wider sources.
- Resource is fantastic! Programs are lovely.
- Amazing place to read & get out interesting books.

- It's a vital part of our lives. It is a place to meet friends, take out books, play games on the computer.
- Books and movies and you can learn anything and everything here.
- The library provides my family (4 kids!) a clean, enriching place to spend time together. We love it here!
- It is a fantastic resource for introducing children to books.
- Because I have used almost all of these services in the past & plan to in the future!
- For thirty years of joy in reading and writing.
- Best resource in Guilford.
- Offers wifi.
- Resource for learning and learning to love books for my children. A place to meet friends and play (for the kids). To be able to read without paying for books.
- Great way to introduce and keep kids interested in reading & books.
- Books, books on CD & other items available, programs, help with finding items even income tax forms!
- It saves me a small fortune in book buying fees.
- Convenient and up-to-date.
- Resource for info to teach, free & wonderful help
- Gives many hours of enjoyment.
- Education & entertainment.
- It's a huge part of our family's life for school, work, and pleasure.
- Computer games for my son, internet for me, books, movies and more. We use the library at least twice a week. Thank you.
- To explore new ideas easily through books and videos & makes me feel good about society because it's one of the best public institutions.
- It is a multi-source of information and pleasure. In these difficult economic times it isn't always feasible to buy a book, which heightens the importance of libraries. They provide the community with a ready source of books without having to worry about making a purchase. They are a "god send."
- This wonderful library is one of the nicest and most complete I've ever been in. It is my favorite!

- It has been my life
- Enables a retired person to enjoy & learn from a wide variety of books otherwise unavailable.
- We love the new library and the friendly people.
- Because it is the heart of a community.
- It's a wonderful place to research, study, and find exciting new books.
- A great resource for the town and my family.
- Can get books without buying them.
- Our library is the heart and soul of Guilford. It's exciting and inspiring to see children, teens, and adults pursue their interests in such a welcoming setting.
- My home away from home.
- I can't imagine not having this fantastic resource.
- Saves money and great used book sales.
- Because of its many different uses-books, computers, programs, meeting space and ALL FREE.
- Everybody here is helpful and courteous.
- It provides important leisure activities.
- The library is an integral part of the community. I use it every week.
- It helps with school projects. Free entertainment.
- I really like coming to the library to do my school work and look at all the interesting books. I'm always reading.
- Children's books & videos. The staff here are so kind and helpful.
- Interlibrary transport of books! Book club service! Online requests!
- Books are so much a part of life. A community without a library cannot function as a viable community. Thank you for all who are part of the library.
- To be able to get books to read that I'm not sure if I want to purchase.
- Great selection of books on tape. Nice to have a soda/juice machine.
- There's lots of great books & movies-resources like the computer/internet.Awesome!

- It has great kid activities and play section.
- It provides a center of cultural activity.
- The library provides a constant source of books and good, interesting programs.
- Because my reading habit would bankrupt me if it were not for being able to borrow from you!
- Access to books, computer and pleasant ambiance.
- It provides individuals so much in the way of education and tools, enjoyment, a quiet place, and many more things I can't begin to mention.
- Because of the lovely, helpful, informed staff!
- Invaluable resource for research, literature, solitude, study space & great children's collection and programs.
- Easy to use. Like presentation of new books.
- I love to read. The lectures and displays are great.
- Fine collection, helpful staff, office away from home.
- Abundance of books & DVDs is terrific. I love interlibrary loan as well.
- It's my home away from home.
- Meeting place for GFFE, study space (safe) for students to go after school. Lots of material for research & just for fun reading.
- Great place all around.
- A community resource and meeting place.
- Public space of learning and entertainment.
- Intellectual lifeline! Fun events! Good people!
- So many reasons-great place for family time-a way to see new movies and save money. Also to get books for work.
- Enjoy the lectures, computer training, books & library facilities. Very grateful for the library and all it offers and contains.
- Excellent addition to any town.
- To continue to learn and to see children learning.

- All my life since 2nd grade it's been my refuge. I am an ardent fan of all libraries.
- The programs. Borrow books. Research. Just a pleasant place to enjoy.
- It gives me a place to go with very good resources and helpful people.
- A rich life resource. To maintain intelligence, health, community.
- Great place to tutor students. Often, it's the only place.
- Information is the currency of today. Thanks for being here.
- It keeps me in touch with current/past thought culture. A meeting place-heart/center of Guilford.
- Gathering places for all ages.
- As an avid reader, I rely on the books I regularly take out & appreciate the times that books have been ordered for me from other libraries.
- I am retired and a frequent visitor to the Guilford and Branford libraries. It is part of my social life.
- Wonderful art lectures.
- Especially during the tough economic time-provides access to internet, check out movies, lots of books and magazines, and able to borrow items from other libraries, too. Also wanted to say that the librarians here are extremely helpful, pleasant, and friendly. Thank you so much.
- It allows me a large reading selection and a green way to read.
- So much great stuff for free!
- My son wants to come here everyday after school.
- Lots of books! And...DVDs, computers. A nice place to read, friendly & knowledgeable staff.
- My kids love to read. Books are expensive and the library allows us the opportunity to check out new books. Love the computer system.
- Public computer access. Wonderful connections with other libraries in Connecticut-able to check out many books from out of town.
- Terrific resource for titles from Guilford collection and around the state. Interlibrary loan is very important.
- Library and the staff are excellent!

- It is a safe place where adolescents can do homework after school. It offers wonderful programs for all ages. It is a community asset in every sense.
- A center for learning and community.
- Because it lets you think and discover.
- The library is important to me because it is a quiet place to work on homework, access resources such as books & computers; and browse through the historical room, DVDs, and CDs.
- The library is important to me because it is a place to study, do homework, have fun with friends (as long as you're quiet), or just take out a book.
- 'Cause without it I'd be incredibly bored and have no reading materials. Seriously, I have 10-15 books out at any given time.
- Because I can study in a quiet place and if I need help there is always a librarian here to help.
- It is indispensable to us. We use its facilities for so many reasons.
- Mental stimulation, location, research material, socializing, seeing good, free movies. It's a comfortable centrally located spot, lots of parking available.
- I raised my kids in this library.
- It is a place of peace. Borrow DVDs, read books and magazines, gather information.
- Center of activities for the town.
- My beloved Guilford Free Library is my second home since I retired. I'm there nearly every day spending hours with the New York Times, favorite magazines, tracking down books, DVDs & CDs to check out, doing some occasional writing & lately even using the computer. The great library staff helps me a lot of the computer, which is relatively new to me.
- It is a public place that the whole community can be proud of and cherish. We need the library.
- It is an important aspect to my life in town. I get new books, see neighbors, go online, have Girl Scout meetings & go to lectures and information sessions. I love GFL!
- So I can do my school work in a safe place.
- It is important because I like to hang out with friends while studying. I also LOVE to find new books.
- It gives a quiet environment where kids can meet in a productive manner to work together on projects and/or homework.
- It is the most important space in town to my mental and intellectual health.

- It's my saving grace!
- We homeschool & use the library all the time. Interlibrary loan and the electronic resources are crucial to my kids' education.
- Best place in town!
- The library is an important social hub for the community. It fosters community spirit as well as literacy and learning.
- Because I can find almost all the information I seek, and it's also a nice place which is conducive to study.
- There are lots of books and cool program to go to. I like coming to the brand new library. My little brother and sister like the children's section.
- It is a center of our culture where ideas are freely available to be expressed and heard.
- Pivotal part of our community and reflects the town's quality of life. So many people depend on the library's services.
- It is the focal point of my life.
- It is important to me because it gives me and my friends a place to hang out and do homework.