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South Dakota celebrating National Library Week April 8-14

PIERRE, S.D. – April 8-14 is National Library Week, a time to celebrate the ways libraries lead their communities through services, programs and expertise.

“The library helps lead local communities by advocating for widespread access to crucial services and lifelong learning,” said state librarian Daria Bossman. “Libraries level the playing field for people of any age or economic class who seek information and access to improve their quality of life.”

There are more than 500 academic, school, public and special (medical/law/business) libraries in South Dakota. From elected officials to small business owners to students of all ages, many individuals rely on libraries and the wide variety of resources they offer, like e-books, technology classes, programs for job seekers and materials for English learners.

According to the [2017 South Dakota Public Libraries Data Digest](#), the state’s public libraries daily welcomed 10,196 visitors, circulated 16,202 items and supported 1,772 Wi-Fi users. On any given day, public libraries hosted 823 attendees at programs and provided 1,413 hours on library computers.

The [2017 South Dakota School Libraries Data Digest](#) indicates that during the 2016-17 school year, 9,800 students independently visited the state’s 379 school libraries on a daily basis. More than 5,600 classes visited their school libraries each week, and students checked out 180,000 e-books over the course of the year.

Editor’s Note: Please consider contacting your local public and/or school libraries for potential stories about Library Week activities in your community. April is also School Library Month.