**List of largest libraries in the World 2008**

Bottom of Form

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<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries>

This sortable **list of largest** [**libraries**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library) includes libraries that, as measured in 2008 or subsequently, store 15 million or more items. All figures are based on data published by the libraries themselves. As there are no universally accepted standards for measuring stock, libraries may have counted their holdings in different ways, and the figures given may not be directly comparable.

**Largest libraries in the world**

| **Name** | **Country** | **Location** | **Catalogued size (number of items)** | **Visitors per year** | **Budget** | **Staff** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [British Library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Library) | [United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom) | [London](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London) and [Boston Spa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Spa)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-1) | 170–200 million[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-2)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-3)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-4) | 1.75 million[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-5) | [£](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pound_sterling)141 million[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-bl-6) | 1,977[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-bl-6) |
| [Library of Congress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library_of_Congress) | [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) | [Washington, D.C.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington,_D.C.)-reference access only & must use another library to borrow | 175 million+[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-7) | 1.9 million[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-loc-8) | [US$](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_dollar)838.992 million[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-loc-8) | 3,149[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-loc-8) |
| [Shanghai Library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shanghai_Library) | [China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China) | [Shanghai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shanghai) | 57 million[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-9) |  |  |  |
| [New York Public Library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Public_Library) | [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) | 92 locations in New York City & Staten Island (2nd largest number of locations in North America) | 55 million[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-nypl-10) | 18 million[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-nypl-10) | [US$](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_dollar)250 million[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-nypl-10) | 3,000[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-nypl-10) |
| [Russian State Library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_State_Library) | [Russia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia) | [Moscow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moscow) | 48.1 million[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-leninka-11) | 498,000[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-leninka-11) | [₽](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_ruble)2.7 billion[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-leninka-11) | 1,613[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-leninka-11) |
| [National Diet Library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Diet_Library) | [Japan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan) | [Tokyo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokyo) and [Kyoto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyoto) | 44.1 million[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-ndl-12) | 791,370[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-ndl-12) | [¥](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_yen)21.8 billion[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-ndl-12) | 908[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-ndl-12) |
| [German National Library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_National_Library) | [Germany](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germany) | [Leipzig](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leipzig) and [Frankfurt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frankfurt) | 43.7 million[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-Jahresbericht2021-13) | 350,713[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-Jahresbericht2021-13) | [€](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euro)57.6 million[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-Jahresbericht2021-13) | 639[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-Jahresbericht2021-13) |
| [National Library of China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Library_of_China) | [China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China) | [Beijing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beijing) | 43.27 million[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-14) | 5.2 million[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-nlc2010-15) |  | 1,365[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-nlc2010-15) |
| [Royal Danish Library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Danish_Library) | [Denmark](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denmark) | [Copenhagen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copenhagen) and [Aarhus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aarhus) | 42.5 million (physical items, excl. digital)[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-Aarsberetning2017-16) | 1.45 million[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-Aarsberetning2017-16) | 523.8 million [kr](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danish_krone)[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-Aarsberetning2017-16) | 800+[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-17) |
| [Bibliothèque nationale de France](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblioth%C3%A8que_nationale_de_France) | [France](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France) | [Paris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris) | 41.66 million[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-18) | 1.3 million[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-19) | [€](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euro)254 million[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-20) | 2,668[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-21) |
| [University of California Libraries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_California_Libraries) | [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) | [Berkeley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_California,_Berkeley), [Davis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_California,_Davis), [Irvine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_California,_Irvine), [Los Angeles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_California,_Los_Angeles), [Merced](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_California,_Merced), [Riverside](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_California,_Riverside), [San Diego](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_California,_San_Diego), [San Francisco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_California,_San_Francisco), [Santa Barbara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_California,_Santa_Barbara), and [Santa Cruz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_California,_Santa_Cruz) | 40.8 million- not free- restricted to students, faculty or visitors who buy a membership[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-:0-22) |  | [US$](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_dollar)295 million[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-:0-22) | 2,000+[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-:0-22) |
| [University of Illinois Library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Illinois_Urbana-Champaign_University_Library) | [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) | [Urbana, Illinois](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urbana,_Illinois) restricted to students and faculty | 38 million[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-23) |  | [US$](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_dollar)48.7 million[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-24) |  |
| [National Library of Russia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Library_of_Russia) | [Russia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia) | [Saint Petersburg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Petersburg) | 36.5 million[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-nlr-25) | 1 million[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-nlr-25) | [₽](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_ruble)569.2 million | 1,850 |
| [Bavarian State Library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bavarian_State_Library) | [Germany](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germany) | [Munich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Munich) | 34.4 million | 1.1 million | [€](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euro)59.1 million | 805 |
| [Biblioteca Nacional de España](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblioteca_Nacional_de_Espa%C3%B1a) | [Spain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spain) | [Madrid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madrid) | 33.1 million[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-26) |  | [€](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euro)29.2 million[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-bne-27) | 482[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-bne-27) |
| [Library and Archives Canada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library_and_Archives_Canada) | [Canada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada) | Ottawa, Halifax, Winnipeg, Vancouver | 27 million | Largely a free reference library | CAD165 million | 853 |
| [Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library_of_the_Russian_Academy_of_Sciences) | [Russia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia) | [Saint Petersburg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Petersburg) | 26.5 million[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-ban-28) |  |  |  |
| [Berlin State Library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berlin_State_Library) | [Germany](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germany) | [Berlin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berlin) | 23.4 million[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-sbb-29) | 1.4 million[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-sbb-29) |  |  |
| [Boston Public Library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Public_Library) | [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) | [Boston, Massachusetts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston) at 25 locations | 22.4 million[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-bpl-30) |  | [US$](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_dollar)38.9 million[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-31) |  |
| [New York State Library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_State_Library) | [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) | [Albany, New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albany,_New_York) at 1 location | 20 million[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-nysl-32) |  |  |  |
| [Harvard Library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvard_Library) | [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) | [Cambridge, Massachusetts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cambridge,_Massachusetts) restricted to students and faculty or their "guests" | 18.9 million[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-hul-33) |  |  | 922[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-hul-33) |
| [National Library of Sweden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Library_of_Sweden) | [Sweden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sweden) | [Stockholm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stockholm) | 18 million[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-nls-34) |  | 364.5 million [kr](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swedish_krona)[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-35) |  |
| [University of Michigan Library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Michigan_Library) | [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) | [Ann Arbor, Michigan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ann_Arbor,_Michigan) at one location largely restricted to staff & students or costly pass buyers (borrowings can occur via other libraries) | 16.1 million[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-umi-36) |  |  |  |
| [University of Toronto Libraries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Toronto_Libraries) | [Canada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada) | [Toronto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toronto) at one location largely restricted to University staff and students | 16 million[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-37) |  | CA$125 million[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-38) |  |
| [Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vernadsky_National_Library_of_Ukraine) | [Ukraine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukraine) | [Kyiv](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyiv) | 15.5 million[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-nbuv-39) | 500,000[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-nbuv-39) | 50.3 million [₴](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukrainian_hryvnia)[[40]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-40) | 900[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-nbuv-39) |
| [Yale Library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yale_Library) | [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) | [New Haven, Connecticut](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Haven,_Connecticut) - one location for students, staff and no free borrowing access to the public | 15.2 million[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-yul-41) |  |  |  |
| [National Library of Iran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Library_of_Iran) | [Iran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran) | [Tehran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tehran) | 15.0 million[[42]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-nli-42) |  |  |  |
| [Hong Kong Public Library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hong_Kong_Public_Library) | [Hong Kong](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hong_Kong) | [Hong Kong](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hong_Kong) | 11.36 million[[43]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-LCSD2013-43) |  | [HK$](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hong_Kong_dollar)776.2 million[[44]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries#cite_note-bud1-44) |  |
| [Toronto Public Library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toronto_Public_Library) | [Canada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada) | Toronto, Ontario- at 100 branches the largest & busiest free public library in North America | 10.2 million | 26,598,000 circulation | $252 million (CAD) | 1825 |

**See also**

* [List of largest libraries in the United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_libraries_in_the_United_States)

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