

Do you know how small libraries outperform large libraries?

Edge gives concrete evidence that small libraries outperform large libraries in many ways. Large libraries may serve more people, but this may not translate into increased services for their patrons. Using the Edge Peer Attribute Report allows libraries to see how they compare to their peers. It includes aggregated data from libraries across the nation, ranging from libraries serving populations of less than 5,000 to those that serve millions.

Below are examples where small libraries outperform large libraries*:

- Staff are provided with training at least annually for recognizing and serving patrons with disabilities.
- One-on-one technology help is available by appointment for at least 30 minute sessions.
- 100% of public services staff are able to answer basic patron technology questions.
- Internet-enabled devices are loaned for use outside the library.
- The library provides proctoring of exams for online learners.

* based on data from the Edge Peer Attribute Report, University of Washington iSchool



Stress-Free and No Cost Action Planning

The Edge Benchmarks are designed to be aspirational and achievable by libraries of all sizes. The Edge Resources are a curated set of online resources that will support your efforts to meet the Benchmarks at your library and are included as part of the Edge Toolkit. Below are stress-free and no cost Edge Recommendations that you can add to your Edge Action Plan:

Attribute 2.1.c - Photo editing software (e.g. Photoshop, GIMP) is available in at least 50% of locations.

Adding photo editing software does not have to be expensive. You can download GNU Image Manipulation Program (GIMP—www.gimp.org) for free! The software is designed to let users retouch and restore images, create original artwork or graphic design elements, and provides tutorials that instruct new users on how to make best use of the program.

Attribute 4.1.b - A list of local media contacts is maintained and updated at least annually.

Creating a list of media contacts is quick and easy. Think of media outlets in your area - newspapers, radio stations, television affiliates, etc. This list provides a snapshot of who to contact in order to promote library events and also publicize library achievements.

Attribute 5.1.f - Devices or space are loaned to community organizations for technology-related training classes in the library.

Allowing community organizations to teach technology classes within the library is a win-win. This enables libraries to strengthen partnerships with community organizations and also provides technology training for patrons.

Attribute 6.1.c - Training resources and curricula are shared with other libraries or community-based organizations.

Sharing training resources and curricula such as templates for technology training or lesson plans, that the library offers is a great way to connect with other libraries or community-based organizations. It creates a trusted network for information sharing.

Attribute 8.1.a - All public services staff are allowed work time to engage in technology-related learning activities such as webinars, online tutorials, or classes.

If your library is signed up for Edge, then you already have access to four core trainings about technology. The webinars are archived, allowing flexibility for library staff to start and stop at their convenience. There are also other great sites that offer free training including TechSoup and WebJunction.

Could You Have Said “Yes”?

Below are Attributes where libraries may have answered “no”, but could have answered “yes” based on resources often provided by state libraries:

- Attribute 2.3.a** - eBooks can be downloaded through the library’s website.
- Attribute 2.3.b** - Audio books can be downloaded through the library’s website.
- Attribute 2.3.d** - The library offers access to online interactive language tools through its website and/or language software.
- Attribute 3.2.c** - The library offers access to electronic legal and law-related research information and services through its website.
- Attribute 3.4.b** - The library offers access to medical databases through its website.