



355 Fort Morgan library returns \$8.80 for every \$1 spent, according to study

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A recent Colorado State Library study revealed that the Fort Morgan Public Library returns \$8.80 to the community for every \$1 taxpayers spend.

The study, conducted by the Library Research Service at the state facility, found that the Fort Morgan library returned the second highest dollar amount out of the eight participating libraries from throughout the state.

According to the study results, the Fort Morgan Public Library received \$439,858 from the City of Fort Morgan and generated \$300 from operating revenue in 2006.

The study found that 71,744 patrons visited the Fort Morgan library to check out books nearly 72,000 times over the 12-month period.

It stated that 44 percent of patrons came to the library more than 25 times per year, and 64 percent have used a

library computer.

The service used the responses of library patrons and available financial data from the libraries to come up with the statistics.

The study utilized a model that calculated the figures by examining the ramifications of not having a public library in each of the Colorado communities.

The study found that, without the Fort Morgan library, the local community would have suffered the following losses:

- A \$3,101,256 cost to use alternatives, or the estimated amount of money that would have been spent using an alternative information source.

- \$145,169 in lost use, or the estimated value of the lost information for users who would not have tried to attain the information elsewhere.

- \$21,015 in direct local expenditures, or contributions made by the library to community businesses and individuals in the form of purchasing goods

and services.

- \$326,423 in lost compensation for library staff.

- \$277,424 in halo spending, or money purchases made by library users from vendors and businesses located close to the library.

The \$3,871,287 total return divided by the \$439,858 investment came out to the \$8.80 return per dollar invested, according to the study.

Other libraries participating in the study were Cortez Public Library, Denver Public Library, Douglas County Libraries, Eagle Valley Library District, Mesa County Public Library District, Montrose Library District, and Range View Library District.

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