

AVENUES TO EXCELLENCE

FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE IN ILLINOIS

VI. ACCESSIBILITY

Hours

User oriented hours, both in frequency and scheduling, are a key element in guaranteeing that the public library fulfill its mission to provide access to the universe of information.

- _____ 1. Library hours should be fixed and posted and include morning, afternoon, and evening hours based on users and potential users' disposable time, not staff convenience.
- _____ 2. During open hours all library services should be offered to all individuals. Hours of the children's, young adult, and other special departments should be the same as the adult department.
- _____ 3. Minimum days and hours of service should be as follows, with first consideration given to weekend and evening hours:

	C	B	A
Population	Not less than	Not less than	Not less than
Under 5,000	5 days/25 hrs.	6 days/35 hrs.	7 days/45 hrs.
5,000-10,000	5 days/45 hrs.	6 days/50 hrs.	7 days/56 hrs.
10,001-25,000	6 days/56 hrs.	6 days/64 hrs.	7 days/68 hrs.
25,001-50,000	6 days/64 hrs.	6 days/68 hrs.	7 days/72 hrs.
50,001-75,000	6 days/64 hrs.	6 days/68 hrs.	7 days/72 hrs.
over 75,000	6 days/64 hrs.	6 days/68 hrs.	7 days/72 hrs.

Location

The site of the public library should provide maximum utility to patrons. It should be convenient to public transportation, when available. (Libraries which expect to embark on a building project should give careful consideration to the criteria for site selection which appears in books listed in the bibliography following the facilities section.)

- _____ 4. Library service should be offered at a geographical location requiring no more than 15 minutes travel time in densely populated urban areas and 30 minutes elsewhere.

Open Access

- _____ 5. The library should adopt and follow the principles set forth in the ALA Library Bill of Rights and all interpretations, such as unrestricted access to libraries for minors.

Physical Access

This is discussed in the Facilities Section (XI).