Looking for Business Resources? Check Out Your Local Library

Small businesses have a larger impact on the economy than you may think. They provide millions of jobs in the U.S. and generate billions of dollars in revenue. According to research, small businesses account for [97% of employers](https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R40860). The majority of these enterprises employ fewer than five people, as per the United States Census Bureau.

With such a limited workforce, it may not be possible or even beneficial for companies to rent office space. Fortunately, entrepreneurs can use free public spaces, such as libraries. Public libraries have much to offer business owners, from quiet accommodations to digital archives.

Provide a Quiet Place to Work

Quiet spaces are few and far between in the industrialized world, but silence is vital for concentration. In fact, quiet can improve your [cognitive abilities](https://www.quietparks.org/about). Libraries are well-known for their peaceful atmospheres and low noise pollution, making them the perfect place to work on your online bookstore or other business projects.

You can also use the library as a study space. Many entrepreneurs pursue a Master of Business Administration [degree](https://onlinedegrees.scu.edu/media/blog/ten-benefits-of-online-mbas) to enhance their understanding of the following:

* Financial mangagement
* Communication
* Accounting
* Marketing

Host Guest Speakers

Most libraries host author visits where fans of fiction can meet their favorite writers, but did you know they also invite motivational and business speakers? Listening to a [guest speaker](https://gordontredgold.com/5-reasons-listen-motivational-speaker/) can inspire you, provide a new perspective and even teach you something about yourself.

Offer Workshops

Libraries offer a variety of workshops for free. Keep an eye out for professional development seminars that can boost your business acumen. [Workshop](https://www.takeflyte.com/reasons-to-attend-conferences) attendance also offers several personal benefits:

* Meet new people
* Learn productivity tips
* Expand your comfort zone

Find Resources

Libraries' greatest asset is knowledge. You can find physical books on running a business as well as [digital resources](https://www.zenbusiness.com/small-business-technology/). For example, many libraries [subscribe](https://www.whittierchamber.com/8-business-resources-library/) to magazines, journals, and newspapers that are behind paywalls and therefore not accessible to the general population. Your local library may also have databases of templates for business plans, proposals, and budgets.

Have Meeting Spaces

Occasionally, you may need to meet with team members or clients. If you don't have a dedicated area, you can avoid renting one by reserving [meeting space](https://ia-newton.civicplus.com/344/Meeting-Rooms) at your local library. Most locations have rooms of various sizes and may even offer the following equipment:

* Tables
* Chairs
* Outlets
* Whiteboards
* Projectors

These rooms are usually soundproof, so you have complete privacy. Every location has its own policy, so check how far in advance you have to reserve a room and how long you can use it.

Provide Access to Office Equipment

You can use the one at your local library if you don't have space for an at-home fax machine. Most locations have printers, copiers, fax machines, and other equipment available to the public. While they generally charge for use, the cost is much less than an office supply store or coworking hub.

Distribute Newsletters

Libraries typically create monthly [newsletters](https://derbylibrary.com/events/sign-up-for-the-library-newsletter) to inform patrons about events and new materials. Signing up for these emailed missives keeps you on top of local politics and learning opportunities.

The library may not be your first thought when imagining your business headquarters, but it has much to offer — most of it for free. As a small business owner, you can boost your chances of success by embracing the public resources provided by your local library.

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