

Explanation of Values for Library Use Value Calculator

This table provides values for each of the items in the Library Use Value Calculator. These are estimated retail values and have been calculated using a variety of resources. For example, retail prices for books vary widely depending on whether the book is hard cover or paper back. An approximate average was calculated to allow for different types of books that we lend.

Item	Estimated or Average Retail Value	Explanation
Books borrowed	\$20	Average cost to purchase a book (Includes all types of books such as hard cover, paperback, etc...).
eBooks downloaded	\$10	Average cost to download an eBook online.
DVDs borrowed	\$4	Average cost to rent a DVD from a video rental store.
Music CDs borrowed	\$12	Average cost to purchase a music CD (Includes purchases made at a variety of online outlets such as iTunes, Amazon, etc...).
Audiobooks on CD borrowed	\$30	Average cost to purchase an audiobook at Amazon.com.
eAudiobooks downloaded	\$20	Average cost to download an eAudiobook at audible.com.
Magazines borrowed	\$3	Average cost to purchase one issue of a magazine.
Newspapers read	\$1	Average cost to purchase a newspaper.
MeLCat items borrowed	\$20	Average cost for a consumer to purchase a book (Includes all types of books such as hard cover, paperback, etc...).
Attendance at Adult Programs	\$30	A ticket to an author lecture at MSU ranges from \$20-\$40.
Attendance at Children Programs	\$10	A student ticket to a play at a local theatre ranges from \$8-\$12 depending on the day of week.
Computers: Hours of use	\$12	Average cost per hour to use a computer at a local retail outlet.
WiFi: Hours of use	\$5	Many restaurants and coffee shops offer free WiFi with the expectation of a small purchase. Airports and hotels often charge \$10-\$20 for a day pass.
Premium Research and Learning Tools: Hours of use	\$15	Online, individual subscriptions to Consumer Reports cost \$26/year while Value Line costs \$995/year.
Research Questions Answered	\$25	Uclue.com, a paid research service, charges \$15-\$35 for a narrowly focused question requiring an answer with an explanation and \$40-\$90 for questions requiring in-depth research.
Meeting Rooms: Hours of use	\$25	Average meeting room rental fee at local community center.