

## **Excerpt from April Roy's Keynote address**

**August 18, 2011 - CLTEF Dinner**

### **What do Libraries Mean to Communities?**

Why did Children Lifetime Educational Foundation select building a library as its first focus? What is the bang for my donor buck if I say, oh write a \$100,000 check tonight to help fund building this new library?

What is the value of our world's libraries that this one would be a part of?

Well...1.1 Billion people can't be wrong. There are 1.1 BILLION registered library users in the world. **One out of every six people in the world is a registered library user.**

My next group of numbers is more US focused because that was the data available but it will illustrate the vast

effect of libraries on our country and give you an idea of the impact that they can have.

**Library value is not only measured in registered users but in visits they actually make to the library:**

- **Five times more people visit U.S. public libraries each year than attend U.S. professional and college football, basketball, baseball and hockey games combined.**
- **U.S. public library visits total approximately 1 billion 116 million**
- **U.S. sports attendance: 203 Million 700 thousand**
- **Libraries also value their collections:**
  - Libraries hold 16 billion volumes worldwide—that's about 2.5 items for each person on earth. At an average price of \$45 per book, the worldwide library book inventory approaches nearly three-quarters of a trillion dollars.

**Recently the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) did a study that compared Libraries to Amazon.com They found:**

**U.S. public library cardholders outnumber Amazon customers by almost 5 to 1.**

**Each day, U.S. libraries circulate nearly 4 times more items than Amazon handles.**

***One more fun comparison is that Fed-Ex handles about 5.3 million items a day. We win with 5.4 million items a day!!***

**See full keynote address on our [NEWS](#) page.**