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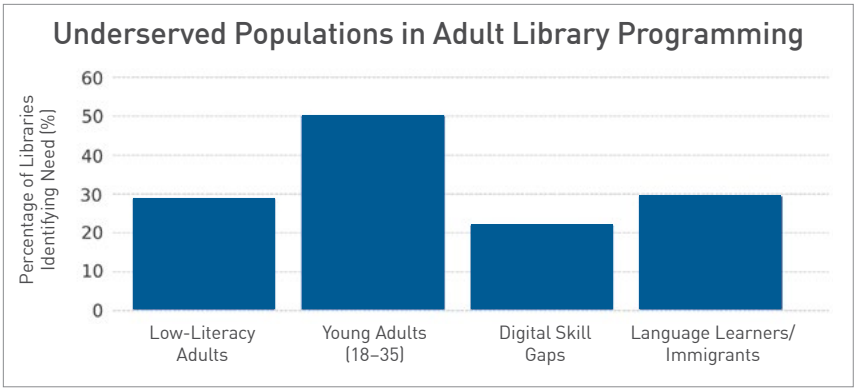
Building Adult Learning Pathways in Public Libraries

Explore Key Insights from PLA Research

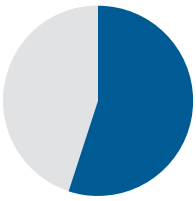
Public libraries play a critical role in empowering adult learners. How are library leaders overcoming today's learning barriers and providing pathways to success? Discover insights from a survey of over 350 libraries conducted by the Public Library Association (PLA) and sponsored by Gale.

Adult Learning Is in Demand—But Gaps Remain

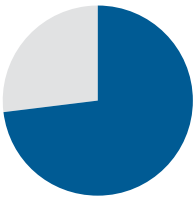
While **94.5%** of public libraries provide programming for older adults (55+) and **82.7%** offer programming for working adults (35–54), unmet needs remain among key groups.



More than half of all public libraries don't offer programming to cover today's in-demand topics.



55.1%
do not offer workforce development programs



73.1%
do not offer high school equivalency support

Adult Learners Face Personal Barriers to Success

Time constraints: **80.7%**

Scheduling conflicts: **66.8%**

Digital access/skills gaps: **70%**

Low awareness of programs: **57.7%**

Transportation: **56.2%**

Takeaway: Adult learners need flexible, visible, and easy-to-use resources to accomplish professional and personal goals.

Libraries Face Additional Barriers



52.6% report funding limitations



70.5% cite staffing shortages



40.6% note lack of physical space

Library leaders also find it challenging to measure programming success—98.3% track attendance, but only **21.6%** measure skill development, and only **14.5%** track job attainment.

Takeaway: Libraries need resources to maximize funding and staff capacity—and track outcomes.

Solution: Multiply Impact with Partnerships



84.9% of public libraries partner with outside organizations to expand reach, provide expertise, and reduce barriers.

Here's How Gale Can Help

Discover how your library can leverage flexible solutions from Gale's adult online learning suite to help learners meet their goals at every age and stage.

- **Gale Presents: Peterson's Test & Career Prep:** Offer test prep, college planning, and career support
- **Gale Presents: Excel Adult High School:** Help adults earn a high school diploma and strengthen workforce readiness
- **Gale Presents: Udemy:** Support workforce development, digital upskilling, and ESL/immigrant learners
- **Gale Presents: GetSetUp:** Help adults 55+ build digital confidence, cognitive health, and social connection
- **Gale Courses:** Provide instructor-led continuing education, enrichment, and lifelong learning

Ready to strengthen your adult learning strategy?
Scan to access the full PLA research report, explore adult learning solutions, or connect with your Gale education consultant today:

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