



## Public Libraries and Small Business Support - Executive Summary

Business information services offered by public libraries provide significant tools for small business owners and entrepreneurs. These business support resources reduce cost, improve performance and identify other avenues for assistance for prospective and current business people. The no-cost or low-cost information provided by libraries is unmatched by any other resource available to small or new businesses. Douglas County Libraries partners with local Chambers of Commerce, local business support agencies including the South Metro Denver Small Business Development Center and the Metro Parker Small Business Alliance, and myriad individual businesses throughout the area. Resources available at the local library include access to computer technology, meeting rooms, and reference materials such as Standard and Poor's *Industry Surveys* and *Current Market Perspective* and SRDS Advertising Source Directories. On-line tools accessible through any Internet connection include full-text for all major metro newspapers, *ReferenceUSA* company directory, market analysis reports and company profiles. Business programming offered at Douglas County Libraries ranges from one-on-one computer training to consultations with industry experts to small business workshops and trainings.

### Key Points

- Libraries assist the small business need for information with in-house collections, online resources, access to technology, and programming.
- Libraries partner with local businesses to identify and support specific business initiatives.
- Libraries increase the availability of small business assistance by working with other business support entities.
- Libraries offer resources to assist small businesses at every stage – from start-up through growth.

### Sources

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