If you fund it, they will come

In February this year, the FY 2019 budget request [called for](https://lj.libraryjournal.com/2018/02/budgets-funding/federal-budget-request-seeks-defund-imls-cultural-agencies/#_) cutting funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. As many library organizations like the [American Library Association](http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2018/02/white-house-budget-proposal-continues-miscalculate-value-libraries) noted, cutting funding from libraries fails to recognize their value.

And it’s the surest way to get people to stop using them.

Data show that, comparable to services like print books, e-books, audio books and computers or special programs, more people come to the library when the library gets money.

[image 1, key.png]

[image 2, Attendance.png]

Attendance to the library changes state-by-state when looking at the services offered by libraries in that state. But all the points for the first graph showing income fall close to the line, and there’s a clear, positive relationship between money and use.

Simply, the more money a library receives the more people use it.

The relationship can also be observed in history. Between the years 1991-1999, library income increased, and the number of people using the library spiked as the amount of money increased.

[image 3, income\_line.png]

[image 4, visit\_line.png]

Further, when the library can serve more people, the number of people who use the library also increases.

[image 5, attend.png]

Libraries may be struggling in the modern world, but that’s because politicians have given up on them. Cutting more funding from libraries will only fulfill the prophecy that no one uses them anymore.