

Medellín Metropolitan Region

The Aburrá Valley is the geographical area where Medellín and other 9 nearby cities are located. In total, it has a population of 3,443,000 inhabitants. This beautiful area is well known for the nice and warm welcome of its people and its industrial, cultural and educative development. Despite of having faced difficult times, the city has been strengthened through education and the proper use of ICT, as the keys for the social transformation. It has created spaces for civic engagement, culture, education and recreation. The current Mayor, Alonso Salazar Jaramillo (2008-2011) has continued supporting this public policy which was initiated by Medellín's former Mayor Sergio Fajardo Valderrama (2004-2007).

The Network of Public Libraries

The Network of Public Libraries of Medellín Metropolitan Area is a program designed with the objective of offering free access to knowledge fostering the empowerment and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in the libraries. This program is managed by Fundación EPM. The Network offers free training on digital literacy, shares resources, integrates cultural agendas, collections and services of 34 libraries. All services and information are shared through Network's website: www.reddebibliotecas.org.co.

Network's Reach

The 34 libraries that are affiliated to the Network are:

- The Pilot Public Library and its 6 branches
- The 5 Library Parks
- 8 Citizenship Culture Libraries in Medellín,
- 12 libraries located in Medellín's nine (9) nearby cities
- The EPM Library
- The Medellín's Controller's Office Library



The Network looks into connecting Medellín with other regions, countries and the rest of the world. The commitment of the current Mayorship is to build 5 new library parks benefiting around 1,000,000 inhabitants.

The Network in numbers:

- Every year, more than 5,500,000 users visit the Libraries of the Network.
- 1,480,000 visitors use Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in the Libraries.
- The web site www.reddebibliotecas.org.co receives more than 1,300,000 visitors per year. 15,000 users are registered and are constantly informed of the Network's news and activities.
- The online catalogue offers access to 580.000 books.
- The Network's users lend about 945,000 books every year.
- About 100,000 users are trained every year in the use of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

The Network's Web Portal as a Content and Service Repository

The web site of the Network of Public Libraries, www.reddebibliotecas.org.co, is one of the portals of the Digital Medellín program. It is based on Web 2.0 tools. This web site serves as a support and communication tool for the Network's activities. It is also a virtual library where each of the 34 libraries has its web space as well as a virtual meeting point for the librarians, the libraries' visitors and the whole community that uses the Network's services.

This web portal has an online catalogue that is a bibliographic patrimony for the region with 580,000 available books.



Contact Information:

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