

Thursday 7th september 2023

## Rouen: new library opening times voted for!

Since January 2023, the City of Rouen has extended the opening hours of its libraries, in particular by opening the Simone de Beauvoir library on Sundays. This extended access was made possible by the recruitment of 11 new staff, reflecting the council's commitment to making reading more accessible to the people of Rouen. As we look back at the first results, it's clear that the project has been a great success: never before have the municipal libraries been so busy, and so many books have been borrowed!



**Nicolas MAYER-ROSSIGNOL, Mayor of Rouen and President of Métropole Rouen Normandie, and Marie-Andrée MALLEVILLE, Deputy Mayor of Rouen, in charge of Culture:** "Since last January, we have successfully implemented one of our campaign promises, namely to extend the opening hours of our municipal libraries and to open the Simone de Beauvoir library on Sundays. This was made possible by the recruitment of 11 new staff, one of the biggest investments in operating fund since the beginning of the mandate. This choice was motivated by the objective of making our libraries more accessible and thus increasing access to reading, an ambition that is becoming a reality as we look back at this first review.

Literature is a powerful marker of emancipation and is part of our city's history, so making it easier to access and enhancing its value are part of the ambition we are giving to our Bid to make Rouen and the Seine Valley the European Capital of Culture in 2028".



Between January and July 2023, the municipal libraries recorded 225,228 admissions, an increase of 34% compared with the same period in 2022, which translates into both a 22% increase in the number of registered users and an 18% increase in the number of documents loaned.

There was also an 86% satisfaction rate with the new opening times (survey carried out between January and June), with Rouennais insisting on the improved accessibility offered by these "wider" and "extended" opening times.



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