Explanation of Values for Library Use Value Calculator

This table provides values for each of the items in the Library Use Value Calculator. These are estimated retail values and have been calculated using a variety of resources. For example, retail prices for books vary widely depending on whether the book is hard cover or paper back. An approximate average was calculated to allow for different types of books that we lend.

Item	Estimated or Average Retail Value	Explanation
Books borrowed	$17	Average cost to purchase a book (Includes all types of books such as hard cover, paperback, etc…).
eBooks downloaded	$8	Average cost to download an eBook online from a big 5 publisher.
DVDs borrowed	$15	Average cost to purchase a DVD.
Movies streamed	$3	Common cost to rent movies or buy TV episodes from streaming sources like Amazon.
Music CDs borrowed	$13	Average cost to purchase a music CD (Includes purchases made at a variety of online outlets such as iTunes, Amazon, etc…).
Audiobooks on CD borrowed	$20	Average cost to purchase an audiobook at Amazon.com.
eAudiobooks downloaded	$15	Costs $14.99 to download one title per month from audible.com
Magazines borrowed	$5	Average cost to purchase one issue of a magazine.
Newspapers read	$1.50	Average cost to purchase a newspaper.
MeLCat items borrowed	$17	Average cost for a consumer to purchase a book (Includes all types of books such as hard cover, paperback, etc…).
Attendance at Adult Programs	$10	Typical per session cost for local adult community education classes.
Attendance at Children Programs	$10	A student ticket to a play at a local theatre ranges from $8-$12 depending on the day of week.
Computers: Hours of use	$12	Average cost per hour to use a computer at a local retail outlet.
WiFi: Hours of use	$5	Many restaurants and coffee shops offer free WiFi with the expectation of a small purchase. Airports and hotels often charge $10-$20 for a day pass.
Premium Research and Learning Tools: Hours of use	$20	Online, individual subscriptions to Consumer Reports cost $6.95/month, while Lynda.com costs $19.99/mo.
Book-a-librarian	$25	Personal, in-depth research, job search or technology assistance based on library's cost.
Meeting Rooms: Hours of use	$25	Average meeting room rental fee at local community center.
Library of Things: Metal Detector	$85	Cost to rent a metal detector for one week at a local rental company.
Library of Things: Mobile Hotspot	$75	Cost to rent a hotspot for one week.