



**NCLIS**

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## **BASIC LIBRARY STATISTICS**

### **Public Libraries (US National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), 2001) <sup>1</sup>**

Public libraries are largely locally funded by many types of jurisdictions such as cities, counties, and consolidated regional consortia. Data include those from 50 states, the District of Columbia and outlying areas.

There were a total of 9,133 public libraries (administrative units).

There were 17,217 service points (including branches) holding 767,454,000 books and bound periodicals, and spending a total of (US) \$7,575,272,000. 6,941,000 volumes were added during the year.

Total library staff was 133,518.

Internet: There were a total of 229,017 Internet terminals, of which 122,836 were available to the public. In the year, public libraries gained 39,328 terminals of which 23,383 were available to the public, Bertot and McClure concluded that “nearly all” (95.7%) of public library outlets had Internet connections in their 2000 study.<sup>2</sup>

### **School Library Media Centers (NCES, 1993-94)**

Schools (elementary, junior high school, and high school) have students in grades K-12 (ages about 5-18). The term "media centers" reflects the changing role of school libraries to include more diverse materials than just printed matter.

There were 106,986 schools with 46,631,470 students. 80,739 of the schools were publicly funded, 26,094 privately funded, and 153 were Indian schools.

There were 98,311 schools with library media centers (77,218 in public schools, 20,951 are in private schools, and 142 were in Indian schools.) 96 percent of public and 80 percent of private schools had library media centers, and 98 percent of students in public schools and 92 percent in private schools were in schools with library media centers.

There were 72,160 school library media specialists, and a total of 164,600 staff.

Total expenditures were \$828,292,000 and locally budgeted expenditures for collections were \$498,577,000.

Number of book volumes held (1992-93): 879,403,229. Number added during the year: 32,297,404.

<sup>1</sup> The National Center for Education Statistics is a part of the US Department of Education. NCES and its predecessors have published statistics on libraries since 1876. It surveys other aspects of education as can be seen at its Web site at: <http://nces.ed.gov/>. These summary data are from the State Summary/State Characteristics data file.

<sup>2</sup> John Carlo Bertot and Charles R. McClure, Public Libraries and the Internet 2000: Summary Findings and Data Tables. (<http://www.nclis.gov/statsurv/2000plo.pdf>).

### **Academic Libraries (NCES, 1998)**

Academic libraries are associated typically with individual postsecondary 2-year and 4-year institutions.

Of the 4,124 institutions, 3,658 had academic libraries in 1998.

96,709 FTE staff worked in academic libraries in 1998. Of these, 30,041 were librarians or other professional staff; 38,026 were other paid staff; and 28,373 were student assistants.

Total expenditures were \$4,592,657,325. Of this amount, a bit over half went to salaries and wages, \$2,314,380,461 and \$1,643,914,009 was spent on information resources.

These libraries held 878,906,177 volumes.

### **State Library Agencies (NCES, 2001)**

State libraries are libraries funded by the 50 states and the District of Columbia that is "the official agency of a state that is charged by state law with the extension and development of public library services throughout the state and that has adequate authority under state law to administer state plans in accordance with the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) (P.L. 208)." Because of the diverse nature of state laws, the functions of these libraries are also quite diverse.

These libraries employed 3,987 (FTE) with 1,230 being librarians with the ALA accredited masters degree.

State libraries had 22,943,124 book and serial volumes and their total expenditures were \$1,145,321,000.

Internet: 47 state libraries had public access Internet terminals and supported Internet functions such as through subsidies, training, and through accesses to databases.

### **(Very) Rough Totals**

With these numbers we can do some calculations based on data from different years we get an asynchronous estimate of the following:

- There were 119,237 libraries in these four categories.
- They had a total of 2,548,706,530 volumes.
- They employed 398,814 people.
- And they spent \$14,141,542,325 (US) a year.

The largest library in the US is the Library of Congress which has 28,200,000 volumes, 124,000,000 items, and an annual budget (2001) of \$550,347,401. In 2003, it employed 4,357 people. Its data were not included in these totals.