

---

# Library Research and Statistics

---

## Research and Statistics on Libraries and Librarianship in 2013

Kathy Rosa

Director, Office for Research and Statistics, American Library Association

Libraries continued during 2013 to struggle with the after-effects of the financial crisis of 2008, but there have been fewer budget cuts and some small increases in library funding. This is good news for the many who make use of library resources and services. We know that many children enjoy the books, computers, story times, and summer reading programs they find at libraries, but Americans 16 and older also value their libraries. According to a Pew Research Center survey, many consider borrowing books as “very important” (80 percent), access to reference librarians as “very important” (80 percent), and also rank free access to computers and the Internet as “very important” (77 percent).<sup>1</sup>

Public libraries benefited from the support of their communities during the year as voters rallied to approve 41 of 69 local library referenda.<sup>2</sup> The organization Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) reported that only two states would have reduced state aid to public libraries during 2013–2014, compared with ten states in 2012–2013.<sup>3</sup> Academic libraries were rewarded with a 7.3 percent increase in expenditures for collection materials and a 3.7 percent increase in salaries and wages.<sup>4</sup> But the slowdown in cuts and the increases in funding only partially help rebuild library budgets to pre-recession levels.

While 90 percent of public schools report having a school library, professional staffing took a hit. Many states continued to reduce the number of school librarians, media specialists, and library technology coordinators. Communities in Colorado, California, Vermont, Utah, Michigan, Texas, New York, Florida, Pennsylvania, and Ohio cut school librarian positions.<sup>5</sup> In some cases, school librarians are being replaced by clerks, parents, volunteers, and classroom libraries.<sup>6,7</sup> There is some hope that the federal \$1.012 trillion spending bill proposed in January 2014 will provide some relief to school budgets; however, the focus is on pre-school and special education, restoring funding that was slashed during the 2013 sequestration.

The overall outlook for librarians remains slower than average with a projected growth of 7 percent from 2012 to 2022.<sup>8</sup> The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that there are currently 148,400 librarians in various types of libraries, with a median salary of \$55,370 a year compared with the 2010 listing of 156,100 librarians with a median annual salary of \$54,500.<sup>9</sup>

This article discusses research and statistics about public, academic, and school libraries and librarianship. Sources of information include the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Pew Research Center, the American Library Association, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Center for Education Statistics, the American Association of School Librarians, the Association of College and Research Libraries, the Association of Research Libraries, *Library Journal*, and *School Library Journal*.

A listing of awards and grants conferred by professional associations is included. The winner's name, the award name, and the title of the qualifying work are listed for awards conferred by the American Library Association and its divisions. Awards conferred by Beta Phi Mu, the Association for Information Science and Technology, the Association for Library and Information Science Education, and the Medical Library Association are also included.

## Public Libraries

During recent years, funding has been the issue of most concern to the nation's public libraries.<sup>10</sup> There is some good news. Reporting on a survey, *Library Journal*<sup>11</sup> found that 68 percent of reporting libraries received an increase in operating budgets, 50 percent received an increase in materials budgets, and 74 percent received an increase in personnel budgets. The modest gains serve to aid public libraries in a slow recovery from the losses related to the economic downturn of recent years. The bulk of revenue for public libraries comes from the local government (84.8 percent of total revenue); state governments also offer aid to public libraries (7.1 percent of total revenue). Federal funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) totaled \$150,000,000 in grants to states.<sup>12</sup> An additional \$53,000,000 was awarded to 590 successful grant applicants.

The American Library Association conducted a survey of Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA)<sup>13</sup> during 2013. Survey results from 48 of the 50 states include findings about funding, library closures, hours open in public libraries, and funding for the state library. Of the 48 states that answered the question about direct state aid for public libraries, 11 received no state aid, 14 reported an increase in state aid, 2 reported a decrease in state aid, and 20 reported no change in the amount of state aid (1 state did not have budget information to report). During 2013–2014, a total of 22 states reported reduced hours in libraries and ten states reported closures of five or fewer libraries. Many state libraries experienced a modest increase in funding, with 48 percent reporting a rise compared with 20 percent in 2012–2013. Funding cuts were reported by 15 percent of state libraries in FY 2013–2014 compared with 37 percent in FY 2012–2013. The proportion of state libraries that saw no change in funding was 33 percent in 2013–2014, down from 37 percent in 2012–2013. The remainder of state libraries did not have new budget information at the time of the survey (6.5 percent in 2012–2013 and 4 percent in 2013–2014).

During 2013 public library advocates rallied local voters to approve 41 of 69 local library referenda.<sup>14</sup> Notable wins included Wasilla, Alaska (\$15 million); Round Rock, Texas (\$23 million); Tolland, Connecticut (\$2.6 million); and Richland Library in Columbia, South Carolina (\$59 million), where a bond referendum

received 66 percent yes votes. Taxpayers will see a maximum increase of \$12 to \$14 a year in property taxes for a \$100,000 home. The bond proceeds will be used for extensive renovations to several library buildings and will fund two new branches.

Adequate funding is key to providing the resources and services valued by the people who visit public libraries. The Pew Research Center surveyed Americans to see just how well public libraries are measuring up.<sup>15</sup> Most Americans report that they value the role of the public library in the community and have had positive experiences at the library. Americans 16 and older (90 percent) reported that closing the library would have an impact on the community.

The study further reports that:

- 95 percent of Americans ages 16 and older agree that the materials and resources available at public libraries play an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed
- 95 percent say that public libraries are important because they promote literacy and a love of reading
- 94 percent say that having a public library improves the quality of life in a community
- 81 percent say that public libraries provide many services people would have a hard time finding elsewhere

### **Notable Research**

The Digital Inclusion Survey is a study funded by IMLS and conducted by the American Library Association (ALA) Office for Research and Statistics and the Information Policy and Access Center at the University of Maryland. The International City/County Management Association and the ALA Office for Information Technology Policy serve as partners on the grant. This study conducts a national survey of public libraries that explores the roles of public libraries in four key areas:

- Public access technology infrastructure resources and capacity (e.g., public access workstations; broadband connectivity)
- Digital content, services, and accessibility
- Digital literacy (including languages in which instruction is offered)
- Domain-specific services and programs (civic engagement, education, health and wellness, and work force/employment)

Current results include a data visualization tool that showcases the Sacramento Public Library, the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, the Carroll County (Maryland) Public Library, and the Wicomico (Maryland) Public Library. This is a resource for visualizing data about library systems and their respective communities. At present, the map includes census data; this will be expanded to include health, employment, education, and other data. In addition, the map will grow to include all libraries nationwide as well as digital inclusion survey data

from libraries that participate in the survey. The Digital Inclusion Interactive Map is available at <http://digitalinclusion.umd.edu/content/interactive-map>.

## Academic Libraries

Funding for academic libraries looks promising with a 7.3 percent increase in expenditures for collection materials and a 3.7 percent increase in salaries and wages.<sup>16</sup> About 29 percent of academic libraries had expenditures of \$1,000,000 or more; the remaining 71 percent had total expenditures of less than \$500,000.<sup>17</sup> About half of academic library expenditures, \$3.4 billion or 49 percent, paid salaries and wages. Academic libraries employed 85,752 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff including librarians (26,606 or 31 percent), other professionals (7,817 or 9.1 percent), other paid staff (30,819 or 35.9 percent), and students (20,509 or 23.9 percent). Other expenditures for academic libraries included about \$123.6 million for bibliographic consortia, utilities, and networks, and \$2.8 billion for information resources.

Academic libraries strive to keep pace with the changing information needs and communication environments of the students and faculty they serve. They are open between 60 and 99 hours a week and provide approximately 28.9 million information services to individuals. According to the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), 76 percent of academic libraries use social media to promote library services, to market events, and to build community.<sup>18</sup> Academic librarians rank, in order, Facebook, blogs, and Twitter as the top three choices of social media. A majority of academic libraries (75 percent) provide virtual reference services including email, commercial chat services, and text messaging. Along with changes in technology and communications comes the need to incorporate information literacy into student learning. More than half of academic libraries (55 percent) report information literacy student learning outcomes. Interlibrary loan numbers have dropped slightly, with some 10.5 million documents lent to other libraries in fiscal year (FY) 2012 compared with 11.2 million documents lent during FY 2010.<sup>19</sup> Academic libraries borrowed approximately 9.8 million documents from other libraries and commercial services compared with 10.2 million documents borrowed in FY 2010. E-book acquisitions continue to rise, with academic libraries currently holding a total 252.6 million e-book units compared with a total of 158.7 million e-book units in FY 2010.

The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) surveys member institutions about current research library policies and practices. The results, published as SPEC Kits, are intended to assist academic librarians manage change and improve performance. New Spec Kits<sup>20</sup> in 2013 include:

- SPEC Kit 339: Innovation and R&D (December 2013). Authors: German, Lisa; Namachchivaya, Beth Sandore.
- SPEC Kit 338: Library Management of Disciplinary Repositories (November 2013). Authors: Adamick, Jessica; Lewellen, Rachel; Reznik-Zellen, Rebecca.
- SPEC Kit 337: Print Retention Decision Making (October 2013). Authors: Britton, Scott; Renaud, John.

- SPEC Kit 336: Responsible Conduct of Research Training (September 2013). Authors: Leonard, Michelle; Bennett, Denise Beaubien.
- SPEC Kit 335: Digital Image Collections and Services (August 2013). Authors: Kandiuk, Mary; Lupton, Aaron; Davidson, Catherine.
- SPEC Kit 334: Research Data Management Services (July 2013). Authors: Fearon, David Jr.; Gunia, Betsy; Lake, Sherry; Pralle, Barbara E.; Sallans, Andrew L.

## School Libraries

During 2013 public schools continued to struggle with the impact of funding cuts in recent years. Professional library staff has been targeted for cuts across the country. In the Sarasota County (Florida) School District, all high school and middle school library media specialists were cut for the 2013–2014 school year.<sup>21</sup> Also in Florida, Marion County Public Schools cut 15 of its 30 elementary school librarian positions for the 2013–2014 school year. New York State stipulates the presence of certified librarians in middle and high schools of certain sizes; however, enforcement is difficult. The New York City Department of Education (DOE) has reduced the number of certified school librarians from 399 to 333 during the past four years.<sup>22</sup> The DOE has requested permission to offer fewer librarians in schools, citing funding challenges and technology changes. Librarians are not required in New York elementary schools. Recent data from the California Department of Education confirms the ratio of school library media specialists to students to be about 1:7,000.<sup>23</sup>

A report from National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) provided a look at the nation's school libraries, including expenditures, staffing, and resources. The most recent survey results were released in August 2013 and include data for 2011–2012.<sup>24</sup> The most recent prior report was released in 2009 with data for 2007–2008.<sup>25</sup> More than 90 percent of traditional public schools report having a school library, while less than half of public charter schools have a school library (49 percent). School library spending on books and audiovisual materials decreased by an average of \$760 from 2007–2008 (\$7,260) to 2011–2012 (\$6,500). Part of the decreased spending on books and audiovisual materials may be reflected in a shift towards the purchase of digital resources such as software and licensed databases, with an average expenditure of \$2,840 during 2011–2012.<sup>26</sup>

Public school libraries continued to offer current technology resources and services to students and, in some cases, the community. Public school libraries offered computer workstations with Internet access (95 percent), automated catalogs (88 percent), and online, licensed databases (86 percent). School libraries provided laptops for staff use outside the library media center (54 percent), laptops for student use outside the library media center (40 percent), and technology to assist students and staff with disabilities (31 percent). About one-fourth (24 percent) of public school libraries allowed community members to use the library. More than half of those school libraries (6 percent) allowed community members to access the Internet workstations. Access to library resources is improved with scheduling options and remote access to resources. Flexible scheduling was available in

61 percent of school libraries with a majority (89 percent) open before and after school for independent student use. Remote access to licensed databases was provided by 84 percent of school libraries.<sup>27</sup> Public school library media centers offer programs to encourage student reading (65 percent) and family literacy activities (36 percent).

A slight shift has occurred in the credentials of professional staff in school libraries. During 2011–2012, about two-thirds (67 percent) of library media centers in traditional public schools had full-time, paid, state-certified library media center specialists, compared with 62 percent in 2007–2008, up 5 percent. The percentage of professional library media center staff with a master's degree in a library-related major field was 52 percent for public school libraries in 2011–2012 compared with 57 percent in 2007–2008, down 5 percent. The number of professional staff in public charter schools is lower; 56 percent do not employ a state-certified school librarian, while 27 percent employ staff with a library-related master's degree.

### Notable Research

Advocates of school libraries look to research for evidence that high-quality school library programs affect student achievement. Debra Kache and graduate students at Mansfield University in Pennsylvania prepared a comprehensive summary of school library impact studies. The basic findings of studies from twenty-three states and one Canadian province are featured. Many quantitative studies looked at students' standardized test scores; other studies used qualitative approaches or mixed methods.

- 25 studies surveyed school librarians and also correlated standardized test scores with school library program components (Alaska 2000; California 2008; Colorado 1993, 2000, 2010, and 2012; Florida 2003; Illinois 2005; Indiana 2007; Iowa 2002; Kansas 2012; Massachusetts 2000; Michigan 2003; Minnesota 2002 and 2004; Missouri 2003; New Mexico 2002; New York 2009; North Carolina 2003; Ontario 2006; Oregon 2000; Pennsylvania 2000 and 2012; Texas 2001; and Wisconsin 2006).
- Fourteen studies surveyed students, teachers, librarians, and school administrators about their perceptions of the impact of school libraries on learning (Delaware 2005 and 2006; Idaho 2009; Indiana 2007; Michigan 2003; New Jersey 2010 and 2011; New York 2009, 2009, and 2010; Ohio 2004; Ontario 2009; Pennsylvania 2012; and Wisconsin 2006). Four compared the status of school library programs to their state's school library guidelines to determine how closely programs matched recommendations (Delaware 2005, Minnesota 2002 and 2004, and Texas 2001).

A copy of "School Library Research Summarized: A Graduate Class Project (rev. ed., 2013) can be found at <http://sl-it.mansfield.edu/upload/MU-LibAdvoB-klt2013.pdf>.

## Awards and Grants that Honor and Support Excellent Research

The professional library associations offer many awards and grants to recognize and encourage research. The 2013 awards and grants here are listed under the name of the sponsoring association, and in the case of ALA by the awarding division, in alphabetical order. More-detailed information about the prizes and prize-winners can be found at the association websites.

### American Library Association

#### Carroll Preston Baber Research Grant

*Winners:* M. Cristina Pattuelli and Irene Lopatovska for “E-Reading in the Academy: Investigating Adoption and Use of E-Books in Academic Libraries.”

#### Jesse H. Shera Award for Excellence in Published Research

*Winner:* Sung Jae Park for the article “Measuring Public Library Accessibility: A Case Study Using GIS,” published in *Library & Information Research* 34 (2012): 13–21, December 2011.

#### Jesse H. Shera Award for Support of Dissertation Research

*Winner:* Devon Greyson for “Health-Related Information Practices and the Experiences of Childbearing and Parenting Youth.”

### Association for Information Science and Technology

#### ASIS&T Best Information Science Book Award

*Winner:* *Human Information Interaction: An Ecological Approach to Information Behavior* by Raya Fidel.

#### John Wiley Best JASIST Paper

*Winners:* Ling-Lang Wu, Mu-Hsuan, and Ching-Yi Chen for, “Citation Patterns of the Pre-Web and Web-Prevalent Environments: The Moderating Effects of Domain Knowledge.”

#### Pratt Severn Best Student Research Paper Award

*Winner:* Hilary Zelko for “Reasoning About Relevance.”

#### ProQuest Doctoral Dissertation

*Winner:* Sebastian K. Boell for “Theorizing Information and Information Systems.”

#### Research in Information Science Award

*Winner:* Susan Herring.

#### James Cretsos Leadership Award

*Winner:* Chirag Shah.

#### Thomson Reuters Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Scholarship

*Winner:* Kaitlin Costello for “Investigating Information Seeking and Disclosure in Online Support Groups for Chronic Kidney Disease.”



**Watson Davis Award**

*Winner:* Beata Panagopoulos.

**American Association of School Libraries (AASL)**

**AASL Research Grant**

*Winners:* Judi Moreillon and Teresa Starrett for “The Principals’ Perspectives on the Value of School Librarians in Teaching and Learning Case Study”; Linda Robinson for “Bark If You R.E.A.D. in School Libraries: Can School Librarians with Therapy Dogs and Reading Support Skills Be an Effective Part of a School’s Literacy Intervention Team?”

**Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)**

**WESS De Gruyter European Librarianship Study Grant**

*Winner:* Daniel M. Pennell, University of Pittsburgh, for his proposal to annotate 400 Romanian reference titles that are held at three libraries in Bucharest.

**Academic/Research Librarian of the Year Award**

*Winner:* Patricia Iannuzzi.

**Ilene F. Rockman Instruction Publication of the Year Award**

*Winners:* Korey Brunetti, Amy R. Hofer, and Lori Townsend for their article “Threshold Concepts and Information Literacy.”

**Association for Library and Information Science Education**

**ALISE/Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Competition**

*Winners:* Kimberly Anderson, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee for “Appraisal Learning Networks: How University Archivists Learn to Appraise Through Social Interaction”; Michelle Caswell, University of Wisconsin–Madison for “Archiving the Unspeakable: Silence and Voice in Khmer Rouge Mug Shots.”

**ALISE Research Grant Competition**

*Winners:* Karen Gavigan and Kendra Albright (University of South Carolina) for “Information Vaccine: Using Graphic Novels as an AIDS Information Vaccine for Young Adults.”

**ALISE/Bohdan S. Wynar Research Paper Competition**

*Winners:* Marie Radford, Rutgers University, and Lynn Connaway, OCLC, for “Not Dead Yet! A Longitudinal Study of Query Type and Ready Reference Accuracy in Live Chat and IM Reference”; Joseph Tennis, University of Washington, for “The Strange Case of Eugenics: A Subject’s Ontogeny in a Long-Lived Classification Scheme and the Question of Collocative Integrity.”

**Library and Information Technology Association/OCLC**

**Frederick G. Kilgour Award for Research in Library and Information Technology**

*Winner:* Barbara Tillett, Library of Congress.



**Medical Library Association (MLA)****Donald A. B. Lindberg Research Fellowship**

*Winner:* Kristi L. Holmes for “A Cross-Sectional Study Approach to Understanding Information Needs in Genomic Medicine.”

**Janet Doe Lectureship**

*Winner:* Joanne Gard Marshall for “Linking Research to Practice: The Rise of Evidence-Based Health Sciences Librarianship.”

**MLA President’s Award**

*Winner:* Nancy J. Allee in recognition of her considerable efforts on the Future Directions for MLA survey, related focus groups, an Open Forum, and other information gathering, data analysis, and reporting.

**References**

1. Zickuhr, K., Rainie, L., Purcell, K. *Library Services in the Digital Age*. (2013). Pew Research Center. Retrieved from <http://libraries.pewinternet.org/2013/01/22/library-services>.
2. Rosa, K. S. (2014). “Referenda Roundup: An Overview of How States Performed on 2013 Ballots.” *American Libraries*. (Jan–Feb). pp. 44–49.
3. Rose, R. N. 2013–2014. COSLA Survey Overview. American Library Association Office for Research and Statistics. This report is available from ALA at [ors@ala.org](mailto:ors@ala.org).
4. ACRL 2012 Academic Library Trends and Statistics. (2013). American Library Association.
5. Peterson, K. M. (2014). “School Libraries May Benefit from Congressional Budget Deal.” *School Library Journal*. Retrieved from <http://www.slj.com/2014/01/budgets-funding/school-libraries-could-benefit-from-congressional-budget-deal>.
6. Cummings, M. (October 21, 2013). “Is the End of the School Library Upon Us? Budget Cuts Hit Librarians Where It Hurts.” *Alternet*. Retrieved from <http://www.alternet.org/education/end-school-library-upon-us-budget-cuts-hit-librarians-where-it-hurts>.
7. <http://www.slj.com/2013/07/schools/media-specialists-role-endangered-in-florida>.
8. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014–15 Edition*, Librarians. Retrieved from <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/education-training-and-library/librarians.htm>.
9. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Quarterly*, (Spring 2012).
10. Institute of Museum and Library Services. 2010 Public Library Survey Results Announced. Retrieved January 22, 2013, from [http://www.ims.gov/ims\\_2010\\_public\\_library\\_survey\\_results\\_announced.aspx](http://www.ims.gov/ims_2010_public_library_survey_results_announced.aspx).
11. Chant, I. (2014). “The Road Back.” *Library Journal*. (January). pp. 38–41.
12. FY 2013 Annual Report. (2014). Institute of Museum and Library Services. Retrieved from <http://www.ims.gov/assets/1/AssetManager/2013AnnualReport.pdf>.
13. Rose, R. N., op.cit.
14. Rosa, K. S., op.cit.
15. Zickuhr, K., Rainie, L., Purcell, K., and Duggan, M. (2014). How Americans Value Public Libraries in Their Communities. Pew Research Center. Retrieved from <http://libraries.pewinternet.org/2013/12/11/libraries-in-communities>.

16. ACRL 2012 Academic Library Trends and Statistics. (2013). American Library Association.
17. Phan, T., Hardesty, L., and Hug, J. (2014). *Academic Libraries: 2012* (NCES 2014-038). U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics.
18. ACRL 2012 op. cit.
19. Phan, T., Hardesty, L., Hug, J., and Scheckells. (2011). *Academic Libraries: 2010* (NCES 2012-365). U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics.
20. Spec Kits can be found on the Association of Research Libraries website at <http://publications.arl.org>. Spec Kit 337 is at <http://publications.arl.org/Print-Retention-Decision-Making-SPEC-Kit-337>.
21. American Library Association. (2014). State of America's Libraries Report 2013. Retrieved from <http://www.ala.org/news/state-americas-libraries-report-2013>.
22. Cummings, M., op.cit.
23. Peterson, K. (January 16, 2014). "California School Librarians Look to Higher Ed During Advocacy Overhaul." *School Library Journal*. Retrieved from <http://www.slj.com/2014/01/schools/california-school-librarians-look-to-higher-ed-during-advocacy-overhaul>.
24. Bitterman, A., Gray, L., and Goldring, R. (2013). *Characteristics of Public Elementary and Secondary School Library Media Centers in the United States: Results from the 2011–12 Schools and Staffing Survey* (NCES 2013–315). U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. Retrieved from <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch>.
25. Goldring, R. (2009). *Characteristics of Public and Bureau of Indian Education Elementary and Secondary School Library Media Centers in the United States: Results from the 2007–08 Schools and Staffing Survey* (NCES 2009-322). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education.
26. The category of "Information Resources" is available in the 2011–2012 report (NCES 2013–315), but not the 2007–2008 report (NCES 2009-322).
27. American Library Association. American Association of School Librarians. 2012 School Libraries Count! Retrieved from <http://www.ala.org/aasl/sites/ala.org/aasl/files/content/researchandstatistics/slcsurvey/2012/AASL-SLC-2012-WEB.pdf>.