

# Wyoming School Library Survey 2013-14

## Summary: K-12 public school libraries

October 2014

Annually, the Wyoming State Library conducts a voluntary survey of school libraries to collect basic information on staffing, budgets, student use of the library and other measures. The response rate for this year's survey improved over last year: over 2/3 of Wyoming schools responded either with full or partial data, or by indicating they did not have a library.

In staffing, this year the report includes those FTEs designated as Computer/Network -- Library-Media Technician (CNT) by the Wyoming Department of Education, as those FTEs are reported as library FTEs in the Common Core of Data. Staffing data is obtained from the WDE rather than reported by schools for consistency.

New this year is a question on whether schools issue each student a laptop or tablet. In prior years, some schools had indicated this arrangement. This is an area to watch, as it may increase in coming years.

A large body of research has shown that a strong school library program – with sufficient staffing, collections and budget – is associated with higher student test scores. Much of that research, conducted in more than 20 states, has been compiled by Library Research Service on their website at [www.lrs.org/impact.php](http://www.lrs.org/impact.php).

Research shows that higher test scores correlate with:

1. The size of the school library staff
2. Full-time/certified school librarians
3. The frequency of library-centered instruction and collaborative instruction between school librarians and teachers
4. Size or currency of library collections
5. Licensed databases through a school library network
6. Flexible scheduling
7. School library spending (Lance, et al., 2001; Baxter & Smalley, 2003).

This report gives summary data by grade level. Individual school details, and prior years' surveys are located on the Wyoming State Library's statistics page at [will.state.wy.us/statistics](http://will.state.wy.us/statistics).

Questions about this survey may be directed to:

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## Response rate - public schools

<b>WDE K-12 schools by State School ID</b>	
Total WDE schools in state by NCES number	353
Schools reporting data	231
Schools reporting no library	22
<b>Response rate</b>	<b>72.2%</b>

<b>WDE K-12 schools with LIM and/or LMA staffing, by State School ID</b>	
Schools with LIM/LMA staffing	296
LIM/LMA schools reporting data	211
<b>Response rate</b>	<b>71.2%</b>

<b>WDE K-12 schools with LIM staffing, by State School ID</b>	
Schools with LIM staffing	166
LIM schools reporting data	118
<b>Response rate</b>	<b>71.1%</b>

*LIM: Library Media Specialist*

*LMA: Library Media Aide*

<b>WDE K-12 schools by building</b>	
School buildings reporting data	205
School buildings reporting no library	22

Response rate by building cannot be calculated, as it is not known how many non-responding schools are actually combined schools.

The Wyoming Department of Education assigns each school a separate State School ID. In 2013-14, the WDE listed 353 public K-12 schools. In some cases, a single school building houses multiple schools. For example, a K-12 school may have three separate School ID numbers for the elementary, middle and high schools, yet still be one unified school. This complicates calculating a response rate, as it is not known how many non-responding schools are co-located. For this reason, response rates are calculated by ID number.

Going by State School ID, 231 schools with libraries responded in part or in full to this year’s survey. Adjusting for co-located schools, these 231 schools have 205 libraries. Twenty-two schools reported that they do not have a library. The overall response rate was 72.2%.

Out of 353 schools, 296 (83.85%) have designated LIM or LMA FTEs, down slightly from last year’s 85.19%. Schools with Library Media Specialist (LIM) FTEs dropped from 179 last year to 166 this year; less than half of schools (47%) are now assigned LIM FTEs. This is by WDE ID number, and not by building, so students in co-located schools or in districts with LIM staffing assigned at the district level may still have access to a Library Media Specialist. However, it should also be noted that in many schools, the LIM hours assigned are minimal.

One of the challenges of this survey is that the respondents can vary from year to year. Although there is some discussion of trends in this report, please note that changes may simply be due to using a different survey sample.

### Participating school libraries

Type of school	Enrollment		
	Total	Average	Median
Senior high (9-12) [36 resp.]	19,323	537	319
Junior/senior high (6-12) [12 resp.]	1,994	166	157
K-12 [15 resp.]	2,852	190	160
Junior high/middle (5-9) [32 resp.]	13,601	425	323
K-8 & K-9 [7 resp.]	1,819	260	189
Elementary (K-6) [103 resp.]	28,452	276	281
<b>Total [205 resp.]</b>	<b>68,041</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>269</b>

The 205 school libraries that responded serve 68,041 students – 73.8% of the state’s entire Oct. 1, 2013 K-12 enrollment of 92,218.

## Staffing

Type of school	Main contact holds library/media endorsement		Total Library Staff			Library Media Specialists			
	Number	Percent	Total FTE	Students per FTE	AVG FTE per school	Total FTE	Students per FTE	AVG FTE per school	% LIM of total FTEs
Senior high (9-12) [36 resp.]	27	77.1%	52.79	366.04	1.47	23.08	837.22	0.64	43.72%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [12 resp.]	5	41.7%	13.76	144.91	1.15	3.40	586.47	0.28	24.71%
K-12 [15 resp.]	8	53.3%	17.79	160.31	1.19	6.70	425.67	0.45	37.66%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [32 resp.]	23	71.9%	43.98	309.25	1.15	18.17	748.54	0.57	41.31%
K-8 & K-9 [7 resp.]	3	42.9%	4.48	406.03	0.64	1.59	1144.03	0.23	35.49%
Elementary (K-6) [103 resp.]	47	46.1%	110.47	257.55	1.07	28.00	1016.14	0.27	25.35%
Total [205 resp.]	113	55.7%	243.27	279.69	1.19	80.94	840.64	0.39	33.27%

*FTE data obtained from the Wyoming Dept. of Education. LIM = Library Media Specialist, LMA = Library Media Aide*

Among respondents, 113 (55.1%) report that the main contact holds a library media endorsement. This data element was collected under a different definition this year, so it is not comparable to prior years. In 75 libraries (36.6%), there is library media aide staffing, but no assigned library media specialist FTEs, although 6 of those schools have access to LIM staffing at the district level. As noted above, in some schools where there is LIM staffing assigned, it is minimal.

WDE data are used here because they are the most comprehensive and consistent data. Individual schools have staffing arrangements for their libraries that are not accurately reflected in these numbers.

## Collection expenditures

Type of school	Total collection expenditures	Average collection expenditures			Expenditures per student		Dependence on grants for collections		
		Print	All other	TOTAL*	Print	Total Collection*	None	Supplements budget	Heavily dependent
Senior high (9-12) [36 resp.]	\$207,735	\$7,419	\$2,500	\$9,919	\$17.49	\$21.84	77.4%	19.4%	3.2%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [12 resp.]	\$35,050	\$3,894	\$933	\$4,616	\$24.02	\$27.40	81.8%	18.2%	0.0%
K-12 [15 resp.]	\$62,093	\$6,209	\$511	\$6,563	\$25.27	\$27.68	30.8%	69.2%	0.0%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [32 resp.]	\$174,572	\$6,235	\$2,179	\$8,323	\$16.89	\$22.57	75.0%	21.9%	3.1%
K-8 & K-9 [7 resp.]	\$50,083	\$10,017	\$167	\$10,117	\$27.51	\$27.51	14.3%	71.4%	14.3%
Elementary (K-6) [103 resp.]	\$298,256	\$3,509	\$438	\$3,865	\$13.02	\$15.97	43.0%	42.0%	15.0%
<b>Total [205 resp.]</b>	<b>\$827,789</b>	<b>\$5,017</b>	<b>\$1,162</b>	<b>\$6,048</b>	<b>\$16.20</b>	<b>\$18.68</b>	<b>54.1%</b>	<b>36.6%</b>	<b>9.3%</b>

Our of 205 respondents, 172 provided total collection expenditure data, and 165 provided data specifically on print purchases. Collectively, these schools spent \$827,789 on information sources. On average, schools spent \$16.20 per student on print materials – not much change from last year’s \$16.07. Total collection spending was \$18.68 per student, down nearly \$1 from last year, continuing a downward trend seen the last two years.

It is not certain whether budgetary pressures are affecting collection quality and currency or whether other factors are involved. Since the schools responding are not consistent year to year in this survey, it may simply be a different sample. If schools are moving to more electronic resources, it is possible that those are either purchased at the district level and do not show up in school-level collection budgets.

More than half of libraries reported that their collections are completely funded by their school or district and that they do not rely on outside fundraising. Less than 10% report that they are heavily dependent on grants or other fundraising to maintain their collections, with most of those at the elementary level. Dependence on grants is heavier in the lower grades, with K-6 schools reporting the most dependence on grants.

## Physical collections

Type of school	Total print items held	Average collection size				Average age Dewey 6xx	
		Print materials	Median print per student	Audio-video	Periodical subs	Median copyright	Median age
Senior high (9-12) [36 resp.]	307,996	10,621	22.9	358	32	1995	20
Junior/senior high (6-12) [12 resp.]	59,546	7,443	43.3	283	21	1994	21
K-12 [15 resp.]	187,790	14,445	76.3	491	20	1994	20
Junior high/middle (5-9) [32 resp.]	316,891	11,318	31.9	292	20	1997	17
K-8 & K-9 [7 resp.]	81,642	13,607	38.7	225	15	2002	12
Elementary (K-6) [103 resp.]	917,698	10,548	37.2	206	7	2000	14
<b>Total [205 resp.]</b>	<b>1,871,563</b>	<b>10,881</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>16</b>

Reporting schools held nearly 1.9 million print items during the 2013-14 school year. The median for all schools was 37.6 items per student. High schools had a lower number of items per student than schools serving the lower grades.

Libraries were asked for the average copyright date for items in the Dewey 600s (Technology & Applied Science) range. This range was chosen because the science and technology fields change rapidly. The median date was 1998, or 16 years old. A 1998 science book would miss many recent developments such as the mapping of the human genome.

Currency of materials is one factor that has been associated with higher test scores, but it is also difficult to assess in an increasingly electronic environment. Anecdotal information indicates that nonfiction research is moving from print to electronic sources, particularly in the upper grades. Moving forward, the median copyright age may not be the best measure to assess the currency of the information available to students.

## Library computers

Type of school	Student computers in library			Schools where each student issued laptop or tablet
	Number	Average computers per library	Median students per computer	
Senior high (9-12) [36 resp.]	699	24.1	16.5	21.2%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [12 resp.]	163	14.8	10.6	41.7%
K-12 [15 resp.]	137	10.5	20.0	26.7%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [32 resp.]	554	18.5	22.3	15.6%
K-8 & K-9 [7 resp.]	83	11.9	45.5	14.3%
Elementary (K-6) [103 resp.]	936	10.4	49.0	2.1%
<b>Total [205 resp.]</b>	<b>2,572</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>12.2%</b>

Survey respondents reported a total of 2,572 student computer workstations in their libraries, averaging out to 14.3 computers per library. The median was 26.9 students per computer. In response to comments on prior years' surveys, a question was added to determine whether the school issued each student a laptop or tablet. There were 24 schools reporting this kind of one-to-one technology program, or 12.2% of the total. This will be a data element to track in future surveys as schools look at different ways to provide their students with the technology they need.

## Technology and electronic resources

Type of school	Percent of schools where						
	Library lends laptops	School has website	Library has web page	Library has links to WYLD CAT	Library has links to GoWYLD	Databases purchased locally	Remote access local databases
Senior high (9-12) [36 resp.]	45.2%	100.0%	61.3%	78.1%	87.5%	30.0%	26.7%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [12 resp.]	66.7%	100.0%	63.6%	72.7%	72.7%	63.6%	44.4%
K-12 [15 resp.]	35.7%	100.0%	50.0%	53.8%	76.9%	33.3%	25.0%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [32 resp.]	32.3%	100.0%	84.4%	51.7%	90.0%	48.3%	48.3%
K-8 & K-9 [7 resp.]	28.6%	85.7%	28.6%	14.3%	28.6%	50.0%	33.3%
Elementary (K-6) [103 resp.]	28.9%	97.9%	56.3%	41.9%	58.3%	56.8%	40.7%
<b>Total [205 resp.]</b>	<b>34.9%</b>	<b>98.4%</b>	<b>60.7%</b>	<b>51.7%</b>	<b>70.1%</b>	<b>49.4%</b>	<b>38.3%</b>
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	67	190	116	92	124	87	64

School websites are near-universal: 98.4% of libraries reported their school has one, and three out of every five report having a library-specific web page. More libraries link to the GoWYLD resources (70.1%) than to WYLD CAT (51.7%).

Every student in Wyoming has access both at school and remotely to the WYLD databases. Half of respondents said electronic resources are also purchased locally through the school or district budget. About three-fourths of those schools with locally-purchased databases have remote access to those resources for students.

More than one-third of schools reported loaning laptops – a significant increase from prior years when only one-

## Scheduling and instruction

Type of school	How are classes in the school library scheduled?			Average typical weekly instructional hours	
	All flexibly scheduled	Mixed flex/fixed	All at fixed times	Planning	Delivering
Senior high (9-12) [36 resp.]	90.6%	9.4%	0.0%	4.46	4.77
Junior/senior high (6-12) [12 resp.]	63.6%	18.2%	18.2%	1.22	1.78
K-12 [15 resp.]	14.3%	78.6%	7.1%	11.82	15.55
Junior high/middle (5-9) [32 resp.]	38.7%	51.6%	9.7%	3.81	5.56
K-8 & K-9 [7 resp.]	0.0%	33.3%	66.7%	5.29	10.43
Elementary (K-6) [103 resp.]	7.1%	8.1%	84.8%	3.84	11.68
<b>Total [205 resp.]</b>	<b>29.5%</b>	<b>21.8%</b>	<b>48.7%</b>	<b>4.38</b>	<b>9.28</b>
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	57	42	94		

One of the items noted as having a positive correlation on test scores is flexible scheduling. None of the responding senior high schools had all their classes scheduled at fixed time. Fixed scheduling is more often used at the lower grades with 84.8% of K-6 schools having all their classes at fixed times.

Student learning is greatly enhanced by instruction from a qualified teacher-librarian. Average weekly instructional hours is a data element that attempts to discern how much staff time is spent teaching formal instruction or preparing formal instruction. Based on the wide variations in responses to this question, it is likely that there is some confusion as to the definition, and that schools are not reporting this consistently. This data element will be reviewed before the 2014-15 survey to determine whether it will be clarified or dropped.

## Professional environment

Type of school	Training outside the district is supported	On what committees do library staff participate?					Library advisory committees		
		Curriculum	Technology	School improvement	Parent/teacher organization	None	Faculty/admin	Student	Student on faculty committee
Senior high (9-12) [36 resp.]	92.9%	48.3%	58.6%	55.2%	17.2%	24.1%	21.9%	28.1%	9.4%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [12 resp.]	90.0%	36.4%	54.5%	54.5%	27.3%	27.3%	27.3%	18.2%	0.0%
K-12 [15 resp.]	75.0%	26.7%	53.3%	46.7%	13.3%	20.0%	7.1%	21.4%	0.0%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [32 resp.]	89.7%	45.2%	77.4%	41.9%	25.8%	9.7%	27.6%	13.8%	6.9%
K-8 & K-9 [7 resp.]	71.4%	14.3%	57.1%	57.1%	28.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Elementary (K-6) [103 resp.]	78.3%	30.9%	47.4%	36.1%	23.7%	30.9%	21.8%	11.2%	3.3%
<b>Total [205 resp.]</b>	<b>82.6%</b>	<b>35.3%</b>	<b>55.3%</b>	<b>42.6%</b>	<b>22.6%</b>	<b>24.2%</b>	<b>21.1%</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	147	67	105	81	43	46	38	28	8

More than 82% of libraries report they have support for staff to attend training opportunities outside their district, which is the same as last year. Three-fourths of school libraries reported staff participation on one or more school committees – most often technology or school improvement. A little more than one-third have someone serving on a curriculum committee, and slightly less than one-fourth are involved in a parent/teacher organization. These numbers appear to be slightly higher than what was reported last year.

Few schools reported having library advisory committees: 21.1% have faculty/administration advisory committees and 15.4% have student advisory committees. These numbers are also slightly higher than what was reported last year. Only 8 libraries reported that they had a student serving on the faculty committee in lieu of a student committee.

## Policies

Type of school	% of schools that have		% of libraries that have policies for				
	Library policies & procedures manual	Scheduled policy review/revision	Internet/network acceptable use	Collection development	Challenges to holdings	Copyright	Resource sharing & ILL
Senior high (9-12) [36 resp.]	71.0%	43.8%	100.0%	81.3%	78.1%	81.3%	71.9%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [12 resp.]	66.7%	33.3%	100.0%	63.6%	63.6%	36.4%	54.5%
K-12 [15 resp.]	75.0%	25.0%	92.3%	61.5%	84.6%	53.8%	46.2%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [32 resp.]	90.3%	48.4%	100.0%	84.4%	87.5%	81.3%	71.9%
K-8 & K-9 [7 resp.]	71.4%	14.3%	100.0%	85.7%	71.4%	71.4%	57.1%
Elementary (K-6) [103 resp.]	76.7%	43.5%	92.5%	62.4%	72.0%	63.4%	63.4%
<b>Total [205 resp.]</b>	<b>77.2%</b>	<b>41.5%</b>	<b>95.7%</b>	<b>70.2%</b>	<b>76.1%</b>	<b>67.6%</b>	<b>64.4%</b>
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	139	76	180	132	143	127	121

Policies and procedures allow the library media center to operate effectively and to help library staff deal with different situations that may arise. Just over three-fourths of libraries surveyed indicated they have a library policies and procedures manual, and two-fifths have regularly scheduled policy review and revision. This proportion is down slightly from last year

Internet/network acceptable use policies are nearly universal: 95.7% of reporting schools have a policy for that. All high schools, junior/senior high schools and K-8/K-9 schools had an internet policy. Just over three-fourths have a policy for challenges to holdings, 70.2% have collection development policies, 67.6% have copyright policies and 64.4% have policies for resource sharing and interlibrary loan.

## Student use

Type of school	Average 1st semester circulation	1st semester median circ per student	Average typical weekly use:				
			Classroom sessions	Students in sessions	Independent users	Total visits	Visits per student
Senior high (9-12) [36 resp.]	2,040	3.6	17	296	291	587	1.2
Junior/senior high (6-12) [12 resp.]	2,051	9.5	12	181	123	271	1.2
K-12 [15 resp.]	5,893	19.7	20	149	96	217	0.9
Junior high/middle (5-9) [32 resp.]	4,450	10.5	16	281	183	452	1.0
K-8 & K-9 [7 resp.]	4,470	15.3	14	261	197	458	1.3
Elementary (K-6) [103 resp.]	7,139	24.7	16	288	80	359	1.2
<b>Total [205 resp.]</b>	<b>5,385</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>1.2</b>
TOTAL USE	893,880		3,126	51,998	25,328	77,326	

Full-year circulation can only be estimated for any survey that ends before the school year does, so the Wyoming School Library Survey uses 1<sup>st</sup> semester circulation instead. The median for all schools was 15.1 . Not surprisingly, circulation figures were generally higher where schools served lower grade levels; the median for K-6 schools was nearly 25 books per student, while the high school median was 3.6. Anecdotally, there seems to be a preference for electronic materials at the higher grade levels.

Library media centers see an average of 16.3 classroom sessions a week. Just over two-thirds of total student visits are in classroom sessions, rather than students working independently. Total visits reported were more than 77,000, or a median of 1.2 visits per student per week.

## Library availability

Type of school	Average weekly hours open	% of schools where library is open		
		Before school	After school	Neither
Senior high (9-12) [36 resp.]	40.77	93.8%	96.9%	0.0%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [12 resp.]	35.54	91.7%	91.7%	0.0%
K-12 [15 resp.]	41.13	50.0%	78.6%	21.4%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [32 resp.]	37.98	93.8%	90.6%	6.3%
K-8 & K-9 [7 resp.]	36.57	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Elementary (K-6) [103 resp.]	34.42	68.3%	64.6%	21.8%
<b>Total [205 resp.]</b>	<b>36.70</b>	<b>77.8%</b>	<b>78.1%</b>	<b>15.8%</b>
TOTAL HOURS	7,229.50			

A typical school library is open 7 to 8 hours every school day, with the average weekly hours working out to 36.7. More than four-fifths of libraries are open beyond before or after the scheduled school day, allowing students greater opportunity to use the library independently. Libraries that are only open during school hours make up 15.8% of total respondents, with most of those serving elementary students.

## Notes on the data

### Additional data sources

Enrollment and staffing numbers are obtained from the Wyoming Dept. of Education (WDE). Although schools can indicate that they serve PreK students, only students in K-12 are counted in the enrollment figures.

Circulation data for schools participating in the WYLD system is available to the Wyoming State Library. Where WYLD-participating schools responded to the survey but did not provide circulation numbers, those were pulled from the automated system.

### Imputations

In some cases it is necessary to impute data – to estimate a number when the real number is uncertain or unknown. Data that has been imputed is shaded in the spreadsheet. Where possible, schools were contacted to confirm information. Non-responses have been indicated as No Answer. Actual numbers of schools reporting for each data element are indicated at the beginning of the tables.

Among the rules were used to impute data are these:

- Where a range of numbers was given (eg. 18-20) , the midpoint is used as that data element.
- Dollar amounts are rounded to nearest dollar.
- Where line items were provided, but not the total, the line items were summed for the total.
- Where an estimated amount was given, that number is used.
- Where print budget and total budget matched, and non-print budget was not reported, non-print was imputed to zero (0).

- Where symbols such as >, <, + were used with a number (eg. 40+ hours), the symbol has been deleted and the number used.
- Where hours were not reported on the survey, but were listed in the online Wyoming Libraries Directory ([will.state.wy.us/directory/](http://will.state.wy.us/directory/)), hours were calculated from the directory.

### Calculated fields

Where some libraries did not respond to a specific question, averages, percentages and totals were based only on responding libraries.