

Wyoming School Library Survey 2016-17

Summary: K-12 public school libraries

September 2017

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 was lower than in 2015-16. Part of the decline may be because of budget and staffing cuts that have left many school libraries without certified librarians.

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.

Collecting instructional time continues to be a challenge, as the data provided is often inconsistent with the amount of library media specialist staffing reported by the Wyoming Department of Education. This year, the question on planning time was dropped and the question on instructional time was clarified to define it as formal teaching time.

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 <https://www.lrs.org/data-tools/school-libraries/impact-studies/>.

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 <http://library.wyo.gov/services/lido/stats/>.

Questions about this survey may be directed to:

Wyoming State Library

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Response rate - public schools

WDE K-12 schools by State School ID	
Total WDE schools in state by NCES number	359
Number of schools receiving survey	287
Schools reporting data	124
Response rate	43.2%

WDE K-12 schools with LIM and/or LMA staffing, by State School ID	
Schools with LIM/LMA staffing	284
LIM/LMA schools reporting data	100
Response rate	35.2%

WDE K-12 schools with LIM staffing, by State School ID	
Schools with LIM staffing	109
LIM schools reporting data	76
Response rate	69.7%

LIM: Library Media Specialist

LMA: Library Media Aide

WDE K-12 schools by building	
School buildings reporting data	115

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 2016-17, the WDE listed 359 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, 124 schools with libraries responded in part or in full to this year’s survey. Adjusting for co-located schools, these 124 schools have 115 libraries.

Out of 359 schools, 284 (79.1%) have designated LIM or LMA FTEs. Schools with Library Media Specialist (LIM) FTEs declined from 159 last year to 109 this year. Less than half of all schools (30.4%) are 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) [22 resp.]	12,223	556	317
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	627	125	114
K-12 [7 resp.]	1,235	176	140
Junior high/middle (5-9) [21 resp.]	8,843	421	395
K-8 & K-9 [3 resp.]	1,329	443	443
Elementary (K-6) [57 resp.]	16,125	283	289
Total [115 resp.]	40,382	334	303

The 115 school libraries that responded serve 40,382 students – 43% of the state’s entire Oct. 1, 2016 K-12 enrollment of 93,261.

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) [22 resp.]	18	81.8%	32.50	374.03	1.48	12.71	587.99	.58	39.11%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	3	60.0%	6.55	102.46	1.31	2.00	142.20	.40	30.53%
K-12 [7 resp.]	4	57.1%	6.47	157.76	.92	3.17	210.22	.45	49.00%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [21 resp.]	15	71.4%	25.35	352.36	1.21	11.36	350.90	.54	44.81%
K-8 & K-9 [3 resp.]	1	33.3%	4.59	156.80	1.53	1.00	147.67	.33	21.79%
Elementary (K-6) [57 resp.]	35	67.3%	61.43	233.16	1.08	12.69	120.90	.22	20.66%
Total [115 resp.]	76	61.8%	136.89	229.43	1.26	42.93	259.98	.42	31.36%

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

Among respondents, 76 (66.1%) report that the main contact holds a library media endorsement, slightly up from last year's 64.4%, although that could be due to the fact this is a different group of respondents. According to the WDE data, in 51 of the 115 responding libraries (44%), there is library media aide staffing, but no assigned library media specialist FTEs, although some 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) [22 resp.]	\$194,928	\$7,372	\$1,896	\$9,282	\$14.61	\$20.27	81.8%	18.2%	0.0%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	\$23,550	\$3,960	\$1,188	\$4,710	\$30.67	\$32.21	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
K-12 [7 resp.]	\$25,669	\$6,191	\$167	\$3,667	\$16.83	\$18.67	28.6%	71.4%	0.0%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [21 resp.]	\$146,853	\$6,176	\$1,982	\$8,159	\$14.46	\$22.41	75.0%	25.0%	0.0%
K-8 & K-9 [3 resp.]	\$53,500	\$16,500	\$1,333	\$17,833	\$30.47	\$30.47	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%
Elementary (K-6) [57 resp.]	\$215,980	\$3,871	\$461	\$4,695	\$13.27	\$16.96	53.8%	34.6%	11.5%
Total [115 resp.]	\$660,480	\$7,345	\$1,171	\$8,058	\$15.72	\$21.34	64.2%	30.3%	5.5%

Out of 115 respondents, 100 provided total collection expenditure data, and 96 provided data specifically on print purchases. On average, schools spent \$15.72 per student on print materials, up slightly from last year's \$14.29. Total collection spending was \$21.34 per student, up from last year's \$17.94. This could be attributed to a different response pool, as well as more spending on electronic resources.

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 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. Of the respondents, 30% report that they supplement their budgets, while 5.5% reported that they are heavily dependent on grants or other fundraising to maintain their collections, all at the elementary level.

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) [22 resp.]	240,822	12,041	27.3	233	22	1998	18
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	40,483	10,121	62.5	252	16	1992	24
K-12 [7 resp.]	105,636	15,091	73.2	132	12	2000	16
Junior high/middle (5-9) [21 resp.]	224,321	11,806	26.6	256	17	2001	15
K-8 & K-9 [3 resp.]	73,359	24,453	35.2	231	14	2001	15
Elementary (K-6) [57 resp.]	513,033	10,916	34.9	213	6	2001	16
Total [115 resp.]	1,197,654	14,071	35.1	220	15	2000	16

Reporting schools held 1.2 million print items during the 2016-17 school year. The median for all schools was 35 items per student.

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 2000, or 16 years old at the time of the survey. A 2000 science book would miss many recent developments.

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. In addition, it doesn't account for items with older copyright dates that are still valuable and should be retained.

Library computers

Type of school	Student computers in library			Schools where each student issued laptop or tablet
	Number	Average computers per library	Average students per computer	
Senior high (9-12) [22 resp.]	460	22.0	32.6	36.4%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	78	16.0	11.7	60.0%
K-12 [7 resp.]	118	17.0	23.8	28.6%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [21 resp.]	274	15.0	50.3	52.6%
K-8 & K-9 [3 resp.]	101	34.0	13.3	0.0%
Elementary (K-6) [57 resp.]	592	12.0	52.1	19.6%
Total [115 resp.]	1,623	19.3	30.6	31.4%

Survey respondents reported a total of 1,623 student computer workstations in their libraries. This is an average of 19.3 computers per library and 30.6 students per computer. For the second year, schools were asked whether each student was issued a laptop or tablet. Last year 24% reported yes; this year 31.4% (33 schools) did. This is a data element to watch now that Wyoming is a Future Ready State.

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 WYLDCAT	Library has links to GoWYLD	Databases purchased locally	Remote access local databases
Senior high (9-12) [22 resp.]	59.1%	95.2%	68.2%	71.4%	85%	45.5%	53.3%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	80.0%	100%	40.0%	80.0%	80.0%	25.0%	33.3%
K-12 [7 resp.]	71.4%	100%	42.9%	42.9%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [21 resp.]	35.0%	90.0%	57.9%	41.2%	72.2%	37.5%	63.6%
K-8 & K-9 [3 resp.]	33.3%	100%	66.7%	33.3%	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Elementary (K-6) [57 resp.]	16.0%	96.0%	68.0%	41.3%	67.4%	71.4%	63.2%
Total [115 resp.]	35.5%	95.3%	63.8%	49.5%	70.4%	50.0%	54.8%
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	38	101	67	49	69	47	40

Nearly every school has a website: 95% of libraries reported their school has one, and two-thirds report having a library-specific web page. More libraries link to the GoWYLD resources (70%) than to WYLDCAT (49%).

Every student in Wyoming has access both at school and remotely to the GoWYLD databases. Half of respondents said electronic resources are also purchased locally through the school or district budget: 55% of those schools with locally-purchased databases have remote access to those resources for students.

Slightly more than one-third of schools reported loaning laptops, which is consistent with last year. About 36% of schools reported loaning laptops, an increase from last year's 34%.

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	
Senior high (9-12) [22 resp.]	90.5%	9.5%	0.0%	6.65
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	50%	50%	0.0%	3.50
K-12 [7 resp.]	0%	85.7%	14.3%	10.68
Junior high/middle (5-9) [21 resp.]	45%	35%	20%	6.72
K-8 & K-9 [3 resp.]	0.0%	33.3%	66.7%	20.58
Elementary (K-6) [57 resp.]	0.0%	11.8%	88.2%	13.41
Total [115 resp.]	28.3%	22.6%	49.1%	10.26
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	30	24	52	

One of the items noted as having a positive correlation on test scores is flexible scheduling. None of the responding senior high schools or junior/senior high school had all their classes scheduled at fixed time. Fixed scheduling is more often used at the lower grades with 88.2% of K-6 schools having all their classes at fixed times, a slight decrease from last year (89.3%).

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. This is a difficult data element to collect, as it is often misinterpreted. However, it is an important enough measure that it has been retained for the survey.

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	Faculty/admin	Student	Student on faculty committee
Senior high (9-12) [22 resp.]	85.7%	59.1%	45.5%	42.9%	26.3%	22.7%	18.2%	9.5%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	60.0%	40.0%	60.0%	60.0%	60.0%	40.0%	40.0%	0.0%
K-12 [7 resp.]	57.1%	14.3%	57.1%	85.7%	28.6%	0.0%	14.3%	14.3%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [21 resp.]	100.0%	50.0%	70.0%	50.0%	16.7%	25.0%	10.0%	0.0%
K-8 & K-9 [3 resp.]	100.0%	33.3%	66.7%	50.0%	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Elementary (K-6) [57 resp.]	72.3%	38.0%	50.0%	40.4%	40.0%	14.0%	6.1%	0.0%
Total [115 resp.]	75.2%	43.0 %	54.1%	46.7%	34.3%	18.7%	11.3%	8.7%
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	76	46	59	50	35	20	12	9

Three-quarters of libraries (75%) reported they have support for staff to attend training opportunities outside their district, up from last year's 69%. School librarians continue to play a role on technology committees with just over half of library staff reporting participation.

Few schools reported having library advisory committees: 18.7% have faculty/administration advisory committees, but 11% have student advisory committees. The percentage with faculty committees is consistent with last year's survey, but the student advisory committees show an increase with this year's respondents.

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) [22 resp.]	85.0%	47.6%	95.2%	90.0%	95.0%	89.5%	85.0%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	60.0%	40.0%	100.0%	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%	100.0%
K-12 [7 resp.]	100.0%	50.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [21 resp.]	84.2%	68.4%	95.0%	89.5%	94.7%	83.3%	79.0%
K-8 & K-9 [3 resp.]	100.0%	66.7%	100.0%	66.7%	100.0%	33.3%	100.0%
Elementary (K-6) [57 resp.]	76.6%	60.5%	95.8%	85.1%	87.2%	76.6%	72.9%
Total [115 resp.]	81.2%	57.7%	96.2%	87.0%	91.0%	80.8%	80.2%
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	82	56	100	87	91	80	81

Policies and procedures allow the library media center to operate effectively and to help library staff deal with different situations that may arise. More than three-fourths of libraries surveyed indicated they have a library policies and procedures manual, and more than half of respondents have regularly scheduled policy review and revision. This proportion is up from last year.

More schools reported having an Internet/network acceptable use policy than last year: 96%. Of the respondents 91% reported having policies for challenges to holdings, 87% have collection development policies, 81% have copyright policies and 80% have policies for resource sharing and interlibrary loan. All of these percentages have increased since the 2015-16 survey, but it is difficult to determine whether more schools are instituting formal policies or whether this is because the respondents varied from last year.

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) [22 resp.]	3,042	4.8	17.1	291.1	271.3	536.5	1.1
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	1,184	8.8	11.0	126.0	85.0	211.0	1.5
K-12 [7 resp.]	3,470	20.3	16.0	165.6	92.3	257.9	1.2
Junior high/middle (5-9) [21 resp.]	4,443	9.3	12.9	254.8	221.4	476.2	1.4
K-8 & K-9 [3 resp.]	9,801	27.4	24.3	406.0	135.7	541.7	1.4
Elementary (K-6) [57 resp.]	7,664	24.1	16.2	288.3	135.4	407.4	1.3
Total [115 resp.]	4,934	14.8	16.3	255.3	156.9	405.1	1.4
TOTAL USE	545,308		1,702	28,952	17,609	46,798	

Full-year circulation can only be estimated for any survey that ends before the school year does, so the Wyoming School Library Survey uses 1st semester circulation instead. The median for all schools was 14.8. Not surprisingly, circulation figures were generally higher where schools served lower grade levels. 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. More than half of total student visits are in classroom sessions, rather than students working independently. Total visits reported were 46,798 with a median of 1.4 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) [22 resp.]	37.8	92.3%	77.3%	9.1%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	38.0	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%
K-12 [7 resp.]	40.6	85.7%	85.7%	0.0%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [21 resp.]	37.2	95.2%	76.2%	4.7%
K-8 & K-9 [3 resp.]	38.7	66.7%	100.0%	0.0%
Elementary (K-6) [57 resp.]	35.7	75.0%	67.3%	19.6%
Total [115 resp.]	38.0	83.2%	73.0%	12.2%
TOTAL HOURS	4,058.9			

A typical school library is open 7 to 8 hours every school day, with the average weekly hours for reporting libraries working out to 38. 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 12.2% of total respondents, down from last year, 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 Pre-K 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 (e.g. 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 (e.g. 40+ hours), the symbol has been deleted and the number used.

Calculated fields

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