

Wyoming School Library Survey 2017-18

Summary: K-12 public school libraries

June 2018

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 higher than in 2016-17. Part of the reason for the increase could be increased awareness of the importance of the survey, as well as a need to have data for advocacy at the local level.

In staffing, 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.

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	353
Number of schools receiving survey	288
Schools reporting data	142
Response rate	49.3%

WDE K-12 schools with LIM and/or LMA staffing, by State School ID	
Schools with LIM/LMA staffing	272
LIM/LMA schools reporting data	123
Response rate	45.2%

WDE K-12 schools with LIM staffing, by State School ID	
Schools with LIM staffing	89
LIM schools reporting data	52
Response rate	58.4%

LIM: Library Media Specialist

LMA: Library Media Aide

Out of 353 schools, 272 (77.1%) have designated LIM or LMA FTEs. Schools with Library Media Specialist (LIM) FTEs declined from 109 last year to 89 this year. Only a quarter of all schools (25.2%) 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) [28 resp.]	14,085	503	342
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	815	163	118
K-12 [9 resp.]	1,568	174	152
Junior high/middle (5-9) [17 resp.]	7,987	470	404
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	2,118	353	345
Elementary (K-6) [77 resp.]	22,495	292	284
Total [142 resp.]	49,068	346	284

The 142 school libraries that responded serve 49,068 students – 53% of the state’s entire Oct. 1, 2017 K-12 enrollment of 92,976.

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) [28 resp.]	18	72.0%	33.37	422.09	1.19	15.33	918.79	0.55	45.90%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	1	20.0%	4.55	179.12	0.91	1.00	815.00	0.20	21.98%
K-12 [9 resp.]	5	55.6%	10.37	151.21	1.15	4.83	324.64	0.54	47.00%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [17 resp.]	15	88.2%	24.29	328.82	1.43	11.00	726.09	0.65	45.28%
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	3	50.0%	6.31	335.66	1.05	2.00	1,059.00	0.33	31.70%
Elementary (K-6) [77 resp.]	43	55.8%	76.35	294.63	0.99	16.37	1,374.16	0.21	21.44%
Total [142 resp.]	85	59.9%	155.24	285.26	1.09	50.53	869.61	0.36	32.55%

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

Among respondents, 85 (59.9%) report that the main contact holds a library media endorsement, slightly down from last year's 66.1%, although that could be due to the fact this is a different group of respondents. According to the WDE data, in 90 of the 142 responding libraries (63.4%), 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) [28 resp.]	\$192,296	\$6,795	\$1,423	\$15,384	\$13.60	\$19.76	81.5%	18.2%	3.7%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	\$14,800	\$3,767	\$1,167	\$4,933	\$24.10	\$24.10	75.0%	25.0%	0.0%
K-12 [9 resp.]	\$37,370	\$3,574	\$578	\$4,152	\$12.89	\$18.52	33.3%	44.4%	22.2%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [17 resp.]	\$133,000	\$5,964	\$1,975	\$7,824	\$12.62	\$15.41	82.4%	17.6%	0.0%
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	\$53,092	\$24,064	\$545	\$8,849	\$19.96	\$19.96	50.0%	25.0%	25.0%
Elementary (K-6) [77 resp.]	\$260,107	\$3,606	\$253	\$3,825	\$12.39	\$12.89	40.3%	43.1%	16.7%
Total [142 resp.]	\$690,665	\$4,767	\$741	\$5,438	\$12.05	\$14.08	54.9%	31.6%	12.0%

Out of 142 respondents, 127 provided total collection expenditure data, and 124 provided data specifically on print purchases. On average, schools spent \$12.05 per student on print materials, down from last year's \$15.72. Total collection spending was \$14.08 per student, up from last year's \$21.34. 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.

Slightly 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, 31% report that they supplement their budgets, while 12% 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) [28 resp.]	242,305	10,096	25.7	232	20	2002	16
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	24,325	8,108	49.8	341	13	2003	15
K-12 [9 resp.]	118,342	14,793	80.0	91	11	2001	17
Junior high/middle (5-9) [17 resp.]	186,099	11,631	22.9	484	20	2001	18
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	97,889	19,578	56.3	192	6	2002	16
Elementary (K-6) [77 resp.]	777,065	11,262	40.8	124	5	2003	15
Total [142 resp.]	1,446,025	11,568	29.5	200	10	2002	16

Reporting schools held 1.4 million print items during the 2017-18 school year. The median for all reporting schools was 29.5 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 2002, or 16 years old at the time of the survey. A 2002 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	Median students per computer	
Senior high (9-12) [28 resp.]	511	20.4	17.6	46.2%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	39	13.0	14.8	75.0%
K-12 [9 resp.]	105	11.7	12.7	33.3%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [17 resp.]	268	15.8	25.3	47.1%
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	101	20.2	12.3	33.3%
Elementary (K-6) [77 resp.]	797	11.1	20.9	29.2%
Total [142 resp.]	1,821	12.8	26.9	37.4%

Survey respondents reported a total of 1,821 student computer workstations in their libraries. This is an average of 12.8 computers per library and a median of 26.9 students per computer. Schools were asked whether each student was issued a laptop or tablet. Last year 31% reported yes; this year 37% (49 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) [28 resp.]	61.5%	100.0%	65.4%	76.0%	87.5%	20.8%	52.9%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	100.0%	100.0%	50.0%	75.0%	100.0%	66.7%	50.0%
K-12 [9 resp.]	77.8%	100.0%	66.7%	75.0%	87.5%	11.1%	16.7%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [17 resp.]	35.3%	94.1%	47.1%	12.5%	58.8%	35.3%	50.0%
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	16.7%	83.3%	33.3%	33.3%	50.0%	40.0%	33.3%
Elementary (K-6) [77 resp.]	25.0%	95.9%	64.4%	43.9%	62.7%	44.6%	56.6%
Total [142 resp.]	38.1%	97.7%	60.7%	45.2%	69.6%	35.7%	39.8%
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	51	130	82	61	87	45	49

Nearly every school has a website: 98% of libraries reported their school has one, and more than half report having a library-specific web page. More libraries link to the GoWYLD resources (69.6%) than to WYLDCAT (45%).

Every student in Wyoming has access both at school and remotely to the GoWYLD databases. Only about one third of respondents said electronic resources are also purchased locally through the school or district budget: 39% of those schools with locally-purchased databases have remote access to those resources for students.

More than one-third of schools reported loaning laptops, slightly higher than last year. About 38% of schools reported loaning laptops, an increase from last year's 36%.

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) [28 resp.]	92.3%	7.7%	0.0%	6.13
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.00
K-12 [9 resp.]	22.2%	77.8%	0.0%	8.94
Junior high/middle (5-9) [17 resp.]	52.9%	29.4%	17.6%	6.21
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	20.0%	40.0%	40.0%	16.20
Elementary (K-6) [77 resp.]	2.7%	6.8%	90.5%	13.41
Total [142 resp.]	31.1%	15.6%	53.3%	9.66
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	42	21	72	

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 90.5% of K-6 schools having all their classes at fixed times, an increase from last year (88.2%).

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) [28 resp.]	83.3%	34.8%	54.2%	43.5%	13.6%	14.3%	9.1%	9.1%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	75.0%	20.0%	40.0%	60.0%	0.0%	60.0%	40.0%	25.0%
K-12 [9 resp.]	77.8%	22.2%	44.4%	44.4%	11.1%	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [17 resp.]	80.0%	35.3%	58.8%	56.3%	11.8%	29.4%	17.6%	0.0%
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	100.0%	20.0%	60.0%	60.0%	40.0%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Elementary (K-6) [77 resp.]	66.2%	38.0%	41.4%	33.8%	32.4%	22.9%	7.1%	1.4%
Total [142 resp.]	73.8%	34.6%	46.9%	41.1%	24.0%	22.0%	10.2%	7.2%
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	90	45	61	53	31	28	13	9

Slightly less than three-quarters of libraries (73%) reported they have support for staff to attend training opportunities outside their district, down from last year's 75%. School librarians continue to play a role on technology committees with just under half of library staff reporting participation, down from last year's 54%.

Few schools reported having library advisory committees: 22% have faculty/administration advisory committees, but only 10% have student advisory committees. The percentage with faculty committees is on the rise, but the student advisory committees show a decrease 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) [28 resp.]	86.4%	38.1%	88.5%	87.5%	90.9%	81.8%	73.9%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	50.0%
K-12 [9 resp.]	77.8%	44.4%	88.9%	77.8%	77.8%	77.8%	88.9%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [17 resp.]	94.1%	43.8%	100.0%	86.7%	100.0%	100.0%	68.8%
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	80.0%	0.0%	100.0%	80.0%	80.0%	60.0%	80.0%
Elementary (K-6) [77 resp.]	89.6%	50.0%	95.8%	88.4%	88.4%	78.8%	80.3%
Total [142 resp.]	88.6%	45.9%	94.7%	87.2%	89.5%	81.5%	77.8%
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	109	56	125	109	111	97	98

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 88% of libraries indicated they have a library policies and procedures manual, but less than half of respondents have regularly scheduled policy review and revision.

Fewer schools reported having an Internet/network acceptable use policy than last year: 94.7%. Of the respondents only 87% reported having collection development policies, 89% have policies for challenges to holdings, 81% have copyright policies and 77% have policies for resource sharing and interlibrary loan. All of these percentages are consistent with the 2016-17 survey.

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) [28 resp.]	2,447	2.8	14.2	216.9	221.7	422.3	0.7
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	1,041	9.0	4.7	42.0	89.7	131.7	1.2
K-12 [9 resp.]	2,693	14.1	14.0	135.6	87.3	222.9	1.2
Junior high/middle (5-9) [17 resp.]	4,939	9.8	16.5	298.9	194.4	481.9	1.1
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	6,576	17.6	22.5	358.8	225.4	584.2	1.2
Elementary (K-6) [77 resp.]	6,693	18.9	16.5	294.1	87.5	371.9	1.2
Total [142 resp.]	5,256	13.5	15.9	265.9	133.2	388.3	1.2
TOTAL USE	662,213		2,162	35,626	17,183	52,809	

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 13.5. 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 15.9 classroom sessions a week. More than half of total student visits are in classroom sessions, rather than students working independently. Total visits reported were 52,809 with 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) [28 resp.]	37.7	96.3%	88.9%	0.0%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	35.0	100.0%	80.0%	0.0%
K-12 [9 resp.]	38.8	100.0%	100.0%	11.1%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [17 resp.]	38.5	100.0%	88.2%	0.0%
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	36.5	83.3%	100.0%	0.0%
Elementary (K-6) [77 resp.]	34.3	53.9%	57.9%	35.1%
Total [142 resp.]	36.2	73.2%	72.7%	20.1%
TOTAL HOURS	4,919.8			

A typical school library is open 7 to 8 hours every school day, with the average weekly hours for reporting libraries working out to 36. More than four-fifths of libraries are open 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 20.1% of total respondents, an increase from last year, primarily 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 NA. 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.