Wyoming School Library Survey 2018-19
Summary: K-12 public school libraries
August 2019

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 2017-18. There are several possible contributors to the decline, including high staff turnover, and school closures, as well as a trend in staffing school libraries with non-certificated personnel.

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 the sake of 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/ldo/stats/.

Questions about this survey may be directed to:

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Response rate and reported LIM/LMA staffing

WDE K-12 schools by State School ID	
Total WDE schools in state by NCES number	348
Number of schools receiving survey	286
Schools reporting data	122
Response rate	**42.7%**

WDE K-12 schools with LIM and/or LMA staffing, by State School ID	
Total WDE schools in state by NCES number	348
Schools with LIM/LMA staffing	247
Percentage with LIM/LMA staffing	**71.0%**

WDE K-12 schools with LIM staffing, by State School ID	
Total WDE schools in state by NCES number	348
Schools with LIM staffing	80
Percentage with LIM staffing	**23.0%**

LIM: Library Media Specialist
LMA: Library Media Aide

Out of 348 schools, 247 (71.0%) have designated LIM or LMA FTEs. Schools with Library Media Specialist (LIM) FTEs declined from 89 last year to 80 this year. Less than a quarter of all schools (23.0%) 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 spread out over multiple schools.

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	Total	Average	Median
	Enrollment		
Senior high (9-12) [21 resp.]	12,967	617.5	548.0
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	1,038	207.6	192.0
K-12 [7 resp.]	1,090	155.7	142.0
Junior high/middle (5-9) [15 resp.]	7,015	467.7	399.0
K-8 & K-9 [3 resp.]	1,344	448.0	192.0
Elementary (K-6) [71 resp.]	18,714	263.6	291.0
Total [122 resp.]	**42,168**	**360.0**	**241.5**

The 122 schools that responded serve 42,168 students – 45% of the state's entire Oct. 1, 2018 K-12 enrollment of 93,029.

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) [21 resp.]	16	84.2%	29.28	442.86	1.39	13.57	955.56	0.65	46.35%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	3	75.0%	4.40	235.91	0.88	1.40	741.43	0.28	31.82%
K-12 [7 resp.]	1	14.3%	6.32	172.47	0.90	1.50	726.67	0.21	23.73%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [15 resp.]	11	84.6%	19.25	364.42	1.28	8.00	876.88	0.53	41.56%
K-8 & K-9 [3 resp.]	1	50.0%	3.75	358.40	1.25	1.00	1,344.00	0.33	26.67%
Elementary (K-6) [71 resp.]	37	58.7%	60.90	307.29	0.86	13.00	1,439.54	0.18	21.35%
Total [122 resp.]	**69**	**63.9%**	**123.90**	**340.34**	**1.02**	**38.47**	**611.13**	**0.32**	**31.05%**

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

Among respondents, 69 (63.9%) 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. Looking at all WDE schools, not just survey respondents, 135 have library aide FTEs (38.8%), but no 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. Among the 122 respondents, 43 have no LIM staffing assigned

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) [21 resp.]	$213,096	$8,040	$2,522	$19,372	$13.74	$19.76	76.2%	18.2%	0.0%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	$40,436	$6,860	$1,227	$8,087	$41.38	$24.10	60.0%	40.0%	0.0%
K-12 [7 resp.]	$27,625	$3,938	$725	$4,604	$22.67	$18.52	14.3%	85.7%	0.0%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [15 resp.]	$104,180	$6,510	$1,504	$8,014	$12.75	$15.41	61.5%	38.5%	0.0%
K-8 & K-9 [3 resp.]	$35,300	$11,767	$0	$11,767	$30.43	$19.96	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Elementary (K-6) [71 resp.]	$212,220	$3,693	$227	$3,787	$12.50	$12.89	50.0%	29.0%	21.0%
Total [122 resp.]	**$632,857**	**$5,307**	**$947**	**$6,020**	**$13.31**	**$13.86**	**55.5%**	**32.7%**	**11.8%**

Out of 122 respondents, 107 provided total collection expenditure data, and 105 provided data specifically on print purchases. On average, schools spent $13.31 per student on print materials, up from last year's $12.05. Total collection spending was $13.86 per student, down from last year's $14.08. 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, 33% 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) [21 resp.]	229,933	11,497	26.7	314.3	16.7	2002	16
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	38,363	7,673	52.1	190.6	13.0	2004	14
K-12 [7 resp.]	68,630	13,726	62.1	92.6	7.0	2000	19
Junior high/middle (5-9) [15 resp.]	159,434	12,264	34.6	577.1	14.1	2004	14
K-8 & K-9 [3 resp.]	77,505	25,835	36.6	231.0	7.7	2001	17
Elementary (K-6) [71 resp.]	613,528	10,956	39.3	153.0	4.7	2005	13
Total [122 resp.]	**1,187,393**	**11,641**	**36.4**	**239.6**	**8.7**	**2004**	**14**

Reporting schools held almost 1.2 million print items during the 2018-17 school year. The median for all reporting schools was 36.4 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 2004, or 14 years old at the time of the survey. A 2004 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) [21 resp.]	406	20.3	30.3	42.9%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	70	14.0	16.3	80.0%
K-12 [7 resp.]	92	15.3	6.3	42.9%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [15 resp.]	183	14.1	30.1	53.3%
K-8 & K-9 [3 resp.]	99	33.0	11.6	33.3%
Elementary (K-6) [71 resp.]	736	12.1	15.3	32.3%
Total [122 resp.]	**1,586**	**14.4**	**43.5**	**41.8%**

Survey respondents reported a total of 1,586 student computer workstations in their libraries. This is an average of 14.4 computers per library and a median of 43.5 students per computer. Schools were asked whether each student was issued a laptop or tablet. Last year 37% reported yes; this year 41.8% (46 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) [21 resp.]	61.9%	90.5%	85.7%	63.2%	89.5%	42.9%	58.8%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	40.0%	100.0%	60.0%	100.0%	100.0%	75.0%	100.0%
K-12 [7 resp.]	57.1%	100.0%	57.1%	80.0%	100.0%	0.0%	20.0%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [15 resp.]	53.3%	100.0%	61.5%	46.2%	84.6%	46.2%	53.8%
K-8 & K-9 [3 resp.]	33.3%	100.0%	33.3%	100.0%	100.0%	50.0%	100.0%
Elementary (K-6) [71 resp.]	14.3%	92.2%	65.6%	31.7%	60.0%	54.2%	58.3%
Total [122 resp.]	**31.9%**	**93.0%**	**67.3%**	**54.0%**	**73.1%**	**49.0%**	**47.6%**
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	**37**	**106**	**76**	**61**	**76**	**51**	**50**

Nearly every school has a website: 93% 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 (73.1%) than to WYLDCAT (54%).

Every student in Wyoming has access both at school and remotely to the GoWYLD databases. Almost half of respondents said electronic resources are also purchased locally through the school or district budget: 47.6% of those schools with locally-purchased databases have remote access to those resources for students.

About 32% of schools reported loaning laptops, less than last year's 38%. This decrease could be a reflection of the increase in students being issued laptops or tablets (pg. 7), thus reducing the need for the library to loan them.

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) [21 resp.]	76.2%	19.0%	4.8%	5.57
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	80.0%	20.0%	0.0%	3.25
K-12 [7 resp.]	14.3%	42.9%	42.9%	7.71
Junior high/middle (5-9) [15 resp.]	57.1%	28.6%	14.3%	7.32
K-8 & K-9 [3 resp.]	0.0%	33.3%	66.7%	21.67
Elementary (K-6) [71 resp.]	1.6%	6.8%	78.4%	10.96
Total [122 resp.]	**26.3%**	**14.5%**	**53.2%**	**9.38**
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	30	18	66	

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 78.4% of K-6 schools having all their classes at fixed times, a decrease from last year (90.5%).

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 library staff time is spent in 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. This data does not necessarily include collaborative instruction time.

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) [21 resp.]	77.8%	36.4%	41.7%	60.0%	31.6%	14.3%	14.3%	0.0%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	60.0%	40.0%	80.0%	40.0%	60.0%	20.0%	0.0%	40.0%
K-12 [7 resp.]	100.0%	42.9%	42.9%	42.9%	28.6%	0.0%	28.6%	0.0%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [15 resp.]	69.2%	25.0%	60.0%	41.7%	9.1%	25.0%	8.3%	0.0%
K-8 & K-9 [3 resp.]	100.0%	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Elementary (K-6) [71 resp.]	74.5%	22.4%	30.6%	24.6%	29.3%	19.6%	12.1%	1.8%
Total [122 resp.]	**75.8%**	**28.0%**	**38.8%**	**34.6%**	**28.2%**	**19.2%**	**12.3%**	**2.9%**
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	75	30	45	36	29	20	13	3

Of all the respondents, three-quarters (75.8%) reported they have support for staff to attend training opportunities outside their district, slightly up from last year's 73%. Fewer school librarians continue to play a role on technology committees with (38.8%) of library staff reporting participation, down from last year's 46.9%.

Few schools reported having library advisory committees: 19% have faculty/administration advisory committees, and only 12% have student advisory committees.

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) [21 resp.]	78.9%	52.6%	100.0%	100.0%	94.4%	90.0%	81.0%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	100.0%	80.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	60.0%
K-12 [7 resp.]	83.3%	57.1%	100.0%	66.7%	66.7%	85.7%	71.4%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [15 resp.]	80.0%	58.3%	100.0%	92.3%	100.0%	76.9%	61.5%
K-8 & K-9 [3 resp.]	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	50.0%	100.0%
Elementary (K-6) [71 resp.]	81.0%	60.7%	95.2%	77.0%	90.2%	75.4%	78.3%
Total [122 resp.]	**82.0%**	**58.4%**	**97.3%**	**84.1%**	**91.4%**	**79.8%**	**76.1%**
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	91	59	108	90	96	83	83

Policies and procedures allow the library media center to operate effectively and to help library staff deal with different situations that may arise. However, only 82% of libraries indicated they have a library policies and procedures manual, but just over half of those respondents have regularly scheduled policy review and revision.

More schools reported having an Internet/network acceptable use policy than last year: 97%. Of the respondents only 84% reported having collection development policies, 91% have policies for challenges to holdings, 80% have copyright policies and 76% have policies for resource sharing and interlibrary loan.

Student use

Type of school	Average 1st semester circulation	1st semester avg circ per student	Average typical weekly use:				
			Classroom sessions	Students in sessions	Independent users	Total visits	Visits per student
Senior high (9-12) [21 resp.]	6,055	9.3	18.2	322.3	287.6	577.6	0.9
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	2,369	11.4	17.0	143.4	9.0	152.4	0.9
K-12 [6 resp.]	4,312	19.8	9.1	80.7	75.3	156.0	0.8
Junior high/middle (5-9) [15 resp.]	4,873	9.0	14.6	285.1	208.4	477.5	1.3
K-8 & K-9 [3 resp.]	9,395	21.0	23.7	391.7	146.0	537.7	1.2
Elementary (K-6) [71 resp.]	6,337	19.0	16.0	284.6	97.1	373.8	1.4
Total [122 resp.]	**5,891**	**14.3**	**16.0**	**274.1**	**142.3**	**403.7**	**1.1**
TOTAL USE	**600,918**		**1,730**	**29,607**	**14,795**	**44,402**	

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 average for all responding schools was 14.3.

Library media centers see an average of 16.0 classroom sessions a week. More than half of total student visits are in classroom sessions, rather than students working independently. Total visits reported were 44,402 with an average of 1.1 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) [21 resp.]	39.5	95.2%	81.0%	4.8%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [5 resp.]	35.8	100.0%	80.0%	0.0%
K-12 [6 resp.]	36.4	71.4%	85.7%	0.0%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [15 resp.]	39.8	100.0%	80.0%	0.0%
K-8 & K-9 [3 resp.]	39.7	66.7%	100.0%	0.0%
Elementary (K-6) [71 resp.]	33.3	64.3%	54.9%	21.4%
Total [122 resp.]	**35.9**	**76.0%**	**66.4%**	**13.2%**
TOTAL HOURS	**4,131.8**			

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 13.2% of total respondents and are 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.