

Wyoming School Library Survey 2012-13

Summary: K-12 public school libraries

September 2013

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 down slightly. Still, approximately 3/5 of Wyoming schools responded.

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.

Student access to technology continues to be a challenge in data collection. Between the proliferation of tablets, schools where each child has their own laptop and the increasing use of electronic resources over print, it can be difficult to assess how students are accessing information. Some of the technology data elements will be reviewed before the 2013-14 survey is issued to reflect changes in the landscape.

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.

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.

Questions about this survey may be directed to:

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Response rate - public schools

WDE K-12 schools by State School ID	
Total WDE schools in state by NCES number	351
Schools reporting data	204
Response rate	58.12%

WDE K-12 schools with LIM and/or LMA staffing, by State School ID	
Schools with LIM/LMA staffing	295
LIM/LMA schools reporting data	189
Response rate	64.29%

WDE K-12 schools with LIM staffing, by State School ID	
Schools with LIM staffing	178
LIM schools reporting data	111
Response rate	62.36%

LIM: Library Media Specialist

LMA: Library Media Aide

WDE K-12 schools by building	
School buildings reporting data	182
Schools reporting no library	2

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 2012-13, the WDE listed 351 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.

Going by State School ID, 204 schools with libraries responded to this year’s survey, for a response rate of 58.12%. Adjusting for co-located schools, these 204 schools have 182 libraries. Two respondents reported no library. The response rate was higher for those schools that have designated Library Media Specialist (LIM) and/or Library Media Aide FTE (64.07%)

Out of 351 schools, 299 (85.19%) have designated LIM or LMA FTEs, down slightly from last year’s 86.78%. Library Media Specialists FTEs are assigned to about half of WDE schools (51.00%, 179 out of 351), holding steady from last year. However, sometimes the 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) [31 resp.]	15,033	485	298
Junior/senior high (6-12) [8 resp.]	1,377	172	191
K-12 [12 resp.]	1,843	154	148
Junior high/middle (5-9) [28 resp.]	10,921	390	266
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	1,731	289	226
Elementary (K-6) [97 resp.]	25,623	264	282
Total [182 resp.]	56,528	311	256

The 182 school libraries that responded serve 56,528 students – 62% of the state’s entire Oct. 1, 2012 K-12 enrollment of 90,900.

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) [31 resp.]	22	68.8%	49.97	300.84	1.61	22.44	669.92	0.72	44.91%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [8 resp.]	4	50.0%	12.09	113.90	1.51	2.90	474.83	0.36	23.99%
K-12 [12 resp.]	5	41.7%	13.02	141.55	1.09	4.90	376.12	0.41	37.63%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [28 resp.]	17	60.7%	33.38	327.17	1.19	16.54	660.28	0.59	49.55%
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	3	50.0%	5.57	310.77	0.93	2.82	613.83	0.47	50.63%
Elementary (K-6) [97 resp.]	24	24.7%	103.08	246.01	1.06	28.14	901.17	0.29	27.30%
Total [182 resp.]	75	41.2%	217.11	259.06	1.19	77.74	723.49	0.43	35.81%

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

"Main contact" is the person found in the library most often, not necessarily the respondent listed in the libraries tab.

Not surprisingly, the percentage of libraries where the main contact holds a library media endorsement is highest at the high school level and lower in the elementary schools. In three out of every five responding school libraries, the main contact does not hold the library media endorsement.

There is a wide disparity in library FTEs. among schools. Looking at all WDE schools, not just survey respondents, 116 have library aide FTEs, but no library media specialist FTEs – more than one-third of Wyoming schools. Among respondents, 50 have no LIM staffing assigned. These libraries might be supervised by a Media Specialist in another school or one at the district level. Five districts have LIM FTEs assigned at the district level.

WDE data are used here because they are the most comprehensive and consistent data. It is possible 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) [31 resp.]	\$308,687	\$8,968	\$2,849	\$11,433	\$17.34	\$22.03	70.4%	29.6%	0.0%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [8 resp.]	\$39,020	\$4,159	\$719	\$4,878	\$29.36	\$34.76	75.0%	25.0%	0.0%
K-12 [12 resp.]	\$49,700	\$4,560	\$411	\$4,970	\$26.84	\$29.25	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [28 resp.]	\$194,961	\$6,355	\$1,601	\$7,798	\$15.87	\$19.92	53.8%	42.3%	3.8%
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	\$58,120	\$12,225	\$167	\$9,687	\$36.01	\$33.58	16.7%	66.7%	16.7%
Elementary (K-6) [97 resp.]	\$315,906	\$3,209	\$558	\$3,949	\$12.37	\$15.09	40.2%	43.7%	16.1%
Total [182 resp.]	\$966,394	\$5,117	\$1,137	\$6,195	\$16.07	\$19.61	48.8%	41.5%	9.8%

Our of 182 respondents, 156 provided collection expenditure data. Collectively, these schools spent \$966,394 on information sources. Collection spending On average, schools spent \$16.07 per student on print materials. Total collection spending was \$19.61 per student, down more than \$1 from last year, continuing a downward trend seen last year.

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. Respondents may also not be aware that they should report expenditures on electronic resources and not just physical resources.

Just under half of libraries reported that their collections are completely funded by their school or district and that they do not rely on outside fundraising. Only 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-8 and K-9 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	Print per student	Audio-video	Periodical subs	Median copyright	Median age
Senior high (9-12) [31 resp.]	294,189	10,507	20.6	531	35	1995	18
Junior/senior high (6-12) [8 resp.]	83,215	10,402	60.4	284	21	1989	24
K-12 [12 resp.]	116,532	11,653	85.6	523	27	1992	21
Junior high/middle (5-9) [28 resp.]	250,392	10,016	25.9	282	20	1997	16
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	84,413	14,069	57.3	261	18	2001	12
Elementary (K-6) [97 resp.]	796,311	9,480	35.2	185	8	1999	14
Total [182 resp.]	1,625,052	10,093	31.8	293	17	1998	15

Reporting schools held more than 1.6 million print items during the 2012-13 school year – an average of 31.8 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 1998, or 15 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		
	Number	Average computers per library	Students per computer
Senior high (9-12) [31 resp.]	829	31.0	16.9
Junior/senior high (6-12) [8 resp.]	207	29.6	6.4
K-12 [12 resp.]	141	12.8	12.4
Junior high/middle (5-9) [28 resp.]	435	16.7	22.7
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	42	8.4	37.6
Elementary (K-6) [97 resp.]	1,046	11.6	22.5
Total [182 resp.]	2,700	16.3	19.3

Survey respondents reported a total of 2,700 student computer workstations in their libraries. This averages out to 16.3 computers per library or one computer for each 19.3 students, consistent with last year's survey results. Some survey respondents are reporting that their schools issue one laptop per child. In the past, those schools have been instructed to use the seating capacity of the library in lieu of the number of library workstations. This does, however, underestimate student access to technology. The proliferation of tablet devices also can change how technology is delivered to students. The computer data elements will be reviewed to reflect these changes for the 2013-14 survey.

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) [31 resp.]	33.3%	100.0%	88.0%	76.9%	92.3%	35.7%	22.2%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [8 resp.]	42.9%	100.0%	62.5%	87.5%	87.5%	37.5%	25.0%
K-12 [12 resp.]	63.6%	100.0%	60.0%	62.5%	100.0%	18.2%	18.2%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [28 resp.]	26.9%	100.0%	69.2%	45.8%	69.2%	32.0%	32.0%
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	16.7%	83.3%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	50.0%	33.3%
Elementary (K-6) [97 resp.]	14.0%	97.7%	47.6%	53.5%	65.3%	46.9%	34.6%
Total [182 resp.]	23.9%	98.2%	57.2%	57.0%	72.7%	40.3%	30.4%
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	39	163	91	81	109	64	48

School websites are near-universal: 98.2% of libraries reported their school has one. Nearly three out of every five libraries report having a library-specific web page. Most libraries report links to WYLD resources.

Every student in Wyoming has access both at school and remotely to the WYLD databases; 40.3% of respondents said they also purchase electronic resources locally through their school or district. About ¼ of schools with local databases offer remote access to those resources.

Only about one-fifth of schools loan laptops to their students for use outside the library. Elementary school libraries are least likely to loan laptops.

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) [31 resp.]	89.3%	7.1%	3.6%	4.63	5.61
Junior/senior high (6-12) [8 resp.]	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.43	2.08
K-12 [12 resp.]	0.0%	72.7%	27.3%	4.60	9.40
Junior high/middle (5-9) [28 resp.]	46.2%	46.2%	7.7%	4.33	6.40
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	4.20	11.00
Elementary (K-6) [97 resp.]	3.4%	10.2%	86.4%	4.40	11.59
Total [182 resp.]	28.7%	20.4%	50.9%	4.31	9.22
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	48	34	85		

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 86.4% of K-6 schools having all their classes at fixed times.

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) [31 resp.]	88.9%	44.4%	66.7%	44.4%	14.8%	29.6%	26.9%	11.5%	16.0%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [8 resp.]	100.0%	14.3%	28.6%	14.3%	28.6%	57.1%	14.3%	16.7%	0.0%
K-12 [12 resp.]	100.0%	36.4%	36.4%	36.4%	27.3%	36.4%	10.0%	18.2%	0.0%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [28 resp.]	91.3%	39.1%	52.2%	60.9%	21.7%	26.1%	20.0%	8.0%	0.0%
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	80.0%	20.0%	60.0%	40.0%	0.0%	40.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Elementary (K-6) [97 resp.]	74.4%	30.8%	42.9%	36.3%	14.3%	37.4%	20.3%	6.8%	2.9%
Total [182 resp.]	82.3%	33.5%	47.6%	40.2%	16.5%	35.4%	19.6%	8.8%	4.3%
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	121	55	78	66	27	58	29	13	6

Over 82% of libraries report they have support for staff to attend training opportunities outside their district – essentially the same as last year. Almost two-thirds of school libraries reported staff participation on one or more school committees – most often technology or school improvement. Approximately one-third have someone serving on a curriculum committee, and 16.5% are involved in a parent/teacher organization. Committee participation was more likely at higher grade levels.

Few schools reported having library advisory committees: 19.6% have faculty/administration advisory committees and 8.8% have student advisory committees. This was slightly higher than the numbers reported last year. Only 6 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) [31 resp.]	92.6%	60.0%	100.0%	88.5%	96.3%	96.0%	66.7%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [8 resp.]	71.4%	33.3%	100.0%	62.5%	87.5%	57.1%	50.0%
K-12 [12 resp.]	77.8%	33.3%	100.0%	66.7%	66.7%	70.0%	60.0%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [28 resp.]	84.6%	50.0%	100.0%	80.0%	88.0%	82.6%	64.0%
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	100.0%	33.3%	80.0%	83.3%	66.7%	50.0%	50.0%
Elementary (K-6) [97 resp.]	73.8%	45.9%	95.1%	74.6%	80.3%	79.4%	66.2%
Total [182 resp.]	79.9%	47.2%	96.8%	77.2%	83.6%	79.9%	63.9%
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	123	67	150	112	122	111	94

Policies and procedures allow the library media center to operate effectively and to help library staff deal with different situations that may arise. Four-fifths of libraries surveyed indicated they have a library policies and procedures manual, approximately the same that was reported last year. Just under half have regularly scheduled policy review and revision.

Internet/network acceptable use policies are nearly universal: 96.8% of reporting schools have a policy for that. Wyoming school libraries appear to be prepared for challenges to holdings – 83.6% reported having a policy to handle that situation. Collection development policies were reported by 77.2% of libraries, copyright by 79.9% and resource sharing/ILL by 63.9%

Student use

Type of school	Average 1st semester circulation	1st semester circ per student	Average typical weekly use:				
			Classroom sessions	Students in sessions	Independent users	Total visits	Visits per student
Senior high (9-12) [31 resp.]	2,757	5.3	15.2	275.3	274.9	550.2	1.1
Junior/senior high (6-12) [8 resp.]	2,492	13.2	9.8	149.2	131.5	280.7	1.6
K-12 [12 resp.]	4,364	22.4	17.4	145.3	86.8	232.1	1.5
Junior high/middle (5-9) [28 resp.]	4,216	10.5	19.7	371.4	273.5	645.0	1.7
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	4,435	14.0	12.7	231.5	193.3	424.8	1.5
Elementary (K-6) [97 resp.]	7,329	26.9	14.8	269.3	74.2	341.9	1.3
Total [182 resp.]	5,414	16.3	15.5	271.5	148.1	417.9	1.3
TOTAL USE	790,475		2,711	47,245	25,476	72,721	

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. On average, each student checked out 16 books in the 1st semester. Not surprisingly, circulation figures were generally higher where schools served lower grade levels, with K-6 schools checking out 27 books per student.

Library media centers see an average of 15.5 classroom sessions a week. Nearly two-thirds of total student visits are in classroom sessions, rather than students working independently. Total visits reported were more than 72,000, or an average of 1.3 visits per student per week.

Library availability

Type of school	Average weekly hours open	% of schools where library is open			
		Before school	After school	Weekends	None of above
Senior high (9-12) [31 resp.]	40.77	90.3%	90.3%	3.2%	3.2%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [8 resp.]	37.81	87.5%	87.5%	0.0%	12.5%
K-12 [12 resp.]	38.42	81.8%	81.8%	0.0%	18.2%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [28 resp.]	37.80	89.3%	85.7%	0.0%	7.1%
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	38.50	83.3%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Elementary (K-6) [97 resp.]	33.68	63.4%	59.1%	0.0%	25.8%
Total [182 resp.]	36.22	75.1%	72.9%	0.6%	16.9%
TOTAL HOURS	6,483				

A typical school library is open 7 or 8 hours every school day, with the average weekly hours working out to 36.22. 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. Only a very small minority (0.6%) are open on weekends. Libraries that are only open during school hours make up 16.9% 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/), 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. Eg. circulation per student was based on enrollment of the schools responding to that question, not the enrollment of all responding schools.