

Profile of Rural Public Libraries in the United States”- A Comparison of Public Library Statistics

Source: Chute, A., E., Gamer, P., Polcari, M., and Ramsey, C.J. (2002). Public Libraries in the United States: Fiscal Year 1999. (NCES 2002-308). U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. Washington, DC: 2002.

N.B.: The following data represent mean averages. Included in the information for libraries serving <25,000 populations are also those of <2,500.

Public libraries serving populations <2,500	Public libraries serving populations <25,000
Of the 9,046 public libraries in the United States, 29% (2,634) serve populations up to 2,499.	Of the 9,046 public libraries in the United States, 79% (7,158) serve populations up to 24,999.
<p>42% (991) of the libraries serving populations of <1000 are open 10-19 hours/week.</p> <p>41% (1,643) of the libraries serving populations of 1,000-2,499 are open 20-29 hours/week.</p>	<p>36% (1,328) of the libraries serving populations of 2,500-4,999 are open 30-39 hours/week.</p> <p>32% (1,471) of the libraries serving populations of 5,000-9,999 are open 40-49 hours/week.</p> <p>30% (1,725) of the libraries serving populations of 10,000-24,999 are open 50-59 hours/week.</p>
The total operating income is \$31,487.	The total operating income is \$173,185.
There are fewer than one (.6%) paid FTE librarian for each library.	There are 2 paid FTE librarians for each library.
6% of the paid FTE librarians have an ALA/MLS degree.	23% of the paid FTE librarians have an ALA/MLS degree.
There are 11,128 books/serial volumes, and 29 serial subscriptions.	There are 26,959 books/serial volumes, and 73 serial subscriptions.
The total circulation is 10,477 items.	The total circulation is 48,104 items.
On an annual basis, there were 2,885 reference transactions.	On an annual basis, there were 5,293 reference transactions.
78% of the libraries have access to the Internet.	89% of the libraries have access to the Internet.
Of the total number of libraries, 59% have access to electronic services.	Of the total number of libraries, 72% have access to electronic services.