

ALA American Library Association

Contents

About the Report	3
America values its libraries	4
The economic downturn: an overview	6
Providing Services to Libraries: The Role of Library Networks, Cooperatives and Consortia.....	9
Types of Member Libraries	9
Purposes Served.....	9
Revenue sources	10
Expenditures	10
Staffing	10
Priorities.....	10
Size of LNCCs	11
2009 LNCC Update	12

About the Report

The full report – *The Condition of U.S. Libraries: Trends, 1999 2009* highlights US economic trends (2009) and summarizes trends in public, school and academic libraries during the current decade for: Number of Libraries and Population Served, Expenditures, Staffing, and Services. The compilation was prepared in December 2009 for the staff and member leaders of the American Library Association to support its planning activities.

This report is excerpted from the full report and presents the economic landscape and detail about library networks, cooperatives and consortia.

Information about library networks, cooperatives and consortia, organizations that support libraries but do not themselves provide direct service to the public, also are included. These data are now collected and reported by the ALA Association of Specialized & Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA). Information about the studies is online at <http://www.ala.org/ala/research/librarystats/cooperatives/lccc/lccc.cfm> and a searchable database is accessible at <http://cs.ala.org/ra/lccc/>.

In addition, a brief overview of the 2008 2009 economic downturn and its impact on state fiscal planning are provided.

America values its libraries

The American Library Association (ALA) conducts surveys of the public at various intervals to understand household use of public libraries and perceived value of public, school and academic libraries. Most recently, in a January 2009 telephone household survey, KRC Research¹ found that:

American households reported using their public libraries more often in 2009

25.4 million Americans reported using their public library more than 20 times in the last year, up from 20.3 million households in 2006.

The average number of in person public library visits rose in

92 percent of Americans agree (213 million) that school library programs are a good value for the tax dollar.

When asked about academic libraries

95 percent of Americans (220 million) agree that college and research libraries are an essential part of the learning community.

97 percent of Americans (224.5 million) agree that college and research libraries connect users with a world of knowledge.

The economic downturn: an overview

The

the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (<http://www.cbpp.org/>) and links to individual slides are noted as available.



Source: (CBPP 2009) <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=1214>



Source: (CBPP 2009) <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/?fa=view&id=711>

Providing Services to Libraries: The Role of Library Networks, Cooperatives and Consortia

The following findings are excerpted from the final report of a research study conducted by ALA, *Library Networks, Cooperatives and Consortia: A National Survey* (released December 3, 2007, <http://www.ala.org/ala/research/librystats/cooperatives/lccc/lccc.cfm>). The 2008-2009 data will be available from the ALA Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) at

Fewer than half of LNCCs reported providing:

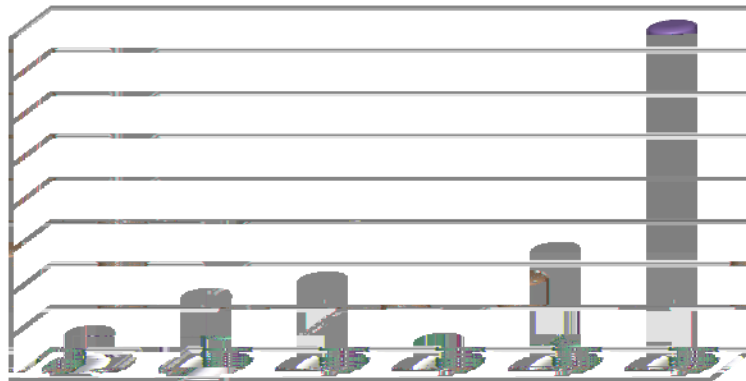
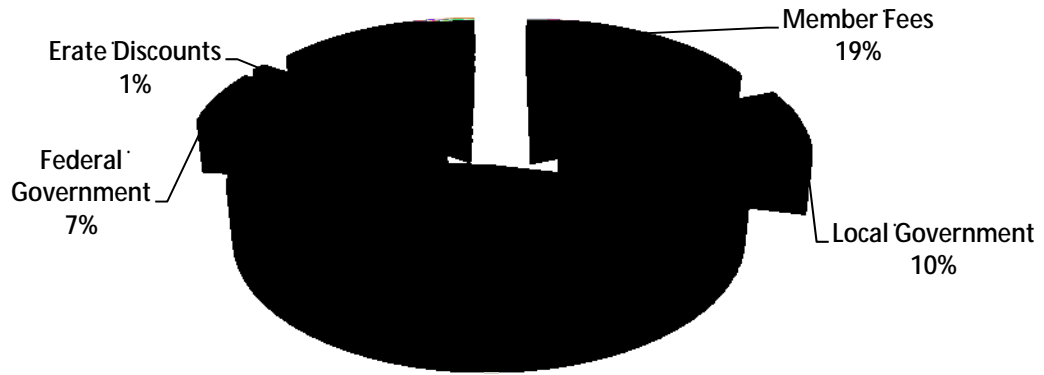
- standards/guidelines development or support
- support for services to special populations
- library and information science professional collections
- rotating or other shared collections and
- digitization or other preservation

Special populations
Standards / guidelines

Size of LNCCs

Staffing and total membership made the greatest difference in the range of services provided to member libraries. The following graphics present detail for priorities for services, income, and expenditures for LNCCs with 3-7 staff, the most predominant range for 51% of those responding to the 2007 detailed survey.

Percentage Income by Source,
LNCCs 3 7 FTE Percent



School libraries, 55.6%
Medical/Health libraries, 55.6%
Law libraries, 42.6%
Institutional/Correctional libraries, 35.2%
Corporate libraries, 33%
Non profit libraries, 42.6%

Staffing – 1-8 FTE, 50%; more than 8 FTE, 46%

Top ranked services

Provided now: Professional development, Resource sharing, Automation, Courier services, General Consulting, Cooperative purchasing.

Provided in the next 2 to 3 years: Cooperative purchasing, Professional