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THE ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

Children's Services Benchmark and Statistical Report 2016



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The OPLA Child and Youth Services Committee

MANDATE:

The committee will serve as the vehicle through which children's and youth services in the public library may be analyzed, understood and proactively planned for.

RESPONSIBILITIES/OBJECTIVES:

- To provide a forum through which children's and youth services staff can meet, exchange ideas, and promote services
- To honour excellence in service to children and youth
- To ensure innovative educational opportunities (workshops, seminars, Super Conference sessions) are provided for library staff working with children and youth
- To advocate on behalf of children and youth in public libraries
- To raise awareness of standards and guidelines for children's and youth services province-wide
- To explore and encourage connections with other organizations (both internal and external to the public library community) which provide services for children and youth

For more information on the Committee, please visit the Ontario Public Library Association's website at www.accessola.com/opla.



Photos: Burlington Public Library

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Introduction

Welcome to the Ontario Public Library Association (OPLA) 2016 Child and Youth Services Committee Report, the second report dedicated exclusively to public library services for children.

The library world is always changing. This report attempts to strike a balance between asking questions that capture those changes, while also asking comparator questions from previous surveys. Examples of new information collected include: staffing levels per capita, accessibility, outcome measures, and emerging technologies.

The data collected in this report was collected in 2015 via an online survey. Throughout the report, it is clear public libraries are doing great things for the children of their communities, and must continue to advocate for improved services for our youngest users.

KEY FINDINGS

- 33% of public libraries report full-day kindergarten as having a significant impact on children's programs.
- Circulation of children's materials make up 24% of overall circulation, while children's budgets only make up 17% of overall spending, indicating that libraries get more value from children's materials.
- The percentage of library staff in Child Services is highest (23%) in communities with populations in the 15,000 to under 50,000 category. They make up the smallest percentage (3%) in the largest libraries, which are those over 100,000.

Photos: Burlington Public Library

- Public library staff are more likely to have a membership with the Ontario Library Association than any other professional development associations.
- Programming options have increased to include technological related options such as video games, film and video production, maker programs and digital technology.
- Programs focusing specifically on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) are also being offered by more library systems.
- The budgets for children's materials now represent a smaller percentage of the total budget than in 2009 (17% in 2015 vs. 27% in 2009), while net spending has actually increased (9.9 million in 2015 vs. 8.4 million in 2009), indicating that increases in child material budgets are not keeping pace with spending in other areas.
- Children's non-print holdings (eBooks, playaways, etc.) do not appear to be growing in proportion to total non-print holdings.
- 42% of library systems have a multilingual children's collection.
- Based on qualitative data, there appears to be a trend moving away from formal restrictions for children's Internet access and in favour of policies that mandate that a parent or adult are to be present for children to use online services.
- Social media is now the most popular form of promotion employed by libraries.

PREVIOUS REPORTS

- 1997, Child and Youth Services
- 2003, Child and Youth Services
- 2009, Child Services
- 2013, Teen Services

Respondents

The number of respondents (sample size) of the this survey was 154 libraries (50% of the total 310 libraries), down 4% from 2009. Of those libraries:

- 21% of respondents represented libraries serving populations under 5,000 (32 systems)
- 23% of respondents represented libraries serving a population of between 5,000 and 15,000 (36 systems)
- 29% of respondents represented libraries serving a population of between 15,000 to 50,000 (45 systems)
- 12% of respondents represented libraries serving a population of between 50,000 to 100,000 (19 systems)
- 21% of respondents represented libraries serving a population of over 100,000 (22 systems)

When compared to the 2009 survey, there were more respondents in this survey who represent libraries that served populations of 50,000 or more than 15,000 or less. This is a change from the representative data from the 2009 survey, which had more respondent libraries in the 15,000 or less range (33% in this survey vs. 55% in 2009).

Photos: Burlington Public Library



Special Notes

- The total population served by respondents of this survey was 11,145,474.
- The total population of children identified was 1,478,497.
- The percentage of the Ontario population represented was 82% (11.1M out of 13.6M).
- In this survey, programming for children under the age of 5 is represented by Story Time and Early Literacy Programs
- New information has been gathered for the first time in the survey that was not collected in the 2009 survey, specifically in the areas of the Every Child Ready to Read Program, Outcomes, Accessibility, and technological and specific programming options.
- It is important to note this survey was administered electronically and that the data is fully available online. Libraries that participated in this survey have full access to the online survey results using the same username and password assigned to their library. The results can be found at <http://opla.countingopinions.com>. This information can be used to compare data to other libraries in order to assess and benchmark children's services in each library system. Participants can also create their own templates and examine the data in a way that best suits their needs. The survey is a powerful tool that will allow participating library systems to access data collected from public libraries across Ontario. This information can be used for advocacy and strategic planning.

Special Considerations

THE IMPACT OF FULL DAY LEARNING PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS

The implementation of full day kindergarten has had a neutral to negative impact on the service delivery and partnerships of many public libraries. In turn, this has caused a shift in the policies, staffing, development and budgets of children's programming in libraries across Ontario. Public libraries continue to forge partnerships with Ontario Early Years Centres, preschools, daycare facilities and schools.

THE INCREASE OF TECHNOLOGY

There has been a marked increase in the availability of technologies such as 3D printing, maker spaces and devices for loan. Since the last survey in 2009, devices such as tablets and eReaders have been widely introduced to library systems' holdings for lending and use. This survey is the first time that this survey has collected detailed information on the technological offerings of the library systems.

RESTRICTIONS ON INFORMATION ACCESS FOR CHILDREN

There has been a reduction in the number of library systems that actively enforce policies, which restrict Internet usage and library resources for children. In the qualitative data, some respondents indicated that there are policies in place that require adult or parental supervision for children who use the Internet in the library.

Teen Services

A survey focused on Teen Services was released by the OPLA Child and Youth Services Committee in 2013. Any information found in this document will only reflect children's services in public libraries.

How to Use this Survey

Appendix A has a copy of this survey for consultation. The survey results are in consecutive order of the questions that were asked. Where insufficient valid data was collected, questions have been eliminated. The report headings reflect the questions asked, often in abbreviated format.

Analysis of the Survey

POPULATION SERVED

| Population Bracket | Total Population Served | % of Population are Children | % of sites can Identify Children's Population | Total Population of Children |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 100K + | 8,129,968 | 14.22% | 86.36% | 1,098,916 |
| 50K - 100K | 1,391,478 | 13.92% | 78.95% | 185,298 |
| 15K - 50K | 1,240,531 | 15.01% | 80.00% | 161,351 |
| 5K - 15K | 319,996 | 8.94% | 50.00% | 27,242 |
| 5K | 70,118 | 6.92% | 50.00% | 5,690 |
| All | 11,152,091 | 13.27% | 66.88% | 1,478,497 |

CHILDREN'S POPULATION AS A PERCENT OF THE TOTAL POPULATION

| Population Bracket | % Population are Children |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 100K + | 14.22% |
| 50K - 100K | 13.92% |
| 15K - 50K | 15.01% |
| 5K - 15K | 8.94% |
| 5K | 6.92% |
| All | 13.27% |

- Libraries that serve a larger population have seen an increase in both the percentage and the population that they serve, as compared to the 2009 survey. Libraries that serve a smaller population have seen a decrease in both the population and the percentage of children that they serve.
- For this survey, children include all those older than 5 and younger than 12.

BUDGET

| Population Bracket | Total Materials Budget | Budget for Children's Material | % of Budget for Children's Materials |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 100K + | \$45,986,290 | \$7,656,483 | 16.80% |
| 50K - 100K | \$6,079,371 | \$922,669 | 14.60% |
| 15K - 50K | \$5,217,991 | \$1,016,071 | 19.90% |
| 5K - 15K | \$1,258,273 | \$241,845 | 18.03% |
| 5K | \$347,337 | \$52,406 | 12.50% |
| All | \$59,519,262 | \$9,889,474 | 16.82% |

**PERCENT OF BUDGET
FOR CHILDREN'S
MATERIALS**

- On average, libraries are spending 17% of their overall budgets on children's material. This is a decrease of 10% from the 2009 survey.
- However, actual dollars spent on children's materials has increased by 15% from 2009 from \$8,427,185 to \$9,889,474.

| Population Bracket | % of Budget for Children's Materials |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 100K + | 16.80% |
| 50K - 100K | 14.60% |
| 15K - 50K | 19.90% |
| 5K - 15K | 18.03% |
| 5K | 12.50% |
| All | 16.82% |

Library Holdings and Circulation*

HOLDINGS

| Population Bracket | Total Print Holdings | Total Children's Print Holdings | % of Total Print Holdings are Children's Print Holdings | Total Non-Print Holdings | Total Children's Non-Print Holdings | % of Total Non-Print Holdings are Children's Non-Print Holdings |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 100K + | 18,538,469 | 4,938,806 | 26.64% | 2,943,579 | 438,603 | 14.90% |
| 50K - 100K | 3,132,855 | 982,592 | 31.36% | 701,365 | 84,862 | 12.10% |
| 15K - 50K | 2,839,256 | 867,061 | 30.54% | 1,226,545 | 124,312 | 10.14% |
| 5K - 15K | 954,201 | 290,206 | 30.41% | 380,463 | 21,899 | 5.76% |
| 5K | 357,856 | 97,878 | 27.35% | 27,956 | 2,295 | 8.21% |
| All | 25,822,637 | 7,176,543 | 27.79% | 5,279,908 | 671,971 | 12.73% |

% OF TOTAL PRINT HOLDINGS THAT ARE CHILDREN'S PRINT HOLDINGS

| Population Bracket | % of Total Print Holdings are Children's Print Holdings |
|--------------------|---|
| 100K + | 26.64% |
| 50K - 100K | 31.36% |
| 15K - 50K | 30.54% |
| 5K - 15K | 30.41% |
| 5K | 27.35% |
| All | 27.79% |

- Children's materials continue to occupy approximately 28% of the total holdings.
- This survey indicates children's print holdings are growing in steady proportion to the total holdings of the library.
- Children's non-print holdings have not kept pace with the rate of growth compared to the total non-print holdings in libraries.
- Children's non-print holdings represent only 13% of total non-print holdings, which include ebooks, playaways and electronic resources. This is a decrease of 6% from 2009.

* Holdings are library materials that can be lent to library users. Circulation consists of the activities around the lending of items by the library.

CHILDREN'S NON-PRINT HOLDINGS

| Population Bracket | DVD/BluRays | CDs | Video Games | eBooks | eAudio-books | eMusic | eMovies | eReaders | Play-aways | Tablets | Other |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 100K + | 100.00% | 100.00% | 54.55% | 100.00% | 100.00% | 71.73% | 77.27% | 9.09% | 40.91% | 27.27% | 22.73% |
| 50K - 100K | 89.47% | 89.47% | 63.16% | 100.00% | 100.00% | 68.42% | 36.84% | 15.79% | 42.11% | 21.05% | 21.05% |
| 15K - 50K | 91.11% | 91.11% | 42.22% | 88.89% | 91.11% | 28.89% | 24.44% | 20.00% | 28.89% | 26.67% | 6.67% |
| 5K - 15K | 66.67% | 66.67% | 25.00% | 86.11% | 83.33% | 22.22% | 13.89% | 25.00% | 16.67% | 22.22% | 11.11% |
| 5K | 40.63% | 40.63% | 37.50% | 62.50% | 68.75% | 18.75% | 18.75% | 25.00% | 21.88% | 25.00% | 6.25% |
| All | 74.68% | 74.68% | 41.56% | 85.71% | 87.01% | 83.12% | 50.65% | 20.13% | 72.08% | 25.32% | 11.69% |

Photo: Burlington Public Library



- eAudiobooks are the most commonly collected non-print holding. The rate of tablet collection varies little between libraries serving different population sizes, and the collection rate for DVDs and BluRay discs drops dramatically as the population size decreases.
- Beyond technological resources, some respondents indicated that lifestyle and entertainment kits were available for loan. These items include a fishing rod and tackle kit, pedometers, Enviropacks, STEM kits, and board games.

CIRCULATION

| Population Bracket | Total Circulation | Total Circulation of Children's Materials | % of Total Circulation are Children's Materials |
|--------------------|--------------------|---|---|
| 100K + | 90,388,296 | 23,096,042 | 25.55% |
| 50K - 100K | 10,779,312 | 2,450,437 | 22.73% |
| 15K - 50K | 8,806,674 | 1,345,100 | 15.27% |
| 5K - 15K | 2,128,375 | 204,135 | 9.59% |
| 5K | 494,824 | 55,581 | 11.23% |
| All | 112,597,481 | 27,151,295 | 24.11% |

- On average, circulation of children's materials makes up 24% of the total library circulation. Libraries serving larger populations see the most circulation use of their children's materials.
- Libraries continue to circulate children's materials more than they spend (24% vs. 17%). Therefore, libraries get more value for their dollars in relation to children's materials.

Photo: Burlington Public Library



Library Resources: Technology

TECHNOLOGIES OFFERED

| Population Bracket | Office Software | Multi-media Stations | 3D Printing | Laptops | Tablets / Portable Smart Devices | eBook Readers | Early Literacy Stations | Video Game Systems | Other |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 100K + | 72.73% | 50.00% | 31.82% | 27.27% | 40.90% | 9.09% | 81.82% | 13.64% | 4.54% |
| 50 - 100K | 42.11% | 21.10% | 15.79% | 5.26% | 21.05% | 5.26% | 94.74% | 26.32% | 0.00% |
| 15K - 50K | 46.67% | 26.67% | 8.89% | 15.56% | 28.89% | 11.11% | 82.22% | 17.78% | 0.00% |
| 5K - 15K | 33.33% | 19.44% | 0.00% | 8.33% | 16.67% | 16.67% | 80.56% | 16.67% | 2.78% |
| 5K | 18.75% | 21.88% | 6.25% | 12.50% | 18.75% | 12.50% | 56.25% | 31.25% | 0.00% |
| All | 40.91% | 26.62% | 10.39% | 13.64% | 24.68% | 11.69% | 77.92% | 20.78% | 1.30% |

- This survey has seen numerous additions to the technologies offered by public libraries. Many libraries offer laptop, tablet and eBook readers as well as Makerspaces and 3D printing services.
- Survey data indicates libraries continue to make significant gains both in the variety and the quantity of technology being offered to patrons. Some of these technologies include book kits, Playaway viewers, video games and talking books.

Photo: Burlington Public Library



RESTRICTIONS

| Population Bracket | Do you have restrictions on how children use library resources? | Do you have restrictions on children's usage of Internet? | Is online gaming allowed for children at your library? | Has your library adopted the "Children's Rights in the Public Library" document? |
|--------------------|---|---|--|--|
| 100K + | 50.00% | 31.82% | 54.17% | 45.45% |
| 50 - 100K | 45.00% | 40.00% | 70.00% | 57.89% |
| 15K - 50K | 17.78% | 33.33% | 58.06% | 48.89% |
| 5K - 15K | 18.92% | 33.33% | 50.00% | 36.11% |
| 5K | 15.63% | 34.38% | 22.45% | 28.13% |
| All | 25.97% | 34.42% | 46.34% | 42.21% |

RESTRICTIONS ON CHILDREN'S LIBRARY RESOURCES

| Population Bracket | Do you have restrictions on how children use library resources? |
|--------------------|---|
| 100K + | 50.00% |
| 50K - 100K | 45.00% |
| 15K - 50K | 17.78% |
| 5K - 15K | 18.92% |
| 5K | 15.63% |
| All | 25.97% |

- Unlike the data found in 2009, libraries that serve larger populations tend to place more restrictions on library resources than libraries serving smaller populations.
- Online gaming is now offered in many library systems regardless of the size of population served. An average of 46% of library systems stated they offer programming that involved gaming.

Note: Percentages display libraries who answered "yes" to the respective question.

RESTRICTIONS ON INTERNET USAGE

| Population Bracket | Do you have restrictions on children's usage of Internet ? |
|--------------------|--|
| 100K + | 31.82% |
| 50 - 100K | 40% |
| 15K - 50K | 33.33% |
| 5K - 15K | 33.33% |
| 5K | 34.38% |
| All | 34.42% |

Photos: Vaughan Public Libraries



INTERNET ACCESS

| Population Bracket | Offers Wi-Fi | Internet Work Stations |
|--------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 100K + | 100.00% | 100.00% |
| 50K - 100K | 100.00% | 100.00% |
| 15K - 50K | 97.78% | 100.00% |
| 5K - 15K | 91.67% | 100.00% |
| 5K | 71.88% | 100.00% |
| All | 91.56% | 100.00% |

- Nearly all library systems offer Wi-Fi access (91% of respondents). Wi-Fi offerings were not taken into account as a means of Internet access in 2009.
- All library systems offer Internet access through Internet work stations. This number remains largely unchanged from the 2009 survey.
- Restrictions on the use of the Internet appears to be evenly spread throughout the libraries that participated, with an average of 34% of libraries stating that there was some manner of restriction on Internet usage. This is a significant decrease from the results of the 2009 survey, wherein 66% of respondents indicated some manner of Internet usage restriction. This decrease in formal Internet filtering may be explained by the increase of policies that only allow children to use the Internet with the supervision of adults.

Library Resources: Space

USE OF CHILDREN'S FLOORSPACE

| Population Bracket | Number of locations providing physical space specific to children | Do you have a separate area for the children's collection? | If Yes, the total floorspace dedicated to children's collection (square footage) | Do you have a designated or multi-use area specifically for children's programming? |
|--------------------|---|--|--|---|
| 100K + | 306 | 90.90% | 278,175 | 100.00% |
| 50K - 100K | 141 | 100.00% | 94,438 | 100.00% |
| 15K - 50K | 105 | 80.00% | 107,516 | 93.33% |
| 5K - 15K | 62 | 63.89% | 16,026 | 69.44% |
| 5K | 43 | 71.88% | 7,728 | 59.38% |
| All | 657 | 78.57% | 503,883 | 83.12% |

- This survey indicates that 79% of respondents have a separate children's area in the library for children's collections specifically, less than in previous surveys.
- There has been an increase in the number of library systems that have general floor space specifically allocated to children (657 locations in 2015 vs. 573 locations in 2009). Library systems serving populations of 15,000 to more than 100,000 appear to have increased the number of branches with children's collections space, while library systems serving populations of less than 5,000 to 15,000 appear to have decreased their children's collections spaces.
- 83% of respondents indicated there is a separate or multi-use space for children's programming in their branches. This is a continuation of the trend toward these multi-use spaces as indicated in the 2009 survey.

Photo: Burlington Public Library



Staffing and Volunteering

STAFF LEVELS OF EDUCATION

| Population Bracket | Masters | Undergraduates | Library Technicians | Early Childhood Educators | Others |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| 100K + | 90.91% | 72.73% | 77.27% | 36.36% | 18.18% |
| 50K - 100K | 73.68% | 57.89% | 68.42% | 41.11% | 15.79% |
| 15K - 50K | 46.67% | 55.56% | 31.11% | 20.00% | 28.89% |
| 5K - 15K | 27.78% | 13.89% | 25.00% | 16.67% | 36.11% |
| 5K | 6.25% | 12.50% | 12.50% | 6.25% | 21.88% |
| All | 37.67% | 39.61% | 37.01% | 56.49% | 43.51% |

VOLUNTEER HOURS

| Population Bracket | Do you have volunteers? | Total Volunteer Hours for Children's Services |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 100K + | 81.82% | 34,529 hours |
| 50K - 100K | 63.16% | 8,687 hours |
| 15K - 50K | 77.78% | 7,024 hours |
| 5K - 15K | 52.78% | 995 hours |
| 5K | 37.50% | 312 hours |
| All | 62.34% | 51,547 hours |

- Children's library staff are most likely to have a Library Technician Diploma, Early Childhood Education Credentials, Undergraduate degrees and Masters' degrees.
- Other qualifications that some staff have include Travel and Tourism diplomas, holders of Bachelors of Education, and Excel Certificates.
- 62% of respondents indicated that there were volunteer opportunities in their library systems. Volunteers logged over 51,000 hours in libraries across Ontario.

Photo: Rhea Doucette, Ottawa Public Library



STAFFING HOURS

| Population Bracket | Total Annual Staffing Hours | Total Annual Staffing Hours Dedicated to Children's Services | Children's Staffing Hours as a Percentage of Total Staffing Hours |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|
| 100K + | 4,751,806 | 160,123 | 3.37% |
| 50K - 100K | 890,189 | 89,772 | 10.08% |
| 15K - 50K | 813,052 | 184,297 | 22.67% |
| 5K - 15K | 162,162 | 22,986 | 14.17% |
| 5K | 46,446 | 5,666 | 12.20% |
| All | 6,663,655 | 462,844 | 6.95% |

Photo: Rhea Doucette, Ottawa Public Library



- Children's staffing hours represented nearly 7% of total staffing hours across Ontario.
- Children's staff in systems serving 15,000 to less than 50,000 had the highest proportional children's staffing hours, representing 23% of the total staffing hours.
- Library systems serving populations of 100,000 or more had the lowest proportional children's staffing hours, representing 3% of total staffing hours.

STAFFING FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

| Population Bracket | Do you have a person in charge of children's services? | If yes, then what percentage of their time is spent on children's services? | Do you have people who plan and present children's programs who are not regular staff members? |
|---------------------------|---|--|---|
| 100K + | 72.73% | 84.00% | 52.17% |
| 50K - 100K | 84.21% | 88.00% | 40.00% |
| 15K - 50K | 73.33% | 91.00% | 37.78% |
| 5K - 15K | 47.22% | 66.32% | 27.03% |
| 5K | 25.00% | 42.00% | 40.00% |
| All | 58.44% | 79.79% | 35.71% |

- Libraries serving larger populations are more likely to have a staff member in charge of children's services than libraries serving smaller populations.
- The percentage of libraries reporting they have a person in charge of children's services has dropped by 10% since the 2009 survey.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

| Population Bracket | Ontario Library Association | Canadian Library Association | American Library Association | Canadian Children's Book Centre | Other? |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 100K + | 90.90% | 68.18% | 36.36% | 40.90% | 27.27% |
| 50K - 100K | 78.95% | 42.11% | 26.32% | 36.84% | 21.05% |
| 15K - 50K | 82.22% | 35.56% | 2.22% | 22.22% | 15.56% |
| 5K - 15K | 69.44% | 13.89% | 13.89% | 19.44% | 11.11% |
| 5K | 50.00% | 9.38% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 15.63% |
| All | 73.38% | 30.52% | 12.38% | 21.43% | 16.88% |

| Population Bracket | Does your library provide professional development opportunities for children's staff? |
|--------------------|--|
| 100K + | 95.45% |
| 50K - 100K | 89.47% |
| 15K - 50K | 95.56% |
| 5K - 15K | 75.00% |
| 5K | 27.27% |
| All | 75.97% |

- Regardless of library size, public library professionals are mostly likely to belong to the Ontario Library Association if they participate in any professional development associations or activities. Other professional associations that public library professionals may belong to are the Canadian Library Association (31%) and the Canadian Children's Book Centre (21%).
- Professional development is more likely to be supported for staff of the largest library systems (91%) than that of smallest library systems (50%). However, professional development initiatives and support for the smallest library systems have increased to 13% from 7% in 2009 survey (50% in 2015 vs. 37% in 2009).

Children's Programming

PROGRAMMING BY AGE GROUP

| Population Bracket | Does your library offer programs for children ages 5 and over? |
|--------------------|--|
| 100K + | 100.00% |
| 50K - 100K | 94.74% |
| 15K - 50K | 93.33% |
| 5K - 15K | 88.89% |
| 5K | 46.88% |
| All | 83.77% |

EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS

| Population Bracket | Do you offer early literacy programs/story times? |
|--------------------|---|
| 100K + | 100.00% |
| 50K - 100K | 94.73% |
| 15K - 50K | 93.33% |
| 5K - 15K | 77.78% |
| 5K | 46.88% |
| All | 82.54% |

- 84% of libraries indicated that they offer children's programming for children age five and over, which is a 7% decrease from libraries offering the same programs in 2009 (91.12%).
- Programming for children five and under is represented by early literacy programs and story times in this survey. 83% of respondents indicated that they offered story times and/or early literacy programs.
- Full day kindergarten may have resulted in reduced programming in 23% of library systems.

Photo: Vaughan Public Libraries



PROGRAMS

| Population Bracket | Maker programs | Lego building | Arts & crafts | Anime clubs | Cartooning | Film and video programs | Digital technology | Gaming | STEM* |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 100,000 + | 95.45% | 100.00% | 90.91% | 45.45% | 81.82% | 90.91% | 90.91% | 86.36% | 95.45% |
| 50K - 100K | 78.95% | 94.74% | 94.74% | 26.32% | 57.89% | 42.11% | 42.11% | 73.68% | 68.42% |
| 15K - 50K | 62.22% | 77.78% | 95.56% | 15.56% | 44.44% | 53.33% | 40.00% | 57.78% | 48.89% |
| 5K - 15K | 33.33% | 77.78% | 83.33% | 2.78% | 27.78% | 21.88% | 22.22% | 22.22% | 16.67% |
| 5K | 18.75% | 25.00% | 65.63% | 0.00% | 5.56% | 18.75% | 15.63% | 34.38% | 0.00% |
| All | 57.74% | 75.06% | 86.03% | 18.02% | 43.50% | 45.40% | 42.17% | 54.88% | 45.89% |

CONTINUED

| Population Bracket | Music programs | Creative writing programs | Homework Help | Contests | Class visits | Leadership programs | OLA Forest of Reading® programs | Summer Reading Club for Children | Battle of the Books |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 100,000 + | 77.27% | 86.36% | 72.73% | 90.91% | 100.00% | 45.45% | 68.18% | 100.00% | 52.63% |
| 50K - 100K | 63.16% | 63.16% | 63.58% | 94.74% | 94.74% | 15.79% | 63.16% | 94.74% | 26.32% |
| 15K - 50K | 64.44% | 46.67% | 44.44% | 80.00% | 95.56% | 11.11% | 64.44% | 95.56% | 15.56% |
| 5K - 15K | 25.00% | 33.33% | 44.44% | 69.44% | 75.00% | 2.78% | 41.67% | 83.33% | 8.33% |
| 5K | 6.25% | 12.50% | 40.63% | 46.88% | 62.50% | 0.00% | 28.13% | 59.38% | 3.13% |
| All | 47.22% | 48.40% | 53.16% | 76.39% | 85.56% | 15.03% | 53.12% | 86.60% | 21.19% |

* STEM (science, technology, engineering, math)

- The breadth of programming apart from early literacy programs and story times was captured for the first time by this survey. Among the most widespread programs are arts and crafts (86% of library systems), class visits (86% of library systems) and summer reading clubs (86% of library systems).
- The Ontario Library Association Forest of Reading® program was also offered by 53% of library systems across the province.

PROGRAMMING CHARGES

Do you have alternate sources of funding for children's programming?

Population Bracket

| | |
|------------|---------------|
| 100K + | 27.27% |
| 50K - 100K | 21.05% |
| 15K - 50K | 22.22% |
| 5K - 15K | 25.00% |
| 5K | 12.50% |
| All | 21.43% |

DOES YOUR LIBRARY CHARGE FOR CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS?

| Population Bracket | Always | Sometimes | Never |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 100K + | 0.00% | 31.82% | 68.18% |
| 50K - 100K | 0.00% | 42.11% | 52.63% |
| 15K - 50K | 2.22% | 60.00% | 31.11% |
| 5K - 15K | 2.78% | 38.89% | 47.22% |
| 5K | 0.00% | 21.88% | 43.75% |
| All | 1.30% | 45.45% | 43.45% |

- Alternative sources of funding for children's programming has declined by 37% since 2009.
- 43% of participating libraries indicated there is never a charge for children's programming.
- 45% of respondents indicated they occasionally charge for children's programming.
- Only 1.3% of libraries indicate there is always a charge for children's programming.
- Many respondents indicated if their systems charged participants for programming, it was only for external entertainment or camps at the library such as performers and summer and winter camps.

PROGRAMMING BUDGETS

| Population Bracket | Do you have a programming budget for children's services? | If so, how much? |
|--------------------|---|---------------------|
| 100K + | 63.64% | \$368,323.00 |
| 50K - 100K | 73.68% | \$148,268.00 |
| 15K - 50K | 88.89% | \$152,710.00 |
| 5K - 15K | 77.78% | \$78,549.00 |
| 5K | 53.13% | \$14,800.00 |
| All | 73.38% | \$762,650.00 |

- There has been an increase in the number of library systems that have budgets dedicated to children's programming from 68% in 2009 to 73% in 2015.
- Overall spending on children's programming has also increased from \$581,673 in 2009 to \$762,650 in 2015 for total children's spending.

Policies and Strategic Planning

CHILDREN'S POLICIES

| Population Bracket | Do you have policy statements that refer to materials selection? | Do you have policy statements that refer to programming? | Do you have policy statements that refer to censorship or intellectual freedom? | Do you have policy statements that refer to the Internet? | Do you have policy statements that refer to unattended children in the library? | Do you have policy statements that refer to rules of conduct? |
|--------------------|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| 100K + | 77.27% | 54.55% | 68.18% | 90.91% | 81.81% | 71.72% |
| 50K - 100K | 84.21% | 57.89% | 89.47% | 89.46% | 84.21% | 94.74% |
| 15K - 50K | 82.22% | 68.89% | 73.33% | 80.00% | 80.00% | 73.33% |
| 5K - 15K | 58.33% | 58.33% | 50.00% | 69.44% | 61.11% | 61.11% |
| 5K | 43.75% | 28.13% | 46.88% | 56.25% | 50.00% | 50.00% |
| All | 68.18% | 54.55% | 63.64% | 75.32% | 70.13% | 68.18% |

CHILDREN'S STRATEGIC PLANNING

| Population Bracket | Does your library have strategic planning documents specific to children's services? |
|--------------------|--|
| 100K + | 18.18% |
| 50K - 100K | 0.00% |
| 15K - 50K | 8.89% |
| 5K - 15K | 2.78% |
| 5K | 9.38% |
| All | 7.84% |

- 68% of respondents indicated their library systems had policy statements referring to children's materials specifically. This is down from the 2009 survey results that indicated 73% of respondents had policy statements on children's materials.
- The most dramatic decrease in policy statements was in regard to children on the Internet from 89.9% in 2009 to 75.3% in 2015, a decrease of 14%.

Cooperating Agencies and Institutions

COOPERATING AGENCIES

| Population Bracket | Schools | Health Units | Colleges | Social Services agencies | Preschools/ Daycare facilities | Home schooling groups | Ontario Early Years Centres | Other |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 100K + | 90.91% | 90.91% | 81.82% | 90.90% | 90.91% | 77.27% | 90.91% | 72.73% |
| 50K - 100K | 94.74% | 73.68% | 42.11% | 84.21% | 89.47% | 73.68% | 94.74% | 47.37% |
| 15K - 50K | 84.44% | 62.22% | 31.11% | 57.78% | 80.00% | 64.44% | 75.56% | 48.89% |
| 5K - 15K | 30.56% | 44.44% | 16.67% | 44.44% | 33.33% | 38.89% | 66.67% | 22.22% |
| 5K | 50.00% | 28.13% | 6.25% | 15.63% | 31.25% | 18.75% | 43.75% | 9.38% |
| All | 66.88% | 56.49% | 31.17% | 53.90% | 61.69% | 51.95% | 71.43% | 37.66% |

- There has been an overall decrease in partnerships between public libraries and cooperating agencies from the 2009 survey to the current survey.
- Public libraries are most likely to have partnerships with Ontario Early Years Centres (71.4%) and Schools (66.9%).
- Libraries serving larger populations (50,000 to 100,000 +) appear more likely to have partnerships with cooperating agencies than libraries serving smaller communities.



IMPACT OF FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN

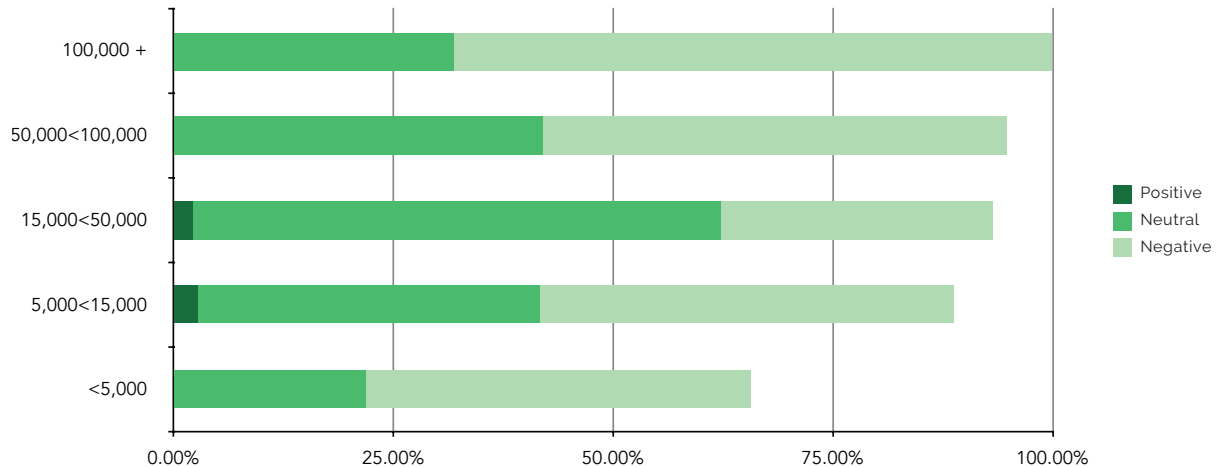
| Population Bracket | Scheduling Change | Reduced Programming | Program Offering Change | Change of Programming Target Age | Reduced Staffing | Other |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 100K + | 18.18% | 9.09% | 36.36% | 27.27% | 0.00% | 4.54% |
| 50K - 100K | 47.37% | 42.10% | 47.37% | 52.63% | 5.26% | 10.53% |
| 15K - 50K | 22.22% | 22.22% | 26.67% | 31.11% | 4.44% | 4.44% |
| 5K - 15K | 19.44% | 22.22% | 25.00% | 25.00% | 5.56% | 2.78% |
| 5K | 9.38% | 18.75% | 12.50% | 12.50% | 3.13% | 0.00% |
| All | 23.32% | 22.88% | 29.58% | 29.70% | 3.68% | 4.46% |

Photo: Burlington Public Library



- Not surprisingly, the implementation of full day kindergarten in Ontario in 2010 has had an impact on the programming.
- On average, 30% of libraries report a change in programs offered and the target age for programs.

How would you describe the impact of full day kindergarten on your children's programming?



- Since its implementation in 2010, full day kindergarten is perceived to have a mostly neutral to negative effect on public libraries. Further research is required to determine why the impact would be characterised as positive, neutral or negative.
- 52% of respondents have indicated that full day kindergarten has had a neutral effect.
- 33% of libraries responded that full day kindergarten has had a negative impact.
- 2% of participants stated that full day kindergarten has had a positive impact on their library systems.

Photo: Vaughan Public Libraries



SCHOOL OUTREACH INITIATIVES AND PROGRAM PROMOTIONS

| Population Bracket | Children's Programming | Resources for Students | Database Demonstrations | Book Talks | Author Visits | Battle of the Books |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 100K + | 94.45% | 95.45% | 86.36% | 68.18% | 57.89% | 52.63% |
| 50 - 100K | 89.47% | 89.47% | 78.95% | 89.47% | 31.58% | 26.32% |
| 15K - 50K | 91.11% | 88.89% | 65.00% | 62.22% | 42.22% | 15.56% |
| 5K - 15K | 72.22% | 61.11% | 30.56% | 50.00% | 13.89% | 8.33% |
| 5K | 34.38% | 28.13% | 12.50% | 21.88% | 3.13% | 3.13% |
| All | 76.53% | 72.61% | 54.67% | 58.35% | 29.74% | 21.19% |

DO YOU EMPLOY THE EVERY CHILD READY TO READ* PROGRAM?

| Population Bracket | Offer the Program |
|--------------------|-------------------|
|--------------------|-------------------|

| | |
|------------|--------|
| 100K + | 68.18% |
| 50K - 100K | 47.37% |
| 15K - 50K | 44.44% |
| 5K - 15K | 27.78% |
| 5K | 9.38% |

| | |
|------------|---------------|
| All | 39.43% |
|------------|---------------|

- 39% of respondents indicated that the Every Child Ready to Read Program* was implemented in their library systems.
- This survey is the first Child and Youth Services survey to request details of the implementation of this program since its implementation in 2010.

DOES YOUR LIBRARY PARTICIPATE IN OUTREACH TO AREA SCHOOLS FOR GRADES JK-8?

| Population Bracket | |
|--------------------|--|
|--------------------|--|

| | |
|------------|---------|
| 100K + | 100.00% |
| 50K - 100K | 89.47% |
| 15K - 50K | 93.33% |
| 5K - 15K | 25.00% |
| 5K | 34.38% |

| | |
|------------|---------------|
| All | 68.44% |
|------------|---------------|

- Children's programming is the most popular form of outreach programming for library systems (77%), followed by resources for students (73%) and book talks (58%).

* The Every Child Ready to Read program is a parent education initiative that stresses early literacy begins with the primary adults in a child's life. For more information, visit www.everychildreadytoread.org.

Marketing and Promotion

METHODS OF PROMOTIONS

| Population Bracket | Flyers | Bookmarks | Newsletter | e-news-letter | Community service | Website | Facebook | Twitter | Instagram |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 100K + | 78.95% | 54.55% | 63.64% | 59.09% | 68.18% | 100.00% | 100.00% | 90.90% | 31.82% |
| 50K - 100K | 94.74% | 68.42% | 68.42% | 57.89% | 73.68% | 94.74% | 89.47% | 78.95% | 21.05% |
| 15K - 50K | 93.33% | 68.89% | 60.00% | 55.56% | 66.67% | 95.56% | 91.11% | 71.11% | 20.00% |
| 5K - 15K | 75.00% | 66.67% | 41.67% | 13.89% | 36.11% | 83.33% | 80.56% | 52.78% | 2.78% |
| 5K | 62.50% | 50.00% | 46.88% | 15.63% | 18.75% | 59.38% | 62.50% | 18.75% | 3.13% |
| All | 80.90% | 61.71% | 56.12% | 40.41% | 52.68% | 86.60% | 84.73% | 62.50% | 15.76% |

CONTINUED

| Population Bracket | Pinterest | Newspaper | Radio | Community Bulletin Boards | Schools | Local Businesses | Community centres | Other |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 100K + | 36.36% | 81.82% | 42.11% | 72.73% | 95.45% | 36.36% | 81.82% | 27.27% |
| 50K - 100K | 26.32% | 84.21% | 36.84% | 68.18% | 89.47% | 52.63% | 52.63% | 31.58% |
| 15 - 50K | 15.56% | 86.67% | 46.67% | 62.22% | 91.11% | 42.22% | 68.89% | 57.89% |
| 5K - 15K | 5.56% | 77.78% | 38.89% | 72.22% | 80.56% | 66.67% | 61.11% | 16.67% |
| 5K | 6.25% | 31.25% | 21.88% | 65.63% | 56.25% | 43.75% | 50.00% | 9.38% |
| All | 18.10% | 72.35% | 37.28% | 68.20% | 82.57% | 48.33% | 62.89% | 28.56% |

- Conventional media promotions, such as flyers, bookmarks, newspapers, radio advertisements, etc., are still used for respondents' promotional initiatives.
- Social media campaigns and websites are the most popular form of promotion, especially Facebook, which 85% of respondents indicated that they had used previously to promote the library.



Photo: Vaughan Public Libraries

OUTCOMES

Beyond quantitative outputs (e.g. attendance statistics) does your library measure qualitative outcomes or impacts of children's programs and/or services?

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Population Bracket | |
| 100K + | 63.64% |
| 50 - 100K | 63.16% |
| 15K - 50K | 44.44% |
| 5K - 15K | 25.00% |
| 5K | 34.38% |
| All | 46.12% |

DOES YOUR LIBRARY OFFER A SPECIAL CHILDREN'S CARD(S)?

| | |
|------------|---------------|
| 100K + | 50.00% |
| 50K - 100K | 47.37% |
| 15K - 50K | 33.33% |
| 5K - 15K | 30.56% |
| 5K | 12.50% |
| All | 34.75% |

- 46% of respondents indicated that they seek qualitative feedback, such as user experiences, comments and satisfaction.

- Some libraries have indicated that Children's library cards are a crucial means of filtering Internet content and providing better children's services.

Accessibility and Inclusivity

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE CHILDREN'S COLLECTION IS PRINTED IN ENGLISH?

| Population Bracket | 0-20% | 21-40% | 41-60% | 61-80% | 81% + |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 100K + | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 4.54% | 86.36% |
| 50 - 100K | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 5.26% | 94.74% |
| 15K - 50K | 0.00% | 0.00% | 2.50% | 66.67% | 82.22% |
| 5K - 15K | 2.78% | 2.78% | 5.56% | 8.33% | 66.67% |
| 5K | 0.00% | 0.00% | 9.38% | 3.13% | 62.50% |
| All | 0.56% | 0.56% | 3.49% | 17.59% | 78.50% |

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE CHILDREN'S COLLECTION IS PRINTED IN FRENCH?

| Population Bracket | 0% | 1-4% | 5-9% | 10-14% | 15% + |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 100K + | 0.00% | 27.27% | 50.00% | 9.09% | 4.55% |
| 50K - 100K | 0.00% | 42.11% | 26.32% | 10.53% | 21.05% |
| 15K - 50K | 2.22% | 51.11% | 17.78% | 8.89% | 8.89% |
| 5K - 15K | 27.78% | 55.56% | 11.11% | 0.00% | 19.44% |
| 5K | 12.50% | 37.50% | 6.25% | 3.13% | 15.63% |
| All | 8.50% | 42.71% | 22.29% | 6.33% | 13.91% |

- English language materials still make up the majority of holdings with 79% of respondents indicating that English materials represented 81% or more of their children's holdings.
- French and other multilingual collections are represented across library systems in Ontario. 14% of respondents indicated that French language materials made up 15% or more of their children's collections. A further 42% of respondents indicated that French collections were at least 1-4% of their children's holdings.

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE CHILDREN'S COLLECTIONS IS PRINTED IN OTHER LANGUAGES?

| Population Bracket | 0% | 1-4% | 5-9% | 10-14% | 15% + |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 100K + | 0.00% | 68.18% | 18.18% | 4.55% | 0.00% |
| 50K - 100K | 31.58% | 68.42% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| 15K - 50K | 57.78% | 33.33% | 2.22% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| 5K - 15K | 66.67% | 19.44% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| 5K | 53.13% | 18.75% | 0.00% | 3.13% | 0.00% |
| All | 41.88% | 41.62% | 4.08% | 1.54% | 0.00% |

ACCESSIBILITY

| Population Bracket | Do you make programs accessible for children with disabilities? | Does your library offer alternative format resources for children who have a print disability? |
|--------------------|---|--|
| 100K + | 95.45% | 86.36% |
| 50K - 100K | 78.95% | 78.95% |
| 15K - 50K | 84.44% | 73.33% |
| 5K - 15K | 77.78% | 47.22% |
| 5K | 46.88% | 43.75% |
| All | 75.97% | 63.64% |

- The survey demonstrates that larger library systems (where it is assumed newcomers will most likely settle) are more prone to having 1-4% of their children's collections printed in other languages.
- Respondents indicated that there were a variety of offerings of accessible programs and alternative print formats.
- Alternative print formats include books in braille, audiobooks, daisy books, CELA partnership resources and CNIB resources.
- Library systems also offer accessible programming with considerations to Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), accessible building access, inclusivity policies and specialized training.

Comparisons between 2016, 2009 and 2003 surveys

- 68.2% of reporting libraries had materials selection policies for children, compared to 72.9% in 2009 and 67.6% in 2003.
- In 2009, 56.4% of libraries had a written policy on programming, which was an increase of 20.6% over 2003 figures, however this has dropped slightly in this survey to 54.5%.
- 63.6% of respondents in this survey indicated they had policy statements referring to children and censorship/intellectual freedom. This number is slightly down from the 2009 (66.5%).
- 89.9% of libraries had policy statements in reference to children on the Internet in 2009, compared to 80% of respondents in 2003, which now has dropped to 75.3% in the current survey.
- 70.1% of libraries had policy statements on unattended children in the library in this survey, compared to 77.7% in 2009 and 45.8% in 2003.
- 68.2% of respondents had policy statements that refer to Rules of Conduct for children in the current survey, compared to 75% in 2009 and 60% in 2003.

Photo: Burlington Public Library



Appendix A



COUNTING OPINIONS

The OPLA Children's Services in Ontario survey was conducted online using the Counting Opinions survey tool.

Counting Opinions (SQUIRE) Ltd., (CO) is an OLA partner and co-sponsor of the OPLA Children's Services Survey.

Counting Opinions (SQUIRE) Ltd., (CO) provides management services for libraries and related organizations in support of Continuous Improvement and Advocacy. CO's integrated LibSat, LibPAS, InformsUs, Reading Club management (RC App) and Web App(s) single-platform services are web-based, enabling ease of data capture, management and reporting/re-purposing.

For more information please contact CO at: www.countingopinions.com info@countingopinions.com

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SURVEY QUESTIONS

For this survey, children include all those older than 5 and younger than 12.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Library system name _____
 Primary survey contact _____
 Contact email _____
 Total population served _____
 Total population of children _____
 Number of library location/branches _____
 Total floor space (all locations) _____

BUDGET

Budget for children's materials \$ _____
 Total materials budget \$ _____
 Budget for children's programming \$ _____
 Total programs budget \$ _____

COLLECTIONS

Note: Children's materials are defined as those items targeted for children.

Does your Collection Development Plan include children's materials? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have restrictions on how children use library resources, apart from the Internet? ☐ Yes ☐ No

TOTAL LIBRARY HOLDINGS

Total Print Holdings _____
 Total Non-Print Holdings _____

TOTAL CHILDREN'S HOLDINGS

Total Children's Print Holdings _____
 Total Children's Non-Print Holdings _____

PRINT

Please indicate the types of materials available in the Children's Collection.

Check all that apply:

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Fiction | Magazines |
| Non-fiction | Comics |
| Graphic novels | |

NON-PRINT

Please indicate the types of materials available in the Children's Collection. Check all that apply:

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------------------|
| DVDs/BluRays | e-Music | Other (please specify) |
| CDs | e-Movies | |
| Video games | e-Readers | |
| e-Books | Playaways | |
| e-Audiobooks | Tablets | |

What percentage of the children's collection is printed in English:

What percentage of the children's collection is printed in French:

What percentage of the children's collection is printed in other languages:

What percentage of your e-book collection is age appropriate for children:

CIRCULATION

Total Circulation _____

Total Circulation of Children's Materials _____

Does your library offer a special children's card(s)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

COMPUTER RESOURCES & USAGE

Please indicate the electronic resources that are provided to children.

Do you offer Wi-Fi?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Which electronic resources do you offer that are dedicated for use by children?

Internet stations

Tablets / portable smart devices

Office software

E-book readers

☐

Multimedia software

Early literacy stations

☐

3D printing

Video game systems

☐

Laptops

Other

☐

Are children allowed to participate in online gaming? **(Please explain)**

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you filter children's access to the Internet?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have other types of restrictions to Internet access?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Are these restrictions different than restrictions on teens or adults?

☐ Yes ☐ No

PHYSICAL FACILITIES

Number of locations providing physical space specific to children.

Do you have a separate area for the children's collection?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, the total floorspace dedicated to children's collection

Sq. Ft. _____

Do you have multi-use space that can also be used for children's programming?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please explain.

STAFFING

Total annual staffing hours at your library:

Total annual staffing hours dedicated exclusively to children's services

Do you have a person in charge of children's services?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what percentage of their time is spent on children's services?

Do you have people who plan and present children's programs who

are not regular staff members?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have volunteers?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LEVEL OF EDUCATION

What level of education do your dedicated children's services persons have?

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Does your library provide professional development opportunities for children's staff?

☐ Yes ☐ No

MEMBERSHIPS

Please indicate the organizations with which your library is currently a member.

Ontario Library Association?

American Library Association?

Canadian Library Association?

Canadian Children's Book Centre?

Other? (please describe) _____

LIBRARY SERVICE CHARGES/FUNDING

Does your library charge for children's programs?

☐ Always ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never

MANAGEMENT

Please indicate if you have policy statements that refer to children on the following topics.

Materials Selection?

Unattended children in the library?

Programming?

Rules of Conduct?

Censorship/Intellectual Freedom?

Other children's policy statement

Internet?

Has your Library adopted the Children's Rights in the Public Library document?

☐ Yes ☐ No

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Does your library have strategic planning documents specific to children?

☐ Yes ☐ No

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Please indicate the agencies with whom you cooperate/partner/communicate.

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Schools? | Preschools/Daycare facilities? |
| Health Unit? | Home schooling groups? |
| Colleges? | Ontario Early Years Centres? |
| Social Service agencies? | Parks and Recreation |

Other Agency (Cooperate/Partner)

Does your library have established partnerships with other childrens-serving community groups?

☐ Yes ☐ No

STAFF OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Does your library participate in outreach to area schools for grades JK-8?

☐ Yes ☐ No

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Does your library offer programs for children ages 5 and over?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you offer early literacy programs/storytimes?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you employ the Every Child Ready To Read program?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do your programs require pre-registration?

☐ Yes ☐ No

How would you describe the impact of full day kindergarten on your children's programming?

☐ Positive ☐ Neutral ☐ Negative

Please indicate what programs you offer or have offered in the past specifically for children (check all that apply):

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Maker programs | Music programs | |
| LEGO building | Creative writing programs | |
| Arts & crafts | Homework help | |
| Anime clubs | Contests Class visits | |
| Cartooning | Leadership programs | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Film and video programs | OLA Forest of Reading programs | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Digital technology | Summer Reading Club for Children | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gaming | Battle of the Books | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| STEM | Other Reading Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (science, tech, engineering, math) | | |

Beyond quantitative outputs (e.g. attendance statistics) does your library measure qualitative outcomes or impacts of children's programs and/or services?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you use an online system to register or track children's program activity? (e.g. Summer Reading, story time)

☐ Yes ☐ No

PROMOTING CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

How does your library promote children's programs? (Check all that apply)

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Flyers | Facebook |
| Bookmarks | Twitter |
| Newsletter | Instagram |
| e-newsletter | Pinterest |
| Community service guide | Newspaper |
| Website | Radio |
| Other | |

Where does your library promote children's programs? (Check all that apply)

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Community bulletin boards | Community centres |
| Schools | Other |
| Local businesses | |

ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVITY

Do you make programs accessible for children with disabilities?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you offer alternative format resources for children who have a print disability?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Does your library have a strategy for serving disadvantaged youth?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have funding specifically set aside for these programs?

☐ Yes ☐ No

OLA Position on Children's Rights in the Public Library

Children in public libraries have the right to:

1. Intellectual freedom.
2. Equal access to the full range of services and materials available to other users.
3. A full range of materials, services and program specifically designed and developed to meet their needs.
4. Adequate funding for collections and services related to population, use and local community needs.
5. A library environment that complements their physical and developmental stages.
6. Trained and knowledgeable staff specializing in children's services.
7. Welcoming, respectful, supportive service from birth through the transition to adult user.
8. An advocate who will speak on their behalf to the library administration, library board, municipal council and community to make people aware of the goals of children's services.
9. Library policies written to include the needs of the child.



Photo 1: Toronto Public Library
Photo 2: Burlington Public Library



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