

**THE CONDITION OF U.S. LIBRARIES:  
TRENDS, 1999-2009**

[Prepared December, 2009 for ALA Senior Management and Unit Managers]

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## About the Report

The following report 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.

Data are compiled from multiple sources:

- Data about public, school and academic libraries are derived from national surveys administered by two federal agencies: the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) (<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries/>) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) ([www.ims.gov](http://www.ims.gov) hosted by <http://harvester.census.gov/ims/index.asp>). Academic and school library surveys are conducted by NCES. The academic library survey is biennial and respondents are from the “universe” of eligible institutions (all degree-granting and receiving federal financial support). The survey of school libraries is a component of the Schools and Staffing Survey, is administered every three years and is a stratified random sample of public primary and secondary (K-12) schools. Private schools are not included in this survey. The public library survey is conducted by IMLS. This is an annual survey. Responses to the public library survey are coordinated by each state library and reflect the universe of eligible public libraries (legally established, funded, staffed, with a collection, and open to the public).
- There is limited longitudinal national data about school libraries. Data collected by the ALA American Association of School Librarians (AASL) published as *School Libraries Count!* are included in this summary and offer percentile distributions for some school library trends presented in this summary [[www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/researchandstatistics/slcsurvey/slcsurvey.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/researchandstatistics/slcsurvey/slcsurvey.cfm)].
- Public library funding data are augmented with more recent findings reported through the ALA *Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study* ([www.ala.org/plinternetfunding](http://www.ala.org/plinternetfunding)).
- 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/librystats/cooperatives/lbcc/lbcc.cfm> and a searchable database is accessible at <http://cs.ala.org/ra/lbcc/>.

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 Research<sup>1</sup> 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 to 12.7 in 2009 from 9.1 in 2006.
- Use of the public library by computer (from home, work or school) doubled from 2006 to 2009 (6 times per year, up from 2.9 times in 2006).
- 22% of Americans visited their public library by computer from home, office or school more often in the last 6 months. This percentage may seem low, but it is about 51 million Americans.

After borrowing library materials, Americans rank entertainment (35%) and educational purposes, such as for homework or taking a class (28%), as the top two reasons for using the library. That's more than 145.8 million Americans.

The value of libraries to American households is unquestioned. A survey conducted in 2009 by KRC Research for the ALA found that

- More than 217 million Americans agree or strongly agree that the public library improves the quality of life in their community. This is an increase from 209.8 million reported in 2006. (KRC 2009)
- More than 222 million Americans agree or strongly agree that because it provides free access to materials and resources, the public library plays an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed. This is an increase from 216.6 million reported in 2006. (KRC 2009)

*When asked about school libraries*

- 97 percent of Americans agree (224.5 million) that school library programs are an essential part of the education experience because they provide resources to students and teachers.
- 96 percent of Americans agree (222 million) that school libraries are important because they give every child the opportunity to read and learn.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.krcresearch.com/default.htm>

- 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 economic downturn that began in 2008 has had significant impact on public and private institutions, among them libraries. The full impact is difficult to articulate and the data challenging to assemble. What we do know is that flat funding has been an obstacle – perhaps even a chronic problem - for many libraries this entire decade. A 2006 ALA survey exposed the level funding trend, with public libraries reporting that level (flat) funding had been a challenge as early as 2003.<sup>2</sup> A 2009 survey conducted as part of the *Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study* revealed a worsening of library funding – about 20 percent reported flat funding continuing in FY2010 and a majority reported budget reductions, about 20 percent reported 5-to-10 percent reductions in FY2010 from FY2009.

As communities and academic campuses develop future fiscal plans it is clear that public, academic and school libraries are visibly hard hit. In fall 2009 report prepared by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 34 states had reported cuts to higher education, which will impact academic libraries and 25 states had cut funding to K-12, which will impact school libraries. Many organizations and government agencies are grappling with the impact of the economic downturn and a few reports are of particular note.

A recent report from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a non-partisan organization focusing on policy affecting low- and moderate-income families and individuals, issued a series of reports in October 2009 regarding state budget reductions and projected mid-year shortfalls in 2010. Two reports of note include:

- An Update on State Budget Cuts: At Least 41 States Have Imposed Cuts That Hurt Vulnerable Residents; Federal Economic Recovery Funds and State Tax Increases Are Reducing the Harm. Nicholas Johnson, Phil Oliff, and Jeremy Koulish (October 20, 2009) <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=1214>
- Recession Continues to Batter State Budgets; State Responses Could Slow Recovery. Elizabeth McNichol and Nicholas Johnson (October 20, 2009) <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/?fa=view&id=711>

The following slides present the number of states reporting budget cuts by the group or sector impacted, including

- health
- elderly & disabled
- K-12
- colleges & universities
- employees

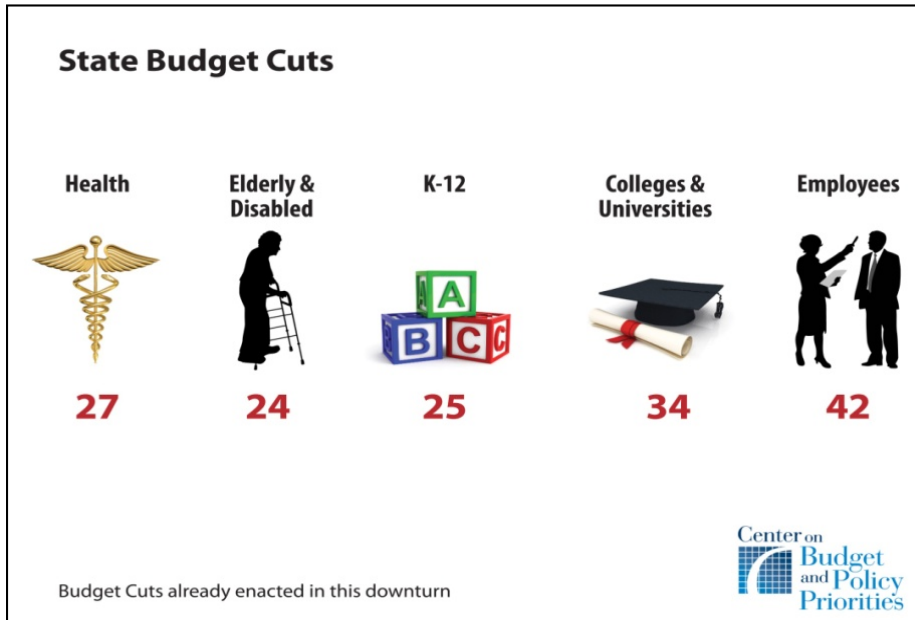
and are excerpted from a presentation made by Phil Oliff and Mike Leachman of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and were distributed through a Committee for Education Funding (CEF) ALERT, “Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (FCM Notes)” (2 November 2009).<sup>3</sup> All slides are the property of

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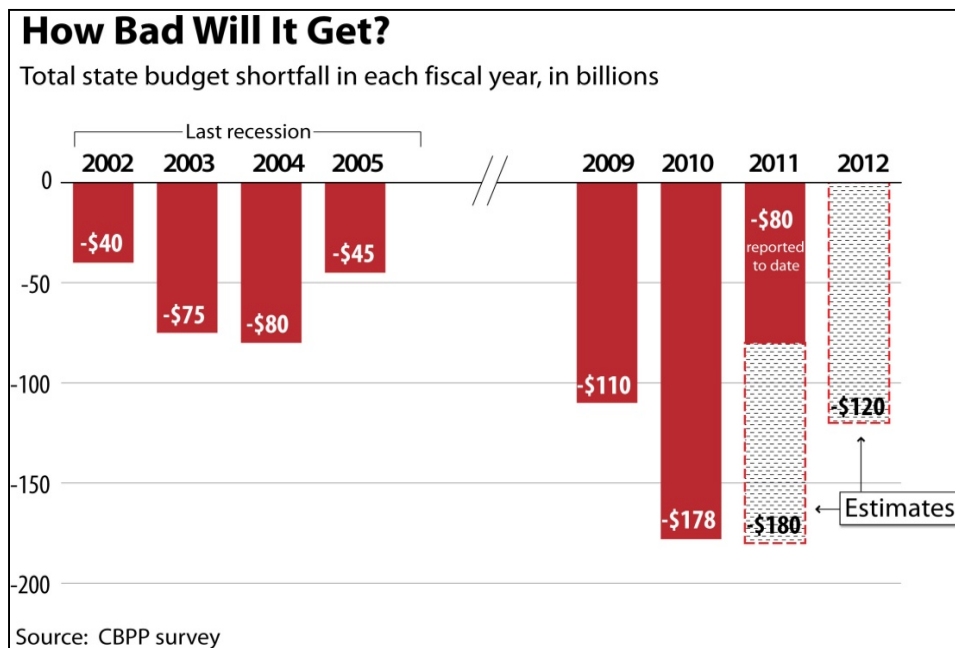
<sup>2</sup> (<http://www.ala.org/ala/research/librarystats/public/fundingissuesinuspls.pdf>).

<sup>3</sup> The Committee for Education Funding (<http://www.cef.org/>) is a member organization working to improve federal funding for the US education system.

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



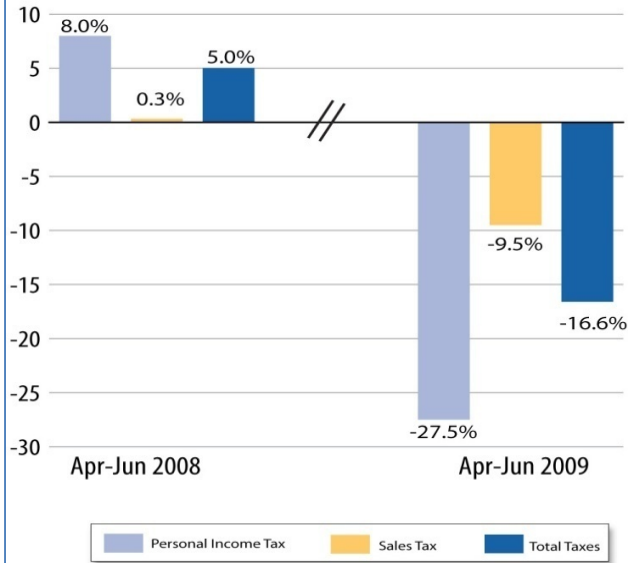
Source: (CBPP 2009) <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=1214>



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

## State Tax Revenues are Falling.

Percent change in April to June state revenue collections, 2007-2008 and 2008-2009.

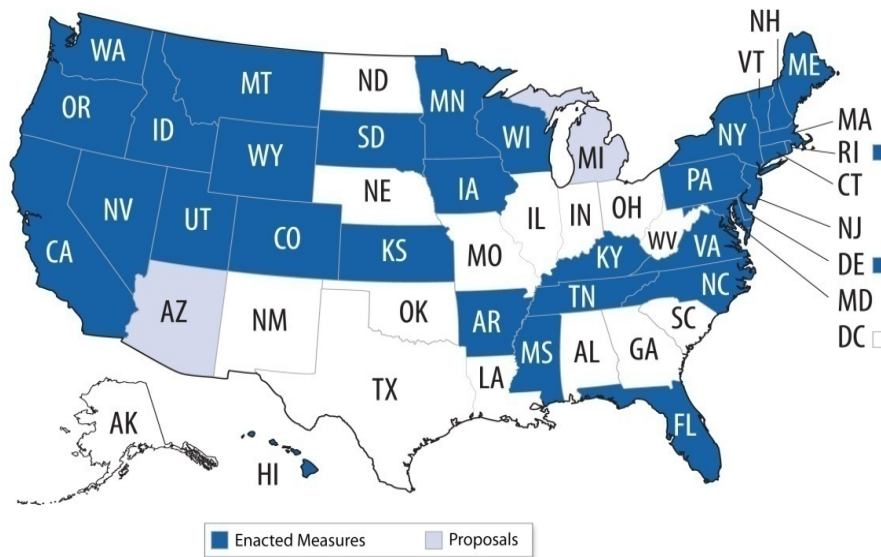


Source: The Census Bureau.



## 2009 State Tax Increases.

Lawmakers in 35 states have enacted or are considering proposals to increase taxes and fees.



Note: Status as of October 14, 2009.

Source: (CBPP 2009) <http://www.statefiscal.org/>



## Summary of Library Trends

Understanding the condition of libraries is critical to interpreting the impact of the current economic downturn for communities, states and the nation. The charts and graphs that follow present the most currently available national trend information for public, school and academic libraries. Figures are presented as whole numbers, percentages are up to two decimal points, and rounding may have occurred. Since the periodicity of the national surveys varies, data for each type of library reflects the fiscal year(s) in which data were reported (fiscal year or school year) and may not intersect chronologically. Organized by type of library, each section includes charts/graphs for:

(1) Numbers of Libraries and Populations Served - Basic metrics about the library environment are presented. This includes the number of library outlets serving the general public, schools (K-12), and academic (postsecondary education: 2-year, 4-year and university institutions).

(2) Expenditures - Basic metrics about library finance are presented. This includes total operating expenditures and expenditures by type for libraries serving the general public, schools (K-12), and academic (postsecondary education: 2-year, 4-year and university institutions).

(3) Staffing - Basic metrics about the library workforce are presented. This includes total full-time equivalent (FTE) staffing and detail by position requirement when available for libraries serving the general public, schools (K-12), and academic (postsecondary education: 2-year, 4-year and university institutions).

(4) Services - In this section basic metrics about the library services are presented. This includes circulation, service use (reference, computer, programs and training/instruction) and visits at libraries serving the general public, schools (K-12), and academic (postsecondary education: 2-year, 4-year and university institutions).

The data presented are compiled from reporting coordinated by two federal agencies:

- National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) – school and academic libraries
- Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) - public library data

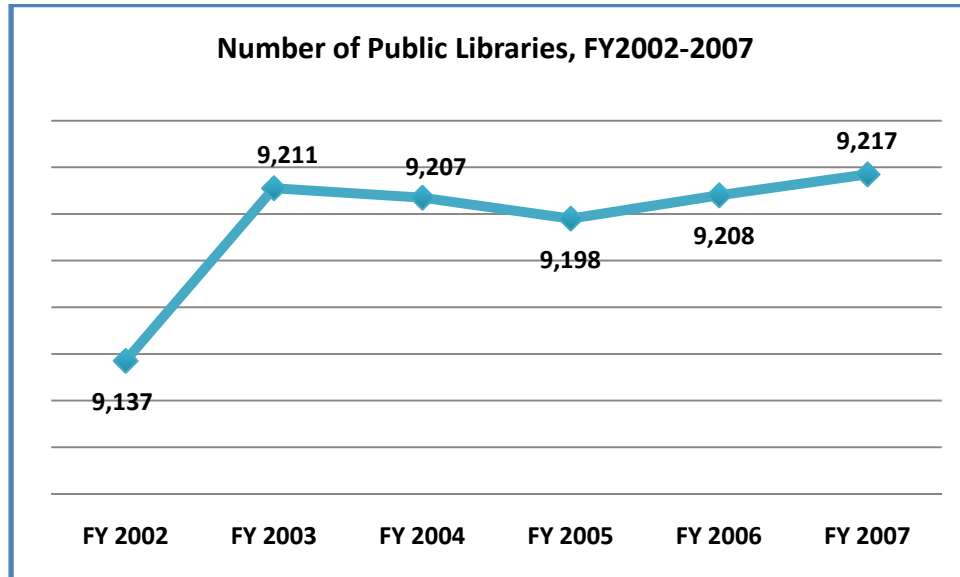
In addition, school library data are supplemented by the ALA-AASL annual survey *School Libraries Count!* and the public library finance data are supplemented by the ALA *Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study*. Population figures are from the US Census Bureau.

Information about Library Networks Cooperatives and Consortia is presented in section four and the data are compiled from the ALA-ASCLA.

# I. Public Libraries

## Numbers of Public Libraries and Populations Served

The number of public libraries varies very little year-to-year. The most significant growth occurred between FY2002-2003, a time when the U.S. population saw its largest increase during this six-year period (1.6 percent).



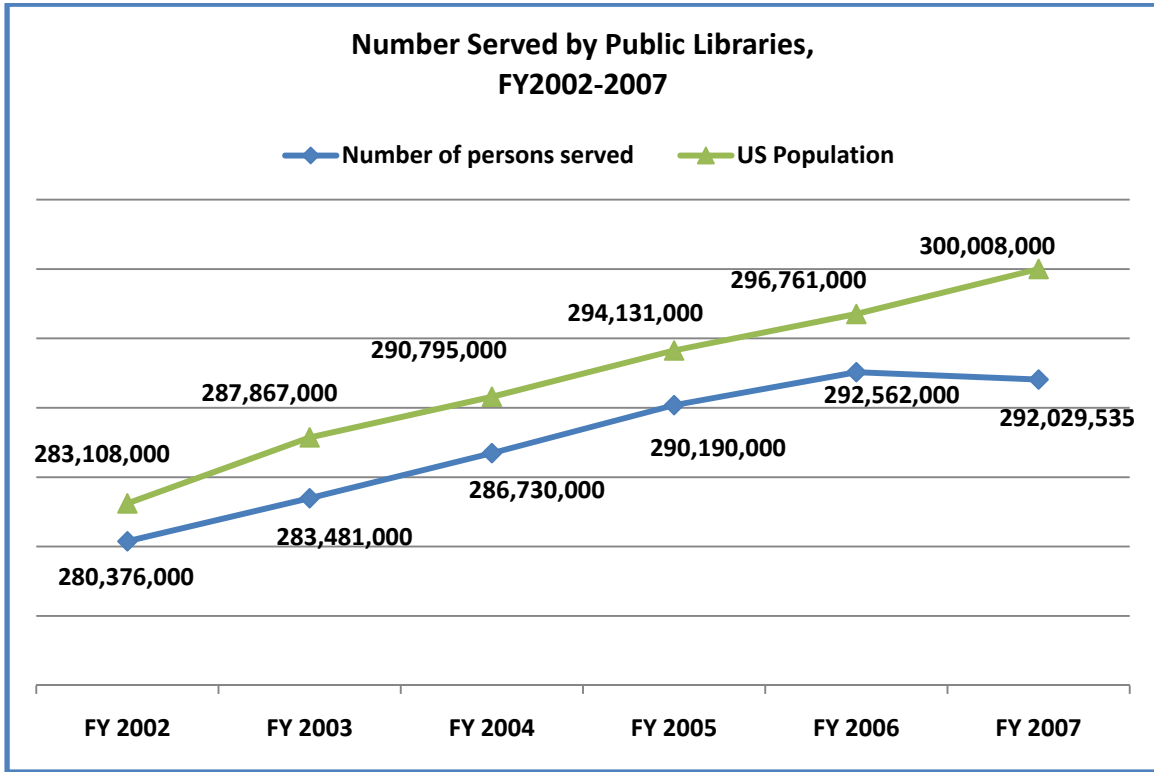
Source: *Public Libraries in the United States* (<http://harvester.census.gov/imls/index.asp>).

The greatest change appears in the number of outlets (central, branch or bookmobile) attributed to each library. With the exception of book mobiles, the net percentage change is less than one percent between FY2002 and FY2007. This detail is presented in the following table.

	FY2002	FY2007	Percent Change
<b>Public libraries</b>	9,137	9,214	0.8%
<b>Total Outlets</b>	16,486	16,604	0.007%
<b>Central libraries</b>	8,986	9,040	0.6%
<b>Branch libraries</b>	7,500	7,564	0.85%
<b>Bookmobiles</b>	873	808	-7.5%

The number served by public libraries and the state populations are determined by each state library. Depending upon the year, between about one and three percent of the total US population are outside a public library service area. However, an individual may pay to use a public library even though their community does not provide tax support for its own library or for one in another community. These individuals are often referred to as non-resident borrowers. Although they may not be reported in the legal service area of a public library, their use is reported in various usage data – visits, circulation, program attendance, etc. Therefore, it is difficult to understand fully the numbers of individuals without

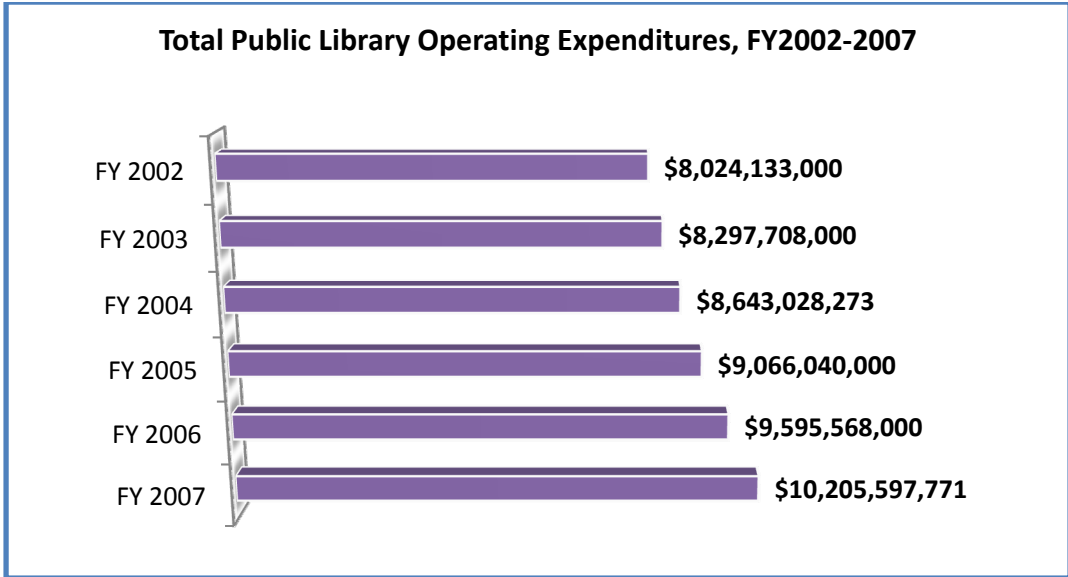
tax supported access to a public library. The following graphic plots the sum of all state populations and the sum of populations served by public libraries for FY2002-FY2007.



Source: Persons served and US population figures are compiled from IMLS/NCES *Public Libraries in the United States* (<http://harvester.census.gov/imls/index.asp>).

### Public Library Expenditures

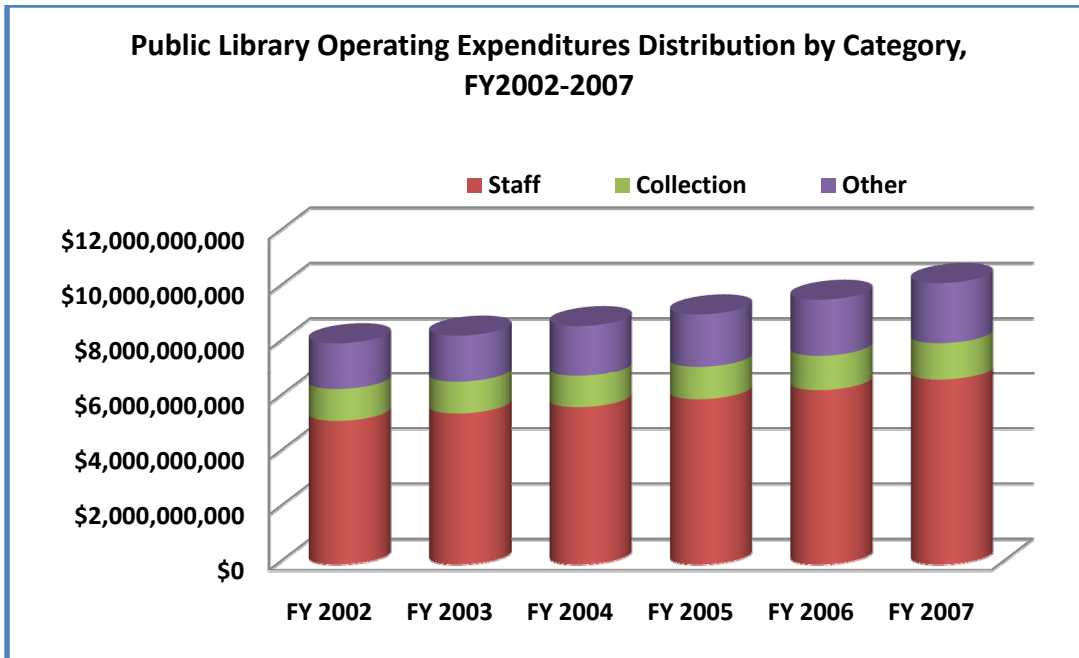
Public library operating budgets are comprised of three tax-supported revenue sources as well as multiple other sources (e.g., fees/fines, donations, local fund raising, and grants). Total operating expenditures FY2002 thru FY2007 are presented in the following bar chart.



Source: *Public Libraries in the United States*, various years (<http://harvester.census.gov/imls/index.asp>).

Total public library operating expenditures change little year-to-year, and typically align with inflation rates (between 3-6 percent annually). Also, larger urban libraries and suburban library systems account for the majority of these increases, while libraries in smaller communities account for far less of public library spending overall and budgets show little change year-to-year. In fact, per capita operating expenditures, in constant 2007 dollars, increased little more than \$5 between FY1998 and FY2007.<sup>4</sup> In FY2007, the range of per capita expenditures was from a high of \$75.12 (District of Columbia) to a low of \$14.75 (Mississippi). The following bar graph presents the distribution of expenditures by type: staff, collections and other expenditures.

<sup>4</sup> Institute of Museum and Library Services. *Public Libraries Survey Fiscal Year 2007*. Figure 7. Per Capita Expenditures in US Public Libraries, FY1998-FY2007 (in Constant 2007 Dollars). ([http://harvester.census.gov/imls/pubs/pls/pub\\_detail.asp?id=122#](http://harvester.census.gov/imls/pubs/pls/pub_detail.asp?id=122#))



Source: *Public Libraries Survey Fiscal Year 2007* and *Public Libraries in the United States*, various years (<http://harvester.census.gov/imls/index.asp>).

Staff (salary and benefits) account for the largest portion of total public library expenditures, followed by other expenditures (programming, utilities, technology and infrastructure, etc.), then collections.

### Financial Trends in US Public Libraries, FY2008-2009

The following section highlights finance trends reported by public libraries in the 2008-2009 Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (PLFTAS), published as *Libraries Connect Communities 3* ([www.ala.org/plinternetfunding](http://www.ala.org/plinternetfunding)) and preliminary findings from the 2009-2010 study.

As part of the PLFTAS study, public libraries are asked about the stability of the public library operating budget from year-to-year. Each year the predominant response was “no change.” However, there was a marked shift away from any operating budget increases from 2008-2009. The following tables present operating budget changes reported by libraries for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009. The second of the tables presents the percentage change in libraries reporting increases/decreases by metropolitan status and poverty.

Evident in the following two charts are the

- Increases in flat funding reported by public libraries in FY2009 from FY2008
- Increased reporting of budget reductions in FY2009 from FY2008
- Decline in budget increases in FY2009 from FY2008

Although more than 40 percent of public libraries reported operating budget increases of up to 4 percent, it is important to acknowledge that those increases barely kept pace with inflation. In addition, 22.9 – 25.9 percent of libraries report no changes in operating budget for FY2008-FY2009. Put plainly,

69.2 percent of public libraries in FY2008 and 67.7 percent in FY2009 saw little or no meaningful increases in operating budgets.

<b>Overall Public Library System Operating Budget Stability, Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009</b>		
<b>Operating Budget</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2008</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2009</b>
Increased more than 6%	12.50%	9.40%
Increased 4.1-6%	8.70%	8.60%
Increased 2.1-4%	22.50%	20.10%
Increased up to 2%	23.80%	21.80%
Decreased up to 2%	3.60%	4.50%
Decreased 2.1-4%	2.20%	3.90%
Decreased 4.1-6%	1.40%	2.20%
Decreased more than 6%	2.40%	3.70%
Stayed the same	22.90%	25.90%

Source: Compiled from Figures C38-C39, *Libraries Connect Communities 3 (2009)*.  
[http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/plftas/2008\\_2009/index.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/plftas/2008_2009/index.cfm)

“Ideally, one would expect to see inflationary increases in library operating budgets from year-to-year aligning with the Consumer Price Index. Unfortunately, the data reported by a majority of libraries in this study do not support this pattern. In fact, inflation averaged 2.8 percent in 2007 and 3.8 percent in 2008, and just under 44 percent of libraries report increases greater than 2 percent in FY2008. In FY2009, only 38 percent of libraries report increases at or above inflation. This picture is further complicated by the fact that salaries, health benefits and utility costs are increasing faster than inflation. For instance:

- Premiums for employer-based health insurance rose by 5 percent in 2008, and average premiums for family coverage have increased 119 percent since 1999.<sup>5</sup>
- Utilities prices for heating and cooling increased between 5 percent and 28 percent, with average heating oil costs doubling from 2003–04 (\$903) to 2007–08 (\$1,834).<sup>6</sup>
- Librarian salaries rose approximately 15 percent between 2003 and 2008.”<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Employee Health Benefits: 2008 Annual Survey. September 2008.  
<http://ehbs.kff.org/images/abstract/7791.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Winter heating costs could rise an average 10.5%. Barbara Hagenbaugh, USA Today, [http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2007-09-24-heating-oil\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2007-09-24-heating-oil_N.htm). Data from National Energy Assistance Director’s Association study, <http://www.neada.org>

<sup>7</sup> ALA Survey of Librarian Salaries series, years 2003–2008. For more information, see <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/reports/reports.cfm>

“It is important to consider the cumulative impact of modest downward shifts in the proportion of libraries reporting increases combined with the modest upward shifts in the proportion of libraries reporting flat or declining operating budgets. Most noticeably, downward shifts occurred in libraries previously experiencing increases in the 2.1 percent-to-4 percent and 6-or-more percent ranges. When the data are viewed by poverty ranges, the rise in high poverty libraries reporting decreases in operating budgets in FY2009 is significant—twice as many libraries as in FY2008 in some cases. High poverty libraries reporting 6-plus percent increases in FY2008 (27.9 percent) dropped to just over 12 percent of libraries in FY2009. Suburban libraries reporting flat funding increased 4.5 percent, up to 23.3 percent in FY2009 from 18.8 percent in FY2008. Under current economic conditions, however, even small increases may be considered something of a victory for public libraries.” (Source: [http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/plftas/2008\\_2009/sectionssystem.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/plftas/2008_2009/sectionssystem.pdf) )

Note in the following table that fewer libraries reported increases in almost every metropolitan status category and poverty level – the most notable was the 15.8% decline in budget increases of more than 6% reported by libraries. And, more libraries reported a rise in budget reductions – decreases were reported in each percentage range, the most notable the 7% rise in public libraries in high-poverty communities reporting decreases up to 2%. It is also important to note that increases under 4% are, for the most part, simple inflationary adjustments and do not reflect any meaningful increase in library operating budgets.

<b>Average Percentage Change Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Public Library System Operating Budget Stability by Metropolitan Status and Poverty.</b>							
<b>Operating Budget</b>	<b>Metropolitan Status</b>			<b>Poverty Level</b>			<b>Overall</b>
	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Low	Medium	High	
<b>Increased up to 2%</b>	-1.50%	-1.40%	-2.30%	-2.00%	-1.50%	-4.30%	-2.00%
<b>Increased 2.1-4%</b>	-4.00%	-4.10%	-1.40%	-2.30%	-4.40%	4.20%	-2.40%
<b>Increased 4.1-6%</b>	0.60%	-1.30%	0.30%	-0.50%	2.60%	0.40%	-0.10%
<b>Increased more than 6%</b>	-7.70%	-3.50%	-2.50%	-3.00%	-4.10%	-15.80%	-3.10%
<b>Decreased up to 2%</b>	1.70%	0.60%	0.80%	0.50%	3.20%	7.00%	0.90%
<b>Decreased 2.1-4%</b>	1.80%	3.10%	0.90%	1.80%	1.30%		1.70%
<b>Decreased 4.1-6%</b>	2.20%	1.00%	0.70%	0.80%	1.10%	3.60%	0.80%
<b>Decreased more than 6%</b>	2.30%	1.00%	1.30%	1.00%	3.00%		1.30%
<b>Stayed the same</b>	4.50%	4.50%	2.10%	3.50%	-1.00%	0.70%	3.00%

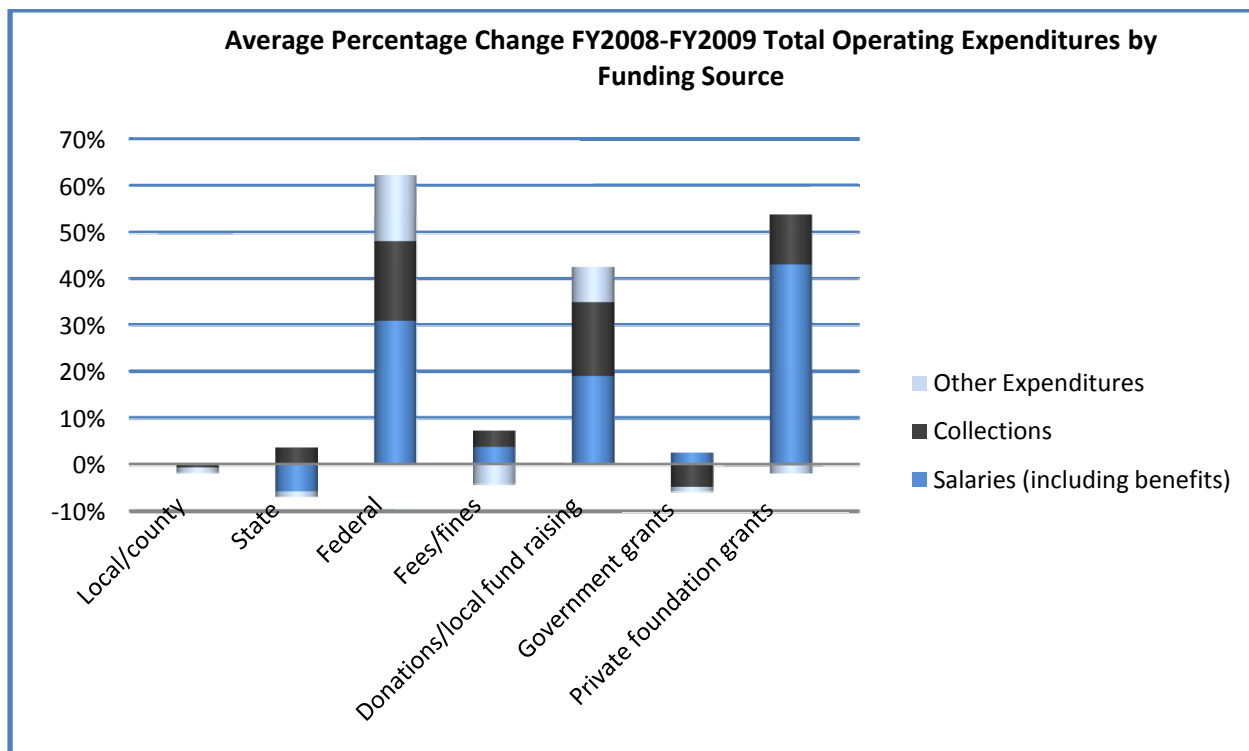
Source: Compiled from Figures C38-C39, *Libraries Connect Communities 3* (2009).

[http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/plftas/2008\\_2009/index.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/plftas/2008_2009/index.cfm)

When considering the revenue sources from which libraries operate, the following graphic presents the distribution of public library expenditures for staffing, collections and other (e.g., public programming, technology, infrastructure, facilities, utilities, etc.). Non-tax revenue sources include fines/fees, donations/fundraising, government grants, and private foundation grants.

The average percentage change in FY2008-2009 operating expenditures by type (salaries, collections and “other”) and source of funding reported by public libraries are presented in the following bar graph. Reductions in expenditures by source are displayed below the axis line (zero).

Note that no measurable changes were reported in FY2008-2009 expenditures from local funding sources for salaries or collections, however reductions did occur in the use of local funds for other expenditures – these include programs, hardware/software, telecommunications, online catalog maintenance fees, building management and utilities and, sometimes, database subscription costs. Reductions also were reported in the use of state funds for salaries and other expenditures. Increases in use of federal funding sources for all expenditures were reported, the most notable the use of federal funds for staff salaries. This is explained in more detail later in this section.



*Library Connect Communities 3, Figure C42 (p. 60) [http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/plftas/2008\\_2009/index.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/plftas/2008_2009/index.cfm)*

Non-tax revenue sources – fees/fines, donations/local fund raising, and grants – are the most unstable of the public library revenue sources and year-to-year fluctuations can be difficult to interpret. However, when viewed over time expenditure patterns emerge that can present a clearer picture of expenditure trends.

The most significant variations from FY2008 to FY2009 were in donations/local fund raising and private foundation grants. Please keep in mind that the total operating expenditure amounts from



donations/local fund raising are modest compared with tax-derived revenue, and those dollars are likely compensating for the loss in local and state revenue. Private foundation grants are typically restricted to specific uses and are of limited duration. However, libraries may be reporting Friends of Library or local private foundation grants in this category as well as awards from national private foundations (such as MacArthur, Gates, etc.). The 40%+Increases in use of private foundation grants for staff salaries/benefits reported by public libraries is troublesome and should be monitored, especially given the modest decline in state support for staffing.

The following figures (C40-C41) from the 2008-2009 PLFTAS report provide detail about operating expenditures at the close of FY2008 and FY2009. Public libraries report spending more than twice the anticipated amount of federal funding in FY2008 than was anticipated last year, up from an average of \$15,532 in 2007-2008 to an average of \$37,750 in 2008-2009. Libraries anticipated further increased use of federal funds in FY2009, estimating an average of \$47,156 or nearly 20 percent more than anticipated in last year’s survey. Increases in other funding sources occurred in all categories compared with last year, except in the area of fees/fines used for collection expenditures.<sup>8</sup>

<b>Figure C40: FY2008 Public Library Systems Average Total Operating Expenditures, by Type and Funding Source</b>			
<b>Sources of Funding</b>	<b>FY2008</b>		
	<b>Salaries (including benefits)</b>	<b>Collections</b>	<b>Other Expenditures</b>
<b>Local/county</b>	\$1,019,810 (n=6,791)	\$206,036 (n=5,623)	\$387,445 (n=5,226)
<b>State (including state aid to public libraries, or state-supported tax programs)</b>	\$139,391 (n=1,397)	\$56,476 (n=2,343)	\$60,297 (n=1,688)
<b>Federal</b>	\$10,318 (n=244)	\$6,746 (n=400)	\$20,686 (n=758)
<b>Fees/fines</b>	\$28,028 (n=554)	\$19,598 (1,502)	\$39,573 (n=1,295)
<b>Donations/local fundraising</b>	\$165,614 (n=680)	\$28,397 (n=2,252)	\$67,111 (n=1,876)
<b>Government grants (local, state or national level)</b>	\$65,760 (n=440)	\$13,464 (n=955)	\$28,692 (n=1,142)
<b>Private foundation grants (e.g., Carnegie, Ford, Gates, etc.)</b>	\$253,864 (n=366)	\$38,497 (n=765)	\$36,211 (n=1,720)
<b>Reported average total</b>	\$1,682,785	\$369,214	\$640,015
<b>Reported average percent</b>	62.5%	13.7%	23.8%

Source: [http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/plftas/2008\\_2009/section/system.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/plftas/2008_2009/section/system.pdf)

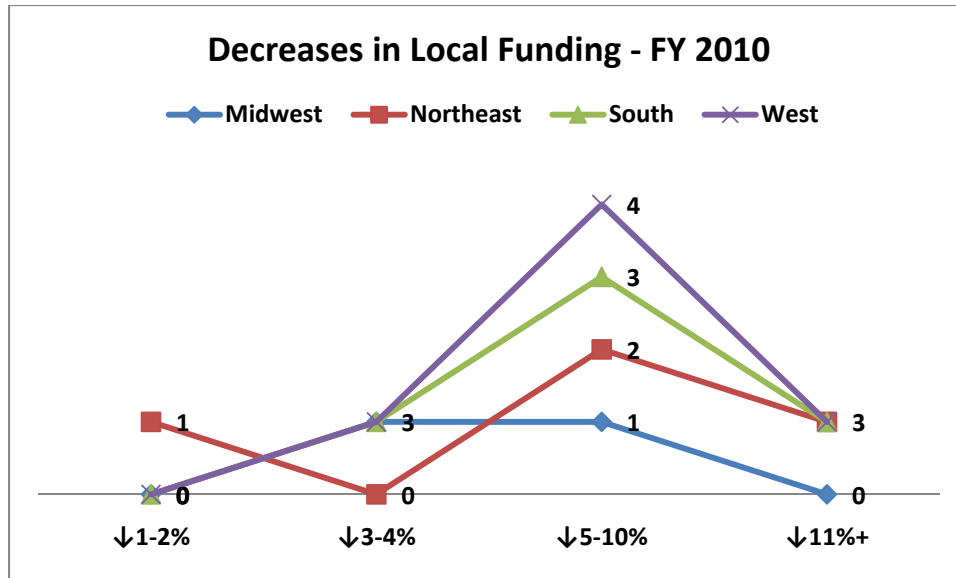
<sup>8</sup> Libraries Connect Communities 3. Excerpted in part, p.60.  
[http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/plftas/2008\\_2009/section/system.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/plftas/2008_2009/section/system.pdf)

<b>Figure C41: FY2009 Public Library Systems Average Total Operating Expenditures, by Type and Funding Source</b>			
	<b>FY2009</b>		
<b>Sources of Funding</b>	<b>Salaries (including benefits)</b>	<b>Collections</b>	<b>Other Expenditures</b>
<b>Local/county</b>	\$1,017,687 (n=6,342)	\$205,012 (n=5,260)	\$383,614 (n=4,953)
<b>State (including state aid to public libraries, or state-supported tax programs)</b>	\$131,707 (n=1,316)	\$58,551 (n=2,161)	\$59,674 (n=1,572)
<b>Federal</b>	\$14,926 (n=192)	\$8,142 (n=322)	\$24,088 (n=679)
<b>Fees/fines</b>	\$29,059 (n=514)	\$20,277 (n=1,385)	\$37,922 (n=1,211)
<b>Donations/local fundraising</b>	\$196,880 (n=596)	\$32,923 (n=2,035)	\$72,264 (n=1,734)
<b>Government grants (local, state or national level)</b>	\$67,370 (n=412)	\$12,810 (n=836)	\$28,425 (n=998)
<b>Private foundation grants (e.g., Carnegie, Ford, Gates, etc.)</b>	\$363,068 (n=317)	\$42,610 (n=648)	\$35,582 (n=1,613)
<b>Reported average total</b>	\$1,805,771	\$380,325	\$641,569
<b>Reported average percent</b>	63.9%	13.5%	22.7%

Source: [http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/plftas/2008\\_2009/section1system.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/plftas/2008_2009/section1system.pdf)

In a November 2009 survey of Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) conducted by the ALA, the public library funding landscape continued to look bleak. When considering current local funding to public libraries, a majority of state libraries reported decreases in the 5-to-10 percent range. Seventeen states (36 percent) reported they believed a majority of libraries in their states had received cuts in funding in FY2010, compared with FY2009. Another 36 percent reported they did not know or there was no majority of libraries reporting a change in budgets. Twenty-one percent (10 states) reported there had been no change between the two fiscal years. Two states reported that a majority of libraries in the state had received funding increases.

The following figure presents decreases in FY2010 local funding by US Census region.



Further, state libraries reported that state funding, usually in the form of state aid packages, has also declined. More than half of respondents (52 percent or 24 states) reported cuts in state funding for public libraries between FY2009 and FY2010. Nearly half of those states reporting cuts indicated the cuts were greater than 11 percent, almost three times the number that reported this was the case in the previous fiscal year. Seventeen percent (seven states and the District of Columbia) do not provide state funding; 23.9 percent (11 states) reported there had been no change between FY2009 and FY2010; and six percent (3 states) reported an increase in funding. One state had not yet begun FY2010.

The following figure presents the number of states reporting percentage changes – increases and decreases - in FY2010 from FY2009 by US Census region (e.g., Midwest, Northeast, South, West).

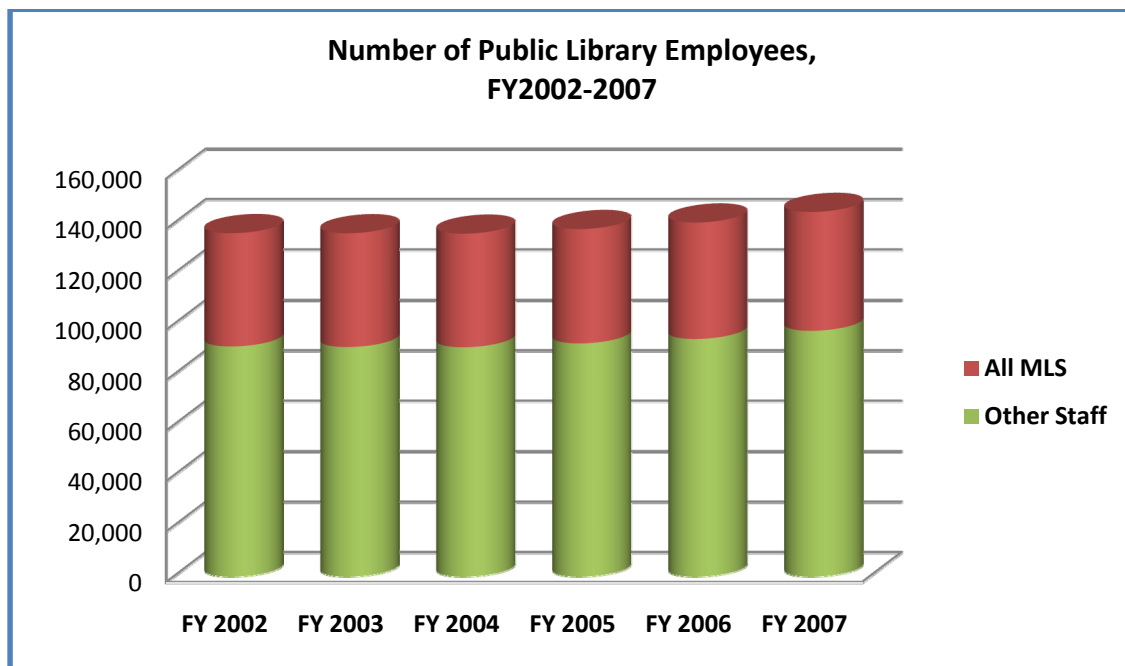
<b>Changes in State Funding to State Libraries - FY 2010</b>											
	<b>Decreases= 24</b>				<b>Increases = 3</b>						<b>Total</b>
	↓1-2%	↓3-4%	↓5-10%	↓11%+	No State Aid	No Change	↑1-2%	↑3-4%	↑5-10%	↑11%+	
<b>Midwest</b>	1	1	0	4	1	2	0	0	1	0	<b>10</b>
<b>Northeast</b>	0	0	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	<b>8</b>
<b>South</b>	0	1	6	2	1	3	0	0	1	0	<b>16</b>
<b>West</b>	0	1	0	3	4	4	0	0	0	1	<b>13</b>
<b>Total</b>	1	3	9	11	8	11	0	0	2	1	<b>46</b>
<b>Change from FY 2009</b>	↓1	↓1	↑7	↑7	1	↓6	↓2	↓5	↑2	↓5	

With nearly three-quarters of state library agencies reporting their budgets had been reduced, it is hardly surprising that their ability to support public libraries in their states, including lost staff to provide consultation, continuing education, statewide purchases and more also decreases. This is consistent with a separate survey conducted by the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies in fall 2009, which found that 77 percent (31 of 40 respondents) of state library agencies experienced a budget cut in the current fiscal year.

### Public Library Staffing

Since the periodicity of the national surveys varies, data for each type of library reflects the year(s) in which data were reported (fiscal year or school year) and may not intersect chronologically. In some cases positions were not reported in a particular fiscal year and are so reflected, such as with school library state certified staff in the 1999-2000 school year.

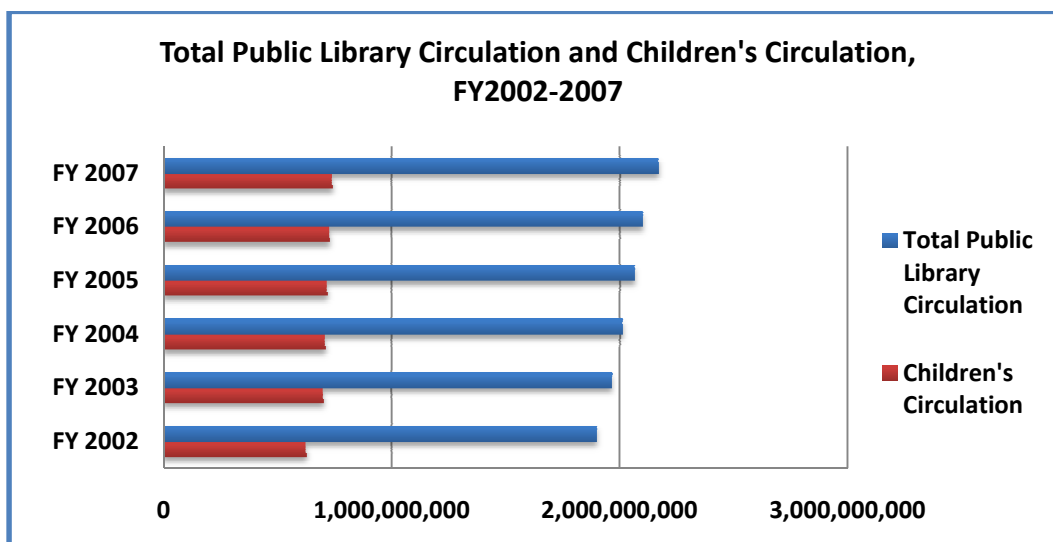
The following bar graphs present library workforce figures. For the most part, library staffing has remained stable during the period 1999-2008.



Source: *Public Libraries Survey Fiscal Year 2007* and *Public Libraries in the United States*, various years (<http://harvester.census.gov/imls/index.asp>).

## Public Library Services

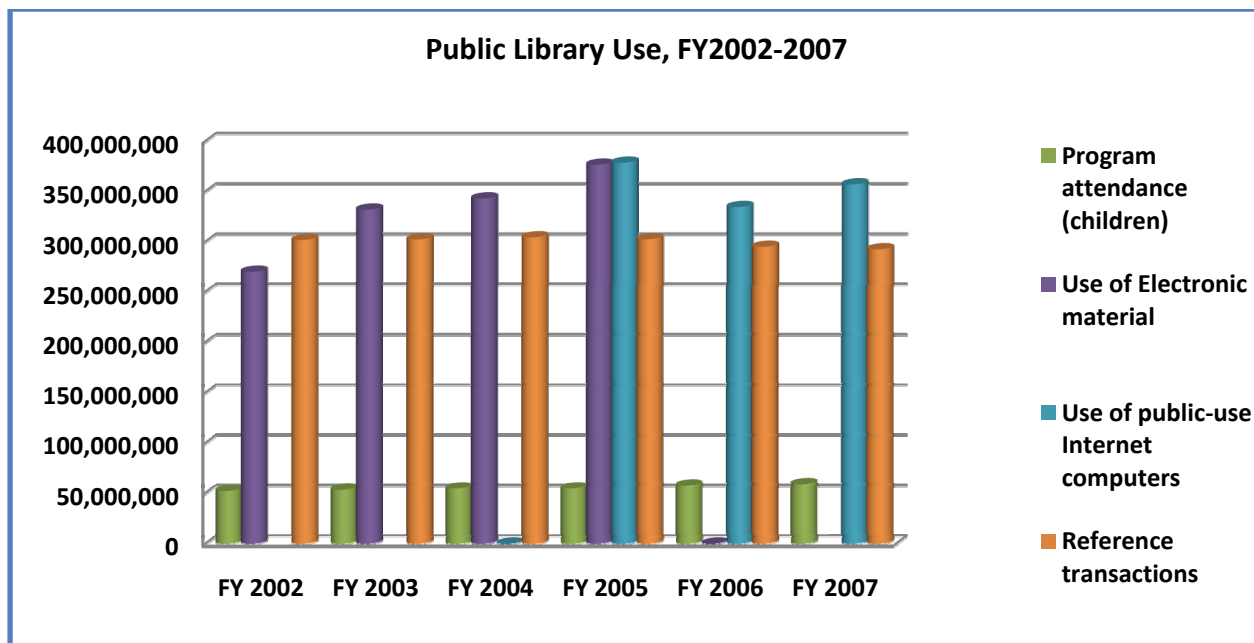
Total public library circulation and circulation of children's materials are presented in the following bar graph. Circulation of children's materials has accounted for between 32.9 to 35 percent of total circulation between FY2002 and FY2007. In FY2007 children's circulation was slightly more than 34 percent. Total circulation of public library materials has grown each year and per capita circulation in FY2007 was about 7.4 items, up from about 6.8 items in FY2002.<sup>9</sup>



Source: *Public Libraries Survey Fiscal Year 2007* and *Public Libraries in the United States*, various years (<http://harvester.census.gov/imls/index.asp>).

Use of public libraries continues to increase year-to-year. The following bar graph presents four service use measures – reference transactions, use of public-use Internet computers, use of electronic materials (e.g., databases), and children's program attendance. If FY2005 both computer and electronic materials use were measured, but in FY2006 electronic materials use was no longer reported.

<sup>9</sup> Institute of Museum and Library Services. *Public Libraries Survey Fiscal Year 2007*. Figure 1. Per Capita Circulation in Public Libraries in the US, FY1998-FY2007. ([http://harvester.census.gov/imls/pubs/pls/pub\\_detail.asp?id=122#](http://harvester.census.gov/imls/pubs/pls/pub_detail.asp?id=122#))



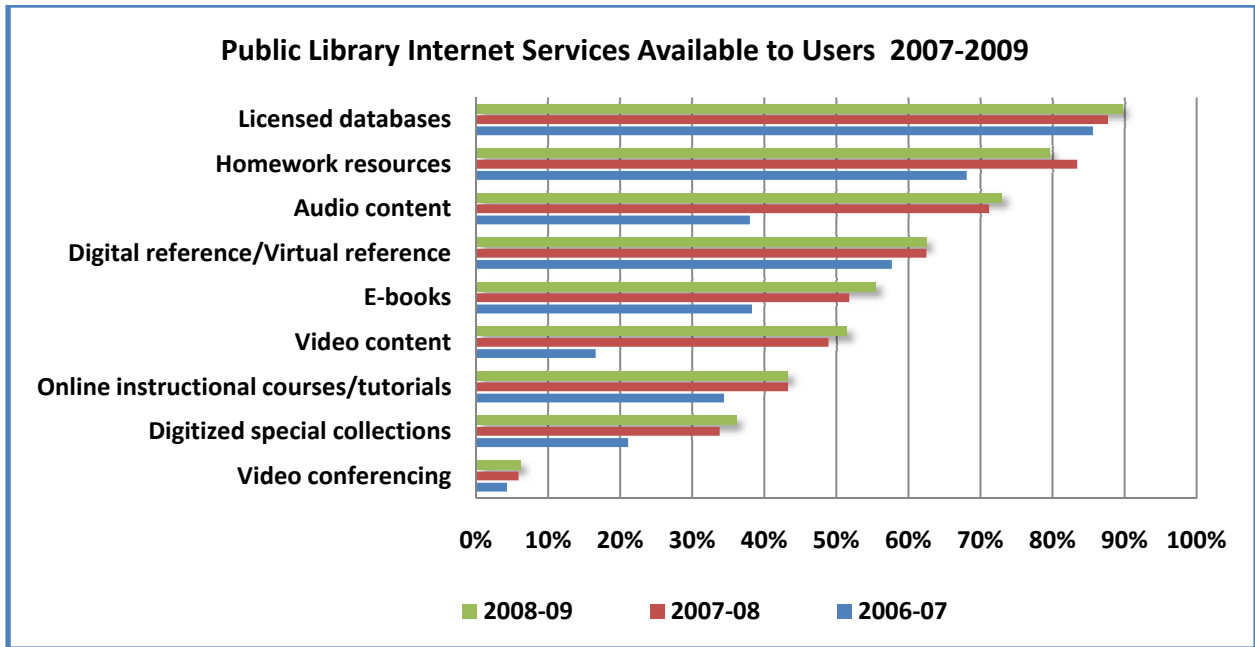
Source: *Public Libraries Survey Fiscal Year 2007* and *Public Libraries in the United States*, various years (<http://harvester.census.gov/imls/index.asp>).

In the November 2009 COSLA survey, thirteen states (28 percent) reported they were aware of public library closures in the past 12 months. Twelve states reported closures of five or fewer libraries; and one state (Indiana) reported more than five closures in the past year.

The 2009 national survey of public libraries (*Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study*)<sup>10</sup> also found a significant increase in the number of libraries reporting a decrease in the hours they are available to serve their communities. Nearly one-quarter of urban libraries and 14.5 percent of all libraries (up from 4.5 percent last year) reported their operating hours had decreased since the previous fiscal year. Nationally, this translates to lost hours at more than 2,400 public library branches.

Although reference transactions declined slightly during between FY2002 and FY2009, there was considerable growth in the use of public Internet computers by library visitors. We have some information about what public-use Internet computer resources are available from data collected as part of the ALA *Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (PLFTAS)*.

<sup>10</sup> *Libraries Connect Communities 3*. As presented Figure A2. Public Library Internet Services Available to Users 2007-2009; Figure A1. Public Wireless Availability, 2004-2009. [http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/plftas/2008\\_2009/section/system.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/plftas/2008_2009/section/system.pdf)

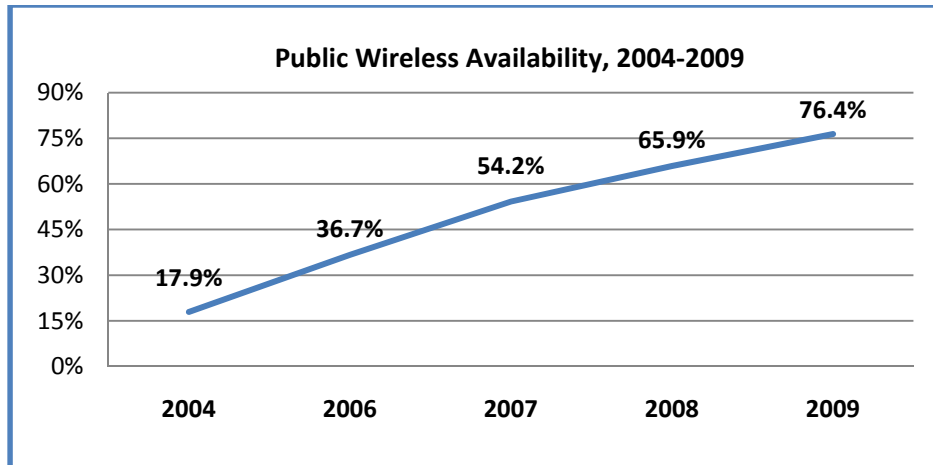


Library Connect Communities 3, Figure A2 (p.5) [http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/plftas/2008\\_2009/index.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/plftas/2008_2009/index.cfm)

Continuing a trend reported beginning with the 2006-2007 PLFTAS survey, public libraries report an increased range of e-government services for patrons. There was a 23 percent jump in libraries reporting they provide assistance to patrons applying for or accessing e-government services. About 79 percent of libraries report offering this service, compared with 54 percent last year. Two-thirds of public libraries provide assistance to patrons completing government forms. One in five public libraries are partnering with other agencies to provide e-government services, up from 13.4 percent one year ago.

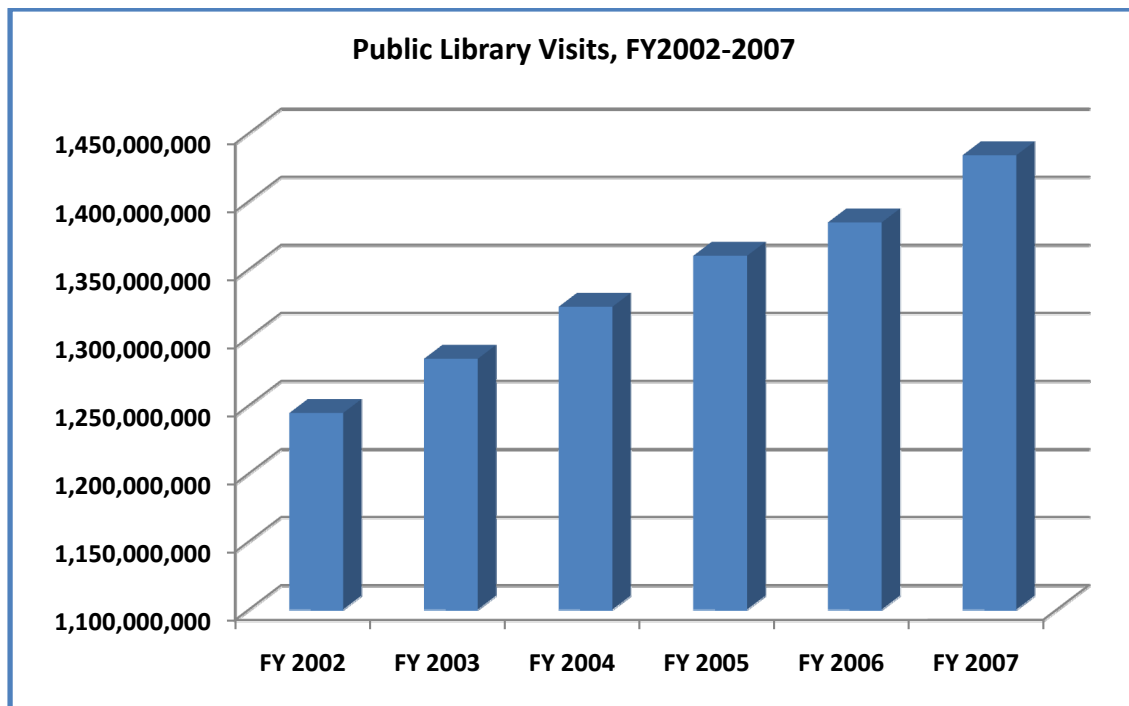
Decreased funding reported for FY2009 and FY2010 also is impacting staffing levels at many public libraries at a time when patron demand is vastly increasing. The number one challenge affecting libraries' ability to help job seekers is a lack of adequate staff to effectively help patrons with their job-seeking needs. Almost 60 percent of libraries strongly agreed or agreed with the statement that the library does not have enough staff to help patrons. About 52 percent agreed or strongly agreed that library staff does not have the necessary skills to meet patron demand; and about 36 percent agreed or strongly agreed the library has too few public computers to meet demand.

From the PLFTAS research we also know from public libraries that wireless Internet access has increased in public libraries. The following bar graph presents that change between 2004 and 2009. Therefore, access to the Internet services is enhanced beyond the public access computers made available to library visitors.



Library Connect Communities 3, Figure A1 (p.4) [http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/plftas/2008\\_2009/index.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/plftas/2008_2009/index.cfm)

Despite what the media may present about everything being on the Internet and the need for public libraries diminishing, data reported by libraries regarding visits paints a very different picture. The following bar chart presents sums of visits between FY2002 and FY2007. Library visits increased about 3.2 percent in FY2003 from FY2002, and about 3.6 percent in FY2007 from FY2006.



Source: *Public Libraries Survey Fiscal Year 2007* and *Public Libraries in the United States*, various years (<http://harvester.census.gov/imls/index.asp>).



Anecdotally, we know that library visits have increased in the past two years, so we expect even greater number of visits reported for FY2008 forward.

(<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/advocacyuniversity/toolkit/index.cfm>). Public library visits per capita were about 4.9 in FY2007, up from about 4.5 in FY2002.<sup>11</sup>

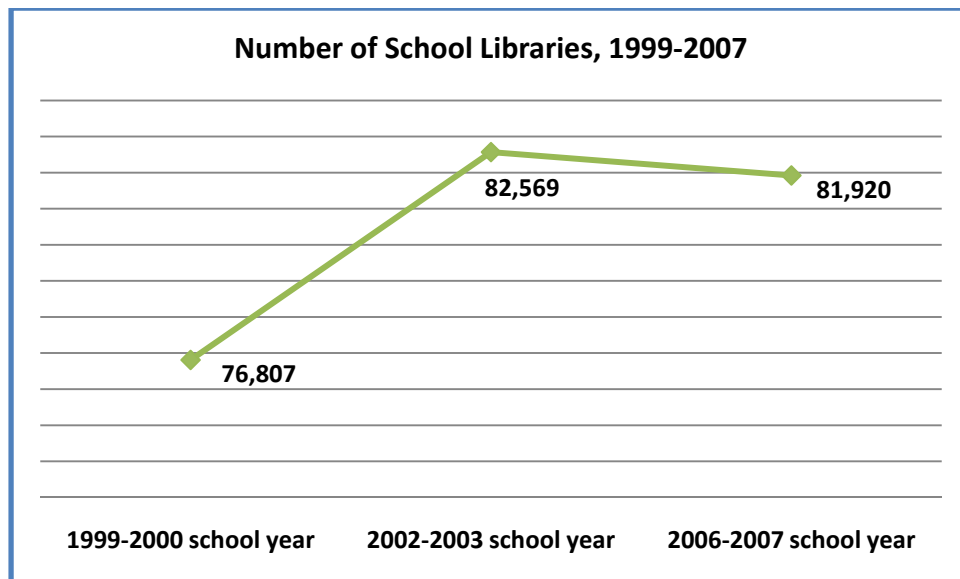
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<sup>11</sup> Institute of Museum and Library Services. *Public Libraries Survey Fiscal Year 2007*. Figure 2. Per Capita Visits to Public Libraries in the US, FY1998-FY2007. ([http://harvester.census.gov/imls/pubs/pls/pub\\_detail.asp?id=122#](http://harvester.census.gov/imls/pubs/pls/pub_detail.asp?id=122#))

## II. School Libraries

### Numbers of School Libraries and Students Served

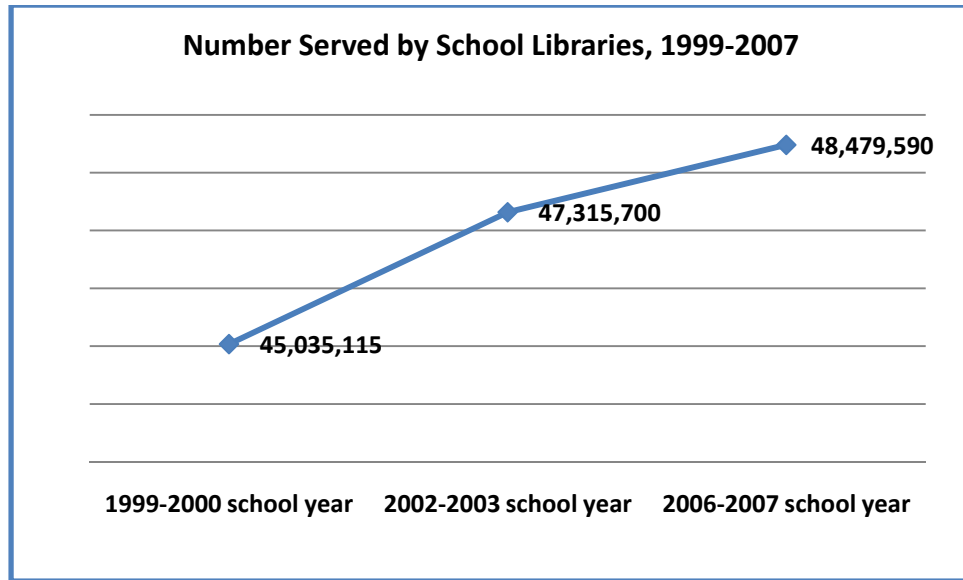
The number of school libraries has changed by about 6 percent from the 1999-2000 and 2006-2007 school years. This increase is a result of population growth and the need for more elementary and secondary public schools, as well as consolidation of smaller schools into larger school districts and the need for additional school libraries to serve students and teachers. The following two line graphs present the number of public school libraries and the numbers of students served between school years 1999-2000 and 2006-2007. Private school libraries are not included in the data presented from the NCES School Library Media Centers surveys, a component of the NCES Schools and Staffing Survey. Private schools are separately surveyed and no longer are asked about the presence of a library.



Sources: National Center for Education Statistics. *School Library Media Centers*, various years (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=041#>), and *Characteristics of Public and Bureau of Indian Education Elementary and Secondary School Library Media Centers in the United States: Results from the 2007-08 Schools and Staffing Survey* (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2009322>).

During this same period (2000-2007) the school-age population in the US (ages 5-19 are used for the purposes of comparison) increased from an estimate of 59,592,000 in November 2000 to 61,574,452 in November 2007, about three percent.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup> US Census Bureau. Population Estimates. <http://www.census.gov/popest/national/asrh/NC-EST2008-sa.html>

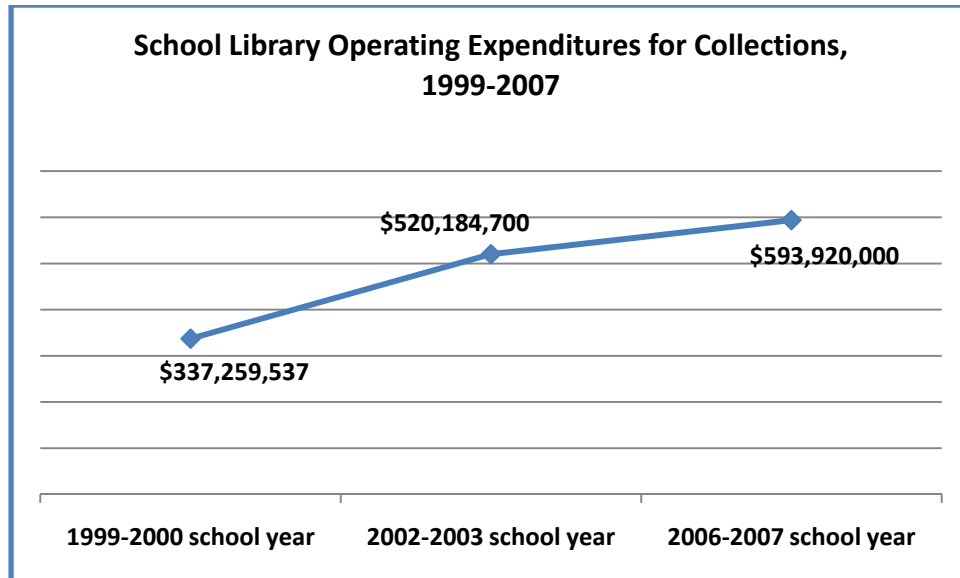


Sources: National Center for Education Statistics. *School Library Media Centers*, various years (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=041#>), and *Characteristics of Public and Bureau of Indian Education Elementary and Secondary School Library Media Centers in the United States: Results from the 2007-08 Schools and Staffing Survey* (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2009322>).

## School Library Expenditures

School library operating expenditures are slightly more elusive to measure due to the administrative organization of school library media centers within elementary and secondary education. The following bar graphs present operating expenditures as reported to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and the ALA American Association of School Librarians (ALA-AASL).

The percentage change in estimated school library operating expenditures from 1999-2000 to 2002-2003 was 154.2 percent, and increased again between 2002-2003 and 2006-2007 school years by 114.2 percent. These increases in expenditures can be explained partly by the increase in the number of schools during this period due to population growth and school consolidation – the increase in regional school districts.



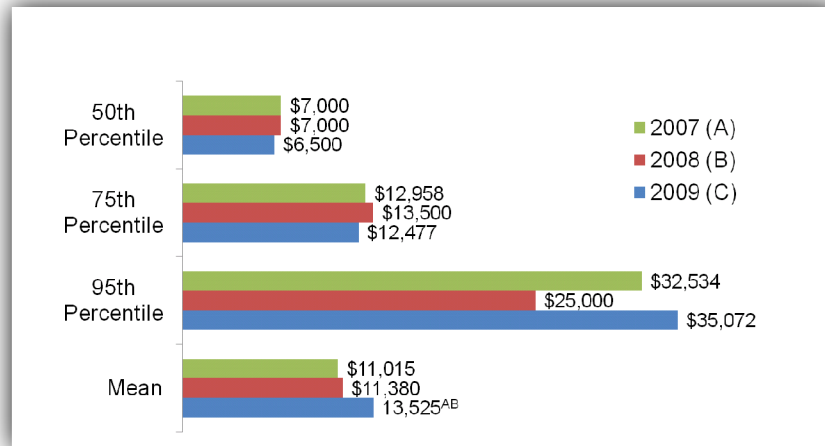
Sources: National Center for Education Statistics. *School Library Media Centers*, various years (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=041#>), and *Characteristics of Public and Bureau of Indian Education Elementary and Secondary School Library Media Centers in the United States: Results from the 2007-08 Schools and Staffing Survey* (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2009322>).

“In 2007, the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) initiated an annual survey of school library media programs. The development of this longitudinal survey project was mandated by the AASL Board as part of the association’s strategic plan with the goal to provide research and statistics to be used at the national, state and local levels when advocating for School Library Media Programs. The survey was developed through the AASL Research & Statistics committee with AASL Board review and final approval.”<sup>13</sup>

Respondents to the AASL survey were self-selected. For this reason, it is not possible to generate national totals. Instead, for each statistic, this report presents three percentiles: the 50<sup>th</sup>, the 75<sup>th</sup>, and the 95<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of reporting these three figures is to describe the better half of responding school libraries. The 50<sup>th</sup> percentile, or median, is the figure that divides the respondents in half—half reported this figure or above, half a lower figure. The 75<sup>th</sup> percentile is the figure below which three-quarters of the respondents fall and one-quarter above. Finally, the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile is the figure at or above which only five percent of the respondents fall.

<sup>13</sup> ALA American Association of School Librarians. *School Libraries Count! AASL’s national longitudinal survey of School Library Media Programs*, 2009.

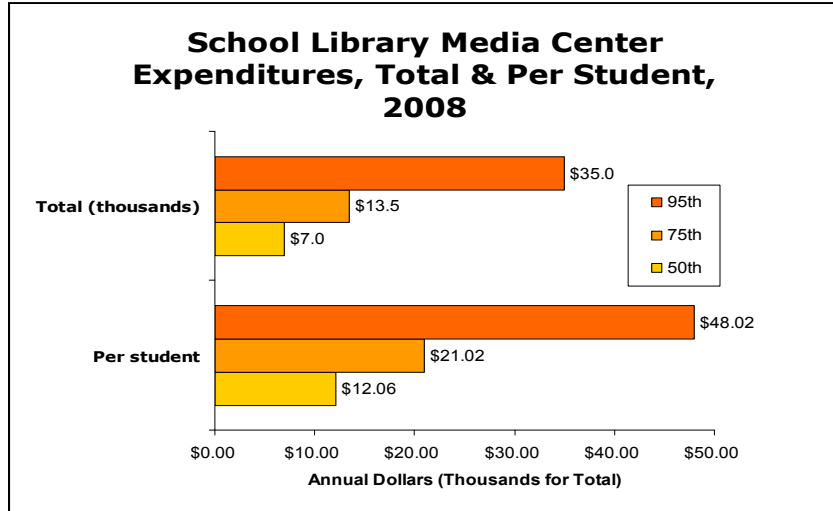
### AASL Average Spent on Information Resources, 2007-2009



- Information resources include print and non-print materials, licensed databases, and other electronic access to information.
- At the 50th percentile, average expenditures fell by \$500, from \$7,000 to \$6,500. There was no change at the elementary school level, but the average annual expenditure was \$1,000 lower in middle and high schools.
- At the 75th percentile, the drop was \$1,023 overall and varied by grade level: \$800 at the elementary school level, \$1,000 for junior high and \$1,418 among high schools.
- And, at the 95th percentile, there were decreases in the average budgets for \$1,000 (elementary schools), \$2,000 (middle schools) and \$2,000 (high schools)

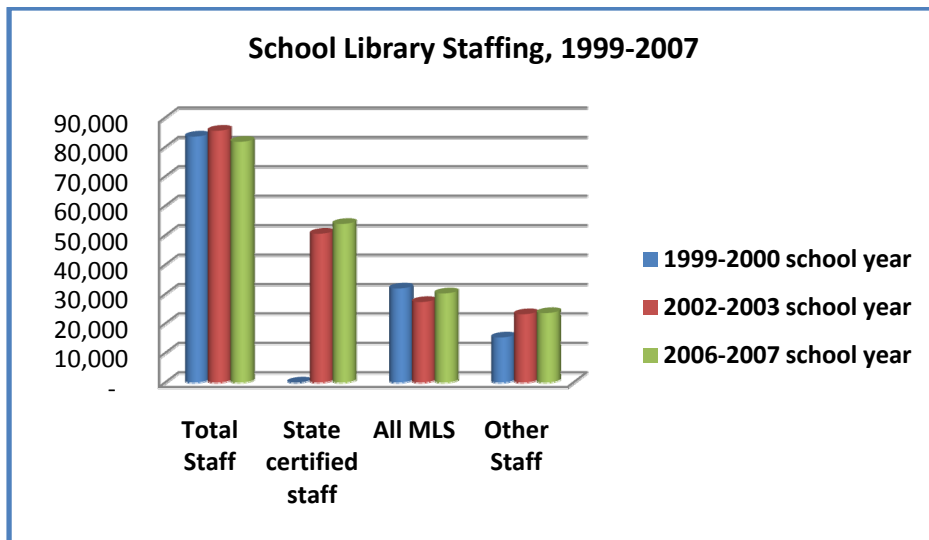
This indicates that almost all schools experienced a decrease in funding for information resources except for a very small percentage of schools that had significant increases over last year. (SLC 2009)

Total 2008 operating expenditures by percentile and percentile expenditures per student are presented in the following graph (SLC 2008). The decline between 2008 and 2009 are highlighted above, but also note the median per student expenditure of just over \$12.00. This is about two-thirds the cost of a fiction title (\$17.26), or about one third the cost of a single non-fiction title (\$27.04). (ALA-AASL, SLC 2008).



### School Library Staffing

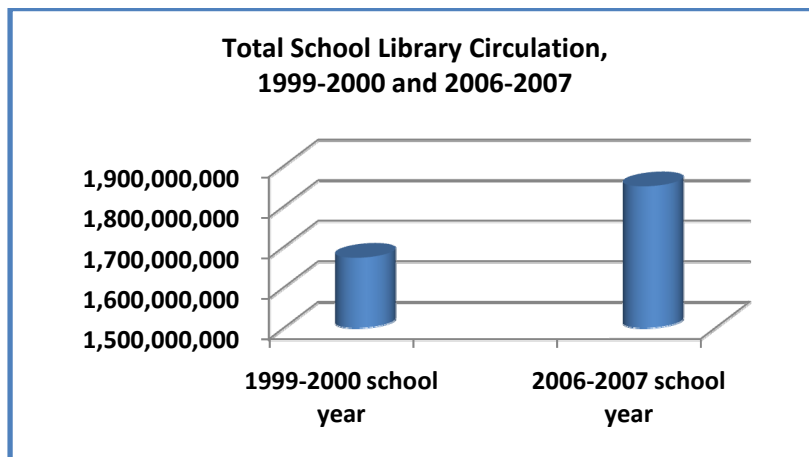
The following bar graph presents the total school library media staff, those with state certification, and those in the MLS and other categories. Beginning in 2002-2003, state certified school library media staff was identified as a separate employee classification and is comprised of staff also counted in the total and those in the MLS and other staff categories.



Sources: National Center for Education Statistics. *School Library Media Centers*, various years (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=041#>), and *Characteristics of Public and Bureau of Indian Education Elementary and Secondary School Library Media Centers in the United States: Results from the 2007-08 Schools and Staffing Survey* (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2009322>).

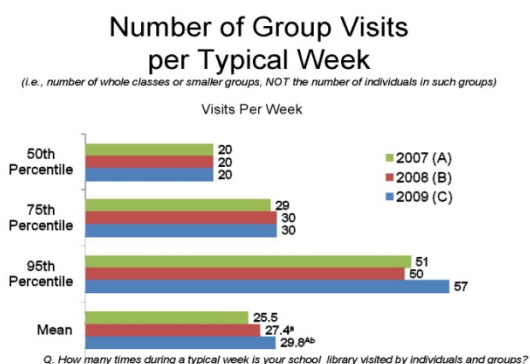
## School Library Services

Circulation of materials in school libraries increased about 9.5 percent from the 1999-2000 to the 2006-2007 school years.



\*Note: These data were not reported in the 2002-2003 study. Sources: National Center for Education Statistics. *School Library Media Centers*, various years (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=041#>), and *Characteristics of Public and Bureau of Indian Education Elementary and Secondary School Library Media Centers in the United States: Results from the 2007-08 Schools and Staffing Survey* (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2009322>).

Individual and group visits by students to school libraries in a typical week as reported in the 2008 ALA-AASL survey, *School Libraries Count!*, are reported in the following figure. “Half of responding schools report that at least 20 classes or other groups and 150 individuals visit their SLMCs during a typical week. The top quarter of respondents report at least 30 group and at least 375 individual visits, and the top five percent, at least 50 group and at least 1,000 individual visits.”<sup>14</sup>

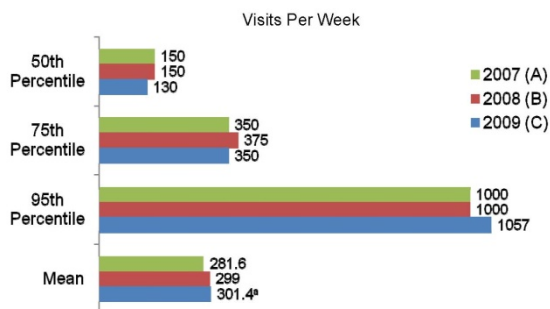


2008 School Libraries Count! ([www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/researchandstatistics/slcsurvey/slcsurvey.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/researchandstatistics/slcsurvey/slcsurvey.cfm))

<sup>14</sup> 2008 School Libraries Count! p.18. (<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/researchandstatistics/slcsurvey/SLCreport2008.doc>).

## Number of Individual Visits Per Typical Week

*(Only those visiting alone, not those visiting as part of a class or a smaller group)*



Q. How many times during a typical week is your school library visited by individuals and groups?

*2008 School Libraries Count!* ([www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/researchandstatistics/slcsurvey/slcsurvey.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/researchandstatistics/slcsurvey/slcsurvey.cfm))

The 2008 report goes on to describe the significance of enrollment and numbers of library visits. “Unsurprisingly, individual SLMC visits tend to rise steadily with enrollment; but, this factor has a far less dramatic impact on group visits. Half of responding schools with 2,000 or more students report at least 700 individual visits per week, and the top five percent of that group, a minimum of almost 2,750 such visits. By contrast, for all enrollment ranges above 300 students, half of respondents report 20 to 27 group visits per week, though half of those with fewer than 300 students report fewer than 13 such visits. Nonetheless, among the top five percent of each enrollment range, group visits tend to increase consistently with enrollment. Respondents in that group with enrollments of 2,000 or more students report at least 119 group visits per week, while those with fewer than 300 students report a minimum of only 30 such visits.”<sup>15</sup>

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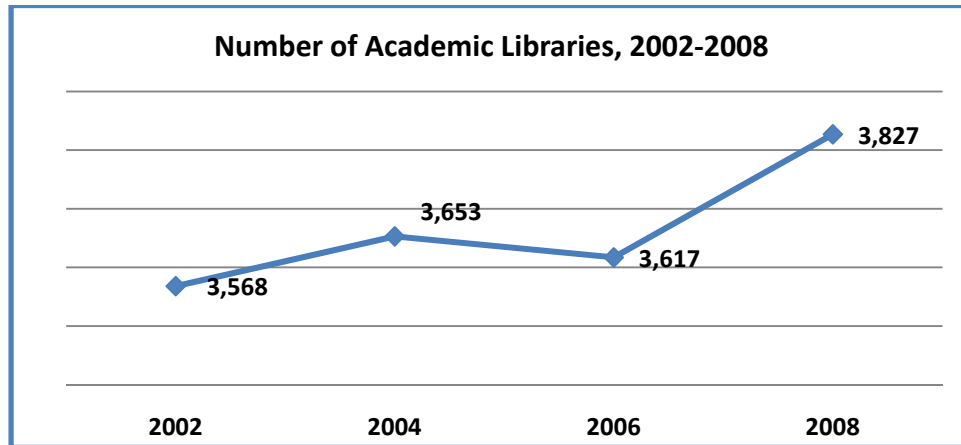
<sup>15</sup> Ibid.



### III. Academic Libraries

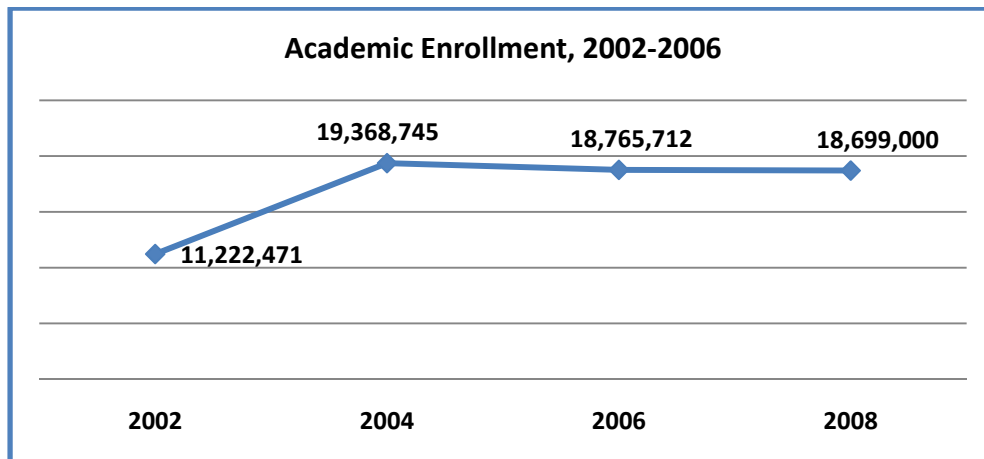
#### Numbers of Academic Libraries and Students Served

The number of academic libraries responding to the national biennial survey conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and the full time student enrollment for all academic institutions (not only those responding to the 2008 library survey) are presented in the following bar graphs.



Source: National Center for Education Statistics. *Academic Libraries*, various years (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=041#>)

The increase in responding institutions – more than 200 in 2008 from 2006 and previous years - is largely attributed to a rise in the number of private two-year degree granting institutions responding to the survey.

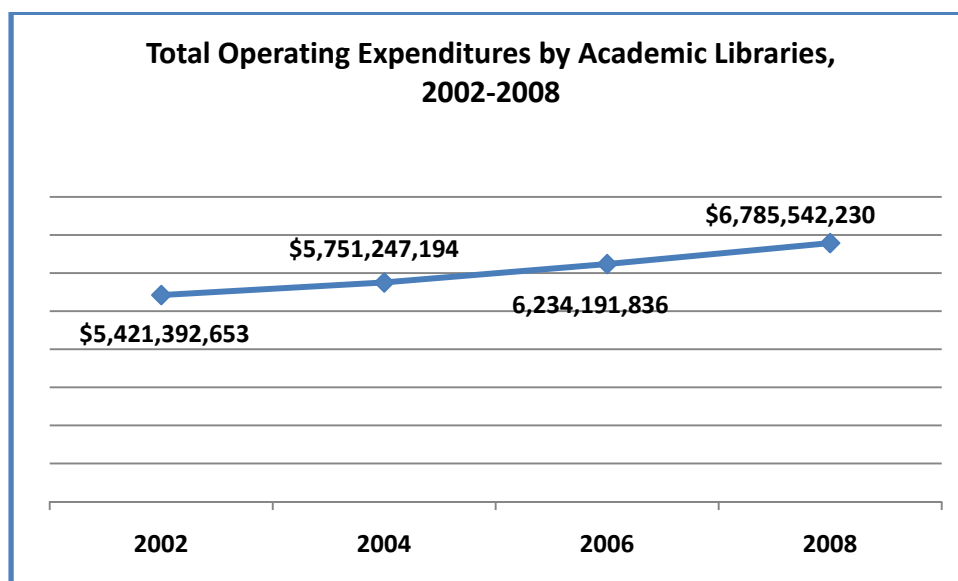


Source: National Center for Education Statistics. *2008 Digest of Education*, Table 189 ([http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d08/tables/dt08\\_189.asp?referrer=list](http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d08/tables/dt08_189.asp?referrer=list)), 2008 enrollment figures provided by the US Census Bureau.

Full time student enrollment is measured each fall, and declined nationally in 2006 from 2004 by about three percent, and again in 2008 by about three-tenths of one percent. The rise in enrollment from 2002 to 2006 is attributed to the increase in older students, age 25-29, and is an assumption applied in estimating future postsecondary enrollment.<sup>16</sup>

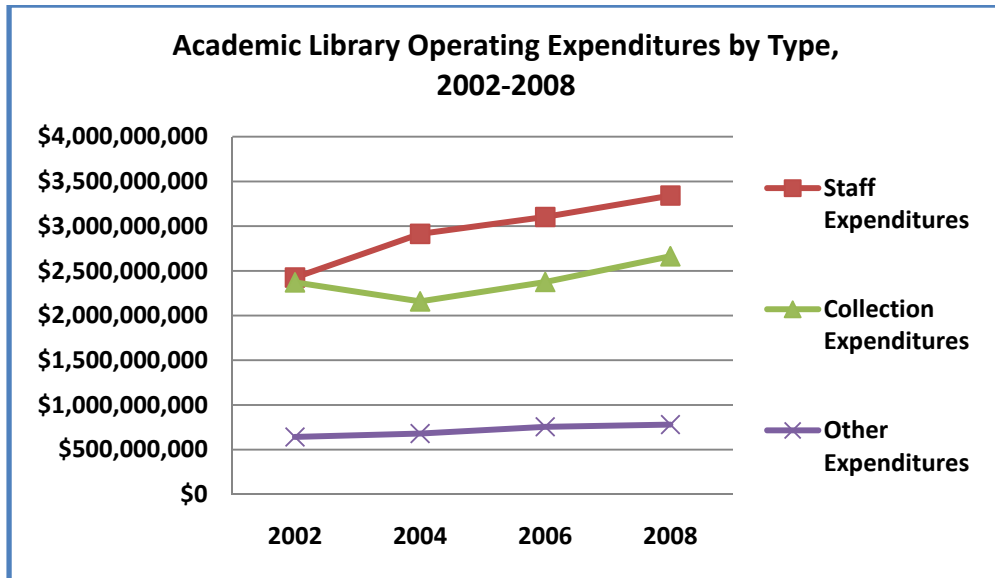
## Academic Library Expenditures

Operating expenditures of academic libraries have risen modestly during the period 2002-2008. Overall operating expenditures for academic libraries rose 5.7 percent in 2004 from 2002, 7.7 percent in 2006 from 2004, and 8.1 percent in 2008 from 2006. The following two graphics present the total operating expenditures and expenditures by type for this period.



Source: National Center for Education Statistics. *Academic Libraries*, various years (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=041#>)

<sup>16</sup> National Center for Education Statistics. *Projections of Education Statistics to 2018*. Section 2. Enrollment in Degree-Granting Institutions: Introduction. (<http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/membershipsurveys/index.cfm>)



Source: National Center for Education Statistics. *Academic Libraries*, various years (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=041#>)

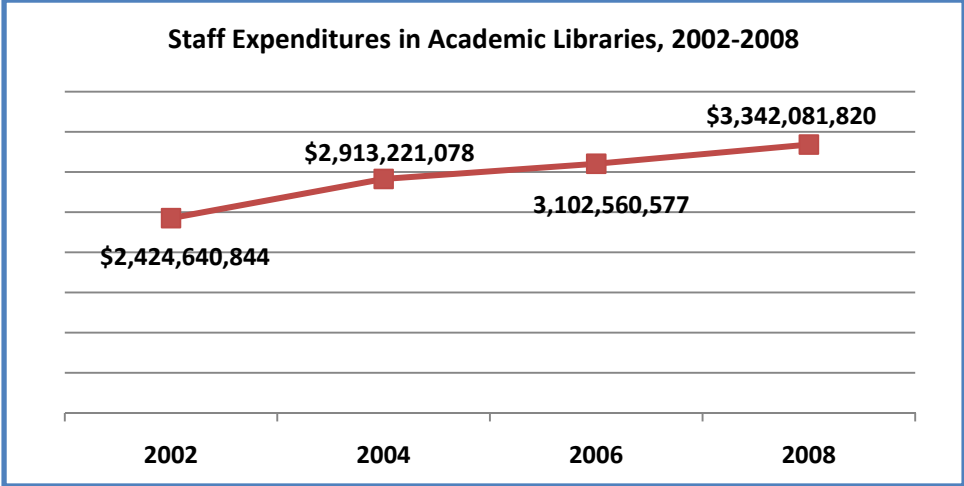
The following figure presents the expenditure change detail, 2002-2008.

	2002-2004	2004-2006	2006-2008
<b>Total operating expenditure change</b>	5.7%	7.7%	8.1%
<b>Staff expenditure change</b>	16.8%	6.1%	7.2%
<b>Collection expenditure change</b>	-9.9%	9.2%	10.8%
<b>Other expenditure change</b>	5.7%	10.0%	3.1%

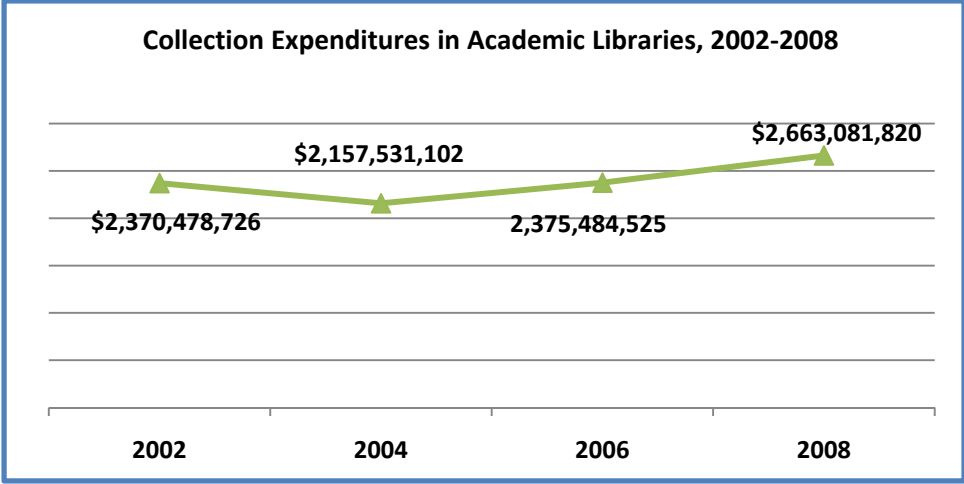
Academic libraries' expenditures increased considerably in FY2008 from FY2006 for electronic books, serial back files and other materials – from \$93.8 million in FY2006 to \$133.6 million in FY2008 – and for electronic current serial subscriptions – from \$691.6 million in FY2006 to \$1 billion in FY2008.<sup>17</sup>

The following three bar graphs present the detail of the individual expenditures for 2002-2008.

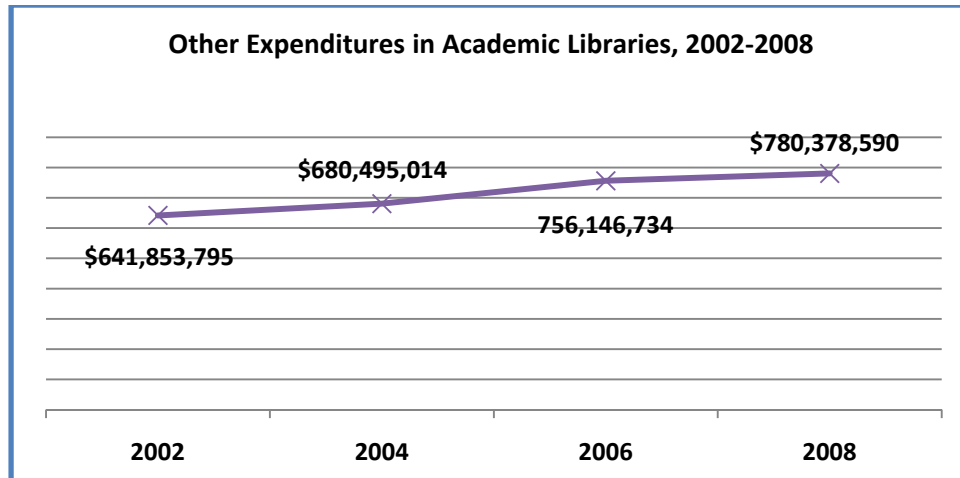
<sup>17</sup> *Academic Libraries*, various years. Table 10. Expenditures for different types of information resources at academic libraries, by control, level, size, and Carnegie classification of institution.



Source: National Center for Education Statistics. *Academic Libraries*, various years (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=041#>)



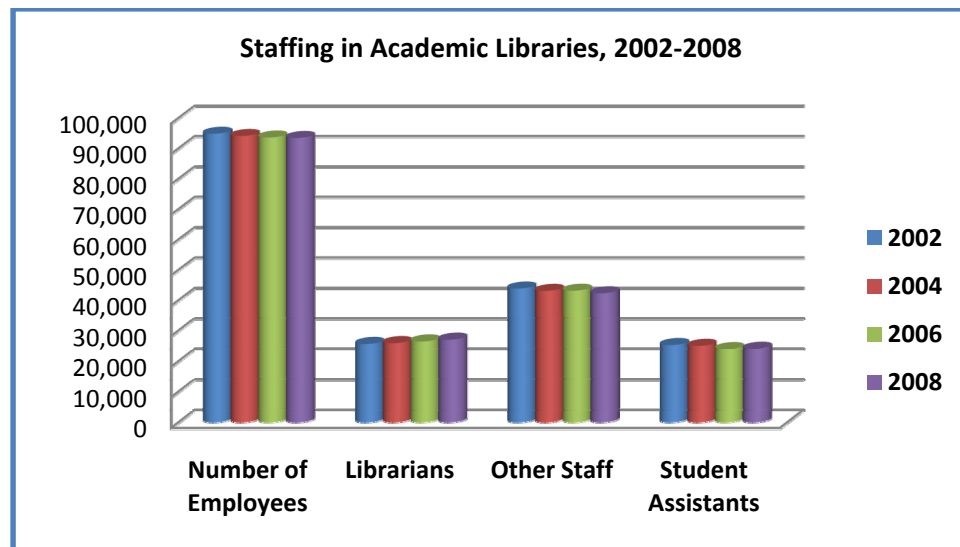
Source: National Center for Education Statistics. *Academic Libraries*, various years (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=041#>)



Source: National Center for Education Statistics. *Academic Libraries*, various years (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=041#>)

## Academic Library Services

Staffing in academic libraries remained fairly stable between 2002 and 2008. The following bar graph presents total staff and detail by category of employee – librarians, other staff, and student assistants. Although overall staffing declined by approximately 1.5 percent, those reductions are attributed to other staff (-3.6 percent) and students (-4.7 percent). The number of full-time equivalent librarians (MLS) increased 5.4 percent during this period.



Source: National Center for Education Statistics. *Academic Libraries*, various years (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=041#>)

While visits to academic libraries increased in FY2008 from FY2002, use of other services has declined during this same period.

- During FY 2008, 3,827 academic libraries reported 138.1 million circulation transactions from the general collection. This is an overall decline of 6 million from FY2006, and more than half (3.3 million) are attributed to institutions at the Doctor's level. Institutions at the Less than 4-year level saw a decrease in FY2008 circulation of more than 62,000.<sup>18</sup>
- While FY2008 circulation declined, academic libraries reported more than 11 million books, journal articles and other materials through interlibrary loan transactions, an increase of 294,000 from FY2006. Academic libraries reported receiving from other institutions 10.6 million items, an increase of nearly 430,000 from FY2006.<sup>19</sup>
- Academic libraries received more than 935,000 documents from commercial services in FY2008, this was an overall decline of more than 259,000 from FY2006. Use of commercial services by private academic institutions declined by more than 300,000 from FY2006, but public institution use increased more than 45,000.<sup>20</sup> This change can be explained in part by the significant increases in electronic journal subscriptions reported by academic libraries.
- During a typical week in FY2008, academic libraries had more than 20.3 million visits, answered more than 1.1 million reference questions, and made more than 498,000 informational services to groups attended by more than 8.9 million students and faculty. Visits to academic libraries increased about 1.5 million from FY2006, as did services to groups by about 27,000.<sup>21</sup>
- In fall 2008, 72 percent of academic libraries reported providing library reference service by e-mail or the Web, and 35 percent had active document digitization projects.

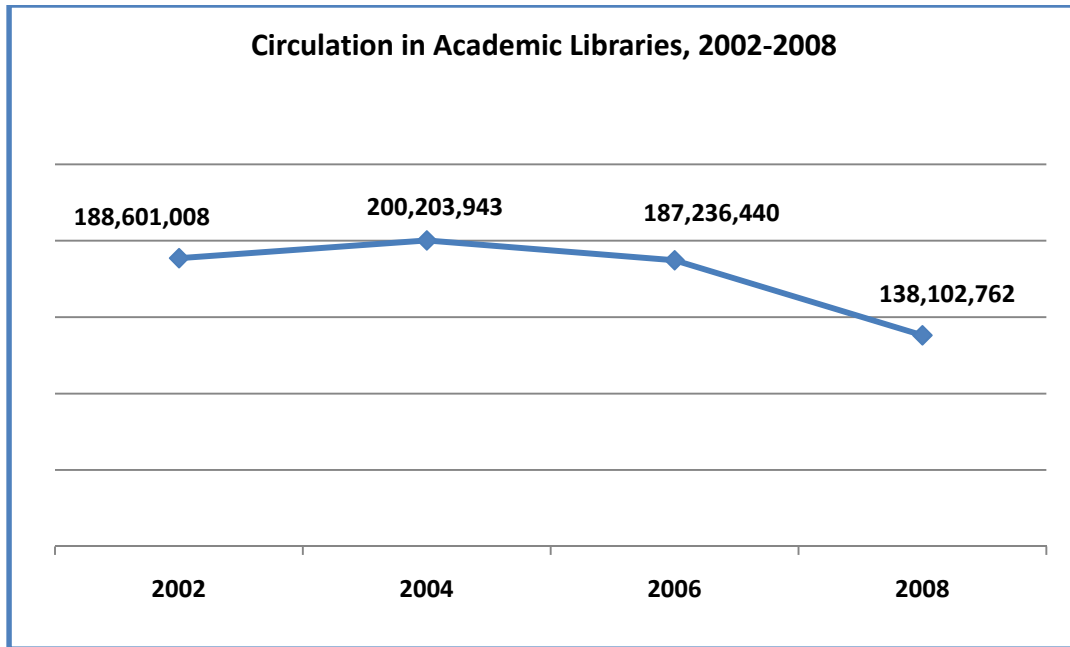
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<sup>18</sup> *Academic Libraries*, various years. Table 1. Total circulation, interlibrary loan transactions, and documents received from commercial services at academic libraries, by control, level, size, and Carnegie classification of institutions.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid. Table 3. Gate count, reference transactions per typical week at academic libraries, and total information service to groups, by control, level, size, and Carnegie classification of institutions.



Source: National Center for Education Statistics. *Academic Libraries*, various years. Table 1. (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=041#>)

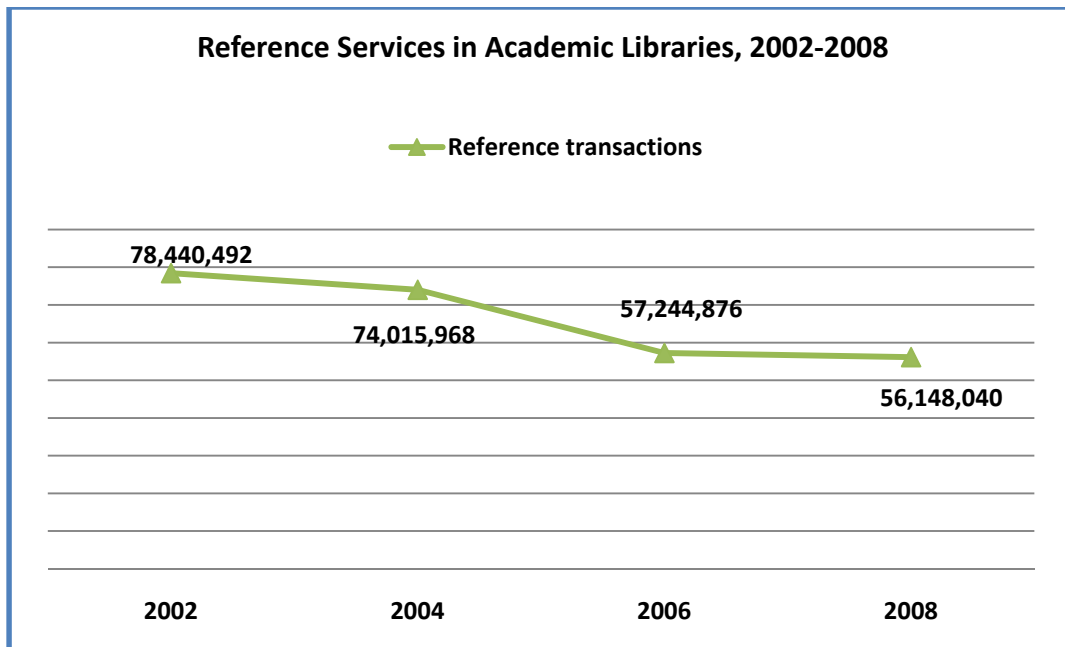
Countering the decline in electronic reference sources and aggregation services was a substantial increase in E-books from 64.3 million in FY2006 to 102.5 million in FY2008, and current serial subscriptions from 16.4 million in FY2006 to 25.3 million in FY2008. The largest increase in current serials subscriptions occurred with Doctoral/Research Carnegie class institutions, increasing to 11.4 million in FY2008 from 7.1 million in FY2006.<sup>22</sup>

Academic libraries added 24 million books, serial back files, and other paper materials including government documents in FY2008, 20 million E-books, 3.4 million current serial subscriptions, and 3.4 million audiovisual materials units.<sup>23</sup>

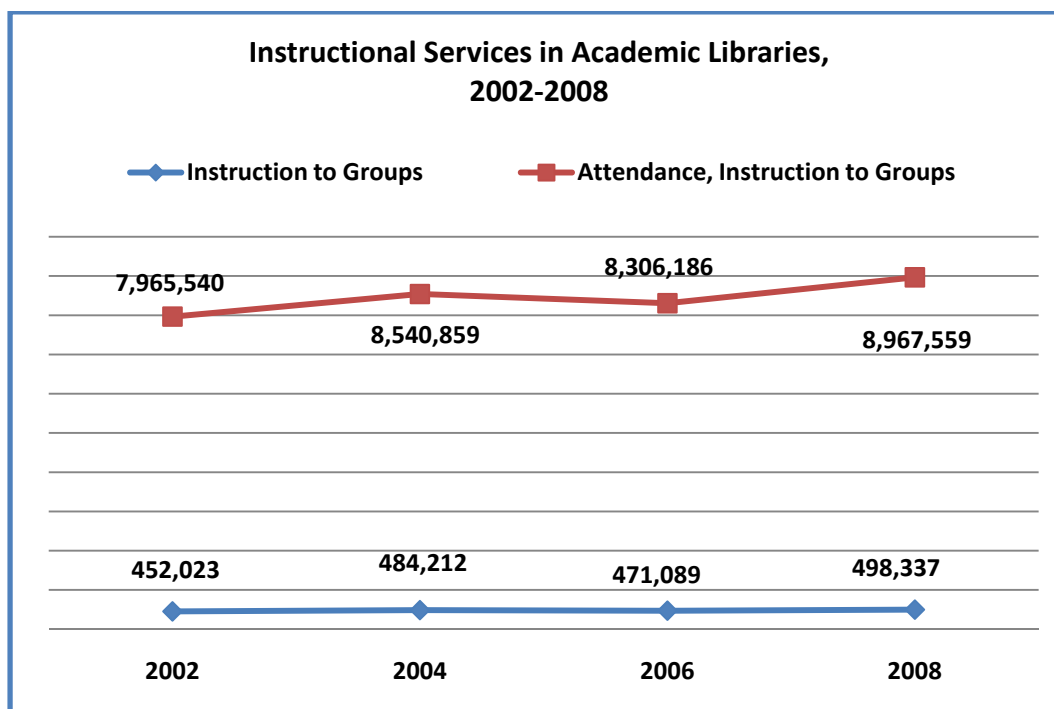
The following graphics detail academic library reference services, informational/instructional services to individuals and groups, and visits to the library.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid. Table 5. Number of volumes, units, and subscriptions held during the fiscal year at academic libraries, by control, level, size, and Carnegie classification of institution.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid. Table 6. Number of volumes, units, and subscriptions added during the fiscal year at academic libraries, by control, level, size, and Carnegie classification of institution.

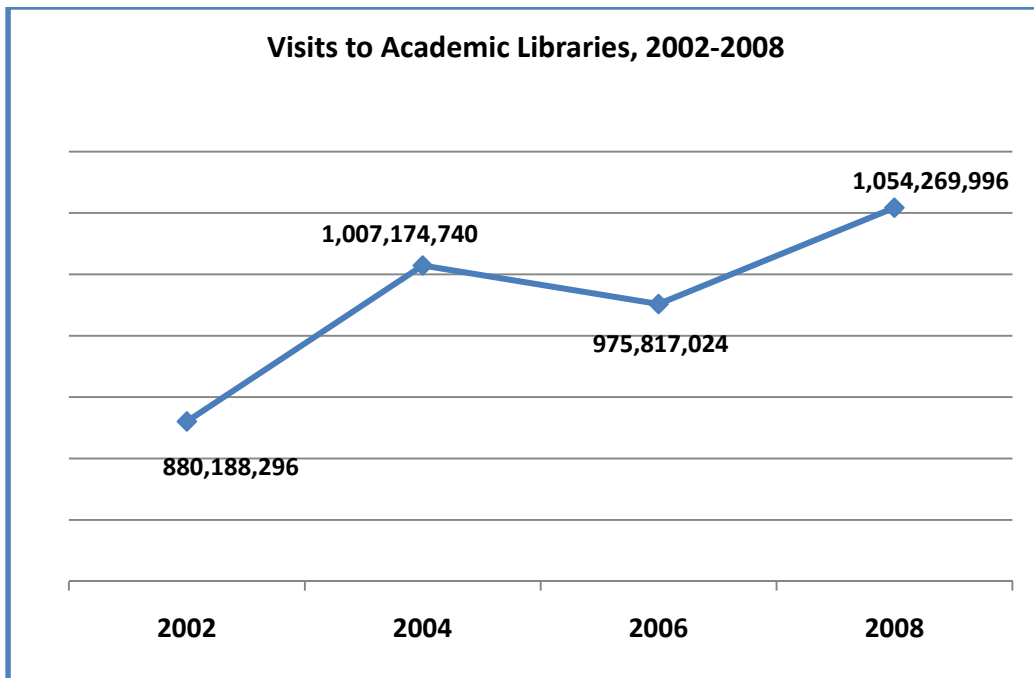


Source: National Center for Education Statistics. *Academic Libraries*, various years. Table 2. (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=041#>)



Source: National Center for Education Statistics. *Academic Libraries*, various years. Table 3. (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=041#>)





Source: National Center for Education Statistics. *Academic Libraries*, various years. Table 3. (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=041#>)

## IV. 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/librарystats/cooperatives/lncclncc.cfm> ). The 2008-2009 data will be available from the ALA Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) at <http://cs.ala.org/ra/lnccl/>.

Library networks, cooperatives and consortia (LNCCs) are legally established organizations that serve libraries, not the public, and provide a range of services to its member libraries. For the most part, LNCCs are regional (i.e., multi-county) in geography and serve multiple library types. Of the 204 eligible LNCCs responding to a 2005-2006 baseline survey, 125 (61%) were regional. Another 52 (26%) were local, and 24 (12%) were statewide organizations.

### Types of Member Libraries

Public libraries are served by 167 LNCCs (82%); academic libraries, by 121 (59%), and school libraries, by 99 (49%). Special libraries are served by only 93 LNCCs (46%)—the most frequent types of special library members being medical, non-profit, and institutional.

### Purposes Served

The most common services and activities of LNCCs—ones reported by three out of four responding organizations—include:

- communication with member libraries
- resource sharing
- general professional development
- general consulting and technical assistance and
- cooperative purchasing or group discounts

At least a majority of responding LNCCs also provide:

- automation, networking and other technology services
- library advocacy, public relations, and marketing
- information and referral services and
- courier or other document delivery services

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 efforts

**Revenue sources** distributed as:

- State government 28%
- Membership fees 9%
- Local, Federal governments (incl. E-rate) combined <10%
- Other 53%

## Expenditures

Unlike libraries, LNCCs spend less on staff as a proportion of overall operating expenditures. Total expenditures reported in 2005-2006 were \$365 million. Products & services for member libraries accounted for 44 percent of total operating expenditures and staff about 30 percent.

## Staffing

Eight (8) full-time equivalent staff was the midpoint reported by LNCCs in 2005-2006.

- 8+ FTE: 51% of reporting LNCCs
- <8 FTE: 49% of reporting LNCCs

## Priorities

From a list of 15 organizational priorities, LNCCs ranked these the highest:

- Automation / networking / other technology
- Courier / document delivery
- Resource-sharing
- General professional development / continuing education

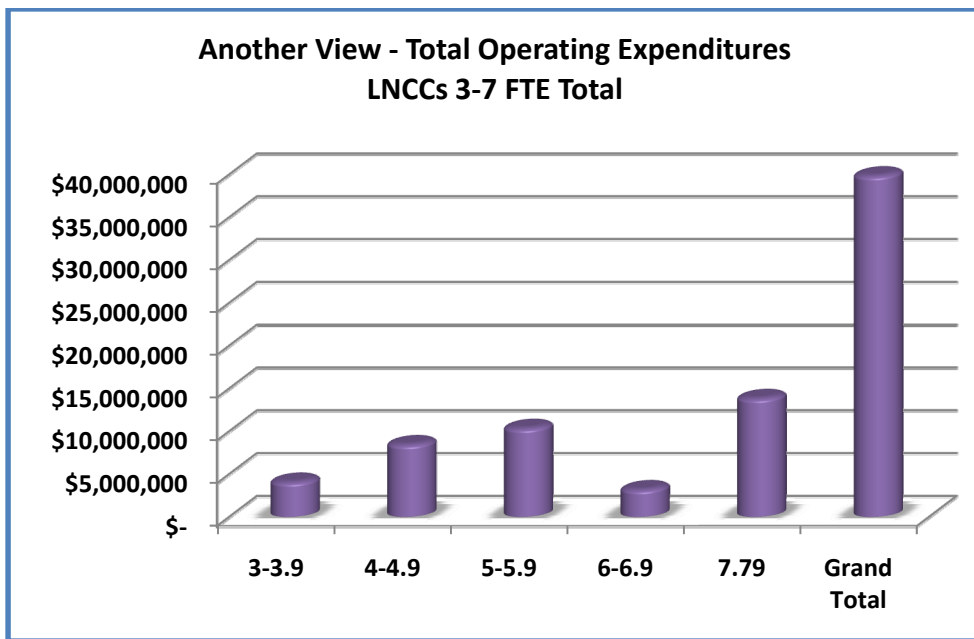
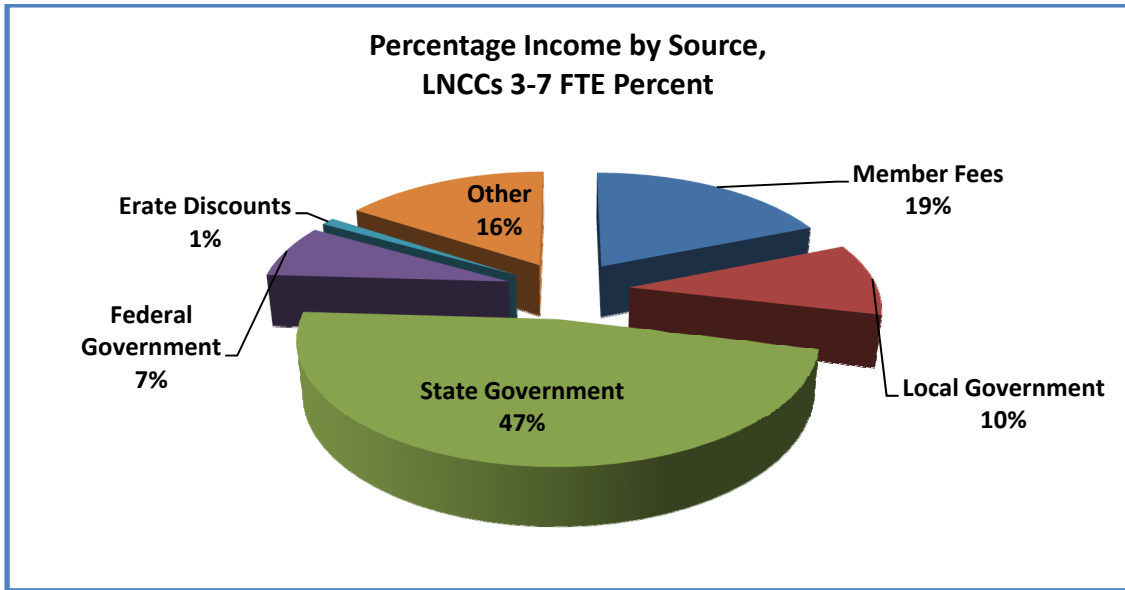
Lowest priorities:

- Advocacy / PR / marketing
- E-rate

- 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.



## 2009 LNCC Update

Fifty-two LNCCs responded to an updated survey conducted in summer 2009 by ALA-ASCLA. Preliminary findings indicate little change in the distribution of LNCCs' membership

- **Geography** - Regional , 61%
- **Membership** of LNCCs:
  - Public libraries, 92%
  - Academic libraries 72%

- 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 development, Resource sharing, Automation, Courier services, Library advocacy.