AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES STATISTICAL REPORT 2014-2015

Foreword

The National Library and the State and Territory libraries throughout Australia are represented by the peak body, National & State Libraries Australasia (NSLA). NSLA members also represent the interests of the public library networks within their States and Territories. The public library network, represented by 1,631 public library service points and outlets across Australia, provides information, collections and services to meet the information needs of the general public including those of diverse user groups. While the ongoing demands for print and audio media continue to be met, the public library network is assisting to break down the digital divide through increasing the scope and availability of digital materials, equipment and associated training.

The Australian Public Libraries Statistical Report is an annual NSLA project that identifies and measures the usage and activities of Australia's public library services. The survey highlights the range of services provided by public libraries across the National, State and Territory libraries.

December 2016

Contents

Selected National Statistics 2014-2015

Australia's public libraries provide quality information services that support lifelong learning to the Australian community, significantly impacting on the cultural and information industry.

- 1,631 public library service points and outlets with 1,392 branches, 77 mobiles and 162 other outlets.

- Over 166.7 million items were lent to 8.2 million members of Australia's public libraries.

- Over 114 million customer visits annually, or more than 9.5 million per month.

- Over 38 million items (1.6 items per person) were made available for the use of the community and over $130 million was spent on ensuring that these collections remain up to date and relevant.

- Total expenditure on public libraries has increased from $954 million in 2010-2011 to over $1.14 billion in 2014-2015, representing a 19.6% increase. Expressed on a per capita basis, funding for public libraries has increased by 13.8% over the same period to $48.00.

- Library programs totalled over 194,000 with attendance of over 5.8 million.

Table 1 – Expenditure (including the purchase of library materials)

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Total Expenditure on Public Library Services	$954.36m	$1,010.40m	$1,027.77m	$1,047.62m	$1,141.29m
Total Public Library expenditure per capita	$42.19	$44.55	$44.44	$44.66	$48.00

Table 2 – Service Points

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Number of library branches	1,417	1,429	1,439	1,455	1,392
Number of mobile library outlets	74	76	76	75	77
Number of other library outlets (kiosks, vending machines, depots)[1]	137	122	74	98	162
Total number of library outlets	1,491	1,505	1,515	1,530	1,631
Population served per service point	15,170	15,070	15,266	15,351	16,186
Service Points per 100,000 persons	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.2

Table 3 – Services

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Total loans	182,757,656	180,794,120	173,715,308	171,565,859	166,784,561
Loans per capita	8.1	7.9	7.5	7.3	7.0
Internet capable devices per 10,000 persons	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.9	5.5

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[1] Beginning with the 2014-15 collection period this new data element includes automated vending machines, self-service kiosks (in separate locations from library branches), deposit / unstaffed depots and any other outlets not elsewhere reported

Table 4 – Customers

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Customers	111,627,234	110,255,820	112,607,914	112,618,271	114,087,144
Customers per month	9,302,278	9,187,985	9,383,993	9,384,856	9,507,262
Customer visits per capita	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8
Registered Library Members[2]	10,191,256	9,999,492	10,130,710	8,631,003	8,234,767
Members as a percentage of total population[3]	45%	44%	44%	37%	35%
Percentage Adult Members	84%	83%	84%	84%	87%
Percentage Junior Members	16%	17%	16%	16%	13%

Table 5 – Collections & Resources

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Total number of library materials[4]	40,356,135	40,424,309	39,903,956	39,402,782	38,181,376
Total number of Public Access Internet terminals[5]	10,017	9,974	10,255	11,519	13,576
Library materials per capita	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6
Total library materials expenditure	$118.68m	$123.85m	$128.41m	$128.82m	$129.73m
Library materials expenditure per capita	$5.25	$5.46	$5.55	$5.48	$5.46
Average percentage of resources purchased in last 5 years	54%	55%	58%	60%	63%

[2] From 2013-14 Victoria is reporting members that were active within the last 12 months only.

[3] Excluding Victoria, the remaining national percentage declined slightly to 40%.

[4] Figures differ from previously published totals due to a revision of Tasmania's 2011-12 data.

[5] Victoria changed definition in 2013-14 to include all public access devices (tablets, iPads, etc.). Tasmania includes devices located within separate LINC centres.

Table 6 – Staff[6]

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Total Staff (full time equivalent)	7,512	7,567	7,458	7,552	7,617
Population served per staff member	2,943	2,929	3,032	3,042	3,122
Staff members (FTE) per 10,000 persons.	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.2
Loans per full-time equivalent staff member	23,649	23,263	22,690	22,118	21,897

[6] Tasmania has been unable to supply staff numbers during the entire period. Affected staffing measures exclude Tasmania's population component.

Comparative Data

Items lent

Overall, lending from public libraries decreased over the past five years (-8.7%), with a -2.8% decrease from the previous year. Over the five year period increases were reported by the Australian Capital Territory (+10.7%) and the Northern Territory (+3.5).
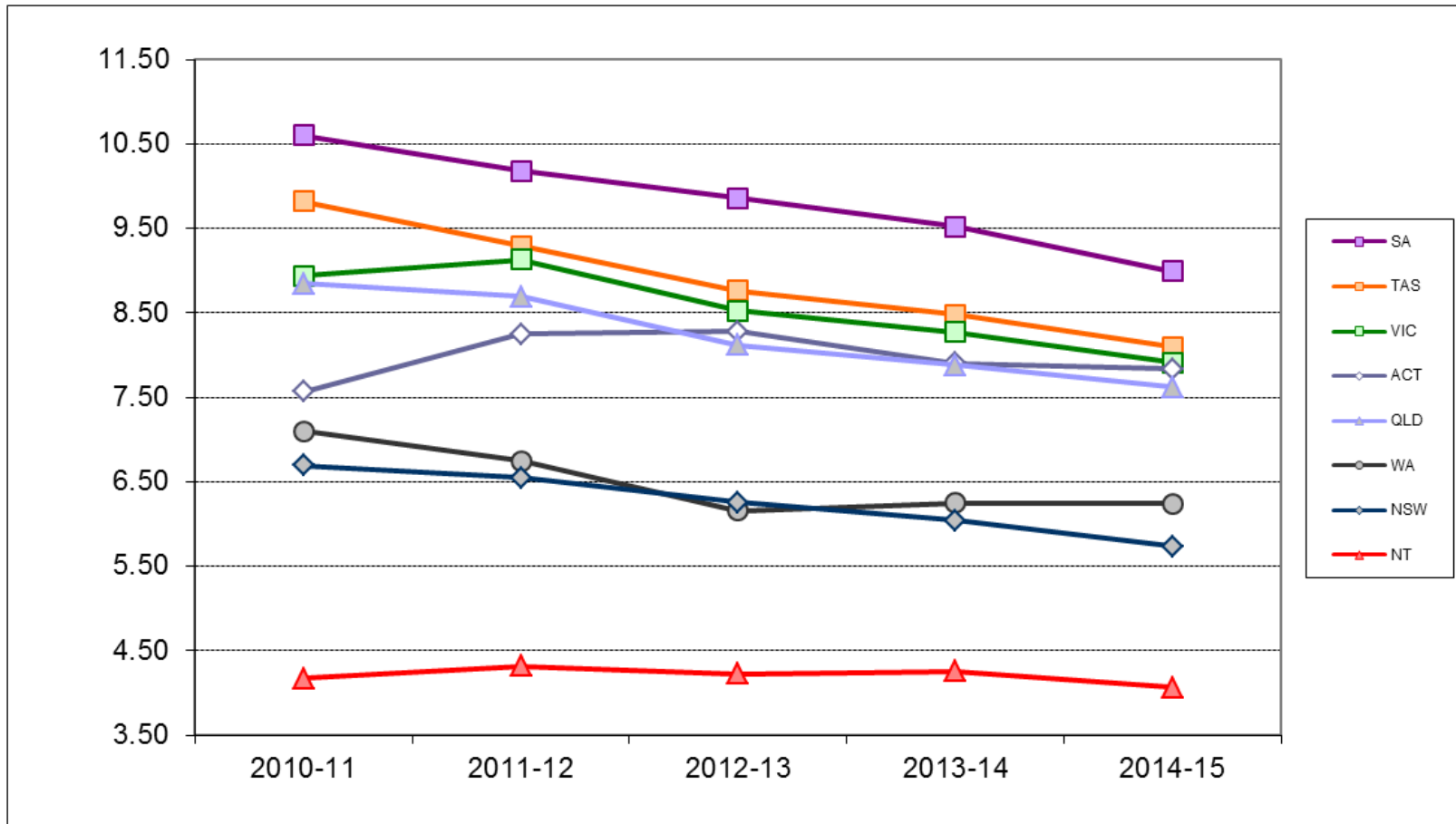
Table 7 – Total items lent

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2010-11	2,765,201	48,911,125	960,676	40,511,975	17,565,868	5,015,518	50,279,939	16,656,354	182,666,656
2011-12	3,090,717	47,720,855	1,014,087	39,629,608	16,850,921	4,755,821	51,336,800	16,395,311	180,853.246
2012-13	3,173,342	46,328,680	1,011,471	37,808,192	16,466,085	4,494,194	48,927,877	15,505,467	173,715,308
2013-14	3,052,368	45,420,892	1,042,517	37,209,851	16,048,792	4,366,611	48,341,500	16,083,328	171,405,722
2014-15	3,061,633	43,676,357	994,303	36,415,025	15,273,273	4,181,141	46,998,912	16,183,917	166,784,561
Change over 5 year period	10.7%	-10.7%	3.5%	-10.1%	-13.1%	-16.6%	-6.5%	-2.8%	-8.7%
Change to previous year	0.3%	-3.8%	-4.6%	-2.1%	-4.8%	-4.2%	-2.8%	0.6%	-2.8%

Table 8 – Items lent per capita

Nationally, over the past five years loans per capita has declined (-13.1%), with the Australian Capital Territory reporting the only increase (+3.5%).

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2010-11	7.57	6.70	4.17	8.84	10.60	9.82	8.94	7.10	8.08
2011-12	8.25	6.55	4.32	8.69	10.18	9.29	9.13	6.75	7.97
2012-13	8.28	6.25	4.22	8.12	9.86	8.76	8.53	6.16	7.51
2013-14	7.91	6.04	4.25	7.88	9.52	8.48	8.28	6.25	7.30
2014-15	7.83	5.73	4.07	7.62	8.99	8.09	7.91	6.25	7.01
Change over 5 year period	3.5%	-14.4%	-2.6%	-13.8%	-15.2%	-17.6%	-11.5%	-12.0%	-13.1%
Change to previous year	-0.9%	-5.1%	-4.4%	-3.3%	-5.6%	-4.6%	-4.4%	-0.1%	-4.0%

Figure 1 – Items lent per capita

Expenditure on Public Library Services

Total expenditure on public libraries has grown significantly over the past five years, with an overall increase of 19.6% bringing the Australian total to over $1.14 billion.

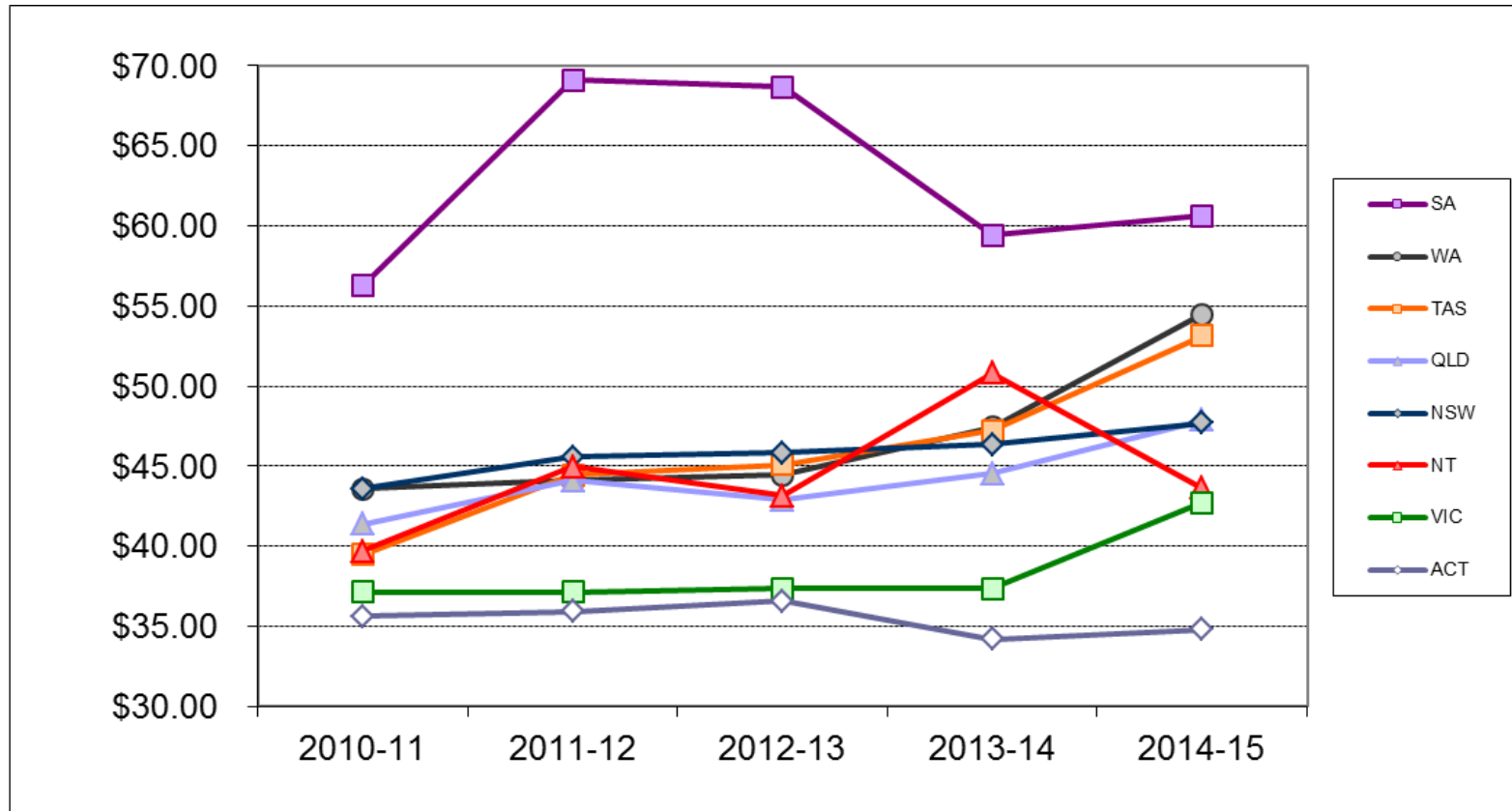**Table 9 – Expenditure on Public Library Services (including the purchase of library materials)**

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2010-11	$13.02m	$318.15m	$9.13m	$189.59m	$93.24m	$20.14m	$208.87m	$102.22m	$954.36m
2011-12	$13.47m	$332.14m	$10.56m	$201.06m	$114.35m	$22.76m	$208.86m	$107.20m	$1,010.40m
2012-13	$14.02m	$339.54m	$10.34m	$199.76m	$114.70m	$23.14m	$214.41m	$111.86m	$1,027.77m
2013-14	$13.19m	$348.38m	$12.45m	$210.30m	$100.16m	$24.29m	$218.13m	$122.05m	$1,047.62m
2014-15	$13.60m	$363.13m	$10.67m	$228.73m	$102.99m	$27.44m	$253.59m	$141.16m	$1,141.29m
Change over 5 year period	4.4%	14.1%	16.8%	20.6%	10.5%	36.2%	21.4%	38.1%	19.6%
Change to previous year	3.0%	4.2%	-14.3%	8.8%	2.8%	13.0%	16.3%	15.7%	8.8%

Total expenditure per capita across Australia has grown by 13.8% to $48.00. South Australia reported the highest expenditure per capita of $60.63, while the lowest figure of $34.79 was reported in the Australian Capital Territory.

Table 10 – Total Expenditure per capita (including the purchase of library materials)

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2010-11	$35.64	$43.56	$39.67	$41.39	$56.27	$39.45	$37.14	$43.57	$42.19
2011-12	$35.94	$45.56	$44.97	$44.09	$69.10	$44.45	$37.14	$44.11	$44.55
2012-13	$36.58	$45.84	$43.16	$42.88	$68.65	$45.10	$37.37	$44.44	$44.44
2013-14	$34.18	$46.34	$50.79	$44.53	$59.42	$47.19	$37.34	$47.43	$44.66
2014-15	$34.79	$47.67	$43.60	$47.86	$60.63	$53.12	$42.71	$54.47	$48.00
Change over 5 year period	-2.4%	9.4%	9.9%	15.6%	7.8%	34.7%	15.0%	25.0%	13.8%
Change to previous year	1.8%	2.9%	-14.1%	7.5%	2.0%	12.6%	14.4%	14.8%	7.5%

Figure 2 – Expenditure on Public Library Services per capita (including the purchase of library materials)

Expenditure on Library Materials

Expenditure on library materials has grown by +9.6% during the five year period from 2010-11 to 2014-15, with Western Australia (+37.5%), the Northern Territory (+30.1%) and South Australia (+14.3%) reporting significant increases. The only decrease over the period was reported by the Australian Capital Territory (-18.4%).
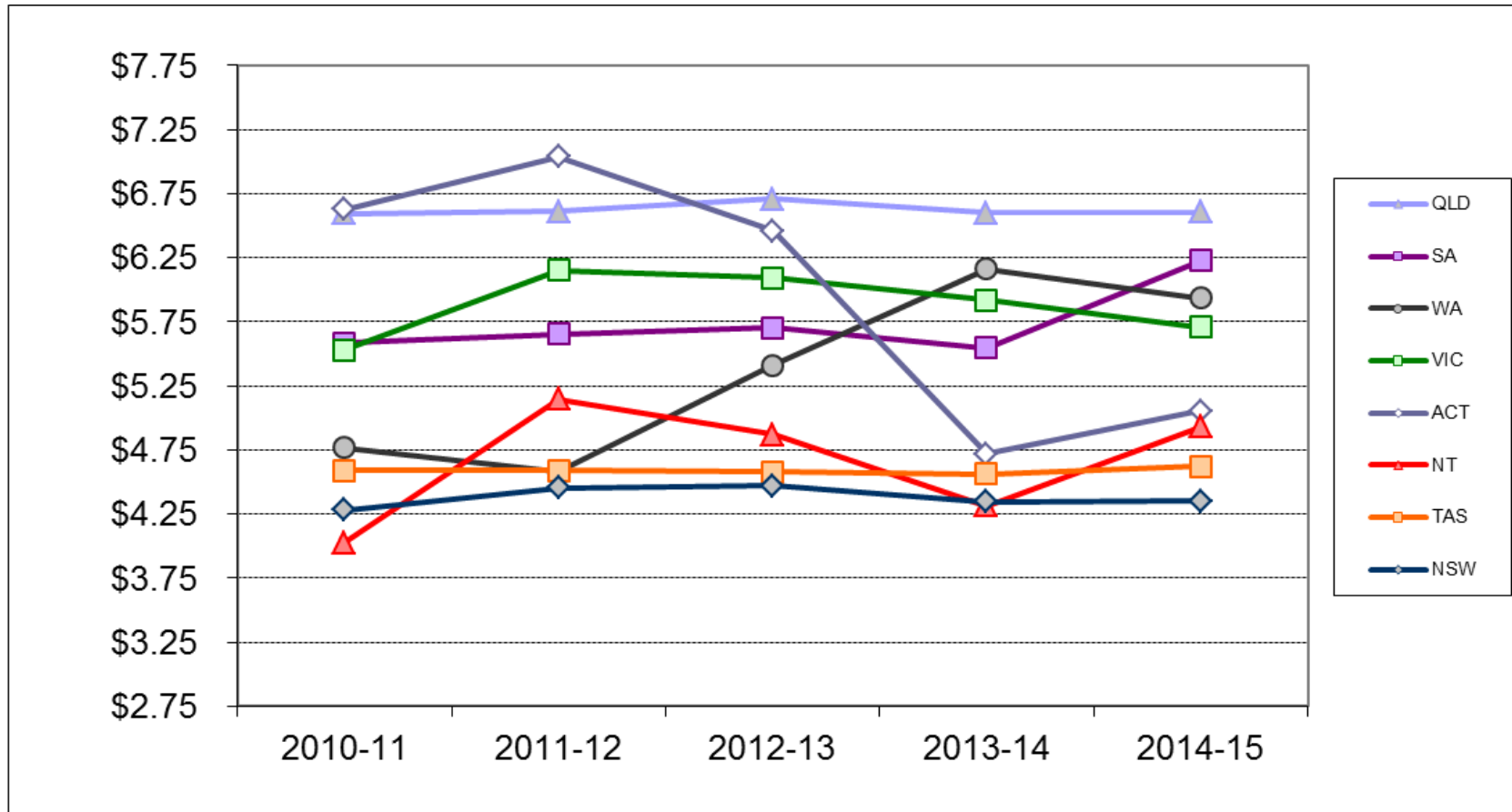
Table 11 – Expenditure on Library Materials

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2010-11	$2.42m	$31.27m	$0.93m	$30.20m	$9.25m	$2.34m	$31.09m	$11.18m	$118.68m
2011-12	$2.64m	$32.46m	$1.21m	$30.14m	$9.35m	$2.35m	$34.58m	$11.12m	$123.85m
2012-13	$2.48m	$33.09m	$1.17m	$31.24m	$9.52m	$2.35m	$34.96m	$13.61m	$128.41m
2013-14	$1.82m	$32.67m	$1.06m	$31.16m	$9.35m	$2.35m	$34.57m	$15.85m	$128.82m
2014-15	$1.97m	$33.12m	$1.21m	$31.57m	$10.57m	$2.39m	$33.87m	$15.37m	$130.08m
Change over 5 year period	-18.4%	5.9%	30.1%	4.5%	14.3%	1.9%	8.9%	37.5%	9.6%
Change to previous year	8.4%	1.4%	14.1%	1.3%	13.1%	1.7%	-2.0%	-3.0%	1.0%

Per capita expenditure on library materials increased by +4.3% over the same period, with Western Australia (+24.5%) and the Northern Territory (+22.4%) reporting significant increases.

Table 12 – Expenditure on Library materials per capita

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2010-11	$6.63	$4.28	$4.03	$6.59	$5.58	$4.59	$5.53	$4.76	$5.25
2011-12	$7.04	$4.45	$5.14	$6.61	$5.65	$4.59	$6.15	$4.58	$5.46
2012-13	$6.46	$4.47	$4.87	$6.71	$5.70	$4.58	$6.09	$5.41	$5.55
2013-14	$4.72	$4.35	$4.31	$6.60	$5.54	$4.56	$5.92	$6.16	$5.48
2014-15	$5.05	$4.35	$4.93	$6.61	$6.22	$4.62	$5.70	$5.93	$5.47
Change over 5 year period	-23.7%	1.6%	22.4%	0.2%	11.5%	0.7%	3.2%	24.5%	4.3%
Change to previous year	7.1%	0.1%	14.4%	0.1%	12.3%	1.3%	-3.6%	-3.7%	-0.3%

Figure 3 – Expenditure on Library Materials per capita

Public access internet devices

The number of public access Internet devices provided nationally increased significantly over the period (+30.2%).

Table 13 – Total public access internet devices provided by Australian Public Libraries[7]

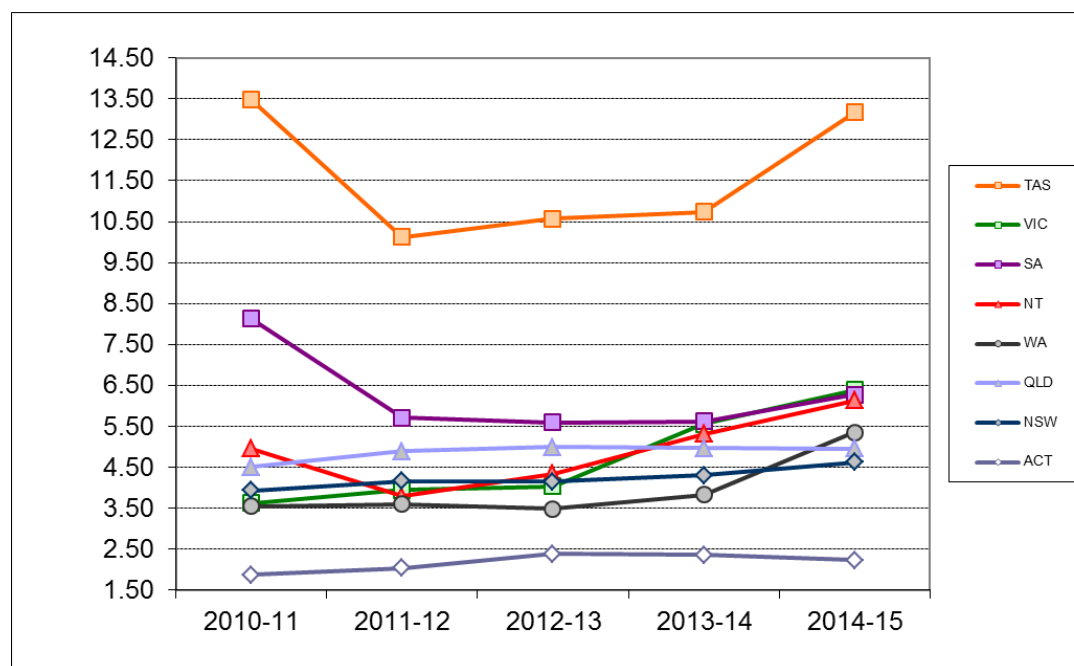|	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2010-11	68	2,872	114	2,063	1,346	688	2,036	832	10,019
2011-12	76	3,027	89	2,226	945	518	2,218	875	9,974
2012-13	91	3,068	104	2,323	935	542	2,315	877	10,255
2013-14	91	3,229	130	2,342	946	553	3,244	984	11,519
2014-15	87	3,521	150	2,364	1,066	680	3,790	1,387	13,045
Change over 5 year period	27.9%	22.6%	31.6%	14.6%	-20.8%	-1.2%	86.1%	66.7%	30.2%
Change to previous year	-4.4%	9.0%	15.4%	0.9%	12.7%	23.0%	16.8%	41.0%	13.2%

[7] All public access devices, including tablets

Expressed as the number of public access devices per 10,000 persons the national total is 5.5, an increase of +23.9% during the five year period.

Table 14 – Public access internet devices per 10,000 persons

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2010-11	1.86	3.93	4.95	4.50	8.12	13.47	3.62	3.55	4.43
2011-12	2.03	4.15	3.79	4.88	5.71	10.12	3.94	3.60	4.40
2012-13	2.37	4.14	4.34	4.99	5.60	10.57	4.03	3.48	4.43
2013-14	2.36	4.29	5.30	4.96	5.61	10.74	5.55	3.82	4.90
2014-15	2.23	4.62	6.13	4.95	6.28	13.16	6.38	5.35	5.49
Change over 5 year period	19.6%	17.5%	23.8%	9.8%	-22.7%	-2.3%	76.3%	50.9%	23.9%
Change to previous year	-5.6%	7.6%	15.6%	-0.3%	11.8%	22.5%	14.9%	40.0%	11.9%

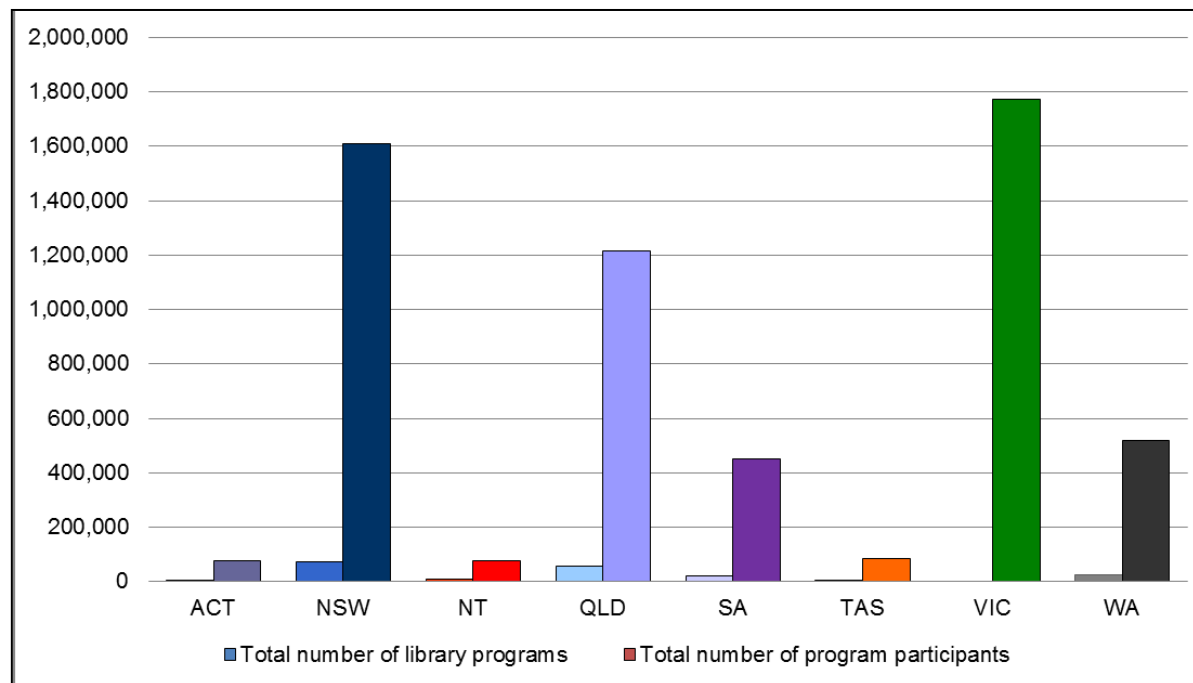**Figure 5 – Public access internet devices per 10,000 persons**

Library programs and participants

2014-15 represents the first time that library programs and participants data has been collected.

Table 12 – Library Programs

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
Total number of library programs	1,966	74,026	8,844	57,551	20,841	4,226	n/a	26,661	194,115
Total number of program participants	77,628	1,610,564	77,928	1,213,846	452,971	83,582	1,774,761	520,177	5,811,457
Attendance per capita	0.20	0.21	0.32	0.25	0.27	0.16	0.30	0.20	0.24

Figure 6 – Library Programs and Participants

Public Library Services in Australia

Public Library services are delivered by a variety of administrative arrangements. These vary both between and within each State and Territory, ranging from services wholly delivered by the State/Territory through to services wholly delivered by Local Government.

Australian Capital Territory

Libraries ACT delivers public library services to the ACT community. It is the only public library service in Canberra, Australia's capital city, and serves a population of over 370,000 people. The library operates as part of the ACT Government's Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate.

Libraries ACT champions literacy, learning and reading. It does this through a diverse range of services and resources including:

- nine library branches
- collections in various formats and languages
- eResources
- programs and events
- free wireless and desktop internet access
- book clubs and reading group collections
- Home Library Service.

Libraries ACT is also responsible for the ACT Heritage Library, which helps tell the stories of Canberra and its people. It collects, preserves, promotes and provides access to documents that record the history of Canberra and the ACT.

New South Wales

Public library services in New South Wales include a mixture of independent (or stand alone) library services operated by a single local government authority and regional libraries where neighbouring local councils have entered into an agreement under the Library Act to provide a combined service. All 152 local councils in NSW have adopted the *Library Act 1939*.

The State Library of New South Wales is responsible for administering the *Library Act 1939* and *Library Regulation 2010.* Local councils and their library services are autonomous. The State Government funds public library services via an annual subsidy and grants program. The formula for distributing the State Government funds is approved annually by the Minister for the Arts on the recommendation of the Library Council of NSW. For a description of the Strategy go to page 74 of the *Library Council of NSW Annual Report 2014/15*:
http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/slnsw_annual_report_2014-15.pdf

The State Library's Public Library & Engagement Division provides a range of services to the New South Wales public library network.

Responsibilities include:

- management of the State funding for public libraries, including the annual grants and subsidies programs;

- monitoring public library compliance with the *Library Act 1939* and the *Library Regulation 2010* and providing advice and guidance;

- collecting, collating and distributing public library statistical and other information;

- providing a professional development program for public library staff;

- providing consultancy and advisory services on all aspects of the provision, control and management of public library services;

- managing a research program on behalf of the public library network;

- developing and distributing community language collections to the people of NSW through public libraries;

- managing connectivity & online content consortia for public libraries via the NSW.net service; and

- managing legal & drug information services in cooperation with NSW public libraries.

The State Library also provides extensive reference, information and interlending services to NSW public libraries.

Northern Territory

Servicing over 240,000 people across the Territory, the Northern Territory public library network includes 32 public libraries, from the larger libraries in Darwin and Alice Springs to smaller public library services, in regional townships and in 16 remote Aboriginal communities. The Northern Territory Government, through Northern Territory Library (NTL), provides direct and indirect funding for the provision of library services.

In addition to these library venues, the NTL provides free community Wi-Fi to 34 Aboriginal communities (expanding to 46 by 2017-18) as a core public library service, irrespective of the existence of a physical library space.

The Northern Territory Library also provides a range of services to the Northern Territory public, school and government library network including:

- collection purchasing, including eResources for the network

- provision of a Library Management System

- provision of free community Wi-Fi in many Aboriginal communities

- provision of Community Stories digital keeping place software

- staff learning and development opportunities

- provision of specialised library support and advisory services.

Queensland

State Library of Queensland partners with local government to provide library services for more than 320 public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres throughout the state, and with heritage and cultural organisations throughout the state, contributing to the cultural, social and intellectual development of all Queenslanders. State Library supports these local governments through annual grants, support services and specialised collections, access to Queensland wide electronic databases and the operation of the Rural Library Queensland (RLQ) Scheme.

Local governments operating Independent library services receive cash grants calculated on a weighted per capita formula. Local governments serving populations of less than 15,000 are eligible to participate in the RLQ Service. In lieu of a cash grant these local governments receive a notional allocation which funds the purchase of library materials and eresources accessed through a shared Library Management System (LMS).

Indigenous Knowledge Centres offer library services in communities throughout Queensland, including Cape York and the Torres Strait.

State Library also provides:

- loans of specialised resources such as LOTE and literacy materials
- advisory services, information services and training on all aspects of public library management
- state-wide distribution of interlibrary loans
- facilitation of public library networking and resource sharing.

South Australia

The SA public library network operates within *The Libraries Act (1982)* and a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Minister for the Arts and the President of the Local Government Association (LGA) for funding public library and community information services 2011-2021. The MOA provides the framework within which both parties contribute to ensuring that all South Australians have access to modern, free public library services. Membership of libraries, borrowing of library materials, access to the Internet and many other services are provided at no direct cost to the user.

South Australia's 140 public and joint use libraries are operated or supported by 68 councils, with several libraries operating without council support in "unincorporated lands" in remote SA.

In order to provide equitable services to the States smaller communities the Libraries Board and the some local councils join with the Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) to operate joint use School Community Libraries. There are 43 School Community Libraries in the State.

The Libraries Board, through its business unit Public Library Services (PLS) provides centralised e-procurement and contract management, outsourced cataloguing of all items purchased, free internet and wireless access and a number of state wide collections and services.

The Libraries Board provides operating subsidies and library materials grants to all libraries. These grants ensure that all libraries provide a range of services at no cost, and purchase a range of new library materials every year.

In May 2012, PLS commenced the implementation of a One Card system which sees all libraries in the State utilising a shared Library Management System. The project was completed in October 2014. All registered library customers are able to use all libraries in the State as well as being able to reserve any item from any library and have these items delivered at no cost to their local library.

Research into the uptake of RFID in South Australian public libraries identified that by the end of 2014 almost 50% of all items held across the state will belong to a library that uses RFID technology. Based on this research, in late 2014 PLS commenced a project to procure RFID tags and equipment and coordinate libraries to tag and encode the remaining 2 million circulating items across the state. The aim of this was to increase library efficiency and customer self-service functionality across the network. In June 2015, PLS was finalising execution of a contract with the successful vendor and was planning to commence roll out of tags and devices to libraries during 2015-2016. This project was able to be conducted through a financial contribution from the Libraries Board of South Australia.

Tasmania

LINC Tasmania is a state-wide service network which gives Tasmanians integrated access to library services, research and information, adult literacy support, community learning, online access and archive and heritage services. LINC Tasmania's model of service delivery aims to extend services to more Tasmanians – particularly those who need greater information, technology access, skills and support to participate in work and community life.

LINC Tasmania provides public library services across 47 sites state-wide through LINCs (Library Information Network Centres) and branch libraries. Library resources include: lending and general reference collections; Tasmaniana and collections of rare and specialist items; and a range of electronic and online information resources.

LINC Tasmania's public library services include a floating lending collection where clients can borrow and return physical items to any LINC/branch library location and also place items on hold and have them delivered to their home library, free of charge.

LINC Tasmania incorporates the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office (TAHO) which brings together the State Library's heritage collections and the former entity Archives Office of Tasmania. This provides access to pre-eminent Tasmanian heritage and archival material dating from early European settlement (and pre-settlement exploration) to the present day.

LINC Online is integral to the network and provides access-on-demand to online information resources and services, including the state's unique holdings of Tasmanian publications. LINC Tasmania is committed to increasing digitisation and online service delivery is ensuring a high degree of accessibility. The changing emphasis to digital delivery has seen a significant shift in the balance of reference collections in favour of electronic resources which provide 24/7 access for our clients.

Tasmania's public libraries are linked by the Tasmanian Automated Library and Information System (TALIS), a state-wide, networked and automated catalogue and electronic information service. 8 senior secondary colleges, 171 schools, 10 TasTAFE libraries, 7 community libraries and 4 agency libraries are also connected to TALIS.

LINC Tasmania is a business unit within the Tasmanian Department of Education and responsibility for library policy in Tasmania rests with the Minister of Education and Training. The Tasmanian Library Advisory Board (TLAB) provides the Minister and Department Secretary with objective, community-based advice on issues concerning the delivery of state-wide library services in Tasmania, in particular the public's right of access to information and ideas. The Tasmanian Library Advisory Board (TLAB) is a voluntary, independent advisory group established under the *Libraries Act 1984*.

Victoria

Victoria has 47 public library services. There are 34 services operated by individual councils, 10 regional library corporations which provide services for a number of councils, two shared library services and the Vision Australia Information and Library service which provides services to the print-impaired. Throughout Victoria there are 262 branch libraries, 27 mobile libraries and 27 other service points.

Specific responsibility for public library policy in Victoria rests with the Minister for Local Government who is advised by a Ministerial Advisory Council. Local Government Victoria, part of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning is responsible for administering core public library funding, the collection of public library statistics and benchmarks and regional library corporations legislation, and has as a priority ongoing networking with public libraries, the State Library of Victoria, and key industry groups.

Under the *Libraries Act 1988* the Library Board of Victoria retains the following functions in relation to the wider library network:

- to oversee cooperation in programs with libraries and information organisations

- to promote access to library and information resources

- to exercise leadership and promote high standards in the provision of library and information services and

- to provide advice and information to the Minister on any matter concerning libraries and information organisations.

It continues to work collaboratively with the public library network through the Framework for Collaborative Action, which was reviewed in 2014 with a key outcome being the delivery of the State-Wide Library Development Programs. Other programs undertaken included the Shared Leadership action learning projects, touring public programs and professional development opportunities.

Highlights of 2014-15 for Public Libraries Victoria Network were:

- Library Stars 2014 held in conjunction with the ALIA National Conference in Melbourne in September

- advocacy for the Tomorrow's Library proposal

- Victorian Tech Savvy Seniors program

- financial support and commitment over four years to INELI-Oceania

- signing of IFLA's Lyon Declaration.

Western Australia

Public library services in Western Australia are provided through a partnership between the State Government, represented by the Library Board of Western Australia, and local governments. Local governments provide the library building, staff and operating costs, while the Library Board is responsible for supplier contract management, standards and payment for the delivery of shelf-ready stock to 231 public libraries throughout the State. The Library Board also provides access to a range of electronic resources (e-books, and databases), a database of public library and Western Australian resources, training, consultancy, support for regional and back-up services in the form of information and reference services and inter library loan services.

Library stocks range from less than 1,000 in small country libraries to 64,000 in the largest libraries. The public library stock is treated as an integrated state-wide collection and remains the property of the Library Board of Western Australia. Stock is not allocated to libraries permanently, but is circulated throughout the State. The State Library acts as a clearinghouse for the exchange of stock between libraries. Many local governments provide additional resources to purchase books in demand, journal subscriptions and additional electronic and audio-visual resources.

There are 140 local governments in Western Australia, including Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, operating most of the State's 231 public libraries. In addition, some other government and non-government organisations are recognised as "participating bodies" and they provide services to particular communities and institutions.

Data Sources

This statistical report has been compiled on behalf of the National & State Libraries Australasia (NSLA) by Public and Indigenous Library Services, State Library of Queensland using data supplied by the authority responsible for public library services in each State and Territory.

The data used to prepare this report is available from each individual State or Territory authority. Please note that it is difficult to use this data to compare library services with each other due to the significant variations in social and geographic criteria applying from State to State and within each State. These conditions create differing demands and needs which affect the type and scope of public library services provided. Further difficulties in comparing data are caused by the diverse service delivery methods used to provide public library services. It should be noted that the data may vary from that published separately by individual States and Territories.

For further information on the data please contact:

Australian Capital Territory

Libraries ACT
PO Box 158
Canberra City ACT 2601

New South Wales

Public Library Services
State Library of New South Wales
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

Northern Territory

Northern Territory Library
Department of Tourism and Culture
GPO Box 42
Darwin NT 0801

Queensland

Regional Access & Public Libraries
State Library of Queensland
PO Box 3488
South Brisbane Qld 4101

South Australia

Public Library Services
GPO BOX 1971
Adelaide 5001

Tasmania

LINC Tasmania
91 Murray Street
Hobart Tasmania 7000

Victoria

Executive Officer
Public Libraries Victoria Network
Level 12/60 Collins St
Melbourne Vic 3000

Western Australia

The State Library of Western Australia
25 Francis Street, Perth Cultural Centre
Perth WA 6000

2014 - 2015 Data & Indicators

2014 - 2015	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUSTRALIA
INCOME									
Operational funding – Australian government					$150,720		$471,856	$238,550	$861,126
Operational funding - State government	$10,359,481	$25,420,037	$6,409,000	$18,550,621	$24,250,499	$22,232,983	$38,288,735	$715,726	$146,227,082
Operational funding - Local government		$3,632,320	$3,834,244	$182,776,122	$64,642,747		$183,416,851	$108,518,398	$546,820,682
Captial funding - Australian government					$243,179		$520,000		$763,179
Captial funding - State government	$2,203,000	$3,000,000			$569,404	$1,876,873	$2,024,098	$20,500	$9,693,875
Capital funding - Local government		$643,260	$89,717	$29,750,296	$2,086,468		$21,848,015	$1,836,010	$56,253,766
Sponsorship		$81,578			$56,408			$56,579	$194,565
Other Income	$845,755	$7,269,664	$412,969	$6,135,090	$2,073,355	$1,865,931	$9,402,807	$2,989,536	$30,995,107
Total Income	$13,408,236	$40,046,859	$10,745,930	$237,212,129	$94,072,780	$25,975,787	$255,972,362	$114,375,839	$791,809,382
EXPENDITURE									
Wages and salaries	$7,672,455	$187,107,553	$6,876,148	$118,037,316	$55,254,111	$18,293,141	$149,000,971	$71,942,029	$614,183,724
Staff Training			$48,651		$219,250			$393,187	$661,088
Operating and corporate expenses	$3,947,974	$135,403,003	$2,384,855	$63,474,485	$30,425,756	$4,816,073	$43,938,763	$36,596,211	$320,987,121
Expenditure on printed library materials	$1,747,216	$24,154,342	$620,379	$20,459,056	$7,899,235	$1,668,489		$11,432,705	$67,981,422
Expenditure on non-printed library materials		$5,348,744	$359,115	$4,918,960	$2,037,599	$304,454		$2,235,067	$15,203,939
Expenditure on digital library materials	$227,772	$3,617,420	$226,000	$6,194,001	$635,561	$414,548		$1,706,507	$13,021,809

2014 - 2015	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUSTRALIA
Total Expenditure on library materials	$1,974,988	$33,120,506	$1,205,494	$31,572,017	$10,572,395	$2,387,491	$33,872,209	$15,374,279	$130,079,379
Capital expenditure		$7,496,521	$145,027	$15,643,563	$3,582,110	$1,945,083	$23,387,811	$1,885,123	$54,085,238
Other Expenditure (not included above)			$5,029		$2,933,995		$3,387,811	$14,970,032	$21,296,867
Total expenditure	$13,595,417	$363,127,584	$10,665,204	$228,727,381	$102,987,616	$27,441,788	$253,587,565	$141,160,861	$1,141,293,417
HUMAN RESOURCES									
Number of permanent full time equivalent employees	96.5	2,329.0	85.0	1,517.0	663.0	271.0	1,778.0	879.0	7617.5
Number of positions that require a library technician qualification	1.0	581.0	11.0	194.0	74.0	n/a	n/a	44	905.2
Number of positions that require a library professional qualification	25.0	758.0	15.0	371.0	130.0	n/a	n/a	271	1570.7
Proportion of professional positions	25.9%	32.6%	17.7%	24.5%	19.6%	n/a	n/a	30.9%	28.2%
LIBRARY COLLECTIONS									
Total number of physical items	673,497	12,891,701	351,903	6,717,149	3,527,698	685,206	8,742,132	4,592,090	38,181,3760
Total number of printed books (items)	479,450	9,445,786	295,139	5,663,530	2,777,661	594,141		3,852,827	23,108,534
Total number of other printed material items.	88,844	23,737	11,735		137,590	3,054			264,960
Total number of audio CDs	31,368	692,540	14,384	393,962	164,937	36,671		262,466	1,596,328
Total number of DVDs and Blu-ray disks	32,290	948,330	26,326	606,868	380,359	45,075		416,380	2,455,628
Total number of other physical items	41,454	803,348	4,306	52,789	70,059	6,265		60,417	1,038,638
Total number of eBooks	5,858	367,285	5,960	239,455	6,258	13,598	363,491	109,263	1,111,168

2014 - 2015	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUSTRALIA
Total number of digital audio files	4,222	80,249	1,425	68,560	20,001			39,716	214,173
Total number of database subscriptions	34	1,248		454	135			196	2,067
Number of items for loan	569,164	11,931,757	417,460	7,025,164	3,557,000	654,563	8,752,524	4,665,188	37,572,820
Percent of collection purchased in previous 5 years	59.00%	49.79%	60.00%	86.00%		52.71%	66.00%	62.20%	
USAGE									
Number of physical items loaned	2,809,497	41,934,370	983,652	33,830,674	14,941,225	3,986,617	46,107,981	15,442,957	160,036,973
Number of eBooks loaned	62,198	655,264	5,554	953,839	288,801	110,787	890,931	421,224	3,388,598
Number of electronic service downloads	189,938	1,086,723	5,097	1,630,512	43,247	83,737		319,736	3,358,990
Total circulation transactions	3,061,633	43,676,357	994,303	36,415,025	15,273,273	4,181,141	46,998,912	16,183,917	166,784,561
Number of inter-library loans supplied to library members		50,997	2,615	46,259	0	642		243,140	343,653
Number of inter-library loans supplied to other libraries		41,799	2,413	29,461	0	1,829		240,278	315,780
Total number of registered or active members	238,524	3,064,890	53,199	2,091,304	611,913	122,813	1,103,806	948,318	8,234,767
Number of registered or active members aged 0 to 14 years		380,408	9,741		78,000	29,698		148,261	646,108
Number of registered or active members aged 15 to 19 years		173,696	2,709		42,254	7,469		44,006	270,134
Number of registered or active members aged 20 to 64 years		2,100,877	36,174		355,108	60,787		461,278	3,014,224
Number of registered or active members aged 65 years and over		371,834	3,638		136,543	24,205		73,796	610,016
Number of library visitors (physical)	1,995,331	35,347,255	1,070,606	22,348,817	10,286,792	3,141,871	29,268,003	10,628,469	114,087,144

2014 - 2015	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUSTRALIA
Number or library website visitors	798,979	11,278,351	20,060		2,724,441	2,674,746		3,971,850	21,468,427
Number of reference transactions and information requests		4,217,971	5,949		0	70,588		1,360,924	5,655,432
Percentage of self-service loans					0	45.09%		35.10%	
Proportion of eBook loans	2.17%	1.54%	0.56%	2.74%	1.90%	2.70%	1.90%	2.66%	2.07%
LIBRARY OPERATIONS									
Number of library branches	9	367	32	304	129	47	272	232	1,392
Number of mobile library outlets		21		16	11		29		77
Number of other library outlets		72			45		45		162
Total number of library outlets	9	460	32	320	185	47	346	232	1631
Total opening hours	20,575	815,150	41,819	529,700	332,910	58,100	599,800	444,450	2,027,364
Total number of library programs	1,966	74,026	8,844	57,551	20,841	4,226	n/a	26,661	194,115
Total number of program participants	77,628	1,610,564	77,928	1,213,846	452,971	83,582	1,774,761	520,177	5,811,457
Number of public access devices	87	3,521	165	2,527	1,283	680	3,790	1,520	13,576
Number of public access devices with broadband internet connection	87	3,309	116	2,364	1,066	n/a	3,790	1,104	12,516

2014 - 2015 Summary & percentages of Data & Indicators

2014 - 2015	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
FINANCIAL									
Public Library expenditure per capita (excluding library materials)	$29.73	$43.32	$38.67	$41.25	$54.41	$48.50	$37.00	$48.54	$42.53
Library Materials expenditure per capita	$5.05	$4.35	$4.93	$6.61	$6.22	$4.62	$5.70	$5.93	$5.47
HUMAN RESOURCES									
Total Staff (FTE) per 10,000 persons	2.45	3.06	3.48	3.17	3.90	5.24	2.99	3.39	3.20
Population served per staff member	4,088	3,271	2,878	3,151	2,561	1,910	3,340	2,948	3,122
COLLECTIONS									
Items per capita	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.5	2.1	1.3	1.5	1.8	1.6
USAGE									
Percent of population who are Library Members	61%	40%	22%	44%	36%	24%	19%	37%	35%
Circulation per capita	7.8	5.7	4.1	7.6	9.0	8.1	7.9	6.2	7.0
Customer visits per capita	5.1	4.6	4.4	4.7	6.1	6.1	4.9	4.1	4.8
OPERATIONS									
Public access Internet devices per 10,000 persons	2.2	4.6	6.1	4.9	6.3	13.2	6.4	5.4	5.5
Program attendance per capita	0.20	0.21	0.32	0.25	0.27	0.16	0.30	0.20	0.24
POPULATION									
Population June 2015 - Australian Demographic Statistics - 3101.0 - June Quarter 2015 - *Excludes Other Territories *(Released 17/12/2015)*	390,800	7,618,200	244,600	4,779,400	1,698,600	516,600	5,938,100	2,591,600	23,777,900