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PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND THE INTERNET 2009: STUDY RESULTS AND FINDINGS

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Funded by the American Library Association and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

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NATIONAL SYSTEM-LEVEL FINDINGS

This section details the survey findings for national system-level data. Figures 39-41 present data regarding E-rate discounts. Operating expenditures by type (e.g., salaries, collections, other expenditures) and by source of funding are presented in Figures 42-43 and 46-60. Detailed technology-related expenditures are presented in Figures 61-67 and include information on salaries, outside vendors, hardware/software and telecommunications. A discussion of the findings follows each table.

Figure 39: Percentage of Public Library Systems that Applied for an E-rate Discount, by Metropolitan Status and Poverty

	Metropolitan Status			Poverty Level			Overall
	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Low	Medium	High	
Applied	45.8% (n=281)	33.9% (n=943)	40.2% (n=2,263)	38.1% (n=3,071)	42.1% (n=380)	57.1% (n=36)	38.7% (n=3,487)
Another organization applied on the library's behalf	9.1% (n=56)	16.1% (n=447)	13.4% (n=755)	14.3% (n=1,155)	10.6% (n=96)	7.9% (n=5)	13.9% (n=1,256)
Did not apply	42.1% (n=258)	45.7% (n=1,271)	42.6% (n=2,398)	43.6% (n=3,510)	44.2% (n=399)	28.6% (n=18)	43.5% (n=3,927)
Do not know	3.1% (n=19)	4.3% (n=120)	3.7% (n=209)	3.9% (n=317)	3.1% (n=28)	6.3% (n=4)	3.9% (n=349)

Weighted missing values, n=58

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

Figure 39 details the library systems that applied for an E-rate discount. There was very little change in rates of application for E-rate funds from either 2007-2008 or 2006-2007. Consistent year to year is the percentage of libraries that do apply — hovering in the 38 percent-to-39 percent range each year. Slightly more than 43 percent of libraries do not apply for E-rate, down from 44.4 percent last year and from 43.8 percent in 2006-2007. Urban libraries report a 7.9 percent decline in E-rate applications in 2008-2009 compared with last year. Medium poverty libraries report a decline of about 13 percent in E-rate applications from last year. Growth in applications is reported among suburban libraries, with about four percent more applying than last year.

Figure 40: Percentage of Public Library Systems Receiving E-rate Discount, by Discount Category and by Metropolitan Status and Poverty

E-rate Discount Categories	Metropolitan Status			Poverty Level			Overall
	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Low	Medium	High	
Internet connectivity	59.6% (n=164)	46.0% (n=494)	51.3% (n=1,222)	49.0% (n=1,614)	60.2% (n=244)	59.0% (n=23)	50.4% (n=1,881)
Telecommunications services	88.8% (n=1,752)	78.3% (n=842)	73.5% (n=1,752)	74.9% (n=2,464)	84.2% (n=340)	89.7% (n=35)	76.0% (n=2,839)
Internal connections cost	17.0% (n=47)	9.9% (n=106)	7.4% (n=176)	7.9% (n=260)	14.6% (n=59)	25.6% (n=10)	8.8% (n=329)

Will not total 100%, as respondents could select more than one option

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

Although E-rate discounts received have decreased for each category, only one is statistically significant (Figure 40). The category of E-rate application reporting the greatest decline is telecommunication services at 76.0 percent, down from 85.8 percent last year and 83.2 percent in 2006-2007. Rural libraries reported the greatest decline in the telecommunications services discount category, down more than 11 percent from last year. In 2007-2008, 100 percent of high poverty libraries applying for E-rate indicated they applied in the telecommunication services category, yet only 89.7 percent of high poverty libraries applied this year.

However, a substantial increase is evident as reported by the high poverty outlets applying the discount to internal connection costs, with 25.6 percent reporting doing so this year versus 11.6 percent in 2007-2008.

Figure 41: Public Library Systems Reasons for Not Applying for E-rate Discounts, by Metropolitan Status and Poverty

Reasons	Metropolitan Status			Poverty Level			Overall
	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Low	Medium	High	
The E-rate application process is too complicated	22.3% (n=54)	25.5% (n=314)	24.5% (n=567)	24.8% (n=840)	24.0% (n=93)	6.7% (n=1)	24.7% (n=934)
The library staff did not feel the library would qualify	2.5% (n=6)	5.5% (n=68)	5.8% (n=135)	5.8% (n=195)	3.6% (n=14)	--	5.5% (n=209)
Our total E-rate discount is fairly low and not worth the time needed to participate in the program	23.1% (n=56)	26.8% (n=330)	20.3% (n=471)	23.3% (n=787)	17.5% (n=68)	6.7% (n=1)	22.6% (n=856)
The library receives it as part of a consortium, so therefore does not apply individually	6.6% (n=16)	9.6% (n=118)	3.6% (n=84)	6.0% (n=202)	3.6% (n=14)	--	5.7% (n=216)
The library was denied funding in the past	*	2.6% (n=32)	2.8% (n=65)	2.5% (n=85)	3.6% (n=14)	--	2.6% (n=99)
The library did not apply because of the need to comply with CIPA's filtering requirements	17.4% (n=47)	24.5% (n=301)	20.5% (n=475)	22.6% (n=764)	13.7% (n=53)	33.3% (n=5)	21.7% (n=822)
The library has applied for E-rate in the past, but no longer finds it necessary	3.3% (n=8)	6.4% (n=79)	6.9% (n=159)	6.4% (n=217)	7.0% (n=27)	--	6.4% (n=244)
Other	13.7% (n=33)	8.9% (n=110)	16.4% (n=379)	14.4% (n=486)	8.7% (n=34)	13.3% (n=2)	13.8% (n=522)

Will not total 100%, as respondents could select more than one option
 Weighted missing values, n=141
Key: * Insufficient data to report
 -- No data to report

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

Figure 41 outlines the reasons for not applying for E-rate discounts. The top three reasons for not applying for the E-rate discount program remain unchanged since 2006-2007:

- Application process is too complicated (24.7 percent this year, 40.4 percent last year, and 37.8 percent in 2006-2007).
- Total E-rate discount is fairly low and not worth the time needed to participate (22.6 percent this year, 38.8 percent last year, and 36 percent in 2006-2007).
- Library did not apply because of the need to comply with the filtering requirements of the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) (21.7 percent this year, 31.6 percent last year and 33.9 percent in 2006-2007).

Two noticeable differences this year are a decline in libraries reporting that they thought they would not qualify, down to 5.5 percent this year from about 9.9 percent the previous two years, and the drop in libraries reporting they did not apply because they had been denied in the past — 2.6 percent this year down from 5.2 percent last year and 3.0 percent in 2006-2007.

Of the 13.8 percent of the outlets reporting that they had “other reasons for not applying” for the E-rate discount, 29 percent state that they receive free Internet so do not need the funds, and another 14.5 percent

report that they either did not know how to apply, or they did not know much about the discount program. Another 8.5 percent of outlets reporting another reason state there was no need for the discount.

Library Sources of Funding and Operating Budgets

For the first time, libraries were asked to indicate from what sources they received, or anticipated receiving, funding in FY2008 and FY2009. Asking this question allowed the study team to better understand from what detailed sources library operating budgets are formed as well as libraries' ability to report detailed expenditure data, both for general operating expenditures by source and detailed technology-related expenditures.

Figure 42: FY2008 Public Library Systems Operating Funding Sources Received or Anticipated, by Metropolitan Status and Poverty

Sources of Funding	Metropolitan Status			Poverty Level			Overall
	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Low	Medium	High	
Local/county	96.9% (n=588)	94.3% (n=2,626)	94.1% (n=5,289)	94.3% (n=7,595)	94.9% (n=856)	87.3% (n=55)	94.3% (n=8,506)
State (including state aid to public libraries, or state-supported tax programs)	83.9% (n=509)	81.0% (n=2,256)	69.8% (n=3,923)	73.6% (n=5,923)	79.3% (n=715)	79.0% (n=49)	74.2% (n=6,687)
Federal	63.2% (n=384)	49.8% (n=1,388)	54.6% (n=3,069)	52.4% (n=4,217)	63.5% (n=573)	81.0% (n=51)	53.7% (n=4,841)
Fees/fines	77.8% (n=473)	84.1% (n=2,345)	77.1% (n=4,333)	79.8% (n=6,429)	74.6% (n=673)	76.2% (n=48)	79.3% (n=7,150)
Donations/local fundraising	88.3% (n=536)	84.6% (n=2,358)	87.8% (n=4,935)	87.4% (n=7,034)	83.3% (n=751)	69.8% (n=44)	86.8% (n=7,829)
Government grants (local, state or national level)	50.7% (n=308)	46.6% (n=1,300)	42.4% (n=2,382)	43.1% (n=3,474)	52.7% (n=475)	65.1% (n=43)	44.2% (n=3,990)
Private foundation grants (e.g., Carnegie, Ford, Gates, etc.)	54.3% (n=330)	41.1% (n=1,143)	49.0% (n=2,753)	46.8% (n=3,766)	46.2% (n=417)	68.3% (n=43)	46.9% (n=4,226)

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009);

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

Figure 43: FY2009 Public Library Systems Operating Funding Sources Received or Anticipated, by Metropolitan Status and Poverty

Sources of Funding	Metropolitan Status			Poverty Level			Overall
	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Low	Medium	High	
Local/county	94.7% (n=575)	91.2% (n=2,540)	90.5% (n=5,087)	90.8% (n=7,314)	92.7% (n=835)	84.1% (n=53)	91.0% (n=8,202)
State (including state aid to public libraries, or state-supported tax programs)	81.6% (n=496)	78.9% (n=2,199)	67.0% (n=3,765)	70.9% (n=5,707)	78.2% (n=705)	76.2% (n=48)	71.6% (n=6,460)
Federal	63.0% (n=383)	49.5% (n=1,378)	54.0% (n=3,039)	52.0% (n=4,184)	62.9% (n=567)	77.8% (n=49)	53.2% (n=4,800)
Fees/fines	76.1% (n=462)	81.3% (n=2,264)	74.5% (n=4,189)	77.0% (n=6,201)	73.8% (n=666)	76.2% (n=48)	76.7% (n=6,915)
Donations/local fundraising	85.8% (n=521)	82.7% (n=2,304)	84.1% (n=4,728)	84.2% (n=6,776)	81.3% (n=733)	68.3% (n=43)	83.8% (n=7,552)
Government grants (local, state or national level)	48.8% (n=297)	45.2% (n=1,261)	40.6% (n=2,282)	41.5% (n=3,339)	51.4% (n=463)	58.7% (n=37)	42.6% (n=3,839)
Private foundation grants (e.g., Carnegie, Ford, Gates, etc.)	55.8% (n=339)	42.4% (n=1,182)	47.8% (n=2,689)	46.5% (n=3,745)	47.3% (n=427)	60.3% (n=38)	46.7% (n=4,210)

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009);

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

Figures 42-43 displays the percent of libraries receiving or expecting operating funds from seven categories of listed sources. Little change was expected in funding source types from FY2008 to FY2009.

Also new this year was a question about a library's ability to report operating expenditures by fiscal year. Generally, most libraries felt confident in reporting expenditures from the three tax-based funding sources and moderate confidence in reporting expenditures from soft funding sources (e.g., fees/fines, donations, government and private foundation grants). Additional information can be found in study methodology detail on the project website, www.ala.org/plinternetfunding.

Figure 44: FY2008 Public Library Systems Operating Budget Change, by Metropolitan Status and Poverty

Operating Budget	Metropolitan Status			Poverty Level			Overall
	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Low	Medium	High	
Increased up to 2%	18.6% (n=112)	21.5% (n=592)	25.5% (n=1,420)	24.3% (n=1,943)	19.5% (n=173)	12.9% (n=8)	23.8% (n=2,124)
Increased 2.1-4%	26.1% (n=157)	25.4% (n=699)	20.7% (n=1,153)	23.0% (n=1,835)	18.8% (n=167)	11.3% (n=7)	22.5% (n=2,009)
Increased 4.1-6%	7.5% (n=45)	11.0% (n=304)	7.8% (n=433)	9.0% (n=717)	6.8% (n=60)	6.5% (n=4)	8.7% (n=781)
Increased more than 6%	18.3% (n=110)	12.5% (n=345)	11.9% (n=665)	12.2% (n=976)	14.3% (n=127)	27.9% (n=17)	12.5% (n=1,120)
Decreased up to 2%	4.3% (n=26)	4.0% (n=109)	3.4% (n=190)	3.7% (n=296)	3.2% (n=28)	1.6% (n=1)	3.6% (n=325)
Decreased 2.1-4%	2.2% (n=13)	2.6% (n=71)	2.0% (n=110)	2.1% (n=168)	2.7% (n=24)	1.6% (n=1)	2.2% (n=193)
Decreased 4.1-6%	2.5% (n=15)	1.7% (n=46)	1.1% (n=63)	1.3% (n=106)	1.7% (n=15)	1.6% (n=1)	1.4% (n=122)
Decreased more than 6%	5.1% (n=31)	2.6% (n=71)	2.0% (n=112)	2.3% (n=183)	3.5% (n=31)	--	2.4% (n=214)
Stayed the same	15.4% (n=93)	18.8% (n=519)	25.7% (n=1,432)	22.1% (n=1,761)	29.4% (n=261)	35.5% (n=22)	22.9% (n=2,044)

Weighted missing values, n=143
Key: -- No data to report

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

Figure 45: FY2009 Public Library Systems Operating Budget Change, by Metropolitan Status and Poverty

Operating Budget	Metropolitan Status			Poverty Level			Overall
	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Low	Medium	High	
Increased up to 2%	17.1% (n=99)	20.1% (n=536)	23.2% (n=1,265)	22.3% (n=1,738)	18.0% (n=157)	8.6% (n=5)	21.8% (n=1,900)
Increased 2.1-4%	22.1% (n=128)	21.3% (n=568)	19.3% (n=1,052)	20.7% (n=1,613)	14.4% (n=125)	15.5% (n=9)	20.1% (n=1,747)
Increased 4.1-6%	8.1% (n=47)	9.7% (n=259)	8.1% (n=441)	8.5% (n=662)	9.4% (n=82)	6.9% (n=4)	8.6% (n=748)
Increased more than 6%	10.6% (n=61)	9.0% (n=240)	9.4% (n=513)	9.2% (n=719)	10.2% (n=89)	12.1% (n=7)	9.4% (n=815)
Decreased up to 2%	6.0% (n=35)	4.6% (n=123)	4.2% (n=231)	4.2% (n=328)	6.4% (n=56)	8.6% (n=5)	4.5% (n=389)
Decreased 2.1-4%	4.0% (n=23)	5.7% (n=153)	2.9% (n=161)	3.9% (n=303)	4.0% (n=35)	--	3.9% (n=338)
Decreased 4.1-6%	4.7% (n=27)	2.7% (n=71)	1.8% (n=96)	2.1% (n=167)	2.8% (n=24)	5.2% (n=3)	2.2% (n=194)
Decreased more than 6%	7.4% (n=43)	3.6% (n=96)	3.3% (n=181)	3.3% (n=259)	6.5% (n=57)	6.9% (n=4)	3.7% (n=320)
Stayed the same	19.9% (n=115)	23.3% (n=623)	27.8% (n=1,520)	25.6% (n=1,989)	28.4% (n=248)	36.2% (n=21)	25.9% (n=2,258)

Also new this year were questions regarding year-to-year changes in library operating budgets and technology budgets in FY2008 and FY2009. Libraries were asked to estimate whether those budgets would increase, decrease, or remain unchanged from the previous fiscal year.

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 1999.¹
- Utilities prices for heating and cooling increased between 5 percent and 28 percent, with average heating oil costs doubling 2003-04 (\$903) to 2007-08 (\$1,834).²
- Librarian salaries rose approximately 15 percent between 2003 and 2008.³

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.

Operating Expenditures

Each year's survey asks libraries to report current fiscal year expenditures by source of funding and type, and to estimate future fiscal year expenditures. Those findings are presented in Figures 46-47.

¹ The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. *Employee Health Benefits: 2008 Annual Survey*. September 2008.

<http://ehbs.kff.org/images/abstract/7791.pdf>

² **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. Data from National Energy

Assistance Director's Association study, <http://www.neada.org/>.

³ *ALA Survey of Librarian Salaries* series, years 2003-2008. For more information, see

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/reports/reports.cfm>.

Figure 46: FY2008 Public Library Systems Average Total Operating Expenditures, by Type and Funding Source

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

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

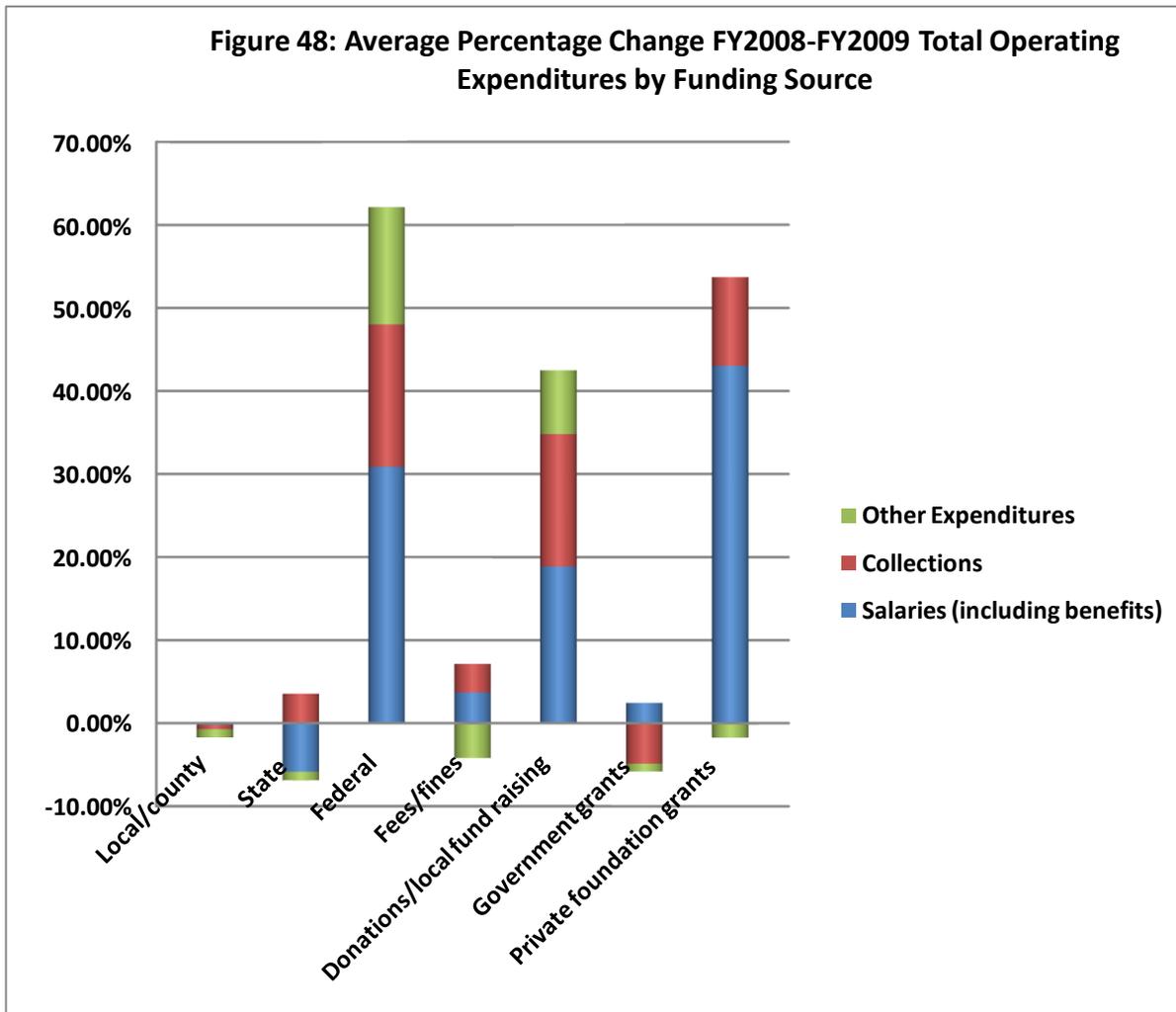
Figure 47: FY2009 Public Library Systems Average Total Operating Expenditures, by Type and Funding Source

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

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

The proportion of expenditures in FY2008 aligns with the national estimates reported annually by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), while the FY2009 actual or anticipated figures reported in this study

skew a bit. In IMLS FY2006 data,⁴ salaries average 65.7 percent of library operating expenditures, collections about 13.2 percent and other expenditures about 21.2 percent. Additional information can be found in study methodology detail on the project website, www.ala.org/plinternetfunding.



Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

Funding from local/county sources continues to erode between FY2008 and FY2009. Fluctuations by funding source are presented in Figure 48.

Libraries report spending more than twice the anticipated amount of federal funding in FY2008 than was anticipated in last year's survey, up from an average of \$15,532 in 2007-2008 to an average of \$37,750 this year. 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 (Figure 48).

Expenditures relying on fees/fines and donations remain fairly stable from last year's estimates and show some declines in FY2009. Libraries anticipate using more soft funding sources, including government and private

⁴ Public Libraries Survey Fiscal Year 2006. Institute of Museum and Library Services (2008). Table 19A. http://harvester.census.gov/imls/pubs/pls/pub_detail.asp?id=121

foundation grants, to funding operating expenditures. An overall increase of nearly 50 percent in use of private foundation grants to pay for salaries, collections and other expenditures is anticipated. No other funding source saw such a significant increase. The number of cases reported for each expenditure category by source of funding remains fairly stable between the two years, so these variations cannot be attributed to fluctuation in response rates. They may simply be attributable to anticipated private foundation support (e.g., Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) and increases in local fundraising.

The average total operating expenditures by metropolitan status reported by libraries for FY2008 and FY2009 are presented in Figures 49-54.

Figure 49: FY2008 Rural Public Library Systems Average Total Operating Expenditures, by Type and Funding Source			
Sources of Funding	FY2008		
	Salaries (including benefits)	Collections	Other Expenditures
Local/county	\$305,131 (n=4,155)	\$69,964 (n=3,288)	\$131,992 (n=3,050)
State (including state aid to public libraries, or state-supported tax programs)	\$93,475 (n=800)	\$27,724 (n=1,401)	\$29,164 (n=931)
Federal	\$2,849 (n=136)	\$4,124 (n=248)	\$4,840 (n=448)
Fees/fines	\$5,368 (n=278)	\$4,968 (n=241)	\$13,409 (n=748)
Donations/local fundraising	\$13,571 (n=442)	\$8,611 (n=1,445)	\$12,250 (n=1,168)
Government grants (local, state or national level)	\$8,207 (n=255)	\$5,241 (n=599)	\$11,706 (n=640)
Private foundation grants (e.g., Carnegie, Ford, Gates, etc.)	\$7,975 (n=216)	\$6,389 (n=494)	\$7,935 (n=1,144)
Reported average total	\$436,576	\$127,021	\$211,296
Reported average percent	56.3%	16.4%	28.3%

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

Figure 50: FY2009 Rural Public Library Systems Average Total Operating Expenditures, by Type and Funding Source

Sources of Funding	FY2009		
	Salaries (including benefits)	Collections	Other Expenditures
Local/county	\$236,089 (n=3,913)	\$51,482 (n=3,096)	\$120,583 (n=2,904)
State (including state aid to public libraries, or state-supported tax programs)	\$78,689 (n=737)	\$27,648 (n=1,304)	\$27,343 (n=874)
Federal	\$2,004 (n=101)	\$1,083 (n=187)	\$5,216 (n=418)
Fees/fines	\$6,191 (n=256)	\$6,006 (n=852)	\$10,842 (n=694)
Donations/local fundraising	\$16,011 (n=402)	\$8,648 (n=1,321)	\$13,035 (n=1,078)
Government grants (local, state or national level)	\$9,128 (n=255)	\$5,604 (n=539)	\$10,119 (n=579)
Private foundation grants (e.g., Carnegie, Ford, Gates, etc.)	\$8,368 (n=186)	\$7,459 (n=424)	\$7,730 (n=1,084)
Reported average total	\$277,791	\$107,930	\$194,868
Reported average percent	47.8%	18.6%	33.6%

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

Figure 51: FY2008 Suburban Public Library Systems Average Total Operating Expenditures, by Type and Funding Source

Sources of Funding	FY2008		
	Salaries (including benefits)	Collections	Other Expenditures
Local/county	\$1,181,277 (n=2,139)	\$234,336 (n=1,878)	\$412,545 (n=1,736)
State (including state aid to public libraries, or state-supported tax programs)	\$101,802 (n=472)	\$40,525 (n=724)	\$40,818 (n=615)
Federal	\$3,454 (n=61)	\$5,834 (n=112)	\$8,977 (n=197)
Fees/fines	\$26,951 (n=231)	\$21,188 (n=512)	\$19,743 (n=451)
Donations/local fundraising	\$16,951 (n=181)	\$13,977 (n=635)	\$24,712 (n=554)
Government grants (local, state or national level)	\$12,050 (n=102)	\$14,919 (n=254)	\$22,120 (n=362)
Private foundation grants (e.g., Carnegie, Ford, Gates, etc.)	\$408,092 (n=94)	\$52,936 (n=181)	\$30,044 (n=446)
Reported average total	\$1,750,577	\$383,715	\$558,959
Reported average percent	65.0%	14.4%	20.7%

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

Figure 52: FY2009 Suburban Public Library Systems Average Total Operating Expenditures, by Type and Funding Source

Sources of Funding	FY2009		
	Salaries (including benefits)	Collections	Other Expenditures
Local/county	\$1,240,187 (n=1,975)	\$236,609 (n=1,742)	\$423,532 (n=1,649)
State (including state aid to public libraries, or state-supported tax programs)	\$97,709 (n=453)	\$40,794 (n=658)	\$35,983 (n=574)
Federal	\$5,934 (n=52)	\$6,199 (n=90)	\$8,341 (n=165)
Fees/fines	\$25,686 (n=214)	\$23,635 (n=454)	\$18,734 (n=423)
Donations/local fundraising	\$17,194 (n=146)	\$15,105 (n=578)	\$21,878 (n=518)
Government grants (local, state or national level)	\$8,632 (n=99)	\$14,449 (n=213)	\$13,315 (n=308)
Private foundation grants (e.g., Carnegie, Ford, Gates, etc.)	\$504,510 (n=83)	\$59,423 (n=154)	\$23,476 (n=399)
Reported average total	\$1,899,852	\$396,214	\$545,259
Reported average percent	66.9%	13.9%	19.2%

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

Figure 53: FY2008 Urban Public Library Systems Average Total Operating Expenditures, by Type and Funding Source

Sources of Funding	FY2008		
	Salaries (including benefits)	Collections	Other Expenditures
Local/county	\$6,301,822 (n=480)	\$1,088,728 (n=448)	\$2,122,728 (n=427)
State (including state aid to public libraries, or state-supported tax programs)	\$587,379 (n=122)	\$296,778 (n=216)	\$356,104 (n=139)
Federal	\$44,523 (n=43)	\$22,502 (n=47)	\$106,682 (n=110)
Fees/fines	\$181,072 (n=43)	\$165,074 (n=85)	\$337,259 (n=96)
Donations/local fundraising	\$1,983,315 (n=52)	\$256,827 (n=166)	\$638,632 (n=153)
Government grants (local, state or national level)	\$448,602 (n=57)	\$58,456 (n=101)	\$130,009 (n=133)
Private foundation grants (e.g., Carnegie, Ford, Gates, etc.)	\$992,148 (n=53)	\$191,696 (n=87)	\$306,420 (n=130)
Reported average total	\$10,538,861	\$2,080,061	\$3,997,834
Reported average percent	63.4%	12.5%	24.1%

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

Figure 54: FY2009 Urban Public Library Systems Average Total Operating Expenditures, by Type and Funding Source

Sources of Funding	FY2009		
	Salaries (including benefits)	Collections	Other Expenditures
Local/county	\$6,639,792 (n=448)	\$1,176,731 (n=417)	\$2,125,568 (n=401)
State (including state aid to public libraries, or state-supported tax programs)	\$614,705 (n=114)	\$323,747 (n=197)	\$398,135 (n=124)
Federal	\$59,842 (n=39)	\$41,249 (n=45)	\$132,996 (n=96)
Fees/fines	\$191,251 (n=41)	\$157,998 (n=77)	\$325,336 (n=94)
Donations/local fundraising	\$2,321,354 (n=47)	\$342,291 (n=136)	\$724,024 (n=138)
Government grants (local, state or national level)	\$101,092 (n=264)	\$12,810 (n=836)	\$166,137 (n=111)
Private foundation grants (e.g., Carnegie, Ford, Gates, etc.)	\$1,487,155 (n=48)	\$225,369 (n=68)	\$304,460 (n=130)
Reported average total	\$11,415,191	\$2,280,195	\$4,176,656
Reported average percent	63.9%	12.8%	23.3%

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

The proportional distributions of expenditures by type remain fairly stable when considering the data by metropolitan status, as well as by poverty (e.g., low, medium, high poverty).

The average total operating expenditures by type, funding source and poverty level reported by libraries for FY2008 and FY2009 are presented in Figures 55-60.

Figure 55: FY2008 Low Poverty Public Library Systems Average Total Operating Expenditures, by Type and Funding Source

Sources of Funding	FY2008		
	Salaries (including benefits)	Collections	Other Expenditures
Local/county	\$777,717 (n=6,081)	\$156,153 (n=5,018)	\$309,133 (n=4,646)
State (including state aid to public libraries, or state-supported tax programs)	\$120,952 (n=1,210)	\$45,676 (n=2,060)	\$52,597 (n=1491)
Federal	\$5,813 (n=95)	\$5,099 (n=328)	\$16,750 (n=630)
Fees/fines	\$15,807 (n=504)	\$17,970 (n=1,350)	\$16,750 (n=630)
Donations/local fundraising	\$179,330 (n=628)	\$27,282 (n=2,035)	\$61,907 (n=1,706)
Government grants (local, state or national level)	\$32,608 (n=357)	\$8,820 (n=833)	\$20,376 (n=982)
Private foundation grants (e.g., Carnegie, Ford, Gates, etc.)	\$142,575 (n=1,319)	\$22,033 (n=669)	\$16,627 (n=1,573)
Reported average total	\$1,274,802	\$283,033	\$494,140
Reported average percent	62.1%	13.8%	24.1%

Figure 56: FY2009 Low Poverty Public Library Systems Average Total Operating Expenditures, by Type and Funding Source

Sources of Funding	FY2009		
	Salaries (including benefits)	Collections	Other Expenditures
Local/county	\$755,623 (n=5,692)	\$152,248 (n=4,712)	\$285,107 (n=4,423)
State (including state aid to public libraries, or state-supported tax programs)	\$110,306 (n=1,143)	\$46,540 (n=1,909)	\$53,111 (n=1,380)
Federal	\$6,564 (n=159)	\$6,878 (n=271)	\$17,524 (n=578)
Fees/fines	\$15,374 (n=471)	\$19,448 (n=1,250)	\$24,964 (n=1,101)
Donations/local fundraising	\$204,539 (n=553)	\$31,317 (n=1,852)	\$65,282 (n=1,573)
Government grants (local, state or national level)	\$31,013 (n=340)	\$8,107 (n=731)	\$18,245 (n=868)
Private foundation grants (e.g., Carnegie, Ford, Gates, etc.)	\$178,432 (n=280)	\$24,659 (n=571)	\$19,326 (n=1,470)
Reported average total	\$1,301,851	\$289,197	\$483,559
Reported average percent	62.8%	13.9%	23.2%

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009);
<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

Figure 57: FY2008 Medium Poverty Public Library Systems Average Total Operating Expenditures, by Type and Funding Source

Sources of Funding	FY2008		
	Salaries (including benefits)	Collections	Other Expenditures
Local/county	\$2,670,798 (n=650)	\$535,499 (n=555)	\$1,091,234 (n=530)
State (including state aid to public libraries, or state-supported tax programs)	\$278,116 (n=169)	\$129,798 (n=264)	\$121,107 (n=178)
Federal	\$35,447 (n=38)	\$14,962 (n=68)	\$42,330 (n=115)
Fees/fines	\$156,771 (n=44)	\$34,864 (n=142)	\$148,182 (n=110)
Donations/local fundraising	\$84,928 (n=48)	\$37,343 (n=203)	\$125,989 (n=157)
Government grants (local, state or national level)	\$240,794 (n=68)	\$47,447 (n=112)	\$86,707 (n=139)
Private foundation grants (e.g., Carnegie, Ford, Gates, etc.)	\$1,238,404 (n=38)	\$169,872 (n=84)	\$262,093 (n=137)
Reported average total	\$4,705,258	\$969,785	\$1,877,642
Reported average percent	62.3%	12.8%	24.9%

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009);
<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

Figure 58: FY2009 Medium Poverty Public Library Systems Average Total Operating Expenditures, by Type and Funding Source			
Sources of Funding	FY2009		
	Salaries (including benefits)	Collections	Other Expenditures
Local/county	\$2,762,656 (n=603)	\$512,086 (n=539)	\$939,229 (n=555)
State (including state aid to public libraries, or state-supported tax programs)	\$557,549 (n=319)	\$152,290 (n=384)	\$218,343 (n=353)
Federal	\$10,003 (n=204)	\$3,991 (n=199)	\$25,504 (n=229)
Fees/fines	\$49,177 (n=224)	\$48,891 (n=263)	\$137,951 (n=302)
Donations/local fundraising	\$19,277 (n=209)	\$20,045 (n=289)	\$44,678 (n=325)
Government grants (local, state or national level)	\$11,101 (n=208)	\$10,277 (n=219)	\$30,065 (n=260)
Private foundation grants (e.g., Carnegie, Ford, Gates, etc.)	\$22,372 (n=212)	\$10,580 (n=204)	\$26,642 (n=251)
Reported average total	\$3,432,135	\$758,160	\$1,422,412
Reported average percent	61.1%	13.5%	25.3%

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

Figure 59: FY2008 High Poverty Public Library Systems Average Total Operating Expenditures, by Type and Funding Source			
Sources of Funding	FY2008		
	Salaries (including benefits)	Collections	Other Expenditures
Local/county	\$8,259,633 (n=43)	\$1,909,996 (n=40)	\$2,986,794 (n=39)
State (including state aid to public libraries, or state-supported tax programs)	\$87,258 (n=15)	\$236,038 (n=17)	\$108,301 (n=16)
Federal	\$7,180 (n=6)	\$1,749 (n=4)	\$26,236 (n=17)
Fees/fines	\$121,434 (n=5)	\$20,947 (n=5)	\$273,713 (n=29)
Donations/local fundraising	\$372,722 (n=1)	\$106,076 (n=8)	\$39,209 (n=13)
Government grants (local, state or national level)	\$91,044 (n=10)	\$19,403 (n=9)	\$47,978 (n=13)
Private foundation grants (e.g., Carnegie, Ford, Gates, etc.)	\$48,128 (n=7)	\$45,681 (n=9)	\$33,339 (n=11)
Reported average total	\$8,987,399	\$2,339,890	\$3,515,570
Reported average percent	60.6%	15.8%	23.7%

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

Figure 60: FY2009 High Poverty Public Library Systems Average Total Operating Expenditures, by Type and Funding Source			
Sources of Funding	FY2009		
	Salaries (including benefits)	Collections	Other Expenditures
Local/county	\$10,580,257 (n=38)	\$1,621,749 (n=37)	\$2,578,393 (n=35)
State (including state aid to public libraries, or state-supported tax programs)	\$122,964 (n=11)	\$256,882 (n=15)	\$124,831 (n=14)
Federal	\$26,521 (n=4)	\$29 (n=4)	\$37,439 (n=5)
Fees/fines	\$123,474 (n=5)	\$17,416 (n=5)	\$288,237 (n=8)
Donations/local fundraising	\$56,800 (n=1)	\$126,582 (n=8)	\$74,530 (n=12)
Government grants (local, state or national level)	\$81,811 (n=10)	\$23,517 (n=8)	\$43,522 (n=9)
Private foundation grants (e.g., Carnegie, Ford, Gates, etc.)	\$55,214 (n=5)	\$68,167 (n=8)	\$69,979 (n=11)
Reported average total	\$11,047,041	\$492,593	\$3,216,931
Reported average percent	74.9%	3.3%	21.8%

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

There are differences in the number of libraries reporting data for FY2009 over FY2008. This is especially noticeable for urban libraries reporting the use of government grants in FY2009 (Figure C48) to pay for salaries and collections. Although the average amount of government grant funds reported by urban libraries declined between FY2008 and FY2009, the number of urban libraries using such funding increased considerably — salary expenditures in FY2009 has 264 cases versus 57 cases in FY2008, and collection expenditures in FY2009 reports 836 cases versus 101 cases in FY2008.

Similar to urban libraries, medium poverty libraries report significant declines in the average level of funding by source and type of expenditure and an increase in the number of libraries reporting. Although the proportion of expenditure by type did not fluctuate significantly, the reported average total expenditure declined between FY2008 and FY2009.

Technology Costs Paid on Behalf of Libraries

New to the 2008-2009 survey was a set of questions about “on behalf of” support for library technology costs. Although the research team understood anecdotally how libraries pay for technology, previous surveys did not capture the extent to which library technology-related expenditures were supported by outside entities. This year, the survey asked:

19a. Did your library receive financial support for its **technology expenditures** from outside entities on behalf of the library during the current fiscal year (FY2008)? “On behalf of” support includes services paid directly by another government office or another entity **for** the library (e.g., IT technicians, equipment purchases, etc.). Technology expenditures include staff salaries, any outside vendors providing IT services or support, hardware/software and telecommunications costs.

19c. If **all or some** library technology expenses are **paid by another government office or another organization in FY2008** on behalf of the library, please indicate what office or organization provides this support and for which services. An office or organization may provide direct support for more than one technology expense. “On behalf of” means the outside agency or organization pays directly for the support and no funding passes through the library operating budget.

Figure 61 presents the summary for survey question 19a.

Figure 61: Public Library Systems Receipt of “on Behalf of” Financial Support for Technology Expenditures, by Metropolitan Status and Poverty							
Financial Support	Metropolitan Status			Poverty Level			Overall
	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Low	Medium	High	
The library pays directly for ALL of its technology costs	56.4% (n=318)	53.3% (n=1,368)	55.1% (n=2,832)	54.8% (n=4,058)	52.3% (n=425)	59.3% (n=35)	54.6% (n=4,518)
The library pays directly for SOME of its technology costs	38.1% (n=215)	38.3% (n=983)	36.5% (n=1,876)	37.5% (n=2,775)	34.6% (n=281)	32.2% (n=19)	37.2% (n=3,075)
The library does not pay directly for any of its technology costs	5.5% (n=31)	8.5% (n=217)	8.5% (n=435)	7.7% (n=573)	13.1% (n=106)	8.5% (n=5)	8.3% (n=684)
Weighted missing values, n=802							

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

A majority of libraries (54.6 percent) paid for their technology costs with no assistance from another government agency or outside entity. Just over 37 percent reported receiving some direct support for library technology costs and another 8.3 percent indicated all technology costs were paid on the library’s behalf; these libraries were more likely to be in suburban and rural communities. The percentage of libraries receiving direct support for all or some of their technology costs was fairly equally distributed among the metropolitan status and poverty level categories.

Figures 62-64 present the detail by metropolitan status of libraries that indicated all or some of their technology costs were paid on their behalf (survey question 19c).

Figure 62: FY2008 Urban Public Library Systems Technology Expenses that are Paid by Another Government Office or Organization, by Type and Funding Source				
FY2008				
Agency or Organization	Salaries (including benefits)	Outside Vendors	Hardware/Software	Telecommunications
Local government (e.g., municipal IT department)	43.1% (n=106)	28.5% (n=70)	45.5% (n=112)	42.7% (n=105)
County government	9.3% (n=23)	5.7% (n=14)	9.8% (n=24)	9.7% (n=24)
Regional library network, cooperative or consortia	7.7% (n=19)	8.1% (n=20)	17.4% (n=43)	15.8% (n=39)
State government (including the state library)	6.9% (n=17)	8.1% (n=20)	18.2% (n=45)	17.5% (n=43)
Private funder (e.g., endowment, board/trustees)	2.4% (n=6)	3.3% (n=8)	19.5% (n=48)	1.6% (n=4)
Other	2.4% (n=6)	4.1% (n=10)	4.9% (n=12)	7.7% (n=29)

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

Figure 63: FY2008 Suburban Public Library Systems Technology Expenses that are Paid by Another Government Office or Organization, by Type and Funding Source

FY2008				
Sources of Funding	Salaries (including benefits)	Outside Vendors	Hardware/Software	Telecommunications
Local government (e.g., municipal IT department)	23.0% (n=276)	12.8% (n=153)	23.3% (n=280)	23.4% (n=281)
County government	6.7% (n=80)	5.3% (n=63)	7.7% (n=92)	9.3% (n=111)
Regional library network, cooperative or consortia	22.3% (n=268)	24.8% (n=298)	32.7% (n=392)	34.5% (n=414)
State government (including the state library)	4.6% (n=55)	8.7% (n=104)	14.1% (n=169)	15.1% (n=181)
Private funder (e.g., endowment, board/trustees)	1.2% (n=14)	1.6% (n=19)	14.3% (n=172)	2.8% (n=33)
Other	1.1% (n=13)	*	6.4% (n=77)	6.6% (n=79)

Key: * Insufficient data to report

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

Figure 64: FY2008 Rural Public Library Systems Technology Expenses that are Paid by Another Government Office or Organization, by Type and Funding Source.

FY2008				
Sources of Funding	Salaries (including benefits)	Outside Vendors	Hardware/Software	Telecommunications
Local government (e.g., municipal IT department)	23.5% (n=542)	13.5% (n=312)	17.6% (n=406)	19.1% (n=442)
County government	10.5% (n=242)	5.3% (n=122)	7.2% (n=166)	7.5% (n=174)
Regional library network, cooperative or consortia	9.3% (n=214)	10.8% (n=249)	17.6% (n=408)	15.1% (n=349)
State government (including the state library)	7.3% (n=168)	9.1% (n=211)	16.1% (n=373)	18.8% (n=435)
Private funder (e.g., endowment, board/trustees)	*	3.9% (n=91)	15.8% (n=365)	5.3% (n=123)
Other	5.2% (n=121)	3.8% (n=89)	8.0% (n=186)	15.2% (n=351)

Key: * Insufficient data to report

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

For libraries reporting that some or all technology expenditures were paid on their behalf, urban libraries reported the highest level of local government support for any technology expenditure by almost two-to-one compared with the level reported by suburban and rural libraries. Not surprisingly, urban libraries benefited from hardware/software support from local government departments 2.5 times more than did rural libraries and nearly twice as much as suburban libraries. Rural libraries fared only slightly better than their urban and

suburban counterparts with state government support for telecommunications (about 18.8 percent, compared with 17.5 percent for urban and 15.1 percent for suburban libraries).

Libraries report the least “on behalf of” support for outside vendor agreements supporting technology, absorbing those costs within the library’s operating budget. Suburban libraries reported the highest level of “on behalf of” support from regional library networks, cooperatives and consortia.

Volatility of Technology Budgets

To better understand year-to-year fluctuations in technology spending, the research team added a question about year-to-year changes in library technology budgets in this year’s survey. The range responses matched those used in the operating budget stability question.

20. Does the library expect its **total technology expenditures** for the current and next fiscal years (FY2009 and FY2010) to increase, decrease or remain the same? If increasing or decreasing, please mark the anticipated amount of change.

Figures 65-66 present the FY2008 and FY2009 responses, by metropolitan status and poverty level.

Figure 65: FY2009 Public Library Systems Technology Budget Change, by Metropolitan Status and Poverty

Operating Budget	Metropolitan Status			Poverty Level			Overall
	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Low	Medium	High	
Increased up to 2%	20.8% (n=116)	22.0% (n=558)	19.2% (n=977)	20.5% (n=1,502)	17.7% (n=142)	11.9% (n=7)	20.1% (n=1,651)
Increased 2.1-4%	12.5% (n=70)	12.4% (n=314)	9.0% (n=457)	9.1% (n=749)	11.0% (n=88)	6.8% (n=4)	10.3% (n=841)
Increased 4.1-6%	5.2% (n=29)	7.1% (n=180)	4.3% (n=218)	5.0% (n=367)	7.2% (n=58)	5.1% (n=3)	5.2% (n=4286)
Increased more than 6%	15.4% (n=86)	9.8% (n=249)	10.1% (n=517)	10.4% (n=760)	10.5% (n=84)	13.6% (n=8)	10.4% (n=852)
Decreased up to 2%	3.6% (n=20)	4.8% (n=123)	3.2% (n=164)	3.6% (n=266)	4.5% (n=36)	8.5% (n=5)	3.7% (n=307)
Decreased 2.1-4%	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Decreased 4.1-6%	1.4% (n=8)	--	*	1.0% (n=75)	*	*	1.0% (n=80)
Decreased more than 6%	7.5% (n=42)	4.9% (n=124)	3.9% (n=199)	4.3% (n=312)	6.1% (n=49)	6.8% (n=4)	4.5% (n=365)
Stayed the same	33.5% (n=187)	38.1% (n=968)	49.4% (n=2,519)	45.0% (n=3,303)	42.6% (n=342)	49.2% (n=29)	44.8% (n=3,674)
Key: -- No data to report * Insufficient data to report							

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

Figure 66: FY2010 Public Library Systems Anticipated Technology Budget Change, by Metropolitan Status and Poverty

Operating Budget	Metropolitan Status			Poverty Level			Overall
	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Low	Medium	High	
Increased up to 2%	22.1% (n=116)	23.8% (n=578)	21.6% (n=1,058)	22.5% (n=1,587)	20.3% (n=155)	18.0% (n=9)	22.3% (n=1,751)
Increased 2.1-4%	15.2% (n=80)	14.0% (n=339)	10.5% (n=517)	12.0% (n=842)	12.1% (n=92)	2.0% (n=1)	11.9% (n=935)
Increased 4.1-6%	8.6% (n=45)	8.0% (n=194)	5.0% (n=247)	6.2% (n=436)	5.6% (n=43)	13.7% (n=7)	6.2% (n=486)
Increased more than 6%	5.3% (n=28)	5.6% (n=135)	5.9% (n=289)	5.8% (n=412)	4.9% (n=37)	5.9% (n=3)	5.8% (n=452)
Decreased up to 2%	1.9% (n=10)	2.6% (n=63)	2.2% (n=109)	2.4% (n=169)	1.7% (n=13)	--	2.3% (n=182)
Decreased 2.1-4%	2.9% (n=15)	2.3% (n=55)	1.2% (n=58)	1.7% (n=117)	1.4% (n=11)	--	1.6% (n=128)
Decreased 4.1-6%	1.7% (n=9)	1.2% (n=28)	*	1.0% (n=67)	*	2.0% (n=1)	*
Decreased more than 6%	5.9% (n=31)	2.6% (n=63)	2.3% (n=112)	2.5% (n=173)	4.1% (n=31)	4.0% (n=2)	2.6% (206)
Stayed the same	36.5% (n=192)	40.0% (n=970)	50.6% (n=2,481)	46.0% (n=3,242)	49.0% (n=374)	54.0% (n=27)	46.4% (n=3,643)

Key: -- No data to report
* Insufficient data to report

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

Regardless of stratification — metropolitan status or poverty level — technology operating budgets are reasonably stable within each range by fiscal year. Approximately 20 percent of libraries report up to 2 percent increases in FY2009, and a similar number, about 22.3 percent, anticipate up to 2 percent increases in FY2010.

Rural libraries were most likely to experience no change (increase or decrease) in technology funding from year to year. In both FY2009 and FY2010, roughly a majority of rural libraries (49.4 and 50.6 percent) report no change in funding levels. These libraries are operating with funding levels from FY2008, since they report level funding coming into FY2009. This level funding is especially hard for rural libraries because they receive much less direct (“on behalf of”) support than that received by suburban or urban libraries.

There was little variation in the proportion of low, medium or high poverty libraries reporting no change in technology expenditures. Differences are evident across poverty levels for the smallest expenditure increases (up to 2 percent) in FY2009, but little difference in any range of budget change in FY2010. This may partly be explained by actual expenditure details available for FY2009, compared with a reliance on anticipated technology budget figures for FY2010.

Figure 67 presents the average total technology-related operating expenditures by type and funding source for FY2009.

Figure 67: FY2009 Public Library Systems Average Total Technology-Related Operating Expenditures, by Type and Funding Source

FY2009				
Sources of Funding	Salaries (including benefits)	Outside Vendors	Hardware/Software	Telecommunications
Local/county	\$100,783 (n=3,025)	\$25,981 (n=2,938)	\$40,436 (n=4,480)	\$22,011 (n=3,957)
State (including state aid to public libraries, or state-supported tax programs)	\$12,993 (n=749)	\$10,116 (n=720)	\$12,835 (n=954)	\$8,515 (n=830)
Federal	\$515 (n=546)	\$2,042 (n=494)	\$8,593 (n=563)	\$16,247 (n=841)
Fees/fines	\$616 (n=614)	\$3,913 (n=535)	\$1,413 (n=579)	\$1,388 (n=541)
Donations/local fundraising	\$842 (n=618)	\$1,451 (n=619)	\$2,890 (n=1,230)	\$665 (n=622)
Government grants (local, state or national level)	\$682 (n=559)	\$783 (n=504)	\$6,148 (n=730)	\$1,591 (n=601)
Private foundation grants (e.g., Carnegie, Ford, Gates, etc.)	\$656 (n=584)	\$704 (n=552)	\$7,596 (n=1,637)	\$883 (n=550)
Reported average total	\$117,087	\$44,990	\$79,911	\$51,300
Reported average percent	39.9%	15.3%	27.2%	17.5%

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

This is the third year that libraries reported technology-related operating expenditures by fiscal year. Technology expenditures were reported for FY2006 (actual) and FY2007 (anticipated) in the first year of the survey; FY2008 anticipated expenditures in the second survey year; and FY2009 actual or anticipated expenditures in this third year of the survey. These data are reported by type of technology expenditure and funding source. What this information provides is multi-year reporting to understand the extent to which these expenditures change and how the sources of funding may fluctuate from year to year.

Overall, FY2009 expenditures by type indicate increases for total average dollars spent in all expenditure categories:

- Average dollars spent on technology-related salary expenditures increased nearly 30 percent (\$117,087 FY2009 from \$90,230 in FY2008).
- Outside vendor expenditures increased 16 percent from FY2008 (\$44,990 in FY2009 from \$38,790 in FY2008).
- Hardware/software expenditures increased 52.7 percent from FY2008 (\$79,911 in FY2009 from \$52,315 in FY2008).
- Telecommunications expenditures increased 70 percent — the most dramatic increase of all the technology-related expenditures reported for FY2009 (\$51,300 in FY2009 from \$30,163 in FY2008).

It is important to acknowledge the year-to-year fluctuations in the reporting of technology-related library expenditures. For instance, although the average technology-related salary expenditure increased nearly 30 percent from FY2008, it increased only 14.7 percent from FY2007 and 7 percent from FY2006. Although technology-related salaries may be higher, the FY2009 average may also be higher because of the impact increased responses. The impact of “on behalf of” support libraries receive from government or other agencies

also plays a part in the year-to-year average expenditure changes. Technology salary costs are among the most frequently reported expenses paid by other agencies, followed by telecommunications and hardware/software expenses (see Figures C56-C58).

Two expenditure categories note declines and two increases from FY2008 when considered as a proportion of technology-related expenditures.

Decreasing expenditures between FY2008 and FY2009:

- Salary support from all funding sources declined approximately 2.8 percent from FY2008 (down to 39.9 percent from 42.7 percent).
- Outside vendor expenditures declined approximately 3 percent from 18.3 percent in FY2008. This expense type was not collected prior to the 2007-2008 survey.

Increasing expenditures between FY2008 and FY2009:

- Hardware and software expenditures increased by about 2.5 percent from 24.7 percent in FY2008. Hardware and software expenditures were reported as separate expenses in the 2006-2007 survey and therefore are not easily compared.
- Telecommunications expenditures have demonstrated the greatest fluctuation from year to the next year of this survey. Increasing by about 3.2 percent from FY2008 (14.3 percent), telecommunication expenditures were higher in FY2007 (17.6 percent), and lower in FY2006 (14.8 percent). Some of this variation can be attributed to the number of libraries reporting this particular technology expenditure.

By source of funding, similar fluctuations have occurred each year of the survey. While local/county funding used for technology staff salaries, hardware and software have been declining each year since FY2006, FY2009 data do indicate modest increases in these expenditure categories. In FY2009 local/county funds used to pay technology staff salaries had risen to \$100,783, approximately 28 percent more than in FY2008. In FY2006, the average expenditure from local/county funds for technology staff salaries was \$96,906, in FY2007 \$90,972, and in FY2008 \$78,502.

Outside vendor expenditures, reported beginning with FY2008 data, indicate a slight decline in local/county support for FY2009. There is growth in support from other funding sources for outside vendors, up approximately 28.4 percent over last fiscal year. Again, some of this fluctuation can be attributed to response rates for this technology expenditure.

Figures 68-70 present this these same data by metropolitan status, and Figures 71-73 present this data by poverty level.

Figure 68: FY2009 Rural Public Library Systems Average Total Technology-Related Operating Expenditures, by Type and Funding Source

FY2009				
Sources of Funding	Salaries (including benefits)	Outside Vendors	Hardware/Software	Telecommunications
Local/county	\$37,300 (n=1,636)	\$7,905 (n=1,627)	\$13,617 (n=2,590)	\$7,536 (n=2,308)
State (including state aid to public libraries, or state-supported tax programs)	\$9,308 (n=415)	\$2,578 (n=399)	\$5,048 (n=538)	\$3,136 (n=498)
Federal	\$382 (n=298)	\$821 (n=266)	\$3,711 (n=294)	\$4,538 (n=526)
Fees/fines	\$367 (n=341)	\$277 (n=282)	\$721 (n=305)	\$1,662 (n=277)
Donations/local fundraising	\$1,126 (n=357)	\$1,007 (n=352)	\$1,976 (n=768)	\$784 (n=363)
Government grants (local, state or national level)	\$360 (n=312)	\$173 (n=270)	\$2,630 (n=399)	\$1,272 (n=356)
Private foundation grants (e.g., Carnegie, Ford, Gates, etc.)	\$917 (n=326)	\$881 (n=310)	\$4,429 (n=1,036)	\$913 (n=321)
Reported average total	\$49,760	\$13,642	\$32,132	\$19,841
Reported average percent	43.1%	11.8%	27.9%	17.2%

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

When considered by metropolitan status, it is not surprising to find that average salary expenditures for technology staff in rural libraries are considerably lower than in urban or suburban libraries. Urban libraries spent an average of \$458,324 for technology staff positions in FY2009, suburban libraries \$122,400 and rural libraries only \$49,760. There is little overall difference between rural and suburban libraries receiving “on behalf of” support from government or other agencies for technology staff, whereas nearly twice as many urban libraries reported receiving local government support (43.1 percent of urban libraries compared with 23 percent of suburban and 23.5 percent of rural libraries). In fact, rural libraries are only slightly more likely than urban libraries to receive support from regional networks (9.3 percent compared with 7.7 percent of urban libraries) and far less likely than suburban libraries (22.3 percent of suburban libraries).

Figure 69: FY2009 Suburban Public Library Systems Average Total Technology-Related Operating Expenditures, by Type and Funding Source

FY2009				
Sources of Funding	Salaries (including benefits)	Outside Vendors	Hardware/Software	Telecommunications
Local/county	\$107,370 (n=1,073)	\$30,180 (n=1,073)	\$50,406 (n=1,491)	\$28,112 (n=1,320)
State (including state aid to public libraries, or state-supported tax programs)	\$13,745 (n=269)	\$3,729 (n=252)	\$6,731 (n=323)	\$3,837 (n=266)
Federal	\$78 (n=197)	\$254 (n=178)	\$2,544 (n=206)	\$3,353 (n=230)
Fees/fines	\$263 (n=225)	\$235 (n=203)	\$1,311 (n=228)	\$245 (n=217)
Donations/local fundraising	\$312 (n=211)	\$2,060 (n=219)	\$3,868 (n=395)	\$540 (n=217)
Government grants (local, state or national level)	\$382 (n=194)	\$1,811 (n=192)	\$4,774 (n=261)	\$570 (n=195)
Private foundation grants (e.g., Carnegie, Ford, Gates, etc.)	\$250 (n=205)	\$545 (n=199)	\$6,676 (n=489)	\$527 (n=181)
Reported average total	\$122,400	\$38,814	\$76,310	\$37,184
Reported average percent	44.6%	14.1%	27.8%	13.5%

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

Figure 70: FY2009 Urban Public Library Systems Average Total Technology-Related Operating Expenditures, by Type and Funding Source

FY2009				
Sources of Funding	Salaries (including benefits)	Outside Vendors	Hardware/Software	Telecommunications
Local/county	\$412,412 (n=312)	\$130,599 (n=238)	\$177,557 (n=398)	\$99,254 (n=328)
State (including state aid to public libraries, or state-supported tax programs)	\$33,511 (n=65)	\$77,869 (n=68)	\$78,783 (n=93)	\$68,924 (n=65)
Federal	\$3,017 (n=50)	\$14,806 (n=50)	\$50,758 (n=64)	\$125,127 (n=85)
Fees/fines	\$4,004 (n=49)	\$14,806 (n=50)	\$6,469 (n=46)	\$5,099 (n=46)
Donations/local fundraising	\$1,046 (n=51)	\$1,916 (n=49)	\$7,615 (n=67)	\$279 (n=41)
Government grants (local, state or national level)	\$3,713 (n=52)	--	\$30,568 (n=65)	\$7,872 (n=50)
Private foundation grants (e.g., Carnegie, Ford, Gates, etc.)	\$621 (n=52)	\$165 (n=43)	\$41,112 (n=111)	\$2,018 (n=48)
Reported average total	\$458,324	\$240,161	\$392,862	\$308,573
Reported average percent	32.7%	17.2%	28.1%	22.0%

Key: -- No data to report

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

The average technology-related operating expenditures reported by poverty level appear in figures 71-73. As these figures demonstrate, libraries rely primarily on local/county sources of funding for technology-related expenditures regardless of poverty level. There was very little difference in technology-related expenditures reported by poverty in FY2009 compared with FY2008.

Figure 71: FY2009 Low Poverty Public Library Systems Average Total Technology-Related Operating Expenditures, by Type and Funding Source

FY2009				
Sources of Funding	Salaries (including benefits)	Outside Vendors	Hardware/Software	Telecommunications
Local/county	\$83,602 (n=2,653)	\$19,364 (n=2,639)	\$31,547 (n=3,999)	\$18,163 (n=3,501)
State (including state aid to public libraries, or state-supported tax programs)	\$10,376 (n=658)	\$8,245 (n=632)	\$13,022 (n=824)	\$6,487 (n=746)
Federal	\$185 (n=480)	\$359 (n=438)	\$8,139 (n=497)	\$12,455 (n=722)
Fees/fines	\$338 (n=540)	\$3,179 (n=477)	\$861 (n=520)	\$1,000 (n=487)
Donations/local fundraising	\$837 (n=547)	\$1,485 (n=558)	\$2,900 (n=1,141)	\$719 (n=572)
Government grants (local, state or national level)	\$413 (n=493)	\$795 (n=454)	\$4,648 (n=646)	\$1,036 (n=543)
Private foundation grants (e.g., Carnegie, Ford, Gates, etc.)	\$656 (n=518)	\$677 (n=492)	\$6,879 (n=1,508)	\$773 (n=497)
Reported average total	\$96,407	\$34,104	\$67,996	\$40,633
Reported average percent	40.3%	14.3%	28.4%	17.0%

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

Figure 72: FY2009 Medium Poverty Public Library Systems Average Total Technology-Related Operating Expenditures, by Type and Funding Source

FY2009				
Sources of Funding	Salaries (including benefits)	Outside Vendors	Hardware/Software	Telecommunications
Local/county	\$211,467 (n=337)	\$77,138 (n=274)	\$113,820 (n=444)	\$42,288 (n=419)
State (including state aid to public libraries, or state-supported tax programs)	\$35,610 (n=86)	\$25,268 (n=82)	\$11,552 (n=123)	\$29,125 (n=76)
Federal	\$610 (n=59)	\$10,444 (n=52)	\$10,206 (n=60)	\$40,414 (n=111)
Fees/fines	\$2,828 (n=68)	\$11,070 (n=52)	\$7,015 (n=53)	\$5,486 (n=48)
Donations/local fundraising	\$942 (n=66)	\$1,193 (n=55)	\$2,786 (n=83)	\$36 (n=44)
Government grants (local, state or national level)	\$1,346 (n=59)	\$485 (n=44)	\$18,677 (n=77)	\$4,329 (n=50)
Private foundation grants (e.g., Carnegie, Ford, Gates, etc.)	\$632 (n=59)	\$896 (n=54)	\$11,733 (n=114)	\$2,019 (n=50)
Reported average total	\$253,435	\$126,494	\$175,789	\$123,697
Reported average percent	37.3%	18.6%	25.9%	18.2%

Key: * Insufficient data to report

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

Figure 73: FY2009 High Poverty Public Library Systems Average Total Technology-Related Operating Expenditures, by Type and Funding Source

FY2009				
Sources of Funding	Salaries (including benefits)	Outside Vendors	Hardware/Software	Telecommunications
Local/county	\$337,212 (n=35)	\$164,802 (n=25)	\$122,434 (n=36)	\$158,203 (n=36)
State (including state aid to public libraries, or state-supported tax programs)	\$3,769 (n=10)	\$1,393 (n=6)	\$13,374 (n=8)	\$1,256 (n=8)
Federal	\$24,480 (n=6)	\$77,140 (n=4)	\$28,081 (n=7)	\$44,097 (n=8)
Fees/fines	\$809 (n=6)	\$388 (n=6)	\$194 (n=6)	\$257 (n=6)
Donations/local fundraising	--	\$627 (n=6)	\$2,300 (n=6)	--
Government grants (local, state or national level)	\$15,350 (n=6)	\$2,356 (n=5)	\$6,967 (n=8)	\$22,873 (n=8)
Private foundation grants (e.g., Carnegie, Ford, Gates, etc.)	\$904 (n=6)	\$1,179 (n=6)	\$49,996 (n=14)	\$503 (n=4)
Reported average total	\$382,524	\$247,885	\$223,346	\$227,189
Reported average percent	35.4%	22.9%	20.7%	21.0%

Key: -- No data to report

Source: Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (ALA, 2009); <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm>

Low poverty libraries spend slightly more (about 3-to-5 percent more) on salaries (including benefits) than do medium or high poverty libraries as a percentage of total technology-related expenditures (40.3 percent, 37.3 percent and 35.4 percent, respectively). Low poverty libraries also spend proportionally more of operating budgets on hardware/software than do medium or high poverty libraries (28.4 percent, compared with 25.9 percent and 20.7 percent, respectively).

Low poverty libraries report spending less on average for salaries (including benefits) than do medium and high poverty libraries – medium poverty libraries spent more than 2.5 times that of low poverty libraries, and high poverty libraries spent nearly four times that of low poverty libraries.

Medium poverty libraries report technology-related spending two-to-three times or more than low poverty libraries, and generally spend about half of what high poverty libraries spend. Medium poverty libraries spend nearly four times (3.7) more than low poverty libraries on outside vendors, and three times more on telecommunications. Salaries (including benefits) expenditures for medium poverty libraries are about two-point-six times more than low poverty libraries (\$253,435 compared with \$96,407) and about one-third below that of high poverty libraries (\$253,524 compared with \$382,524).

Without a doubt, and not surprising, high poverty libraries report out-spending low and medium poverty libraries. However, in some expenditure categories the disparity in average expenditure by poverty level is quite extreme. For instance, high poverty libraries report spending more than seven times that of low poverty libraries on outside vendors (\$247,885 compared with \$34,104) and twice what medium poverty libraries spend (\$247,885 compared with \$126,494). High poverty libraries spend an average of nearly 5.6 times more on telecommunications than do low poverty libraries (\$227,198 compared with \$40,633), and about 1.8 times more that spent by medium poverty libraries (\$227,189 compared with \$123,697).