THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES SURVEY

Overview fiscal year 2024-2025

Welcome!

Please introduce yourself in the chat:

- Name
- Library
- Years invovled with survey



Hello! Amanda Johnson

Data Analysis & Communication Consultant amanda. johnson@dncr.nc.gov



SLNC Data Webpage

How can I help you?



Public Libraries `Survey

- Manage Public Library
 Survey collection in North
 Carolina
- Aggregate, analyze and disseminate data to IMLS, local libraries, and other stakeholders.
- Create tools and resources to help libraries use survey data to plan, advocate and support local services.



Evaluation Plans

- Developing evaluation plans for specific services or projects including grant applications
- Advise on methodologies, design of collection tools (surveys, focus groups, interviews, etc), and analysis



Communicating Data

- Trainings on communicating data
- Statewide publications on the impact of libraries
- Templates for local use:
 - GeneralInfographics
 - Day in the District handouts
 - Library Week SocialMedia templates



Data tools:

PLA Benchmark (Opt-in)

Public Libraries Survey

aka: Annual Statistical Report

Part 1: Structure and People

Federal Cooperative System Authorization and management

Part 2: The PLS in North Carolina

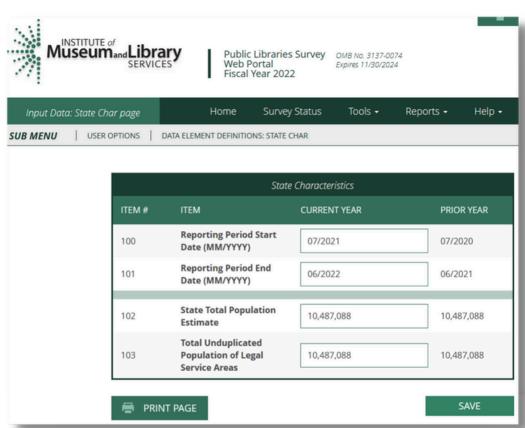
FY24 Timeline

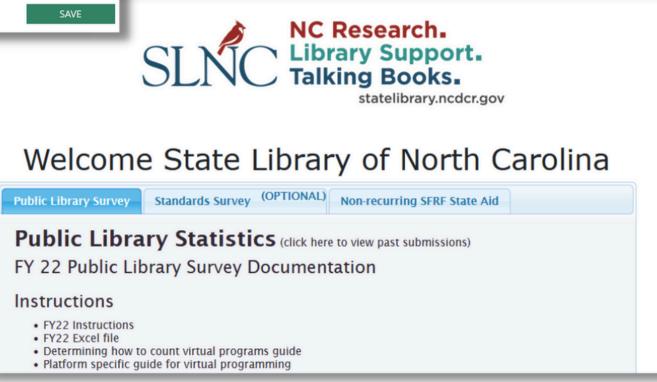
LibPAS & Instructions

The PLS section by section

Modifications

Common Mistakes





PART 1: STRUCTURE & PEOPLE

The PLS is a federal-state cooperative data collection

Agencies and organizations "with similar strong interests in producing accurate, reliable, annual state and national public library statistics"*



National Level

Institute of Museum and Library Services



State Level

State Library Agencies in all 50 states, D.C., and territories



Local Level

~9,300 Public Libraries

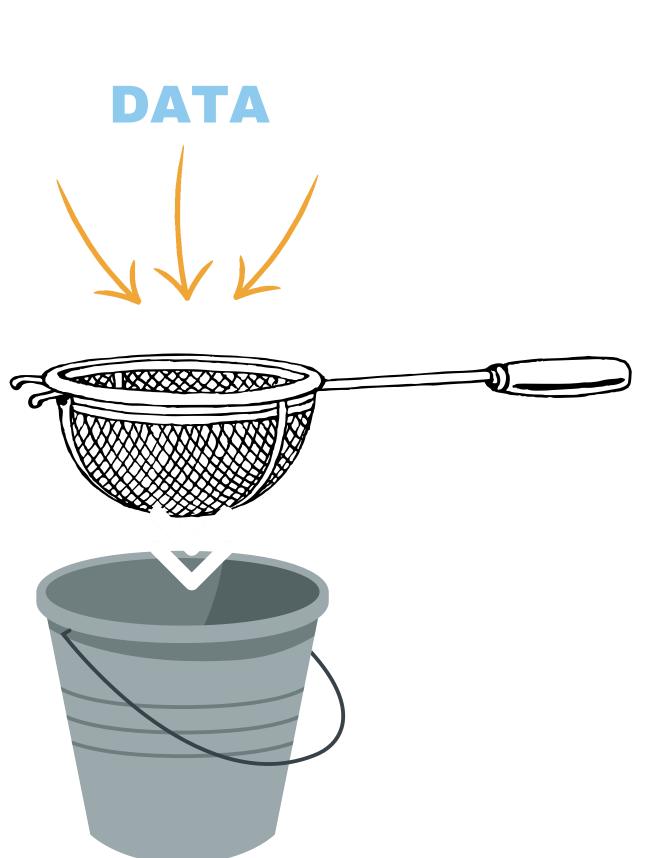
^{*}An Action Plan for a Federal State Cooperative System for Public Library Data: FSCS. United States, Task Force, 1989.

Federal-State Cooperative System









It takes many people to pull off the PLS....

** National Level

- Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS)
- Technical Contractors
- Library Statistics Working Group (advise IMLS)

State Level

- State Data Coordinators
- State Data CoordinatorMentors (Advise otherSDCs)
- Chief Officers of State
 Library Agencies
- Software Vendors

Local Level

Staff from ~9,300 local libraries collecting & submitting data

Why is this important?

How is PLS data used?

General

- **
- IMLS research briefs
- IMLS search & compare tools
- PLA, ALA, 3rd party tools
- Gregory Gilpin Return on investment research
- NYPL Diversity initiative
- AARP Livability Index

North Carolina

- Strategic Planning
- Grant writing
- NC PL Standards Development
- NC DIT <u>Digital Resource Finder</u>
- Local government benchmarking
 - Catawba outcome based budgeting
 - Burke KPI development

Part 2: The Public Libraries Survey in North Carolina

a.k.a. Annual Statistical Report



Yearly Cycle



- FY25 survey
 opens on July 15
 for the reporting
 for July 1, 2025 June 30, 2026*
- LibPAS input training will be on July 22, at 11am Register:

August 2025

• FY25 survey remains open

September 2025

- FY25 Survey closes on September 15, 2025
- Review of FY25 data begins

October 2025

- IMLS releases FY25 data elements that passed state vote.
- Review of FY25 data continues

November 2025

- Review of FY25 data wraps up
- Development of draft FY25 tables begins

December 2025

• FY25 preliminary data released

Yearly Cycle



- IMLS opens FY25
 Federal PLS
 collection
- Potential follow-up on FY25 survey responses

February 2026

- Submission of federal data continues
- Potential follow-up on FY25 survey responses

March 2026

- Submission of federal data continues
- Potential follow-up on FY25 survey responses

April 2026

- Submission of federal data complete
- FY26 survey
 preparation
 begins in LibPAS

May 2026

- FY26 survey preparation begins in LibPAS
- Final FY25 data released

June 2026

FY26
 Instruction manual distributed

LibPAS

- Username and password is specific to library
- Find resources and status updates on the homepage
- All data must be submitted through LibPAS
 - Some verification throughout input process and you must resolve errors before you can submit
 - Lock = submit

LibPAS input training will be on July 22 at 11am. Register:



Welcome State Library of North Carolina Standards Self-Assessment **Public Libraries Survey** Non-recurring SFRF State Aid **Public Libraries Statistics** (click above to enter and submit data) **FY25 Public Libraries Survey Documentation** New! Check out the PLS Report Data webpage. These materials are publicly available and include the updated instruction guide and information on training sessions. Pre-fill/After-fill Data Status: State Income (State Aid, SFRF): LSTA Grant Income: NC Live: e-iNC: NC Kids: NC Cardinal: **Additional Resources: FY23 Primary Peer Groups**

Instruction Guide

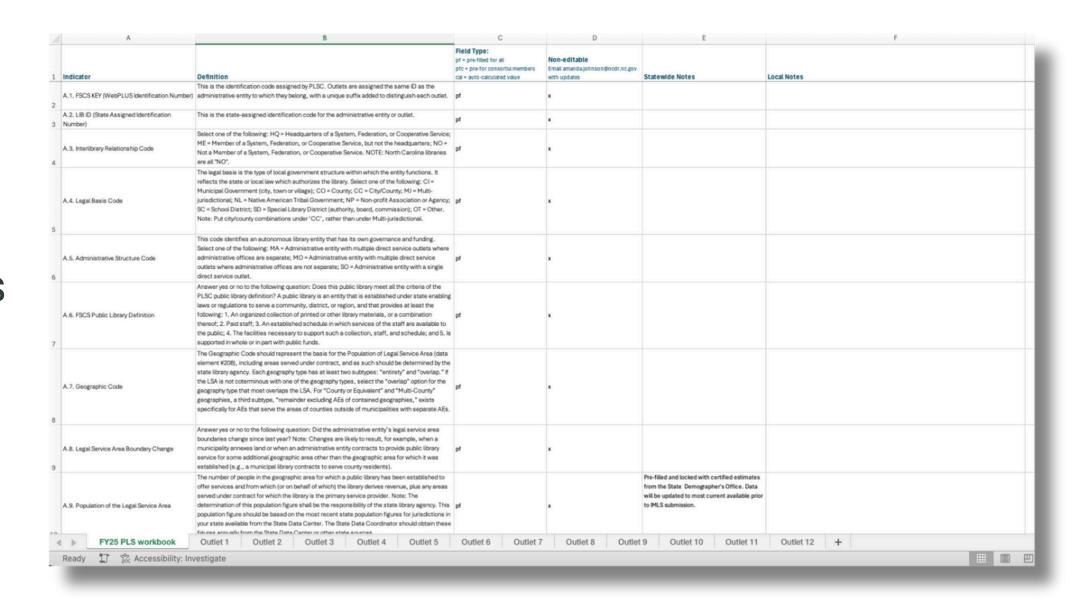
Draft instructions are available. A final version will be available when the survey opens on July 15, 2025.

The instruction guide includes:

- Survey overview + dates
- Section overview and guidance
- Full data element definitions
- What to include or exclude for specific elements
- Auto-calculated field formulas
- Notes on pre-filled data
- Formatted to be printed and shared sections separated by page breaks

Excel Worbook

- Resource to gather data from staff all in one place before entering into LibPAS
- First tab in workbook is for library system data.
- Separate tabs for each location to enter outlet data



Survey Sections

- A. PLSC Code
- **B.** General Information
- C. Library Staff
- **D.** Operating Income
- **E.** Operating Expenditures
- F. Capital Revenue & Expenditures

- G. Collection
- H. Circulation*
- Registered Users & Visits*
- J. Programming
- **K.** Other Service Metrics
- L. Technology
- M. Outlet Information

^{*} Denotes the section has modifications for FY25

Summary of Modifications

- Auto-renewals
- Student card program reporting
- Certifications

Update! Outlet (Location) Specific Data

Background:

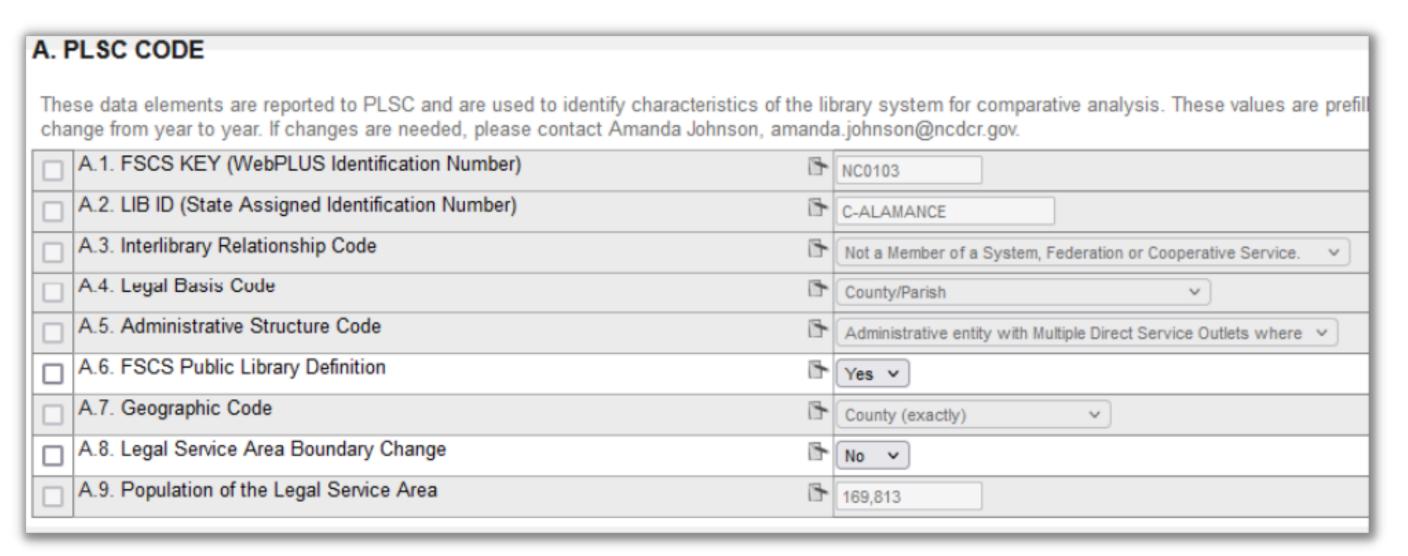
- IMLS pilot for eventual national roll-out
- Applies to limited data elements that are likely to vary by location
- Anticipated benefits:
 - Better integration with other data sets (American Community Survey, National Center for Education Statistics, etc)
 - Increased understanding of service availability and level
 - Quicker identification of possible errors

Sections affected:

- G. Collection
- H. Circulation
- I. Registered Users & Visits
- L. Technology

If data is not available for a particular location enter a -1.

A. PLSC Code



Notes:

- This section is prefilled and locked.
- When the survey opens, the population (A.9.) displayed is the prior year data. The population is updated in the fall when the certified estimates are released by OSMB. The population on the PLS matches the population used for the State Aid formula.

B. General Information

B. GENERAL INFORMATION									
Mailing Address									
If the mailing address has changed s			nson@dnc.nc.go	/.	D.O. Mailine 71D	0-4-	D. A. Maillian	710 4 0 4	
B.1. Mailing Address	B.2. Mai	lling City			B.3. Mailing ZIP	Code		ZIP+4 Code	,
	LT.				12			N/A.	
Street Address If the physical street address has ch	anged since last year, contact Aman	da Johnson, amar	nda.johnson@dno	c.ncgov.					
B.5. Physical Street Address		B.6. City			I	B.7. ZIP Code	B.8	ZIP+4 Code	Э
1		B				B	B	□n/A	
Contact									
B.9. Legal Name		B							
B.10. Economic tier		2							
B.11. Library type		B							
B.12. County		B							
B.13. Library Director		B							
B.14. Phone		1							
B.15. Email Address		B							
B.16. Data Coordinator (staff con	npleting the form)	B							
B.17. Title		B							
B.18. Phone Number		B							
B.19. Email Address		B							
B.20. Web Address		B							
B.21. Does the library have a Foundations?	undation that supports systemwide	O Yes, a 501c3 Foundation	registered Foundati	on Yes, a Found	dation that is not a regist	tered 501c3 No,	the library syst	em does not ha	ve a
B.22. Does the library have a frie operations?	nds group that supports systemwide	O Yes, a 501c3 systemwide Frie		Group○ Yes, a Fri	ends Group that is not a	registered 501c3	No, the librar	y system does	not have a
Service Outlets									
B.23. Number of Central Libraries	B.24. Number of Branch Libraries	B.25. Number of Bo	ookmobiles	B.26. Number of C	ther Mobile Units	B.27. Number o	f Kiosks	Total # of Service	e Outlets
73	321	26		B	59	B	20	420	499
ervice Hours	ally from the hours entered for each outlet in	Section M							
B.28. Public Service Hours Per Ye	,	Section W.			R .				
D.20. Public Service Hours Per 16	2531				0 985,	303			

General Notes:

- Addresses and service outlets are prefilled and locked.
- Director contact information is prefilled but not locked
- B.28 Hours is auto-calculated using the hours input for branch in section M. Outlets

C. Library Staff

Personnel Counts								
Include all positions budgeted for as of the last fiscal day (June 30). This includes filled, vacant and temporary positions.	Include all positions budgeted for as of the last fiscal day (June 30). This includes filled, vacant and temporary positions.							
Count only positions requiring a master's degree from library and information sciences programs as librarians. DO NOT include degree in the librarian count. Non-librarian positions should be reported as All Other Staff.	individuals employed in positions that do not require a master's							
To compute full-time equivalents of employees in any category, take the number of hours worked per week by all employees in Example: Two employees working 38 hours per week would be considered 1.9 FTE. $(2 \times 38/40 = 1.9)$	hat category and divide it by 40.							
C.1. FTE Librarians with MLS accredited by ALA	839.23							
C.2. FTE Librarians with MLS not accredited by ALA	46.11							
C.3. Total Librarians	0.00 885.34							
C.4. FTE all other paid staff	2,424.18							
C.5. Total Paid Employees	0.00 3,309.52							
C.6. Volunteer hours	153,235 Unknown							
Salaries								
	.10. Assistant Director Salary C.11 Finance Officer Salary							
S89,346 S	2,515,365 Not applicable \$1,525,286							

Notes:

- Report all budgeted positions, even if the position is vacant
- FTE- full-time equivalent staff determined as 40hrs per week
 - Formula:
 - 2 staff members who work 35hrs
 - (2x35)/40= 1.75 FTE

Pop Quiz!

Example:

- 1 staff member works 10 hrs
- 2 staff members work 20hrs
- 1 staff member 2 works 40hrs

How many FTEs work at this library location?

Pop Quiz!

Correct Answer is 2.25 FTEs

Formula: (1x10) + (2x20) + (1x40) = 2.25 FTEs

Money (sections D-F)

General Notes:

- The actual income and expenditures should be reported, only include funds received and expended during the reporting period.
- Pay special attention when reporting income to ensure the correct year's data is input.
- LSTA, State Aid and other state grants are pre-filled
- Capital funds are short term or one-time allocations for major expenses i.e. renovations, buildings, ILS migration, etc.
 - If funds are allocated for a capital project and then reallocated to operational expenses, do not report them as capital.

G. Collections

Physical Collections

Fiction

Location		G.1. Cataloged Adult Fiction Books	G.2. Cataloged Young Adult Fiction Books	G.3. Cataloged Juvenile Fiction Books
MOBILE LIBRARY	Fiction	b	ILS cannot provide this data	b
MAY MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Fiction	b	ILS cannot provide this data	b
GRAHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY	Fiction	b	ILS cannot provide this data	b
MEBANE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Fiction	B	☐ ILS cannot provide this data	D D
NORTH PARK LIBRARY/COMMUNITY CENTER	Fiction	B-	☐ILS cannot provide this data	B

Non-Fiction

Location		G.4. Cataloged Adult Non-fiction Books	G.5. Cataloged Young Adult Non-fiction Books	G.6. Cataloged Juvenile Non-fiction Books
MOBILE LIBRARY	Non-Fiction	B-	□ILS cannot provide this data	B-
MAY MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Non-Fiction	D	☐ □ILS cannot provide this data	B-
GRAHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY	Non-Fiction	D	☐ □ILS cannot provide this data	D-
MEBANE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Non-Fiction	D	☐ □ILS cannot provide this data	B-
NORTH PARK LIBRARY/COMMUNITY CENTER	Non-Fiction	D	☐ □ILS cannot provide this data	B-

Total Cataloged

Location		G.7. Total Cataloged Adult Books	G.8. Total Cataloged Young Adult Books	G.9. Total Cataloged Juvenile Books	G.10. Total Book Volumes
MOBILE LIBRARY	Total	b	B	D	B
MAY MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Total	D	B	B	B
GRAHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY	Total	D	B	b	B
MEBANE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Total	D	B	D	B
NORTH PARK LIBRARY/COMMUNITY CENTER	Total	B	B	B	B-

Non-print analog materials

Location	G.11. Other Print Materials	G.12. Current Print Serial Subscriptions	G.13. Audio - Physical Units	G.14. Video - Physical Units	G.15. Other non-print analog materials
MOBILE LIBRARY	B-	b	h	I	b
MAY MEMORIAL LIBRARY	B	D	h	I	В
GRAHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY	I	D	I	I	Ib-
MEBANE PUBLIC LIBRARY	h	D	I	B-	B-
NORTH PARK LIBRARY/COMMUNITY CENTER	b	B-	I	b	I ►





G. Collections

Electronic Collections

General Notes:

- NCDL & eINC:
 - Consortial titles will be pre-filled
 - Add unshared advantage titles to collection counts
- For resources that use a patron driven purchasing model (i.e. Hoopla, RB Digital) as the primary subscription model, the collection count should match the usage count.
 - Assists with consistency and accuracy between electronic materials expenditures and collection counts
 - Accounts for budget limits

H. Circulation

Physical Circulation

H. CIRCULATION

For questions related to circulation count annual circulation of all library materials, including renewals. Count all materials in all formats that are charged out for use outside the library. Interlibrary loans checked out to users should be counted. Do not count intra-library loans (i.e. materials borrowed between branches) or items checked out to another library. Include NC CARDINAL ILLs.

Fiction

Location		H.1. Adult Fiction Book Circulation	H.2. Young Adult Fiction Book Circulation	H.3. Juvenile Fiction Book Circulation
MOBILE LIBRARY	Fiction	B-	☐ □ILS cannot provide this data	ib-
MAY MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Fiction	I	☐ □ILS cannot provide this data	B-
GRAHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY	Fiction	I	☐ □ILS cannot provide this data	B-
MEBANE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Fiction	I	☐ □ILS cannot provide this data	B-
NORTH PARK LIBRARY/COMMUNITY CENTER	Fiction	b	☐ ☐ILS cannot provide this data	I

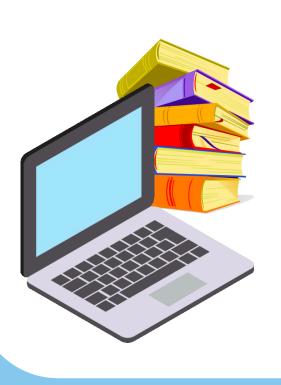
Non-Fiction

Location		H.4. Adult Non-fiction Book Circulation	H.5. Young Adult Non-fiction Book Circulation	H.6. Juvenile Non-fiction Book Circulation
MOBILE LIBRARY	Non-Fiction	b	☐ILS cannot provide this data	I
MAY MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Non-Fiction	B	☐ILS cannot provide this data	B
GRAHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY	Non-Fiction	B	☐ ILS cannot provide this data	B
MEBANE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Non-Fiction	I	☐ ILS cannot provide this data	b
NORTH PARK LIBRARY/COMMUNITY CENTER	Non-Fiction	№	☐ILS cannot provide this data	B

Total

Location		H.7. Total Adult Book Circulation	H.8. Total Young Adult Book Circulation	H.9. Total Juvenile Book Circulation
MOBILE LIBRARY	Total	B	B	B
MAY MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Total	B	B	B
GRAHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY	Total	B	B	B
MEBANE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Total	B	B	B
NORTH PARK LIBRARY/COMMUNITY CENTER	Total	b	B	b



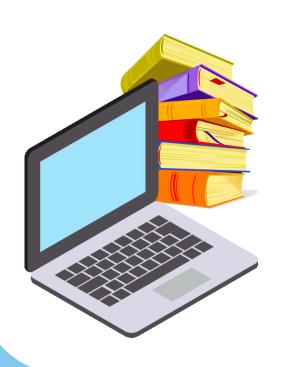


H. Circulation

Electronic Circulation

Consortial Circulation:

- Pre-filled NCDL & eINC usage includes ALL usage including unshared Advantage titles
- Usage of NC Live homegrown materials will appear in both NC Live and local Overdrive reports. I will subtract the duplication after the report closes.





I. Registered Users & Visits

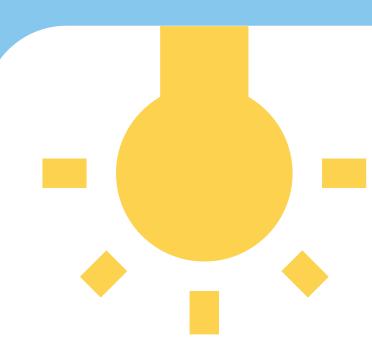
I. REGISTERED USERS & VISITS				
Registered Users				
A registered user is a library user who has applied for and received an identification number or card from the public library that has established conditions under which the user may borrow library materials or gain access to other library resources. If you cannot distinguish between adults and juveniles in your catalog, count all registered users in the Adults field and enter "N/A" in the Juveniles fields. Note: Reported data must be based off files from which inactive users have been purged within the past three (3) years.				
I.1. Adults	B	3,219,209		
I.2. Juveniles (non-student cards)	III-	1,875,640 ILS cannot provide this data		
Total Registered Users (non-student)	B	5,094,849		
I.3. Does your library offer student cards to one or more k-12 school in your area?				
1.4. Student Cards		1,484,864 ILS cannot provide this data		
Total registered users incl. student cards	B			
Registered User Certification	B	I certify that registered users have been limited to those with activity within the past three fiscal years		
Library Visits				
Location I.5. Library Visits		I.6. Method of data collection: visits	Visits per open h	our
State Library of North Carolina				
Total Visits				
Library Visits	21,2	88,197 Unavailable		

General Notes:

 Registered users have to be cardholders who have used their cards within the past three years.

What's changing:

• Juvenile: Do not include student program cards. Report student cards in 1.4.



J. Programming

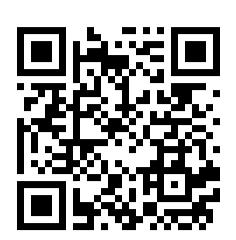
What is a program?

- Planned event
- Intended for group participation
- Sponsored or led by the library
- Program sessions may cover use of the library, library services, or library tours. Program sessions may also provide cultural, recreational, or educational information. Examples of these types of program sessions include, but are not limited to, film showings, lectures, story hours, literacy programs, citizenship classes, and book discussions.

What is NOT a program?

- A booth at a festival
- A library card sign-up table
- *Self-directed activities
- An event hosted and planned by another organization using a library meeting room
- One-on-one consultations
- Recorded presentations

Sample form: https://forms.gle/Xi FfD7CpuAL5M47R9





K. Other Service Metrics

a lateral designations (electrical designations)	29,362N/A						
K.2. Method of data collection	b •						
Meeting room use							
☐ K.3. Meeting Room Use	172_N/A						
☐ K.4. Meeting Room Attendance	1,860 Unable to track						
nterlibrary loans							
Library materials, or copies of the materials, provided by one library to another upon request. The libraries involved in interlibrary loans are not under the same library administration; do not count "branch to branch" loans as interlibrary loans. You should count NC CARDINAL transactions.							
K.5. Interlibrary Loans Provided To	170						
K.6. Interlibrary Loans Received From	552						
Partnerships							
Communicative: Library and partners communicate information about each other's programs, setting up displays, making presentations, etc.	Please designate which type of partnership you have with each of the following types of organizations. Communicative: Library and partners communicate information about each other's programs, services, and/or resources by distributing promotional materials, giving referrals, setting up displays, making presentations, etc. Cooperative: Library and partners provide mutual assistance in working toward a common goal by sponsoring activities, donating incentives, recruiting volunteers, etc.						
K.7. K-12 Schools	Communicative Cooperative Collaborative N/A						
K.8. Higher Education Organization(s)	Communicative Cooperative Collaborative N/A						
K.9. Local Employment Office	Communicative Cooperative Collaborative N/A						
K.10. Local Health & Human Services Department	Communicative Cooperative Collaborative N/A						
K.11. Local Parks & Recreation Department	Communicative Cooperative Collaborative N/A						
K.12. Other Local Government Department(s)	☐ ○ Communicative ○ Cooperative ○ Collaborative ○ N/A						
K.13. Economic Department Organization(s) (i.e. Chamber of Commerce)	☐ ○ Communicative ○ Cooperative ○ Collaborative ○ N/A						
K.14. Local Business(es)	☐ ○ Communicative ○ Cooperative ○ Collaborative ○ N/A						
K.15. Local Health Organization(s)	☐ Communicative Cooperative Collaborative N/A						
K.16. Local Faith Organization(s)	☐ ○ Communicative ○ Cooperative ○ Collaborative ○ N/A						
K.17. Local Agricultural or Environmental Organization(s)	☐ ○ Communicative ○ Cooperative ○ Collaborative ○ N/A						
K.18. Other local organization(s) focused on youth	Communicative Cooperative Collaborative N/A	☐ Communicative Cooperative Collaborative N/A					
K.19. Other local organization(s) focused on adults	☐ ○ Communicative ○ Cooperative ○ Collaborative ○ N/A						

L. Technology

L. ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY

Computers

Location	L.1. Internet terminals used by staff only	.2. Internet Computers Used by General Public
MOBILE LIBRARY		b
MAY MEMORIAL LIBRARY	[] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []	b
GRAHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY		b
MEBANE PUBLIC LIBRARY	[] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []	h
NORTH PARK LIBRARY/COMMUNITY CENTER	B- B	T

Users

Location	L.3. Uses of Public Internet Computers Per Year	L.4. Reporting Method for Number of Uses of Public Internet Computers Per Year
MOBILE LIBRARY	b	
MAY MEMORIAL LIBRARY	b	▶
GRAHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY	b	b •
MEBANE PUBLIC LIBRARY	b	b •
NORTH PARK LIBRARY/COMMUNITY CENTER	b	b •

Users



M. Outlets



Notes:

- Information in the outlet section is used for the North Carolina Public Library Directory
- More pre-filled data
- Bookmobiles need a square footage of -3
- M.32. Unexpected closures should be used for natural disasters, emergency repairs, etc.

Examples of Certifications &Check values

Check Values:

Key ratios that help identify outlier data. Examples:

- Circulation per cardholder
- Attendance per program
- Computer use per open hour

I.5. Library Visits	I.6. Method of data collection: visits	Visits per open hour
B-	⊪ ∨	(h-
B-	₽	13-
B-	⊩ ∨	Ib-
B-	⊩ ∨	Ib-
B-	⊩ ∨	15
	D	

Certifications:

Check boxes certifying data has been accurately report. For example:

- I certify that the income reported reflects funds received by the library during the time period of July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025.
- I certify that personnel have been reported using the full-time equivalency formula and includes all budgeted positions that are filled, vacant or temporary.

Tracking PLS Metrics

Sampling:

Aim for a quarterly sample, choosing a typical week*. Sum the total of the four weeks and multiple by 13 to get the 52 week total.

*A "typical week" is a time that is neither unusually busy nor unusually slow. Avoid holiday times, vacation periods for key staff, or days when unusual events are taking place in the community or in the library. Choose a week in which the library is open its regular hours.

Sampling is appropriate for:

- Reference Transactions
- Library Visits
- Computer usage

General Reminders

-1 or 0:-1 denotes that data exists but is unknown; 0 means the service wasn't offered or there were no users

June 30: All point in time data should be as of June 30. Examples include collection counts, personnel counts, cardholders.

Leave annotations: If anything unusual happened (i.e. receiving a large donation, having multiple staff on leave, natural disaster) leave notes about the impact. If an edit is flagged do not write "Correct".

Ask Questions and be curious!

Announcements

PLA Benchmark

- Includes PLS, NCES, PLA and community data
- Must commit to participating in 2025 PLA Topical Survey
- Access expected to be available in late summer/early fall 2025



Analyze trends in expenditures, staffing, collections, services, and other data.



Illustrate ongoing activities and usage in a compelling fashion for different audiences.



Generate key metrics for strategic planning, budget justifications, annual reports, fundraising, and more.

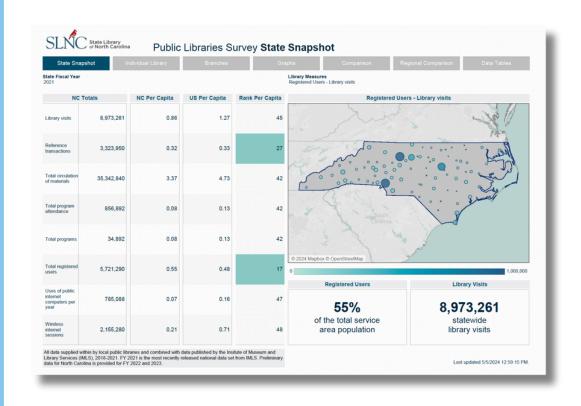


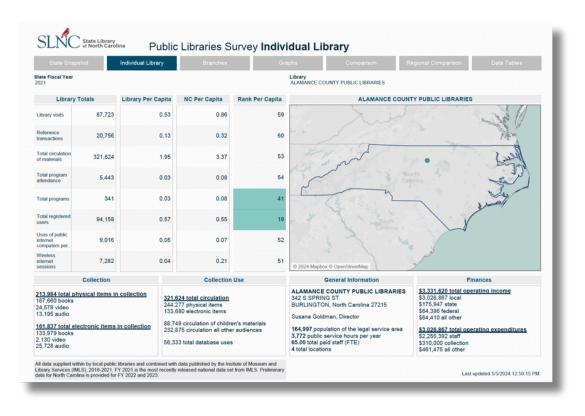
Contribute your library's data to national surveys to further research and advocacy.

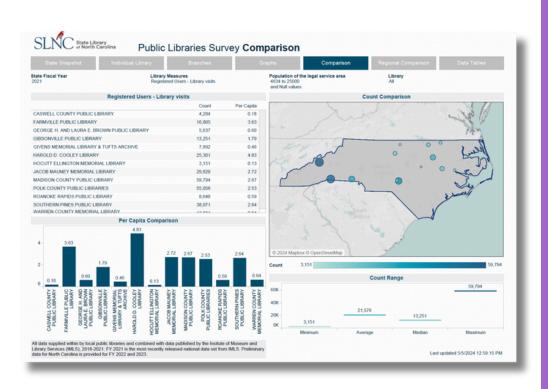
Announcements

Dashboards

Coming fall 2025









QUESTIONS

Contact me:

amanda.johnson@dncr.nc.gov

Book a virtual meeting:

