

THE ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

THE OPLA CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES Benchmarks and Statistical Report 2009



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The OPLA Child and Youth Services Committee



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Executive Summary

Significant conclusions from the data supplied by reporting libraries include the following:

- There is a clear correlation between libraries with strategic planning documents specific to children and those without. These documents appear to impact collections, policies, and staffing.
- Response rates in 2009 (172 of 321) were up 8% to 54%.
- This survey reveals that staff of libraries of all sizes are more likely to have a membership with the Ontario Library Association (OLA) than any other professional organization.
- 77% of staff of libraries have a policy on unattended children, up from 46% in 2003.
- The 2009 survey indicates more money is being spent on children's collections than in 2003.
- The 2009 survey indicates collections for children have become larger.
- The 2009 survey indicates significant gains have been made in children's access to technology and electronic resources.

Introduction

In 1997 and again in 2003, the OPLA Child and Youth Services Committee completed a survey of public libraries in Ontario to assess the level of service to children. The survey was designed to provide public libraries with the comparative tools needed to assess and improve their own services.

The presentation and structure of the 2009 survey was significantly revised from the previous surveys. For the first time, the survey was offered in an electronic format, allowing participating libraries access to survey results. Please see the Special Notes section on Page 7 for full access and participation details.

The 2009 survey was altered to include fewer questions and less detail about specifics such as collections, educational attainment of staff and programming. As our priority in 2009 was to generate a baseline of data on children's services in Ontario, the committee chose to focus on the basics with the understanding that other elements could be better explored in future surveys.

For example in the previous surveys there were detailed questions about non-print material collections for children which we have chosen to exclude. With technology changing so quickly and the introduction of new AV formats and materials as well as web 2.0 applications, the committee felt that the data retrieved could not be compared or relevant. (Number of libraries offering music on

cassette in 2001 does not compare as many libraries no longer collect them. Playaways may be the latest AV item today but in a few years could be replaced with something else.)

The format of presentation of the survey data also looks a little different than the previous survey due to the reduction in the number of questions and the range of questions. We have chosen to highlight data that can compare and make general observations about the current data.

The 2009 survey (see Appendix A) was designed to elicit comparable responses in order to establish trends and assess current levels of service. Please note in cases where data was insufficient to give a useful or valid result, these questions and result tables have been eliminated.

The 2009 survey was distributed to 321 public libraries in Ontario. 172 libraries responded. This 54% response rate is an 8% increase from the response rate for the 2003 survey.

An additional and significant change to the 2009 survey is the exclusion of the collection of data related to youth services. A separate survey is being developed to gather detailed information on library services for young adults and will be published in the near future.

The resulting empirical and analytical data included in this 2009 Children's Services Survey will provide libraries with valuable tools to assess their services to children. It is important to note that changes in the political arena,

Photos: Rheal Doucette



technology, and child development research limit the comparative value of these results. Correlations and trends are also limited in their validity based on significant changes in library content and organizational structure since 2003.

In addition, some libraries were unable to provide data to complete some core questions. Where data was sufficient to be considered it has been included; however, these partially completed questionnaires account for the statistical inconsistencies you may note as you review the results.

This survey will provide a useful tool for comparing your library's services to children to that of other library systems. The empirical data can also be used to support budget requests and plan new initiatives. The overall picture this survey provides will give individuals, libraries, and the OPLA Child and Youth Services Committee the tools to advocate for improved services, more research, and detailed trend analysis. The OPLA Child and Youth Services Committee welcomes your feedback on the results, collection methods and analysis. Your comments

and questions will provide the Committee with direction for future.

Respondents

172 public libraries completed, or partially completed surveys. Of those:

- 55% of respondents represented libraries serving a population under 15,000
- 19% of respondents represented libraries serving a population between 15,001 and 50,000
- 12% of respondents represented libraries serving a population between 50,001 and 100,000
- 15% of respondents represented libraries serving a population over 100,000

The number of respondents (sample size) of the 2009 survey was 172 libraries (54% of 321 libraries), up 8% from 2003. Note that it was an increase of only two respondents, however, fewer libraries participated (321 in 2009 vs. 369 in 2003).

Special Notes

- The total population served by respondents of the 2009 survey was 8,713,188
- The total population of children identified was 1,296,692.
- The percentage of Ontario population was 76% (8.7M out of 11.4M).
- It is important to note that the 2009 survey was administered electronically for the first time. Libraries that participated in the 2009 survey have full access to the online survey results, using the same username and password assigned to your library. The results can be found at:
<http://opla.countingopinions.com>.

Once you log-in, you will have full access to the data collected. This information can be used to compare your data to other libraries in order to assess and benchmark children's services in your own system. You can also create your own templates and examine the data in a way that best suits your needs. The survey is a powerful tool that will allow you to access data collected from public libraries across Ontario. This information can be used for advocacy and strategic planning.

Special Considerations

A number of issues and trends in Ontario public libraries should be considered when reviewing this data:

THE IMPACT OF FULL DAY LEARNING PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS

With the full implementation of full day learning programs in schools across Ontario, public libraries will see a shift in their traditional storytime crowd. Many public libraries will find ways to serve this group by providing outreach into kindergarten classes, host kindergarten visits to public libraries, and become active partners in the Child and Family Centres attached to the full day learning programs. Public libraries will see a shift to providing more in-house programs for babies and toddlers and literacy workshops for parents of young children. Many public libraries will be able to also provide direct resources for the staff in the new kindergarten classes from block loans of library materials to professional training on early literacy.

INCREASE IN INDIVIDUALS NEW TO CANADA – SOME LIBRARIES ARE WORKING WITH SETTLEMENT AGENCIES (ESL)

Many public libraries in Ontario work directly with newcomer and settlement agencies in their communities to provide service directly and indirectly for new Canadians. With many communities becoming more diverse, public libraries have embraced the needs of newcomers

with programs, materials and services planned to meet the needs of new and recent immigrants to their communities. Programs such as the federally funded Library Settlement Program have allowed libraries to directly host Settlement workers, provide special programs aimed at newcomers and work in partnership with agencies and associations throughout the community.

EVERY CHILD READY TO READ – LIBRARIES ARE MORE PROACTIVE ABOUT PROMOTING EARLY LITERACY

Many public libraries have implemented the Every Child Ready to Read program originally developed by the American Library Association. This program, based on early literacy research, has given

public libraries the tools they need to become active promoters of early literacy. Through parent workshops, preschool programs and specially designed family spaces, library staff take an active role in teaching parents and caregivers what they can do to make sure their children arrive at school ready to read. The program promotes six early literacy skills – phonological awareness, print motivation, narrative skills, print awareness, vocabulary and letter knowledge. The focus of this program is to make the library a community leader in early literacy.

IMPACT OF FEWER TEACHER-LIBRARIANS IN THE SCHOOLS HAS LED TO MORE PARTNERSHIPS WITH PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Fewer teacher-librarians have resulted in fewer school library hours available to students. This puts more pressure on public libraries to assist students with resources and help develop their library skills.

THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT (EDI)

The Early Development Instrument is a population-based early child development assessment tool developed by Dr. Dan Offord and Dr. Magdalena Janus. It is used to measure the state of children’s development in Kindergarten. The EDI is a checklist that Kindergarten teachers complete for each child in their class. It is a holistic measure of children’s development across five areas:

Photo: Rheal Doucette



1. physical health and well-being
2. social competence
3. emotional maturity
4. language and cognitive development
5. communication skills

Teachers complete the EDI in February, after they have had several months of interaction with their Kindergarten classes. Kindergarten teachers complete the EDI on individual children; however, the results are not used at the individual level. The results are grouped by neighbourhood, school district, health area, and provincial levels to understand patterns in vulnerability at the population level. This tool may be used to identify the communities that would benefit from enhanced library services to bolster literacy skills.

Teen Services

As services for youth are emerging in public library services, there is a great range of service levels and priorities for teens developing across Ontario as libraries begin to embrace this group as important members of their communities. Although the OPLA Child and Youth Services Committee has chosen to focus the 2009 survey on children's services, we are planning our next survey to specifically target teen services, tracking its development in public libraries and identifying services, collections, staffing, budgets,

programming and service trends specific to this user group.

Teens are still on our agenda! The OPLA Child and Youth Services Committee has spent considerable time developing the Teen Rights in the Library statement, which was adopted by the OLA at the Annual General Meeting. With this document, the OPLA Child and Youth Services Committee encourages all public libraries to undertake a Teen Rights inventory, reviewing the Rights, evaluating where their library is in the evolution of teen services, and identifying areas to improve or initiate. The 10 rights outlined in the document can be used as a kind of roadmap to further develop or enhance existing library services to youth, or to kick-start youth initiatives in libraries where the needs of teens have not been addressed.

A copy of the Teen Rights in the Library document can be accessed from OLA's website: www.accessola.com.

How to Use this Survey

Appendix A has a copy of the 2009 survey for consultation. The survey results are in consecutive order based on the order of the questions that were asked. Where insufficient valid data was collected, questions have been eliminated. The report headings reflect the questions asked, often in abbreviated format.

Analysis of the survey

POPULATION SERVED

Population Bracket	Total Population Served	% Population are Children	% sites can identify children's population	Total Population of Children
100K +	5,938,541	13.67%	91.67%	811,757
50K - 100K	1,411,415	18.83%	80.00%	265,787
15K - 50K	850,865	15.10%	90.32%	128,449
5K - 15K	413,420	18.05%	86.05%	74,604
5K	98,947	16.27%	80.39%	16,095
Average	2,500,301	15.81%	83.72%	395,370

CHILDREN'S POPULATION AS A PERCENT OF THE TOTAL POPULATION

Population Bracket	% Population are Children
100K +	13.67%
50K - 100K	18.83%
15K - 50K	15.10%
5K - 15K	18.05%
5K	16.27%
Average	15.81%

- It should be noted that libraries with larger populations in general serve a lower percentage of children compared to libraries with smaller populations.
- Response rates in 2009 (172 of 321 libraries) were up 8% to 54% over 2003 (170 of 369).

BUDGET

Population Bracket	Total Materials Budget	Budget for Children's Materials	% of Budget for Children's Materials
100K +	\$29,561,076.00	\$5,902,240.00	20.54%
50K - 100K	5,685,820.00	1,148,092.00	22.15%
15K - 50K	3,425,614.00	876,058.00	25.93%
5K - 15K	1,357,783.00	387,969.00	26.78%
5K	414,892.00	75,167.00	28.46%
All	\$40,445,185.00	8,427,195.00	26.61%

PERCENT OF BUDGET FOR CHILDREN'S MATERIALS

Population Bracket	% of Budget for Children's Materials
100K +	20.54%
50K - 100K	22.15%
15K - 50K	25.93%
5K - 15K	26.78%
5K	28.46%
All	26.61%

- Small libraries dedicate nearly 40% more of their budget to children's materials than large libraries.
- On average libraries are spending 26.61% on children's material as a percentage of the overall budget.
- The 2009 survey indicates more money is being spent on children's collections than in 2003. In 2003 44% of libraries had a children's materials budget compared with 87% in 2009.
- 87% of libraries have a separate children's material budget.

HOLDINGS

Population Bracket	Total Print Holdings	Total Children's Print Holdings	% of Total Print Holdings are Children's Print Holdings	Total Non-Print Holdings	Total Children's Non-Print Holdings	% of Total Non-Print Holdings are Children's Non-Print Holdings
100K +	12,769,906	4,051,678	31.73%	1,746,767	369,610	21.16%
50K - 100K	3,103,705	874,483	28.18%	641,318	149,079	23.25%
15K - 50K	2,660,729	786,279	29.55%	454,694	43,448	9.56%
5K - 15K	1,354,202	455,178	33.61%	174,902	31,916	18.25%
5K	722,909	172,290	23.83%	51,655	5,192	10.05%
All	20,611,451	6,339,908	30.76%	3,069,336	599,245	19.52%

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

Population Bracket	% of Total Print Holdings are Children's Print Holdings
100K +	31.73%
50K - 100K	28.18%
15K - 50K	29.55%
5K - 15K	33.61%
5K	23.83%
All	30.76%

- Regardless of the size of library, the percentage of holdings remains steady (around 30%).
- The 2009 survey indicates collections for children have become larger.
- 19.52% are Non-Print Holdings. It should be noted that non-print material continues to evolve, including ebooks, playaways and electronic resources.

CIRCULATION

Population Bracket	Total Circulation	Total Circulation of Children's Materials	% of Total Circulation are Children's Materials
100K +	55,753,948	18,653,593	33.46%
50K - 100K	9,296,745	2,367,745	25.47%
15K - 50K	5,868,677	1,492,748	25.44%
5K - 15K	2,636,064	683,765	25.95%
5K	583,928	111,009	19.01%
All	74,138,362	23,308,860	31.44%

- On average, the circulation of children's materials makes up 31% of the total library circulation. In small rural libraries the circulation of children's materials is only 19%.
- Circulation numbers vs. budget (31.44% vs. 26.61%). Libraries tend to circulate more than they spend, and get more value for their dollars when it comes to children's materials.

Photo: Rheal Doucette



INTERNET ACCESS

Population Bracket	CD-ROM Workstations?	Microcomputer Centres?	Internet Access?
100K +	70.83%	78.26%	96.83%
50K - 100K	63.16%	73.68%	100.00%
15K - 50K	53.33%	63.33%	93.55%
5K - 15K	73.81%	63.41%	92.68%
5K	74.00%	45.66%	90.00%
All	68.48%	61.64%	93.33%

RESTRICTIONS

Population Bracket	Do you have restrictions on how children use library resources?	Do you have restrictions on children's useage of internet workstations?	Has your library adopted the "Children's Rights in the Public Library" document?
100K +	37.50%	54.17%	54.17%
50K - 100K	35.00%	50.00%	70.00%
15K - 50K	46.88%	59.38%	58.06%
5K - 15K	29.27%	64.29%	50.00%
5K	56.86%	82.69%	22.45%
All	42.86%	65.88%	46.34%

RESTRICTIONS ON CHILDREN'S LIBRARY RESOURCES

Population Bracket	Do you have restrictions on how children use library resources?
100K +	37.50%
50K - 100K	35.00%
15K - 50K	46.88%
5K - 15K	29.27%
5K	56.86%
All	42.86%

- In general, larger libraries place fewer restrictions on children's use of library materials. Smaller libraries place the most restrictions on children's use of library materials.

RESTRICTIONS ON INTERNET USAGE

Population Bracket	Do you have restrictions on children's usage of internet workstations?
100K +	54.17%
50K - 100K	50.00%
15K - 50K	59.38%
5K - 15K	64.29%
5K	82.69%
All	65.88%

- A similar trend to the use of library resources can be seen in children's usage of internet workstations. Smaller rural libraries place greater restrictions on how children use library resources and internet workstations.
- The 2009 survey indicates significant gains have been made in children's access to technology and electronic resources. This may also be a general trend for libraries.
- The data indicates that 82% of libraries put restrictions on use, but it is unknown to what extent. This could include the number of computers available for use, filter vs. non-filtered, and hours of use.

Photo: Rheal Doucette



USE OF CHILDREN’S FLOORSPACE

Population Bracket	Number of locations providing physical space specific to children	Do you have a separate area for the children’s collection?	If Yes, the total floorspace dedicated to children’s collection (square footage)	Do you have a designated area specifically for children’s programming?	If Yes, the total floorspace dedicated to children’s programming (square footage)
100K +	249	100.00%	294,299	87.50%	55,685
50K - 100K	104	95.00%	88,921	85.00%	13,883
15K - 50K	78	100.00%	81,716	53.13%	20,220
5K - 15K	86	90.48%	33,281	55.00%	11,922
5K	56	86.54%	9,212	33.33%	2,713
All	573	92.94%	407,429	56.29%	104,423

- The 2009 survey indicates 92% of responding public libraries have a separate children’s area in the library.
- More than half of the libraries surveyed (56.29%) have a designated area for children’s programming.
- There appears to be a trend in libraries to designate specific areas as ‘Multi-use Space.’ These areas are used for a variety of functions such as meetings, adult programming and children’s programming.

Photo: Rheal Doucette



CHILDREN'S STAFFING

Population Bracket	Do you have a person in charge of children's services?	If yes, then what percentage of their time is spent on children's services?	Do you have people who plan and present children's programs who are not regular staff members?
100K +	100.00%	91.67%	48.00%
50K - 100K	95.00%	83.33%	40.00%
15K - 50K	90.63%	84.83%	50.00%
5K - 15K	61.90%	62.31%	40.48%
5K	36.54%	45.88%	38.00%
All	69.01%	75.09%	42.60%

Population Bracket	Do you have a person in charge of children's services?	Population Bracket	If yes, then what percentage of their time is spent on children's services?
100K +	100.00%	100K +	91.67%
50K - 100K	95.00%	50K - 100K	83.33%
15K - 50K	90.63%	15K - 50K	84.83%
5K - 15K	61.90%	5K - 15K	62.31%
5K	36.54%	5K	45.88%
All	69.01%	All	75.09%

- Not surprisingly, the 2009 survey shows that the larger the library the higher the percentage of dedicated children's service staff.

- In a large library a person in charge of children's service spends more than twice their time, as a percentage, on children's service than a small library.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Population Bracket	Ontario Library Association?	Canadian Library Association?	American Library Association?	Canadian Children's Book Centre?	Other? (please describe in a Note)
100K +	95.83%	95.83%	37.50%	50.00%	52.94%
50K - 100K	95.00%	78.95%	35.29%	50.00%	42.86%
15K - 50K	96.88%	43.75%	9.38%	34.38%	21.88%
5K - 15K	90.00%	23.08%	3.85%	22.22%	36.00%
5K	76.19%	2.86%	5.71%	2.86%	48.39%
All	89.81%	44.03%	16.03%	29.10%	43.40%

Population Bracket	Does your library provide professional development opportunities for children's staff?
100K +	100.00%
50K - 100K	100.00%
15K - 50K	93.75%
5K - 15K	72.97%
5K	36.96%
All	74.36%

- One of the sharpest differences can be seen in the professional development made available to personnel who work with children in small libraries compared to large facilities. The step between under 5000 and 5000 to 15,000 is the most exaggerated.
- This survey reveals that the staff of libraries of all sizes are more likely to belong to the Ontario Library Association (OLA) than any other organization.

PROGRAMMING BY AGE GROUP

Population Bracket	Does your library offer programs for children ages 5 and under?	Does your library offer programs for children ages 6 and over?
100K +	100.00%	100.00%
50K - 100K	100.00%	100.00%
15K - 50K	100.00%	100.00%
5K - 15K	92.68%	97.56%
5K	76.47%	88.24%
All	91.12%	95.86%

- 91.12% of libraries offer programs for children aged five and under. 95.86% offer library programs for children aged six and over.

Photo: Rheal Doucette



PROGRAMMING CHARGES

Population Bracket	Does your library charge for children's programs?	Do you have a programming budget for children's services?	If so, how much?	Do you have alternate sources for funding for children's programming?
100K +	28.00%	96.00%	\$361,135	64.00%
50K - 100K	25.00%	75.00%	\$69,023	70.00%
15K - 50K	48.88%	75.00%	\$93,190	59.38%
5K - 15K	30.95%	73.81%	\$43,825	65.00%
5K	18.37%	40.00%	\$14,500	36.96%
All	29.17%	67.86%	\$581,673	56.44%

- It is interesting to note the average here. Clearly mid-size libraries charge most often for children's programming, which skews the overall average to 30%.
- This type of information is new to the 2009 survey, therefore no comparison is possible.

Photo: Rheal Doucette



CHILDREN'S POLICIES

Population Bracket	Do you have policy statements that refer to children on Materials Selection?	Do you have policy statements that refer to children on Programming?	Do you have policy statements that refer to children on Censorship/Intellectual Freedom?	Do you have policy statements that refer to children on the Internet?	Do you have policy statements that refer to children on unattended children in the library?	Do you have policy statements that refer to children on Rules of Conduct?
100K +	96.00%	72.00%	83.33%	100.00%	96.00%	91.67%
50K - 100K	90.00%	55.00%	85.00%	95.00%	94.74%	84.21%
15K - 50K	78.13%	68.75%	75.00%	93.75%	87.50%	84.38%
5K - 15K	73.17%	53.66%	70.73%	86.71%	61.90%	65.85%
5K	50.00%	41.67%	40.43%	84.00%	68.75%	64.58%
All	72.89%	56.36%	66.46%	89.94%	77.71%	75.00%

RESULTS OF 2003 SURVEY (FOR COMPARISON):

- 67.6% of reporting libraries had materials selection policy for children. In 1997, 75% of reporting libraries indicated that they had a materials selection policy for children.
- 35.8% of libraries had a written policy on programming which is an increase over 1997 figures.
- In 1997, 68% of libraries indicated that they had a written censorship policy.
- 57.6% had a written censorship/intellectual freedom policy.
- 80% of reporting libraries had an Internet policy for children.
- 45.8% of libraries had a policy regarding unattended children.
- 60% of reporting libraries had rules of conduct for children.

COMPARISONS BETWEEN 2003 & 2009:

- In 2003, 67.6% of reporting libraries had a materials selection policy; in 2009 this figure has increased to 72.89%.
- In 2003, 57.6% of libraries surveyed had written policies on censorship/intellectual freedom; in 2009 this increases to 66.46%.
- In 2003, 35.8% of libraries had a written policy on programming; in 2009 this increases to 56.36%.
- Since 2003, the number of libraries having policy statements is up across the board.

CHILDREN'S STRATEGIC PLANNING

Population Bracket	Does your library have strategic planning documents specific to children?
100K +	52.00%
50K - 100K	20.00%
15K - 50K	37.50%
5K - 15K	19.05%
5K	18.75%
All	27.54%

- Perhaps the most significant finding is this new data collected in 2009. In a strategically driven organization there is a correlation between staffing levels, materials and budget.

Photo: Rheal Doucette



COOPERATING AGENCIES

Agencies that libraries co-operate/partner/communicate with

Population Bracket	Schools	Health Units	Colleges	Social Service agencies	Preschools/ Daycare facilities	Home schooling groups
100K +	100.00%	88.00%	88.00%	96.00%	100.00%	70.83%
50K - 100K	100.00%	68.42%	78.95%	68.42%	90.00%	57.89%
15K - 50K	100.00%	81.25%	83.87%	80.65%	93.75%	70.97%
5K - 15K	95.24%	80.49%	77.78%	69.23%	90.24%	61.54%
5K	97.96%	58.70%	74.42%	48.84%	64.44%	35.71%
All	98.21%	74.23%	81.46%	70.51%	85.28%	57.42%

Population Bracket	Ontario Early Years Centres?	Average % of Population is Children
100K +	88.00%	16.38%
50K - 100K	95.00%	22.36%
15K - 50K	96.88%	17.39%
5K - 15K	82.50%	20.36%
5K	77.78%	25.90%
All	86.42%	17.67%

- After schools, libraries serving populations fewer than 100,000 are more likely to partner with Ontario Early Years Centres, preschools, daycares and colleges. Libraries serving populations greater than 100,000 partner more often with preschools, daycares, social service agencies and health units.

Appendix A

COUNTING OPINIONS

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

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

Counting Opinions (SQUIRE) Ltd., (CO) provides evidence-based management services for libraries and related organizations in support of Continuous Improvement and Advocacy. CO’s LibSat, LibPAS and InformsUs services are web-based enabling ease of capturing, management and reporting/re-purposing of qualitative and quantitative results.

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

OPLA SURVEY FOR 2009

Children’s Services in Ontario
For this survey, children include all those older than 5 and younger than 12.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Library System Name _____
 Primary Survey Contact _____
 Contact Email _____
 Total Population Served _____
 Total Population of Children _____

BUDGET

Total materials budget \$ _____
 Budget for children’s materials \$ _____

COLLECTIONS

TOTAL LIBRARY HOLDINGS
 Total Print Holdings _____
 Total Non-Print Holdings _____

TOTAL CHILDREN’S HOLDINGS
 Total Children’s Print Holdings _____
 Total Children’s Non-Print Holdings _____

CIRCULATION
 Total Circulation _____
 Total Circulation of Children’s Materials _____

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN

Please indicate the electronic resources that are provided to children.

CD-ROM Workstations? Yes No
 Microcomputer Centers? Yes No
 Internet Access? Yes No

CHILDREN'S USAGE

For the following “restrictions” questions, please describe any restrictions using the Notes icon link on the associated items.

Do you have restrictions on how children use library resources? Yes No
 Do you have restrictions on children's usage of internet workstations? Yes No
 Has your Library adopted the “Children’s Rights in the Public Library” document? Yes No

PHYSICAL FACILITIES

Number of locations providing physical space specific to children.

Do you have a separate area for the children’s collection? Yes No
 If Yes, the total floorspace dedicated to children’s collection Sq. Ft. _____
 Do you have a designated area specifically for children’s programming? Yes No
 If Yes, the total floorspace dedicated to children’s programming Sq. Ft. _____

STAFFING

Do you have a person in charge of children’s services? Yes No

If yes, then what percentage of their time is spent on children’s services? 0-20% 21-40%
 41-60% 61-80%
 81-100%

Do you have people who plan and present children’s programs who are not regular staff members? Yes No

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Does your library provide professional development opportunities for children’s staff? Yes No

MEMBERSHIPS

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

Ontario Library Association? Yes No

Canadian Library Association? Yes No

American Library Association? Yes No

Canadian Children’s Book Centre? Yes No

Other? (please describe) Yes No

LIBRARY SERVICES

Does your library ...

Does your library offer programs for children ages 5 and under? Yes No

Does your library offer programs for children ages 6 and over? Yes No

LIBRARY SERVICE CHARGES/FUNDING

Please describe in the associated Notes, details of charges and sources of funding.

Does your library charge for children’s programs? Yes No

Do you have a programming budget for children’s services? Yes No

If so, how much? \$ _____

Do you have alternate sources for funding for children’s programming? Yes No

MANAGEMENT

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

Materials Selection? Yes No

Programming? Yes No

Censorship/Intellectual Freedom? Yes No

Internet? Yes No

Unattended children in the library? Yes No

Rules of Conduct? Yes No

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Does your library have strategic planning documents specific to children? Yes No

PARTNERSHIPS

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

Schools? Yes No

Health Unit? Yes No

Colleges? Yes No

Social Service agencies? Yes No

Preschools/Daycare facilities? Yes No

Home schooling groups? Yes No

Ontario Early Years Centres? Yes No

The OPLA Child and Youth Services Committee

Following is the purpose and principal functions of the OPLA Child and Youth Services Committee.

PURPOSE

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

PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS

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

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

OLA Position on Children's Rights in the Public Library

Children in Public Libraries have the right to:

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



Photos: Rheal Doucette



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∴ ontario public library association

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