



Statistical Bulletin

Participation in Core Library Activities in Northern Ireland 2012/13

Annual Report

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Note to users:

1. All participant numbers refer to instances of participation rather than individual people.

Findings

From 1st April 2012 – 31st March 2013:

- A total of 221,109 participants (53,301 adults and 167,808 children) engaged in 12,993 core activity sessions run by Libraries NI.
- 86,880 children took part in the school class visits programme (3,583 sessions) and of these:
 - 7,418 were pupils from nursery schools or primary schools with an associated nursery unit (252 sessions);
 - 78,520 were pupils from primary or special needs schools (3,247 sessions);
 - Of these, 35,966 participated in a set of structured activities aimed at pupils in Year 4 & Year 6 to support Key Stage 1 & 2 of the NI curriculum with regard to language and literacy skills (1,480 sessions);
 - The remaining 42,554 visited the library to exchange books and/or listen to stories, take part in crafts etc. (1,767 sessions);
 - 942 were pupils from post primary schools (84 sessions).
- 2,407 adults participated in 2,312 Got IT? sessions and of these:
 - 2,243 adults took part on a one-to-one basis while 164 adults participated in 69 small group sessions.
- 11,544 participants engaged in 1,512 reading group sessions and of these:
 - 7,876 adults took part in 927 reading group sessions;
 - 3,668 children took part in 585 sessions and of these:
 - 1,041 children took part in reading groups aimed at 7-9 year olds (148 sessions), 1,847 in groups for 9-11 year olds (321 sessions) and 780 in groups for those aged 12+ years (116 sessions).
- 100,156 participants (43,018 adults and 57,138 children) engaged in a total of 3,608 Rhythm and Rhyme sessions for pre-school age children (0-4 years) and of these:
 - 89,434 participants (40,347 adults and 49,087 children) took part in 3,070 sessions open to the public;
 - 10,722 participants (2,671 adults and 8,051 children) took part in 538 dedicated sessions, held exclusively for day nurseries, playgroups and parent and toddler groups etc.
 - 97,227 participants (42,449 adults and 54,778 children) attended 3,452 sessions that were held in the library;
 - 2,929 participants (569 adults and 2,360 children) attended 156 sessions that took place at another location.
- 20,122 children engaged in a total of 1,978 Storytime sessions for 4-8 year olds and of these:
 - 18,121 children took part in 1,864 sessions open to the public;
 - 2,001 children took part in 114 dedicated sessions, held exclusively for external organisations attended by children of an equivalent age range such as Rainbows/Cygnets/Brigíní (Girl Guides), Beavers (Boy Scouts), Explorers (Girls' Brigade), Anchor Boys (Boys' Brigade) or after school day care facilities etc.
 - 19,466 children attended 1,957 sessions that were held in the library;
 - 656 children attended 21 sessions that took place at another location.

Background

The Northern Ireland Library Authority (Libraries NI) was established in April 2009 as a result of the Review of Public Administration. Libraries NI has the statutory responsibility for the provision of public library services in Northern Ireland and its functions are laid down in the Libraries Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. It is a Non Departmental Public Body which reports to the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure.

Libraries NI provides a number of core activities in its 96 branch libraries as part of its programmes to promote reading, learning and access to culture, heritage and information. Core activities are defined as Class Visits, Got IT?, Reading Groups, Rhythm and Rhyme and Storytime.

Definitions

Class Visits

The Class Visits programme is open to all Northern Ireland nursery, primary, post primary and special needs schools and aims to give pupils an insight into the range of services available at their local library, and to encourage them to become members. Classes can come to the library for book exchange, storytelling, craft sessions, to use computers etc.

Within the Class Visits programme, there is a set of activities specifically aimed at primary school age children in Years 4 and 6 and supports Key Stage 1 and 2 language and literacy skills as detailed in the NI Curriculum. This element of the programme offers a series of 3 one hour visits for pupils in these year groups which include a general introduction and tour of the library, activities to help explain the layout of library stock and instruction on the various uses of computers in the library. One-off visits are also available which give pupils a general overview of library services and resources. At the end of each visit, the pupils will listen to a story and there will be an opportunity for them to browse and exchange books.

Got IT?

Got IT? is a free programme to support people with little or no knowledge of computers and help them develop IT basic skills. The programme is aimed at adults and delivered by Libraries NI staff on a one-to-one or small group basis, with sessions covering the following topics:

- Introduction to computers;
- Introduction to the Internet;
- Introduction to email.

Reading Groups

Reading groups cater for both children and adults and encourage people to read for pleasure, read adventurously, share their enthusiasm about books and develop the confidence to formulate and express opinions about reading.

Libraries NI staff host reading groups for adults and children/teenagers, including those aimed at specific groups in society (e.g. visually impaired, deaf etc.). Reading groups hosted by external organisations that meet in the library premises and use library resources are also facilitated.

Rhythm and Rhyme

Rhythm and Rhyme is a free programme of stories, rhymes and songs delivered on a regular or seasonal basis by Libraries NI staff (or held in partnership with SureStart¹) for parents, carers and pre-school children (aged 0-4 years). The aim of the programme is to improve children's language and communication skills before they enter formal education.

In addition to sessions that are open to the public, the programme is also available to young children attending day nurseries, playgroups, parent and toddler groups etc. These dedicated sessions are mostly held on the library premises but some are also delivered by Libraries NI staff at external locations (e.g. on playgroup premises, at community centres etc.). On occasions, public sessions are also delivered at external locations as part of community festivals etc.

Storytime

Storytime is a free programme of stories, rhymes and poems delivered on a regular or seasonal basis by Libraries NI staff for children aged 4-8 years.

In addition to sessions that are open to the public, the programme is also available to external organisations attended by children of an equivalent age range (e.g. Rainbows/Cygnets/Brigíní (Girl Guides), Beavers (Boy Scouts), Explorers (Girls' Brigade), Anchor Boys (Boys' Brigade) or after school day care facilities etc.). Such dedicated sessions are mostly held on the library premises but some are also delivered by Libraries NI staff at other locations (e.g. at community centres, church/parish halls etc. or to groups of children who are unable to come to the library, e.g. those in hospice care). On occasions, public sessions are also delivered at external locations as part of community festivals etc.

Libraries NI Activity Database

This bulletin presents information on participation in the aforementioned core library activities during 2012/13, collected via the Libraries NI Activity Database which was established in April 2012.

¹ SureStart is a government led initiative aimed at giving every child the best possible start in life and which offers a broad range of services including Early Years Care and Education to children aged 4 years and under.

Participation: 2012/13

Table 1: Core Activities

Core Activity	No. Sessions	No. Adults	No. Children	Total No. Participants
Class Visits	3,583	-	86,880	86,880
Got IT?	2,312	2,407	-	2,407
Reading Groups	1,512	7,876	3,668	11,544
Rhythm and Rhyme	3,608	43,018	57,138	100,156
Storytime	1,978	-	20,122	20,122
All Core Activities	12,993	53,301	167,808	221,109

Table 2: Class Visit Type

Class Visit Type	No. Sessions	No. Children
Nursery school/unit	252	7,418
Primary & Special Needs	<i>Structured activities for Year 4 & Year 6 (to support Key Stage 1 & 2 language and literacy skills)</i>	1,480
	<i>Other – stories, book exchange, crafts etc.</i>	1,767
	Total	3,247
Post Primary	84	942
All Class Visit Types	3,583	86,880

Table 3: Got IT?² Type

Got IT? Type	No. Sessions	No. Adults
One-to-one	2,243	2,243
Small groups	69	164
All Got IT? Types	2,312	2,407

² Excludes Got IT? sessions that were held as part of Silver Surfers or ITea & Biscuits (i.e. annual local and national events, which aim to encourage older people who don't currently use computers, the internet, tablets etc. to discover the benefits of such technology)

Table 4: Reading Group Type

Reading Group Type	No. Sessions	No. Adults	No. Children	Total No. Participants
Adult	927	7,876	-	7,876
Children	<i>Children (7-9 years)</i>	148	-	1,041
	<i>Children (9-11 years)</i>	321	-	1,847
	<i>Teenagers (12+ years)</i>	116	-	780
	Total	585	-	3,668
All Reading Group Types	1512	7,876	3,668	11,544

Table 5a: Rhythm and Rhyme³ Type

Rhythm and Rhyme Type	No. Sessions	No. Adults	No. Children	Total No. Participants
Public session	3,070	40,347	49,087	89,434
Dedicated session (e.g. Day nursery, playgroup, parent & toddlers etc.)	538	2,671	8,051	10,722
All Rhythm and Rhyme Types	3,608	43,018	57,138	100,156

Table 5b: Rhythm and Rhyme³ Location

Rhythm and Rhyme Location	No. Sessions	No. Adults	No. Children	Total No. Participants
On library premises	3,452	42,449	54,778	97,227
At other location	156	569	2,360	2,929
All Rhythm and Rhyme Locations	3,608	43,018	57,138	100,156

³ Includes sessions held in partnership with SureStart (i.e. a government led initiative aimed at giving every child the best possible start in life and which offers a broad range of services including Early Years Care and Education to children aged 4 years and under).

Table 6a: Storytime⁴ Type

Storytime Type	No. Sessions	No. Children
Public session	1,864	18,121
Dedicated session (e.g. Rainbows/Cygnets/Brigíní, Beavers, Explorers, Anchor Boys, after schools day care etc.)	114	2,001
All Storytime Types	1,978	20,122

Table 6b: Storytime⁴ Location

Storytime Location	No. Sessions	No. Children
On library premises	1,957	19,466
At other location	21	656
All Storytime Locations	1,978	20,122

⁴ Includes re-branded Storytime sessions that were held as part of the Summer Reading Challenge (i.e. a national initiative run by The Reading Agency in conjunction with UK libraries)

User Information

Data source and validations

Data from the Libraries NI Activity Database are used for this publication. The data are input to this system by the 96 branch library managers on a daily, weekly or monthly basis and are downloaded into MS Excel at the end of each month and then read into SPSS. Validations are carried out to ensure that the data are reliable and robust for use. Any inconsistencies or inaccuracies are reported back to the branch library managers and the data is amended where necessary. Once all amendments have been made to the data, SPSS syntax is used to produce the tables in the bulletin. Information is presented at Northern Ireland Library Authority level but further breakdowns may be available on request.

Copies of this bulletin are available on the Libraries NI website at:

https://www.librariesni.org.uk/media/3pfb0s3x/participation_in_core_library_activities_2012_13_report.pdf

Official Statistics

The statistics presented in this bulletin are 'Official Statistics' as defined in Section 6 of the Statistics and Registration Services Act 2007. A statistician from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency is seconded to Libraries NI and is responsible for ensuring that the statistics comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Contact us

We welcome feedback on the content and format of this bulletin. If you would like to forward your views or receive notification of new publications, please send your comments and contact details to the email address below.

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