

STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE

9.30am – Thursday, 23rd January 2014

PARTICIPATION IN CORE LIBRARY ACTIVITIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND: 2012/13

A Statistical Bulletin detailing information on participation in core library activities (Class Visits, Got IT?, Reading Groups, Rhythm and Rhyme, Storytime) from 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013 has been published by Libraries NI.

Key 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).
- 2,407 adults took part in 2,312 Got IT? 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).
- 20,122 children engaged in a total of 1,978 Storytime sessions for 4-8 year olds.

NOTES TO USERS:

1. The Bulletin is published on the Libraries NI website at:
http://www.librariesni.org.uk/AboutUs/OurOrg/Statistics%20Documents%20201213/Participation_in_Core_Library_Activities_2012_13_Report.pdf
2. Statistics are compiled from data input by 96 branch library managers to the Libraries NI Activity Database which was established in April 2012.
3. This is the first Bulletin reporting on participant information from the Libraries NI Activity Database.
4. All participant numbers refer to instances of participation rather than individual people.
5. Core library activities are defined as follows:

Class Visits: a programme 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.

Got IT?: 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 an introduction to computers, the Internet and email.

Reading Groups: separate sessions for adults and children/teenagers and hosted by Libraries NI staff to encourage people to read for pleasure, share their enthusiasm about books and develop the confidence to formulate and express opinions about reading. Reading groups hosted by external organisations that meet in the library premises and use library resources are also facilitated.

Rhythm and Rhyme: a free programme of stories, rhymes and songs delivered on a regular or seasonal basis by Libraries NI staff (or held in partnership with SureStart) 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.

Storytime: 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.

6. 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.

7. All media enquiries should be directed to the Libraries NI Communications Officer:

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8. Further information on the statistics presented in this publication can be obtained from:

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