Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency

libraries ni

Statistical Bulletin

Participation in Core & Regular Library Activities in Northern Ireland 2016/17

Annual Report

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1. All participant numbers refer to instances of participation rather than individual people.
2. All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.
3. Year-on-year comparisons are figures compared with corresponding ones from the previous year.

Summary

In 2016/17, Libraries NI's 96 branch libraries and several of its 16 mobile libraries delivered a range of programmes and activities focused on promoting reading, learning and access to culture, heritage and information. Due to the structure of the Libraries NI Activity Database and the detail collected when people participate in library programmes and activities, it is not possible to identify unique individuals. For example, 6 instances of participation may be 6 people attending once each or 2 people attending 3 times each etc.

The following shows key findings on instances of participation during the period 1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017:

- A total of **413,076 participants** (173,064 adults and 240,012 children) engaged in **29,196 core** and **regular activity sessions** run by Libraries NI – **this is a 21% increase in participation** and a **29% increase in the number of activity sessions** since 2015/16 (342,092 participants and 22,622 sessions respectively).

  Much of this increase is due to the introduction of 3 new regular activity types in 2016/17 (i.e. Creative Writing, Mindful Colouring, Tea and Newspapers). However, when these 3 new activities are excluded from the 2016/17 figures to leave **380,022 participants** and **24,279 sessions** respectively for a direct comparison with 2015/16, there remains an **11% increase in participation** and a **7% increase in the number of sessions**.

  - **332,858 participants** (92,846 adults and 240,012 children) engaged in **18,556 core activity sessions** (i.e. Class visits, Got IT, Reading Groups, Rhythm and Rhyme and Storytime) – this is an **increase of 11% in participation** and an **increase of 7% in the number of core activity sessions** since 2015/16 (298,560 participants and 17,272 sessions respectively). The 2016/17 core activity figures are also the highest so far since data collection started in 2012/13.

  - **80,218 adults** engaged in **10,640 regular activity sessions** (i.e. Creative Writing*, Genealogy, Go ON, Job Clubs, Knit and Natter, Mindful Colouring* and Tea and Newspapers*) – this is an **84% increase in participation** and a **99% increase in the number of sessions** since 2015/16 (43,532 participants and 5,350 sessions respectively), although **these large increases are mainly due to the introduction of the 3 new regular activity types*** in 2016/17.

    Excluding these 3 new regular activity types (i.e. Creative Writing, Mindful Colouring, Tea and Newspapers), the 2016/17 figures (**47,164 participants** and **5,723 sessions**) still represent an **8% increase in participation** and a **7% increase in the number of sessions** since 2015/16. Both participation rates and the number of sessions have steadily increased year-on-year since 2013/14. There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.

Core Activities

- Both pupil participation rates in the school **class visits programme** and the number of sessions increased between 2015/16 and 2016/17, and are the highest so far out of the 5 years since 2012/13. **105,190 children** took part in 2016/17 (**4,359 sessions**), a **6% increase in participation** and an **8% increase in the number of sessions** since 2015/16 (99,028 children and 4,022 sessions respectively).

- **Adult participation** in **Got IT** and the **number of sessions *decreased* by 7% and 12% respectively** between 2015/16 and 2016/17. **2,970 adults** took part in **2,710 Got IT sessions** in 2016/17 compared to 3,207 and 3,084 sessions in 2015/16. Although lower than the previous 3 years, the 2016/17 figures are still higher than those in 2012/13 (2,407 adults and 2,312 sessions respectively).

- **15,354 participants** engaged in **2,186 reading group sessions** compared to 14,483 participants and 1,942 sessions in 2015/16. This is a **6% increase in participation** and a **13% increase in the number of sessions** from 2015/16 to 2016/17. The 2016/17 figures are the highest so far out of all the years since 2012/13.

    - When recording of reading groups started in 2012/13, adult participation was 7,876 at 927 sessions. Since then, the annual rates have increased to more than 10,500 for participation and over 1,300 for the number of sessions. **10,751 adults** took part in **1,368 reading group sessions** in 2016/17.

    - **4,603 children** took part in **818 reading group sessions**, compared to 4,273 children and 677 sessions in 2015/16. This is an **8% increase in participation** and a **21% increase in the number of sessions** from 2015/16 to 2016/17. Although the number of sessions was highest in 2016/17, participation was highest in 2013/14 (4,835 children).

- **181,698 participants** (79,125 adults and 102,573 children) engaged in a total of **6,831 Rhythm and Rhyme sessions** for pre-school age children (0-4 years), **a 14% increase in participation** and a **16% increase in the number of sessions** since 2015/16 (159,471 participants and 5,904 sessions respectively). Both participation rates and the number of sessions have increased year-on-year since 2012/13.

- **27,646 children** engaged in a total of **2,470 Storytime sessions** for 4-8 year olds, a **24% increase in participation** and a **6% increase in the number of sessions** since 2015/16 (22,371 children and 2,320 sessions respectively). The 2016/17 figures are the highest so far out of the 5 years since 2012/13.

Regular Activities

- While **the number of genealogy (i.e. family history) activities increased by 6%** (from 271 to **288**) between 2015/16 and 2016/17, **adult participation *decreased* by 14%** (from 1,196 to **1,025**). Although participation was highest in 2014/15 (1,285 adults), the number of sessions in 2016/17 is the highest so far since 2013/14. There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.

- **2,884 adults** participated in **458 Go ON small group sessions** in 2016/17, compared to 3,370 adults and 534 sessions in 2015/16. This is a **14% *decrease* in both participation** and **the number of sessions** from 2015/16 to 2016/17. Although participation rates and the number of sessions were highest in 2015/16, the 2016/17 figures are still higher than those in 2013/14 and 2014/15. There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.

- **3,626 adults** engaged in **870 Job Club sessions** in 2016/17, compared to 4,534 adults and 884 sessions in 2015/16 which is a **20% *decrease* in participation** and a **2% *decrease* in the number of sessions**. Participation rates had been increasing year-on-year since 2013/14 until 2016/17 when they fell to their lowest to date. However, the number of sessions in 2016/17 is still higher than those recorded in 2013/14 (651) and 2014/15 (789).

- **39,629 adults** took part in **4,107 Knit and Natter group sessions** in 2016/17 compared to 34,432 adults and 3,661 sessions in 2015/16 which is a **15% increase in participation** and a **12% increase in the number of sessions**. Participation rates and the number of sessions have increased year-on-year since 2013/14 – there are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.

In 2016/17 there were:

- **1,955** instances of **adult participation** in **286 Creative Writing** sessions.
- **6,067** instances of **adult participation** in **1,245 Mindful Colouring** sessions.
- **25,032** instances of **adult participation** in **3,386 Tea and Newspapers** sessions.

This is the first year information was recorded for these 3 types of regular activities so there are no corresponding figures for earlier years.

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 for Communities (DfC).

Libraries NI provides a number of core and regular activities in the majority of its 96 branch libraries (and in some of its 16 mobile 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, while Regular activities are defined as Genealogy, Go ON, Job Clubs, Knit and Natter groups, Creative Writing, Mindful Colouring and Tea and Newspapers.

Definitions

Core Activities

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.

Libraries NI staff also deliver outreach visits to many schools to promote the various library services and read stories to the pupils.

Got IT

Got IT is a free programme to support people with little or no knowledge of computers and help them develop basic IT 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.). Such groups generally meet in the library premises, although some are run by Libraries NI staff in other locations. Reading groups hosted by external organisations that meet in the library premises with input from library staff and/or use library resources are also facilitated. A new flexible type of children's reading group called Chatterbooks, run in conjunction with The Reading Agency was introduced in libraries in 2014/15. Sessions are suitable for 7-11 year olds of all different abilities.

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 SureStart[1]) 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.

A number of the mobile libraries now also deliver Rhythm & Rhyme sessions so these are included in the figures.

[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.

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.

A number of the mobile libraries now also deliver Storytime sessions so these are included in the figures.

Regular Activities

Genealogy

Genealogy is also known as family history and Libraries NI holds various related free activities for adults including talks, presentations and Ancestry Library Edition workshops. Ancestry Library Edition is an online resource which can be accessed free of charge in all libraries within the Libraries NI network (i.e. it is not available to use from external locations such as homes, offices etc.) and people attending the workshops can use it, with the support of Libraries NI staff where required, to search a range of online records. These include census records which are a vital source of information for people researching their family history and allow them to discover the name, age, birth place, occupation, address etc. of their ancestors.

Go ON

Go ON is a free programme to support people who are able to use a computer, email and the Internet and want to further develop their IT skills with regard to everyday computer tasks, such as paying utility bills or shopping online, online banking, social networking, digital photography, online health enquiries etc. The programme is aimed at adults and modules are delivered by Libraries NI staff on a small group basis.

Job Clubs

Job Clubs held in partnership with the Jobs & Benefits Office on library premises offer free internet access and other library services to adults who are unemployed. They give people an opportunity to develop their IT skills using the library's computers and participants receive assistance with job hunting, online applications, preparing CVs and interview practice.

Other organisations (e.g. Job Assist, Kickstart to Work, Supported Employment Solutions etc.) use the library facilities to offer similar advice and services to the unemployed and therefore are also included.

Knit and Natter

Knit and Natter groups are held in libraries across Northern Ireland and are for adults who enjoy knitting, sewing, crochet, cross stitch and other crafts. They are free of charge and participants have the opportunity to share hints and tips, swap patterns, meet new people and learn new skills and can bring along whatever they are already working on or start a new project.

Creative Writing

Creative Writing groups led by library staff provide facilities, support and encouragement to adults who enjoy writing poetry, short stories, novels and beyond. Budding writers or poets can come along and meet like-minded people and share ideas.

Mindful Colouring

Mindful Colouring groups are for anyone who wants to explore the world of adult colouring with intricate colouring patterns and designs. They can enhance well-being, help calm the mind and relieve stress through relaxed, meditative colouring in.

Tea and Newspapers

Tea and Newspapers groups give adults the opportunity to meet new people, socialise and discuss local and national affairs in the newspapers while enjoying complimentary tea/coffee and biscuits.

Libraries NI Activity Database

This bulletin presents information on participation in the aforementioned core and regular library activities during 2016/17, collected via the Libraries NI Activity Database which was established in April 2012. During 2012/13 the database collected information on core activities only but was extended to also capture information on regular activities from 2013/14.

Findings

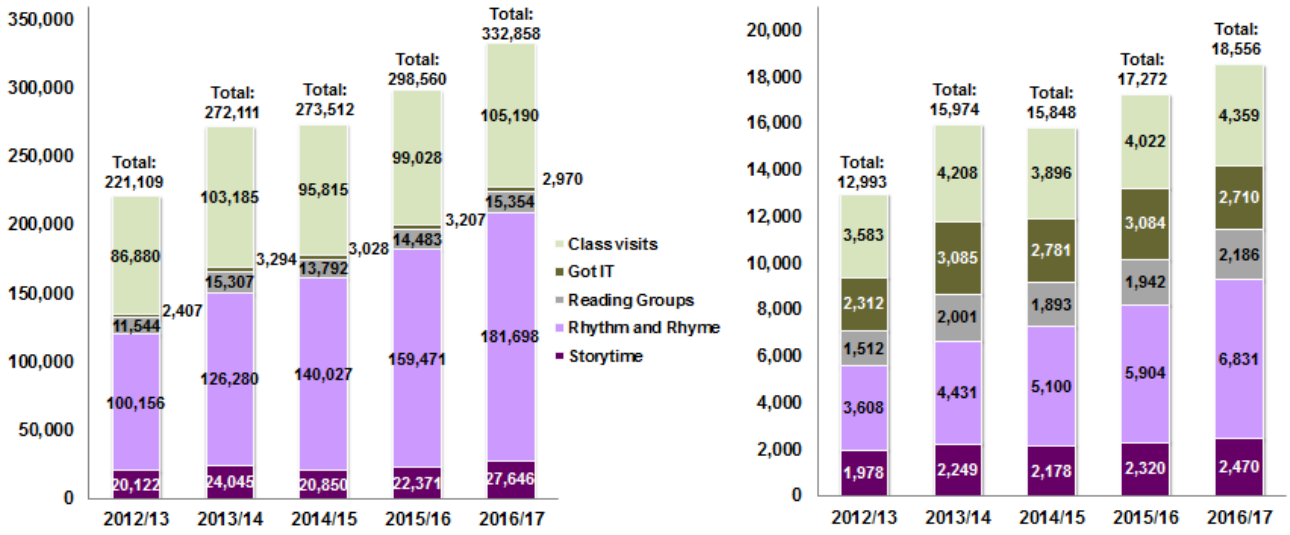
- During 2016/17, a total of 413,076 participants (173,064 adults and 240,012 children) engaged in 29,196 core and regular activity sessions run by Libraries NI – this is a 21% increase in participation and a 29% increase in the number of activity sessions since 2015/16 (342,092 participants and 22,622 sessions respectively).

  Note: Much of this increase is due to the introduction of 3 new regular activity types in 2016/17 (i.e. Creative Writing, Mindful Colouring, Tea and Newspapers). However, when these 3 new activities are excluded from the 2016/17 figures to leave 380,022 participants and 24,279 sessions respectively for a direct comparison with 2015/16, there remains an 11% increase in participation and a 7% increase in the number of sessions. [See **Table 9**]

- 332,858 participants (92,846 adults and 240,012 children) engaged in 18,556 core activity sessions (i.e. Class visits, Got IT, Reading Groups, Rhythm and Rhyme and Storytime) – this is an increase of 11% in participation and an increase of 7% in the number of core activity sessions since 2015/16 (298,560 participants and 17,272 sessions respectively). The 2016/17 core activity figures are also the highest so far since 2012/13. [See **Figure 1** and **Table 10**]

Figure 1: Core Activities

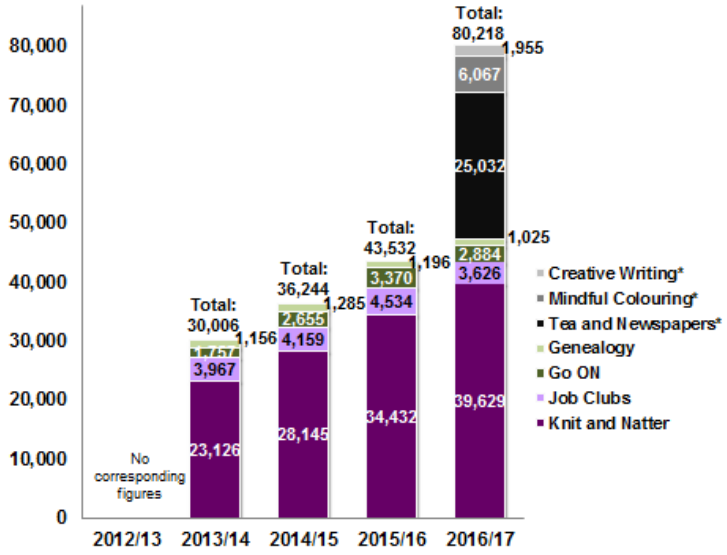
(a) No. Participants [Adults + Children] **(b) No. Sessions**



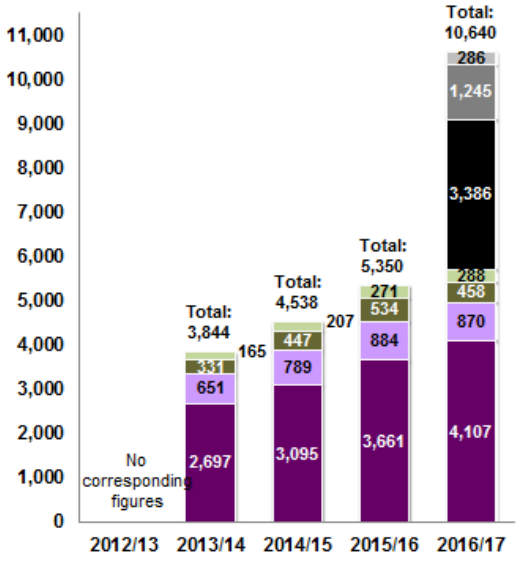
- 80,218 adults engaged in 10,640 regular activity sessions (i.e. Creative Writing, Genealogy, Go ON, Job Clubs, Knit and Natter, Mindful Colouring and Tea and Newspapers) – this is an 84% increase in participation and a 99% increase in the number of sessions since 2015/16 (43,532 participants and 5,350 sessions respectively), although these large increases are mainly due to the introduction of 3 new regular activity types in 2016/17 mentioned earlier (i.e. Creative Writing, Mindful Colouring, Tea and Newspapers). Without these included, the 2016/17 figures (47,164 participants and 5,723 sessions) still represent an 8% increase in participation and a 7% increase in the number of sessions since 2015/16. Both participation rates and the number of sessions have steadily increased year-on-year since 2013/14. There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13. [See **Figure 2** and **Table 11**]

Figure 2: Regular Activities

(a) No. Participants [Adults]



(b) No. Sessions



***** New regular activities introduced in 2016/17

Core Activities

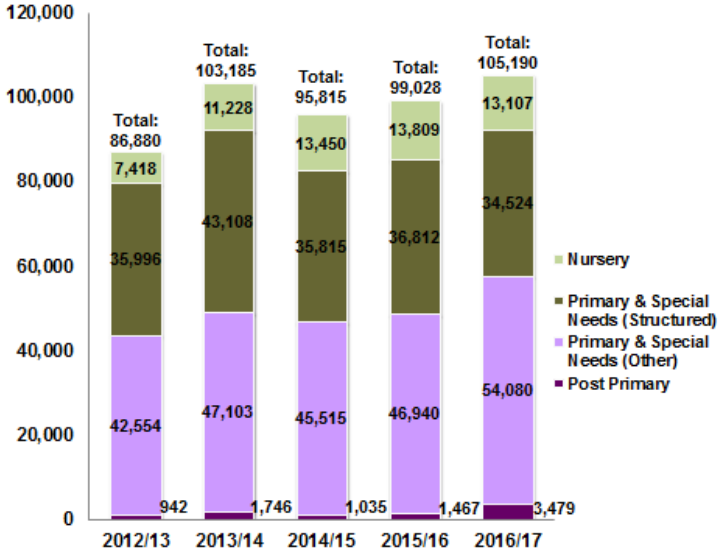
Class Visits

[See **Figure 3**, **Table 12a** and **Table 12b**]

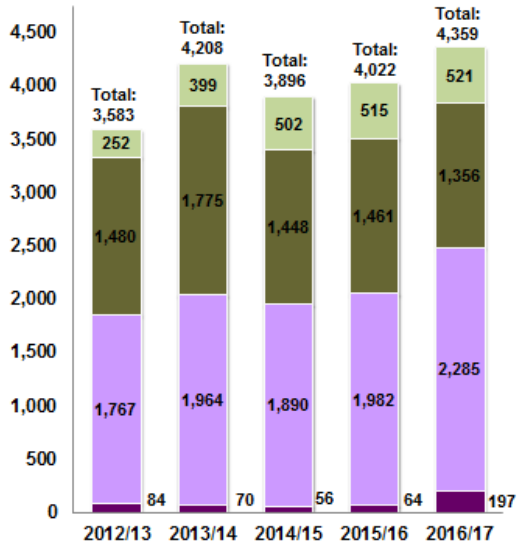
- During 2016/17, 105,190 children took part in the school class visits programme (4,359 sessions), a 6% increase in participation and an 8% increase in the number of sessions since 2015/16 (99,028 children and 4,022 sessions respectively). The 2016/17 figures are the highest so far out of the 5 years since 2012/13.

Figure 3: Class Visits

(a) No. Participants [Children]



(b) No. Sessions



- 13,107 were pupils from nursery schools or primary schools with an associated nursery unit (521 sessions – 196 of which were outreach sessions held on school premises). This represents a 5% *decrease* in participation and a 1% increase in the number of sessions 2015/16 (13,809 children and 515 sessions respectively). Although the number of sessions was highest in 2016/17, pupil participation in nursery visits was highest in 2015/16.

- 88,604 were pupils from primary or special needs schools (3,641 sessions), a 6% increase in both participation and the number of sessions since 2015/16 (83,752 children and 3,443 sessions respectively). Although both participation rates and the number of primary/special needs sessions were highest in 2013/14 (90,211 children and 3,739 sessions respectively), the 2016/17 figures are second highest out of the 5 years since 2012/13.

    - 34,524 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 (1,356 sessions), a 6% *decrease* in participation and a 7% *decrease* in the number of sessions since 2015/16 (36,812 children and 1,461 sessions respectively). The 2016/17 figures are also the lowest so far since 2012/13.

    - The remaining 54,080 exchanged books and/or listened to stories, took part in crafts etc. (2,285 sessions – 133 of which were outreach sessions held on school premises), which represents a 15% increase in both participation and the number of sessions since 2015/16 (46,940 children and 1,982 sessions respectively). The 2016/17 figures are also the highest so far out of the 5 years from 2012/13.

- 3,479 were pupils from post primary schools (197 sessions) which is more than double the participation rate and just over three times the number of sessions since 2015/16 (1,467 children and 64 sessions respectively). The 2016/17 figures are the highest so far since 2012/13.

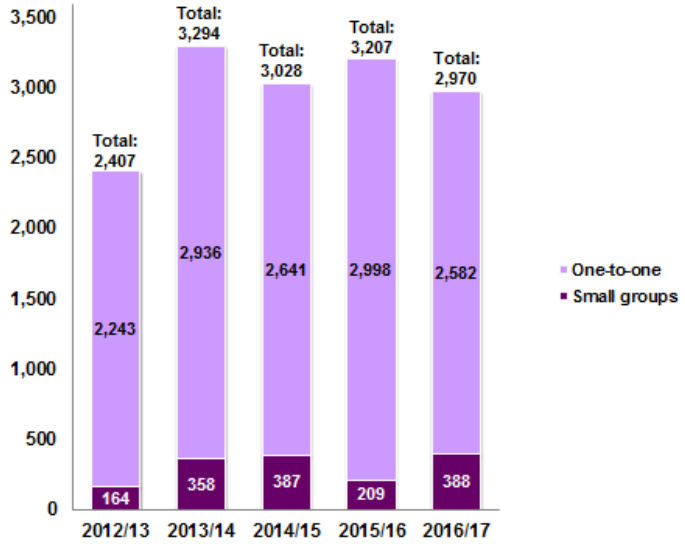
Got IT

[See **Figure 4** and **Table 13**]

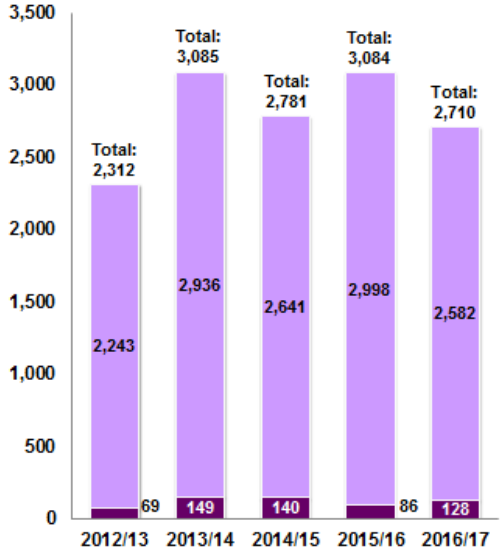
- 2,970 adults participated in 2,710 Got IT sessions in 2016/17, compared to 3,207 adults and 3,084 sessions in 2015/16. This is a *decrease* of 7% in participation and a *decrease* of 12% in the number of sessions from 2015/16 to 2016/17. Although lower than the previous 3 years, the 2016/17 figures are still higher than those in 2012/13 (2,407 adults and 2,312 sessions respectively).

Figure 4: Got IT

(a) No. Participants [Adults]



(b) No. Sessions



- 2,582 adults participated in Got IT on a one-to-one basis in 2016/17 compared to 2,998 in 2015/16, a *decrease* of 14%. Although lower than the previous 3 years, the 2016/17 figures for one-to-one sessions are still higher than those in 2012/13 (2,243 adults and sessions respectively).

- 388 adults took part in 128 small group Got IT sessions, which represents an 86% increase in participation and a 49% increase in the number of sessions since 2015/16 (209 adults and 86 sessions respectively). Although the number of sessions was highest in 2013/14 (149 sessions), adult participation in 2016/17 is marginally the highest out of all the years so far since 2012/13.

Reading Groups

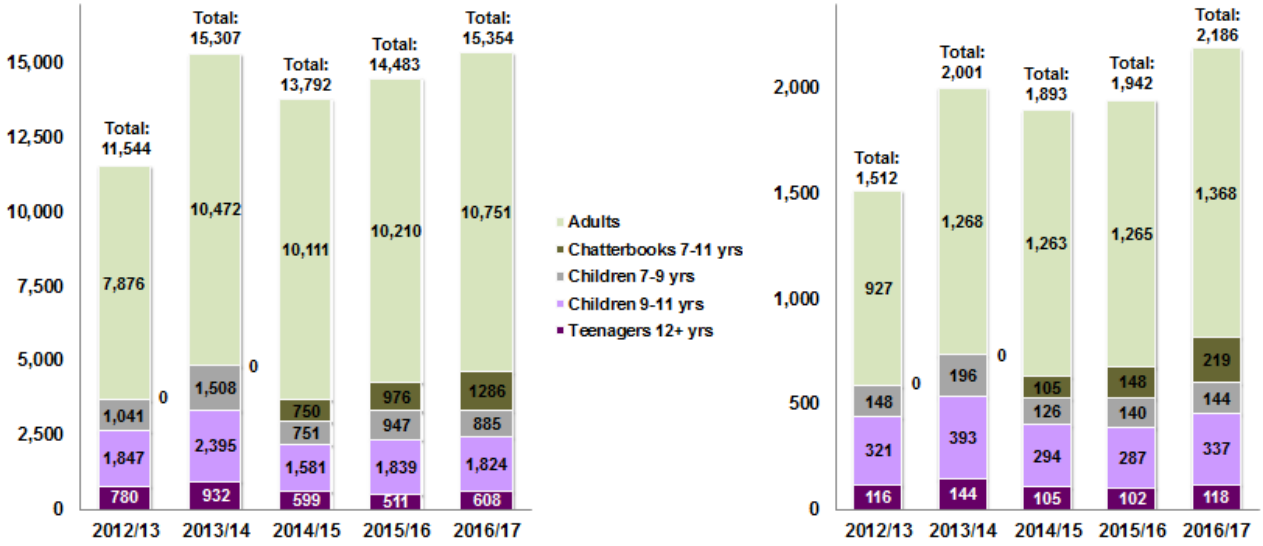
[See **Figure 5** and **Table 14**]

- During 2016/17, 15,354 participants engaged in 2,186 reading group sessions compared to 14,483 participants and 1,942 sessions in 2015/16. This is a 6% increase in participation and a 13% increase in the number of sessions from 2015/16 to 2016/17. The 2016/17 figures are the highest so far out of all the years since 2012/13.

  - 10,751 adults took part in 1,368 reading group sessions, compared to 10,210 adults and 1,265 sessions in 2015/16. This is a 5% increase in participation and an 8% increase in the number of sessions from 2015/16 to 2016/17 and the highest rates so far out of the 5 years from 2012/13.

Figure 5: Reading Groups

(a) No. participants [Adults & Children] **(b) No. Sessions**



- 4,603 children took part in 818 reading group sessions, compared to 4,273 children and 677 sessions in 2015/16. This is an 8% increase in participation and a 21% increase in the number of sessions from 2015/16 to 2016/17. Although the number of sessions was highest in 2016/17, participation was highest in 2013/14 (4,835 children).

  - 1,286 children took part in 219 Chatterbooks sessions for 7-11 year olds which is a 32% increase in participation and a 48% increase in the number of sessions from 2015/16 to 2016/17. 2014/15 was the first year information was recorded for this type of reading group so there are no corresponding figures for 2012/13 or 2013/14.

  - 885 children took part in 144 sessions for 7-9 year olds, a 7% *decrease* in participation and a 3% increase in the number of sessions since 2015/16 (947 children and 140 sessions respectively).

  - 1,824 children took part in 337 sessions for 9-11 year olds, a 1% *decrease* in participation and a 17% increase in the number of sessions since 2015/16 (1,839 children and 287 sessions respectively).

    Note: Participation rates and the numbers of reading group sessions for both 7-9 year olds and 9-11 year olds may have been affected by the introduction of the Chatterbooks reading groups in 2014/15 which are also suitable for these age groups.

  - 608 children took part in 118 sessions for those aged 12+ years, a 19% increase in participation and a 16% increase in the number of sessions since 2015/16 (511 children and 102 sessions respectively). The 2013/14 figures for both participation (932 children) and the number of sessions (144) are the highest out of all the years since 2012/13.

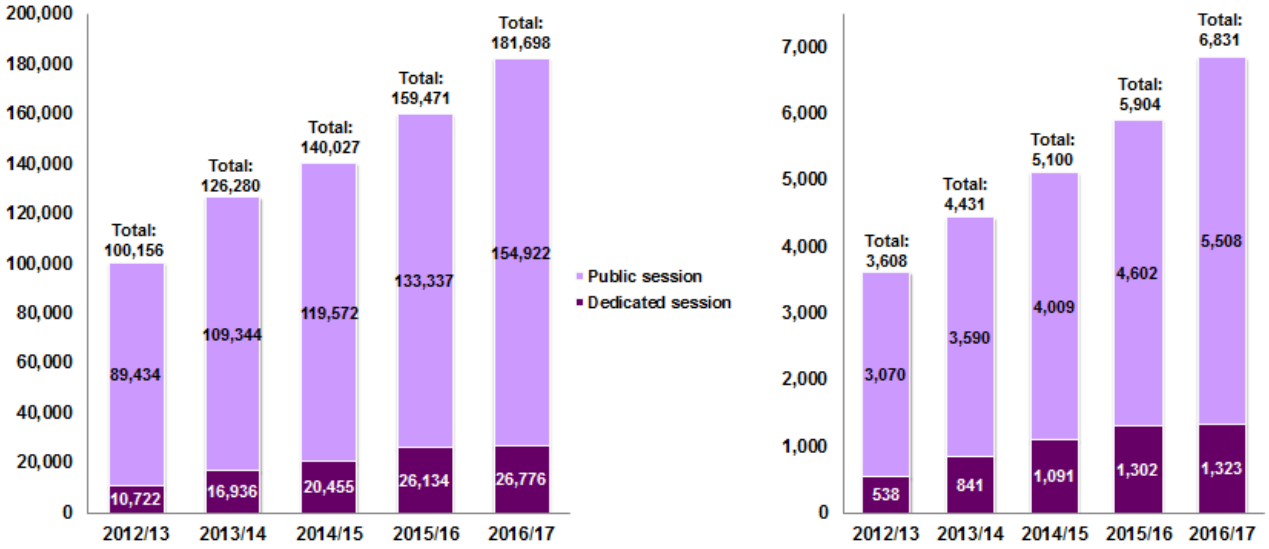
Rhythm and Rhyme

[See **Figure 6**, **Table 15a** and **Table 15b**]

- During 2016/17, 181,698 participants (79,125 adults and 102,573 children) engaged in a total of 6,831 Rhythm and Rhyme sessions for pre-school age children (0-4 years), a 14% increase in participation and a 16% increase in the number of sessions since 2015/16 (159,471 participants and 5,904 sessions respectively). Both participation rates and the number of sessions have increased year-on-year since 2012/13.

Figure 6: Rhythm and Rhyme

(a) No. Participants [Adults + Children] **(b) No. Sessions**



- 154,922 participants (70,262 adults and 84,660 children) took part in 5,508 sessions open to the public, a 16% increase in participation and a 20% increase in the number of sessions since 2015/16 (133,337 participants and 4,602 sessions respectively). Participation rates and the number of public sessions have increased year-on-year since 2012/13.

- 26,776 participants (8,863 adults and 17,913 children) took part in 1,323 dedicated sessions held exclusively for day nurseries, playgroups and parent and toddler groups etc., which is a 2% increase in both participation and the number of sessions since 2015/16 (26,134 participants and 1,302 sessions respectively). Participation rates and the number of dedicated sessions have increased year-on-year since 2012/13.

- 169,392 participants (75,505 adults and 93,887 children) attended 6,173 sessions that were held on the library premises/mobile library, a 15% increase in participation and a 17% increase in the number of sessions since 2015/16 (147,481 participants and 5,297 sessions respectively). Participation rates and the number of library sessions have increased year-on-year since 2012/13.

- 12,306 participants (3,620 adults and 8,686 children) attended 658 sessions that took place at another location, which is a 3% increase in participation and an 8% increase in the number of sessions since 2015/16 (11,990 participants and 607 sessions respectively). Participation rates and the number of outreach sessions have increased year-on-year and the 2016/17 figures are more than four times higher than those in 2012/13.

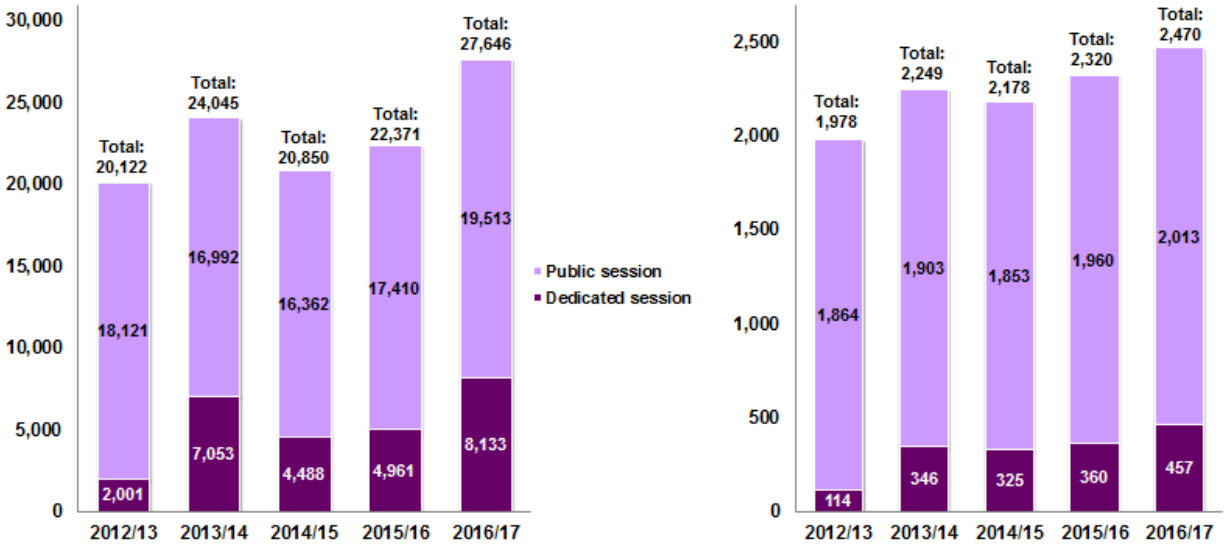
Storytime

[See **Figure 7**, **Table 16a** and **Table 16b**]

- During 2016/17, 27,646 children engaged in a total of 2,470 Storytime sessions for 4-8 year olds, a 24% increase in participation and a 6% increase in the number of sessions since 2015/16 (22,371 children and 2,320 sessions respectively). The 2016/17 figures are the highest so far out of the 5 years since 2012/13.

Figure 7: Storytime

(a) No. Participants [Children] **(b) No. Sessions**



- 19,513 children took part in 2,013 sessions open to the public, a 12% increase in participation and a 3% increase in the number of sessions since 2015/16 (17,410 children and 1,960 sessions respectively). The 2016/17 figures are also the highest so far since 2012/13.

- 8,133 children took part in 457 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., which is a 64% increase in participation and a 27% increase in the number of sessions since 2015/16 (4,961 children and 360 sessions respectively). The 2016/17 figures are also the highest so far since 2012/13.

- 24,647 children attended 2,269 sessions that were held on the library premises/mobile library, a 27% increase in participation and a 7% increase in the number of sessions since 2015/16 (19,482 participants and 2,116 sessions respectively). The 2016/17 figures are also the highest so far since 2012/13.

- 2,999 children attended 201 sessions that took place at another location, which is a 4% increase in participation and 1% *decrease* in the number of sessions since 2015/16 (2,889 participants and 204 sessions respectively). Although participation was highest in 2013/14 (3,138 children), the number of outreach sessions in 2016/17 is almost the same as the highest number recorded in 2015/16.

Regular Activities

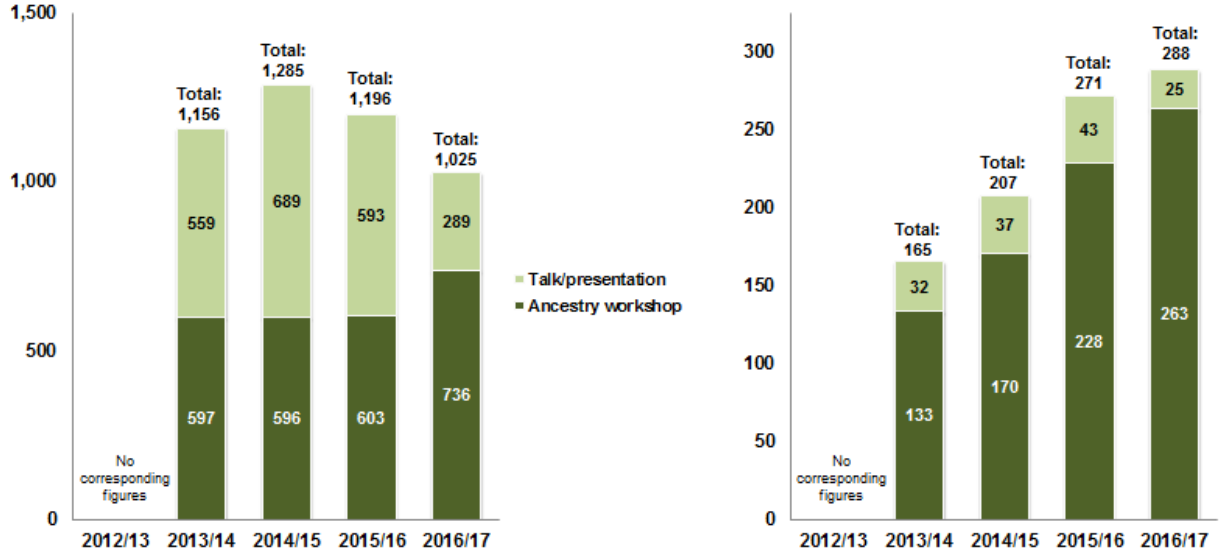
Genealogy

[See **Figure 8** and **Table 17**]

- 1,025 adults took part in 288 genealogy (i.e. family history) activities in 2016/17. This is a 14% *decrease* in participation and a 6% increase in the number of sessions since 2015/16 (1,196 adults and 271 sessions respectively). Although participation was highest in 2014/15 (1,285 adults), the number of sessions in 2016/17 is the highest so far since 2013/14. There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.

Figure 8: Genealogy

(a) No. Participants [Adults] **(b) No. Sessions**



- 289 adults attended talks or presentations (25 sessions), compared to 593 adults and 43 sessions in 2015/16. This is a *decrease* of 51% in participation and a *decrease* of 42% in the number of sessions from 2015/16 to 2016/17 and the lowest participation rate and number of sessions to date.

- 736 adults engaged in family history workshops using Ancestry Library Edition (263 sessions), compared to 603 adults and 228 sessions in 2015/16. This is a 22% increase in participation and a 15% increase in the number of sessions from 2015/16 to 2016/17. The 2016/17 figures are also the highest so far since 2013/14.

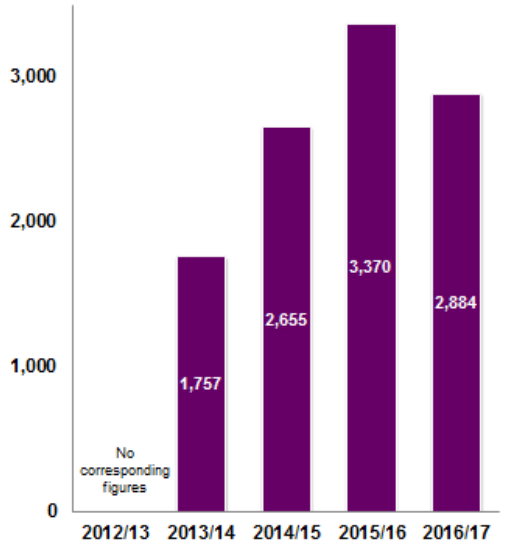
Go ON

[See **Figure 9** and **Table 11**]

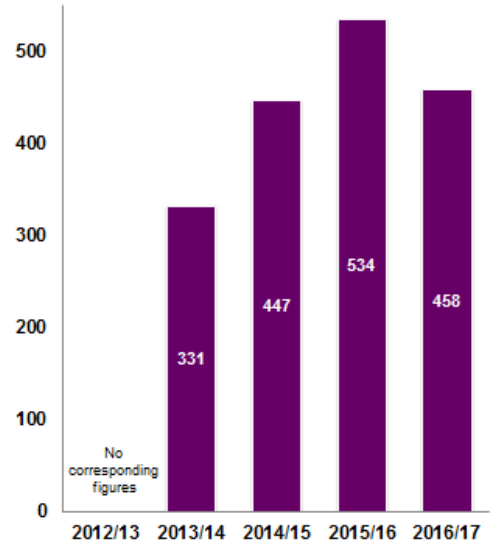
- 2,884 adults participated in 458 Go ON small group sessions in 2016/17, compared to 3,370 adults and 534 sessions in 2015/16. This is a 14% *decrease* in both participation and the number of sessions from 2015/16 to 2016/17. Although participation rates and the number of sessions were highest in 2015/16, the 2016/17 figures are still higher than those in 2013/14 and 2014/15. There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.

Figure 9: Go ON

(a) No. Participants [Adults]



(b) No. Sessions



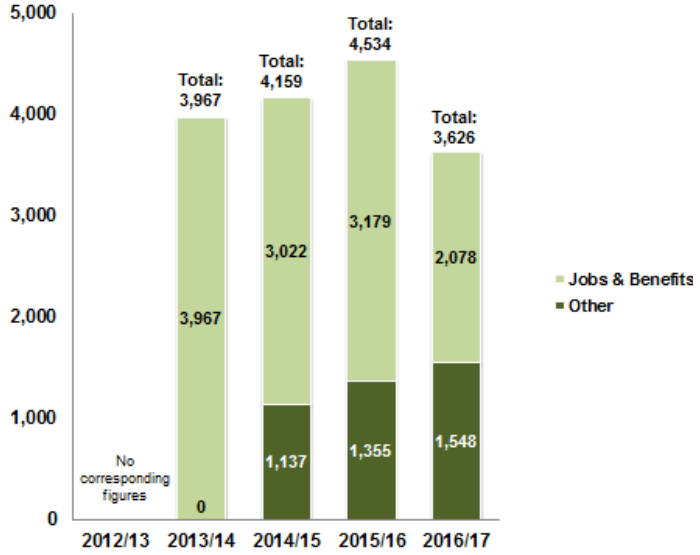
Job Clubs

[See **Figure 10** and **Table 18**]

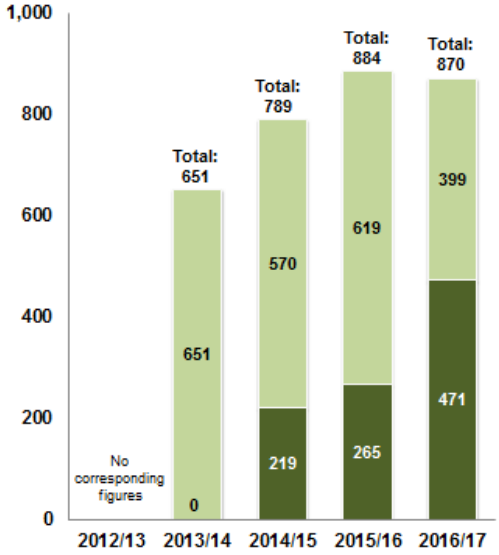
- 3,626 adults engaged in 870 Job Club sessions in 2016/17, compared to 4,534 adults and 884 sessions in 2015/16 which is a 20% *decrease* in participation and a 2% *decrease* in the number of sessions. Participation rates had been increasing year-on-year since 2013/14 until 2016/17 when they fell to their lowest to date. However, the number of sessions in 2016/17 is still higher than those recorded in 2013/14 (651) and 2014/15 (789).

Figure 10: Job Clubs

(a) No. Participants [Adults]



(b) No. Sessions



  - 2,078 adults engaged in 399 sessions held in partnership with the Jobs & Benefits Office in 2016/17 compared to 3,179 adults and 619 sessions in 2015/16. This is a 35% *decrease* in participation and a 36% *decrease* in the number of sessions since 2015/16 and the lowest participation rate and number of sessions to date.

- 1,548 adults engaged in 471 sessions held in association with other organisations (e.g. Job Assist, Kickstart to Work, Supported Employment Solutions etc.) compared to 1,355 adults and 265 sessions in 2015/16. This is a 14% increase in participation and a 78% increase in the number of sessions since 2015/16 and also the highest participation rates and number of sessions so far since 2014/15 which was the first year such information was recorded.

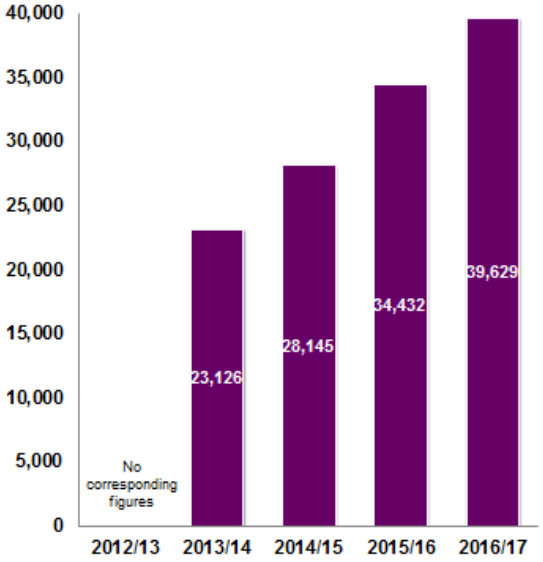
Knit and Natter

[See **Figure 11** and **Table 11**]

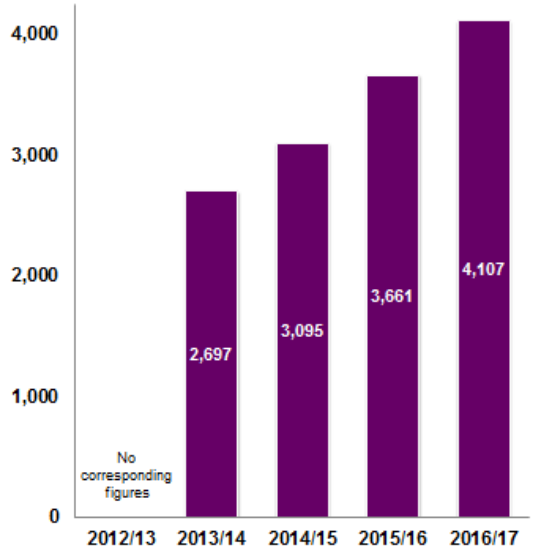
- 39,629 adults participated in 4,107 Knit and Natter group sessions in 2016/17 compared to 34,432 adults and 3,661 sessions in 2015/16 which is a 15% increase in participation and a 12% increase in the number of sessions. Participation rates and the number of sessions have increased year-on-year since 2013/14 – there are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.

Figure 11: Knit and Natter

(a) No. Participants [Adults]



(b) No. Sessions



Creative Writing, Mindful Colouring & Tea and Newspapers

[See **Table 1**]

In 2016/17 there were:

- 1,955 instances of adult participation in 286 Creative Writing sessions.
- 6,067 instances of adult participation in 1,245 Mindful Colouring sessions.
- 25,032 instances of adult participation in 3,386 Tea and Newspapers sessions.

This is the first year information was recorded for these 3 types of regular activities so there are no corresponding figures for earlier years.

Participation Tables: 2016/17

Table 1: Core & Regular Activities

Activity	No. Sessions	No. Adults	No. Children	Total No. Participants
Class Visits	4,359	-	105,190	105,190
Got IT	2,710	2,970	-	2,970
Reading Groups	2,186	10,751	4,603	15,354
Rhythm and Rhyme	6,831	79,125	102,573	181,698
Storytime	2,470	-	27,646	27,646
Core Activities	**18,556**	**92,846**	**240,012**	**332,858**
Creative Writing*	286	1,955	-	1,955
Mindful Colouring*	1,245	6,067	-	6,067
Tea and Newspapers*	3,386	25,032	-	25,032
Genealogy	288	1,025	-	1,025
Go ON	458	2,884	-	2,884
Job Clubs	870	3,626	-	3,626
Knit and Natter	4,107	39,629	-	39,629
Regular Activities (excluding *)	***5,723***	***47,164***	**-**	***47,164***
Regular Activities (including *)	**10,640**	**80,218**	**-**	**80,218**
All Core & Regular Activities (excluding *)	***24,279***	***140,010***	***240,012***	***380,022***
All Core & Regular Activities (including *)	**29,196**	**173,064**	**240,012**	**413,076**

***** New regular activities introduced in 2016/17

More detailed breakdowns (where applicable) of the various types of core and regular activities are presented in Tables 2 – 8.

Table 2a: Class Visit Type

Class Visit Type		No. Sessions	No. Children
Nursery school/unit		521	13,107
Primary & Special Needs	*Structured activities for Year 4 & Year 6 (to support Key Stage 1 & 2 language and literacy skills)*	*1,356*	*34,524*
	Other – stories, book exchange, crafts etc.	*2,285*	*54,080*
	Total	3,641	88,604
Post Primary		197	3,479
All Class Visit Types		**4,359**	**105,190**

Table 2b: Class Visit Location

Class Visit Location	No. Sessions	No. Children
On library premises	4,029	96,728
At other location	330	8,462
All Class Visit Locations	**4,359**	**105,190**

Table 3: Got IT[2] Type

Got IT Type	No. Sessions	No. Adults
One-to-one	2,582	2,582
Small groups	128	388
All Got IT Types	**2,710**	**2,970**

[2] Excludes Got IT sessions that were held as part of Silver Surfers (i.e. annual local event which aims 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		1,368	10,751	-	10,751
Children	*Chatterbooks (7-11 years)*	*219*	-	*1,286*	*1,286*
	Children (7-9 years)	*144*	-	*885*	*885*
	Children (9-11 years)	*337*	-	*1,824*	*1,824*
	Teenagers (12+ years)	*118*	-	*608*	*608*
	Total	818	-	4,603	4,603
All Reading Group Types		**2,186**	**10,751**	**4,603**	**15,354**

Table 5a: Rhythm and Rhyme[3] Type

Rhythm and Rhyme Type	No. Sessions	No. Adults	No. Children	Total No. Participants
Public session	5,508	70,262	84,660	154,922
Dedicated session (e.g. Day nursery, playgroup, parent & toddlers etc.)	1,323	8,863	17,913	26,776
All Rhythm and Rhyme Types	**6,831**	**79,125**	**102,573**	**181,698**

[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 5b: Rhythm and Rhyme[3] Location

Rhythm and Rhyme Location	No. Sessions	No. Adults	No. Children	Total No. Participants
On library premises (including on Mobile van)	6,173	75,505	93,887	169,392
At other location	658	3,620	8,686	12,306
All Rhythm and Rhyme Locations	**6,831**	**79,125**	**102,573**	**181,698**

[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: Storytime[4] Type

Storytime Type	No. Sessions	No. Children
Public session	2,013	19,513
Dedicated session (e.g. Rainbows/Cygnets/Brigíní, Beavers, Explorers, Anchor Boys, after schools day care etc.)	457	8,133
All Storytime Types	**2,470**	**27,646**

[4] Includes re-branded Storytime sessions that were held as part of Libraries NI's 'Big Summer Read'.

Table 6b: Storytime[4] Location

Storytime Location	No. Sessions	No. Children
On library premises (including on Mobile van)	2,269	24,647
At other location	201	2,999
All Storytime Locations	**2,470**	**27,646**

[4] Includes re-branded Storytime sessions that were held as part of Libraries NI's 'Big Summer Read'.

Table 7: Genealogy Type

Genealogy Type	No. Sessions	No. Adults
Talk/presentation	25	289
Ancestry Library Edition workshop	263	736
All Genealogy Types	**288**	**1,025**

Table 8: Job Club Type

Job Club Type	No. Sessions	No. Adults
Jobs & Benefits Office	399	2,078
Other organisation (e.g. Job Assist, Kickstart To Work, Supported Employment Solutions etc.)	471	1,548
All Job Club Types	**870**	**3,626**

Participation Tables: Year-on-year Comparisons (2012/13 to 2016/17) – with % changes

Note: In the table below where there are two entries in a single cell, the top entry relates to adults and the bottom entry relates to children

Table 9: Core & Regular Activities

Activity	No. Sessions					No. Adults No. Children					Total No. Participants				
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Core Activities	12,993	15,974	15,848	17,272	18,556	53,301 167,808	68,442 203,669	73,711 199,801	82,218 216,342	92,846 240,012	221,109	272,111	273,512	298,560	332,858
±%	-	+23%	-1%	+9%	+7%	- -	+28% +21%	+8% -2%	+12% +8%	+13% +11%	-	+23%	+1%	+9%	+11%
*Regular Activities (excluding *)*	-	*3,844*	*4,538*	*5,350*	*5,723*	- -	*30,006* -	*36,244* -	*43,532* -	*47,164* -	-	*30,006*	*36,244*	*43,532*	*47,164*
±%	-	-	*+18%*	*+18%*	*+7%*	- -	- -	*+21%* -	*+20%* -	*+8%* -	-	-	*+21%*	*+20%*	*+8%*
Regular Activities (including *)	-	3,844	4,538	5,350	10,640	- -	30,006 -	36,244 -	43,532 -	80,218 -	-	30,006	36,244	43,532	80,218
±%	-	-	+18%	+18%	+99%	- -	- -	+21% -	+20% -	+84% -	-	-	+21%	+20%	+84%
All Core & Regular Activities (excluding *)	**-**	***19,818***	***20,386***	***22,622***	***24,279***	**-** **-**	***98,448*** ***203,669***	***109,955*** ***199,801***	***125,750*** ***216,342***	***140,010*** ***240,012***	**-**	***302,117***	***309,756***	***342,092***	***380,022***
±%	-	-	***+3%***	***+11%***	*+7%*	- -	- -	***+12%*** ***-2%***	***+14%*** ***+8%***	***+11%*** ***+11%***	-	-	***+3%***	***+10%***	***+11%***
All Core & Regular Activities (including *)	**-**	**19,818**	**20,386**	**22,622**	**29,196**	**-** **-**	**98,448** **203,669**	**109,955** **199,801**	**125,750** **216,342**	**173,064** **240,012**	**-**	**302,117**	**309,756**	**342,092**	**413,076**
±%	**-**	**-**	**+3%**	**+11%**	+29%	- -	- -	**+12%** **-2%**	**+14%** **+8%**	**+38%** **+11%**	**-**	**-**	**+3%**	**+10%**	**+21%**

* New regular activities introduced in 2016/17 (i.e. Creative Writing, Mindful Colouring, Tea and Newspapers)

Note: In the table below where there are two entries in a single cell, the top entry relates to adults and the bottom entry relates to children

Table 10: Core Activity Type

Activity	No. Sessions					No. Adults No. Children					Total No. Participants				
	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016/ 17	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016/ 17	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016/ 17
Class Visits	3,583	4,208	3,896	4,022	4,359	- 86,880	- 103,185	- 95,815	- 99,028	- 105,190	86,880	103,185	95,815	99,028	105,190
±%	-	+17%	-7%	+3%	+8%	- -	- +19%	- -7%	- +3%	- +6%	-	+19%	-7%	+3%	+6%
Got IT	2,312	3,085	2,781	3,084	2,710	2,407 -	3,294 -	3,028 -	3,207 -	2,970 -	2,407	3,294	3,028	3,207	2,970
±%	-	+33%	-10%	+11%	-12%	- -	+37% -	-8% -	+6% -	-7% -	-	+37%	-8%	+6%	-7%
Reading Groups	1,512	2,001	1,893	1,942	2,186	7,876 3,668	10,472 4,835	10,111 3,681	10,210 4,273	10,751 4,603	11,544	15,307	13,792	14,483	15,354
±%	-	+32%	-5%	+3%	+13%	- -	+33% +32%	-3% -24%	+1% +16%	+5% +8%	-	+33%	-10%	+5%	+6%
Rhythm and Rhyme	3,608	4,431	5,100	5,904	6,831	43,018 57,138	54,676 71,604	60,572 79,455	68,801 90,670	79,125 102,573	100,156	126,280	140,027	159,471	181,698
±%	-	+23%	+15%	+16%	+16%	- -	+27% +25%	+11% +11%	+14% +14%	+15% +13%	-	+26%	+11%	+14%	+14%
Storytime	1,978	2,249	2,178	2,320	2,470	- 20,122	- 24,045	- 20,850	- 22,371	- 27,646	20,122	24,045	20,850	22,371	27,646
±%	-	+14%	-3%	+7%	+6%	- -	- +19%	- -13%	- +7%	- +24%	-	+19%	-13%	+7%	+24%
Core Activities	**12,993**	**15,974**	**15,848**	**17,272**	**18,556**	**53,301 167,808**	**68,442 203,669**	**73,711 199,801**	**82,218 216,342**	**92,846 240,012**	**221,109**	**272,111**	**273,512**	**298,560**	**332,858**
±%	**-**	**+23%**	**-1%**	**+9%**	**+7%**	- -	**+28% +21%**	**+8% -2%**	**+12% +8%**	**+13% +11%**	**-**	**+23%**	**+1%**	**+9%**	**+11%**

Table 11: Regular Activity Type

Activity	No. Sessions					No. Adults				
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Creative Writing*	-	-	-	-	286	-	-	-	-	1,955
±%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mindful Colouring*	-	-	-	-	1,245	-	-	-	-	6,067
±%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tea and Newspapers*	-	-	-	-	3,386	-	-	-	-	25,032
±%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Genealogy	-	165	207	271	288	-	1,156	1,285	1,196	1,025
±%	-	-	+25%	+31%	+6%	-	-	+11%	-7%	-14%
Go ON	-	331	447	534	458	-	1,757	2,655	3,370	2,884
±%	-	-	+35%	+19%	-14%	-	-	+51%	+27%	-14%
Job Clubs	-	651	789	884	870	-	3,967	4,159	4,534	3,626
±%	-	-	+21%	+12%	-2%	-	-	+5%	+9%	-20%
Knit and Natter	-	2,697	3,095	3,661	4,107	-	23,126	28,145	34,432	39,629
±%	-	-	+15%	+18%	+12%	-	-	+22%	+22%	+15%
Regular Activities (excluding *)	**-**	***3,844***	***4,538***	***5,350***	***5,723***	**-**	***30,006***	***36,244***	***43,532***	***47,164***
±%	-	-	***+18%***	***+18%***	***+7%***	-	-	***+21%***	***+20%***	***+8%***
Regular Activities (including *)	**-**	**3,844**	**4,538**	**5,350**	**10,640**	**-**	**30,006**	**36,244**	**43,532**	**80,218**
±%	**-**	**-**	**+18%**	**+18%**	**+99%**	**-**	**-**	**+21%**	**+20%**	**+84%**

* New regular activities introduced in 2016/17

Table 12a: Class Visit Type

Class Visit Type		No. Sessions					No. Children				
		2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Nursery school/unit		252	399	502	515	521	7,418	11,228	13,450	13,809	13,107
	±%	-	+58%	+26%	+3%	+1%	-	+51%	+20%	+3%	-5%
Primary & Special Needs	*Structured activities for Year 4 & Year 6 (to support Key Stage 1 & 2 language and literacy skills)*	*1,480*	*1,775*	*1,448*	*1,461*	*1,356*	*35,966*	*43,108*	*35,815*	*36,812*	*34,524*
	±%	-	*+20%*	*-18%*	*+1%*	*-7%*	-	*+20%*	*-17%*	*+3%*	*-6%*
	Other – stories, book exchange, crafts etc.	*1,767*	*1,964*	*1,890*	*1,982*	*2,285*	*42,554*	*47,103*	*45,515*	*46,940*	*54,080*
	±%	-	*+11%*	*-4%*	*+5%*	*+15%*	-	*+11%*	*-3%*	*+3%*	*+15%*
	Total	3,247	3,739	3,338	3,443	3,641	78,520	90,211	81,330	83,752	88,604
	±%	-	+15%	-11%	+3%	+6%	-	+15%	-10%	+3%	+6%
Post Primary		84	70	56	64	197	942	1,746	1,035	1,467	3,479
	±%	-	-17%	-20%	+14%	+208%	-	+85%	-41%	+42%	+137%
All Class Visit Types		**3,583**	**4,208**	**3,896**	**4,022**	**4,359**	**86,880**	**103,185**	**95,815**	**99,028**	**105,190**
	±%	**-**	**+17%**	**-7%**	**+3%**	**+8%**	**-**	**+19%**	**-7%**	**+3%**	**+6%**

Table 12b: Class Visit Location

Class Visit Location	No. Sessions					No. Children				
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
On library premises	3,583	3,870	3,513	3,625	4,029	86,880	93,794	84,589	88,182	96,728
±%	-	+8%	-9%	+3%	+11%	-	+8%	-10%	+4%	+10%
At other location	-	338	383	397	330	-	9,391	11,226	10,846	8,462
±%	-	-	+13%	+4%	-17%	-	-	+20%	-3%	-22%
All Class Visit Locations	**3,583**	**4,208**	**3,896**	**4,022**	**4,359**	**86,880**	**103,185**	**95,815**	**99,028**	**105,190**
±%	**-**	**+17%**	**-7%**	**+3%**	**+8%**	**-**	**+19%**	**-7%**	**+3%**	**+6%**

Table 13: Got IT[2] Type

Got IT Type	No. Sessions					No. Adults				
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
One-to-one	2,243	2,936	2,641	2,998	2,582	2,243	2,936	2,641	2,998	2,582
±%	-	+31%	-10%	+14%	-14%	-	+31%	-10%	+14%	-14%
Small groups	69	149	140	86	128	164	358	387	209	388
±%	-	+116%	-6%	-39%	+49%	-	+118%	+8%	-46%	+86%
All Got IT Types	**2,312**	**3,085**	**2,781**	**3,084**	**2,710**	**2,407**	**3,294**	**3,028**	**3,207**	**2,970**
±%	**-**	**+33%**	**-10%**	**+11%**	**-12%**	**-**	**+37%**	**-8%**	**+6%**	**-7%**

[2] Excludes Got IT sessions that were held as part of Silver Surfers (i.e. annual local event which aims to encourage older people who don't currently use computers, the internet, tablets etc. to discover the benefits of such technology)

Note: In the table below where there are two entries in a single cell, the top entry relates to adults and the bottom entry relates to children

Table 14: Reading Group Type

Reading Group Type		No. Sessions					No. Adults No. Children					Total No. Participants				
		2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016/ 17	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016/ 17	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016/ 17
Adult		927	1,268	1,263	1,265	1,368	7,876 -	10,472 -	10,111 -	10,210 -	10,751 -	7,876	10,472	10,111	10,210	10,751
	±%	-	+37%	0%	0%	+8%	-	+33%	-3%	+1%	+5%	-	+33%	-3%	+1%	+5%
Children	*Chatterbooks (7-11 years)*	-	-	*105*	*148*	*219*	- -	- -	- *750*	- *976*	- *1,286*	-	-	*750*	*976*	*1,286*
	±%	-	-	-	*+41%*	*+48%*	-	-	-	*+30%*	*+32%*	-	-	-	*+30%*	*+32%*
	Children (7-9 years)	*148*	*196*	*126*	*140*	*144*	- *1,041*	- *1,508*	- *751*	- *947*	- *885*	*1,041*	*1,508*	*751*	*947*	*885*
	±%	-	*+32%*	*-36%*	*+11%*	*+3%*	-	*+45%*	*-50%*	*+26%*	*-7%*	-	*+45%*	*-50%*	*+26%*	*-7%*
	Children (9-11 years)	*321*	*393*	*294*	*287*	*337*	- *1,847*	- *2,395*	- *1,581*	- *1,839*	- *1,824*	*1,847*	*2,395*	*1,581*	*1,839*	*1,824*
	±%	-	*+22%*	*-25%*	*-2%*	*+17%*	-	*+30%*	*-34%*	*+16%*	*-1%*	-	*+30%*	*-34%*	*+16%*	*-1%*
	Teenagers (12+ years)	*116*	*144*	*105*	*102*	*118*	- *780*	- *932*	- *599*	- *511*	- *608*	*780*	*932*	*599*	*511*	*608*
	±%	-	*+24%*	*-27%*	*-3%*	*+16%*	-	*+19%*	*-36%*	*-15%*	*+19%*	-	*+19%*	*-36%*	*-15%*	*+19%*
	Total	585	733	630	677	818	- 3,668	- 4,835	- 3,681	- 4,273	- 4,603	3,668	4,835	3,681	4,273	4,603
	±%	-	+25%	-14%	+7%	+21%	- -	- +32%	- -24%	- +16%	- +8%	-	+32%	-24%	+16%	+8%
All Reading Group Types		**1,512**	**2,001**	**1,893**	**1,942**	**2,186**	**7,876 3,668**	**10,472 4,835**	**10,111 3,681**	**10,210 4,273**	**10,751 4,603**	**11,544**	**15,307**	**13,792**	**14,483**	**15,354**
	±%	**-**	**+32%**	**-5%**	**+3%**	**+13%**	**- -**	**+33% +32%**	**-3% -24%**	**+1% +16%**	**+5% +8%**	**-**	**+33%**	**-10%**	**+5%**	**+6%**

Note: In the tables below where there are two entries in a single cell, the top entry relates to adults and the bottom entry relates to children

Table 15a: Rhythm and Rhyme[3] Type

Rhythm and Rhyme Type	No. Sessions					No. Adults No. Children					Total No. Participants				
	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016/ 17	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016/ 17	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016/ 17
Public session	3,070	3,590	4,009	4,602	5,508	40,347 49,087	49,789 59,555	54,485 65,087	60,866 72,471	70,262 84,660	89,434	109,344	119,572	133,337	154,922
±%	-	+17%	+12%	+15%	+20%	- -	+23% +21%	+9% +9%	+12% +11%	+15% +17%	-	+22%	+9%	+12%	+16%
Dedicated session (e.g. Day nursery, parent & toddlers, playgroup etc.)	538	841	1,091	1,302	1,323	2,671 8,051	4,887 12,049	6,087 14,368	7,935 18,199	8,863 17,913	10,722	16,936	20,455	26,134	26,776
±%	-	+56%	+30%	+19%	+2%	- -	+83% +50%	+25% +19%	+30% +27%	+12% -2%	-	+58%	+21%	+28%	+2%
All Rhythm and Rhyme Types	**3,608**	**4,431**	**5,100**	**5,904**	**6,831**	**43,018 57,138**	**54,676 71,604**	**60,572 79,455**	**68,801 90,670**	**79,125 102,573**	**100,156**	**126,280**	**140,027**	**159,471**	**181,698**
±%	**-**	**+23%**	**+15%**	**+16%**	**+16%**	**- -**	**+27% +25%**	**+11% +11%**	**+14% +14%**	**+15% +13%**	**-**	**+26%**	**+11%**	**+14%**	**+14%**

Table 15b: Rhythm and Rhyme[3] Location

Rhythm and Rhyme Location	No. Sessions					No. Adults No. Children					Total No. Participants				
	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016/ 17	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016/ 17	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016/ 17
On library premises (including Mobile van)	3,452	4,101	4,578	5,297	6,173	42,449 54,778	52,651 66,370	57,939 72,162	65,693 81,788	75,505 93,887	97,227	119,021	130,101	147,481	169,392
±%	-	+19%	+12%	+16%	+17%	- -	+24% +21%	+10% +9%	+13% +13%	+15% +15%	-	+22%	+9%	+13%	+15%
At other location	156	330	522	607	658	569 2,360	2,025 5,234	2,633 7,293	3,108 8,882	3,620 8,686	2,929	7,259	9,926	11,990	12,306
±%	-	+112%	+58%	+16%	+8%	- -	+256% +122%	+30% +39%	+18% +22%	+16% -2%	-	+148%	+37%	+21%	+3%
All Rhythm and Rhyme Locations	**3,608**	**4,431**	**5,100**	**5,904**	**6,831**	**43,018 57,138**	**54,676 71,604**	**60,572 79,455**	**68,801 90,670**	**79,125 102,573**	**100,156**	**126,280**	**140,027**	**159,471**	**181,698**
±%	**-**	**+23%**	**+15%**	**+16%**	**+16%**	**- -**	**+27% +25%**	**+11% +11%**	**+14% +14%**	**+15% +13%**	**-**	**+26%**	**+11%**	**+14%**	**+14%**

[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 16a: Storytime[4] Type

Storytime Type	No. Sessions					No. Children				
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Public session	1,864	1,903	1,853	1,960	2,013	18,121	16,992	16,362	17,410	19,513
±%	-	+2%	-3%	+6%	+3%	-	-6%	-4%	+6%	+12%
Dedicated session (e.g. Rainbows/Cygnets/ Brigíní, Beavers, Explorers, Anchor Boys, after schools day care etc.)	114	346	325	360	457	2,001	7,053	4,488	4,961	8,133
±%	-	+204%	-6%	+11%	+27%	-	+252%	-36%	+11%	+64%
All Storytime Types	**1,978**	**2,249**	**2,178**	**2,320**	**2,470**	**20,122**	**24,045**	**20,850**	**22,371**	**27,646**
±%	**-**	**+14%**	**-3%**	**+7%**	**+6%**	**-**	**+19%**	**-13%**	**+7%**	**+24%**

Table 16b: Storytime[4] Location

Storytime Location	No. Sessions					No. Children				
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
On library premises (including Mobile van)	1,957	2,103	1,992	2,116	2,269	19,466	20,907	18,334	19,482	24,647
±%	-	+7%	-5%	+6%	+7%	-	+7%	-12%	+6%	+27%
At other location	21	146	186	204	201	656	3,138	2,516	2,889	2,999
±%	-	+595%	+27%	+10%	-1%	-	+378%	-20%	+15%	+4%
All Storytime Locations	**1,978**	**2,249**	**2,178**	**2,320**	**2,470**	**20,122**	**24,045**	**20,850**	**22,371**	**27,646**
±%	**-**	**+14%**	**-3%**	**+7%**	**+6%**	**-**	**+19%**	**-13%**	**+7%**	**+24%**

[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) from 2012/13 to 2015/16 and Libraries NI's 'Big Summer Read' introduced in 2016/17.

Table 17: Genealogy Type

Genealogy Type	No. Sessions					No. Adults				
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Talk/presentation	-	32	37	43	25	-	559	689	593	289
±%	-	-	+16%	+16%	-42%	-	-	+23%	-14%	-51%
Ancestry Library Edition workshop	-	133	170	228	263	-	597	596	603	736
±%	-	-	+28%	+34%	+15%	-	-	0%	+1%	+22%
All Genealogy Types	**-**	**165**	**207**	**271**	**288**	**-**	**1,156**	**1,285**	**1,196**	**1,025**
±%	**-**	**-**	**+25%**	**+31%**	**+6%**	**-**	**-**	**+11%**	**-7%**	**-14%**

Table 18: Job Club Type

Job Club Type	No. Sessions					No. Adults				
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Jobs & Benefits Office	-	651	570	619	399	-	3,967	3,022	3,179	2,078
±%	-	-	-12%	+9%	-36%	-	-	-24%	+5%	-35%
Other organisation (e.g. Job Assist, Kickstart To Work, Supported Employment Solutions etc.)	-	-	219	265	471	-	-	1,137	1,355	1,548
±%	-	-	-	+21%	+78%	-	-	-	+19%	+14%
All Job Club Types	**-**	**651**	**789**	**884**	**870**	**-**	**3,967**	**4,159**	**4,534**	**3,626**
±%	**-**	**-**	**+21%**	**+12%**	**-2%**	**-**	**-**	**+5%**	**+9%**	**-20%**

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 managers (and several of the 16 mobile library managers where applicable) 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/mobile 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/bpdj30kp/participation_in_core_and_regular_library_activities_2016_17_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

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