libraries ni

Statistical Bulletin

Participation in Core & Regular Library Activities in Northern Ireland 2014/15
Annual Report

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CONTENTS   PAGE

CONTENTS (continued)   PAGE

Notes to users:

1. All participant numbers refer to instances of participation rather than individual people.
2. All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Summary

From 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015:

- A total of 309,756 participants (109,955 adults and 199,801 children) engaged in 20,386 core and regular activity sessions run by Libraries NI – this is an increase of 3% in both the number of participants and activity sessions since 2013/14 (302,117 participants and 19,818 sessions respectively). There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13 as information was only recorded for core activities in this year – information on regular activities was included from 2013/14.

  o 273,512 participants (73,711 adults and 199,801 children) engaged in 15,848 core activity sessions (i.e. Class visits, Got IT?, Reading Groups, Rhythm and Rhyme and Storytime) – this is an increase of 1% in participant numbers and a 1% *decrease* in the number of core activity sessions since 2013/14 (272,111 participants and 15,974 sessions respectively), but a 24% increase in the number of participants (221,109) and a 22% increase in the number of sessions (12,993) since 2012/13.

  o 36,244 adults engaged in 4,538 regular activity sessions (i.e. Genealogy, Go ON!, Job Clubs and Knit and Natter Groups) – this is a 21% increase in the number of participants and an 18% increase in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (30,006 participants and 3,844 sessions respectively). There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.

Core Activities

- 95,815 children took part in the school class visits programme (3,896 sessions), a *decrease* of 7% in both the number of children and sessions since 2013/14 (103,185 children and 4,208 sessions respectively). However, this is a 10% increase in the number of children (86,880) and a 9% increase in the number of sessions (3,583) since 2012/13.

- 3,028 adults participated in 2,781 Got IT? sessions, compared to 3,294 adults and 3,085 sessions in 2013/14. This is a *decrease* of 8% in the number of adults and a *decrease* of 10% in the number of sessions from 2013/14 to 2014/15. However, this is a 26% increase in the number of adults (2,407) and a 20% increase in the number of sessions (2,312) since 2012/13.

- 13,792 participants engaged in 1,893 reading group sessions, a 10% *decrease* in the number of participants and a 5% *decrease* in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (15,307 participants and 2,001 sessions respectively), but a 19% increase in the number of participants (11,544) and a 25% increase in the number of sessions (1,512) since 2012/13.

  o 10,111 adults took part in 1,263 reading group sessions, compared to 10,472 adults and 1,268 sessions in 2013/14. This is a 3% *decrease* in the number of adults and almost no change in the number of sessions from 2013/14 to 2014/15. However, it represents a 28% increase in the number of adults (7,876) and a 36% increase in the number of sessions (927) since 2012/13.

o 3,681 children took part in 630 reading group sessions, compared to 4,835 children and 733 sessions in 2013/14. This is a 24% *decrease* in the number of children and a 14% *decrease* in the number of sessions from 2013/14 to 2014/15. However, there is almost no change in the number of children (3,668) and an 8% increase in the number of sessions (585) since 2012/13.

- 140,027 participants (60,572 adults and 79,455 children) engaged in a total of 5,100 Rhythm and Rhyme sessions for pre-school age children (0-4 years), an 11% increase in the number of participants and a 15% increase in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (126,280 participants and 4,431 sessions respectively). This is also an increase of 40% in the number of participants (100,156) and a 41% increase in the number of sessions (3,608) since 2012/13.

- 20,850 children engaged in a total of 2,178 Storytime sessions for 4-8 year olds, a 13% *decrease* in the number of children and a 3% *decrease* in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (24,045 children and 2,249 sessions respectively). However, it represents a 4% increase in the number of children (20,122) and a 10% increase in the number of sessions (1,978) since 2012/13.

Regular Activities

- 1,285 adults took part in 207 genealogy (i.e. family history) activities in 2014/15. This is an 11% increase in the number of adults and a 25% increase in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (1,156 adults and 165 sessions respectively). There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.

- 2,655 adults participated in 447 Go ON! small group sessions compared to 1,757 adults and 331 sessions in 2013/14. This is a 51% increase in the number of adults and a 35% increase in the number of sessions from 2013/14 to 2014/15. There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.

- 4,159 adults engaged in 789 Job Club sessions, compared to 3,967 adults and 651 sessions in 2013/14. This is a 5% increase in the number of adults and a 21% increase in the number of sessions from 2013/14 to 2014/15. There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.

- 28,145 adults participated in 3,095 Knit and Natter group sessions in 2014/15. This is an increase of 22% in the number of adults and an increase of 15% in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (23,126 adults and 2,697 sessions respectively). There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.

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 and regular activities in the majority of 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, while Regular activities are defined as Genealogy, Go ON!, Job Clubs and Knit and Natter Groups.

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 have also begun 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.). Reading groups hosted by external organisations that meet in the library premises and 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.

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.

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[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.

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 are held in partnership with the Department of Employment and Learning (DEL) on library premises, offering 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.) also use the library facilities to offer similar advice and services to the unemployed and are therefore included in the 2014/15 figures.

Knit and Natter Groups

Knit and Natter groups are held in various libraries across Northern Ireland and are for adults who enjoy knitting, 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.

Libraries NI Activity Database

This bulletin presents information on participation in the aforementioned core and regular library activities during 2014/15, 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 2014/15, a total of 309,756 participants (109,955 adults and 199,801 children) engaged in 20,386 core and regular activity sessions run by Libraries NI – this is an increase of 3% in both the number of participants and activity sessions since 2013/14 (302,117 participants and 19,818 sessions respectively). There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13 as information was only recorded for core activities in this year – information on regular activities was included from 2013/14.

- 273,512 participants (73,711 adults and 199,801 children) engaged in 15,848 core activity sessions (i.e. Class visits, Got IT?, Reading Groups, Rhythm and Rhyme and Storytime) – this is an increase of 1% in participant numbers and a 1% *decrease* in the number of core activity sessions since 2013/14 (272,111 participants and 15,974 sessions respectively), but a 24% increase in the number of participants (221,109) and a 22% increase in the number of sessions (12,993) since 2012/13.

Figure 1: Core Activities
(a) No. Participants [Adults + Children]   (b) No. Sessions
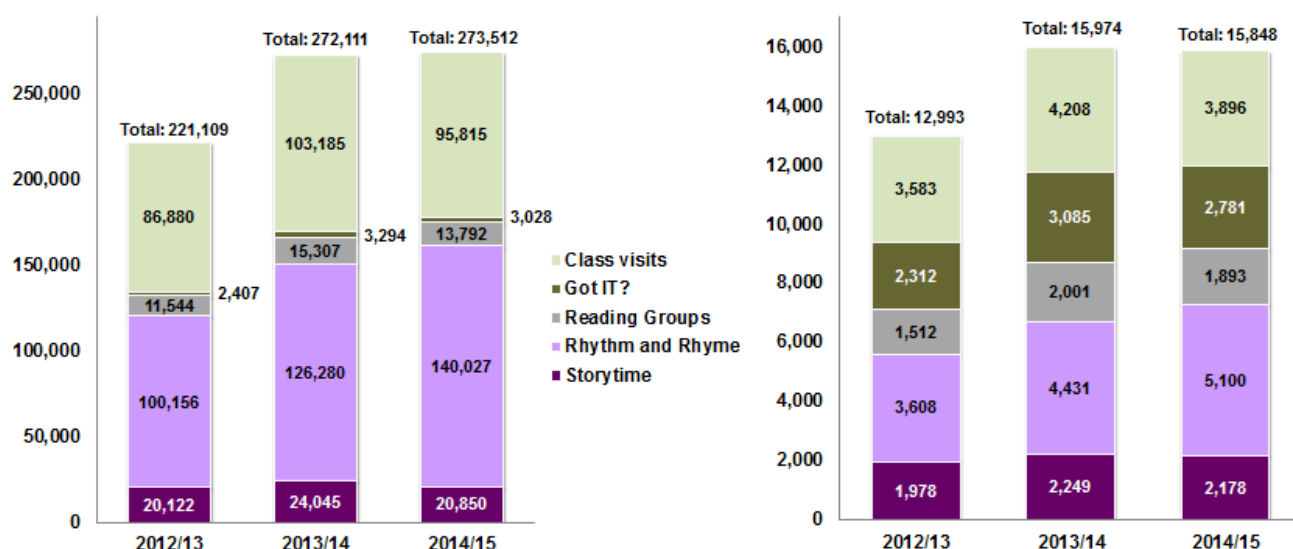
- o 36,244 adults engaged in 4,538 regular activity sessions (i.e. Genealogy, Go ON!, Job Clubs and Knit and Natter Groups) – this is a 21% increase in the number of participants and an 18% increase in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (30,006 participants and 3,844 sessions respectively). There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.

Figure 2: Regular Activities

(a) No. Participants [Adults]

		Total: 36,244
	Total: 30,006	1,285
	1,156	2,655
	1,757	4,159
	3,967	
		28,145
	23,126	

Legend:
- Genealogy
- Go ON!
- Job Clubs
- Knit and Natter Groups

No corresponding figures (2012/13)
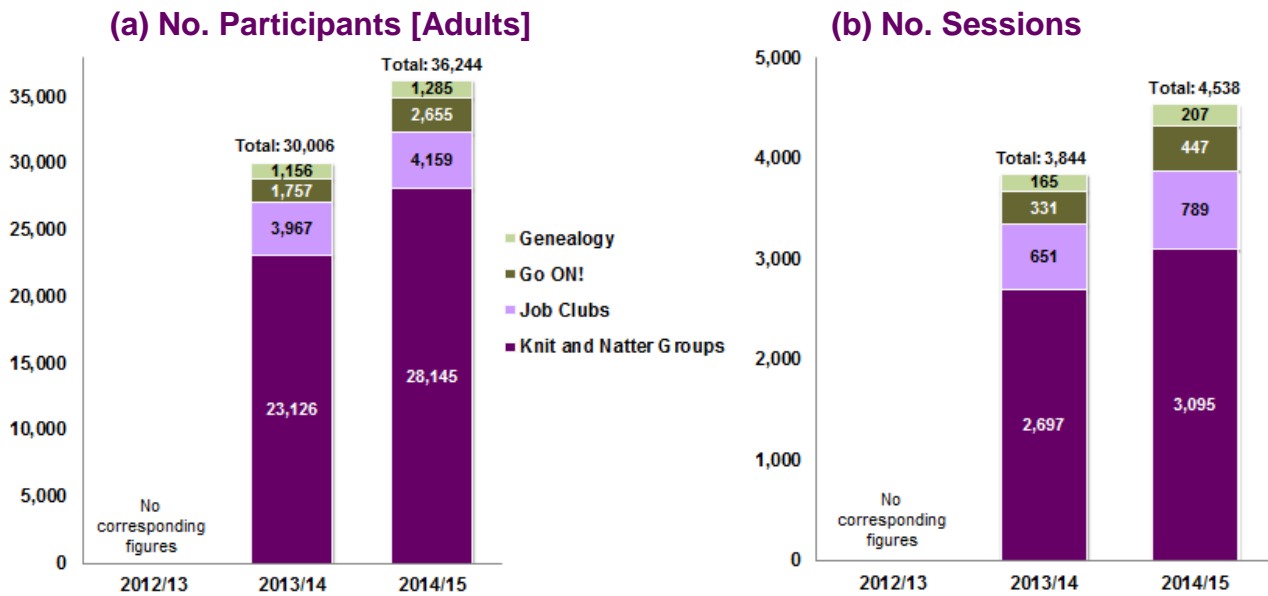
(b) No. Sessions

		Total: 4,538
	Total: 3,844	207
	165	447
	331	789
	651	
	2,697	3,095

No corresponding figures (2012/13)

Core Activities

Class Visits

- During 2014/15, 95,815 children took part in the school class visits programme (3,896 sessions), a *decrease* of 7% in both the number of children and sessions since 2013/14 (103,185 children and 4,208 sessions respectively). However, this is a 10% increase in the number of children (86,880) and a 9% increase in the number of sessions (3,583) since 2012/13.

Figure 3: Class Visits

(a) No. Participants [Children]

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Total	86,880	103,185	95,815
Nursery	7,418	11,228	13,450
Primary & Special Needs (Structured)	35,966	43,108	35,815
Primary & Special Needs (Other)	42,554	47,103	45,515
Post Primary	942	1,746	1,035

(b) No. Sessions

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Total	3,583	4,208	3,896
Nursery	252	399	502
Primary & Special Needs (Structured)	1,480	1,775	1,448
Primary & Special Needs (Other)	1,767	1,964	1,890
Post Primary	84	70	56

- o 13,450 were pupils from nursery schools or primary schools with an associated nursery unit (502 sessions – 267 of which were outreach sessions held on school premises). This represents a 20% increase in the number of children and a 26% increase in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (11,228 children and 399 sessions respectively). This is also an 81% increase in the number of children (7,418) and almost double the number of sessions (252) since 2012/13.

- o 81,330 were pupils from primary or special needs schools (3,338 sessions), a 10% *decrease* in the number of children and an 11% *decrease* in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (90,211 children and 3,739 sessions respectively). However, this is a 4% increase in the number of children (78,520) and a 3% increase in the number of sessions (3,247) since 2012/13.

  - 35,815 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 (1,448 sessions), a 17% *decrease* in the number of children and an 18% *decrease* in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (43,108 children and 1,775 sessions respectively). The number of children is fairly similar to that in 2012/13 (35,966) but this is a 2% *decrease* in the number of sessions (1,480) since then.

  - The remaining 45,515 exchanged books and/or listened to stories, took part in crafts etc. (1,890 sessions – 116 of which were outreach sessions held on school premises), which represents a 4% *decrease* in the number of children and a 3% *decrease* in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (47,103 children and 1,964 sessions respectively). However, this is a 7% increase in both the number of children (42,554) and sessions (1,767) since 2012/13.

- o 1,035 were pupils from post primary schools (56 sessions), a 41% *decrease* in the number of children and a 20% *decrease* in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (1,746 children and 70 sessions respectively). However, this is a 10% increase in the number of children (942) and a 33% *decrease* in the number of sessions (84) since 2012/13.

Got IT?

- 3,028 adults participated in 2,781 Got IT? sessions in 2014/15, compared to 3,294 adults and 3,085 sessions in 2013/14. This is a *decrease* of 8% in the number of adults and a *decrease* of 10% in the number of sessions from 2013/14 to 2014/15. However, this is a 26% increase in the number of adults (2,407) and a 20% increase in the number of sessions (2,312) since 2012/13.

Figure 4: Got IT?

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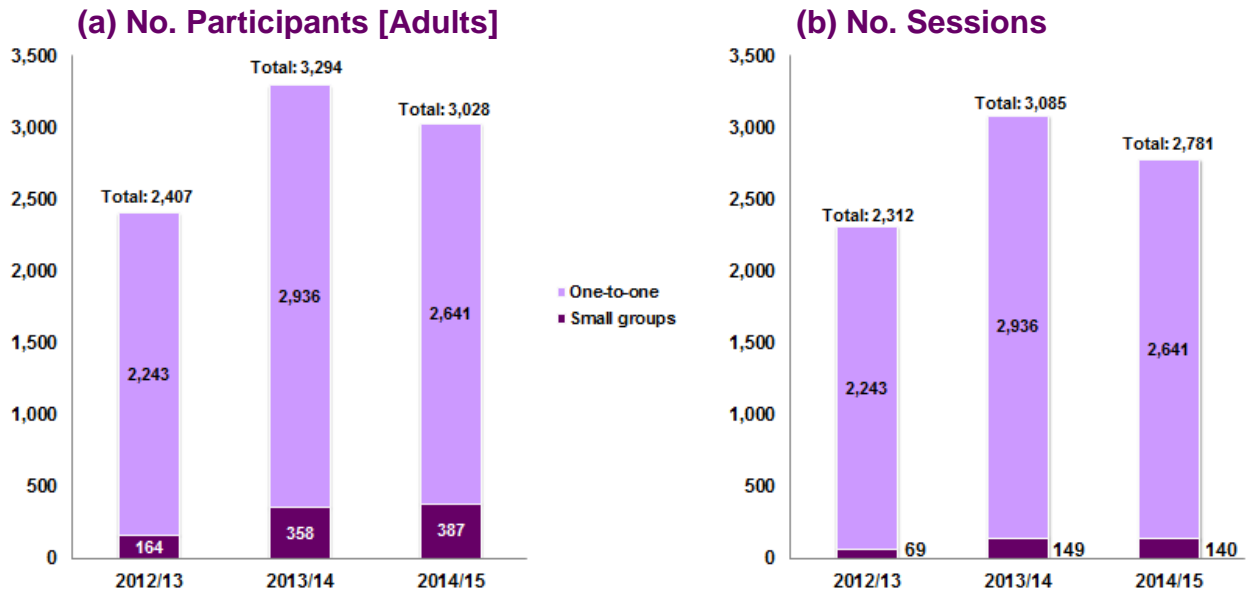
(b) No. Sessions

- ○ 2,641 adults took part on a one-to-one basis compared to 2,936 in 2013/14, a *decrease* of 10%. However, this is an increase of 18% in the number of adults (2,243) since 2012/13.

- ○ 387 adults participated in 140 small group sessions, which represents an 8% increase in the number of adults (358) and a 6% *decrease* in the number of sessions (149) since 2013/14. However, this is more than double both the number of adults (164) and sessions (69) since 2012/13.

Reading Groups

- During 2014/15, 13,792 participants engaged in 1,893 reading group sessions, a 10% *decrease* in the number of participants and a 5% *decrease* in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (15,307 participants and 2,001 sessions respectively), but a 19% increase in the number of participants (11,544) and a 25% increase in the number of sessions (1,512) since 2012/13.

Figure 5: Reading Groups
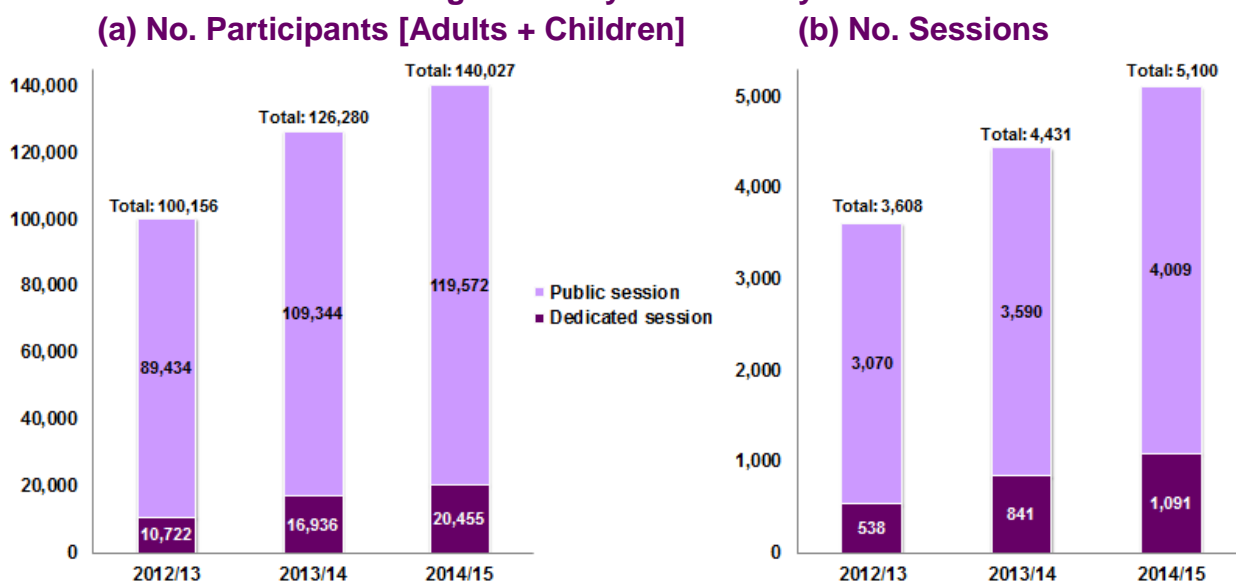### (a) No. participants [Adults & Children]   (b) No. Sessions
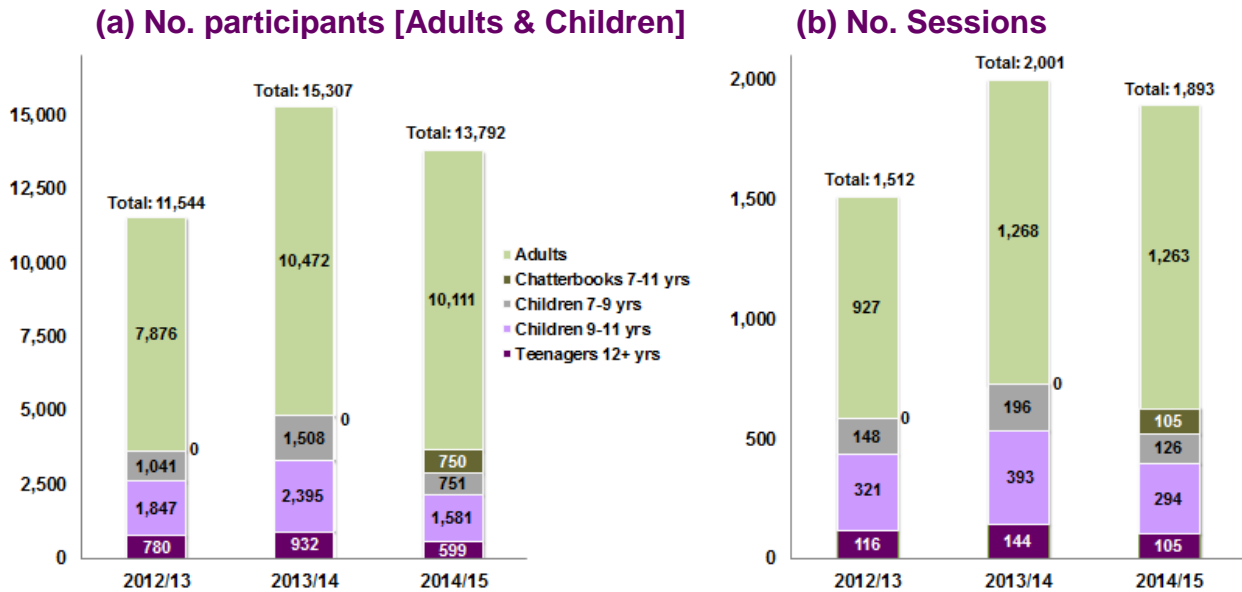
- o 10,111 adults took part in 1,263 reading group sessions, compared to 10,472 adults and 1,268 sessions in 2013/14. This is a 3% *decrease* in the number of adults and almost no change in the number of sessions from 2013/14 to 2014/15. However, this is a 28% increase in the number of adults (7,876) and a 36% increase in the number of sessions (927) since 2012/13.

- o 3,681 children took part in 630 reading group sessions, compared to 4,835 children and 733 sessions in 2013/14. This is a 24% *decrease* in the number of children and a 14% *decrease* in the number of sessions from 2013/14 to 2014/15. However, the number of children is almost the same (3,668) as in 2012/13 and there is an 8% increase in the number of sessions (585) since then.

  - ▪ 750 children took part in 105 Chatterbooks sessions for 7-11 year olds. This is the first year information was recorded for this type of reading group so there are no corresponding figures for 2012/13 or 2013/14.

  - ▪ 751 children took part in 126 sessions for 7-9 year olds, a 50% *decrease* in the number of children and a 36% *decrease* in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (1,508 children and 196 sessions respectively). This is also a 28% *decrease* in the number of children (1,041) and a 15% *decrease* in the number of sessions (148) since 2012/13.

  - ▪ 1,581 children took part in 294 sessions for 9-11 year olds, a 34% *decrease* in the number of children and a 25% *decrease* in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (2,395 children and 393 sessions respectively). This is also a 14% *decrease* in the number of children (1,847) and an 8% *decrease* in the number of sessions (321) since 2012/13.

  - ▪ 599 children took part in 105 sessions for those aged 12+ years, a 36% *decrease* in the number of children and a 27% *decrease* in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (932 children and 144 sessions respectively). This is also a 23% *decrease* in the number of children (780) and a 9% *decrease* in the number of sessions (116) since 2012/13.

Rhythm and Rhyme

- During 2014/15, 140,027 participants (60,572 adults and 79,455 children) engaged in a total of 5,100 Rhythm and Rhyme sessions for pre-school age children (0-4 years), an 11% increase in the number of participants and a 15% increase in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (126,280 participants and 4,431 sessions respectively). This is also an increase of 40% in the number of participants (100,156) and a 41% increase in the number of sessions (3,608) since 2012/13.

  o 119,572 participants (54,485 adults and 65,087 children) took part in 4,009 sessions open to the public, a 9% increase in the number of participants and a 12% increase in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (109,344 participants and 3,590 sessions respectively). This is also an increase of 34% in the number of participants (89,434) and a 31% increase in the number of sessions (3,070) since 2012/13.

  o 20,455 participants (6,087 adults and 14,368 children) took part in 1,091 dedicated sessions held exclusively for day nurseries, playgroups and parent and toddler groups etc., which represents a 21% increase in the number of participants and a 30% increase in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (16,936 participants and 841 sessions respectively). This is also a 91% increase in the number of participants (10,722) and approximately double the number of sessions (538) since 2012/13.

Figure 6: Rhythm and Rhyme

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

  o 130,101 participants (57,939 adults and 72,162 children) attended 4,578 sessions that were held in the library, a 9% increase in the number of participants and a 12% increase in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (119,021 participants and 4,101 sessions respectively). This is also a 34% increase in the number of participants (97,227) and a 33% increase in the number of sessions (3,452) since 2012/13.

  o 9,926 participants (2,633 adults and 7,293 children) attended 522 sessions that took place at another location, which is a 37% increase in the number of participants and a 58% increase in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (7,259 participants and 330 sessions respectively). This is also more than three times the number of both participants (2,929) and sessions (156) since 2012/13.

Storytime

- During 2014/15, 20,850 children engaged in a total of 2,178 Storytime sessions for 4-8 year olds, a 13% *decrease* in the number of children and a 3% *decrease* in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (24,045 children and 2,249 sessions respectively). However, it represents a 4% increase in the number of children (20,122) and a 10% increase in the number of sessions (1,978) since 2012/13.

  o 16,362 children took part in 1,853 sessions open to the public, a 4% *decrease* in the number of children and a 3% *decrease* in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (16,992 children and 1,903 sessions respectively). This is also a 10% *decrease* in the number of children (18,121) and a 1% *decrease* in the number of sessions (1,864) since 2012/13.

  o 4,488 children took part in 325 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 36% *decrease* in the number of children and a 6% *decrease* in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (7,053 children and 346 sessions respectively). However, this is more than double the number of children (2,001) and almost three times the number of sessions (114) since 2012/13.

Figure 7: Storytime
#### (a) No. Participants [Children]   (b) No. Sessions
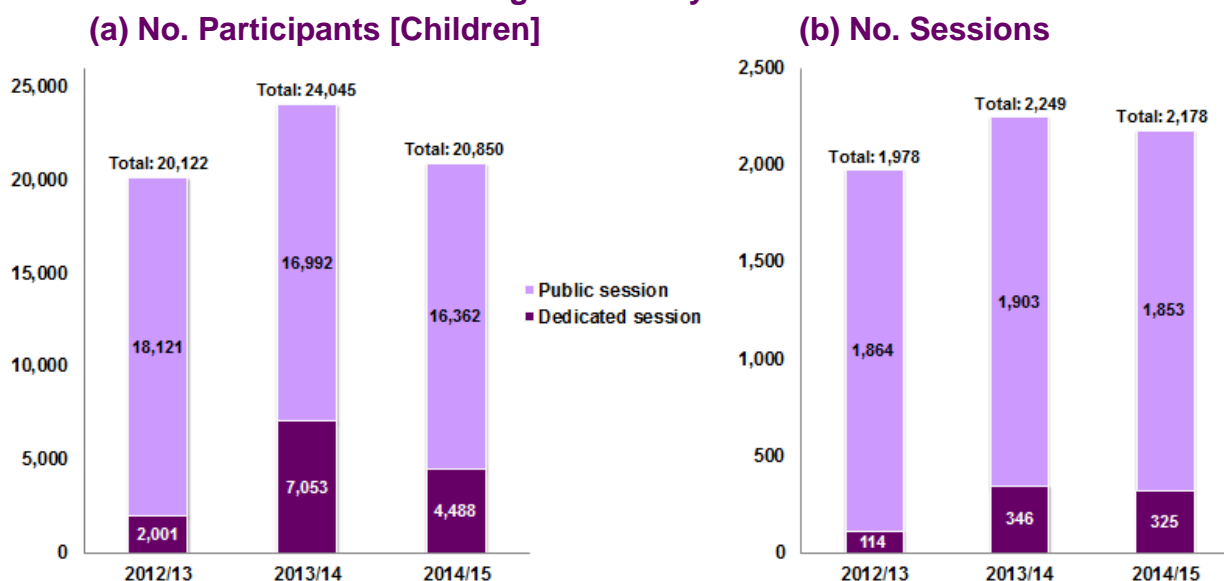
  o 18,334 children attended 1,992 sessions that were held in the library, a 12% *decrease* in the number of children and a 5% *decrease* in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (20,907 participants and 2,103 sessions respectively). However, this is a 6% *decrease* in the number of children (19,466) and a 2% increase in the number of sessions (1,957) since 2012/13.

  o 2,516 children attended 186 sessions that took place at another location, which is a 20% *decrease* in the number of children and a 27% increase in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (3,138 participants and 146 sessions respectively). However, this is almost four times the number of children (656) and almost nine times the number of sessions (21) since 2012/13.

Regular Activities

Genealogy

- 1,285 adults took part in 207 genealogy (i.e. family history) activities in 2014/15. This is an 11% increase in the number of adults and a 25% increase in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (1,156 adults and 165 sessions respectively). There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.
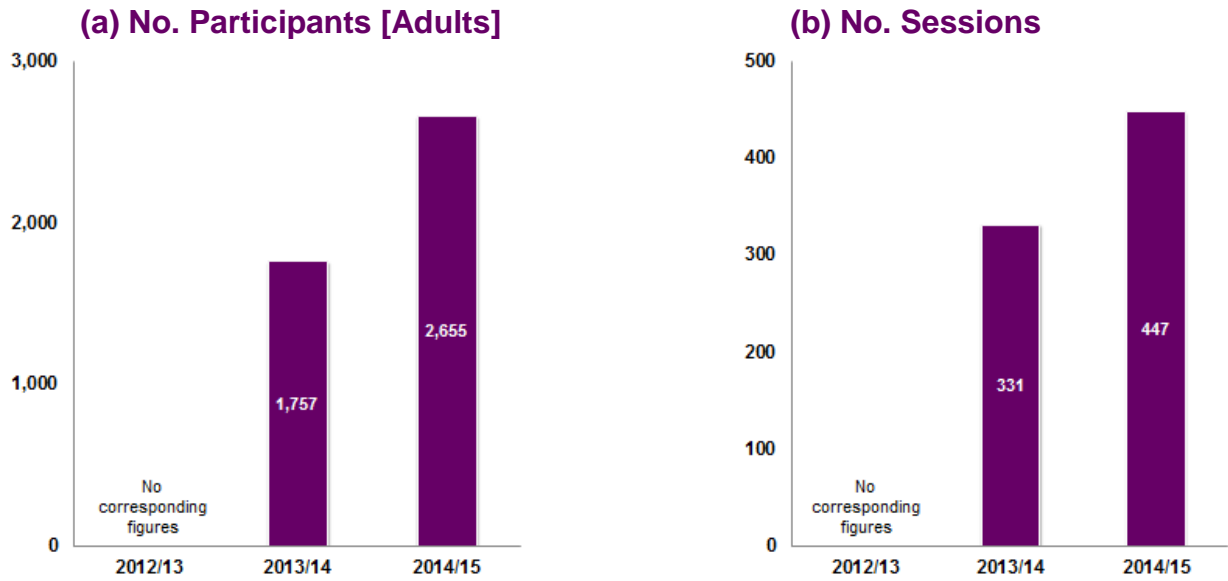
Figure 8: Genealogy
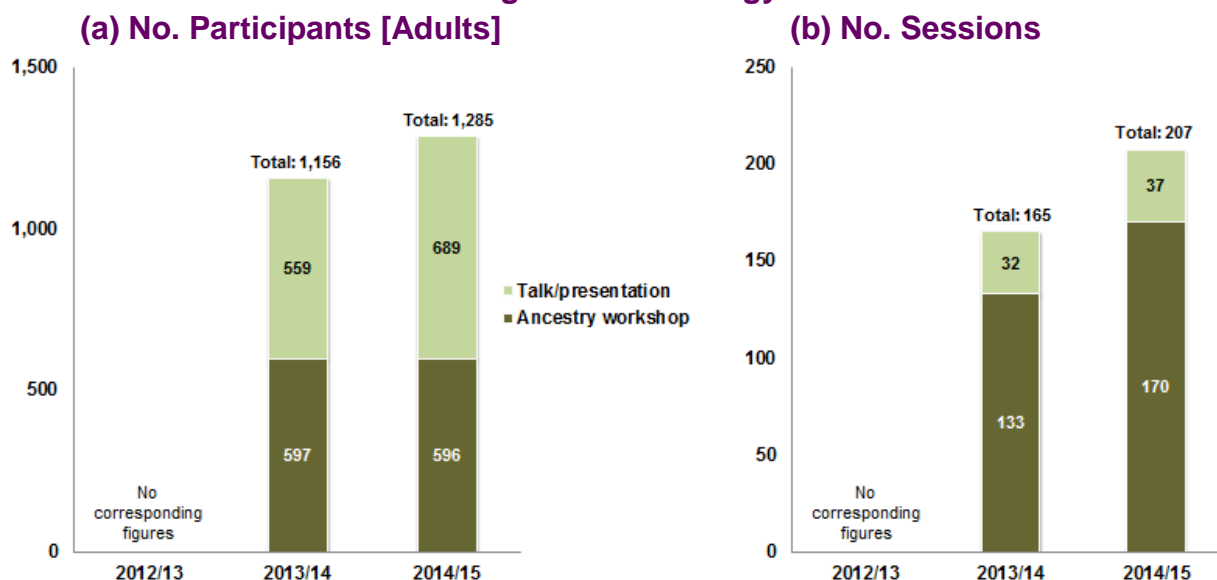
- o 689 adults attended talks or presentations (37 sessions), compared to 559 adults and 32 sessions in 2013/14. This is an increase of 23% in the number of adults and an increase of 16% in the number of sessions from 2013/14 to 2014/15.

- o 596 adults engaged in family history workshops using Ancestry Library Edition (170 sessions), compared to 597 adults and 133 sessions in 2013/14. The number of adults remains virtually unchanged but this is an increase of 28% in the number of sessions from 2013/14 to 2014/15.

Go ON!

- 2,655 adults participated in 447 Go ON! small group sessions in 2014/15, compared to 1,757 adults and 331 sessions in 2013/14. This is a 51% increase in the number of adults and a 35% increase in the number of sessions from 2013/14 to 2014/15. There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.
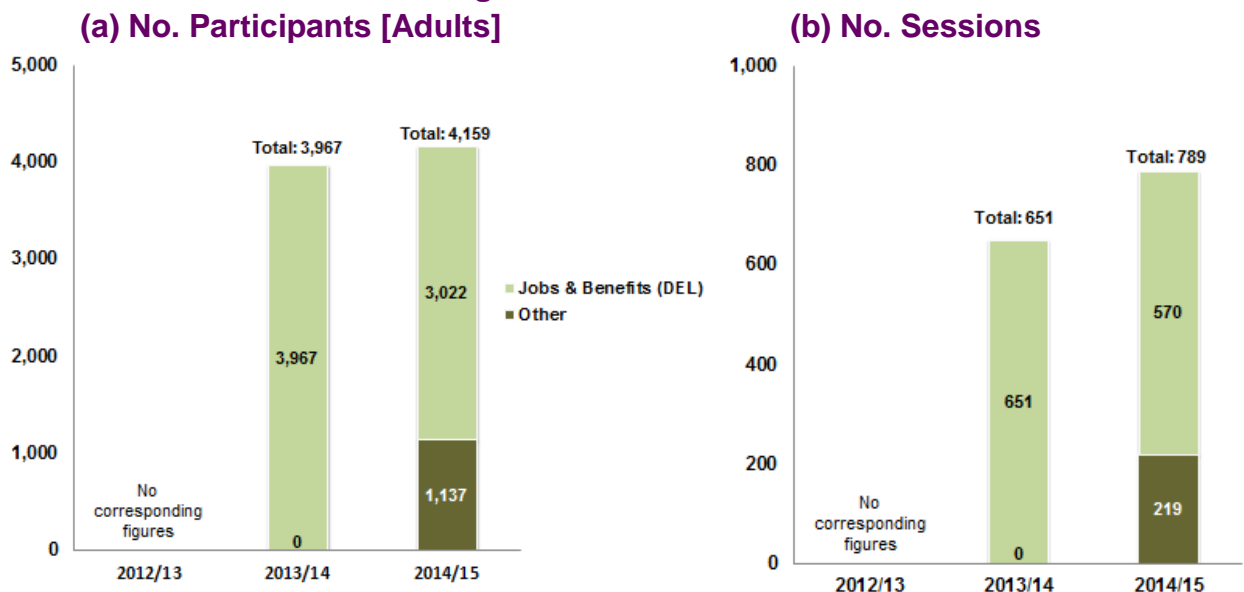
Figure 9: Go ON!

(a) No. Participants [Adults]

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
	No corresponding figures	1,757	2,655

(b) No. Sessions

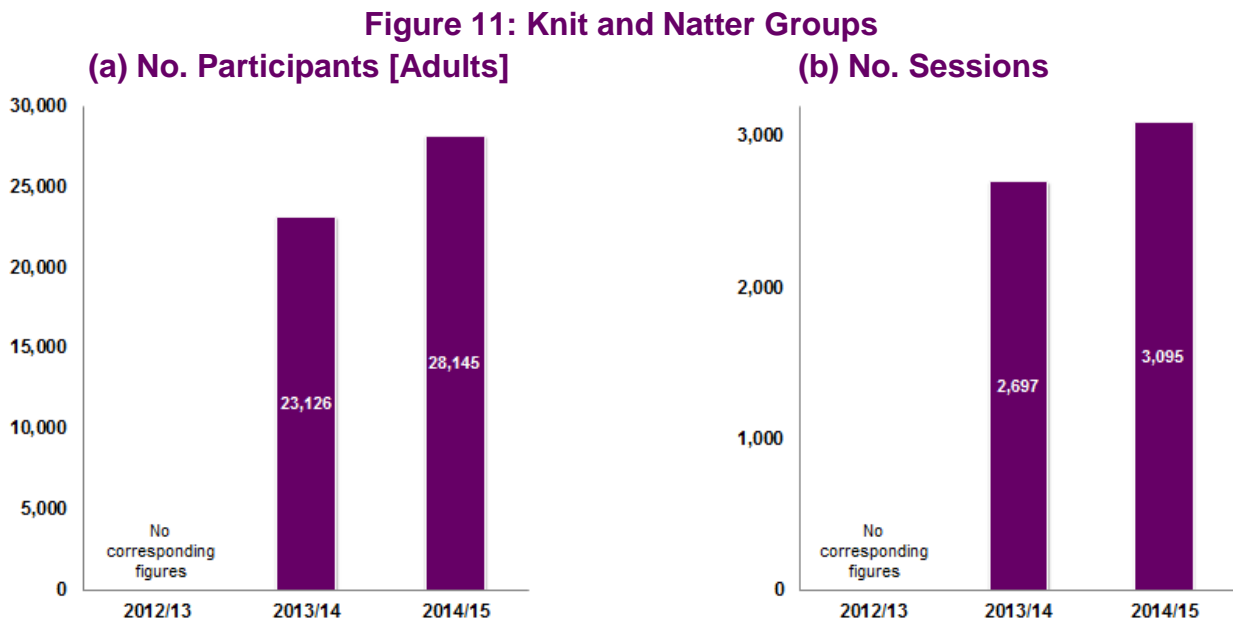|	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
	No corresponding figures	331	447

Job Clubs

- 4,159 adults engaged in 789 Job Club sessions in 2014/15, compared to 3,967 adults and 651 sessions in 2013/14. There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.

  - 3,022 adults engaged in 570 sessions held in partnership with the Department for Employment and Learning, compared to 3,967 adults and 651 sessions in 2013/14. This is a 5% increase in the number of adults and a 21% increase in the number of sessions from 2013/14 to 2014/15.

  - 1,137 adults engaged in 219 sessions held in association with other organisations (e.g. Job Assist, Kickstart to Work, Supported Employment Solutions etc.). This is the first year information was recorded for such organisations so no comparisons with 2013/14 are possible.

Figure 10: Job Clubs

(a) No. Participants [Adults]

Legend: Jobs & Benefits (DEL), Other

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Total	No corresponding figures	Total: 3,967	Total: 4,159
Jobs & Benefits (DEL)		3,967	3,022
Other		0	1,137

(b) No. Sessions

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Total	No corresponding figures	Total: 651	Total: 789
Jobs & Benefits (DEL)		651	570
Other		0	219

Knit and Natter Groups

- 28,145 adults participated in 3,095 Knit and Natter group sessions in 2014/15. This is an increase of 22% in the number of adults and an increase of 15% in the number of sessions since 2013/14 (23,126 adults and 2,697 sessions respectively). There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.

Figure 11: Knit and Natter Groups

(a) No. Participants [Adults]

Year	Participants
2012/13	No corresponding figures
2013/14	23,126
2014/15	28,145

(b) No. Sessions

Year	Sessions
2012/13	No corresponding figures
2013/14	2,697
2014/15	3,095

Participation Tables: 2014/15

Table 1:   Core & Regular Activities

Activity	No. Sessions	No. Adults	No. Children	Total No. Participants
Class Visits	3,896	-	95,815	95,815
Got IT?	2,781	3,028	-	3,028
Reading Groups	1,893	10,111	3,681	13,792
Rhythm and Rhyme	5,100	60,572	79,455	140,027
Storytime	2,178	-	20,850	20,850
All Core Activities	**15,848**	**73,711**	**199,801**	**273,512**
Genealogy	207	1,285	-	1,285
Go ON!	447	2,655	-	2,655
Job Clubs	789	4,159	-	4,159
Knit and Natter Groups	3,095	28,145	-	28,145
All Regular Activities	**4,538**	**36,244**	**-**	**36,244**
All Core & Regular Activities	**20,386**	**109,955**	**199,801**	**309,756**

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		502	13,450
Primary & Special Needs	*Structured activities for Year 4 & Year 6 (to support Key Stage 1 & 2 language and literacy skills)*	*1,448*	*35,815*
	Other – stories, book exchange, crafts etc.	*1,890*	*45,515*
	Total	3,338	81,330
Post Primary		56	1,035
All Class Visit Types		**3,896**	**95,815**

Table 2b: Class Visit Location

Class Visit Location	No. Sessions	No. Children
On library premises	3,513	84,589
At other location	383	11,226
All Class Visit Locations	**3,896**	**95,815**

Table 3: Got IT?[2] Type

Got IT? Type	No. Sessions	No. Adults
One-to-one	2,641	2,641
Small groups	140	387
All Got IT? Types	**2,781**	**3,028**

[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		1,263	10,111	-	10,111
Children	*Chatterbooks (7-11 years)*	*105*	*-*	*750*	*750*
	Children (7-9 years)	*126*	*-*	*751*	*751*
	Children (9-11 years)	*294*	*-*	*1,581*	*1,581*
	Teenagers (12+ years)	*105*	*-*	*599*	*599*
	Total	630	-	3,681	3,681
All Reading Group Types		**1,893**	**10,111**	**3,681**	**13,792**

Table 5a: Rhythm and Rhyme[3] Type

Rhythm and Rhyme Type	No. Sessions	No. Adults	No. Children	Total No. Participants
Public session	4,009	54,485	65,087	119,572
Dedicated session (e.g. Day nursery, playgroup, parent & toddlers etc.)	1,091	6,087	14,368	20,455
All Rhythm and Rhyme Types	**5,100**	**60,572**	**79,455**	**140,027**

Table 5b: Rhythm and Rhyme[3] Location

Rhythm and Rhyme Location	No. Sessions	No. Adults	No. Children	Total No. Participants
On library premises	4578	57,939	72,162	130,101
At other location	522	2,633	7,293	9,926
All Rhythm and Rhyme Locations	**5,100**	**60,572**	**79,455**	**140,027**

[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	1,853	16,362
Dedicated session (e.g. Rainbows/Cygnets/Brigíní, Beavers, Explorers, Anchor Boys, after schools day care etc.)	325	4,488
All Storytime Types	**2,178**	**20,850**

Table 6b: Storytime[4] Location

Storytime Location	No. Sessions	No. Children
On library premises	1,992	18,334
At other location	186	2,516
All Storytime Locations	**2,178**	**20,850**

[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)

Table 7: Genealogy Type

Genealogy Type	No. Sessions	No. Adults
Talk/presentation	37	689
Ancestry Library Edition workshop	170	596
All Genealogy Types	**207**	**1,285**

Table 8: Job Club Type

Job Club Type	No. Sessions	No. Adults
Jobs & Benefits Office/DEL	570	3,022
Other organisation (e.g. Job Assist, Kickstart To Work, Supported Employment Solutions etc.)	219	1,137
All Job Club Types	**789**	**4,159**

Participation Tables: 2013/14 & 2014/15 Comparisons

Table 9: Core & Regular Activities

Activity	No. Sessions			No. Adults			No. Children			Total No. Participants		
	2013/14	2014/15	±%	2013/14	2014/15	±%	2013/14	2014/15	±%	2013/14	2014/15	±%
Class Visits	4,208	3,896	-7%	-	-	-	103,185	95,815	-7%	103,185	95,815	-7%
Got IT?	3,085	2,781	-10%	3,294	3,028	-8%	-	-	-	3,294	3,028	-8%
Reading Groups	2,001	1,893	-5%	10,472	10,111	-3%	4,835	3,681	-24%	15,307	13,792	-10%
Rhythm and Rhyme	4,431	5,100	+15%	54,676	60,572	+11%	71,604	79,455	+11%	126,280	140,027	+11%
Storytime	2,249	2,178	-3%	-	-	-	24,045	20,850	-13%	24,045	20,850	-13%
All Core Activities	**15,974**	**15,848**	**-1%**	**68,442**	**73,711**	**+8%**	**203,669**	**199,801**	**-2%**	**272,111**	**273,512**	**+1%**
Genealogy	165	207	+25%	1,156	1,285	+11%	-	-	-	1,156	1,285	+11%
Go ON!	331	447	+35%	1,757	2,655	+51%	-	-	-	1,757	2,655	+51%
Job Clubs	651	789	+21%	3,967	4,159	+5%	-	-	-	3,967	4,159	+5%
Knit and Natter Groups	2,697	3,095	+15%	23,126	28,145	+22%	-	-	-	23,126	28,145	+22%
All Regular Activities	**3,844**	**4,538**	**+18%**	**30,006**	**36,244**	**+21%**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**30,006**	**36,244**	**+21%**
All Core & Regular Activities	**19,818**	**20,386**	**+3%**	**98,448**	**109,955**	**+12%**	**203,669**	**199,801**	**-2%**	**302,117**	**309,756**	**+3%**

Table 10a: Class Visit Type

Class Visit Type		No. Sessions			No. Children		
		2013/14	2014/15	±%	2013/14	2014/15	±%
Nursery school/unit		399	502	+26%	11,228	13,450	+20%
Primary & Special Needs	*Structured activities for Year 4 & Year 6 (to support Key Stage 1 & 2 language and literacy skills)*	*1,775*	*1,448*	*-18%*	*43,108*	*35,815*	*-17%*
	Other – stories, book exchange, crafts etc.	*1,964*	*1,890*	*-4%*	*47,103*	*45,515*	*-3%*
	Total	3,739	3,338	-11%	90,211	81,330	-10%
Post Primary		70	56	-20%	1,746	1,035	-41%
All Class Visit Types		**4,208**	**3,896**	**-7%**	**103,185**	**95,815**	**-7%**

Table 10b: Class Visit Location

Class Visit Location	No. Sessions			No. Children		
	2013/14	2014/15	±%	2013/14	2014/15	±%
On library premises	3,870	3513	-9%	93,794	84,589	-10%
At other location	338	383	+13%	9,391	11,226	+20%
All Class Visit Locations	**4,208**	**3,896**	**-7%**	**103,185**	**95,815**	**-7%**

Table 11:   Got IT?[2] Type

Got IT? Type	No. Sessions			No. Adults		
	2013/14	2014/15	±%	2013/14	2014/15	±%
One-to-one	2,936	2,641	-10%	2,936	2,641	-10%
Small groups	149	140	-6%	358	387	+8%
All Got IT? Types	**3,085**	**2,781**	**-10%**	**3,294**	**3,028**	**-8%**

[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 12:   Reading Group Type

Reading Group Type		No. Sessions			No. Adults			No. Children			Total No. Participants		
		2013/14	2014/15	±%	2013/14	2014/15	±%	2013/14	2014/15	±%	2013/14	2014/15	±%
Adult		1,268	1,263	0%	10,472	10,111	-3%	-	-	-	10,472	10,111	-3%
Children	*Chatterbooks (7-11 years)*	-	105	-	-	-	-	-	750	-	-	750	-
	Children (7-9 years)	196	126	-36%	-	-	-	1,508	751	-50%	1,508	751	-50%
	Children (9-11 years)	393	294	-25%	-	-	-	2,395	1,581	-34%	2,395	1,581	-34%
	Teenagers (12+ years)	144	105	-27%	-	-	-	932	599	-36%	932	599	-36%
	Total	733	630	-14%	-	-	-	4,835	3,681	-24%	4,835	3,681	-24%
All Reading Group Types		**2,001**	**1,893**	**-5%**	**10,472**	**10,111**	**-3%**	**4,835**	**3,681**	**-24%**	**15,307**	**13,792**	**-10%**

Table 13a: Rhythm and Rhyme[3] Type

Rhythm and Rhyme Type	No. Sessions			No. Adults			No. Children			Total No. Participants		
	2013/14	2014/15	±%	2013/14	2014/15	±%	2013/14	2014/15	±%	2013/14	2014/15	±%
Public session	3,590	4,009	+12%	49,789	54,485	+9%	59,555	65,087	+9%	109,344	119,572	+9%
Dedicated session (e.g. Day nursery, playgroup, parent & toddlers etc.)	841	1,091	+30%	4,887	6,087	+25%	12,049	14,368	+19%	16,936	20,455	+21%
All Rhythm and Rhyme Types	**4,431**	**5,100**	**+15%**	**54,676**	**60,572**	**+11%**	**71,604**	**79,455**	**+11%**	**126,280**	**140,027**	**+11%**

[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 13b: Rhythm and Rhyme[3] Location

Rhythm and Rhyme Location	No. Sessions			No. Adults			No. Children			Total No. Participants		
	2013/14	2014/15	±%	2013/14	2014/15	±%	2013/14	2014/15	±%	2013/14	2014/15	±%
On library premises	4,101	4,578	+12%	52,651	57,939	+10%	66,370	72,162	+9%	119,021	130,101	+9%
At other location	330	522	+58%	2,025	2,633	+30%	5,234	7,293	+39%	7,259	9,926	+37%
All Rhythm and Rhyme Locations	**4,431**	**5,100**	**+15%**	**54,676**	**60,572**	**+11%**	**71,604**	**79,455**	**+11%**	**126,280**	**140,027**	**+11%**

[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 14a: Storytime[4] Type

Storytime Type	No. Sessions			No. Children		
	2013/14	2014/15	±%	2013/14	2014/15	±%
Public session	1,903	1,853	-3%	16,992	16,362	-4%
Dedicated session (e.g. Rainbows/Cygnets/Brigíní, Beavers, Explorers, Anchor Boys, after schools day care etc.)	346	325	-6%	7,053	4,488	-36%
All Storytime Types	**2,249**	**2,178**	**-3%**	**24,045**	**20,850**	**-13%**

Table 14b: Storytime[4] Location

Storytime Location	No. Sessions			No. Children		
	2013/14	2014/15	±%	2013/14	2014/15	±%
On library premises	2,103	1,992	-5%	20,907	18,334	-12%
At other location	146	186	+27%	3,138	2,516	-20%
All Storytime Locations	**2,249**	**2,178**	**-3%**	**24,045**	**20,850**	**-13%**

[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)

Table 15: Genealogy Type

Genealogy Type	No. Sessions			No. Adults		
	2013/14	2014/15	±%	2013/14	2014/15	±%
Talk/presentation	32	37	+16%	559	689	+23%
Ancestry Library Edition workshop	133	170	+28%	597	596	0%
All Genealogy Types	**165**	**207**	**+25%**	**1,156**	**1,285**	**+11%**

Table 16: Job Club Type

Job Club Type	No. Sessions			No. Adults		
	2013/14	2014/15	±%	2013/14	2014/15	±%
Jobs & Benefits Office/DEL	651	570	-12%	3,967	3,022	-24%
Other organisation (e.g. Job Assist, Kickstart To Work, Supported Employment Solutions etc.)	-	219	-	-	1,137	-
All Job Club Types	**651**	**789**	**+21%**	**3,967**	**4,159**	**+5%**

Participation Tables: 2012/13 & 2014/15 Comparisons – Core Activities only

Table 17:   Core Activities

Core Activity	No. Sessions			No. Adults			No. Children			Total No. Participants		
	2012/13	2014/15	±%	2012/13	2014/15	±%	2012/13	2014/15	±%	2012/13	2014/15	±%
Class Visits	3,583	3,896	+9%	-	-	-	86,880	95,815	+10%	86,880	95,815	+10%
Got IT?	2,312	2,781	+20%	2,407	3,028	+26%	-	-	-	2,407	3,028	+26%
Reading Groups	1,512	1,893	+25%	7,876	10,111	+28%	3,668	3,681	0%	11,544	13,792	+19%
Rhythm and Rhyme	3,608	5,100	+41%	43,018	60,572	+41%	57,138	79,455	+39%	100,156	140,027	+40%
Storytime	1,978	2,178	+10%	-	-	-	20,122	20,850	+4%	20,122	20,850	+4%
All Core Activities	12,993	15,848	+22%	53,301	73,711	+38%	167,808	199,801	+19%	221,109	273,512	+24%

Table 18a: Class Visit Type

Class Visit Type		No. Sessions			No. Children		
		2012/13	2014/15	±%	2012/13	2014/15	±%
Nursery school/unit		252	502	+99%	7,418	13,450	+81%
Primary & Special Needs	*Structured activities for Year 4 & Year 6 (to support Key Stage 1 & 2 language and literacy skills)*	*1,480*	*1,448*	*-2%*	*35,966*	*35,815*	*0%*
	Other – stories, book exchange, crafts etc.	1,767	1,890	+7%	42,554	45,515	+7%
	Total	3,247	3,338	+3%	78,520	81,330	+4%
Post Primary		84	56	-33%	942	1,035	+10%
All Class Visit Types		3,583	3,896	+9%	86,880	95,815	+10%

Table 18b: Class Visit Location

Class Visit Location	No. Sessions			No. Children		
	2012/13	2014/15	±%	2012/13	2014/15	±%
On library premises	3,583	3513	-2%	86,880	84,589	-3%
At other location	-	383	-	-	11,226	-
All Class Visit Locations	**3,583**	**3,896**	**+9%**	**86,880**	**95,815**	**+10%**

Table 19:   Got IT?[2] Type

Got IT? Type	No. Sessions			No. Adults		
	2012/13	2014/15	±%	2012/13	2014/15	±%
One-to-one	2,243	2,641	+18%	2,243	2,641	+18%
Small groups	69	140	+103%	164	387	+136%
All Got IT? Types	**2,312**	**2,781**	**+20%**	**2,407**	**3,028**	**+26%**

[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 20: Reading Group Type

Reading Group Type		No. Sessions			No. Adults			No. Children			Total No. Participants		
		2012/13	2014/15	±%	2012/13	2014/15	±%	2012/13	2014/15	±%	2012/13	2014/15	±%
Adult		927	1,263	+36%	7,876	10,111	+28%	-	-	-	7,876	10,111	+28%
Children	*Chatterbooks (7-11 years)*	-	105	-	-	-	-	-	750	-	-	750	-
	Children (7-9 years)	148	126	-15%	-	-	-	1,041	751	-28%	1,041	751	-28%
	Children (9-11 years)	321	294	-8%	-	-	-	1,847	1,581	-14%	1,847	1,581	-14%
	Teenagers (12+ years)	116	105	-9%	-	-	-	780	599	-23%	780	599	-23%
	Total	585	630	+8%	-	-	-	3,668	3,681	0%	3,668	3,681	0%
All Reading Group Types		**1,512**	**1,893**	**+25%**	**7,876**	**10,111**	**+28%**	**3,668**	**3,681**	**0%**	**11,544**	**13,792**	**+19%**

Table 21a: Rhythm and Rhyme[3] Type

Rhythm and Rhyme Type	No. Sessions			No. Adults			No. Children			Total No. Participants		
	2012/13	2014/15	±%	2012/13	2014/15	±%	2012/13	2014/15	±%	2012/13	2014/15	±%
Public session	3,070	4,009	+31%	40,347	54,485	+35%	49,087	65,087	+33%	89,434	119,572	+34%
Dedicated session (e.g. Day nursery, playgroup, parent & toddlers etc.)	538	1,091	+103%	2,671	6,087	+128%	8,051	14,368	+78%	10,722	20,455	+91%
All Rhythm and Rhyme Types	**3,608**	**5,100**	**+41%**	**43,018**	**60,572**	**+41%**	**57,138**	**79,455**	**+39%**	**100,156**	**140,027**	**+40%**

[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 21b: Rhythm and Rhyme[3] Location

Rhythm and Rhyme Location	No. Sessions			No. Adults			No. Children			Total No. Participants		
	2012/13	2014/15	±%	2012/13	2014/15	±%	2012/13	2014/15	±%	2012/13	2014/15	±%
On library premises	3,452	4,578	+33%	42,449	57,939	+36%	54,778	72,162	+32%	97,227	130,101	+34%
At other location	156	522	+235%	569	2,633	+363%	2,360	7,293	+209%	2,929	9,926	+239%
All Rhythm and Rhyme Locations	**3,608**	**5,100**	**+41%**	**43,018**	**60,572**	**+41%**	**57,138**	**79,455**	**+39%**	**100,156**	**140,027**	**+40%**

[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 22a: Storytime[4] Type

Storytime Type	No. Sessions			No. Children		
	2012/13	2014/15	±%	2012/13	2014/15	±%
Public session	1,864	1,853	-1%	18,121	16,362	-10%
Dedicated session (e.g. Rainbows/Cygnets/Brigíní, Beavers, Explorers, Anchor Boys, after schools day care etc.)	114	325	+185%	2,001	4,488	+124%
All Storytime Types	**1,978**	**2,178**	**+10%**	**20,122**	**20,850**	**+4%**

Table 22b: Storytime[4] Location

Storytime Location	No. Sessions			No. Children		
	2012/13	2014/15	±%	2012/13	2014/15	±%
On library premises	1,957	1,992	+2%	19,466	18,334	-6%
At other location	21	186	+786%	656	2,516	+284%
All Storytime Locations	**1,978**	**2,178**	**+10%**	**20,122**	**20,850**	**+4%**

[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/dz0nwz2p/participation_in_core_and_regular_library_activities_2014_15_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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