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Libraries Statistics. Year 2006**The number of registered library users increases 6.6% between 2004 and 2006****The number of visitors increases 4.6% and lending of documents increases 3.8%****85.5% of libraries have an Internet connection, and one in five have a website**

The Libraries Statistics covered 6,523 libraries in 2006, almost 1.0% lower than the figure recorded in 2004. Libraries are considered to be independently managed administrative units. Nevertheless, when taking into account the service points or premises which form part of these libraries, this figure rose to 8,086, that is, 0.4% lower than in 2004.

On analysis of the Libraries Statistics between 2004 and 2006, an increase could be observed in the use of library services, along with a change in the guidelines for their use, and an ongoing process of modernisation of the facilities.

More visitors and registered users

The number of visitors declared increased 4.6% in 2006, as compared with the previous Libraries Statistics (2004), reaching a figure of 194.7 million. This implies that **each person visited a library an average of 4.42 times during 2006**. In 2004, the average was 4.36 times.

By Autonomous Community, the highest rates of visits were in Navarra (6.93), Cantabria (6.86) and Cataluña (5.80).

In turn, Spanish libraries totalled 14.8 million registered users, an increase of 6.6%. **The average percentage of the population using libraries was 34%, two points higher than in 2004.**

By Autonomous Community, the highest proportions of the population using libraries were in Castilla y León (56%), Asturias (49%) and Cataluña (48%).

The demand for library services is on the rise

In 2006, users borrowed 68.2 million documents, representing a 3.8% increase and an average of 1.55 per person.

The Communities with the highest rates of borrowing per person were Castilla y León (2.79 documents per person), Castilla-La Mancha (2.35) and Cataluña (2.33).

By type of document, books were still the main item borrowed, with 64% of the total. These were followed by audiovisual (19%), audio (9%) and electronic (3%) items.

As compared with 2004, the borrowing of audiovisual items increased 30.6%, and that of electronic items, 7.0%. On the other hand, the borrowing of books decreased 0.8% and that of audio items fell 11.9%.

The size of the library collection (219 million documents) has increased 9%. By type, electronic items increased 52%, audiovisual items 29%, audio items 13% and books 8%.

Number of libraries, service points, loans and visitors. Year 2006

	Libraries	Service points	Average loans per person	Average visits per person	Number of persons per service point
National total	6,523	8,066	1.55	4.42	5,463
Andalucía	873	1,076	0.74	3.70	7,294
Aragón	356	422	2.27	3.06	3,000
Asturias (Principado de)	147	197	1.82	4.12	5,370
Balears (Illes)	163	210	1.13	2.69	4,753
Canarias	206	279	0.67	3.43	7,071
Cantabria	74	85	0.90	6.86	6,590
Castilla y León	442	574	2.79	4.68	4,321
Castilla-La Mancha	598	661	2.35	4.36	2,888
Cataluña	840	922	2.33	5.80	7,592
Comunitat Valenciana	625	746	1.01	3.77	6,291
Extremadura	473	480	1.16	3.57	2,234
Galicia	591	755	1.09	4.86	3,603
Madrid (Comunidad de)	501	852	1.89	5.05	7,027
Murcia (Región de)	126	185	1.19	4.89	7,302
Navarra (C. Foral de)	129	148	2.12	6.93	3,999
País Vasco	317	409	1.53	2.94	5,178
Rioja (La)	36	39	1.73	5.33	7,776
Ceuta	16	16	0.09	0.38	4,471
Melilla	10	10	0.24	0.72	6,702

Increased Internet access and better IT facilities

The use of new technology was becoming consolidated in Spanish libraries, as reflected by different indicators. Thus, the proportion of libraries with Internet access doubled in six years and reached 85.5%.

In addition, 21.4% of libraries had a website. These libraries' websites received 278.7 million visits in 2006, representing a 74.0% increase as compared with 2004.

Computer use was also increasingly more generalised. 89.0% of libraries had computers for their internal management, and 74.4% for exclusively public use. This indicated that users had 36,821 items of equipment available to them, 45.0% more than in 2004.

The most abundant reprographics equipment were readers/image reproducers. 49.3% of libraries had these, and overall, they had 12,244 pieces of equipment, as compared with 9,819 in 2004.

Automated functions were also part of this general modernisation process. Thus, there was automated cataloguing in 68.3% of libraries, and automated lending in 49.5%.

The Local authorities manage and finance the majority of libraries

Spanish libraries were classified as follows: a national library, 4,115 public libraries, 1,749 specialised libraries, 317 specific-user-group libraries, 334 higher education institution libraries and seven central Autonomous Community libraries.

Library funding fell mainly to Public Administrations. The greatest drive was by municipal councils and local organisations (they funded 48.7% of the overall libraries budget), followed by Regional Government (20.2%), National Government (8.8%) and Provincial Delegations and Inter-Island Councils (7.6%). Private funding, whether from companies or by charging users a subscription, represented 14.7%.

Most libraries were publicly owned (81.2% of the total), with the Local authorities supporting most of them (4,002 libraries).

Access to libraries was, by and large, open-access (77.4%), with restricted access in 22.6% of cases.

29.6% of staff are professional librarians

There were 23,489 members of staff in Spanish libraries. 6,949 of them are professional librarians (29.6% of the total), 9,113 were library assistants (38.8%) and another 7,427 were specialists and other staff (31.6%).

In addition, another 3,836 people worked with libraries as interns and as volunteers.

For further information see [INEbase-www.ine.es/en/welcome_en.htm](http://www.ine.es/en/welcome_en.htm) All press releases at: www.ine.es/en/prensa/prensa_en.htm

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Methodological note

The National Statistics Institute has carried out the Libraries Statistics since 1959. These statistics are performed in accordance with the recommendations of UNESCO as regards definitions and classifications appearing in the Recommendation on the international normalisation of library statistics approved by the UNESCO General Conference in its sixteenth meeting of 1970. Since 1986, it has been carried out biannually. Beginning in the year 2002, some changes have been introduced, such as the use of a new definition of library based on ISO Standard 2789, the establishment of a new classification of library types, and the going into greater depth in the research on the implantation of information and communications technologies in libraries.

These statistics provide information on both activities (collection, visitors, loans, ...) and structural features of the libraries (type, financing, means of access, ...) variations, measure the biannual variations that are produced in the activity therein, sources of financing and facilitates international comparability, which is carried out through the completion of the questionnaires of international institutions (UNESCO, Eurostat, IFLA).

Research extends to all libraries existing in Spain, with the exception of school and private libraries, whose use is not allowed to the public, not even under special conditions. It includes the categories of national libraries, central Autonomous Community libraries, public libraries, specific-user-group (non-specialised) libraries, libraries belonging to higher education institutions and specialised libraries.

The reference period for the statistics is the calendar year, although for certain features, the situation at 31 December of the year studied is requested.

The analysis unit is the library, whose definition according to ISO Standard 2789 is *any organisation or part of an organisation, whose main objective is to gather and maintain an organised collection of documents, and facilitate the use of the information resources for the purpose of satisfying the informational, research, educational, cultural or recreational needs of the users.*

For statistical purposes, a library is considered to be an administrative unit, that is, any independent library or group of libraries that have the same address or a single administration, and as a service point, any library that offers services to users at different premises, whether it is independent or belongs to a group of libraries that comprise an administrative unit.