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Libraries Statistics Year 2010

The number of registered library users grows 11.5%, and the number of visits increases 5.7% between the years 2008 and 2010

Nine out of 10 libraries now have internet access

The Libraries Statistics for the year 2010 collected a total of 6,608 libraries, a very similar figure to that recorded in 2008. Libraries are considered to be independently managed administrative units. Nevertheless, when taking into account the service points or premises which depend on these libraries, this number rose to 8,963, that is, 8% more than in 2008.

Worth noting was that the pattern of previous years continued, of the constant increase in the demand for library services, and the gradual modernisation process of the libraries.

Number of visitors and of registered users

The number of registered visitors reached 215.98 million in 2010, with an increase of 5.7% as compared with the previous statistics, compiled in 2008. This implied that **each inhabitant visited a library an average of 4.7 times during the year 2010**.

By Autonomous Community, the highest rates of visitors per inhabitant were in Comunidad Foral de Navarra (6.9 visits), Cantabria (6.8) and Comunidad de Madrid (6.1).

The number of registered users grew 11.5%, as compared with 2008, reaching 18.07 million persons (14.37 million adults, and 3.70 million children).

The percentage of the population of users stood at 39.2%, as compared with 35.7% in 2008. It implied that **almost two out of five inhabitants were library users**.

By Autonomous Community, the greatest proportions of library users were located in Cataluña (51.9%), Principado de Asturias (51.4%) and Aragón (49.2%).

Book lending

Library users borrowed 82.15 million documents, indicating an increase of 10.3% as compared with 2008. On average, during the year 2010, 1.6 documents were loaned per inhabitant.

By Autonomous Community: the highest lending rates per inhabitant were recorded in Castilla y León (2.91 documents per inhabitant) and in Comunidad Foral de Navarra and Cataluña (2.50 in both).

By type of document, once again, the most requested were books, with 65.3% of the loans. They were followed by audiovisual (20.3% of the total) and audio (4.8%) media loans.

It was worth noting that, whereas demand for books continued to rise in 2010 (12.3% more as compared with 2008), demand for audiovisual and audio media decreased (4.7% and 17.6%, respectively).

The amount of existing collections was 246.20 million documents, 4.5% more than in 2008. Books registered the greatest increase, with 8.79 million more units.

Number of libraries, service points, loans and visitors. Year 2010

	Libraries (Administrative Units)	Number of Service Points	Number of loans per inhabitant	Number of visits per inhabitant	Number of inhabitants per service point
Total nacional	6,608	8,963	1.62	4.69	5,140
Andalucía	888	1,119	0.81	3.48	7,363
Aragón	366	439	2.03	4.75	2,991
Asturias, Principado de	162	188	1.67	4.67	5,623
Balears, Illes	178	230	1.20	2.49	4,696
Canarias	207	283	0.72	3.96	7,394
Cantabria	74	91	1.00	6.82	6,363
Castilla y León	457	603	2.91	5.34	4,138
Castilla-La Mancha	611	689	2.36	4.29	2,960
Cataluña	822	909	2.49	5.74	8,054
Comunitat Valenciana	610	765	1.15	3.90	6,524
Extremadura	497	533	1.17	3.45	2,031
Galicia	522	695	1.13	3.70	3,938
Madrid, Comunidad de	558	860	1.90	6.10	7,394
Murcia, Región de	120	208	1.18	5.05	7,047
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	131	152	2.49	6.91	4,083
País Vasco	322	426	1.70	5.47	5,019
Rioja, La	64	51	2.06	4.52	6,171
Ceuta	12	14	0.28	1.60	5,387
Melilla	7	8	0.19	0.75	9,228

Note: Population Source INE. Population Now Cast at 1 July 2010

New technologies

The use of new technologies is becoming consolidated in Spanish libraries, with greater use of internet resources and more equipment, as well as an increase in the number of libraries providing them. Thus, the proportion of libraries with internet access rose to 88.8% in 2010. In the case of public libraries, this percentage rose to 93.8%.

34.9% of libraries had a website in 2010 and received 343.23 million visits, 8.8% more than in 2008. In addition, 52.5% offered their collection catalogue online, this figure being 29.2% higher than in 2008.

94.9% of libraries had computers for their internal management, and 78.6% for public use. In total, libraries provided 79,534 computers, 10.7% more than in 2008.

Between 2008 and 2010, the number of image and sound readers/reproducers increased by 16,818, to a maximum of 38,318 pieces of equipment. In 2010, 51.6% of libraries were equipped with image devices, and 43.0% with sound devices.

Internet access and website

Years	Percentage of libraries with Internet access	Percentage of libraries with a website
2010	88.85	34.88
2008	87.73	23.66
2006	85.47	21.39
2004	73.03	17.86
2002	62.67	14.42
2000	42.25	13.08

Library management and funding

Libraries were classified in 2010 into: a national library, 4,164 public libraries, 1,898 specialised libraries, 254 specific user group libraries, 283 higher education institution libraries and seven Autonomous Community central libraries.

82.4% of libraries were publicly owned in 2010, with the Local Administration responsible for the upkeep of the greatest number of these (4,157 libraries). This was the result of a process that has been strengthened over the years, with a gradual increase in the proportion of libraries managed and financed by the Public Administration, and specifically, by the Local Administration.

Library ownership

Years	Percentage of public libraries	Percentage of public Local Administration libraries
2010	82.35	76.39
2008	81.59	61.38
2006	81.24	61.35
2004	79.41	59.61
2002	77.21	57.51
2000	73.00	54.00

Financing of libraries fell, mainly, to the Local Administration (47.8% of the total), followed by the Autonomous Administration (20.8%), the General Administration of the State (10.5%) and the Provincial Delegations and Inter-Island Councils (6.9%).

In turn, private financing, whether through companies or through user fees, represented an average of 14.0%.

In 2010 access to libraries was mostly free (79.3%) and almost half of libraries (47.8%) were open to the public between 20 and 40 hours per week.

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 researching in greater depth the implementation of information and communications technologies in libraries.

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

The 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, libraries for specific (non-specialised) users, 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. A website has been facilitated to enable its completion online.

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.

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