Libraries Statistics
Year 2018

The number of registered library users fell by 2% between 2016 and 2018

E-book stock increased by 21.3% to 19.6 million in 2018

In 2018, there were 6,458 libraries counted, 2.7% less than in 2016. A library is considered to be an administrative unit with its own jurisdiction and with independent technical and administrative management.

In 2018 Spain had one national library, 4,001 public libraries, 1,982 specialised libraries, 269 from higher education institutions, 198 for specific user groups and seven central libraries of autonomous communities[1].

The Autonomous Communities where the greatest decreases in the number of libraries were observed as compared with 2016 were Comunidad de Madrid, Principado de Asturias and Andalucía, with a decrease of 32, 29 and 20 libraries, respectively. On the other hand, the Communities with the least number of library losses were Cantabria and the autonomous city of Melilla (only one each). The Comunidad Foral de Navarra maintained the same number as in 2016.

Registered users

The number of users registered in Spanish libraries fell by 2.0% between 2016 and 2018, to 21.83 million people. Of these, 17.43 million were adult users and 4.4 million were children.

In relative terms, almost half of the population[2] (46.7%) were users of library services. This percentage is lower than those recorded in 2016 (47.9%) and 2014 (47.0%).

By Autonomous Community, the highest proportions of users were observed in Catalonia (71.9% of the population), Principado de Asturias (62.0%) and Castilla y León (54.4%).

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[1] In Libraries Statistics 2018, the central libraries of the Autonomous Communities of Asturias, Cantabria, Castilla - La Mancha, Castilla y León, Región de Murcia, Comunidad Foral de Navarra and La Rioja have been classified as public libraries, as they also have the status of public libraries.

[2] Population figures (population on 1 July 2018).

Number of libraries and percentage of registered users by Autonomous Communities and Cities. Year 2018

Absolute values and rates per hundred inhabitants

	Libraries (Administrative Units)	User population[1] of libraries %
Total Nacional	6,458	46.7
Andalucía	968	34.3
Aragón	320	49.2
Asturias, Principado de	134	62.0
Balears, Illes	133	39.5
Canarias	169	21.2
Cantabria	99	30.7
Castilla y León	517	54.4
Castilla - La Mancha	561	52.4
Cataluña	850	71.9
Comunitat Valenciana	594	44.3
Extremadura	481	47.4
Galicia	476	36.8
Madrid, Comunidad de	534	44.3
Murcia, Región de	100	39.9
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	129	49.3
País Vasco	312	52.1
Rioja, La	62	28.9
Ceuta	11	16.4
Melilla	8	30.6

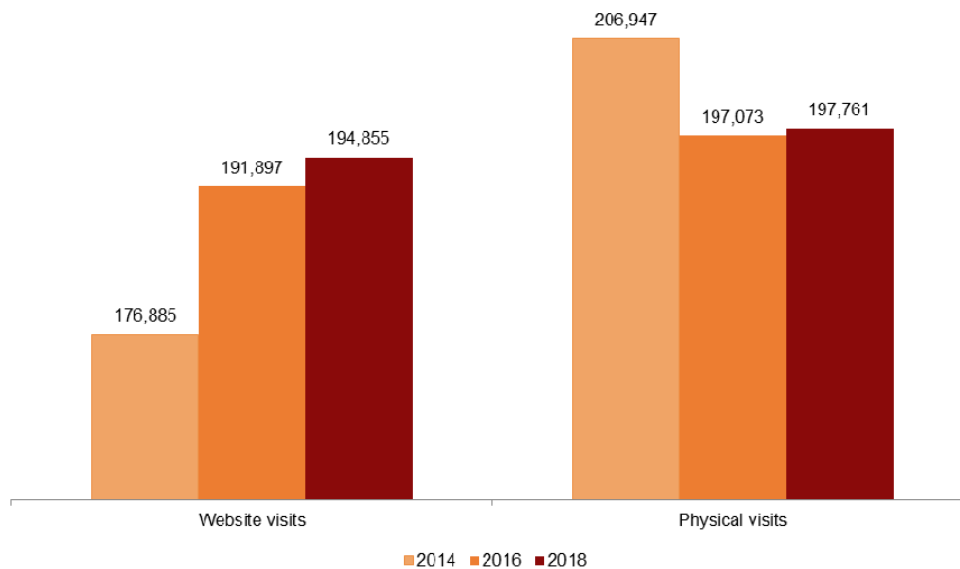[1]Population figures (population July 1st, 2018).

Visits

The number of visits to library *websites* increased by 1.5% with respect to 2016, reaching 194.85 million. On average, each inhabitant visited the website of a library 4.2 times.

On-site visits grew by 0.3% to 197.76 million. On average, each inhabitant went to a library room 4.2 times.

By Autonomous Community, the highest rates of visits to the website per inhabitant occurred in Castilla y León (9.3 visits), Galicia (7.6) and Comunidad de Madrid (6.7).

In turn, the highest rates of on-site visits per inhabitant corresponded to Comunidad Foral de Navarra (6.4 visits), Castilla y León (5.7) and Comunidad de Madrid (5.6).

Evolution of libraries websites visits and physical visits. Years 2014, 2016 and 2018.
Thousands of visits.

Libraries websites and physical visits by Autonomous Communities and Cities. Year 2018
Unit rates per capita[1]

	Physical visits	Website visits
Total Nacional	4.2	4.2
Andalucía	3.4	2.0
Aragón	4.0	3.8
Asturias, Principado de	3.6	4.2
Balears, Illes	2.5	2.3
Canarias	2.8	2.3
Cantabria	4.8	3.4
Castilla y León	5.7	9.3
Castilla - La Mancha	3.7	2.2
Cataluña	5.1	4.8
Comunitat Valenciana	3.3	2.2
Extremadura	4.4	1.9
Galicia	3.3	7.6
Madrid, Comunidad de	5.6	6.7
Murcia, Región de	3.8	6.1
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	6.4	2.3
País Vasco	4.6	3.0
Rioja, La	4.3	3.6
Ceuta	1.8	0.3
Melilla	0.6	0.1

[1]Population figures (population July 1st, 2018).
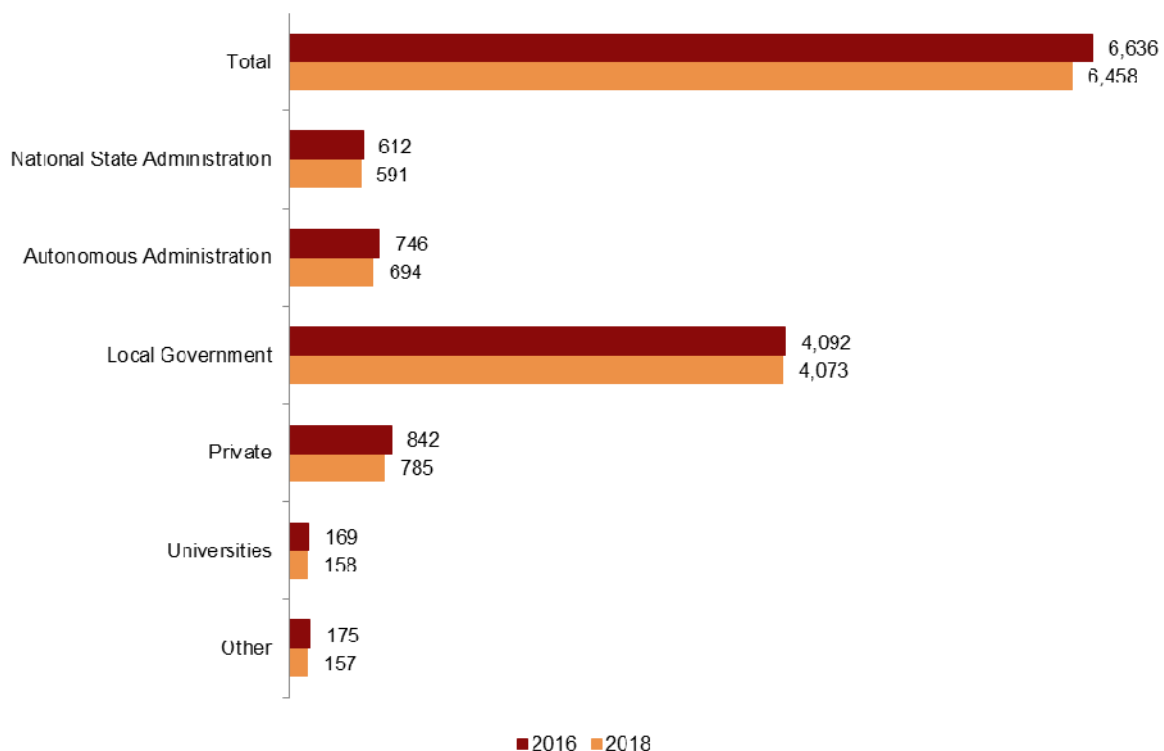
Ownership and funding of libraries

Almost nine out of 10 libraries (86.5%) were publicly owned in 2018. Local Government had the highest number (4,073, of which 3,869 were publicly accessible).

In turn, 13.5% of the libraries were privately owned, 2.4% were university owned and the remaining 2.4% were other owned.

The total number of public libraries decreased by 0.8% with respect to 2016. Those dependent on Local Government fell by 0.5% and those of the General State Administration by 3.4%. On the other hand, those of the regional government fell by 7.0%.

Number of libraries by ownership. Years 2018 and 2016
Absolute Values

	2016	2018
Total	6,636	6,458
National State Administration	612	591
Autonomous Administration	746	694
Local Government	4,092	4,073
Private	842	785
Universities	169	158
Other	175	157

With regard to financing, 83.0% of libraries were financed by the Public Administration and 13.5% privately, as in 2016.

Public financing was mainly provided by Municipal Councils and Local Entities (52.6% of the total), Autonomous Community administration (17.6%), General State Administration (9.3%) and Provincial Councils (7.0%). These percentages are similar to those of 2016, although with a slight increase in provincial and regional funding.

Service points

The number of service points or premises that depend on libraries was 8,285 in 2018, representing a decrease of 3.3% with respect to 2016.

The Autonomous Communities with the highest number of service points were Andalucía (1,271), Cataluña (940) and Comunidad de Madrid (895).

In relative terms, the average number of inhabitants per service point was 5,640, compared to 5,424 in 2016.

The Autonomous Communities with the lowest number of inhabitants per service point were Extremadura (2,013 inhabitants per point), Castilla-La Mancha (3,208) and Aragón (3,481).

Service points by Autonomous Communities and Cities. Year 2018

	Number of service points	Citizens by service point[1]
Total Nacional	8,285	5,640
Andalucía	1,271	6,614
Aragón	378	3,481
Asturias, Principado de	197	5,199
Balears, Illes	188	6,253
Canarias	239	9,156
Cantabria	119	4,882
Castilla y León	654	3,686
Castilla - La Mancha	633	3,208
Cataluña	940	7,996
Comunitat Valenciana	758	6,529
Extremadura	530	2,013
Galicia	619	4,360
Madrid, Comunidad de	895	7,359
Murcia, Región de	199	7,433
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	146	4,426
País Vasco	438	4,959
Rioja, La	62	5,044
Ceuta	11	7,722
Melilla	8	10,579

[1]Population figures (population July 1st, 2018).

Loans for home use

Library users borrowed 77.76 million documents to take home in 2018, 10.0% more than in 2016. On average, 1.7 documents were loaned per inhabitant.

By type of document, books was again the most requested (57.7% of total loans). It was followed by electronic documents (17.7%) and audiovisual documents (10.6%).
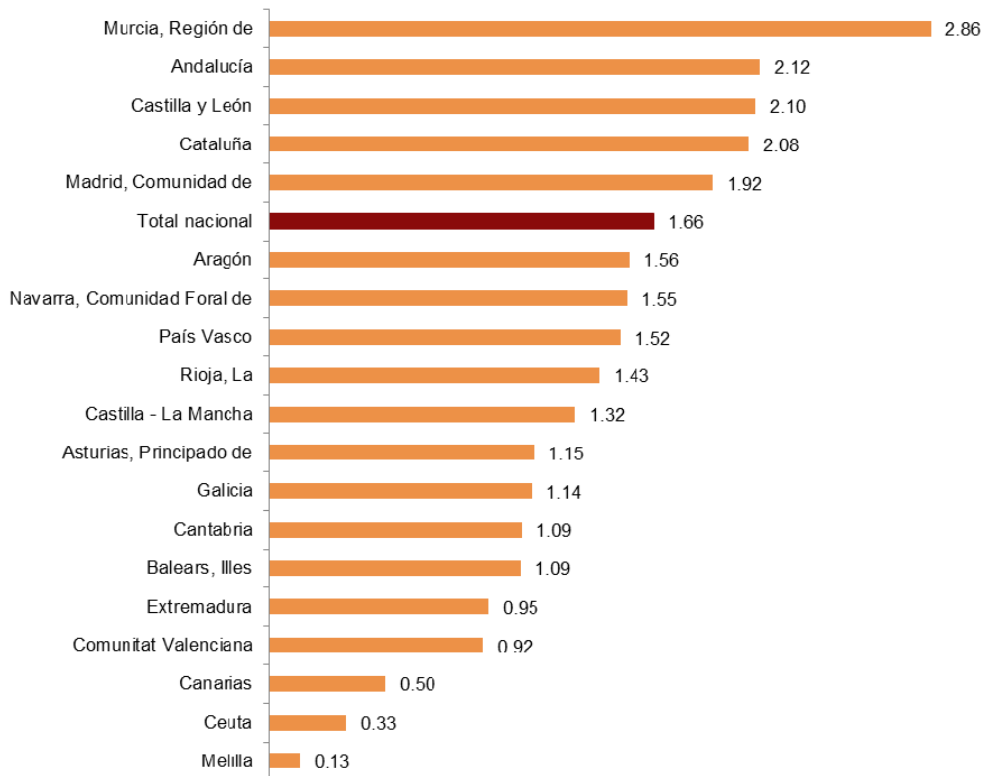
Loans of electronic documents increased from 5.2 million in 2016 to 13.7 million in 2018. This increase is partly due to the fact that as of 2018 electronic document downloads have been considered loans.

On the other hand, demand for books fell by 5.3%, for audiovisual documents by 21.2% and for sound documents by 26.7%.

By community, the highest loan rates per inhabitant occurred in the Región de Murcia (2.9 documents) and in Andalucía, Castilla y León and Cataluña (2.1 in each).

Loans for home use by Autonomous Communities and Cities. Year 2018
Unit rates per capita[1]

Community	Rate
Murcia, Región de	2.86
Andalucía	2.12
Castilla y León	2.10
Cataluña	2.08
Madrid, Comunidad de	1.92
Total nacional	1.66
Aragón	1.56
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	1.55
País Vasco	1.52
Rioja, La	1.43
Castilla - La Mancha	1.32
Asturias, Principado de	1.15
Galicia	1.14
Cantabria	1.09
Balears, Illes	1.09
Extremadura	0.95
Comunitat Valenciana	0.92
Canarias	0.50
Ceuta	0.33
Melilla	0.13

[1] Population figures (population on 1 July 2018).

Stock

The existing stock in Spanish libraries in 2018 was 291,440,000 documents, 1.7% more than in 2016.

The communities with the greatest increases in stock were Región de Murcia (7.2%), Aragón (7.0%) and Principado de Asturias (4.6%).

Books represented 61.8% of the total stock, electronic documents 12.3%, and sound and audiovisual documents 7.2%.

23.0% of the libraries had collections of between 10,001 and 20,000 documents and 22.5% between 5,001 and 10,000 documents.
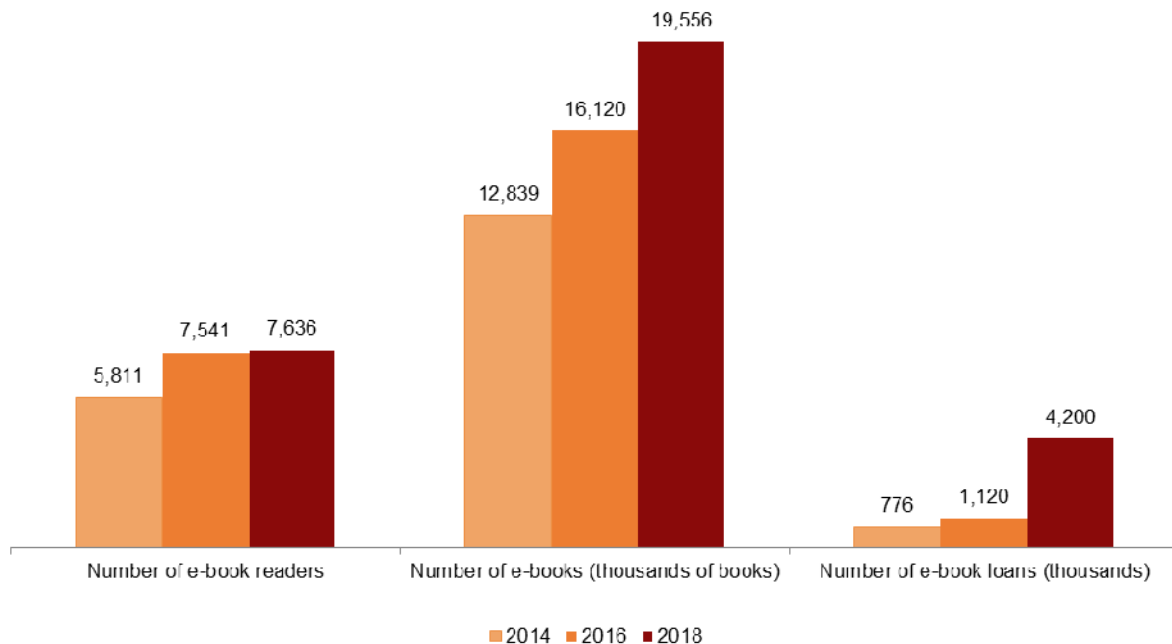
E-books

E-book stock reached 19.56 million in 2018, an increase of 21.3% over 2016. They accounted for 6.7% of total stock, compared to 5.6% in 2016.

During 2018, 4.20 million electronic copies were lent, almost four times more than in 2016 (1.12 million).

The number of e-book readers in libraries increased by 1.3%, to 7,636 devices.

The percentage of libraries with e-book readers maintained its upward trend. It reached 12.6% of the total, as compared with 12.2% in 2016.

E-books. Series 2014 - 2018

Internet access at the library

91.8% of libraries had Internet access in 2018. Of these, almost all (99.3%) offered it as a free service. By type of library, 96.9% of publicly libraries had internet on-site.

75.7% of the libraries offered Wi-Fi service to users, with an increase of 0.3% over 2016. In publicly accessible libraries, 88.6% offered this service.

The Autonomous Communities with the highest percentages of libraries with Internet services were Cataluña (with 96.7% of the libraries with Internet access and 83.2% with Wi-Fi connection), Extremadura (95.4% and 82.1%) and País Vasco (95.2% and 78.5%).

Of the total computer equipment, 94.1% of computers had access to the Internet, compared to 96.0% in 2016.

Libraries accessible via the Internet

66.9% of libraries had catalogues and/or collections accessible via the Internet in 2018. The access was available through the website or through the network or entity with which they were linked.

64.6% of libraries offered their catalogue via the Internet (as compared with 62.7% in 2016). 43.8% had their stock available (39.7% in 2016).

The way of accessing libraries via Internet was mostly free (89.5% as opposed to 10.5% restricted).

By type of library, 100% of the libraries of Autonomous Communities, 91.4% of those of higher education institutions and 70.4% of public ones were accessible online.

By Autonomous Community, the highest percentages of libraries accessible via Internet were located in País Vasco and Región de Murcia (both 84.0%) and Principado de Asturias (83.6%).

Number of libraries and offered Internet services by Autonomous Communities and Cities. Year 2018
Absolute values and percentages

	Libraries (Administrative Units)	Libraries with access to Internet %	Libraries that offer WiFi %	Accesible libraries by Internet[1] %
Total Nacional	6,458	91.8	75.7	66.9
Andalucía	968	88.9	73.1	68.4
Aragón	320	92.2	72.2	49.1
Asturias, Principado de	134	93.3	59.7	83.6
Balears, Illes	133	94.7	83.5	75.9
Canarias	169	92.3	85.2	78.1
Cantabria	99	88.9	72.7	59.6
Castilla y León	517	88.6	66.5	63.6
Castilla - La Mancha	561	93.4	81.1	73.3
Cataluña	850	96.7	83.2	81.6
Comunitat Valenciana	594	92.1	81.3	61.6
Extremadura	481	95.4	82.1	21.6
Galicia	476	87.8	73.9	66.6
Madrid, Comunidad de	534	89.3	65.5	70.6
Murcia, Región de	100	93.0	76.0	84.0
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	129	89.9	67.4	79.1
País Vasco	312	95.2	78.5	84.0
Rioja, La	62	88.7	62.9	66.1
Ceuta	11	63.6	54.5	36.4
Melilla	8	62.5	37.5	62.5

[1]Note: It is considered that a library is accesible by Internet w hen their catalogue and/or stocks are accesible by a w ebsite (it can be their ow n w ebsite or the netw ork of the institution they are related to).

Library equipment

Overall, the number of libraries with automated functions increased. Thus, automated cataloguing was available in 79.5% of them, automated loans in 67.0% and the publicly available catalogue (OPAC) in 62.1%.

The number of copies in the automated catalogue grew by 5.4% to 193.82 million entries. Of these, 83.61 million belonged to public libraries.

47.0% of the libraries had consultation services for audiovisual documents on-site, 38.9% for sound documents, 28.7% for databases and applications and 19.6% of electronic books.

Almost all libraries (97.7%) had computers for internal management and 81.5% for public use. In general, libraries had 84,623 computers, 2.0% less than in 2016.

The number of image and sound readers/players in libraries decreased by 17.1% to 39,868. 45.9% of the libraries were equipped with image readers and 40.2% with sound players.

The percentage of libraries with printers decreased by 2.8% and those with scanners decreased by 2.0%.

Staff and infrastructure

Spanish libraries had 24,941 staff in 2018 (equivalent to 20,729 full-time employees) and 3,515 scholarship holders and volunteers (equivalent to 1,419 full-time employees).

Regular staff increased by 0.4% compared to 2016, while collaborating staff decreased by 7.3%.

Access to library rooms was mostly free (79.7%).

46.4% of libraries were open to the public between 20 and 40 hours per week.

Almost half of the libraries (45.5%) had between 10 and 49 consultation areas.

Revisions and updating of data

The data published today are definitive and are not subject to further revision. All results are available on INEBase.

Methodological note

The National Institute of Statistics produces Library Statistics on the basis of the UNESCO recommendations on definitions and classifications contained in the Recommendation concerning the International Standardization of Library Statistics adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its sixteenth session in 1970. Since 1986 it has been conducted on a biennial basis. Since 2002, some changes have been introduced, such as the use of a new definition of library based on the ISO 2789 Standard, the establishment of a new classification of library types and further research into the implementation of information and communication technologies in libraries.

The statistics provide information on both the activity and the characteristics of the libraries, measure the biennial variations that occur in the activity of the libraries, the sources of financing and facilitate international comparability, which is carried out by completing the questionnaires of international organisations (UNESCO, EUROSTAT, IFLA).

Research includes the categories of national libraries, central autonomous community libraries, public (publicly accessible) libraries for specific groups of (non-specialised) users, higher education institutions and specialised libraries.

The unit of analysis is the library, the definition of which (ISO Standard 2789) is "any organization or part of an organization, the principal purpose of which is to assemble and maintain an organized collection of documents and to facilitate the use of information resources in order to meet the informational, research, educational, cultural or recreational needs of users".

Type of operation: Biennial periodicity statistics.

Population scope: existing libraries in Spain, with the exception of school libraries and private libraries whose use is not permitted to the public even under special conditions.

Geographical scope: nationwide

Reference period: The reference period of the statistics is the calendar year, although for certain characteristics the situation on 31 December of the year under investigation is requested.

Collection method: internet questionnaire (web application).

For more information you can access the methods here:

https://www.ine.es/dyngs/INEbase/es/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica_C&cid=1254736176768&menu=metodologia&idp=1254735573113

And the standardized methodological report

https://www.ine.es/dynt3/metadatos/es/RespuestaDatos.html?oe=30403

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