

16 December 2009**Libraries Statistics**
Year 2008**The number of registered library users increases 10.1% between 2006 and 2008****The number of visitors increases 5.0% and lending of documents increases 9.1%**

The Libraries Statistics for the year 2008 collected a total of 6,601 libraries, this figure being 1.2% greater than that for the year 2006. 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 8,263, that is, 2.4% more than in 2006. Therefore, in 2008, there was a service point for every 5,518 inhabitants.

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

New increase in the number of visitors and registered users

The number of registered visitors increased 5.0% as compared with the previous Libraries Statistics 2006, reaching 204.36 million. This implied that **each inhabitant visited a library an average of 4.48 times during the year 2008**.

By Autonomous Community, the highest rates of visitors per inhabitant were recorded in Comunidad Foral de Navarra (7.79), Región de Murcia (6.91) and Cantabria (6.77).

In turn, Spanish libraries had 16.30 million registered users (13.30 million adults and 2.91 million children) in the year 2008. This figure implied a 10.1% increase as compared with 2006, confirming the growing trend of the number of registered users.

The percentage of the population using libraries was 35.7%, as compared with the 34.0% registered in 2006.

By Autonomous Community, the greatest proportions of population using libraries were located in Castilla-La Mancha (50.9%), Cataluña (50.5%) and Castilla y León (50.4%).

Book lending is reactivated

In the year 2008, library user borrowed 74.47 million documents, indicating an increase of 9.1%. The national average was 1.63 loans to take home per inhabitant.

By Autonomous Community: the highest lending rates per inhabitant were recorded in Castilla y León (2.90 documents per inhabitant), Comunidad Foral de Navarra (2.53) and Cataluña (2.50).

By type of document, once again, the most requested were books, with 64.2% of the loans and an increase of 9.0%.

They were followed by audiovisual (23.5% of the total) and sound (6.4%) media loans. The former presented a growth rate of 31.7%, whereas the latter registered a decrease of 18.8%.

The amount of existing collections was 235.61 million documents, 7.7% more than in 2006. Books registered the greatest increase, with 7.68 million more units.

Number of libraries, service points, loans and visitors. Year 2008

	Libraries (Administrative Units)	Number of Service Points	Number of loans per inhabitant	Number of visits per inhabitant	Number of inhabitants per service point
National total	6,601	8,263	1.63	4.48	5,518
Andalucía	869	1,119	0.82	3.09	7,244
Aragón	374	439	2.04	5.33	2,976
Asturias (Principado de)	159	188	1.67	4.51	5,633
Balears (Illes)	184	230	1.23	2.46	4,603
Canarias	208	283	0.73	3.63	7,284
Cantabria	71	91	1.01	6.77	6,305
Castilla y León	453	603	2.90	5.03	4,157
Castilla-La Mancha	609	689	2.40	4.57	2,905
Cataluña	830	909	2.50	5.69	7,998
Comunitat Valenciana	624	765	1.16	3.61	6,471
Extremadura	501	533	1.17	3.76	2,026
Galicia	550	695	1.13	4.34	3,940
Madrid (Comunidad de)	513	860	1.93	5.06	7,263
Murcia (Región de)	129	208	1.21	6.91	6,880
Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	131	152	2.53	7.79	4,016
País Vasco	323	426	1.70	4.11	5,020
Rioja (La)	51	51	2.06	4.79	6,152
Ceuta (Ciudad Autónoma de)	14	14	0.30	1.31	5,168
Melilla (Ciudad Autónoma de)	8	8	0.20	0.69	8,668

Note: Population Source INE. Population Now Cast at 1 July 2008

The Internet is strengthened and improves the provision of services

The use of new technologies is being consolidated in Spanish libraries, as is reflected by several indicators.

Thus, **the proportion of libraries with Internet access reached 87.7%**, in comparison with the 42.3% registered in the year 2000. In public libraries, this percentage rose to 93.4%.

23.7% of libraries had a website and received 315.58 million visits, 13.2% more than in 2006.

In addition, 40.6% offered their collection catalogue online, this figure being 11.2% higher than in 2006. The corresponding percentage for public libraries stood at 41.8%.

On the other hand, the use of computers was increasingly generalised. In the year 2008, 91.1% of libraries had computers for their internal management (25,762 computers), and 78.3% for solely public use. This indicates that users had 46,124 computers available to them, 25.1% more than in 2006.

The most numerous document reproduction equipment were image readers/reproducers, with 12,622 units (12,244 in 2006). This equipment was available in 49.4% of the libraries.

To this general modernisation process, we must add the automatic functions present in the libraries. In particular, the automatic cataloguing service was available in 70.1% of the libraries, and automatic lending was available in 54.5%.

Internet access and website

Years	Percentage of libraries with Internet access	Percentage of libraries with a website
2008	87.7	23.7
2006	85.5	21.4
2004	73.0	17.9
2002	62.7	14.4
2000	42.3	13.1

The Local authorities manage and finance the majority of libraries

In 2008, libraries were classified as one national library, 4,125 public libraries, 1,904 specialised libraries, 256 from specific groups of users, 304 from higher education institutions and eight central libraries from Autonomous Communities.

Most of the libraries were public (81.6% of the total), with the Local Administration supporting the most libraries (4,052 libraries, 47.5% of the total), followed by the Autonomous Administration (20.9%), the General State Administration (9.8%) and the Provincial Delegations and Inter-Island Councils (7.4%).

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.

In turn, private financing, whether through companies or through user fees, represented an average of 14.5%.

Library ownership

Years	Percentage of public libraries	Percentage of public Local Administration libraries
2008	81.6	61.4
2006	81.2	61.4
2004	79.4	59.6
2002	77.2	57.5
2000	73.0	54.0

In 2008, access to libraries was mostly free (78.2%).

29.5% of the staff are professional librarians

The staff of Spanish libraries was comprised of 24,308 persons in the year 2008. Of them, 7,177 were professional librarians (29.5% of the total), 10,027 were library assistants (41.3%) and 7,104 persons were specialised and other staff (29.2%).

In addition to this staff, another 3,656 persons worked as interns and volunteers.

For further information see INEbase-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 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.