Libraries Statistics
Year 2014

The number of registered library users grows 7.0% between 2012 and 2014

The number of visits decreases 4.4% while consults via website increases 6.7%

In 2014 the number of libraries stood at 6,717, that is, 1.7% less than in 2012. A library is defined as an administrative body with own capacity and independent technical and administrative management.

The number of registered users increased by 7.0% between 2012 and 2014 up to 21.81 million of persons (17.53 million of adult users and 4.24 million of children).

This figure shows that almost the half of population[1] (47.0%) was used librarian services (as compared with 43.6% in 2012 and 39.2% in 2010).

By Autonomous Community, Cataluña (75.2%), Comunidad de Madrid (55.5%) and Castilla y León (53.2%) registered the highest percentages of users.

Visits

In 2014 physical visits decreased, while online visits increased.

The number of physical visits reached 206.95 million in 2014, that is, 4.4% less than in 2012. This showed that each inhabitant went to the library 4.5 times on average (as compared with 4.6 times in 2012).

Comunidad Foral de Navarra (6.8), Cantabria (6.4) and Comunidad de Madrid (5.9) reached the highest levels of physical visits.

In turn, the number of online visits was 176.89 million in 2014, that is, 6.7% more than that registered in 2012. This showed that each inhabitant visited the library online 3.8 times on average (as compared with 3.5 times in 2012).

By Autonomous Community, Galicia (7.2), Castilla y León (6.9) and Comunidad de Madrid (5.9) registered the highest levels of online visits.

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[1] Estimations of Current Population on 1 July 2014. INE

Number of libraries, service points, visits and registered users by Autonomous Communities Year 2014

	Libraries (Administration Units)	Number of residents by service point	Number of physical visits per resident	Number of web visits per resident	Percentage of population using the library
National total	6,717	5,321	4.5	3.8	47.0
Andalucía	991	6,494	3.3	1.7	32.0
Aragón	328	3,406	3.5	4.1	46.0
Asturias (Principado de)	162	5,142	4.0	2.4	49.0
Balears (Illes)	152	4,611	2.5	1.7	30.0
Canarias	199	7,620	3.4	1.9	21.2
Cantabria	100	4,968	6.4	3.9	28.2
Castilla y León	532	3,666	5.8	6.9	53.2
Castilla-La Mancha	590	2,888	3.8	1.7	43.7
Cataluña	849	7,939	5.6	4.4	75.2
Comunidad Valenciana	633	5,706	4.0	2.7	42.1
Extremadura	481	2,124	3.4	2.0	42.7
Galicia	497	4,113	3.6	7.2	37.4
Madrid (Comunidad de)	548	6,798	5.9	5.9	55.5
Murcia (Región de)	110	7,067	4.5	5.5	36.2
Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	140	3,950	6.8	2.8	50.0
País Vasco	312	5,036	4.8	4.2	52.2
Rioja (La)	72	4,362	5.2	3.2	37.2
Ceuta	13	6,044	2.3	0.1	26.7
Melilla	8	10,510	0.8	0.1	31.9

Current Population Estimate on 1 July 2014. INE

Library management and funding

In Spain, libraries were classified in 2014 into: a national library, 4,070 public libraries, 2,125 specialised libraries, 297 higher education institution libraries, 216 specific user group libraries and 8 Autonomous Community central libraries[2].

By Autonomous Community, the greatest decreases in the number of libraries as compared with 2012 were registered in Illes Balears, Andalucía and Comunitat Valenciana with 26, 24 and 23 public libraries less. In turn, the Autonomous Communities that registered increases in the number of libraries were Cantabria (22 more), Castilla y León (16) and País Vasco (5 more).
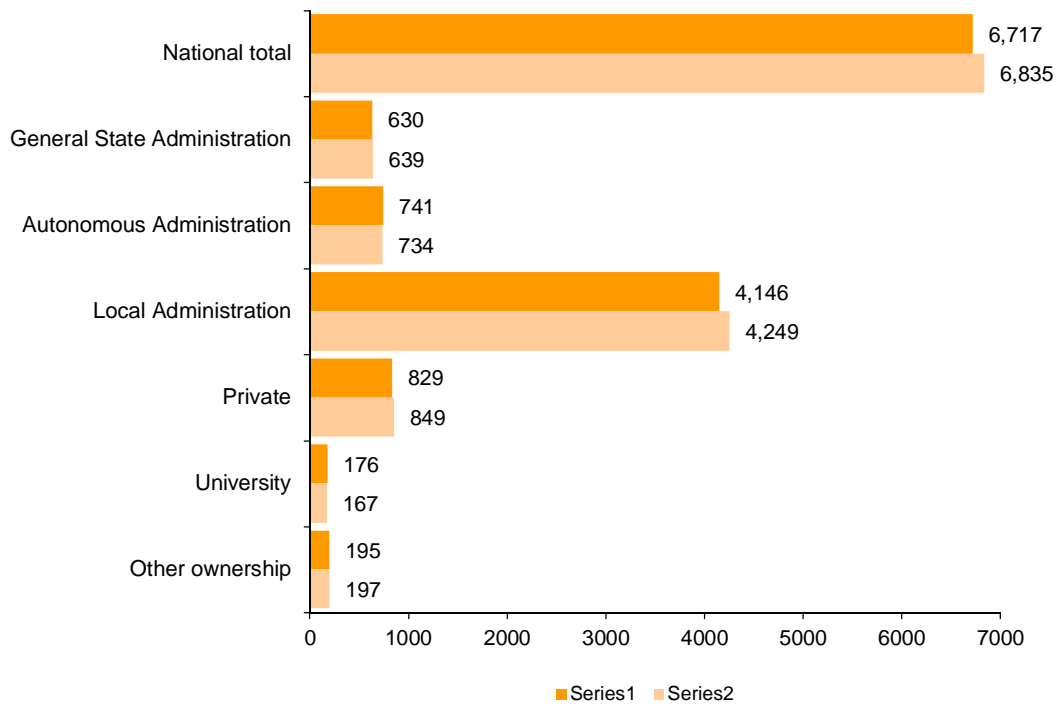
Regarding library ownership, 82.2% of libraries were publicly owned, with the Local Administration responsible for the upkeep of the greatest number of these (4,146 libraries, out of which 3,921 had free access).

In turn, 12.3% of libraries were privately owned, 2.6% were owned by universities and the remaining 2.9% by other entities.

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[2] **In the Libraries Statistics 2014, central libraries of the Autonomous Communities of Principado de Asturias, Cantabria, Castilla-La Mancha, Región de Murcia, Comunidad Foral de Navarra and La Rioja have been classified as public access libraries thus they are as well publicly owned.**

The number of publicly owned libraries decreased 1.9% between 2012 and 2014. The number of libraries supported by the Local Administration decreased by 2.4% and those supported by the Autonomous Administration did so by 1.4%. In turn, libraries supported by the General State Administration registered a 1.0% increase.
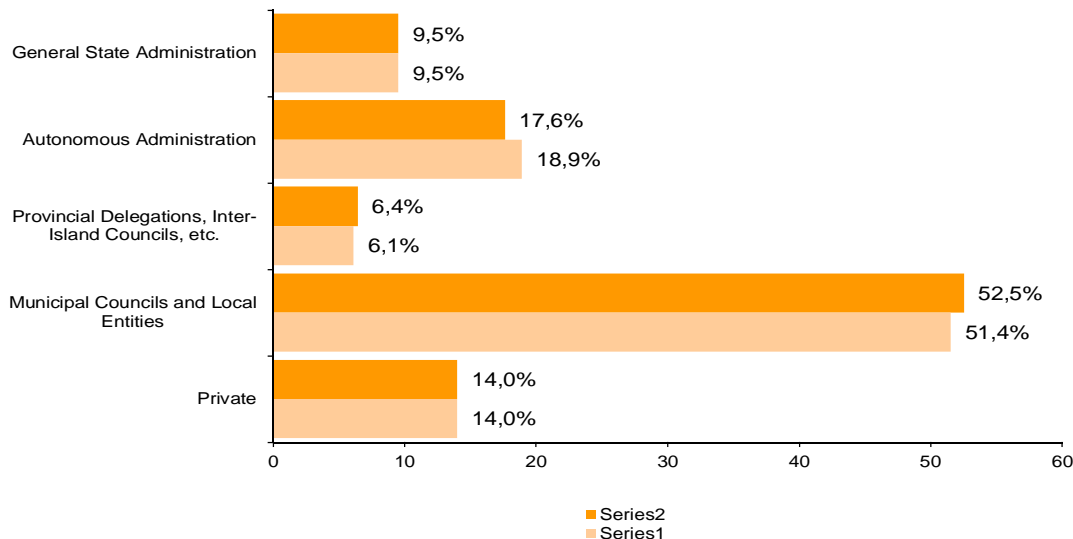
Libraries by ownership

86.0% of libraries were financed by the Administration and 14.0% were financed privately.

Public financing of libraries fell, mainly, in Town Councils and Local Entities (52.5%), the Autonomous Administration (17.6%), and the General State Administration (9.5%).

Library funding (average percentage)

Number of service points

The number of the service points or premises that depended on libraries was 8,730 in 2014, which showed a 1.9% decrease as compared with 8.900 of 2012.

The libraries that registered the greatest numbers were public libraries (58.3% of the total), specialised libraries (28.7%) and higher education institution libraries (9.7%).

The Autonomous Communities with the highest number of service points were Andalucía (1,292), Comunidad de Madrid (938) and Cataluña (932).

The average number of inhabitants per service point was 5,321, as compared with 5,254 in 2012. The Autonomous Communities with the lowest ratio were Extremadura (2,124 inhabitants per service point), Castilla-La Mancha (2,888) and Aragón (3,406).

Number of lending services

In 2014, users borrowed as lending service 74.46 million of documents, that is, 8.4% less than that registered in 2012. On average, 1.6 documents were borrowed by inhabitant, as compared with 1.8 in 2012.

By Autonomous Community, Castilla y León (2.5 documents by inhabitant), Cataluña (2.4), and La Rioja, Comunidad de Madrid and Región de Murcia (2.3) registered the highest rates of lending services.

By type of document, the book continued being the most demanded document (67.9% of the total), followed by audio-visual documents (16.5%) and electronic documents (6.0%).

The book demand decreased by 5.8% as compared with the increases of previous years (2.2% in 2012 and 12.3% in 2010). In turn, audio-visual and sound documents lending decreased by 18.7% and 26.9%, respectively.

In turn, lending services levels increased by 1.7% in electronic documents.

Funds

The amount of funds in Spanish libraries was 277.53 million of documents, that is, 4.2% more than that registered in 2012.

Such documents increased in all Autonomous Communities, but worth noting was the increase in Andalucía (13.0%), Cantabria (10.0%) and País Vasco (9.4%).

As happened in 2012, the books represented 62.7% of the total, and sound and audio-visual documents by 6.2%. In turn, electronic documents went from 10.0% in 2012 to 10.5% in 2014.

23.4% of libraries had fund collections from 5,001 to 10,000 documents and 22.7% from 10,001 to 20,000 documents.

E-books

E-books collections reached 12.84 million in 2014, representing an increase of 38.6% as compared with 2012.
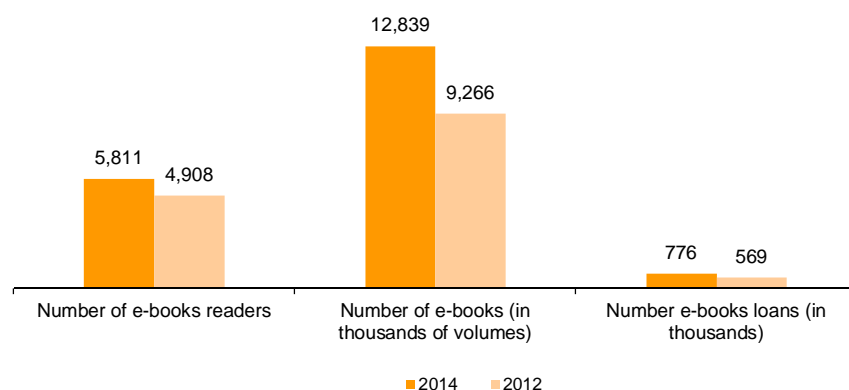
The proportion of e-books stood at 4.6% of the total collections (as compared with 3.5% of 2012), being superior to that of audio-visual documents (3.6) and sound documents (2.6%).

In 2014, 776,232 electronic copies were loaned, that is, 36.4% more than that registered in 2012.

The number of present e-book readers of libraries increased 18.4% up to reaching 5,811 equipments.

The percentage of libraries with e-book readers stood its upward trend, reaching 2.1% in 2010, 6.5% in 2012 and 8.4% in 2014.

E-books evolution

	2014	2012
Number of e-books readers	5,811	4,908
Number of e-books (in thousands of volumes)	12,839	9,266
Number e-books loans (in thousands)	776	569

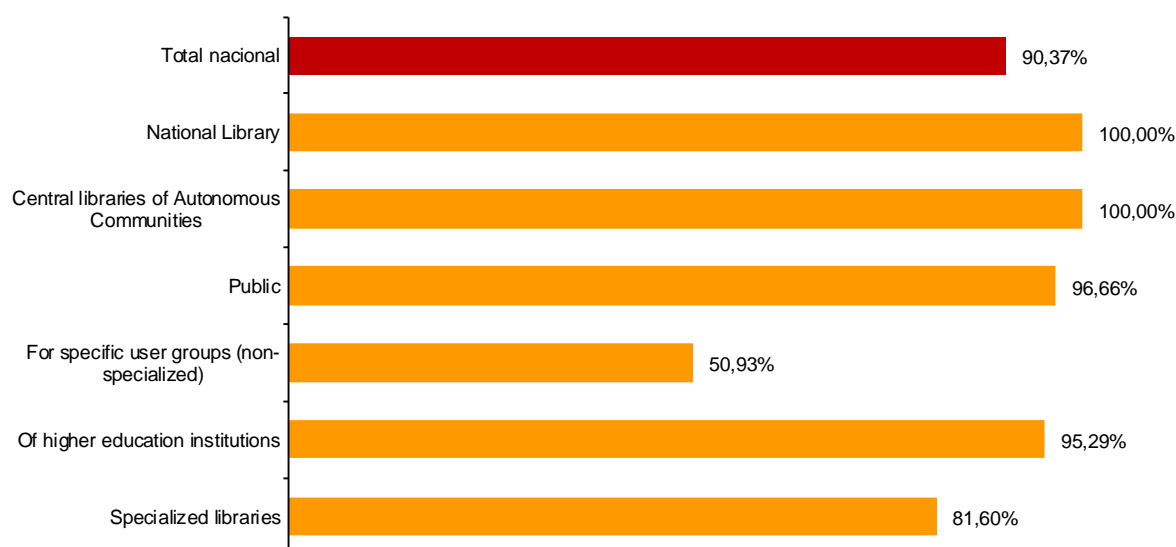■2014 ■2012

Internet access from the library

90.4% of libraries had Internet access in 2014, which represents an increase of 0.7% as compared with 2012. Among them, 99.0% provided this service for free. By type of library, 96.7% of public libraries had Internet access.

69.2% of libraries provided Wi-Fi services to their users. In public libraries, this percentage reached 83.8%.

Cataluña was the Autonomous Community with the highest percentage of libraries with Internet access (96.1%) and Wi-Fi connection (80.8%). In Internet access, this was followed by Principado de Asturias (95.7%) and Extremadura (94.4%). In turn, regarding Wifi connection, Illes Balears (80.3%) and Extremadura (80.2%) reached the highest levels.

94.8% of the total of informatics equipment had access to Internet in 2014 as compared with 94.4% in 2012.

Number of libraries with internet access in the own library
Year 2014

Category	Percentage
Total nacional	90,37%
National Library	100,00%
Central libraries of Autonomous Communities	100,00%
Public	96,66%
For specific user groups (non-specialized)	50,93%
Of higher education institutions	95,29%
Specialized libraries	81,60%

Libraries accessible via the Internet

Three out of five libraries (60.2%) were accessible via the Internet in 2014, either to their catalogues or their collections.

58.2% of libraries offered their catalogue through Internet (as compared with 56.1% of 2012). 37.1% offered their collections (as compared with 32.2% of 2012).
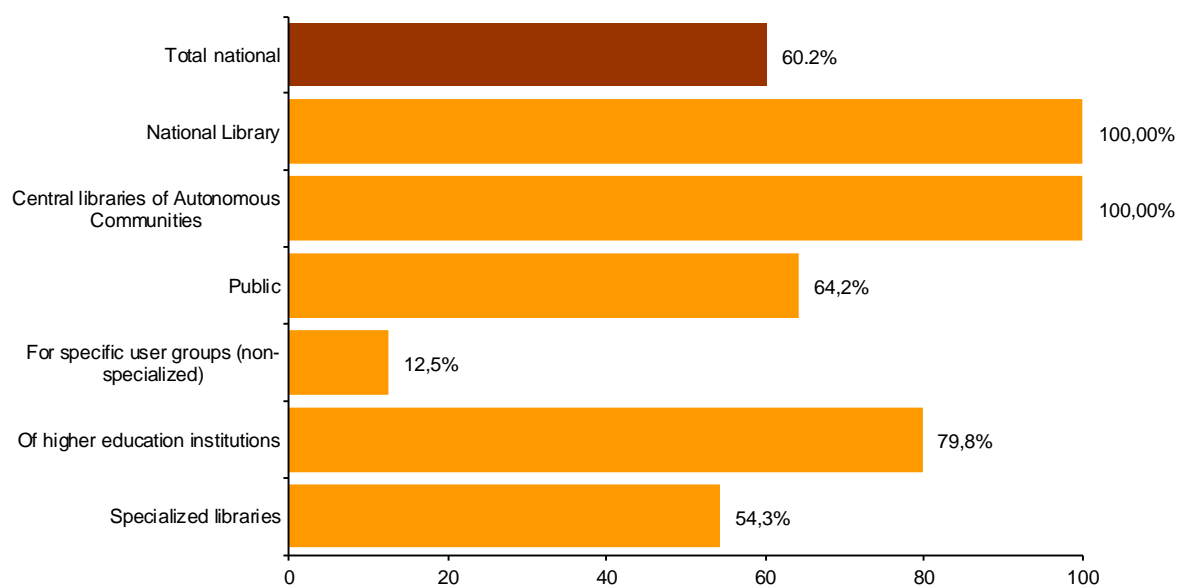
The access was available via their website, which could be a website of their own or a website belonging to the network or entity to which the library was linked.

The access to the libraries via the Internet was mainly free (88.9%), as compared with 11.1% of restricted access.

By type, 100% of libraries of Autonomous Communities were accessible via Internet, 79.8% libraries of institutions of high education and 64.2% libraries of public access.

By Autonomous Community, the highest percentages of libraries accessible via the Internet were located in Principado de Asturias (88.9%), País Vasco (79.2%) and Cataluña (78.0%).

Percentage of libraries accessible via the internet. Year 2014

Number of libraries and internet services by Autonomous Community
Year 2014

	Libraries (Administration Units)	Percentage of libraries with Internet access	Percentage of libraries that offer wifi to users	Percentage of libraries accesible via the Internet (*)
National total	6,717	90.4	69.2	60.2
Andalucía	991	88.6	67.0	62.9
Aragón	328	89.6	64.6	41.5
Asturias (Principado de)	162	95.7	61.1	88.9
Balears (Illes)	152	92.8	80.3	75.7
Canarias	199	87.4	65.8	66.8
Cantabria	100	92.0	66.0	55.0
Castilla y León	532	84.8	59.6	55.3
Castilla-La Mancha	590	92.0	74.4	61.9
Cataluña	849	96.1	80.8	78.0
Comunidad Valenciana	633	93.2	73.9	56.9
Extremadura	481	94.4	80.2	12.9
Galicia	497	85.3	69.0	60.6
Madrid (Comunidad de)	548	86.5	54.0	56.4
Murcia (Región de)	110	91.8	64.5	77.3
Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	140	89.3	59.3	71.4
País Vasco	312	92.0	68.9	79.2
Rioja (La)	72	83.3	56.9	56.9
Ceuta	13	46.2	38.5	38.5
Melilla	8	62.5	50.0	50.0

Note: A library is considered accesible via the Internet when its catalog or funds can be accessed through a web page (either its own or one of the web or entity vinculated)

Equipment in libraries

In general, there was an increase in the number of libraries with automatic functions. Thus, the automatic cataloguing service was available in 76.7% of libraries, automatic lending in 65.6% and the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) in 56.5%.

The number of copies available in the automatic catalogue registered an increase of 5.9%, reaching 175.78 million registers. Among them, 74.46 million belonged to public libraries.

47.1% of libraries offered audiovisual media consultation services, 39.6% audio media consultation services and 30.5% database and applications consultation services. 15.4% of libraries had computers for their internal management and 80.3% for public use. In total, libraries had 83,830 computers, that is, 1.0% more than that registered in 2012.

The number of image and sound readers/reproducers in libraries increased by 4.7% up to 45,911. Image equipment was available in 50.2% of libraries and sound equipment in 43.8% of them.

Regarding printers, the number of libraries with printers decreased by 1.0% as the number of printers did (8.3%). In turn, the number of libraries with scanners increased by 1.4% and the number of scanners did so by 1.6%.

Personnel and infrastructure

In 2014, personnel of Spanish libraries were composed of 25,083 paid employees (equivalent to 20,734 full time employees) and 3,767 collaborating employees, including interns and volunteers (equivalent to 1,662 full time employees).

Paid personnel registered a decrease of 1.1% as compared with 2012. Unpaid collaborating personnel in libraries increased by 5.5%, mainly due to the increase of volunteers by 17.2%.

Access to libraries was mainly free (78.2%). In turn, 46.8% of libraries were open to the general public between 20 and 40 hours per week.

Most libraries had a surface of less than 100m^2; both regarding their total usable surface (33.8% of libraries) and the surface for librarian use (42.2%).

In 2014, 47.7% of the total libraries had a number of consultation points that ranged between 10 and 49.

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 body, 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 body.

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