

Cites & Insights

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The Front

Books, Books and (Books?)

This edition of *Cites & Insights* is all about books—specifically, [Cites & Insights Books](#) for libraries and librarians. It's a sizable issue because it includes chapter-length excerpts from two new books and one possible book [that's the "(Books?)"], along with comments on each book, comments (and brief examples) on two new versions of existing data, and a section on what may happen with some existing books.

For layout critics and those who pay attention, apologies: This is another case where copyfitting will be lousy (and the issue may end oddly) because I'm mostly reproducing material from other books. The first three real and hypothetical books have 6 x 9" pages with a single 26-pica column (4 1/3"); this page has a single 28-pica column, so the text, tables and graphs are slightly wider (and taller, for graphs) than in the books. The last two book excerpts are from 8.5 x 11" single-column books, with tables and graphs shrunk to fit this smaller page (by the way, the print-oriented two-column version prints all excerpts in a single 28-pica column: shrinking them to 20 picas just didn't work).

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Also note that, except for the sayings in *Your Library Is...*, all excerpts here use Berkeley whereas most of the books use Berkeley Book, a lighter version of the same typeface.

What's here? In order:

- How some C&I books may go out of print in the near future.

- *Your Library Is...: A Collection of Library Sayings*, the fun book for this year. Comments about the book and a selection from the book itself.
- *\$4 to \$1: Public Library Benefits and Budgets, Volume 1: Libraries by Size*, the important book for public libraries for this fall. Comments about the book and a chapter from the book itself.
- *\$4 to \$1: Public Library Benefits and Budgets, Volume 2: Libraries by State*, the (book?) for this fall. Comments about the putative book and how it might come about and two states' worth of the book draft.
- *The Compleat Give Us a Dollar, volume 1, Libraries by Size*, the completed version of the first part of *Give Us a Dollar...* A few comments and part of a chapter.
- *The inCompleat Give Us a Dollar and We'll Give You Back Four*, the single-volume almost-completed version of *Give Us a Dollar...* A few comments and part of a chapter.

I haven't provided links in these bullets because, with one exception, the book is available in more than one format. I'm not including cover images; the PDF's likely to be big enough as is. You'll find complete links in the individual discussions and in the first discussion, which follows.

Weeding the Virtual Bookstore

An August 30, 2013 post at *Walt at Random* says what needs to be said. Here it is:

In a couple of recent posts I've talked about the likelihood that some [Cites & Insights Books](#) would go away if there wasn't some sign of sales activity. This post (a version of which will appear in the October 2013 [Cites & Insights](#)) provides the details on what I'm planning. In most cases, I suspect the appropriate response will be "didn't that disappear long ago?"—but if there are people or libraries who want to complete their collection, this post should be useful and, I hope, timely.

Why weed? After all, it's a virtual bookstore—there's no limit to how many books I can have available for sale. Because it's clumsy to track a large number of editions, all the more so since Lulu started listing ebook and print editions entirely separately, rather than clustering them into a single page.

Books that will probably disappear when I turn 68 (September 14, 2013) or thereabouts

- [Give Us a Dollar: Oregon and Washington Libraries](#), free PDF ebook
- [Give Us a Dollar: Oregon and Washington Libraries](#), \$34.99 hardcover with color printing

While this book didn't appear until April 2013, it was always intended to be a limited run. I see that three people or libraries took advantage of my earlier notice and downloaded the free ebook. The hardcover is pretty nice—it's relatively expensive because it has color printing and it's a hardcover—but a luxury. Both will disappear on or around September 14, 2013—*unless* I start seeing sales. If I do see sales (of the hardcover), they'll stick around as long as there's at least one sale a month. I regard this as unlikely.

Books that could disappear as early as October 1, 2013

- [The Liblog Landscape 2007-2010](#), \$18.99 paperback
- [The Liblog Landscape 2007-2010](#), \$9.99 PDF ebook
- [But Still They Blog: The Liblog Landscape 2007-2009](#), \$20.99 paperback
- [But Still They Blog: The Liblog Landscape 2007-2009](#), \$9.99 PDF ebook

None of these has any 2013 sales. If there are sales of either pair between now and September 30, 2013, I'll keep that pair (paperback and ebook) around for as long as there's at least one sale every two months. If not, they're gone. (I think these are the "Are those moldy oldies still available?" category. The reason they're both available is because *But Still They Blog* offers more detail on individual liblogs, albeit on a much smaller set of liblogs.)

Books that could disappear as early as November 1, 2013

- [Open Access and Libraries: A Cites & Insights Reader](#), \$17.50 paperback
- [Balanced Libraries: Thoughts on Continuity and Change](#), \$19.99 paperback
- [Balanced Libraries: Thoughts on Continuity and Change](#), \$9.99 PDF ebook
- [Library 2.0: A Cites & Insights Reader](#), \$18.99 paperback

- [Library 2.0: A Cites & Insights Reader](#), \$5.99 PDF ebook
- [Give Us a Dollar and We'll Give You Back Four \(2012-13\)](#), \$28.99 hardcover
- [Give Us a Dollar and We'll Give You Back Four \(2012-13\)](#), \$19.99 paperback
- [The Compleat Give Us a Dollar, vol. 2: Libraries by State](#), \$9.99 PDF ebook
- [The Compleat Give Us a Dollar, vol. 2: Libraries by State, site license version](#), \$34.99 PDF ebook

I've been tracking both C&I readers together. There were July sales for all of these but the last two (yes, including *Balanced Libraries*), so I'll start the "at least one sale every two months" with the September-October period.

I plan to leave the free PDF ebook version of *Open Access and Libraries* available until ALA Editions tells me that *Open Access: What You Need to Know Now* is out of print or until I replace it (if I do!) with an updated version, whichever comes first.

While *The Compleat...* is almost brand new, it's entirely duplicative of the last part of [The inCompleat Give Us a Dollar and We'll Give You Back Four](#), so unless there's early indication of interest, I'll just dump it. I think the print form is a better way to do state-to-state comparisons anyway.

No current plans to terminate

I'm keeping the C&I annuals around, at least for the moment—despite disappointing sales, they're great ways to go back to earlier C&I issues (and they include annual indexes).

The Big Deal and the Damage Done (available as [\\$9.99 PDF ebook](#), [\\$16.50 paperback](#) or [\\$40.00 PDF campus license edition](#)) will continue to be available until an updated publication is ready or as long as it continues to sell, whichever comes last. The updated publication, including 2012 data, will probably be shorter and will definitely be published by a professional publisher—either more expensive for some libraries or "free" for others (as in, you've already paid for it). It should appear in the late spring/early summer of 2014. More details when that time approaches.

These books just came out, and I'll keep them available as long as there's some interest, which typically means I won't even think about deleting them for 18 months to two years:

- [Your Library Is...: A Collection of Library Sayings](#), \$16.99 paperback (and my favorite of the new books, even if it's less useful than the others)

- [*Your Library Is...: A Collection of Library Sayings*](#), \$8.99 PDF ebook (also available in a deluxe PDF edition by contributing \$50 or more to *Cites & Insights*)
- [*\\$4 to \\$1: Public Library Benefits and Budgets, Volume 1, Libraries by Size*](#), \$24.99 paperback currently discounted to \$19.96. This (and the next two, identical internally) provides the most up-to-date discussion of public library benefits and budgets in 2011 and how they've changed from 2009.
- [*\\$4 to \\$1: Public Library Benefits and Budgets, Volume 1, Libraries by Size*](#), \$9.99 PDF ebook
- [*\\$4 to \\$1: Site License Edition, volume 1*](#), \$39.99 PDF ebook
- [*The inCompleat Give Us a Dollar and We'll Give You Back Four*](#), \$26.99 paperback—all the text and commentary and most of the figures for 2010: a big book full of good information, with more measures and more details than I've done for 2011.
- [*The Compleat Give Us a Dollar vol. 1: Libraries by Size*](#), \$9.99 PDF ebook—includes 10-color line graphs that wouldn't work in the paperback (which is why it's inCompleat).
- [*The Compleat Give Us a Dollar vol. 1, site license version*](#), \$39.99 PDF ebook.

Your Library Is...: A Collection of Library Sayings

This book probably won't help you get more funding for your public library—but you may find it fun and maybe even inspiring. The backstory of the book has been told here and there: Basically, I ran into some interesting public library sayings as I was checking websites for another project, and started doing a methodical sweep of America's public libraries (as recorded in the 2010 IMLS dataset), copying over mottoes and slogans as I encountered them. Do 100 libraries on most days (in five groups of 20 each, each group taking 10-12 minutes to do, as breaks from other work), and eventually you've done all 9,000+ libraries.

The book came out much better than I expected. It includes 1,137 unique mottoes and slogans as well as 88 mottoes and slogans used by more than one library (shared in all by 205 public libraries). I excluded some categories of sayings—epigraphs, “Serving X for Y years” in most

cases, sayings about the website rather than the library, “Check us out” in most cases, “Welcome” and its simple variants.

The book runs to 163 pages. It’s [available as a \\$16.99 6” x 9” paperback](#) or as [an \\$8.99 PDF ebook](#).

What follows are the C’s: Sayings from libraries in California, Colorado and Connecticut—about 9.5 pages of the 157 text pages (plus six pages of front matter).

*Excerpt from **Your Library Is...: A Collection of Library Sayings***

California

Your Connection To The World!

Modoc County Library, Alturas, CA 96101 [9777]

for every chapter of your life...

#Anaheim Public Library, Anaheim, CA 92805 [353643]

Enrich Inform Empower Entertain

Placer County Library, Auburn, CA 95603 [190210]

Knowledge • Discovery • Community

Burbank Public Library, Burbank, CA 91502 [108469]

Read. Connect. Grow.

Dixon Public Library District, Dixon, CA 95620 [25850]

Unlock the doors to your mind.

Solano County Library, Fairfield, CA 94533 [373901]

...Infinite Possibilities

Alameda County Library, Fremont, CA 94538 [546864]

A place to grow.

#Fresno County Public Library, Fresno, CA 93721 [923487]

Access. Ideas. Answers.

Fullerton Public Library, Fullerton, CA 92832 [138610]

“The Place to Start...”

Imperial County Library, Heber, CA 92249 [56472]

knowledge gives us wings

Long Beach Public Library, Long Beach, CA 90822 [494709]

choose civility

Stanislaus County Free Library, Modesto, CA 95354 [530584]

Enriching lives with books and information

Napa City-County Library, Napa, CA 94559 [132907]

We strengthen our community by creating and supporting lifelong reading, learning, and enjoyment.

Ontario City Library, Ontario, CA 91764 [174536]

Passport to Progress

Placentia Library District, Placentia, CA 92870 [55821]

bringing people and ideas together

Contra Costa County Library, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 [967425]

The Pleasanton Public Library inspires, informs and enriches our community.

Pleasanton Public Library, Pleasanton, CA 94566 [70711]

3 Amazing Libraries, Unlimited Possibilities...

Rancho Cucamonga Public Library, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
91730 [178904]

Celebrating Books, Learning & Community

Tehama County Library, Red Bluff, CA 96080 [63100]

“Two buildings... One Library”

Redondo Beach Public Library, Redondo Beach, CA 90277
[68105]

Connecting Community through Literacy & Learning

Redwood City Public Library, Redwood City, CA 94063 [78568]

one card, one community

San Bruno Public Library, San Bruno, CA 94066 [44294]

your destination for exploration & discovery

San Leandro Public Library, San Leandro, CA 94577 [83183]

Connect. Discover. Evolve.

San Mateo County Library, San Mateo, CA 94402 [286569]

My Choice for Leisure Learning Living

Marin County Free Library, San Rafael, CA 94903 [143772]

It's your library, Check it out!

Lassen Library District, Susanville, CA 96130 [35889]

The place to go when you want to know!

Ventura County Library, Ventura, CA 93003 [446876]

“Connecting people to knowledge, to ideas and to one another”

Whittier Public Library, Whittier, CA 90602 [87128]

Colorado

inspire growth

Pitkin County Library, Aspen, CO 81611 [13015]

Connecting people to possibilities

Pine River Public Library District/Bayfield, Bayfield, CO 81122
[8456]

seek • engage • transform

Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado Springs, CO 80903
[571336]

Your Gateway to Knowledge

#Dacono Public Library, Dacono, CO 80514 [4152]

*Your community resource for knowledge and
enjoyment*

Dolores Library District/Montezuma County, Dolores, CO 81323
[3736]

Community | Education | Environment

Durango Public Library, Durango, CO 81301 [51334]

Read. Learn. Grow.

Eagle Valley Library District, Eagle, CO 81631 [41618]

Unlock the Universe

Elbert County Library District, Elizabeth, CO 80107 [23086]

The World at Your Fingertips

#Summit County Library, Frisco, CO 80443 [27994]

Mountain Libraries Elevate Minds

Grand County Library District, Granby, CO 80446 [14843]

“We are your full-service library!”

West Routt Library District/Hayden, Hayden, CO 81639 [2828]

Informing and empowering the community

Delta County Public Library District, Hotchkiss, CO 81419
[31052]

Where Books Are Just the Beginning

#Lafayette Public Library, Lafayette, CO 80026 [24453]

Empowering Minds for Over a Century

Lamar Public Library, Lamar, CO 81052 [12551]

A neighborhood public library providing everyday information and recreational material.

Lyons Depot Library, Lyons, CO 80540 [2033]

A wealth of information awaits you at the Nucla Public Library.

Nucla Public Library, Nucla, CO 81424 [711]

Ideas • Imagination • Information

Pueblo City-County Library District, Pueblo, CO 81004
[159063]

Explore Learn Connect

Security Public Library, Security, CO 80911 [45935]

anythink: A Revolution of Rangeview Libraries

Rangeview Library District, Thornton, CO 80602 [337812]

Expand Your Horizons

#Clearview Library District, Windsor, CO 80550 [21510]

Something for Everyone

Rampart Library District/Woodland Park/Florissant, Woodland
Park, CO 80863 [18546]

Connecticut

Your Center for Life-Long Learning

Babcock Library, Ashford, CT 06278 [4467]

Your Community Information Center

#Bethel Public Library, Bethel, CT 06801 [18438]

Where Readers Are Leaders

Bethlehem Public Library, Bethlehem, CT 06751 [3560]

More than books...

#James Blackstone Memorial Library, Branford, CT 06405
[28969]

A Gathering Place for the Entire Community

Bridgeport Public Library, Bridgeport, CT 06604 [136405]

Connecting the future, the present, and the past

Brookfield Library, Brookfield, CT 06804 [16657]

Information, Literacy & Community

Brooklyn Town Library Association, Brooklyn, CT 06234 [7949]

Be a reader Be informed

Saxton B. Little Free Library, Columbia, CT 06237 [5315]

*“I don’t think people realize how lucky we are to
have this library in our town.”*

Darien Library, Darien, CT 06820 [20177]

The source since 1874

Enfield Public Library, Enfield, CT 06082 [44895]

*Service Beyond Expectations: There's Always
Something New at the Library*

Farmington Libraries, Farmington, CT 06032 [25116]

A place like no other.

Hartford Public Library, Hartford, CT 06103 [124062]

It isn't just about books!

Douglas Library of Hebron, Hebron, CT 06248 [9228]

Connecting Our Community to the World

Lyme Public Library, Lyme, CT 06371 [2077]

Your Friendly Neighborhood Library!

East Haddam Free Public Library, Moodus, CT 06469 [8896]

Connect • Discover • Grow

New Canaan Library, New Canaan, CT 06840 [19912]

Our unique resource

Wheeler Library, North Stonington, CT 06359 [5233]

The Cornerstone of the Community

East Norwalk Library, Norwalk, CT 06855 [83185]

small library. Big ideas.

Pomfret Public Library, Pomfret, CT 06258 [4168]

Read • Learn • Connect

#Putnam Public Library, Putnam, CT 06260 [9307]

we are here for you!

Mark Twain Library, Redding, CT 06875 [8798]

*Celebrating our 200th Anniversary as America's
first publicly funded library*

Scoville Memorial Library, Salisbury, CT 06068 [3958]

Open Your Mind...Expand Your World!

Plumb Memorial Library, Shelton, CT 06484 [39991]

So much happens here.

Simsbury Public Library, Simsbury, CT 06070 [23615]

Create! Explore! Engage!

Southington Public Library, Southington, CT 06489 [42250]

*Bringing Literature, Music, Art, Science & the
Humanities to our Community*

Pequot Library Association, Southport, CT 06890 [57345]

Imagination Innovation Information

Kent Memorial Library, Suffield, CT 06078 [15136]

*The Tolland Public Library provides access to
resources which inform, educate, entertain, and
enlighten our lives....Books are just the beginning.*

Tolland Public Library, Tolland, CT 06084 [14705]

It's all here for you!

Trumbull Library, Trumbull, CT 06611 [34688]

“Feast richly on the noble and beautiful things contained in books.”

Gunn Memorial Library, Washington, CT 06793 [3657]

Your Portal to Information & Technology

Silas Bronson Library, Waterbury, CT 06702 [107037]

your resource & discovery center online

Watertown Library Association, Watertown, CT 06795 [22095]

Where service makes the difference

Wethersfield Public Library, Wethersfield, CT 06109 [25719]

\$4 to \$1: Public Library Benefits and Budgets: Volume 1, Libraries by Size

This book is designed as a tool to help librarians, Friends and consultants tell the library story in order to retain and improve funding—but it’s also a detailed picture of American public libraries in 2011 and how they changed from 2009.

The book began with the same general notions as *Give Us a Dollar and We’ll Give You Back Four*, but I’ve attempted to improve that model in several ways. Here’s what I had to say on June 18, 2013, before I began the project and the failed IndieGoGo crowdfunding attempt, updated slightly to reflect what actually happened, mostly with [bracketed comments]:

The changes [from the 2010 book] can be summarized as Simplify, Amplify, Clarify and Compare.

Simplify

I now believe that I included too many different metrics and too many divisions for key metrics in the current version—“too many” in that they may obscure the overall picture of America’s public libraries, but also in that the sheer number of tables and length of the book may intimidate

some potential readers/users. I also believe that, while theoretically desirable, basing divisions purely on reality may not work out as well as I'd like.

Here's what I had in mind for a new version, subject to revision:

- Spending brackets: Reduce from the current 10 to, probably, five—in part because it's possible to make charts with five lines that can be read in black-and-white (using different line dot-and-dash combinations), while I don't think that's true for 10. The brackets would probably be based on the median per capita spending and would be something like this: A. <1/3 of median. B. 1/3 to 2/3 of median. C. 2/3 to 1 1/3 of median. D. 1 1/3 to twice median. E. More than twice median. [I wound up with five brackets, with the top four roughly equal in size but also with mostly round numbers for divisions: \$0.12 to \$19.99, \$20 to \$29.99, \$30 to \$39.99, \$40 to \$57.99 and \$58 and up. The top four brackets are roughly equal in number of libraries; the bottom, unfortunately, is considerably larger.]
- Size (LSA) brackets: Reduce from the current 18 to, probably, nine, with one bracket each for libraries serving fewer than 1,000 people and those serving at least 100,000, and seven others based on actual distribution (looking at roughly 1,000 libraries per section). [I wound up with ten, including eight for those serving 1,000 to 99,999.]
- Other metrics: Include circulation per capita (reducing current nine brackets to maybe six), reference per capita (reducing from ten brackets to maybe six), patron visits per capita (reducing from nine to maybe six), program attendance per capita (reducing from eight to maybe six), PC use per capita (reducing from eight to maybe six) and visitors per hour (reducing from nine to maybe six). Omitted from detailed metrics: hours open (but see below), total PCs, PCs per thousand patrons and circulation per hour. [That's how it worked out, with brackets set to be roughly equal but also reasonably "smooth" in terms of boundaries, e.g., whole numbers for circulation and patron visits.]
- I'd still have the benefit ratio, probably calculated very similarly, used as appropriate. [Yes; the only change is that I simplified calculation of PC use.]

The overall net effect is that a given library would be comparable to around 200 other libraries for spending or around 166 for other metrics. And that most graphs would involve around 1,000 libraries (but I'd probably remove the top 10% from some graphs.) [I didn't remove "the

top 10%” but I did remove extreme cases from some scatterplots, always saying so.]

Amplify

The new version would be amplified from the current in several ways:

- I would *not* exclude libraries with very low funding, those with very high funding, and those with less than 0.25 FTE librarian. I would still exclude territorial libraries, closed libraries and libraries with no reported operating expenditures. [That’s what I did, but I also excluded libraries with no reported circulation.]
- The new version would include graphs as well as tables, as appropriate.
- Rather than peculiar “combined tables” showing quartiles for given metrics at different expenditure levels, there would be single tables, one for each metric—and I’d use the extra space to add 10%ile and 90%ile to the current Q1 (25%ile), median (50%ile) and Q3 (75%ile) figures. That would offer a much better picture of what’s out there, while still ignoring extreme cases.
- I would include correlations as appropriate (as I did in *GPLB*). [That’s *Graphing Public Library Benefits*, a pseudo-book since nobody ever purchased a copy, myself included; the contents of *GPLB* are in *Compleat...* and to some extent in *inCompleat...*]

I added another form of amplification: For benchmark tables, a “Rel” column showing how this group of libraries relates to the nation’s libraries as a whole—e.g., “25%” means that the percentage of this size bracket’s libraries in a certain row is 25% higher than for libraries overall, while “-50%” means it’s 50% lower. Rel columns appear not only for 2011 benchmarks but for 2009-2011 changes.

Clarify

The current version is, how you say, light on textual commentary. Once you get past page 21, it’s basically nothing but tables. Which, as a pure tool, may make sense—but is a little overwhelming.

The new version will include some commentary, pointing up noteworthy items in the tables and graphs, providing at least a little textual clarity. [It does.]

Compare

The current version looks at one year. While I do suggest that it's likely that more money would yield better and more numbers, I don't have any hard evidence for that.

The new version would compare 2010 and 2011 figures (and would include only libraries present in both years). It would also attempt to show correlations between changes in spending per capita and various other metrics. I would probably include changes in total open hours here. [I decided to compare 2009 and 2011 rather than 2010 and 2011.]

Oh, and one other change—if this happens at all and if it makes sense:

I'd split the state-by-state sections out into a separate book, and those sections would include some comparisons to overall figures that aren't there now. That would make the separate book an interesting overview of differences in metrics across the nation. [I haven't done Volume 2 yet: see the last section of this issue. I *have* added "some comparisons to overall figures" to each size chapter, and I find those comparisons interesting, although those for states might be even more interesting.]

Best guess as to length (the current book is 262 pages; *Graphing Public Library Benefits* is 222 pages): Somewhere around 150-200 pages, ideally closer to the first, for the main book; probably around 200 pages, maybe more, for the "Viewing the States" book. [Well...Volume 1 is 205 pages—actually 213 including front matter. My best guess at this point is that Volume 2 would be around 500 pages, one reason it hasn't been done yet.]

Price would be \$9.99 for PDF, whatever it works out to for paperback (probably around \$15.50 if it's 150 pages, around \$16.50 if it's 200 pages), \$40 for site-license or state-license (for the state-by-state) ebook version without usage restrictions.

The Final Version

All things considered, what finally emerged isn't that far from what I initially planned, except that the state volume isn't a certainty and would be much larger than anticipated.

\$4 to \$1: Public Library Benefits and Budgets: Volume 1: Libraries by Size is available in three versions:

- [A \\$24.99 6" x 9" paperback](#) that's currently (and indefinitely) discounted to \$19.96 at Lulu.
- [A \\$9.99 6" x 9" PDF ebook](#).
- [A \\$39.99 site license version](#) of the PDF ebook—same book, but with an explicit permission for simultaneous multiple downloads

within an institution (including distance students), single-state consortium, state library association or similar “site.”

What follows are portions of Chapter 1 and all of Chapter 4 of the book, the latter covering libraries serving 1,000 to 1,999 patrons.

Excerpts from \$4 to \$1: Public Library Benefits and Budgets: Volume 1: Libraries by Size

Portions of Chapter 1

A good public library is at the heart of any healthy community, and the true value provided by a good library is hard to measure. That value includes children whose road to literacy begins at the library; newly employed workers who use the library to improve their skills and find jobs; every patron who learns something new or enriches their life using library resources; and the myriad ways a good public library strengthens its community as a community center and resource.

Those anecdotes and uncounted benefits make up the flesh and blood of a public library’s story—but there are also the bones: *countable* benefits, including those reported every year. Even including only those countable benefits, public libraries offer excellent value: by my conservative calculation, most provide more than \$4 in benefits for every \$1 in spending.

So what?

So this: Public libraries with *better* funding *continue* to show a high ratio of benefits to cost. That’s significant, especially as communities recover economically and libraries seek an appropriate share of improved community revenues.

This book and the companion state-by-state study have two purposes:

- To offer a detailed overview of public library benefits in 2011 and how they changed from 2009
- To help librarians, Friends and other library supporters tell your library’s story, seeing how it compares to similar libraries on a range of countable measures.

...

The Basic Findings

This study does not *quite* cover all U.S. public libraries. Omissions—very few of them—are discussed below. In total, those omissions appear to involve 59 libraries in the 50 U.S. states and District of Columbia, leaving 9,173 in the study.

Rounded to the nearest whole number, 79% of those 9,173 libraries have Benefit Ratios of 4 or higher—and 60% round to 5 or higher.

While libraries with less funding typically do have higher benefit ratios (librarians are experts at squeezing the most from every dollar), it’s not a dramatic change. Reasonably funded libraries (\$40 to \$47.99 per capita) show a median benefit ratio of 4.5, while those spending \$30 to \$39.99 have a median benefit ratio of 5.0 and the somewhat underfunded group spending \$20 to \$29.99 are barely better at 5.3.

This is neither surprising nor wholly intuitive. More funding means longer hours, more and better programs, a more up-to-date collection and more contemporary PC support—all of which are likely to yield direct benefits to the community. What’s not intuitive: That in general you continue to get excellent benefits for additional funding—while some libraries need lower benefit ratios for long-term health, you can still generally expect at least four dollars in benefits for every dollar added to the library’s budget.

The Biggest Picture: 9,232 Libraries in 2011

Measure	Total	Benefit	Percent	Change
LSA	305,125,363			1.4%
Spending	\$10,763,802,220			-1.7%
Hours	36,399,089	\$2,183,945,340	5.1%	-1.7%
Circulation	2,444,040,714	\$24,440,407,140	57.0%	1.2%
Visits	1,528,141,432	\$7,640,707,160	17.8%	-4.0%
Reference	293,481,051	\$4,989,177,867	11.6%	-5.3%
Attendance	89,233,105	\$892,331,050	2.1%	3.3%
PC Use	342,135,628	\$2,737,085,024	6.4%	-6.5%
Benefits		\$42,883,653,581		-1.1%

Table 1.1 Total measures for 2011 and changes from 2009

Table 1.1 shows key measures for *all* public libraries reporting actual spending and circulation in 2011, including those that didn’t report in 2009. You’ll see “LSA” used throughout this book. That stands for Legal Service Area, the population that’s defined as the library’s service area.

The second column shows the calculated benefits for each measure. The third column shows the percent of all benefits represented by each measure. As you can see, and as seems realistic for most libraries, circulation represents the majority of all measurable benefits, with visits a distant second and reference transactions third.

The final column shows percentage changes for these measures for all libraries reporting in 2009. It’s a relatively narrow range. Overall, spending per capita was down slightly (these figures are *not* adjusted for inflation, and given the fiscal situation in most cities in 2010 and 2011,

the decrease isn't surprising)—and so were overall benefits, as libraries reduced hours to save money, thus reducing visits and PC use. Interestingly, circulation was *still* up (down slightly from 2010 to 2011, but up more from 2009 to 2010). One wonders whether the largest decrease, that for PC use, is balanced by increased use of library-supplied Wi-Fi on increasingly inexpensive patron-owned notebooks, tablets and smartphones.

Accounting for the Missing

Measure	Total	Included	Percent
Libraries	9,232	9,173	99.52%
LSA	305,125,363	304,169,507	99.69%
Spending	\$10,763,802,220	\$10,730,278,690	99.69%
Hours	36,399,089	36,246,832	99.58%
Circulation	2,444,040,714	2,437,649,088	99.74%
Visits	1,528,141,432	1,524,493,600	99.76%
Reference	293,481,051	292,523,968	99.67%
Attendance	89,233,105	88,968,127	99.70%
PC Use	342,135,628	340,966,795	99.66%

Table 1.2 Measures and percentages for included libraries

The only libraries not included in this study (in the 50 states and DC) are those that didn't exist in 2009 or didn't report both at least \$1 in spending and at least one circulation in both 2009 and 2011.

Table 1.2 accounts for the missing—59 libraries in all. As you can see, the missing account for a *tiny* portion of all measures: Never as much as one-half percent and generally less than one-third of one percent. From here on, all figures are based on the 9,173 libraries.

...

Chapter 4: Libraries Serving 1,000 to 1,999

This group includes 1,086 libraries. These are still very small libraries, so it's reasonable to assume extreme numbers, but perhaps less extreme than in Chapter 3.

Benefit Ratio	Count	%	Cum%	Rel
10+	154	14%		84%
6 to 9	417	38%	53%	40%
3 to 5	464	43%	95%	-19%
0 to 2	51	5%	100%	-62%

Table 4.1 Benefit ratios in 2011 for libraries serving 1,000 to 1,999 patrons

Quite a few of these libraries also have very high benefit ratios (although certainly nowhere near as many as with the smallest libraries.)

Spending Per Capita

\$/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel	BenR
\$58+	162	15%		-10%	4.2
\$40 to \$57	174	16%	31%	-5%	5.3
\$30 to \$39	231	21%	52%	19%	5.9
\$20 to \$29	237	22%	74%	7%	6.8
\$0.12 to \$19	282	26%	100%	-8%	8.1

Table 4.2 Spending per capita in 2011

Where spending's concerned, these libraries diverge toward the middle, with a higher percentage than usual in the \$20 to \$39.99 range and fewer well-funded or poorly-funded libraries, but the differences aren't big.

Change \$/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel	BenR
19%+	273	25%		45%	5.7
9% to 18%	192	18%	43%	15%	5.8
2% to 8%	172	16%	59%	-13%	6.3
-4% to 1%	146	13%	72%	-20%	5.9
-12% to -5%	136	13%	85%	-22%	7.6
< -12%	167	15%	100%	-6%	7.6

Table 4.3 Changes in spending per capita from 2009 to 2011

Here, the news is generally good: Nearly 60% of these libraries had more to spend per capita in 2011 than in 2009—and a solid quarter, considerably above average, had substantial increases.

Circulation per Capita

Circ/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel	\$/cap
14+	188	17%		10%	\$55.66
10 to 13	154	14%	31%	-4%	\$39.59
7 to 9	195	18%	49%	-7%	\$33.69
5 to 6	185	17%	66%	9%	\$29.82
3 to 4	161	15%	81%	-13%	\$24.69
0 to 2	203	19%	100%	6%	\$15.08

Table 4.4 Circulation per capita in 2011, benchmark view

These libraries show a reasonably typical circulation pattern, slightly high at the top and bottom. Median spending per capita shows its usual

steady march upward from the bottom of the table: More spending, more circulation.

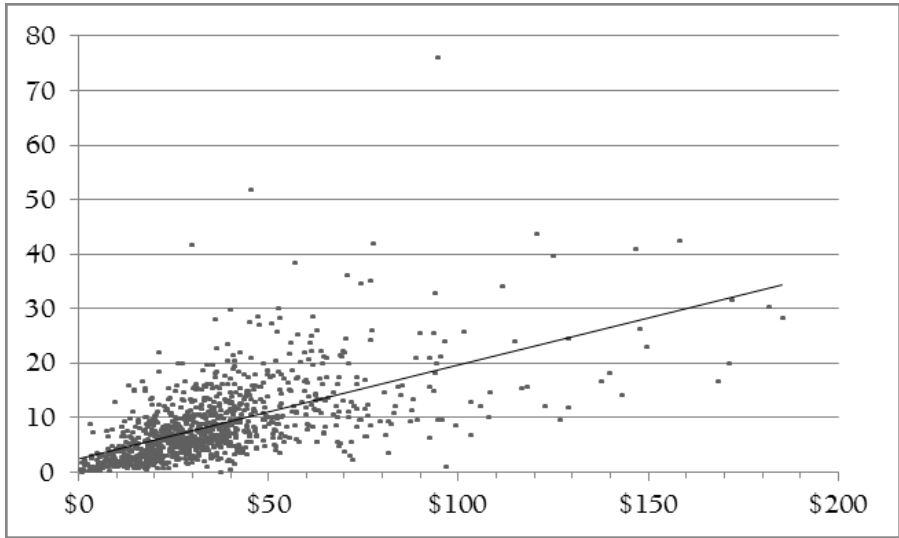


Figure 4.1 Circulation per capita plotted against spending per capita

There’s a *strong* correlation (0.67) between circulation per capita and spending per capita, as illustrated in Figure 4.1 (which omits 11 libraries spending more than \$200 per capita for readability—including two libraries with more than 76 circulation per capita).

\$/cap	10%ile	25%ile	Median	75%ile	90%ile
\$58+	7.0	10.2	14.6	22.0	33.9
\$40-\$57	4.8	7.5	10.5	15.4	19.7
\$30-\$39	4.1	5.6	7.7	11.1	15.5
\$20-\$29	2.6	3.9	5.8	8.1	11.4
\$1-\$19	0.9	1.6	2.9	5.4	8.7
Overall	1.9	3.9	6.9	11.5	17.4

Table 4.5 Circulation per capita in 2011, budget view

Table 4.5 shows a consistent pattern that emphasizes the extent to which better funding correlates with higher circulation—with fairly sizable changes in some areas. Figure 4.2 offers a related graphic representation showing much the same thing.

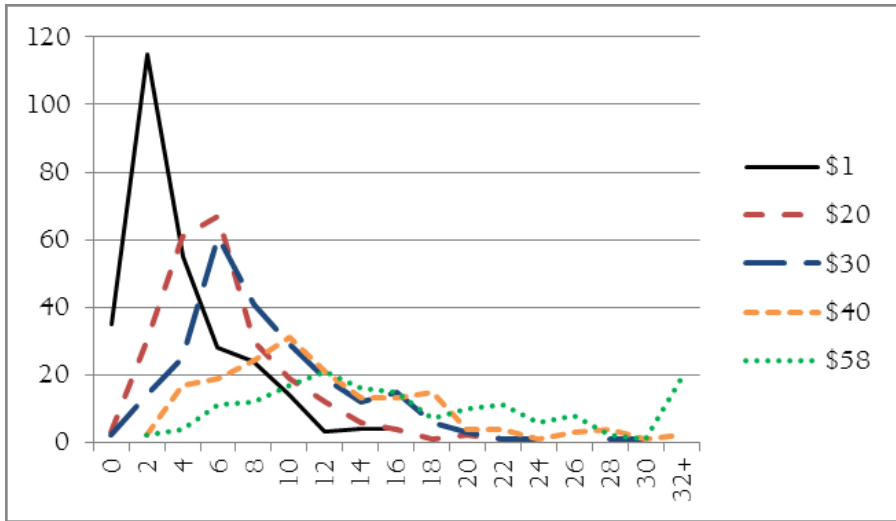


Figure 4.2 Circulation per capita (to nearest two), occurrence by spending category

Changes in circulation per capita

Change Circ/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel
20%+	224	21%		27%
7% to 19%	169	16%	36%	-5%
0 to 6%	141	13%	49%	-16%
-7% to -1%	154	14%	63%	-18%
-17% to -8%	179	16%	80%	-7%
< -17%	219	20%	100%	20%

Table 4.6 Changes in circulation, 2009 to 2011, benchmark view

Just under half of these libraries had some increase—and a higher-than-average 21% saw substantial growth. At the same time, a higher-than-average 20% saw a substantial drop in circulation per capita.

\$/cap	10%ile	25%ile	Median	75%ile	90%ile
\$58+	-33%	-14%	0%	18%	39%
\$40-\$57	-25%	-10%	-1%	13%	38%
\$30-\$39	-25%	-13%	1%	14%	32%
\$20-\$29	-22%	-11%	0%	18%	37%
\$1-\$19	-35%	-21%	-2%	17%	39%
Overall	-30%	-14%	0%	16%	38%

Table 4.7 Changes in circulation, 2009 to 2011, budget view

There is a moderate correlation (0.43) between changes in circulation per capita and changes in spending per capita, but it's not graphable.

Table 4.7 is another case where there's more consistency in columns than in rows—that is, changes in circulation per capita tend *not* to depend on overall spending per capita.

Visits per Capita

Visits/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel	\$/cap
9+	223	21%		10%	\$53.53
7 to 8	133	12%	33%	-2%	\$41.01
5 to 6	205	19%	52%	-5%	\$34.77
3 to 4	247	23%	74%	-6%	\$27.36
2	119	11%	85%	-11%	\$21.22
< 2	159	15%	100%	17%	\$13.12

Table 4.8 Visits per capita in 2011, benchmark view

The pattern for visits per capita is a little clearer than for circulation per capita: Somewhat higher than usual at the high end, a little more so at the low end, with the usual clear relationship between spending and visits.

\$/cap	10%ile	25%ile	Median	75%ile	90%ile
\$58+	6.1	7.2	11.4	16.1	25.0
\$40-\$57	4.1	5.3	7.2	9.1	13.1
\$30-\$39	2.9	4.1	5.7	7.9	11.2
\$20-\$29	2.2	2.9	4.4	6.4	8.9
\$1-\$19	0.7	1.4	2.3	3.8	5.5
Overall	1.6	2.9	5.1	8.1	13.1

Table 4.9 Visits per capita in 2011, budget view

Table 4.9 is just what you'd expect, including the diagonal line at around 5.8 visits (give or take 0.6)—with only 10% of the best funded libraries below 6.1 visits and only 10% of the worst funded libraries above 5.5 visits.

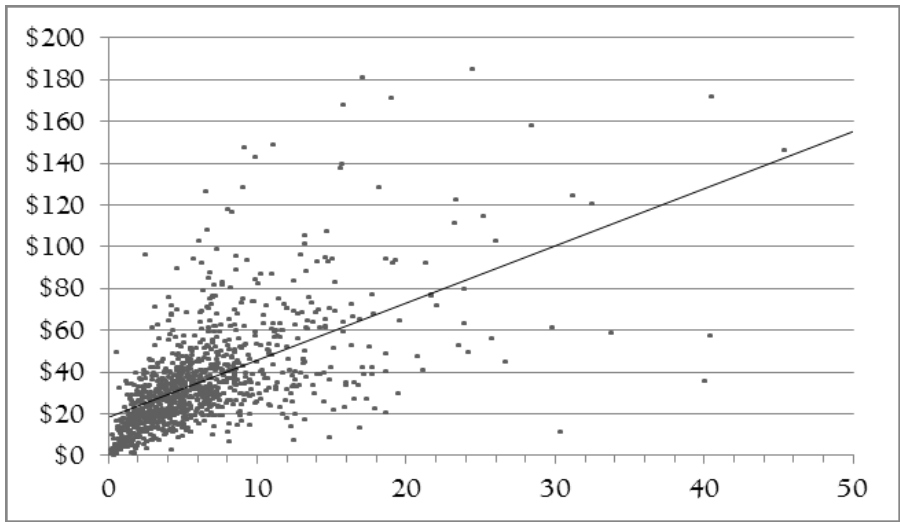


Figure 4.3 Visits per capita plotted against spending per capita

As shown in Figure 4.3, for these libraries there's a *strong* correlation (0.64) between spending per capita and visits per capita. (To improve readability, Figure 4.3 omits 11 libraries spending more than \$200 per capita—which eliminates two libraries with more than 50 visits per capita.) There's an even stronger correlation, 0.75, between circulation and visits.

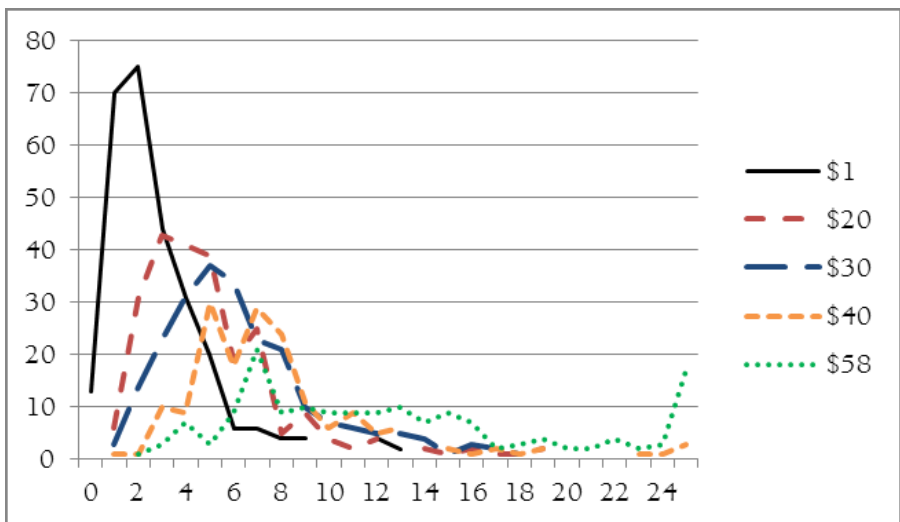


Figure 4.4 Visits per capita (rounded) occurrence by spending category

Figure 4.4 shows the same pattern as Table 4.9 in a different form.

Changes in visits per capita from 2009 to 2011

Change Vis/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel
20%+	239	22%		26%
7% to 19%	180	17%	39%	9%
0 to 6%	147	14%	52%	-15%
-7 to -1%	150	14%	66%	-18%
-17% to -8%	170	16%	82%	-7%
< -17%	200	18%	100%	4%

Table 4.10 Changes in visits per capita from 2009 to 2011, benchmark view

Table 4.10 shows another healthy situation, with more than half of these libraries having some increase in visits per capita and 22%—considerably higher than the overall figure—having substantial increase. Slightly more libraries than usual have significant decreases. (The median spending figures aren’t meaningful.)

The budget view is so much like Table 4.7 that it’s not worth including. Once again, changes are fairly consistent by column (that is, very slightly positive at the median, around 10%-15% down at the 25%ile, around 17% up at the 75%ile) and wholly uncorrelated to spending ranges. There’s no statistical correlation between changes in visits per capita and any other measure discussed so far.

Reference Transactions per Capita

Ref/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel	\$/cap
1.3+	189	17%		-1%	\$40.58
0.8-1.2	140	13%	30%	-10%	\$34.78
0.5-0.7	154	14%	44%	-13%	\$34.73
0.25-0.5	186	17%	62%	-15%	\$29.38
0.1-0.24	179	16%	78%	0%	\$30.20
< 0.1	238	22%	100%	45%	\$19.49

Table 4.11 Reference transactions per capita in 2011, benchmark view

Quite a few of these libraries—many more than usual—do *very* little reference work, including 25 that reported no reference transactions at all. There’s also even less apparent correlation than usual between spending and reference use (and no statistical correlation). There is a moderate correlation between reference and circulation.

\$/cap	10%ile	25%ile	Median	75%ile	90%ile
\$58+	0.18	0.36	0.71	1.85	3.91
\$40-\$57	0.07	0.25	0.70	1.18	2.30
\$30-\$39	0.07	0.14	0.42	1.00	1.85
\$20-\$29	0.04	0.13	0.36	0.91	1.60
\$1-\$19	0.01	0.03	0.15	0.43	0.84
Overall	0.03	0.12	0.38	0.96	1.95

Table 4.12 Reference transactions per capita in 2011, budget view

Table 4.12, on the other hand, shows *hints* of a relationship between spending and reference use.

Changes in reference transactions per capita from 2009 to 2011

Change Ref/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel
40%+	220	20%		23%
10% to 39%	173	16%	36%	-8%
0 to 9%	139	13%	49%	-8%
-14% to -1%	194	18%	67%	-8%
-34% to -15%	145	13%	80%	-15%
< -34%	215	20%	100%	16%

Table 4.13 Changes in reference transactions, 2009 to 2011, benchmark view

Table 4.13 is somewhat more encouraging: one out of five libraries substantially increased reference use, a significantly higher proportion than for libraries in general—although another one out of five saw a substantial *decrease*.

Program Attendance per Capita

Very small public libraries can be key sources of cultural and other programming for their communities—but some very small libraries just don't have the resources to do formal programming or to report on what they do. Those factors show up in this measure, which is strong at the top and slightly high at the bottom.

Attend/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel	\$/cap
0.8+	280	26%		50%	\$44.11
0.5-0.7	181	17%	42%	3%	\$37.68
0.3-0.4	197	18%	61%	-10%	\$29.54
0.2	112	10%	71%	-28%	\$28.96
0.1	123	11%	82%	-31%	\$24.54
< 0.1	193	18%	100%	14%	\$17.71

Table 4.14 Program attendance per capita in 2011, benchmark view

Of the 193 libraries reporting less than one attendance for every ten patrons, 31 didn't report any program attendance at all.

\$/cap	10%ile	25%ile	Median	75%ile	90%ile
\$58+	0.30	0.50	0.97	1.90	3.50
\$40-\$57	0.15	0.33	0.62	0.97	1.67
\$30-\$39	0.09	0.21	0.43	0.84	1.48
\$20-\$29	0.07	0.15	0.34	0.62	1.09
\$1-\$19	0.01	0.05	0.15	0.37	0.69
Overall	0.05	0.15	0.40	0.82	1.51

Table 4.15 Program attendance per capita in 2011, budget view

As the rightmost column in Table 4.14 would suggest, Table 4.15 has the usual predictable pattern.

Program attendance per capita correlates moderately (0.45) with spending per capita and (0.49) with circulation per capita and strongly (0.54) with visits per capita; none of the graphs is informative

Changes in program attendance per capita from 2009 to 2011

Change Att/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel
55% +	262	24%		41%
22% to 54%	164	15%	39%	2%
4% to 21%	142	13%	52%	-27%
-10% to 3%	157	14%	67%	-15%
-30% to -11%	157	14%	81%	-14%
< -30%	204	19%	100%	14%

Table 4.16 Changes in program attendance, 2009 to 2011, benchmark view

Nearly one-quarter of these libraries showed *strong* improvement in program attendance and more than half had some improvement; once again, a slightly higher percentage than usual showed serious decreases in program attendance per capita.

\$/cap	10%ile	25%ile	Median	75%ile	90%ile
\$58+	-34%	-16%	9%	54%	129%
\$40-\$57	-45%	-13%	7%	51%	121%
\$30-\$39	-48%	-16%	10%	60%	161%
\$20-\$29	-46%	-21%	11%	56%	144%
\$1-\$19	-67%	-28%	0%	48%	177%
Overall	-48%	-21%	6%	53%	154%

Table 4.17 Changes in program attendance per capita, 2009 to 2011, budget view

I'm including Table 4.17 because, although it shows the same pattern as other changes in budget view (the columns are fairly consistent), it takes it to extremes. The 90%ile for *all* budget categories shows more than doubling in program attendance per capita—and nearly all show at least half again as much attendance at the 75%ile level. (I found no meaningful statistical correlations with other measures.)

Personal Computer Use per Capita

PC Use/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel	\$/cap
2.3 +	284	26%		53%	\$44.04
1.5 to 2.2	197	18%	44%	15%	\$33.71
1.1 to 1.4	143	13%	57%	-16%	\$27.73
0.8 to 1.0	112	10%	68%	-33%	\$30.63
0.4 to 0.7	167	15%	83%	-28%	\$22.64
< 0.4	183	17%	100%	16%	\$18.58

Table 4.18 Personal computer use per capita in 2011, benchmark view

Strong at the top, *slightly* high at the bottom: A familiar curve for these libraries—and 23 of the 183 bottom libraries didn't report any PC use at all. This time, the median spending per capita bounces around a little, although other than the anomalous figure for 1.1 to 1.49 it's fairly typical. PC use per capita correlates moderately (0.39) with spending per capita, strongly (0.51) with circulation per capita and more strongly (0.66) with visits per capita, which makes some sense. Figure 4.5 shows the latter correlation, with four libraries removed—two because visits per capita exceeded 51, those and two others because PC use per capita exceeded 15.

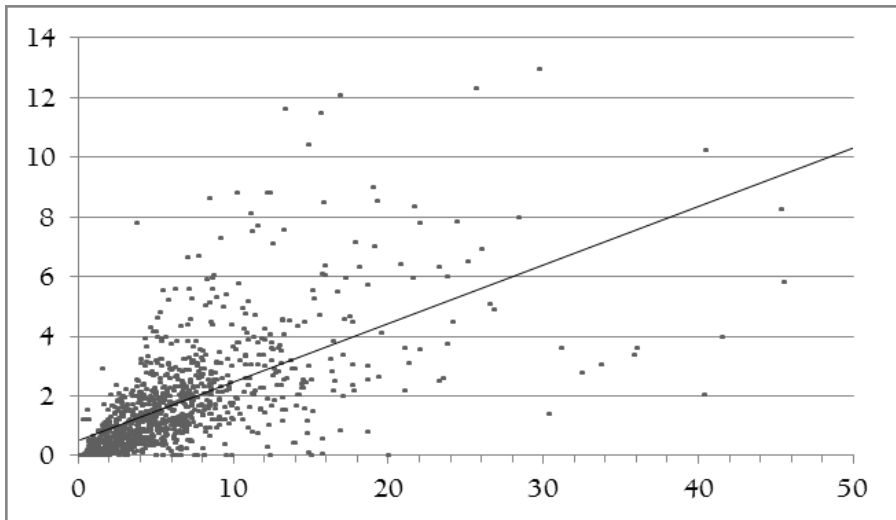


Figure 4.5 PC use per capita (vertical) plotted against visits per capita (horizontal)

\$/cap	10%ile	25%ile	Median	75%ile	90%ile
\$58+	0.88	1.46	2.79	4.08	7.46
\$40-\$57	0.49	1.03	1.86	2.92	4.62
\$30-\$39	0.43	0.88	1.63	2.39	3.67
\$20-\$29	0.23	0.54	1.16	1.84	2.90
\$1-\$19	0.04	0.21	0.60	1.23	1.91
Overall	0.20	0.58	1.29	2.34	3.87

Table 4.19 Personal computer use per capita in 2011, budget view

While Table 4.19 shows the expected patterns, this distribution does not graph well. Still, it's the usual message: libraries are exceptionally good at doing more with more, giving maximum benefits when more budget is available.

Changes in personal computing use from 2009 to 2011

The patterns here are consistent with changes in other measures, and not as extreme as those for program attendance.

Change in PCU/Cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel
36% +	240	22%		30%
12% to 35%	171	16%	38%	4%
0 to 11%	145	13%	51%	-13%
-14% to -1%	168	15%	67%	-20%
-30% to -15%	171	16%	82%	-6%
< -30%	191	18%	100%	7%

Table 4.20 Changes in PC use per capita, 2009 to 2011, benchmark view

The budget view doesn't show anything new or very interesting.

Patron Visits per Hour

The usual note applies: This is one measure where higher isn't necessarily better, as that can mean inadequate hours. It's also a measure where very small libraries will necessarily show lower numbers if they have reasonable hours at all.

Visits/hour	Count	%	Cum%	Rel	\$/cap
50 +	2	0%		-99%	\$21.66
25 to 49	8	1%	1%	-96%	\$102.94
14 to 24	48	4%	5%	-72%	\$49.09
8 to 13	177	16%	22%	1%	\$41.37
4 to 7	480	44%	66%	130%	\$33.90
< 4	372	34%	100%	128%	\$21.05

Table 4.21 Visits per hour in 2011, benchmark view

Thus the tiny number of libraries with more than 13 visits per hour—and the meaningless median dollars per capita for the first three rows. (You could shock somebody by saying that “the median spending per capita for libraries serving 1,000 to 1,999 patrons that have 25 to 49 visits per hour is an *extremely* high \$103”—but given that only eight libraries are involved, the shock is hardly worthwhile.) For the four rows with more than a handful of libraries, median spending does go up along with visits per hour.

Visits per hour correlates moderately with spending per capita (0.33), strongly with circulation per capita (0.53), and *very* strongly (0.79) with visits per capita. The latter correlation isn't surprising; the strength of the correlation may be. Figure 4.6 shows that correlation (omitting two libraries with more than 50 visits per capita and two others with more than 50 visits per hour), with visits per hour on the horizontal axis, visits per capita on the vertical.

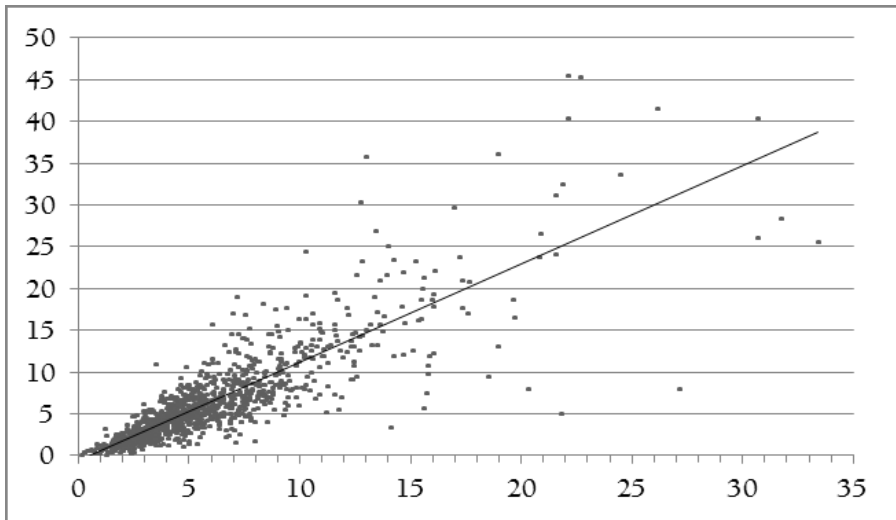


Figure 4.6 Visits per hour (horizontal) plotted against visits per capita (vertical)

\$/cap	10%ile	25%ile	Median	75%ile	90%ile
\$58+	4.1	5.6	7.8	12.2	16.1
\$40-\$57	3.4	4.7	6.1	8.6	11.6
\$30-\$39	2.8	3.9	5.4	7.3	10.2
\$20-\$29	2.4	3.3	4.7	6.7	9.1
\$1-\$19	1.5	2.3	3.2	4.9	7.5
Overall	2.3	3.4	5.1	7.6	11.0

Table 4.22 Visits per hour in 2011, budget view

Visits per hour aren't heavily dependent on spending: while Table 4.22 shows the usual relationships, there's much more overlap than for most measures.

Changes in visits per hour from 2009 to 2011

The largest deviation from the norm is at the bottom, where significantly more libraries than usual showed significant drops in visits per hour. Those drops do correlate very strongly with drops in visits per capita (although it's not something that graphs well): the correlation is 0.75, almost as strong as the general correlation between visits per capita and visits per hour.

Change vis/hour	Count	%	Cum%	Rel
23%+	188	17%		9%
8% to 22%	169	16%	33%	-6%
0 to 7%	182	17%	50%	-12%
-6 to -1%	139	13%	62%	-15%
-15 to -7%	172	16%	78%	1%
< -15%	236	22%	100%	23%

Table 4.23 Changes in visits per hour, 2009 to 2011, benchmark view

The budget view for this measure is comparable to that for most other measures for these libraries and doesn't show anything especially interesting.

Closing Notes

Read the closing notes for Chapter 3. They apply somewhat less strongly for these somewhat larger libraries—still very small libraries.

\$4 to \$1: Public Library Benefits and Budgets: Volume 2, Libraries by State

This book does not yet exist. Chapters 1 and 2 are essentially similar to the same chapters in Volume 1—except that, to keep the book from growing way too much, I've omitted two measures: Program Attendance per Capita and Patron Visits per Hour.

Will the book be done? That depends on sales of Volume 1 and *Your Library Is...* or on some direct funding. I'll track sales of the two books. For each two sales, I'll prepare another state, at least through mid-November (if it takes that long). At some point, I'll either reach a tipping point or have completed all 50 states or another project (most likely at the very end of the year) will trump this one. If 100 copies of the two books sell by late October or early November, Volume 2 will almost certainly be done.

One issue with Volume 2: Even with fewer measures, it would be a *long* book. Based on the two states I did to serve as an example and to gauge the project, it looks as though 500 pages would be a reasonable estimate. The book would probably carry the usual \$9.99/\$39.99 ebook and site license prices, and a 500-page paperback would run around \$27 or so.

The excerpts are the two states I've prepared so far: Alabama and Alaska. As I was preparing them, I thought "These are unusual states"—but I don't know that there are any "usual" states, so I'll stick with them.

Excerpts from Volume 2 Alabama

Alabama has 209 libraries and library systems that reported some spending and some circulation in both 2009 and 2011.

Overall	Total	Change	PerCap	Rel	Change
LSA	4,678,971	1.2%			
Spending	\$93,242,735	-1.0%	\$19.93	-43.5%	-2.1%
Circulation	20,445,327	-2.9%	4.37	-45.5%	-4.0%
Visits	17,248,652	1.8%	3.69	-26.4%	0.7%
Reference	4,409,617	11.8%	0.94	-2.0%	10.5%
PC Use	4,301,078	2.1%	0.92	-18.0%	0.9%

Table AL1 Overall figures for Alabama libraries

Alabama's libraries are relatively poorly funded and lost ground slightly from 2009 to 2011; circulation is also relatively low and losing ground. Patron visits and PC use are lower than the national average but improving slightly—and reference activity is growing significantly.

LSA	Count	%	Cum%	Rel
<1,000	13	6.2%		-45.9%
1,000-1,999	19	9.1%	15.3%	-23.0%
2,000-3,499	20	9.6%	24.9%	-12.2%
3,500-5,999	29	13.9%	38.8%	16.6%
6,000-8,999	29	13.9%	52.6%	43.0%
9,000-13,999	22	10.5%	63.2%	6.3%
14,000-22,999	35	16.7%	79.9%	67.5%
23,000-39,999	14	6.7%	86.6%	-28.0%
40,000-99,999	21	10.0%	96.7%	11.6%
100,000+	7	3.3%	100.0%	-43.2%

Table AL2 Alabama libraries by population

Alabama has relatively few very small libraries, relatively few very large libraries, and quite a few moderately small and smaller medium-size libraries.

Benefit Ratio	Count	%	Cum%	Rel
10+	36	17%		124%
6 to 9	77	37%	54%	34%
3 to 5	86	41%	95%	-22%
0 to 2	10	5%	100%	-61%

Table AL3 Alabama library benefit ratios

Spending per Capita

Alabama libraries are squeezing every bit of service out of the dollars available, with one-sixth operating at levels that may be unsustainable and over half having very high benefit ratios.

\$/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel	BenR
\$58+	13	6%		-63%	5.0
\$40 to \$57	14	7%	13%	-60%	6.8
\$30 to \$39	23	11%	24%	-39%	6.4
\$20 to \$29	37	18%	42%	-13%	4.3
\$0.12 to \$19	122	58%	100%	108%	6.8

Table AL4 Alabama library spending per capita

Table AL4 expands on the overall low figures: More than half of Alabama's libraries are in the lowest spending category, more than double the national figure, and very few are in either of the two well-funded categories. Notably, the median benefit ratio is high even among the better-funded libraries.

Change \$/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel
19%+	26	12%		-28%
9% to 18%	25	12%	24%	-22%
2% to 8%	30	14%	39%	-21%
-4% to 1%	39	19%	57%	11%
-12% to -5%	49	23%	81%	46%
< -12%	40	19%	100%	18%

Table AL5 Change in Alabama library spending per capita

Most Alabama libraries lost ground, with 40% showing significant losses.

Circulation per Capita

Circ/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel	\$/cap
14+	20	10%		-39%	\$52.36
10 to 13	15	7%	17%	-51%	\$38.30
7 to 9	16	8%	24%	-60%	\$23.83
5 to 6	17	8%	33%	-48%	\$26.63
3 to 4	38	18%	51%	7%	\$16.09
0 to 2	103	49%	100%	180%	\$8.84

Table AL6 Circulation per capita in Alabama libraries, 2011 benchmark view

Alabama library circulation is in line with spending—half of the libraries in the lowest category, very few in the highest. Except for one anomaly, the median spending per capita fits activity levels. In fact, correlation between spending per capita and circulation per capita is very high at 0.71, as illustrated in Figure AL1, which includes all libraries.

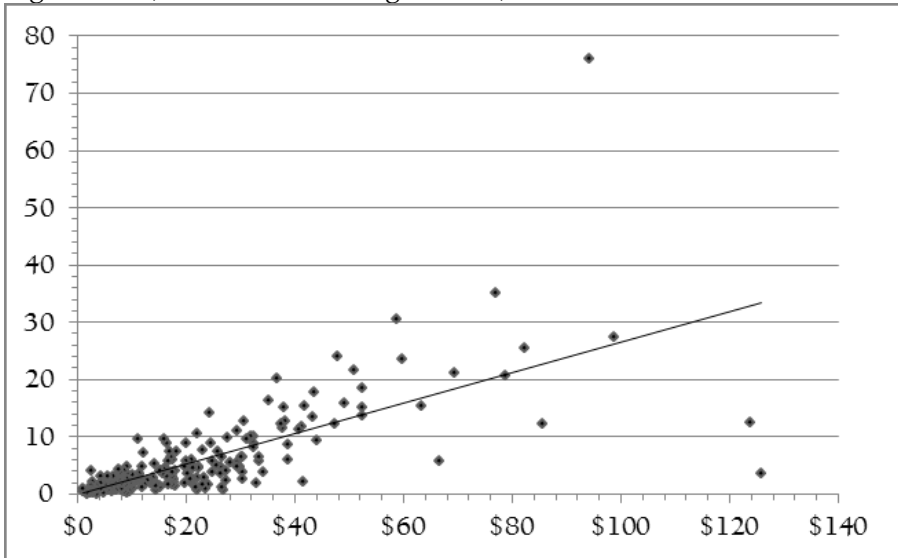


Figure AL1 Circulation per capita plotted against spending per capita

\$/cap	10%ile	25%ile	Median	75%ile	90%ile
\$58+	7.1	12.4	21.1	27.4	34.1
\$40-\$57	10.0	11.8	14.3	17.2	20.7
\$30-\$39	3.9	5.9	8.7	11.8	14.7
\$20-\$29	1.2	2.7	4.7	5.9	9.3
\$1-\$19	0.5	1.2	2.1	3.1	4.7
Overall	0.8	1.6	3.0	6.5	13.5

Table AL7 Circulation per capita, 2011, budget view

While the 10%ile column in Table AL7 includes an anomaly (there are so few libraries in that spending category that the 10%ile is between the lowest and second lowest), the other columns are clear: circulation rises dramatically as spending rises. The median point for the best-funded libraries is *ten times* that of the worst-funded.

Because 58% of Alabama’s libraries are in the lowest spending category, occurrence graphs don’t make sense for this state.

Changes in circulation per capita from 2009 to 2011

Change Circ/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel	\$/cap
20%+	40	19%		17%	\$19.94
7% to 19%	30	14%	33%	-12%	\$9.99
0 to 6%	20	10%	43%	-38%	\$12.67
-7% to -1%	34	16%	59%	-6%	\$22.43
-17% to -8%	35	17%	76%	-5%	\$20.88
< -17%	50	24%	100%	42%	\$14.22

Table AL8 Changes in circulation per capita, 2009 to 2011, benchmark view

One-quarter of Alabama’s libraries showed serious losses in circulation—but one out of five showed substantial gains. The median spending per capita is all over the place—but there’s strong correlation (0.67) between changes in circulation and *changes* in spending per capita: Libraries with better funding generally had better circulation.

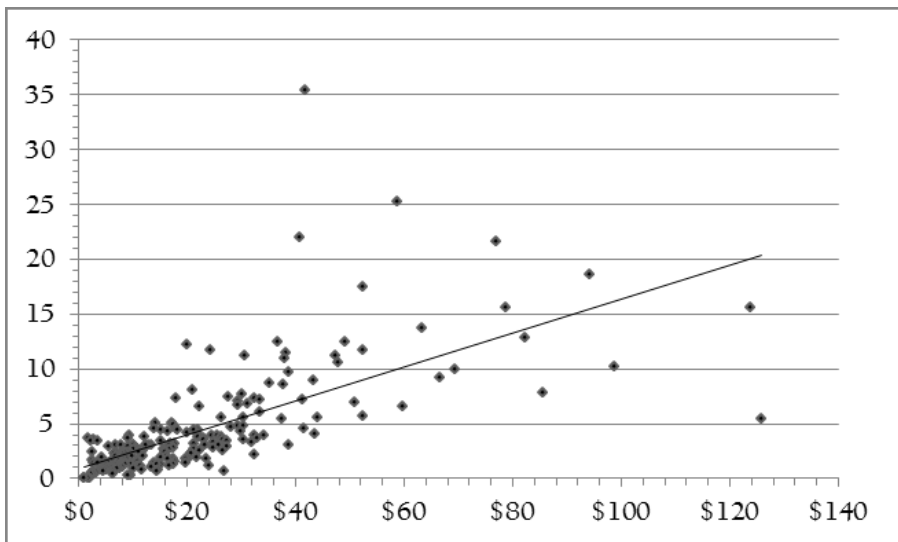
The budget view of changes is, as usual, more consistent in columns than in rows—but it’s noteworthy that the median for the two highest spending categories is even circulation or growth, while the median for all lower funding levels is from -2% to -6%.

Patron Visits per Capita

Visits/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel	\$/cap
9+	25	12%		-36%	\$49.05
7 to 8	11	5%	17%	-58%	\$31.28
5 to 6	14	7%	24%	-66%	\$32.35
3 to 4	52	25%	49%	3%	\$21.21
2	34	16%	65%	33%	\$11.26
< 2	73	35%	100%	180%	\$7.75

Table AL9 Alabama patron visits per capita, 2011, benchmark view

Patron visits were also on the low side, with more than a third of libraries averaging less than one visit every six months. While the median spending per capita for libraries with 5 to 6.99 visits per capita is slightly higher than for libraries with 7 to 8.99 visits, both groups are so small that this probably isn't significant. Patron visits correlate strongly (0.68)



with spending, and a little *more* strongly with circulation per capita.

Figure AL2 Visits per capita plotted against spending per capita

\$/cap	10%ile	25%ile	Median	75%ile	90%ile
\$58+	6.8	9.2	12.9	15.6	21.0
\$40-\$57	4.8	6.0	9.8	12.3	20.6
\$30-\$39	3.3	4.0	6.1	8.6	11.2
\$20-\$29	1.9	2.6	3.6	4.7	7.2
\$1-\$19	0.6	1.0	1.8	2.8	3.7
Overall	0.8	1.4	2.9	4.8	10.0

Table AL10 Patron visits per capita, 2011, budget view

Table AL10 shows a fairly predictable and consistent pattern: more spending, more usage.

Changes in patron visits per capita

Change Vis/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel
20%+	45	22%		23%
7% to 19%	34	16%	38%	7%
0 to 6%	31	15%	53%	-6%
-7 to -1%	29	14%	67%	-17%
-17% to -8%	25	12%	78%	-29%
< -17%	45	22%	100%	22%

Table AL11 Changes in patron visits per capita, 2009 to 2011, benchmark view

Here’s a case where a reasonable number of Alabama libraries are doing well: nearly a quarter showed strong increases—albeit exactly the same number that showed significant decreases.

Reference Transactions per Capita

Ref/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel	\$/cap	
1.3+	45	22%		23%	\$30.71	17%
0.8-1.2	25	12%	33%	-17%	\$24.23	14%
0.5-0.7	24	11%	45%	-29%	\$14.33	16%
0.25-0.4	38	18%	63%	-10%	\$15.20	20%
0.1-0.24	32	15%	78%	-8%	\$11.92	17%
< 0.1	45	22%	100%	42%	\$8.23	15%

Table AL12 Reference transactions per capita in 2011, benchmark view

Reference transactions are extreme—a large number of libraries in the most active group, and an equally large number in the least active group, with the rest scattered. Note the big difference between median spending per capita in the top and bottom rows, with mixed numbers in between.

Reference transactions per capita correlate moderately (0.36) with spending per capita, very strongly (0.71) with circulation per capita and moderately (0.43) with visits per capita. None of the graphs are revealing.

\$/cap	10%ile	25%ile	Median	75%ile	90%ile
\$58+	0.20	0.59	1.90	3.00	5.92
\$40-\$57	0.43	1.18	1.61	4.25	5.37
\$30-\$39	0.22	0.37	0.88	2.67	5.25
\$20-\$29	0.09	0.21	0.53	0.99	1.37
\$1-\$19	0.02	0.08	0.25	0.59	1.43
Overall	0.03	0.13	0.42	1.14	2.37

Table AL13 Reference transactions per capita in 2011, budget view

Table AL13 is curious, and probably explains the relatively low correlation of spending and reference: while the median figures march upward as usual, both sides of the median are lower for the (very few) best-funded libraries than for the (equally few) well-funded. Note that, in each case, the 25%ile and down or the 75%ile and up represent roughly four libraries.

Changes in Reference Transactions from 2009 to 2011

Change Ref/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel
40%+	45	22%		31%
10% to 39%	43	21%	42%	18%
0 to 9%	33	16%	58%	13%
-14% to -1%	31	15%	73%	-23%
-34% to -15%	27	13%	86%	-18%
< -34%	30	14%	100%	-16%

Table AL14 Changes in reference transactions, 2009 to 2011, benchmark view

A healthy majority of Alabama’s public libraries saw more reference activity in 2011 than in 2009—with one out of five seeing *much* more activity. There’s no corresponding bulge at the bottom: this table is consistent.

Personal Computer Use per Capita

PC Use/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel	\$/cap
2.3 +	36	17%		1%	\$41.84
1.5 to 2.2	21	10%	27%	-36%	\$24.53
1.1 to 1.4	24	11%	39%	-27%	\$19.67
0.8 to 1.0	28	13%	52%	-13%	\$15.94
0.4 to 0.7	59	28%	80%	32%	\$11.72
< 0.4	42	20%	100%	38%	\$6.78

Table AL15 PC use per capita in 2011, benchmark view

Although a normal percentage of libraries have active computer use, the trend is toward the bottom, with nearly half the libraries in the two lowest-use categories. The median spending per capita rises consistently and fairly sharply with PC use. Indeed, there's strong correlation (0.54) between spending per capita and PC use per capita (longer hours, more PCs?), as displayed in Figure AL3, which omits two libraries with more than 6.6 PC uses per capita (one 9.1, one 20.4).

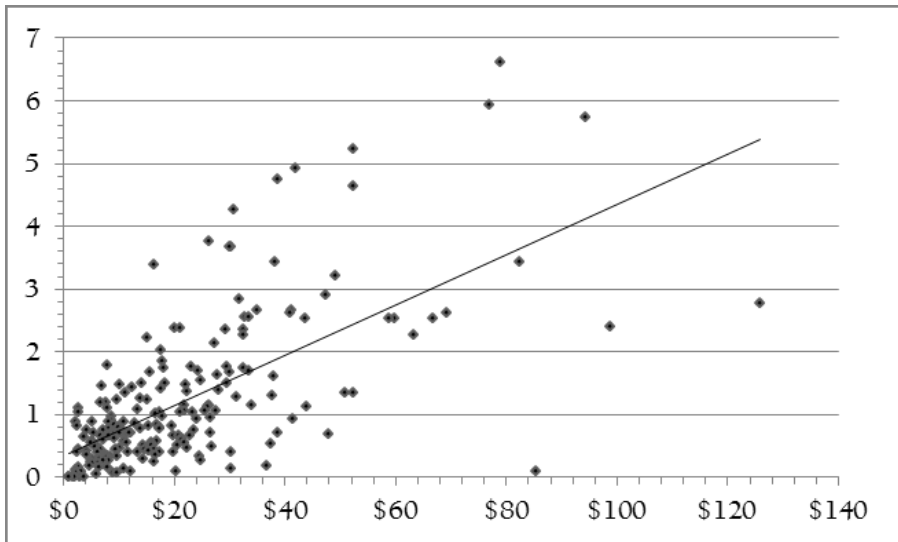


Figure AL3 PC use per capita plotted against spending per capita

\$/cap	10%ile	25%ile	Median	75%ile	90%ile
\$58+	2.29	2.52	2.63	5.73	6.48
\$40-\$57	0.98	1.35	2.65	4.29	5.13
\$30-\$39	0.43	1.21	1.75	2.75	3.67
\$20-\$29	0.47	0.66	1.07	1.55	2.22
\$1-\$19	0.10	0.33	0.62	0.88	1.41
Overall	0.17	0.44	0.82	1.55	2.67

Table AL16 PC use per capita in 2011, budget view

Even with the small number of libraries in the top two rows, Table AL16 shows a generally consistent pattern (with one or two anomalies): Those libraries that *are* adequately funded are used more heavily.

Changes in PC use per capita from 2009 to 2011

Change in PCU/Cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel
36% +	64	31%		80%
12% to 35%	30	14%	45%	-5%
0 to 11%	38	18%	63%	18%
-14% to -1%	33	16%	79%	-18%
-30% to -15%	15	7%	86%	-57%
< -30%	29	14%	100%	-15%

Table AL17 Changes in PC use per capita, 2009 to 2011, benchmark view

Another healthy sign: nearly one-third of Alabama’s libraries had substantial increases in PC use and nearly two-thirds had some increase. The budget table for this measure is interesting enough to include. Note the striking numbers for libraries spending \$30 to \$57.99.

\$/cap	10%ile	25%ile	Median	75%ile	90%ile
\$58+	-30%	-21%	3%	56%	485%
\$40-\$57	-13%	13%	41%	103%	1738%
\$30-\$39	-16%	-1%	16%	73%	183%
\$20-\$29	-23%	-8%	6%	48%	112%
\$1-\$19	-44%	-12%	6%	42%	101%
Overall	-36%	-11%	7%	48%	140%

Table AL18 Changes in PC use per capita, 2009 to 2011, budget view

Alaska

Alaska has 85 libraries that reported spending and circulation in both 2009 and 2011.

Overall	Total	Change	PerCap	Rel	Change
LSA	721,636	4.36%			
Spending	\$31,826,868	-3.11%	\$44.10	25.0%	-7.16%
Circulation	4,650,668	5.24%	6.44	-19.6%	0.84%
Visits	3,385,343	-4.10%	4.69	-6.4%	-8.11%
Reference	427,114	-15.09%	0.59	-38.5%	-18.64%
PC Use	934,283	-12.15%	1.29	15.5%	-15.82%

Table AK1 Overall figures for Alaska public libraries

Alaska’s libraries are generally fairly well funded (but spending decreased significantly on a per-capita basis). Circulation is on the low side but increasing (or holding steady on a per capita basis). Visits are slightly on the low side and slipping. Reference is on the low side and dropped significantly from 2009 to 2011, as is true for PC Use.

LSA	Count	%	Cum%	Rel
<1,000	50	58.8%		411.5%
1,000-1,999	6	7.1%	65.9%	-40.2%
2,000-3,499	9	10.6%	76.5%	-2.9%
3,500-5,999	6	7.1%	83.5%	-40.7%
6,000-8,999	6	7.1%	90.6%	-27.2%
9,000-13,999	3	3.5%	94.1%	-64.3%
14,000-22,999	0	0.0%	94.1%	-100.0%
23,000-39,999	2	2.4%	96.5%	-74.7%
40,000-99,999	1	1.2%	97.6%	-86.9%
100,000+	2	2.4%	100.0%	-60.1%

Table AK2 Alaska libraries by population

In a huge state with only a few significant population centers, it’s not surprising that most of Alaska’s libraries are tiny, with only five serving at least 14,000 people.

Benefit Ratio	Count	%	Cum%	Rel
10+	8	9%		22%
6 to 9	15	18%	27%	-36%
3 to 5	41	48%	75%	-8%
0 to 2	21	25%	100%	99%

Table AK3 Alaska library benefit ratios

Spending per Capita

\$/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel	BenR
\$58+	54	64%		282%	4.0
\$40 to \$57	14	16%	80%	-3%	5.2
\$30 to \$39	9	11%	91%	-41%	3.3
\$20 to \$29	5	6%	96%	-71%	4.1
\$0.12 to \$19	3	4%	100%	-87%	21.2

Table AK4 Spending per capita in 2011

Most Alaska libraries are well funded relative to population size, but these are mostly very small libraries. In fact, the two large libraries in Alaska are in the \$30 to \$39 range; of the three libraries serving 23,000 to 99,999 patrons, two spend between \$20 and \$29 and one spends \$48 per capita. Thus, it's not surprising that 64% of the libraries have per capita spending in excess of the state's average spending.

Change \$/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel
19%+	23	27%		56%
9% to 18%	7	8%	35%	-46%
2% to 8%	11	13%	48%	-29%
-4% to 1%	9	11%	59%	-37%
-12% to -5%	10	12%	71%	-27%
< -12%	25	29%	100%	81%

Table AK5 Change in spending per capita from 2009 to 2011

More than a quarter of Alaska's libraries had sizable increases in per-capita spending—and more than a quarter had sizable decreases.

Circulation per Capita

Circ/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel	\$/cap
14+	32	38%		139%	\$134.45
10 to 13	10	12%	49%	-20%	\$103.80
7 to 9	10	12%	61%	-39%	\$62.71
5 to 6	13	15%	76%	-2%	\$50.39
3 to 4	11	13%	89%	-24%	\$60.63
0 to 2	9	11%	100%	-40%	\$53.90

Table AK6 Circulation per capita in 2011, benchmark view

That top line stands out: More than one-third of Alaska's libraries circulate at least 14 items per capita, and nearly half circulate at least 10. Very few are in the bottom rungs. There's strong correlation (0.53) be-

tween spending per capita and circulation per capita, as shown in Figure AK1, which omits four extreme cases to make the graph readable: One library circulating 164 items per capita and three libraries spending more than \$300 per capita.

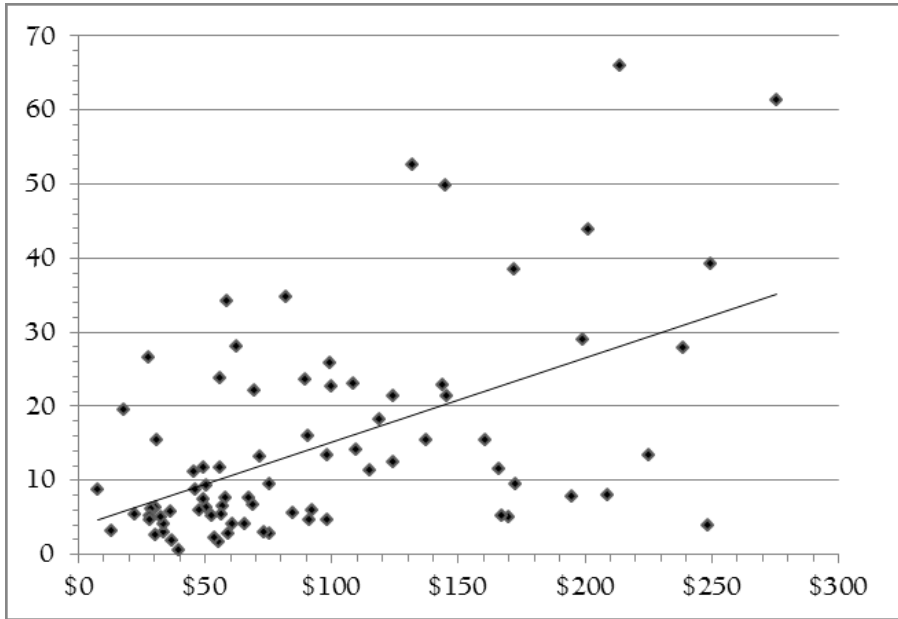


Figure AK1 Circulation per capita plotted against spending per capita

\$/cap	10%ile	25%ile	Median	75%ile	90%ile
\$58+	4.0	7.5	15.3	27.3	42.3
\$40-\$57	3.0	5.4	6.8	10.5	11.5
\$30-\$39	1.5	2.4	3.9	5.6	7.9
\$20-\$29	4.7	5.1	5.2	5.9	18.2
\$1-\$19	4.2	5.8	8.5	14.0	17.2
Overall	2.9	5.1	9.4	22.6	34.3

Table AK7 Circulation per capita in 2011, budget view

With so few libraries in the bottom three spending categories and nearly two-thirds in the top row, this and other budget views may be a little silly, and the number of discrepancies in the bottom four rows mostly meaningless. (That there *are* five figures for r row representing three libraries is the magic of formulas!) Basically, the first row represents most libraries and also represents healthy activity.

Just for fun, let’s graph library circulation to the nearest two per capita as occurrences by spending category, showing why most such graphs

don't work for states (like Alaska and Alabama in very different ways) where spending isn't broadly distributed.

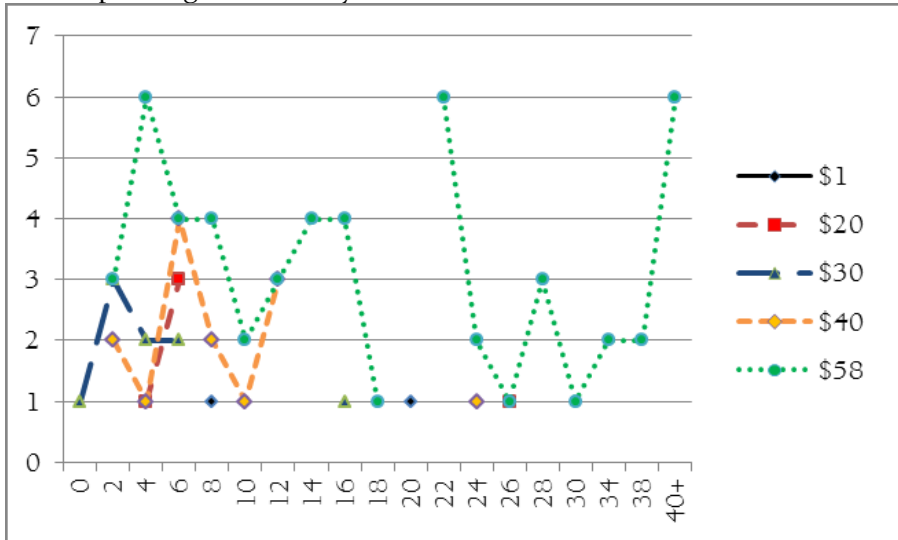


Figure AK2 Circulation (to nearest two) occurrence by spending category

Note the isolated symbols—and the overarching difficulty: There's really only one line of much significance.

Changes in circulation per capita from 2009 to 2011

Change Circ/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel	\$/cap
20%+	16	19%		15%	\$75.74
7% to 19%	14	16%	35%	1%	\$98.84
0 to 6%	12	14%	49%	-8%	\$73.49
-7% to -1%	14	16%	66%	-5%	\$59.55
-17% to -8%	14	16%	82%	-7%	\$103.80
< -17%	15	18%	100%	5%	\$68.94

Table AK8 Change in circulation per capita, 2009 to 2011, benchmark view

The rightmost column is essentially meaningless. While just over half the libraries had some decline in circulation per capita, one out of five showed a substantial increase: significantly above the national average. Unfortunately, nearly one out of five had a significant decrease.

Patron Visits per Capita

Visits/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel	\$/cap
9+	49	58%		209%	\$124.31
7 to 8	11	13%	71%	4%	\$59.33
5 to 6	8	9%	80%	-53%	\$58.11
3 to 4	8	9%	89%	-61%	\$32.78
2	7	8%	98%	-33%	\$33.67
< 2	2	2%	100%	-81%	\$36.64

Table AK9 Patron visits per capita, 2011, benchmark view

The more remote Alaska libraries seem likely to serve as community centers in several ways (as is likely to be true for other very small libraries), and Table AK9 suggests this role—noting that a healthy majority of the libraries fall into the most-visited group, with almost none at the bottom.

Patron visits per capita correlate strongly (0.64) with spending per capita and *very strongly* (0.87) with circulation per capita. Figures AK3 and AK4 show those two correlations. Both figures omit two libraries with more than 38 visits per capita (50 and 82!); Figure AK3 also omits three other libraries spending more than \$300 per capita.

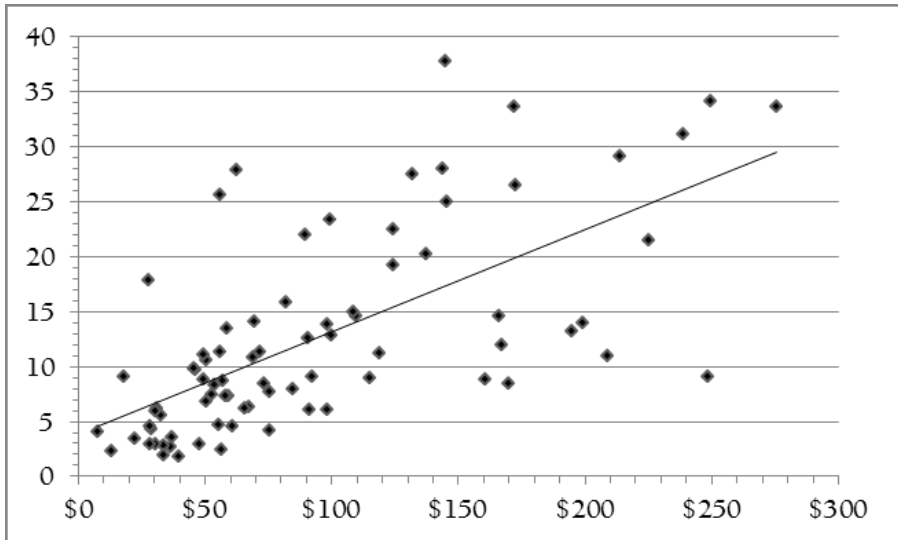


Figure AK3 Patron visits per capita plotted against spending per capita

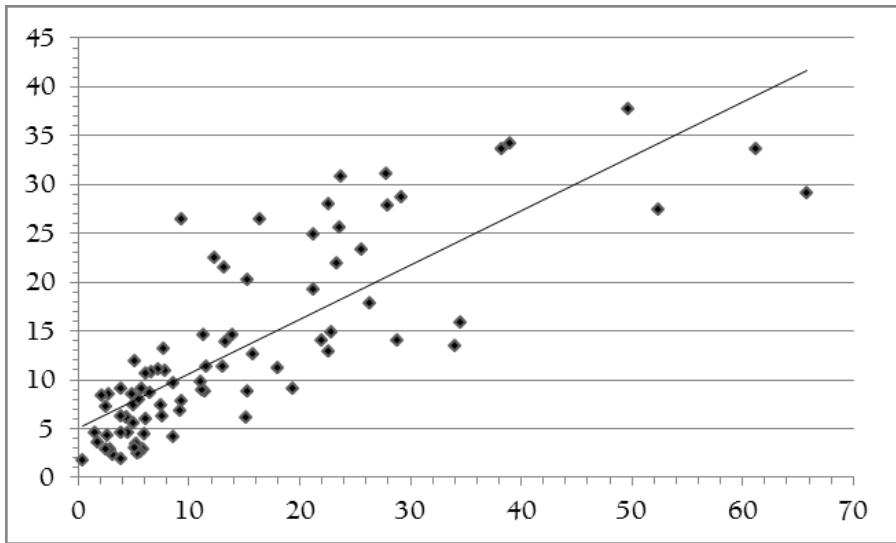


Figure AK4 Patron visits per capita (vertical) plotted against circulation per capita

\$/cap	10%ile	25%ile	Median	75%ile	90%ile
\$58+	6.6	9.0	14.0	26.5	32.9
\$40-\$57	3.4	6.9	8.8	10.4	11.3
Overall	3.2	6.1	10.6	20.3	29.0

Table AK10 Partial table of patron visits per capita, budget view

For this and other measures, I'll show a partial budget view including those lines representing at least ten libraries—that is, the two highest spending category and overall figures. In this case, the figures are sharply different: across the board, the best-funded libraries tended to be much more frequently visited than the well-funded libraries.

Changes in patron visits per capita from 2009 to 2011

Change Vis/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel
20%+	27	32%		82%
7% to 19%	15	18%	49%	16%
0 to 6%	7	8%	58%	-48%
-7 to -1%	9	11%	68%	-37%
-17% to -8%	13	15%	84%	-9%
< -17%	14	16%	100%	-7%

Table AK11 Changes in patron visits per capita, 2009 to 2011

Most libraries had more visits per capita in 2011, with nearly one-third getting substantially more visits—all good news. (There's moderate

correlation, 0.37, between changes in spending per capita and changes in visits per capita.)

Reference Transactions per Capita

Ref/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel	\$/cap
1.3+	32	38%		115%	\$130.83
0.8-1.2	11	13%	51%	-10%	\$99.36
0.5-0.7	13	15%	66%	-6%	\$50.58
0.25-0.4	20	24%	89%	17%	\$54.52
0.1-0.24	6	7%	96%	-57%	\$39.22
< 0.1	3	4%	100%	-77%	\$36.73

Table AK12 Reference transactions per capita in 2011, benchmark view

Two-thirds of Alaska’s public libraries fall into the top half of reference transactions nationally—and more than a third are in the top group, more than twice the national average. Notably, the top performers in reference are also *very* well funded, at least at the median.

Reference transactions per capita are *very* strongly correlated (0.83) with spending per capita; Figure AK5 includes all libraries, somewhat obscuring most data.

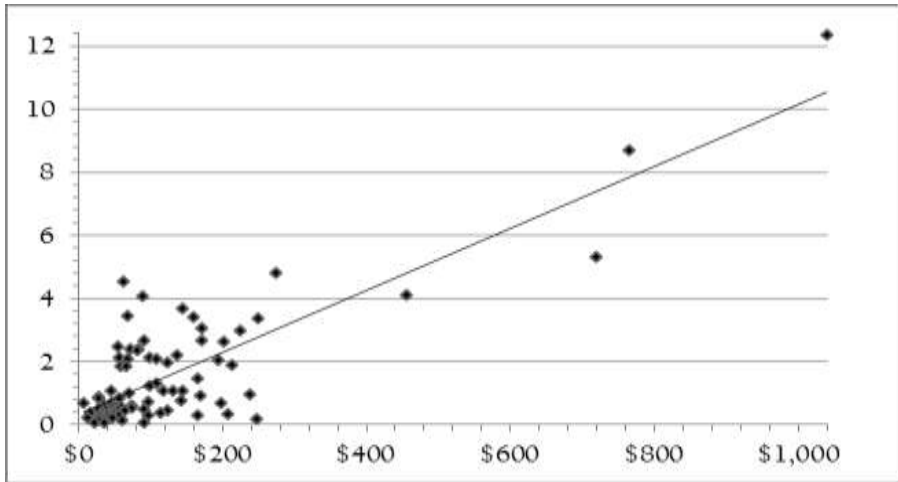


Figure AK5 Reference transactions per capita plotted against spending per capita

\$/cap	10%ile	25%ile	Median	75%ile	90%ile
\$58+	0.33	0.70	1.84	2.65	4.07
\$40-\$57	0.28	0.33	0.48	0.64	1.80
Overall	0.22	0.43	0.82	2.10	3.42

Table AK14 Partial table of reference transactions in 2011, budget view

There's considerable overlap between the well-funded and best-funded libraries on this measure, but it's still true that the best-funded libraries tend to have much more reference activity per capita.

Changes in reference activity from 2009 to 2011

Change Ref/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel
40%+	19	22%		36%
10% to 39%	13	15%	38%	-12%
0 to 9%	5	6%	44%	-58%
-14% to -1%	14	16%	60%	-15%
-34% to -15%	15	18%	78%	12%
< -34%	19	22%	100%	31%

Table AK15 Changes in reference activity, 2009 to 2011, benchmark view

In this case, there's a bulge at both top and bottom, with more libraries than usual either showing strong increases or strong decreases in reference activity.

Personal Computer Use per Capita

PC Use/cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel	\$/cap
2.3 +	52	61%		257%	\$124.39
1.5 to 2.2	14	16%	78%	4%	\$58.90
1.1 to 1.4	8	9%	87%	-40%	\$41.65
0.8 to 1.0	5	6%	93%	-62%	\$47.92
0.4 to 0.7	5	6%	99%	-72%	\$30.83
< 0.4	1	1%	100%	-92%	\$12.88

Table AK16 PC use per capita, 2011, benchmark view

Once again, most Alaska libraries—three out of five in this case—are right at the top, and nearly four out of five are in the top third of activity. Spending figures match activity.

\$/cap	10%ile	25%ile	Median	75%ile	90%ile
\$58+	1.76	2.62	4.62	9.15	17.24
\$40-\$57	1.26	1.55	2.94	5.30	6.38
Overall	0.89	1.61	2.89	6.11	12.33

Table AK17 PC use per capita in 2011, partial budget view

PC use per capita correlates strongly with pretty much everything: 0.55 with spending per capita, a very strong 0.85 with circulation and an extremely strong 0.91 with visits per capita. Figure AK6 plots that third correlation, dropping only one extreme case (a library with 82 visits per capita and 52 PC uses per capita).

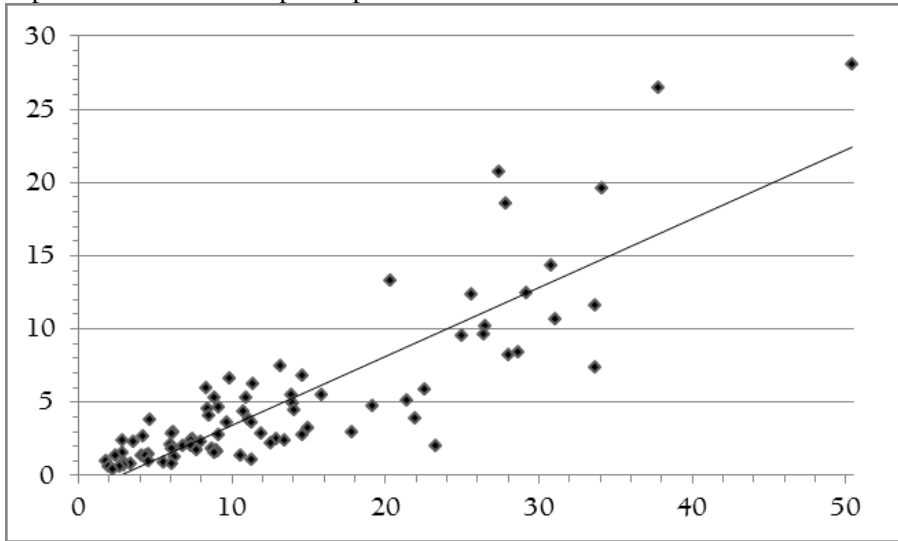


Figure AK6 PC use per capita (vertical axis) plotted against visits per capita

Note that removing the extreme case does *not* lower the correlation significantly—it's still very strong at 0.86.

Changes in PC use per capita from 2009 to 2011

Change in PCU/Cap	Count	%	Cum%	Rel
36% +	18	21%		25%
12% to 35%	11	13%	34%	-15%
0 to 11%	13	15%	49%	-1%
-14% to -1%	10	12%	61%	-39%
-30% to -15%	14	16%	78%	-2%
< -30%	19	22%	100%	37%

Table AK18 Changes in PC use per capita, 2009 to 2011, benchmark view

Just over half of the libraries saw some loss in PC use per capita, but one out of five libraries saw substantial increases (and another one out of five substantial decreases).

The Compleat Give Us a Dollar... Volume 1

Here's what I said about this book when it first appeared:

The most in-depth discussion of public library benefits and budgets in FY2010 you're likely to find (or at least that I'm aware of) is now available in a form that combines tables, graphs and comments.

[The Compleat Give Us a Dollar vol. 1, Libraries by Size](#) combines all of the text from [Give Us a Dollar and We'll Give You Back Four \(2012-13\)](#) except Chapter 20 with several hundred graphs to accompany the tables—and all of the [commentary provided in Cites & Insights](#) and in *Graphing Public Library Benefits*.

The ebook is 361 8.5" x 11" PDF pages (actually 353 pages + viii front matter)—8.5" x 11" so the graphs would work, ebook-only because it requires color to work properly. It's the usual \$9.99—but there's also [an explicit site-license version](#) allowing multiple simultaneous download/reading for \$39.99, ideal for library schools (including distance students), single-state consortia, state libraries, whatever.

Excerpt from *The Compleat Give Us a Dollar*, vol. 1, chapter 4 (700 to 1,149 patrons)

Note that this excerpt is reduced from the original 8.5" x 11" page size. This chapter covers 527 libraries. Another 67 libraries in this size category were omitted from this study.

Rows with no libraries (typically only in some benchmark tables) are omitted. As in Chapter 3, the bottom row for Public Computers per Thousand actually represents libraries reporting no public computers at all.

Spending Per Capita

\$/cap	Count	%	BenR
\$73-\$399	64	12.1%	4.57
\$53-\$72	65	12.3%	6.01
\$43-\$52	59	11.2%	6.41
\$36-\$42	65	12.3%	6.52
\$31-\$35	58	11.0%	6.26
\$26-\$30	68	12.9%	8.04
\$21-\$25	52	9.9%	7.74
\$17-\$20	38	7.2%	7.72
\$12-\$16	31	5.9%	8.67
\$5-\$11	27	5.1%	9.95

The 527 libraries in this category are fairly evenly distributed among the top six expenditure brackets, with fewer libraries per bracket in the bottom four.

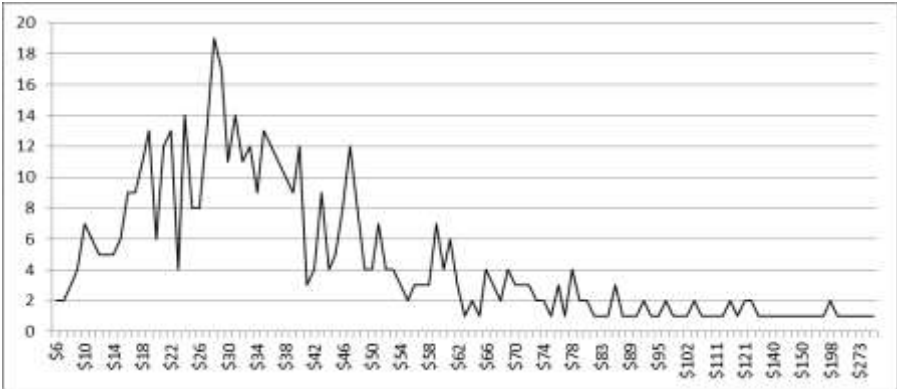


Figure 4.1 Libraries by spending per capita (occurrence, rounded to nearest dollar).

Open Hours and Computers for Patron Use with Internet Access

Hours	Count	%	Cum%	BenR	\$/Cap
3,100-3,999	3	1%		4.10	\$62.29
2,700-3,099	3	1%	1%	5.89	\$199.21
2,400-2,699	7	1%	2%	4.36	\$121.84
2,100-2,399	20	4%	6%	8.36	\$53.18
1,822-2,099	50	9%	16%	6.58	\$57.10
1,500-1,820	100	19%	35%	6.53	\$47.67
1,041-1,499	175	33%	68%	6.89	\$33.80
99-1,040	169	32%	100%	6.91	\$23.57

PCs	Count	%	Cum%	BenR	\$/Cap
20-39	2	0%		5.23	\$169.68
13-19	12	2%	3%	7.79	\$50.40
9-12	39	7%	10%	7.25	\$59.25
6-8	99	19%	29%	7.31	\$46.78
4-5	159	30%	59%	6.61	\$35.62
0-3	216	41%	100%	6.38	\$28.20

\$/cap	Hours			Personal Computers		
	25%	Med	75%	25%	Med	75%
\$73-\$399	1,575	1,750	2,050	4.0	6.0	9.0
\$53-\$72	1,300	1,560	1,894	3.0	5.0	7.0
\$43-\$52	1,285	1,540	1,664	3.0	5.0	6.0
\$36-\$42	1,144	1,352	1,664	3.0	4.0	6.0
\$31-\$35	1,010	1,122	1,352	2.0	4.0	5.0
\$26-\$30	1,040	1,198	1,456	2.8	4.0	6.0
\$21-\$25	982	1,092	1,261	2.0	3.0	5.0
\$17-\$20	780	1,038	1,112	2.0	3.0	4.0
\$12-\$16	780	1,020	1,066	2.0	2.0	3.5
\$5-\$11	520	728	962	2.0	2.0	3.0
Overall	1,040	1,274	1,612	3.0	4.0	6.0

Comments and Graphs on Open Hours

Two-thirds of these libraries are in the lowest two brackets, with about half of those in the 99-1,040 hours group and half open 1,041-1,499 hours. Only 6% are open more than 40 hours a week (2,100 hours or more). The few that *are* open extended hours are well funded. There's a perfect correlation between spending and median open hours—from 728 for \$5-\$11 libraries to 1,750 for \$73-\$399 libraries, and every level in between.

Open hours correlate strongly (0.51) with spending per capita.

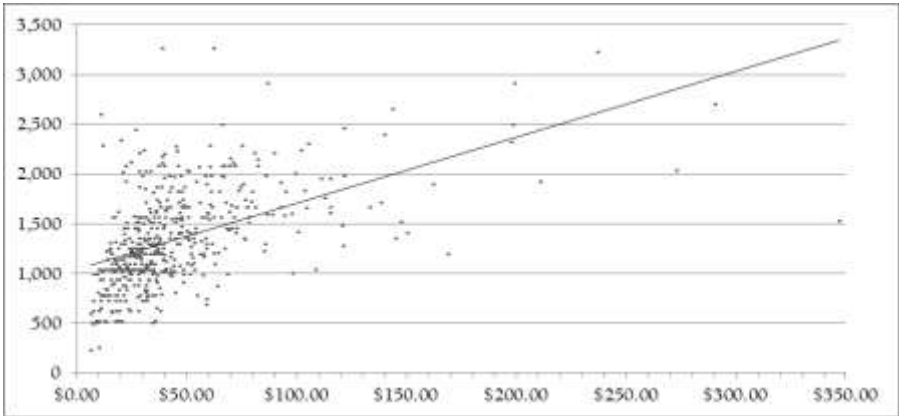


Figure 4.2 Open hours plotted against spending per capita

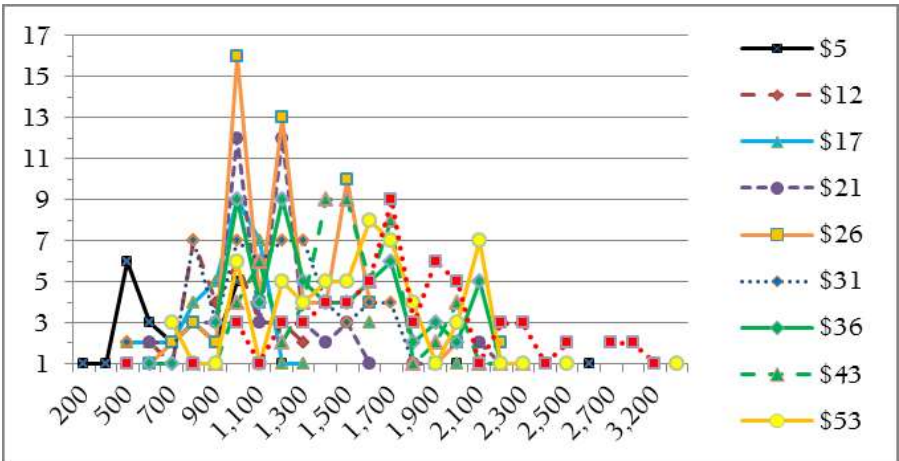


Figure 4.3 Open hours (to nearest hundred) occurrence by spending category

Comments and Graphs on Personal Computers with Internet Access

Two of these small libraries have 20-39 personal computers (and very high funding)—and 29% have six or more. The median is four, which seems strong for libraries this small.

PCs correlate moderately (0.41) with spending per capita.

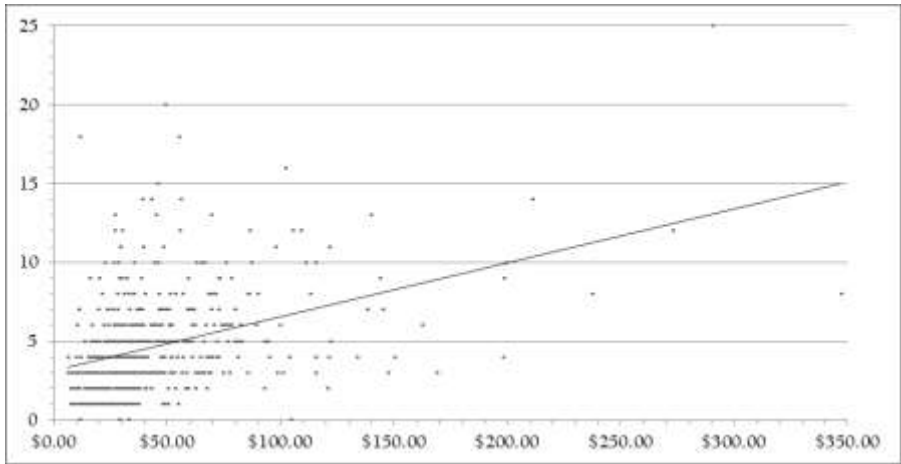


Figure 4.4 Personal computers plotted against spending per capita

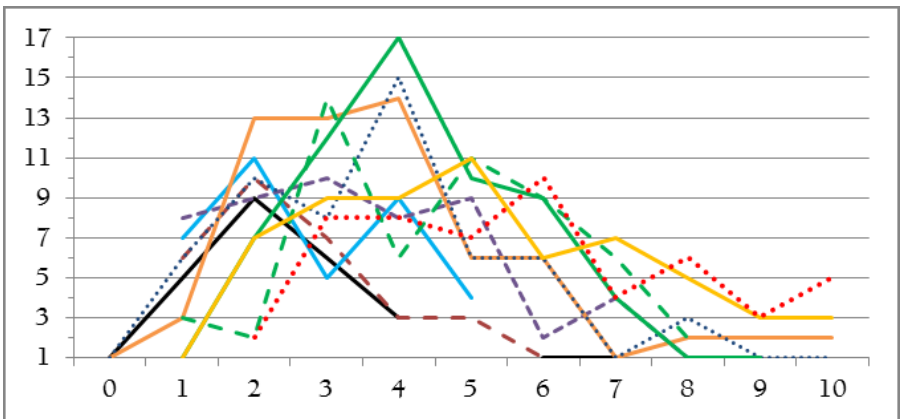


Figure 4.5 Personal computers occurrence by spending category, part 1

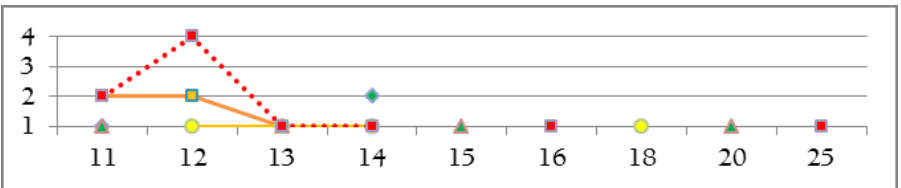


Figure 4.6 Personal computers occurrence by spending category, part 2

Circulation and Reference Transactions Per Capita

Circ/cap	Count	%	Cum%	BenR	\$/Cap
24+	43	8%		7.45	\$78.31
17-23	47	9%	17%	7.62	\$54.92
13-16	55	10%	28%	6.94	\$51.55
10-12	67	13%	40%	6.89	\$43.04
8-9	57	11%	51%	7.31	\$34.38
6-7	60	11%	62%	6.44	\$33.34
4-5	95	18%	80%	6.26	\$28.24
2-3	65	12%	93%	6.29	\$21.81
0-1	38	7%	100%	5.82	\$17.37

Ref/cap	Count	%	Cum%	BenR	\$/Cap
2+	61	12%		8.22	\$54.92
1.25-1.99	55	10%	22%	6.93	\$48.44
0.9-1.24	37	7%	29%	7.31	\$35.25
0.7-0.89	56	11%	40%	6.77	\$37.31
0.5-0.6	68	13%	53%	6.99	\$33.52
0.35-0.49	38	7%	60%	6.15	\$33.57
0.25-0.34	48	9%	69%	6.11	\$38.23
0.15-0.24	35	7%	76%	5.98	\$33.39
0.06-0.14	63	12%	87%	6.89	\$28.17
0-0.05	66	13%	100%	6.10	\$24.62

\$/cap	Circulation per cap			Reference per cap		
	25%	Med	75%	25%	Med	75%
\$73-\$399	11.56	19.29	32.23	0.39	1.01	2.06
\$53-\$72	10.37	14.44	19.83	0.36	0.90	1.93
\$43-\$52	7.96	11.40	16.42	0.29	0.66	1.15
\$36-\$42	5.61	8.55	12.40	0.14	0.53	0.94
\$31-\$35	4.78	7.24	9.61	0.15	0.61	0.83
\$26-\$30	5.01	7.20	10.56	0.15	0.50	1.27
\$21-\$25	3.31	6.00	9.06	0.07	0.23	0.65
\$17-\$20	2.66	4.58	5.42	0.05	0.28	0.74
\$12-\$16	2.16	3.69	5.26	0.05	0.29	0.57
\$5-\$11	1.72	2.05	3.58	0.04	0.11	0.49
Overall	4.64	8.23	13.90	0.15	0.54	1.05

Comments and Graphs

The correlation between spending and circulation is more interesting than the fairly typical distribution of circulation (how typical? it never deviates more than 3% from the overall distribution). The best-funded libraries are, as usual, the most heavily used, with the top bracket showing a 75%ile of 32.32 circs.

Reference transactions are also fairly typical, although not quite so well correlated with spending.

Circulation per capita correlates strongly (0.62) with spending per capita. One library with 122 circulation per capita and spending \$273 per capita is omitted from these graphs.

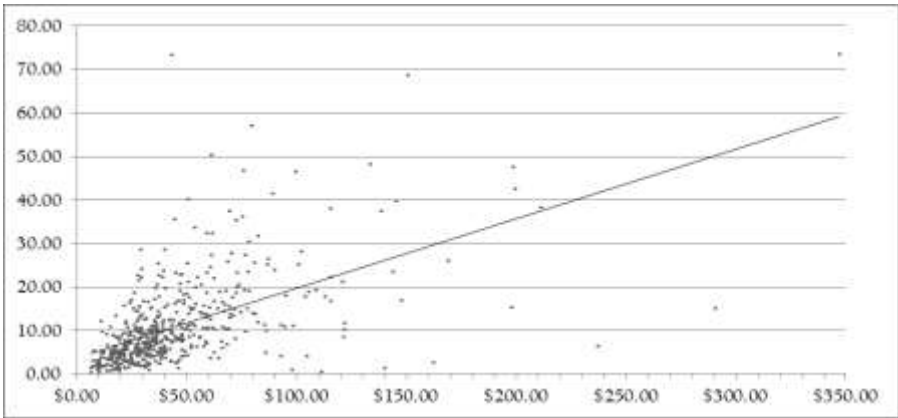


Figure 4.7 Circulation per capita plotted against spending per capita

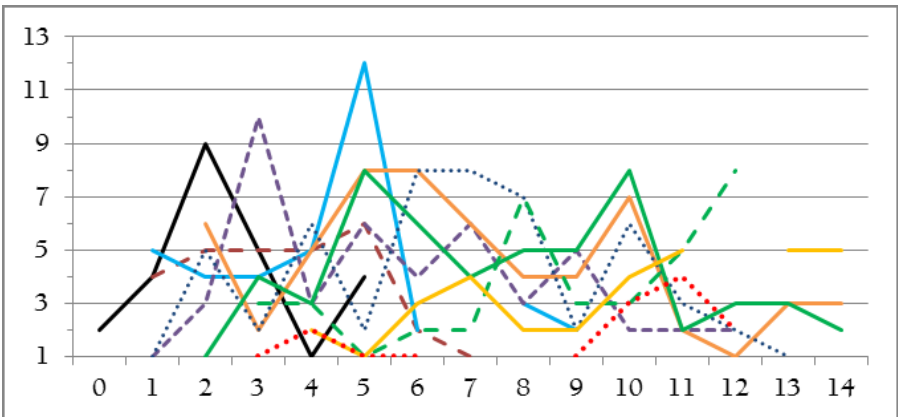


Figure 4.8 Circulation per capita (rounded) occurrence by spending category, part 1

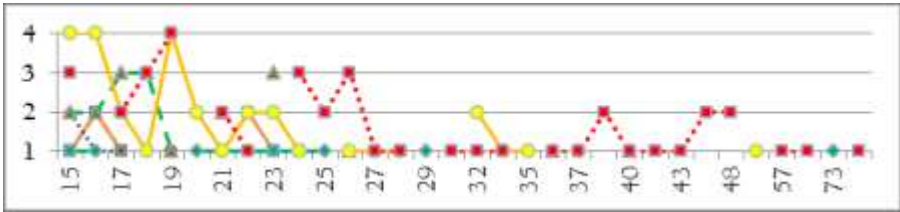


Figure 4.9 Circulation per capita (rounded) occurrence by spending category, part 2

Reference transactions don't really correlate (0.29) with spending.

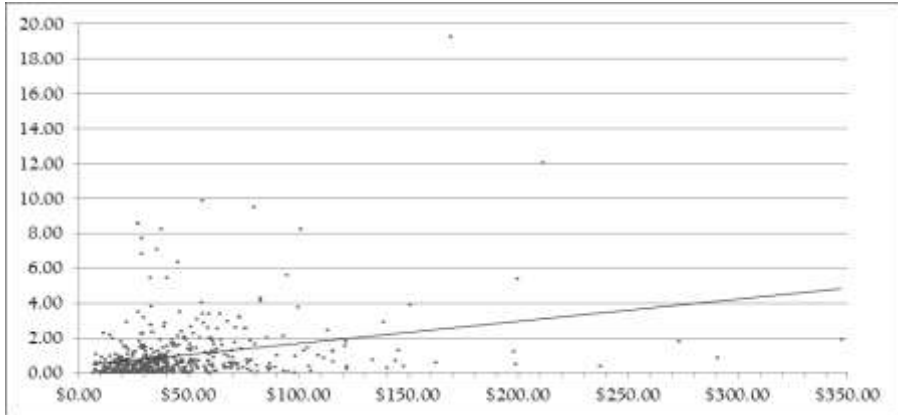


Figure 4.10 Reference transactions per capita plotted against spending per capita

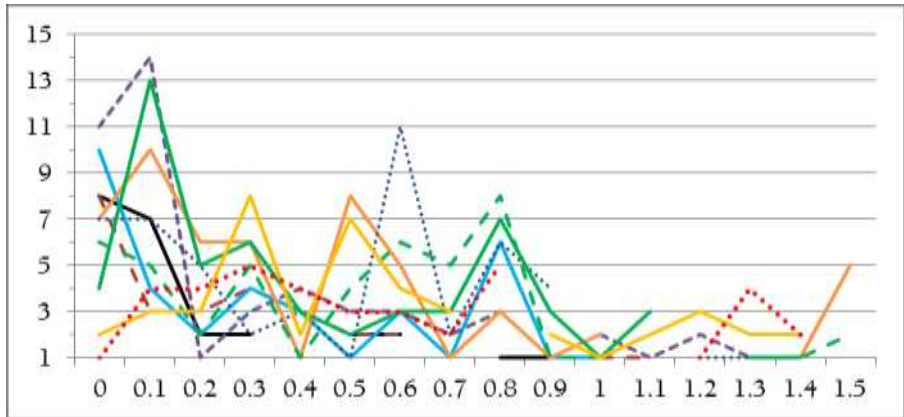


Figure 4.11 Reference transactions per capita (rounded to 10ths) occurrence by spending category, part 1

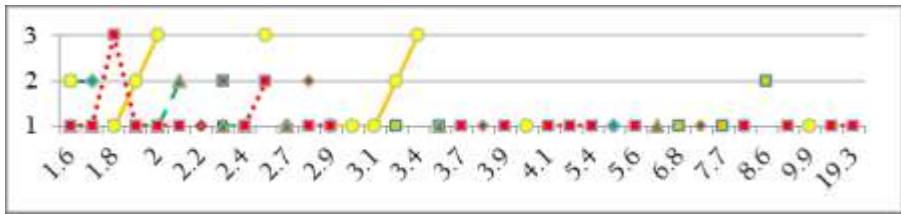


Figure 4.12 Reference transactions per capita (rounded to 10ths) occurrence by spending category, part 2

The inCompleat Give Us a Dollar...

Here's what I had to say when this book appeared (in part):

Do you find the myriad tables with no graphs and essentially no commentary in *Give Us a Dollar and We'll Give You Back Four* a little overwhelming?

Have you read my plans to provide *The Compleat Give Us a Dollar...*, *Volume 1: Libraries by Size*, and *Volume 2: Libraries by State*, combining tables, graphs (including new graphs for states) and commentary—but only in 8.5×11 PDF ebooks—and thought that it might be less convenient for quick comparisons?

Have I got a deal for you...

[The inCompleat Give Us a Dollar and We'll Give You Back Four](#)

It's 433 8.5" x 11" pages. It's a big book. It combines all of the text from the original book, essentially all of the comments from the two *Cites & Insights* essays, all of the scatterplots (and other b&w graphs) from *Graphing Public Library Benefits*, and what I believe to be the most meaningful graph for libraries by state, a scatterplot plotting circulation per capita against spending per capita, along with the correlation coefficient for those two measures.

The price is a low, low \$26.99. Did I mention that it's a big book?

I believe library schools will find this worthwhile. As should some library consultants, some state libraries and some libraries. You won't find this level of detail in *\$4 to \$1: Public Library Benefits and Budgets* or anywhere else I can think of.

As an excerpt, I'll provide one of the state sections—one of the two states offered as a sample of what *Volume 2* of *\$4 to \$1* might look like. (The size chapters look *exactly* like the excerpt for *The Compleat...*, but without the multicolor graphs.)

Excerpt from *The inCompleat Give Us a Dollar...*

Alabama

Tables include 189 libraries. Twenty-seven others are omitted. The cost of living is 92.6% of the national average.

Libraries by Legal Service Area

LSA	Count	%	Outliers
<700	4	2.1%	
700-1,149	15	7.9%	
1,150-1,649	9	4.8%	1
1,650-2,249	14	7.4%	
2,250-2,999	11	5.8%	1
3,000-3,999	11	5.8%	2
4,000-5,299	13	6.9%	2
5,300-6,799	12	6.4%	4
6,800-8,699	12	6.4%	3
8,700-11,099	14	7.4%	
11,100-14,099	13	6.9%	
14,100-18,499	16	8.5%	2
18,500-24,999	12	6.4%	3
25,000-34,499	8	4.3%	1
34,500-53,999	11	5.8%	3
54,000-104,999	9	4.8%	4
105,000-4.1 mill.	5	2.7%	1

Spending Per Capita

\$/cap	Count	%	BenR	AdjBR
\$73-\$399	11	5.8%	4.55	4.21
\$53-\$72	4	2.1%	5.41	5.01
\$43-\$52	8	4.2%	6.91	6.40
\$36-\$42	9	4.8%	6.33	5.86
\$31-\$35	16	8.5%	6.04	5.59
\$26-\$30	17	9.0%	5.91	5.47
\$21-\$25	17	9.0%	5.09	4.71
\$17-\$20	20	10.6%	4.90	4.54
\$12-\$16	29	15.3%	6.30	5.83
\$5-\$11	59	31.2%	6.46	5.98

Circulation and Patron Visits Per Capita

Circ/cap	Count	%	Cum%	BenR	\$/Cap
24+	7	4%		8.34	\$81.22
17-23	7	4%	7%	5.92	\$51.00
13-16	9	5%	12%	6.92	\$39.48
10-12	16	8%	21%	7.69	\$33.88
8-9	9	5%	25%	5.05	\$30.35
6-7	14	7%	33%	7.40	\$23.29
4-5	26	14%	47%	5.88	\$20.22
2-3	60	32%	78%	5.61	\$12.67
0-1	41	22%	100%	4.94	\$1.21

Vis/cap	Count	%	Cum%	BenR	\$/Cap
13+	10	5%		8.72	\$69.63
9-12	15	8%	13%	7.68	\$39.35
7-8	12	6%	20%	7.42	\$30.67
6	3	2%	21%	6.04	\$33.77
5	12	6%	28%	5.22	\$38.33
4	22	12%	39%	6.60	\$21.06
3	24	13%	52%	5.81	\$19.91
2	40	21%	73%	5.59	\$12.49
<2	51	27%	100%	5.38	\$8.98

\$/cap	Circulation per cap			Visits Per Cap		
	25%	Med	75%	25%	Med	75%
\$73-\$399	12.70	19.09	29.23	8.97	12.71	17.10
\$53-\$72	13.00	16.67	21.22	5.77	11.31	17.60
\$43-\$52	10.35	15.94	21.35	5.88	8.96	11.42
\$36-\$42	11.33	12.35	13.71	5.59	9.53	9.69
\$31-\$35	4.48	9.30	12.01	3.86	5.86	7.65
\$26-\$30	4.47	6.89	8.29	3.47	4.34	7.02
\$21-\$25	2.43	3.67	5.36	2.93	3.10	4.05
\$17-\$20	2.75	4.21	5.91	2.60	3.13	4.15
\$12-\$16	2.00	3.03	4.07	1.72	2.37	3.33
\$5-\$11	1.06	2.21	2.81	0.96	1.71	2.37
Overall	2.22	3.67	8.01	1.88	3.01	5.44

Program Attendance and PC Use Per Capita

Att/cap	Count	%	Cum%	BenR	\$/Cap
1.1+	10	5%		6.01	\$68.64
0.7-1.09	16	8%	14%	7.74	\$35.52
0.5-0.69	10	5%	19%	6.48	\$33.11
0.4-0.49	8	4%	23%	5.31	\$38.47
0.3-0.39	14	7%	31%	6.23	\$21.31
0.2-0.29	31	16%	47%	6.04	\$18.94
0.11-0.19	31	16%	63%	6.30	\$14.51
0-0.1	69	37%	100%	5.28	\$10.45

PC use/cap	Count	%	Cum%	BenR	\$/Cap
3.5+	13	7%		9.13	\$45.75
2.25-3.49	20	11%	17%	6.85	\$37.32
1.7-2.24	11	6%	23%	4.89	\$30.36
1.3-1.69	22	12%	35%	6.27	\$20.73
1-1.29	20	11%	46%	5.79	\$21.72
0.75-0.99	29	15%	61%	5.81	\$14.70
0.5-0.74	23	12%	73%	6.30	\$16.30
<0.5	51	27%	100%	5.38	\$9.83

\$/cap	Attendance per cap			PC use per capita		
	25%	Med	75%	25%	Med	75%
\$73-\$399	0.57	1.03	1.61	2.74	3.29	5.22
\$53-\$72	0.54	0.93	1.47	1.20	1.58	2.06
\$43-\$52	0.32	0.46	0.86	1.83	3.16	4.06
\$36-\$42	0.41	0.47	0.85	0.96	1.65	2.34
\$31-\$35	0.11	0.43	0.66	1.02	1.83	2.51
\$26-\$30	0.11	0.22	0.39	1.23	1.46	2.11
\$21-\$25	0.11	0.19	0.26	0.68	1.05	1.34
\$17-\$20	0.10	0.21	0.28	0.60	0.89	1.70
\$12-\$16	0.07	0.15	0.26	0.44	0.83	1.19
\$5-\$11	0.03	0.06	0.12	0.26	0.49	0.80
Overall	0.07	0.18	0.37	0.46	0.91	1.65

Comments

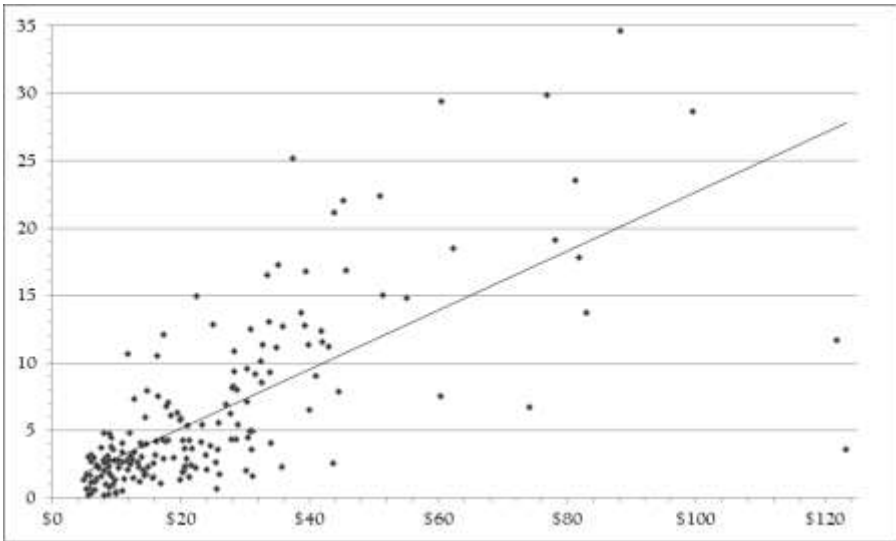
A substantial percentage of Alabama’s 189 libraries (plus 27 omitted) are relatively poorly supported, with 57% in the bottom three brackets (compared to 28% overall)—but 11 libraries spend at least \$73 per capita, the top bracket. Funding difficulties mirror relatively low usage, even though benefit ratios for every expenditure category are at least 4.5

(without cost of living adjustment; 4.2 with adjustment). Only 33% of the libraries show at least six circulation per capita (compared to 64% overall) and only 28% have at least five patron visits per year (54% overall). More than half the libraries have less than 0.2 program attendance per capita (compared to 31% overall).

The budget tables show a strong correlation between spending and circulation (except that libraries spending \$21 to \$25.99 have lower numbers than those spending \$17 to \$20.99), all the way from a median of 2.21 circ per capita for the lowest spending bracket to 19.09 for the highest.

Circulation per Capita and Spending per Capita

Two libraries with considerably more than 35 circulation per capita don't appear in this graph. The remaining libraries show a very strong correlation (.72) between circulation per capita and spending per capita.



Alabama library circulation per capita plotted against spending per capita

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Masthead

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