



2021 LORI Data Executive Summary

The following reports summarize information gathered from the annual Library of Rhode Island (LORI) network Certification conducted from July to September of 2021. The Certification requires submission of LORI interlibrary loan (ILL) statistics and completion of the LORI Technology Scan. The Technology Scan, divided into four parts, is a survey of technology and digital content available in libraries. The ILL statistics collected were from Fiscal Year 2021; other data was collected as of July 2021. The data was submitted by LORI members, which includes academic, public, school, and special libraries, in compliance with the Library of Rhode Island Standards.

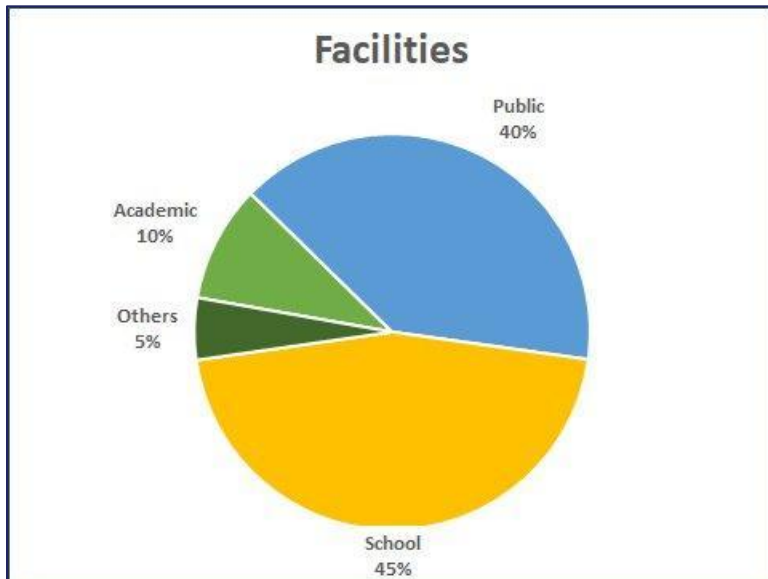
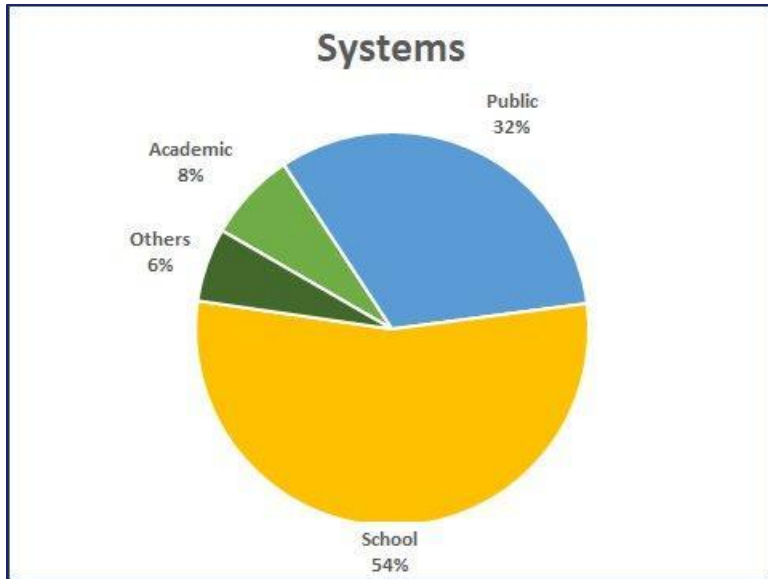
Introduction

The data used in this report was collected in the 2021 Library of Rhode Island (LORI) Certification process, which includes the collection of ILL statistics and the LORI Technology Scan. The Technology Scan consists of 4 surveys. The LORI Certification was conducted from July to September of 2021.

The goal of this report is to provide an overview of the library services and innovative initiatives that happened during fiscal year 2021 in academic, public, special, and school libraries. The information and data can be used to identify, and learn from, trailblazing LORI libraries. It can also be used to identify gaps in services.

Composition of LORI Libraries

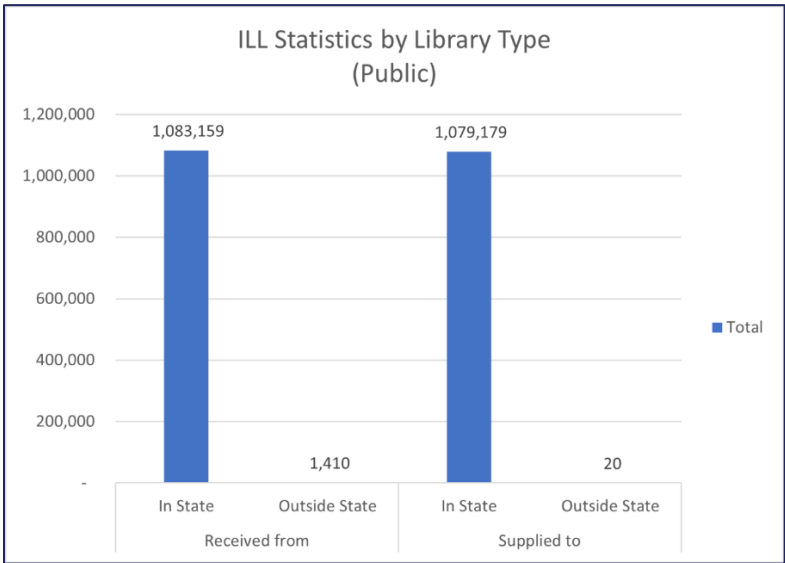
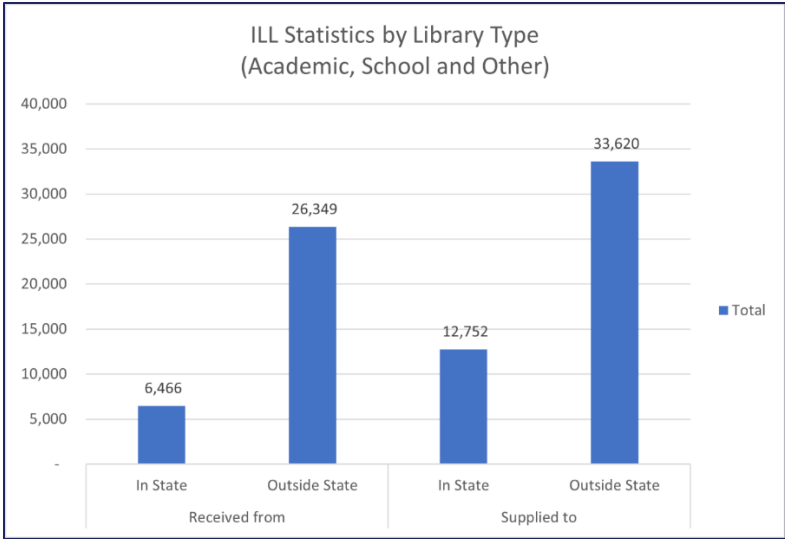
Library of Rhode Island (LORI) is a multi-type library network coordinated by OLIS and governed by resource sharing standards established by the Library Board of Rhode Island. LORI libraries agree to reciprocal lending and borrowing of library materials that enables residents, students, and academic faculties access to the collective holdings of all members.

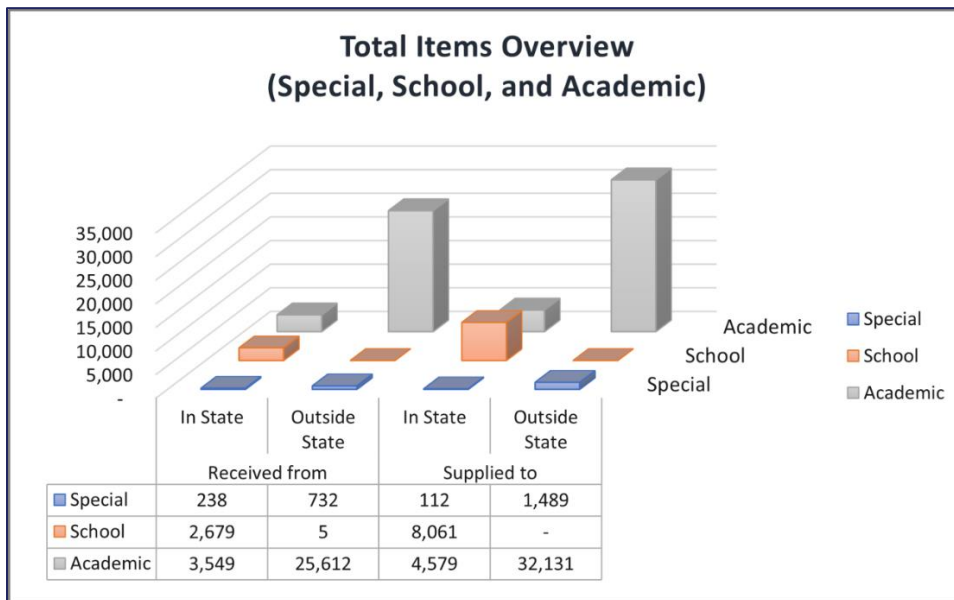
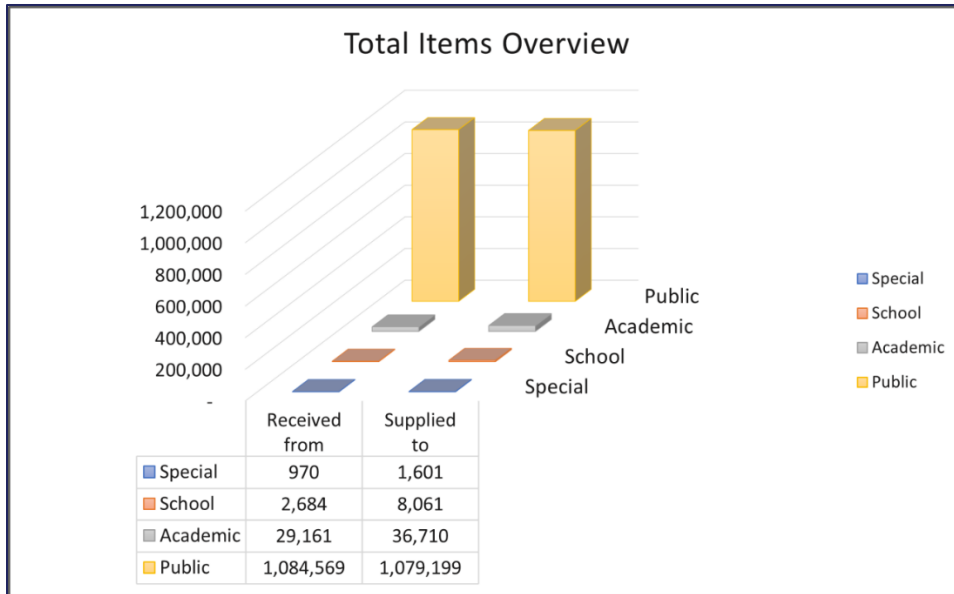


LORI ILL Statistics Overview

Every weekday, thousands of library books and materials (DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, musical scores, etc.) are delivered to Library of Rhode Island (LORI) libraries (academic, hospital, public, school and special libraries) around the Ocean State. Among LORI libraries, the libraries with the highest overall volume (Items Supplied + Items Received) in the LORI delivery system are:

Library	Total Supplied	Total Received	Combine Total
Cranston Public Library	73,161	108,579	181,740
Providence Community Library	49,391	114,920	164,311
Warwick Public Library	50,497	63,940	114,437
Newport Public Library	74,183	28,688	102,871
Barrington Public Library	42,444	50,799	93,243
South Kingstown Public Library	32,056	48,652	80,708
East Providence Public Library	34,210	45,644	79,854
Lincoln Public Library	54,853	23,778	78,631
North Kingstown Free Library	32,477	45,992	78,469
Cumberland Public Library	36,189	40,296	76,485
Westerly Public Library	36,630	32,482	69,112
Mayor Salvatore Mancini Union Free Library	43,130	25,905	69,035
Coventry Public Library	37,354	23,901	61,255
Providence Public Library	44,301	15,074	59,375
Maury Loontjens Memorial Library (Narragansett)	26,987	23,548	50,535
Rogers Free Library	22,976	26,674	49,650
East Greenwich Free Library	15,079	32,549	47,628
Tiverton Public Library	21,726	21,445	43,171
Greenville Public Library	25,340	17,582	42,922
Pawtucket Public Library	22,400	20,215	42,615
Middletown Public Library	24,408	18,138	42,546





Types of Computers Used in Libraries

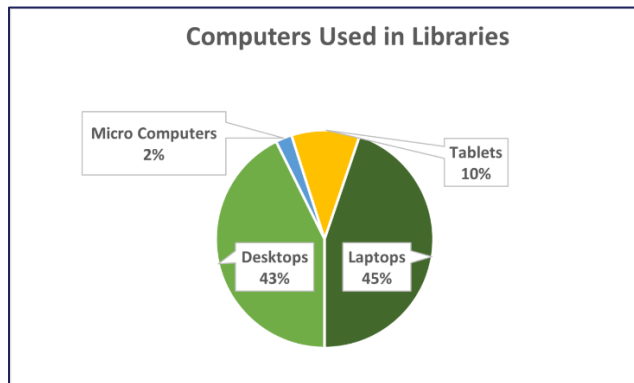
Most Library of Rhode Island (LORI) libraries provide public access computers for patrons to use and are outfitted with classroom space to accommodate workshops or other hands-on learning experiences. Public access computers are typically desktops set up in a dedicated space. For libraries that have adopted flexible classroom space, tablets and laptops have increasingly become the computer device of choice.

Libraries were busy re-opening their facilities while coping with the height of the COVID-19 pandemic during the fiscal year. Because of the restrictions imposed on the in-person services, many libraries sought to circulate equipment needed for patrons to access the

Internet and learning resources at home. Toward the end of the fiscal year, grant opportunities from Federal, State, and non-profit organizations began to emerge and many libraries took these opportunities to enhance their capacities to serve patron beyond the confines of the library walls. We expect a significant increase of library owned equipment will appear in next year's report.

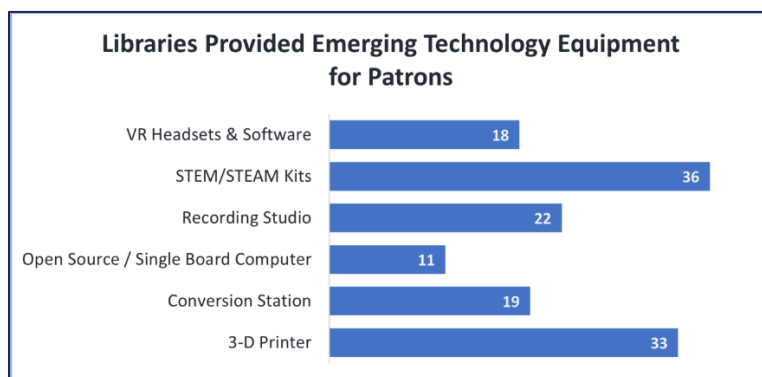
The data collected in this section includes computers for use by library staff, by patrons in the library, and by patrons outside the library facility.

This is the second year that the use of laptops outnumbered desktops in libraries. In fiscal year 2021, laptops took up 45% of the computer devices maintained by libraries while desktop fell to 43%. The percentage of laptops and desktops among the computers in LORI libraries in fiscal year 2020 were 44% and 43% respectively. We expect the growth of laptops and tablets to continue in the years to come as libraries adapt to the needs of the community.



Emerging Technology

Emerging Technology was an area that had very moderate growth in 2021 in part because most in person activities were put on hold. 62 libraries provide training or tools for digital creation and 31 libraries have a dedicated makerspace for equipment and activities.

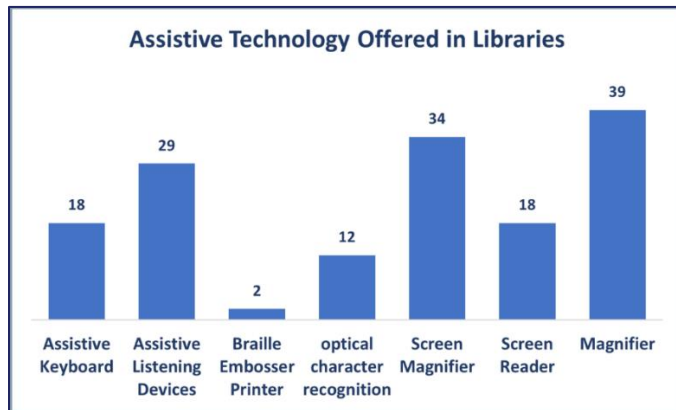


Assistive Technology

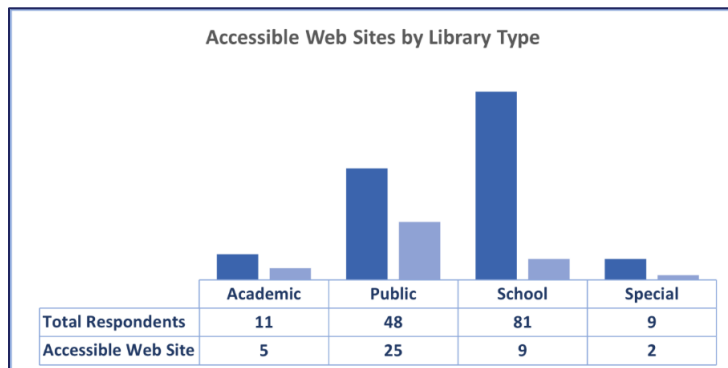
Assistive Technology (AT) is slowly gaining attention by libraries. Of the 161 reporting libraries, 57 (35%) indicated that they offer some forms of assistive technology services and 41 (25%) confirmed that their web sites were 508 compliant. The following is the percentage of library, broken down by library type, that provide some forms of assistive technology.

Academic	Public	School	Special
45%	67%	21%	33%

At the time of the reporting period, one public library was undergoing a web site re-design with the intention of meeting the W3C Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) and pass all relevant success criteria by ensuring the WCAG 2.1 level AA compliance. Another library indicated the goal to develop a new assistive technology plan and website user study to make accessibility improvement to library service. This seems to indicate that libraries are beginning to look at assistive compliance in a more comprehensive and standard-driven way, which can lead to more accessible resources based on more universally recognized metrics.

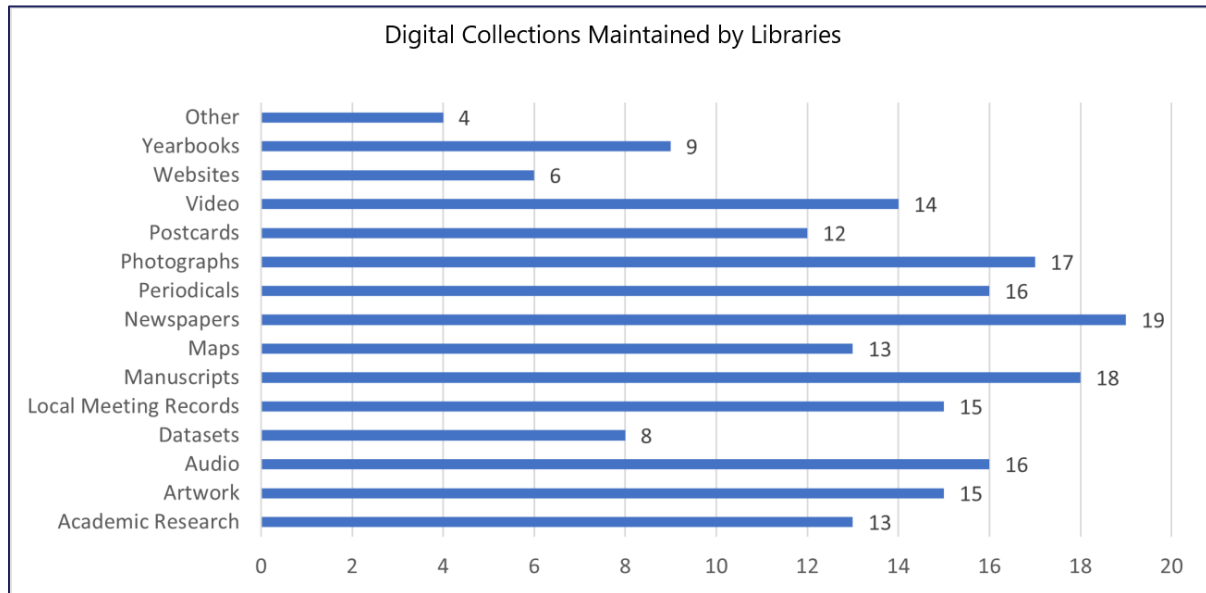


A significant area for training and growth is in website Section 508 compliance. Below is the breakdown of compliance as reported by each library type:



Digital Content

Many types of libraries in Rhode Island curate and host digital collections. The content ranges widely in subject, date, and format. Note that these numbers are drawn from libraries that indicated they maintain digital collections and represent fully digital items. Local libraries may have additional resources such as yearbooks or historical newspapers in their original paper form that are not represented here.



The following is breakdown of where each type of resource is located:

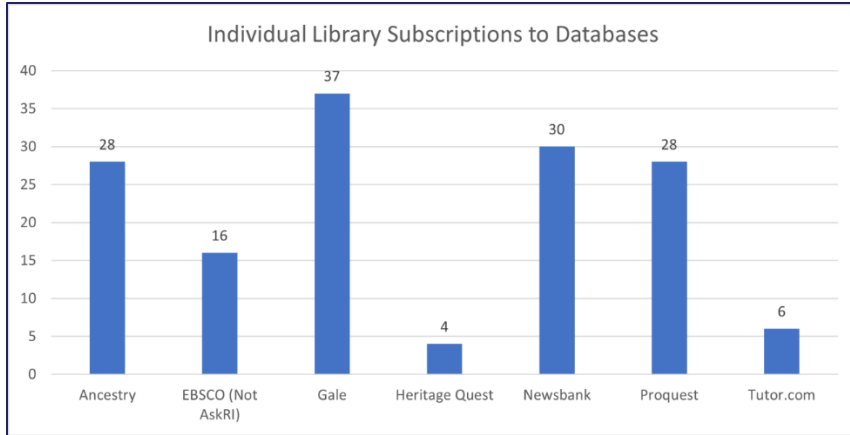
Library	Academic Research	Artwork	Audio	Datasets	Local Meeting Records	Manuscripts	Maps	Newspapers	Periodicals	Photographs	Postcards	Video	Websites	Yearbooks	Other
Brown University	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	
Bryant University	Yes		Yes					Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes
Chariho High School														Yes	
East Greenwich High School Library		Yes	Yes												
Johnson & Wales University	Yes	Yes	Yes					Yes		Yes					
Nayatt School Library															Yes
North Smithfield High School Library			Yes									Yes			
Providence Athenaeum Library	Yes	Yes	Yes				Yes			Yes					
Providence College	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	
Redwood Library and Athenaeum		Yes								Yes					
Rhode Island College	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes
Rhode Island School of Design	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	
Rhode Island State Library															
Roger Williams University	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes
Salve Regina University	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	
University of Rhode Island	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	
Cranston Public Library					Yes	Yes									
East Greenwich Free Library	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		
Greenville Public Library															
Island Free Library	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Jamestown Philomenian Library					Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes				
North Kingstown Free Library	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
North Scituate Public Library									Yes	Yes	Yes				
Pawtucket Public Library			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Portsmouth Free Public Library					Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Providence Public Library		Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Rogers Free Library					Yes	Yes					Yes	Yes			
South Kingstown Public Library				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes						
Warwick Public Library					Yes	Yes									
West Warwick Public Library					Yes	Yes									
Westerly Public Library								Yes	Yes			Yes			
Woonsocket Harris Public Library					Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes						Yes	

These are some examples:

- [Digitized Yearbooks, Rhode Island College Library](#)
- [Photograph Collection, Providence Public Library](#)
- [Postcard Collection, North Kingstown Free Library](#)
- [Sanborn Maps for the State of RI, Brown University](#)
- [Bryant College Goes to War, World War II Letter Collection, Bryant University](#)
- [Academic Research Publications by Faculty Members, University of Rhode Island](#)
- [Student Newspapers, Rhode Island School of Design](#)
- [Art Collection, Providence Athenæum](#)
- [National Restaurant Association Menu Collection, Johnson & Wales University Library](#)
- [Digital Repository Datasets, Brown University](#)
- [Rhode Island Election Ballots, University of Rhode Island](#)
- [Westerly High School Yearbooks, Westerly Public Library](#)
- [Audio recordings of Italian American Heritage, Rhode Island College Library](#)
- [Digitized Block Island Times \(and others\), Island Free Library](#)
- [Historic North Scituate Video Collection, North Scituate Public Library](#)
- [Woonsocket Call \(Historical Newspapers\) – Woonsocket Public Library](#)
- [Narragansett Times \(Historical Newspaper\) – South Kingstown Public Library](#)
- [Pawtucket Times \(Historical Newspaper\) – Pawtucket Public Library](#)

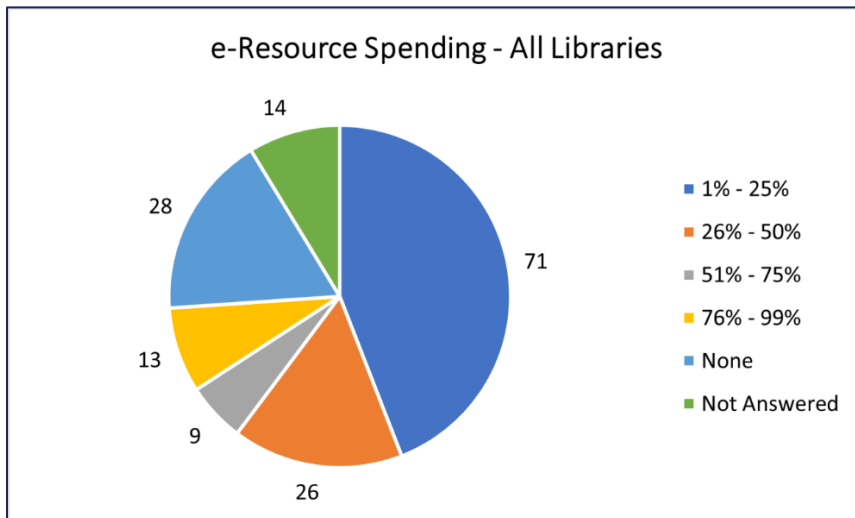
Electronic Resources: Database Subscriptions

In addition to state-wide and consortium-wide access, 89 libraries individually subscribe to databases on their own, up from 85 in 2019. These resources are usually open to these individual library's registered library users or walk-in patrons. As the cost of maintaining database continues to rise, resources including Tutor.com and Udemy have been added to AskRI in an effort to aide in continuing educational opportunities for patrons across the state.

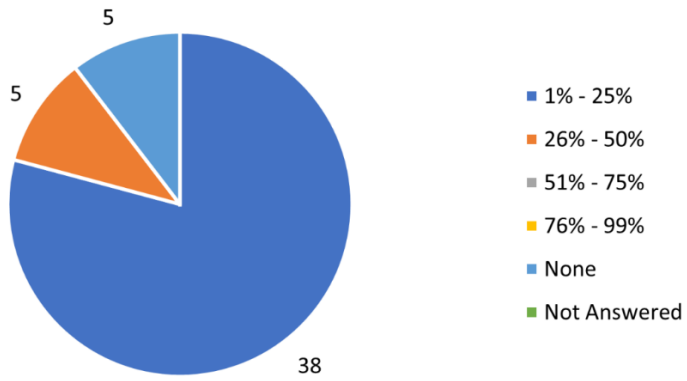


Within this survey, e-resources are understood to mean electronic database that provide access to digital media. Examples of such databases include but are not limited to: BookLynx, EBSCO Subscription Services, Follett, Gale, OverDrive, Tumblebooks, Alexander Street Press, Discover, Films on Demand, Freegal, Hoopla, and Kanopy.

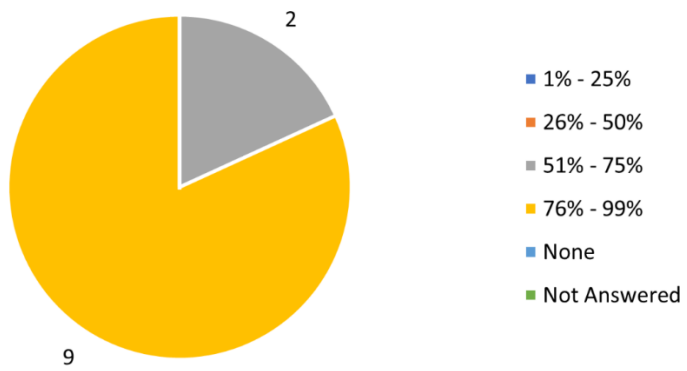
This year, about 44 percent of responding libraries allocate between 1 and 25 percent of their acquisitions budget to electronic resources. This number is roughly equivalent to the Fiscal Year 2017 results, when 42% of libraries responding allocate 1%-25% of their acquisition budget to electronic resources. Whereas school libraries employ a broad series of purchasing strategies, with 34 percent dedicating between 1 and 25 percent of their purchasing budget to e-resources, academic libraries consistently allocate high percentages of their purchasing budget to e-resources, with no respondent indicating below 50 percent. Public libraries most often (79 percent of the time) spend between 1 and 25 percent of their book budget on e-resources.



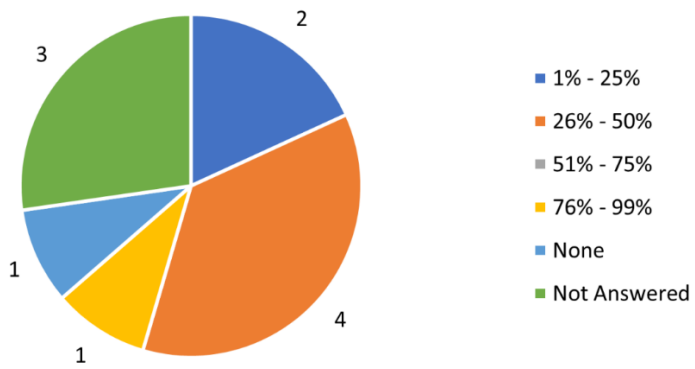
e-Resource Spending - Public Libraries

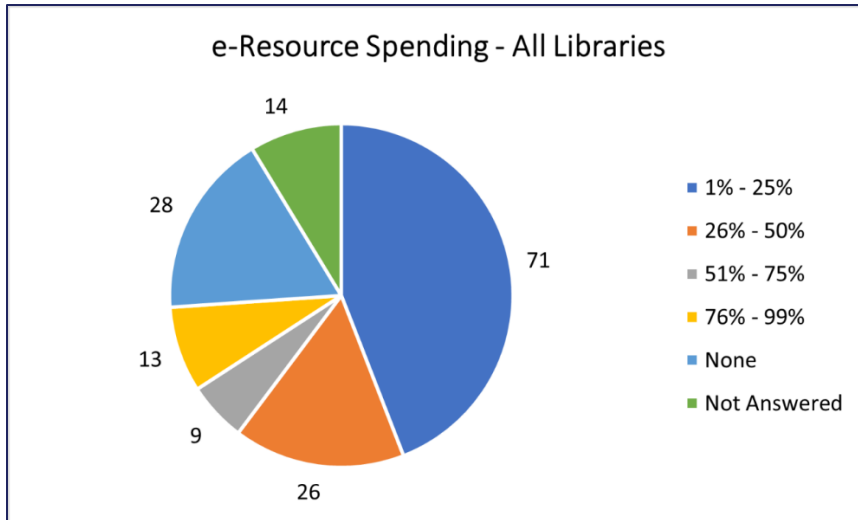


e-Resource Spending - Academic Libraries



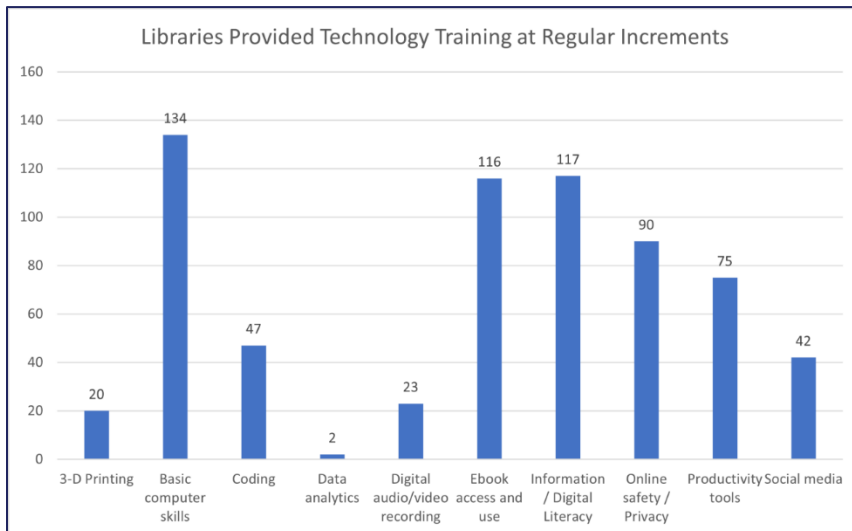
e-Resource Spending - Special Libraries





Learning in Libraries

Libraries reported providing the following technology training on a regular basis. Offerings in basic computer skills, Ebook access, and Information Literacy have seen the greatest expansion between 2019 and 2022, while libraries offering coding and data analytics programs have fallen slightly. This, coupled with a large increase in libraries offering programs on digital privacy, illustrates the concept of libraries as equalizers in the community, and as spaces that promote equity of access to technology. While specialized, and technical programs have declined, or seen only modest increases, programs focused on establishing baselines of technology competency have seen the greatest increases. It should also be noted while all public libraries now have access Udemy courses, some libraries have extensive education partnerships offering such programs as GED and ESL certificates.



Program Type	2022	2019	Percent Change
3-D Printing	20	16	25%
Basic computer skills	134	81	65%
Coding	47	52	-10%
Data analytics	2	5	-60%
Digital audio/video recording	23	17	35%
Ebook access and use	116	98	18%
Information / Digital Literacy	117	98	19%
Online safety / Privacy	90	75	20%
Productivity tools	75	71	6%
Social media	42	45	-7%

For library staff, YouTube continues to far outpace other platforms as a professional development tool, followed by Springshare, which is popular among school librarians. The additional adoption of YouTube as a virtual programming platform during the pandemic may also help to account for its popularity. Librarians who learned more about the platform as they developed live and recorded programs may have naturally used the platform to find ad-hoc and structured training opportunities.

Starting in August of 2020, OLIS began curating and producing collections of professional development webinars, workshop, and certificate programs (collectively “tutorials”) available at Niche Academy. Between August 2020 and March 2022, the platform has received 1,370 views over 112 tutorials. As content and offerings grow, Niche offers the potential to not only streamline online continuing education and employee training experiences with vetted content, but also offers a collaborative environment in which to access and share content developed by other libraries across the country.

