Tasmanian Government | Department of **Education**

Tasmanian School Libraries Survey results 2022

This survey was carried out by Libraries Tasmania on behalf of the Department of Education, with the support of staff in government, Catholic and independent schools.

About the survey

- A 42-question survey accessible from 20 June to 31 July 2022.
- Responses from 152 government, 11 Catholic, 17 independent schools; 180 in total.
- Responses represented 81 per cent of government, 29 per cent of Catholic, 55 per cent of independent schools.
- This gave a 70 per cent response rate across all schools.
- There was a good spread across primary (58 per cent), senior (20 per cent), K-10 and K-12 (22 per cent).
- Across regions: North (30 per cent), North-West (26 per cent) and South (44 per cent).
- And by size of student population: fewer than 100 (15 per cent), 100 – 350 (39 per cent), 351 – 700 (33 per cent), 700+ (13 per cent).

Funding

Two in five school libraries had an annual non-salary budget greater than $5 000

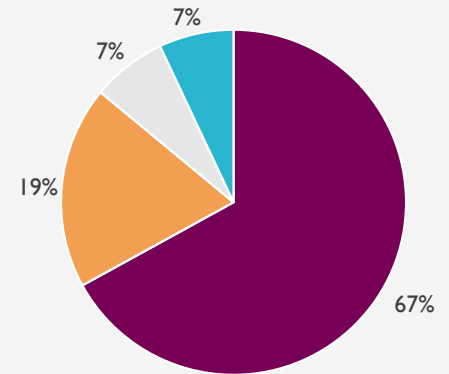Annual non-salary budget
(179 schools)

- Less than $2 000
- $2 000 – $5 000
- $5 000 or more

28%
33%
39%
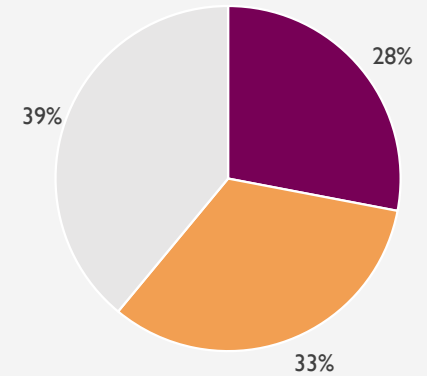
Four of five schools retained last year's budget or received more

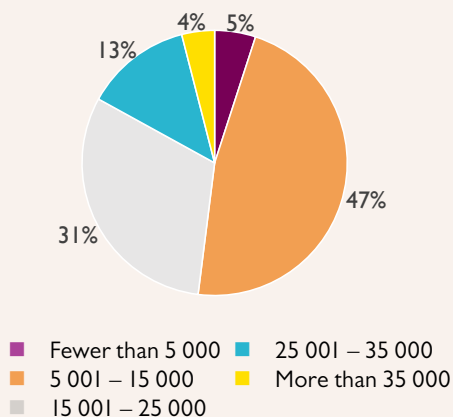Change in annual non-salary budget between 2021 and 2022
(180 schools)

- Same
- Less
- More
- Don't know

7%
7%
19%
67%

Books

Half of all schools held between 5 001 and 15 000 print books; a third held 15 001 to 25 000

Number of print books in collection
(207 schools)

4% 5%
13%
31%
47%

- Fewer than 5 000
- 5 001 – 15 000
- 15 001 – 25 000
- 25 001 – 35 000
- More than 35 000

For two in five schools, more than a fifth of their print collection had been added in the last five years

Print books added in the last five years
(206 schools)

2% 4% 8%
8%
28%
50%

- Less than 10%
- 11 – 20%
- 21 – 30%
- 31 – 40%
- 41 – 50%
- more than 50%
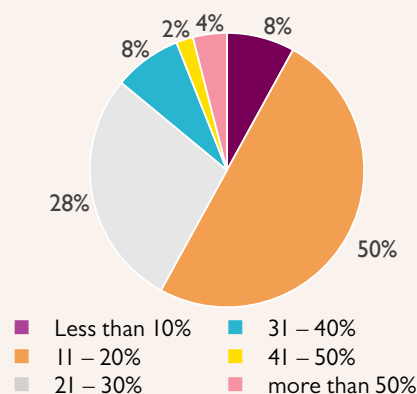
In 25 per cent of schools, less than half the collection was published over 15 years ago

Print books published more than 15 years ago (205 schools)

8% 7%
5%
13%
30%
37%

- Less than 30%
- 31 – 40%
- 41 – 50%
- 51 – 60%
- 61 – 70%
- 71 – 80%
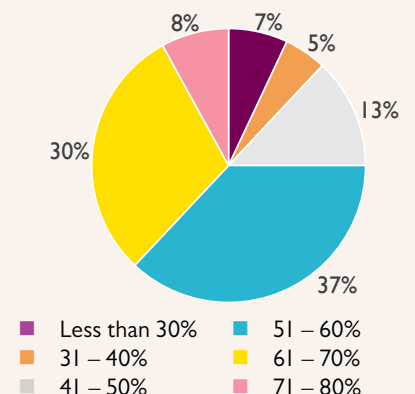
Staffing

A quarter of schools employed one or more full time members of staff in their library

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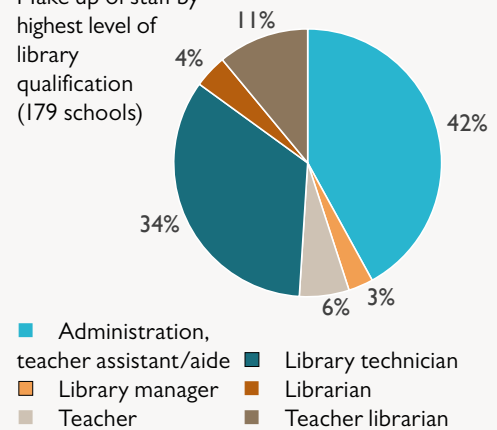Staffing level – full time equivalent (171 schools)

- No paid staff
- 0.1 – 0.59
- 0.6 – 0.99
- 1 – 1.99
- 2 – 4
- More than 4

2% 2% 4% 14% 27% 50%
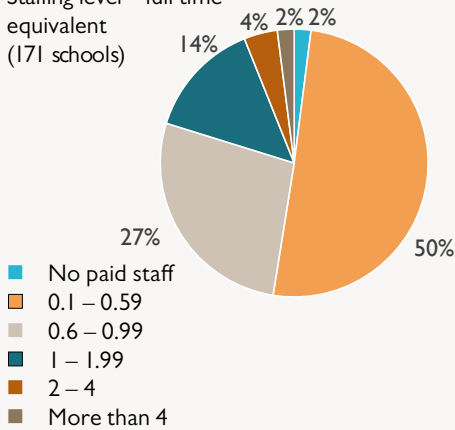
Four in five schools had the same staffing level as the previous year

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Staffing level – full time equivalent (171 schools)

- Same
- Less
- More
- Don't know

1% 7% 9% 83%
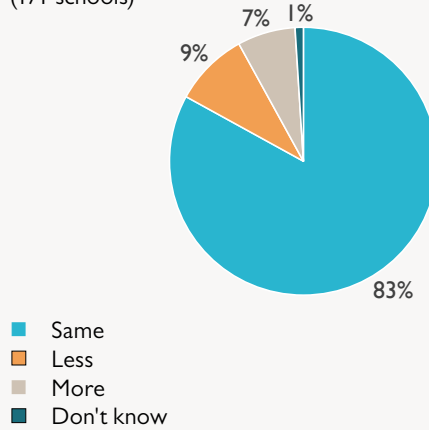
Half the schools had someone with a library qualification running their library

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Make up of staff by highest level of library qualification (179 schools)

- Administration, teacher assistant/aide
- Library manager
- Teacher
- Library technician
- Librarian
- Teacher librarian

11% 4% 42% 6% 3% 34%

Nearly a third of library staff were members of professional bodies

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Membership of professional bodies (175 schools)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

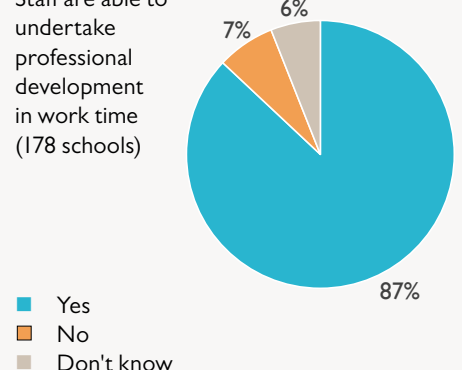15% 31% 54%
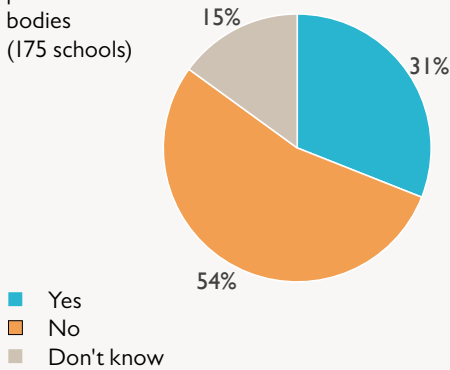
Nearly three quarters of staff were under 60 years of age

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Age of staff (292 people in 174 schools)

- 20 – 29
- 30 – 39
- 40 – 49
- 50 – 59
- 60 and over

3% 10% 27% 22% 39%
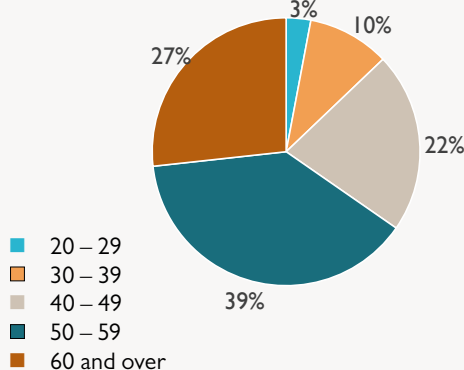
Nine out of 10 library staff could undertake professional development in work time

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Staff are able to undertake professional development in work time (178 schools)
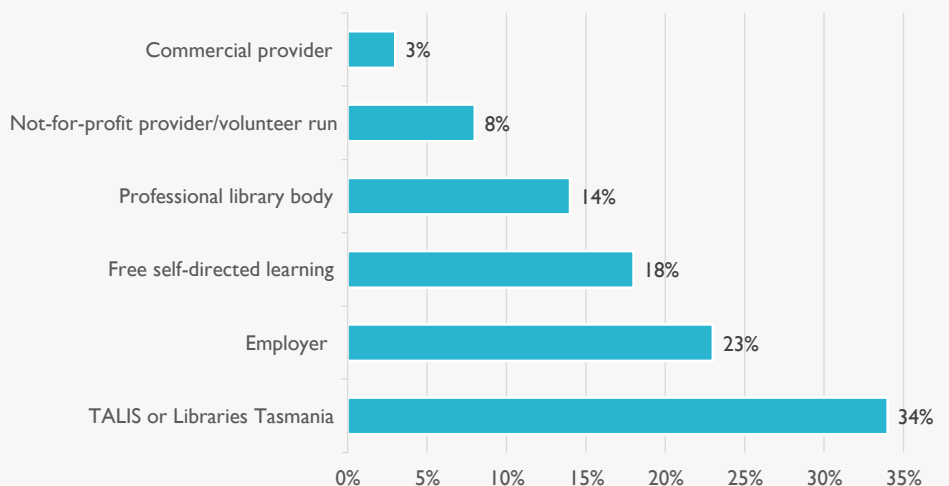

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

6% 7% 87%

Top 20 tasks performed by school library staff:

1. Collection selection and purchasing.
2. Collection development and maintenance.
3. Creating displays.
4. Library events eg Children's Book Week.
5. Circulation of lending collections.
6. Promoting recreational reading.
7. Original cataloguing.
8. Regular timetabled library lessons.
9. Library management.
10. One on one research assistance for students.
11. One on one research assistance for teachers.
12. Curate curriculum-related information and resources.
13. Promoting the school library.
14. Student supervision.
15. Literacy support.
16. IT support.
17. Ad hoc library lessons.
18. Extracurricular activities eg coding classes.
19. Fundraising.
20. Volunteer management.

The top three sources of Professional Development were Libraries Tasmania, schools and free self-directed learning

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Where staff sourced professional development (180 schools)

| Source	%
Commercial provider	3%
Not-for-profit provider/volunteer run	8%
Professional library body	14%
Free self-directed learning	18%
Employer	23%
TALIS or Libraries Tasmania	34%

Tech and digital resources

A third of schools offered video streaming and 14 per cent provided access to eBooks and databases

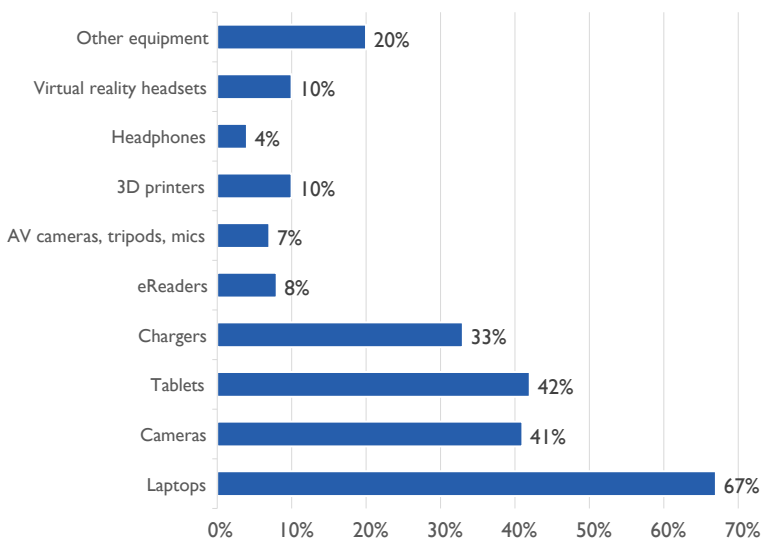Provision of digital resources (180 schools)

Category	Percentage
Music streaming	2%
eBook/eAudio books	14%
Databases	14%
Video streaming	36%
No response	52%
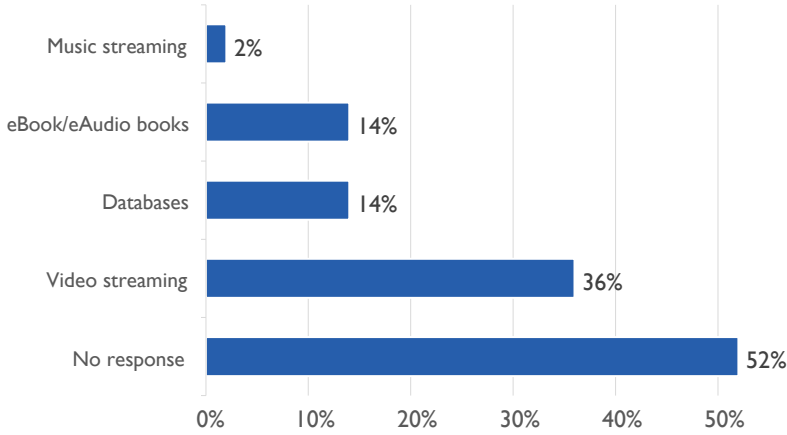
There were between one and four library PCs in nearly two-thirds of schools

Number of PCs in the library (170 schools)

- None — 12%
- 1 – 4 — 63%
- 5 – 9 — 9%
- More than 10 — 16%
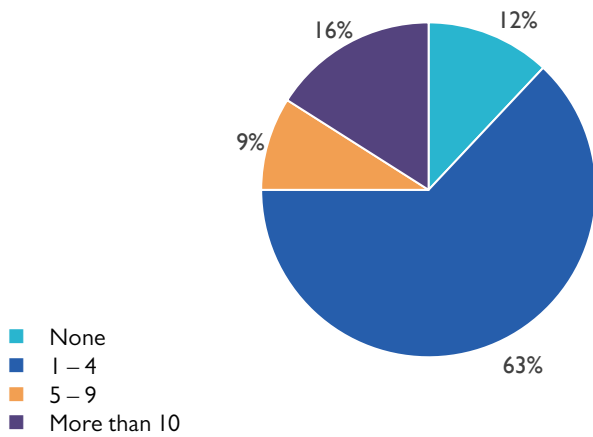
A variety of devices was available for students to use and borrow

Devices available for student use (83 schools)

Device	Percentage
Other equipment	20%
Virtual reality headsets	10%
Headphones	4%
3D printers	10%
AV cameras, tripods, mics	7%
eReaders	8%
Chargers	33%
Tablets	42%
Cameras	41%
Laptops	67%

Opening times
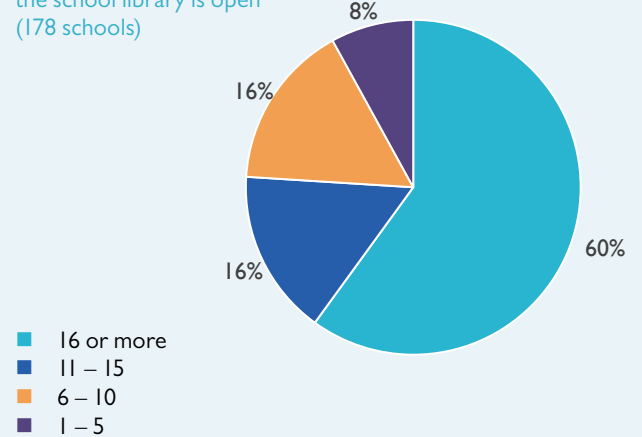
Three in five school libraries opened five days per week during term time

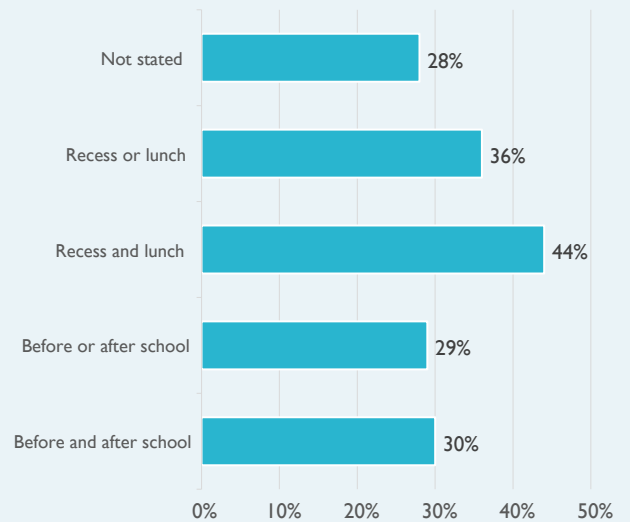Number of days per week the school library is open (180 schools)

- 5 days — 59%
- 4 days — 12%
- 3 days — 12%
- 2 days — 13%
- 1 day — 4%
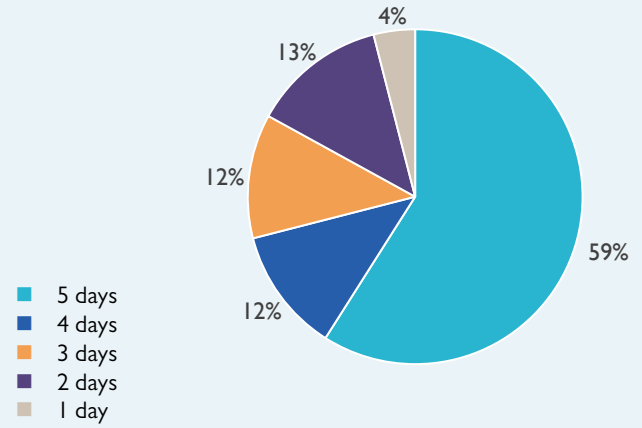
Three in five school libraries opened 16 or more hours per week during term time

Number of hours per week the school library is open (178 schools)

- 16 or more — 60%
- 11 – 15 — 16%
- 6 – 10 — 16%
- 1 – 5 — 8%

Most school libraries opened during some non-teaching periods

Non-teaching periods when the school library is open (179 schools)

Period	Percentage
Not stated	28%
Recess or lunch	36%
Recess and lunch	44%
Before or after school	29%
Before and after school	30%

Buildings

**One in five buildings were constructed during the Building the Education Revolution years**

Age of library buildings
(150 schools)

Legend:
- Before 1900
- 1900–1950
- 1951–1975
- 1976–2000
- 2001–2008
- 2009–2012
- After 2012

(5% 3% 14% 26% 29% 5% 20%)
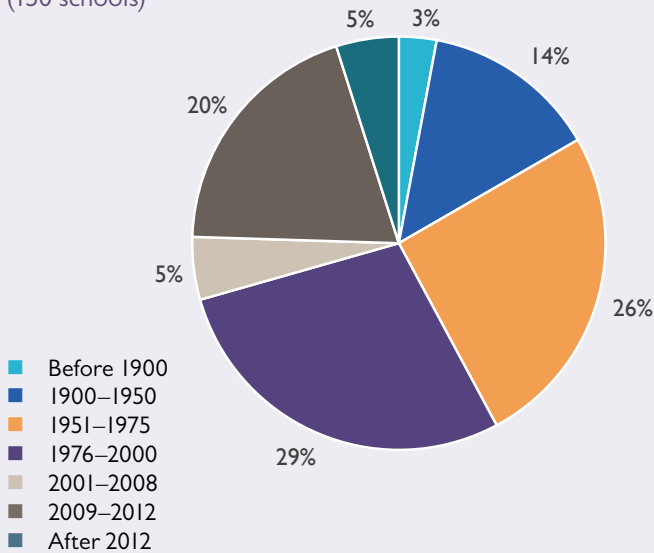
A third of libraries were refurbished as part of Building the Education Revolution

Library building refurbishment
(150 schools)

Legend:
- Before 1990
- 1990–2000
- 2001–2008
- 2009–2012
- After 2012

(13% 15% 11% 28% 34%)
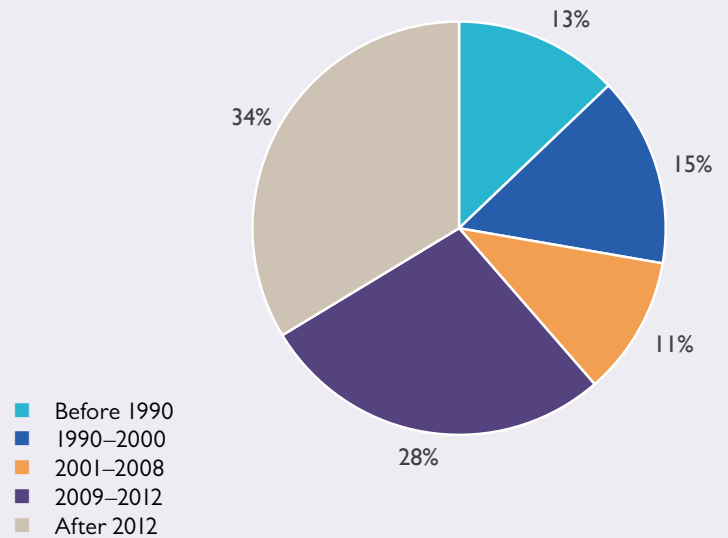
Improvements

Top 10 improvements in priority order:

1. Freely available self-directed professional learning.
2. Statewide eBook licenses for all school libraries.
3. Statewide eResource licenses for all school libraries.
4. Regular face-to-face professional learning.
5. eList connecting all Tasmanian library staff.
6. Professional development grants.
7. Micro-credentials leading to a school library qualification.
8. Shared lending collection for government schools.
9. Enhanced inter-library lending with public libraries.
10. RFID technology to manage collections.

Other suggested improvements:

- more library qualified staff
- career pathways
- school library advisors
- networking opportunities
- standards for staff to student ratios
- more time in the library for library staff
- longer opening hours
- new buildings, furniture and updated shelving
- more funding
- new books
- more resources for students with disabilities
- access to databases
- access to WorldCat
- security tagging for books
- author visits
- volunteer training.