28 March 2018

Libraries Statistics
Year 2016

The number of registered users in libraries grew by 2.1% between 2014 and 2016

On-line consultations increased by 8.5%, while on-site visits fell by 4.8%

In 2016, a total of 6,636 libraries were counted, 1.2% less than in 2014. A library is considered to be an administrative unit with its own capacity and with independent technical and administrative management.

In 2016, Spain had a national library, 4,035 public libraries, 2,095 specialised libraries, 300 libraries of higher education institutions, 198 for specific groups of users and seven central libraries of Autonomous Communities[1].

The Autonomous Communities with the greatest decreases in the number of libraries compared to 2014 were Comunitat Valenciana, Castilla–La Mancha and Canarias, with a decrease of 35, 25 and 14 libraries, respectively. On the other hand, the greatest increases were in Madrid (18 more libraries), Cataluña (nine more) and País Vasco (six more).

Registered users

The number of registered users in Spanish libraries grew by 2.1% between 2014 and 2016 reaching 22.26 million people (17.75 million adults and 4.51 million children).

This figure means that almost half of the population[2] (47.9%) were users of library services. This percentage exceeds those recorded in 2014 (47.0%) and 2012 (43.6%).

By Autonomous Community, the highest proportions of users per capita were observed in Cataluña (73.0% of the population), Comunidad de Madrid (61.9%) and Castilla y León (54.2%).

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[1] In the Libraries Statistics 2016 the central libraries of the Autonomous Communities of Principado de Asturias, Cantabria, Castilla–La Mancha, Castilla y León, Región de Murcia, Comunidad Foral de Navarra and La Rioja have been classified as public libraries, as they also have public status.
[2] Population Figures (as at 01 July 2016)

Número de bibliotecas y porcentaje de usuarios inscritos por comunidades y ciudades autónomas. Año 2016

	Bibliotecas (Unidades Administrativas)	Población usuaria de bibliotecas %
Total nacional	6.636	47,9
Andalucía	988	33,9
Aragón	324	42,1
Asturias, Principado de	163	32,0
Balears, Illes	146	31,6
Canarias	185	20,5
Cantabria	100	28,2
Castilla y León	523	54,2
Castilla-La Mancha	565	47,5
Cataluña	858	73,0
Comunidad Valenciana	598	46,1
Extremadura	483	43,4
Galicia	486	36,5
Madrid, Comunidad de	566	61,9
Murcia, Región de	112	40,3
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	129	47,5
País Vasco	318	50,7
Rioja, La	68	31,1
Ceuta	15	29,7
Melilla	9	28,4

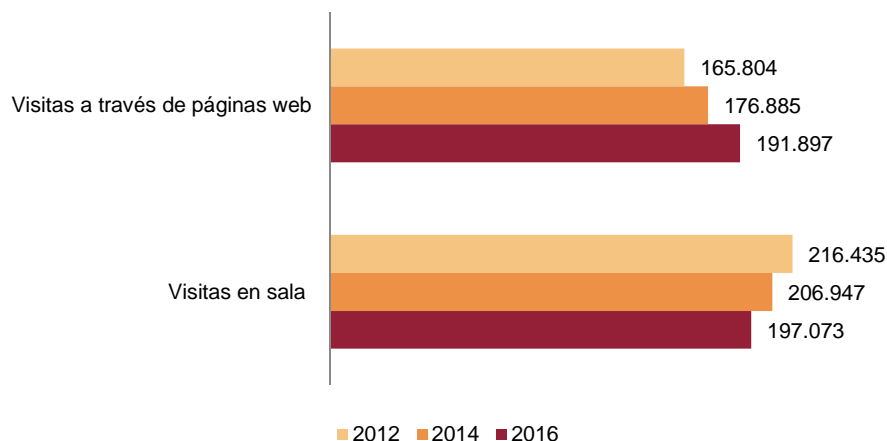[1]Cifras de Población. Población a 1 de julio de 2016

Visits

Visits to library *websites* increased in 2016, while those made on-site decreased. On average, each inhabitant visited a library website 4.1 times, and the physical place 4.2 times.

In 2016 the number of visits to library websites (191.90 million) increased by 8.5% compared to 2014, while the number of on-site visits (197.07 million) fell by 4.8% compared to 2014.

By Autonomous Communities, the highest rates of on-line visits per capita were recorded in Castilla y León (9.1 visits), Galicia (7.9) and Comunidad de Madrid (6.8).

On the other hand, the highest rates of on-site visits per capita corresponded to Comunidad Foral de Navarra (6.5 visits), Cantabria (5.8) and Castilla y León (5.5).

Evolution of the number of on-line and on-site visits to libraries. Years 2012, 2014 and 2016. Thousands of visits

	2012	2014	2016
Visitas a través de páginas web	165.804	176.885	191.897
Visitas en sala	216.435	206.947	197.073

■ 2012 ■ 2014 ■ 2016

Visitas a las páginas web de las bibliotecas y en sala por comunidades y ciudades autónomas. Año 2016

Unidades: Tasas por habitante[1]

	Visitas en sala	Visitas a la página web
Total nacional	4,2	4,1
Andalucía	3,4	1,9
Aragón	4,7	5,2
Asturias, Principado de	3,6	3,0
Balears, Illes	2,4	2,1
Canarias	3,0	2,0
Cantabria	5,8	3,9
Castilla y León	5,5	9,1
Castilla-La Mancha	3,8	2,6
Cataluña	5,4	3,9
Comunidad Valenciana	3,4	2,6
Extremadura	3,2	2,2
Galicia	3,0	7,9
Madrid, Comunidad de	5,4	6,8
Murcia, Región de	4,1	6,0
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	6,5	2,0
País Vasco	4,8	3,9
Rioja, La	5,1	2,8
Ceuta	2,1	0,1
Melilla	0,8	0,1

[1]Cifras de Población. Población a 1 de julio de 2016
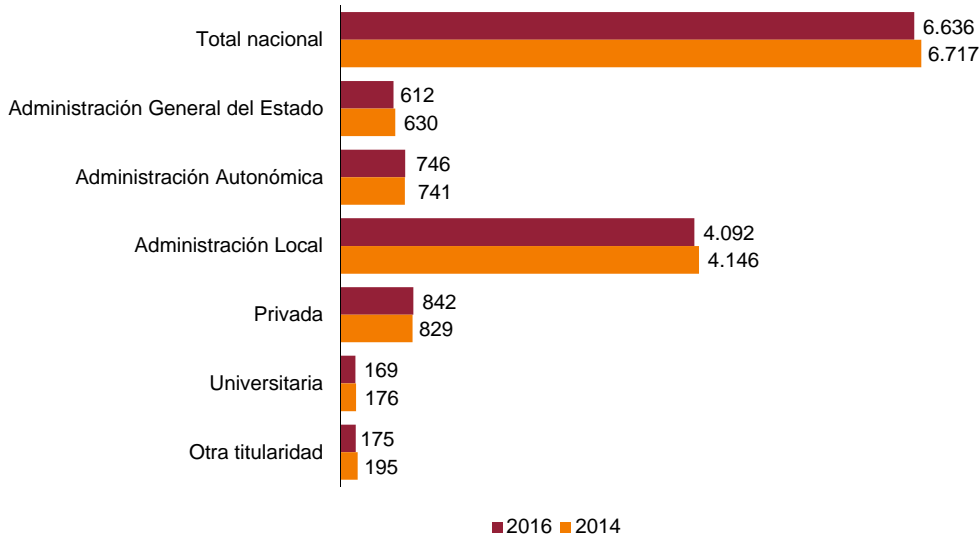
Ownership and financing of libraries

Eight out of every 10 libraries (82.1%) were publicly owned in 2016. The Local Administration had the highest number of them (4,092, of which 3,863 were publicly accessible).

On the other hand, 12.7% of libraries were privately owned, 2.6% were university owned and the remaining 2.6% had another ownership.

The total number of public libraries decreased by 1.2% compared to 2014. Those dependent on the Local Administration fell by 1.3% and on the General Administration of the State by 2.9%. On the contrary, those that depend on the administration of the Autonomous Community increased by 0.7%.
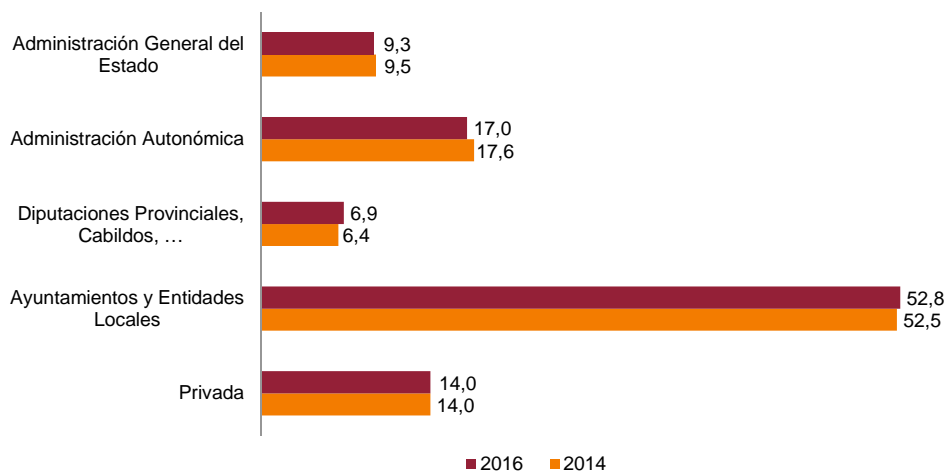
Number of libraries by ownership. Years 2016 and 2014

Ownership	2016	2014
Total nacional	6.636	6.717
Administración General del Estado	612	630
Administración Autonómica	746	741
Administración Local	4.092	4.146
Privada	842	829
Universitaria	169	176
Otra titularidad	175	195

■2016 ■2014

With regard to financing, 86.0% of libraries were funded by public administration and 14.0% were privately funded, as in 2014.

Public funding fell mainly to the Municipal Councils and Local Entities (52.8% of the total), the Autonomous Community administration (17.0%), the General Administration of the State (9.3%) and the Provincial Councils (6.9%). These percentages are similar to those of 2014, although with a slight increase in provincial and municipal funding.

Financing of libraries. Years 2016 and 2014. Percentages

	2016	2014
Administración General del Estado	9,3	9,5
Administración Autonómica	17,0	17,6
Diputaciones Provinciales, Cabildos, …	6,9	6,4
Ayuntamientos y Entidades Locales	52,8	52,5
Privada	14,0	14,0

■2016 ■2014

Service points

The number of service points or premises which depend on libraries was 8,564 in 2016, representing a decrease of 1.9% compared to 2014.

The Autonomous Communities with the highest number of service points were Andalucía (1,304 points), Cataluña (952) and Comunidad de Madrid (925).

In relative terms, the average number of inhabitants per service point was 5,424, compared with 5,321 in 2014. The Autonomous Communities with the lowest number of inhabitants per service point were Extremadura (2,120 inhabitants per point), Castilla-La Mancha (3,105) and Aragón (3,411).

Puntos de servicio por comunidades y ciudades autónomas. Año 2016

	Puntos de servicio	Habitantes[1] por punto de servicio
Total nacional	8.564	5.424
Andalucía	1.304	6.445
Aragón	386	3.411
Asturias, Principado de	209	4.962
Balears, Illes	222	5.150
Canarias	260	8.240
Cantabria	120	4.845
Castilla y León	654	3.737
Castilla-La Mancha	658	3.105
Cataluña	952	7.790
Comunidad Valenciana	800	6.160
Extremadura	510	2.120
Galicia	664	4.086
Madrid, Comunidad de	925	6.968
Murcia, Región de	212	6.928
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	151	4.227
País Vasco	445	4.865
Rioja, La	68	4.598
Ceuta	15	5.648
Melilla	9	9.410

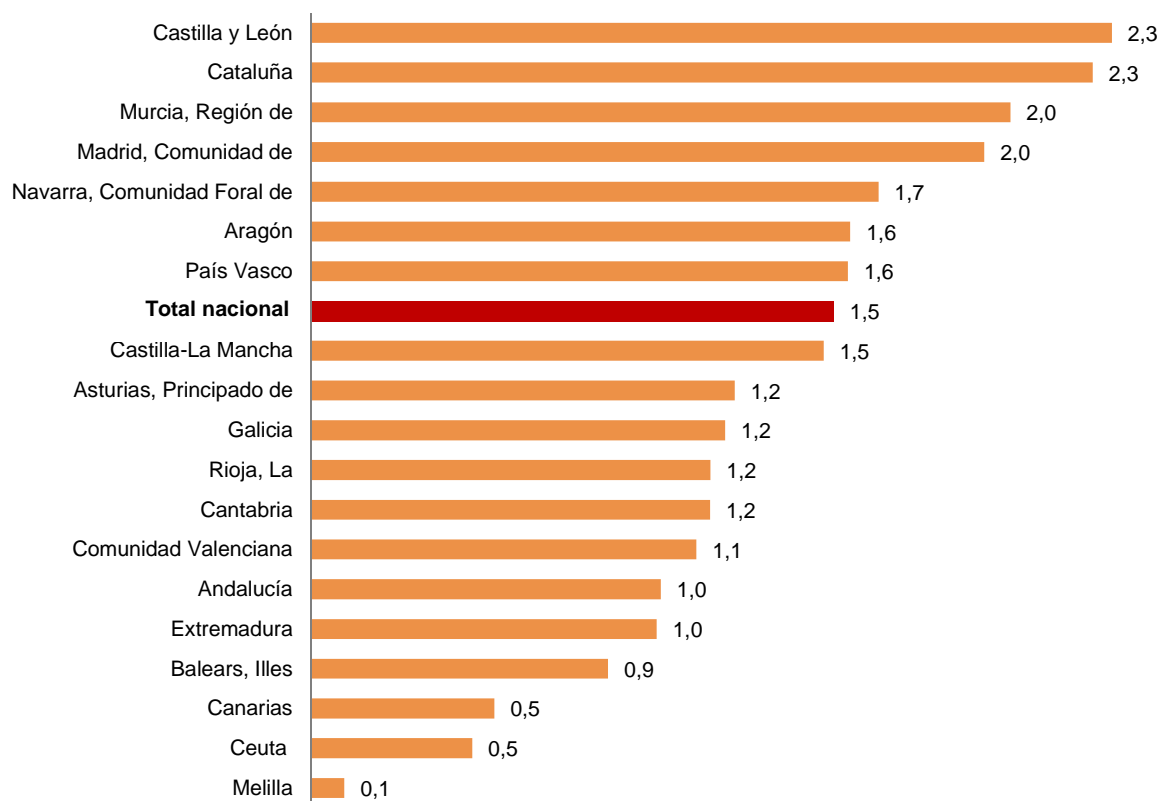[1]Cifras de Población. Población a 1 de julio de 2016

Home Loans

Library users borrowed 70,65 million documents in 2016, 7.2% less than in 2014. On average, 1.5 documents were lent per capita.

By document type, the book continued to be the most requested (67.0% of total loans). This was followed by audio-visual documents (14.8%) and electronic documents (7.3%).

Following the trend of 2014, home lending of electronic documents increased by 12.3%. On the contrary, the demand for books decreased by 8.4%, for audiovisual documents by 16.5% and for audio documents by 25.8%.

By Autonomous Community, the highest rates of loans per capita were registered in Castilla y León and Cataluña (2.3 documents in both), and in Region de Murcia and Comunidad de Madrid (2.0 in both).

Home loans according to Autonomous Communities and Cities. Year 2016
Per Capita Rates[1]

Castilla y León	2,3
Cataluña	2,3
Murcia, Región de	2,0
Madrid, Comunidad de	2,0
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	1,7
Aragón	1,6
País Vasco	1,6
Total nacional	1,5
Castilla-La Mancha	1,5
Asturias, Principado de	1,2
Galicia	1,2
Rioja, La	1,2
Cantabria	1,2
Comunidad Valenciana	1,1
Andalucía	1,0
Extremadura	1,0
Balears, Illes	0,9
Canarias	0,5
Ceuta	0,5
Melilla	0,1

[1]Cifras de Población. Población a 1 de julio de 2016

Stock

The existing stock of Spanish libraries in 2016 was 286.49 million documents, 3.2% more than in 2014.

By Autonomous Communities, those with the largest stock increases were Region de Murcia (22.2%), Galicia (20.2%) and Cantabria (13.5%).

Books represented 62.2% of the stock and the set of audio and audiovisual documents represented 7.1%. On the other hand, electronic documents reached 11.3% of the total, compared to 10.5% in 2014.

23.0% of libraries held collections of between 10,001 to 20,000 documents and 22.8% of between 5,001 to 10,000 documents.
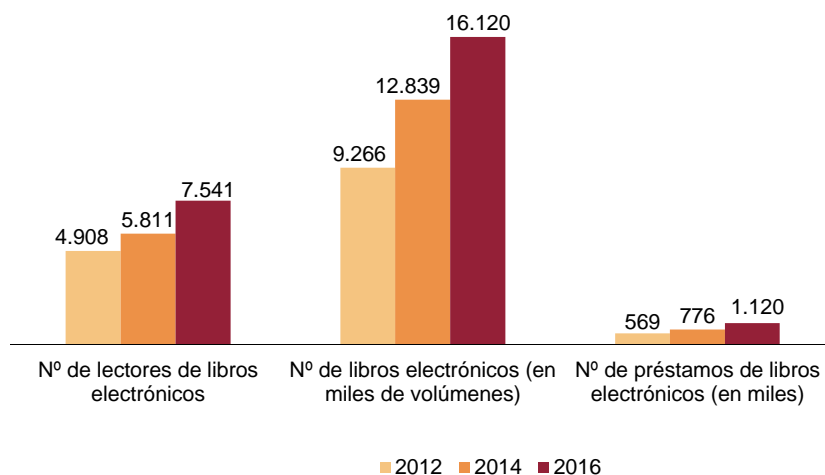
Electronic Books

The stock of electronic books reached 16.12 million in 2016, with an increase of 25.6% compared to 2014. They accounted for 5.6% of the total stock, compared to 4.6% in 2014.

During 2016, 1.12 million electronic copies were lent, 44.3% more than in 2014.

The number of e-book readers in libraries increased by 29.8%, up to 7,541 devices.

The percentage of libraries with e-book readers maintained its upward trend. It reached 12.2% of the total, compared to 8.4% in 2014.

Evolución de libros electrónicos

	Nº de lectores de libros electrónicos	Nº de libros electrónicos (en miles de volúmenes)	Nº de préstamos de libros electrónicos (en miles)
2012	4.908	9.266	569
2014	5.811	12.839	776
2016	7.541	16.120	1.120

Internet access at the library

In 2016, 91.6% of libraries had internet access compared to 90.4% in 2014. Of these, almost the entirety (99.0%) offered it as a free service. By type of library, 96.9% of the public libraries had internet access in the rooms.

73.5% of the libraries offered the Wi-Fi service to users, with an increase of 4.9% compared to 2014. 87.6% of public libraries offered this service.

The Autonomous Communities with the highest percentages of libraries with internet services were Cataluña (with 97.1% of libraries with internet access and 81.6% with Wi-Fi connection), Extremadura (96.3% and 85.1%) and Illes Ballears (95.9% and 84.2%).

Of the total computer equipment, 96.0% of computers had Internet access, compared to 94.8% in 2014.

Libraries accessible on the Internet

64.4% of libraries had internet access to their catalogues and/or to their resources in 2016. The access could be done through its own website or through the network or entity with which it was linked.
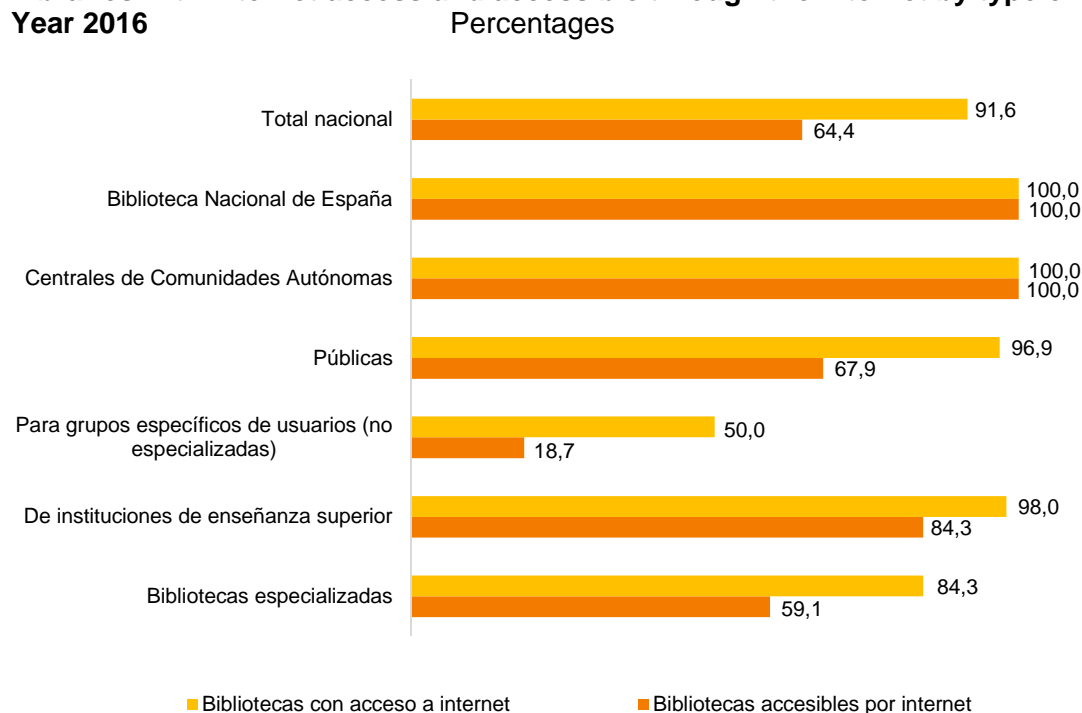
62.7% of libraries offered their catalogues on-line (compared to 58.2% in 2014). 39.7% offered their stock (37.1% in 2014).

The way of accessing libraries via the Internet was mostly free (90.0% versus 10.0% restricted).

By type of library, 100% of Autonomous Community libraries were accessible via the internet, 84.3% in the case of libraries of higher education institutions and 67.9% for public libraries.

By Autonomous Community, the highest percentages of Internet-accessible libraries were located in Principado de Asturias (88.3%), Comunidad Foral de Navarra (81.4%) and Región de Murcia (81.3%).

Libraries with internet access and accessible through the internet by type of library. Year 2016 Percentages

Type	Bibliotecas con acceso a internet	Bibliotecas accesibles por internet
Total nacional	91,6	64,4
Biblioteca Nacional de España	100,0	100,0
Centrales de Comunidades Autónomas	100,0	100,0
Públicas	96,9	67,9
Para grupos específicos de usuarios (no especializadas)	50,0	18,7
De instituciones de enseñanza superior	98,0	84,3
Bibliotecas especializadas	84,3	59,1

■ Bibliotecas con acceso a internet   ■ Bibliotecas accesibles por internet

Número de bibliotecas y servicios de internet de los que disponen por comunidades y ciudades autónomas. Año 2016

	Bibliotecas (Unidades Administrativas)	Bibliotecas que tienen acceso a internet %	Bibliotecas que ofrecen Wifi a los usuarios %	Bibliotecas accesibles por internet (*) %
Total nacional	6.636	91,6	73,5	64,4
Andalucía	988	89,0	70,6	66,5
Aragón	324	91,4	70,1	44,4
Asturias, Principado de	163	94,5	61,3	88,3
Balears, Illes	146	95,9	84,2	76,7
Canarias	185	91,4	77,8	70,3
Cantabria	100	92,0	70,0	60,0
Castilla y León	523	86,8	63,7	63,1
Castilla-La Mancha	565	92,6	79,3	69,2
Cataluña	858	97,1	81,6	79,1
Comunidad Valenciana	598	92,3	79,4	60,2
Extremadura	483	96,3	85,1	14,5
Galicia	486	87,2	72,2	64,4
Madrid, Comunidad de	566	88,7	61,0	66,6
Murcia, Región de	112	91,1	71,4	81,3
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	129	91,5	69,0	81,4
País Vasco	318	95,6	73,0	81,1
Rioja, La	68	85,3	60,3	61,8
Ceuta	15	53,3	33,3	33,3
Melilla	9	66,7	44,4	66,7

Nota: Se considera una biblioteca accesible por internet cuando se pueda acceder a su catálogo y/o fondos a través de una página web (propia o de la red o entidad con la que está vinculada)

Library equipment

In general, the number of libraries with automated functions increased. Thus, automated cataloguing was available in 78.4% of them, automated loans in 66.9% and the on-line public access catalogue (OPAC) in 59.8%.

The number of copies in the automated catalogue grew by 4.6% up to 183.95 million records. Of these, 79.12 million belonged to public libraries.

46.0% of the libraries had consultation services for audiovisual documents in the room, 37.8% for audio documents, 27.5% for databases and applications and 17.6% for electronic books.

Almost all of the libraries (97.7%) had computers for their internal management and 80.8% for public use. In general, the libraries had a total 86,355 computers, 3.0% more than in 2014.

The number of readers/players of image and audio in the libraries increased by 4.8% to 48,120. 48.5% of the libraries were provided with image equipment and 43.0% with sound equipment.

The percentage of libraries with printers decreased by 1.2% (the number of units decreased by 6.6%). On the contrary, the proportion of libraries with scanners increased by 1.9% (the number of units grew by 2.7%).

Staff and infrastructure

In 2016, the staff of Spanish libraries was made up of 24,841 permanent employees (equivalent to 20,747 full-time employees) and 3,793 collaborators in the form of interns and volunteers (equivalent to 1,527 full-time employees).

Permanent staff decreased by 1.0% compared to 2014. On the contrary, collaborating staff in the service of libraries not included in the establishment plan increased by 0.7%, partly due to the 3.7% increase of volunteers.

Access to library rooms was mostly free (78.7%).

47.2% of libraries had public opening hours between 20 and 40 hours per week.

32.9% of the libraries had a total usable area of 100 to 249 m^2. 41.3% had library use area of less than 100 m^2.

Almost half of the libraries (47.0%) had a number of consultation areas that ranged between 10 and 49.

Methodological note

The National Institute of Statistics carried out the Libraries Statistics since 1959. This statistic is based on the UNESCO recommendations on definitions and classifications appearing in the Recommendation concerning the International Standardization of Library Statistics approved by the UNESCO General Conference at its sixteenth session in 1970. Since 1986 it has been developing on a biennial basis. As of 2002, some changes have been introduced, such as the use of a new definition of library based on the ISO Standard 2789, the establishment of a new classification of library types, and further research on the implementation of information and communication technologies in libraries.

The statistics provide information on both the activity (stock, visitors, loans, etc.) and the structural features of the libraries (type, funding, means of access,…), measure the biennial variations that occur in their activity, the sources of funding and facilitate international comparability, which is carried out through the completion of the questionnaires of international organisations (UNESCO, EUROSTAT, IFLA).

The research covers all existing libraries in Spain, with the exception of school and private libraries whose use is not permitted to the public even under special conditions. It includes the categories of national libraries, central Autonomous Community libraries, public libraries for specific user groups (non-specialised), libraries of higher education institutions and specialised institutions.

The reference period for the statistics is the calendar year, although for certain features their status as at 31 December of the year under investigation is requested. A web page has been set up to enable its completion via the Internet.

The unit of analysis is the library, whose definition according to the ISO Regulation 2789 is "any organisation or part of an organisation, whose main purpose is to gather and maintain an organised collection of documents and facilitate the use of information resources in order to meet the informational, research, educational, cultural or recreational needs of users".

For statistical purposes, a library is considered to be an administrative unit, that is, any independent library or group of libraries that have the same address or a single administration; and a point of service is considered to be any library that provides services to users in separate premises, whether it is independent or part of a group of libraries that comprise an administrative unit.