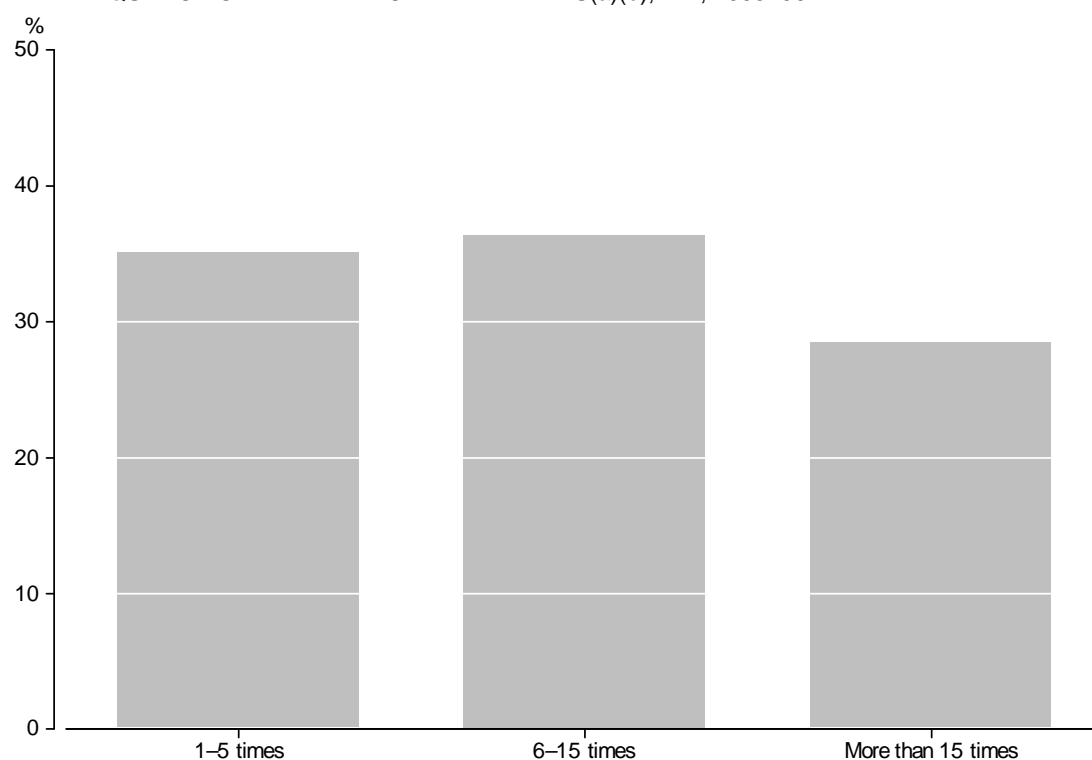

11. Libraries

Libraries provide a range of services to the community, offering information to the public, providing access to literature as a cultural resource, and facilities such as the Internet.

ATTENDANCE AT LIBRARIES

Libraries were the third most attended cultural venue or event in WA in 2005–06 (see Chapter 1 Attendance and Participation at Cultural Venues and Activities). In the 12 months before interview in 2005–06, 37% of people in WA aged 15 years and over had visited a national, state or local library, compared to 34% nationally. Of those who visited a library, 29% had gone there more than 15 times in the previous year.

11.1 FREQUENCY OF ATTENDANCE AT LIBRARIES(a)(b), WA, 2005–06



(a) Persons aged 15 years or over.

(b) In the 12 months before interview.

Source: ABS, *Survey of Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, 2005–06*, data available on request.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES

The 2003–04 Survey of Public Libraries showed that there were 233 local government libraries in WA at the end of June 2004, which is 16% of all local government libraries in Australia.

Memberships with local government libraries in WA in June 2004 totalled 1.1 million, however 42% (465,000) of these had not used the library services during the previous 12 months.

Holdings and Loans

At the end of June 2004, local government libraries in WA had 3.8 million items of stock including 3.2 million books for loan (82%); 571,900 items of other material for loan (15%); and 118,500 items of non-lending stock (3%).

On average, each book held as lending stock was loaned 4.3 times during 2003–04, and each item of other material was loaned 5.7 times during 2003–04.

Technology

In June 2004, there were 537 Internet workstations for public use in local government libraries in WA, which averaged to 2 workstations per location in WA.

Employment

There were 1,341 persons employed in local government libraries in WA at the end of June 2004. Females accounted for 89% (1,195) of all employees.

The April 2004 ABS Work in Selected Culture and Leisure Activities Survey, showed that 10,900 people in WA had a work involvement (i.e. paid or unpaid work) in libraries or archives in the 12 months before interview.

Financial Data

In 2003–04, local government libraries in WA received income of \$60m, with government funding accounting for 98% (\$59m). Expenses totalled \$57m, of which almost 60% (\$33m) was for wages and salaries.

11.2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES, Selected characteristics, WA and Australia, 2003–04

		WA	Australia	Percentage in WA(a) %
Locations				
Branches	no.	233	1 418	16.4
Mobile services	no.	np	110	np
Deposit stations	no.	np	189	np
Visits	'000	9 573	99 622	9.6
Memberships at end June 2004	'000	1 101	10 135	10.9
Holdings at end June 2004				
Lending stock				
Books	'000	3 154.9	34 280.2	9.2
Other	'000	571.9	4 704.3	12.2
<i>Total</i>	'000	3 726.8	38 984.5	9.6
Non-lending stock	'000	118.5	2 511.8	4.7
Total holdings	'000	3 845.3	41 496.3	9.3
Loans during 2003–04				
Books	'000	13 435.0	138 202.7	9.7
Other	'000	3 241.9	37 981.5	8.5
<i>Total</i>	'000	16 676.9	176 184.1	9.5
Internet workstations for public use	no.	*537	4 638	*11.6
Internet workstations for public use per location	no.	2	3	na
Employees				
Full-time	no.	466	4 472	10.4
Part-time	no.	598	3 444	17.4
Casual	no.	*277	2 691	*10.3
<i>Total</i>	no.	1 341	10 606	12.6
Income				
Government funding(b)	\$m	58.7	521.8	11.2
Income from services to clients	\$m	np	18.3	np
Other income	\$m	np	5.0	np
<i>Total</i>	\$m	60.2	545.2	11.0
Expenses				
Wages and salaries	\$m	33.4	302.5	11.0
Current purchases	\$m	2.5	47.8	5.2
Other	\$m	np	194.9	np
<i>Total</i>	\$m	56.5	545.2	10.4

np not available for publication

na not applicable

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) According to the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, 9.9% of Australia's population lived in Western Australia in August 2006.

(b) Excludes capital funding.

Source: ABS, *Public Libraries, Australia, 2003–04* (cat. no. 8561.0).