

# FAST FACTS

*Recent Statistics from The Library Research Service*

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## Selected Policies and Practices of School Library Media Programs in Colorado, 1997

The 1997 Survey of School Library Media Centers (LMCs) in Colorado included, for the first time, items about a variety of issues including: LMC development plans, the Colorado **Information Literacy Guidelines**, policies on materials selection and challenges, and the relationship of the school library media center to the local public library.

### LMC Development Plan

- Seven out of ten LMCs report having a plan for the development of the library media program.



### Information Literacy

- Eight out of ten LMCs use the Colorado **Information Literacy Guidelines**.
- Of that group, two out of three use them as part of an integrated curriculum, while the remaining third use them with the library media program alone.

### Materials Selection & Challenges



- Four out of five Colorado LMCs have materials selection policies to guide the development of their collections.
- Statewide, nine out of ten LMCs have a policy for handling challenges or reconsiderations of items selected for the library media collection. (Only eight out of ten public libraries in the state have such policies.)
- Twelve percent of the state's LMCs report having dealt with one or more challenges or reconsiderations during the past year. (Fifteen percent of the state's public libraries dealt with challenges last year.)



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### **The LMC and the Public Library**

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Relationships between LMCs and their public libraries are common, but informal in nature. Three out of four LMCs reported informal links. Only one in ten reported no link with the local public library.

LMCs report many different types of interaction with their public libraries:

- 49 percent refer difficult questions to their public library reference desks,
- 41 percent participate in summer reading programs that occur at their public libraries,
- 28 percent are linked to their public library catalogs, 21 percent receive bulk loans of public library books and other materials,
- 17 percent provide homework alerts to their public libraries, and
- 10 percent invite public librarians in to present book talks.

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These figures are based on 236 questionnaires returned from a 300 school sample (a 79 percent response rate) representing all public schools in the state. For complete results of the survey, see **Statistics and Input-Output Measures for School Library Media Centers in Colorado 1997** (forthcoming in November 1997).

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### **Update**

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Many readers have asked how soon **FAST FACTS** will be available via the World Wide Web. The LRS Web Site is still being developed, but should be making its debut in early 1998. **FAST FACTS** will be available from it in .pdf format. In the meantime, if anyone would like to receive the Microsoft Word for Windows95 version as an e-mail attachment, just let us know. Contact Louise S. Conner, LRS Administrative Assistant, at <Conner\_L@cde.state.co.us>.