

# FAST FACTS

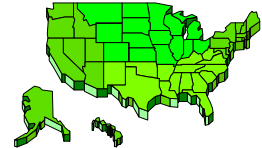
*Recent Statistics from The Library Research Service*

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## School Library Media Programs in Colorado Typical of Nation, 1995-96



Recently released national statistics on school library media (LM) programs for the 1995-96 school year suggest that LM programs in Colorado are fairly typical of the nation. In their biennial survey for *School Library Journal*, Miller and Shontz report figures on five topics for which comparable state data are available. Those topics are: staffing, spending, holdings, technology, and planning time.

- | How Colorado Stands Out |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| ■                       | Elementary and combined schools less likely to have LM specialists. |
| ■                       | Elementary and middle schools not as well funded.                   |
| ■                       | More likely to have fax capability and computers with modems.       |
| ■                       | LM specialists spend a third less time planning with teachers.      |

### Library Media Specialists



Miller and Shontz ask simply how many library media specialists (LMSs) there are in the school. (They do not ask about staffing in terms of full-time equivalents.) Accordingly, they report that it is typical for there to be one LMS per school, regardless of level. This is one of the few respects in which Colorado is atypical of the nation: LMSs are not commonly found at every school level. Almost three out of five Colorado elementary schools and almost two out of three of the state's combined schools do not have an LMS—even on a part-time basis.

### Sources

- Keith Curry Lance and Marti A. Cox, **Statistics and Input-Output Measures for School Library Media Centers in Colorado, 1996** (Denver: Library Research Service, 1996).
- Marilyn L. Miller and Marilyn L. Shontz, Small Change: Expenditures for Resources in School Library Media Centers, FY 1995-96, **School Library Journal**, October 1997, pp. 28-37.

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Keith Curry Lance ■ Director ■ Library Research Service  
State Library & Adult Education Office ■ Colorado Department of Education  
Library & Information Services Department ■ University College ■ University of Denver  
201 East Colfax Avenue, Suite 309 ■ Denver, Colorado 80203-1799  
Voice 303.866.6737 ■ Fax 303.866.6940 ■ E-mail <lance\_k@cde.state.co.us>

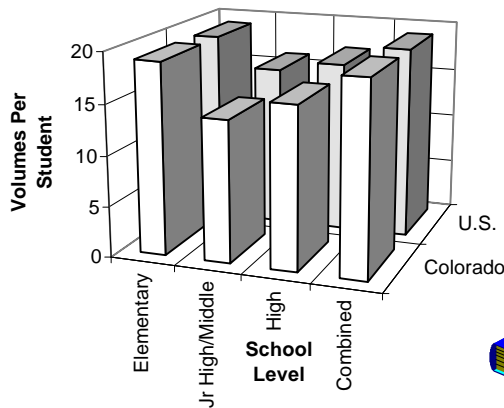
## Library Media Expenditures

Per student spending on library media collections varies dramatically from one school level to another. While Colorado's high schools and combined schools exceed the national norms, its elementary and middle schools fall short.



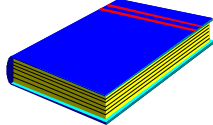
## Library Media

Volumes Held Per Student, 1995-96



## Collections

Per student holdings in LM collections vary by school level, but are remarkably similar for Colorado and the U.S.



Library Media Expenditures Per Student, Colorado & U.S., 1995-96

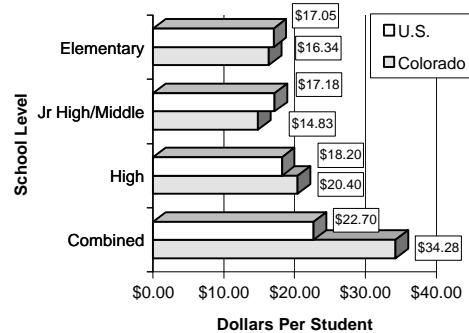


Table 1  
Library Media Collection Ratios, Colorado & U.S., 1995-96

Collection statistic	School Level							
	Elementary		Jr High/Middle		High		Combined	
	Colorado	U.S.	Colorado	U.S.	Colorado	U.S.	Colorado	U.S.
Volumes per student	19	19	14	16	16	17	19	19
Videos per 100 students	25	25	20	26	29	31	39	35
Software per 100 students	7	7	4	4	2	2	4	5

## Library Media Technology

While Colorado LM programs are typical of their peers nationwide in their use of some technologies, they are more likely to have computers with modems and fax capabilities.



Table 2  
Percentages of Library Media Programs Reporting Use of Selected Technologies, Colorado & U.S., 1995-96

Technology	Colorado	U.S.
Telephone in LMC	85%	85%
Computer with modem	74%	65%
Online catalog	74%	60%
Web access	49%	49%
Fax capability	31%	19%

## Library Media Specialist/Teacher Planning Time

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On the average, Colorado library media programs report that library media specialists (LMSs) spend 2.1 hours per week in cooperative planning with classroom teachers. Miller and Shontz asked LM programs nationwide to report such hours, but sub-divided it into formal and informal categories—a distinction not made in Colorado. Nationally, the average for formal planning hours per week was 1.1; but, an additional 2.3 informal hours were also reported, for a total of 3.4 planning hours per week. Which of these national figures should be compared to the Colorado figure is debatable.

