

# FAST FACTS

Recent Statistics from the  
Library Research Service

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## Earnings of Library Staff in the Mountain West Low Compared to Workers in Similar Jobs



**Table 1. Average Hourly Earnings for Librarians and Selected Other Professional & Technical Occupations, Mountain Region, 2000.**

Occupation	Average hourly earnings
Public relations specialist	\$40.27
Personnel/labor relations manager	\$36.81
College or university teacher	\$34.74
Education administrator	\$28.20
Public administrator	\$27.12
Purchasing agent or buyer	\$26.61
Secondary school teacher	\$26.27
Elementary school teacher	\$25.36
Computer science teacher	\$25.17
Computer programmer	\$23.98
Computer systems analyst	\$23.20
Vocational/educational counselor	\$21.82
Sales, business services	\$21.74
Manager, service organization	\$20.98
Pre/kindergarten teacher	\$18.89
<b>Librarian</b>	<b>\$17.76</b>

Consider the average hourly earnings of those in some of the other professional and technical fields most closely akin to librarianship. (See Table 1.)



Likewise, library support staff—clerks, pages, and shelvers—appear to be equally poorly paid compared to similar administrative support occupations. (See Table 2.)

Source: **National Compensation Survey**, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Available at: <http://stats.bls.gov/ncs/home.htm>

“Nobody goes into library science to make money.”  
Nobody knows the truth of this truism better than a library staff member on payday.

Professional librarians are required to earn master’s degrees in library and information science. Yet, librarians earn much less than many others in professional and technical fields that do not require such high educational qualifications (e.g., purchasing agents, elementary and secondary school teachers, managers of service organizations).

**Table 2. Average Hourly Earnings for Library Clerks and Selected Other Administrative Support Occupations, Mountain Region, 2000.**

Occupation	Average hourly earnings
Computer operator	\$15.91
Eligibility clerk, social welfare	\$15.56
Meter reader	\$14.51
Traffic, shipping & receiving clerk	\$14.05
Bill or account collector	\$12.18
Typist	\$12.51
Payroll and timekeeping clerk	\$12.48
Dispatcher	\$12.18
Records clerk	\$12.02
Bookkeeper	\$11.95
Material recording, scheduling & distribution clerk	\$11.64
Stock or inventory clerk	\$11.47
Interviewer	\$11.09
Order clerk	\$10.99
<b>Library clerk</b>	<b>\$10.96</b>
Mail clerk	\$10.18

### CONTACT ABOUT THIS ISSUE

Keith Curry Lance, Director - Library Research Service  
201 East Colfax Avenue, Suite 309  
Denver, Colorado 80203-1799  
Tel.: 303.866.6737 - Fax: 303.866.6940  
E-mail: [keithlance@earthlink.net](mailto:keithlance@earthlink.net)