

NATIONAL AVERAGES OUTSTRIP COLORADO PUBLIC LIBRARIAN SALARIES

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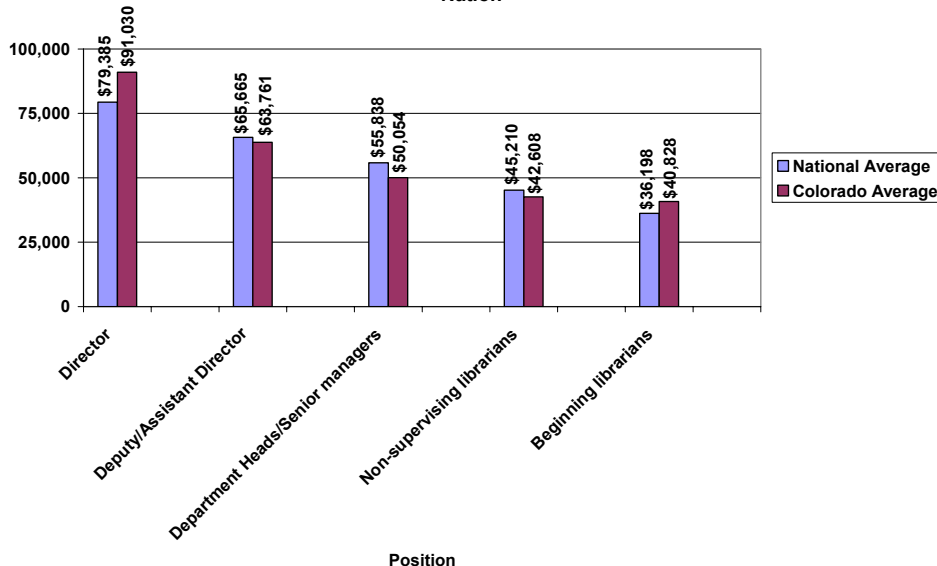
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Gains in librarian salaries at Colorado's larger public libraries (i.e., those serving populations of 25,000 or more) have lagged behind salary gains for their counterparts nationally over the last two years. Colorado's public librarians also earn less than the national average for some types of positions, according to the American Library Association's (ALA) annual salary survey.

The ALA survey found librarian salaries nationwide gained 4.2% from 2001 to 2002 and 3.6% from 2002 to 2003. In Colorado, the average year-to-year gains for public librarians' salaries were 1.1% in 2002 and 3.0% in 2003.

Comparison of average 2003 salaries for several types of positions shows that Colorado's averages for directors and beginning librarians are higher than the national averages reported by ALA. However, Colorado has lower average salaries for assistant directors, senior managers, and non-supervising librarians who comprise the bulk of the professional workforce in public libraries. (See Chart 1.)

Chart 1: Comparison of 2003 Average Librarian Salaries for Colorado and the Nation



Footnote: The ALA survey includes public libraries serving populations over 25,000. The Colorado averages used in this article are also for public libraries serving populations over 25,000. In 2001 and 2002 there were 25 libraries in Colorado serving populations over 25,000. In 2003 Summit County Library joined that group for a total of 26.

Sources:

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