



Texas Public Libraries: Serving Communities to Enhance Digital Literacy
 Survey Question and Responses

Estimates of Current Digital Literacy Current Expenditures

Question: To conduct one part of this project, we are seeking information about the percentage of your operating funds that are spent on digital literacy services. Although we understand it may be difficult to determine, please provide your best estimate for expenditures that could be reasonably allocated to digital literacy staff time, software and curriculum, and equipment used in training. A very rough estimate will be useful to us. Which training curriculums are you or your trainers using for your library's classes and individual help?

Responses from Library Directors

Annual upgrades to computers, UPS, licensing, etc. estimated at \$150K
We are a non-profit organization and operate on limited city & county donations.
Our issue is no space to conduct.
The Library does not have rooms or space for training. There is only one paid employee.
Keeping equipment current and having 100mbps up and down takes most of the technology budget. The high speed really brings people in the library to use our computers and having a professional scanner for documents. We have to look at the entire population and we do not have the funds to meet all needs. We do our best with what we have. There needs to be funds for new hardware and software as well as training.
We have a personnel budget that is separate from our operating budget – our operating budget includes all purchases of databases, tangible items, and supplies.
We barely meet the MOE for accreditation. The main librarian did receive a raise, so it will be better next year. Even with grants, we are lacking in what is really needed in our area. We also provide service to a much larger area than is reported by using our town population.
We are open only twenty hours a week. Budget is already set for year and would not allow for paid training. We already have patron computers available, and software is purchased on as needed bases. Patrons prefers to go 30 miles to bigger city with longer hours of service.
As a small library, I have sought grants to help with our equipment needs. Also, in the past, computers from other City offices have trickled down to the library as those departments replace theirs.
None of our funds are spent on digital literacy services.

We have been extremely lucky to have received grants for most of our computers, we do pay for the software & receive discounted services
Our city doesn't own our computers, our Friends group provides them. The Friends also pay our 20% of the E-rate bill not the city.
We are a City library and most of our equipment comes from our City's general fund and not the library's fund so it might seem that our library does spend a lot on technology, but we actually are provided with equipment and access to our IT staff.
IT costs are in the Information Technology Department's budget and not in the library's budget.

Responses from Branch Managers

Much of what we have in terms of furniture and equipment in the building is easily shareable by those enhancing digital literacy skills and those who are already literate. Additionally, much of the training staff receives goes towards troubleshooting common problems with technology.
After the one-time purchase of equipment virtually no other investment is made in new equipment.
We spend all day everyday helping patrons on the computer, be it a class, one on one or informally as a reference question.
We are a branch library and budgetary allocations are made by System Administration.
The need for wireless headsets if providing exercises for them to engage in. If providing Laptops, a mouse for each laptop would be ideal.