

School Technology Survey

U.S. School Libraries 2012

Methodology:

The survey was emailed to the entire list of SLJ print and e-newsletter subscribers on March 23, 2012. Recipients were encouraged to share the link. An Apple iPad was offered as incentive to reply.

The sample of 1,250 is comprised of U.S. school libraries only; 67% SLJ print subscribers. Data represented in total was weighted to reflect the breakdown of elementary, middle and high schools nationwide.

Technology Usage

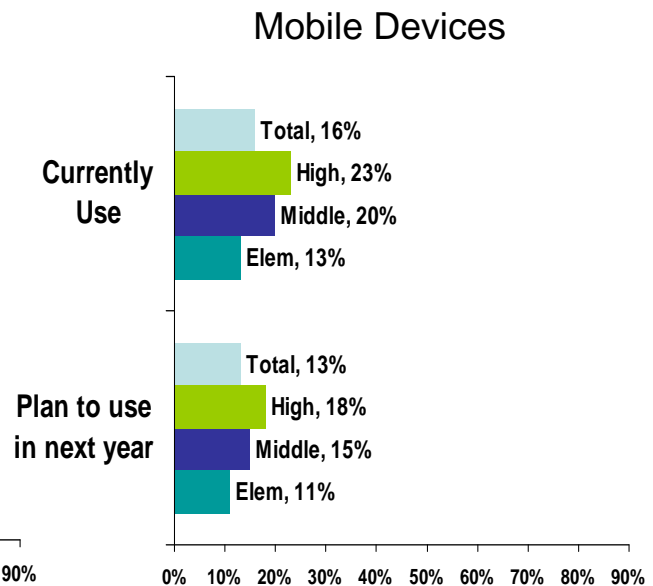
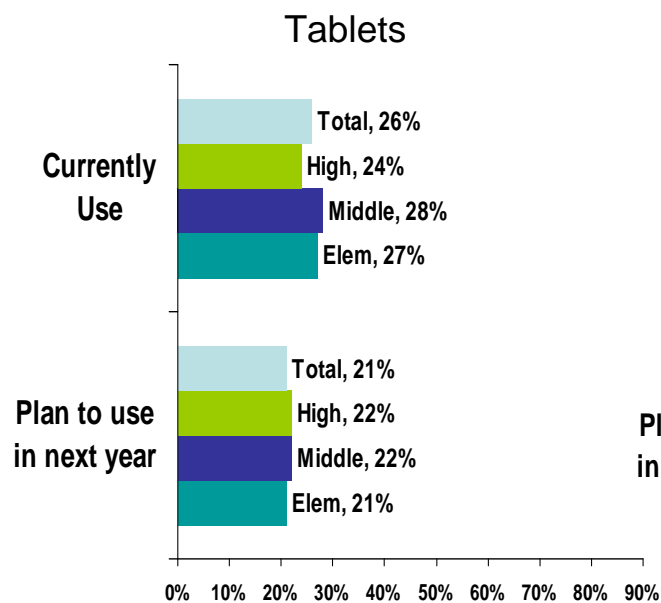
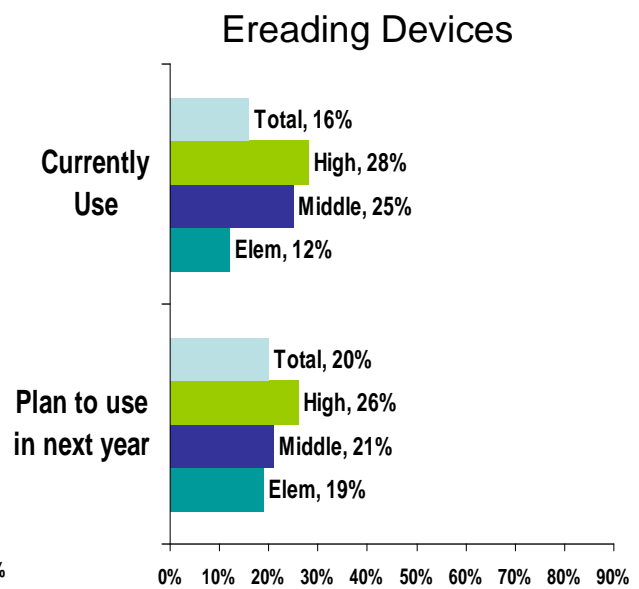
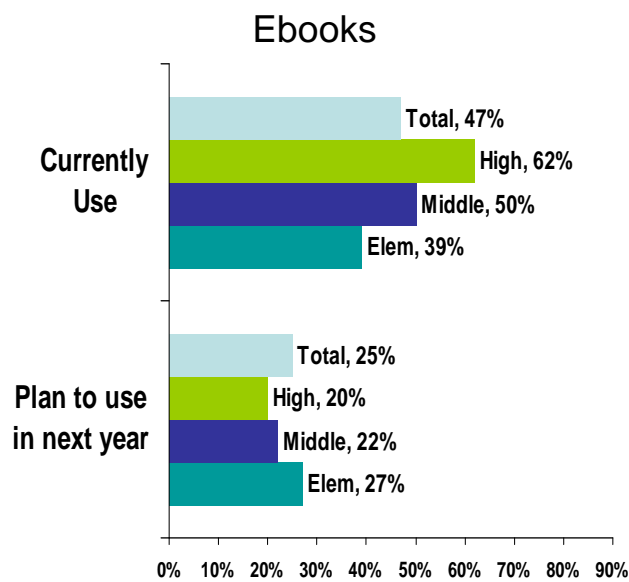
- The top technologies librarians currently use with students and teachers are free web-based resources, video equipment/software, digital subscriptions, interactive whiteboards and photography equipment/software.
- The technologies that are expected to increase in usage the most next year are ebooks, tablets, ereading devices, and apps.
- Free web-based resources and ebooks greatly expanded in usage since 2011. The top free resources mentioned in an open-ended question were Glogster, Animoto, Prezi, Google Docs, Wordle, Edmodo, and Easybib.

	Used in 2011*	Currently Use	Plan to Use within next Year
Free web-based resources	42%	78%	4%
Video equipment/software	74%	66%	4%
Digital subscriptions	54%	62%	5%
Interactive whiteboards	51%	66%	4%
Photography equipment/software	68%	52%	4%
Ebooks	31%	47%	25% (1)
Other web-based tools (e.g., Glogster)	45%	36%	10%
Blogs	35%	29%	15%
Games	29%	37%	3%
Wikis	31%	28%	10%
1-to-1 computing	21%	27%	4%
Apps	11%	25%	16% (4)
Tablets	10%	26%	21% (2)
Podcasting/audio	n/a	22%	11%
Open source technology	28%	21%	4%
Ereading devices	9%	16%	20% (3)
Social applications	14%	16%	7%
Mobile devices	12%	16%	13%
Online communities	19%	11%	8%

*Data Source: 2011 SLJ School Technology Survey

Ebook and Device Usage by type of library

- Ebooks top the list of technologies planned for use next year. Elementaries are especially interested.
- Ereaders are hot: The percentage of school libraries planning to add ereading devices is higher than the percentage that currently offers them.
- Tablets are slightly more likely to be found in middle and elementary schools than high schools. Private schools are considerably more likely to use tablets (41%) than public schools (25%).
- Usage of mobile devices in school, especially in middle and high school, is growing.



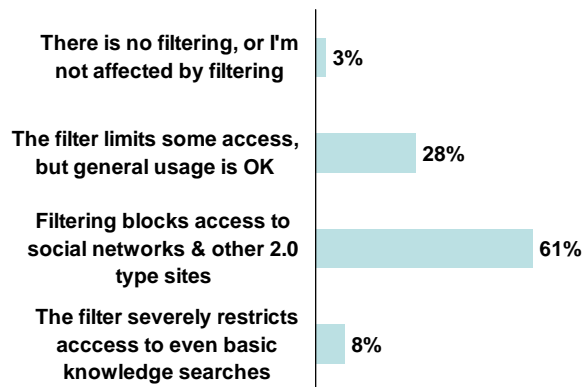
Bandwidth and Filtering

Bandwidth: Three-quarters of schools (73%) feel they have adequate bandwidth to meet their current needs. High schools are most likely to complain about bandwidth (Only 64% have adequate bandwidth).

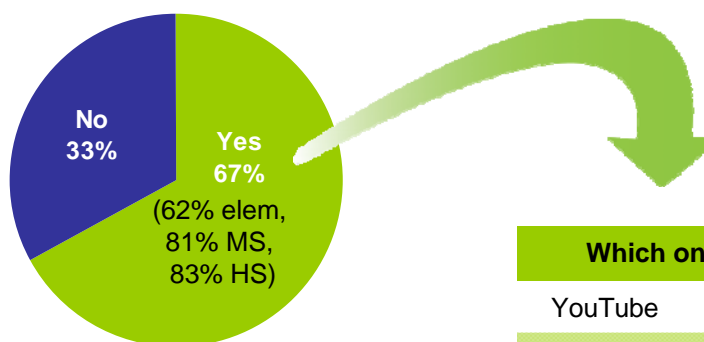
Filtering: Almost all schools (97%) have Internet filtering in place. Only 8% say the filter is severely restrictive (11% of high schools).

Two-thirds (67%) have attempted to have at least one website unblocked, most commonly YouTube. They have had the most success getting YouTube and blogging sites unblocked. Success rates do not vary by school level.

Describe Internet filtering at your school:



Ever tried to have a site unblocked?



Which ones?	Successful?
YouTube	59% Yes: 69%
Blogging site	29% Yes: 66%
Facebook	17% Yes: 36%
Twitter	10% Yes: 30%
Other	50% Yes: 79%

What, if anything, would you change about your school's filtering policy?

"I'd get rid of it entirely; the kids know how to get around it. I'd rather just continue teaching what is a good v. not good website and correcting them when I find them on facebook or shopping for prom dresses!"
– HS librarian

"It's pretty safe for younger kids... Too restrictive for older. We need to teach older kids safer methods and reasons to avoid rather than arbitrarily restrict" – K-8 librarian

"It blocks searches with the word "teen" - go figure for a middle school! "Teen health" "Teen pregnancy" etc. We creatively get around it, usually." – MS librarian

"Allow teachers to override the blocking themselves rather than have to wait for tech staff to do it, usually the following day." - Middle/High School Librarian

"I would try to use a filter that would allow students to look up images except for pornography. Right now, they have access to virtually zero ." – MS librarian

"Our filtering policy is holding our kids back." – HS librarian

"They took a "medium" list and just went with that. I wish they had taken a lower filter level then blocked what was requested." - Elem/MS libran

"Have a larger committee to figure out what is appropriate. Right now I think only a couple of people are in charge." – MS librarian

"I think the filtering policy is okay. We use Edmodo in place of Facebook." K-8 librarian

"It's fine the way it is. It protects students, but also allows teachers to request that sites be unblocked." – MS librarian

"It hasn't been a problem. Kids would be on Facebook all day if it wasn't blocked. This way they know it is not a legitimate site to go on at school." – High school librarian

"I am happy with the current filtering policy. There are ample resources on the Internet to find alternative sources." – HS librarian

"I wouldn't change my school's filtering policy, but I would change my district's policy on social media. Unfortunately, I feel that there are not enough protections in place for the librarian or teacher when kids go outside of the scope of project and get into trouble. In other words, even though I supervise, and have engaging lessons, in my school there is always one or two students in a class that find a way around the filters and get into inappropriate content. I worry about my liability - even with signed acceptable use policies."
Elem/MS librarian

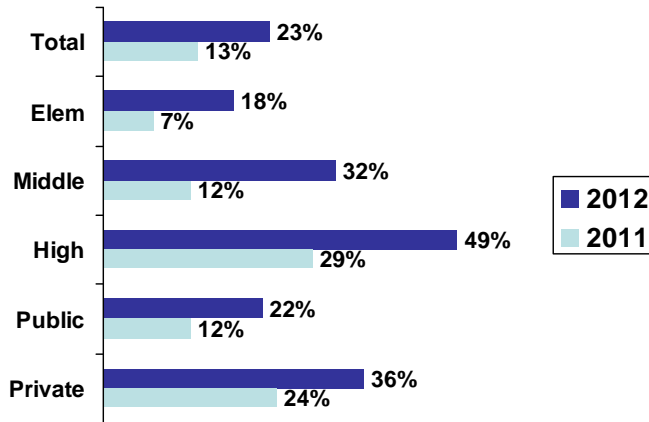
"Nothing. I am perfectly able to fulfill my chore mission of providing students and staff with authoritative, credible information despite the filter."
– HS librarian

Mobile Devices

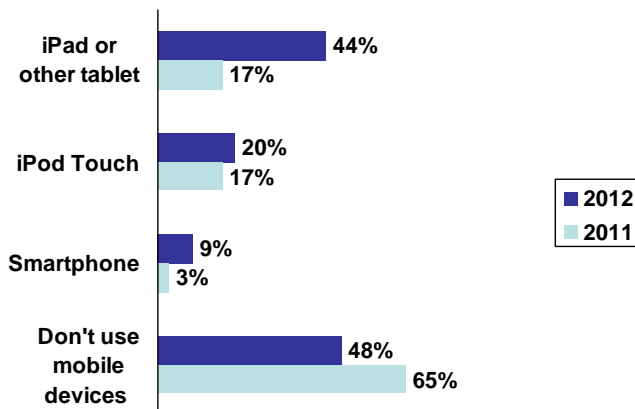
- Librarians estimate that 37% of U.S. students have access to a personal mobile device. Access for elementary school children has increased the most in the last year (from 24% to 30%).
- The percentage of schools allowing for mobile device usage during school hours has increased from 13% in 2011 to 23% in 2012. In high schools, the percentage rose from 29% to 49%.
- Half of U.S. schools (52%) use mobile devices for some form of instruction, with tablets exploding in popularity.

Percent of student body estimated to have a personal mobile device (e.g. smartphone, iPod Touch, iPad or other tablet)						
	All schools	Elementary school	Middle/Jr. High school	High school	Public school	Private school
2012	37%	30%	50%	62%	45%	58%
2011	36%	24%	54%	62%	33%	53%

Percent of schools where students are allowed to use personal mobile devices during school hours:



Which mobile devices are currently used in your school for any type of instruction?

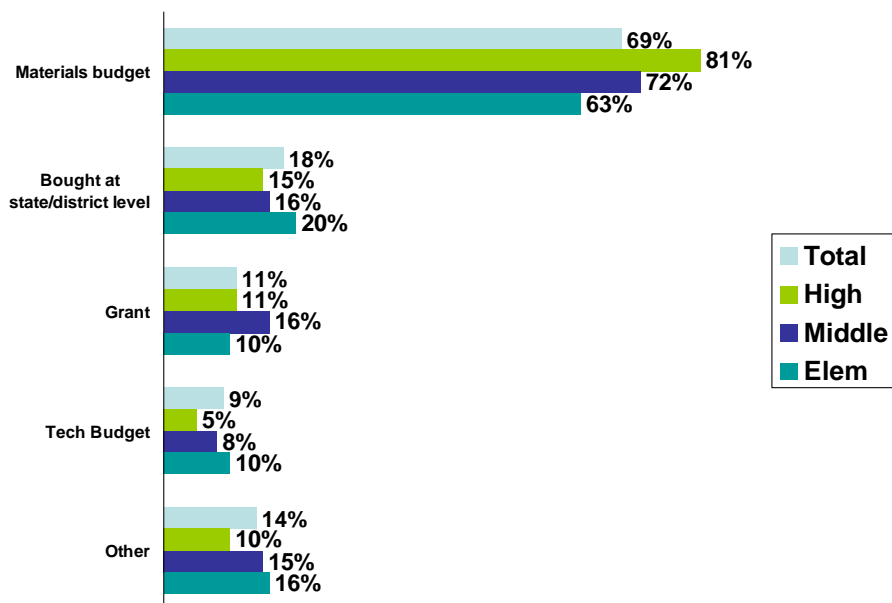


Ebooks

- 47% of school libraries currently have access to ebooks (up from 36% in 2011). The average number of ebooks available is 265. (Do not have this info from 2011 study for comparison).
- Circulating ebooks are more prevalent than non-circulating titles: 3-to-1 in elementary schools, 2-to-1 in middle schools and almost half and half in high school.
- Insufficient funds and lack of ereading devices are the top obstacles preventing school librarians from starting an ebook collection. The logistics of ebooks also stymies 55% of librarians (no chart/table shown).
- 11% of school librarians fund their ebooks with special grants, but most (69%) tap into their materials budgets.

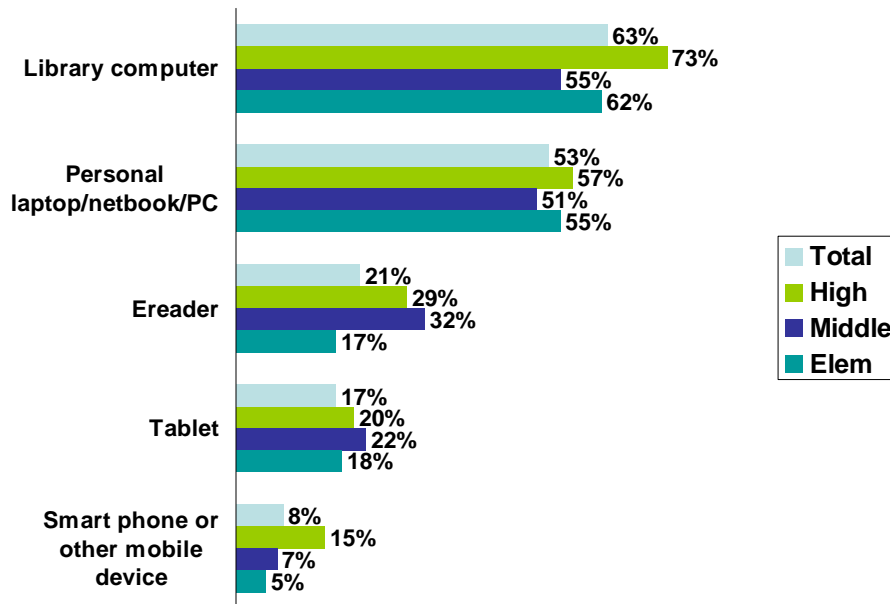
Percent of schools with ebooks				
	All schools	Elementary school	Middle/Jr. High school	High school
Currently have ebooks	47%	39%	50%	67%
Avg # ebooks available:	265	142	155	438
% reference/non-circulating	31%	25%	34%	45%
% circulating	69%	75%	66%	55%

Ebook Funding Sources

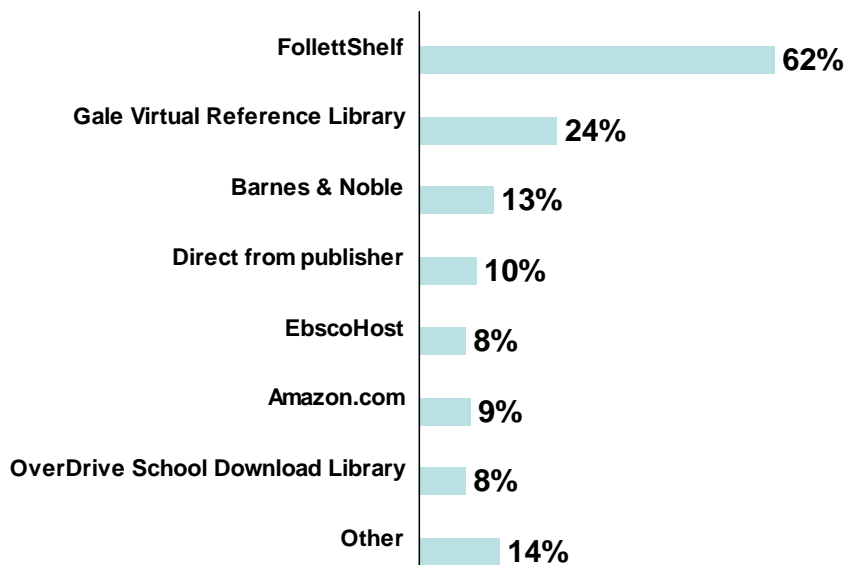


- Most students still use library computers or a personal laptop/PC to read ebooks, especially high school students (likely non-circulating ebooks used for class research). Middle schoolers are the most likely to read on a dedicated e-reader.
- FollettShelf is the most popular ebook provider, used by 62% of school libraries. Gale Virtual Reference Library is a distant second among the lower grades, but is almost as popular as Follett in high schools

Devices Used to Read Ebooks



Ebook Providers Currently Using

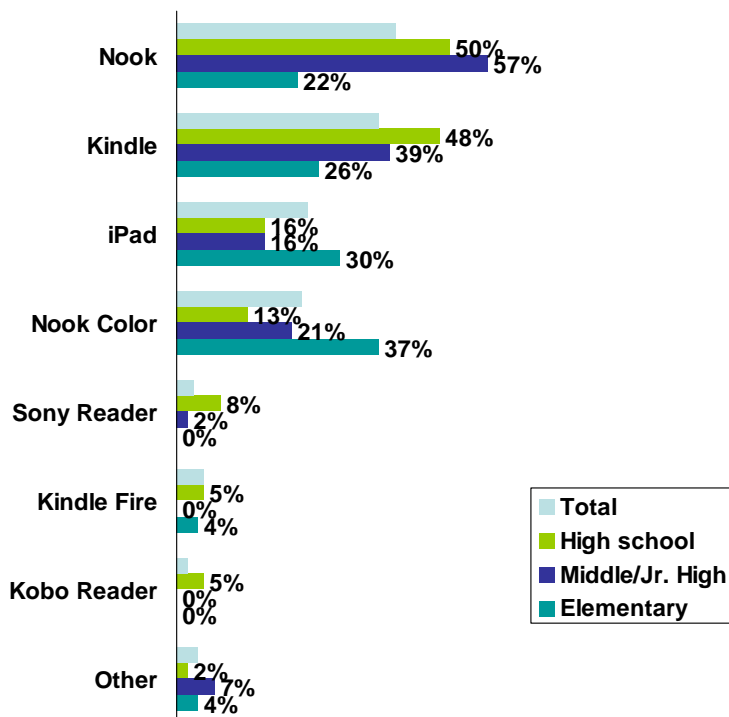


Dedicated Ereading Devices

- Nearly one-quarter (23%) of schools with ebooks offer dedicated ereaders to read them on. Urban and rural school libraries are more likely to offer them.
- The average number of devices on hand is nearly ten.
- Middle school and high school libraries are more apt to circulate their ereaders.
- Nook slightly edges out Kindle as the most popular brand among school libraries. These two brands are used most often in middle and high schools. Devices with a color interface, like the Nook Color and the iPad are more popular in elementary schools.

	All schools	Elementary	Middle/Jr. High	High school	Urban	Suburban	Rural
% with dedicated ereaders	23%	19%	30%	32%	29%	20%	30%
Avg. # devices	9.5	8.4	10.3	11.5	10.4	9.5	8.4
% circulate their devices	47%	22%	66%	78%	50%	44%	48%

Types of Devices Owned by School Libraries



Social Application Usage in School

- Half of school libraries are using at least one social application to support teaching and learning in their schools (48% of elementaries, 58% of middle schools, 63% of high schools).
- The most popular social apps are Edmodo and Google+. Goodreads and Twitter rank high among high schools.
- Sharing information about the library and introducing students to new websites/tools are the top functions of social apps for school librarians.
- Facebook is not a popular communication tool for school libraries. The number of libraries with a Facebook page has decreased from 7% last year to 4% this year.

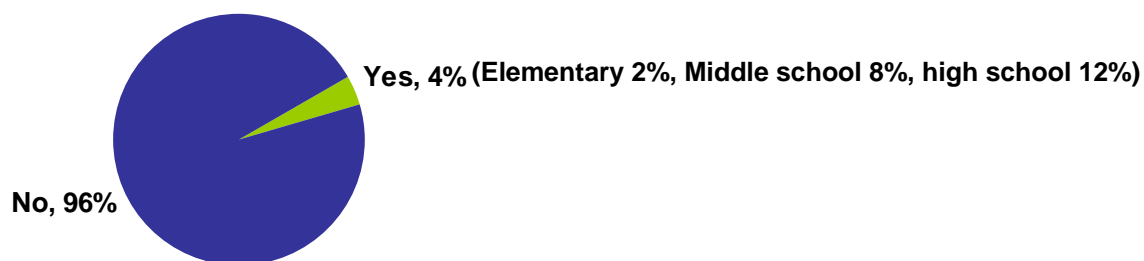
Social Applications Used to Support Teaching & Learning				
	All schools	Elementary	Middle/Jr. High	High school
NET use any	50%	48%	58%	63%
Edmodo	18%	16%	24%	26%
Google +	15%	15%	14%	16%
Delicious	14%	16%	18%	17%
Goodreads	13%	12%	19%	21%
Twitter	12%	11%	16%	21%
Diigo	12%	12%	18%	17%
Flickr	9%	8%	15%	13%
Pinterest	8%	11%	10%	7%
Ning	7%	7%	7%	13%
Facebook	7%	6%	10%	15%



How social applications are used to support teaching and learning				
	All schools	Elementary	Middle/Jr. High	High school
Share information about library	62%	63%	73%	72%
Introduce students to new websites/tools	55%	53%	53%	64%
Share student work	35%	38%	36%	29%
Communicate with students about their projects	31%	25%	37%	36%
Market library's holdings	31%	26%	34%	47%
Communicate with parents	28%	29%	33%	21%
Other	17%	18%	14%	14%

Based on those using social applications for school.

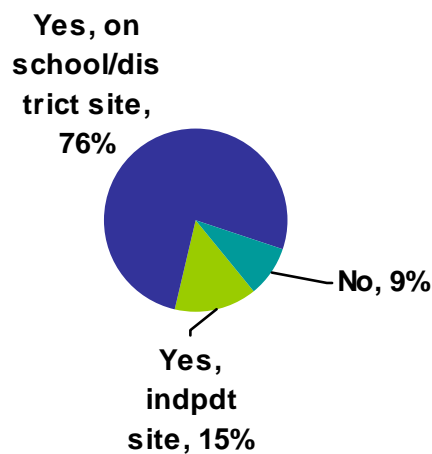
Does your library have its own Facebook page?



Library Website

- Almost every school library (92%) has a website, most often a dedicated library page on the school district's website.
- Fewer than half of school library websites integrate links and tools beyond electronic reference resources and the OPAC. Electronic pathfinders/bibliographies are more common for high school libraries

Does your school library have a website?



Library Website Integrates...				
	All schools	Elementary	Middle/Jr. High	High school
Electronic reference resources	80%	77%	84%	91%
OPAC	80%	79%	82%	85%
Links to teacher's pages	37%	39%	39%	32%
Electronic pathfinders or bibliographies	36%	29%	49%	56%
Link to web-based tools (e.g., Flickr page)	30%	27%	34%	39%
Librarian blog	22%	23%	24%	23%
School or district-wide school repository	19%	17%	18%	24%
Widgets	10%	7%	12%	22%
Distance learning resources	9%	7%	12%	15%
Other	6%	6%	8%	8%

Librarian's Tech Skills: Perception & Responsibilities

- Over half of respondents (55%) feel their technology skills definitely make them more secure in their job. The number is considerably lower in the West.
- Three-quarters of school librarians say that they are viewed as a technology leader in their school. Again, this is a lot lower (54%) in the West.
- 87% of librarians are responsible for technology in their library, but 60% also introduce technology at the classroom level. The tech responsibilities for the 44% that officially serve on their school's tech team are even greater.

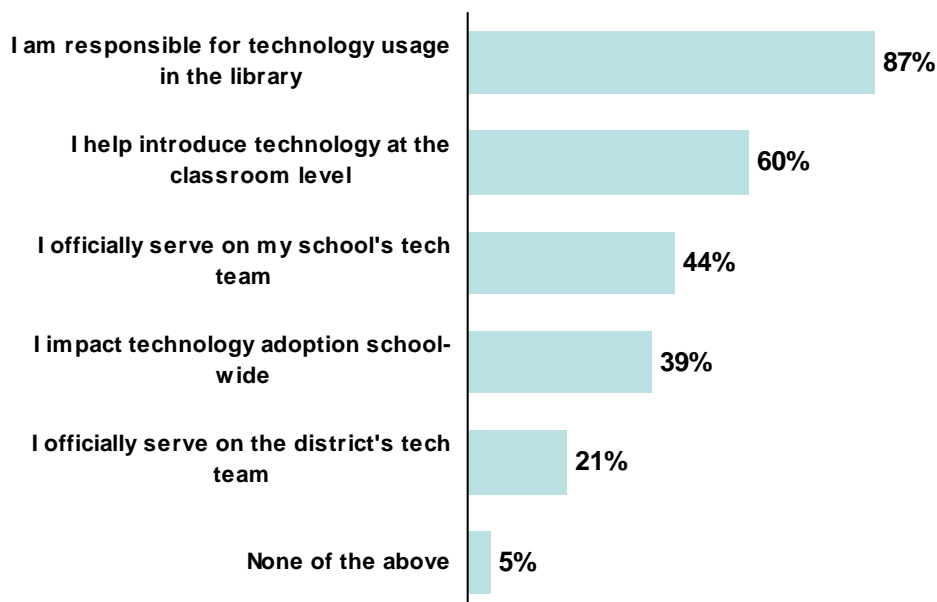
Do you feel your technology skills make you more secure in your job?

	All schools	Elementary	Middle/Jr. High	High school	South	North east	Mid west	West
Definitely	55%	55%	60%	63%	61%	61%	53%	43%
Somewhat	38%	38%	35%	32%	37%	35%	41%	43%
No	7%	7%	5%	5%	3%	5%	6%	14%

Are you viewed as a technology leader in your school?

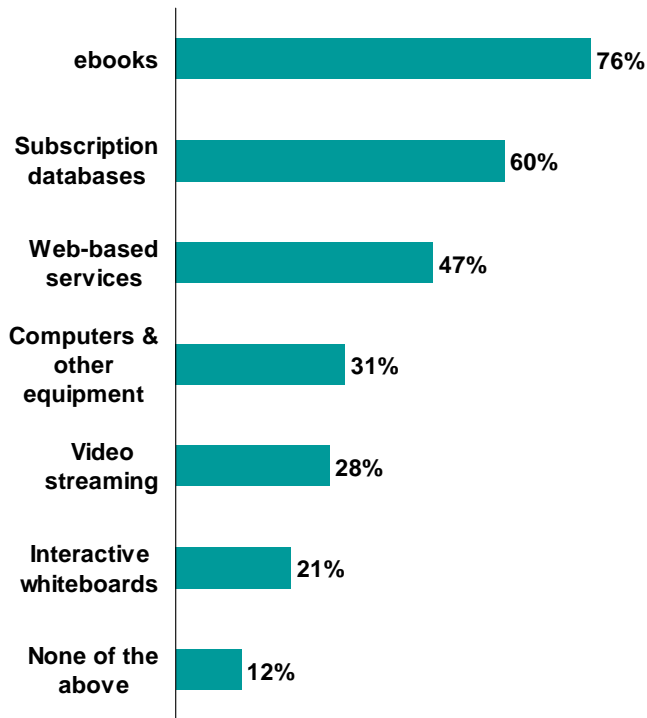
Yes	73%	72%	82%	78%	80%	78%	83%	54%
No	27%	28%	18%	22%	20%	22%	17%	46%

Your involvement in technology usage at your school:



- 88% of school librarians have a say in technology purchase decisions for their school. A third (31%) specify computers and related equipment, and one-in-five (21%) has input on large purchases such as interactive whiteboards for the school.

Responsible for purchasing or recommending the following for their school:



Challenges of Bringing Technology into School or Library*

Time is the #1 answer.

"Time needed to educate myself first, before introducing it to other teachers and students."

"Time to keep up with the 'learning curve'. Technology continues to change rapidly and one must always be adapting, relearning."

"I only have 30 minutes a week with each class and that includes time to check out books. So the biggest challenge is lack to time."

"Getting teachers to 'buy in'."

"Our district does not recognize the value of new trends in education, including communicating with students in a way they can understand, and the value of a shared wiki-like teaching and learning experience."

"No one at Central Office is in charge of the library program, though there is a Head of Tech--but his focus is different and he has said categorically that he doesn't know libraries and doesn't have time to deal with them."

"Lack of School board support to use the newer technologies within the curriculum and lack of support in keeping technology equipment up to date."

"Infrastructure is outdated and not able to handle increase in use."

"District policies restricting internet use because of filtering."

"Currently, 'fidelity to the curriculum' severely limits the amount of time staff and students visit and use the library and its resources. Staff are told what to teach, how to teach it, and when to teach it."

"Teacher training, Still a lot of reluctance by teachers to use/integrate technology, a good number use it superficially."

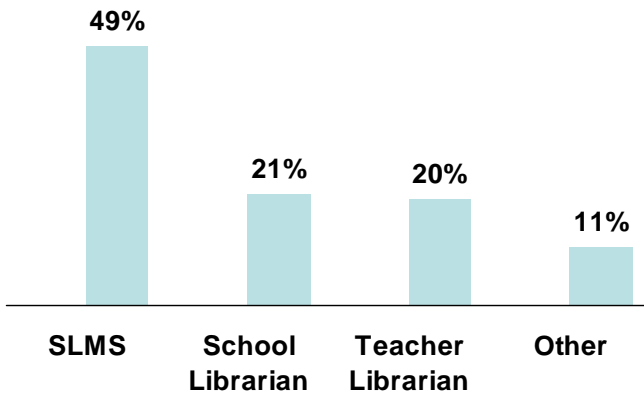
"Convincing others that technology and the library go hand in hand and that its not JUST something that classroom teachers need to deal with/worry about."

"Assuring all students have access to technology"

*Not counting lack of funds.

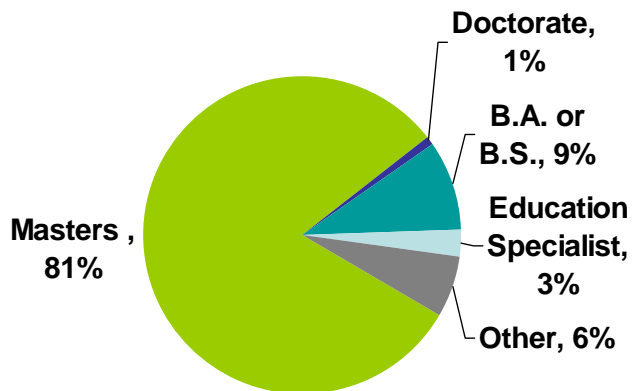
Respondent Profile

Job Title



Average years experience working in a school library: **12**

Education

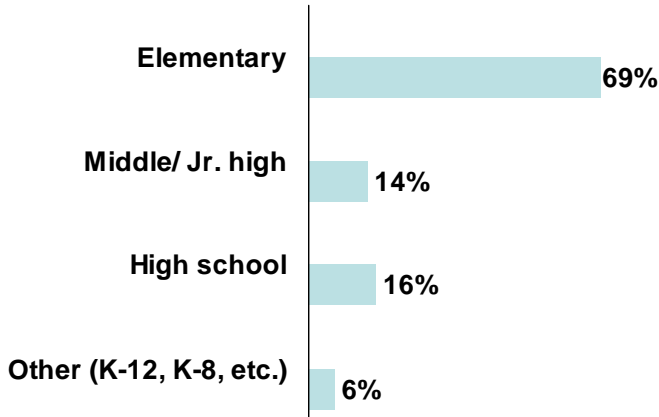


Average respondent age: **50**

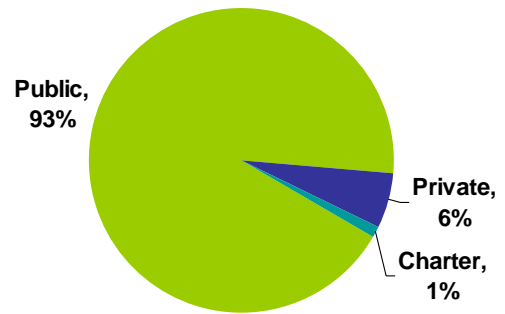
Read SLJ in print: **60%**

School Profile

Grade Levels Served



Public or Private?



	All	Elementary school	Middle/Jr. High school	High school	Public school	Private school
Average enrollment	723	594	792	1,326	745	457
Total budget '11/'12	8,100	6,800	8,900	13,800	7,700	14,600
% Title I	45%	49%	34%	31%	47%	3%
South	33%	30%	33%	30%	33%	30%
Northeast	26%	27%	26%	27%	27%	19%
West/Mnt	24%	25%	18%	21%	23%	31%
Midwest	16%	18%	23%	22%	17%	14%
Urban	22%	23%	20%	21%	20%	52%
Suburban	58%	57%	55%	52%	59%	43%
Rural	20%	20%	25%	27%	21%	5%