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HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN CANADA

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has recently obtained a record of libraries in the main secondary schools of each province, and presents a summary of the findings below. The figures for private schools are kept separate from those for publicly controlled schools.

Publicly Controlled Schools.

The first column of the following table shows the number of schools from which reports are included. They represent the largest schools in each province, but only the technical schools and Protestant high schools in Quebec. The Catholic classical schools have been included in another summary with colleges.

	No. of Schools reported	Enrolment per school	Volume per school	Volumes per pupil	Library expenditure per school, 1931	Library expenditure per pupil 1931	Schools receiving periodicals	Periodicals per school
P. E. I.	3	169	502	2.9	\$ 73	\$ 43	3	9
N. S.	27	-	1,035	-	41	-	22	5
N. B.	16	203	339	1.7	24	08	8	2
Que.	27	-	1,305	-	153	-	21	11
Ont.	124	500	1,598	3.2	171	35	102	9
Man.	21	467	744	1.5	37	08	17	3
Sask.	15	463	758	1.6	86	18	13	6
Alta.	21	-	883	-	49	-	10	3
B. C.	42	446	898	2.0	111	24	36	6

In comparing the figures between provinces it should be noted that the schools are considerably smaller in the Maritimes than in the others where the average enrolment keeps between four and five hundred. This enrolment represents only pupils of high school grade except in such cases as junior high schools where grades seven and eight are also included.

The library expenditure per pupil shows a wide variation as between provinces, varying from 8 cents in Manitoba and New Brunswick to 35 cents in Ontario and 43 cents in Prince Edward Island. The average number of volumes per pupil is about three in the two last mentioned, and from 1.5 to 2.0 in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and British Columbia.

Since the enrolment per school in each province from Quebec westward is much the same it is probably not misleading to compare the number of volumes per school. These are shown, in the table above, to be Ontario 1,598, Quebec Protestant 1,305, British Columbia 898, Alberta 883, Saskatchewan 758, Manitoba 744. The library expenditure per school in these provinces follows the same order except that Alberta and Saskatchewan exchange places.

Well over half of the schools, except in Alberta and New Brunswick, report the receipt of some periodicals regularly. In the six biggest provinces the number per school is: Quebec 11, Ontario 9, Saskatchewan and British Columbia 6, Manitoba and Alberta 3.

Private or Independent Schools.

The same information for private schools as in the foregoing summary for public schools is given below. All private schools doing high school work are included. In the Quebec Catholic section the schools included are those with pupils in the complementary years, i.e. beyond the "sixth year".

	No. of Schools	Enrolment per school	Volumes per school	Volumes per pupil	Library Expenditures per school in 1931	Library expend- iture per pupil in 1931	Schools receiving periodicals	Periodicals per school
P. E. I.	2	217	500	2.3	\$ 75	\$ 36	2	15
N. S.	10	151	982	6.5	47	30	10	9
N. B.	10	108	643	5.9	56	53	8	6
Que.	250	-	1,565	-	60	-	222	9
Ont.	48	177	1,795	10.0	123	73	43	10
Man.	8	101	918	6.9	35	26	5	3
Sask.	19	90	557	7.7	41	35	16	5
Alta.	6	-	629	-	40	-	5	7
B. C.	24	113	858	7.5	65	50	16	5

The average size of the private schools is much smaller than the public, but not so with their libraries. The number of volumes, periodicals, and the amount of library expenditure per pupil are all at a considerably higher level in the private schools. Most of the private schools, of course, are residential institutions, the home as well as school for both pupils and teachers.



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