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Major releases

School libraries and teacher-librarians

2003/04

Just about every elementary and secondary school in Canada had a library in the academic year 2003/04. However, budgets for collections were small and few schools had full-time teacher-librarians, according to a new study.

The study is based on data from the Information and Communications Technologies in Schools Survey, which collected information from elementary and secondary school principals in all provinces and territories. The survey examined whether a library exists, the number of employees by type of position, annual expenses for the collection and sources of funding.

The vast majority of schools, 93.3%, had libraries, but the median expenditure on the physical collection, including books and magazines, was \$2,000 (half of the values are above and half are below this figure). Given current costs, this would cover the purchase of one encyclopaedia series.

The relatively low median expenditures may limit the ability of school libraries to maintain collections that meet student needs in an information-based environment.

Despite a body of international evidence that shows teacher-librarians help improve student achievement, few schools in Canada had a full-time teacher-librarian on staff. On average, each school had 0.25 full-time teacher-librarians.

When spending on the physical collection and on library staffing is compared among the provinces, different patterns emerge.

Alberta and Saskatchewan led the provinces in mean per student library spending. Spending in British Columbia and Manitoba was also above the national average while expenditures in Ontario and Quebec fell below the average.

Prince Edward Island had full-time teacher-librarians in just over one-third of its schools, the highest proportion among provinces. In contrast, 2.0% of schools in Quebec and 3.6% of schools in Alberta had full-time teacher librarians.

The study found there were more library technicians per school than teacher-librarians. Library technicians typically have a two-year community college diploma, but do not have teaching experience and are paid less than teacher-librarians.

Spending for libraries varies by province

In total, schools with libraries spent \$56.2 million on collections development in 2003/04. Collection development includes acquiring books, magazines, and audio-visual and electronic materials.

Median expenditures ranged from \$3,600 in Saskatchewan and \$3,000 in Alberta to \$1,000 in Newfoundland and Labrador and \$1,400 in Nova Scotia.

The study indicated a fairly wide gap in school expenditures on electronic materials (such as CD-ROMs or on-line subscriptions). Overall, schools reported mean expenditures of \$513 in this category in 2003/04.

However, when one considers the median, school expenditures for electronic materials were very small, ranging from zero to \$100 in all provinces. This indicates most schools spent little or no money for such materials.

Sources of library funding also varied from school to school.

Just under 30% of school principals indicated the library received funds from sources other than the school, the school board or district, or the province. The majority of these sources were fundraising activities, including book fairs and donations.

The survey did not collect data on the value of funds by source.

Few teacher-librarians in schools

On average, each school had 0.25 teacher-librarians in 2003/04. However, there was much provincial variation. Prince Edward Island had the highest level of teacher-librarians, 0.56, compared with 0.03 in Quebec and 0.07 in Nova Scotia and Alberta.

Libraries were also staffed to varying degrees by library technicians, teachers who were not librarians, professional librarians and clerical staff. In addition, many principals reported that volunteers operated the library, either solely or with other school staff.

Staffing levels varied significantly between elementary and secondary schools. The levels of teacher-librarians, library technicians and total staff in secondary schools were all roughly twice as high as in elementary schools, a reflection of the larger average student population.

Across Canada, there was a slightly higher average number of library technicians (0.26) than teacher-librarians. Again, staffing varied from province to province.

The provinces with some of the lowest average numbers of teacher-librarians per school had the highest number of library technicians. These included Alberta, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and Manitoba.

Other studies have indicated that with recent budget pressures in education ministries in many provinces, teacher-librarian positions may have been substituted by lower-paid library technicians as a cost-cutting measure.

The use of volunteers in some schools may have prevented a reduction in library hours or the permanent closure of the library. However, they cannot perform the same range of duties as a teacher-librarian or library technician.

Teacher-librarians' influence extends through school

When schools have teacher-librarians, their influence extends throughout the school and therefore into the students' education, the study found.

Schools with teacher-librarians were more likely than those without to incorporate specialized technology applications into teaching practices. Such applications included spreadsheets, databases, software applications supporting creative works and software for special needs and desktop publishing.

Schools with at least one teacher-librarian devoted to the school library were roughly three times more likely

than those with less than one full-time teacher-librarian to have links to the library on the school's informal Web site.

When compared with schools which had only a part-time teacher librarian, principals reported that in schools with at least one full-time teacher-librarian, the teacher-librarian was more likely to play an important or very important role in developing or contributing to the school Web site.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5051.

The report *Canadian School Libraries and Teacher-librarians: Results from the 2003/04 Information and Communication Technologies in Schools Survey*, no. 28 (81-595-MIE2005028, free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Education*.

For general information about the Information and Communications Technologies in Schools Survey contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; cult.tourstats@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact David Coish (613-951-1075; fax: 613-951-1333 david.coish@statcan.ca) Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

□

Mean and median annual expenses per school for library collection development, by type and province/territory, 2003/04

	Mean			Median		
	Physical collection	Audio-visual	Electronic	Physical collection	Audio-visual	Electronic
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,606	465	565	1,000	200	100
Prince Edward Island	2,250	463	226*	2,000	200	0*
Nova Scotia	1,762	162	199*	1,400	0	0*
New Brunswick	2,281	173	92	1,789	0	0
Quebec	2,649	518	493	1,680	100	100
Ontario	3,363	486	582	2,000	200	0
Manitoba	3,360	530	435	2,500	300	100
Saskatchewan	4,560	766	450	3,600	500	50
Alberta	4,708	845	630	3,000	500	50
British Columbia	4,010	561	477	2,700	200	0
Yukon	5,978	0	F	3,915	0	F
Northwest Territories	3,261	741*	446*	1,600	F	0*
Nunavut	1,609**	573**	245**	700**	500**	F
Canada	3,414	547	513	2,000	200	0

F Coefficient of variation greater than 33%; data are too unreliable to publish.
 * Coefficient of variation between 16.6% and 25%; data are less reliable.
 ** Coefficient of variation greater than 25% and less than or equal to 33%; data are less reliable.

Sources of funding for the library, by province and territory, 2003/04

	Provincial/Territorial	School Board	School	Other
Newfoundland and Labrador	28.2	66.7	77.8	18.7
Prince Edward Island	40.0	73.4	66.2	34.4
Nova Scotia	22.5	74.1	66.1	23.9
New Brunswick	63.7	45.5	28.3	22.4
Quebec	29.0	53.2	65.9	20.4
Ontario	17.4	62.2	70.8	37.8
Manitoba	38.4	74.4	55.2	25.1
Saskatchewan	23.3	86.7	43.9	12.8
Alberta	32.8	50.5	70.7	28.5
British Columbia	31.5	58.9	66.6	31.0
Yukon	100.0	F	F	F
Northwest Territories	16.7	F	F	F
Nunavut	53.8	F	F	F
Canada	26.7	60.5	65.7	29.0

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Average library staff per school, by province/territory, 2003/04

	Teacher-librarian	Teacher-non-librarian	Professional librarian	Library technician	Clerical Staff	Other
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.27	0.09*	F	F	0.03**	0.03**
Prince Edward Island	0.56	F	F	F	F	F
Nova Scotia	0.07	0.01**	0.04	0.42	0.06	F
New Brunswick	0.08	0.03*	0.05	0.27	0.12	0.11
Quebec	0.03*	0.12*	0.07	0.2	0.15	0.07*
Ontario	0.39	0.03**	0.02	0.24	0.11	0.03
Manitoba	0.17	0.03**	0.04*	0.41	0.26	0.06**
Saskatchewan	0.24	F	F	0.44	0.18	0.07*
Alberta	0.07	0.05	0.04	0.47	0.22	0.1
British Columbia	0.48	0.03*	F	0.1	0.22	0.04**
Yukon	0.35	F	F	F	F	F
Northwest Territories	F	F	F	0.26*	F	F
Nunavut	F	F	F	F	F	F
Canada	0.25	0.05	0.03	0.26	0.15	0.05

F Coefficient of variation greater than 33%; data are too unreliable to publish.
 * Coefficient of variation between 16.6% and 25%; data are less reliable.
 ** Coefficient of variation greater than 25% and less than or equal to 33%; data are less reliable.

Other releases

Study: Plant closures and capital retirement 1960 to 1999

More than one-half of all new manufacturing plants cease production and go out of business within only six years of starting up, according to a new study that shows manufacturing plants have relatively short lives.

The study *Death in the Industrial World: Plant Closures and Capital Retirement* measures the closure rate over a 40-year period for new plants in the Canadian manufacturing sector.

It uses a database developed from the Annual Survey of Manufactures for 1960 to 1999 to provide information on the likely length of life of capital invested in plants.

The study found that on average, 14% of new plants die in their first year. Over half of new plants die by the time they are six years old, while by the age of 15, less than 20% of new plants are still operational.

Average length of life of new manufacturing plants (years) by industry

	Unweighted mean	Weighted mean ¹
All industries	9.4	16.5
Food and beverage	10.1	18.4
Tobacco	14.3	23.3
Rubber and plastics	10.0	16.2
Leather and footwear	9.8	15.5
Textiles and clothing	9.6	15.1
Wood	7.6	15.0
Furniture and fixtures	7.5	14.0
Paper and allied products	13.1	18.3
Printing and publishing	9.7	17.0
Primary metal	13.1	22.6
Metal fabricating	9.8	14.5
Machinery	9.8	16.0
Transportation equipment	9.2	19.1
Electrical and electronic products	9.4	14.9
Non-metallic mineral products	9.8	14.9
Refined petroleum and coal	10.4	16.2
Chemical and chemical products	10.5	17.4
Miscellaneous	8.8	13.3

1. Weighted by total employment.

The average new plant operates for only 9 years, or 17 years if the average is weighted on the basis of employment. These rates vary by industry.

Plants lasted 13 years, the longest average period, in two industries: primary metals, and paper and allied products. The shortest average life, fewer than eight years, occurred in wood industries.

Plant closures result from failure when firms exit an industry. But they are also associated with renewal, such as when existing firms close down plants, modernize their production facilities and start up new ones.

The high rate of plant closure has several ramifications, the most immediate of which is its impact on labour markets. It means that a job within one production facility is not likely to last a lifetime.

The closure process also results in capital losses, that is, it leads to the loss of earlier investments that the industrial system had made in productive capacity. Resources that had been used to make equipment or to construct plants to house machinery are lost.

The capital that has been invested in a plant that is suddenly shut down loses some, or most, of its value. This exit process has consequences in terms of the amount of capital that the industrial system has available to it.

The research paper *Death in the Industrial World: Plant Closures and Capital Retirement*, no. 33 (11F0027MIE2005033, free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *National accounts*.

More studies on the industrial competition and dynamics sector are available free of charge in the analytical series *Update on economic analysis* on our Web site (11-623-XIE).

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact John Baldwin (951-8588), Micro-economic Analysis Division. ■

Electric utility construction price indexes 2003 (final) and 2004 (preliminary)

Construction costs for distribution systems edged up 0.2% in 2004. An increase in the material component (+3.2%) was offset by a decrease in installation labour (-4.1%). The finalized 2003 data for distribution systems showed a 0.1% advance from 2002.

Construction costs for the transmission line system series increased 1.9% in 2004 in contrast to a decline in 2003 (-2.2%). The increase of steel products (up to 46% in some cases) was the biggest influence in the 2004 advance. Meanwhile, some labour inputs decreased, which offset in part the steel movements. The transmission line component was up 3.4% compared with a 0.7% decline in 2003. The substation component rose 1.0% in 2004 following a decrease of 3.0% in 2003. Support structures had the largest

increase (+8.5%), while station equipment declined (-1.1%).

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0011.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2316.

The first quarter 2005 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$26/\$85) will be available in July.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact the Client Services Unit (613) 951-9606 (*infounit@statcan.ca*) or Adrian Fisher (613-951-9612; *adrian.fisher@statcan.ca*; fax: 613-951-1539), Prices Division. ■

Consumption of purchased fuel and electricity by Canadian manufacturers 2003

The Annual Survey of Manufactures collects information on over 250 industries. Data on consumption of fuel and electricity purchased by Canadian manufacturers are now available for 2003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2103.

To order data, for more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *manufact@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Sawmills and planing mills

February 2005

Data on sawmills and planing mills are now available for February.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0009.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2134 and 2135.

The February 2005 issue of *Sawmills and Planing Mills*, Vol. 59, no. 2 (35-003-XIB, \$10/\$93) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873 8789; 613-951-9497; *manufact@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

New products

Economic Analysis Research Paper Series: Death in the Industrial World: Plant Closures and Capital Retirement, no. 33
Catalogue number 11F0027MIE2005033
(free).

Sawmills and Planing Mills, February 2005, Vol. 59, no. 2
Catalogue number 35-003-XIB (\$10/\$93).

Canadian Foreign Post Indexes, May 2005
Catalogue number 62-013-XIE
(free).

Employment, Earnings and Hours, February 2005, Vol. 83, no. 2
Catalogue number 72-002-XIB (\$26/\$257).

Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics: Research papers: Canadian School Libraries and Teacher-librarians: Results from the 2003/04 Information and Communication Technologies in Schools Survey, no. 28
Catalogue number 81-595-MIE2005028
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses and industry work output in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

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