

Libraries as Partners for Emergency Preparedness and Response in Times of Crisis

A 2-year Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)
National Leadership Grants for Libraries Planning Project [LG-254819-OLS-23]

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Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI)



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School of Information Sciences



Project Description

- A 2-year **planning type project**: August 1, 2023 – July 31, 2025
 - Year 1: Survey of Illinois Multi-Type Libraries
 - Year 2: Community Engagement Roundtables to raise the conversation to the national level
- A preliminary investigation into library-community partnerships during public crises, focused in **3 key areas**:
 - Emergencies
 - Scope and Nature of Partnership
 - Role of Libraries in Partnership
- **Project will fill a research gap** in understanding the extent of library-community partnerships during emergencies and begin laying the groundwork for future research in this area.

Project Goals

1. To **co-define** with community service stakeholder partners what “partnership” means between libraries and community partners;
2. To **make visible** the scope and nature of library-community partnerships;
3. To **develop a baseline framework** and **identify areas of further study** to prepare for future collaborative research projects that will examine in-depth the practices, lessons learned, gaps in service to marginalized communities, and emergency management educational programs and training for collaboration with community partners; and,
4. To develop a widely disseminated **report of findings in the three key areas** and with the previous three goals that can help libraries and community partners begin to understand the potential roles of libraries during emergencies and paths of future work which build on this preliminary investigation.

State Advisory Committee and National Advisory Board

• State Advisory Committee

- Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE)
- Carle Foundation Hospital
- Champaign-Urbana Public Health District
- Chicago Public Library
- Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA)
- Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS)
- Illinois Library Association (ILA)
- Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM)
- Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS)
- Special Libraries Association (SLA), Illinois Community
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), Division of Public Safety
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI)

• National Advisory Board

- American Library Association
- Association of Research Libraries (ARL)
- Florida Virtual Campus Library Services (FLVC)
- Joint Council of Librarians of Color (JCLC)
- National Library of Medicine (NLM), National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- Public Library Association (PLA)
- Special Libraries Association (SLA)
- University of Texas-Austin: Moody College of Communication, School of Journalism and Media
- Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC)

Survey Update

Survey Development

- Online survey using the platform **Qualtrics** was developed targeting multi-type Illinois libraries.
- Survey includes **4 sections, and relate to the project's 3 key focus areas:**
 - About You (background and context on respondents)
 - Emergencies
 - Scope and Nature of Partnership
 - Role of Libraries in Partnership
- Survey goal is to **provide a baseline understanding** of the project's 3 key areas to generate future in-depth research (i.e. the project's Community Engagement Roundtables in Year 2).

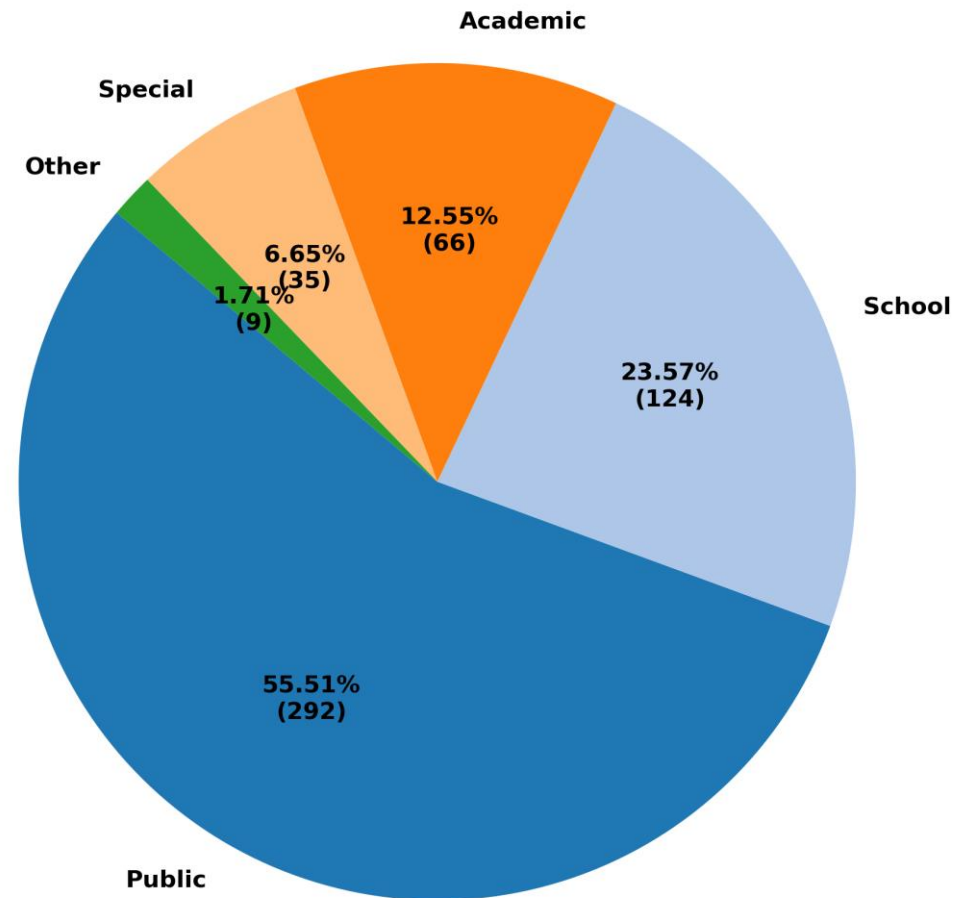
Survey Distribution

- **State advisors were key to distributing the survey** to the library communities in Illinois that they represent.
- Advisors used newsletters, social media, list serves, and other methods to distribute the survey across Illinois.
- Additionally, the project team **sent emails directly to Illinois libraries** using their public contact information from a public directory (L2 Member Directory: <https://librarylearning.org/directory>).
- **Survey emails were sent to over 1600 Illinois libraries**

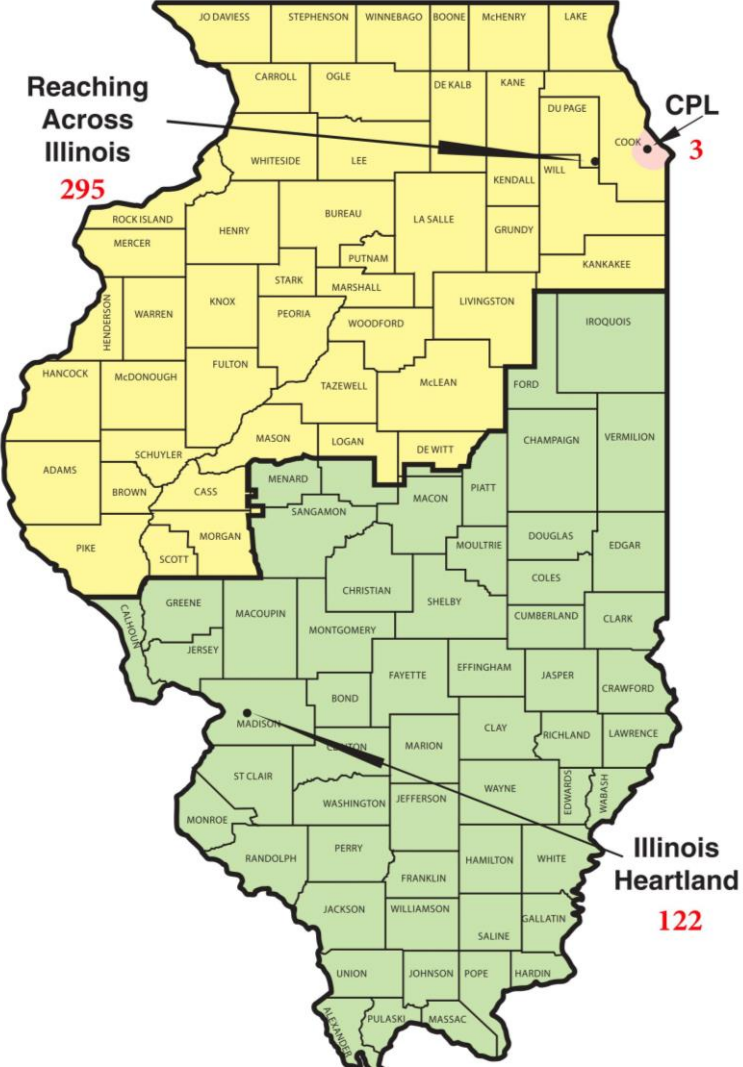
Survey Responses

- **595 total survey responses** received (as of 2/22/24)
- Survey will close on **February 29.**
- **The next slides will provide an initial look at responses to the survey's first section: About You.**

What type of library do you work for?



To which Illinois library system do you belong?



What is the size of your user community?

	Public Libraries	School Libraries	Academic Libraries	Special Libraries
Minimum Size	67	150	500	1000
Maximum Size	2,700,000	12,700	71,120	1,500,000

How long have you worked in libraries?

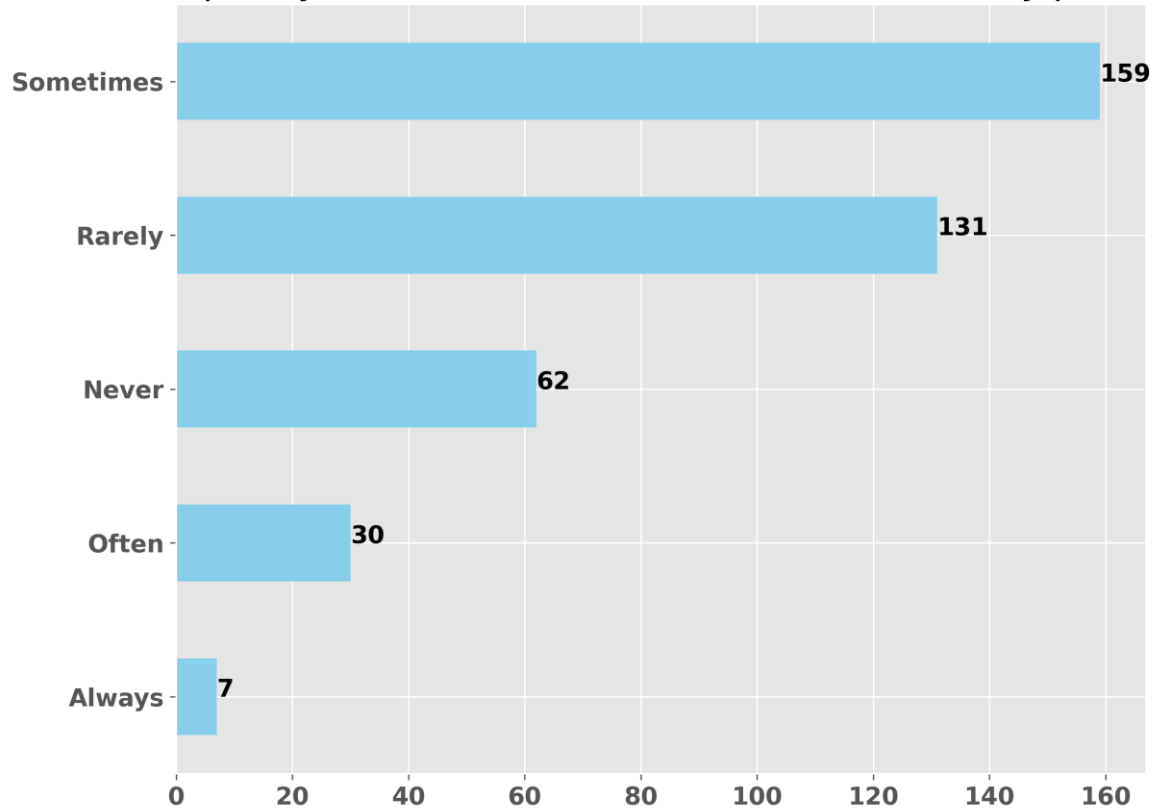
	Public Libraries	School Libraries	Academic Libraries	Special Libraries
Minimum Work Length	2.5 years	2.5 years	2 years	3 years
Maximum Work Length	26 years	26 years	23 years	27 years
Average Work Length	15.6 years	12.6 years	18.8 years	18.6 years

How many staff work in your library?

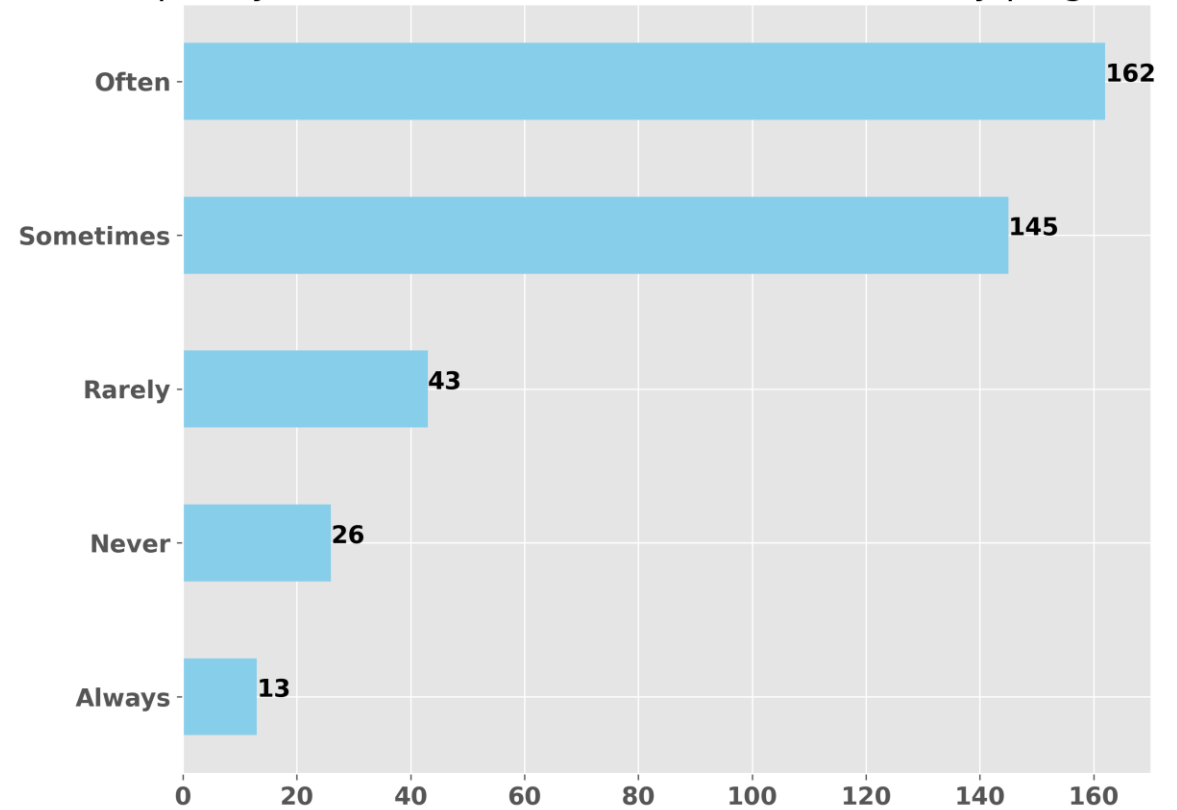
	Public Libraries	School Libraries	Academic Libraries	Special Libraries
Minimum Number	3	1	2	5
Maximum Number	100	18	101	75

How often do you collaborate with your users to create library policies/programming?

Frequency of Collaborate with user to create library policies



Frequency of Collaborate with user to create library programming



Upcoming Survey Data Analysis

Upcoming Community Engagement Roundtables

- Based on survey analysis, two Community Engagement Roundtables will be created for January and February 2025
- 20-25 panelists
- At least 100 participants
- The survey has already generated some interest in the CERs, but we will work to recruit more over the coming months.
- Additionally, this planning level grant lead into application for an in-depth research grant.

Questions?

Thank you!