

The ALA Office for Research & Statistics will be conducting one survey each year on an issue critical to libraries. This is the first survey, and we appreciate your participation.

We are trying to better understand the extent to which public library funding changed within and between fiscal years (FY) 2003 - 2005. This includes starting and ending budget differences, especially reductions throughout FY 2003 - 2005, and anything you may be able to tell us about funding changes already occurring in FY2006.

Please take a few moments to respond to the following TEN questions. Your responses are very important to us and will help us inform the library community about funding trends and advocate for libraries.



We know there can be changes to operating budgets throughout a fiscal year.

1. For FY 2003, 2004 and 2005 has your library experienced a reduction in operating revenue between the start of a fiscal year and the end of the year? Fiscal year is defined as appropriate for your library.

	Yes	No	If no, did your library receive:
	Funding declined during FY	Same funding amount throughout FY	Same funding amount as previous FY, and no increase in next FY
FY 2003			
FY 2004			
FY 2005			

2. If you answered yes to any part of question #1,
 - a. What were the total reductions as a percentage of total operating revenue for each fiscal year?

	1-2%	3-4%	5-6%	7-8%	9-10%	11% or more
FY 2003						
FY 2004						
FY 2005						

- b. What areas of the library's operating revenue distribution were impacted by the reductions? (Please check all that apply)

	Hours	Staffing	Materials	Electronic Access*
FY 2003				
FY 2004				
FY 2005				

3. What was the severity of the reduction for each of the following fiscal years? ["Extremely severe" is significant reductions in hours, staffing, materials or technology expenditures as a proportion of the overall operating budget (i.e., eliminating a day of library operation). "Not too severe" is minor reductions in any operating budget category.]

	Extremely severe	Somewhat severe	Severe	Not too severe	Not severe
FY 2003					
FY 2004					
FY 2005					

4. When you think about the reductions to the library's operating budget, were those reductions comparable to those experienced by other local government agencies and offices (as a percentage of operating budgets)? (Please respond for each fiscal year.)

	The same as other local government agencies and offices	Greater than other local government agencies and offices	Less than other local government agencies and offices	No reduction this fiscal year
FY 2003				
FY 2004				
FY 2005				

5. Did your library experience an increase in operating revenue between the start of a fiscal year and the end of it? Fiscal year is defined as appropriate for your library.

	Yes	If yes, did your library receive:		No
	Funding increased during FY	Same funding amount as previous FY, and increase in next FY	Increased funding amount in each year checked	Same funding amount throughout FY
FY 2003				
FY 2004				
FY 2005				

6. If you answered yes to any part of question #5,
 a. What were the total increases as a percentage of total operating revenue for each fiscal year?

	1-2%	3-4%	5-6%	7-8%	9-10%	11% or more
FY 2003						
FY 2004						
FY 2005						

b. What areas of the library's operating revenue distribution were impacted by the increases? (please check all that apply)

	Hours	Staffing	Materials	Electronic Access*
FY 2003				
FY 2004				
FY 2005				

7. When you think about the increases to the library's operating budget, were those increases comparable to those experienced by other local government agencies and offices (as a percentage of operating budgets)? (Please respond for each fiscal year.)

	The same as other local government agencies and offices	Greater than other local government agencies and offices	Less than other local government agencies and offices	No increase this fiscal year
FY 2003				
FY 2004				
FY 2005				

8. Were increases or decreases in operating revenue a result of any of the following (please check all that apply):

a. Funding increase as a result of a levy or other tax measure
 FY2003__ FY2004__ FY2005__

b. Funding decrease as a result of a levy or other tax measure
 FY2003__ FY2004__ FY2005__

c. Budget surplus
 FY2003__ FY2004__ FY2005__

d. Budget shortfall
 FY2003__ FY2004__ FY2005__

e. Other (please describe in the space below):

9. When you think about the library's FY 2006 operating budget, what do you anticipate?

- Improvement in operating budgets from local tax revenue.
- Stay about the same as the last three fiscal years.
- More reductions than in the past three fiscal years.
- Other (please describe):

10. Please use the space below to share any other information regarding you library's funding in the past three fiscal years, or the current fiscal year.

Thank you, again, for taking the time to complete this survey. Survey results will be shared with all respondents and used by ALA in library advocacy efforts. All responses are strictly confidential and only summary results will be reported.

*"Operating expenditures for electronic access" is defined in the Federal State Cooperative System of Public Library data as:

"Operating expenditures for electronic access. Operating expenditures from the library budget associated with access to electronic materials and services. Include computer hardware and software used to support library operations, whether purchased or leased, mainframe and microcomputer. Include expenditures for maintenance. Include expenditures for equipment used to run information service products when that expenditure can be separated from the price of the product. Report expenditures for services provided by national, regional, and local bibliographic utilities, networks, consortia and commercial services. Report all fees and usage costs associated with such services as OCLC FirstSearch or electronic document delivery. Note: Report only operating expenditures for access. These expenditures should also be included in Collection Expenditures or Other Operating Expenditures on the administrative entity screen. Do NOT report capital expenditures for items in this category."

(Source: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2005/2005356.pdf>)