

Making the data work for your evaluation

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Grants to States Virtual Conference

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Overview

- Introduction to the SPR
- Analysis files that will be available
 - Datafile documentation
 - Excel Activity level (state-specific)
 - Excel Project level (all state)
 - Optional, upon request Excel project level detailed budget data (state-specific)
- Sample use cases SPR data as a complement to other evaluation strategies (e.g., interviews, focus groups, surveys)
- Logistics: program officers will be in touch with you about obtaining your data

Evaluation questions that can be answered with SPR data

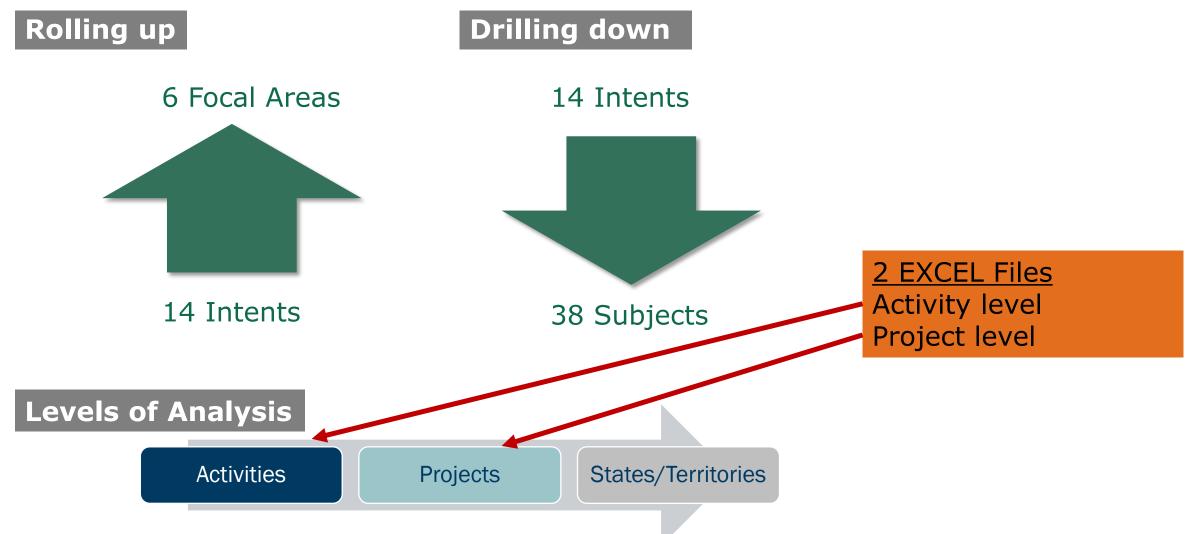
Key Evaluation Questions:

- To what extent did the state achieve the program goals?
- Who were the key beneficiaries of the LSTA program?

Specific questions:

- How do the projects in number and cost align with the state's goals?
- How was the budget "balanced" across the portfolio of projects and goals? To what extent did expenses for the project align with different goals?
- What kinds of activities were conducted to implement projects under each state goal?
- What were some key outputs associated with the activities?
- Who were the important partners in implementing activities?
- Have projects funded by the state been evaluated and what were some of the lessons learned from those evaluations?

SPR Analytical Capabilities



Project and Activity Intents Map to Focal Areas

SPR System design intents align with state five-year plan goals

14 Intents		6 Focal Areas
(User chooses)		0 T OCAT AICAS
 Improve the library workforce. Improve library's physical and technology infrastructure. Improve library operations. 		Institutional Capacity Add, improve or update a library function or operation in order to further its effectiveness.
 Improve users' ability to discover information resources. Improve users' ability to obtain and/or use information resources. 		Information Access Improve access to information.
 Improve users' formal education. Improve users' general knowledge and skills. 		Lifelong Learning Improve users' knowledge or abilities beyond basic access to information.
 Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their personal, family or household finances. Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their personal or family health & wellness. Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their parenting and family skills. 	1	Human Services Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their personal, family or household circumstances.
 Improve users' ability to use resources and apply information for employment support. Improve users' ability to use and apply business resources. 	1	Employment & Economic Development Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers the status of their jobs and/or business.
 Improve users' ability to participate in their community. Improve users' ability to converse in community conversations around topics of concern. 		Civic Engagement Improve user engagement through their library that furthers the common or community good.

Nationallevel SPR roll-up: intents map to 6 focal areas



Project and Activity Topics – Subject and Tag Information

- Fixed choice subjects:
 - Up to two subjects for each intent based on SPR drop-down menu that has 37 choices (plus "other")
 - Included at the PROJECT and ACTIVITY level worksheets
 - FLAGS have been constructed to make it easier to do analysis on particular subjects
- Free-form keyword entry also available as project level "Tags"
 - Make sure your evaluator knows if there are specific tags that are particularly important to your goals
 - Tags are included in the EXCEL files but there are no flags for the tags
 - Evaluators will be able use your tags
 - To explore specific issues you have identified
 - To see if there might be "emerging" topics in your state

Users assign up to two subjects to projects and activities and click a radio button to flag an "exemplary" project

Arts, Culture & Humanities	Health & Wellness	Library Infrastructure & Capacity
Business & Finance	– Parenting & family skills	Broadband adoption
Employment	Personal/Family health & wellness	Buildings & facilities
Personal Finance	History	Certification
Small Business	Languages	Collection development & management
Civic Affairs	Literacy	Continuing education & staff development
Community concerns	Adult literacy	Disaster preparedness
Government	Digital literacy	Library skills
Education	– Early literacy	Outreach & partnerships
After-school activities	Reading program (not summer	Programming & event planning
Curriculum support	reading)	Research & statistics
Environment	- Summer reading program	Systems & technologies
General (select only for electronic	Science, Technology, Engineering,	Other
databases or other data sources)	& Math (STEM)	

Exemplary project: A project the state library agency considers the best, worthy of imitation or having the most impact. Such projects show innovation and vision, impact on targeted audience, service to a new population group, etc. (Note: users can flag more than one project as "exemplary")



Methods Note #1: Flags added to excel files to facilitate evaluators' analysis

- Social scientists* add flags to files to split up multiple choice items into a series of 1/0 (Yes/No) items
- E.g., there are 14 intents
 - When you enter data: you pick one of the 14 from a drop-down menu
 - You might choose two for any given project
 - That means you have an "Intent1" and an "Intent2" ... cumbersome to perform analysis
 - Transformed into 14 separate flags, one for each intent, set to 1 or 0
 - Makes excel pivot tables a BREEZE!
- Flags were added
 - Intents, Subjects, and Focal Areas in the Project file
 - Subjects in the Activity file,

*Specifically, quantoids



Methods Note #2: Evaluator SPR Analytical Approaches

Kinds of questions	What's in the file(s) to allow this?	What are key variables to do this in the file?
Benchmarking: How does my state compare to similar others?	Project-level file includes all* data for all projects for all states FY15- FY18	Intent flags, subject flags, state abbreviations, and state funding size category.
Trends: How does the LSTA portfolio and goals NOW compare to those previously done in the state?	Data for FY15-FY17 are included.	Each row indicates the fiscal year for the data but there is a simple variable that makes it easy to look at FY15-FY17 as one group versus FY18 as another.

SLAA Groupings – General Allotment Level

"Mega" (FY18 LSTA Allotment > \$8.2 M)

• **4 States** (224 Projects; 601 Activities; Average of 2.68 activities per project)

CA, FL, NY, TX

Each had 2018 population of >19M "Larger" (FY18 LSTA Allotment between \$2.6M and \$5.5 M)

• **19 States** (733 Projects; 1,536 Activities; Average of 2.10 activities per project)

AZ, CO, GA, IL, IN, MD, MA, MI, MO, MN, NC, NJ, OH, PA, SC, TN, VA, WA, WI

Each had 2018 population between 5-13M "Smaller" (FY18 LSTA Allotment <\$2.6 M)

28 States (&DC), 5 Territories/outlying areas
(382 Projects; 800 Activities; Average of 2.09 activities per project)
AK, AL, AR, CT, DE, DC, HI, ID, IA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MS, MT, NE, NV, NH, NM, ND, OK, OR, RI, SD, UT, VT, WV, WY
Terr. & outlying areas: AS, GU, CNMI, PR, VI

Each had 2018 population of <5M

New in the SPR: At-a-glance dashboard (goals by spending/projects)

- State Goal progress by:
 - LSTA funds expended
 - Match funds expended
 - Total funds expended
 - Number of projects
- Downloadable Excel data



Home

Help

Projects

User Reports

Grants to States Program Report -- SLAA View

Teri DeVoe 1 [Logout]

Anchor

Institution

State Library Dashboard

200,000

2018

2019

The purpose of the State Program Report (SPR) is to provide a record of grant-funded projects, collect information on project outcomes, and share promising practices. IMLS uses these data to report to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget about the agency's progress on addressing its strategic goals which focus on learning, community, and content.



2020 Year 2021

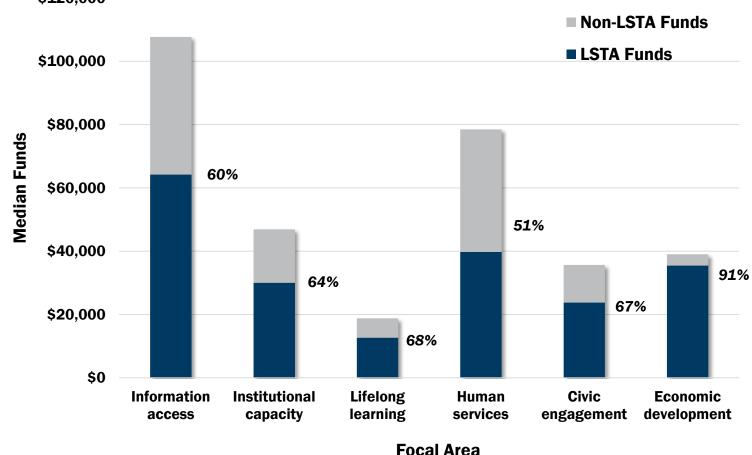
2022

Data Files

SPR data can be used to answer various questions about projects and activities *Projects include one or more activities*

Questions	SPR Variables	Project Level	Activity Level
What was the topic area?	Topics – subject codes and tags	Subjects and tags	Subjects
Why – what was the goal?	Intents and focal areas	Х	Х
How much was spent?	Budget	Х	
What lessons were learned?	Evaluation	Х	
Was there a target audience? Were there collaborating institutions/organizations?	Partners and beneficiaries		Х
What was done?	Activity types		Х
How was the work done?	Activity format, mode		Х
Where was the activity done?	Locations		X*
What were the results?	Outputs and outcomes		Х

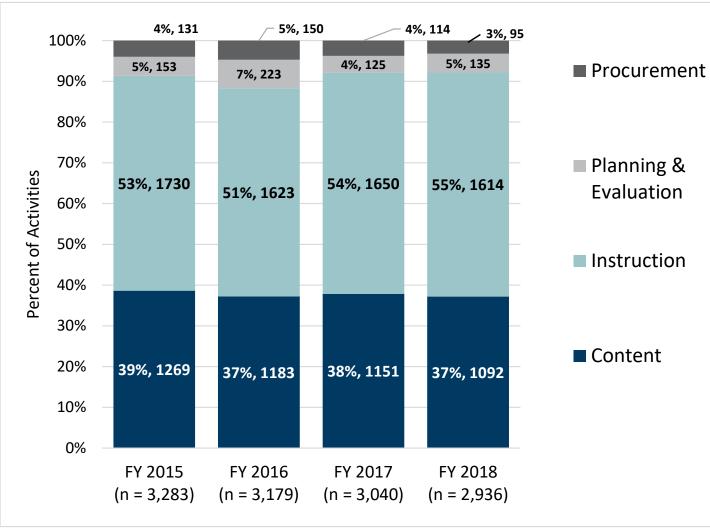
Sample Project Level AnalysisMedian Project Budget, by Source, and Percent of Budget from LSTA Fundsby Focal Area, FY18\$120,000



- Median LSTA budgets are consistently largest for Information access projects.
- LSTA funds accounted for a higher proportion of total budget for Economic development projects (91%) versus a relatively low percentage of Human services (51%) project budgets.

Data not adjusted for inflation.

Sample Activity Level Analysis Four Types of Activities, FY15 - FY18



Definitions

Procurement: Includes activities such as purchasing facilities, equipment, supplies, hardware, software, or other materials (not content) that support general library infrastructure. **Planning and Evaluation**: An activity that involves design, development, or assessment of a project, program, service, operation, resource or user group.

Instruction: An activity that involves an interaction for knowledge or skill transfer.

Content: Acquisition, development, or transfer of information.

Documentation

- Describes contents of data files
 - Variable names and descriptions
 - How variables were constructed (e.g., flags referenced earlier)
 - Helpful hints for analyzing the data
- Details about the SPR system
- Data quality information
- Descriptive statistics:
 - Frequencies of categorical variables
 - Means and standard deviations of continuous variables

Additional Data Sources: Context and Benchmarking

• IMLS

- Public Libraries Survey (PLS)
- State Library Administrative Agency (SLAA) Survey
- County-level metrics file
- Census Bureau
 - Census Bureau COVID Pulse Surveys
 - American Community Survey
- National Endowment for the Arts
 - Survey of Public Participation in the Arts
- Department of Education
 - EDGE data tool
 - PIAAC small area estimates tool

Handout forthcoming!

Use Cases:

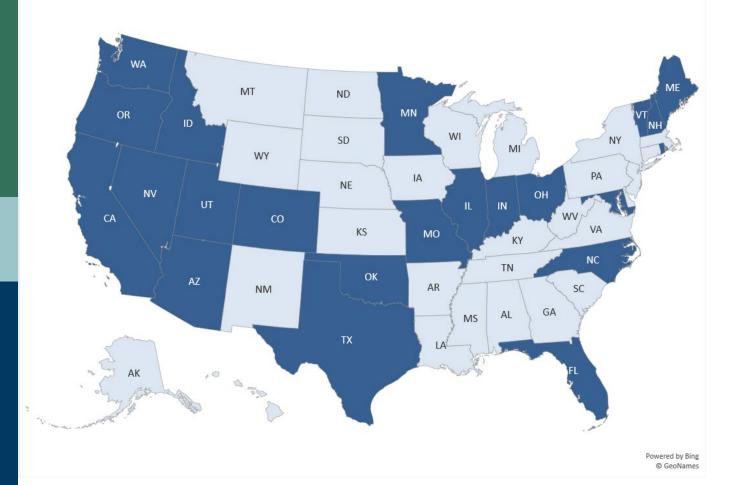
- **1.** Subjects help to identify topic areas in the project and activity files that align with state goals
- 2. Evaluators can use the information in the file to determine if there were important lessons learned in project evaluations

Use Case 1: Your state has a goal of increasing digital literacy.

Evaluator can use the SUBJECT flag for "Digital Literacy" in the PROJECT level file to:

(1) to look at the budget and whether it was exemplary and

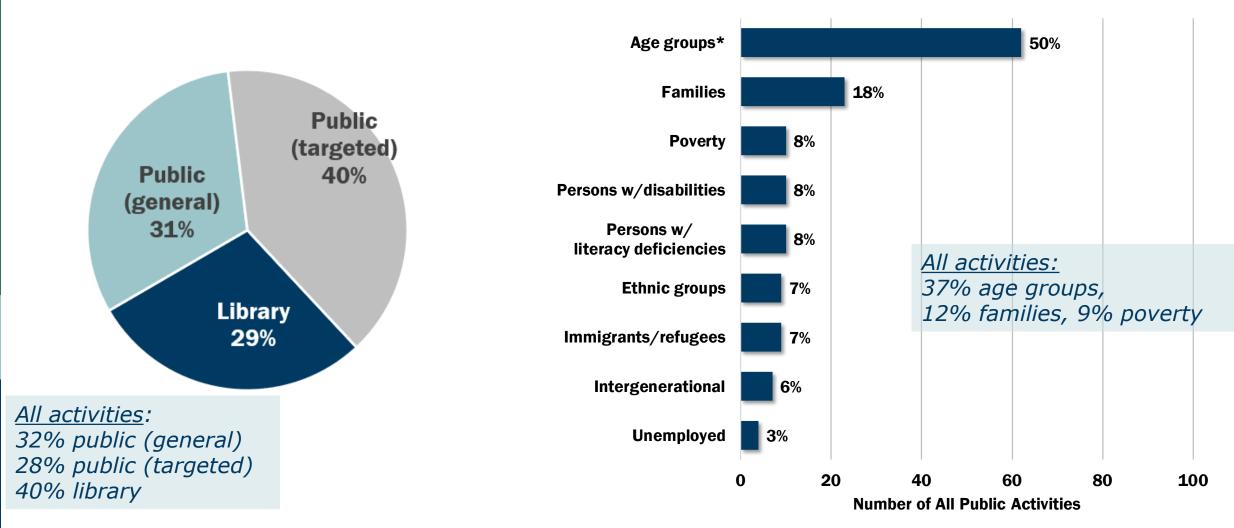
(2) compare your state's digital literacy projects with those in other states.



- 70 Projects
- **\$5.1M** Total Budget
- \$31,453 Median (per project)
- 21.4% Exemplary

Only Northern Marianas had a digital literacy project. None of the other four territories reported projects in this area 19

Your evaluator can use the ACTIVITY level file with the SUBJECT flag for "Digital Literacy" to look at WHO were the beneficiaries** and benchmark with all activities



**Along with information about partners, where the activities were done, what kinds of activities, and the specific age and ethnic groups that were targeted.

Use Case #2. Your evaluator might ask: Have any of the projects funded by the state library completed evaluations? Are there any lessons learned from these? ANSWER: Point them to the PROJECT level file, which will have the following columns:

Column	Heading	Information included in the column				
CK	TotalEvalText	Total number evaluation text fields				
CL	UnrepFind1_F	Important project findings or outcomes not reported elsewhere				
СМ	UnrepFind2_F	Importance of findings				
CN	FutrFind_F	Findings to inform future project				
CO	Lesson_F	Lessons learned from findings - outcomes				
СР	Cont_F	Anticipate continuing project after end of current reporting period				
CQ	EvalCond_F	An evaluation was conducted				
CR	EvalWrit_F	Evaluation has a written report				
CS	EvalPub_F	Evaluation report can be posted to the IMLS website				



Communicating with the Evaluator

- IMLS has prepared excel files to facilitate use of the SPR data, which includes documentation that fully describe the data
- The SPR are hierarchical data so do not download from the web! Projects have multiple activities
- There are different kinds of data in the project and activity files
- In our state the term "exemplary" was used to highlight / call attention to projects that ...
- There are a lot of "tags" associated with projects in our state's SPR data the ones that are most important to us and connected to our current goals are...
- What insights about future directions for LSTA programming are suggested in the SPR data?
- Are there exemplary projects that we might not have flagged as such?
- Questions you might consider in order to "scope" the evaluator's tasks with the SPR:
 - How important is it to be able to compare the current projects with those of the past for your state?
 - How important is it to be able to compare your state with others?

Thank You!

Backup Slides

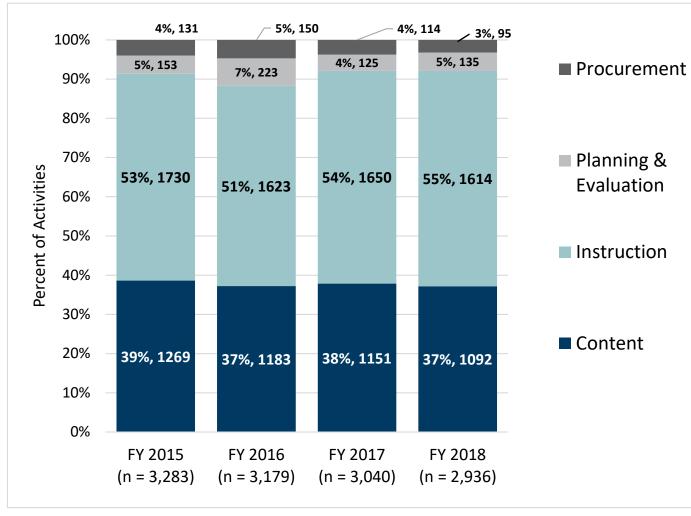
Project Level Analyses Annual IMLS Presentation on SPR Results

The "Big Picture": State Project Reports Data Snapshot

	FY1	15	FY	16	FY	17	FY	L8	
Number of states/territories	56 1,557 3,283		1,557 1,459		56 1,369 3,040		56 1,339 2,936		
Number of projects									
Number of activities									
Activities per project	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1 - 2	1,130	73%	1,040	71%	951	69%	938	70%	
3 - 5	370	24%	352	24%	342	25%	335	25%	
6 - 8	42	3%	47	3%	65	5%	50	4%	70% of project had 1-2 activiti
9 or more	15	1%	20	1%	11	1%	16	1%	Πάθ 1-2 άςυνιο
Intents per project									
1	1,517	97.4%	1,402	96.1%	1,341	98.0%	1,331	99.4%	
2	37	2.4%	56	3.8%	24	1.8%	7	0.5%	
3	3	0.2%	1	0.1%	4	0.3%	1	0.1%	
Outcomes Data Reported by Typ	e								
Total activities w/outcomes							580		
General public (Instructional programs)							258	49.4%	
Library workforce				licoble		-			
Instructional programs	Not Applicable				222	37.7%			
Planning and evaluation					17	1.1%			
Content (creation & acquisition)							83	11.8%	

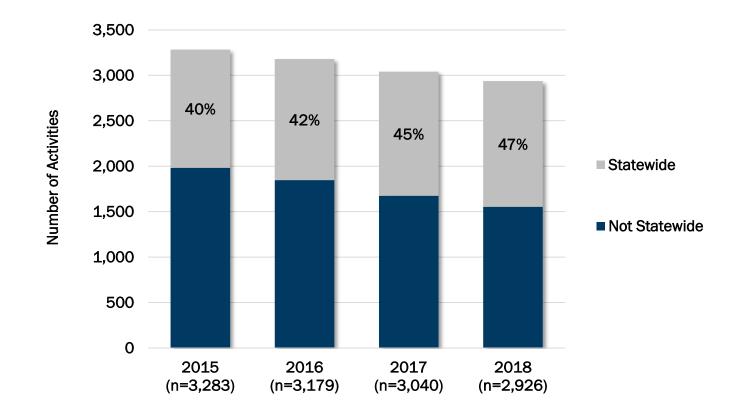
Activity Level Analyses Annual IMLS Presentation of SPR Results

How? Types of Activities, FY15 - FY18



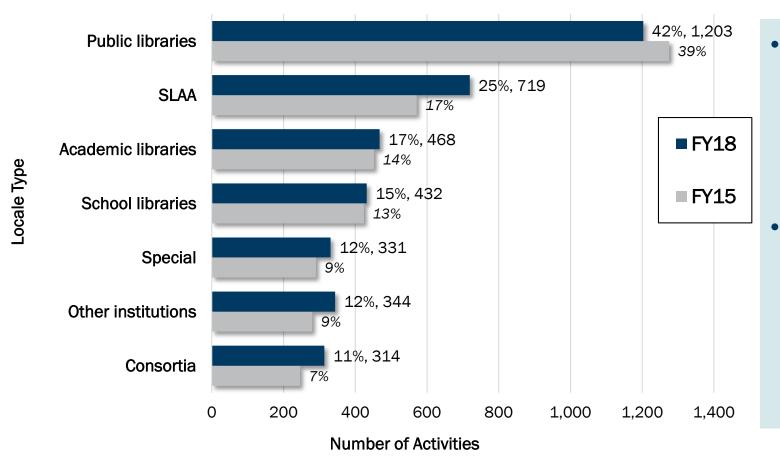
- Activity type mix similar across all four years
- Instruction just over half of all activities
- With 5-year evaluations being completed, Planning evaluation activities peaked in FY16 (n=223, 7% of all activities)

Where? Activity Locales



- The proportion of Statewide activities has increased since FY15
- Nearly half (47%) of LSTA activities were statewide in FY18

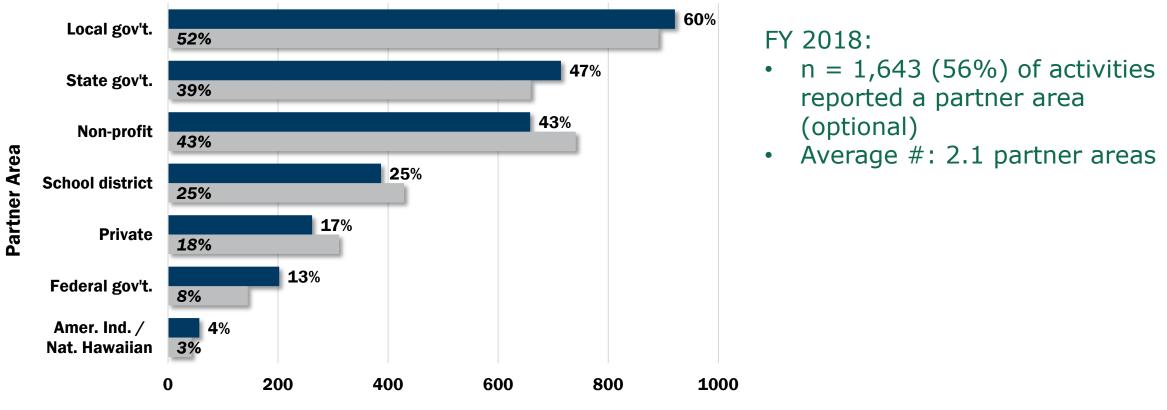
Where? Activity Locales, FY15 and FY18



- Proportion of activities at
 public libraries increased
 slightly since FY15 (39% to
 42%)
- Proportion of activities at an academic, school or special library has increased by three percentage points between FY15 and FY18

Notes: Activities can specify more than one locale. Shown is the number of activities (and percentage of all activities) not the number of public libraries. Differences in how states report about sub-grant programs may lead to underestimation of the number of libraries. Some states report each sub-grant as a separate project, while others report the sub-grant program as one project.

Where & with whom? Activity Partner Areas – Comparison: FY15 and FY18

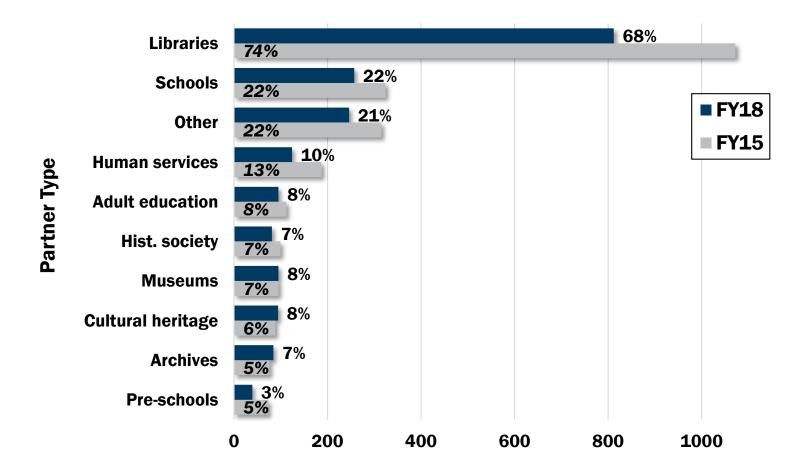


Percent is computed based on the 1,643 activities for which a partner area was specified in FY18 and the 1,706 in FY 2015.

Number of Activities

- The proportion of activities that specified a government partner (local, state, or federal) increased between FY15 and FY18
- Local government was a partner area for 60% of activities that specified a partner area in FY18

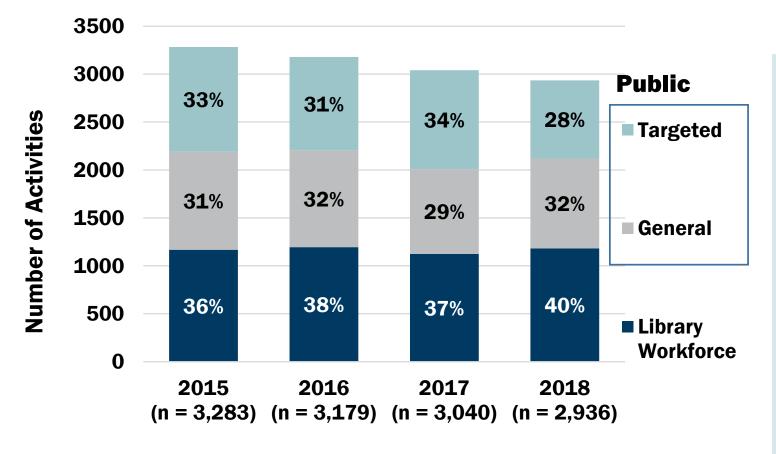
Where & with whom? Activity Partner Types – Comparison: FY15 and FY18



- n = 1,130 (38%) of FY18 activities reported a partner type (optional)
- Average #: 1.6 partner types in FY18

Percent is computed based on the 1,130 activities for which a partner type was specified in FY18 and the 1,448 in FY 2015.

Who? Activity Beneficiaries

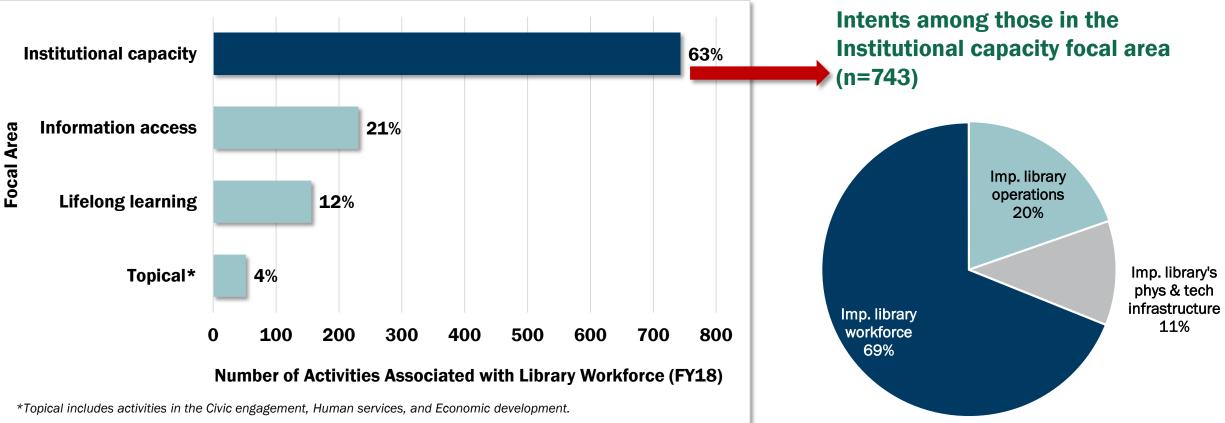


Fiscal Year

Note: Library Workforce activities could be either general or targeted.

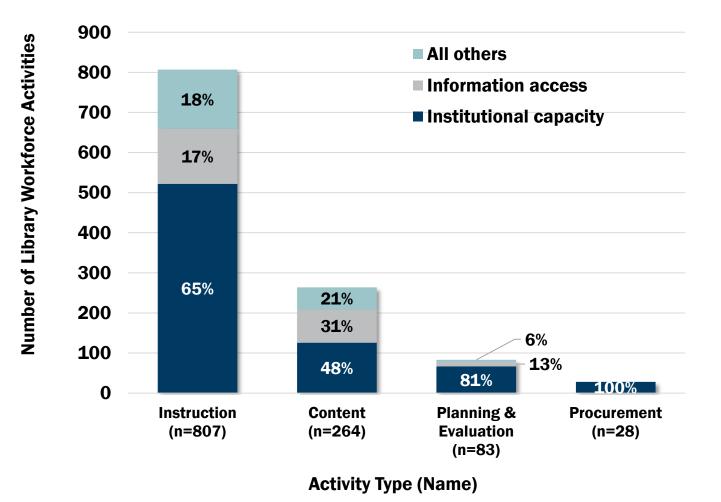
- 40% of FY18 activities were focused on the library workforce, with 60% focused on the public
- Relative percentage of activities focused on the general public remained about the same from FY15-FY18
- Percentage of activities that target a specific group has decreased

Who / why? Library Workforce Activities (n =1,182 in FY18)

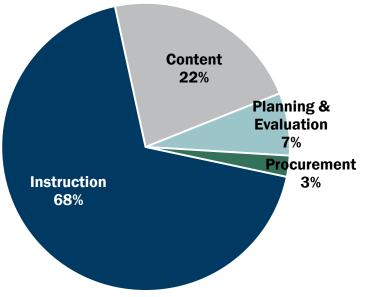


- Nearly two-thirds of the 1,182 library workforce activities were associated with institutional capacity
- Drilling down into the 743 activities for the library workforce associated with the Institutional capacity focal area, beyond
 improving the workforce, 20% intended to Improve library operations and 11% aimed to Improve library infrastructure

Who / what / why? Intents and Types of Library Workforce Activities (n = 1,182)



All others includes the other four focal areas: Lifelong learning, Civic engagement, Human services, and Economic development. 12 May 2020

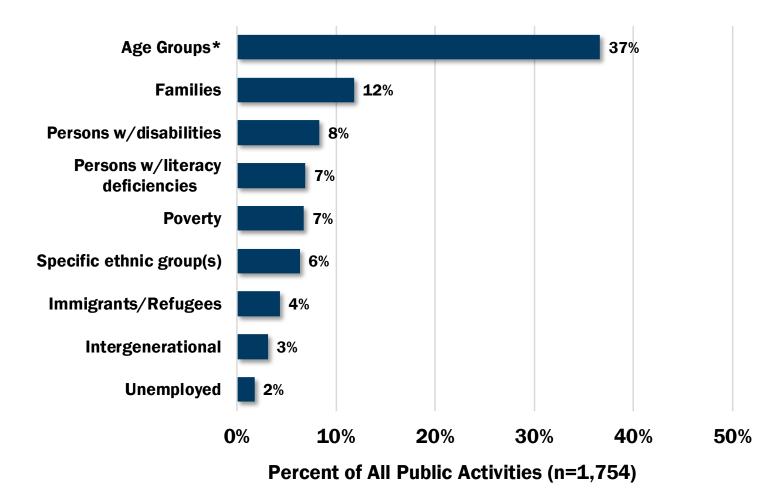


- About 2/3 of Library workforce activities were Instruction;
- And 2/3 of these Instructional activities were related to institutional capacity
- Content activities accounted for just under one-fourth, with these almost evenly split between Institutional capacity and other intents

Public Targeted Activities

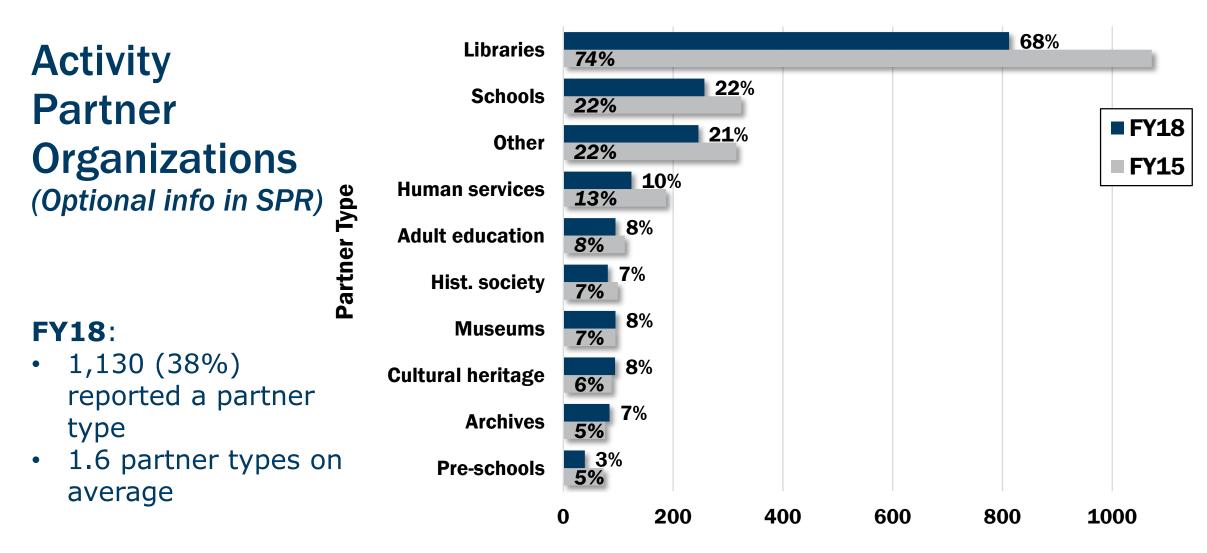
Group Targeted

(n=817, 28% of all activities, 47% of activities for the public)



- More than a third (37%) of the 1,754 activities for the public were targeted at one or more age groups
- Activities targeted to immigrants/refugees, the unemployed, or intergenerational audiences accounted for less than 5% of all public activities in FY18

*The relative representation of targeted groups was not substantially different from FY15-FY18 for any other category other than age. In FY15, 41% of all activities targeted at least one specific age group.

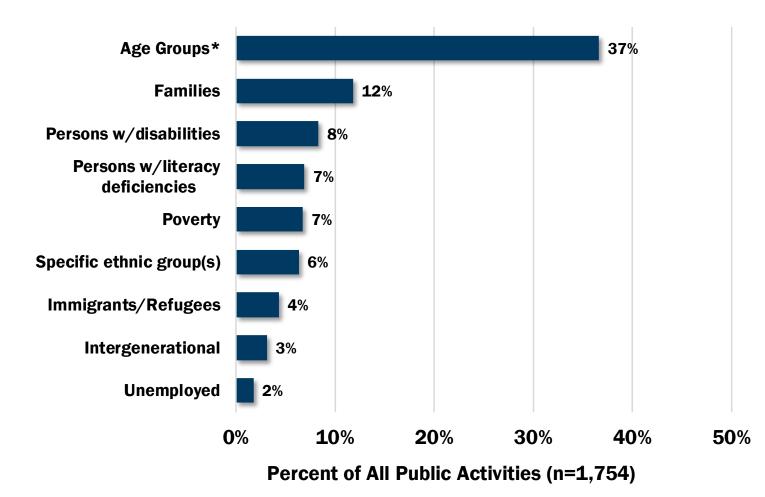


Percent is computed based on the 1,130 activities for which a **Number of Activities** partner type was specified in FY18 and the 1,448 in FY 2015.

Public Targeted Activities

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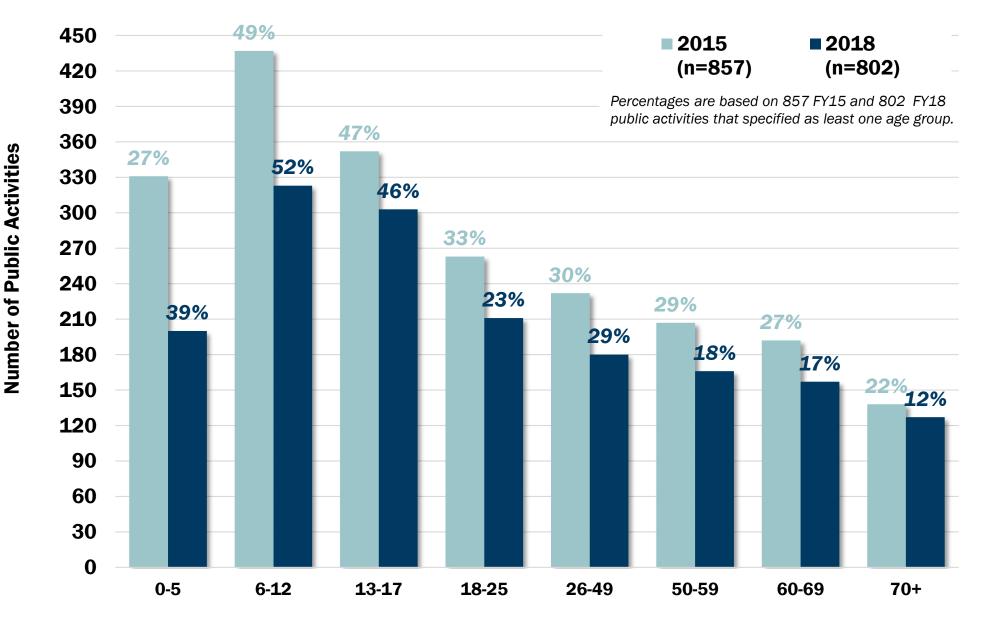
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Beneficiaries: Age Groups Targeted by Public Activities

FY18:

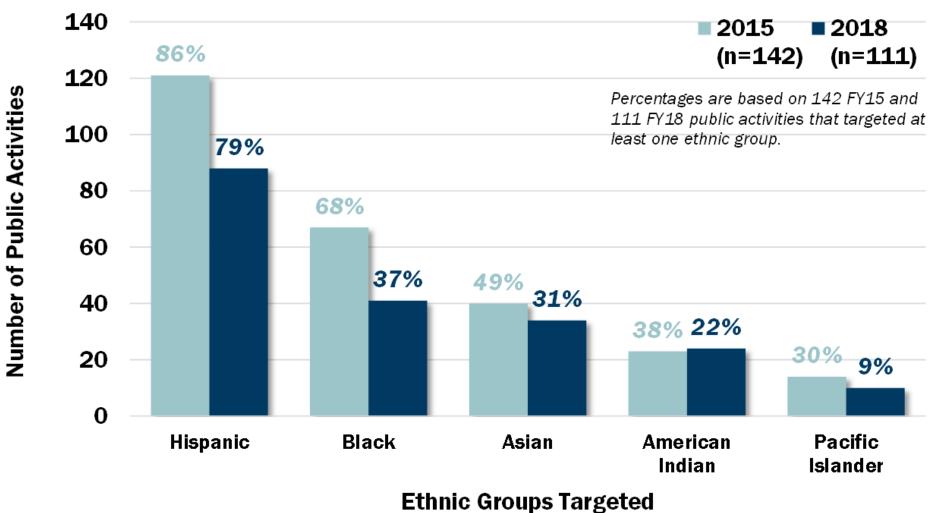
802 (37%) of publicfocused activities targeted one of eight specific age groups



Age Groups Targeted (Activities can specify more than one)

Beneficiaries: Ethnic Groups Targeted by Public Activities

FY18: 111 (6%) of publicfocused activities targeted one of five specific ethnic groups



(Activities can specify more than one)

Activity Outputs

- Data about budgets were matched up to data about activities, including activity outputs
- Selected types of outputs
 - Program Evaluations
 - Databases \rightarrow Limited to activities with ONLY databases acquired = output
- Metrics
 - Number of states
 - Number of activities
 - Number of evaluations completed or databases acquired
 - Costs (Total and LSTA budgets)
 - Total and median per activity
 - Cost per unit (per evaluation or per database)
 - LSTA as percent of total



A First Look at Activity Outcomes Questionnaire Results

Outcomes Questionnaires – 4 Versions

		Beneficiary				
		Library Workforce	General Public			
	Instruction	Mode = program (2)	Mode = program (1)			
	Content	Mode = Acquisition	No outcomes			
	Content	or creation (3)	questionnaire			
	Planning &	All modes (4)	No outcomes			
Activity	evaluation	All modes (4)	questionnaire			
	Procurement	No outcomes	No outcomes			
	Frocurement	questionnaire	questionnaire			

Outcomes questionnaires - Example

Instructional Program for General Public



Quick Survey about the Program

Thank you for your participation in this program. Please provide your feedback about the program by completing the following questions. Thank you!

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. I learned something by participating in this library activity.	0	0	0	0	0

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
2. I feel more confident about what I just learned.	0	0	0	0	0

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
3. I intend to apply what I just learned.	0	0	0	0	0

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
4. I am more aware of resources and services provided by the library.	0	0	0	0	0

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
5. I am more likely to use other library resources and services.	0	0	0	0	0

Optional Open-Ended Questions (Not Required by IMLS for reporting into SPR)

1. (OPTIONAL) What did you like most about this library program?

2. (OPTIONAL) What could the library do to better assist you in learning more?

Screen Shot – Input for Questionnaire Data

- When we pull the data from the SPR for analysis, there are 108 variables across the four survey types.
- Analysis caveat data that were NOT in alignment with the beneficiary, type of activity, and mode were dropped from the analysis.
- First pass next pass could drill into format?

Activity	Outcomes
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Activity: Test

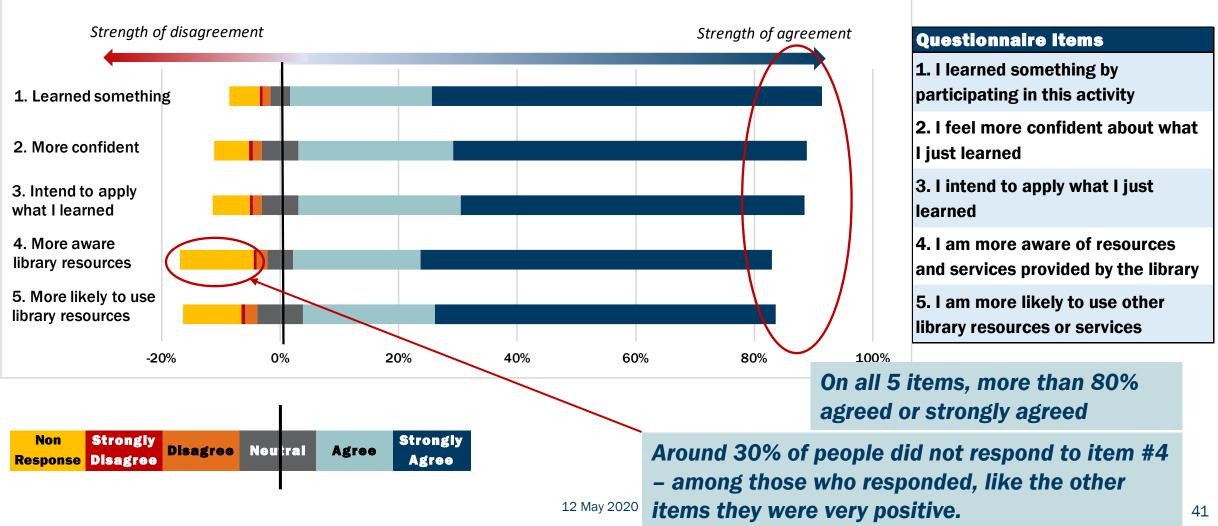
- SD = Number of respondents that reported 'Strongly Disagree'
- D = Number of respondents that reported 'Disgree'
- NA/ND = Number of respondents that reported 'Neither Agree nor Disagree'
- A = Number of respondents that reported 'Agree'
- SA = Number of respondents that reported 'Strongly Agree'
- NR = Number of respondents that did not answer the question

Total number	of survey res	ponses: 10	D			
I learned something	g by participatir	ng in this library a	ctivity.			
SD	D	NA/ND	A	SA	NR	
1	0	0	1	8	0	
I feel more confide	nt about what I	just learned.				
SD	D	NA/ND	A	SA	NR	
1	0	0	2	7	0	
I intend to apply wh	nat <mark>I j</mark> ust learne	d.				
SD	D	NA/ND	A	SA	NR	
1	0	0	3	6	0	
I am more aware o	f resources and	d services provide	d by the libra	iry.		
SD	D	NA/ND	A	SA	NR	
1	0	0	0	9	0	
I am more likely to	use other librar	ry resources and s	services.			
SD	D	NA/ND	A	SA	NR	
1	0	0	1	7	0	
			_			

Cance

1. General Public Activity Outcomes

General Public Assessment of Library Instructional Programs FY 2018 (n=53,661 responses from 240 activities)



Digital Literacy and Broadband in Grants to States

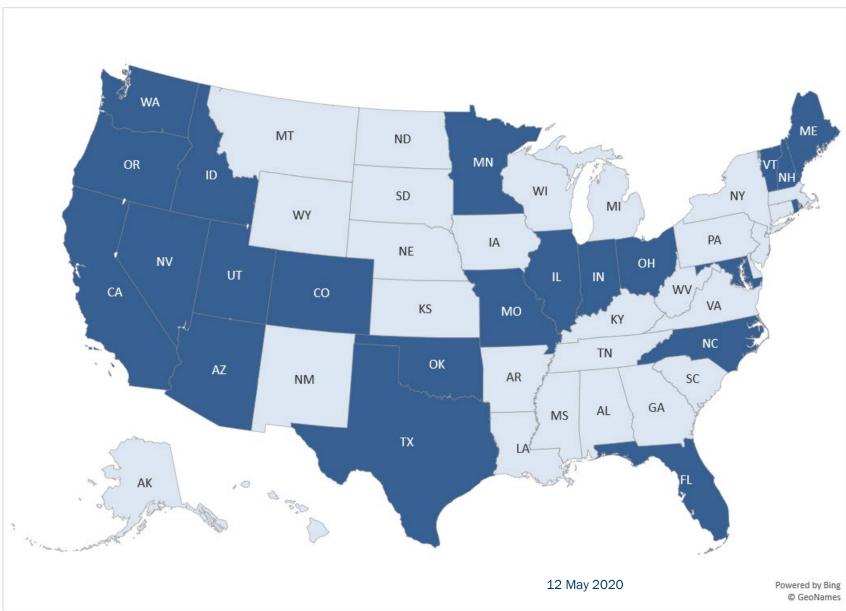
• LSTA Annual Training Meeting

Topical Focus: Broadband and Digital Literacy

Three methods to identify projects

- 1. Subject fields
- 2. Project tags

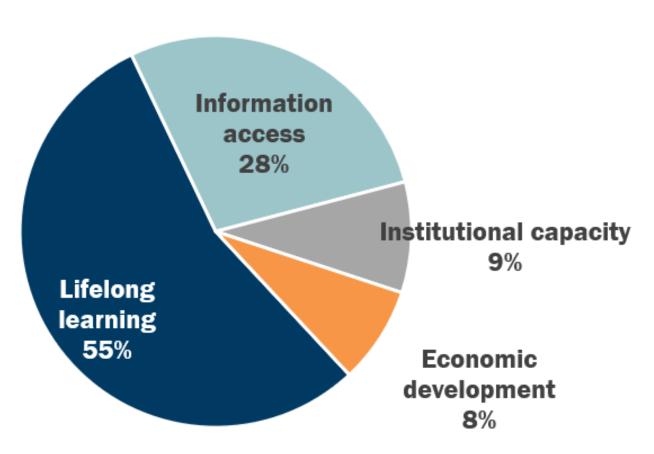
23 States plus Northern Marianas had at least one digital literacy project



- 70 Projects
- 175 Activities
- **\$5.1M** Total Budget
- \$31,453 Median (per project)
- 21.4% Exemplary

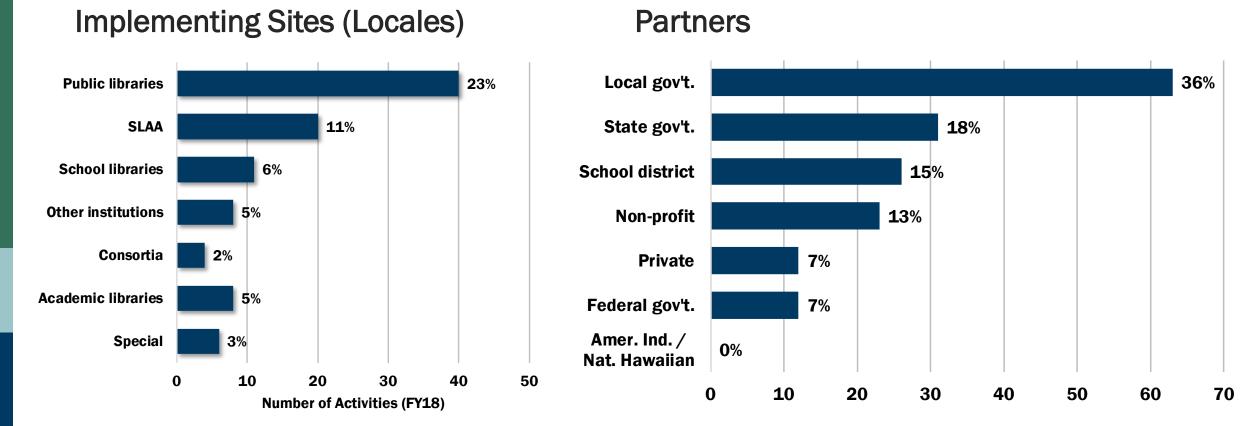
Only Northern Marianas had a digital literacy project. None of the other four territories reported projects in this area 49

FY 2018 Digital Literacy Activities Focal Areas



Focal Area	Digital Literacy	Entire Portfolio
Lifelong Learning	55%	32%
Information Access	28%	29%
Institutional Capacity	9%	32%
Economic development	8%	2%
Civic engagement	0%	4%
Human services	0%	2%

FY 2018 Digital Literacy Projects: Implementers* and Partners



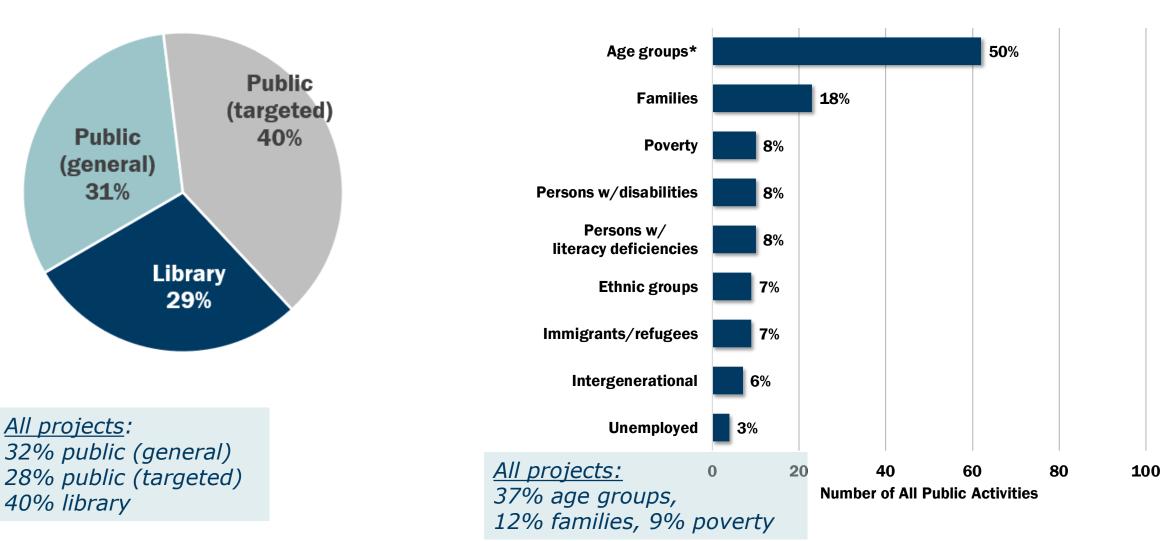
All Projects: public libraries (42%) and SLAAs (25%)

*Optional information in the SPR

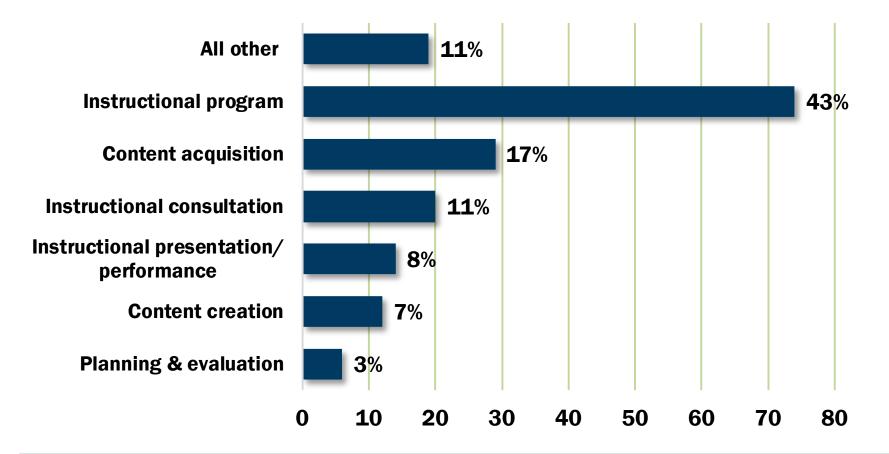
All projects: Local government (60%), School districts (25%) and State government (47%)

12 May 2020

FY 2018 Digital Literacy Projects Beneficiaries



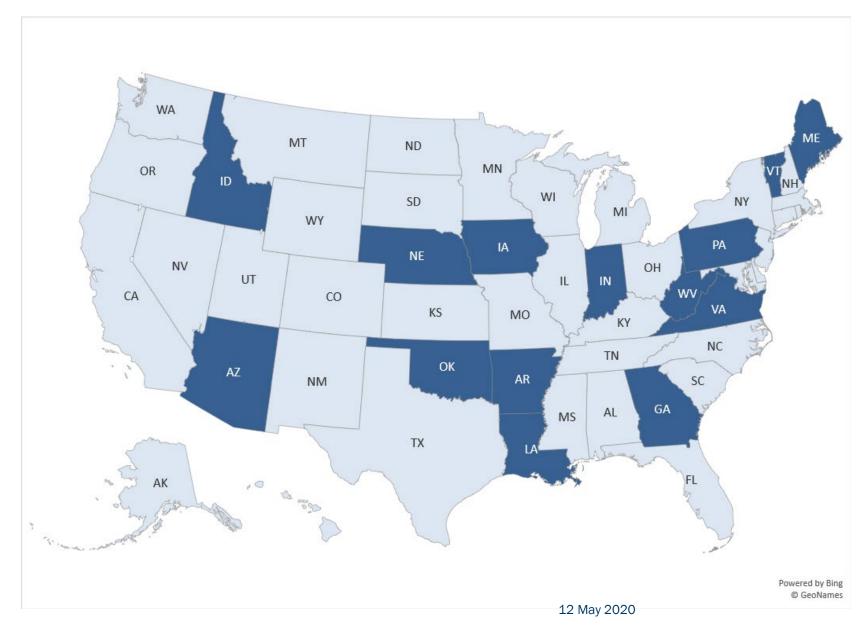
FY 2018 Digital Literacy Projects Activity Modes



• 62% involved instruction: programs, presentations/performances, consultations

• 24% involved content acquisition and creation

14 States had Broadband Projects in FY18

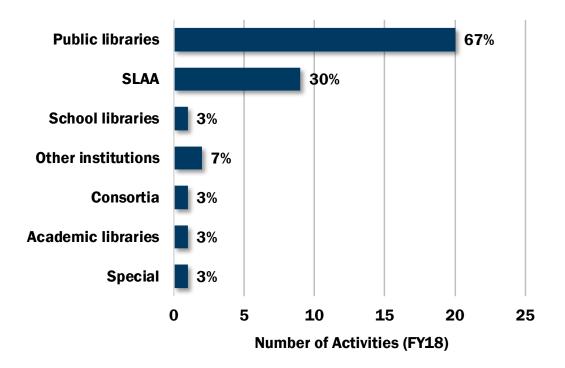


- **15** Projects
- 30 Activities
- \$3.2M Total Budget
- **\$116,765** Median (per project)
- 6.7% Exemplary

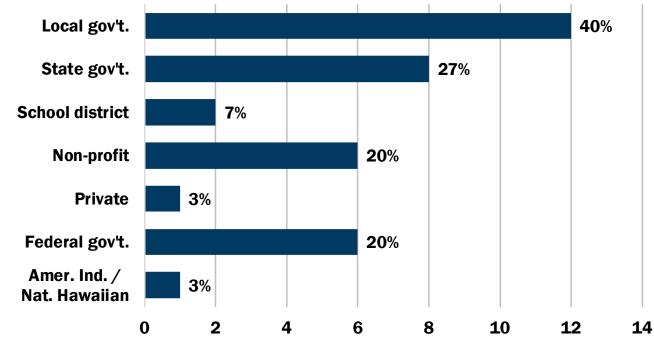
None of the five territories reported projects in this area

FY 2018 Broadband Projects: Implementers* and Partners

Implementing Sites (Locale)

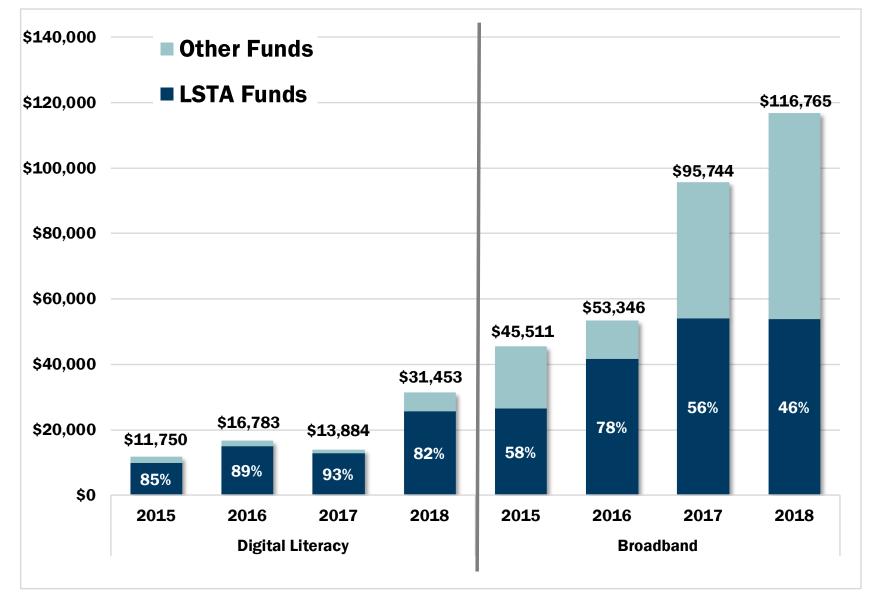


Partner Areas



All Projects: Public libraries (42%), SLAAs (25%) *Optional information in the SPR All projects: Local government (60%), School districts (25%) and State government (47%)

Median Project Budgets by Source of Funds, FY15-FY18



\$XX,XXX = total budget XX% shows percent of total budget from LSTA funds

- Broadband more expensive than digital literacy projects
- Total budget for broadband projects more than doubled since FY15
- Digital literacy higher percent from LSTA funds than broadband (82% vs. 46% in FY18)

Budget data not adjusted for inflation