



AUDIT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDINGS in NSW

**Prepared for
Gosford City Council**

**By
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Audit of Public Library Buildings in NSW* has collated a coherent snapshot of the current state of public library buildings in NSW today. The *Audit* was developed to complement *People places: A guide for public library buildings in New South Wales* (2005), which is the planning guideline endorsed by the Library Council of NSW for the development of public library buildings in NSW. The purpose of the *Audit* was to develop an accurate picture of the current state of public library buildings in NSW, which could at a later stage be compared with the recommended standards in *People places* and the findings used for future planning projects and advocacy purposes.

There are currently 365 public libraries in NSW and in total, 356 libraries participated in the 2007 *Audit*. These libraries represent, 41 Central libraries and 121 Branch libraries in metropolitan areas and 54 Central libraries and 140 Branch libraries in country areas.

The Audit focussed on five key areas, with the following key findings:

Floorspace and Function

- NSW Libraries ranged in floor space area from 10m² to 5,600m².
- In metropolitan areas, the largest proportion of Central libraries covered a floor area of 1550-2990m² and three quarters of Branch libraries covered an area of 200-1550m².
- In country areas, three quarters of Central libraries had a Gross Floor Area (GFA) of 200-1500m², as were half of all Branch libraries.
- Just over half of all collection areas covered an area of 101-570m².
- Two fifths of reading and study areas were less than 40m².
- The most common dedicated service area was children's storytelling area (32%) followed by young adults area (30%).

Locational Factors

- One third of NSW libraries are co-located in a public building with other community services and facilities
- Only 3% of NSW libraries operate a joint-use agreement with other types of libraries.
- One-tenth of public libraries are in leased premises.
- Two fifths of libraries are located on a main street shopping strip.
- Almost half of all libraries are located away from shopping areas, particularly Central libraries in country areas.
- Overall, three quarters of all libraries were within 400m walking distance of a public transport node, however there was greater disparity between metropolitan and country libraries.

Library Buildings

- Just under one third of library buildings were built in the period 1960-1979. One fifth were built between 1990 – 2000.
- Over one third of all NSW libraries indicated that they had not had any major refurbishments. One quarter of libraries built before 1990 have not been refurbished.
- Just under 15% of all libraries are located in a heritage building. There is a slightly higher proportion of heritage listed libraries in Country areas.
- Over half of all libraries in NSW were purpose built.
- Of those that were not purpose built, original uses range from a hardware store to a railway station, clothing factory and private residence.
- The majority of libraries were located on the ground floor with street frontage. Of those that were not, two thirds did not have a passenger lift.

Building Design

- Just over half of all libraries had completed a fire rating assessment or an access audit of the library building.
- Slightly more than one third of all libraries had assessed their building against the Building Code of Australia standards or for hazardous building materials.
- One third of libraries had completed an energy audit of their building, with half of all audits being undertaken in 2006.
- Two fifths of libraries have installed energy efficient light bulbs.

Planning and Development

- Under one fifth of all Central libraries (17 libraries) are planning for major alterations to their existing building, with budgets ranging from \$200,000 to \$35 million.
- A further fifth of Central libraries were planning for a new library building on their current location (19 libraries). Close to half of these are expected to not be operational within four years.
- One fifth of Central libraries had off-site floor space used for library purposes, with the most common use being storage.

The *Audit* data will provide a useful foundation for comparison and analysis of libraries and their capacity to meet changing and future needs as well as providing the basis for strategic planning and budgeting. The data will be stored and made available in an accompanying database. The database has been designed as a flexible and adaptable resource which can be updated and added to as required and should provide a valuable decision making tool for library planning in NSW.

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And an especial thanks to all of the public library staff who contributed their valuable time and effort into completing the extensive surveys. A complete list of all libraries which participated in the survey is included in **Appendix 2**.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared for Gosford Library on behalf of Public Libraries NSW - Metropolitan to present the findings from the *Audit of Public Library Buildings in NSW*, an online survey undertaken over the period December 2006 – April 2007.

The *Audit* was developed to complement *People places: A guide for public library buildings in New South Wales* (2005), which is the planning guideline endorsed by the Library Council of NSW for the development of public library buildings in NSW. The purpose of the audit was to develop an accurate picture of the current state of public library buildings in NSW, which could at a later stage be compared with the recommended standards in *People places* and the findings used for future planning projects and advocacy purposes.

This report will present the findings of the public library building audit, covering the five key areas of floorspace and functions; locational factors; library buildings; information on the library buildings and planning and development.

1.1 *People Places*

People places: A guide for public library buildings in New South Wales by Heather Nesbitt and Bligh Voller Nield was commissioned by the Library Council of NSW in 2000 to promote planning techniques and practical guidelines for the development of library buildings. It sets out information not only on the design of buildings but also the processes required to develop successful library development projects. In 2005 the guide was updated to include an evaluation of libraries which had used the original edition in the planning of their buildings to illustrate the effectiveness of the guide, in addition to addressing new issues which had arisen in the interim.

The guidelines presented in *People places* were used to inform the structure of the survey tool used in the *Audit of Public Library Buildings*.

1.2 Background

In 2006 there were 363 public libraries operating in NSW, with an additional 32 mobile services and 93 deposit stations¹. In the year ending 30 June 2006, there were approximately 33,200,000 visits to public libraries in NSW, with 3,175,000 registered members. Libraries are facing new challenges - as the demographic character of the community changes and social trends alter, so do the requirements for users of the libraries.

Public libraries are seen as the one facility in a local community which is accessible to anyone wanting to visit. Libraries are used for more than educational purposes - with the introduction of more services and facilities within the library, more social and cultural activities are being encouraged.

In NSW, libraries are the responsibility of local government (with some assistance from the State Government), and it is Councils which must undertake the construction and

¹ State Library of NSW (2006) Public Libraries in NSW: directory / State Library of NSW (2007) Public Library Statistics 2005/06

maintenance for these buildings from their annual budgets. As indicated previously, the needs of the community accessing libraries is changing and some library buildings no longer meet the contemporary needs or current standards. A reoccurring theme throughout literature regarding the necessities of modern public library buildings are user needs, space and costs².

User needs have changed dramatically over the past decade, whereby local and larger public libraries are no longer a facility to solely borrow books or study. Libraries now are more people focussed with extra services and facilities for the local community. They are, in a manner, becoming a hub for community life. *People places* identifies the differences between 'user needs' and 'user wants' within local libraries, and the dangers of comparing local libraries without assessing the real needs of the people who utilise the library. There is no longer a one-size-fits-all approach to library planning, and this had been recognised over the past few years.

Space requirements are usually limited by the location of the current or proposed library and perhaps the city it is in. Space in metropolitan areas for development is no longer available at reasonable prices as in the past. However, with library services changing, there are now greater demands for space within local libraries. Options such as co-location with other State or Municipal services or community activities may be the way forward.

People places identifies the key objectives for libraries as being buildings which:

- provide a cultural hub and focal point for the community;
- are functional and multipurpose accommodating a range of activities and uses;
- enable access to the latest in technology in a user-friendly manner;
- attract a wide range of users providing areas for relaxation, research, leisure and learning;
- are effective and efficient in the delivery of services; and
- develop from a co-operative approach between all stakeholders to ensure that the changing needs of the community are met (2005: 7).

Constraints faced by libraries include funding, old buildings, changing populations, changing demands and changed service delivery role. There is a need to make funding and building decisions more accountable and transparent, and to have greater community involvement in decisions. As a result, libraries need to establish discernible targets and goals. Establishing a baseline set of data on which to build future decisions will ensure these obligations to the community can be met.

It was felt that it was important to establish a quantitative survey designed to gather data rather than the opinions of staff of buildings and functionality, which are likely to be more subjective and open to different interpretations. Understanding these aspects could be the focus of later studies and discussion. Considerable work has already been done to define the role of libraries in the community, so the focus of this study was on the building structure itself.

² Jones, DJ (2004) "Critical Issues in Public Library Planning: The NSW experience", *The Australian Library Journal* 53(4).

2. AIMS AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

2.1 Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the project were:

- review existing literature on library buildings and audit processes;
- establish the collection and publication of building audit data that will enable ongoing comparisons of the effectiveness of local libraries on a State level;
- to undertake an audit of NSW public library buildings by on-line survey;
- to provide data which will be used to improve library buildings;
- to draw upon information and components from *People places: a guide for public library buildings in NSW*;
- to gather and present information in such a way that the results can be accessed electronically and updated on a regular basis;
- to validate the audit by sample survey; and
- to produce a final report that provides some analysis of the results.

2.2 Aim

Having established in *People places* what libraries should be, the next stage is to identify the characteristics of the existing physical infrastructure in NSW.

The aim of this study was to develop a comprehensive audit of all public library buildings in NSW.

2.3 Objective

The objective of this study is to gather detailed data in a systematic way which would establish a baseline assessment of public library buildings in NSW. This data could then be used to inform decisions on current and future library building needs that are responsive to community priorities.

3. SURVEY METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methodology

Funding for this project was obtained by the project leaders, Gosford Library, from the Library Council of NSW. A Steering Committee, comprising representatives from the State Library of NSW, Public Libraries NSW – Metropolitan (formerly known as the Metropolitan Public Libraries Association), Public Libraries NSW – Country (formerly known as the Country Public Libraries Association) and the Local Government and Shires Association, was established to oversee the development and implementation of the project.

The Public Library Buildings Audit was developed over a number of phases.

- Initial consultation and literature review
- Development of draft survey themes
- Pilot survey
- Final on-line survey
- Data analysis and output report

Several draft survey themes were drawn from a literature review of building audit methodologies and based on the ideas in *People Places* (2005). These draft questions and themes were reviewed by the Steering Committee with some resulting amendments to the survey instrument. An electronic version was then programmed to enable the survey to be completed on-line.

A pilot survey was undertaken in September 2006, comprising 18 libraries. Feedback about the content and ease of use of the survey was elicited from the participating branches and a number of improvements made.

All library managers were advised in advance of the final survey going on-line. This was used to verify correct email address details prior to the delivery of the on-line survey link. A letter to each Council General Manager was also sent to outline the intent of the project. A copy of the final survey tool is attached in **Appendix 1**.

It was decided that it was not necessary to validate the audit through a sample survey as the feedback obtained through the pilot testing round had satisfactorily addressed this need.

3.2 Response Rate

The full survey went on-line in November 2006. Initially it was intended to be open for 2 weeks however it was found that due to conflict with other surveys circulating at the time, staff shortages and the pre-Christmas rush, many libraries were unable to complete the survey in the time allocated. The survey was left open until April 2007, with several rounds of follow up telephone calls and emails encouraging the completion of outstanding responses from all libraries.

It was decided by the Committee that it was extremely important to have as complete a response rate as possible. With considerable time and effort, all outstanding surveys were followed up individually and submitted in hard copy format resulting in a final **response rate of 97.5%**.

Reasons for Non-Response

During the follow up phase, discussions with library managers revealed a number of reasons for the delay in response. Primary reasons included clashes with public holidays and time and staffing constraints on library managers. Several libraries had significant problems with obtaining the measurements required in Part A. Changes in staff also affected follow up rates as new staff were not aware of previous manager's involvement.

3.3 Limitations to the Study

The analysis of the survey responses has revealed a number of limitations to the study which are important to note.

The return of paper surveys, both voluntarily through the main survey period, and all remaining ones after the on-line component had closed, meant that people could skip questions, accidentally or otherwise, which perhaps contributed to a drop in the response rate for some of the smaller questions. eg QB6 was overlooked by a high proportion of those entered manually.

The content of some questions, particularly with regards to areas such as building design, were out of the scope of knowledge of many library managers. Other limitations relate largely to possible misinterpretation of questions which may have affected some responses. These have been noted, where relevant, in the textual analysis in the following sections.

3.4 Output

The outcomes of the *Audit* have been delivered in two formats. This report presents an analysis of the survey findings, covering the five key areas of floorspace and functions; locational factors; library buildings; information on the library buildings and planning and development. An electronic database of the completed responses is also available, which will provide a useful tool for further analysis and comparison with industry standards, and also allowing the data to be easily updated in the future if necessary to create an ongoing resource for advocacy and planning.

Details of this database can be obtained from [to be advised]

4. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The audit of public library buildings was divided into 5 parts:

- A: Floorspace and Functions
- B: Locational Factors
- C: Library Buildings
- D: Information on the Library Building
- E: Planning and Development

The results from each of these sections will be dealt with in turn below. The first four parts were completed by all branches whilst the last was completed only by each central library. In total 356 of the 365 NSW libraries responded, representing a **response rate of 97.5%**. These returns represent 95 central libraries and 261 branch libraries. 162 of the respondent libraries were located in the metropolitan area and 194 were in country areas.

Within the metropolitan area there are 41 central libraries and 121 branches. The country area contains 54 central libraries and 140 branch libraries. A complete list of respondents by library type and geographic location is attached in **Appendix 2**.

4.1 Floorspace and Functions

4.1.1 Gross Floor Area (GFA)

Each survey respondent was asked to indicate the gross floor area of the library premises. The gross floor area is defined as the total area of each floor of the library, measures to the inside edge of the external walls including internal walls, staircases, lobbies, corridors, lifts, plant rooms, packing areas, loading docks and toilets, however excluding void spaces in a floor. It also does not include off-site administration floor space.

As the response was open ended, the results have been banded for ease of interpretation. Table 4-1 shows the summary of responses from NSW libraries. The majority of all libraries were between 200 – 1550m² in area.

Table 4-1: Library Building Gross Floor Area³

	No.	%
<= 200	98	27.5
200 - 1550	220	61.8
1550 - 2900	27	7.6
2900 - 4250	9	2.5
4250+	2	.6
Total	356	100.0

It is acknowledged that a variety of measurement methods are likely to have been used in calculating these figures and that there is likely to be some inconsistency in the actual

³ Note: areas in labels have been rounded to the nearest whole number for clarity of presentation. The actual split between brackets is calculated to two decimal places, eg <=200.00 and 200.01 – 1550.00.

reported figures. However the differences are likely to be minor and will not impact upon the relevance of the findings.

Table 4-2: Analysis of Gross Floor Area by Location and Type of Library

Location/Type		Library Gross Floor Area (m ²)					Total (n)
		<= 200	200 - 1550	1550 - 2900	2900 - 4250	4250+	
Metropolitan	Branch	23.1%	76.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	121
	Central	0.0%	34.1%	41.5%	19.5%	4.9%	41
	Total	17.3%	65.4%	11.1%	4.9%	1.2%	162
Country	Branch	47.1%	52.1%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	140
	Central	7.4%	75.9%	14.8%	1.9%	0.0%	54
	Total	36.1%	58.8%	4.6%	0.5%	0.0%	194
Central	Total	4.2%	57.9%	26.3%	9.5%	2.1%	95
Branch	Total	36.0%	63.2%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	261

Table 4-2 presents a more detailed analysis of the gross floor areas for libraries in NSW based on location and role.

In the metropolitan region, 41.5% of central libraries had a GFA of 1550-2990m², followed by a further third having a GFA of 200-1550m². There were 2 libraries (4.9%) with a GFA of 4250m² or greater. The majority of branch libraries in the metropolitan region had a GFA of 200-1550m² with a further 23% having a GFA of 200m² or less.

In country areas, three quarters of central libraries had a GFA of 200-1550m² and another 14.8% were 1550-900m². Just over half of all branch libraries in Country areas were 200-1550m² and slightly less than half were less than 200m².

Adequacy of Size

The GFA figures reported do not alone give an indication of the adequacy of each library to serve its catchment population. *People places* provides a population-based benchmark formula which calculates a minimum size requirement based on a library's population catchment. **Appendix 3** contains examples of minimum library floorspace requirements for different population sizes as an indication of how the data can be used.

People places indicates that the minimum recommended size for a public library building servicing areas with populations smaller than 2,750 persons is 139m² gross floor area. Library buildings servicing larger populations need to be incrementally larger than 139m² to meet the recommended benchmark size.⁴

In total, 53 libraries in NSW, representing 14.9% of all those surveyed, were 139m² or smaller. 14 of these libraries were branch libraries in metropolitan areas, 1 country central library and 38 country branch libraries.

Depending on the catchment population serviced by each library, many more than 53 libraries may be below the minimum recommended size.

⁴ See *People places*, section 3

4.1.2 Main Library Functions

The survey questionnaire asked specific details for the gross floor areas of the five main library functions which may be offered in each library, as defined in *People places*. As with the overall GFA above, these measurements have been grouped to provide more meaningful results. It is emphasised that there is likely to be some variation within these findings, as individual libraries may have used slightly different measurement methods. However, overall it is felt that the findings are valid and useful.

Collection Areas (such as books and volumes on shelves, periodicals, non-print material, online and digital resources naturally comprise the largest area in most libraries (Table 4-3).

Table 4-3: Gross Area Functions – Collection Areas

	No.	%
<= 100	101	28.4
101 - 570	191	53.7
571 - 1040	31	8.7
1041 - 1510	5	1.4
1511+	3	0.8
Sub Total	331	93.0
NR	25	7.0
Total	356	100

Reading and study areas, defined as meeting areas, study areas, browsing and display and information areas were provided in most libraries (Table 4-4). The non-response rate of 11.8% includes both libraries which did not provide measurements and those which do not have this type of space.

Table 4-4: Gross Area Functions - Reading and Study Areas

	No.	%
<= 40	151	42.4
40 - 227	133	37.4
228 – 414	17	4.8
415 – 601	8	2.2
602+	5	1.4
Sub Total	314	88.2
NR	42	11.8
Total	356	100

The average size for resource areas such as the service desk, internet terminals, catalogues, printers, photocopiers, vending machines and telephones is shown in **Table 4-5**.

Table 4-5: Gross Area Functions - Resource Areas

	No.	%
<= 20.00	118	33.1
21 – 127	176	49.4

128 – 235	17	4.8
236 – 342	7	2
343+	2	0.6
Sub Total	320	89.9
NR	36	10.1
Total	356	100

Staff areas, which include any back of house areas, staff work areas and storage areas had average gross floor areas as summarised in Table 4-6.

Table 4-6: Gross Area Functions - Staff Areas

	No.	%
<= 50.00	192	53.9
50-445	103	28.9
446-840	14	3.9
841-1235	1	0.3
1236+	2	0.6
Sub Total	312	87.6
NR	44	12.4
Total	356	100

The remaining key function area covers all amenities areas, which includes areas such as the foyer, lobby, corridors, public and staff toilets, restrooms, plant equipment, storage areas and maintenance areas. The summary of gross floor allocation to these areas across NSW is presented in Table 4-7.

Table 4-7: Gross Area Functions - Amenities Areas

	No.	%
<= 100.00	232	65.2
101 – 381	54	15.2
382- 663	9	2.5
664 – 945	3	0.8
946+	1	0.3
Total	299	84
NR	57	16
Total	356	100

An option was allowed for “Other main areas” to capture information on any key functions outside those outlined. Only 67 libraries (18.8%) responded. Just over half (53.7%) indicated their additional spaces were less than 50m² (36 responses) and one third (34.3%) indicated this additional main space comprised between 51-512m² (23 responses).

Uses included areas for children/young adults (5), meeting rooms (11) and cultural space⁵ (4). Also listed were parking, courtyard, Council offices, library offices, delivery areas and RTA office. Whilst these results have been listed for completeness here, the majority of these other areas will be categorised more appropriately in the following section.

⁵ Theatrette/gallery/display area/museum

4.1.3 Additional Service Areas

Libraries were also asked to indicate if they provided floor area regularly used for 11 further categories of services which are popularly offered in libraries, based on options suggested in *People places*. Respondents were asked to indicate “No, don’t provide an area”; “Yes, not shared (ie exclusive space for this area)”; or “Yes, shared with other areas”. An option was also provided for the floor area to be provided if known. It is noted that there is likely to have been some inconsistencies in individual interpretations of this question, however this is not likely to detract from the value of the findings.

Analysis of the response to this question has been divided into central and branch libraries, in order to better illustrate the different roles of each library type in NSW.

Figure 4-1: Provision of Additional Service Areas in NSW Central Libraries

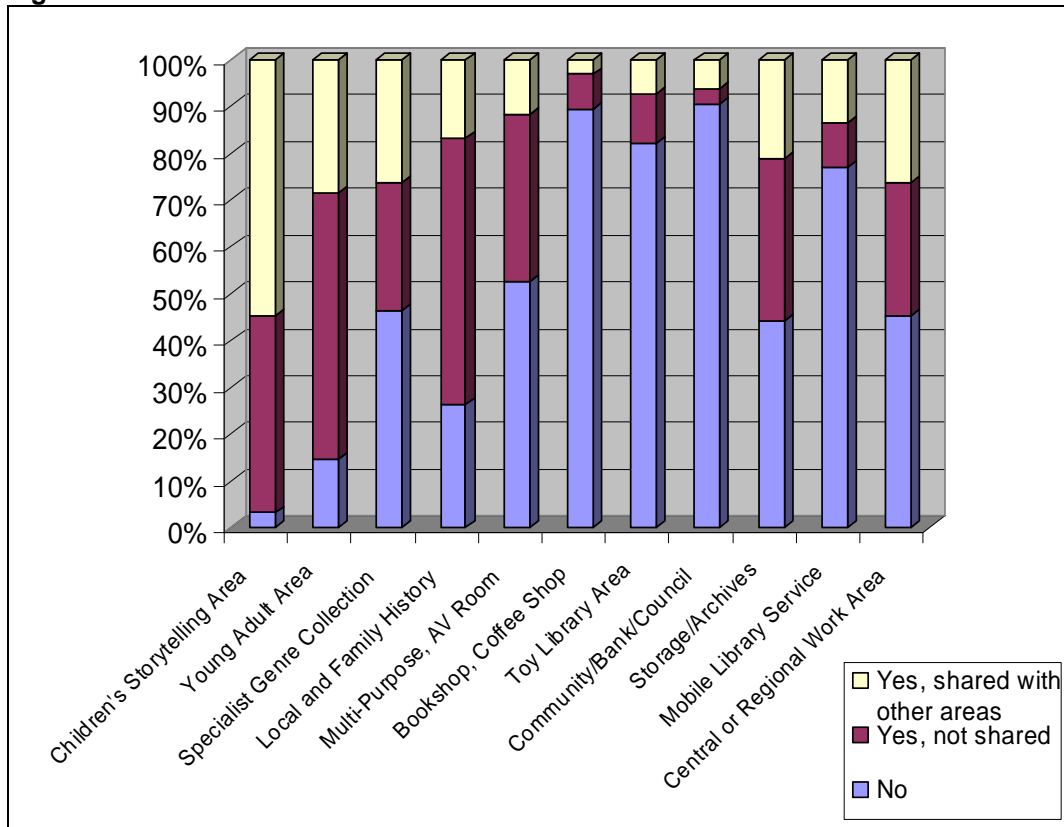
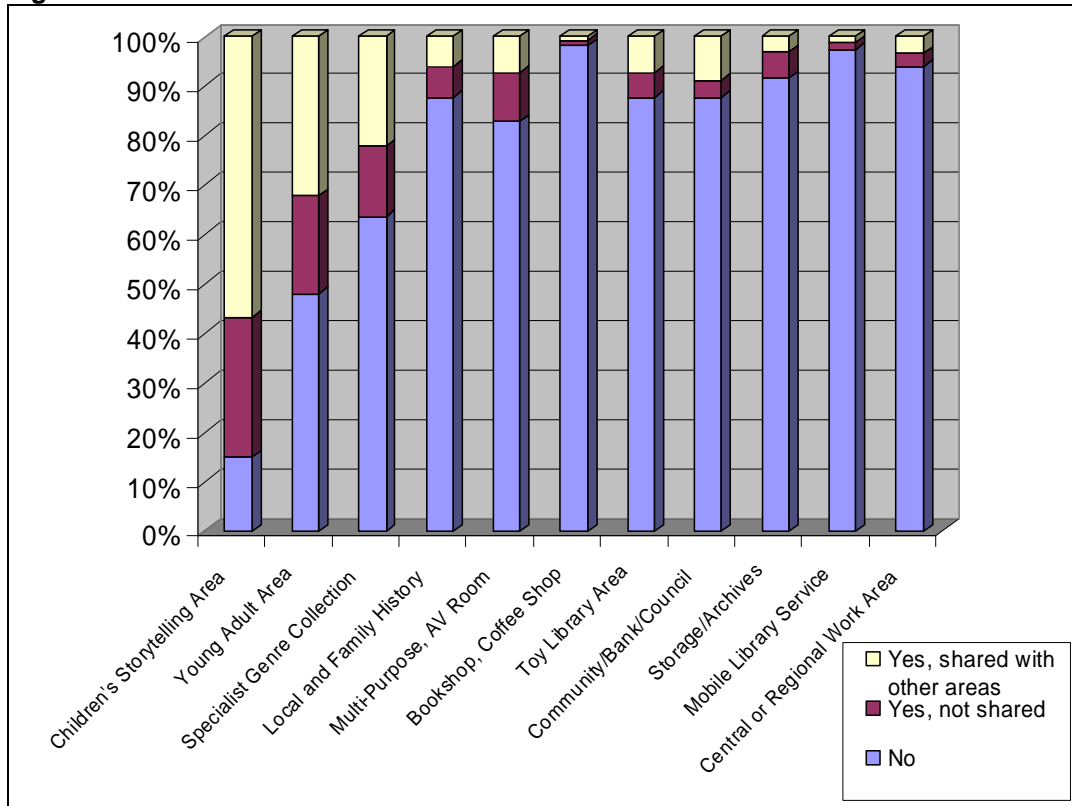


Figure 4-2: Provision of Additional Service Areas in NSW Branch Libraries



The degree of additional services provided differed widely across the categories suggested, with a children's storytelling area being the most popular additional service, offered by 88% of all libraries. Over half of all libraries offered children's storytelling in a shared space, and 32% offered it in an exclusive space, the largest exclusive dedication of space offered. 15% of branches did not offer a children's storytelling area compared to only 3.2% of central libraries. Almost double the number of central libraries offered a dedicated space compared to branch libraries.

A Young Adults area was the second most popular additional service area, offered by 61% of all libraries. A higher proportion of libraries offered this space as a shared space (31.2%) than as an exclusive space (29.8%). Over half (56.2%) of all central libraries offered this as a dedicated space compared to only 20% of branch libraries.

Just under one fifth of all libraries offered a dedicated specialist genre area (17.7%), specialist local and family history area (19.7%) or an AV/multi-purpose or training room (16.9%). The proportion of shared spaces was similar in both branch and central libraries, however a higher proportion of central libraries offered a dedicated space.

Twice the number of libraries offered a dedicated local history area compared to a shared area. Three quarters (74%) of central libraries offered local history areas with over half (56.8%) offering a dedicated space. Only 12.3% of branch libraries offered this space, with an even proportion offering dedicated and shared spaces.

Three quarters of all libraries did not offer a multi-purpose room, for uses such as AV, training etc. This represents 82% of all branch libraries and over half 52.6% of all central libraries. One third of central libraries offered a multi-purpose room as a dedicated space.

Twenty one percent of all libraries surveyed indicated they had space allocated for storage or archives, whether shared or dedicated. One third of central libraries offered this as a dedicated space, however 44% of central libraries did not have any space for storage or archives. 91.6% of branch libraries did not contain this type of space. In total, 14% had allocated space for toy libraries.

Fifteen libraries, representing 4% of all respondents, indicated they had a bookshop or coffee shop on the library premises. This represented 5 branch libraries and 10 central libraries.

Work space for a mobile library service was provided in 29 libraries (8.1%). 14% of central libraries offered this as a shared space. Only 2.8% (7 libraries) offered mobile library space, either shared or dedicated. 12.3% of branch libraries and 17.9% of central libraries offered toy library space. 12.3% of branch libraries and 9.5% of central libraries offered community facilities such as banks or Council access points.

One fifth of libraries provided work areas for central or regional administration. Over half (54.7%) of central libraries offered such spaces compared to only 6.1% of branch libraries.

Respondents were asked to indicate the gross floor area, if known, for each of the additional service areas.

Dedicated children's storytelling spaces ranged from 2 – 125m². Half of all floor spaces were 28m² or less and three quarters were 49.5m² or less. The mean floor space was 36.5m².

Shared spaces for children's storytelling ranged from 2 – 300m², with half being under 24m² and three quarters under 39m². The top 10% ranged from 70-300m².

Dedicated young adults areas ranged in size from 1 – 161m². Half of all spaces were under 19m² and three quarters were under 35m². The mean dedicated area was 28.2m². Shared spaces for young adults collections ranged from 1-300m², with three quarters of spaces being 23m² or under.

Specialist genre collections had dedicated spaces ranging from 1-186m². Three quarters were spaces under 37m². The mean dedicated space for specialist collections was 28.5m². Shared spaces for specialist collections covered areas from 2-300m². Three quarters were under 15m².

Local and family history areas had dedicated spaces ranging from 4-255m². Three quarters were spaces under 62m². Shared spaces for local and family history covered areas from 1-110m², however three quarters were under 23m².

Multi-purpose, Training and AV Rooms were predominantly dedicated spaces, with areas ranging from 8 – 594m². The mean for dedicated spaces was 70.8m² and the mean for shared spaces was 63.9m².

Fifteen libraries indicated they had a bookshop or coffee shop on the premises. The ten dedicated spaces ranged from 4 – 110m² in area, with a mean of 44.1m².

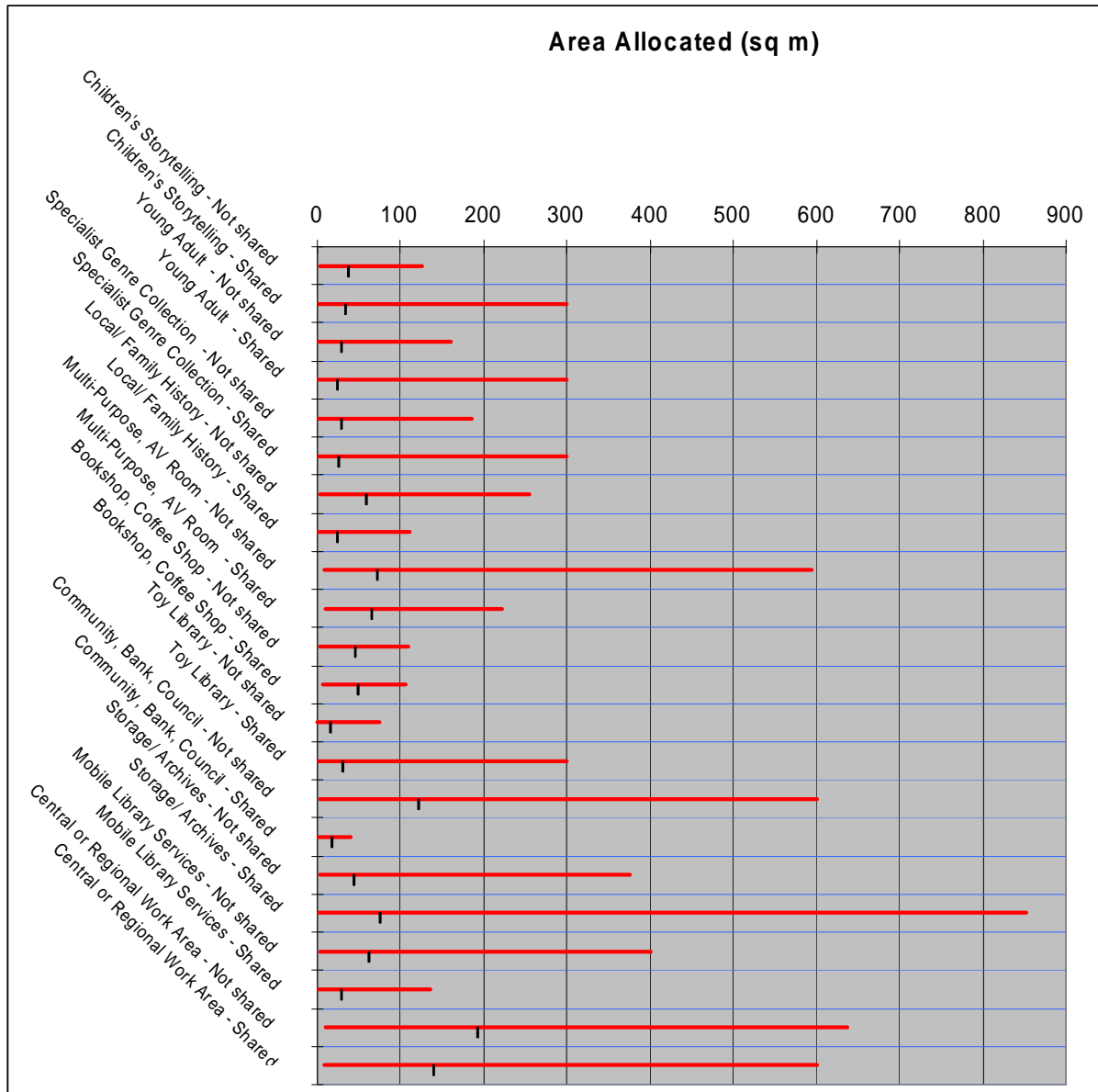
The majority of libraries did not have additional service areas for Community Services/Bank Services/Council Customer Service Units. The mean for dedicated space allocation was 120m², with the largest being 600m².

Dedicated storage areas for archival materials or conservation ranged in size from 3-375m², with a mean of 42m². Shared spaces ranged in area from 1-852m². Space allocated to Mobile Library Services ranged from 4-400m².

The space allocated to Central or Regional Work Areas ranged from 10-1508m², however this question was potentially misinterpreted by several libraries. It should be noted that many central regional libraries (i.e. libraries servicing multiple branches across multiple council areas) require large work areas.

The following figure shows the range of floorspace allocation, both dedicated and shared, for the additional service areas in question. The mean for each space allocation is marked with a vertical line. As can be seen, there is very little difference in the mean between shared and dedicated spaces for most of the services. This figure is intended to be indicative of the range of floor spaces allocated only as interpretation will be dependent upon the population being served.

Figure 4-3: Range of Floor Space Allocations for Additional Service Areas



* The mean for each space allocation is marked with a vertical line

Note: Graph excludes the floorspace given for two libraries for Central or Regional work area due to likely data error.

Similar to the question relating to the main floor areas, respondents were given the option to indicate any additional significant floor area allocations within their library. The majority (89%) of respondents did not suggest any further areas. Seventeen libraries (4.7%) indicated the presence of additional dedicated spaces. Descriptions of these spaces included:

- Public computer room (2)
- Stack (1)
- Home library/housebound service (2)
- Outback letterbox library (1)

The floor areas for these spaces ranged from 10 – 322m², with a mean of 108.9m² (n=14).

Shared areas containing other uses were noted by 8 libraries (2.2%) and included:

- Community room/crafts room (1)
- Displays (2)
- Meeting room (4)

The floor area for these spaces ranged from 18-75m² with a mean of 44.6m² (n=4).

4.1.4 General Access and Security

The majority of NSW public library buildings are constructed over 1 level, however a small proportion comprise 2 storeys.

Table 4-8: Number of Levels and Availability of Lifts in Libraries

Number of Levels	Availability of passenger lift		Total
	Yes	No	
1	15	272	287
1.5	0	1	1
2	21	25	46
3	9	7	16
4	4	1	5
5	1	0	1
Total	50	306	356

Only 14% (50 libraries) indicated that a passenger lift was available in the library. One quarter (24.7%) indicated that a loading dock was available. Of those libraries which indicated that a loading dock was available, 79.5% indicated that it was part of the library building.

Two thirds (69.4%) of libraries indicated that a security system was in place for the library. Some caution must be taken in interpreting this finding as it is possible that for at least some of the libraries which indicated they did not have a security system, the negative response may have been due to the security system being part of the whole building and not specifically for the library.

4.2 Locational Factors

“The library service needs to fit into the bigger picture of what is happening in the community and how the many opportunities available can be harnessed to add value to the library service provided” (People places, 2005: 15). Often this can be achieved through co-location or joint use.

A series of questions were asked of each library branch to obtain information on the location and ownership of the library premises.

4.2.1 Co-Location

Libraries were asked if the library premises was co-located in a public or private building with other facilities provided by local authorities (which include community centres, youth centres and child care centres). Table 4-9 presents the response rate to these two questions.

Table 4-9: Library Building Co-location

	Public Building		Private Building	
	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	135	37.9	16	4.5
No	221	62.1	340	95.5
Total	356	100	356	100

Open ended responses were permitted to identify other uses located in the same building, for both publicly and privately owned buildings. However there was a lack of clarity in responses supplied, whereby occasionally similar answers were contributed for both questions, or in other instances it was evident that the question had perhaps not been interpreted correctly. It is also possible that the question was open to misinterpretation.

The table below provides a summary of the other uses nominated in response to both question. Many respondents listed more than one additional use, therefore total number of responses is not relevant.

Table 4-10: Other Facilities Co-located with Public Libraries

Co-Located Uses	No.
Art Gallery	10
Bank	1
Cafe	2
Child care/ After school care centre/Preschool	12
Commercially rented spaces	7
Community Arts Centre, Exhibition space/display area	2
Community Centre	9
Community College	1
Community Hall	33
Community Health Centre/Health Services	7
Community Radio Station	1
Community Resource Network	1
Community/Rural Transaction Centre	7
Council Chambers	24
Council Customer Service Desk/ Council admin	12
Early Childhood Centre	8
HACC Centre/Meals on Wheels	7
Leisure Centre/Indoor Sports	7
Local/Family History Archives	2
Meeting room/s	22
Museum/Cinema/Theatre	5
Neighbourhood Centre	9
NSW Police Service	1

Co-Located Uses	No.
Post Office	1
Public School/Primary School Library/High School	3
Public Toilets	4
Residential apartments	3
RSL	1
Rural Fire Service/ State Emergency Services	2
Senior Citizens Centre	8
Shops/Restaurants/Supermarket	3
State Government Departments	6
TAFE/University	4
Tourist Information Centre	7
Town Hall	5
Women's Library/Toy Library	2
Youth Centre /PCYC	7

The most popular additional uses were meeting rooms, council chambers and community halls. However a range of other uses were also noted, including a PCYC, Police, DoCs and childcare facilities.

4.2.2 Joint-Use Libraries

Libraries were also asked if they operated as a joint use library, whereby the library has two or more distinct groups of users served by the one library, eg TAFE and a high school. Only 11 libraries indicated they had a joint-use agreement in place.

Table 4-11: Joint-Use Agreement in Place

	No.	%
Yes	11	3.1
No	345	96.9
Total	356	100

Libraries were also asked if the joint-use library was managed by a formal co-operative agreement between local authorities and the other institution. Eleven libraries indicated they had a formal co-operative agreement in place, of which eight were joint-use libraries.

4.2.3 Property Standing of Library Building

Respondents were asked to indicate if the library building was leased or owned. Overall, only 9.8% of library buildings were leased, with 90% of all libraries surveyed being owned by Council. Further analysis shows that in total 7 central libraries and 27 branch libraries were leased (**Table 4-12**), with a higher proportion being library buildings which were not purpose built.

Table 4-12: Tenure of Library Building by Library Type and Original Building Type

Purpose Built Library		Property standing of library			
		Leased		Owned	
		No.	%	No.	%
Yes	<i>Branch</i>	10	6.5	144	93.5
	<i>Central</i>	1	1.7	58	98.3
No	<i>Branch</i>	17	16.2	88	83.8
	<i>Central</i>	6	16.7	30	83.3

NB Table excludes Libraries which did not indicate if they were purpose built.

The distribution of leased branch and central library buildings by location can be ascertained from the table below, showing that half of all libraries which were leased were branches in stand-alone shopping centres and that overall 80% of leased library buildings were branch libraries.

Table 4-13: Tenure of Library Building by Library Type and Location of Library

Location of library		Property standing of library				Total
		Leased		Owned		
		No.	%	No.	%	No.
Branch	Stand-alone shopping centre	17	48.6%	16	5.0%	33
	Main street shopping strip	5	14.3%	102	31.8%	107
	Other area	6	17.1%	115	35.8%	121
	<i>Total Branch</i>	28	80.0%	233	72.6%	261
Central	Stand-alone shopping centre	2	5.7%	4	1.2%	6
	Main street shopping strip	3	8.6%	36	11.2%	39
	Other area	2	5.7%	48	15.0%	50
	<i>Total Central</i>	7	20.0%	88	27.4%	95
Total		35		321		356

Just under two thirds of all leased libraries had a gross floor area of 200-1550 m², with the remaining third being less than 200m² (Table 4-14).

Table 4-14: Tenure of Library Building by Library Gross Floor Area

	Library gross floor area (No.)					Total
	<= 200	200 - 1550	1550 - 2900	2900 - 4250	4250+	
Leased	12	22	1	0	0	35
Owned	86	198	26	9	2	321
Total	98	220	27	9	2	356

Of those that were leased, nearly half had long term or indefinite leases, however 9 had leases lasting only 1-5 years (Table 4-15).

Table 4-15: Length of Lease Period

No years.	No. libraries
1 – 5 years	9
7 – 10 years	4
25 – 30 years	6
60 years	1
99 years	5
Indefinite	10
Total leased	35

Of those libraries that were leased, 65.7% paid rent (Table 4-16).

Table 4-16: Rent Payable for Library

	No.	%
Yes	23	65.7
No	11	31.4
NR	1	2.9
Total	35	100

Close to two thirds (61%) of libraries indicated that they did pay outgoings with one third (34.6%) indicating they did not. A number of paper returns of surveys did not answer this question, resulting in a relatively high non response rate.

Table 4-17: Outgoings Payable by Library

	No.	%
Yes	217	61
No	123	34.6
NR	16	4.5
Total	356	100

In total, 44% of libraries indicated that future expansion of the library on that site was possible, however over half (54.5%) indicated that future expansion was not possible (Table 4-18). Of those which indicated that future expansion was possible, over half (58%) were located in country areas.

Table 4-18: Future Expansion of Library Possible

Location	Future expansion of library possible			Total
	Yes	No	NR	
Metropolitan	67 42%	94 48%	1	162
Country	91 58%	100 52%	3	194
Total	158	194	4	356

4.2.4 Proximity to Shopping Precincts

Libraries were asked to indicate if the premises was located in one of three areas, as summarised in Table 4-19.

Table 4-19: Location of Library Premises

	No.	%
Stand-alone shopping centre	39	11
Main street shopping strip	146	41
Other area	171	48
Total	356	100

Only 11% of libraries were located in a stand-alone shopping centre. Close to half (48%) indicated they were located in another area, which was defined as being a building located away from a shopping precinct. The remaining 41% were located on a main street shopping strip.

Table 4-20: Location of Library Premises in Relation to Shopping Areas

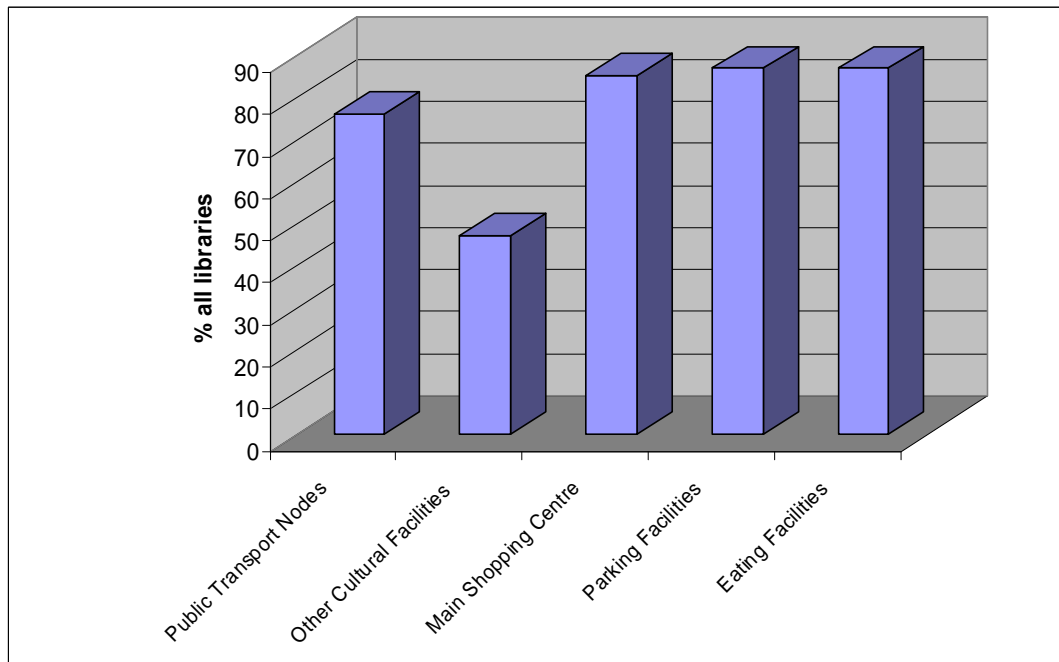
Type		Location of library		
		Stand-alone shopping centre %	Main street shopping strip %	Other area %
Metropolitan	Branch	18.2	36.4	45.5
	Central	12.2	41.5	46.3
	Total	16.7	37.7	45.7
Country	Branch	7.9	45.0	47.1
	Central	1.9	40.7	57.4
	Total	6.2	43.8	50.0

Forty percent of central libraries were located on main street shopping strips in both metropolitan and country areas. However, a higher proportion of country branch libraries were located on main street shopping strips than metropolitan branch libraries. Metropolitan branch libraries had the highest proportion in stand-alone shopping centres.

4.2.5 Proximity to Key Community Facilities

Respondents were asked to indicated if the library was within 400m walking distance from any of five key community facilities, as shown in Figure 4-4 below. More than one response was possible.

Figure 4-4: Proportion of Libraries in Proximity to Community Facilities



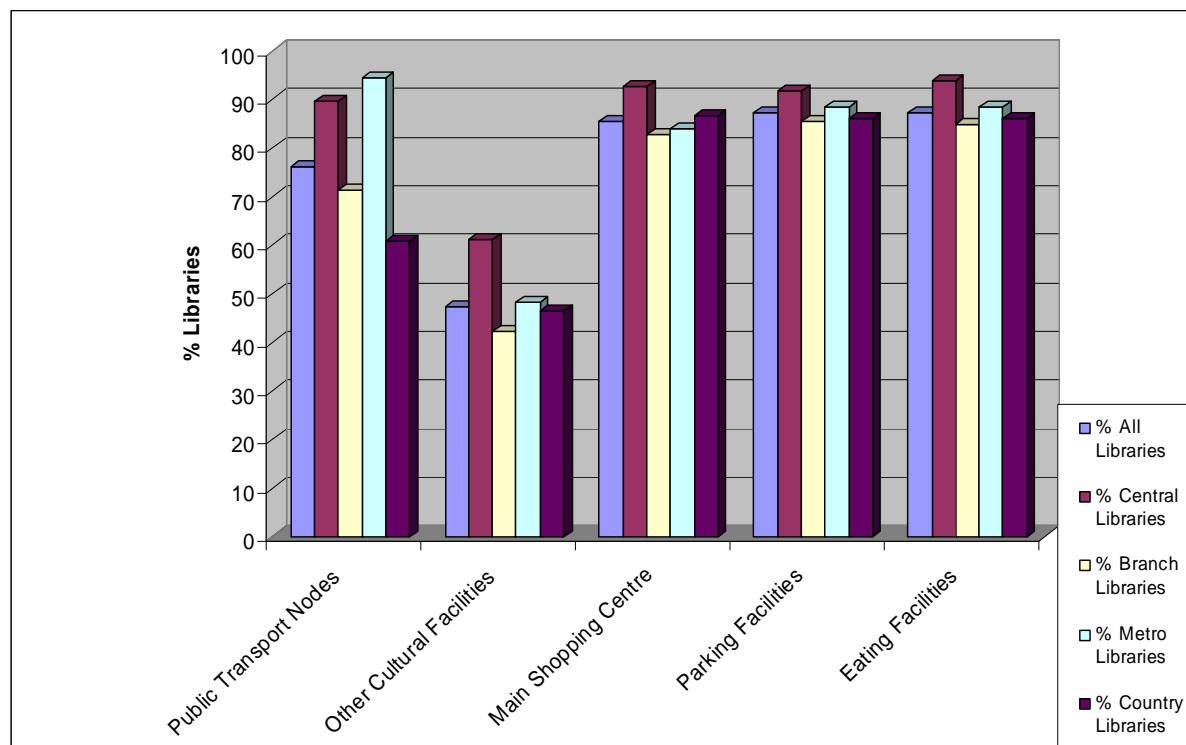
Nearly all libraries were within 400 metres walking distance from at least one other facility, with 87% being close to off-street parking and eating facilities. Three quarters of all libraries were close to a public transport node.

Further analysis of these responses based on the type of library and the geographic location of library revealed more significant variations, as shown in Figure 4-5. Some of the key differences reveal:

- 89.5% of central libraries and 71.3% of branch libraries are near public transport nodes;
- 94.4% metropolitan libraries and 60.8% of country libraries are near public transport nodes;
- 61% of central libraries and 42.1% of branch libraries are near other cultural facilities;

There was relatively little variation in the proximity to main shopping centres, parking facilities and eating facilities between metropolitan and country libraries and between central and branch libraries, as shown in Figure 4-5.

Figure 4-5: Proportion of Libraries in Proximity to Community Facilities Based on Location and Role



4.3 Library Buildings

4.3.1 Age of Building

Respondents were asked to indicate the period in which the original building structure containing the library was built. As can be seen in Table 4-21, the age of NSW library buildings is spread widely, with the largest proportion built in the period 1960 – 1979.

Table 4-21: Built Year of Library

	No.	%
pre 1900	20	5.6
1900-1919	28	7.9
1920-1939	18	5.1
1940-1959	25	7.0
1960-1979	107	30.1
1980-1989	53	14.9
1990-2000	69	19.4
post 2000	33	9.3
NR	3	0.8
Total	356	100

4.3.2 Refurbishment

Over one third (37.6%) of all NSW libraries indicated that they had not had any refurbishments to date, representing 134 libraries in total. Of the 219 who had undertaken a major refurbishment, the majority have taken place in the past 7 years.

Further analysis of the built year of the library by the year of the most recent major library refurbishment revealed the slow progress of refurbishment, even on older buildings (Table 4-22).

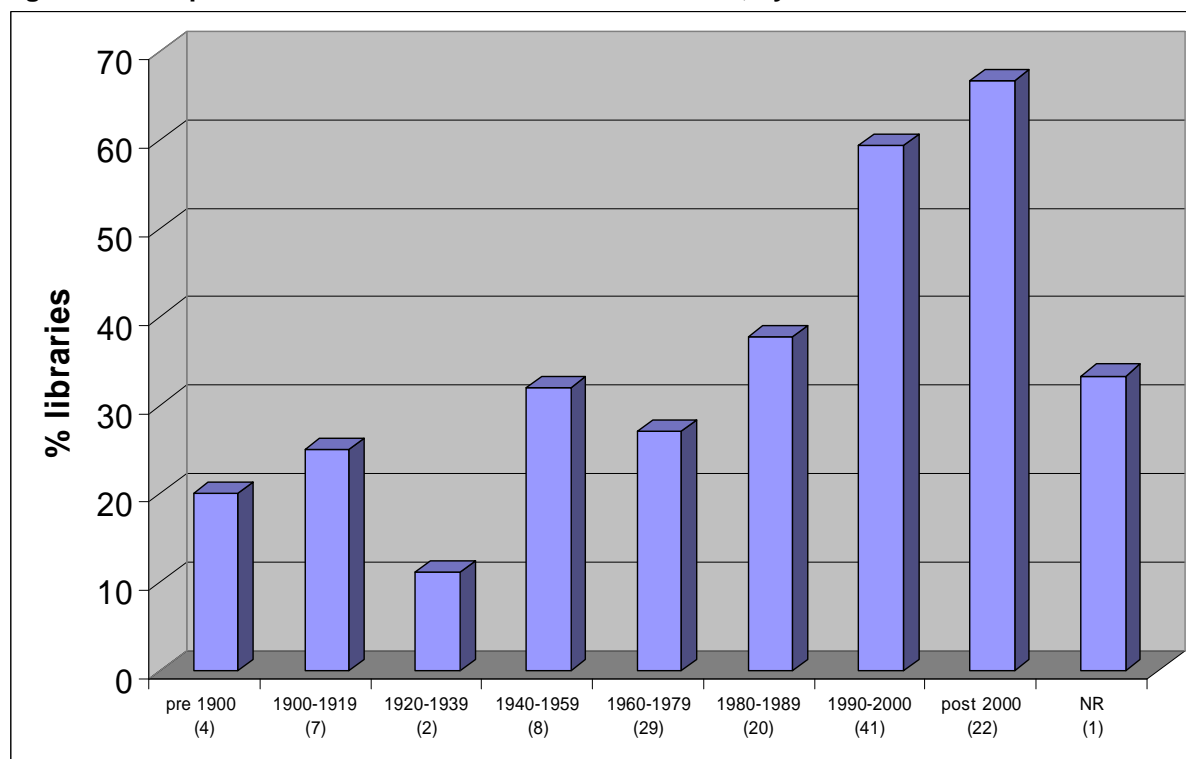
Table 4-22: Built Year of Library by Most Recent Major Library Refurbishment

Built Year of Library	Most recent major library refurbishment				Total
	1960-1979	1980-1989	1990-1999	2000+	
pre 1900	2	1	7	6	16
1900-1919	3	2	4	12	21
1920-1939	1	1	4	10	16
1940-1959	1	5	3	8	17
1960-1979	2	2	27	46	77
1980-1989	0	3	6	24	33
1990-2000	0	0	12	16	28
post 2000	0	0	0	11	11
Total	9	14	63	133	219

Figure 4-6 below shows the percentage of all libraries built in each period which have not been refurbished at all. In total, one third (134 libraries) indicated they had not received any refurbishment since being built. It must be noted, however, that this does include a large number of libraries built in more recent years which are less likely to need refurbishing.

Despite the massive changes in library service requirements in recent years, the introduction of new technologies and normal wear and tear, over one quarter (27.8%) of all libraries built before 1990 have not been refurbished.

Figure 4-6: Proportion of Un-Refurbished Libraries in NSW, by Period Built



NB: Some proportion are from small numbers, as shown in brackets, and thus should be interpreted with caution.

It is noted that there may be some possibility of misinterpretation of this question due to confusion over date of building and date of establishment of library, which particularly for the older buildings is likely to have had some overlap.

4.3.3 Heritage Status

Only 13.8% of libraries indicated that they were located in a heritage building.

There were slightly more heritage listed library buildings in metropolitan areas compared to country areas (16.7% vs 11.3%) (Table 4-23). A considerably higher proportion, albeit from low numbers, of central libraries in metropolitan areas were heritage listed compared to country areas. However, overall, the number of heritage listed libraries was similar across the branch/central division in both metropolitan and country areas.

Table 4-23: Heritage Listed Libraries by Location and Type

		Yes %	No %	Total No.
Metropolitan	Branch	16.5	83.5	121
	Central	17.1	82.9	41
	Metropolitan Total	16.7	83.3	162
Country	Branch	12.9	87.1	140
	Central	7.4	92.6	54
	Country Total	11.3	88.7	194

4.3.4 Purpose Built

Each library was asked to indicate if their building had been purpose built as a library (Table 4-25). In total, 60% of libraries indicated that they were. Whilst the majority of both central and branch libraries were purpose built, over one third (37.9%) of central libraries were not.

Table 4-24: Purpose Built Library by Library Type

	Branch		Central		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No	%
Yes	154	59.0%	59	62.1%	213	59.8%
No	105	40.2%	36	37.9%	141	39.6%
NR	2	0.8%	0	0.0%	2	0.6%
Total	261	100%	95	100%	356	100%

Of those that were not purpose built, a broad range of original uses were listed. The table below presents a summary of those indicated by respondents. Within the commercial and retail options listed were uses such as fruit shop, hardware store, motorcar agency and several supermarkets.

Table 4-25: Summary of Original Uses of Library Buildings

Type of Use	No.
Baby health clinic	1
Bank	4
Bowling club/RSL	2
Church	5
Clothing factory	1
Commercial/Retail space	27
Community Centre	5
Community Hall	11
Council Chambers	19
Court House/Customs House	2
Cultural Centre/Gallery/Museum	2
Electricity Agency/Depot	4
Fire station	1
Meeting rooms	2
Offices	7
Pool Parlour/Billiard Hall	2
Post Office and Telephone Exchange	1
Preschool/Primary School/School Hall/School Library	6
Private residence	14
Railway Station	1
School of Arts/Reading Hall/Railway Institute Hall/Mechanics Institute	8
Squash courts and swimming pool	1
Storage	1
Town Hall	8

4.3.5 Accessibility

“A library must be open and accessible to the whole community. This means designing a building that promotes equality for young and old, people with prams and people with a disability” (People places, 2005: 51).

Accessibility is an important aspect of any public facility. A series of questions were asked throughout the survey to ascertain the current accessibility of NSW public library buildings.

Libraries were asked to indicate whether they were located on the ground floor with street frontage, which was found to be the case in 85.4% of all NSW libraries.

Table 4-26: Library Located on Ground Floor with Street Frontage

	No.	%
Yes	304	85.4
No	52	14.6
Total	356	100

Closer examination of this factor compared with the availability of a passenger lift is shown in Table 4-27.

Table 4-27: Location of Library by Passenger Lift

Library located on ground floor with street frontage		Availability of passenger lift		Total
		Yes	No	
Yes	Number	33	271	304
	%	10.9%	89.1%	100%
No	Number	17	35	52
	%	32.7%	67.3%	100%
Total	Number	50	306	356
	%	14.0%	86.0%	100%

Of those libraries not located on the ground floor, comprising 52 libraries in total, only one third (32.7%) had a passenger lift.

4.4 Building Design Principles

A series of questions were asked to ascertain compliance with various building design principles which are relevant to NSW, and Australia.

There were 6 specific audits which were nominated, some within timeframes as noted. These were:

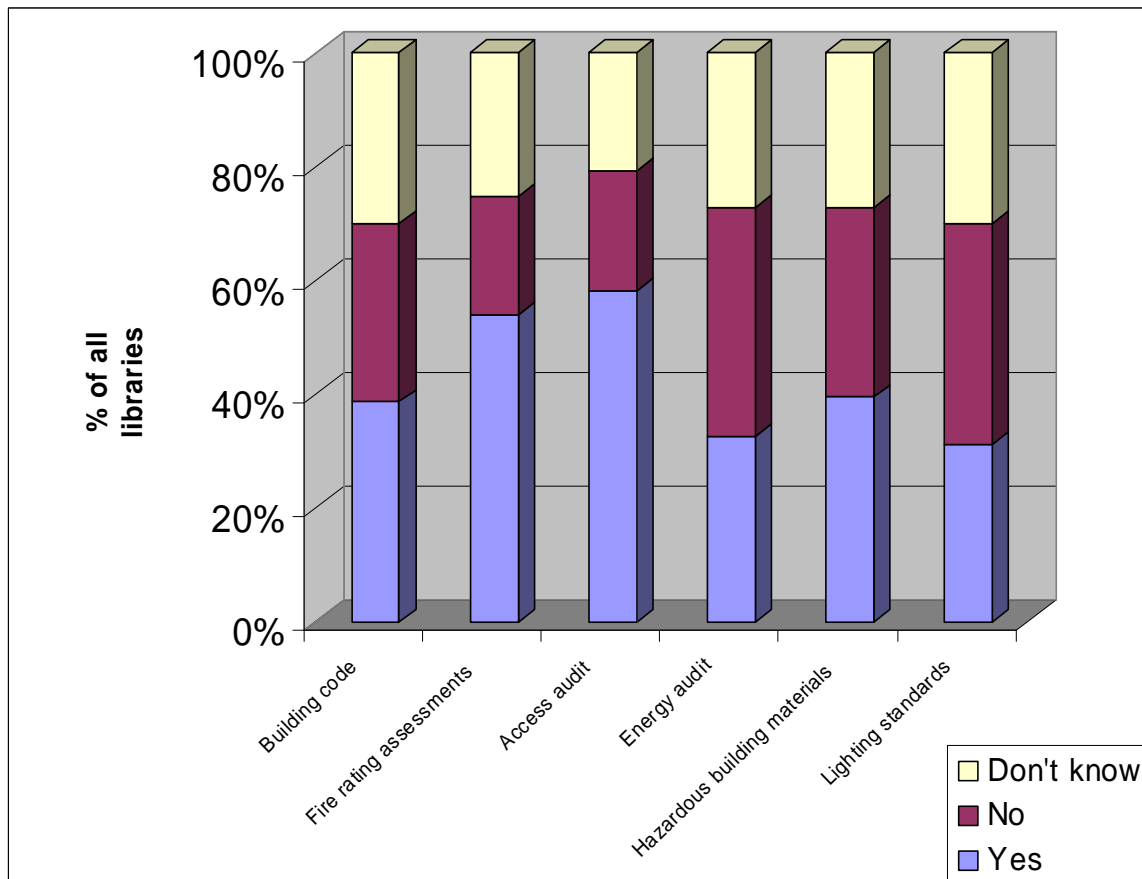
- Building Code of Australia Compliance – within the last 5 years
- Disability Access Audit (Australian Standards – Design for Access and Mobility (AS 1428)
- Energy Audit

- Hazardous Buildings Materials Audit (Approved Criteria for Classifying Hazardous Substances, NOHSC: 10005 (1999))
- Lighting Standard AS 1680 – since 2000

Of these, the most common across all libraries was the completion of an access audit (57.6%) which determines whether the library building meets the design requirements specific to the needs of people with a disability as defined in the Australian Standards – Design for Access and Mobility (AS1428) and the Building Code of Australia.

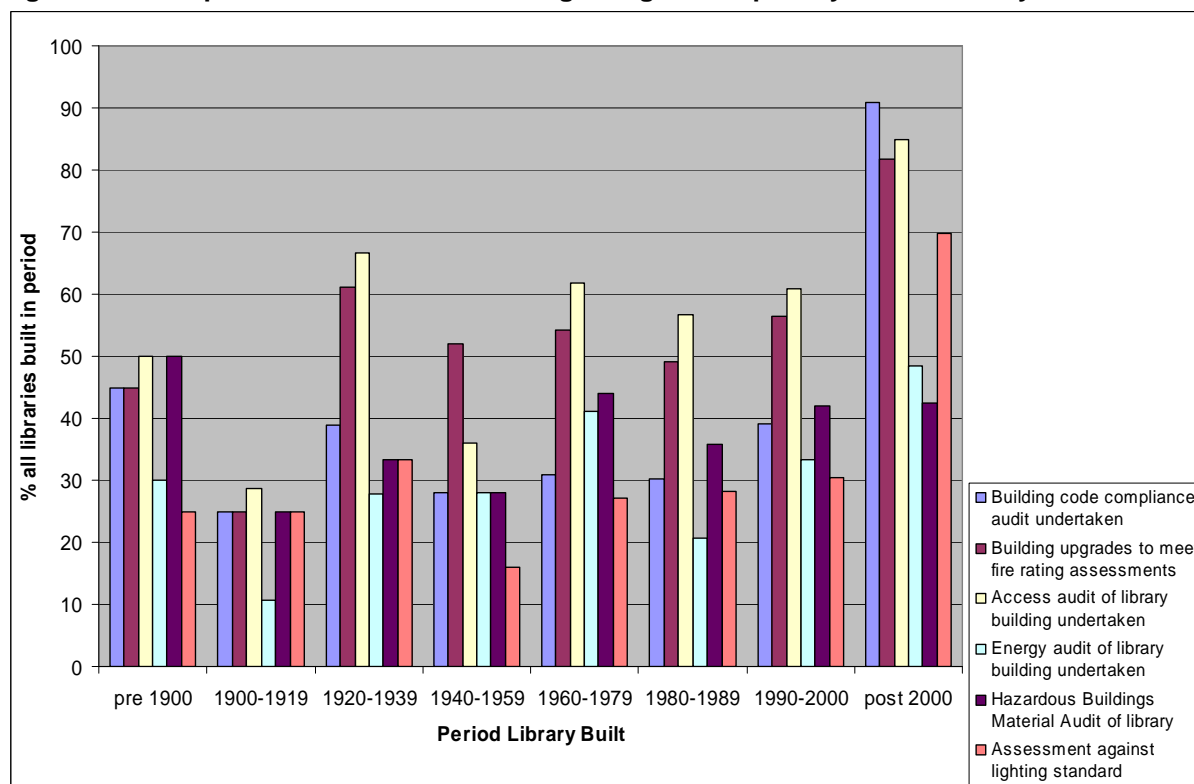
Figure 4-7 shows the extent of library building compliance across NSW with each of these key building design principles.

Figure 4-7: Extent of Library Building Compliance with Current Building Design Principles



It must be noted that the rate of “don’t know” was quite high across all of these questions, close to one third for each response, thereby limiting the validity of the results.

Figure 4-8: Compliance with Current Building Design Principles by Period Library Built



The above graph shows the proportion of all libraries built in each period which indicated that they had undertaken the respective audits. Overall, this reveals that some aspects of building design have perhaps received more attention than others, particularly in the older buildings.

4.4.1 Energy Audit

Libraries that indicated that they had undertaken an energy audit were asked to indicate in which year the audit was undertaken, as shown in Table 4-28 below.

Table 4-28: Year Energy Audit Taken

	No.	%
1996	1	1%
2000	3	3%
2002	5	4%
2003	5	4%
2004	11	10%
2005	32	28%
2006	55	48%
2007	3	3%
Total	115	100%

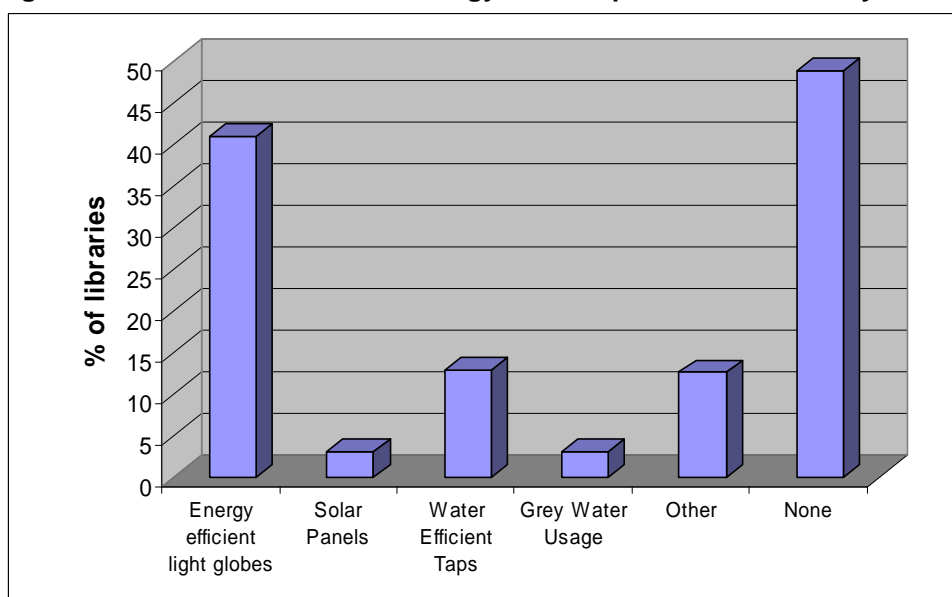
One third (32.3%) of all libraries indicated that they had undertaken an energy audit to date. Only once instance occurred prior to 2000. 56 libraries completed energy audits in the period

2000-2005, representing half of all audits undertaken and equal to the number of audits undertaken in 2006 alone.

The survey did not ask if energy audits were planned for the current year.

Whilst the current legislation for environmentally friendly standards does not apply to library buildings, there are a number of measures which are becoming popular. Libraries were asked to indicate if their building included any of four common measures to reduce energy consumption, with more than one selection possible.

Figure 4-9: Measures to Reduce Energy Consumption in NSW Library Buildings



As shown in Figure 4-9, 41% (146) of libraries indicated they had installed energy efficient light bulbs and 12.9% (46) had installed water efficient taps. Only 3.1% (11 libraries) had installed either solar panels or grey water systems. As a matter of interest, only 2 libraries had installed both of these.

A number of libraries (45, representing 12.6% of all libraries) indicated they had other measures installed to reduce energy consumption (Table 4-29). The most common of these were rainwater tanks for toilets and ancillary water usage, efficient usage of natural light, air conditioner efficiencies and water efficient toilets.

Table 4-29: Other Measures to Reduce Energy Consumption

Type of Installation	No.
AC Efficiency	5
Co generation plant	1
Geothermal air-conditioning	1
Insulation	2
Movement sensor lighting	1
Natural light/opening windows/skylights	5
No answer	7
Power converter (efficient electricity)	5

Type of Installation	No.
Rainwater tanks for toilets etc	9
Reduced number of fluorescent tubes	1
Stormwater detention displacement	1
Underground building	1
Ventilation via louvres/Automatic Windows/Double Glazing	3
Water efficient toilets	4

Although dealing with small numbers, the following table gives an indication of the implementation of specific energy consumption reduction methods being employed in NSW libraries based on their geographical location.

Table 4-30: Installation of Energy Efficiency Measures by Geographic Location

Energy Efficiency Measure	Metro	Regional
	% libraries in area	% libraries in area
Energy Efficient Light Globes	53.1	31.4
Solar Panels	6.8	0
Water Efficient Taps	17.3	9.4
Grey Water Usage	3.1	3.1
Other	14.2	11.3

4.5 Planning and Development

The final section of the survey related to planning and development and was designed to capture additional information from Central library branches only, with regards to future planning for their respective library service. The intent of these questions was to ascertain what potential projects are under development and to gauge an estimate of the time frames involved.

Despite the instructions that only the Central Libraries were to complete this section, a number of branch libraries completed all or part of this section also. These responses will be excluded from the following analysis.

Only 17 Central libraries (18%) indicated that they had plans for major alterations to their existing building. Of these 6 intended for their alterations to be operational in less than two years, 9 in two to four years and 2 in more than four years time.

Of the libraries intending to make major alterations, 15 libraries gave an indication of the likely budget for the extensions, rounded to the nearest \$100,000, ranging from \$200,000 to \$35 million. It must be noted that there may be been problems with the data entry for this response, leading to lower than correct figures being entered.

The majority of libraries were not able to indicate the expected additional floorspace for the library, however the 5 that did respond indicated an increase of between 100-636m².

One fifth (20%) of Central libraries indicated that a new library was being planned for the current location, representing 19 libraries. Nearly half (47.4%) of these libraries were not expecting to be operational for more than four years.

It is acknowledged that the wording of this question may have precluded the collection of information on a new library in another location.

Just over one fifth (22%) of Central libraries indicated they had off-site floor space used for library purposes. The findings were that:

- 7 had off-site floor space for administration purposes, with areas ranging from 25-450m². 5 of these libraries indicated they owned the off-site floor-space.
- 14 libraries had off-site storage areas, ranging from 14-300m², with 10 being owned and 3 being leased.
- 7 other off-site library spaces were noted, with the only identification being 1 recorded use for technical services. The other off-site areas ranged from 10-450m² in size. 4 of these were owned by Council.



5. CONCLUSION

The purpose of this report has been to present the findings of the *Audit of Public Library Buildings in NSW (2007)*. The establishment of this Audit is significant in building a baseline database of the existing public library building infrastructure in NSW. This data can now be used to provide a foundation for future decision making and planning for libraries across the state as they address their emerging role as community hubs, providing a diverse range of facilities and services to the communities they serve.



APPENDICES



APPENDIX 1

Copy of Survey of Public Library Buildings in NSW



APPENDIX 2

Survey Respondents



Armidale Dumaresq Council War Memorial Library
Ashfield Municipal Library
Auburn Library
Balranald Library
Bankstown City Library and Information Service
Bathurst Library

Baulkham Hills Library Service
Bega Valley Shire Library
Berrigan Shire Library Service
Blacktown City Council Library Service

Bland Shire Library
Blue Mountains City Library
City of Botany Bay Library and Museum Service
Bourke Public Library
Broken Hill City Library
Burwood Library
Camden Council Library Service
Campbelltown City Library Service

Canada Bay
Canterbury City Library
Central Murray Regional Public Library
Central Northern Libraries
Central West Libraries
Cessnock City Library
Clarence Regional Library
Cobar Shire Library
Coffs Harbour City Library and Information Service
Eurobodalla Shire Library Service
Fairfield City Library Service
Gosford City Library
Great Lakes Library Service

Greater Taree City Library
Grenfell & District Public Library
Guyra Shire Council Public Library
Hawkesbury City Council Library Service
Holroyd City Council Library Service
Hornsby Shire Library and Information Service
Hurstville Library and Information Service
Inverell Shire Public Library
Kempsey Shire Library
Kiama Municipal Library
Kogarah Council Library
Ku-ring-gai Library
Lachlan Shire Library Service
Lake Macquarie City Library
Lane Cove Library
Leeton Shire Major Dooley Library
Leichhardt Library
Lithgow Library Learning Centre

Liverpool City Library
Macquarie Regional Library
Maitland City Library
Manly Library
Marrickville Library Services
Mid-Western Regional Council Library Service
Monaro Regional Library & Information Service
Mosman Library
Newcastle Region Library
North Western Library
Northern Regional Library & Information Service
Oberon Public Library
Parkes Shire Library
Parramatta City Library Service
Penrith City Library
Pittwater Library Service
Port Macquarie-Hastings Library
Queanbeyan-Yarrowlunla City Library
Randwick City Library and Information Service
Richmond-Tweed Regional Library
Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library
Riverina Regional Library
Rockdale City Library
Ryde Library Services
Shellharbour City Library Service
Shoalhaven Libraries
Singleton Public Library
Southern Tablelands Regional Library
South-West Regional Library
Stanton Library
Strathfield Library and Information Centre
Sutherland Shire Libraries and information Service
City of Sydney Library
Tenterfield Public Library
Upper Hunter Regional Library
Albury Library
Corowa Library
Tumbarumba Library
Wakool Shire Library Service
Warringah Library Service
Waverley Library
Wentworth Shire Library
Western Riverina Community Library
Willoughby City Library
Wingecarribee Public Library
Wollondilly Library and Information Service
Wollongong City Library
Woollahra Library
Wyong Shire Library Service



APPENDIX 3

Examples of Minimum Floorspace Required for Different Population Sizes

Examples of minimum library floor space required for different population sizes

*People Places*⁶ provides two methodologies that can be used to determine the appropriate size for a new or expanded library building. The service based benchmark considers the types of service and collection the library will offer and the population based benchmark considers the size of the community. When used together, these benchmarks provide an optimum range of sizes for new library buildings.

The *People Places*⁷ population benchmark provides a methodology to develop an adequately sized library for your population. The size of library should reflect the population size of a community. The population benchmark assumes that people use the library they are closest to and this defines the library catchment area. A Central Library typically provides the main library service for a Local Government Area or region and so requires additional area for its larger collections, range of specialist services and technical services.

Using the *People Places*⁸ population benchmarks, the table below provides some examples of how the minimum floor space required for a library will change according to the size of the population. Examples have been provided for central, branch and area libraries which serve varying population sizes ranging from large to small.

Library Type	Ten year Population forecast for local catchment area + non resident workforce	*Ten year Population forecast for local government area or regional area + non resident workforce	No. of libraries equally sharing central library functions	Minimum floor space required using <i>People Places</i> population benchmarks
Central Library	90,000	150,000	1	4104 sq metres
Central Library	35,000	50,000	1	1953 sq metres
Central Library	5000	10,000	1	328 sq metres
Branch Library	90,000	n/a	n/a	3348 sq metres
Branch Library	35,000	n/a	n/a	1638 sq metres
Branch Library	5000	n/a	n/a	252 sq metres
▫Area Library	90,000	150,000	2	3726 sq metres
▫Area Library	35,000	50,000	2	1796 sq metres
▫Area Library	5000	10,000	2	290 sq metres

* Indicates for Central Library only.

▫ An area library is typically a library which combines both central and branch library functions. Commonly more than one library in the area shares the central library functions.