

Funding Issues in U.S. Public Libraries, Fiscal Years 2003-2006

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The reductions for all respondents clustered in the 1-2% and 11% or more ranges, with fairly even distribution in the 3-4% to 8-10% categories. Reductions in the 1-6% ranges appear to continue for all fiscal years, with some relief in the 7-10% range in fiscal years 2004 and 2005.

Libraries reported reductions in services fairly consistently regardless of the severity of the reduction. Reductions were ranked as follows:

1. Materials (average of 68.3% of libraries responding)
2. Staffing (average of 41.6% of libraries responding)
3. Hours open (average of 24.6% of libraries responding)
4. Electronic access (12.6% of libraries responding)

What 2006 brings....more of the same:

Anticipating revenue changes for fiscal year 2006, 58.2% of public libraries anticipated things to remain about the same and about 32.4% anticipated some improvement in local tax revenue. Approximately 9.4% of libraries anticipated more reductions.

Some comments from respondents:

While our budgets have remained stable during the fiscal year, the reductions between the years has caused a reduction in services. The budget was reduced almost 4% between 03 and 04 fiscal years and over 6% between the 04 to 05 fiscal years.

We are located in a rapidly growing county, which is resulting in an increase of revenues. This is a good outcome for our Library System. Additionally, all county staff in all departments are receiving a 10% increase in salaries. Good growth=Good Libraries.

Funding has increased each year, but only 5-6% through tax rate increase. Meanwhile, cost of insurance, utilities, and mileage are rising faster than the income.

In 2003, we were level funded, which was hard to indicate in the question that addressed this. People are having their libraries closed on them, but my town has banded together to keep the library an important fixture.

Library has been "fortunate" in receiving funding without decreases during fiscal years. Funding decreased, but it was planned for each coming fiscal year. FY 05 and 06 received small increases, but not enough to make up the loss of revenue in previous years.

Our county is growing and libraries have been well supported since fy2001. Fy03 was +26% over Fy02. FY04 was 7% over FY03. Fy05 was 14% over Fy04. Fy06 is 14% over Fy05.

Law enforcement and other county departments seem to be a higher priority to our County Commissioners. We have eliminated our outreach services and the person responsible for them. We have reduced our weekly hours by 4.

While the budget is flat, we are operating on less \$ due to increased health insurance, utilities and other inflationary costs. 2004 and 2005 basically stayed the same in terms of budget allotment. However, increased operating costs have required that we change staffing patterns and reduce spending on materials. Our materials budget has been flat or

Table 1-1 U.S. Public Libraries That Experienced Operating Revenue Reductions, FY 2003-05²

Year	Libraries That Experienced Revenue Reductions	
	Number	Percent
FY 2003	81	17.2%
FY 2004	83	17.7%
FY 2005	73	15.7%

Table 1-2 U.S. Public Libraries Serving Less Than 25,000 That Experienced Operating Revenue Reductions, FY 2003-05.

Year	Libraries That Experienced Revenue Reductions	
	Number	Percent
FY 2003	33	17.6%
FY 2004	34	18.1%
FY 2005	32	17.0%

N=188 (100%)

Table 1-3 U.S. Public Libraries Serving 25,000-99,999 That Experienced Operating Revenue Reductions, FY 2003-05

Year	Libraries That Experienced Revenue Reductions	
	Number	Percent
FY 2003	21	14.8%
FY 2004	26	18.3%
FY 2005	19	13.4%

N=142 (100%)

² N=468 (100%) unless otherwise noted in the table footer.

Table 1-4 U.S. Public Libraries Serving
100,000-499,999 That Experienced
Operating Revenue Reductions, FY 2003-05

Year	Libraries That Experienced Revenue Reductions	
	Number	Percent
FY 2003	21	19.4%
FY 2004	13	12.0%
FY 2005	3	2.8%

N=108 (100%)

Table 1-5 U.S. Public Libraries Serving
500,000 or More That Experienced
Operating Revenue Reductions, FY 2003-05

Year	Libraries That Experienced Revenue Reductions	
	Number	Percent
FY 2003	6	20.0%
FY 2004	2	6.7%
FY 2005	2	6.7%

N=30 (100%)

Table 1-6. Operating Revenue Reductions Experienced by
U.S. Public Libraries, by Region, FY 2003

Region	Number	Percent of Type
Midwest	35	28.2%
Northeast	13	12.1%
South	13	9.4%
West	20	20.2%
Total	81	17.3%

Note: Responses for FY2004 were not statistically significant.

Table 3-1. Areas Impacted by Operating Revenue Reductions for U.S. Public Libraries, FY 2003-05

Area of Revenue Reduction	Fiscal Year		
	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Hours Number	21	26	27
Percent of libraries	4.5%	5.6%	5.8%
Staffing Number	35	42	47
Percent of libraries	7.5%	9.0%	10.0%
Materials Number	68	69	68
Percent of libraries	14.5%	14.7%	14.5%
Electronic Access Number	10	10	15
Percent of libraries	2.1%	2.1%	3.2%

Table 4-1. Severity of Operating Revenue Reductions for U.S. Public Libraries, FY 2003-05

Severity of Revenue Reduction	Fiscal Year		
	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Extremely Severe Number	15	15	14
Percent of libraries	3.3%	3.1%	3.0%
Somewhat Severe Number	5	15	14
Percent of libraries	1.1%	3.1%	3.0%
Severe Number	17	20	13
Percent of libraries	3.7%	4.4%	2.8%
Not Too Severe Number	31	37	35
Percent of libraries	6.7%	7.8%	7.4%
Not Severe Number	24	20	17
Percent of libraries	5.2%	4.4%	3.7%

Table 6-1. U.S. Public Libraries That Experienced Operating Revenue Increases, FY 2003-05

	Libraries That Experienced Revenue Increases
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Table 6-4. U.S. Public Libraries Serving
100,000-499,999 That Experienced
Operating Revenue Increases, FY 2003-05

Libraries That Experienced Revenue Increases

Tables 7-1. Size of Operating Revenue Increases Experienced by
U.S. Public Libraries, FY 2003-05

Size of Revenue Increase	Fiscal Year		
	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
1-2%			
Number	51	46	52
Percent of libraries	11.0%	9.8%	11.2%
3-4%			
Number	31	41	33
Percent of libraries	6.7%	8.8%	7.0%
5-6%			
Number	14	18	25
Percent of libraries	3.1%	3.9%	5.4%
7-8%			
Number	5	8	8
Percent of libraries	1.2%	1.7%	1.6%
9-10%			
Number	12	12	13
Percent of libraries	2.5%	2.6%	2.8%
11% or More			
Number	10	17	24
Percent of libraries	2.1%	3.6%	5.2%

Table 10-1. Causes of Operating Revenue Decreases and Increases Experienced by U.S. Public Libraries, FY 2003-05

Causes of Revenue Decrease/Increase	Fiscal Year		
	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Levy Increase or Other Tax Measure Number	95	83	93
Percent of libraries	20.3%	17.8%	19.9%
Levy Decrease or Other Tax Measure Number	28	38	31
Percent of libraries	5.9%	8.1%	6.7%
Budget Surplus Number	22	32	35
Percent of libraries	4.6%	6.9%	7.5%
Budget Shortfall Number	42	57	47
Percent of libraries	9.0%	12.2%	10.1%

Table 11-1. Anticipated Change in FY 2006 Operating Budgets for U.S. Public Libraries

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