



Statistical Bulletin

Participation in Core & Regular Library Activities in Northern Ireland 2015/16 Annual Report

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1. All participant numbers refer to instances of participation rather than individual people.
2. All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.
3. Year-on-year comparisons are figures compared with corresponding ones from the previous year.

Summary

From 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016, Libraries NI's 96 branch libraries and several of its 16 mobile libraries delivered a range of programmes and activities focused on promoting reading, learning and access to culture, heritage and information. Key findings show that during this period:

- A total of **342,092 participants** (125,750 adults and 216,342 children) engaged in **22,622 core and regular activity sessions** run by Libraries NI – this is a **10% increase in participation** and an **11% increase in the number of activity sessions** since 2014/15 (309,756 participants and 20,386 sessions respectively). The 2015/16 figures are also higher than those in 2013/14 (302,117 participants and 19,818 sessions respectively) when information on regular activities was recorded for the first time. There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13 as information was only recorded for core activities in that year.
 - **298,560 participants** (82,218 adults and 216,342 children) engaged in **17,272 core activity sessions** (i.e. Class visits, Got IT?, Reading Groups, Rhythm and Rhyme and Storytime) – this is an **increase of 9% in both participation and the number of core activity sessions** since 2014/15 (273,512 participants and 15,848 sessions respectively). The 2015/16 core activity figures are also the highest so far since 2012/13.
 - **43,532 adults** engaged in **5,350 regular activity sessions** (i.e. Genealogy, Go ON!, Job Clubs and Knit and Natter groups) – this is a **20% increase in participation** and an **18% increase in the number of sessions** since 2014/15 (36,244 participants and 4,538 sessions respectively). Participation rates and the number of sessions have steadily increased year-on-year since 2013/14. There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.

Core Activities

- Both pupil participation rates in the school **class visits programme** and the number of sessions increased between 2014/15 and 2015/16, although they remained below the levels in 2013/14. **99,028 children** took part in 2015/16 (**4,022 sessions**), an **increase of 3% in both participation and the number of sessions** since 2014/15 (95,815 children and 3,896 sessions respectively), compared to 103,185 children and 4,208 sessions in 2013/14.
- **Adult participation in Got IT?** and the **number of sessions increased by 6% and 11% respectively** between 2014/15 and 2015/16. **3,207 adults** took part in **3,084 Got IT? sessions** in 2015/16 compared to 3,028 and 2,781 sessions in 2014/15. The 2015/16 figures are also almost at the same level as they were in 2013/14 when they were at their highest (3,294 adults and 3,085 sessions respectively).
- **14,483 participants** engaged in **1,942 reading group sessions** compared to 13,792 participants and 1,893 sessions in 2014/15. This is a **5% increase in participation** and a **3% increase in the number of sessions** from 2014/15 to 2015/16. While both participation rates and the number of sessions were highest in 2013/14 (15,307 participants and 2,001 sessions respectively), the 2015/16 figures are also higher than those in 2012/13 (11,544 participants and 1,512 sessions respectively).

- When recording of reading groups started in 2012/13, adult participation was 7,876 at 927 sessions. Since then, the annual rates have increased to more than 10,000 for participation and over 1,250 for the number of sessions. **10,210 adults** took part in **1,265 reading group sessions** in 2015/16.
- **4,273 children** took part in **677 reading group sessions**, compared to 3,681 children and 630 sessions in 2014/15. This is a **16% increase in participation** and a **7% increase in the number of sessions** from 2014/15 to 2015/16. Although both participation rates and the number of sessions were highest in 2013/14 (4,835 children and 733 sessions respectively), the 2015/16 figures are also higher than those in 2012/13 (3,668 children and 585 sessions respectively).
- **159,471 participants** (68,801 adults and 90,670 children) engaged in a total of **5,904 Rhythm and Rhyme sessions** for pre-school age children (0-4 years), a **14% increase in participation** and a **16% increase in the number of sessions** since 2014/15 (140,027 participants and 5,100 sessions respectively). Participation rates and the number of sessions have increased year-on-year since 2012/13.
- **22,371 children** engaged in a total of **2,320 Storytime sessions** for 4-8 year olds, a **7% increase in both participation and the number of sessions** since 2014/15 (20,850 children and 2,178 sessions respectively). Although participation was highest in 2013/14 (24,045 children), the number of sessions in 2015/16 was the highest out of the 4 years from 2012/13.

Regular Activities

- While the number of **genealogy (i.e. family history) activities increased by 31%** (from 207 to **271**) between 2014/15 and 2015/16, **adult participation decreased by 7%** (from 1,285 to **1,196**). Although participation was highest in 2014/15, the number of sessions in 2015/16 is the highest so far since 2013/14. There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.
- **3,370 adults** participated in **534 Go ON! small group sessions** in 2015/16, compared to 2,655 adults and 447 sessions in 2014/15. This is a **27% increase in participation** and a **19% increase in the number of sessions** from 2014/15 to 2015/16. Participation rates and the number of sessions have increased year-on-year since 2013/14 – there are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.
- **4,534 adults** engaged in **884 Job Club sessions** in 2015/16, compared to 4,159 adults and 789 sessions in 2014/15 which is a **9% increase in participation** and a **12% increase in the number of sessions**. Participation rates and the number of sessions have increased year-on-year since 2013/14 – there are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.
- **34,432 adults** took part in **3,661 Knit and Natter group sessions** in 2015/16 compared to 28,145 adults and 3,095 sessions in 2014/15 which is a **22% increase in participation** and an **18% increase in the number of sessions**. Participation rates and the number of sessions have increased year-on-year since 2013/14 – there are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.

Background

The Northern Ireland Library Authority (Libraries NI) was established in April 2009 as a result of the Review of Public Administration. Libraries NI has the statutory responsibility for the provision of public library services in Northern Ireland and its functions are laid down in the Libraries Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. It is a Non Departmental Public Body which reports to the Department for Communities (DfC).

Libraries NI provides a number of core and regular activities in the majority of its 96 branch libraries (and in some of its 16 mobile libraries) as part of its programmes to promote reading, learning and access to culture, heritage and information. Core activities are defined as Class Visits, Got IT?, Reading Groups, Rhythm and Rhyme and Storytime, while Regular activities are defined as Genealogy, Go ON!, Job Clubs and Knit and Natter groups.

Definitions

Core Activities

Class Visits

The Class Visits programme is open to all Northern Ireland nursery, primary, post primary and special needs schools and aims to give pupils an insight into the range of services available at their local library, and to encourage them to become members. Classes can come to the library for book exchange, storytelling, craft sessions, to use computers etc.

Within the Class Visits programme, there is a set of activities specifically aimed at primary school age children in Years 4 and 6 and supports Key Stage 1 and 2 language and literacy skills as detailed in the NI Curriculum. This element of the programme offers a series of 3 one hour visits for pupils in these year groups which include a general introduction and tour of the library, activities to help explain the layout of library stock and instruction on the various uses of computers in the library. One-off visits are also available which give pupils a general overview of library services and resources. At the end of each visit, the pupils will listen to a story and there will be an opportunity for them to browse and exchange books.

Libraries NI staff also deliver outreach visits to many schools to promote the various library services and read stories to the pupils.

Got IT?

Got IT? is a free programme to support people with little or no knowledge of computers and help them develop basic IT skills. The programme is aimed at adults and delivered by Libraries NI staff on a one-to-one or small group basis, with sessions covering the following topics:

- Introduction to computers;
- Introduction to the Internet;
- Introduction to email.

Reading Groups

Reading groups cater for both children and adults and encourage people to read for pleasure, read adventurously, share their enthusiasm about books and develop the confidence to formulate and express opinions about reading.

Libraries NI staff host reading groups for adults and children/teenagers, including those aimed at specific groups in society (e.g. visually impaired, deaf etc.). Such groups generally meet in the library premises, although some are run by Libraries NI staff in other locations. Reading groups hosted by external organisations that meet in the library premises and/or use library resources are also facilitated. A new flexible type of children's reading group called Chatterbooks, run in conjunction with The Reading Agency was introduced in libraries in 2014/15. Sessions are suitable for 7-11 year olds of all different abilities.

Rhythm and Rhyme

Rhythm and Rhyme is a free programme of stories, rhymes and songs delivered on a regular or seasonal basis by Libraries NI staff (or held in partnership with SureStart¹) for parents, carers and pre-school children (aged 0-4 years). The aim of the programme is to improve children's language and communication skills before they enter formal education.

In addition to sessions that are open to the public, the programme is also available to young children attending day nurseries, playgroups, parent and toddler groups etc. These dedicated sessions are mostly held on the library premises but some are also delivered by Libraries NI staff at external locations (e.g. on playgroup premises, at community centres etc.). On occasions, public sessions are also delivered at external locations as part of community festivals etc.

A number of the mobile libraries now also deliver Rhythm & Rhyme sessions so these are included in the figures.

Storytime

Storytime is a free programme of stories, rhymes and poems delivered on a regular or seasonal basis by Libraries NI staff for children aged 4-8 years.

In addition to sessions that are open to the public, the programme is also available to external organisations attended by children of an equivalent age range (e.g. Rainbows/Cygnets/Brigíní (Girl Guides), Beavers (Boy Scouts), Explorers (Girls' Brigade), Anchor Boys (Boys' Brigade) or after school day care facilities etc.). Such dedicated sessions are mostly held on the library premises but some are also delivered by Libraries NI staff at other locations (e.g. at community centres, church/parish halls etc. or to groups of children who are unable to come to the library, e.g. those in hospice care). On occasions, public sessions are also delivered at external locations as part of community festivals etc.

A number of the mobile libraries now also deliver Storytime sessions so these are included in the figures.

¹ SureStart is a government led initiative aimed at giving every child the best possible start in life and which offers a broad range of services including Early Years Care and Education to children aged 4 years and under.

Regular Activities

Genealogy

Genealogy is also known as family history and Libraries NI holds various related free activities for adults including talks, presentations and Ancestry Library Edition workshops. Ancestry Library Edition is an online resource which can be accessed free of charge in all libraries within the Libraries NI network (i.e. it is not available to use from external locations such as homes, offices etc.) and people attending the workshops can use it, with the support of Libraries NI staff where required, to search a range of online records. These include census records which are a vital source of information for people researching their family history and allow them to discover the name, age, birth place, occupation, address etc. of their ancestors.

Go ON!

Go ON! is a free programme to support people who are able to use a computer, email and the Internet and want to further develop their IT skills with regard to everyday computer tasks, such as paying utility bills or shopping online, online banking, social networking, digital photography, online health enquiries etc. The programme is aimed at adults and modules are delivered by Libraries NI staff on a small group basis.

Job Clubs

Job Clubs held in partnership with the Jobs & Benefits Office on library premises offer free internet access and other library services to adults who are unemployed. They give people an opportunity to develop their IT skills using the library's computers and participants receive assistance with job hunting, online applications, preparing CVs and interview practice.

Other organisations (e.g. Job Assist, Kickstart to Work, Supported Employment Solutions etc.) use the library facilities to offer similar advice and services to the unemployed and therefore are also included.

Knit and Natter

Knit and Natter groups are held in various libraries across Northern Ireland and are for adults who enjoy knitting, sewing, crochet, cross stitch and other crafts. They are free of charge and participants have the opportunity to share hints and tips, swap patterns, meet new people and learn new skills and can bring along whatever they are already working on or start a new project.

Libraries NI Activity Database

This bulletin presents information on participation in the aforementioned core and regular library activities during 2015/16, collected via the Libraries NI Activity Database which was established in April 2012. During 2012/13 the database collected information on core activities only but was extended to also capture information on regular activities from 2013/14.

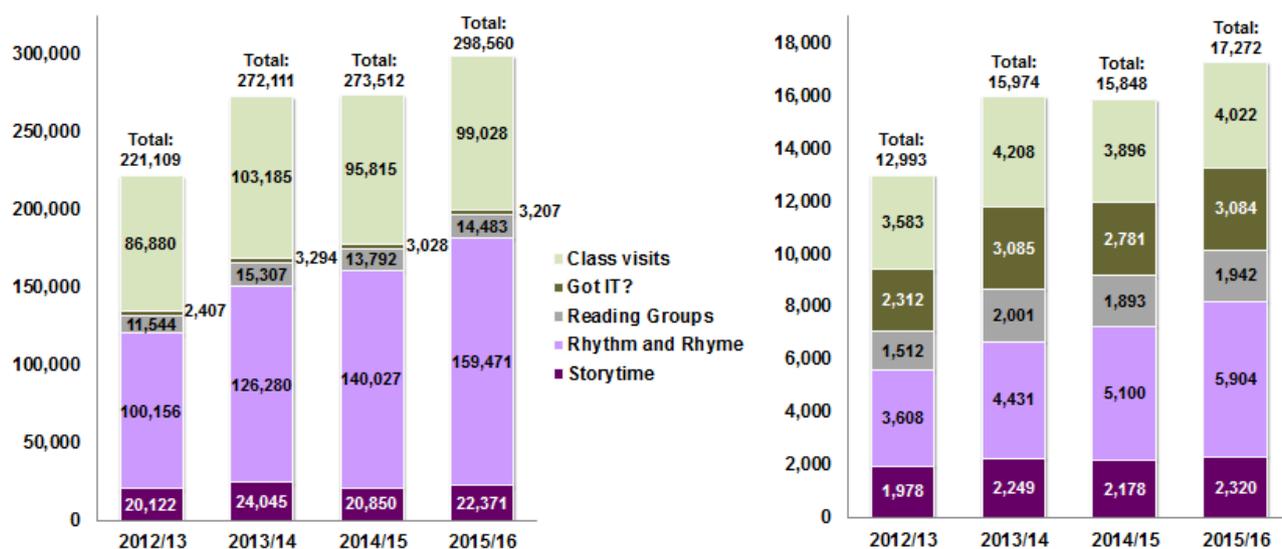
Findings

- During 2015/16, a total of 342,092 participants (125,750 adults and 216,342 children) engaged in 22,622 core and regular activity sessions run by Libraries NI – this is a 10% increase in participation and an 11% increase in the number of activity sessions since 2014/15 (309,756 participants and 20,386 sessions respectively). The 2015/16 figures are also higher than those in 2013/14 (302,117 participants and 19,818 sessions respectively) when information on regular activities was recorded for the first time. There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13 as information was only recorded for core activities in this year. [See **Table 9**]
- 298,560 participants (82,218 adults and 216,342 children) engaged in 17,272 core activity sessions (i.e. Class visits, Got IT?, Reading Groups, Rhythm and Rhyme and Storytime) – this is an increase of 9% in both participation and the number of core activity sessions since 2014/15 (273,512 participants and 15,848 sessions respectively). The 2015/16 core activity figures are also the highest so far since 2012/13. [See **Figure 1** and **Table 9**]

Figure 1: Core Activities

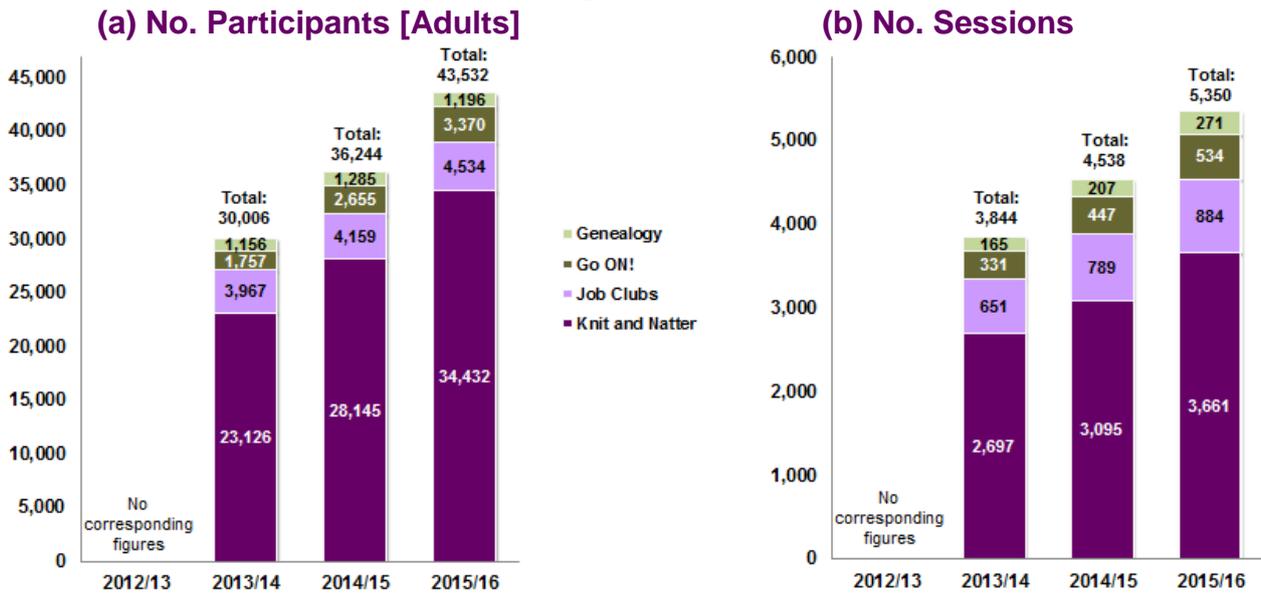
(a) No. Participants [Adults + Children]

(b) No. Sessions



- 43,532 adults engaged in 5,350 regular activity sessions (i.e. Genealogy, Go ON!, Job Clubs and Knit and Natter groups) – this is a 20% increase in participation and an 18% increase in the number of sessions since 2014/15 (36,244 participants and 4,538 sessions respectively). Both participation rates and the number of sessions have steadily increased year-on-year since 2013/14. There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13. [See **Figure 2** and **Table 9**]

Figure 2: Regular Activities



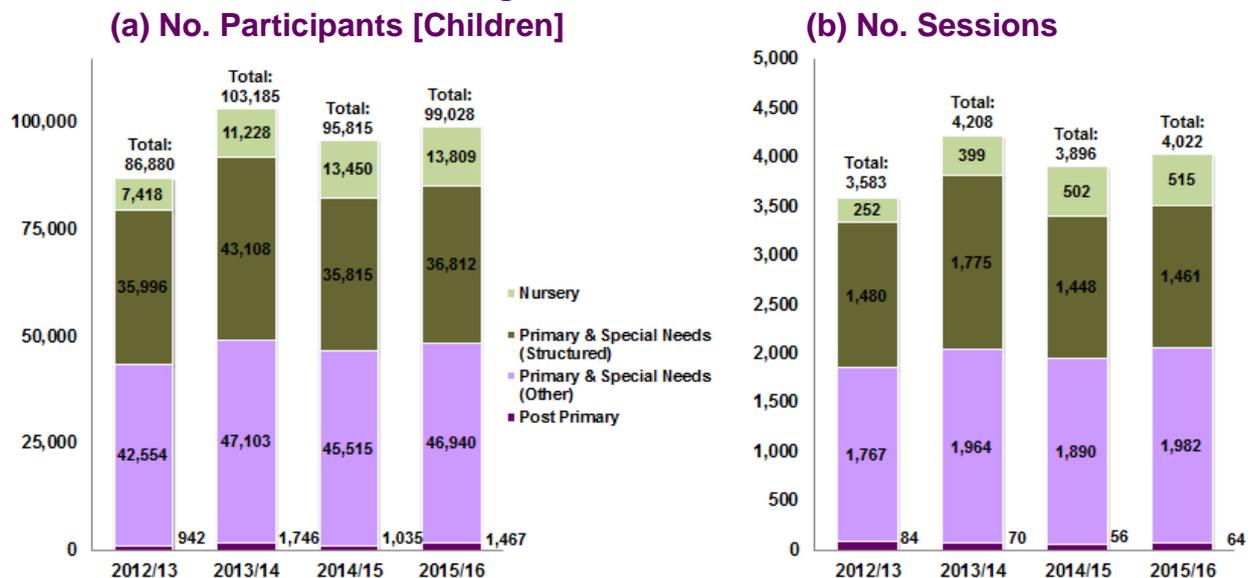
Core Activities

Class Visits

[See **Figure 3, Table 10a** and **Table 10b**]

- During 2015/16, 99,028 children took part in the school class visits programme (4,022 sessions), an increase of 3% in both participation and the number of sessions since 2014/15 (95,815 children and 3,896 sessions respectively). Although both participation rates and the number of sessions were highest in 2013/14 (103,185 children and 4,208 sessions respectively), the 2015/16 figures are also higher than those in 2012/13 (86,880 children and 3,583 sessions respectively).

Figure 3: Class Visits



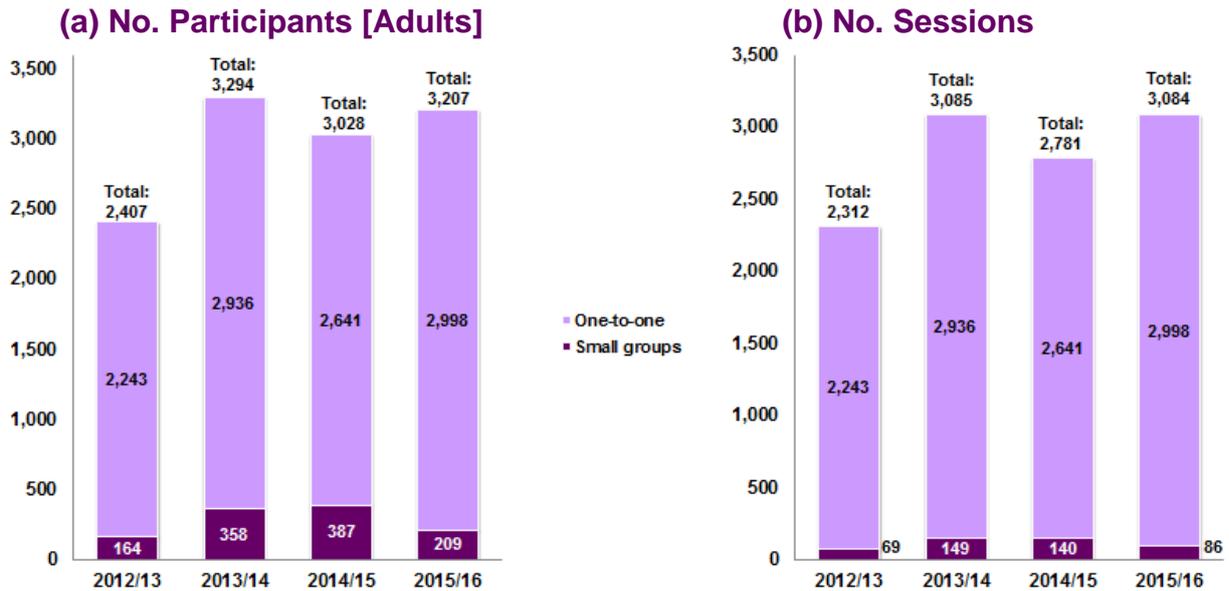
- 13,809 were pupils from nursery schools or primary schools with an associated nursery unit (515 sessions – 247 of which were outreach sessions held on school premises). This represents a 3% increase in both participation and the number of sessions since 2014/15 (13,450 children and 502 sessions respectively). Pupil participation in nursery visits and the number of sessions has increased year-on-year since 2012/13.
- 83,752 were pupils from primary or special needs schools (3,443 sessions), a 3% increase in both participation and the number of sessions since 2014/15 (81,330 children and 3,338 sessions respectively). Although both participation rates and the number of primary/special needs sessions were highest in 2013/14 (90,211 children and 3,739 sessions respectively), the 2015/16 figures are also higher than those in 2012/13 (78,520 children and 3,247 sessions respectively).
 - 36,812 participated in a set of structured activities aimed at pupils in Year 4 & Year 6 to support Key Stage 1 & 2 of the NI curriculum with regard to language and literacy skills (1,461 sessions), a 3% increase in participation and a 1% increase in the number of sessions since 2014/15 (35,815 children and 1,448 sessions respectively). Although both participation rates and the number of structured class visits were highest in 2013/14 (43,108 children and 1,775 sessions respectively), pupil participation in 2015/16 is also higher than in 2012/13 (35,966 children) while the number of visits is only slightly lower than in 2012/13 (1,480 sessions).
 - The remaining 46,940 exchanged books and/or listened to stories, took part in crafts etc. (1,982 sessions – 144 of which were outreach sessions held on school premises), which represents a 3% increase in participation and a 5% increase in the number of sessions since 2014/15 (45,515 children and 1,890 sessions respectively). Although the number of sessions was highest in 2015/16, pupil participation in such class visits was highest in 2013/14 (47,103 children).
- 1,467 were pupils from post primary schools (64 sessions), a 42% increase in participation and a 14% increase in the number of sessions since 2014/15 (1,035 children and 56 sessions respectively). Although pupil participation was highest in 2013/14 (1,746 children), the number of post primary class visits was highest in 2012/13 (84 sessions).

Got IT?

[See **Figure 4** and **Table 11**]

- 3,207 adults participated in 3,084 Got IT? sessions in 2015/16, compared to 3,028 adults and 2,781 sessions in 2014/15. This is an increase of 6% in participation and an increase of 11% in the number of sessions from 2014/15 to 2015/16. The 2015/16 figures are also almost at the same level as they were in 2013/14 when they were at their highest (3,294 adults and 3,085 sessions respectively).

Figure 4: Got IT?



- 2,998 adults participated in Got IT? on a one-to-one basis in 2015/16 compared to 2,641 in 2014/15, an increase of 14%. The 2015/16 figures for one-to-one sessions are the highest so far out of the 4 years from 2012/13.
- 209 adults took part in 86 small group Got IT? sessions, which represents a 46% decrease in participation and a 39% decrease in the number of sessions since 2014/15 (387 adults and 140 sessions respectively). The 2015/16 figures for small group sessions are also lower than in 2013/14 (358 adults and 149 sessions respectively) but higher than in 2012/13 (164 adults and 69 sessions respectively).

Reading Groups

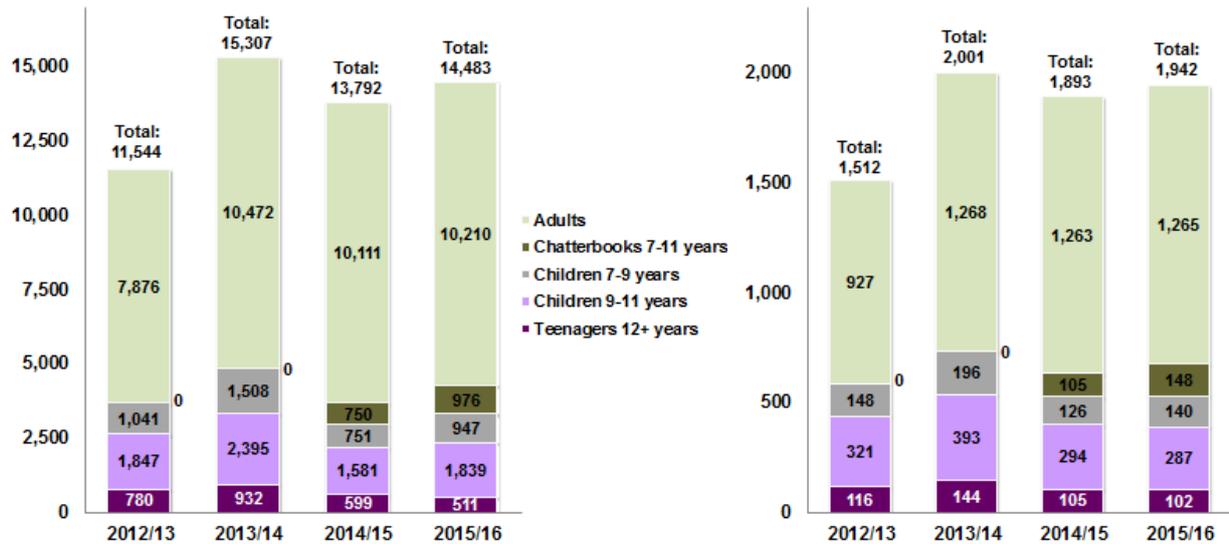
[See **Figure 5** and **Table 12**]

- During 2015/16, 14,483 participants engaged in 1,942 reading group sessions compared to 13,792 participants and 1,893 sessions in 2014/15. This is a 5% increase in participation and a 3% increase in the number of sessions from 2014/15 to 2015/16. While both participation rates and the number of sessions were highest in 2013/14 (15,307 participants and 2,001 sessions respectively), the 2015/16 figures are also higher than those in 2012/13 (11,544 participants and 1,512 sessions respectively).
- 10,210 adults took part in 1,265 reading group sessions, compared to 10,111 adults and 1,263 sessions in 2014/15. This is a 1% increase in participation while the number of sessions has effectively remained unchanged from 2014/15 to 2015/16. Although both participation rates and the number of sessions were highest in 2013/14 (10,472 adults and 1,268 sessions respectively), the 2015/16 figures are also higher than those in 2012/13 (7,876 adults and 927 sessions respectively).

Figure 5: Reading Groups

(a) No. participants [Adults & Children]

(b) No. Sessions



- 4,273 children took part in 677 reading group sessions, compared to 3,681 children and 630 sessions in 2014/15. This is a 16% increase in participation and a 7% increase in the number of sessions from 2014/15 to 2015/16. Although both participation rates and the number of sessions were highest in 2013/14 (4,835 children and 733 sessions respectively), the 2015/16 figures are also higher than those in 2012/13 (3,668 children and 585 sessions respectively).

- 976 children took part in 148 Chatterbooks sessions for 7-11 year olds which is a 30% increase in participation and a 41% increase in the number of sessions from 2014/15 to 2015/16. 2014/15 was the first year information was recorded for this type of reading group so there are no corresponding figures for 2012/13 or 2013/14.
- 947 children took part in 140 sessions for 7-9 year olds, a 26% increase in participation and an 11% increase in the number of sessions since 2014/15 (751 children and 126 sessions respectively).
- 1,839 children took part in 287 sessions for 9-11 year olds, a 16% increase in participation and a 2% decrease in the number of sessions since 2014/15 (1,581 children and 294 sessions respectively).

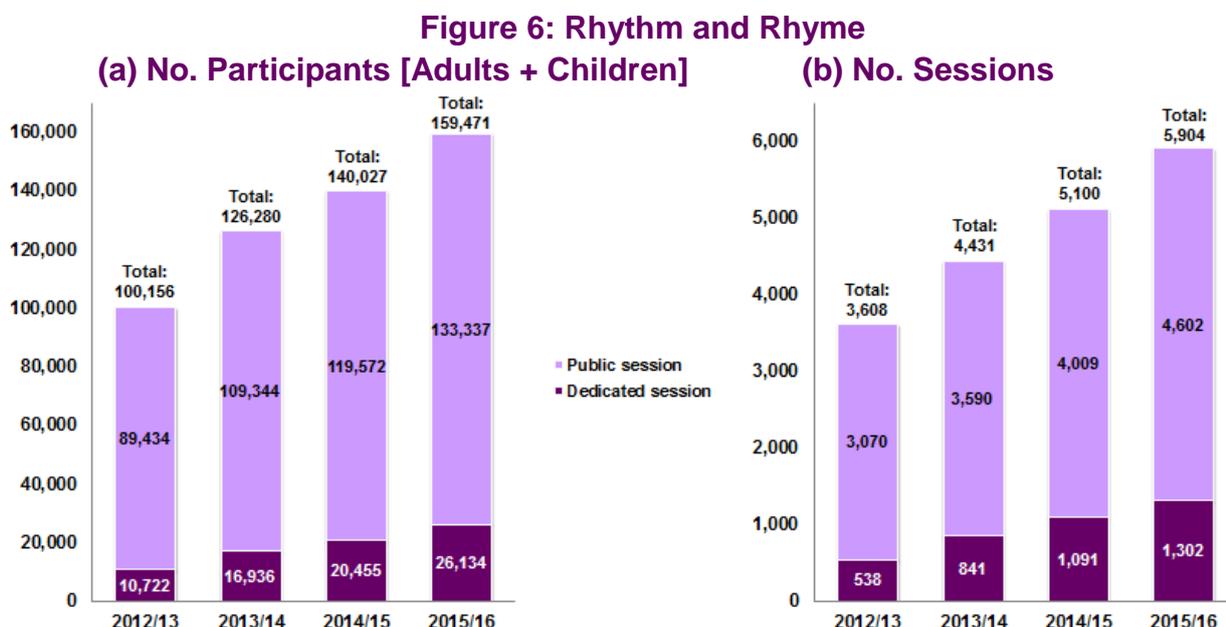
Note: Although participation rates and the numbers of reading group sessions for both 7-9 year olds and 9-11 year olds were higher in 2012/13 and 2013/14 than in the subsequent 2 years, this may be partly due to the introduction of the Chatterbooks reading groups in 2014/15 which are also suitable for these age groups.

- 511 children took part in 102 sessions for those aged 12+ years, a 15% decrease in participation and a 3% decrease in the number of sessions since 2014/15 (599 children and 105 sessions respectively). These 2015/16 figures are also the lowest out of all the years so far since 2012/13.

Rhythm and Rhyme

[See **Figure 6**, **Table 13a** and **Table 13b**]

- During 2015/16, 159,471 participants (68,801 adults and 90,670 children) engaged in a total of 5,904 Rhythm and Rhyme sessions for pre-school age children (0-4 years), a 14% increase in participation and a 16% increase in the number of sessions since 2014/15 (140,027 participants and 5,100 sessions respectively). Both participation rates and the number of sessions have increased year-on-year since 2012/13.

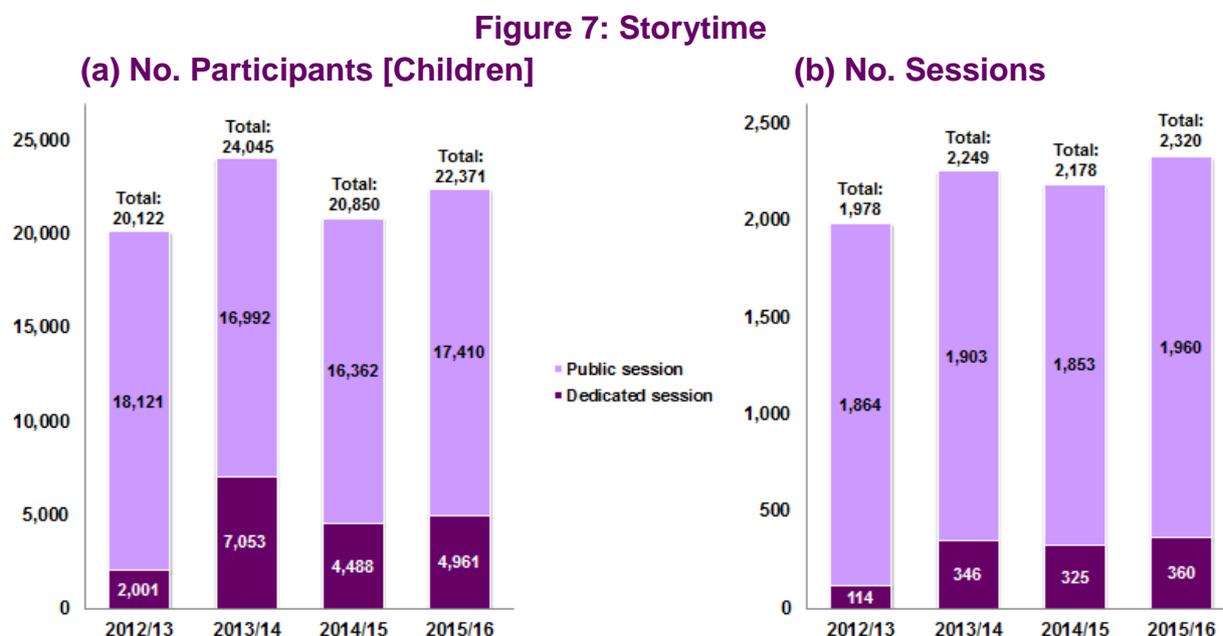


- 133,337 participants (60,866 adults and 72,471 children) took part in 4,602 sessions open to the public, a 12% increase in participation and a 15% increase in the number of sessions since 2014/15 (119,572 participants and 4,009 sessions respectively). Participation rates and the number of public sessions have increased year-on-year since 2012/13.
- 26,134 participants (7,935 adults and 18,199 children) took part in 1,302 dedicated sessions held exclusively for day nurseries, playgroups and parent and toddler groups etc., which is a 28% increase in participation and a 19% increase in the number of sessions since 2014/15 (20,455 participants and 1,091 sessions respectively). Participation rates and the number of dedicated sessions have increased year-on-year since 2012/13.
- 147,481 participants (65,693 adults and 81,788 children) attended 5,297 sessions that were held on the library premises/mobile library, a 13% increase in participation and a 16% increase in the number of sessions since 2014/15 (130,101 participants and 4,578 sessions respectively). Participation rates and the number of library sessions have increased year-on-year since 2012/13.
- 11,990 participants (3,108 adults and 8,882 children) attended 607 sessions that took place at another location, which is a 21% increase in participation and a 16% increase in the number of sessions since 2014/15 (9,926 participants and 522 sessions respectively). Participation rates and the number of outreach sessions have increased year-on-year and the 2015/16 figures are approximately four times higher than those in 2012/13.

Storytime

[See **Figure 7**, **Table 14a** and **Table 14b**]

- During 2015/16, 22,371 children engaged in a total of 2,320 Storytime sessions for 4-8 year olds, a 7% increase in both participation and the number of sessions since 2014/15 (20,850 children and 2,178 sessions respectively). Although participation was highest in 2013/14 (24,045 children), the number of sessions in 2015/16 are the highest out of the 4 years from 2012/13.



- 17,410 children took part in 1,960 sessions open to the public, a 6% increase in both participation and the number of sessions since 2014/15 (16,362 children and 1,853 sessions respectively). Although participation was highest in 2012/13 (18,121 children), the number of public sessions in 2015/16 are the highest so far since 2012/13.
- 4,961 children took part in 360 dedicated sessions held exclusively for external organisations attended by children of an equivalent age range such as Rainbows/Cygnets/Brigíní (Girl Guides), Beavers (Boy Scouts), Explorers (Girls' Brigade), Anchor Boys (Boys' Brigade) or after school day care facilities etc., which is an 11% increase in both participation and the number of sessions since 2014/15 (4,488 children and 325 sessions respectively). The 2015/16 participation figures are also more than double those in 2012/13 (2,001 children) but still considerably lower than those in 2013/14 (7,053 children) whereas the number of dedicated sessions in 2015/16 is more than three times that in 2012/13 (114 sessions) but only slightly higher than that in 2013/14 (346 sessions).
- 19,482 children attended 2,116 sessions that were held on the library premises/mobile library, a 6% increase in both participation and the number of sessions since 2015/16 (18,334 participants and 1,992 sessions respectively). Although participation was highest in 2013/14 (20,907 children), the number of library/mobile sessions in 2015/16 are the highest so far out of the 4 years from 2012/13.

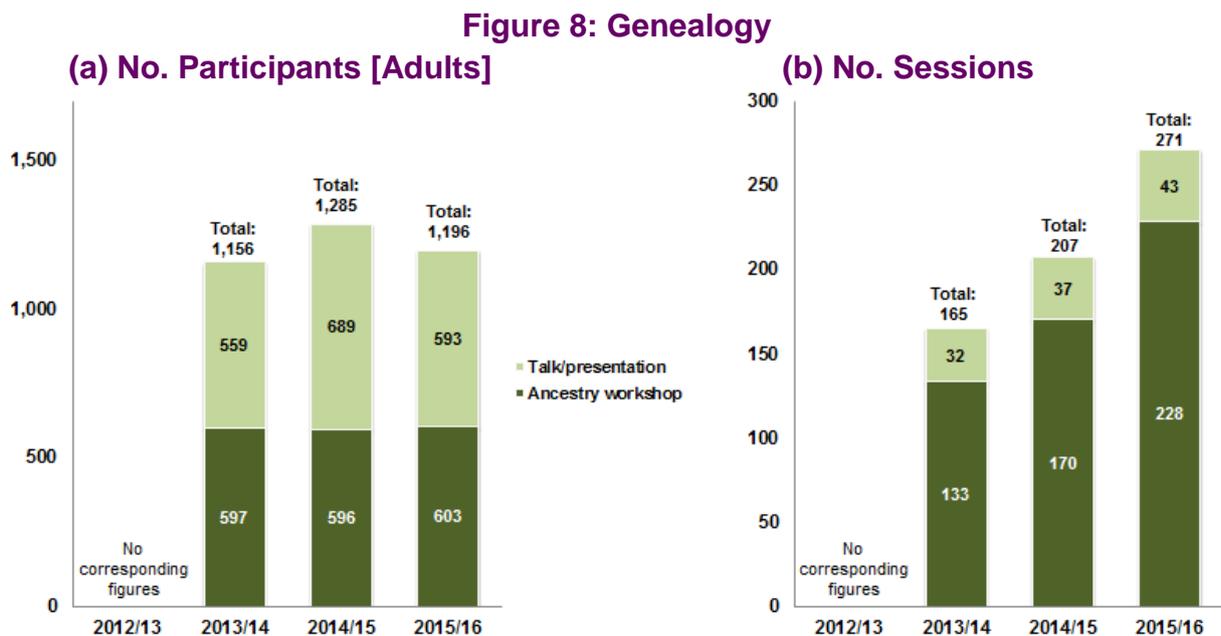
- 2,889 children attended 204 sessions that took place at another location, which is a 15% increase in participation and a 10% increase in the number of sessions since 2014/15 (2,516 participants and 186 sessions respectively). Although participation was highest in 2013/14 (3,138 children), the number of outreach sessions in 2015/16 are the highest so far out of the 4 years from 2012/13.

Regular Activities

Genealogy

[See **Figure 8** and **Table 15**]

- 1,196 adults took part in 271 genealogy (i.e. family history) activities in 2015/16. This is a 7% decrease in participation and a 31% increase in the number of sessions since 2014/15 (1,285 adults and 207 sessions respectively). Although participation was highest in 2014/15, the number of sessions in 2015/16 is the highest so far since 2013/14. There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.



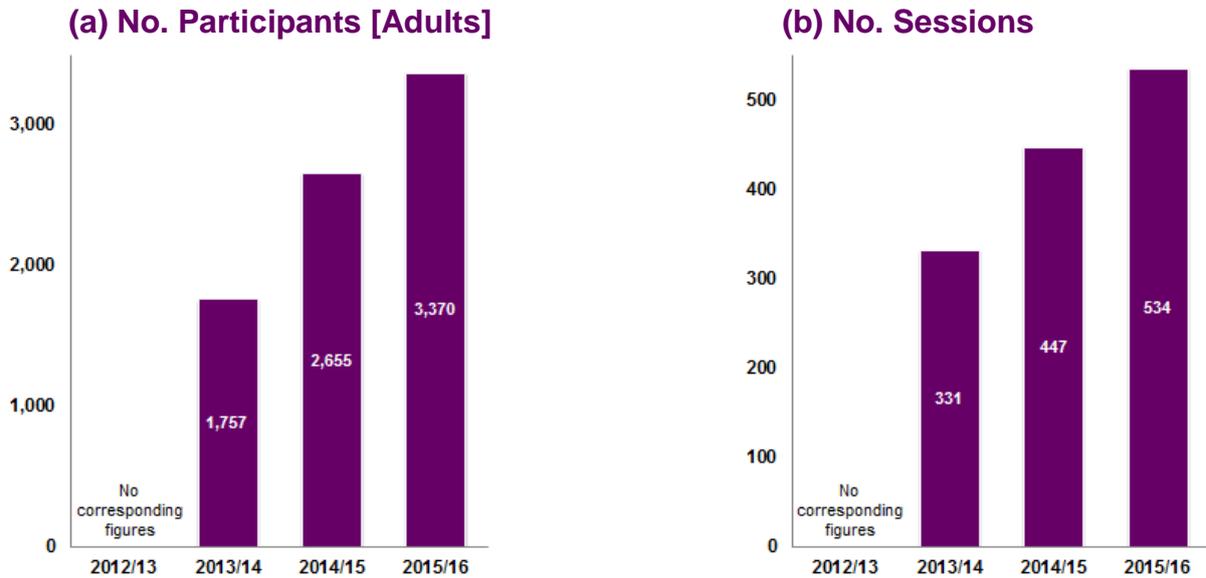
- 593 adults attended talks or presentations (43 sessions), compared to 689 adults and 37 sessions in 2014/15. This is a decrease of 14% in participation and an increase of 16% in the number of sessions from 2014/15 to 2015/16. Although participation was highest in 2014/15, the number of sessions in 2015/16 is the highest so far since 2013/14.
- 603 adults engaged in family history workshops using Ancestry Library Edition (228 sessions), compared to 596 adults and 170 sessions in 2014/15. This is a 1% increase in participation and a 34% increase in the number of sessions from 2014/15 to 2015/16. The 2015/16 figures are the highest so far since 2013/14.

Go ON!

[See **Figure 9** and **Table 9**]

- 3,370 adults participated in 534 Go ON! small group sessions in 2015/16, compared to 2,655 adults and 447 sessions in 2014/15. This is a 27% increase in participation and a 19% increase in the number of sessions from 2014/15 to 2015/16. Participation rates and the number of sessions have increased year-on-year since 2013/14 – there are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.

Figure 9: Go ON!

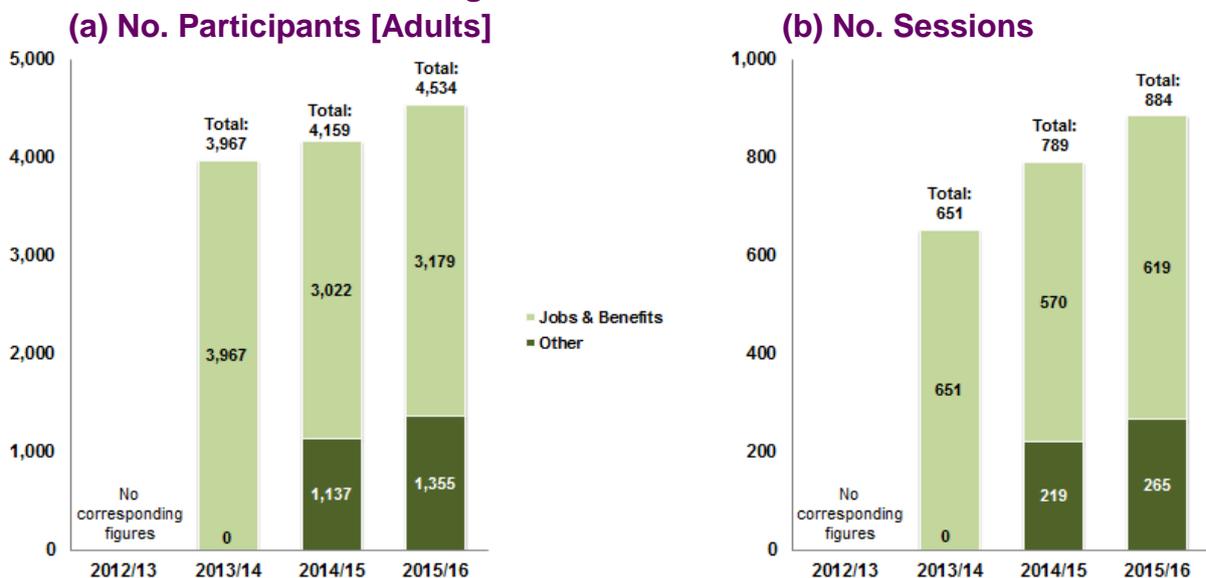


Job Clubs

[See **Figure 10** and **Table 16**]

- 4,534 adults engaged in 884 Job Club sessions in 2015/16, compared to 4,159 adults and 789 sessions in 2014/15 which is a 9% increase in participation and a 12% increase in the number of sessions. Participation rates and the number of sessions have increased year-on-year since 2013/14 – there are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.

Figure 10: Job Clubs



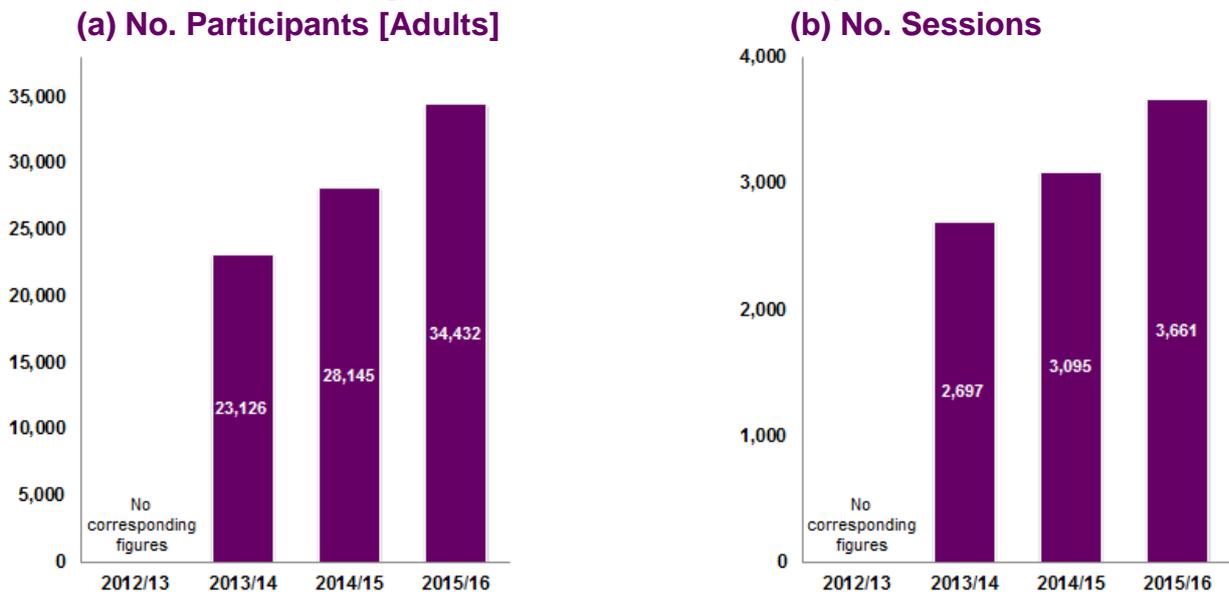
- 3,179 adults engaged in 619 sessions held in partnership with the Jobs & Benefits Office in 2015/16 compared to 3,022 adults and 570 sessions in 2014/15. This is a 5% increase in participation and a 9% increase in the number of sessions since 2014/15 although both participation rates and the number of sessions were highest in 2013/14 (3,967 adults and 651 sessions respectively).
- 1,355 adults engaged in 265 sessions held in association with other organisations (e.g. Job Assist, Kickstart to Work, Supported Employment Solutions etc.) compared to 1,137 adults and 219 sessions in 2014/15. This is a 19% increase in participation and a 21% increase in the number of sessions since 2014/15 which was the first year such information was recorded.

Knit and Natter

[See **Figure 11** and **Table 9**]

- 34,432 adults participated in 3,661 Knit and Natter group sessions in 2015/16 compared to 28,145 adults and 3,095 sessions in 2014/15 which is a 22% increase in participation and an 18% increase in the number of sessions. Participation rates and the number of sessions have steadily increased year-on-year since 2013/14 – there are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.

Figure 11: Knit and Natter Groups



Participation Tables: 2015/16

Table 1: Core & Regular Activities

Activity	No. Sessions	No. Adults	No. Children	Total No. Participants
Class Visits	4,022	-	99,028	99,028
Got IT?	3,084	3,207	-	3,207
Reading Groups	1,942	10,210	4,273	14,483
Rhythm and Rhyme	5,904	68,801	90,670	159,471
Storytime	2,320	-	22,371	22,371
All Core Activities	17,272	82,218	216,342	298,560
Genealogy	271	1,196	-	1,196
Go ON!	534	3,370	-	3,370
Job Clubs	884	4,534	-	4,534
Knit and Natter Groups	3,661	34,432	-	34,432
All Regular Activities	5,350	43,532	-	43,532
All Core & Regular Activities	22,622	125,750	216,342	342,092

More detailed breakdowns (where applicable) of the various types of core and regular activities are presented in Tables 2 – 8.

Table 2a: Class Visit Type

Class Visit Type		No. Sessions	No. Children
Nursery school/unit		515	13,809
Primary & Special Needs	<i>Structured activities for Year 4 & Year 6 (to support Key Stage 1 & 2 language and literacy skills)</i>	1,461	36,812
	<i>Other – stories, book exchange, crafts etc.</i>	1,982	46,940
	Total	3,443	83,752
Post Primary		64	1,467
All Class Visit Types		4,022	99,028

Table 2b: Class Visit Location

Class Visit Location	No. Sessions	No. Children
On library premises	3,625	88,182
At other location	397	10,846
All Class Visit Locations	4,022	99,028

Table 3: Got IT?² Type

Got IT? Type	No. Sessions	No. Adults
One-to-one	2,998	2,998
Small groups	86	209
All Got IT? Types	3,084	3,207

² Excludes Got IT? sessions that were held as part of Silver Surfers or ITea & Biscuits (i.e. annual local and national events, which aim to encourage older people who don't currently use computers, the internet, tablets etc. to discover the benefits of such technology)

Table 4: Reading Group Type

Reading Group Type		No. Sessions	No. Adults	No. Children	Total No. Participants
Adult		1,265	10,210	-	10,210
Children	<i>Chatterbooks (7-11 years)</i>	148	-	976	976
	<i>Children (7-9 years)</i>	140	-	947	947
	<i>Children (9-11 years)</i>	287	-	1,839	1,839
	<i>Teenagers (12+ years)</i>	102	-	511	511
	Total	677	-	4,273	4,273
All Reading Group Types		1,942	10,210	4,273	14,483

Table 5a: Rhythm and Rhyme³ Type

Rhythm and Rhyme Type	No. Sessions	No. Adults	No. Children	Total No. Participants
Public session	4,602	60,866	72,471	133,337
Dedicated session (e.g. Day nursery, playgroup, parent & toddlers etc.)	1,302	7,935	18,199	26,134
All Rhythm and Rhyme Types	5,904	68,801	90,670	159,471

Table 5b: Rhythm and Rhyme³ Location

Rhythm and Rhyme Location	No. Sessions	No. Adults	No. Children	Total No. Participants
On library premises (including on Mobile van)	5,297	65,693	81,788	147,481
At other location	607	3,108	8,882	11,990
All Rhythm and Rhyme Locations	5,904	68,801	90,670	159,471

³ Includes sessions held in partnership with SureStart (i.e. a government led initiative aimed at giving every child the best possible start in life and which offers a broad range of services including Early Years Care and Education to children aged 4 years and under).

Table 6a: Storytime⁴ Type

Storytime Type	No. Sessions	No. Children
Public session	1,960	17,410
Dedicated session (e.g. Rainbows/Cygnets/Brigíní, Beavers, Explorers, Anchor Boys, after schools day care etc.)	360	4,961
All Storytime Types	2,320	22,371

Table 6b: Storytime⁴ Location

Storytime Location	No. Sessions	No. Children
On library premises (including on Mobile van)	2,116	19,482
At other location	204	2,889
All Storytime Locations	2,320	22,371

⁴ Includes re-branded Storytime sessions that were held as part of the Summer Reading Challenge (i.e. a national initiative run by The Reading Agency in conjunction with UK libraries)

Table 7: Genealogy Type

Genealogy Type	No. Sessions	No. Adults
Talk/presentation	43	593
Ancestry Library Edition workshop	228	603
All Genealogy Types	271	1,196

Table 8: Job Club Type

Job Club Type	No. Sessions	No. Adults
Jobs & Benefits Office/DEL	619	3,179
Other organisation (e.g. Job Assist, Kickstart To Work, Supported Employment Solutions etc.)	265	1,355
All Job Club Types	884	4,534

Participation Tables: Year-on-year Comparisons (2012/13 to 2015/16) – with % changes

Table 9: Core & Regular Activities

Activity	No. Sessions				No. Adults				No. Children				Total No. Participants			
	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16
Class Visits	3,583	4,208	3,896	4,022	-	-	-	-	86,880	103,185	95,815	99,028	86,880	103,185	95,815	99,028
±%	-	+17%	-7%	+3%	-	-	-	-	-	+19%	-7%	+3%	-	+19%	-7%	+3%
Got IT?	2,312	3,085	2,781	3,084	2,407	3,294	3,028	3,207	-	-	-	-	2,407	3,294	3,028	3,207
±%	-	+33%	-10%	+11%	-	+37%	-8%	+6%	-	-	-	-	-	+37%	-8%	+6%
Reading Groups	1,512	2,001	1,893	1,942	7,876	10,472	10,111	10,210	3,668	4,835	3,681	4,273	11,544	15,307	13,792	14,483
±%	-	+32%	-5%	+3%	-	+33%	-3%	+1%	-	+32%	-24%	+16%	-	+33%	-10%	+5%
Rhythm and Rhyme	3,608	4,431	5,100	5,904	43,018	54,676	60,572	68,801	57,138	71,604	79,455	90,670	100,156	126,280	140,027	159,471
±%	-	+23%	+15%	+16%	-	+27%	+11%	+14%	-	+25%	+11%	+14%	-	+26%	+11%	+14%
Storytime	1,978	2,249	2,178	2,320	-	-	-	-	20,122	24,045	20,850	22,371	20,122	24,045	20,850	22,371
±%	-	+14%	-3%	+7%	-	-	-	-	-	+19%	-13%	+7%	-	+19%	-13%	+7%
Core Activities	12,993	15,974	15,848	17,272	53,301	68,442	73,711	82,218	167,808	203,669	199,801	216,342	221,109	272,111	273,512	298,560
±%	-	+23%	-1%	+9%	-	+28%	+8%	+12%	-	+21%	-2%	+8%	-	+23%	+1%	+9%
Genealogy	-	165	207	271	-	1,156	1,285	1,196	-	-	-	-	-	1,156	1,285	1,196
±%	-	-	+25%	+31%	-	-	+11%	-7%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+11%	-7%
Go ON!	-	331	447	534	-	1,757	2,655	3,370	-	-	-	-	-	1,757	2,655	3,370
±%	-	-	+35%	+19%	-	-	+51%	+27%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+51%	+27%
Job Clubs	-	651	789	884	-	3,967	4,159	4,534	-	-	-	-	-	3,967	4,159	4,534
±%	-	-	+21%	+12%	-	-	+5%	+9%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+5%	+9%
Knit and Natter	-	2,697	3,095	3,661	-	23,126	28,145	34,432	-	-	-	-	-	23,126	28,145	34,432
±%	-	-	+15%	+18%	-	-	+22%	+22%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+22%	+22%
Regular Activities	-	3,844	4,538	5,350	-	30,006	36,244	43,532	-	-	-	-	-	30,006	36,244	43,532
±%	-	-	+18%	+18%	-	-	+21%	+20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+21%	+20%
Core & Regular Activities	-	19,818	20,386	22,622	-	98,448	109,955	125,750	-	203,669	199,801	216,342	-	302,117	309,756	342,092
±%	-	-	+3%	+11%	-	-	+12%	+14%	-	-	-2%	+8%	-	-	+3%	+10%

Table 10a: Class Visit Type

Class Visit Type		No. Sessions				No. Children			
		2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Nursery school/unit		252	399	502	515	7,418	11,228	13,450	13,809
±%		-	+58%	+26%	+3%	-	+51%	+20%	+3%
Primary & Special Needs	<i>Structured activities for Year 4 & Year 6 (to support Key Stage 1 & 2 language and literacy skills)</i>	1,480	1,775	1,448	1,461	35,966	43,108	35,815	36,812
	±%	-	+20%	-18%	+1%	-	+20%	-17%	+3%
	<i>Other – stories, book exchange, crafts etc.</i>	1,767	1,964	1,890	1,982	42,554	47,103	45,515	46,940
	±%	-	+11%	-4%	+5%	-	+11%	-3%	+3%
Total		3,247	3,739	3,338	3,443	78,520	90,211	81,330	83,752
±%		-	+15%	-11%	+3%	-	+15%	-10%	+3%
Post Primary		84	70	56	64	942	1,746	1,035	1,467
±%		-	-17%	-20%	+14%	-	+85%	-41%	+42%
All Class Visit Types		3,583	4,208	3,896	4,022	86,880	103,185	95,815	99,028
±%		-	+17%	-7%	+3%	-	+19%	-7%	+3%

Table 10b: Class Visit Location

Class Visit Location		No. Sessions				No. Children			
		2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
On library premises		3,583	3,870	3,513	3,625	86,880	93,794	84,589	88,182
±%		-	+8%	-9%	+3%	-	+8%	-10%	+4%
At other location		-	338	383	397	-	9,391	11,226	10,846
±%		-	-	+13%	+4%	-	-	+20%	-3%
All Class Visit Locations		3,583	4,208	3,896	4,022	86,880	103,185	95,815	99,028
±%		-	+17%	-7%	+3%	-	+19%	-7%	+3%

Table 11: Got IT?² Type

Got IT? Type	No. Sessions				No. Adults			
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
One-to-one	2,243	2,936	2,641	2,998	2,243	2,936	2,641	2,998
±%	-	+31%	-10%	+14%	-	+31%	-10%	+14%
Small groups	69	149	140	86	164	358	387	209
±%	-	+116%	-6%	-39%	-	+118%	+8%	-46%
All Got IT? Types	2,312	3,085	2,781	3,084	2,407	3,294	3,028	3,207
±%	-	+33%	-10%	+11%	-	+37%	-8%	+6%

² Excludes Got IT? sessions that were held as part of Silver Surfers or ITea & Biscuits (i.e. annual local and national events, which aim to encourage older people who don't currently use computers, the internet, tablets etc. to discover the benefits of such technology)

Table 12: Reading Group Type

Reading Group Type	No. Sessions				No. Adults				No. Children				Total No. Participants				
	2012 /13	2013 /14	2014 /15	2015 /16	2012 /13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2012/ 13	2013 /14	2014 /15	2015/ 16	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	
Adult	927	1,268	1,263	1,265	7,876	10,472	10,111	10,210	-	-	-	-	7,876	10,472	10,111	10,210	
±%	-	+37%	0%	0%	-	+33%	-3%	+1%	-	-	-	-	-	+33%	-3%	+1%	
Children	Chatterbooks (7-11 years)	-	-	105	148	-	-	-	-	-	-	750	976	-	-	750	976
	±%	-	-	-	+41%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+30%	-	-	-	+30%	
	Children (7-9 years)	148	196	126	140	-	-	-	-	1,041	1,508	751	947	1,041	1,508	751	947
	±%	-	+32%	-36%	+11%	-	-	-	-	-	+45%	-50%	+26%	-	+45%	-50%	+26%
	Children (9-11 years)	321	393	294	287	-	-	-	-	1,847	2,395	1,581	1,839	1,847	2,395	1,581	1,839
	±%	-	+22%	-25%	-2%	-	-	-	-	-	+30%	-34%	+16%	-	+30%	-34%	+16%
	Teenagers (12+ years)	116	144	105	102	-	-	-	-	780	932	599	511	780	932	599	511
±%	-	+24%	-27%	-3%	-	-	-	-	-	+19%	-36%	-15%	-	+19%	-36%	-15%	
Total	585	733	630	677	-	-	-	-	3,668	4,835	3,681	4,273	3,668	4,835	3,681	4,273	
±%	-	+25%	-14%	+7%	-	-	-	-	-	+32%	-24%	+16%	-	+32%	-24%	+16%	
All Reading Group Types	1,512	2,001	1,893	1,942	7,876	10,472	10,111	10,210	3,668	4,835	3,681	4,273	11,544	15,307	13,792	14,483	
±%	-	+32%	-5%	+3%	-	+33%	-3%	+1%	-	+32%	-24%	+16%	-	+33%	-10%	+5%	

Table 13a: Rhythm and Rhyme³ Type

Rhythm and Rhyme Type	No. Sessions				No. Adults				No. Children				Total No. Participants			
	2012 /13	2013 /14	2014 /15	2015 /16	2012 /13	2013 /14	2014 /15	2015 /16	2012 /13	2013 /14	2014 /15	2015 /16	2012 /13	2013 /14	2014 /15	2015 /16
Public session	3,070	3,590	4,009	4,602	40,347	49,789	54,485	60,866	49,087	59,555	65,087	72,471	89,434	109,344	119,572	133,337
±%	-	+17%	+12%	+15%	-	+23%	+9%	+12%	-	+21%	+9%	+11%	-	+22%	+9%	+12%
Dedicated session (e.g. Day nursery, playgroup, parent & toddlers etc.)	538	841	1,091	1,302	2,671	4,887	6,087	7,935	8,051	12,049	14,368	18,199	10,722	16,936	20,455	26,134
±%	-	+56%	+30%	+19%	-	+83%	+25%	+30%	-	+50%	+19%	+27%	-	+58%	+21%	+28%
All Rhythm and Rhyme Types	3,608	4,431	5,100	5,904	43,018	54,676	60,572	68,801	57,138	71,604	79,455	90,670	100,156	126,280	140,027	159,471
±%	-	+23%	+15%	+16%	-	+27%	+11%	+14%	-	+25%	+11%	+14%	-	+26%	+11%	+14%

Table 13b: Rhythm and Rhyme³ Location

Rhythm and Rhyme Location	No. Sessions				No. Adults				No. Children				Total No. Participants			
	2012 /13	2013 /14	2014 /15	2015 /16	2012 /13	2013 /14	2014 /15	2015 /16	2012 /13	2013 /14	2014 /15	2015 /16	2012 /13	2013 /14	2014 /15	2015 /16
On library premises (including Mobile van)	3,452	4,101	4,578	5,297	42,449	52,651	57,939	65,693	54,778	66,370	72,162	81,788	97,227	119,021	130,101	147,481
±%	-	+19%	+12%	+16%	-	+24%	+10%	+13%	-	+21%	+9%	+13%	-	+22%	+9%	+13%
At other location	156	330	522	607	569	2,025	2,633	3,108	2,360	5,234	7,293	8,882	2,929	7,259	9,926	11,990
±%	-	+112%	+58%	+16%	-	+256%	+30%	+18%	-	+122%	+39%	+22%	-	+148%	+37%	+21%
All Rhythm and Rhyme Locations	3,608	4,431	5,100	5,904	43,018	54,676	60,572	68,801	57,138	71,604	79,455	90,670	100,156	126,280	140,027	159,471
±%	-	+23%	+15%	+16%	-	+27%	+11%	+14%	-	+25%	+11%	+14%	-	+26%	+11%	+14%

³ Includes sessions held in partnership with SureStart (i.e. a government led initiative aimed at giving every child the best possible start in life and which offers a broad range of services including Early Years Care and Education to children aged 4 years and under).

Table 14a: Storytime⁴ Type

Storytime Type	No. Sessions				No. Children			
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Public session	1,864	1,903	1,853	1,960	18,121	16,992	16,362	17,410
±%	-	+2%	-3%	+6%	-	-6%	-4%	+6%
Dedicated session (e.g. Rainbows/Cygnets/Brigíní, Beavers, Explorers, Anchor Boys, after schools day care etc.)	114	346	325	360	2,001	7,053	4,488	4,961
±%	-	+204%	-6%	+11%	-	+252%	-36%	+11%
All Storytime Types	1,978	2,249	2,178	2,320	20,122	24,045	20,850	22,371
±%	-	+14%	-3%	+7%	-	+19%	-13%	+7%

Table 14b: Storytime⁴ Location

Storytime Location	No. Sessions				No. Children			
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
On library premises (including Mobile van)	1,957	2,103	1,992	2,116	19,466	20,907	18,334	19,482
±%	-	+7%	-5%	+6%	-	+7%	-12%	+6%
At other location	21	146	186	204	656	3,138	2,516	2,889
±%	-	+595%	+27%	+10%	-	+378%	-20%	+15%
All Storytime Locations	1,978	2,249	2,178	2,320	20,122	24,045	20,850	22,371
±%	-	+14%	-3%	+7%	-	+19%	-13%	+7%

⁴ Includes re-branded Storytime sessions that were held as part of the Summer Reading Challenge (i.e. a national initiative run by The Reading Agency in conjunction with UK libraries)

Table 15: Genealogy Type

Genealogy Type	No. Sessions				No. Adults			
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Talk/presentation	-	32	37	43	-	559	689	593
±%	-	-	+16%	+16%	-	-	+23%	-14%
Ancestry Library Edition workshop	-	133	170	228	-	597	596	603
±%	-	-	+28%	+34%	-	-	0%	+1%
All Genealogy Types	-	165	207	271	-	1,156	1,285	1,196
±%	-	-	+25%	+31%	-	-	+11%	-7%

Table 16: Job Club Type

Job Club Type	No. Sessions				No. Adults			
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Jobs & Benefits Office	-	651	570	619	-	3,967	3,022	3,179
±%	-	-	-12%	+9%	-	-	-24%	+5%
Other organisation (e.g. Job Assist, Kickstart To Work, Supported Employment Solutions etc.)	-	-	219	265	-	-	1,137	1,355
±%	-	-	-	+21%	-	-	-	+19%
All Job Club Types	-	651	789	884	-	3,967	4,159	4,534
±%	-	-	+21%	+12%	-	-	+5%	+9%

User Information

Data source and validations

Data from the Libraries NI Activity Database are used for this publication. The data are input to this system by the 96 branch managers (and several of the 16 mobile library managers where applicable) on a daily, weekly or monthly basis and are downloaded into MS Excel at the end of each month and then read into SPSS. Validations are carried out to ensure that the data are reliable and robust for use. Any inconsistencies or inaccuracies are reported back to the branch/mobile library managers and the data is amended where necessary. Once all amendments have been made to the data, SPSS syntax is used to produce the tables in the bulletin. Information is presented at Northern Ireland Library Authority level but further breakdowns may be available on request.

Copies of this bulletin are available on the Libraries NI website at:

[http://www.librariesni.org.uk/AboutUs/OurOrg/Statistics%20Documents%20201516/Participation in Core and Regular Library Activities 2015 16 Report.pdf](http://www.librariesni.org.uk/AboutUs/OurOrg/Statistics%20Documents%20201516/Participation%20in%20Core%20and%20Regular%20Library%20Activities%202015%2016%20Report.pdf)

Official Statistics

The statistics presented in this bulletin are 'Official Statistics' as defined in Section 6 of the Statistics and Registration Services Act 2007. A statistician from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency is seconded to Libraries NI and is responsible for ensuring that the statistics comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Contact us

We welcome feedback on the content and format of this bulletin. If you would like to forward your views or receive notification of new publications, please send your comments and contact details to the email address below.

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