

statisDCAL – Libraries Bulletin

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Findings from the 2003/2004 Continuous Household Survey

Produced by the Research and Statistics Branch,
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Chapter 1 Key Findings

- 1.1 78% of respondents had visited a library in their lifetime.
- 1.2 Nearly two-fifths (39.9%) of all respondents had visited a library in the last year.
- 1.3 Of the respondents who had visited a library in the last year, over half had visited at least once a month (57%).
- 1.4 The main reason given by respondents who had not used a library in the last year, was having no interest (32%). Twenty seven percent suggested that they did not use a library because they bought all the books they needed.
- 1.5 Eighty eight percent of those who had visited a library in the last year were either very satisfied or fairly satisfied with provision.
- 1.6 Of users who had visited a library within the past year:
 - 37% of respondents who lived in the BELB area had visited a library within the last year. This compares to 40% in the NEELB area, 41% in the SEELB area, 46% in the SELB area, and 35% in the WELB area.
 - 33% of all male respondents, and 45% of all female respondents had visited a library in the last year.
 - 47% of 16-29 year olds, 44% of 30-39 year olds, 42% of 40-49 year olds, 40% of 50-59 year olds, and 30% of 60+ year olds had visited a library in the past year.
 - 41% of married respondents had visited a library within the last year. This compares to 44% of those who were single, 32% of those who were cohabiting, 27% of those who were widowed, 40% of those who were divorced, and 41% of those who were separated.
 - 33% of those with a limiting long-standing illness, and 42% of those without had visited a library in the past year.
 - 42% of Catholics, 38% of Protestants, 53% of those who gave their religion as "other/none", and 42% of those who refused to state their religion had visited a library within the past year.
 - 41% of those who were working, 42% of those who were unemployed, and 39% of those who were economically inactive had visited a library within the last year.

- 27% of all respondents who had no qualifications had visited a library within the past year. This is lower than the 58% who had a degree, 49% who had a higher educational qualification, 49% who had an A Level, 44% who had a GCSE grade A-C, and 36% who had a GCSE grade D-G. Thirty seven percent of respondents with other qualifications had visited a library in the past year.
- 65% of respondents who were still at school, 64% who were in college/further education, and 40% of those who had left school had visited a library within the past year.
- 51% of respondents who were in professional occupations had visited a library within the past year. This is higher than the 49% in managerial and technical occupations, the 38% in skilled non-manual occupations, 32% in skilled manual occupations, 44% in partly skilled occupations, and 31% in unskilled occupations. Thirty eight percent of those who stated that their occupation was “unknown/unclassified/never worked etc” had visited a library within the past year.
- 34% of households which earned between £0-£200 per week, 37% of those which earned between £200-£400, 41% of those which earned between £400-£600, 44% which earned between £600-£800, 46% which earned between £800-£1,000, and 46% of those households which earned over £1,000 per week had visited a library within the past year.
- 40% of respondents who were in receipt of benefits, and 40% who were not had visited a library within the past year.
- 50% of respondents who were in receipt of tax credits, and 39% who were not had visited a library within the past year.

Chapter 2 Introduction

- 2.1 The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) is responsible in Northern Ireland for developing policy, service delivery, administration, and monitoring of arts and creativity, museums, libraries, sport and leisure, visitor amenities, inland waterways and inland fisheries, Ordnance Survey, the Public Record Office, language policy, and for advising on matters relating to National Lottery distribution.
- 2.2 DCAL's mission is: "To protect, nurture and grow our Cultural Capital for today and tomorrow".
- 2.3 A number of goals have been set against this mission statement. As part of the monitoring of some of these goals, DCAL's Research and Statistics Branch run a number of questions annually on the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency's (NISRA) Continuous Household Survey (CHS).
- 2.4 The Continuous Household Survey is based on a sample of 4,500 addresses randomly selected each year from the Valuation and Lands Agency's Valuation List. The sample is stratified by region to ensure proportional sampling across Northern Ireland. The regional strata are: Belfast (Belfast District Council only), East of the Province, and West of the Province. Data is collected using Computer Aided Personal Interview, and the interviews are spread equally over the 12 months from April to March. There were 4,005 respondents to the 2003/04 CHS Libraries questions, and respondents were aged 16 and over.
- 2.5 The Libraries questions asked in the 2003/04 survey were:
 - When was the last time you visited a public library?
 - How often do you use the Public library service in NI?
 - Reason why you don't use a public library
 - Overall, how satisfied are you with library provision in NI?
- 2.6 These questions can be analysed by a number of variables, including:
 - Education and Library Board,
 - Gender,
 - Age,
 - Marital Status,
 - Limiting Long-standing Illness,
 - Religion,
 - Economic Activity,
 - Highest Educational Qualification,
 - Current Educational Status,
 - Social Class based on Current Occupation,
 - Gross Household Income,
 - In Receipt of Benefits,

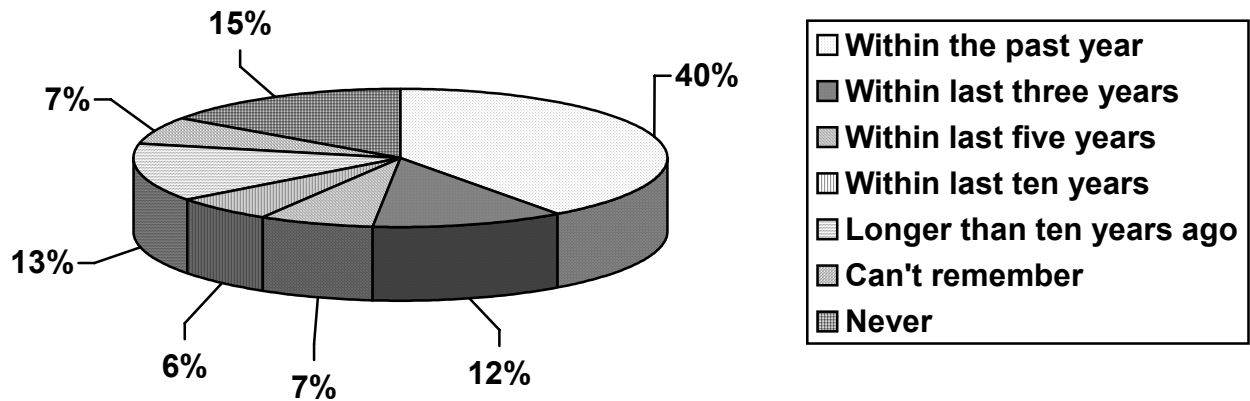
- In Receipt of Tax Credits.

2.7 This data from the Continuous Household Survey complements annual data produced by CIPFA.

Please note that due to rounding some totals may not add up to 100%

Chapter 3 Survey Findings – Library Visits

Figure1: The last time those surveyed visited a public library (all respondents)



3.1 Seventy eight percent of all respondents (N = 4,005) had visited a public library. Nearly two fifths of respondents (39.9%) had visited a public library in the last year.

3.2 **Education and Library Board:**
 Nearly two fifths (37%) of those who lived in the BELB area had visited a public library in the last year, this is similar to the 40% in the NEELB, 41% in the SEELB, 46% in the SELB and 35% in the WELB.

3.3 **Gender:**



One third (33%) of males had visited the library within the last year, whilst nearly half (45%) of females had visited a library within the last year.

3.4 **Age:**
 Forty seven percent of 16-29 year olds, 44% of 30-39 year olds, 42% of 40-49 year olds, 40% of 50-59 year olds and 30% of 60+ year olds had visited the library within the last year.

3.5 Marital Status:

Forty one percent of those who were married had visited a library within the last year, whilst 44% of those who were single had visited. This compares to 32% of those who were co-habiting, 27% of those who were widowed, 40% of those who were divorced and 41% of those who were separated.

3.6 Limiting Long-standing illness:

One third (33%) of those with a limiting long-standing illness and 42% without had visited a library within the last year.

3.7 Religion:

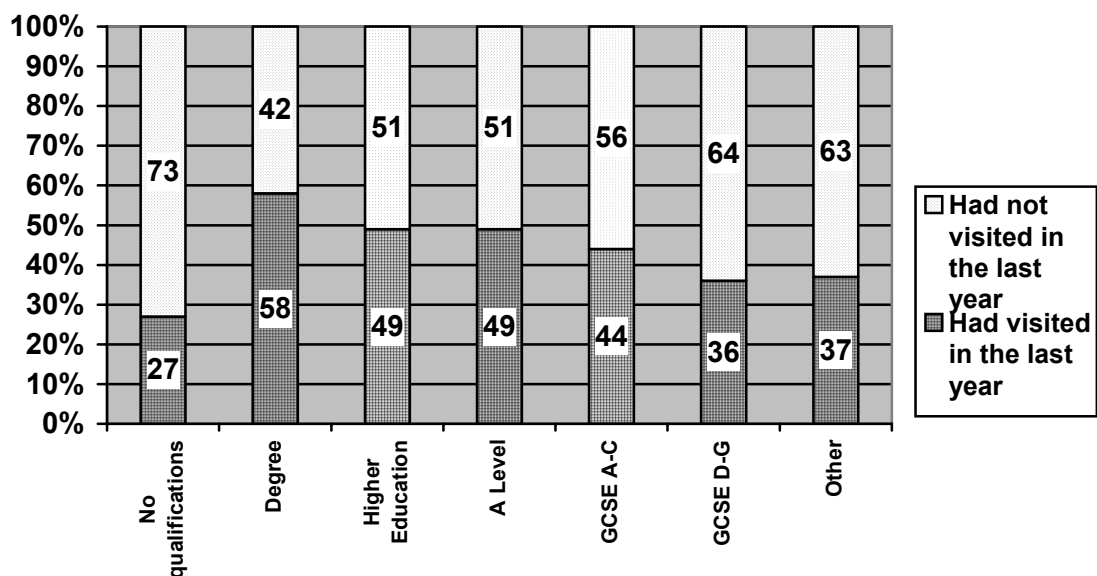
Forty two percent of Catholics stated that they had visited a library within the last year. This compares to 38% of Protestants. Just over half (53%) of those who stated that their religion was “other/none” had visited a library within the last year.

3.8 Economic Activity:

Just over two fifths (41%) of those who were working had visited a library within the last year. This compares to 42% of those who reported that they were unemployed and 39% of those who stated that they were economically inactive.

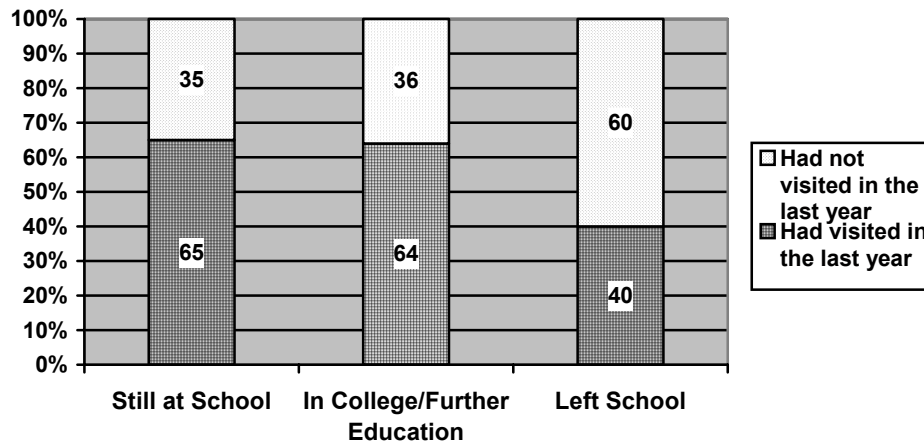
3.9 Highest Educational Qualification:

Twenty seven percent of those with no qualifications had visited a library within the last year. This is lower than the 58% of those with a degree, 49% of those who had a higher educational qualification and 49% of those who had an A Level. Forty four percent of those with a GCSE grade A-C had visited a library within the last year, whilst 36% of those with a GCSE grade D-G and 37% of those with other qualifications had done similarly.



3.10 Current Educational Status:

Nearly two thirds (65%) of survey respondents who were still at school had visited a library within the last year. This compares to 64% of those who were in college/further education. Only 40% of those who had left school had visited a library within the last year.



3.11 Social Class Current Occupation:

Around half of those who worked in professional occupations (51%) and managerial and technical occupations (49%) had visited a library within the last year. This compares to 38% in skilled non-manual occupations, 32% in skilled manual occupations, 44% in partly skilled occupations and 31% in unskilled occupations. Thirty eight percent of those who were in “unknown/unclassified” occupations had visited a library within the last year.

3.12 Gross Household Income:

Over one third (34%) of those households which earned between £0-£200 per week had visited a library within the last year. This compares to 37% of the households earning £200-£400, 41% of the households earning £400-£600, 44% of those earning between £600-£800, 46% of those earning between £800-£1,000, and 46% of the households earning over £1,000 per week.

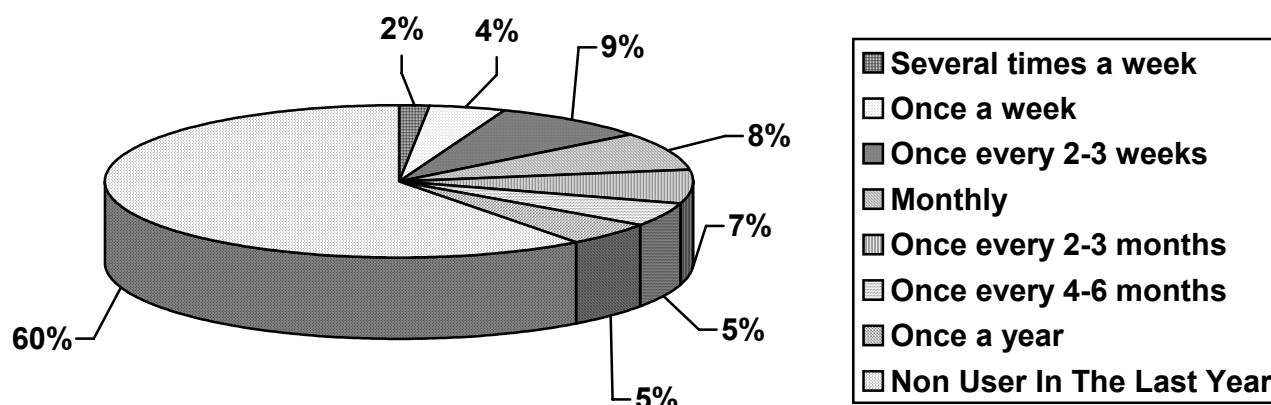
3.13 In Receipt of Benefits:

An equal percentage of survey respondents who stated that they were in receipt of benefits and those who were not, had visited a library within the last year (40%).

3.14 In receipt of Tax Credits:

Exactly one half of the survey respondents who stated that they were in receipt of Tax Credits, and 39% who did not had visited a library within the last year.

Figure 2 Library Users – frequency of use



3.15 Of those who visited a library at least once a year (N = 1,598), 14% visited at least once a week. This represents 6% of the entire population surveyed.

3.16 **Education and Library Board:**
Six percent of respondents who lived in the BELB area visited a library at least once a week. This compares to 6% in the NEELB, 7% in the SEELB, 5% in the SELB, and 4% in the WELB area.

3.17 **Gender:**
Five percent of males and 6% of females visited a library at least once a week.

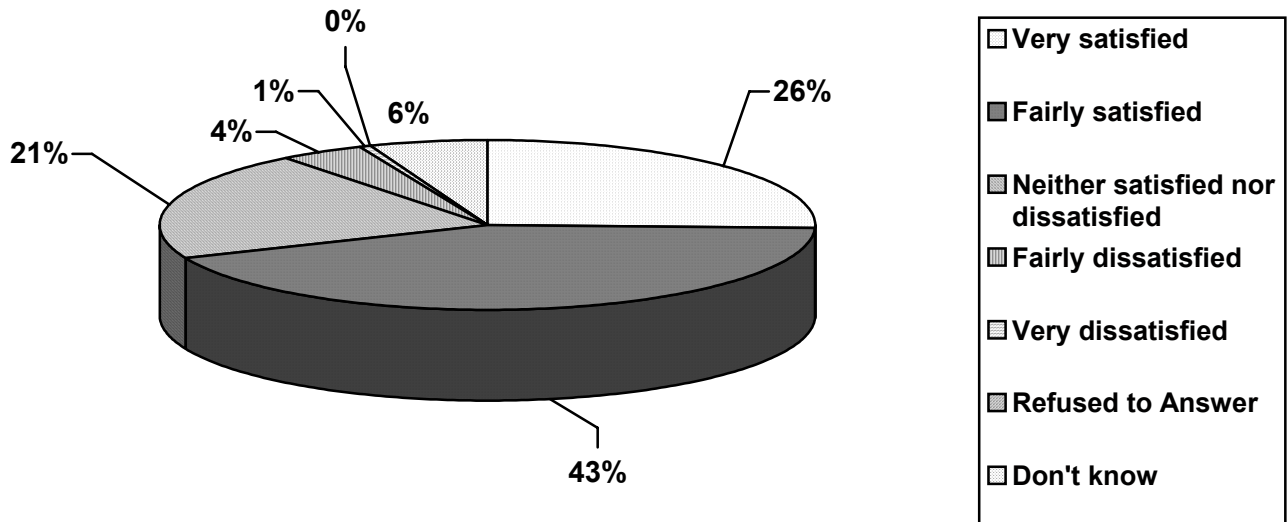
3.18 **Age:**
Nearly one tenth (8%) of 16-29 year olds visited a library at least once a week. This is higher than the 6% of 30-39 year olds, 4% of 40-49 year olds and 6% of 50-59 year olds. Five percent of 60+ year olds reported visiting a library at least once a week.

3.19 **Marital Status:**
Five percent of married respondents had visited a library at least once a week. This compares to 8% of those who were single, 3% of co-habiting respondents, 4% of those who were widowed, and 5% of those who were divorced. Six percent of respondents who were separated had visited a library at least once a week.

3.20 **Limiting Long-standing illness:**
Five percent of those with a limiting long-standing illness, and 6% of those without had visited a library at least once a week.

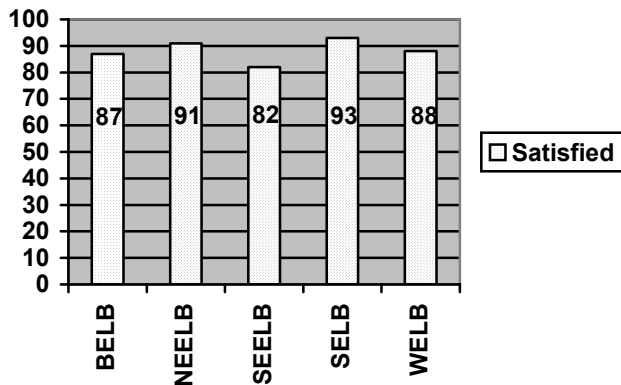
- 3.21 **Religion:**
Seven percent of Catholics, 5% of Protestants, 7% of those who stated that their religion was other/none, and 6% who refused to state their religion had visited a library at least once a week.
- 3.22 **Economic Activity:**
Five percent of those who were working had visited a library at least once a week. This is a lower figure than the 6% unemployed, and 7% economically inactive.
- 3.23 **Highest Educational Qualification:**
Four percent of respondents with no qualifications had visited a library at least once a week. This figure compares to the 8% of respondents who had a degree, 6% who had a higher educational qualification, 8% with an A Level, 5% with a GCSE grade A-C, and 4% with a GCSE Grade D-G.
- 3.24 **Current Educational Status:**
Over one in ten (12%) of those still at school, 17% of those at college or in further education, and only 5% of those who had left school had visited a library at least once a week.
- 3.25 **Social Class Current Occupation:**
Five percent of those in professional occupations had visited a library at least once a week. This figure is comparable to the 5% of those in managerial and technical occupations, 3% in skilled non-manual occupations, and 4% in skilled manual occupations. Six percent of respondents in partly skilled occupations, 5% in unskilled occupations, and 7% of those who stated that their occupational classification was “unknown/unclassified/never worked” had visited a library at least once a week.
- 3.26 **Gross Household Income:**
Six percent of those households which had an income of between £0-£200 per week had visited a library at least once a week. This figure is comparable with the 6% who earned between £200-£400, the 5% who earned between £400-£600, the 7% who earned between £600-£800 per week, and the 4% who earned over £1000 per week. Only 2% of respondents in the £800-£1000 category had reported visiting a library at least once a week.
- 3.27 **In Receipt of Benefits:**
Six percent of those who were in receipt of benefits, and 5% of those who were not, stated that they had visited a library at least once a week.
- 3.28 **In Receipt of Tax Credits:**
Eight percent of those who were in receipt of tax credits, and 5% of those who were not, stated that they had visited a library at least once a week.

Figure 3 How satisfied overall those surveyed were with the library provision in NI



3.29 Over two thirds of all respondents (69%) stated that they were either very satisfied or fairly satisfied with library provision in Northern Ireland (N=4,005). Seventy seven percent of those who had ever visited a library were satisfied (N=3,137), whilst 88% of those who had visited a library in the last year were satisfied (N=1,598). Of all those who had visited a library in the last year:

3.30 Education and Library Board:



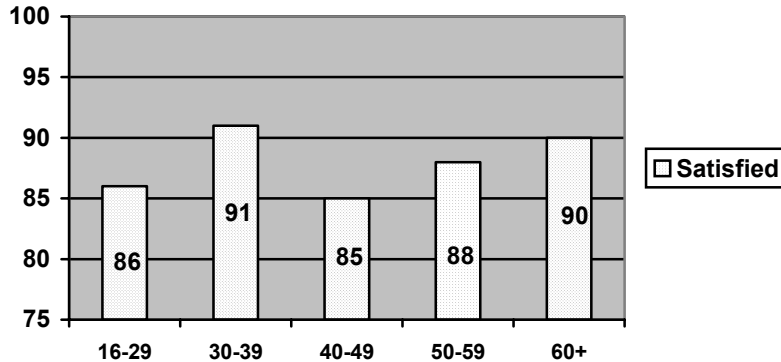
Eighty seven percent of respondents who lived in the BELB area were either very satisfied or fairly satisfied with library provision in Northern Ireland. This compares to 91% of respondents in the NEELB, 82% in the SEELB, 93% in the SELB and 88% in the WELB.

3.31 Gender:

Eighty six percent of male respondents and 89% of female respondents were either very satisfied or fairly satisfied with library provision in Northern Ireland.

3.32 Age:

Eighty six percent of respondents in the 16-29 age category were very or fairly satisfied with library provision in Northern Ireland. This figure is very similar to the 91% of 30-39 years old, the 85% of 40-49 year olds, the 88% of 50-59 year olds, and 90% of 60+ year olds.



3.33 Marital Status:

Almost nine out of ten (89%) married respondents who had visited a library in the last year were very or fairly satisfied with library provision in Northern Ireland. This is similar to the 86% of single respondents, the 90% of co-habiting respondents, 91% of widowed respondents, 89% of divorced respondents and 91% of separated respondents.

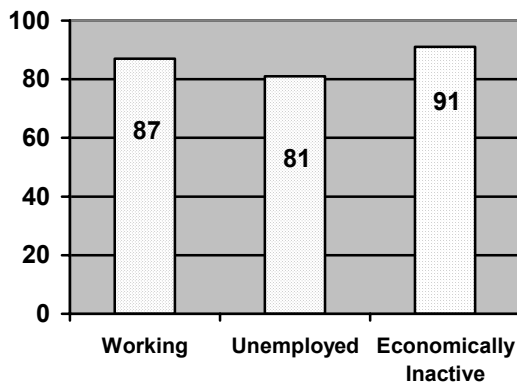
3.34 Limiting Long-standing illness:

Eighty seven percent of respondents with a limiting long-standing illness were either very satisfied or fairly satisfied with library provision in Northern Ireland. Eighty nine percent of those without a limiting long-standing illness were similarly satisfied and had visited in the last year.

3.35 Religion:

Of all Catholics who had visited a library in the last year, 89% were very or fairly satisfied with library provision in Northern Ireland. This is slightly higher than the 88% of Protestants, 84% of "other" religions, and the 85% of those who gave their religion as "refused/don't know".

3.36 Economic Activity:



Eighty seven percent of respondents who were working, 81% of those who were unemployed, and 91% of those who stated that they were economically inactive were very or fairly satisfied with library provision in Northern Ireland.

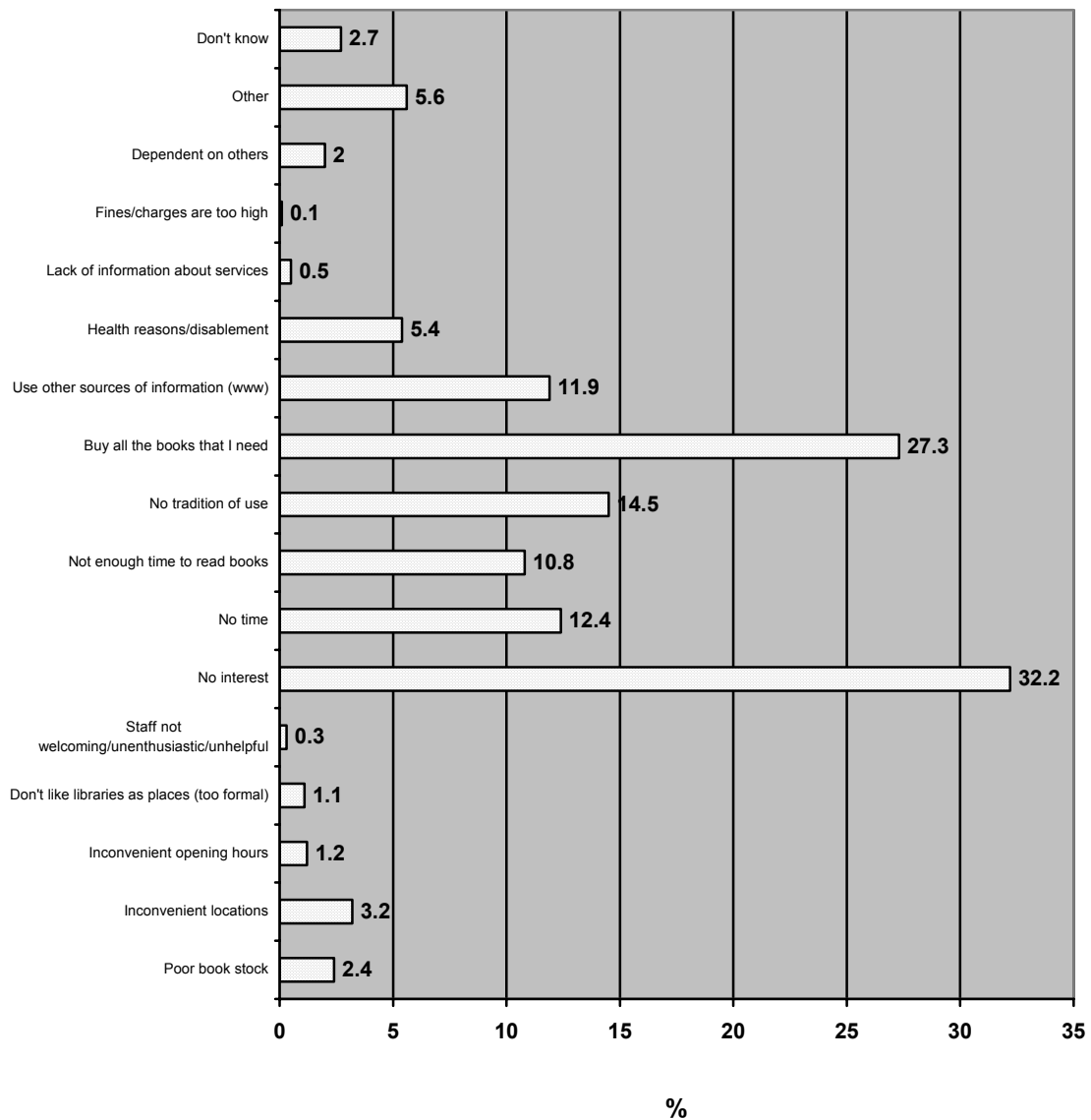
□ Satisfied

- 3.37 Highest Educational Qualification:**
Ninety one percent of respondents with no qualifications were very or fairly satisfied with library provision in Northern Ireland (and had visited in the last year). This is comparable with the 81% of respondents with a degree, 91% with a higher educational qualification, 82% with an A Level, 92% with a GCSE grade A-C, or the 93% with a GCSE grade D-G. Eighty percent of respondents with other qualifications were also satisfied with library provision in Northern Ireland.
- 3.38 Current Educational Status:**
Still looking at respondents who had visited a library in the last year, of the respondents who were still at school 88% were satisfied with library provision in Northern Ireland. Eighty six percent of those in college/further education, and 88% of those who had left school were also very or fairly satisfied.
- 3.39 Social Class Current Occupation:**
Eighty percent of those in professional occupations, 85% of those in managerial and technical occupations, 92% of those in skilled non-manual occupations, and 75% of those in skilled manual occupations were satisfied with library provision in Northern Ireland (and had visited at least once a year). Ninety five percent of those in partly skilled occupations, 88% of those in unskilled occupations, and 89% of those who reported “unknown/unclassified/never worked etc” were also fairly or very satisfied.
- 3.40 Gross Household Income:**
Nine tenths of those households which had an income of between £0-£200 per week were satisfied with library provision in Northern Ireland. This figure is higher than the 89% who earned between £200-£400, 88% who earned between £400-£600, 89% who earned between £600-£800, and the 86% who earned between £800-£1000. Eighty four percent of those households which earned over £1,000 per week were very or fairly satisfied with library provision in Northern Ireland.
- 3.41 In Receipt of Benefits:**
Ninety one percent of respondents who were in receipt of benefits (and who visited a library in the last year) were either very or fairly satisfied with library provision in Northern Ireland. Eighty five percent of those who were not in receipt of benefits were satisfied.
- 3.42 In Receipt of Tax Credits:**
Ninety one percent of those respondents who were in receipt of tax credits were either very satisfied or fairly satisfied with library provision in Northern Ireland. This is a higher percentage than the 88% of those who were not in receipt of tax credits.

Chapter 3 Survey Findings – Reasons for not Visiting a Library

3.43 Respondents who did not visit a public library in the last year were asked to state the main reasons for not visiting. These reasons are summarised in Figure 4 below (percentages are based on the number of respondents who had not visited in the last year (N=2,407). Percentages will not total to 100% as multiple reasons were permitted).

Figure 4 Reasons given by those who had not used a public library in the last year



3.44 Of those who had not visited a library in the last year (N=2,407), the most popular reason cited for not using a public library was “No interest” (32%), followed by “I buy all the books that I need” (27%).

3.45 Education and Library Board:

Of all the respondents who lived in the BELB area, 20% gave “no interest” as their reason for not using a public library. This compares to 20% in the NEELB area, 10% in the SEELB area, 22% in the SELB area, and 30% in the WELB area.

3.46 Gender:

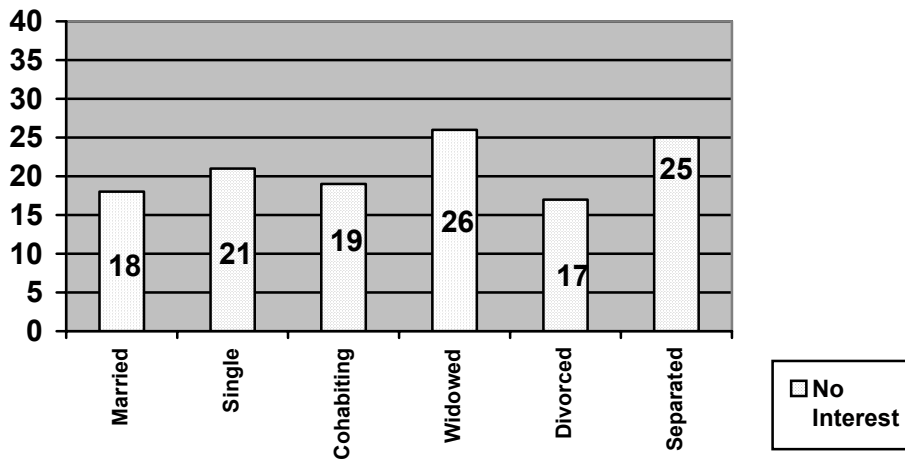
Just under one quarter (24%) of males and 16% of females gave “no interest” as a reason for not using a public library.

3.47 Age:

Seventeen percent of all 16-29 year olds, 16% of all 30-39 year olds, and 16% of all 40-49 year olds gave “no interest” as a reason for not using a public library. These figures are lower than the 22% of respondents in the 50-59 age category and the 24% in the 60+ age category.

3.48 Marital Status:

Nearly one fifth (18%) of all respondents who were married gave “no interest” as a reason for not using a public library. Similarly, 21% of those who were single and 19% of those who were cohabiting gave this as their reason. Twenty six percent of those who were widowed gave “no interest” as a reason for not using a public library, compared to 17% of those who were divorced, and 25% of those who were separated.



3.49 Limiting Long-Standing Illness:

Almost one quarter (23%) of those who stated that they had a limiting long-standing illness, and 18% of those who did not stated that “no interest” was a reason for not visiting a public library.

3.50 Religion:

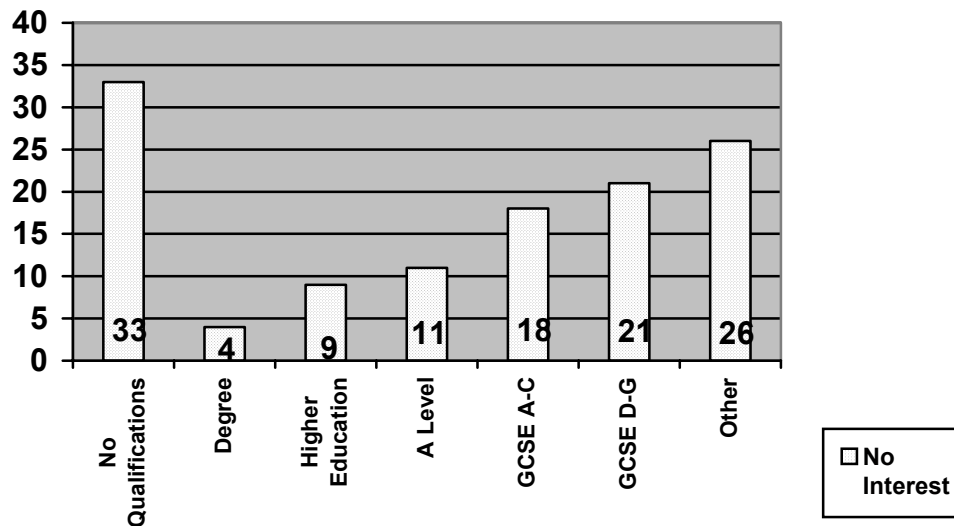
Twenty two percent of Catholics, 19% of Protestants, 5% of those who gave “other/none” as their religion, and 6% of those who refused to give their religion gave “no interest” as a reason for not visiting a public library.

3.51 Economic Activity:

Seventeen percent of all respondents who were working gave “no interest” as a reason for not using a public library. This is much lower than the 28% of those who were unemployed and 22% of those who were economically inactive.

3.52 Highest Educational Qualification:

One third (33%) of all respondents with no qualifications stated that “no interest” was a reason for not using a public library. This is a much higher figure than the 4% of those with a degree, the 9% with a higher educational qualification, the 11% with an A Level, the 18% with a GCSE grade A-C, and the 21% with a GCSE grade D-G. Twenty six percent of those with other qualifications gave “no interest” as a reason for not using a public library.



3.53 Current Educational Status:

Of all of the respondents who stated that they were still at school, 11% gave “no interest” as a reason for not using a public library. Six percent of those who were in college/further education, and 19% of those who had left school gave the same reason.

3.54 Social Class Current Occupation:

Four percent of those in professional occupations, 10% of those in managerial and technical occupations, and 17% of those in skilled non-manual occupations cited “no interest” as a reason for not using a public library. This compares to 25% of those in skilled manual occupations, 16% of those in partly skilled occupations, and 42% of those in unskilled occupations. Twenty two percent of those who stated that their occupation was “unknown/unclassified/never worked” gave the same reason for not using a public library.

3.55 Gross Household Income:

Almost three out of ten (29%) of those households which had an income of between £0-£200 per week cited “no interest” as a reason for not using a public library. This compares to 21% of those who earned between £200-£400, 18% who earned between £400-£600, 12% who earned between £600-£800, 11% who earned between £800-£1,000, and 5% of those households which earned over £1,000 per week.

3.56 In Receipt of Benefits:

Twenty one percent of those respondents who were in receipt of benefits, and 18% of those who were not stated that “no interest” was a reason for not using a public library.

3.57 In Receipt of Tax Credits:

Over one tenth (13%) of all respondents who were in receipt of tax credits, and 20% who were not stated that “no interest” was a reason for not using a public library.

- 4.1 The Continuous Household Survey (CHS) is one of the largest continuous surveys carried out in Northern Ireland. The survey is designed, conducted and analysed by the Central Survey Unit (CSU) of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). It is based on a sample of the general population resident in private households and has been running since 1983. The Survey is designed to provide a regular source of information on a wide range of social and economic issues relevant to Northern Ireland.
- 4.2 Each year CSU sets the content of the questionnaire in consultation with client departments. The questionnaire consists of both a household interview and an individual interview with each person aged 16 and over. Both the household and individual questionnaires consist of core items that are included each year, modules that recur on a regular cycle and ad hoc modules. Core items include accommodation, tenure, type of heating and fuel usage, employment status, employment activity, educational qualifications, adult and child health and family information. Non-core items include prevalence of smoking, level of alcohol consumption, and sports and leisure activities.
- 4.3 The CHS is based on a set sample of 4,500 addresses selected each year from the Valuation and Lands Agency's property database. A simple random sample of all the addresses in Northern Ireland is drawn using the regional strata: Belfast (Belfast District Council only), East of the Province, and West of the Province. Data is collected by personal interview using CAPI (Computer Aided Personal Interview), and the interviews are spread equally over the 12 months from April to March (allocated on a monthly basis).