LORI Resource Sharing Certification Executive Summary 2023

The following report summarizes the data collected during the annual LORI Resource Sharing Certification conducted from July to September of 2023 to certify libraries for fiscal year 2024. The collection survey included data reporting (resource sharing contacts, LORI interlibrary loan statistics, and a brief accessibility survey) and acknowledgment of compliance with [LORI Standards and Regulations](#) (220-RICR-60-15-03), including the LORI Interlibrary Loan Code. The Technology Scan was temporarily suspended for 2023. All public, school, academic and special libraries that participate in library delivery and other resource sharing activities provided by the Office of Library and Information Services must comply with LORI Standards and Regulations and certify compliance annually.

Introduction

Data was collected during the Library of Rhode Island (LORI) Resource Sharing Certification process from July to September of 2023. Data reporting included FY2023 interlibrary loan statistics, acknowledgement of participation in the OLIS Talking Books Program and a website accessibility survey.

The data can be used to identify trends and gaps in LORI library services. This report provides the library community with an overview of academic, public, school, and special libraries across Rhode Island.

Reported interlibrary loan data shows a slight increase in activity (4%) from FY2022. The data calls attention to gaps in accessible services, especially for people with visual and physical disabilities. Of the 146 reporting LORI libraries, only 29 (20%) indicated they are an institutional member of the OLIS' Talking Books Library and on average, less than 38% of libraries indicated their websites provide defined accessibility features.

Composition of LORI Libraries

Library of Rhode Island (LORI) is a multi-type library network coordinated by OLIS and regulated by resource sharing standards established by the Library Board of Rhode Island. LORI libraries agree to participate in reciprocal borrowing and lending of library materials allowing residents, students, and academic faculties access to the collective holdings of all member libraries. The data reported by 146 LORI library systems (Figure 1) includes 29

branches/outlets of the central library location, totaling 176 library facilities (Figure 2). Library types include academic, public, school and special (hospital, special and state).
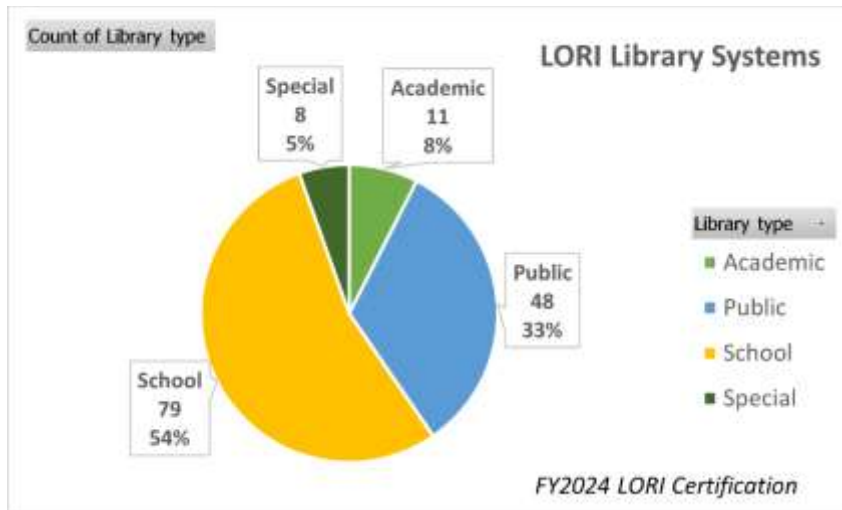

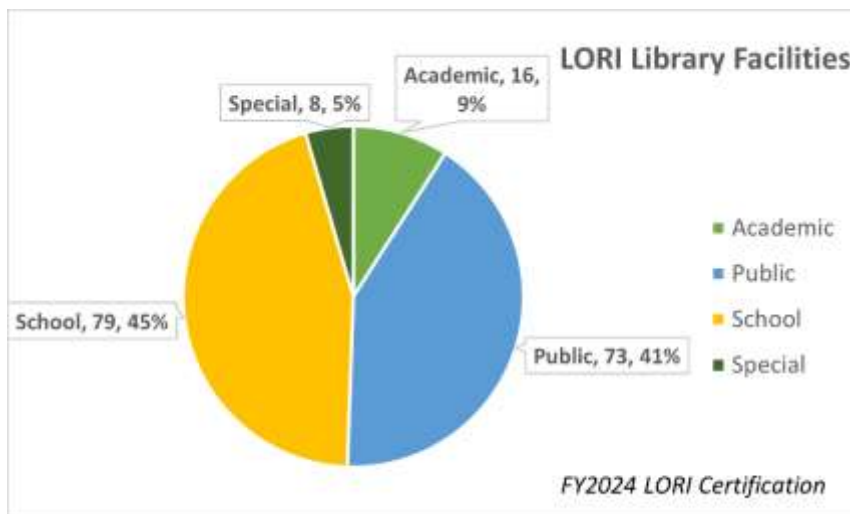Figure 1: LORI Library Systems

Figure 2: LORI Library Facilities

LORI Interlibrary Loan Statistics Overview

Each weekday thousands of library books and other materials (DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, magazines, etc.) are delivered to LORI libraries to meet the resource sharing needs of library patrons statewide. Transactions include those filled within the local library systems (OSL, HELIN, RILINK), as well as from other LORI libraries and out of state libraries. In addition, OLIS has partnered with the Massachusetts Library System (MLS) to offer interstate delivery of ILL items through Optima Courier, providing patrons with increased access to resources and decreased postage costs for participating libraries.
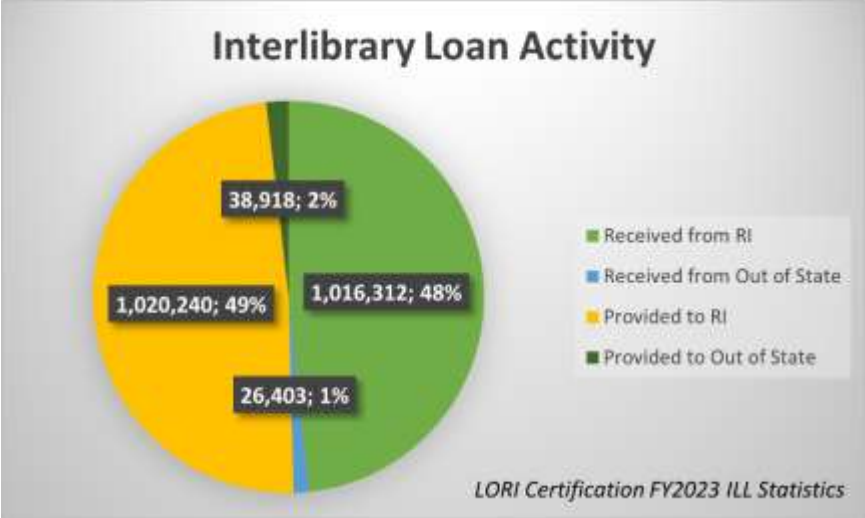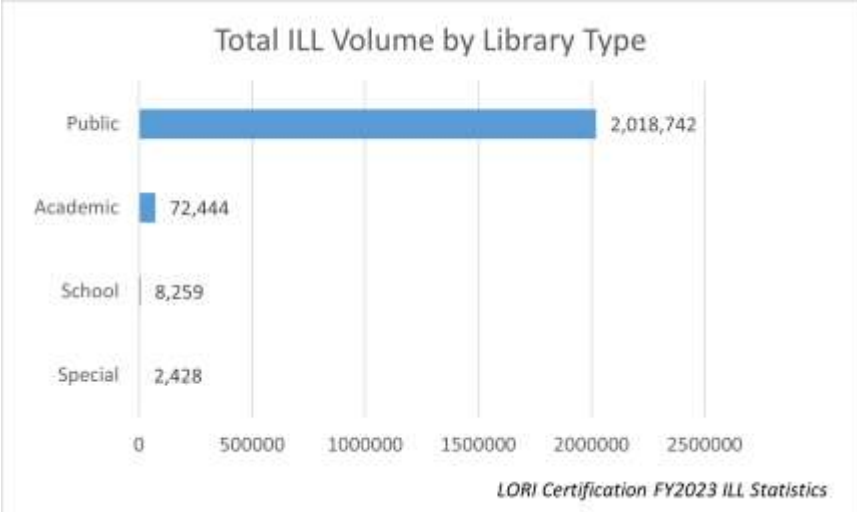
Figure 3: LORI Interlibrary Loan Activity

Figure 4: LORI Interlibrary Loan Volume by Library Type

Statewide interlibrary loan activity for FY2023:

- A total of 2,101,873 items were provided to/received from other libraries (Figure 4).
- 99.5% of activity was completed by academic and public libraries (Figures 4 and 5).
- 96.9% of items were shared exclusively among LORI libraries (Figures 3 and 5).
- Only 65,321 items were provided to or received from out of state libraries, with academic libraries contributing to 94% of that volume (Figure 5).
- There was a 4% increase (80,923 items) in total interlibrary loan activity from FY2022 (2,070,950).
- St. George's School contributed to 54% of RI items received and 85% of RI items provided by schools due in part to their membership in Ocean State Libraries.
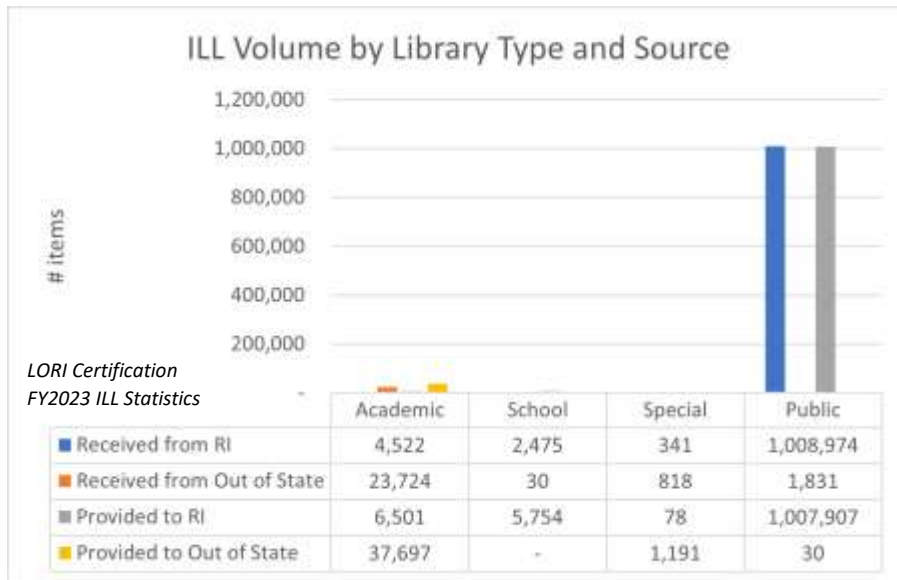
Figure 5: ILL Volume by Library Type and Source

The top ten LORI libraries with the highest total FY2023 ILL volume (items provided + items received) were:

Library Name	Total Items Provided	Total Items Received	Combined Total
Cranston Public Library	67,349	94,147	161,496
Providence Community Library	40,570	103,358	143,928
Warwick Public Library	44,882	65,082	109,964
Newport Public Library	64,694	21,051	85,745
Barrington Public Library	41,972	41,936	83,908
East Providence Public Library	30,825	48,254	79,079
South Kingstown Public Library	33,463	45,588	79,051
Cumberland Public Library	39,329	36,792	76,121
North Kingstown Public Library	27,446	47,644	75,090
Lincoln Public Library	53,790	20,534	74,324

Table 1: Top 10 Libraries with the Highest ILL Volume

Resource sharing in Rhode Island continues to be dominated by public libraries, with only Brown University (29,839 items - 28th), The University of Rhode Island (12,744 items - 44th) and RI College (7,565 items – 50th) the only non-public libraires in the top 50 of total items provided and received. Interlibrary loan among school libraries was interrupted during the reporting year of FY2023 due to technical complications with the school library software system. A functional ILS and cross district loan module for the 2023-2024 school year is expected to increase interlibrary loan activity among school libraries.

Institutional Membership of Talking Books Library

Talking Books Library, the Rhode Island Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, provides library service free of charge to anyone in Rhode Island who is unable to read standard print material because of a temporary or permanent visual or physical handicap. The program is part of the National Library Service network which provides free digital books, braille books, magazines, music materials and equipment to eligible residents and agencies. The Talking Books Library program is administered by the Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services.
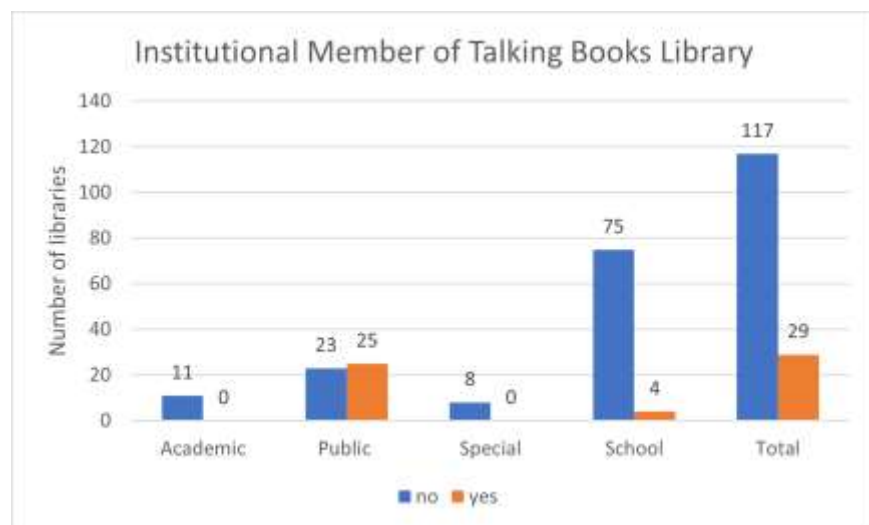

Figure 6: Institutional Membership of Talking Books Library

Only 20% of LORI libraries are institutional members of the Talking Books Library.

Website Accessibility

A critical factor in user experience design for websites is accessibility for people with visual impairments and other disabilities. The responses submitted in the survey demonstrate the need for education and training as approximately 49% of libraries responded they were

unsure if their library website provides a specific accessibility feature. Below is the breakdown of reported compliance by each library type (Figures 7-10).

Descriptive alternative text for images

Alternative text offers a text equivalent for visual and auditory page elements. Accessible websites include descriptive alternative text for images and other media content as it allows screen reader users to understand the page content.
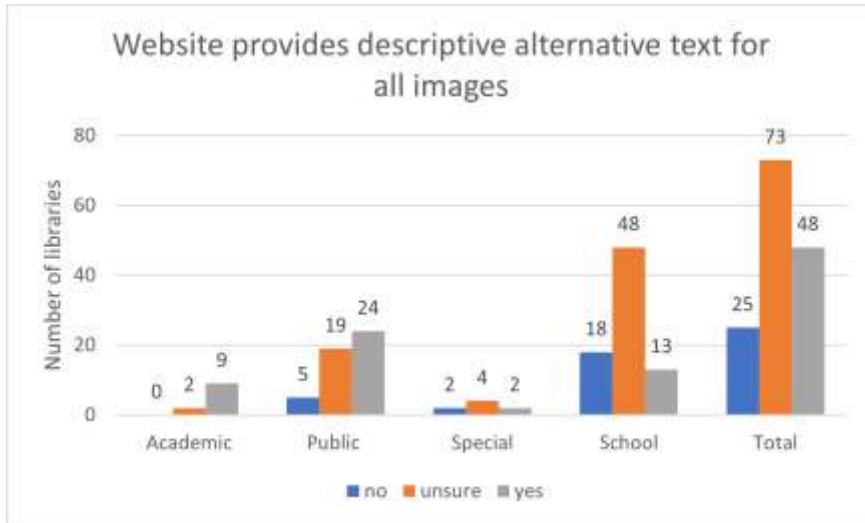

Figure 7: Website provides descriptive alternative text for images

Adequate contrast for content display

To meet a minimum contrast level, colors need to meet the correct contrast ratio between text and background on a web page.
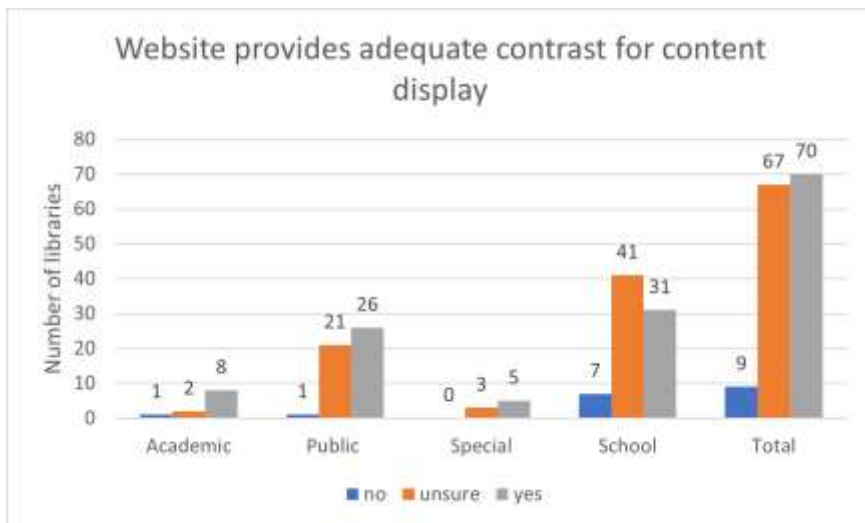
Figure 8: Website provides adequate contrast for content display

Captions provided for video content

Multimedia, especially video content, requires multisensory experiences. Those with hearing problems or language barriers have difficulty utilizing information from videos. These barriers can be removed by providing video transcriptions and/or subtitles.
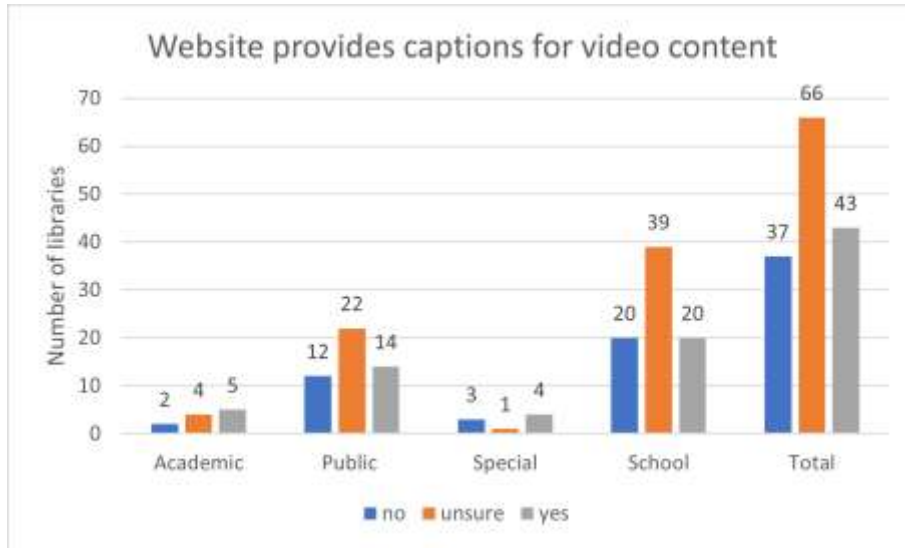

Figure 9: Website provides captions for video content

Website navigation with a keyboard

One important feature of accessible websites is allowing users to navigate around and between web pages using the keyboard as an alternative to a mouse. This is essential for users with limited mobility or fine motor control.
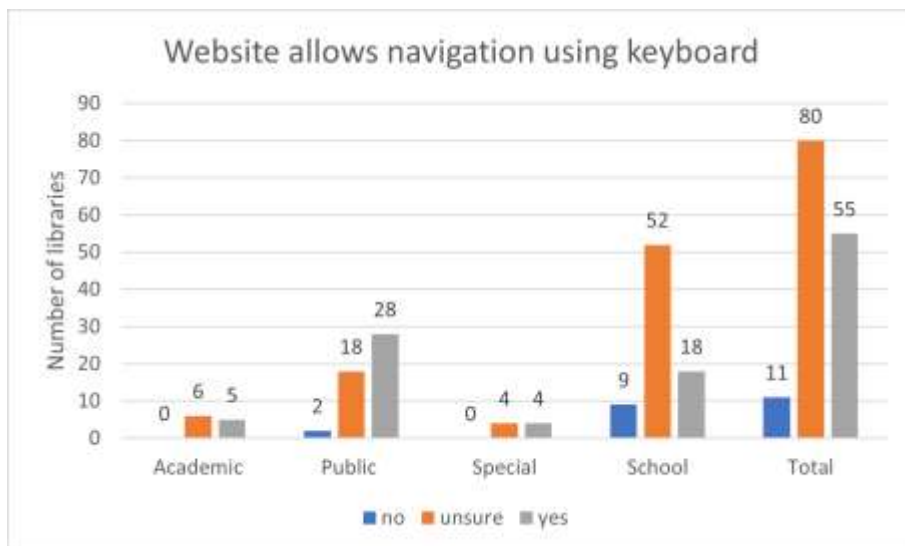
Figure 10: Website navigation using keyboard