

» “What is more important in a library than anything else – than everything else – is the fact that it exists.”

—ARCHIBALD MACLEISH

# Strategic Library™



Issue 45 // December 15, 2017

## 2018 Library Purchasing Survey

» The results of Strategic Library’s annual purchasing survey

The 2018 Library Purchasing Survey illustrates how libraries budget for and spend on automation, print and non-print media, professional services, furniture, equipment and supplies, and shelving for their facilities. Its charts and tables graphically present a broad range of data including, but not limited to:

- Who buys
- How much they budget
- What they buy
- Spending priorities.

### SCOPE & METHODOLOGY

The 2018 Library Purchasing Survey was created in response to a demand for data on library spending to help librarians make informed decisions about library products and services. To achieve this objective, Strategic Library conducted an online survey of approximately 6,000 library and information professionals. The online survey instrument elicited responses that provide unique information on the purchasing practices of the individuals polled, their involvement in



purchasing and recommending products and services, and their satisfaction with industry suppliers.

The survey sample of 5,918 was selected using a computerized random generator, which built the sample from the LibraryWorks subscriber database of more than 80,000 library decision makers. These individuals represent all library types: public, K-12 school, academic, and special libraries.

### SCOPE & METHODOLOGY

#### SURVEY RESULTS

##### 1. NATIONWIDE

##### 2. LIBRARY SETTING

*Public*  
*Academic*  
*Special*  
*K-12*

##### 3. LOCATION

##### 4. COLLECTION SIZE

##### 5. BUDGET

##### 6. PURCHASING INTENTIONS

Survey participants were promised anonymity. Each person in the survey sample received an e-mail invitation to participate that included a link to the online survey questionnaire. The survey remained open for two weeks.

The survey questionnaire consisted of two parts:

- I. Characteristics of Purchasing Decision Makers. This section elicited responses concerning the participant's title, primary role, and purchasing influence; and details about library type, size, location, and budget.
- II. Purchasing Intentions. This portion of the survey instrument addressed budgeted or projected 2016 spending on automation, furniture, shelving, professional services, equipment and supplies, print and non-print media, and other key areas.

311 librarians completed the survey questionnaire, a response rate of 5.25%.

#### ORGANIZATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF SURVEY DATA

The charts and graphs present survey data based on nationwide results.

#### LIBRARY SETTING

- Public: central/main library, branches, consortium/district/regional system
- K-12: elementary (grades 1-5), middle (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12)
- Special: law, medicine, government, corporate, and institutional
- Academic: 2- and 4-year institutions

#### SURVEY REGIONS

- Northeast: CT, DE, MA, ME, NH, NY, PA, RI, VT
- South: AL, AR, DC, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV
- Midwest: IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI
- West: AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, WA, WY, UT

Published monthly, *Strategic Library* assists administrators and managers in all types of libraries as they deal with day-to-day and strategic challenges. In-depth articles, written by highly regarded professionals in the field, focus on leadership, management, evaluation, assessment, marketing, funding, and more to promote organizational success. Learn more at [www.strategiclibrary.com](http://www.strategiclibrary.com).

*Strategic Library* is published by Library-



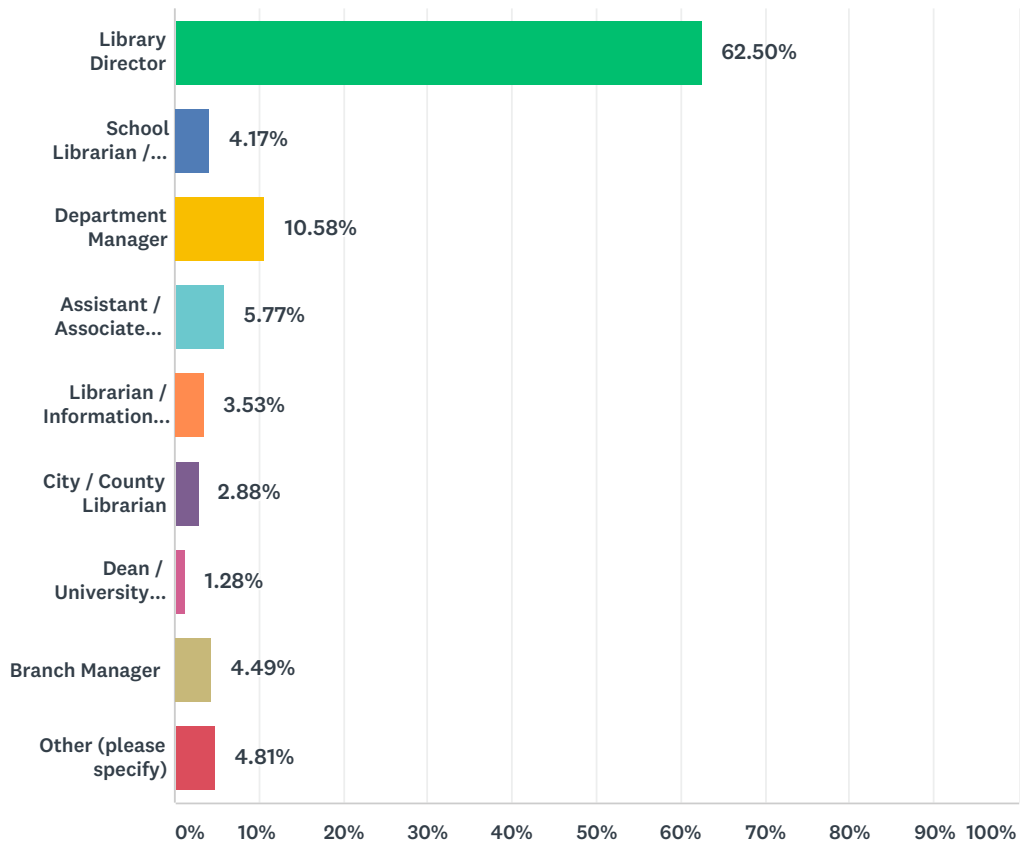
Works, Inc. LibraryWorks also publishes *Books, Bytes and Beyond*, a roundup of new and featured print and non-print releases for libraries; *Library Product News*, a showcase of new and innovative products for libraries; *Library Bid & RFP Alert*, a bid information service; market research reports; and other resources to help libraries do more, better, with less. Visit our websites [LibrariansYellowPages.com](http://LibrariansYellowPages.com) to find vendor and suppliers and [LibraryWorks.com](http://LibraryWorks.com), a knowledgebase for library professionals.

» **The 2018 Library Purchasing Survey was created in response to a demand for data on library spending to help librarians make informed decisions about library products and services.**

# Nationwide Survey Results

Q1 Which of the following best describes your TITLE?

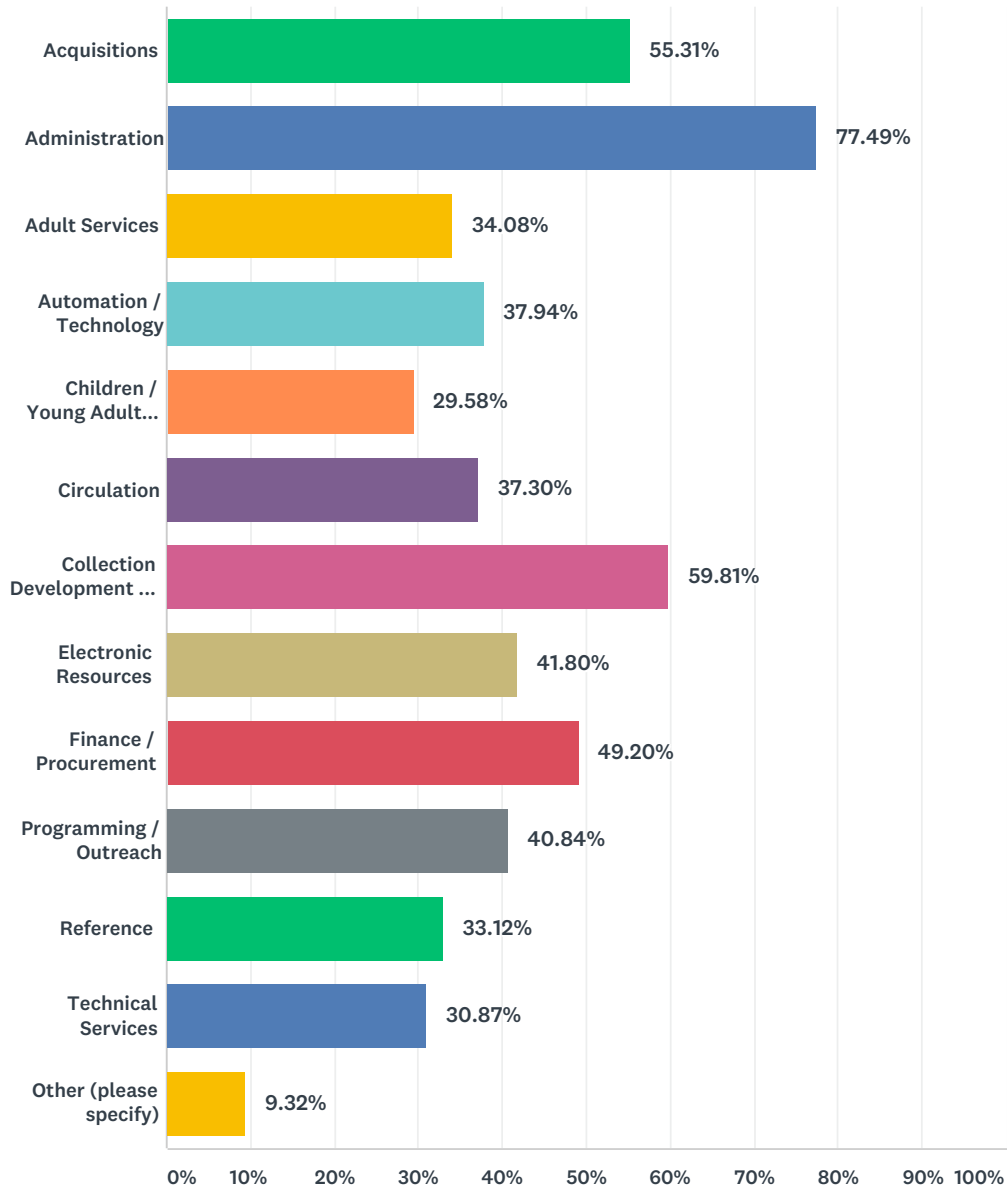
Answered: 312 Skipped: 1



2018 Library Purchasing Survey

Q2 Which of the following best describes your AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY within the library? Please check all that apply.

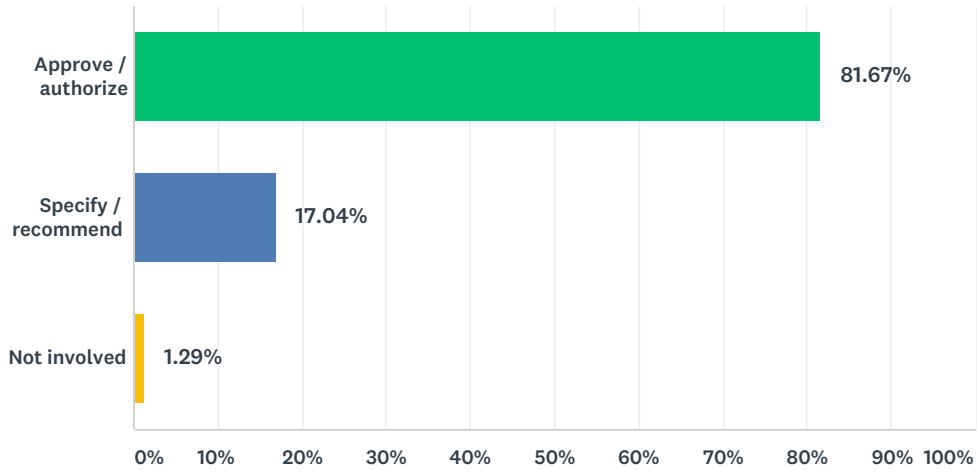
Answered: 311 Skipped: 2



2018 Library Purchasing Survey

Q3 Which of the following best describes your involvement in PURCHASING for your library?

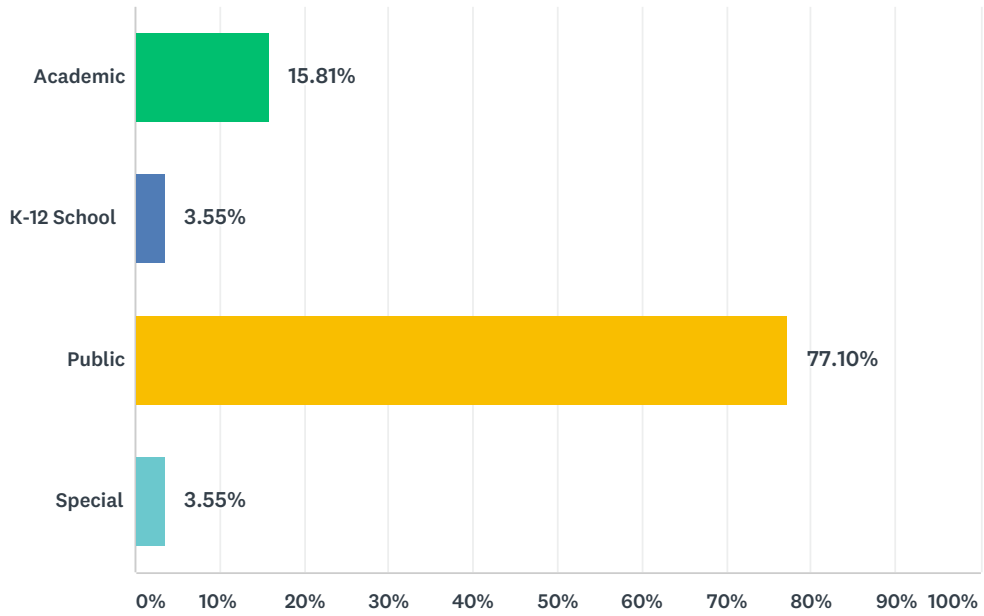
Answered: 311 Skipped: 2



2018 Library Purchasing Survey

Q4 Which of the following best describes your TYPE OF LIBRARY?

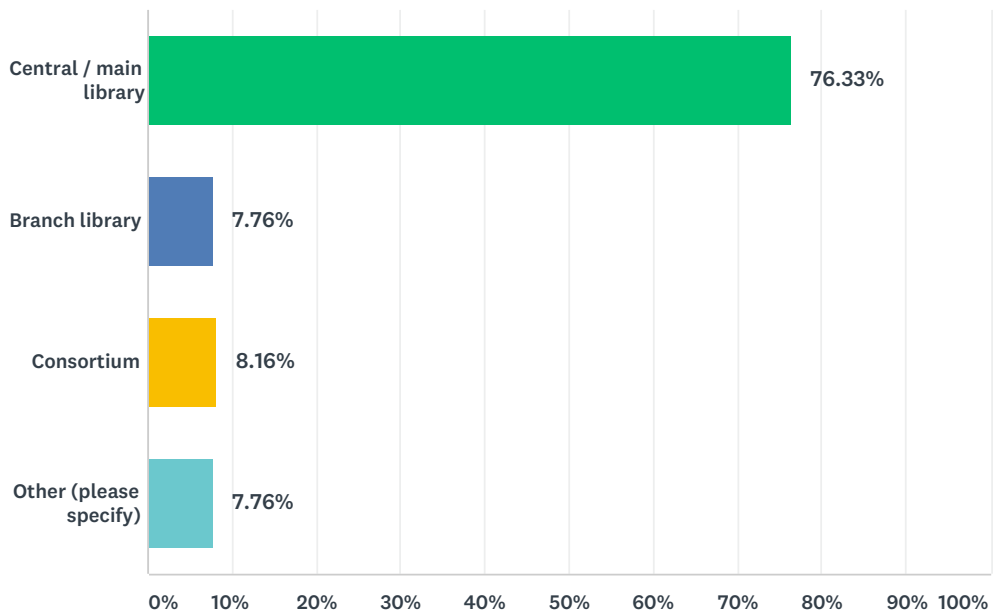
Answered: 310 Skipped: 3



2018 Library Purchasing Survey

Q5 If yours is a PUBLIC library, which of the following best describes its SETTING?

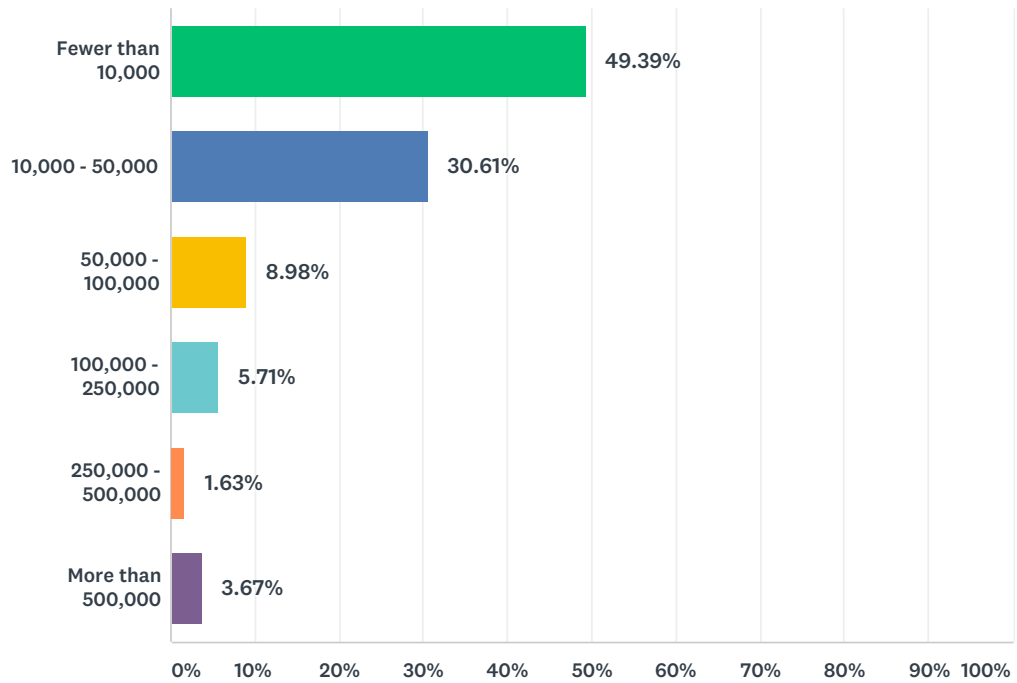
Answered: 245 Skipped: 68



2018 Library Purchasing Survey

Q6 If yours is a PUBLIC library, which of the following best describes the population of its LIBRARY SERVICE AREA (LSA)?

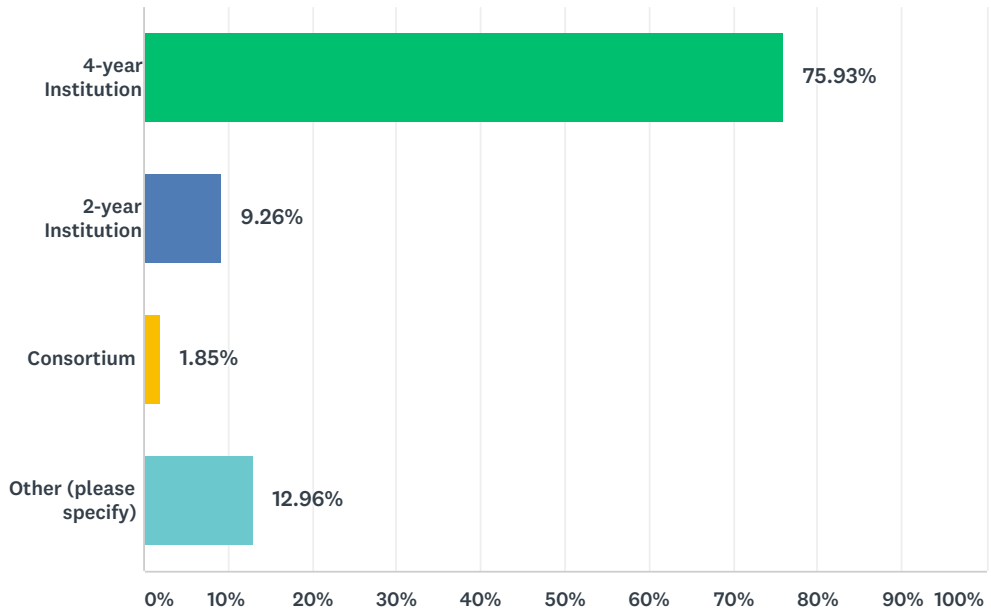
Answered: 245 Skipped: 68



2018 Library Purchasing Survey

Q7 If yours is an ACADEMIC library, which of the following describes it?

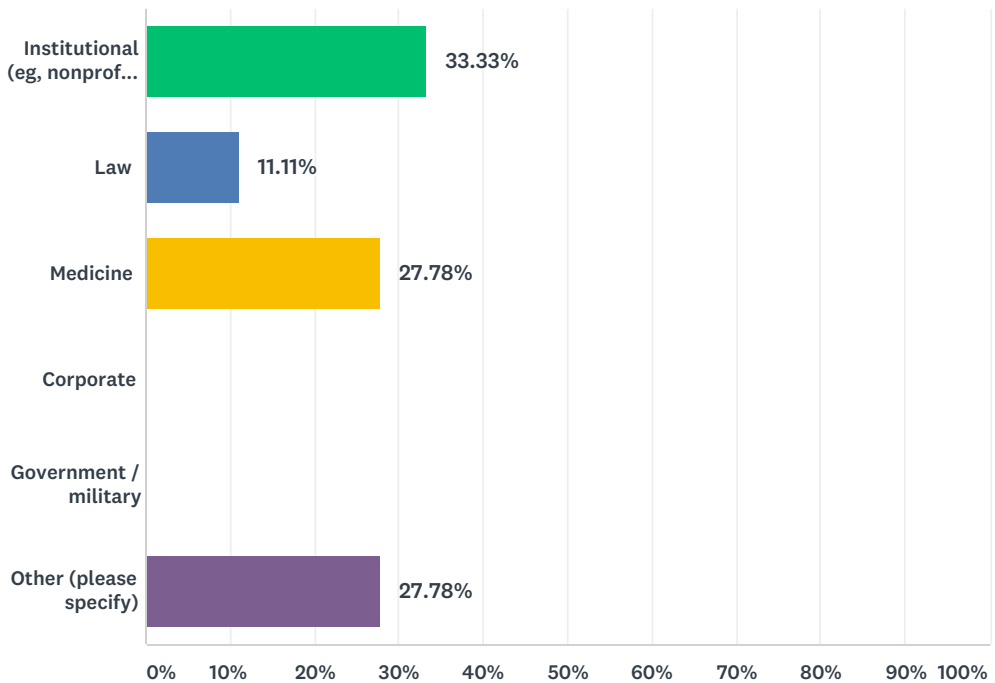
Answered: 54 Skipped: 259



2018 Library Purchasing Survey

Q8 If yours is a SPECIAL library, which of the following best describes it?

Answered: 18 Skipped: 295

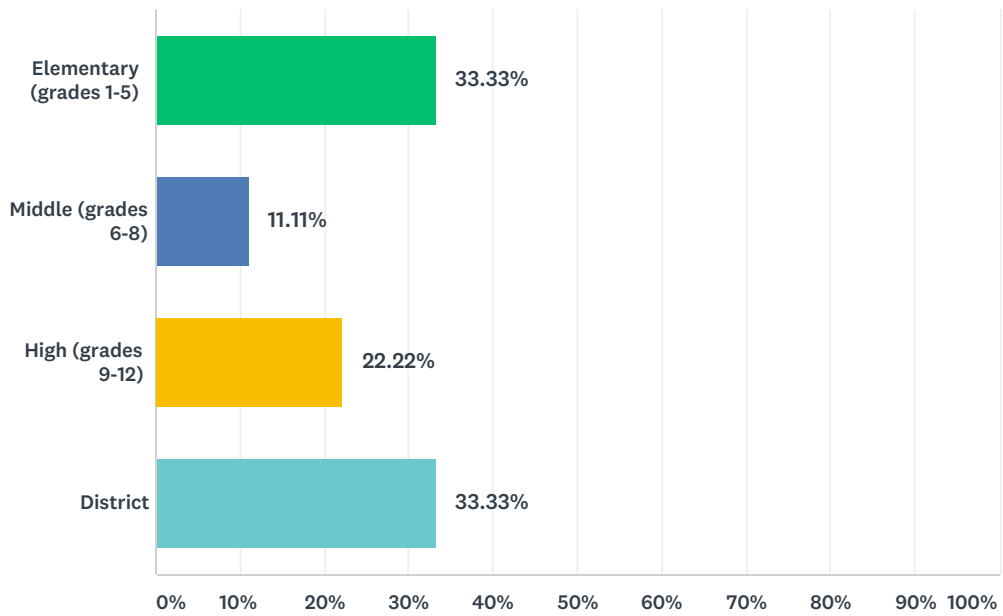




## 2018 Library Purchasing Survey

### Q9 If yours is a K-12 library, which of the following best describes it?

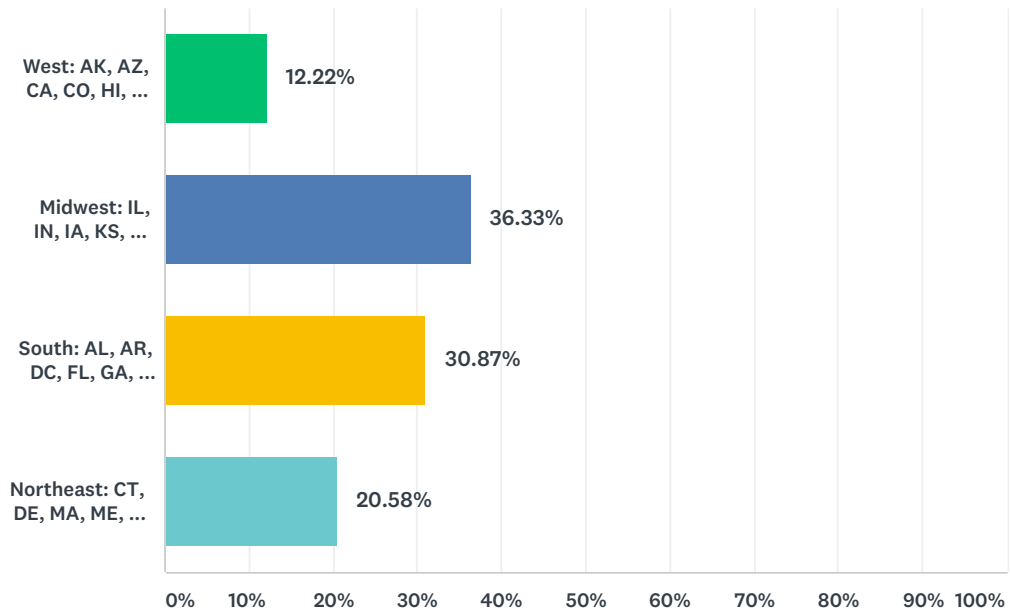
Answered: 18 Skipped: 295



## 2018 Library Purchasing Survey

### Q10 WHERE is your library?

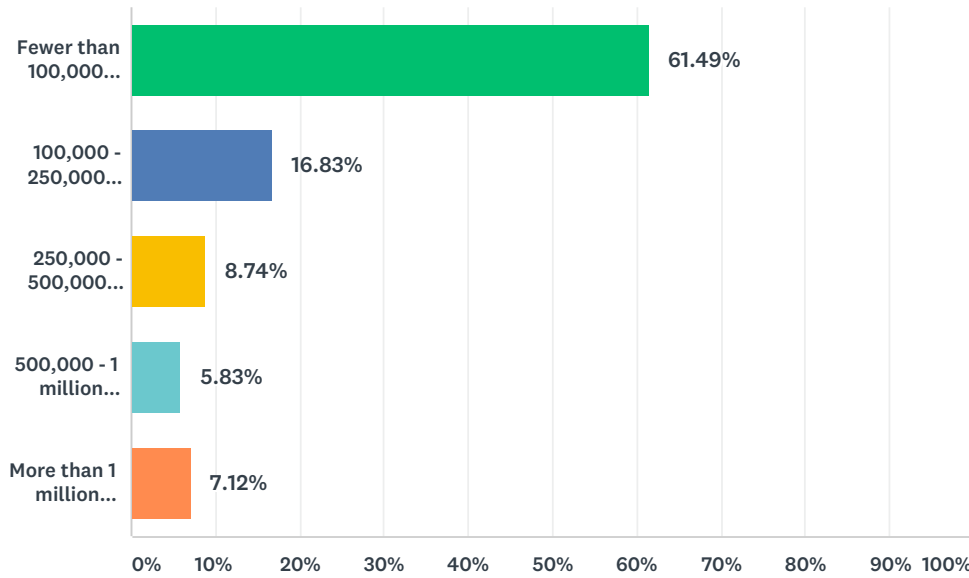
Answered: 311 Skipped: 2



2018 Library Purchasing Survey

Q11 Which of the following best describes the SIZE OF YOUR LIBRARY'S COLLECTION?

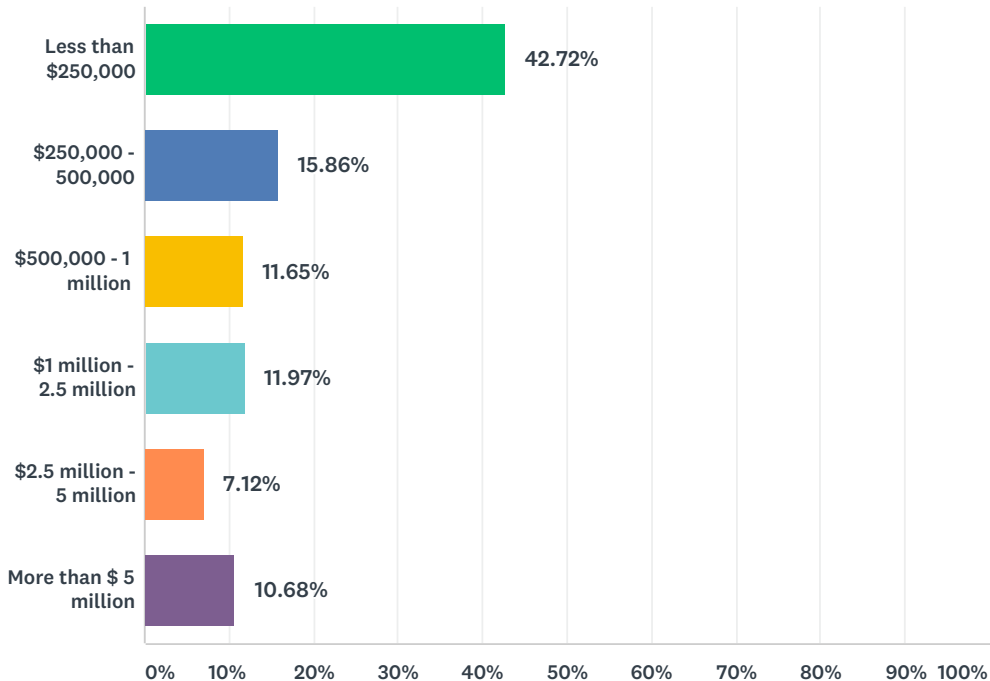
Answered: 309 Skipped: 4



2018 Library Purchasing Survey

Q12 What is your library's total actual or projected 2018 OPERATING BUDGET?

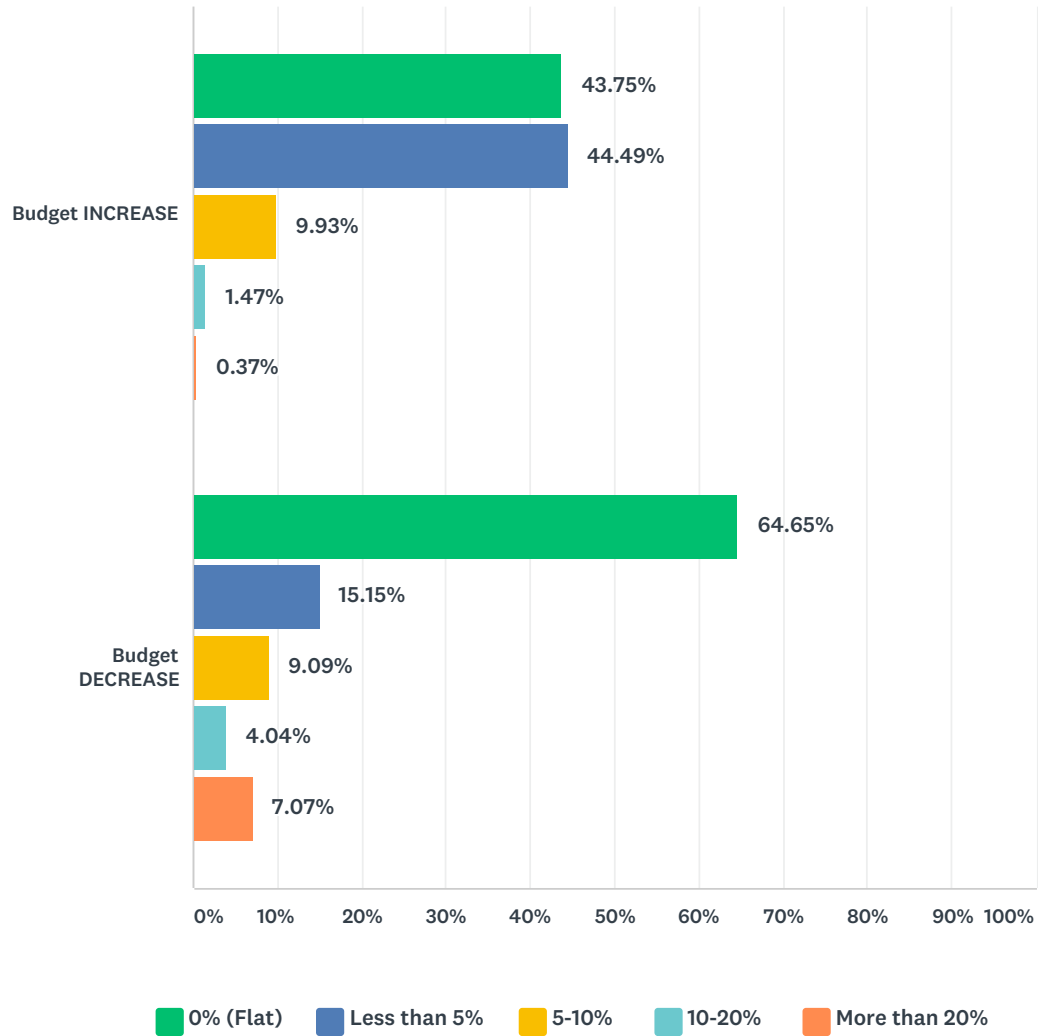
Answered: 309 Skipped: 4



2018 Library Purchasing Survey

### Q13 By what percentage did your 2018 budget INCREASE or DECREASE?

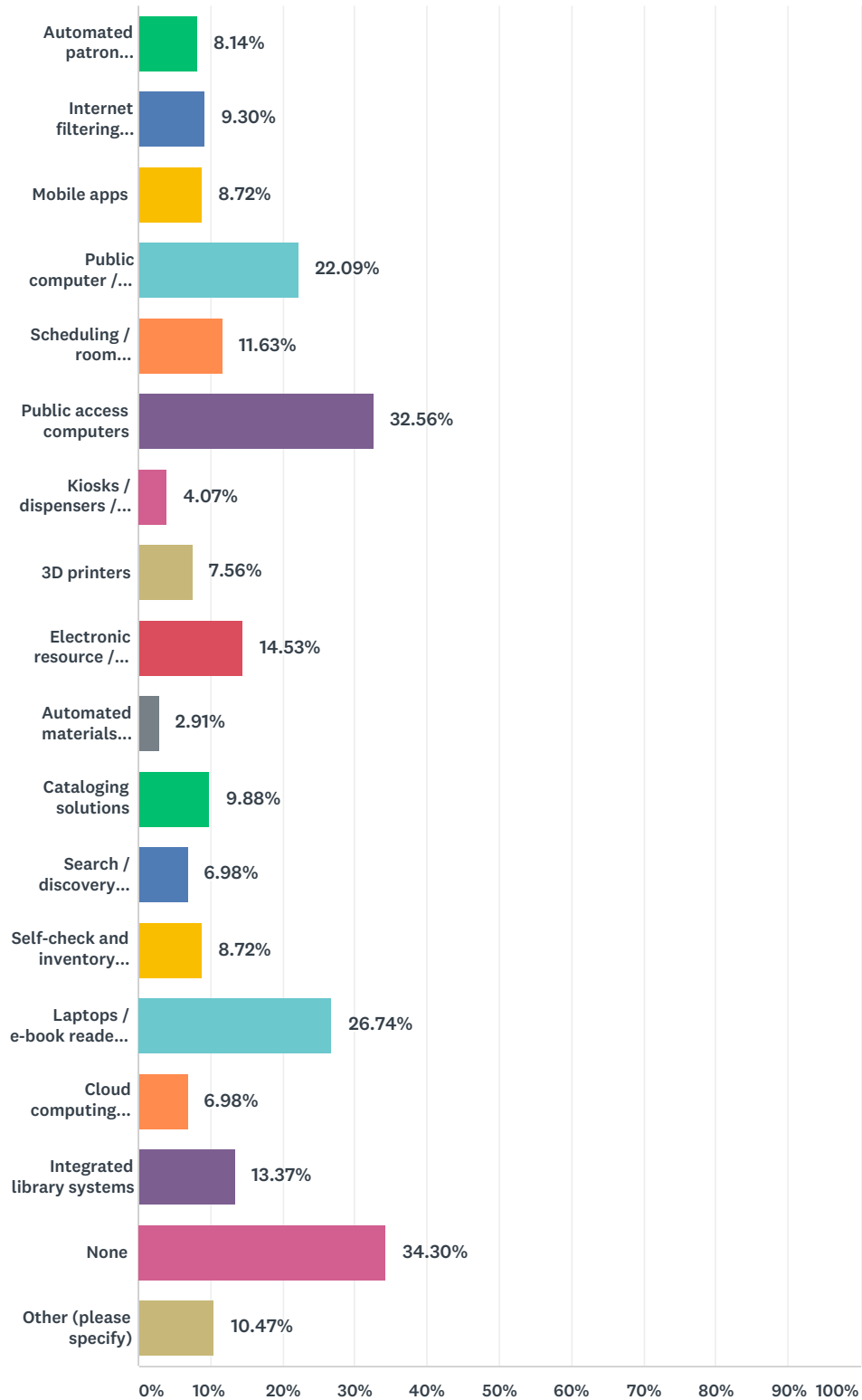
Answered: 303 Skipped: 10



2018 Library Purchasing Survey

# Q14 Which of the following INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY / AUTOMATION products and services do you plan to purchase in 2018?

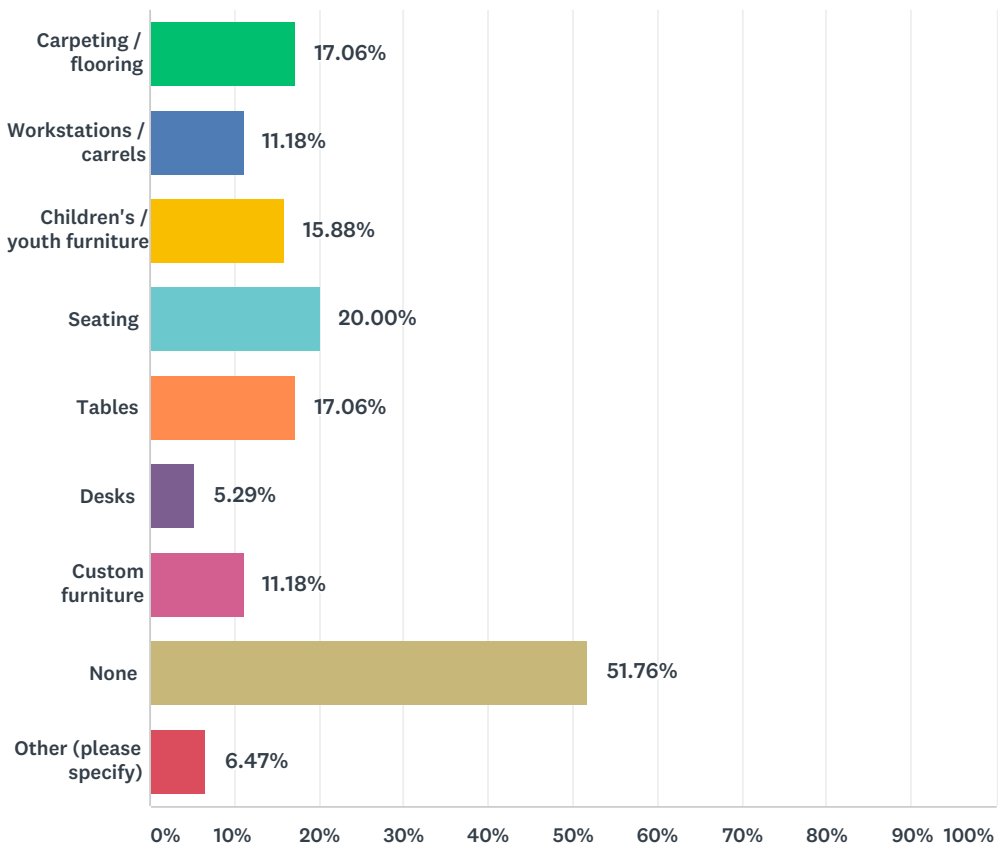
Answered: 172 Skipped: 141



2018 Library Purchasing Survey

Q15 Which of the following FURNITURE/FURNISHINGS products do you plan to purchase in 2018?

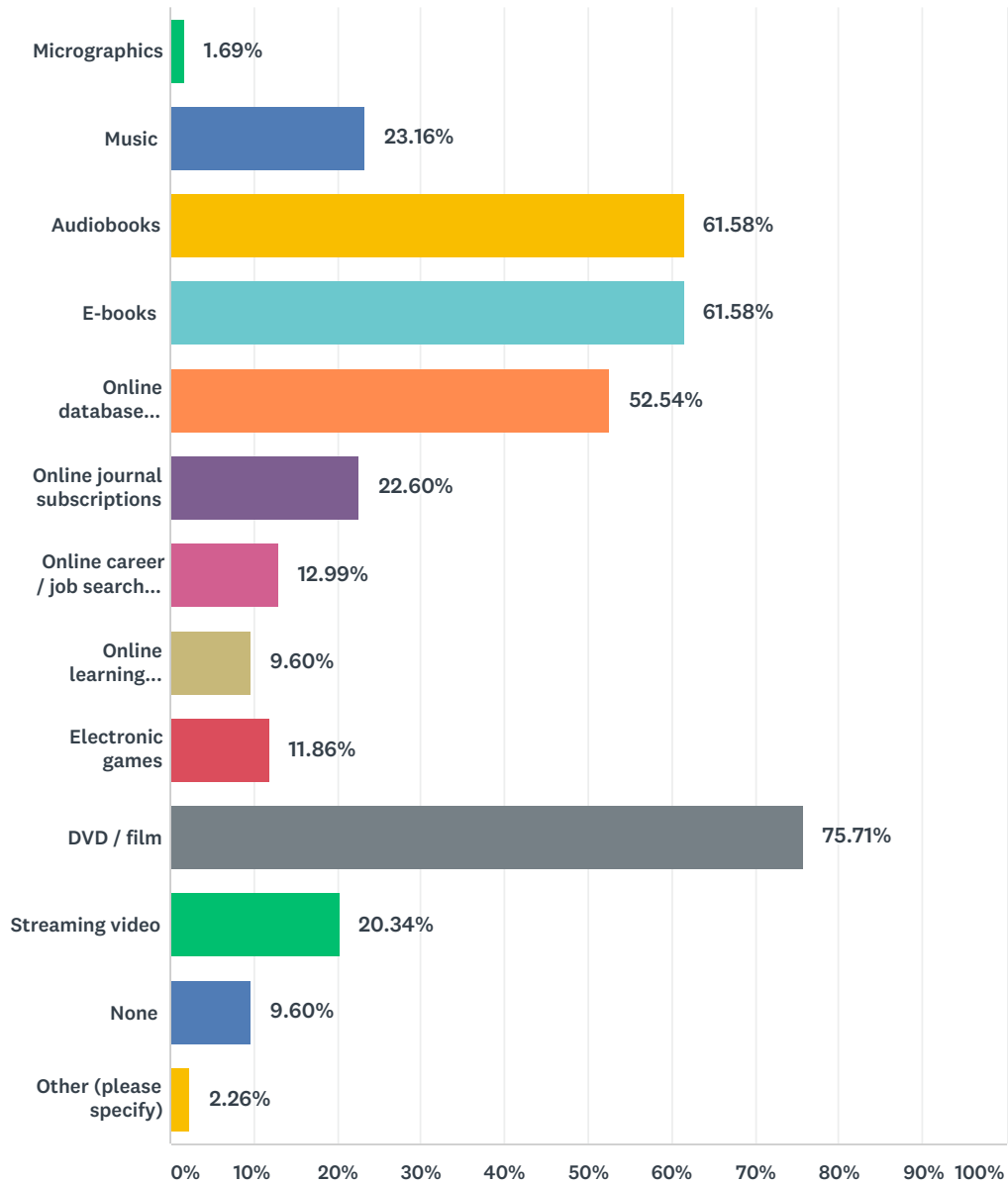
Answered: 170 Skipped: 143



2018 Library Purchasing Survey

Q16 Which of the following NON-PRINT MEDIA do you plan to purchase in 2018?

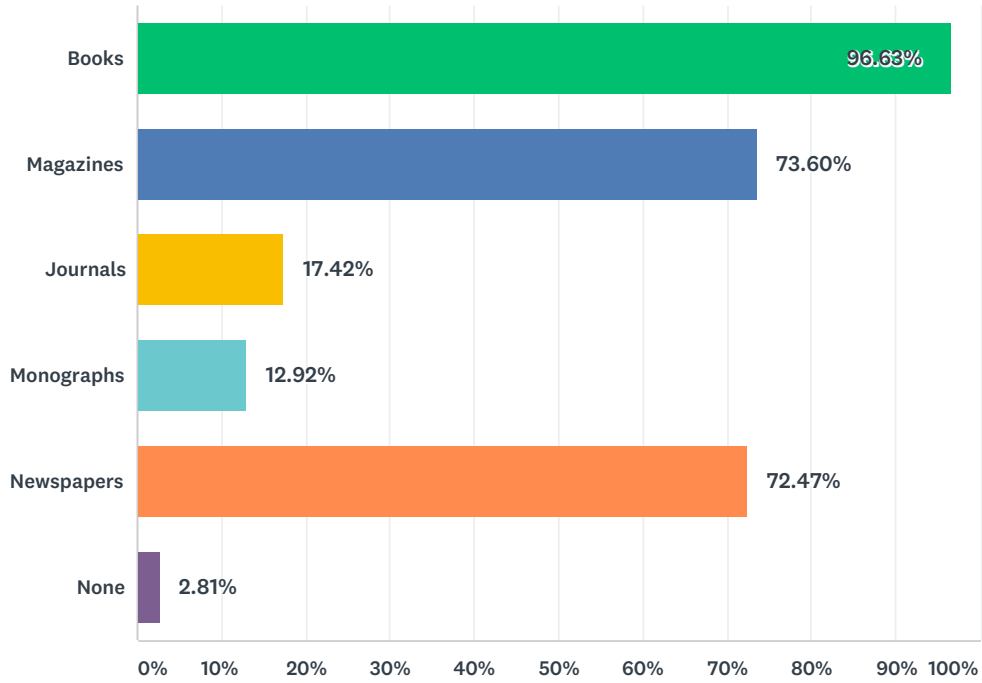
Answered: 177 Skipped: 136



2018 Library Purchasing Survey

Q17 Which of the following PRINT MEDIA do you plan to purchase in 2018?

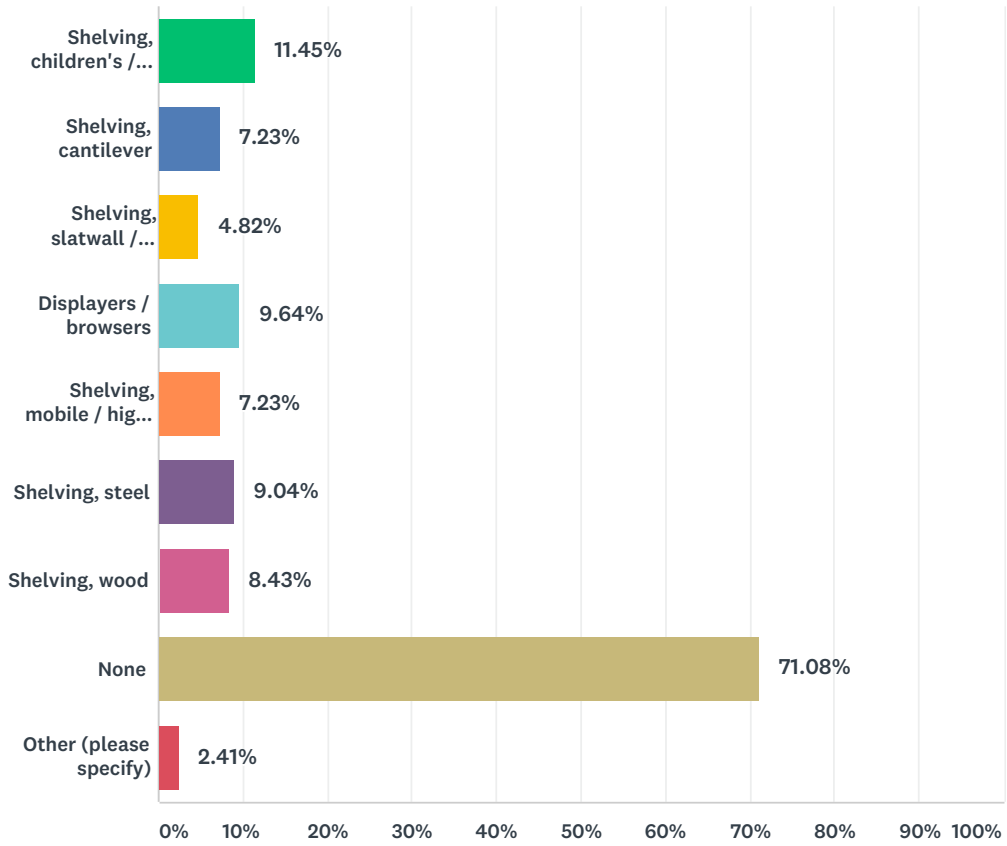
Answered: 178 Skipped: 135



2018 Library Purchasing Survey

Q18 Which of the following SHELVING / STORAGE / DISPLAY products do you plan to purchase in 2018?

Answered: 166 Skipped: 147

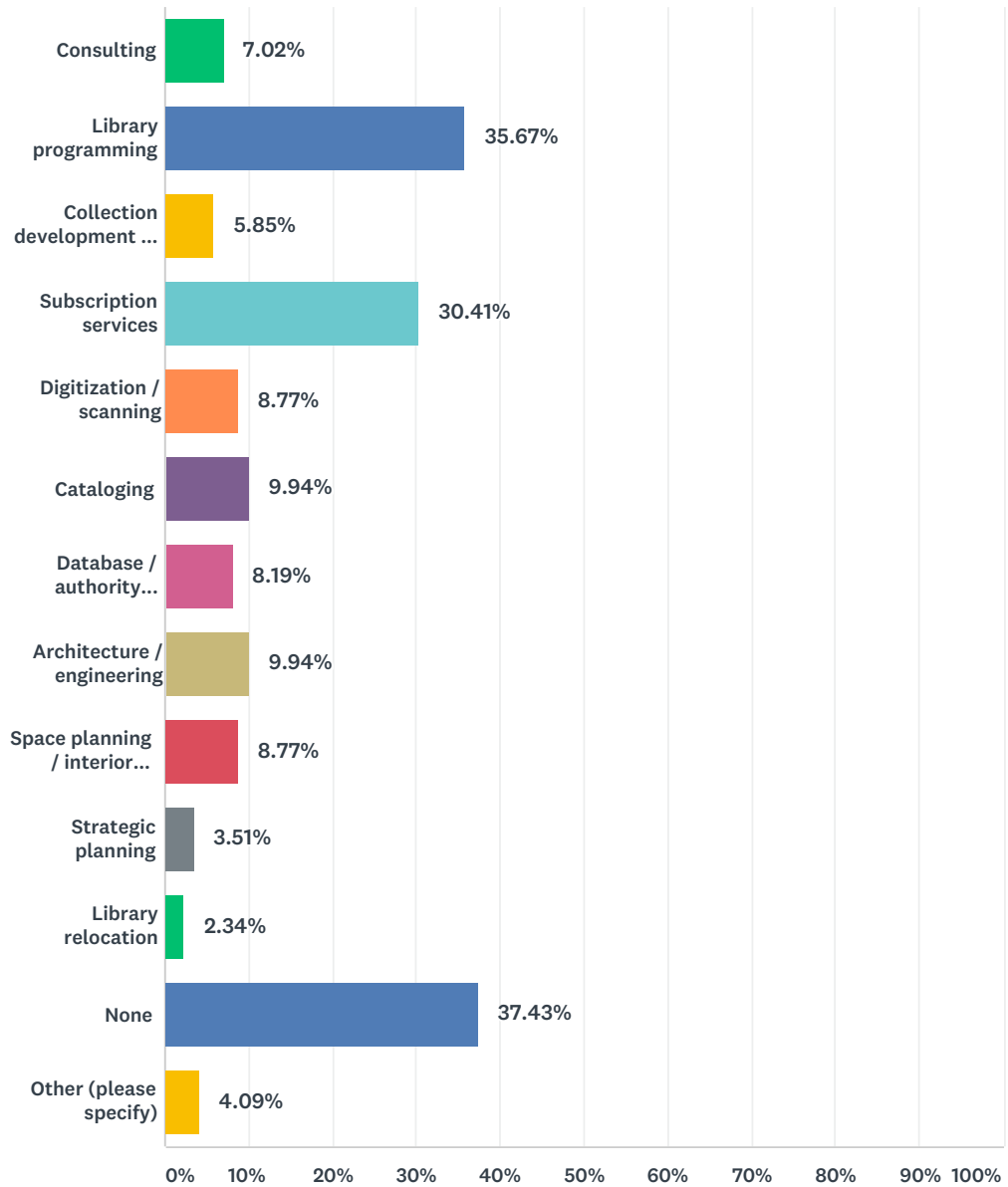




2018 Library Purchasing Survey

# Q19 Which of the following PROFESSIONAL SERVICES do you plan to purchase in 2018?

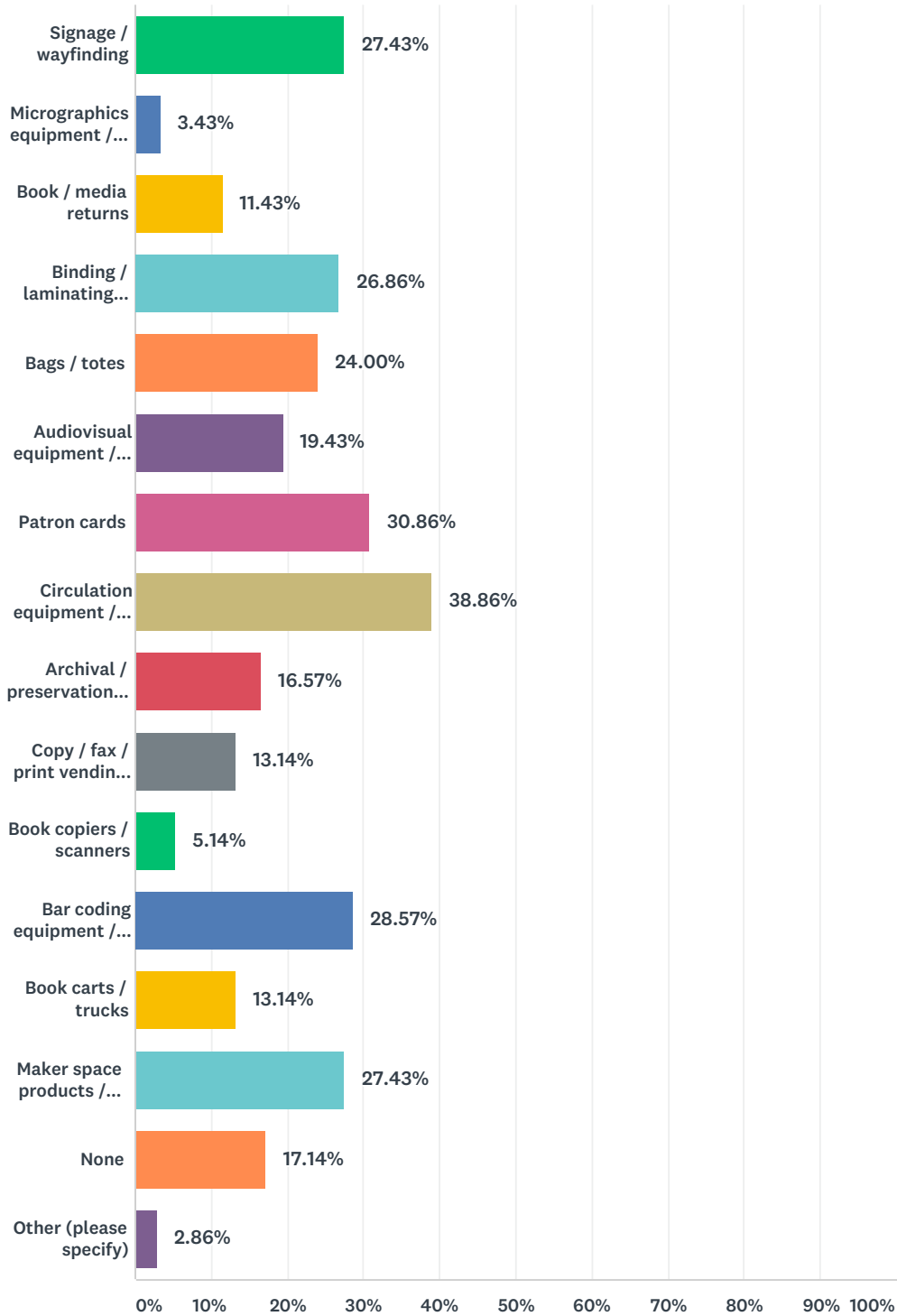
Answered: 171 Skipped: 142

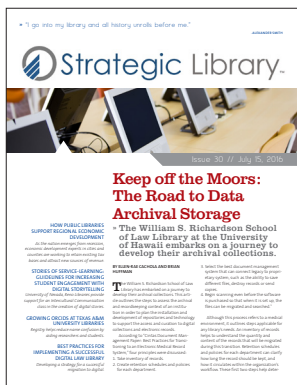


2018 Library Purchasing Survey

Q20 Which of the following EQUIPMENT / SUPPLIES do you plan to purchase in 2018?

Answered: 175 Skipped: 138





**Strategic Library** focuses on innovation, best practices, and emerging trends in the complex and rapidly evolving library landscape.

Published monthly, Strategic Library assists administrators and managers in all types of libraries as they deal with day-to-day and strategic challenges. In-depth articles, written by highly regarded professionals in the field, focus on leadership, management, evaluation, assessment, marketing, funding, and more to promote organizational success.

**Strategic Library** is delivered direct to your desktop, as a digital download.

## Special Charter Subscriber Offer!

**Yes! Please enter my subscription to Strategic Library at the special charter subscriber rate of \$99 for one year (12 issues), a \$60 savings, or \$299 for a site license (save \$200).**



**Pay Online**

**Subscription Options  
Single Subscriber \$99.00 USD**



**Pay by Mail**

**Please complete and mail this form to:  
LibraryWorks, Inc.  
7823 Stratford Rd, Bethesda, MD 20814**

(Make check payable to LibraryWorks, Inc.)

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

## Bill Me

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
PO # (IF APPLICABLE): \_\_\_\_\_

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you! Your subscription will begin upon receipt of your payment.