



DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS

Research Question: How has the participation of children ages 3-12 in Western Washington public library programming changed year by year from 2019 to the present?

Survey

Purpose of the Study: We are students at the University of Washington's Library and Information Science program. We are researching how public library programming for children has changed since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Consent and Confidentiality: Your participation in this survey is entirely voluntary. You may choose not to answer any individual question, and you may stop participating at any time. Your responses will be kept confidential and identifying information will not be retained.

If you have questions, comments, concerns: Please contact us at kimmy99@uw.edu

1. How did the number of children in your library's programming change since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic?

- ☐ Increased significantly
- ☐ Increased slightly
- ☐ Stayed about the same
- ☐ Decreased slightly
- ☐ Decreased significantly
- ☐ NA/I don't know

2. How has the amount of digital or online programming changed since 2019?

- ☐ Increased significantly
- ☐ Increased slightly
- ☐ Stayed about the same
- ☐ Decreased slightly
- ☐ Decreased significantly
- ☐ NA/I don't know

3. The children I see at my library have different needs than those I saw before the COVID-19 pandemic

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree
- ☐ NA/I don't know

4. My library uses digital or online programming to reach children that we otherwise would not be able to reach

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- NA/I don't know

5. Of the virtual/online programs you offered, which were the most popular?

• _____

6. How would you rate participating children's interest in library programming over the years?

- Increased significantly
- Increased somewhat
- Stayed about the same
- Decreased somewhat
- Decreased significantly
- NA/I don't know

7. Do you feel that library programs have helped the children with reading and cognitive skills during and after the pandemic?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- NA/I don't know

8. In your opinion, what are the main reasons for children's participation in library programs? (Select all that apply)

- Academic support
- Developing reading habits
- Social interaction
- Other (please specify): _____

9. When children participate in library programs now, how does it feel different compared to before the pandemic?

• _____

10. Is there anything else about children's library programming since the pandemic that you think we should know?

- ---

Interview

Thank you for meeting with us today! We are researching public library programming for children during the COVID-19 pandemic. Before we start, we wanted to go over a few things about confidentiality and respecting your privacy. If you consent to have this interview recorded, we will destroy the recording after submitting our course project. We respect your right to skip questions or stop participating in this interview at any time, and we will immediately destroy this recording if you decide not to participate in this interview. Your name and personal information will be kept confidential.

Please state your name and pronouns. Please state your current or former employer and describe your position. How long have you worked with children in libraries?

Broad Questions

1. In your opinion, how has children's library programming changed since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic?
 - a. Provide examples (type of participation, type of programming) if question seems too broad
2. What trends in program attendance did you observe from 2019 to 2023?
3. Have you noticed any changes in children's engagement in library programming since the pandemic? If so, what changes?
 - a. Do you think your library is meeting these changes/needs?
 - b. What could your library do differently?
4. How did your relationships with local schools and other community partners change during the COVID-19 pandemic?

- a. How did these changes impact programming at your library?
- 5. Have you planned any virtual programs? If so, what were the benefits and challenges of virtual programming (for you as a librarian and for your patrons)?
 - a. What was your experience working with the technology needed to facilitate virtual programming?

Closing Questions

- 1. What did you learn from programming in the COVID-19 pandemic and how can it apply to future programming?
- 2. Is there anything else you want us to know about children's programming or your experience?

Focus Group

Thank you for meeting with us today! We are researching public library programming for children during the COVID-19 pandemic. Before we start, we wanted to go over a few things about confidentiality and respecting your privacy. If you consent to have this focus group recorded, we will destroy the recording after submitting our course project. We respect your right to skip questions or stop participating in this focus group at any time, and we will immediately destroy this recording if you decide not to participate in this focus group. Your names and personal information will be kept confidential. We ask that you keep everything shared in this session private, but please know that we cannot guarantee full confidentiality.

Go around and state our names and pronouns. State our employers and describe our positions.

Small Group Discussion

1. What types of technology did you use when creating and/or implementing virtual programming for children? What were the benefits and challenges of these tools?
2. How did your organizations seek to provide access to online programming for patrons?
3. Did you see people face specific challenges when accessing library programs during the COVID-19 pandemic? If so, please share one specific experience.
4. What factors were taken into account when implementing programming during the COVID-19 pandemic?
5. In what ways has the COVID-19 pandemic affected the involvement of your community partners in your library programming?
6. What did you experience in terms of children's engagement with virtual programming during the COVID-19 pandemic?
7. What kind of library programming is the most popular in your library?

- a. Why do you think that is the case?
- 8. What types of programming do you believe would benefit children's development the most as we move forward?