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Teen Services in Public Libraries: A Bibliometric Research Study

By Ashlee Lykansion

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INTRODUCTION

Public libraries have an essential mission to offer high-quality services, programming, and materials to individuals across all age groups. While these institutions typically provide many programs and services catering to children and adults, teenage patrons' needs are often overlooked (Bernier et al, 2014). To rectify this, it is essential to establish dedicated spaces within the library tailored to teenagers' interests and preferences. By incorporating engaging programming and curating materials and resources specifically geared toward this demographic, libraries can effectively convey a message of inclusivity and appreciation, making teenagers feel welcome and valued (Joseph, 2010).

There has been a notable shift within public libraries in recent decades toward fostering more inclusive experiences for teenage patrons. This transformation involves undertaking community outreach initiatives, forming beneficial partnerships with school systems and organizations that serve teens, and actively designing physical areas within the library that cater to their unique needs and interests. Furthermore, hiring dedicated teen librarians specializing in teen services further reinforces the commitment to providing exceptional services for this age group (Joseph, 2010). By adopting these proactive measures, public libraries can ensure that they fulfill their responsibility in meeting the diverse needs of all patrons, including teenagers, and contribute to fostering a well-rounded and thriving community.

Purpose Statement

The purpose of this research study is to analyze scholarly literature on teen services in public libraries during a twenty-year period (2002-2022). It looks specifically at aspects such as programming and services, physical spaces, specialized staff, outreach efforts, and the demographics subgroups of teenagers represented in the existing literature.

Research Questions

R1. How many peer-reviewed journal articles were published by year on the topic of teen services in public libraries between 2002 and 2022?

R2. Which authors published peer-reviewed journal articles on teen services in public libraries between 2002 and 2022? Which authors were in the top 10%?

R3. Which journals published peer-reviewed articles on teen services in public libraries between 2002 and 2022? Which journals produced the top 10%?

R4. What are the subjects/keywords included in each article, excluding the initial search terms?

Definitions

Adolescence: "Transitional phase of growth and development between childhood and adulthood. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines an adolescent as any person between ages 10 and 19" (Csikszentmihalyi, 2023, para. 1).

Advocate: "As a noun, an advocate (pronounced "ad-vuh-kit") is an individual who actively supports and promotes the interests of another person or enterprise. As a verb, to advocate (pronounced "ad-vuh-kate") is the act of promoting the interest of another person or group" (Cornell Law School, 2022, para. 1).

Bibliometrics: "The statistical analyses of books, articles, or other publications. The analyses are used to track author or researcher output and impact. This can help in promotion and tenure, as well as aiding in funding and grants. Bibliometrics are also used to calculate journal impact factors, which can help you decide into which journal to publish" (Hunt Library, 2023, para. 1).

Bradford's Law: "The bibliometric principle that a disproportionate share of the significant research results on a given subject are published in a relatively small number of scholarly journals in the field... a few core journals provide 1/3 of the articles on a given subject, a moderate number of less-than-core journals provide a further 1/3 of the articles on the subject, and a large number peripheral journals provide the remaining 1/3 of the articles" (Reitz, 2014, para.982).

Inclusivity: "The idea that all types of people, for whatever differences, must be included as much as possible in work and other institutions and must be assimilated. It means that whatever benefits afforded to others must be afforded to everyone, and if possible, if ever they are disadvantaged, society must address that deficiency to ensure equality" (Ricee, 2022, para. 1).

LGBTQIA+: "An abbreviation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, and more. These terms are used to describe a person's sexual orientation or gender identity" (The Center, n.d., para. 1).

Lotka's Law: "The bibliometric principle that the number of authors making n contributions to the scholarly literature of a given field is about C/n^a , with C (the number making a single contribution) a constant... Accurate when applied to large bodies of literature over a significant period of time, Lotka's empirical law of scientific productivity means that in a field in which $a=2$, about 61% of all published authors make just one contribution, about 15 percent have two publications ($1/2^2 \times .61$), about 7 percent make three contributions ($1/3^2 \times .61$), and less than 1 percent produce ten or more publications ($1/10^2 \times .61$)" (Reitz, 2014, para. 878).

Outreach: "Meets community needs with both traditional and new services, in dynamic and changing environments. Whether providing services to those who can't come to the library, or reaching out to those who are underserved, library outreach and community engagement ensures equitable delivery of library services to all people" (OCLC, n.d., para. 1).

YALSA: An acronym for the Young Adult Library Services Association, a division of the American Library Association (ALA), which "brings together key stakeholders from the areas of libraries, education, research, out of school time, youth development and more to develop and deliver resources to libraries that expand their capacity to support teen learning and enrichment and to foster healthy communities" (American Library Association, 2007, para 2).

Young adult: "...individuals between 12 and 18 years of age. These years are developmentally challenging and the definition of 'service' to this group may

encompass everything from quality reference (homework) help to community collaboration" (American Library Association, 2006, para. 1).

Delimitations

This study is limited to a selection of LIS (Library and Information Science) databases made available by the University of Southern Mississippi. The included articles are restricted to English-language papers that have undergone peer review and were published in academic journals between the years 2002 and 2022.

Assumptions

It is assumed that the database articles in this study and the information therein, including author information, journal and article titles, and publication year are indexed accurately and completely, resulting in a compiled list of relevant articles.

Importance of Study

Through this bibliometric lens, this study provides an examination of peer-reviewed journal articles published within the specified timeframe, focusing on teen services in public libraries. The study can serve as a starting point for researchers investigating teen services and provide insight into additional search terms when looking into this topic.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Teen Perspectives on Public Libraries

The findings of a research study conducted in an Eastern Canadian regional municipality investigated the attitudes of twelve- to fifteen-year-old residents toward the public library. The study used a two-phase research design. Phase 1 involved a quantitative survey, which showed that most young teens have a positive impression of the public library but are not frequent users. Phase 2 utilized qualitative methodology, specifically focus groups, to gain deeper insights into the survey findings (Howard, 2011). The research identified several barriers to library use among young teens. These include a lack of relationships with library staff, unappealing facilities, the absence of a teen library website, and limited teen involvement and participation. The study highlights the importance of addressing these issues to encourage young teens to use and benefit from public library services. Combining both quantitative and qualitative research methods provided a comprehensive understanding of the teens' attitudes toward the library, enabling a more nuanced approach to

improve library services for this age group (Howard, 2011).

Kumara and Nikam (2012) examined the perception of young adult users toward public library services, focusing on the City Central Library in Mysore, India, with respondents aged 15 to 35. This age range was much broader than that of Howard's study as it also included adults. The study used a structured questionnaire survey method, collecting 84 responses out of 120 distributed (Kumara & Nikam, 2012). The results indicate that young adults are positive and satisfied with the library services, with most respondents belonging to the 21-25 age group. The need to improve infrastructure amenities such as a separate room for young adults, drinking water, and clean toilets was highlighted. Overall, the research contributes practical insights for enhancing public library services and facilities to meet young adults' needs and preferences (Kumara & Nikam, 2012).

In 2016, Shahrabad, Tajafari, and Sanatjoo conducted a similar study to Howard and Kumara and Nikam to analyze how young adults in Sabzevar, Iran, perceive and use public libraries. Among 180 participants, borrowing materials and reference services were highly valued, while extension services were less important. Socioeconomic and cultural status significantly affected library usage as well as obstacles due to time constraints and excessive homework. To increase engagement, the study recommended enhancing resources and facilities, tailoring programs to young adults' interests, and collaborating with schools to address educational barriers. The findings emphasized the vital role of public libraries in supporting education and personal development for young patrons (Shahrabad et al, 2016).

Representation of Demographic Teen Subgroups

Several articles included in this literature review delve into the examination of various demographic subgroups of teenagers. They focus on public libraries and librarians' crucial role in acknowledging and supporting these diverse groups of teenagers as valid and valued library patrons. A study conducted in British Columbia in the early 2000s highlights how public libraries play a crucial role in providing information and support to gay and lesbian youth regarding their sexuality. Research methods included observing librarians' responses to GLBT-related

questions and found that while most maintained confidentiality, improvements were needed in conducting reference interviews and being aware of relevant resources. The researchers used unobtrusive observation to ensure unbiased results. The study emphasizes the importance of compassionate librarians in positively impacting GLBT youth, and Curry suggests enhancing librarian training and creating safe and supportive library spaces for these young individuals (Curry, 2005). Although this study was conducted nearly two decades ago, much of the information presented has remained relevant.

Another subgroup of teens commonly seen within public libraries is that of houseless teens and those experiencing homelessness or poverty. Terrile (2009) highlights the increasing homeless population of families with children in the United States and the necessity for library services tailored to their unique information and literacy needs. Public library discussions often overlook this group. The article emphasizes the importance of promoting literacy for all, especially those requiring assistance. It showcases successful library services for homeless teens, as well as children and families, from various locations. The conclusion stresses the vital role of libraries in meeting their needs, despite financial challenges during economic downturns. Prioritizing and committing to these programs can benefit individuals, families, communities, and libraries as a whole (Terrile, 2009).

In a 2000 exploratory study examining public library services for wheelchair-bound youths aged thirteen to nineteen in Singapore, eleven purposefully selected participants aged twelve to twenty were involved. The findings revealed that these young individuals mostly enjoyed recreational reading and computer use. However, their infrequent library visits were due to accessibility challenges in both library and public spaces. The study emphasized the necessity of addressing these obstacles and promoting library services for wheelchair-bound teens, as their information needs and reading habits were not unlike their non-disabled peers. Recommendations included improving transportation, library promotions, and addressing architectural barriers to ensure relevant and accessible services for disabled library users (Leong & Higgins, 2010).

Anderson and Phillips (2019) conducted an exploratory study on the experiences of teenagers with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) as public library users. They focused on cyberbullying encounters and the potential role of librarians in providing digital citizenship education. ASD affects around one in fifty-nine individuals in the US, highlighting the importance of addressing this population's needs. While teens aged twelve to eighteen often receive specialized services at public libraries, digital citizenship education is not commonly included in programming. The study revealed that most teens showed little or no interest in attending such programs but preferred interactive and peer-led approaches. Public libraries can use these insights to develop inclusive digital citizenship programs that cater to their preferences and foster a sense of inclusion (Anderson & Phillips, 2019).

Similar Methodology

The global pandemic of early 2020 has brought about significant and transformative changes in librarianship, impacting libraries and librarians in profound ways. Technological advancements and societal demands have necessitated a complete overhaul of their roles, services, collections, and organizational structures. This transformation is in the historical context of previous field shifts, such as the rise of the internet and the shift to digital information (Yatcilla & Young, 2021). Yatcilla and Young (2021) conducted a comprehensive analysis to examine the pandemic's repercussions on libraries. They used two databases to retrieve 1075 relevant articles and employ bibliometric and thematic analyses.

The bibliometric analysis focused on publication patterns, while the thematic analysis involved coding abstracts to identify key themes. Their research aimed to understand how libraries reacted during the initial pandemic period, focusing on publications from 2020 in the library and information science domain. Coding schema was implemented to effectively categorize various aspects, including library types, major topics, country, and empirical data usage. The study purposefully excluded unrelated articles to provide valuable insights into the pandemic's lasting effects on the library profession. By analyzing library publications during 2020, the research captured the diverse impacts experienced by libraries, paving the way for future investigations on this subject (Yatcilla & Young, 2021). Moreover, the published literature

highlighted how librarians adapted to the crisis, reshaping the identity and role of libraries in the long term. Notably, their study's methodology aligns closely with the research methods of this paper, which also involve a focused examination of published literature but with a distinct demographic focus. While their study explored libraries' responses to crisis situations, this research investigates how libraries addressed their communities' unique needs and interests through various services and resources.

Closing Statement

In conclusion, the literature reviewed provides valuable insights into the perspectives and experiences of teenagers and young adults regarding public library services. The studies demonstrate the importance of understanding different demographic subgroups' diverse needs and preferences to enhance library services and offerings effectively. By combining quantitative surveys with qualitative methods like focus groups and observations, researchers gained comprehensive perspectives, allowing for a nuanced approach to improving library services. Findings indicate that addressing barriers such as limited teen involvement, infrastructure amenities, and accessibility challenges for disabled individuals can significantly impact library usage. Additionally, the studies underscore the significance of compassionate librarians in positively impacting marginalized groups, such as LGBTQIA+ youth, teens experiencing homelessness, and neurodivergent individuals. Examining the impact of the global pandemic on libraries highlights the ever-evolving nature of the profession and the necessity of adaptability in providing relevant and inclusive services to all community members. Incorporating the lessons from this literature review can help public libraries evolve and thrive as vital resources for teenagers and young adults in their communities.

METHODOLOGY

A quantitative, bibliometric approach was used to collect and evaluate relevant journal articles published about teen services in public libraries over the past twenty years. The information collected from these articles included numerical data about the years of publication, the credited authors, and the journals in which they were published.

Additional data were collected pertaining to the subject terms or keywords of each article excluding the initial search terms.

Information Sources and Procedures

Three databases, accessed through the University of Southern Mississippi Library's electronic database system, were *Library and Information Science Source*, *Information Science & Technology Abstracts (ISTA)*, and *Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts (LISTA)*. To collect only the most relevant and appropriate results, searches were limited to include peer-reviewed journal articles in the English language with publication dates spanning a twenty-year period from 2002 through 2022. Boolean operators and search terms included, "(teen or teens or teenagers or adolescents or young adults)" AND "(public library or public libraries or public library services)." The results of this search were then further refined by selecting the source type limiter "academic journals" in the refine results toolbar.

The data gathered from these articles were compiled and sorted in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. The information collected for each article included article title, authors, journal, publication year, and all subject terms or keywords listed. After all the collected data were entered into the spreadsheet, the information was then filtered to find and delete any remaining duplicate articles. This document analyzes and discusses the data results, including bar graphs, pie charts, and tables.

Limitations

It was recognized that the demographic of teenagers might be encompassed within the broader category of youth services, potentially leading to the inclusion of articles more relevant to younger children in the search results. As such, the findings of this study should not be generalized, though they may be beneficial when conducting comparative studies. The study is limited by the accuracy of the indexing of the databases.

RESULTS

R1. How many peer-reviewed journal articles were published by year on the topic of teen services in public libraries between 2002 and 2022?

After conducting the search as detailed in the methodology, a total of 866 results were found. Of those, 384 duplicates were removed through automated processes within EBSCOhost before the data were transferred into an Excel spreadsheet. Additionally, 207 articles were excluded from this dataset as they did not meet the predefined search

criteria. A subsequent check for duplicates after exporting the data into Excel found 14 additional articles to be removed, reducing the final number of results to 275.

The data presented in the bar graph in Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of articles (n=275) published in peer-reviewed journals by year between 2002 and 2022. During this 20-year span, there was a five-year period from 2007 to 2011 where the number of articles published on teen services in public libraries rose to more than 20 articles per year. Following this peak, the year 2012 saw a notable drop in publications. In subsequent years, the number of articles fluctuated but consistently remained at or below 13 publications per year. The highest number of articles published on the topic occurred in 2008, with 25 articles, while the year 2021 saw the lowest with only four publications (see Figure 1).

R2. Which authors published peer-reviewed journal articles on teen services in public libraries between 2002 and 2022? Which authors were in the top 10%?

During the specified timeframe, a total of 354 unique authors or co-authors contributed to the publication of at least one peer-reviewed article (n=275) on the topic of teen services in public libraries. Among these contributors, thirty-five authors or co-authors (9.89%) published at least two articles on the topic, marking them as the top ten percent of contributors (see Appendix A, Table 1). The remaining majority of authors (319 or 90.11%) had only one publication during this same period, as indicated in Figure 2. Based on these findings, the publication patterns of these authors somewhat aligned with Lotka's Law, which states that a small number of authors on the topic are highly prolific, while a majority of authors contribute less frequently (Reitz, 2014).

Additionally, 11 authors published three or more articles, as listed alphabetically by authors' last name in Figure 3. The authors with the highest number of publications were Andrew K. Shenton (7 publications), Denise E. Agosto (6 publications), and Virginia A. Walter (5 publications), denoted by a darker color in Figure 3.

Figure 1: Articles Published by Year on Teen Services in Public Libraries

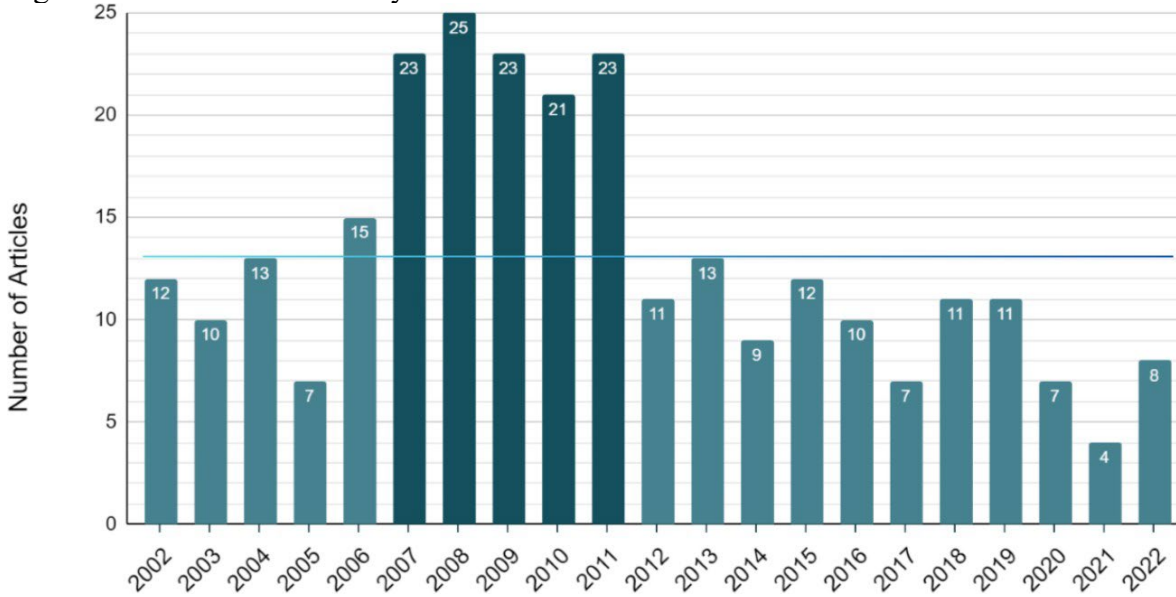


Figure 2: Number of Articles Published by Unique Author, with Percentages

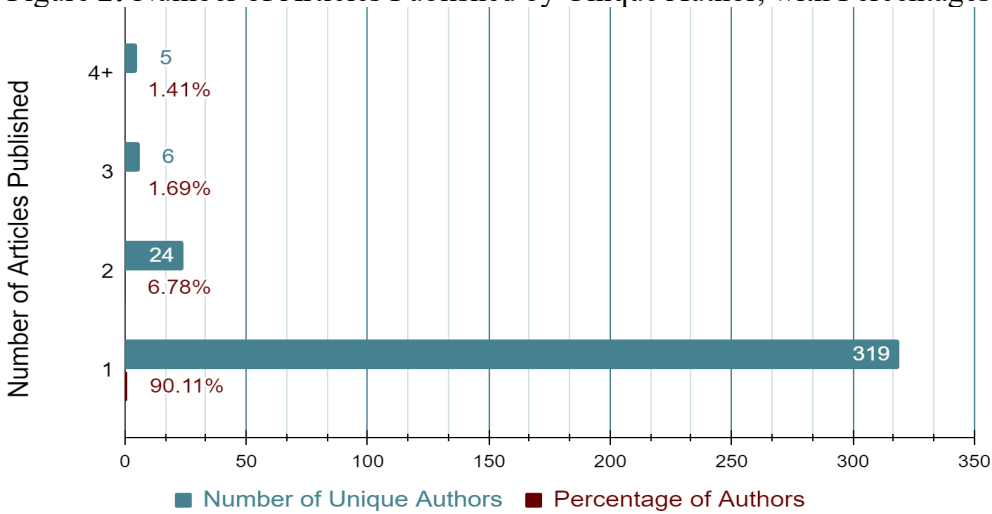


Figure 3: Authors on Teen Services in Public Libraries with Three or More Publications

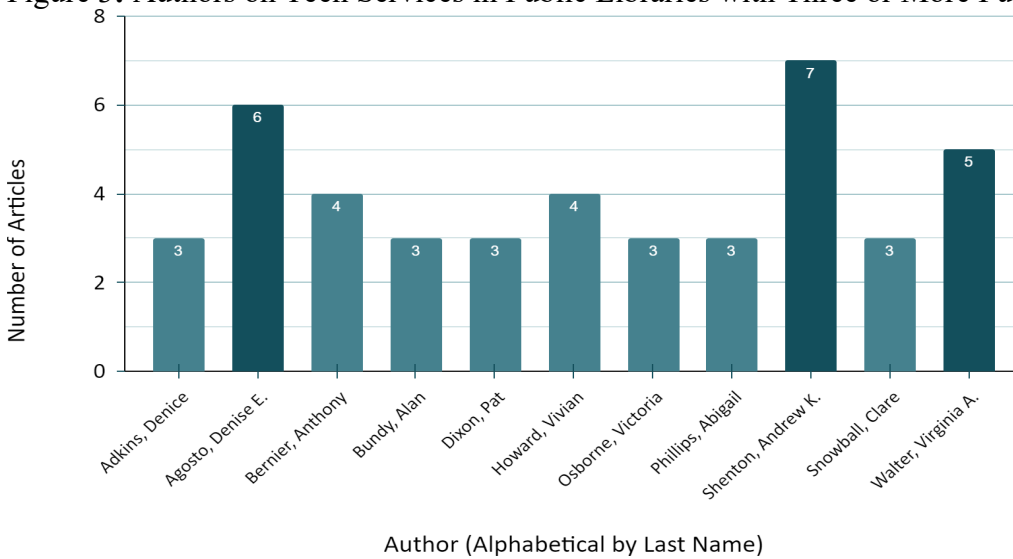
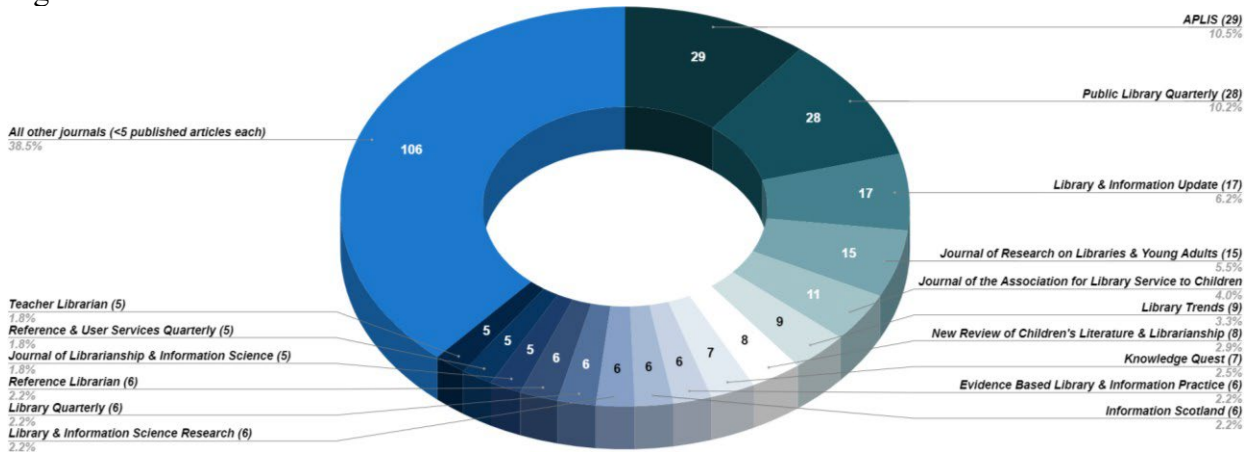


Figure 4: Peer-Reviewed Journals with Publications on Teen Services in Public Libraries



R3. Which journals published peer-reviewed articles on teen services in public libraries between 2002 and 2022? Which journals produced the top 10%?

Out of the 275 articles (n=275) that were analyzed, there were 77 unique journals represented (see Appendix B, Table 2). Among these journals, five of these journals appeared in the results more than ten times. Notably, two of these journals, *APLIS* and *Public Library Quarterly* stood at the top, each publishing nearly the same number of peer-reviewed articles on teen services in public libraries with 29 (10.5%) and 28 (10.2%) of the total publications, respectively (see Figure 4). This data indicated that the top ten percent of journal articles on this topic were primarily published in *APLIS*.

Based on this analysis, it can be concluded that a small number of journals (see Figure 4) that published 15 or more articles, published a significant portion, approximately one-third, of the articles, which is consistent with Bradford's Law. These four journals alone published nearly 33 percent of the total articles (89/275 = 32.36%). The twelve journals that published a moderate number of articles, between five and 11 each, accounted for slightly less than one-third (29.09%) of the total articles, and a strong majority of journals (106) which published less than five articles each made up the final third (38.55%). These findings are also consistent with Bradford's Law (Reitz, 2014).

R4. What are the subjects/keywords included in each article, excluding the initial search terms?

The analysis of subject terms and keywords within the 275 articles identified 945 unique subject terms before excluding the initial search terms of "teens, teenagers, adolescents, young adults" and "public library, public

libraries, public library services." After these exclusions, 884 unique keywords remained. Subject terms with 15 or more occurrences appear in Table 3. Among these terms, "Libraries" was the most recurrent subject term, making an appearance 112 times with "Libraries and Archives" making second highest on the list at 76 occurrences (see Table 3). Repeated usage of the term "Library services for children" (39 occurrences) emphasized a focus on services geared toward young library users. Both "Library users" (34 occurrences) and "Librarians" (28 occurrences) were regularly included, suggesting a frequent discussion of both library patrons and staff. Terms such as "Libraries & community," "United Kingdom," "Australia," and "United States" appeared more than 15 times each, indicating a wide-reaching, global perspective on teen services in public libraries.

Table 3: Frequently Used Subject Terms or Keywords (15+ Occurrences)

Subject Term / Keyword	Number of Occurrences
Libraries	112
Libraries and Archives	76
Library services for children	39
Library users	34
Librarians	28
Libraries & community	27
United Kingdom	27
Australia	24
Commercial and Institutional Building	18

Construction	
School libraries	16
United States	16
Information needs	15
Library science	15
Youth services	15

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The examination of peer-reviewed journal articles focusing on teen services in public libraries between 2002 and 2022 yielded 275 relevant articles (R1). This dataset revealed noteworthy fluctuations in publication throughout the two-decade timeframe. Notably, a significant surge in publications, with over 20 articles per year, occurred during a five-year period from 2007 to 2011. However, in 2012, a sharp decline was observed, followed by 13 or fewer articles per year. It is unclear what may have elicited such a steep increase and subsequent reduction in publications regarding teen services during this period.

An investigation into the authors of these publications unveiled an intriguing result (R2). Among the 354 contributing authors, only 35, which comprised the top ten percent, authored two or more articles. This observation aligns with Lotka's Law, affirming that a select group of prolific authors produce the bulk of articles while the majority contribute less frequently. The presence of distinguished authors such as Andrew K. Shenton, Denise E. Agosto, and Virginia A. Walter underscores the influential role of a small subset of contributors on this topic.

The analysis of scholarly journals demonstrated that 77 distinct journals were responsible for the 275 articles (R3). Notably, five of these journals appeared more than ten times, with *APLIS* and *Public Library Quarterly* taking the lead. These two journals accounted for a substantial portion of the top ten percent of articles, indicating a distribution pattern consistent with Bradford's Law. In this case, four journals played a significant role by contributing nearly one-third of the total articles, further supporting this distribution pattern.

Analyzing the articles' (n=275) specified subject terms and keywords revealed a number of important topics and areas of focus within those articles (R4). Frequent occurrences of terms such as "Libraries,"

"Library services for children," and "Library users" underscored the emphasis on catering to young library patrons. The recurrent inclusion of terms like "Librarians" highlighted the significance of discussing the roles that all library staff play in providing quality teen services. Furthermore, the presence of terms like "Libraries & community," "United Kingdom," "Australia," and "United States" more than 15 times each signified a global perspective, displaying the diverse geographic scope of studies within the field of teen services in public libraries. This diversity in subject terms and keywords underscores the multifaceted nature of research within this field.

Comparison with Previous Studies

The results of this research on teen services in public libraries presented several valuable insights. It revealed a substantial increase in teenagers' engagement with library services and resources following their participation in well-designed programs (Anderson & Phillips, 2019). For example, programs like coding workshops and book clubs geared toward teens experienced a notable upswing in attendance and engagement (Bernier, Males, & Rickman, 2014). This finding was particularly noteworthy in the digital age, where libraries encounter challenges in maintaining their relevance to younger generations (Kumara & Nikam, 2012). The study emphasizes that these well-structured programs effectively bridge the generational gap, connecting teenagers to a wealth of knowledge and opportunities.

Furthermore, the study underscores the importance of tailoring library programs to meet the specific needs and interests of teenagers (Joseph, 2010). For instance, providing workshops on topics like mental health awareness or LGBTQ+ inclusion that align with teenagers' preferences and learning styles has led to a considerable increase in participation and usage (Curry, 2005). This emphasis on customization is supported by research on a successful program in which teenagers themselves played a role in deciding which books to purchase for the library's collection, thus creating a sense of ownership and influence (Howard, 2011). The study highlights the critical role of public libraries in fostering a love for learning and free access to information among teenagers, which is essential for their academic success and personal growth.

The significance of this research lies in its focus on an often-overlooked demographic in public libraries - teenagers. Traditionally, libraries have concentrated more on early childhood and adult services, but this research recognizes the importance of tailoring services and spaces to cater directly and specifically to teenagers (Bundy, 2007). By providing examples of teen-oriented spaces, such as teen zones with comfortable seating, interactive technology, and designated areas for socializing and quiet study, the study offers practical insights (Bernier, Males, & Rickman, 2014). Furthermore, this research contributes to the ongoing conversation about the role of public libraries in shaping the lives of teenagers (Kumara & Nikam, 2012). For instance, studies have shown that teens who actively use the library's resources tend to perform better academically and develop stronger critical thinking skills (Terrile, 2009). This can have a lasting impact on their personal and educational development.

Comparing this study with previous research in the literature review revealed several noteworthy patterns. For instance, Howard's (2011) research in an Eastern Canadian regional municipality identified obstacles to teenage library usage, including a lack of relationships with library staff. In contrast, this current study offers specific insights into programs that foster connections between teens and library staff, such as mentorship initiatives, which have shown impressive results in increasing teenage engagement (Anderson & Phillips, 2019). Similarly, the challenge of unappealing facilities mentioned in earlier studies is addressed through examples like library makeovers and renovations that focus on creating vibrant and teen-friendly spaces, and incorporate teen input (Barker, 2011).

Moreover, this study aligned with and built upon insights from previous research concerning the importance of borrowing materials and reference services for young adults, exemplified by successful summer reading programs and librarian-led research workshops tailored to teens (Terrile, 2009). The current study emphasized diverse programming and services tailored to teenagers, such as introducing gamified learning experiences and creative writing workshops (Koh & Abbas, 2016). The examination of demographic subgroups of teenagers in the literature review complemented this study's focus on teen services. Curry (2005) underscored the importance of

compassionate librarians in positively impacting marginalized groups like LGBTQIA+ youth (Curry, 2005). In line with this, the current research emphasized programs specifically designed for inclusivity, such as LGBTQ+ literature discussions (Bernier, Males, & Rickman, 2014). The findings aligned with previous research in the field and emphasized the importance of addressing physical spaces, programming, and staff interactions to foster inclusivity and engagement among teenage library patrons.

Yatcilla and Young (2021), explored the impact of the global pandemic on libraries using bibliometric and thematic analyses, which shared some methodological similarities with the current research. Both studies employed bibliometric analysis to categorize articles, allowing for a systematic examination of the literature. However, the key difference was the focus of the studies. Yatcilla and Young (2021) investigated libraries' responses to crisis situations, while the present study concentrated on understanding how public libraries address the unique needs and preferences of teenagers. This distinction highlights the uniqueness of this research's demographic focus on teenagers and its potential to inform future library services and practices to better serve this critical age group.

Implications for Future Researchers, Librarians, and Teens

This study underscored the importance of designing programs, services, and spaces specifically tailored to teenagers. Public librarians should prioritize professional development to stay updated on best practices, such as examples of training in cultural competence or technology integration (Koh & Abbas, 2016). It emphasized the significance of partnerships with schools and community organizations, such as successful collaborations with local schools to provide educational support or with LGBTQ+ organizations to organize other awareness events (Shahrabad, Tajafari, & Sanatjoo, 2016). Inclusivity and diversity are highlighted, with examples like curated collections of diverse books and multicultural storytelling events (Bundy, 2007). The study's focus on research methodologies encourages libraries to adopt evidence-based practices, as demonstrated by using data to measure the impact of specific programs and adjust them accordingly (Terrile, 2009). Technological literacy among teenagers is also emphasized, with

instances like providing coding workshops and offering online resources tailored to their needs (Koh & Abbas, 2016).

Teenagers can expect libraries to offer resources, programs, and spaces designed with their interests and needs in mind. Libraries aim to create welcoming and inclusive spaces, as exemplified by LGBTQ+ support groups and cultural festivals, where all teenagers feel valued and respected (Curry, 2005). The focus on technology-related terms indicates that libraries are striving to provide access to digital resources, as seen in initiatives like lending out laptops and organizing coding camps (Koh & Abbas, 2016). Libraries are increasingly recognizing their role in supporting education, as seen through terms like "Educational games" and "Reading promotion," offering resources for enhancing literacy, learning, and academic success (Bundy, 2007). Terms like "Library outreach programs" suggested that libraries are actively reaching out to teenagers in the community, promoting engagement through activities such as summer reading challenges and community service projects (Anderson & Phillips, 2019). The mention of "LGBTQ+ people" and "Social justice" underscored libraries' commitment to advocating for marginalized groups, as seen through campaigns to raise awareness about social justice issues and provide resources for LGBTQ+ teenagers (Curry, 2005).

This study may influence future research by identifying critical research focus areas and priorities. The findings provide a roadmap for future research, including detailed areas such as technology integration, diversity and inclusion, and community engagement (Kumara & Nikam, 2012). The emphasis on assessment methods may lead to research on the long-term impact of library engagement on teenagers, while inclusivity and diversity concerns may lead to innovative practices (Terrile, 2009). Moreover, the study may inspire policy-focused research and encourage data-driven decision-making in libraries and could enhance future bibliometric studies in the field (Yatcilla & Young, 2021).

Conclusion

The data uncovered valuable insights into the evolving perspective of library engagement among teenagers, emphasizing the continuous significance of public libraries as vital community hubs for

supporting and nurturing learning, discovery, and growth among the younger members of the community (Bernier, Males, & Rickman, 2014). This analysis underscored the ongoing importance of tailoring library services to meet the diverse and ever-changing needs of teenage library users and the adaptability of libraries and librarians in response to changing circumstances, exemplified by the impact of the global pandemic (Anderson & Phillips, 2019; Yatcilla & Young, 2021).

The bibliometric analysis of scholarly literature on teen services in public libraries offers a multifaceted view of the research landscape over the past two decades, highlighting the fluctuations in research interest, the concentration of prolific authors, and the prominence of select journals (Yatcilla & Young, 2021). In navigating the dynamic nature of the library profession, the findings of this study can guide researchers, librarians, and policymakers in shaping future research and practice, ensuring that public libraries remain vital resources for teenagers and young adults in their communities.

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APPENDIX A

Table 1: Authors in the Top Ten Percent of Contributors

Author (Last name, first name)	Number of Publications
Shenton, Andrew K.	7
Agosto, Denise E.	6
Walter, Virginia A.	5
Bernier, Anthony	4
Howard, Vivian	4
Adkins, Denice	3
Bundy, Alan	3
Dixon, Pat	3
Osborne, Victoria	3
Phillips, Abigail	3
Snowball, Clare	3
Bowler, Leanne	2
Eastell, Ciara	2
Edwards, Jane	2
Forte, Andrea	2
Fourie, J. A.	2
Hughes-Hassell, Sandra	2
Jones, Patrick	2
Joseph, Mylee	2
Kanazawa, Midori	2
Kelly, Paula	2
Loertscher, David V.	2
Love, Lucy	2
Magee, Rachel M.	2
Marcoux, Elizabeth	2
Moore, Simeon	2
Sanatjoo, Azam	2
Spelman, Anne	2
Storms, Aarene	2
Sullivan, Margaret	2

Tajafari, Masoumeh	2
Tveit, Åse Kristine	2
Vincent, John	2
Williams, Pip	2
Williams, Virginia Kay	2

APPENDIX B

Table 2: Full List of Contributing Journals

Journal Title	Number of Articles Published
APLIS	29
Public Library Quarterly	28
Library & Information Update	17
Journal of Research on Libraries & Young Adults	15
Children & Libraries: The Journal of the Association for Library Service to Children	11
Library Trends	9
New Review of Children's Literature & Librarianship	8
Knowledge Quest	7
Evidence Based Library & Information Practice	6
Information Scotland	6
Library & Information Science Research	6
Library Quarterly	6
Reference Librarian	6
Journal of Librarianship & Information Science	5
Reference & User Services Quarterly	5
Teacher Librarian	5
Alki: The Washington Library Association Journal	4
Library Philosophy & Practice	4
Library Review	4
Mississippi Libraries	4
OLA Quarterly	4
Serials Librarian	4

IFLA Journal	3
Journal of Youth Services in Libraries	3
Libri: International Journal of Libraries & Information Services	3
New Library World	3
Urban Library Journal	3
Virginia Libraries	3
Advances in Librarianship	2
Bottom Line: Managing Library Finances	2
CILIP Update	2
Florida Libraries	2
Georgia Library Quarterly	2
In the Library with the Lead Pipe	2
International Journal of Information Dissemination & Technology	2
Journal of Intellectual Freedom & Privacy	2
Journal of Library Administration	2
LIBRES: Library & Information Science Research Electronic Journal	2
Malaysian Journal of Library & Information Science	2
Mousaion	2
School Libraries Worldwide	2
South African Journal of Libraries & Information Science	2
Tennessee Libraries	2
Against the Grain	1
Australian Academic & Research Libraries	1
Australian Library Journal	1
B Sides	1
Behavioral & Social Sciences Librarian	1
Bibliothek Forschung und Praxis	1
Bookmobile & Outreach Services	1
Canadian Journal of Information & Library Sciences	1
Canadian School Libraries Journal	1
Chinese Librarianship	1

Cataliste: The Scientific Journal on Theory & Practice of Librarianship	1
Collaborative Librarianship	1
Collection Building	1
DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology	1
Documentation & Bibliothèques	1
Education for Information	1
Information Research	1
Internet Reference Services Quarterly	1
Journal of East Asian Libraries	1
Journal of the Leadership & Management Section	1
Kentucky Libraries	1
Learning & Media	1
Libraries: Culture, History & Society	1
Library & Archival Security	1
Library Management	1
Library Resources & Technical Services	1
Medical Reference Services Quarterly	1
North Carolina Libraries (Online)	1
Pennsylvania Libraries: Research & Practice	1
Philobiblon: Transylvanian Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Humanities	1
PNLA Quarterly	1
Progressive Librarian	1
SLIS Student Research Journal	1
Technical Services Quarterly	1

APPENDIX C

Table 4: Subject Terms or Keywords with Four or More Instances

Subject/Keyword	Number of Instances
Libraries	112
Libraries and Archives	76
Library services for children	39
Library users	34
Librarians	28
Libraries & community	27
United Kingdom	27
Australia	24
Commercial and Institutional Building Construction	18
School libraries	16
United States	16
Information needs	15
Library science	15
Youth services	15
Aims & objectives of libraries	12
Libraries & students	11
Library resources	11
Youth	11
Children's libraries	10
Information services	10
Library activity programs	10
Reading	10
Education	9
England	9
Library administration	9
Video games	9
Academic libraries	8
Digital libraries	8
Internet	8
Libraries & schools	8

Library personnel	8
Students	8
Surveys	8
Books & reading	7
California	7
Computers & youth	7
Human services	7
Information resources	7
Libraries & state	7
Libraries & the Internet	7
Library outreach programs	7
Library planning	7
Library surveys	7
Literacy programs	7
Scotland	7
Children	6
Collection development in libraries	6
Cooperation	6
Literacy	6
New Zealand	6
Child and Youth Services	5
Doll, Toy, and Game Manufacturing	5
Electronic games	5
Information literacy	5
Information science	5
Libraries & education	5
Libraries & gay people	5
LIBRARIES & society	5
Library orientation	5
Library science research	5
Library use studies	5
Public institutions	5
Social media	5
Vocational guidance	5

Academic librarians	4
Architecture	4
Books	4
Career development	4
Child services	4
Cognition	4
Construction	4
Graphic novels	4
Home entertainment equipment merchant wholesalers	4
Learning	4
Libraries -- Public relations	4
Library 2.0	4
Library education	4
Library evaluation	4
Library materials	4
Library reference services -- Automation	4
Municipal services	4
Queensland	4
Reading interests of children	4
Reading promotion	4
Social networks	4
Socioeconomic factors	4
Video game design and development services	4
Video game publishers	4
Websites	4