

Exhibit 9.4: Classroom Libraries

A number of countries have invested in classroom libraries so that children can have ready access to books and magazines as part of the reading lessons and activities. Exhibit 9.4 presents teachers' reports about the size and use of classroom libraries in their reading instruction, with the results ordered from high to low by the percentage of students with classroom libraries. There was substantial variation in the results, from a number of countries where almost all students (95-98%) had classroom libraries to countries such as Saudi Arabia, Norway, Sweden, Kuwait, Denmark, and Finland with 31 to 45 percent and Egypt with 14 percent. It is useful to consider the results about classroom libraries together with the results about central school libraries in Exhibit 5.5, because most students in the Nordic countries attend schools with sizable school libraries.

On average, 72 percent of the fourth grade students were in classrooms with libraries, with about one-third (33%) in classrooms with libraries that had 50 books or more. Across the PIRLS countries, teachers reported that 61 percent of the students, on average, were given class time to use the classroom library and 55 percent could borrow books from it.

Exhibit 9.4: Classroom Libraries

Students Categorized by Teachers' Reports

For information about school libraries, see Exhibit 5.5

Country	Have a Classroom Library			Percent of Students				
	Percent of Students	Average Achievement		With More than 50 Books in Their Classroom Library	With At Least 3 Magazine Titles in Their Classroom Library	Given Class Time to Use Classroom Library At Least Once a Week	Who Can Borrow Books From Classroom Library	Whose Teachers Take Them to Library Other than the Classroom Library At Least Once a Month
		Yes	Yes					
United States	98 (1.1)	550 (3.2)	~ ~	92 (1.9)	35 (3.6)	97 (1.3)	87 (2.7)	94 (1.9)
Macao SAR	98 (0.0)	546 (1.1)	~ ~	62 (0.1)	74 (0.1)	86 (0.1)	66 (0.1)	40 (0.1)
Hong Kong SAR	97 (1.2)	569 (2.8)	546 (32.3)	78 (3.3)	46 (4.5)	82 (2.9)	47 (4.5)	59 (5.0)
New Zealand	97 (1.2)	527 (2.4)	533 (11.6)	36 (3.5)	42 (3.5)	95 (1.4)	60 (3.1)	91 (2.0)
Ireland	96 (2.0)	567 (2.6)	569 (18.7)	82 (3.7)	23 (3.0)	94 (2.2)	86 (3.1)	43 (4.6)
Belgium (Flemish)	96 (1.4)	526 (1.8)	510 (10.4)	79 (2.9)	22 (2.3)	87 (2.2)	59 (3.3)	51 (3.2)
Canada	95 (1.0)	542 (2.0)	564 (6.8)	84 (1.7)	47 (2.2)	94 (1.2)	76 (2.1)	93 (1.2)
Malta	94 (0.1)	452 (1.9)	463 (7.3)	54 (0.1)	40 (0.1)	90 (0.1)	71 (0.1)	82 (0.1)
France	94 (1.7)	512 (2.1)	502 (10.7)	57 (3.8)	68 (3.6)	84 (2.6)	64 (3.5)	47 (4.6)
Chinese Taipei	94 (2.0)	559 (2.1)	562 (6.2)	73 (3.7)	42 (3.9)	77 (2.8)	68 (3.4)	86 (2.8)
Spain	93 (1.0)	528 (1.8)	520 (4.8)	46 (2.7)	29 (2.9)	82 (2.4)	79 (2.2)	52 (2.6)
Northern Ireland	93 (2.4)	565 (2.3)	551 (14.1)	85 (3.0)	23 (3.6)	90 (3.0)	88 (3.1)	65 (4.5)
Belgium (French)	93 (1.9)	497 (2.7)	503 (9.4)	69 (3.3)	74 (3.2)	81 (2.8)	60 (3.9)	46 (4.1)
England	92 (2.2)	557 (2.1)	574 (7.8)	78 (3.3)	29 (3.3)	89 (2.6)	81 (3.0)	80 (2.8)
Australia	88 (2.2)	542 (2.7)	562 (9.0)	56 (3.6)	37 (3.0)	87 (2.4)	54 (3.5)	93 (1.5)
Germany	87 (2.5)	535 (4.0)	541 (6.2)	44 (3.9)	30 (3.8)	66 (3.4)	62 (3.6)	56 (3.8)
Singapore	84 (2.0)	575 (3.6)	584 (7.7)	33 (2.0)	33 (2.4)	70 (2.5)	63 (2.4)	50 (2.2)
Lithuania	84 (2.7)	549 (2.8)	543 (8.0)	31 (3.9)	49 (3.5)	72 (3.8)	82 (2.9)	78 (3.2)
Kazakhstan	83 (2.5)	533 (2.8)	549 (7.5)	22 (3.0)	76 (3.0)	80 (2.9)	79 (2.9)	95 (1.1)
Netherlands	80 (3.3)	547 (2.2)	539 (3.5)	50 (3.9)	34 (4.0)	78 (3.3)	18 (3.2)	64 (3.9)
Austria	79 (3.6)	540 (2.7)	546 (5.1)	43 (3.8)	27 (3.4)	73 (3.7)	68 (3.9)	69 (3.7)
Italy	77 (3.8)	550 (2.6)	543 (5.3)	27 (3.2)	14 (2.7)	56 (4.2)	73 (3.9)	37 (3.5)
Israel	75 (3.9)	529 (3.8)	534 (8.7)	15 (3.1)	31 (4.1)	66 (4.2)	57 (3.9)	61 (4.1)
Russian Federation	74 (3.2)	582 (2.6)	578 (4.9)	19 (2.6)	49 (3.2)	42 (3.5)	68 (3.7)	85 (2.6)
Czech Republic	74 (3.2)	544 (2.7)	542 (3.9)	20 (2.3)	29 (3.2)	56 (3.6)	55 (3.6)	40 (3.2)
Slovenia	72 (3.1)	541 (2.1)	545 (3.8)	10 (2.2)	31 (3.2)	57 (3.3)	45 (3.9)	76 (2.5)
Hungary	71 (3.7)	560 (3.6)	540 (6.3)	13 (2.8)	17 (2.7)	65 (3.6)	54 (3.8)	69 (3.9)
United Arab Emirates	71 (2.8)	454 (3.4)	450 (6.7)	23 (1.6)	31 (2.4)	67 (2.8)	57 (2.5)	82 (2.0)
Latvia	67 (3.7)	556 (2.3)	561 (3.3)	23 (3.1)	17 (2.8)	47 (3.6)	52 (3.9)	70 (3.6)
Qatar	66 (2.1)	450 (2.9)	428 (4.9)	14 (1.5)	35 (3.3)	51 (3.0)	52 (2.6)	88 (1.0)
Bulgaria	66 (3.9)	556 (5.2)	542 (8.6)	4 (1.4)	31 (3.4)	35 (3.8)	58 (3.9)	76 (3.2)
Azerbaijan	64 (3.4)	481 (4.2)	457 (9.1)	12 (2.3)	36 (3.2)	51 (3.6)	60 (3.2)	70 (3.1)
Slovak Republic	63 (3.3)	537 (4.1)	531 (5.8)	8 (1.8)	26 (3.3)	49 (3.3)	52 (3.4)	56 (3.6)
Trinidad and Tobago	61 (4.3)	479 (5.2)	479 (7.2)	16 (3.2)	27 (3.6)	57 (4.3)	38 (4.2)	59 (3.8)
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	60 (3.8)	450 (5.3)	395 (7.8)	19 (2.4)	22 (3.0)	46 (3.8)	60 (3.8)	40 (3.4)
Georgia	60 (3.5)	490 (3.7)	486 (4.6)	12 (2.0)	35 (3.3)	50 (3.6)	59 (3.6)	r 71 (3.2)
Oman	59 (2.8)	427 (4.4)	408 (4.2)	14 (2.2)	40 (3.4)	54 (3.0)	51 (2.8)	89 (2.0)
Bahrain	58 (3.4)	456 (3.4)	434 (4.0)	13 (2.2)	31 (3.0)	44 (3.8)	50 (3.5)	92 (1.7)
Chile	57 (4.4)	494 (4.1)	502 (5.3)	23 (4.2)	38 (4.7)	46 (4.1)	56 (4.2)	57 (4.6)
South Africa	r 54 (3.8)	332 (8.2)	308 (6.9)	r 24 (3.2)	r 31 (3.4)	r 46 (4.0)	r 41 (3.6)	r 53 (3.8)
Portugal	53 (3.4)	533 (3.2)	523 (3.3)	11 (2.5)	15 (2.4)	43 (3.5)	46 (3.5)	72 (3.1)
Morocco	51 (3.2)	371 (5.2)	343 (6.5)	10 (1.8)	25 (2.8)	29 (2.7)	44 (2.8)	15 (2.1)
Poland	48 (3.5)	562 (3.5)	567 (2.6)	11 (1.8)	9 (2.3)	15 (3.0)	21 (3.4)	70 (3.7)
Finland	45 (3.6)	563 (2.7)	568 (2.7)	19 (2.7)	8 (1.9)	40 (3.7)	23 (2.4)	72 (2.8)
Denmark	45 (3.9)	547 (3.3)	548 (2.8)	12 (2.0)	7 (2.1)	39 (3.9)	27 (3.6)	92 (1.5)
Kuwait	43 (4.2)	399 (6.6)	390 (6.0)	8 (2.6)	26 (5.1)	31 (5.0)	37 (3.8)	83 (2.9)
Sweden	41 (3.8)	552 (4.1)	557 (2.8)	19 (2.8)	11 (2.5)	35 (3.8)	26 (3.5)	71 (4.0)
Norway (5)	38 (4.0)	564 (3.9)	556 (2.6)	9 (2.2)	16 (3.0)	36 (4.0)	33 (3.9)	81 (3.4)
Saudi Arabia	31 (3.3)	456 (7.9)	419 (5.5)	10 (2.3)	22 (3.0)	22 (3.2)	27 (3.1)	54 (4.4)
Egypt	14 (2.8)	349 (17.8)	325 (6.3)	0 (0.0)	8 (2.6)	12 (2.8)	12 (2.7)	61 (4.1)
International Avg.	72 (0.4)	514 (0.6)	507 (1.2)	33 (0.4)	32 (0.4)	61 (0.5)	55 (0.5)	67 (0.5)

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

A tilde (~) indicates insufficient data to report achievement.

An "r" indicates data are available for at least 70% but less than 85% of the students. An "s" indicates data are available for at least 50% but less than 70% of the students.

Exhibit 9.4: Classroom Libraries (Continued)

Country	Have a Classroom Library			Percent of Students				
	Percent of Students	Average Achievement		With More than 50 Books in Their Classroom Library	With At Least 3 Magazine Titles in Their Classroom Library	Given Class Time to Use Classroom Library At Least Once a Week	Who Can Borrow Books From Classroom Library	Whose Teachers Take Them to Library Other than the Classroom Library At Least Once a Month
		Yes	Yes					
Benchmarking Participants								
Quebec, Canada	98 (1.2)	546 (2.8)	~ ~	82 (4.1)	50 (4.8)	98 (1.2)	76 (4.7)	92 (2.6)
Madrid, Spain	94 (1.9)	550 (2.1)	543 (7.0)	51 (3.9)	27 (3.8)	80 (3.4)	84 (2.8)	43 (4.3)
Ontario, Canada	90 (2.4)	543 (3.3)	560 (7.9)	78 (3.2)	45 (4.4)	89 (2.5)	73 (3.8)	90 (2.2)
Andalusia, Spain	87 (2.9)	525 (2.3)	521 (5.3)	30 (3.8)	20 (3.3)	81 (3.2)	82 (3.3)	69 (3.6)
Moscow City, Russian Fed.	78 (3.4)	611 (2.4)	617 (4.5)	31 (3.6)	55 (4.1)	32 (4.0)	75 (3.7)	82 (3.4)
Dubai, UAE	77 (2.6)	525 (2.5)	494 (6.2)	25 (1.7)	29 (2.2)	73 (2.9)	59 (3.2)	91 (1.3)
Abu Dhabi, UAE	75 (3.1)	407 (5.9)	444 (9.2)	34 (3.7)	32 (3.7)	71 (3.5)	61 (3.3)	84 (2.4)
Eng/Afr/Zulu - RSA (5)	r 62 (5.8)	417 (9.6)	411 (13.7)	r 31 (5.1)	r 41 (6.4)	r 54 (6.3)	r 39 (6.0)	s 53 (5.8)
Buenos Aires, Argentina	59 (4.0)	469 (4.1)	493 (5.6)	13 (2.5)	37 (3.8)	50 (3.9)	48 (4.0)	77 (3.3)
Norway (4)	56 (3.9)	520 (3.0)	514 (2.7)	20 (3.3)	30 (3.3)	54 (4.1)	36 (3.5)	77 (3.4)
Denmark (3)	52 (4.1)	503 (4.3)	498 (4.0)	18 (2.8)	12 (3.0)	50 (4.2)	36 (4.0)	94 (2.2)

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016