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Meeting:	115. Mobile Libraries
Simultaneous	-
Interpretation:	

The use of Mobile Libraries to support a lifetime education and to obtain the social inclusion

Susana Elena Fripo

Bibliotecaria, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Abstract

The objective of this issue is to offer a closer view about the outstanding aspects of working of the M.L. in Argentina. The information was personally searched in the head libraries, modality chosen by the informative richness that brings the direct contact and the personal interview, as well as the team in charge of the M.L. was also accompanied in his activity.

The experiences were filmed and photographed; the materials are available for anyone who considers them interesting.

Keywords:

PUBLIC LIBRARIES – MOBILE LIBRARIES – POPULAR LIBRARIES - EVALUATION – LIBRARY SERVICES

The system of Public Libraries in our country has as a pillar the Popular Libraries, and this is so because of their number (nearly 2000) and because of their presence, as much in the cities as in small villages in our territory. The National Commission Protecting Popular Libraries (CONABIP) is the entity at national level that groups them, organize projects for their development and supports them through subventions.

These entities have their origin in a group of neighbors convinced of the importance of the library as a center of promotion, support and diffusion of education and culture.

It is precisely their origin what determinates their importance within to community, and at the same time they reflect its reality.

The M.B. constitute a powerful tool as much to reach the social inclusion and to give equal opportunities to those who by different reasons cannot approach to the library, as to support the formal education and to incorporate materials that help to a lifetime education of the members of the communities they serve.

Our geographical context, characterized by its large distances, and the educational and socioeconomic situation we are passing through, make that the mobile libraries become an strategic tool to reach these objectives.

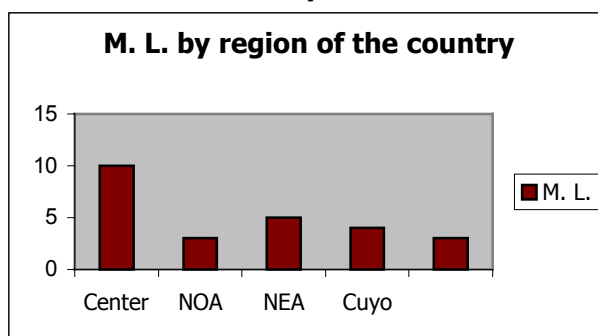
Mobile Libraries.

36 M.L. participated in the study implemented.

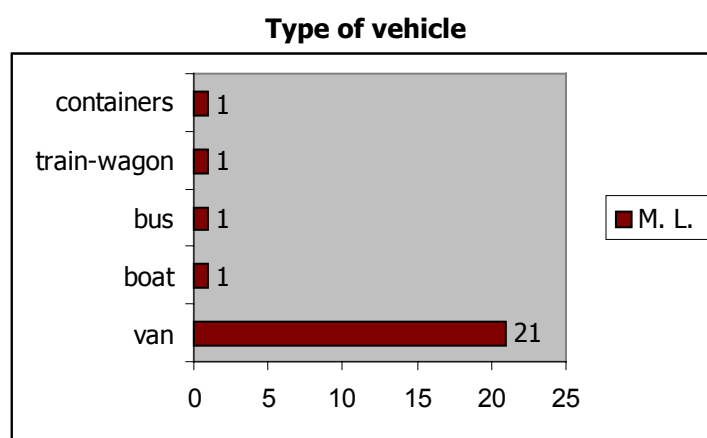
Eleven (11) do not work (31%).

The reason that take them to this situation is the same : lack of economic resources. This reality influences the maintaining of the vehicles, the trade of its assurance and the charge to fuel needed to fulfill its commission.

During 2003, 25 M.L. in functions were analyzed.



Twenty-three (23) M.L., dependent main Popular Libraries and two on Government Institutions.

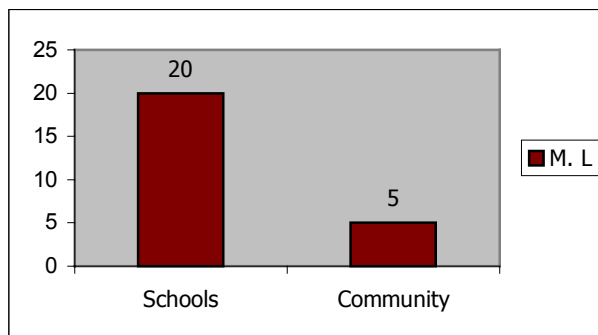


The twenty-one (21) vans are truck-type and they are of the decade of 1990s. The boat is a model 1999 and has 7,80m length, 2,10m beam and the depth is 1,80m. The bus is a 1971 model bus.

The M. L. of the Library of Congress starts its functions in the year 2002. It offers services in Buenos Aires as well as in other places of the country. The complete information about this one can be found in <http://www.bcnbib.gov.ar/bnm.htm>. The cultural train is an undertaking of the Subsecretary of Culture of the province of Buenos Aires; it started working in December 2002. It is integrated by a movie-wagon, a puppet-show wagon, a Cultural Coffee wagon, a Patrimony wagon and a Library wagon. The function of this last one depends on the Library Direction of the Subsecretary of Culture of the province of Buenos Aires.

Place of the service

Twenty (20) M.L. give their service in schools (80%), as much urban as rural. Five (5) M.L. offer services within the community.

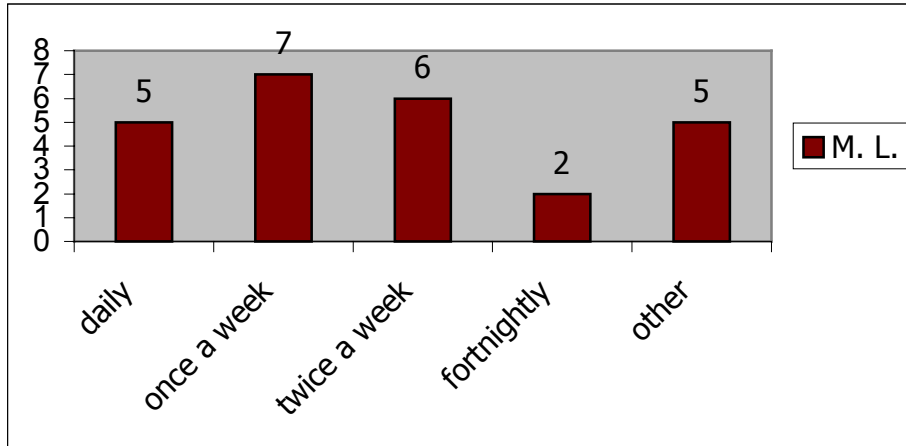


The M. L. of Congress takes place in urban centers and chooses as location a place of easy approach for everybody. The Cultural train stops in the stations, where it is assigned a branch terminal line for do not interfere the railway traffic. The M.L. of the Municipal Popular Library Esteban Adrogué gives its services in open fairs, in a residence for aged people, in a residence for children, in a ecologic farm, in the Federal Penitentiary Complex of J. M. Ezeiza and in the neighborhood Rocca in Burzaco. Its chronogram of activities can be consulted in: <http://www.almirantebrown.gov.ar/institucional/biblioteca2.htm>

The M.L. of the Popular Library Sarmiento in Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, offers its services in Community Centers of the most distant neighborhoods of the city and in social institutions that take care of young people. The M.L. of the Popular Library Rafael Castillo in Santa María, Catamarca, give services in Saturdays in small rural populations.

Frequency of departure

Five (5) M.L. depart daily (20%); eight (8) once a week (32%); six (6) twice a week (24%); three (3) every fortnight (12%) and three (3) other frequency (12%).



Fortnightly frequency of departure: two of the libraries that depart every fifteen days have adopted this modality because their runs take several days. One of them, the M. L. of Congress, works in two containers that are carried on a truck and they need a crane to lift them and put them down from it. This determinates its frequency of departure and the time of staying in each place where its service is offered.

Other frequency: two ML only depart by request of the community and do not have a fixed frequency of departure.

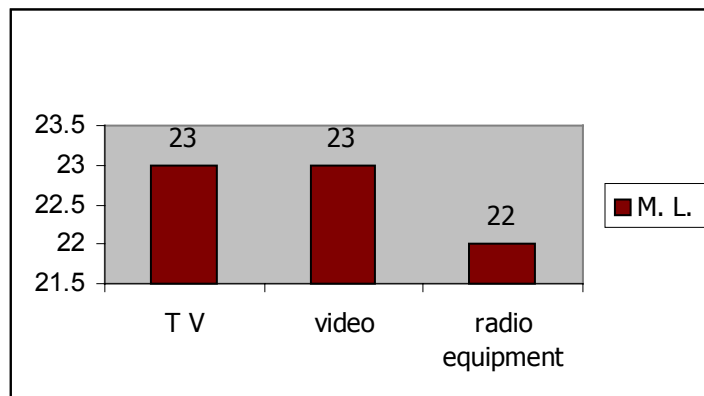
The library wagon make up the **Culture Train** and the before it depends of the chronogram of departure this last one.

Time of staying

Referring to the time of permanence in each stop
 52 % stay between 2 and 3 hours
 36% stay between 4 and 6 hours
 12 % stay more than 6 hours

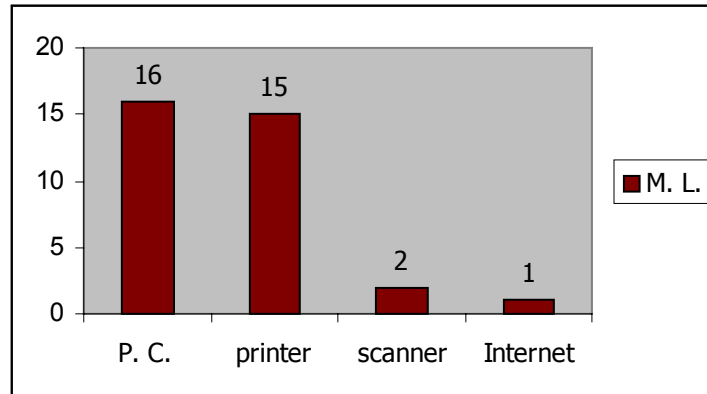
Audiovisual equipment:

Twenty-three (23) ML are furnished with color television set and video recorder (92%) and twenty-two (22) with a radio equipment.
 Three M. L. have a photocopying machine.



Computer Science tools:

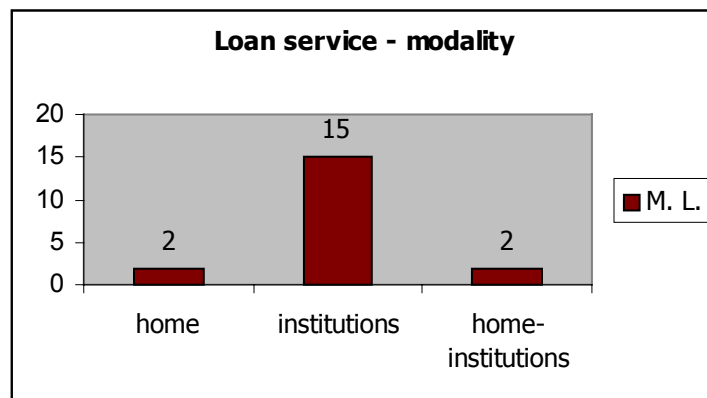
Sixteen ML (16) are furnished with P.C. (64%); fifteen (15) with printer (48%); two (2) with scanner (8%) and one (1) with access to Internet.



Services:

Twenty-five (25) ML offer General Information service (100%)

Nineteen (19) ML offer loan service (76%).



Two (2) ML offer the loan service at home (8%); fifteen (15) the one of loan to institutions (60%) and two (2) offer bath services (8%).

A M. L. works in coordination with a social worker in charge of the forming of learning communities in which a group of participates act a agents multipliers of the M. L. They are in charge of the reception and circulation of the parcels of readings for parents. Altogether 400 bags of reading materials are distributed within the different communities served.

The teachers ask the materials they need for their classes. The ML put to their service all the information they need in different supports, all of them addressed to a dynamic and updated teaching.

Although the nucleus of working is the school, the service enlarges to the children's parents. And the M .L. carry on their collection books and magazines with issues of their interest, cooking recipes, knitting magazines, publications about the cultures of the region. People in M.L. know and share the culture of the communities they attend and nobody better than them to understand their needs.

In front of specific request, if they do not have at that moment the material to fulfill them, a kind of solidarity net is established, which allows the requested material arrives to the user in a fast and safe way.

The 100% of the M.L. have as a main activity the PROMOTION OF READING. In this activity the working teams of the M.L. leave free way to the creativity and their love for reading. They put body and soul on it and the relationship with the users becomes a come and go of emotions shared with this fictional characters who catch everybody and take them to the magic world of possible.

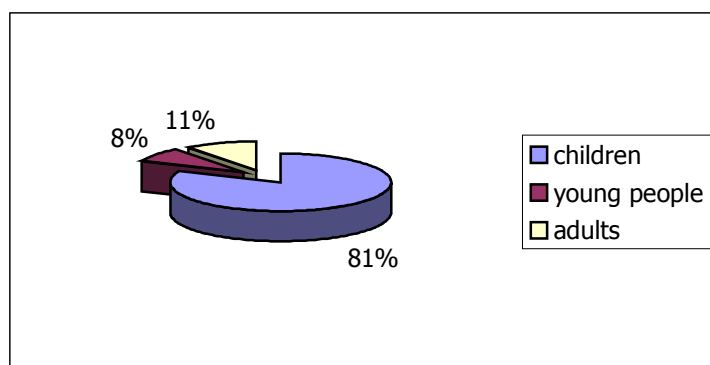
In many cases, in certain occasions they go accompanied by cultural entertainers, and the party is complete.

Everybody wait for the arrival of the M.L.

To the question: How does the M.L. promote its services? In many cases answered: The M. L. does not need it.

Accompanying its tour the answer was understood. The M.L. is the most waited character of the community.

Users



The percentages shows what really happens beyond the space where the service is given. Children with their natural curiosity are approach spontaneously, and they are the best promoters of the M. L.

Human resources

People who leaves with the M.L. do it in every case with service vocation and by pleasure. They feel and share the pleasure of reading and feel satisfaction of the user as their own.

Twenty four M. L. work with a team of people, to whom eventually cultural entertainers are added. Only the M.L. of the Congress Library carries more staff.

Most of them are teachers of administrative clerks of the head of the library. Only six are librarians and two of them work in the same M. L.

In some cases the M.L. departs on Saturdays, day when the head library is closed, because it is the only way to fulfill this service.

It is known very little about the effort and the belief in the value of education that support this service, as well as the difficulties the libraries have to face to carry it out.

Finally, it is useful to settle that this study could be done thanks to the cooperation of the library directors, the professionals and the teams responsible of the M. L. In the further regions of the country they gave all what they had to make feel the interviewer protected and cared, in many cases the expressed the visit was highly appraised by the importance of making to know what they did with so much effort and lack of resources. In other cases, I

made the visit and knew in place that they were not working, nevertheless, they organized an activity to make me carry over to that place because they wanted to be listened.

Traslation: Susana Firpo - Ana Rossaroli

