



Christchurch City Libraries
Te Whare Pukapuka Aa Iwi Otautahi

Children's and Young Adults' Services

Annual Report



for the year ending

2001

Prepared by Bill Nagelkerke
Children's and Young Adults' Services Co-ordinator

Introduction

I am pleased to present the Children's and Young Adults' Services **Annual report** for the year ending 2001. In it you will once again find a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the past calendar year's outputs. A key planning document prepared during the year was the Children's Services Development Plan, which identified customer groups and service development initiatives to meet the needs of these groups.

Responses to the services offered by the library came in various ways. The following comments (sent as letters) were made by children after a visit by Centre for the Child librarians to their school:

- *We enjoyed the stories you read to us. We loved them. Thank you very much.*
- *When you came to read us some stories they were wonderful and of course they were the funniest.*
- *Come again please.*

A parent wrote in appreciation of receiving the *Books for Babies* pack.

- *I am writing to thank you for the black and white book we received. I showed it to our baby at three days old and he stared at it for ages. If he catches sight of it on his change table, he stops crying. Looking at it also seems to make him more alert. It's fascinating to see him react like this so young.*

Another Christchurch parent wrote a letter to the magazine *Kiwi parent*:

- *I wanted to write in and share with other parents how wonderful I have found the library. My baby and I go weekly to the local library and look at books. We get out five or six that seem to be her favourites and then repeatedly reread them over the next week. I have found this visit beneficial to both of us. I think the library is great and should be a regular event on every family's calendar. I have learnt that it is never too early to start and we are lucky . . . to have a library system geared up for babies and children.*

The sentiments expressed here are especially relevant in the context of the Children's Services' Development Plan which states that "Services to [pre-school] customers, who represent our future library business, exemplify the sound philosophy of 'early start equals best start'."

Bill Nagelkerke
Children's and Young Adults' Services Coordinator

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SERVICES

As one of our aims is to make library use a life-long experience our core services include programmes and activities designed to engender and maintain our customers' enthusiasm for on-going, frequent library visits.

Pre-school

Books For Babies

The Books for Babies package comprises a book and information package about libraries and the importance of reading. It continues to be received enthusiastically by the recipients. Over time there has been a marked increase in enrolments within the 0-1 age category. Of 0-5 year olds enrolled in 1987, only 3.3% were aged 1 and under; in 2000, this had risen to just over 30%.

- From January-December 2001 **653** library cards were sent out to parents who enrolled their new babies, an increase of **45%** over 2000. So far a total of **4,353** babies have been enrolled as library members as a *direct and identifiable* result of receiving the package.
- Since 1990 approximately **55,000** packages have been delivered.
- Wellington City Libraries and the Friends of Te Anau Library initiated Books for Babies programmes modelled on and supported by the Christchurch programme. An inquiry for information about the project was also received from Australia.
- Christchurch City Libraries and Sheffield Library in England continued to exchange information about their respective Books for Babies and Bookstart programmes. During a private visit to England in April/May the Children's and Young Adults' Services Coordinator went to Sheffield to meet the local Bookstart coordinator. Information about Sheffield's Bookstart programme is included on the library's Books for Babies web pages at <http://library.christchurch.org.nz/Services/BooksForBabies/sheffield.asp>
- The Children's and Young Adults' Services Coordinator also spoke to the British Bookstart Team about the Christchurch project, at Book House in London, in May.

Baby lapsits

These are sessions specially designed as learning experiences for under-2s and their caregivers and to fill a gap between the Books for Babies Project and Pre-school storytimes. Lapsit programmes specialise in sharing action songs, rhymes and simple stories with babies and toddlers and in teaching caregivers these skills.

- During 2001 Lapsits were held quarterly at the Centre for the Child and attracted an average of 27 parents and babies to each session.
- A lapsit was also held at Papanui Library during Parenting Week.

Pre-school storytimes

Pre-school storytimes were offered at all libraries throughout the year. The Centre for the Child incorporated its **Headstart** programme into these sessions, while Halswell Library continued to offer its popular early evening series of **Bedtime Stories**.

- A group of Japanese pre-school teachers attended one of Christine Turner's pre-school storytimes sessions at the Centre for the Child and afterwards learnt about the storytelling techniques and resources used by Christine.

Headstart

This is a thematic programme for parents and their pre-schoolers offered by the Centre for the Child.

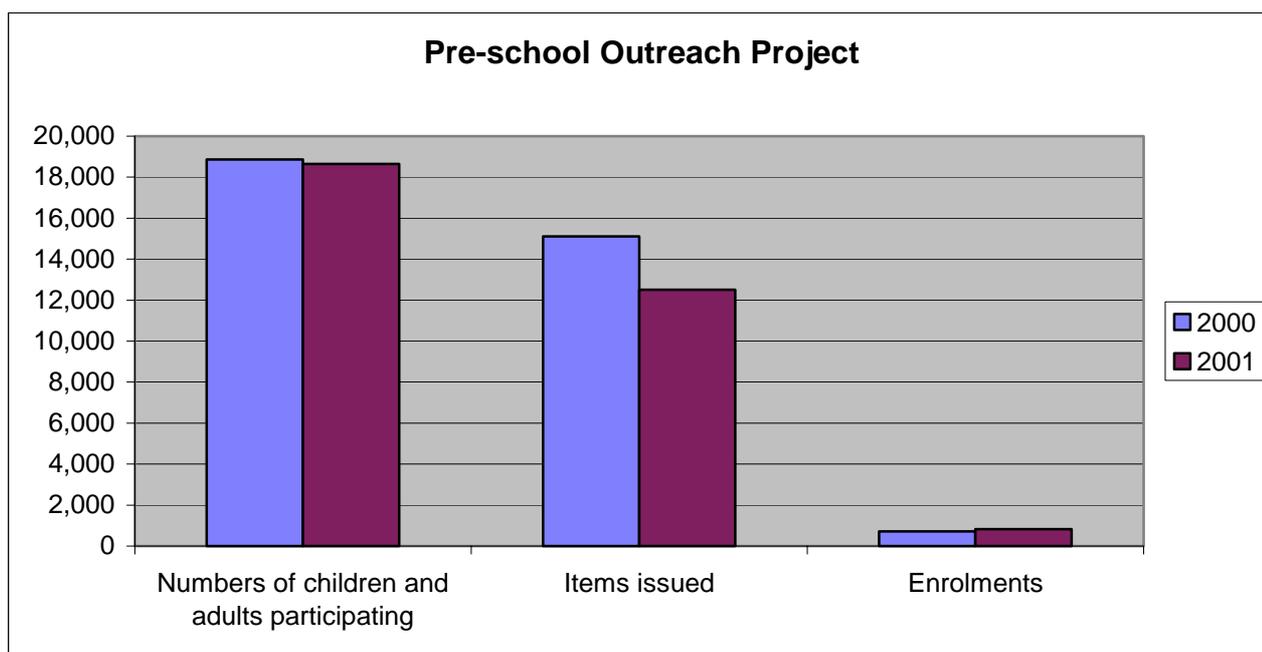
- During 2001 Headstart was offered monthly from February to December.
- Library colleagues and visiting speakers contributed to the sessions all of which were supported by resources held in the library.

- Topics included:
 - Music and movement
 - First aid and safety
 - Easter stories, songs and rhymes
 - Storytelling
 - Pets
 - Pre-reading skills
 - Teddy bears' picnic
 - Growing things
 - Christmas party

Pre-School Outreach Project, “Kids who read, succeed”

This project continued during 2001 with around **65** pre-school groups city-wide receiving visits on a monthly basis. In addition the Pre-School Outreach Librarian visited numerous parent groups, including at-risk, to talk about the importance of early literacy and library use, including presenting workshops for pre-school teachers on the topic of creative ways of sharing stories and language.

- **18,650** children and adults participated in the programme during the year
- **12,515** items were issued to pre-school groups
- **820** new customers were enrolled.



Summary

- Numbers of children and adults participating decreased slightly, by 1%.
- Number of items issued decreased by 17% as more parent groups were visited this year.
- Number of children enrolled increased by 14.5%.

School-age

Class visits

Nearly all libraries in the network receive regular and casual visits by pre-school, primary, intermediate or secondary school classes and most libraries are able to offer classes that visit regularly a four-term programme to promote recreational reading, develop children's understanding of how their library works, what resources are to be found there and how they can best be accessed. Use of data-show technology now enables classes as a whole to gain an understanding of the web-based catalogue and selected internet sites. Some class visits are linked to curriculum activities, and are designed in collaboration with teachers. A particularly successful programme at the Centre for the Child in 2001 focused on different fiction genres. Increasingly it becomes clear that fiction promotion is still regarded as one of the most beneficial services that the library can offer children and teachers, especially as awareness of new titles is often lacking. Some comments received on the annual evaluation forms were as follows:

From children:

- *We thoroughly enjoyed coming here.*
- *There are always stimulating activities and we get excited finding books.*

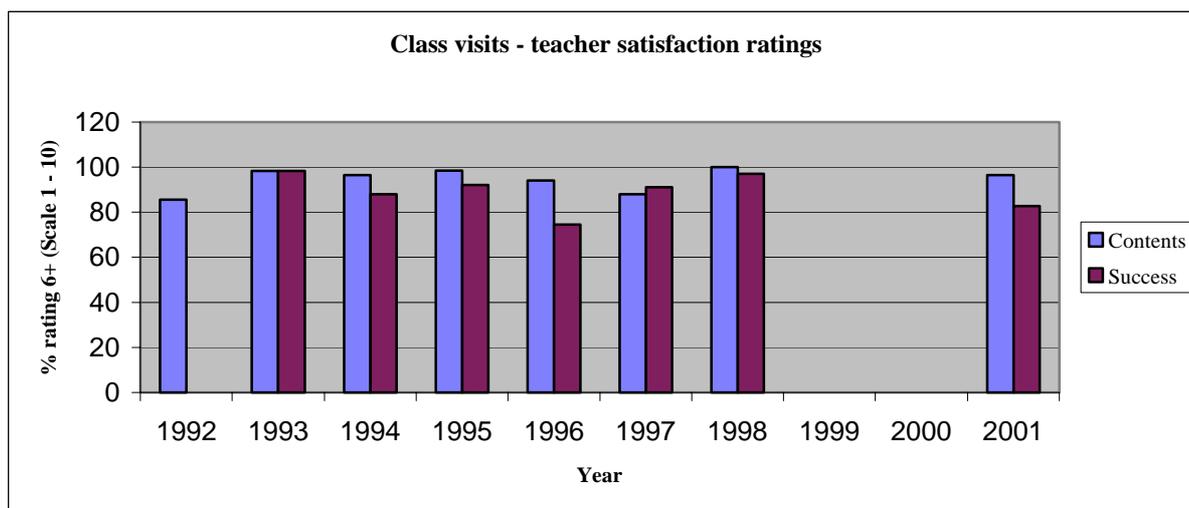
From teachers:

- *They greatly enjoyed the story reading, role-plays, visual presentations made by the librarians, which are fabulous learning experiences for them and always so thoughtfully prepared and taken well. The children are fortunate.*
- *Your enthusiasm about books, your warmth towards the children and your guidance has been very much appreciated.*

Satisfaction ratings based on perceptions of

1. *programme contents*
and
2. *success of programme at helping children become confident library users*

were provided on the evaluation forms, given to teachers at the end of the year. (No ratings are available for 1999 and 2000). Results, based on the percentage of responses giving a rating of **6 or above**, are given below and show a consistently high level of positive feedback.



Travelling Roadshow

The Travelling Roadshow is a presentation of stories, quizzes and games targeted at schools that find it difficult to take classes to a library. Colleagues from the Centre for the Child offered the Travelling Roadshow to a school one morning each week from March to October. During 2001 approximately **3,000** children saw a Travelling Roadshow performance.

'Schoolz Out'

Working with the Pacific Island Executive Council, the Centre for the Child hosted Pacific Island children every second week as part of the Executive Council's after school study programme, funded by Central Government. The project was successful although subsequent evaluation suggests, amongst other things, the need for greater parental involvement. The programme will continue in 2002 taking into account recommendations from the evaluation report.

Bookgigs

Bookgigs offer audiences a dramatisation of a writer's book, or books, as well as an opportunity to ask the author and actors questions and hear their responses. Bookgig actors are students from the Christchurch Drama Centre, directed by Rosie Belton. This year's bookgigs were supported, as in past years, by the Community Trust. The first was held during the **New Zealand Post Children's Book Festival** and featured one of the shortlisted titles, **Call of the Cruins**, written by Oamaru author Elizabeth Pulford. **400** children attended the Bookgig.

The second Bookgig featured two stories by Margaret Mahy, winner of the 2001 Esther Glen Award, and was held to coincide with the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA) Children's Book Awards. The books dramatised were **A busy day for a good grandmother** and **The five sisters**. A photographic record of the production can be found on the Library's Margaret Mahy web pages at: <http://library.christchurch.org.nz/Childrens/MargaretMahy/Bookgig.asp>



Margaret Mahy talks to the actors and the audience at the Bookgig at the Christchurch Drama Centre.

The Big Tick

This after school programme for small groups of parents and children from years 8 - 12 provided a practical overview of homework resources, print and electronic, and was held at several community libraries.

RESOURCES

Electronic developments

- **Electronic Resources Development Project** Annette Williams, from the Centre for the Child, was appointed to a three-month secondment to create new electronic resources for children, parents, teachers and colleagues. Priority was given to fact sheets on historical Christchurch personalities, places and events. The children's fact sheets pages, particularly those about inventions, were amongst the library's most viewed documents, the latter receiving nearly 4,000 hits in December.
- Interviews with, and stories by, New Zealand children's writers were included on the library's web pages at <http://library.christchurch.org.nz/Childrens/ChildrensAuthors/>. This included digitising the 'big book' written by Margaret Mahy and illustrated by Bob Kerr and originally produced for the 1998 Books and Beyond Festival.
- Annette Williams spoke to groups of teachers about the library's web resources.
- Interactive PCs were introduced to libraries throughout the city. Some were touch screen operated, and all included two dozen CD ROMs – a mix of stories and information - under the headings 'Find out', 'Music and song', 'Stories' 'Explore and play' and 'Art and writing'.

Print publications

Children's and Young Adult Services produced and/or contributed to booklists and other publications to meet the needs of customers and to enhance our ability to provide them with relevant and accessible information.

Booklists

- *Holiday reading: a selection of Children's and Young Adult Books*

Guides

- *Do the 'three step' with your library.* Outline of programmes offered to school.
- *Kids who read succeed*
- *Writing and illustrating for children: publishers' addresses and requirements* (12th edition).
- *Children's services*

Programmes

- *Holiday programmes*
- *Pre-school storytimes*
- *Event activities*

Professional journals

- The Children's and Young Adult's Services Coordinator contributed reviews to the Australian and New Zealand reviewing magazine **Magpies** and to a feature article on children's books for the December issue of **Consumer** magazine.

Centre for the Child

In addition to its core business the Centre for the Child supported the development of children's services throughout the library network by undertaking the following activities:

- Answering children's inquiries from around the library network through the **Homework Helpline**, a telephone reference service. This service ceased following the launch of the Fingertip Library which continues to respond to the homework help calls.
- Presenting the **Travelling Roadshow** to Christchurch schools.
- Packaging and distributing the **Books for Babies** package.
- Supporting colleagues' training.

Get Well Bags

- Pre-packaged bags for children sick at home were available from several libraries.

Visitors

- Two librarians from Singapore visited Christchurch City Libraries in January to study aspects of children's services and resources.
- Cataloguer and curator of the Renier Collection of Children's Literature at the Victoria and Albert Museum visited the Margaret Mahy Collection of New Zealand Children's Books.
- The Collection was also visited by the owner/editor of the Australian children's literature review journal **Magpies**.

EVENTS

Best (and worst) children's books of the year

This annual Christmas meeting for parents, teachers and librarians is aimed at enhancing the knowledge of children's literature amongst those working with children. The meeting featured speakers from National Library, Waimakariri District Libraries and Christchurch City Libraries. It attracted around 60 people.

Books and Beyond Festival

Events for children included:

- the Story Tram, storytelling and reading on board a Christchurch Tramways tram.
- visit by award-winning Australian writer **Nick Earls** who spoke to young adults at Papanui Library.
- *Writer in the Library*. Well-known writer **Ken Catran** presented a series of writing workshops for Years 7 and 8 students, in conjunction with the **Nestle Write-Around-New Zealand** writing competition (see below). The workshops were held at the following libraries:
 - *Bishopdale*
 - *Centre for the Child*
 - *New Brighton*
 - *Halswell*
 - *Linwood*
- Bedtime stories at St Martins, Bishopdale and Papanui libraries.

Channel Two Kidsfest

Activities this year included:

- Cool stories for cool kids
- Storytelling with Liz Weir
- Book character competition
- Magical books, a magic show presented at Fendalton and Bishopdale libraries
- Piratical Rumbustification, a presentation of songs, stories, rhymes, music and interaction at the Centre for the Child, attended by record **530** people during two performances.

GlobalNet Summit.

The Children's and Young Adults' Services Coordinator arranged for a multi-media presentation focusing on libraries as centres of communication to the 150+ delegates at the GlobalNet Summit in September, involving colleagues from the Central City Library. The audience comprised intermediate and high school students from Christchurch as well as other parts of New Zealand. Speakers came from New Zealand and

overseas. Christchurch City Libraries sponsored ten students to attend the Summit. These students attended a morning tea at the Central City Library following the Summit and reported back very favourably on their involvement.

Holiday programmes

Holiday activities form a regular part of Children's and Young Adults' Services annual programme of events and are well patronised throughout the library network. The emphasis is on story-related activities, as these fit in best with our overall purpose. Story reading and telling, puppets, crafts, competitions, displays and visitors all contribute to this particular focus. In addition to school holiday activities, special activities and displays are mounted for other events throughout the year.

- A Summertime Reading Programme which encouraged children to read during the holidays, through membership of a Holiday reading Club, began in December with **357** entries being received.
- Holiday Fun Packs, 'mystery' collections of books and other resources, were available from Redwood and Shirley Libraries. These proved very popular with children and parents.

Library week

Library Week was held at the end of August.

- Sumner Library offered technology tutorials to assist parents and older children with children's homework.

New Zealand Post Children's Book Festival

Events organised by the library this year included:

- the Story Tram, storytelling and reading on board a Christchurch Tramways tram. This event was covered by local newspaper and television.
- public talk by shortlisted author, and eventual winner, Ken Catran
- a Bookgig featuring shortlisted author Elizabeth Pulford
- storytelling at a local post shop

Parenting Week

Numerous events were organised for Parenting Week in September. Promotion included a slot on Plains Radio Cook Islands programme. Events included:

- baby lapsits
- pre-school storytimes, including bedtime stories
- family storytimes
- parenting resources expos
- parent programmes with guest speakers
- storytelling

Parents Centre Week

The Centre for the Child arranged a special display of parenting resources during this event in June.

Television

In early August Spreydon Library became the venue for the filming of an episode in the 'Dress-Up Box' children's television series.

Writers' visits

These visits promote reading and libraries and, best of all, create a tangible link between the book and the reader. Visitors this year included

- **Ken Catran** (Nestle Write Around New Zealand)
- **Sarona Iosefa** (Nestle Write Around New Zealand)
- **Margaret Mahy** (Bookgig) Margaret Mahy's new book, **The riddle of the frozen phantom** was launched at the library in November.
- **Elizabeth Pulford** (Bookgig).



The riddle of the frozen phantom launched at the Centre for the Child

Writing

- The Library continued to support the activities of the **Christchurch School for Young Writers** through displays of children's work and liaison over events.
- The **Nestle Write-Around-New Zealand** was a nationwide writing competition sponsored by Nestle and based on a successful Australian model. Coordinated by Auckland City Libraries the competition received over 5,000 entries from students in Years 7 and 8, of which nearly 800 (the third highest number of entries in the country) came from the Canterbury/West Coast zone, coordinated by Christchurch City Libraries. Each zone organised a programme launch, writing workshops, a panel of judges and a finalists' presentation. The programme was launched at the Central City Library by Deputy Mayor **Lesley Keast**, while author **Sarona Iosefa** encouraged children to submit their stories for the competition. The finalist' presentation was attended by 90 children, parents, grandparents, mainly from Christchurch but also from Ellesmere, Diamond Harbour and Temuka.
- The Library's annual publication **Writing and illustrating for children: New Zealand publishers' address and requirements** continued to be a 'best seller' with requests for the publication continuing to be received from all over the country and overseas.

DEVELOPMENTS

Project teams

Colleagues were actively involved in various in-house and external project teams during the year.

Training

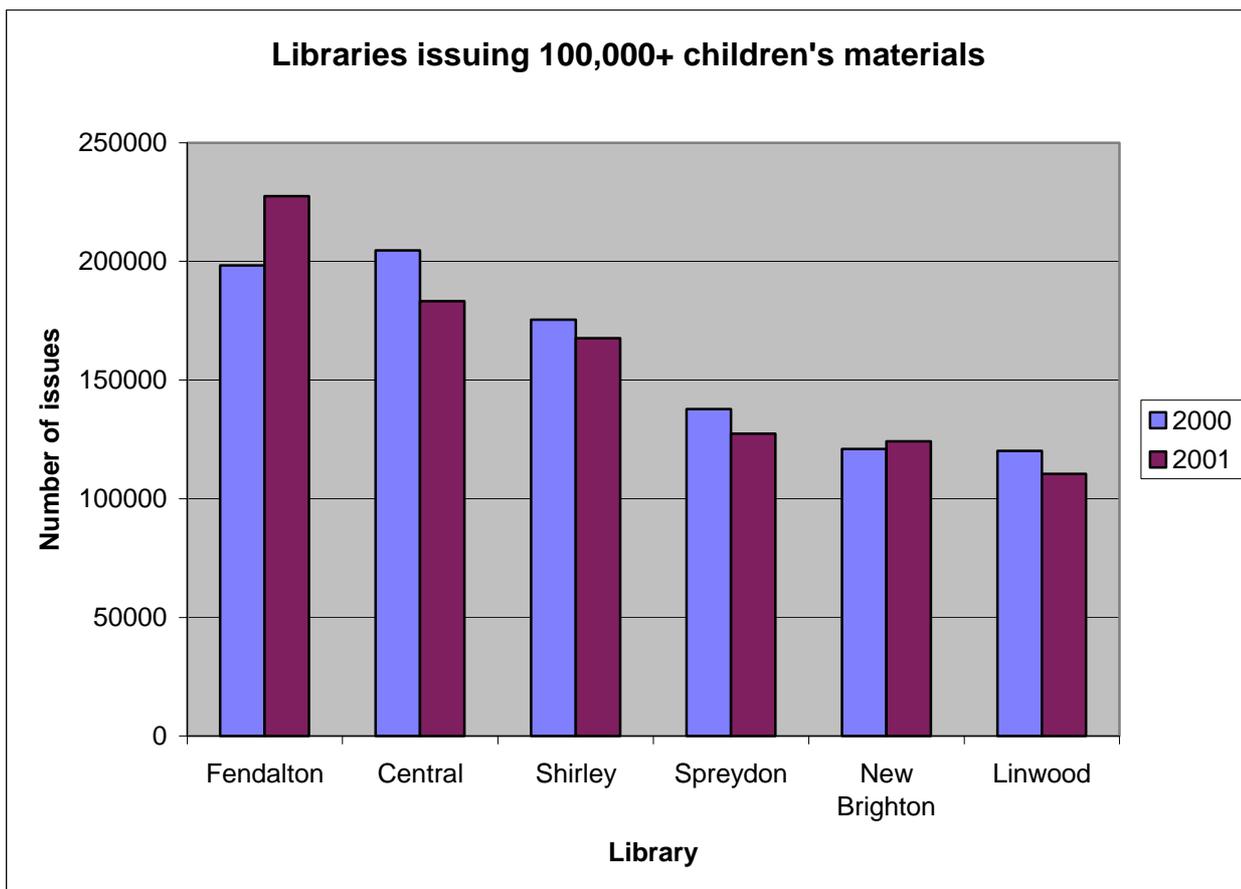
- **ACLAR Conference, Christchurch** The Children's and Young Adults' Services Coordinator attended the Australasian Children's Literature Association for Research Conference, where he also presented a paper.
- **Baby lapsits**
- **Children's services training for non-specialist colleagues**
- **Coaching**
- **Customer first**
- **Family literacy seminar** The library sent delegates to this seminar at the Christchurch College of Education as well as staffed a stand promoting library services and resources.
- **Gifted children**
- **Integrating our electronic resources**
- **Renier Collection of Children's Literature**
- **South Island Children's Librarians' Seminar, Nelson**
- **Young people and public space**

Appendix One
Service delivery statistics January 2001 – December 2002

Circulation

The tables and graphs below give a comparative summary of issues of children’s and young adults’ materials. They are calculated on a calendar year basis, rather than financial, to reflect their relationship to the school year.

Issue of children's materials	Centre for the Child		Community Libraries		Pre-school outreach		Total
	Number of items	%	Number of items	%	Number of items	%	
2001	183,140	12.1	1,316,081	87.1	12,275	0.8	1,511,496
2000	204,619	13.1	1,341,601	85.9	15,103	1	1,561,323
1999	204,790	13	1,353,691	87			1,558,481
1998	193,685	13	1,288,673	87			1,482,358
1997	192,313	13.6	1,224,537	86.4			1,416,850
1996	180,742	13	1,227,688	87			1,408,430



Issue of young adults' materials					
	Central City Library		Community Libraries		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of items</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number of items</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Total</i>
2001	30,619	19.1	129,819	80.9	160,438
2000	37,085	20.3	145,364	79.7	182,449
1999	42,662	23	141,835	77	184,497
1998	39,524	23	133,556	77	173,080
1997	34,725	22	124,411	78	159,136
1996	30,933	19	131,162	81	162,095

Summary

- Issues at the Centre for the Child decreased by 10.5%
- Issues of young adults' materials at the Central City Library decreased by 17.5%
- Combined issues of children's materials at Community Libraries decreased by 2%
- Combined issues of young adults' materials at Community Libraries decreased by 10.7%
- Total issues of children's material decreased by 3.2%
- Total issues of young adults' materials decreased by 12.05%
- Total combined children's and young adults' issues decreased by 4.12%

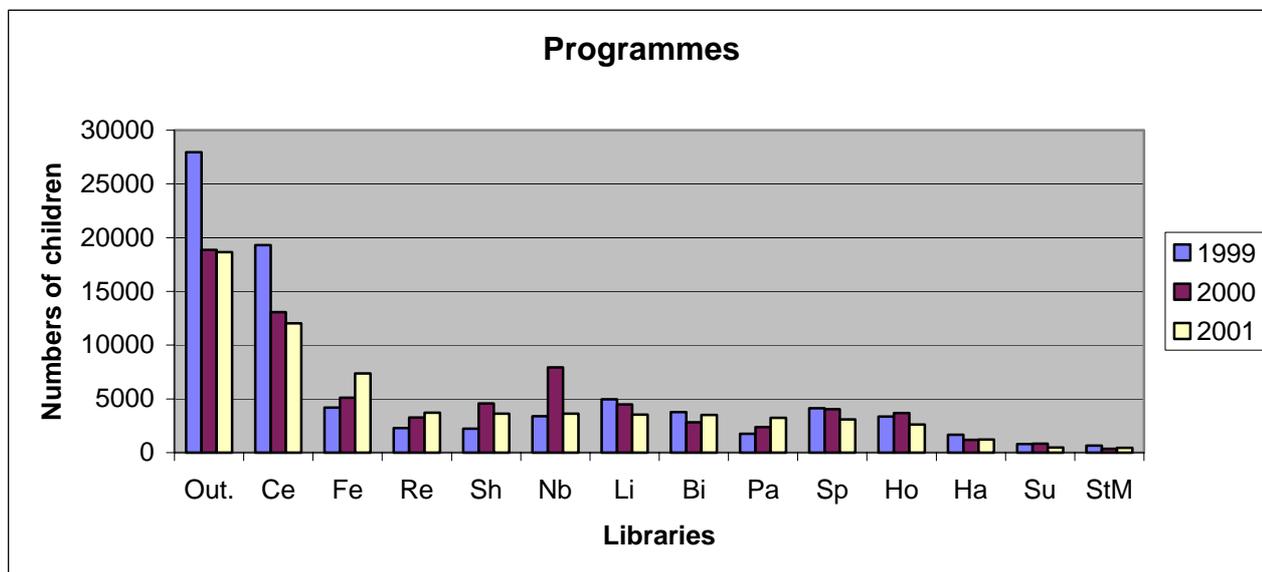
The overall decrease in issues (children's and young adult combined) is relatively minor. Likewise, issues of children's materials overall decreased by a small amount, following a steady rise over the past few years, suggesting that a temporary plateau may have been reached.

A decrease in the number of issues of Centre for the Child materials is matched by concomitant increases at Fendalton and New Brighton libraries. Refurbishment work during the year at the Centre for the Child, together with a reduced space, may have caused some customers to use other libraries.

Young Adult issues generally have declined but a development programme for this customer group will be underway in 2002. Refurbishment at the Central City Library also affected the number of materials issued from that location.

Programmes

A total of **67,081** children and young adults visited libraries, or were visited, for an organised activity during the year. This was a small reduction overall of 7.5 % over 2000 resulting in part due to more strategic management of class visit programmes as well as to the inevitable fluctuation in numbers attending specific events.



Inquiries

Inquiries come from adults as well as children: adults doing personal research or work on behalf of their children. Many inquiries call on specialised knowledge, particularly of children's literature and children's reading development, as well of reference materials found only in a children's area of a library.

Inquiries: Central Children's Library only *

	Directional	Reference	Research	Totals
2001				31,760**
2000	22,826	9,089	886	32,801***
1999	14,515	11,205	2,335	28,055
1998	13,316	16,887	1,632	31,835
1997	24,456	15,348	950	40,754
1996	20,513	19,072	197	39,728
1995	12,493	15,454	154	28,101

* Statistics for inquiries by children at Community Libraries are not recorded separately from inquiries by adults.

** No separate statistics available for specific inquiries

*** Figures are for the June 2000 count only.

Summary

- Overall there were just 3.17% fewer inquiries in 2001 compared with 2000, during a year in which the Fingertip Library was launched and Centre for the Child refurbishments took place.