THE LILEAD PROJECT:
A STUDY OF SCHOOL DISTRICT LIBRARY SUPERVISORS
Ann C. Weeks, Jeffrey DiScala, Sheri A. Massey, Rebecca Follman, Alexandra Moses, Diane Barlow

OVERVIEW
The school district library supervisor is an important voice at the district level to advocate for and support equitable library and information services for all schoolchildren. The Lilead Project is the first national workforce study since the 1960s to examine the work of supervisors. This study aims to illuminate the supervisors’ roles and responsibilities, the challenges they face, and their value in their districts.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS
• What are the supervisors’ titles and job?
• What are their demographics, knowledge, and skills?
• What are their roles and responsibilities?
• What are their greatest challenges and needs?

STUDY DESIGN
Methodology
Quantitative electronic survey; 58 questions in four categories: Office & School District; Task & Responsibilities; Program Changes; and Personal Information

Setting and Participants
290 districts in 50 states, including the 280 districts with student populations of 25,000 or more, plus the largest districts in each of the 10 states not represented in the largest population.

Response
166 district library supervisors took the survey over the course of 6 weeks (61% response rate).

FUTURE RESEARCH
Little empirical data exist about the district library supervisor. The goal of The Lilead Project is to collect the baseline data necessary for future research about the profession.

FINDINGS

TITLES

DEMOGRAPHICS AND KNOWLEDGE

80% Female

72% Former Classroom Teacher

58% Former School Librarian

49% 55-64 Years Old

87% White

61% MLS

RESPONSIBILITIES

Not my responsibility
Advisor on tasks or decisions
Responsible for tasks or decisions

CHALLENGES

42% report funding for building-level programs decreased
78% report the emphasis on content standards increased

61% report the emphasis on information literacy increased
42% report staffing for building-level programs decreased

“I am now the only credentialed librarian for 38,000 students and 2,500 teachers.”

-Survey respondent