SEPA Librarian Needs Assessment

Start of Block: Informed Consent Statement

Greetings!

My name is Ashley Perry and I am an evaluator at the Center for Research Evaluation (CERE). My team and I are conducting an evaluation of the LEARN Science (Library Efforts to Advance Reading and Nutrition Science) program funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health. The long term goal of this project is to improve science achievement among children ages 5-9 across Mississippi through storytelling. Your responses here will help us to know how best to support librarians delivering this programming, and guide us in the design and implementation of LEARN Science lessons.

Survey Purpose: The purpose of this survey is to collect your feedback on program design and implementation, and learn more about the resources and programming at your library. Nothing in this survey will be used in any way to assess you as a library employee, only to tap into your expertise and institutional knowledge.

Who is conducting this survey? This survey is being conducted by the Center for Research Evaluation (CERE) at the University of Mississippi.

What we will ask you to do: If you agree to take this survey, we will ask questions about your current library programming and resources. We will also solicit feedback on plans for the program that will help inform unit design and implementation. The survey will take about 10-15 minutes to complete.

Compensation: You will not be compensated for your participation in this survey, although we will thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback. Your participation will also help the LEARN Science team learn more about the needs of different regions, and how best to support librarians in delivering this programming.

Taking part is voluntary: Taking part in this survey is completely voluntary. You may skip any questions that you do not want to answer. If you decide to participate, you are also free to stop at any time.

If you have questions: If you have any questions or would like additional information about this study, please contact me at amperry6@olemiss.edu. Many thanks for your consideration, Ashley Perry Evaluation Associate, Center for Research Evaluation 2301 South Lamar Blvd W4406 Oxford, MS 38655 202-288-3732 amperry6@olemiss.edu

Statement of Consent: Please select 'Yes, I agree to participate' if you would like to continue with the survey. *By continuing on with this survey you are also indicating that you understand the above information and agree to participate.*

- ○ Yes, I agree to participate (1)
- ○ No, I do not agree to participate (2)

Skip To: End of Survey If Greetings! My name is Ashley Perry and I am an evaluator at the Center for Research Evaluation (C... = No, I do not agree to participate

End of Block: Informed Consent Statement

Start of Block: Intro to LEARN

Introduction The overall long-term goal of LEARN Science is to improve science achievement among children ages 5-9. This program is aligned with the social ecological model and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and will consist of seven lesson units. Each unit will follow a story line, blending two culturally- and age-appropriate books with: 1) nutrition science terminology; 2) inquiry-based, hands-on activities using science tools; 4) scientific observations and reflection; and 4) take-home family learning resources. Unit readings will include both: 1) a narrative (fiction) book with a nutrition component; and 2) an informational (nonfiction) book showcasing a scientist and/or a scientific principle. Units will also include a mentor guide, information on connecting families with community food resources, as well as professional development resources to support you as librarians in program delivery and implementation.

End of Block: Intro to LEARN

Start of Block: About your library

Zip code for your library:

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Q19 Thinking about your library and its patrons overall, would you say that your library has...

- ○ Way too many staff members (1)
- ○ A few too many staff members (2)
- ○ The right number of staff members (3)
- ○ Not quite enough staff members (4)
- ○ Not nearly enough staff members (5)
- ○ Select this option to skip this question (6)

Q18 Does your library have any of the following personnel resources? Please check all that apply:

- ☐ An MLIS librarian (1)
- ☐ A children's librarian (2)
- ☐ A staff member other than a librarian whose job is specific to serving children (3)
- ☐ In-house information technology staff (4)
- ☐ A volunteer workforce who support library staff (5)
- ☐ A staff member or volunteer who can deliver science-based materials or classes (6)
- ☐ ⊗ None of these (7)
- ☐ ⊗ Select this option to skip this question (8)

Q21 Which of the following best describes **your** current role? Please check any that apply:

- ☐ An MLIS librarian (1)
- ☐ A children's librarian (2)
- ☐ A staff member other than a librarian whose job is specific to serving children (3)
- ☐ In-house information technology staff (4)
- ☐ Other (Please describe) (5) _____
- ☐ ⊗ Select this option to skip this question (6)

Q17 Does your library have any of the following physical amenities? Please check all that apply:

- ☐ A meeting room that can hold at least 10 people (1)
- ☐ A meeting room that can hold at least 30 people (2)
- ☐ A meeting room that can hold more than 30 people (3)
- ☐ A classroom with chairs and desks/tables (4)
- ☐ A maker space (5)
- ☐ Outdoor learning space(s) (6)
- ☐ Desktop computers for patron use (7)
- ☐ Tablet computers for patron use (8)
- ☐ Shelving dedicated to children's books/materials (9)
- ☐ ⊗ None of these (10)
- ☐ ⊗ Select this option to skip this question (11)

Q20 Think about your library's programming and please select whether you agree or disagree with each the following statements:

	Strongly Disagree (1)	Somewhat disagree (2)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Somewhat agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	Select this option to skip this question (6)
We do enough programming to meet the needs of patrons (1)	○	○	○	○	○	○
We offer the types of programming our patrons want (2)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Patrons prefer self-directed/ asynchronous programming over instructor-led live programming (3)	○	○	○	○	○	○
We offer more programming for children than for adults (4)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Overall, our programs are not very well attended (5)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Our staff know what kinds of programs our patrons want (6)	○	○	○	○	○	○

The way we advertise programs and recruit participants is effective (7)	○	○	○	○	○	○

Q14 The next set of questions is about library materials or services specifically for children. Does your library offer **live or in-person synchronous** learning or programming for kindergarten to 2nd grade children (ages 5-9)? For our purposes, this would include group activities where children interact with a librarian, teacher, or volunteer and where all the participants are present at the same time.

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)
- ○ Select this option to skip this question (3)

Q16 Does your library offer **online synchronous** learning or programming for elementary school-aged children (ages 6 - 12)? For our purposes, this would include zoom calls, live streams, or online classrooms with a librarian, teacher, or volunteer and where all the participants are logged in at the same time.

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)
- ○ Select this option to skip this question (3)

Q15 Does your library offer **asynchronous** learning or programming for elementary school-aged children (ages 6 - 12)? For our purposes, this would include where children interact with a display or exhibit, take home materials and activities, work online at their own pace, or otherwise work independently.

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)
- ○ Select this option to skip this question (3)

Display this question:

If The next set of questions is about library materials or services specifically for children. Does... = Yes

Or Does your library offer online synchronous learning or programming for elementary school-aged chi... = Yes

Or Does your library offer asynchronous learning or programming for elementary school-aged children... = Yes

Q29 Please list the titles or write brief descriptions of recently popular children's programming at your library

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Q24 Thinking about **science materials in circulation for children**, please the availability and use of each of the following material types:

Books and other print materials (1)	▼ We do not offer this and cannot get it (1) ... We have a lot of this on offer (4)
Audiobooks (2)	▼ We do not offer this and cannot get it (1) ... We have a lot of this on offer (4)
DVDs, Blu-ray, or other video (3)	▼ We do not offer this and cannot get it (1) ... We have a lot of this on offer (4)
Video games (4)	▼ We do not offer this and cannot get it (1) ... We have a lot of this on offer (4)
Borrowable toys, games, or puzzles (5)	▼ We do not offer this and cannot get it (1) ... We have a lot of this on offer (4)
Borrowable curricula or teacher materials (6)	▼ We do not offer this and cannot get it (1) ... We have a lot of this on offer (4)
Borrowable activity kits (7)	▼ We do not offer this and cannot get it (1) ... We have a lot of this on offer (4)
Borrowable food preparation items or tools (8)	▼ We do not offer this and cannot get it (1) ... We have a lot of this on offer (4)
Borrowable machines, science tools, or appliances (9)	▼ We do not offer this and cannot get it (1) ... We have a lot of this on offer (4)

Carry Forward Unselected Choices from "Thinking about science materials in circulation for children, please the availability and use of each of the following material types:"

Q25 Of the materials your library has available for children, how often do patrons borrow each type of material?

	Never (most of these sit on the shelf) (1)	Rarely (2)	Sometimes (3)	Frequently (4)	Always (some of these have a waiting list) (5)
Books and other print materials (x1)	○	○	○	○	○
Audiobooks (x2)	○	○	○	○	○
DVDs, Blu-ray, or other video (x3)	○	○	○	○	○
Video games (x4)	○	○	○	○	○
Borrowable toys, games, or puzzles (x5)	○	○	○	○	○
Borrowable curricula or teacher materials (x6)	○	○	○	○	○
Borrowable activity kits (x7)	○	○	○	○	○
Borrowable food preparation items or tools (x8)	○	○	○	○	○
Borrowable machines, science tools, or appliances (x9)	○	○	○	○	○

Q23 We want to know more information about the opinions and preferences of library personnel. For the opinion statements below, please select whether you agree or disagree with each:

	Strongly disagree (1)	Somewhat disagree (2)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Somewhat agree (4)	Strongly disagree (5)	Select this option to skip this question (6)
I prefer to conduct childrens programming over adult programming (1)	○	○	○	○	○	○
The more interactive that I have to be to lead a program, the better (2)	○	○	○	○	○	○
I would not want to lead programming activities that might cause a mess (3)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Our library is suitable for programming activities that might create noise (4)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Programming is better when parents stay with their children, rather than drop them off (5)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Parents of young patrons are interested in new	○	○	○	○	○	○

children's programming (6)						
I do not have the technology resources I would need to conduct most programs (7)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Live programming is not a priority for our staff (8)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Patrons usually return borrowed children's materials in good condition (9)	○	○	○	○	○	○

Q22 When learning about new programming at the library, and its associated materials, what manner of training is **most** beneficial?

- ○ In-person directed training sessions with an instructor (1)
- ○ Virtual or asynchronous training sessions with an instructor (2)
- ○ Self-directed training with pre-recorded videos or online modules (3)
- ○ Self-directed training with hard copies of materials such as instructional manuals (4)
- ○ Something else: (please explain) (5) _____
- ○ Select this option to skip this question (6)

End of Block: About your library

Start of Block: Open Ends

Q25 Following training, what are the most helpful resources for successful program delivery? (Select all that apply).

- ☐ An instruction manual (1)
- ☐ Continued access to previously-recorded instructional videos (2)
- ☐ A recording of the training session (3)
- ☐ Access to an instructor for follow-up questions (4)
- ☐ Something else: (please explain) (5) _____
- ☐ ⊗ None of these (6)
- ☐ ⊗ Select this option to skip this question (7)

Q28 Are there any materials or kits that your patrons want that your library does not presently offer? If so, what are they?

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Q26 Are there any specific barriers to conducting children's programming at your library? If so, what are they?

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Q27 What advice would you give for a new staff member about conducting science programming for children at your library?

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End of Block: Open Ends