

Parliament of Sierra Leone Library

Accessibility Data Brief

March – September 2022



INTRODUCTION

Data accessibility is essential for democracy, as it allows citizens to access information that affects their lives and rights. This Citizens Accessibility Data Brief provides guidance on how to improve transparency, accountability, and engagement between citizens and their parliamentary representatives and communities.

In this brief, we will examine the importance of data accessibility for democratic governance, identify the barriers that limit access, and suggest solutions to overcome these challenges. By doing so, we aim to enable informed choices, active civic involvement, and ultimately, the promotion of our common democratic ideals.

The citizen's accessibility brief also reveals the actual usage of the Sierra Leone Parliament Library by staff, members of parliament, and the public. The brief covers library accessibility from March to September 2022.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Since March 2022, a total of **215** have access to the Library of Parliament so far, among which are;

- **22.3%** are **Females** with a total of **48** visitors,
- while **71.1%** are **Males** with a total of **153** visitors.
- **6.6%** which accounted for **14** visitors with no gender specification recorded.

CLASS OF USERS AND AGE CATEGORY

The Sierra Leone Parliament is primarily set up as a reference hub for Members of Parliament, Staff of Parliament (including its approved development partners), and other categories of citizens outside the precinct of Parliament. However, this last category requires written approval from the Clerk of the House of Parliament. From the data received for the period under review, it was clear that out of the 215 people who accessed the Parliament Library;

- **53.4%** are staff members of the Parliament of the Republic of Sierra Leone.
- **17.6%** are Members of Parliament of the Republic of Sierra Leone (MPs), whilst
- **22.3%** made up of other visitors such as Students, Development Partners, and Civil Servants.
- **6.7%** of people who access the facility are uncategorized.

The analysis of the data showed that the majority of the library users were in the age range of 21 to 39 years, followed by those in the age range of 40 to 69 years. This contrasts with the common assumption that young people are less interested in library research due to the availability of online sources.

The library users who were 70 years or older constituted less than 1% of the total users in this period.

There was no data recorded for the last seven days, but there were 11 users in the last month (September 12th to October 13th). Two researchers, Catherine Babonjo and Mariama Massaquoi, were the most frequent users of the library, with 136 and 79 visits respectively.

FIRST TIMERS VS REGULAR USERS

Specific data shows that **65.5%** are first-time visitors whilst **34.4%** have visited the Library before. The data recorded also shows that **62.33%** visited the Library for research purposes whilst **31.16%** of visitors were there for other purposes. The data also shows the percentage of service satisfaction level and it's recorded that **53.49%** were very satisfied with the services at the Library, **34.88%** were satisfied and **5.12%** were not satisfied.

INSTITUTION THAT VISITED PARLIAMENT

Key institutions that have visited the Library so far are UNDP, European Union, Westminster Foundation for Democracy, Fourah Bay College, Milton Margai College, and Medtronic LABS.