

# ASERL Collection of Statistics

A Comparison of the ACRL, IPEDS, and ARL Surveys

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# Introductions

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- User + reporter of stats for ~ 10 years (money | collections)
- ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics Survey Editorial Board
- Assessment work (e.g. SACS | student learning outcomes | CPU)

# Purpose

What statistics do we, as ASERL members, want to collect to use for benchmarking and analysis?

- Statistical surveys overview: basic principles + big FY2015 revision
- Questions unique to each survey
- Pros & cons of using one survey over another
- Questions

# Definitions

**Association of Research Libraries (ARL) :: 124 largest research libraries**

- Includes a few publics, state libraries, organization libraries
- Oldest collection of stats on size of collections plus

**Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) :: division of ALA**

- Higher education association for librarians
- Survey collected under the management of Counting Opinions

**Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL)**

- Consortium of 38 member libraries (about half are ARL)

# Definitions

## National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

- Primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to higher education. Located within the U.S. Department of Education.

## Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)

- A system of interrelated surveys conducted annually by NCES to all higher education institutions which receive federal financial assistance.

# Surveys

## IPEDS Survey : Academic Libraries component

Required for *all* accredited higher ed  
Part of NCES (DOE)

~ 23 questions

*New* Annual (not biennial, as it was under NCES before FY2015)

*New* Aligned with the ACRL Survey

*New* Respond by uploading a text file from the ACRL Survey answers

*New* Revised for FY2015

## ACRL Survey: Includes Academic Trends

Sent to 3,338 unique libraries  
43% response rate last year

~ 73 questions

Revisions are frequent & driven by requests from academic institutions

ACRL Metrics (free to ASERL) has analysis tools / searching / custom reports / some IPEDS data points

Respondents include many types of libraries

*New* Revised last in FY2015

## ARL Survey: Used by ASERL

Sent to 124 ARL member libraries

~ 42 questions

ARL Statistics Analytics is free for ARL members; others can subscribe

Revised last in FY2012

*New* Institutions used to be able to tell ACRL to get their data from ARL, since the surveys were aligned. Now they will have to do both surveys.

# ACRL, ALA, ARL, + IPEDS Joint Task Force

- Joint advisory task force met in summer of 2015 and worked for 10 months to suggest changes to the current definitions and instructions of the IPEDS Academic Libraries component and then to align the IPEDS and ACRL surveys.
- Completed work and made significant changes to the IPEDS and ACRL surveys which are due this month (about FY2015).
- Task force reconvenes this summer to continue revisions, with focus on new questions for IPEDS and revisions to IPEDS + ACRL definitions and questions.

# Features of the ACRL Statistics

## Revised for FY2015 cycle:

- Questions and instructions that are *easier* to understand
- *Relevant* questions that are important & useful for comparison
- An *ACRL instrument* that can be modified as needed
- *Alignment with the IPEDS* instrument
  - *Including a mechanism to upload data electronically into IPEDS*

## Continued work now:

- Edited instructions
- Task force & Editorial Board work on refining questions



# Unique questions on the ACRL / IPEDES survey

Institutional Repositories (+ digitized special collections including rare & unique materials)

- How many unique digital titles have you ever uploaded and how many downloads did they get this year?

Number of branch & independent libraries

Academic Library Trends: past years have focused on buildings/space, inclusion of ACRL standards, inclusion of info lit assessment in the curriculum, collections initiatives (such as DDA).

# Unique questions on the ACRL / IPEDES survey

## Circulation and usage

- E-book usage
  - *First year of specifying COUNTER BR 1 and BR 2. Need to revise definition but important data point.*
- E-journal usage
- Renewals
- Reserves checkouts (physical and e-)

# Unique questions on the ACRL / IPEDS survey

## E-resource usage

- Lots of challenges to count: vendor platforms, ILS, usage consolidation products
- Impetus to improve because of IPEDS

# Helpful breakdowns on the ACRL / IPEDES survey

## ARL asks:

How many professional staff do you have?

Annual gate count

Total ILL provided and received

## ACRL breaks it down into:

How many librarians?  
How many other professional staff?

# of hours open in a typical week mid session?  
Gate count on a typical week

# of returnables (i.e. books/media) vs. non-returnables (i.e. PDF files) or purchased documents (from Reprints Desk or similar)

## which may be helpful if you're interested in...

How many "feral" librarians (non-MLS) are we hiring in professional roles?

Benchmarking library building use and hours with other libraries or negotiating a 24/5 or 24/7 policy with student government.

Investigating policies related to resource sharing and document delivery.

# Helpful breakdowns on the ACRL / IPEDS survey

ARL asks:

ACRL breaks it down into:

which may be helpful if you're interested in...

Titles\* | Volumes | Ebooks

Books | Ebooks | Print serials |  
E-serials | Databases | Physical  
Media | E-media |

A more granular comparison of collection formats /  
size of collections by format

# of attendees at presentations  
# of presentations  
# of reference transactions

Virtual (digital / online)  
services vs. face-to-face  
services

Assessing your efforts in distance learning / online  
learning vs. face-to-face

# Other characteristics of the ACRL Statistics

- Revisions are continuing: joint advisory task force is working together now.
- IPEDS is picking up questions from the ACRL survey (e.g. include \*serials\* and \*consortial / shared resource\* questions in the next survey administration.
- U.S. Office of Management & Budget just conducted a review of the IPEDS survey was open to all libraries; received helpful comments to make continued improvements. (IPEDS revisions announced in May; ACRL revisions announced in July/August)

# Features of the ARL Statistics

Longest running statistical data set in higher education: started in 1907-1908 by James Gerould and adopted by ARL in 1962-1963.

Strong connection to NISO Library Statistics Z39.7 working group (standard = data dictionary for definitions relevant to library statistics).

Revised for FY2012 collection: dropped about 28 fields and collapsed many others.

On ARL survey (but not copied for ASERL), libraries can complete a breakdown of budget (for collections & staffing) and # of presentations/classes to disaggregate a Law Library, Special Collections, or Health library from the Main Library and its administered branches.

# Unique questions on the ARL survey

## Titles

- Includes every 245 field: books + serials + e-resources + locally digitized items + special collections materials + gov docs + microforms + a/v materials; not HathiTrust, CRL, or DDA.
  - *Replicable?*

## Amount spent on services related to **Consortia / Networks / Bibliographic Utilities** from External Sources

- If you're a member of a consortia (VIVA, NC LIVE, Galileo, PASCAL, FL Virtual Campus) that provides resources for your folks without you spending money, what is the amount of money spent on your folks' behalf?



# Unique questions on the ARL survey

## E-resource usage

- Number of successful full-text article requests (journals) [JR1]
- Number of regular searches (databases) [DR1]
- Number of federated searches (databases) [DR1?]

## *not quite unique...* Data from Institutional Research

- This is available in ACRL Metrics because they bring in data from IPEDS results \*but\* it's delayed.
- Includes # of doctoral degrees awarded; # of doctoral programs; # faculty; # FT and PT students; # grad students

# Advantages to using the ACRL Stats for ASERL

- Full use of ACRL Metrics for statistical analysis with ASERL and other libraries (including non-ARL peers).
- Able to benchmark against a larger group of libraries (including institutional peers and state libraries that aren't ARL members).
- Usefulness: more data points – more relevant issues.
- As many people as want to be involved with improving the survey can be; smaller libraries often have great suggestions.
- Lots of listserv conversations, webinars, and tools (e.g. [Bob Dugan's LibGuide](#)) to help with devising strategies for data collection.
- Non-ARL libraries (~ 17 libraries) will have one fewer survey to complete.

# Advantages to using the ARL Stats for ASERL

- Maintains the status quo: ASERL Libraries have a long track record with these numbers.
- ARL may update their questions in the years to come – we can wait for their improvements.
- Hard for non-ARL libraries to get access otherwise to ARL statistics (except for # of titles) because they're managed by ARL. Need a subscription to analytics product or to buy a copy.

## Not a deal breaker...

- Longitudinal data is a challenge no matter what:
  - *Survey questions & instructions/definitions have and will continue to change on any instrument*
  - *Libraries change the way they count data all the time*
- Not terribly onerous to do, unless a library has been ignoring the ACRL survey:
  - *e.g. Oberlin Group (selective liberal arts colleges) switched to collecting the ACRL (instead of a unique survey) statistics this year.*

# Template

Worksheets for:

- ACRL / IPEDS stats
- ARL / ASERL stats
- Instructions
- ACRL Trends questions

Features:

- All rows
- Columns for branches
- Recipe column
- "Who" column
- Password saved here

On ASERL website

ACRL + IPEDS Statistics - FY2015							
URL	<a href="http://acrl.countingopinions.com">http://acrl.countingopinions.com</a>						
User							
PW							
Due	September, 2015 - April 30, 2016						
URL	<a href="https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/IPEDS/">https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/IPEDS/</a>						
User							
PW							
Due	December 9, 2015 - April 6, 2016						
FAQ	<a href="http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/resource/alscenter.asp">http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/resource/alscenter.asp</a>						
IPEDS User ID							
Staffing							
Cell	Category	Main	Branch 1	Branch 2	Total	Formula / Recipe	Who
01a	Librarians (FTE)						
01b	Librarians (Salaries & wages)						
02a	Other professional staff (FTE)						
02b	Other professional staff (Salaries & wages)						
03a	Sum of librarians & other professional staff (FTE)	0	0	0	0	Add 01a + 02a	Sum
03b	Sum of librarians & other professional staff (Salaries & wages)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Add 01b + 02b	Sum
04a	All other paid staff / not student asst.s (FTE)						
04b	All other paid staff / not student asst.s (Salaries & wages)						
05a	Student assistants (FTE)						
05b	Student assistants (Salaries & wages)						
06a	Total FTE staff	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Add 03a + 04a + 05a	Sum
06b	Total salaries & wages of staff	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Add 03b + 04b + 05b	Sum
07	Number of hours / week to be "full time" at the institution						
08	Are staff fringe benefits paid from the library budget?						
09	If so, cost of staff benefits						
Materials / Services Expenses							
Cell	Category	Main	Law	Branches	Total	Formula / Recipe	Who
20	One-time purchase of books, serial backfiles, and other materials						
20a	One-time purchase of e-books						
21	Ongoing commitment to subscriptions						
22	All other materials / services costs						
23	Total materials / services costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Add 20 + 20a + 21 + 22	Sum
Operations & Maintenance Expenses							
Cell	Category	Main	Law	Branches	Total	Formula / Recipe	Who
24	Preservation services						
25	All other operations & maintenance expenses						
26	Total operations and maintenance expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Add 24 + 25	Sum
27	Are expenses reported in Canadian dollars						

# ACRL + IPEDS Stats | Resources

Helpful LibGuide to navigate the ACRL & IPEDS surveys with FAQs

<http://libguides.uwf.edu/c.php?g=215171&p=2694009>

Official instructions for the ACRL Survey (2015)

[https://acrl.countingopinions.com/docs/acrl/Instructions\\_definitions\\_2015.pdf](https://acrl.countingopinions.com/docs/acrl/Instructions_definitions_2015.pdf)

FAQs about the ACRL Survey

[https://acrl.countingopinions.com/docs/acrl/2015\\_FAQ.pdf](https://acrl.countingopinions.com/docs/acrl/2015_FAQ.pdf)

Official Instructions, definitions, and help desk numbers for the IPEDS Survey

<https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/VisInstructions.aspx?survey=15&id=30103&show=all>

FAQs about the IPEDS Survey

<https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/VisFaqView.aspx?mode=reg&id=17&show=all>

# ARL Stats | Resources

- ARL Statistics survey  
[https://www.arlstatistics.org/About/Mailings/stats\\_2014-15](https://www.arlstatistics.org/About/Mailings/stats_2014-15)
- Description of most recent revision to ARL Statistics (FY2012)  
[https://www.arlstatistics.org/About/Mailings/stats\\_2011-12](https://www.arlstatistics.org/About/Mailings/stats_2011-12)
  - *Changed definition of title count*
  - *Collapsed format spend into two points: monographs & ongoing*
  - *Etc.*
- Crosswalk between the IPEDS & ARL  
<http://www.arl.org/news/arl-news/3822-changes-to-ipeds-survey-definitions-for-2015-2016-webinar-recording-available-online#.VxkEvTArLy0>

# Questions | Next Steps | Discussion

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