ASERL Collection of Statistics
A Comparison of the ACRL, IPEDS, and ARL Surveys

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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)
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
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

**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.

#### ARL Survey:
*Used by ASERL*
- Sent to 124 ARL member libraries

- ~ 42 questions

**New** Revised last in FY2015

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

Revised last in FY2012
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 / IPEDS 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 / IPEDS survey

Circulation and usage

• E-book usage
  o 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARL asks:</th>
<th>ACRL breaks it down into:</th>
<th>which may be helpful if you’re interested in...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How many professional staff do you have?</td>
<td>How many librarians?</td>
<td>How many “feral” librarians (non-MLS) are we hiring in professional roles?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual gate count</td>
<td># of hours open in a typical week mid session?</td>
<td>Benchmarking library building use and hours with other libraries or negotiating a 24/5 or 24/7 policy with student government.</td>
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<td>Total ILL provided and received</td>
<td># of returnables (i.e. books/media) vs. non-returnables (i.e. PDF files) or purchased documents (from Reprints Desk or similar)</td>
<td>Investigating policies related to resource sharing and document delivery.</td>
</tr>
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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


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.
  o 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.
Worksheets for:
- ACRL / IPEDS stats
- ARL / ASERL stats
- Instructions
- ACRL Trends questions

Features:
- All rows
- Columns for branches
- “Who” column
- Password saved here

On ASERL website
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)

FAQs about the ACRL Survey

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

• Description of most recent revision to ARL Statistics (FY2012)
  https://www.arlstatistics.org/About/Mailings/stats_2011-12
  o Changed definition of title count
  o Collapsed format spend into two points: monographs & ongoing
  o Etc.

• Crosswalk between the IPEDS & ARL