

New Ways of Measuring Collections

An Action Agenda Adopted February 2007

1. Reserve use of the current membership criteria index for those occasions when it is needed for consideration of membership issues.
2. Implement an expenditure-focused index.
3. Use the new expenditure-focused index for any public reports, such as in the Chronicle of Higher Education.
4. Begin to develop a services-based index that combines the following three factors: collections, services, and collaborative relationships.
5. Revise definitions for collections-related data categories currently collected and experiment with a variety of new measures, including usage data, strength of collections, and service quality measures to develop a richer set of variables for potential inclusion in the three-factor alternative index (see above).
6. Collect qualitative data to develop a profile of ARL member libraries.

ARL Board of Directors
ARL Task Force on New Ways of Measuring Collections
ARL Statistics and Assessment Committee