

New Ways of Measuring Collections

Update on Implementation Plan by the ARL Statistics and Assessment Committee October 2007

1. Expenditures Focused Index. Starting with the 2005-06 data ARL publicized the expenditures-focused index (total expenditures, salaries and wages for professional staff, expenditures for total library materials, and number of professional plus support staff). The last three years of the expenditures-focused index were distributed by email on the arl-directors (latest revision October 4, 2007). The following files are available:

For members only (login required):

<http://www.arl.org/membersonly/gov/arlinde/index.shtml>

For ARL Statistics survey coordinators (login required):

<http://www.statsqual.org/arlstats/ARLIndex.cfm>

For public availability:

<http://www.arl.org/stats/index/index.shtml>

2. ARL Statistics 2006-07: Current serials is redefined from the number of serial subscriptions to the number of unique/deduped titles. Counting a title should happen once across all formats and reported as electronic if available. Pilot activities indicate that the deduplication of titles is possible. Resources have been created as a result of the pilot activities including:

Documents:

- Statistics FAQ
- ARL New Serials Statistics: Gathering the Statistics at the Texas A&M University Libraries (powerpoint presentation)

Five in person workshops led by Julia Blixrud: The agenda includes discussion of definitional changes including counting serials.

- October 19, 2007, University at Albany, [Science Library](#), Patricia and J. Spencer Standish Board Room, 1400 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12222
- October 22, 2007, University of Illinois at Chicago, [Richard J. Daley Library](#), 1st Floor Conference Room, 801 S. Morgan, Chicago, IL 60607
- November 2, 2007, [ARL Office](#), 21 Dupont Circle, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036

- November 29, 2007, University of California, Los Angeles, [Charles E. Young Research Library](#), Los Angeles, CA 90095
- December 17, 2007, Queen's University Library, Stauffer Library Seminar Room, Room 121, 101 Union Street, Kingston, Ontario K7L-5C4, Canada

For more information and to register for one of these events, go to:

<http://www.arl.org/stats/statsevents/workshops07.shtml>

Webcast with Colleen Cook, Julia Blixrud, Mark Young and Martha Kyrillidou on December 4, 2007.

3. Collect qualitative data to develop a profile of ARL member libraries

The members of the Statistics and Assessment Committee will undertake an implementation test collecting descriptive qualitative information for profiling key aspects/features of a library's operations. The profile was informed from input of the membership reflected in the interviews conducted and analyzed both by Yvonna Lincoln and the Task Force on New Ways of Measuring Collections. Upon successful completion of the 2007-08 phase, it is expected that every ARL member library will be asked to contribute a similar description of their operations in 2008.

In addition to the development of the profile, the collected qualitative descriptive data will be analyzed to identify additional variables to enhance a three-factor index measuring collections, services, and collaborations. Additional variables will be proposed, developed and tested in future data collection activities as they are determined to be useful based upon existing knowledge as well as newly gained insights from the analysis of the qualitative profile information.

4. Library Assessment meetings at ALA (registrations will be announced soon):

January 11, 2008, Philadelphia

9:00 am to 1:00 pm. ***ARL Library Assessment Coordinators***. A special meeting for ARL Library Assessment Coordinators to exchange information about the roles, responsibilities and activities, challenges and opportunities, for Assessment Coordinators in ARL libraries.

1:30 pm to 3:00 pm. ***Library Assessment Forum***. A regularly held forum for all interested in assessment activities, participants of the Library Assessment Conference, and participants in the 'Effective, Sustainable and Practical Assessment' Program.

3:30 pm to 5:00 pm. ***ARL Statistics Coordinators and SPEC Liaisons***. Our regular biannual meeting of the ARL Survey Coordinators and the ARL SPEC Liaisons.