From the 133rd ARL Membership Meeting

Agenda
ARL Committee on Statistics and Measurement
Wednesday, October 14, 1998
8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
New York Room, Marriott at Metro Center Hotel, Washington, DC

Note: The parenthetical times shown are estimates only to aid in moving the meeting along. If an issue warrants, we will take as much time as necessary.

1. Introductions and Overview: (5 minutes)

2. Approval of Minutes and Feedback on the 1998 Activities Report for the ARL Statistics and Measurement Program: (5 minutes)

Attachment 2a: Minutes of the Meeting of the ARL Statistics and Measurement Committee, May 11, 1998
Attachment 2b: ARL Statistics and Measurement Program summary from the 1998 ARL Activities Report

Outcome: Approval of minutes; feedback on 1998 activities

3. New Measures: (75 minutes)

A review of developments in new measures and action items for this committee.

(a) Technical Services Costs Study: Dilys Morris, Iowa State University, has been working on a 5-institution technical cost study that includes an analysis of time and costs for several functions: ordering, cataloging, catalog maintenance, volume preparation and preservation, conversion or other major project work. In discussion with Ms. Morris, it may be possible for her to present information on her project at the ARL survey coordinator meeting in January.

(b) ACRL Task Force on Academic Libraries Outcomes Assessment: A Task Force worked for two years to research and study the topic of outcomes assessment for academic libraries. The report was accepted by the ACRL Board at the 1998 Annual meeting.

Attachment 3a: June 1998 Report

(c) ICO LC Guidelines for Statistical Measures of Usage of Web-Based Resources: The International Coalition of Library Consortia has been working with guidelines developed by a JSTOR Web Statistics Task Force to establish a basic set of requirements for electronic product usage data.


Discussion question: Are there measures that could be incorporated into ARL's supplementary statistics questionnaire?

(d) CLIR Publications addressing ARL Statistics and performance measures: Two items, a research brief and a book chapter, recently issued by the Council on Library and Information Resources include references to ARL statistics and encourage the development of new measures.

Attachment 3d: "Developing Performance Measures for Library Collections and Services" by Susan Rosenblatt in The Mirage of Continuity.

Outcome: Understanding of comments and clarification of references to ARL statistics

(e) Performance Measures/Assessment Summit: At the previous meeting, committee members
recommended holding a retreat to discuss performance measures. Subsequent staff discussions this summer and possible funding have led to planning for a larger meeting.

Attachment 3e: Performance Measures Summit concept

Outcome: Planning for the Summit Meeting Structure, Speaker Recommendations

*** Break 9:25–9:40 ***

4. ARL Index: (10 minutes)
A mailing was sent to directors with information on the background and issues surrounding the ARL index.

Discussion question: Was the mailing helpful in understanding the ARL index? Do committee members have comments or questions on the mailing? Have committee members heard from other member leaders and is any additional information or response needed from this committee?

5. Annual Projects Update and Discussion: (30 minutes)
Status report on the annual surveys and opportunity for discussion.

(a) ARL Annual Salary Survey: Demographic information is being collected this year as part of a 4-year cycle.

(b) ARL Statistics, ARL Academic Law and Medical Library Statistics
Attachment 5a: 1997-98 ARL Statistics Questionnaire and Instructions

1) Volume counts for offsite or remote storage: A discussion at the previous meeting led to locating a previous committee document that addresses how members should count items sent to remote storage.

Attachment 5b: Interim Guidelines for Counting Materials Housed in Library Storage Centers

2) The definition for serials as updated in this survey may change some serial counts as electronic journals are included more routinely.

Discussion question: With a movement toward the purchase of articles independent from journals (i.e., through aggregated packages or through delivery services), is there merit in establishing categories to describe article budgets. If so, could or how could units be counted?

(c) ARL Supplementary Statistics: The Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) awarded ARL $11,800 to address how to calculate the investments libraries are making in electronic resources. Tim Jewell, ARL Visiting Program Officer, is completing work on this project.
Attachment 5c: Status report (to be distributed)
Attachment 5d: 1996-97 ARL Supplementary Statistics Questionnaire

(d) ARL Preservation Statistics: Optional data will once again be collected for digital preservation.

(e) Library Expenditures as a Percent of E&G University Expenditures: The effect of changes to IPEDS finance form appear to be generally negative for research libraries. A specific concern has arisen with respect to hospital services.
Attachment 5e: Email message from Paul Mosher

Outcome: Recommendation for E&G data collection

(f) Developing Indicators for Academic Library Performance: Ratios from the ARL Statistics 1995-96 and 1996-97: The most recent edition of this publication has been published. Complimentary copies are being sent to academic ARL members.

6. Workshops: (10 minutes)
Report on workshops held to date and recommendations for future activities.

(a) Electronic Publishing of Datasets on the WWW: The third workshop for 1998 is being held at the University of Virginia this month. Evaluations continue to be excellent and demand
continues within the library community. If the instructor is willing, workshops could still be held in 1999 by targeting the data producers as well as the library community.

(b) User Surveys: The series of workshops on user surveys was popular, but instructors felt that too much was attempted for a single day. A discussion is planned to consider a redesign and offering of this workshop.

**Discussion question:** Is this a topic still of interest to members?

**Outcome:** Recommendations for Workshops

7. **Statistics Program Web Pages:** *(10 minutes)*

This year changes have been made to both the ARL Statistics Program web site and the interactive data site at the University of Virginia. Member staff are encouraged to suggest improvements for these sites.

Attachment 7a: Selected web pages

8. **Report of Relations with External Constituencies:** *(5 minutes)*

(a) IPEDS Academic Libraries Advisory Committee: This committee is also grappling with the issue of how best to collect data about electronic resources.

Attachment 8a: IPEDS Academic Libraries Survey 1998

(b) SCONUL: SCONUL has requested ARL Program Staff attend one of their meetings in 1999 to talk about common interests in library measures.

(c) National Postsecondary Education Cooperative

Attachment 8b: November 1998 Meeting Draft Agenda

(d) NACUBO

Attachment 8c: The 1998-99 NACUBO Benchmark Program

(e) National Benchmarking Council for Higher Education: No action in 1998 to date.

9. **Information Items:** *(15 minutes)*

(a) ARL survey coordinators meetings: June 26, 1998 (Washington, DC), January 29, 1999 (Philadelphia, PA)

(b) ALA Survey of Librarian's Salaries: ALA's Office of Research is compiling its annual survey, which this year will include minority and gender information.

(c) The Association of SouthEastern Research Libraries: ASERL again used the ARL survey instrument for collection and subsequent publication of data about their members.

(d) ACRL: ACRL is planning an annual statistical survey and will use ARL's instrument.

Attachment 9a: Fact Sheet for the ACRL Academic Libraries Survey

(e) ISO Statistics Revision: A committee is revising ISO 2789, the international standard on library statistics. Preliminary efforts are to create standard terminology and add definitions for new items to be measured.

(f) Primary Research Group: A mailing from Primary Research Group advertises a budget and expenditure report for academic libraries. Previous investigation about this group reveals no information about the principal investigators and a review of a previous edition of this work indicates it is lacking in quality and reliability.

Attachment 9b: Current advertising material, pages from previous edition.
Minutes of the
ARL COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS AND MEASUREMENT
Wednesday, May 13, 1998
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Suisslaw Boardroom, Valley River Inn, Eugene, OR

Committee Members Present:
Martha Alexander, University of Missouri
Claude Bonnelly, Laval University
Cliff Haka, Michigan State University
Susan Martin, Georgetown University
Carolyne Presser, University of Manitoba
Dana Rooks, University of Houston
Carla Stoffle, University of Arizona
William Studer, Chair, Ohio State University
Julia Blixrud, ARL

Guests:
William Gosling, University of Michigan
Timothy Jewell, University of Washington (ARL Visiting Program Officer)
Wendy Kennedy, University of Western Ontario
Paul Kobulnicky, University of Connecticut (Chair, ARL Leadership and Management Committee)
Frances O'Brien, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Kendon Stubbs, University of Virginia (Committee Consultant)

Approval of Minutes and Feedback on the 1998 ARL Program Plan

William Studer, Committee Chair, convened the meeting and welcomed Committee members and guests. Martha Alexander moved approval of the minutes of the October 15, 1997 meeting and Sue Martin seconded the motion. The minutes were approved. A brief review of the program plan for 1998 was provided.

The Character and Nature of Research Library Investment in Electronic Resources

Tim Jewell, ARL Visiting Program Officer, reviewed for the Committee progress on the data collection and analysis of the 1996-97 supplementary statistics survey. He provided the Committee with two handouts showing the preliminary data and reviewed the responses with the Committee. Discussion centered on the difficulty, but necessity of gathering consortial figures for electronic investments. The Committee agreed that the question on external expenditures for hardware and software should be dropped because the data was problematic to collect and responses would be so varied as to not yield useful information. However, the Committee recommended that the collection of other external expenditures, although difficult to obtain, were necessary and member libraries should be encouraged to make the effort to provide what data they could. The data's utility would come over time. Mr. Jewell expects to finish his work on this project this fall and the questions as currently constructed will be used again in the 1997-98 supplementary questionnaire.

Counting Electronic Serials

Julia Blixrud presented a short paper on the difficulties of counting electronic serials. Committee members agreed this is a problematic area, but it is necessary for attempts to be made to rationalize some data collection.

Review of Annual Projects
The 1996-97 ARL Statistics have been published. For the next year, a new NISO standard on library statistics will be referenced. No negative implications are expected; definitions will be updated.

The Committee then turned their attention to the question of institutions that have not been reporting in the categories of purchased monographs and purchased serials. Some members are not able to report a total figure because they cannot get data from their law or medical libraries. Others just have not reported. The data is important for peer comparisons and for use in trend analysis regarding the costs of materials and the Committee recommended the ARL Board be alerted to this situation. Staff were encouraged to get necessary explanations for those who have not been able to report.

A concern about volume counts for offsite or remote storage had been raised by a member and the Committee discussed whether instructions are available for these counts and what the implications of counts are for individual institutions. [A subsequent investigation by staff has located a previous Committee document that addresses this topic.]

Another question from member institutions raised the issue of counting ILL/DD transactions and whether the instructions should be changed from keeping statistics only on filled transactions to one of all transactions in order to use for workload calculations. The Committee agreed that the data for the annual statistics was trend information regarding collections, not a workload management too and recommended no change to counting those transactions. The Committee then discussed the inclusion of patron-initiated circulation figures and agreed that since the transaction was between libraries, it should be considered an ILL transaction and the instructions should be modified to make that clarification.

Survey coordinators had been questioning how to count electronic reserves in the reserve circulation count. Several Committee members indicated they have been moving to a web-based reserve system and as such are not collecting reserve counts. The Committee agreed that the nature of reserve collections has been changing and figures for this category would not be meaningful. Rather than trying to modify the question, the Committee agreed to remove reserve circulation transactions from the annual survey.

The chair asked if there were other data that should be added to the main statistics publication. No recommendations were forthcoming. Committee members were also asked to take a look at the ratios publication to determine if there were indicators that should be emphasized or promoted along with the main statistics.

The status of the other survey publications was reviewed. The annual salary survey had asked for data on problem positions (i.e., positions that were difficult to code). Since few problem positions were identified, the Committee agreed that at this time no attempt would be made to redefine any of the position coding. It was agreed that the question could be revisited in the future.

ARL Index

After a short break, the Committee reconvened and spent some time discussing the ARL Index and responding to agenda questions about its utility and understanding among the membership. The result of the discussion was that the tool still served the purpose for which it was intended and should remain, but the Statistics and Measurement Program would continue to address the topic of other measures.

Performance Measures

The Committee then took up the topic of performance measures generally and discussed what could be done by ARL in this area. A just-published issue of the ARL newsletter provided an overview of the issues and presented information on what some groups have been doing to address the topic. Committee members commented that the meetings do not provide sufficient time for this topic and a suggestion was made that a retreat focusing specifically on performance measures would be beneficial. This idea would be taken to the ARL Board and ARL staff would take on the planning for this event. [Note: Preliminary planning for a retreat has resulted in a larger effort to be discussed at the upcoming meeting.]

Report of Relations with External Constituencies

ARL is involved either in an advisory role or has a liaison with several other national groups involved with library and education statistics. Julia Blixrud provided a review of current activities of some of those groups.

Discussion of SPARC Business Plan and a Concept Paper on a Purchasing and
Negotiating Center

The ARL Board asked all committees to spend time discussing two items for the member business meeting. The Committee spent a half-hour discussing both the SPARC business plan and a concept paper on a large-scale purchasing and negotiating center.

Information Items

In the short time remaining for the meeting, the Committee reviewed some information items. Of some interest was a publication on Inflation Measures for Schools, College, and Libraries. The compiler, Kent Halstead, had asked informally if ARL members would be interested in the development of a more specific price index for research institutions. Committee members expressed some interest and suggested that staff look into this with Mr. Halstead.

The meeting concluded with a brief update on the upcoming ARL survey coordinator meetings and Committee members were encouraged to attend this meeting to hear of the interests and concerns of that group regarding data collection.