Database bargain for students
Bell & Howell is bypassing libraries to offer students direct access to articles in one-third of its ProQuest titles for $19.95 a semester.

Reference and circulation stats drop in ARL libraries
“Starting in 1998 reference and circulation service transactions dropped back to the 1991 levels of activity.”

Bibliographies not included
Scholarly publishers, such as Oxford University Press, are producing “smaller, cheaper, more accessible book[s]” by eliminating bibliographies and publishing only the address of bibliography Web sites.

Interactive library statistics
The Geospatial and Statistical Data Center of the University of Virginia Library Statistics site includes university library data collected by James Gerould at Minnesota and Princeton from 1907-08 through 1961-62 and Association of Research Libraries Statistics data from 1961-62 through 1998-99. The interactive site allows users to manipulate queries and display data as numbers or graphs.

Gateway to peer-reviewed course modules
MERLOT (http://www.merlot.org), a nonprofit organization incorporated in February, provides links to more than 2,000 digital learning modules. “Four discipline groups have already been formed and begun their [peer] review process: Biology, Physics, Teacher Education and Business.” The addition of six more disciplines is expected by June 2001.

Librarians’ salaries 1999-2000
The median salary for directors of library services in all types of higher education institutions is $61,218.

1,000+ staff
Harvard University Library has 1,040 full-time-equivalent professional and support staff. The next largest staff in a university research library in the United States and Canada is Yale’s staff of 562.

Thanks to Mike Hanson, reference librarian at Western Wisconsin Technical College, for his contributions and suggestions.

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March 10, 2000. Esteemed faculty member throws tantrum over missing volume.


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Libraries are the campus nerve center, tying all departments and disciplines together by their common need for information. As a clearinghouse for all kinds of information, libraries need to provide tools that make information easy to access and understand. One of these is a geographic information system (GIS). A GIS turns ordinary databases into interactive maps and provides tools to query those databases in ways not possible with traditional spreadsheets. A GIS is useful to students and researchers in any discipline from agriculture to zoology. Providing a GIS workstation at the library makes these tools available to the entire campus community, not just one or two departments.

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