Fast Facts

Public Web sites decreasing
OCLC's Web Characterization Project (WCP) estimates the number of public Web sites has decreased by one percent from 3,119,000 in 2001 to 3,080,000 in June 2002.

University press book prices
The Association of American University Presses has published the first results from a study of university press book pricing practices over a 12-year period from 1989–2000. The data, based on the average prices of books purchased from Yankee Book Peddler Library Services, show that “overall, university presses posted a 13.6 percent increase in average suggested retail prices between 1999 and 2000,” while commercial scholarly presses posted a 23.1 percent increase, and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 38.9 percent.

Dramatic increase in e-book sales
The monthly sales report of the Association of American Publishers (AAP) shows a 1,447.4 percent increase in e-book net sales from $211,000 in January 2002 to $3.3 million in January 2003.

Student use of Internet Public Library
According to a recent notice in Library Journal, the Internet Public Library “gets 12 million hits a month, one quarter from outside the United States and one-half of them from students working on reports.”

State support for Arkansas public libraries drops
According to a report in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, state aid to public libraries in Arkansas dropped from $4.9 million in 2001 to $2 million in 2002 and $500,000 in 2003, a decrease of almost 90 percent.

College textbooks
A recent report by the National Association of College Stores estimates store sales for college textbooks and course materials during 2000–2001 totaled $7.1 billion (new texts, $5.2 billion; used texts, $1.8 billion; and course packs, $0.1 billion).

Internet providing war information
A recent survey of online Americans finds 77 percent “have used the Internet in connection with the war in Iraq.” Seventeen percent “say their principal source of information about the war is the Internet.”

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