Sources of Statistics on Academic Libraries

Sandy Whiteley
ACRL Program Officer

ACRL has long been interested in providing compilations of statistical data for academic libraries. For instance, for non-ARL university libraries, ACRL published ACRL University Library Statistics for 1978–1979 and 1981–1982 (see below). In order to determine what other statistical services ACRL should be providing for members, an ACRL Task Force on Statistics, chaired by George Bailey, Claremont Colleges, California, has been established and will report its recommendations to the ACRL Board in Los Angeles. For that Task Force I have put together a list of sources of statistics on academic libraries. What follows is a slightly expanded, though still far from complete, version of that list. I would appreciate hearing about other compilations of academic library statistics which are not included here.

The following information is arranged in four categories: national collections of data; regional collections of data; state collections of data; and collections for special types of libraries (e.g., undergraduate libraries, medical school libraries). If no price is given for published data, it is assumed to be free.

National Collections of Data

National Center for Education Statistics. This federal agency surveys academic libraries, usually biennially, as part of the Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS). The most recent survey was done for the year 1981–82 but the data has not yet been released. Computer tapes with the data may be available sometime this summer; the earliest possible date for publication of the final report is Fall 1983. For an historical overview of the NCES survey, see Frank Schick, “Developments in Library Statistical Activities,” Bowker Annual, 27th ed., 1982, pp. 309–312.

The most recent published NCES survey for academic libraries, Library Statistics of Colleges and Universities, covers the academic year 1978–79 and was released in 1982. It includes data on 2,945 institutions. The NCES surveys are usually published in two parts: Institutional Data and Trends and Summary Data. The Institutional Data for 1978–79 is available from ERIC as ED 215 679 for 83¢ in microfiche and $12.32 in hard copy. It is also

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Four ACRL Publications
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Statistics, cont'd

available from NTIS under accession number PB82169807 for $4 in microfiche and $16.50 in paper. The Trends and Summary Data volume is also usually published by the government; however, the 1978–79 summary data was published by ACRL. It is available as Library Statistics of Colleges and Universities: Summary Data, 1979, prepaid from ACRL, $10 for ACRL members and $13 for non-members. It has 185 pages of tables which summarize the Institutional Data, giving medians, quartiles, and other distributions.

Further information on NCES surveys is available from Richard Beazley at the National Center for Education Statistics in Washington at (301) 436-6662.

American Library Association. The ALA Survey of Librarian Salaries, by Mary Jo Lynch, Margaret Myers, and Jeneice Guy, was done for the first time in 1982 and is intended to be biennial. It contains salaries for 13 professional positions in three types of academic libraries in four regions of the United States. It is available from ALA Publishing, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611 for $40.

For additional salary information, see the ARL Salary Survey below.

Association of College and Research Libraries. ARL University Library Statistics 1981–1982 is based on the annual survey done by the Association of Research Libraries (see below). Ninety-two libraries in Ph.D.-granting institutions in the United States and Canada which do not belong to ARL responded to a questionnaire based on the ARL model. Data is given on collections, expenditures, staff, and interlibrary loan. There are also rank order tables and medians for each factor. An ACR hundred Index was devised which ranks the libraries on an overall measure of size. ACR University Library Statistics 1981–1982 is available prepaid from ACR, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611 at $12 for ACR members and $15 for non-members. Copied of the 1978–1979 survey are still available for $1 prepaid.


From 1919 to 1962–63 data on ARL libraries was collected by the Princeton University Library and is available now from University Microfilms International. ARL started publishing its annual Salary Survey in 1967–68 and it costs $10 a year.

Bowker. Bowker collects statistical data to be published with each entry in the American Library Directory. Only the figures for acquisitions are published in an aggregated form (academic libraries by state) in the Bowker Annual each year. Bowker is considering leasing tapes which contain their statistical data. For more information, contact Gary Ink at Bowker.

Canadian Association of Research Libraries. Geoffrey Briggs, university librarian at Carleton University, gathers data annually for the Association. It is not published.

Council of Independent Colleges. The Council maintains a computerized database which libraries can participate in for a fee. Each library can then be compared with similar institutions. The data is not published. Librarians wanting more information should contact Willis Hubbard, college librarian at Gettysburg College.

Bowdoin List. This data is collected annually by Arthur Monke, librarian at Bowdoin College. It covers 37 small private colleges and is unpublished.


Regional Lists

Pacific Northwest Library Association. Library Statistics of Colleges and Universities in the Pacific Northwest 1980–81 was compiled by James D. Lockwood for the Academic Division of PNLA in cooperation with the Interinstitutional Library Council of the Oregon State System of Higher Education. It is available for $7 from the Interinstitutional Library Council, Kerr Library, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331. Checks should be made out to PNLA. This survey, which was done once before in 1978–79, covers 138 institutions in the United States and Canada and is based on ARL Statistics.

Library Data: Associated Colleges of the Midwest and Library Data: Great Lakes College Association. These surveys are compiled annually by Dennis Ribles, Librarian, Lawrence University, Box 599, Appleton, WI 54912. They cover 25 small, private liberal arts colleges in the Midwest.

Statistics of Southern College and University Libraries. This has been published annually since 1960 by the Louisiana State University Library, Baton Rouge. It covers 50 institutions from Maryland to Florida and as far west as Texas.

Association of Southeastern Academic and Research Libraries. Thirty-two libraries in nine states contribute to this survey which is only available to members. For more information, contact Lester Pourciau, director of libraries, Memphis State University.
STATE SURVEYS

Almost every state publishes a statistical compilation, but in many cases it only includes public libraries. In some other cases, academic libraries are included but there is only directory-type information. For this reason, these collections are not cited here. The following states are rumored to publish statistical compilations which include academic libraries but they are not held by the ALA Headquarters Library and I have not been able to examine them: Indiana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Washington (community colleges only), and Wisconsin. If any readers have access to these publications, I would very much appreciate receiving information about them.


University of California Library Statistics. Available from the Office of the Assistant Vice-President, Library Plans and Policies, University of California Systemwide Administration, Berkeley. Gives information on the 10 universities which make up the University of California.


Illinois. “Higher Education General Information Survey,” Illinois Libraries, 64 (September 1982):889–910. This is the data which was submitted to NCES by 14 publicly supported institutions in Illinois but which has not yet been published by NCES.


North Carolina. Statistics of North Carolina University and College Libraries (7p.), Division of State Library, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. Covers over 100 institutions, including community and technical colleges.

Ohio. Statistics of Ohio Libraries, State Library of Ohio, Columbus. There is a 22-page section on academic libraries covering 100 institutions, both public and private. Includes rankings of libraries by enrollment, total volumes, expenditures.


SPECIAL TYPES OF LIBRARIES

Undergraduate. “Statistical Issue,” UGLI Newsletter. January of each year. A publication of the Undergraduate Librarians Discussion Group of ACRL, the Statistical Issue is compiled by Donna Senzigi. The Newsletter is available from the editor, Roland Person, Undergraduate Library, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL 62901. Fifty-nine pages of detailed data on the undergraduate libraries of 30 institutions.


More Exchanges

The British Library Association and its International and Comparative Librarianship Group have set up a special bureau to assist two-way exchanges, for British librarians wishing to work abroad and for librarians from other countries who wish to work in Britain, by putting them in touch with suitable exchange partners. The Bureau for International Library Staff Exchange (LIBEX) is operating for an experimental period at the College of Librarianship Wales. In 1983–1985 the Bureau will confine its activities to exchanges between Britain and four other countries only: the United States, Canada, France, and West Germany. Interested exchangers should write to A. Hillier, Bureau for International Library Staff Exchange, College of Librarianship Wales, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3AS, Great Britain. Inquirers will be sent a form to complete giving details of the job they wish to exchange. An abstract of each will be placed in library journals either in Britain or the most appropriate country. Librarians writing in response to an abstract will be sent a copy of the original form and will be asked to contact the originator of the form if they wish to pursue an exchange.
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