

Academic Library Data *Federal Library Data* *Library
Cooperative Data* *Public Library Data* *School Library
Media Center Data* *State Library Agency Data* *Academic
Library Data* *Federal Library Data* *Library Cooperative
Data* *Public Library Data* *School Library Media Center
Data* *State Library Agency Data* *Academic Library Data*

LIBRARY STATISTICS COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

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1999

LIBRARY STATISTICS COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

The Library Statistics Cooperative Program depends on collaboration with all types of libraries and all levels of government. The following organizations have a key role in its success.

NCES Role: The mandate of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to collect library statistics is included in the National Education Statistics Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-382). The Library Statistics Cooperative Program is administered and funded by the NCES, which regularly collects and disseminates statistical information on libraries under six surveys. These surveys include the Public Libraries Survey, the Academic Libraries Survey, the School Library Media Centers Survey, the State Library Agencies Survey, the Federal Libraries Survey, and the Library Cooperatives Survey. The National Center for Education Statistics also sponsors data analysis projects, meetings, training workshops, training and technical assistance grants, and a newsletter. Library data and analyses are used by federal, state, and local officials, professional associations, and local practitioners, and researchers for policy, planning, evaluation, research, and drawing samples for special surveys.

NCLIS Role: The U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) works cooperatively with NCES in implementing the Library Statistics Cooperative Program. NCLIS serves as a liaison to the library community, organizes meetings and training workshops, organizes training and technical assistance, monitors trends, and advises NCES on policy matters.

Bureau of the Census Role: The Bureau of the Census works cooperatively with NCES in implementing the Library Statistics Cooperative Program. The Bureau of the Census plays a key role in data collection, and processing.

Partners in Cooperation:

- ◆ Coordinators, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)
- ◆ Federal Librarians
- ◆ Federal-State Cooperative System (FSCS)
Data Use Task Force, FSCS State Data Coordinators, FSCS Steering Committee
- ◆ Library Cooperatives Survey data providers
- ◆ Library Representatives, Academic Libraries Survey
- ◆ Local public, school, and academic library data providers

Other Cooperating Organizations:

The following organizations perform a variety of activities that contribute to the development of the Library Statistics Cooperative Program:

- ◆ American Association of School Librarians (AASL)
- ◆ American Library Association (ALA)
- ◆ Advisory Committee on Academic Library Statistics; Office of Research and Statistics
- ◆ Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)
- ◆ Association of Research Libraries (ARL)
- ◆ Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA)
- ◆ Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA)
- ◆ Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Office of Library Programs (OLP)
- ◆ Library of Congress (LC) Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC)
- ◆ National Education Data Resource Center (NEDRC)
- ◆ Public Library Association (PLA)
- ◆ State Library Administrative Agencies (SLAA)
- ◆ U.S. Department of Education Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI),
The National Institute on Postsecondary Education, Libraries, and Lifelong Learning
(PLLI); The National Library of Education

ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

The NCES Library Statistics Cooperative Program collects statistics about all types of libraries. These statistics are available to answer your questions. For example:

ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

- ◆ How many volumes are in the collections of academic libraries?
- ◆ How many items per year do academic libraries circulate?

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

- ◆ What are the total annual operating incomes of public libraries?
- ◆ How many branches, bookmobiles, and other public library service outlets are operated by public libraries?
- ◆ How many books and other items do public libraries circulate in a year?
- ◆ What is the nationwide attendance at children's programs?
- ◆ How many people visit public libraries annually?

SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS

- ◆ How many school library media specialists are on elementary and secondary school staffs?
- ◆ How do expenditures for school library media center services relate to total school expenditures?

STATE LIBRARY AGENCIES

- ◆ Under what branches of state government do state library agencies operate?
- ◆ What services do state library agencies provide?

FEDERAL LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTERS

- ◆ What are typical services of federal libraries and information centers?
- ◆ To what degree do they serve the general public?
- ◆ What types of electronic services are provided?

LIBRARY COOPERATIVES

- ◆ What types of libraries, and how many of each type, are members of library cooperatives?
- ◆ What are the principal types of services provided?

Plans for Expanded NCES-NCLIS Library Statistics Cooperative Program

NCES and NCLIS are working with constituent groups from all the surveys in planning an expanded library statistics cooperative. The goal is to facilitate work on crosscutting issues without interfering with the ability of existing constituent groups to continue their work on individual surveys. Ideas include expanding participation to add local practitioners, experts from allied professions such as publishing and technology, more data users, and possibly the media. One advantage of an expanded cooperative will be the opportunity to address crosscutting policy issues, identify and address data gaps, and encourage participation by diverse groups and all levels of government.

Crosscutting activities in progress

- ◆ Enhanced website for six library surveys (1999)
- ◆ Web-based tool for comparison of definitions across surveys (2000);
- ◆ Digest of Libraries (2001)

About the NCES Library Statistics Program Surveys:

PUBLIC LIBRARIES SURVEY

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| Frequency of data collection: | Annual |
| Year survey began: | 1988 |
| Number of public libraries reporting: | Nearly 9,000 nationwide |
| Type of data collected - public libraries: | Identifying information; staffing; number of service outlets; operating income and expenditures; size of collection; administrative structure; geographic area served; and service measures, such as library visits, reference transactions, interlibrary loans, circulation, public service hours per year, circulation of children's materials, and children's program attendance; interlibrary relationship; legal basis; population of legal service area; Internet access: Internet use by staff and/or patrons; number of Internet PCs used by staff only; number of Internet PCs used by general public; access to electronic services; number of and expenditures for electronic library materials; operating expenditures for electronic access. |
| Type of data collected - public library service outlets: | Identifying information, including web address; location of outlet relative to a metropolitan area. |
| How collected: | Electronically via the Federal-State Cooperative System (FSCS) for Public Library Data. The Federal-State Cooperative System is administered by NCES in cooperation with NCLIS. At the state level and in the outlying areas, FSCS is administered by data coordinators, appointed by each state or outlying area's chief officer of the state library agency. The Federal-State Cooperative System is a working network. For example, some data collection is being done via the Internet. The National Center for Education Statistics has also implemented an early release policy for public library data. Data provided by states are provided over the Internet as received at NCES. This is preliminary data and subject to revision until replaced by a final fully edited data file. An annual training conference is provided for the state data coordinators, and a steering committee that represents them and other interested organizations is active in the development of the Public Libraries Survey and its software. |
| Reports: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E.D. TABS (annual) How does your library compare (1998) • Public library inflation index (1999) • Use of public library services by households in the United States: 1996 • Trend analysis report on public libraries (in progress, 2000) • Programming for adults in public library outlets (in progress, 2000) |
| Website data access tools (in progress) | Public library peer comparison (1999) Geographic mapping of public libraries (2000) Library locator for public libraries (1999) |
| File available? | Yes, survey-universe file |
| NCES staff: | Adrienne Chute: 202-219-1772; adrienne_chute@ed.gov Elaine Kroe: 202-219-1361; patricia_kroe@ed.gov |

STATE LIBRARY AGENCIES SURVEY

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| Frequency of data collection: | Annual |
| Year survey began: | 1994 |
| Number of state library agencies reporting: | 50 states and the District of Columbia |
| Type of data collected: | Direct library services; library development services; resources assigned to allied operations such as archive and records management; organizational and governance structure within which the agency operates; electronic services and information; staffing; collections; income and expenditures. |
| How collected: | Electronically from each of the state library agencies. These are the units of state government designated by law as the state agency responsible for statewide library development and administering federal funds under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). |
| Reports: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E.D. TABS (annual) |
| File available? | Yes, survey-universe file |
| NCES staff | Elaine Kroe: 202-219-1361; patricia_kroe@ed.gov |

SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS SURVEY

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| Frequency of data collection: | Every five years; next survey planned for 1999-2000. |
| Year survey began: | 1991 |
| Number of school library media centers reporting: | A sample of 5,000 public schools, 2,500 private schools, and 176 Bureau of Indian Affairs schools. |
| Type of data collected: | Expenditures; staffing; collections, technology; and services |
| How collected: | In school year 1993-94, NCES, with the assistance of the U.S. Bureau of the Census, conducted this survey as part of the 1994 Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS). |
| Reports: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Library Media Centers: 1993-94 (1998) |
| File available? | Yes, survey file on a sample of schools (1998). User's must be licensed with NCES because of confidentiality concerns. |
| NCES staff: | Jeffrey Williams: 202-219-1362; jeffrey_williams@ed.gov |

ACADEMIC LIBRARIES SURVEY

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| Frequency of data collection: | Biennial (planned for annual collection beginning 2001, pending funding.) |
| Year survey began: | 1988 |
| Number of academic libraries reporting: | About 3,500 |
| Type of data collected: | Total operating expenditures; full-time equivalent library staff; service outlets; total volumes held at the end of the fiscal year; circulation; interlibrary loans; public service hours; gate count; reference transactions per typical week; and on-line services. Beginning in 1996 the libraries were asked whether they offered the following electronic services: an electronic catalog that includes the library's holdings; electronic full-text periodicals; Internet access; library reference services by e-mail; electronic document delivery to patron's account/address. |
| How Collected: | The Academic Libraries Survey (ALS) is a component of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). An Internet web-based data collection is planned beginning with the fall 2000 survey. The Academic Libraries Survey has established a steering committee composed of representatives of the academic library community. A network of academic library professionals works closely with state IPEDS coordinators (representatives from each state who work with NCES to coordinate the collection of IPEDS data from academic libraries in postsecondary institutions in each of their states). |
| Reports: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E.D. TABS (biennial) • The status of academic libraries in the U.S., Results from the 1994 Academic Library Survey with historical comparisons. |
| File available? | Yes, survey-universe file |
| Website data access tools (in progress) | Academic libraries peer comparison tool (2000) |
| NCES staff: | Jeffrey Williams: 202-219-1362; jeffrey_williams@ed.gov |

FEDERAL LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTERS SURVEY

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| Frequency of data collection: | Every five years. Next survey planned for 2001, pending funding. |
| Year survey began: | 1994 |
| Number of federal libraries and information centers reporting: | 1,234 nationwide; elementary and secondary school libraries under federal agency operation are excluded. |
| Type of data collected: | Mission; functions; expenditures; staffing; collections; services; automation; technology; and preservation. |
| How collected: | Cooperative effort with the Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC) of the Library of Congress. Data are collected by mail by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, acting as agent for NCES. |
| Reports: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E.D. TABS (every 5 years) • Status of Federal Libraries and Information Centers in the United States; results from the 1994 Federal Libraries and Information Centers Survey (June 1997) • Directory (every 5 years) |
| File available? | Yes, survey-universe file |
| NCES staff: | Jeffrey Williams: 202-219-1362; jeffrey_williams@ed.gov |

LIBRARY COOPERATIVES SURVEY

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| Frequency of data collection: | Every five years. |
| Year survey began: | 1997 |
| Number of library cooperatives reporting: | Approximately 400 nationwide. |
| Type of data collected: | Cooperative membership; collections; income; operating expenditures; capital expenditures; staffing; library support services/activities; and electronic services and activities. |
| How collected: | This survey was fielded in paper and electronic formats in 1998 by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, acting as agent for NCES. The survey collects data from nonprofit organizations with membership, of primarily libraries. The library cooperative must have its own budget and paid staff and serve multiple institutions (e.g., libraries, school districts) not under the organization's administrative control. Functions of the cooperative must include resource sharing, training, planning, and/or advocacy. |
| Reports: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E.D. TABS (every 5 years) |
| File available? | Survey file and universe file in development |
| NCES staff: | Rosa Fernandez: 202-219-1358; rosa_fernandez@ed.gov |

How to Access Data

Under its six library surveys, NCES regularly publishes E.D. TABS which consist of tables, usually presenting state and national totals, a survey description, and data highlights. NCES also publishes separate, more in-depth studies analyzing these data. Many of these publications are available in printed format and over the Internet. Edited raw data from the library surveys are made available on data diskettes and over the Internet at <http://www.nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/search.asp>.

NCES Library Statistics Program Website

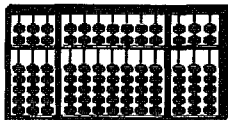
The NCES Library Statistics Program website is at <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries>. Each library survey and supporting materials are located at this website.

Ordering Publications and Data Sets

To order more recent publications, write to: U.S. Department of Education, ED Pubs, P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794-1398 or call toll-free 1-877-4-ED-Pubs.

For Help Obtaining Reports, Data Files, Special Tabulations, and Help with Internet

An information service called the National Education Data Resource Center (NEDRC) is available to assist library survey customers. The NEDRC helps customers obtain NCES reports and data files through the Internet. The NEDRC also responds to requests for special tabulations on library studies and surveys. These services are free of charge. Contact the NEDRC at 1900 N. Beauregard St., Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22311-1722, telephone 703-845-3151, fax 703-820-7465, or email: nedrc@pcci.com.



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