



ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES

October 16, 2006

To: Directors of ARL Libraries

From: Martha Kyrrillidou, Director of the ARL Statistics and Service Quality Programs

Re: ARL Statistics 2005-06 (including Law and Health Sciences)
ARL Supplementary Statistics 2005-06
ARL Preservation Statistics 2005-06

The ARL Statistics 2005-06 survey forms are now available on the web through the StatsQUAL+™ gateway. We have provided some additional enhancements to the data entry interface this year based on the feedback we received last year.

All surveys are due no later than January 30, 2007. For the 2005–06 survey cycle, each ARL library's primary contact will need to login and ensure that the appropriate contacts are listed under your StatsQUAL™ account. We are planning to eliminate the use of the arl-statsurvey and arl-statpresv electronic mailing lists and rely on the directory of contacts listed in the StatsQUAL™ interface for future communication purposes. Therefore it is critical that each ARL institution ensures that the right person(s) has access to the StatsQUAL™ interface. We are separately notifying institutional survey coordinators of this change. If you do not know your current primary contact and password or have other questions about the StatsQUAL™ system, please contact Mark Young, ARL Statistics Liaison, stats-ra@arl.org.

The web interface allows you to collect data separately for the main, law and health sciences library and then aggregates this information in a summary page automatically. The surveys collect the same information as last year. This year when entering the data you will be able to see in the summary tab a comparison of last year's data to this year's data! We hope this feature will help improve the reliability of the submitted data. We would like to encourage you to review your final data with you senior staff and resolve any questions to your satisfaction before completion. A comparison of this year's reporting to last year will be helpful and we do provide general guidelines regarding what might be excessive increases or decreases from year to year.

We would like to remind you that last year we revised the instructions so that libraries should report electronic serial subscriptions that are bundled with print subscriptions under serials purchased. We did this for a number of reasons. First, many libraries are having difficulty separating the expenditures for print and electronic subscriptions especially when bundled together with a small surcharge. Second, electronic subscriptions are increasingly being mainstreamed. And, third, the emerging possibility of canceling print in favor of electronic is making the electronic subscription the primary purchased unit.

A webcast training session will be held on **December 5, 2006** to review the process of collecting the annual survey data. More information about the webcast, including the registration process, will be made available on the ARL Statistics and Measurement Program website.

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All needed documents for completing the annual surveys are available at the following locations:

ARL Statistics

<http://www.arl.org/stats/mailing/m06/06arlstatistics.pdf>

ARL Statistics Instructions

<http://www.arl.org/stats/mailing/m06/06instruct.pdf>

Main Library Worksheet

<http://www.arl.org/stats/mailing/m06/06main.pdf>

Law Library Worksheet

<http://www.arl.org/stats/mailing/m06/06law.pdf>

Health Sciences Library Worksheet

<http://www.arl.org/stats/mailing/m06/06med.pdf>

ARL Supplementary Statistics worksheet and instructions

<http://www.arl.org/stats/mailing/m06/06ssurvey.pdf>

ARL Preservation Statistics worksheet and instructions

<http://www.arl.org/stats/mailing/m06/06psurvey.pdf>

<http://www.arl.org/stats/mailing/m06/06pinstruct.pdf>

Instructions for Submitting ARL Statistics on the World Wide Web

<http://www.arl.org/stats/mailing/m06/webinstruct.pdf>

We plan to complete all follow-up calls and verification for the main statistics by the end of February. This will ensure timely distribution of the data – particularly important for those of you who plan to use the data for legislative and budget discussions in early 2007.

As always, we are very interested in improving our services to you. If you have any suggestions about this survey cycle or the ARL Statistics and Measurement Program in general, you can reach me by email at martha@arl.org. Thank you very much for your support and for making the ARL annual statistical compilations possible.