



ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES

December 4, 2007

To: Directors of ARL Libraries

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

Re: ARL Statistics 2006-07 (including Law and Health Sciences)
ARL Supplementary Statistics 2006-07
ARL Preservation Statistics 2006-07

*** All surveys are due by January 30, 2008.**

The ARL Statistics 2006-07 survey forms are available on the web through a new extensible StatsQUAL+® gateway. There are two main changes this year: (a) the instructions related to serial titles were revised to reflect the need to report all serial titles primarily as electronic and in a de-duped fashion, and (b) the web form workflow was adjusted to give more responsibility to the primary contact from each institution in managing and submitting the data.

The ARL Statistics survey form in particular has been revised to reflect a number of key changes in the way we collect serials as discussed at the ARL membership meetings. An extensive ARL Statistics FAQ document is accompanying the survey forms providing insights on how to count ebooks, electronic serial titles, and digitization activities through the Google and Open Content Alliance activities. We organized a series of training sessions providing background on the changes implemented, the new ARL Expenditures-focused index and the future directions of experimentation as we attempt to identify more robust variables that describe (a) services, (b) collections and (c) collaborative relations.

The Web form workflow reflects the extended responsibility of the primary contact at each institution. The primary contact is responsible for adding survey users and managing the branch level information as well as completing the final review and submission of data to ARL. Please note that the primary contact can be a different person for each survey. In launching our system we have assigned primary contact duties to the same designated person for all three surveys: ARL Statistics (including Law and Health), Supplementary Statistics and Preservation Statistics. Detailed 'Instructions for Submitting the ARL Statistics Data Online' are provided explaining the functionality of the new system. The Web interface allows you to collect data separately for the branches, such as law and health sciences libraries, and then aggregates this information automatically. As in the past, the primary contact will be able to see 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.

(over, please)

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Please take the time to review your final data with all your senior staff and resolve any questions to your satisfaction before completion. Note that we do provide general guidelines regarding what might be excessive increases or decreases from year to year.

A webcast was held on **December 4, 2007** to review the process of collecting the annual survey data. The recorded presentation is available on the Web site together with all the needed documents for completing the annual surveys:

<http://www.arl.org/stats/annualsurveys/arlstats/07statmail.shtml>

ARL Statistics FAQ

http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/statsfaq_dec3.pdf

ARL Statistics (use also for Law and Health Sciences Libraries as well)

http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/07arlstatistics_final.pdf

ARL Statistics Instructions

http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/07instruct_final.pdf

ARL Supplementary Statistics worksheet and instructions

http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/07ssurvey_final.pdf

ARL Preservation Statistics worksheet and instructions

<http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/07psurvey.pdf>

<http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/07pinstruct.pdf>

Instructions for Submitting ARL Statistics on the World Wide Web

<http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/07webinstruct.pdf>

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.