



ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES

December 4, 2008

To: Directors of ARL Libraries

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

Re: ARL Statistics 2007-08 (including Law and Health Sciences)
ARL Supplementary Statistics 2007-08
ARL Preservation Statistics 2007-08

*** All surveys are due by January 30, 2009.**

The ARL Statistics 2007-08 survey forms are available on the web through an extensible StatsQUAL+® gateway that houses the ARL Statistics web data entry interface.

There are two changes this year:

(a) the categories under “serial titles received, not purchased” were revised to streamline data collection. This change reflects recommendations from the Ad Hoc Task Force on Best Practices for Counting Serial Titles adopted by the ARL Statistics and Assessment Committee.

(b) the web workflow has been enhanced to allow ready access of the data as soon as they are submitted both for your library’s data and for other ARL libraries’ data. All system users have “view” access to the submitted data.

Directors of ARL libraries will receive an email invitation; please respond to the email invitation you receive to activate your account. Once you login into the system, you may access data from the ‘Data Repository’ link on your left.

*** What the system allows you to do:**

The Web interface allows you to report data separately for the branches, such as law and health sciences libraries, and then it aggregates this information automatically. You will be able to see a comparison of last year’s data to this year’s data to help you identify trends for your institution as well as other ARL libraries. This feature improves the reliability of the submitted data and allows us to edit the data after you have thoroughly vetted them. Note that we do provide general guidelines regarding what might be excessive increases or decreases from year to year. **IMPORTANT: the data are not final until ARL produces the print publication.**

Please take the time to review your final data with all your senior staff and resolve any questions to your satisfaction before final submission to ARL. The designated primary contact for your institution is the person who is responsible for the final submission to ARL. A list of all

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the primary contacts is provided on the web together with copies of all the materials that accompany this mailing.

A webcast will held on **December 10, 2008** to highlight the work of the Ad Hoc Task Force on Best Practices for Counting Serials. The recorded presentation will be available on the Web. The Ad Hoc Task Force chaired by Sherrie Schmidt (Arizona State) was convened to address concerns libraries were having with the transition from counting serial subscriptions to counting serial titles. The data collected in the 2006-07 ARL Statistics show that more libraries are reporting serial titles compared to the number of libraries that used to report serial subscriptions; as a result the change in the serials definition is producing more data.

All the needed documents for completing the annual surveys are available at:
<http://www.arl.org/stats/annualsurveys/arlstats/08statmail.shtml>

ARL Statistics FAQ
<http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/08statisfaq.pdf>

ARL Statistics worksheet (use also for Law and Health Sciences Libraries as well)
<http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/08arlstatistics.pdf>

ARL Statistics Instructions
<http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/08instruct.pdf>

ARL Supplementary Statistics worksheet and instructions
<http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/08ssurvey.pdf>

ARL Preservation Statistics worksheet and instructions
<http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/08psurvey.pdf>
<http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/08pinstruct.pdf>

Instructions for Submitting ARL Statistics on the World Wide Web
<http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/08webinstruct.pdf>

You can download last year's publication tables at:
ARL Statistics: <http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/07tables.xls>
ARL Academic Health Science Library Statistics: <http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/medtab07.xls>
ARL Academic Law Library Statistics: <http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/lawtab07.xls>
We are finalizing the pdf version of these files as well in the coming days.

As always, we are very interested in improving our services to you and making the data available to you as soon as possible. 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.