

RESEARCH LIBRARY SPENDING ON ELECTRONIC SCHOLARLY INFORMATION IS ON THE RISE

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How much do libraries spend on electronic resources? Librarians are interested in knowing how much libraries spend on electronic resources and whether their level of investment is on par with other institutions and their peers. But in addition to librarians, many information industry analysts are trying to estimate the extent of the electronic publishing market-especially commercial electronic scholarly publishing-and the speed with which it is growing, using libraries' experience as a proxy in the absence of other indicators.

In 1997-98, Timothy Jewell of the University of Washington analyzed the ARL Supplementary Statistics data in an attempt to answer questions about how research libraries are spending money on electronic scholarly information. [The table presented here](#) is an update of some of the trends he originally identified. To understand the caveats and measurement issues related to the ARL Supplementary Statistics data, see <http://www.arl.org/stats/specproj/jewell.html>.

Experimental data collected by ARL libraries over the last decade indicate that the portion of the library materials budget that is spent on electronic resources is indeed growing rapidly, from an estimated 3.6% in 1992-93 to 10.56% in 1998-99. In 1998-99, 105 ARL university libraries reported spending over \$77 million on electronic resources with the majority of spending being on electronic serials and subscription services. Thirty-seven ARL libraries also reported another \$7.4 million expended on their behalf through centrally funded consortia.

In addition to library materials funds, libraries spent \$10 million for document delivery and interlibrary loan activities and \$19 million for bibliographic utilities, networks, and consortia in 1998-99. These expenditures come from the library's operating budget and exclude staff costs.

The current data from the Supplementary Statistics cannot answer all of our questions but they do tell us that libraries are spending rapidly increasing amounts of money for electronic information resources; the percent of the library materials budget is one indicator telling that story.

The *ARL Supplementary Statistics 1998-99* is available for \$44 to member libraries and \$100 to nonmembers (plus \$6 shipping and handling per publication), and is available on standing order. For ordering information, please contact [ARL Publications](#). For more information about the ARL Supplementary Statistics, see <http://www.arl.org/stats/arlstat/#sup>.

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