

ACRL/ALA/ARL Joint Advisory Task Force on IPEDS Academic Libraries Component Definitions, 2019–2022

Purpose

Through the ACRL/ALA/ARL IPEDS Advisory Task Force, ARL, ALA, and ACRL impact the structure and content of the Academic Libraries component of the IPEDS survey and ensure that it is up to date and in line with current library practices. The Task Force also advises the U.S. Department of Education on the collection of valid, robust, relevant data about U.S. academic libraries.

Charge

The current Advisory Task Force will develop recommendations regarding definitional issues surrounding the nuances of shared print and electronic collections by August 31, 2022. The Task Force will also make recommendations regarding definitional issues and responses to questions raised by the academic library community in the 2020 and 2021 survey cycles. The following principles guide the work of the Advisory Task Force:

- The Advisory Task Force works to ensure that IPEDS Academic Library Survey data will be collected in a way that is not overly burdensome to library staff who report the data.
- The revised definition(s) and FAQ will yield data that are useful for benchmarking among academic libraries.
- The resulting data will be useful for parents and students conducting college comparisons and research into institutions of interest.
- And for this specific iteration of the Task Force: The data will allow libraries, parents, and students to distinguish between items that are in each academic library's collection and items that are shared among institutions.

Membership

- An ARL director and an appointee from ACRL serve as co-chairs for the Advisory Task Force. There will be no vice chairs or past co-chairs.
- The Advisory Task Force has 10-12 members including ARL and ACRL library staff, the IPEDS Academic Libraries coordinator, and staff leads from ARL and ACRL
- ACRL ensures that community college libraries and baccalaureate schools are represented on the Task Force.

- The senior director of research and analytics serves as staff lead or delegates as appropriate.
- Advisory Task Force co-chairs and members are selected through a combination of purposeful selection from subject matter experts in the focus area of the task force and in response to a call for interest issued by the senior director of research and analytics.

Terms

- The Advisory Task Force itself is renewable at the conclusion of years one and two.
- Co-chairs and Advisory Task Force members serve three-year terms.
- The ARL staff lead serves on the committee until reassigned or leaves the Association.

Meetings

Meeting frequency varies and is determined by each Advisory Task Force based on availability of members and in view of the federal reporting timeline shared by the IPEDS Academic Libraries coordinator.

Areas of Responsibility

- Provide vital guidance to the IPEDS Academic Libraries Component coordinator by obtaining and sharing feedback and questions from the ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics Survey Editorial Board, the ARL Research and Analytics Committee, the Survey Coordinator groups of both organizations, and the academic library community at large with the IPEDS AL coordinator.
- Use this feedback and leverage the expertise of Task Force members to develop recommendations and/or clarifications regarding current and new IPEDS AL component definitions.
- Develop and deliver strategic and timely webcasts on significant changes to the IPEDS AL definitions.
- Task Force members may also identify and explore other deliverables of benefit to the assessment community.
- Staff leads will discuss recommendations with the ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics Survey Editorial Board, the ALA Research and Statistics Committee, the ARL Research and Analytics Committee, and other appropriate staff throughout the project.

Decision-Making

The committee makes recommendations to the ARL executive director and the IPEDS Academic Library Component coordinator, some of which are subsequently reviewed by OMB.

Code of Conduct

The Advisory Task Force adheres to the ALA Code of Ethics and the ARL Code of Conduct in all of its deliberations and activities.