

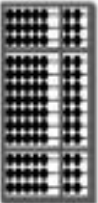
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# LIBRARY STATISTICS COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

Prepared for the  
National Center for Education Statistics  
by the  
U.S. National Commission on  
Libraries and Information Science

2002–2003

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## LIBRARY STATISTICS COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

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The Library Statistics Cooperative Program depends on collaboration with all types of libraries and all levels of government. The following organizations have a key role in its success.

**NCES Role:** The mandate of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to collect library statistics is included in the National Education Statistics Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-382). The Library Statistics Cooperative Program is administered and funded by the NCES, which regularly collects and disseminates statistical information on libraries under four surveys. These surveys include the Public Libraries Survey, the Academic Libraries Survey, the School Library Media Centers Survey, and the State Library Agencies Survey. The National Center for Education Statistics also sponsors data analysis projects, meetings, training workshops, and training and technical assistance grants. Library data and analyses are used by federal, state, and local officials, professional associations, and local practitioners, and researchers for policy, planning, evaluation, research, and drawing samples for special surveys.

**NCLIS Role:** The U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) works cooperatively with NCES in implementing the Library Statistics Cooperative Program. NCLIS serves as a liaison to the library community, organizes meetings and training workshops, organizes training and technical assistance, monitors trends, and advises NCES on policy matters.

**Bureau of the Census Role:** The Bureau of the Census works cooperatively with NCES in implementing the Library Statistics Cooperative Program. The Bureau of the Census plays a key role in data collection, and processing.

### Partners in Cooperation:

Federal–State Cooperative System (FSCS)  
Data Use Task Force, FSCS State Data Coordinators, FSCS Steering Committee

Library Representatives, Academic Libraries Survey  
Local public, school, and academic library data providers

## How to Access Data

Under its four library surveys, NCES regularly publishes E.D. TABS which consist of tables, usually presenting state and national totals, a survey description, and data highlights. NCES also publishes separate, more in–depth studies analyzing these data. Many of these publications are available over the Internet. Edited raw data from the library surveys are also made available over the Internet at <http://www.nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/search.asp>.

## NCES Library Statistics Program Website

The NCES Library Statistics Program website is at <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries>. Each library survey and supporting materials are located at this website.

## Ordering Publications and Data Sets

To order more recent publications, write to: U.S. Department of Education, ED Pubs, P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794–1398 or call toll–free 1–877–4–ED–Pubs; fax 1–301–470–1244; TTY/TDD 1–877–576–7734.

## For Help Obtaining Reports, Data Files, Special Tabulations, and Help with Internet

An information service called the National Education Data Resource Center (NEDRC) is available to assist library survey customers. The NEDRC helps customers obtain NCES reports and data files through the Internet. The NEDRC also responds to requests for special tabulations on library studies and surveys. These services are free of charge. Contact the NEDRC at 1900 N. Beauregard St., Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22311–1722, telephone 703–845–3151, fax 703–820–7465, or email: [nedrc@pccci.com](mailto:nedrc@pccci.com).

## ACADEMIC LIBRARIES SURVEY

<b>Frequency of data collection:</b>	Biennial
<b>Year survey began:</b>	1966
<b>Number of academic libraries reporting:</b>	About 3,700
<b>Type of data collected:</b>	Total operating expenditures; full-time equivalent library staff; service outlets; total volumes held at the end of the academic year; circulation; interlibrary loans; public service hours; gate count; reference transactions per typical week; on-line services; consortia participation. Academic libraries are also asked whether they offered the following electronic services: an electronic catalog that includes the library's holdings; electronic full-text periodicals; Internet access; library reference services by e-mail; electronic document delivery to patron's
<b>How Collected:</b>	The Academic Libraries Survey (ALS) is a web-based data collection. The Academic Libraries Survey has established a technical working group composed of representatives of the academic library community. A network of academic library professionals works closely with state coordinators (representatives from each state who work with NCES to coordinate the collection of data from academic libraries in postsecondary institutions in each of their states).
<b>Website and Reports:</b>	E.D. TABS (biennial) <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries/academic.asp">http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries/academic.asp</a> The Status of Academic Libraries in the United States: Results from the 1994 Academic Library Survey with Historical Comparisons. Coverage Evaluation of the Academic Library Survey. [NCES 1999330]; <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=1999330">http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=1999330</a> The Status of Academic Libraries in the United States: Results from the 1996 Academic Library Survey with Historical Comparisons [NCES 2001301]; <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2001301">http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2001301</a>
<b>File available?</b>	Yes, survey-universe file
<b>Website data access tools (in progress)</b>	Academic libraries peer comparison tool (2000)
<b>NCES staff:</b>	Jeffrey Williams: 202-502-7476; jeffrey.williams@ed.gov

## Other Cooperating Organizations:

The following organizations perform a variety of activities that contribute to the development of the Library Statistics Cooperative Program:

American Association of School Librarians (AASL)  
 American Library Association (ALA)  
 Advisory Committee on Academic Library Statistics; Office of Research and Statistics  
 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)  
 Association of Research Libraries (ARL)  
 Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA)  
 Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA)  
 Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Office of Library Services (OLS)  
 Coordinators, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)  
 National Education Data Resource Center (NEDRC)  
 Public Library Association (PLA)  
 U.S. Department of Education Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI), The National Institute on Postsecondary Education, Libraries, and Lifelong Learning (PLLI); The National Library of Education

## ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

The NCES Library Statistics Cooperative Program collects statistics about all types of libraries. These statistics are available to answer your questions. For example:

### ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

How many volumes are in the collections of academic libraries?  
 How many items per year do academic libraries circulate?

### PUBLIC LIBRARIES

What are the total annual operating incomes of public libraries?  
 How many branches, bookmobiles, and other public library service outlets are operated by public libraries?  
 How many books and other items do public libraries circulate in a year?  
 What is the nationwide attendance at children's programs?  
 How many people visit public libraries annually in-person and "virtually"?

### SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS

How many school library media specialists are on elementary and secondary school staffs?  
 How do expenditures for school library media center services relate to total school expenditures?

### STATE LIBRARY AGENCIES

Under what branches of state government do state library agencies operate?  
 What services do state library agencies provide?

## About the NCES Library Statistics Program Surveys:

### PUBLIC LIBRARIES SURVEY

<b>Frequency of data collection:</b>	Annual
<b>Year survey</b>	1988
<b>Number of public libraries report-</b>	Over 9,000 nationwide and some US territories
<b>Type of data collected – public libraries:</b>	Identifying information including web address; staffing; type and number of service outlets; operating income and expenditures; size of collection; administrative structure; geographic area served; and service measures, such as library visits, reference transactions, inter-library loans, circulation, public service hours per year, circulation of children's materials, and children's program attendance; interlibrary relationship; legal basis; population of legal service area; Internet access: number of Internet PCs used by staff only; number of Internet PCs used by general public; access to electronic services; number of and expenditures for electronic library materials; operating expendi-
<b>Type of data collected – public library service outlets:</b>	Identifying information, location of outlet relative to a metropolitan area, and building square footage.
<b>How collected:</b>	Electronically via the Federal–State Cooperative System (FSCS) for Public Library Data. The Federal–State Cooperative System is administered by NCES in cooperation with NCLIS. At the state level and in the outlying areas, FSCS is administered by data coordinators, appointed by each state or outlying area's chief officer of the state library agency. The Federal–State Cooperative System is a working network. For example, some data collection is being done via the Internet. An annual training conference is provided for the state data coordinators, and a steering committee that represents them and other interested organizations is active in the development of
<b>Website, Reports, and Data Access Tools</b>	E.D. TABS (annual) <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries/public.asp">http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries/public.asp</a> How does your library compare (1998) Public library inflation index (1999) Use of public library services by households in the United States: 1996 Public Library Trend Analysis Fiscal Years 1992–1996 [NCES 2001324] Programming for adults in public library outlets (in review, 2002)Public library peer comparison; Library locator for public libraries; and Geographic mapping of public libraries
<b>File available?</b>	Yes, survey universe file
<b>NCES staff:</b>	Adrienne Chute: 202-502-7328; adrienne.chute@ed.gov Elaine Kroe: 202-502-7379; patricia.kroe@ed.gov

### STATE LIBRARY AGENCIES SURVEY

<b>Frequency of data collection:</b>	Annual
<b>Year survey began:</b>	1994
<b>Number of state library agencies</b>	50 states and the District of Columbia
<b>Type of data collected:</b>	Direct library services; library development services; resources assigned to allied operations such as archive and records management; organizational and governance structure within which the agency operates; electronic services; staffing; collections; income
<b>How collected:</b>	Web–based data collection from each of the state library agencies. These are the units of state government designated by law as the state agency responsible for statewide library development and administering federal funds under the Library Services and Tech-
<b>Website and Reports:</b>	E.D. TABS (annual) <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries/sla.asp">http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries/sla.asp</a>
<b>File available?</b>	Yes, survey–universe file
<b>NCES staff</b>	Elaine Kroe: 202-502-7379; patricia.kroe@ed.gov

### SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS SURVEY

<b>Frequency of data collection:</b>	Every four years; next survey planned for planned for school year 2003–2004
<b>Year survey began:</b>	1991
<b>Number of school library media centers reporting:</b>	A sample of 9,000 public schools, 3,500 private schools, and 160 Bureau of Indian Affairs schools.
<b>Type of data</b>	Expenditures; staffing; collections, technology ; and .services
<b>How collected:</b>	In school year 1999-2000, NCES, with the assistance of the U.S. Bureau of the Census, conducted this survey as part of the 1999–2000 Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS).
<b>Website and Reports:</b>	Schools and Staffing Survey, 1999–2000: Overview of the Data for Public, Private, Public Charter, and Bureau of Indian Affairs Elementary and Secondary Schools; released May 31, 2002 [NCES 2002313]
<b>File available?</b>	Yes, survey file on a sample of schools (1998). User's must be licensed with NCES because of confidentiality concerns.
<b>NCES staff:</b>	Jeffrey Williams: 202-502–7476; jeffrey.williams@ed.gov