Library Research and Statistics

Research and Statistics on Libraries and Librarianship in 2012

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During 2012 libraries continued to struggle with the effects of the continuing recession while trying to keep pace with a growing demand for technology resources and services. Libraries face a challenge to return to pre-recession levels of staff, open hours, collections, and services. The year ended, however, with cautious optimism based on trend data from the 2012–2013 Chief Officers of State Library Agencies Survey (COSLA)[1] and the 2012 *Library Journal* survey.[2] Fewer funding decreases occurred in 2012 and, in some instances, there were slight increases.

Funding continues to be a challenge, however, as does the demand for technology resources and services. The "Libraries Connect Communities" Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study[3] and the Pew study "Library Services in the Digital Age"[4] show that while Americans still look to libraries for books, they see library computers and Internet access as crucial resources for homework, e-government, and social networking. The demand for more e-books than are available continues to be problematic. Publishers struggle with an uncertain future and have yet to develop business models relating to price, copyright, and lending that are acceptable to libraries.

This article highlights research and statistics about public, school, and academic libraries and librarianship. Sources include the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Center for Education Statistics, the American Library Association (ALA), the Pew Research Center, the American Association of School Librarians, the Association of College and Research Libraries, the Association of Research Libraries, and *Library Journal.*

Winners of research awards and grants conferred by ALA and its divisions and by Beta Phi Mu, the American Society for Information Science and Technology, the Association for Library and Information Science Education, and the Medical Library Association are also included.

Notable Research

Library Journal's Patron Profiles[5] are studies that provide quantitative data from the user's perspective about issues relevant to public and academic libraries. Study titles released in 2012 included "Mobile Devices, Mobile Content and Library

Apps," "Media Consumption and the Library User," "Library Websites and Virtual Services," "Library Patrons and the Changing Ebook Landscape," and "Patron Profiles: Academic Library Edition: 2012 Report."

Public Libraries

The 2012–2013 Chief Officers of Library State Agencies (COSLA)[6] survey results include responses from 46 of the 50 states about funding, library closures, and public library hours. Cuts in state funding for public libraries fell for the first time in three years, with decreases reported by 21.7 percent in fiscal year (FY) 2012–2013, compared with 46 percent in FY 2011–2012 and 41.5 percent in FY 2010–2011. Direct state aid for public libraries increased in 6 states, decreased in 10 states, and remained flat in 16 states. No state aid to public libraries was reported in 11 states.

Previously, the COSLA survey collected data about public libraries but not about the state library; a new question on the FY 2011–2012 survey asked about funding to state libraries. The findings include that funding for state libraries increased in 9 states, decreased in 17 states, and remained flat in another 17 states. In another study, *Library Journal*[7] surveyed 2,060 U.S. public libraries and reported findings for the 388 respondents. Funding improved in 60 percent of the responding libraries, decreased in 36 percent, and remained flat for 4 percent.

Library closures held steady, with 11 states reporting closures for the past two years, a welcome change from closures in 17 states during FY 2010–2011. All participating states reported closures of five library outlets or fewer. An article in the *Wall Street Journal*[8] reported that a cutback in open hours has public library patrons scrambling to find access to computers and the Internet for homework and study. The COSLA study[9] bears this out, finding 65.2 percent of states reporting that libraries had to cut hours during 2012–2013 in addition to the 82 percent that reported hours cut during 2011–2012.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services conducts the annual Public Libraries Survey,[10] which includes data on the 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico. The most recent results, released in January 2013, include data collected for 2010 from 9,100 of the 9,299 eligible public libraries. The survey shows that of the 3.75 million programs offered in public libraries, 61.5 percent were for children. Knitters and quilters continued to meet at the library, while "makerspaces" increased and provided opportunities for such activities as creating Lego robots and experimenting with 3D printing.[11] During 2010 a total of 2.46 billion books, audio and video materials, and e-books circulated in public libraries, sustaining a ten-year increase. Children's materials accounted for more than one-third of all circulation and increased by 28.3 percent over the past decade. Books were still the dominant material type in public libraries, making up 87.1 percent of the total collection. Audio, video, and digital materials had increased, with 18.5 million e-books available for circulation, triple the number available in 2003. The demand for public-access computers increased and libraries responded by doubling the number of public computers available ten years earlier. Physical visits to libraries showed a decrease of 1.1 percent in 2010, but data were not collected for online visits or transactions. There remained a longer-term increase in the number of physical visits to the library—up 32.7 percent from FY 2001 to FY 2010.

The Pew "Library Services in the Digital Age" report discusses Americans' views of their libraries. Telephone interviews were conducted with a nationally representative sample of 2,252 individuals ages 16 and older. The majority of Americans surveyed said they consider "very important" library services to be borrowing books (80 percent), service of reference librarians (80 percent), and free access to computers and the Internet (77 percent). Patrons would like to have access to several other customer service benefits adapted from retail shopping, such as apps-based access to library materials and programs, the ability to try out new technology devices, and GPS navigation apps to help patrons locate material inside library buildings.

Academic Libraries

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), a division of ALA, published *ACRL 2011 Academic Library Trends and Statistics* during the year.[12] The study gathered data about the expenditures, collections, staffing, and services of academic libraries by Carnegie classification. Notably, all types of academic libraries greatly increased spending for e-books during 2011. Baccalaureate schools increased their spending on e-books by an average of 109.5 percent, comprehensive degree-granting schools by 102.7 percent, associate degree-granting schools by 109.2 percent, and doctorate-granting institutions by 78.9 percent. All types of institutions except baccalaureate schools spent less on serials. Serials accounted for 52.56 percent of materials budgets at baccalaureate schools, 57.62 percent at comprehensive schools, 33.87 percent at associate degree-granting institutions, and 66.12 percent at doctorate-granting institutions. Salaries and wages increased slightly in doctoral and comprehensive institutions (by 0.94 percent and 0.98 percent, respectively). Salaries and wages decreased at associate degree-granting institutions by 1.85 percent and at baccalaureate schools by 0.64 percent.

The ACRL Research Planning and Review Committee conducted an environmental scan to identify trends and issues in academic librarianship.[13] The following were identified:

- Academic libraries must prove the value they provide to the academic enterprise.
- Data curation challenges are increasing as standards for all types of data continue to evolve; more repositories, many of them cloud-based, will emerge; librarians and other information workers will collaborate with their research communities to facilitate this process.
- As digital collections mature, concerns grow about the general lack of long-term planning for their preservation. No strategic leadership for establishing architecture, policy, or standards for creating, accessing, and preserving digital content is likely to emerge in the near term.
- Higher education institutions are entering a period of flux, and potentially even turmoil. Trends to watch for are the rise of online instruction and degree programs, globalization, and an increased skepticism about the "return on investment" in a college degree.
- Technology continues to drive much of the futuristic thinking within academic libraries. The key trends driving educational technology identified

in the 2012 Horizon Report are equally applicable to academic libraries: people's desire for information and access. (The Horizon Report series is part of the New Media Consortium [NMC] Horizon Project, a comprehensive research venture established in 2002 that identifies and describes emerging technologies likely to have a large impact over the coming five years in education.)

- Mobile devices are changing the way information is delivered and accessed.
- Patron-driven acquisition (PDA) of e-books is poised to become the norm. For this to occur, licensing options and models for library lending of e-books must become more sustainable.
- New scholarly communication and publishing models are developing at an ever-faster pace, requiring libraries to be actively involved or be left behind.
- Academic libraries must develop the staff needed to meet new challenges through creative approaches to hiring new personnel and deploying/retraining existing staff.
- User convenience affects all aspects of information seeking.

The Association of Research Libraries surveyed member institutions on current library practice and policies. SPEC Kits[14] were created to guide research libraries in decision making and planning. Among the SPEC Kits released in 2012 were *SPEC Kit 333: Art and Artifact Management, SPEC Kit 332: Organization of Scholarly Communication Services,* and *SPEC Kit 329: Managing Born-Digital Special Collections and Archival Materials.*

School Libraries

The 2012 edition of *School Libraries Count!*[15]—published by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL)—is based on a longitudinal study that had 4,385 respondents. The report provides trend data for U.S. public and private K–12 school libraries. School libraries continue to rely on books as a significant learning resource. More books were purchased on average during 2012 (13,517 titles) than in 2011 (12,989 titles). The number of periodicals across subscriptions and video materials remained consistent with 2011, although the number of video materials was directionally lower than 2009. The trend toward digital access continues, with more than 8 in 10 schools reporting that students could access their library resources remotely. The average number of computers outside of the library with networked access to library services, including licensed databases, increased by 7.6 percent with an average of 193.4 in 2011 and 208.2 in 2012. Notably, the increase is attributed to all school categories: elementary schools, public schools, schools with enrollment of less than 300 and between 300 and 999, schools in the Midwest and South, in non-metro areas, and in areas of low poverty. The average number of computers in libraries increased by 5 percent from 2011 (27.9) to 2012 (29.29).

The 2012 *School Libraries Count!* includes a supplemental report on Internet filtering. Most schools or school libraries filter content for social media, entertain-

ment, and news and education consumption. Most likely to be filtered are social networking sites (88 percent), IM/online chatting (74 percent), gaming sites (69 percent), and video services such as YouTube (66 percent). Fewer schools report filtering newsgroups (17 percent) and professional development tools for education (9 percent). Filtering of portable electronic devices, required by half of the schools that allow such devices, is managed most often with an acceptable-use policy (48 percent) and by making students log on through school networks (47 percent).

Awards and Grants that Support Excellent Research

The professional library associations offer many awards and grants to recognize and encourage research. The 2012 awards and grants here are listed under the name of the sponsoring association, and in the case of ALA by the awarding division, in alphabetical order. More-detailed information about the prizes and prize-winners can be found at the association websites. [For additional library awards, see "Library Scholarship and Award Recipients, 2012" in Part 3—*Ed.*]

American Library Association

Carroll Preston Baber Research Grant
Winners: Libby Pollard and Melissa Fry for "Assessment of Non-Library Use at the Jeffersonville Township [Indiana] Public Library."

Jesse H. Shera Award for Excellence in Published Research
Winners: Shana Pribesh, Karen Gavigan, and Gail Dickinson for "The Access Gap: Poverty and Characteristics of School Library Media Centers" in *Library Quarterly* 81(2): 143–160, April 2011.

Jesse H. Shera Award for Support of Dissertation Research
Winner: Victor J. Sensenig for "Public Libraries and Literacy in Ecological Perspective."

American Association of School Libraries

AASL Research Grant
Winners: Ann Dutton Ewbank for "The Role of Teacher Unions in School Library Advocacy: Case Study of the British Columbia Teacher-Librarians' Association and the British Columbia Teacher's Federation"; Daniella Smith for "An Examination of the Impact of Resiliency and School Organizational Structures on the Self-Perceived Leadership Behaviors of School Librarians."

Association of College and Research Libraries

WESS De Gruyter European Librarianship Study Grant
Winner: Liladhar R. Pendse, Princeton University, for his project to construct a bibliography and subject analysis of Indo-Portuguese periodicals held by the National Library of Portugal and other libraries in Lisbon.

Academic/Research Librarian of the Year Award
Winner: Paula T. Kaufman.

Ilene F. Rockman Instruction Publication of the Year Award
Winner: Char Booth, Claremont Colleges Library, for *Reflective Teaching, Effective Learning: Instructional Literacy for Library Educators* (ALA Editions).

Library and Information Technology Association/OCLC

Frederick G. Kilgour Award for Research in Library and Information Technology
Winner: G. Sayeed Choudhury, Johns Hopkins University.

American Society for Information Science and Technology

ASIS&T Best Information Science Book Award
Winners: Ricardo Baeza-Yates and Berthier Ribeiro-Neto for *Modern Information Retrieval: The Concepts and Technology Behind Search* (ACM).

John Wiley Best *JASIST* Paper
Winners: Sukomal Pal, Mandar Mitra, and Jaap Kamps for "Evaluation Effort, Reliability, and Reusability in XML Retrieval" in *JASIST* 62(2).

Pratt Severn Best Student Research Paper
Winner: April Lynne Earle, St. John's University, for "Design of an Application Profile for the St. John's University Oral History Collection." *JASIST* 62(2).

ProQuest Doctoral Dissertation
Winner: Jaime Snyder, Syracuse University, for "Image-Enabled Discourse: Investigating the Creation of Visual Information as Communicative Practice."

Research in Information Science Award
Winner: Kalervo Jarvelin, University of Tampere (Finland).

James Cretsos Leadership Award
Winner: Naresh Agarwal, Simmons College.

Thomson Reuters Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Scholarship
Winner: Lori McCay-Peet, Dalhousie University, for "At the Intersection: Investigating the Qualities of the Serendipitous Digital Environment and the Serendipity-Prone Person."

Watson Davis Award
Winner: K. T. Vaughan, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Association for Library and Information Science Education

ALISE/Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Competition
Winner: Eric M. Meyers, University of Washington, for "The Nature and Impact of Information Problem Solving in the Middle School Classroom."

ALISE Research Grant Competition
Winner: Carolyn Hank, McGill University; Cassidy Sugimoto, Indiana University; and Jeffrey Pomerantz, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, for "Teaching in the Age of Facebook and other Social Media: LIS Faculty and Students 'Friending' and 'Poking' in the Social Sphere."

ALISE/Bohdan S. Wynar Research Paper Competition

Winner: Jessica F. Lingel, Rutgers University, for "Improvisation, Tactics, and Wandering: Urban Information Practices of Migrational Individuals."

ALISE/ProQuest Methodology Paper Competition

Winners: Mahria Lebow and Heather L. O'Brien, University of British Columbia, for "Is There a Role for Physiological Methods in the Evaluation of Human-Information Interaction?"

Medical Library Association

Donald A. B. Lindberg Research Fellowship

Winner: Mary J. Moore for "The Investment in Health Sciences Libraries in Relation to U.S. National Rankings for Medical Education and Research."

Ida and George Eliot Prize

Winners: Margaret M. Bandy and Rosalind F. Dudden for "The Medical Library Association Guide to Managing Health Care Libraries."

Janet Doe Lectureship

Winner: Mark E. Funk for "Our World, Our Story: A Textual Analysis of Articles Published in the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association/Journal of the Medical Library Association* from 1961 to 2010."

Notes

1. 2012–2013 Chief Officers of State Library Agencies Survey (COSLA). Available from the American Library Association Office for Research and Statistics.
2. Schwartz, M. "The Budget Balancing Act: LJ's Budget Survey Shows Modest Improvement, and Signs of More to Come." *Library Journal.* Retrieved January 20, 2013, from http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2013/01/funding/the-budget-balancing-act-library-budgets-show-modest-improvement-and-signs-of-more-to-come.
3. Hoffman, J., J. C. Bertot, and D. M. Davis. "Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study 2011–2012." Digital supplement to *American Libraries*, June 2012. Retrieved January 20, 2013, from http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/4673a369.
4. Zickuhr, K., L. Rainie, and K. Purcell. "Library Services in the Digital Age." Pew Internet and American Life Project. Retrieved January 20, 2013, from http://libraries.pewinternet.org/2013/01/22/library-services.
5. Patron Profiles are published by *Library Journal* and Bowker PubTrack Consumer. Available at http://www.thedigitalshift.com/research/patron-profiles/public/subscribe-2.
6. 2012-2013 Chief Officers of State Library Agencies Survey (COSLA), op. cit.
7. Schwartz, op. cit.
8. Troianovski, A. "The Web-Deprived Study at McDonald's." *Wall Street Journal.* Retrieved January 28, 2013, from http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324731304578189794161056954.html.
9. 2012–2013 Chief Officers of State Library Agencies Survey (COSLA), op. cit.
10. Institute of Museum and Library Services. "IMLS 2010 Public Library Survey Results Announced." Retrieved January 22, 2013, from http://www.imls.gov/imls_2010_public_library_survey_results_announced.aspx.

11. *American Libraries.* "Manufacturing Makerspaces." Retrieved February 6, 2013, from http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/features/02062013/manufacturing-makerspaces.

12. *2011 Academic Library Trends and Statistics* (2012). American Library Association. http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=4209.

13. ACRL Research Planning and Review Committee. "2012 Top Ten Trends in Academic Libraries: A Review of the Trends and Issues Affecting Academic Libraries in Higher Education." *College & Research Libraries News* 73(6): 311–320. Retrieved January 20, 2013, from http://crln.acrl.org/content/73/6/311.full.

14. The SPEC Kits are available from the Association of Research Libraries at http://publications.arl.org/SPEC_Kits.

15. American Library Association. American Association of School Librarians. *School Libraries Count! 2012* Retrieved January 20, 2013, from http://www.ala.org/aasl/sites/ala.org.aasl/files/content/researchandstatistics/slcsurvey/2012/AASL-SLC-2012-WEB.pdf.