IPEDS and the Academic Library Component

2014 October 23
ALS to AL Component: Big Shift

• Academic libraries have been submitting the Academic Libraries Survey (ALS - NCES) since 2000
  – it is a familiar survey
• Change of status from IPEDS keyholder to IPEDS user
  – sense of “who is ‘now’ doing what?” at the institution
• HR component is very different
  – FTE to headcount; FTE is a frequently-used benchmark
  – new definitions applied based upon SOC 2010
• Changes in definitions from the ALS applied to the AL data elements
ACRL Trends and Statistics Editorial Board

• Editorial Board is trying to increase awareness of the AL and HR components
  – conducted a face-to-face presentation at the annual American Library Association (ALA) conference on June 29, 2014
  – created a web-based space to keep members updated (LibGuide)
  – have used an official blog, ACRL Insider, to inform librarians with a short briefings
  – conducted a webinar for librarians on October 1, 2014
ACRL Trends and Statistics Editorial Board

• Compiled a set of questions for IPEDS Help Desk from the October 1 webinar and those sent from a couple of libraries
  – document with questions and latest responses is available from this session
• Ongoing conversation with libraries and will continue to compile questions/concerns
• Have scheduled a face-to-face presentation at midwinter ALA conference on January 31, 2015
• Planning to schedule a face-to-face presentation in late March at the ACRL 2015 conference in Portland, OR
2014 ACRL Annual Survey

- Officially titled “ACRL Annual Trends and Statistics Survey”
- We are trying to change the 2014 survey instrument (plan to send to libraries by first week in November) to enable respondents to opt-in to submit data that will directly align with AL component
  - export file from ACRL survey which can be provided to the keyholder for Spring collection input
- We have created a crosswalk between the ACRL, AL component and ALS available through a web-based LibGuide at http://libguides.uwf.edu/content.php?pid=188487&sid=4944019
Library Issues with the AL Component

• Definitions
• Confusion
Examples of Questions about Definitions

• Section I, Question 2 - Books
  – do we include collections of e-books under books or databases?

• Section I, Question 2 - Circulation
  – Total Physical Circulation - do we report data for interlibrary loans borrowed here? If yes, would that not then duplicate counts in “Total interlibrary loans and documents provided to other libraries” under Interlibrary Services?
  – how do we count Digital/Electronic circulation?
Examples of Confusion

• Are we allowed to put "n/a" or leave certain questions blank? For example we will not be able to report "electronic circulation".

• What data notes from the AL component will be available to the public in IPEDS?
AL Question from This Group

• On a multi-campus institution that reports combined data from all libraries as members of the ARL, what key factors weigh into the decision of whether they should be reported together or under separate unit IDs in IPEDS (shared staff, shared budget, etc.)?
  – IPEDS glossary states: “Libraries on branch campuses that have separate NCES identification numbers are reported as separate libraries.”
  – is this, then, subject to interpretation?
AL Question from This Group

• Is this different between IPEDS and ACRL/ARL?

ARL/ACRL:

– “Although the form allows for data to be entered from both main and branch campuses, an effort should be made to report figures for the main campus only.

– “If figures for libraries located at branch campuses are reported, please specify which branch libraries are included and which ones are excluded in the FOOTNOTES section of the ACRL Statistics Worksheet.”

– “A branch library is defined as an auxiliary library service outlet with quarters separate from the central library of an institution, which has a basic collection of books and other materials, a regular staffing level, and an established schedule. A branch library is administered either by the central library or (as in the case of some law and medical libraries) through the administrative structure of other units within the university. Departmental study/reading rooms are not included.”
AL Question from This Group

• If library resources are available to regional campuses but all resources are all reported through the main campus, will information be noted in IPEDS to inform the public of this relationship?
  – ARL/ACRL used footnotes for this information
  – is this a conflict with the Glossary’s definition (unit IDs)?
HR Question Received from This Group

• There seemed to be some concern regarding the classification of Library employees based on degree/title and what constitutes an actual librarian vs a technician. What are the issues that may be impacted by the classification of employees?
  – Definitions based upon 2010 SOC; not common definitions used by library practitioners; for example, we generally apply education levels and/or status locally for “librarians”
  – Librarians (25-4021) Tasks may include selecting, acquiring, cataloguing, classifying, circulating, and maintaining library materials; and furnishing reference, bibliographical, and readers' advisory services.
  – Library Technicians (25-4031) helping readers in the use of library catalogs, databases, and indexes to locate books and other materials; and by answering questions that require only brief consultation of standard reference.
    o UWF’s professional reference “Librarians” meet this definition.
HR Question Received from This Group

- The concern is that library IT personnel or others won’t be distinguishable from other areas of campus within IPEDS.
  - this is a shared concern with librarians, especially as/if personnel are aggregated at the institutional level.
    - will they be IT or library?
    - will/could the counts be duplicated?
  - under ALS library IT personnel could have been assigned to
    - “librarians” or
    - “other professional staff” or
    - “all other paid staff”

based upon education level [e.g., master’s] AND type of degree [e.g., degree is in the theoretical and scientific aspects of librarianship]; duties require education and/or training in related fields (e.g., academic disciplines, archives, media, computing).
HR Question Received from This Group

• Will libraries have access to comparative employee information?
  – [my question] Do you mean access as an input to answer the HR component, or as an output from the HR component survey?
  – as input, no, we generally do not collect all of the HR component information IPEDS requires. For example, personnel is further delineated by gender and ethnicity; we did not submit this information in the ALS.
  – as output, no, especially if we apply the SOC definitions differently from institution to institution.
  – we are also not certain how this information will be gathered by the institutional keyholder since this is not a common matrix used in academic libraries; will it be collected from the Human Resources Departments?
General Question from This Group

• What are some specific nuances that IR professionals should be aware of regarding the data required to be reported in the new ALS component?
  – although definitions exist, institutions may interpret them differently
  – libraries may not (likely not) collect all of the information asked in either/both AL and HR components
  – at some institutions the keyholders may not be working with the library to answer the questions, and visa versa
    o my keyholder called for the IC Header expenditure question; answered by an administration business staffer
  – libraries may not be fully aware of the migration and may be asked to provide responses to the keyholders without any context of the migration
    o may think responses are for a “survey” such as US News and World Report
Summary: Information ACRL is Making Available

• Via the LibGuide
  – crosswalk
  – official IPEDS documents such as definitions
  – IPEDS-provided answers to submitted questions

• Updates
  – *ACRL Insider* blog
  – face-to-face and virtual presentations
  – emails and telephone calls

• Additional technical information and advice as possible
  – through the 2014 ACRL Annual Survey via its implementation by Counting Opinions (SQUIRE, LTD) in Toronto, ACRL’s survey contractor
We Could Use Some Suggestions About:

• How best to communicate with IPEDS keyholders if the librarians are not IPEDS users?
• How libraries can approach the HR component?
• Anything we can do to help you?
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