News You Can Use: Update on NCES Academic Library (AL) Component

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Background

• The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has integrated the Academic Libraries (AL) component, formerly known as the biennial Academic Libraries Survey (ALS), into its Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) 2014-15 collection.

• All degree-granting, Title IV postsecondary institutions in the U.S. and other jurisdictions are required to report library information annually during the IPEDS Spring data collection.
IPEDS AL Component Data Collection

• December 10, 2014 to April 8, 2015: the Academic Libraries (AL) component is in the IPEDS Spring collection.

• In addition to the AL component, the IPEDS Spring collection includes questions about Fall Enrollment, Finance and Human Resources (which includes academic library staffing).
Institutional Data Reporting

• The ALS (1998 - 2012) was usually completed and submitted by the academic library.

• However, the institution’s designated IPEDS keyholder will be responsible for ensuring completion of the 2014-15 AL component.

• Keyholders may designate additional users to assist them with the survey; the data entry for the AL component can be delegated to a person working in the library.

• If you are unsure if you have been designated as an IPEDS user, check with your IPEDS keyholder or Institutional Research (IR) department.
AL Component

NOTE - This section of the survey collects data on selected types of material. It does not cover all materials. Report the total number of each category held at the END OF FY 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Collections</th>
<th>Physical</th>
<th>Digital/Electronic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
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<tr>
<td>Databases</td>
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<tr>
<td>Media</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Circulation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Section II:
For degree-granting institutions with library expenditures > $100,000 as reported in IC Header

Library expenditures should be reported for the most recent 12-month period that corresponds to your institution’s fiscal year that ends before October 1, 2014.

Indicate the number of branch and independent libraries (exclude the main or central library).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total salaries and wages</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Are staff fringe benefits paid out of the library budget?

- Yes
- No

Materials/services expenditures

- One-time purchases of books, serial backfiles, and other materials
- Ongoing commitments to subscriptions
- All other materials/service cost
- Total materials/services expenditures

Operations and maintenance expenditures

- Preservation services
- All other operations and maintenance expenditures
- Total operations and maintenance expenditures

Total Expenditures

Total Expenditures (as reported in IC Header)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interlibrary Services</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total interlibrary loans and documents provided to other libraries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total interlibrary loans and documents received</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Does your library support virtual reference services?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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You may use the space below to provide context for the data you’ve reported above.
IPEDS Data Publications via NCES

• After the library data elements are compiled into IPEDS and reviewed, the data will be available to be included in published tables:
  – First Look reports
  – Data Feedback Reports

• Will not publish a separate First Look report highlighting academic library data, but will instead integrate an academic library table into one of the existing IPEDS First Look reports.

• Is limited on the number of pages that can be included on the printed Data Feedback Reports, so one table highlighting library data will be included.

• All library data elements will be available in the NCES Data Center.
ACRL Annual Survey of Academic and Research Libraries

• is now open -- email sent about the survey from Mary Ellen K. Davis via acrlsupport@countingopinions.com on November 7, 2014

• Please note that an “opt-in” question is posed in this year’s survey:
  – an affirmative response will display the questions from the IPEDS AL component for completion
  – three additional optional questions used from past surveys (hours, gate, digitizing docs)

• The data submitted via ACRL will enable respondents to import a file that can be used to respond to the AL component in the IPEDS spring collection without the need to re-key the library’s responses.

• We also expect data from ACRLMetrics to be available sooner for review and use than from IPEDS.
Useful Links to AL Component Information

• Academic Libraries Information Center (NCES) at http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/resource/alscenter.asp. The site provides information about the IPEDS process and schedule. Resources include:
  – Comparing the ALS to IPEDS AL Component;
  – Crosswalk of 2012 to 2014-15 Academic Libraries Variables;
  – Technical Review Panel Summary for Reintegrating ALS into IPEDS;
  – 2014-15 AL Component Survey Screens, Instructions, and Glossary; and
Useful Links to AL Component Information

• 2014-15 Survey Materials > Form - Academic Libraries Overview (NCES) at https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/VisForms.aspx?survey=15&form=103&index=0&ri=0&show=all&instid=30103
  – this webpage displays the AL component survey form and provides instructions and definitions.
  – when viewed online, definitions from the IPEDS glossary appear in a pop-up window when the viewer clicks on specific underlined links on the displayed survey form.
Useful Links to AL Component Information

• Academic Libraries FAQ (official)
  https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/IPEDS/VisFaqView.aspx?mode=reg&id=17&show=all

• IPEDS Help Desk has been receiving great reviews for being helpful and prompt.
  – 1-877-225-2568
  – email is ipedshelp@rti.org.
AIR Links to IPEDS Information

• The Association for Institutional Research (AIR) provides online video tutorials for several IPEDS data tools at http://www.airweb.org/EducationAndEvents/IPEDSTraining/Tutorials/Pages/default.aspx.

• AIR Tutorials on the AL component is at http://www.airweb.org/EducationAndEvents/IPEDSTraining/Tutorials/Pages/AcademicLibraries.aspx
Other Links to AL Component Information

• A one-hour webcast, "Update on the New IPEDS Academic Library Component" is available at http://squirrel.adobeconnect.com/p14snpx2ur/
  – Presenters include Bill Miller from Florida Atlantic University, Bob Dugan from the University of West Florida, and Carl Thompson from Counting Opinions.

• A tab on a LibGuide maintained at the University of West Florida http://libguides.uwf.edu/content.php?pid=188487&sid=4944019 with links to documents and other sources about the reintegration.
  – includes an updated compilation document with questions to, and answers from, IPEDS about the AL component.
  – also available at http://tinyurl.com/kxzebtm
What Are We Learning?

• There is considerable discussion about current AL component instructions and definitions.

• Examples:
  – how to count / report circulation of e-books (e.g., count downloads?)
  – are e-books “books” or “databases”? Depends ....
  – including the counts for non-returnable interlibrary loans in circulation
What Are We Learning?

• It appears that the data compiled from the AL component is not intended to provide a complete picture of academic library activities.
  – expected to be used to review trends

• However, this trend data may not be very useful for benchmarking or best practices studies because of confusion over definitions, and what and how to count.
What Are We Learning?

• For example, library personnel benchmark studies
  – staffing is not collected in the AL component; collected through the HR component
  – collects full- and part-time headcounts rather than FTE; FTE can be extrapolated but precision suffers
    o e.g., 10 headcounts could be 2.25 FTE to 7.75 FTE
  – counts for three staff classifications as defined by the 2010 Bureau of Labor Statistics’ (BLS) Standard Occupational Classification (SOC): Librarians (25-4021); Library Technicians (25-4031); and Archivists, Curators, and Museum Technicians (25-4010). The definitions of these staffing classifications differ from those used in the ALS.
# Number of Full-time Non-instructional Staff by Occupational Category

As of November 1, 2013

*Report Hispanic/Latino individuals of any race as Hispanic/Latino
*Report race for non-Hispanic/Latino individuals only
*Include both non-medical and medical staff

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<tbody>
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<td>Men</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nonresident alien</td>
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<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
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<td>American Indian or Alaska Native Asian</td>
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<td>Black or African American</td>
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<td>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander White</td>
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<td>Two or more races</td>
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<tr>
<td>Race and ethnicity unknown</td>
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<td>Total men</td>
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<td>Women</td>
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<td>Nonresident alien</td>
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<td>Total women</td>
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<td>Total (men+women)</td>
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Other Changes in Benchmarks

• Library Services
  – no reporting for the number of information services to individuals (e.g., reference transactions)
  – no reporting for the number of presentations provided, and for the total attendance at all presentations (information services to groups)

• Library Services Typical Week
  – no reporting of weekly public service hours (hours open)
  – no reporting of entrance gate counts

• These data points are sometimes used in benchmarking and peer comparisons, and for regional and program accreditations.
Good News

• The AL component survey director at IPEDS has stated that while the IPEDS data collection instrument cannot be changed, the instructions and definitions for the next survey (beginning in December 2015) will be reviewed to increase clarification.

• Academic libraries may be involved; the process or timing for involvement is unknown at this time.
Questions?
Comments?
Epiphanies?

Thank You!

Because of Florida’s very broad public records law, the best email contact is:
robert.dugan@gmail.com