

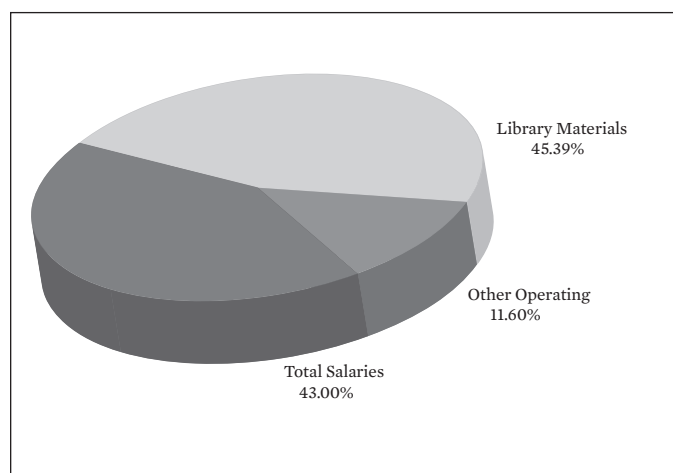
Overview

ARL Statistics 2014–2015 is the latest in a series of annual publications that describe collections, staffing, expenditures, and service activities for the 124 members of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). Of these, 114 are university libraries; the remaining 10 are public, governmental, and nonprofit research libraries. ARL member libraries are the largest research libraries in North America, representing 16 Canadian and 108 US research institutions. The academic libraries, which comprise 92% of the membership, include 15 Canadian and 99 US libraries.

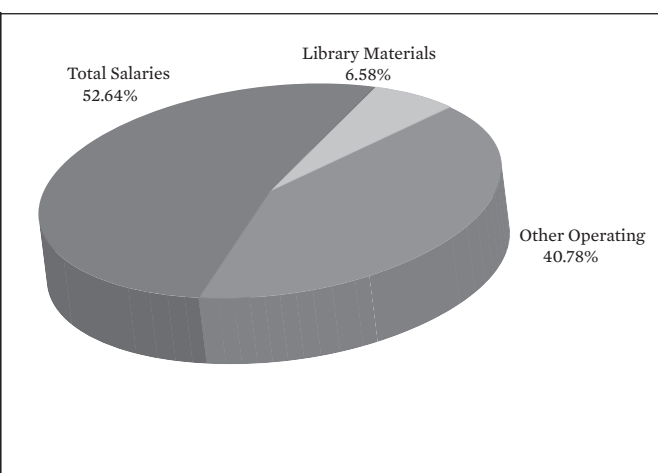
Statistics have been collected and published annually for the members of the Association of Research Libraries since 1961–62, and the data are available through an interactive web interface. Prior to 1961–62, annual statistics for university libraries were collected by James Gerould, first at the University of Minnesota and later at Princeton University.¹ These data, covering the years 1907–08 through 1961–62, are now called the Gerould statistics.² The whole data series from 1908, which is available on the ARL Statistics website at <http://arlstatistics.org/publications>, represents the oldest and most comprehensive continuing library statistical series in North America.

ARL libraries are a relatively small subset of libraries in North America, but they do account for a large portion of academic library resources in terms of assets, budgets, and the number of users they serve. The total library expenditures of all 124 member libraries in 2014–2015 was approximately \$4.6 billion; from that, approximately \$3.4 billion was spent by the 114 university libraries and more than \$1.2 billion by the nonuniversity libraries. The pie charts below show how the two types of libraries divide these expenditures differently.

University Libraries 2014–2015



Nonuniversity Libraries 2014–2015



1 Kendon L. Stubbs and Robert E. Molyneux, *Research Library Statistics 1907–08 through 1987–88*. (Washington, DC: ARL, 1990).

2 Robert E. Molyneux, *The Gerould Statistics 1907/08 – 1961/62*. (Washington, DC: ARL, 1986) http://www.libqual.org/documents/admin/2012/1986_Molyneux_Gerould.pdf and http://www.libqual.org/documents/admin/2012/2010_Molyneux_Gerould.pdf

ARL Statistics® Analytics

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Click the links below to access and download one of our most popular resources, the ARL Investment Index, commonly referred to as the "ARL Ranking":

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The current ARL statistics include data on collections, staffing, expenditures, library services, and library and university characteristics for the ARL university libraries.

This site will allow you to:

- review the library data collected by ARL
- generate rankings of institutions by selected criteria
- create graphs from the data
- generate summary statistics for all ARL libraries
- download the data by year in spreadsheet format
- review the ARL index and membership criteria

History

Statistics have been collected and issued annually for the members of the Association of Research Libraries since 1961-62. Before that, annual statistics for university libraries had been collected by James Gerould, first at Minnesota and later at Princeton. These data cover the years 1907-08 through 1961-62, and are now called the Gerould statistics. The whole data series from 1908 to the present represents the oldest continuing library statistical series in North America. The current ARL statistics include data on collections, staffing, expenditures, library services, and library and university characteristics.

The Gerould Statistics are now available in a revised edition [here](#).

[A Guide to the Machine-Readable Version of the ARL Statistics](#) is on the ARL site.

ARL now offers interactive access to over 100 years' worth of ARL Statistics® data through the **ARL Statistics® Analytics** interface (formerly called ARL Statistics® *Interactive Analytics*). Subscribers also have access to the ARL Statistics Publications database and the mailings archive, which contains instructions, definitions, and supportive documentation for the annual survey data collection. Libraries that are not ARL members, for-profit and not-for-profit entities, and individual researchers may subscribe to password access to this Excel-based data set. The annual subscription fee is \$500 for non-profit organizations and \$750 for all others. Customers may contact <stats@arl.org> for subscription information or place an order through their subscription agent.

Subscribers may download Excel files containing the entire data set or any combination of survey years and variables. They may also create graphs and ranked lists of the data through the interactive interface.

Note: PDFs of the *ARL Statistics*, *ARL Academic Health Sciences Library Statistics*, and *ARL Academic Law Library Statistics* publications are not included in this service. The ARL Annual Salary Survey publication is not included in this service.

We would like to thank the University of Virginia for supporting the ARL Statistics Interactive edition from 1995 to 2010. Special thanks to Texas A&M University and the University of Texas for enabling ARL to support data curation activities like the ARL Statistics® Analytics through their support and development of LibQUAL+® Analytics.