

THE NEWLY REVISED ARL STATISTICS SURVEY

The questions and definitions in the 2011–2012 ARL Statistics survey have been revised and modernized after an extensive review process led by the Task Force on Reviewing the ARL Statistics, the ARL Annual Salary Survey, and the ARL Supplementary Statistics. Members of the ARL Statistics and Assessment Committee and the task force interviewed ARL directors during the Spring of 2011 and collected feedback that helped them articulate the key issues, questions, and revisions for annual data collection purposes. This feedback was shared with ARL library directors and salary survey contacts, and the final list of job categories was approved by the ARL Board in April of 2011. As a result of this revision process, the Collections section of the ARL Statistics 2011–2012 was shortened by eliminating the following sections: Serials, Other Library Materials, and Audiovisual Materials. “Number of Monographic Volumes Purchased” was also eliminated. The “Titles” variable now captures a count of all items across all formats. The “Volumes Held” variable has been retained for its historical value, and one item capturing the number of ebooks as a subset of volumes held has been integrated into the ARL Statistics from the ARL Supplementary Statistics survey. The Expenditures section has been revised to focus on whether expenditures are one-time or on-going and not on type of material expenditures, and to include separate questions on fringe benefits expenditures. A new section entitled “Use of Electronic Resources” was added to the ARL Statistics, and this section includes questions from the ARL Supplementary Statistics that capture the number of full-text article requests (journals) and the number of regular and federated searches in databases. The remaining items on the ARL Supplementary Statistics were not collected in 2011–2012. The revised ARL Statistics survey also reflects updated language on the number of degrees and degree fields (now labeled Doctor’s Degrees and Doctor’s Degree Fields), which now include research/scholarship degrees and professional practice degrees (e.g., Ph.D, D.Ed., D.P.A., M.D., J.D., etc.) as enumerated in the revised instructions for the U.S. Department of Education’s Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Last, the subset of the main data that pertained to Special Collections expenditures and staffing was collected on a separate survey form in response to the growing interest in sharing information about Special Collections in a more systematic fashion. This first year of data collection for Special Collections branch created a baseline data set that paralleled the ARL Statistics survey. The data submitted for Special Collections and additional input from those who collect the data will help determine definitions and directions for the Special Collections survey questions next year, and help identify additional data elements that we might collect in future Special Collections surveys.

These revisions were implemented with the goal of making the data more useful, relevant, and easy to collect, and are a crucial first step in the important task of keeping pace with the rapidly changing environment in research libraries, while simultaneously codifying and reflecting the evolution of the 21st century research library in the ARL Statistics data.

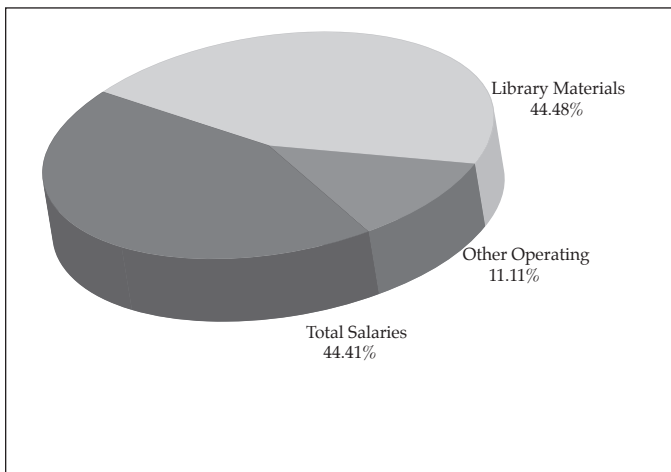
RESEARCH LIBRARY TRENDS

ARL Statistics 2011–2012 is the latest in a series of annual publications that describe collections, staffing, expenditures, and service activities for the 125 members of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). Of these, 115 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 17 Canadian and 108 US research institutions. The academic libraries, which comprise 92% of the membership, include 16 Canadian and 99 US libraries.

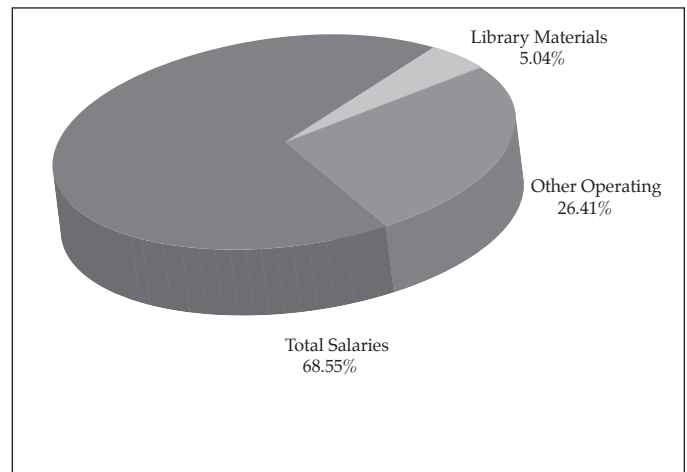
Statistics have been collected and published annually for the members of the Association of Research Libraries since 1961–62, and the data are available through an interactive web interface. Prior to 1961–62, annual statistics for university libraries were collected by James Gerould, first at the University 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 125 member libraries in 2011–2012 was almost \$4.5 billion; from that, approximately \$3.3 billion was spent by the 115 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 2011–2012



Nonuniversity Libraries 2011–2012



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

The screenshot shows the ARL Statistics Analytics website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for ABOUT, ANALYTICS, NEWS, PUBLICATIONS, and EVENTS. A purple box on the left contains the text 'Survey Management Center'. Below this, a sidebar menu lists 'Home' (with sub-links: About, News, Publications, Events) and 'Management Center' (with sub-links: Register for Subscription, Manage Users). The main content area is titled 'Analytics' and features a sub-navigation bar with links: About, Institutional Data, Ranked Lists, Summary Stats, Graphs, Download Data, Investment Index, and Help. The main text explains that the current ARL statistics include data on collections, staffing, expenditures, library services, and library and university characteristics for the ARL university libraries. It lists the site's capabilities: reviewing library data, generating rankings, creating graphs, generating summary statistics, downloading data by year in spreadsheet format, and reviewing the ARL index and membership criteria. A 'History' section provides background on the statistics, noting they have been collected since 1961-62, with earlier data from 1907-08 through 1961-62 known as Gerould statistics. A link is provided for a revised edition of the Gerould Statistics. At the bottom, a link points to a guide for the machine-readable version of the ARL Statistics.

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.

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.