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# Library Research and Statistics

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These contents of the statistics of the library research and statistics of the American Library Association

Director, Office for Research and Statistics, American Library Association

This year I host

## Future research

Three research studies provide broad consideration of library funding concerns, especially in public libraries.

An interesting article on public library funding was published by Ignace Lorieux, Toon Appens, and Pieter Vanderboec of the Universiteit Brussel in the April special issue on Public Library Effectiveness, *Library & Information Science Research*, June 2006, pp. 105-118, and online at <http://www.sciencedirect.com>. The authors assessed the impact and effectiveness of state-mandated public libraries in Belgium, and go so far as to define an effective library. An effective library is defined here as a library that, given the context in which it operates, performs well in conditions on which it has no influence. The authors used standard output measures to assess effectiveness, as well as measures unique to Belgian libraries (e.g., membership fees), and used Belgian census demographic data to contextualize the findings. The study discovered findings in usage similar to patterns in U.S. public libraries, such as lower usage by males and higher educational attainment being an indicator of higher usage. Dissimilar to patterns in the United States, the study found that the number of registered users decreased in municipalities with higher levels of low-income residents. Using regression analysis, the authors found interesting borrowing and library use patterns by males, which were especially affected by the hours a library was open. Men were heavier users of nonprint collections such as journals and CDs. The authors raise interesting questions about attracting users to the library and the consequences of such activity as meeting demands for specific formats of materials. Descriptive statistics of the study findings are included in the article.

## Conclusion

For the first time, the long-standing research by John Carlo Bertot and Charles McClure around Internet connectivity and st

expenditure categories (e.g., staff, collection, and other expenditures) as reported to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the . . . . . Tabs publication *Public Libraries in the United States: Fiscal Year 2004* (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubinfo.asp?pubid=2005010>). However, what is not known through the fiscal detail of the technology access study is that libraries reported applying fines/fees and donations to other expenditures by nearly a two-to-one ratio. It is in the other expenditure category that many technology expenditures occur. If this projection holds true, it suggests that libraries may not be in a position to rely on local tax support to fund technology.

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initiated a household study regarding young adult use of public and school libraries. Conducted by Harris Interactive for the National Association of Public and

detailed analysis by journal title and type of descriptive or inferential statistics is provided and suggests that the shift toward more assessment-based performance measurement by libraries requires greater knowledge of inferential statistics.

The third article is Elizabeth C. Hamilton's "The Impact of Survey Data in Measuring Access," *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, focusing on the Canadian National Population Health Survey. Hamilton conducted citation analysis to investigate the impact and value of national social surveys and use of the data in further research or secondary analysis. This research is particularly pertinent to LIS researchers as the government moves away from a detailed decennial census to annual sample social surveys administered through the American Community Survey. A strong bibliography accompanies the article.

### Articles / Reports of Note

*Building Effective, Sustainable, Practical Assessment*, the proceedings of the Library Assessment Conference sponsored by the Association of Research Libraries in September 2009 in Charlottesville, Virginia, can be ordered as a print volume or downloaded as a pdf from the ASRL Web site at <http://libraryassessment.org/archives/index.shtml>.

Some other articles and reports worthy of mention are:

Challinor, E. (2009). *...*

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