



## ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES

September 4, 2012

To: Directors of ARL Libraries

From: Martha Kyrillidou, Senior Director, ARL Statistics and Service Quality Programs

Re: ARL Statistics 2011-12 (including Law, Health Sciences, and Special Collections)

DUE: As soon as your fiscal year ends and/or no later than October 15, 2012

The web-based *2011-12 ARL Statistics* survey forms are available through the gateway that houses the ARL Statistics web data entry interface. The mailing is available at:

[http://www.arlstatistics.org/About/Mailings/stats\\_2011-12](http://www.arlstatistics.org/About/Mailings/stats_2011-12).

Thank you for alerting responsible staff of the availability of the 2011-12 survey forms. Please forward this email to your counterparts at administratively independent Law and Health Science Libraries as needed.

As you are aware, the ARL Statistics and Assessment Committee and the ARL Board Task Force on Revising the ARL Annual Salary Survey, the ARL Statistics and the ARL Supplementary Statistics have worked over the last eighteen months to collect systematic feedback and revise the survey with the goal of making the data more *useful, relevant and easy to collect*. As a result, the 2011-2012 survey has fewer questions and we hope to be able to finish the data collection and verification by the end of the 2012 calendar year.

In summary, there are a few significant changes to the survey forms for the 2011-12 ARL Statistics:

1. The Collections section of the *2011-12 ARL Statistics* has been shortened. The majority of the Collections questions have been 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.
2. The Expenditures section has been revised:
  - a. To focus on whether expenditures are one-time vs. ongoing, and not on type of material expenditures
  - b. and, to include separate questions on Fringe Benefits expenditures.
3. There is no ARL Supplementary Statistics this year, and a couple of questions (ebooks and usage statistics) have been incorporated in the main survey.

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4. A **Special Collections** branch survey form of the ARL Statistics survey has been generated in the system. Please provide the following key pieces of information regarding your special collections: **expenditures (questions 6 to 9) and staffing (questions 13a-c)**. *We will leave it to your discretion to fill in additional variables if you think they are useful; however, please note that we only want to collect expenditures and staffing data on the Special Collections branch survey so the burden of data collection for this new branch survey is manageable.* We have set up the Special Collections branch survey so that these data will be reported independently from your other survey data. However, if you want to integrate the Special Collection branch data into the main ARL Statistics survey, please send an email to [stats@arl.org](mailto:stats@arl.org), and we will work with you to set up your Special Collections branch(es) as you wish.

As you know, there is a lot of interest in sharing information about Special Collections in a more systematic fashion. Our goal for this first year of data collection for the Special Collections branch survey is to have a test-run that parallel the ARL Statistics survey with the goal of getting expenditures and staffing information. The data submitted and additional input from those who collect the data would help determine definitions and directions for survey questions next year and help identify additional data elements that we might collect in future surveys.

5. Last, we have updated the language on the number of degrees and degree fields to reflect the updated definitions where Doctor's Degrees 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 U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

Directors of ARL libraries may access the online system for interactive analysis of all data as soon as they are submitted. Once you login into the system, you may access submitted data from the 'ANALYTICS' link at the top menu and the 'Data Repository' link on the left.

**\* What the system allows you to do:**

The Web interface allows you to report data separately for the branches, such as Law, Health Sciences, and Special Collections libraries, and then it aggregates this information automatically. You will be able to see a comparison of last year's data to this year's data to help you identify trends for your institution as well as other ARL libraries. This feature improves the reliability of the submitted data and allows us to edit the data after you have thoroughly vetted them. Note that we do provide some guidelines regarding what might be excessive increases or decreases from year to year regarding the aggregated ARL Statistics. (Please see the "arlstatspercent" Excel spreadsheet on the mailing website for more information.)

Please take the time to review your final data with all your senior staff and resolve any questions to your satisfaction before your primary contact makes the final submission to ARL. The designated primary contact for your institution is the person who is responsible for the



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final submission to ARL. A list of all the primary (and other) contacts is provided through the 'Directory' link. **IMPORTANT: the data are not final until ARL closes the survey after careful editing.**

All the needed documents for completing the annual ARL Statistics Survey can be found online at:

[http://www.arlstatistics.org/About/Mailings/stats\\_2011-12](http://www.arlstatistics.org/About/Mailings/stats_2011-12)

Thank you very much for your support and for making the ARL annual statistical compilations possible. If you have any suggestions about this survey cycle or the ARL Statistics and Assessment Program in general, you can reach me by email at [martha@arl.org](mailto:martha@arl.org).