CUL by the Numbers – 2010 Statistics Released

Did you know? In 2009/2010:

- For every physical item checked out from the CUL collections ten e-journal articles were downloaded from our electronic holdings.
- Virtual visits to central CUL-hosted websites (from outside library buildings) accounted for 63% of all library visits. 37% of visits were physical entries into our brick-and-mortar buildings.
- For the first time, electronic resources made up more than 50% of materials expenditures.
- CUL held 7.7 million print volumes, provided access to over 640,000 e-books, and about 98,800 current serials titles. 71.4% of these serials titles were available electronically.
- Mann Library’s visits count was included for the first time this year. With Mann’s numbers, CUL had more than 4 million visits; without Mann’s numbers, visits to library locations showed a 2.3% decrease last year.
- Filled ILL lending requests (for other institutions) dropped by 10.5% in FY10. CUL’s borrowing (from other institutions) increased by 16.3%, probably because WorldCat Local makes it easier to find other institutions’ holdings.
- For the second year in a row, the number of reference transactions increased slightly from the previous year. Virtual transactions represented about 28% of the 79,316 total transactions.
- The global economic crisis was reflected in:
  - Holdings: The number of new print volumes added to CUL’s collections decreased by 10.6%;
  - Expenditures: Total expenditures decreased by 5.5% to $53,383,068. (Note: This figure includes nearly two million dollars of returns to the university, money that was not spent on library collections or services.)
  - Staffing: The number of non-student staff decreased 7.6%, from 437 to 403.6 FTE. Student staff FTEs dropped 8.1%, from 120 to 110.3.
  - Hours: Eight libraries decreased their hours during FY10, although the hours when one could find at least one library open only decreased by one hour a week.
  - Users: CUL’s core audience of students and faculty grew by 1.9%, while CU staff decreased by 6.8%.

This information and much more can be found in the newly released 2009/10 CUL Annual Statistics Report (ASR). Many CUL staff members collaborated on this report, contributing their time and insight.

This year, CUL began collecting data through Counting Opinion’s LibPAS, a web-based data management system that holds CUL data back to FY 2007/08. Assessment & Communication is now offering training to staff who want to create custom reports from this system; please contact Joanne Leary or Linda Miller to sign up (supervisory approval needed).

CUL undertakes the annual data collection, which is just one component of CUL’s assessment program, to provide a basic set of measures for descriptive and high level decision-support purposes. It also meets outside reporting requests (such as ARL, NCES, Cornell University’s Division of Financial Affairs) and allows for benchmarking of core indicators across peer institutions. Data supplied to ARL serves as the
basis for CUL's national rankings and contributes to the overall portrayal of the important role of research libraries.

We encourage you to explore the ASR and welcome your feedback.