CUL by the Numbers – New FY09/09 Statistics Report

Did you know that in 2008/2009:

- CUL crossed the half-million mark of e-book titles, and we provided access to 94,000 current serial titles, 70% of which are available in electronic form. The ongoing move to e-journals contributed to a decline in commercial binding, but the print collection still gets plenty of maintenance, with over 50,000 items getting conservation treatments.
- The Libraries now house close to 1000 public computers, a fifth of which are laptops available for users to borrow. Of these, over 700 are owned and operated by CUL, almost double the number that are owned and operated by CIT in all of its labs.
- For the first time in eleven years, the number of reference transactions increased from the previous year, to more than 78,000. E-transactions (email, chat, text message, etc.) now represent over a quarter of the transactions.
- Total circulation topped 1.3 million, a small uptick over last year, with the increase in equipment usage more than offsetting a slight drop in the use of other non-reserve materials.
- Of the libraries that record visitor counts (all units except Mann, Law, Entomology and Geneva), the Olin/Kroch complex was the most visited, at over 200 per hour open. It was followed by Uris and ILR. The Library Annex, at one visit every five hours open, was the least visited.
- In person visits to the Library dropped about 6%, to about 3.5 million, but virtual visits to central library web pages were up by twice that percentage, to over 8.3 million.
- Based on the ratio of print volumes held to non-equityment, non-reserve charges, the Fine Arts Library collection was the most intensively circulated, with nearly one circulation for every five volumes held, followed by Africana and Music. The Annex collection was, appropriately, the least active, at one circulation for about every 120 volumes.

All this and much more can be found in the newly released 2008/2009 Library Annual Statistics Report (ASR). The ASR provides a broad accounting of the Library's collections, facilities, expenditures, and staffing as well as the use of library materials and services by patrons, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009.

Why do we produce the ASR? Because it provides a compact synopsis of the fruits of our labor enumerating many of the Library's contributions as an active, vital academic unit at the heart of the University. Much of the data collected for the ASR is also supplied to ARL (Association of Research Libraries) and NCES (National Center on Education Statistics), where it serves as the basis for CUL's national rankings, and contributes to the overall portrayal of the important role of research libraries.

The Research & Assessment Unit (RAU) encourages everyone to explore the ASR, both to see how your own efforts are reflected in it, and to gain a better perspective of the full scope of library activities. We welcome comments and suggestions about the ASR. Meanwhile, RAU continues to evaluate options to replace the ASR with a queryable database that will transform it from a static document into an accessible and flexible tool with robust data mining capabilities.

This report represents the collaboration of many CUL staff who contributed data and their time and
insights. Direct data providers are acknowledged at the end of the report. Linda Miller of RAU coordinated the data collection and produced the charts, graphs, and text of the ASR.