

**NEW ZEALAND**

**UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**

**STATISTICS 2000**

**CONZUL**

**Council of New Zealand University Librarians  
2001**

## NEW ZEALAND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY STATISTICS 2000

### Scope

The universities included and their abbreviations are:

AU	University of Auckland
AUT	Auckland University of Technology
CU	University of Canterbury
DU	University of Otago
HU	University of Waikato
LIU	Lincoln University
PU	Massey University
WU	Victoria University of Wellington

Auckland University of Technology, which became a university in January 2000, is included for the first time. The Massey figures for 2000 incorporate the former Wellington Polytechnic Library, which became part of Massey University. The libraries of the University of Otago's Christchurch and Wellington Schools of Medicine are not included.

These statistics relate to the period 1 January to 31 December 2000. Student numbers are from the full year MoE return. University staff figures come from the July MoE returns. The figures for library staff represent establishments for 2000.

### Changes in statistics collected

The scope and arrangement of the statistics is based on that used by CAUL, the Council of Australian University Librarians, for the Australian and New Zealand university library statistics published in *Australian Academic and Research Libraries*, with some additional figures as requested by New Zealand university libraries.

The coverage of statistics was reviewed this year to reflect the changing nature of library services and collections, and to achieve a closer alignment with CAUL. A number of changes were made as a result:

- Statistics for information literacy instruction activity and reference transactions are included for the first time, reflecting the importance of these services

- Non-book materials (AV, microforms, maps, etc.) are now subsumed into either 'Serials' or 'Monographs and other non-serials' as appropriate. This has resulted in some significant increases in the figures for total items in the collections.
- Serials titles are now counted differently, reflecting the huge impact of electronic serials and particularly electronic collections and aggregations. Most of the libraries now have access to more electronic serials than print titles.
- 'University operating income (excluding commercial revenue)' is used instead of 'University current expenditure' as it is believed to give a more readily available and reliable basis for comparison. Nevertheless, differing financial reporting practices between universities mean that these figures should be treated with caution.

Libraries have been encouraged to provide estimates where actual data is not available. Estimates are indicated by italics and shading. CP is used where libraries cannot provide any data.

## **Trends in University Library Key Statistics and Ratios**

Two new tables are included for the first time this year:

Table 1: University library key performance indicators (pg 11)

Table 2: Trends in overall university library key statistics and ratios (pg 12)

Table 1 includes some key ratios on a per EFTS (students only) or FTE (staff plus students) basis and is largely self-explanatory.

Table 2 is an attempt to show the overall picture of university library services and collections for the last few years. The combined university libraries' collections are a significant national asset and over \$80 million in total was spent on university libraries in 2000.

The inclusion of AUT for the first time in 2000 masks some of the trends, as AUT is currently lower on most of the key ratios. However, on closer examination of the underlying data, some trends can be detected.

Total loans increased in 2000, but only due to the inclusion of AUT. There are some signs of a downward trend in loans, but this is by no means uniform. While four universities experienced a decrease in total loans per FTE, two increased and one remained stable. Reserve collection loans show more signs of decline, possibly because some universities are actively taking steps to reduce the workload associated with Reserve collections. However, the anticipated decline in the use of print collections as the use of electronic collections increases, is not yet really apparent.

The number of items obtained through Interloan or document supply has been declining since 1997, most likely due to changes in the New Zealand Interloan scheme, involving the introduction of charges between libraries. This trend was arrested in 2000 (even excluding the effect of AUT) and some universities experienced increases, both in total numbers and on a per FTE basis.

With the increasing use of electronic resources, the number of physical volumes or items in a collection is becoming less useful as an indicator of its value. Consequently not all libraries are maintaining these statistics and some of the ratios are not available for 2000. For serials the number of current titles is the most useful indicator. This has risen rapidly in recent years due to the availability of large collections of electronic journals.

The increase in total library staffing is mainly due to the inclusion of AUT.

Both collection expenditure and overall expenditure have increased on a per FTE basis. Library expenditure as a percentage of total university income has also increased across the board. This is most likely because of the libraries receiving some compensation for the effects of inflation on library materials and the decline in the exchange rate during the year. However, it is clear that not all libraries received full compensation.

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## **GLOSSARY OF DEFINITIONS**

Some definitions of terms for the guidance of users of these statistics:

### **Associated salary costs**

These include ACC, superannuation, retirement and voluntary severance pay, appointment costs and travel, where it is included in the employee agreement, e.g. after-hours.

### **Current serial**

An individual serial (q.v.) publication to which the library has a continuous subscription, or has the expectation of receiving further issues by gift or exchange, and of which the first issue has been received and catalogued or otherwise prepared for use. When a serial changes its title, the new title is not counted as a new serial. However, if a serial splits into two or more new titles, the extra titles are counted as new serials, and if two or more amalgamate into a new title, the extra titles are counted as withdrawals.

### **Document delivery services**

Refers to transactions outside the library, or between libraries (Interloan), or between libraries and document supply services.

### **Electronic serials**

Serials in electronic format, which may be served in-house, or from a remote server. They may be individual titles or part of electronic collections, some created by an individual publisher, and others aggregated collections covering a range of publishers, e.g. ProQuest. The total includes duplicate titles as it is no longer feasible to count unique titles, due to the overlap between electronic collections.

### **External students**

Those students for whom the institution makes special arrangements whereby they need not attend the campus for lectures, tutorials etc. in order to complete a course of study.

### **Extraordinary expenditure**

Special funding for capital works, computer systems, etc.

## **Information resources**

The total accumulation of library materials available for readers. Includes only material which has been catalogued and/or otherwise fully prepared for use.

## **Non-book materials**

Non-book materials are now counted as either serials or with "Monographs and other non-serials". They are library materials other than printed monographs and serials, consisting of material usually requiring equipment for visual projection, and/or sound replay, or graphic materials, or three dimensional materials, or combinations of the above. They are counted as units.

## **Reference transactions**

A reference transaction is an information contact that involves the knowledge, use, interpretation, recommendation, or instruction in the use of one or more information sources by a member of the Library staff. Simple directional questions are excluded. This is the first year reference transactions have been included and it is acknowledged that the method of counting is difficult to apply uniformly across all libraries.

## **Serial**

A publication issued in successive parts, usually at regular intervals, normally with a common title and some sort of numbering sequence, and intended to be continued indefinitely. Serials include periodicals, newspapers, annuals (reports, yearbooks, etc.), memoirs, proceedings and transactions. They also include monographic and publishers series, but these are regarded as serials only if their individual volumes are not classified and catalogued separately, and the series is shelved together as a serial. Multi-volume works constituting a single publication (e.g. an encyclopaedia) are not treated as serials, even if the volumes are issued successively over a period of time.

## **Serial volume**

This includes physical serial volumes or items, whether bound or unbound, and including microform serials, and audiovisual formats published serially. Electronic serials are excluded. Unbound volumes are counted as bibliographic volumes, i.e. the volume designated by the publisher and usually given a distinguishing number.

**University operating income**

Includes income from government grants, student fees (domestic and international), research (whether government or private sector funded), donations/trust funds and interest/investment income, but excludes commercial trading income and income from non-academic services, such as accommodation.

**Withdrawals**

Items no longer held and holdings written off from the library records owing to loss, disposal, etc. Items relegated to storage are not regarded as withdrawals, unless their catalogue records have been removed. In some cases, withdrawals are shown as a separate figure in these statistics; in others (e.g. microforms) the totals are adjusted to reflect withdrawals.