

**NEW ZEALAND
UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
STATISTICS 2001**

**CONZUL
Council of New Zealand University
Librarians
December 2002**

NEW ZEALAND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY STATISTICS 2001

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 has been included from 2000. 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 2001. 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 2001.

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

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*, and on the CAUL web site (<http://www.caul.edu.au/stats/>), with some additional figures as requested by New Zealand university libraries.

Trends in University Library Key Statistics and Ratios

Table 1, Trends in overall university library key statistics and ratios, 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 2001.

There were no changes in opening hours in 2001 and overall seating per EFT student remained the same, although there were some ups and downs in individual universities.

Total loans for the universities combined declined marginally in 2001, as did loans per FTE. This is driven mainly by the drop in Reserve collection loans, which have been declining steadily for some years, possibly because some universities have actively taken steps to reduce the workload associated with Reserve collections. However, the pattern of ordinary loans is quite varied across the universities, with four experiencing increases in ordinary loans per FTE and the other four experiencing declines. So the anticipated decline in the use of print collections, as the use of electronic collections increases, is not yet really apparent.

The total number of items obtained through Interloan or document supply has been declining since 1997, apart from an increase in 2000 due to the inclusion of AUT. The underlying decline continued in 2001. The decline was initially most likely due to changes in the New Zealand Interloan scheme, involving the introduction of charges between libraries, but recently the increasing availability of full-text journals online has contributed to the reduced demand. However, two of the eight universities still experienced increases in 2001, both in actual 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 2001. 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. While such collections represent very good value for money, they usually include many titles of marginal importance, so that the increase in quantity is not necessarily matched by the same increase in quality.

Collection expenditure per FTE increased in seven of the eight universities in 2001, and by almost 10% overall. However, it is likely that most of the increase was taken up by the declining value of the NZ dollar.

Total library staff numbers declined in 2001. Staff per 100 FTE user population has been declining steadily since 1996 and was especially marked in 2000, due to the inclusion of AUT. The statistics do not reveal whether the decreasing numbers have been achieved through greater efficiency or by reducing services.

Library expenditure as a percentage of total university income has declined overall, though it increased in three of the universities.

Table 2, University library key performance indicators, includes some key ratios on a per EFTS (students only) or FTE (staff plus students) basis and is largely self-explanatory.

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