

**NEW ZEALAND
UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
STATISTICS 2003**

**CONZUL
Council of New Zealand University
Librarians
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NEW ZEALAND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY STATISTICS 2003

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 2003. Student numbers are from the full year MoE return. University staff figures come from the July MoE returns. The figures for library staff represent levels for 2003.

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 website (<http://www.caul.edu.au/stats/>), with some additional figures as requested by New Zealand university libraries.

New Zealand University Library Statistics are accessible from the CONZUL website (<http://www.conzul.ac.nz/statistics.htm>)

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 five years. Overall student numbers have been increasing over this period, with a 5.8% increase in 2003.

Opening hours overall increased slightly in 2003. Over the last two years three of the eight universities have extended their opening hours and there is something of a trend internationally towards longer hours.

Total loans for the universities combined increased in 2003. The growth rate in ordinary loans exceeded the growth in student numbers, but Reserve Collection

Loans continued to decline, most likely due to replacement with electronic resources, so the overall loans per FTE decreased slightly.

Statistics on information literacy instruction have been gathered for a few years now and this year have been incorporated into the Trends table and the KPIs in Table 2. It can be seen that this is a growing area of work for the libraries.

The total number of items obtained through interloan or document supply decreased markedly in 2003 and has not been so low since before 1996. This is mainly due to increased availability of electronic full-text serials, which now account for over 80% of the serials "held" in the university libraries. In 2003 there was a big increase in the total of current serials titles held due to growth in electronic serials collections. The libraries have been taking advantage of special consortial deals, negotiated by CONZUL and CAUL, for publishers' complete collections.

This year, for the first time, libraries started to report metrics for use of electronic services and expenditure on e-resources. It should be noted that there are still some problems getting standard usage metrics from different vendors, so figures have to be treated with caution and not all universities were able to report this data. Nevertheless, for the five libraries reporting on downloads of electronic full-text articles, the average of 23 articles per FTE (in comparison with 32 loans per FTE) shows very heavy use of full-text databases.

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.

The combined university libraries' collections are a significant national asset and over \$49 million was spent on them in 2003. Combined collection expenditure per FTE has further decreased since 2002, though the pattern varies across universities and it actually increased in three of them. This reflects the higher exchange rate for the NZ dollar, as well as cut-backs in some universities. The overall average for volumes added per FTE has also declined, as has the number of monographs/non-serial items added per FTE. There is a slight shift in expenditure from books to serials, with the overall ratio now being 29:71 for book to serial expenditure.

Total library staff numbers increased marginally in 2003, but not at the rate of growth of the user population, except for one university. In fact, library staff per 100 FTE user population has declined steadily since 1996. While some library operations have become more efficient, assisted by library systems and electronic resources, other areas of service, such as teaching information literacy, are demanding more staff time. So the overall picture suggests increasing efficiency but possibly also pressure on staffing in some libraries. The proportion of library budgets spent on staffing (39% on average) is lower than in Australian university libraries (49%)¹ and the US Association of Research Libraries (46%)². Actual staff

¹ Council of Australian University Librarians. *2003 statistics. Rankings table.*
<http://www.anu.edu.au/caul/stats/rank2003.xls>

levels would appear to be comparable in Australia, but much higher in the US ARL libraries.

Total library expenditure per FTE declined slightly in 2003, largely as a consequence of the decline in collection expenditure per FTE noted above. Likewise, library expenditure as a percentage of total university income has dropped, although it increased in one university.

Table 2, *University Library Key Performance Indicators 2003*, includes some key ratios on a per EFTS (students only) and per FTE (staff plus students) basis, enabling comparisons to be made between universities.

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