

**NEW ZEALAND  
UNIVERSITY LIBRARY  
STATISTICS 2004**

**CONZUL  
Council of New Zealand University  
Librarians  
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# NEW ZEALAND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY STATISTICS 2004

## Scope

The universities included and their abbreviations are:

Auckland	University of Auckland
AUT	Auckland University of Technology
Canterbury	University of Canterbury
Lincoln	Lincoln University
Massey	Massey University
Otago	University of Otago
Victoria	Victoria University of Wellington
Waikato	University of Waikato

Auckland University of Technology has been included from 2000. The libraries of the University of Otago's Christchurch and Wellington Schools of Medicine and Health Sciences are not included.

These statistics relate to the period 1 January to 31 December 2004. Student numbers are from the full year Ministry of Education (MoE) return. University staff figures come from the July MoE returns. The figures for library staff represent levels for 2004.

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 3.1% increase in 2004.

Opening hours increased slightly again in 2004. Over the last four years three of the eight universities have extended their opening hours, no doubt due to student demand.

Total loans for the universities combined decreased in 2004 for both ordinary and reserve collection loans, although three of the eight libraries still recorded

increases. The general downward trend for loans is most likely related to the increasing numbers of electronic resources available. Items obtained through interloan also continue to decline, which is a good indication that libraries have been able to supply more of their user's needs from their own collections. The increased availability of electronic full text serials and books will have contributed significantly to this result.

This is the second year that statistics on information literacy instruction has been included in the Trends and KPI tables, and the increase in both numbers of students attending and numbers of sessions held is a reflection of the growing importance that libraries are placing on these services.

Metrics for use of electronic services are still not complete for all libraries because of problems obtaining standard usage numbers so results should continue to be treated with caution. However for the six libraries that did report on downloads of electronic full-text articles, the average per FTE has more than doubled since last year. There is also a growing gap between the average number of articles downloaded per FTE (49.7) as compared to the average number of loans (30.2).

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 asset to the nation and the total budget for library materials increased to just under \$50 million in 2004. Four universities recorded an increase in collection expenditure per FTE, but there is an overall decline when all universities are taken into account. This reflects the greater increase in the numbers of students as compared to the increase in expenditure on materials over this period. The continuing favourable exchange rate for the NZ dollar has helped to limit the impact of the decline in percentage expenditure on collection per FTE. The overall average for volumes added per FTE has increased, but this is mainly due to large increases in two libraries holdings.

Total library staff numbers increased slightly in 2004, but library staff per FTE user population has continued to decline, a trend that has been evident since 1996. Efficiencies gained through automation and online access to resources and services have enabled libraries to meet the demands of an increased student and staff population as well as providing additional service in areas such as teaching information literacy skills.

The proportion of library budgets spent on staffing (40% on average) is lower than in Australasian university libraries overall (46%)<sup>1</sup> and also the US Association of Research Libraries (49%)<sup>2</sup>. Actual staff levels would appear to be comparable in Australia, but are much higher in the US ARL libraries.

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<sup>1</sup> Council of Australian University Librarians. *2004 statistics. Summary statistics.*  
[http://statistics.caul.edu.au/summary\\_stats.php](http://statistics.caul.edu.au/summary_stats.php)

<sup>2</sup> Association of Research Libraries. *ARL statistics; interactive edition.*  
<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/cgi-local/arlibin/arlibin.cgi?task=setupstats>

Total library expenditure per FTE increased again after a drop in 2003. When compared with the slight decline in collection expenditure per FTE, it seems that libraries are spending more on staffing and operational costs, although the percentage differences are small. Library expenditure as a percentage of total university income has dropped again, although it increased in two universities.

Table 2, *University Library Key Performance Indicators 2004*, 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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