

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Graduate School of Library and Information Science

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Fact Sheet: The Library Research Center (LRC)
Founded 1961

Mission: The Library Research Center promotes the use of social science research methods and statistics in the planning and implementation of library research. Permanent professional staff assist clients with research project design, data collection and analysis, and the initiation and implementation of independent investigations in the field of library and information science.

Services: The Library Research Center has conducted studies in all areas of librarianship, including computer applications and information science. Research can include entire projects or selected components, according to client needs. All phases of project work are completed in-house--ensuring control of top-quality results--and staff and faculty draw on other specialized University of Illinois resources, including one of the largest academic libraries in the nation, the Social Science Quantitative Laboratory, and the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology. Available services include:

Research design · Sample selection · Questionnaire design and pretesting ·
Computer-assisted collection of annual library data · Administration of mail and
telephone surveys · Data entry, analysis, and interpretation · Presentation of
research results in custom-tailored reports and publications

Center staff help focus research questions and select appropriate methodology. Initial consultation and advising is provided without charge. Clients are provided with cost and time estimates for completion of services.

Clients: Government agencies, public libraries and library systems, private corporations, professional associations, and individual researchers are among the clients who choose to work with the Library Research Center. Recent projects and contract fees include:

- ▶ Blackwell's Book Service--Current focus groups with collection developers at four-year, degree-granting institutions in L.A., Chicago, and Boston to study how customers and non-customers react to services. (\$59,000)
- ▶ Lila and DeWitt Wallace-Readers Digest Foundation--Current national assessment of nature and scope of programs for school-age youth (\$34,400) and cultural programs for adults (\$25,700) at public libraries.
- ▶ Illinois State Library--Ongoing contract to collect and analyze annual census statistics from more than 600 libraries, including special topic reports. (\$120,000)
- ▶ H.W. Wilson--1994 study determining Wilson's current and future market, including customers' needs for new products and technologies. (\$112,000)
- ▶ American Library Association--Annual national survey of librarian salaries, including preparation of print-ready content for ALA publications (\$18,000)
- ▶ Public Library Association--Produce annual Public Library Data Service *Statistical Report*. (\$30,000)
- ▶ North American Title Count--Collect and compile holdings data from selected research libraries every four years; 1997 count in progress. (\$35,000)

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