

NEW ZEALAND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY STATISTICS 2005

Scope

Statistics for all New Zealand universities are included in this publication.

Names of the universities 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 2005. Student and staff numbers are from the Ministry of Education (MoE) return. The figures for library staff represent levels for 2005.

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.

In 2005 the Colleges of Education in Auckland and in Wellington merged with the University of Auckland and Victoria University of Wellington respectively. As a result some figures are affected by the additional resources reported, including library staffing, student and staff populations and increases in collections.

Overall student numbers increased slightly, but most individual institutions recorded decreased EFTS. The amalgamations at both University of Auckland and Victoria University of Wellington with their local Colleges of Education were the main reason for the overall increase. A similar pattern of decreased FTE at most institutions was recorded for staff numbers although the decline was less marked.

The increase in average opening hours in 2005 is attributable to two libraries extending their hours, one by 20 hours per week.

The total number of loans increased slightly though much of this is likely to be related to the inclusion of loans for the populations of the ex-Colleges of Education for the first time. Reserve collection loans continued to drop corresponding to the increasing availability of e-reserve collections; this is also reflected in the drop of reserve loans as a percentage of total loans. Interloan traffic continued to decrease overall but four libraries recorded increases in the number of original items received and three had increases in items supplied.

This year all libraries included statistics on information literacy and instruction. Average numbers attending per FTE show a small but steady increase.

Metrics for use of electronic services should be treated with caution. Not every library provides returns for these columns and figures may not be comparative between institutions. CAUL does not collect statistics in this area.

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 in detail.

The combined university libraries' collections are a significant asset to the nation; the total budget for library materials increased to just under \$52 million in 2005, with nearly half of that devoted to e-resources. All but two universities recorded an increase in collection expenditure per FTE. However the declining exchange rate for the NZ dollar is likely to impact on the quantity of material purchased in the near future.

Total library staff numbers increased in 2005, with the amalgamation of the Colleges of Education at the University of Auckland and Victoria University a major factor. In general though, library staff per FTE user population has remained fairly static over the last 3 years.

Total library expenditure per FTE increased again. When compared with the collection expenditure trends per FTE, libraries are continuing to spend more on staffing and operational costs, although the percentage differences are small. Library expenditure as a percentage of total university income has dropped again, and is now only just above 5% overall.

Comparisons with Australian university libraries¹ and with US research academic libraries² is possible through their interactive web sites although as their 2005 figures

¹ Council of Australian University Librarians http://statistics.caul.edu.au/summary_stats.php

² Association of Research Libraries <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/cgi-local/arlibin/arlibin.cgi?task=setupstats>

were not available at the time of publication it has not been possible to draw any specific conclusions.

Table 2, University Library Key Performance Indicators 2005, includes some key ratios on a per EFTS (students only) and FTE (staff plus students) basis, enabling comparisons to be made between universities.

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