

Three Year Trend in Interlibrary Loan Requests

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Objective

Background: In response to the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) ILL service increase from \$9 to \$12, and in preparation for an upcoming retreat discussion in April 2018, the Consortium of Southern Biomedical Libraries (CONBLS) polled its 21 member libraries for ILL fills and borrows to and from other CONBLS libraries for calendar years 2016 and 2017.

Objective: Analyze the most recent three-year ILL use statistics from reporting CONBLS libraries, present the results, and attempt to determine reasons for identified trends in CONBLS libraries' ILL activity.

Methods

To analyze three years of data, 2018 ILL statistics was requested from CONBLS libraries and permission was obtained to use it and the previously collected 2016 and 2017 ILL CONBLS statistics for this poster. Data was combined in Excel and analyzed for trends.

Results

Requested 2018 ILL statistics were received from 20 of 21 CONBLS institutions. Data showed that the number of fills declined in the case of 12 libraries, while the other 9 libraries experienced increases. There was an overall 19 percent decrease in the number of fills. In the case of borrows, 15 libraries saw decreases while 6 libraries showed increases. Overall, there was a slight increase of 1 percent in the number of borrows.

Conclusions

The decline in overall CONBLS ILL services was not unexpected and reflects the decline in certain more traditional services in academic medical libraries. There are numerous factors affecting ILL use and among them are the proliferation of open access publications; Patron-Driven Acquisition; library subsidized pay-for-view; technologies that facilitate ease of information sharing; the availability of extensive digital back-files; and more restrictive publishers' licensing agreements. Even though ILL use has declined, it still plays an important role in providing needed resources to library users, helping libraries understand the needs of their users, and serving as an important tool in collection development. The discrepancy between a 19.16% decrease in fills and relatively stable number of borrows (+1.15%) over three years indicates that the CONBLS libraries were unable to provide what their users needed in 2018 at the same level they were able to in 2016. This may be due to flat or decreased budgets resulting in fewer lendable resources and less staff to provide ILL services. It is an indicator of the libraries' decreasing ability to serve the information needs of their patrons through Interlibrary Loan Services.

CONBLS Reciprocal Interlibrary Loan Survey*

CONBLS Libraries	LIBID	Fills 2016	Fills 2017	Fills 2018	% Change Total	Borrows 2017	Borrows 2016	Borrows 2018	% Change Total
University of Alabama - Birmingham	ALUALA	124	141	211	70.16%	350	572	181	-48.29%
University of South Alabama	ALUSOA	805	631	536	-33.42%	6	3	488	8033.33%
Florida International University	FLUDZW	79	79	144	82.28%	151	182	117	-22.52%
University of Florida - Gainesville**	FLUFLO	813	585	653	-19.68%	766	941	757	-1.17%
Florida State University	FLUHQV	422	446	181	-57.11%	446	581	190	-57.40%
University of Central Florida	FLUIAK	93	171	244	162.37%	289	337	257	-11.07%
University of Florida - Jacksonville**	FLUJHE	288	245	149	-48.26%	345	311	315	-8.70%
University of Miami	FLUMIA	1671	1311	844	-49.49%	666	561	862	29.43%
University of South Florida	FLUSOF	362	350	426	17.68%	618	570	501	-18.93%
Emory University	GAUEMU	1712	1312	1323	-22.72%	924	882	1090	17.97%
Augusta Univ	GAUGEO	1302	1090	789	-39.40%	265	346	161	-39.25%
Morehouse School of Medicine	GAUMAG	217	145	321	47.93%	299	255	181	-39.46%
Mercer University	GAUMCR	829	571	486	-41.38%	340	326	362	6.47%
University of Mississippi Medical Center	MSUMIS	800	730	754	-5.75%	506	460	289	-42.89%
University of Puerto Rico	PRUPUR	268	192	196	-26.87%	803	1108	788	-1.87%
Greenville Health System (G3V)		1	7	44	4300.00%	254	138	981	286.22%
Medical University of South Carolina	SCUSCA	1138	1199	900	-20.91%	1501	1547	1241	-17.32%
University of South Carolina	SCUSCR	418	458	537	28.47%	146	85	137	-6.16%
East Tennessee State University	TNUETS	456	374	468	2.63%	897	1150	665	-25.86%
University of Tennessee	TNUTEN	539	700	958	77.74%	1602	1985	1399	-12.67%
Vanderbilt University	TNUVAN	1106	1020	703	-36.44%	483	497	829	71.64%
TOTAL		13,443	11,757	10,867	-19.16%	11,657	12,837	11,791	1.15%

*--Ordered by State

** -- Counted as one institutional member