

CURRENT ISSUES OF DIGITAL LIBRARY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS IN JAPANESE ACADEMIC LIBRARY STATISTICS

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INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) has published "Library Statistics of Colleges and Universities" from the 1966 fiscal year as academic library statistics of our country every year. Although the statistics have detailed statistics items, since the figures are summarized according to the banding of colleges and universities¹, the figures of each college and universities are unknown. On the other hand, although the statistics item of "The Library of Japan" which Japan Library Association (JLA) has published from 1952 fiscal year every year is simplified, since the figures of each academic libraries is shown, these two statistics are used together in many cases. These statistics have revised the measures corresponding to change of academic libraries operations or services. Especially, measures such as 1) Library websites 2) CD-ROM and DVD-ROM services 3) Library services via websites were added to digital library functions in "Library Statistics of Colleges and Universities" in the 1997 fiscal year. The number of academic libraries which offers the databases and the electronic journals via network, and its contents became clear by this. From the 2000 fiscal year, the number of electronic journals was adopted by the statistics.

THE NECESSITY OF MEASURES FOR DIGITAL LIBRARY FUNCTIONS

However, the present academic library is the so-called hybrid library where the traditional library function and the digital library function are intermingled, and these measures are insufficient for this evaluation. For this reason, The Library Performance Measures Working Group of the Association of National University Libraries prepared "A Report of the Performance Measures of University Libraries" referring to the early researches such as ARL E-metrics Project and EQUINOX Project in 2002.

¹Colleges and universities are classified according to the number of faculties

A: 8 or more faculties B: 5-7 faculties C: 2-4 faculties D: 1 faculty

The report contained 1) digital documents produced in house 2) electronic journals 3) databases 4) digital reference services 5) use of other digital documents as measures of digital library functions. Although evaluation of digital library functions were tried as a part of self-assessment in Tohoku University Library, Nagoya University Library, Yamagata University Library, etc. based on this, it is in the situation it cannot be told to the whole National University Libraries that it is established.

CURRENT TRENDS

On the other hand, "SCONUL Statistics"² which is annual statistics of the academic libraries in U.K., and "ARL Statistics"³ which is annual statistics of the research library in the U.S. are going to add the item of e-metrics and large amendment. In our country, construction of a university information database for university evaluation has been developing by The National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE). Although the statistics of operations and services of academic library are included in the university information database, what is taken up as measures of digital library functions at the present stage seems to be only the number of subscribed database, and the number of subscribed electronic journals.

TOWARDS ESTABLISHING NEW FRAMEWORK

As of the 2002 fiscal year, it averages in the National Universities, 3,900 or more titles of the subscribed electronic journals was introduced by the electronic journals introduction budget at which the MEXT started distribution from the 2002 fiscal year, and the expenditure was 30 million yen per university by it. It costs expenditure to introduce the electronic resources and cause the accountability of the effect of the introduction in the university for the stakeholder. Therefore, it seems that the maintenance of academic ty library statistics including the performance indicators for the digital library functions as possible the cross country comparison, and provide reliability and validity is immediately necessary. In this paper, the performance indicators for digital library functions will be examined based on standards and initiatives , such as 1) ARL E-Metrics ⁴ 2) E-measures Project⁵ 3) ICOLC⁶ 4) COUNTER⁷ 5) NISO⁸ 6) ISO⁹ 7) EQUINOX¹⁰, from three aspects -- electronic resources, services, and cost --¹¹, and it proposes about the new framework of the digital library performance indicators for the current academic library statistics in Japan¹².

²http://www.sconul.ac.uk/pubs_stats/stats.html

³<http://www.arl.org/stats/arlstat/>

⁴<http://www.arl.org/stats/newmeas/emetrics/index.html>

⁵<http://www.ebase.uce.ac.uk/emeasures/index.htm>

⁶<http://www.library.yale.edu/consortia/2001webstats.htm>

⁷<http://www.projectcounter.org/>

⁸<http://www.niso.org/>

⁹ISO TR20983: Performance Indicators for Electronic Library Services

¹⁰<http://equinox.dcu.ie/>

¹¹A selected comparison across initiatives and standards, see Planning and evaluating library networked services and resources. Edited by John Carlo Bertot and Denise M. Davis. Libraries Unlimited, 2004. p.127-158.

¹²Minimum set of new performance indicators for digital library functions, see Table 1.

Table 1 Minimum set of new performance indicators for digital library functions ^a

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|---|
| <p>a. Electronic Resources (e-resources)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electronic journals Number of subscribed electronic full-text journals• Databases Number of subscribed databases• E-books Number of purchased or licensed e-books• Digital documents produced in house Number of digital documents produced in house <p>b. Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virtual visits Number of hits on the library website• Digital reference questions Procedural/directional questions received electronically during sample week Electronic resources related questions received electronically during sample week• Full-text articles requests Successful requests for full-text journal articles Turnaways from full-text journals• Database sessions and searches Successful session on databases Total database searches performed during all sessions Turnaways from databases• Use of E-books Successful accesses to e-books Turnaways from e-books• Use of digital documents produced in house Number of sessions on digital documents produced in house |
|---|

c. Costs

- Electronic journals

Subscriptions to electronic full-text journals

- Databases

Subscriptions to databases

- E-books

Expenditures on e-books

- Digital documents produced in house

Expenditures on digital documents produced in house

^aBased on e-measures project