



Resource Sharing Committee Annual Project 2016–2017
ILLINET Interlibrary Loan Traffic Survey Analysis: FY2012–FY2016

The CARLI Resource Sharing Committee’s annual project for 2016–17 analyzes current trends related to interlibrary loan and resource sharing activities for returnable and non-returnable items in Illinois academic libraries. Since the Illinois State Library requires the annual submission of the ILLINET Interlibrary Loan Traffic Survey, the Committee sought to analyze requesting (borrowing) and supplying (lending) data from the past five years to see if there were any noticeable trends that would be of interest to academic libraries and CARLI member institutions.

From FY2012 to FY2016, there was a 23% decrease in the borrowing requests placed at the 44 academic libraries that submitted data for all 5 years. There was a 19% decrease in the borrowing requests filled at the 42 academic libraries that submitted data for all 5 years.

From FY2012 to FY2016, there was a 15% decrease in the number of supplying requests placed, and the number of supplying requests filled, at the 42 libraries that submitted data for both supplying requests placed and filled for all five years.

Resources Used

The raw data came from the ILLINET Interlibrary Loan Traffic Survey. Raw data reports were downloaded from the Counting Opinions site that houses the ILLINET Interlibrary Loan Traffic Survey, and the data were deduplicated, so that data were provided only once for each institution.

The Committee also used several databases to survey library literature for journal articles relevant to our topic. Staff members created a Google doc containing the annotated bibliography of articles; the actual articles were placed in “Box” (an online file sharing and cloud content management service).

How Long It Took

Work on the annual project, including planning, began in August, 2016 and was completed in June, 2017.

Challenges Encountered

The Committee conducted a literature review and found that current literature on Illinois-specific resource-sharing practices were not easy to find, with an article by Wiley and Chrzastowski (2005) being the most relevant to our research. In the absence of sources relevant to our research project, we focused on the data provided by academic libraries in Illinois on the ILLINET Interlibrary Loan Traffic Survey

Why Important to CARLI, to Your Library, and to the Profession

It is hoped that this analysis will be useful for goal setting, resource allocation, planning for staffing, library policy review, collection justification, and peer institution benchmarking. We believe this analysis provides useful data to academic libraries and provides a snapshot of recent trends in resource sharing within Illinois. The data analysis does show that interlibrary loan requests, although declining, remain of inherent value to library services. The Committee feels this study is just a start for further data analysis.

Respectfully submitted by Thomas Mantzakides and Eric Edwards, 2017-18 CARLI Resource Sharing Committee Co-Chairs, on October 16, 2017