Project Title:	Public Library Network Statistics: Librarian Education for the Collection, Analysis, and Use of Library Networked Services and Resources Statistics
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As libraries increase their provision of network-based services, data collection reporting requirements from state library agencies and others adopt network statistics into their annual surveys, and external reporting agencies want to know about the use of library resources in times of fiscal restraint, librarians will need to have a fundamental understanding of the networked environment, ways in which to measure network resource usage, ways in which to analyze and present network usage data, and develop techniques to assess the outcomes of library networked services on the communities the library serves. These and other factors point to the overall importance for a carefully developed education and training program that provides public librarians with multi-faceted instruction regarding the use and uses of networked information resources.

Current research indicates that there is an extremely high interest in the collection, analysis, and use of public library networked statistics, but a substantial lack of the necessary skills by librarians, and state library agency and consortia staff, regarding the actual implementation of a network statistics collection system that includes collection, analysis, reporting, and comprehension of the results. This situation is paradoxical in that public libraries, state library agencies, and regional consortia have a sense of *what* statistics to collect and report, but do not know *how* to engage in the data collection and reporting activities.

Based on studies conducted by the authors, discussions with state library agency staff (including state data coordinators responsible for the collection and reporting of public library data), consortia staff, and those responsible for the collection of national public library data (PLDS project managers and staff at the NCES and the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science), it is evident that there is a need for a comprehensive network statistics training program that: (1) describe the relationship between a library's (or state library agency/consortium) technology infrastructure and the network statistics; (2) instruct librarians as to the intent and definitions of the network statistics; (3) instruct librarians in the various methodologies and approaches for collecting network statistics; (4) assist libraries develop a management and collection plan for network statistics; (5) assist libraries develop in-house training programs to instruct staff in the collection and reporting of network statistics; (6) assist libraries report their network resources and services data for aggregation across public libraries; and (7) instruct librarians in the development of outcomes-based evaluation of their networked services.

The proposed education and training grant will develop online materials (through a proposed Library Statistics Clearinghouse) for dissemination and access. The project also will conduct regional instructional seminars. This two-pronged learning strategy will enhance librarian learning as well as provide a broad dissemination platform.

IMLS-Training (EMIS)