

## **NCES Peer institution library data crunch and highlights and areas for improvement**

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Data collected using NCES>Compare peers tool:

<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries/compare/Default.aspx>

- Using the 10 Peer Institutions list <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/provost/ie/>
- Data is from FY12, Our FTE staff has been reduced by at least 1.5 since that time.
- Only 1 year's data set is available for the comparison tool.
- In addition to peer comparison, results report comparison against state and national averages for academic libraries.
- Original report had incorrect peer North Dakota State University instead of Dakota State University which skewed data.

### **Full report available at:**

<http://www.uas.alaska.edu/library/program-review/NcesPeerInstLibraryFullComparison.pdf>

### **Interesting highlights / areas for improvement:**

Total Spending:

- **Our total expenditures (\$1,155,075) are comparable to the peer group avg (\$1,037,025)**, less than the state avg (\$3,976,680) and national avg (\$2,101,123).
- **Our expenditures per FTE student (\$601.29) are higher than the peer group avg (\$257.55) but comparable to the national avg (\$529.89)**. State avg (\$1,827.97). This difference is directly related to our FTE (1,921 as of FY 2012) being considerably lower than the peer group avg (3,106). Worth noting also is that our Employee Fringe Benefits (\$417,565) are significantly higher than our peer group (\$280,740).

Staffing:

- **We have a higher ratio of professional librarians/staff per 1,000 students than 8 /9 peers**. We are at 3.3 the peer group average is 1.49. The AK state avg is 6.89 and national average is 3.97.
- **Our ratio of total staff per 1,000 students (8.79) is also higher than 8/9 peer institutions (peer group avg is 5.07, national avg 8.36)**. Worth noting is that our total staff (16.89) was comparable to our peers (15.86) and as of FY 15 has reduced to 15 (12 FTE) and staffing levels are anticipated to drop to 10.75 in FY 16.

#### Collection:

- **We spent less on Books, Serial backfiles and Other materials (\$71,973) than the peer group avg (\$107,508) though more than 3 of the libraries reporting data.**
- **Current Serial Subscriptions spending (\$128,523) is less than the peer group avg (\$229,833) and is less than 5/8 peers reporting data.**
- **Our users have access to more ebooks (91,837) than the peer group avg (53,309).**
- **Our students have access to more materials per FTE student (100.94) than the peer group avg (48.72) and the national avg (91.42).**

#### LIBRARY USE:

- We are open 80 hours in a typical week, comparable to the peer group avg (77).
- **Our Gate Count in a typical week/library visits (1,807) is considerably lower than the peer group avg (3,212).**

#### CIRCULATION:

- **Our general circulation is lower (15,298) than the peer group avg (17,923).**
- **Our reserve circulation (2,306) is higher than the peer group avg (2,138).**
- **Print Circulation (including reserves) per FTE student (9) is higher than the peer group avg (3), slightly lower than the national avg (12) and considerably lower than the state average (114).**

#### ILL:

- **Our expenditures (\$10,220) are higher than the peer group (\$3,803) avg, state avg (\$6,535) and national avg (\$9,752).** I'd suspect this was due to shipping costs but referring to the 2012 questionnaire shipping is not part of the total. So with our lending and borrowing being lower than peer group why are we spending so much more?
- **We borrowed slightly fewer ILLs (2,261) for our users than the peer group (2,801)**
- **We provided fewer ILLs (1,759) to other libraries than the peer group (3,541), state (4,406) and national (3,213) averages.**

#### INSTRUCTION:

- We provided more Information Literacy presentations/sessions (172) than the peer group avg (112) and the national avg (157).
- Total attendance at these sessions (2,127) was comparable to the peer group avg (1,887).
- **UAS and 7 of 8 reporting peers have incorporated information literacy in the institutions' student learning outcomes.**

#### REFERENCE:

- Our total annual information services to individuals/reference transactions(2,093) is considerably less than the peer group avg (14,327).
- Since 2012 we have added chat reference to our suite of digital reference services and in AY 13-14 provided 5,000 reference transactions.

#### Technology:

- Our spending on Computer Hardware and Software (\$12,857) is just higher than the peer group avg (\$10,291 and significantly less than the state (\$211,899) and national (\$209,828) averages. This is likely due to UAS IT providing hardware and software licensing for us.

#### Bibliographic Utilities, Network, Consortia:

- Our spending in this category (\$97,031) is higher than the peer group avg (\$38,550)and national avg (\$37,682) but lower than the state avg (\$87,238). Does this category translate to access for electronic materials?