Invitation to Participate in the 2019 ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics Survey

September 26, 2019

Dear [first name],

On behalf of ACRL, we ask for your participation in the ACRL Academic Library Trends & Statistics Survey for fiscal year 2019 which is defined as the most recent 12-month period that ends before October 1, 2019 that corresponds to your institution’s fiscal year.

If you have participated in the past, thank you. Last year, we had the highest response rate in our 20 years of conducting the survey, which we hope deepened your understanding of the state of academic and research libraries We hope that you will contribute your library’s data for the 2019 fiscal year. This email gives details about the survey including instructions for this year’s submission.

**Significance of the survey**

The ACRL survey is the largest national survey of its kind, offering the best understanding of the impact that academic libraries have through their staffing, teaching, collections, and beyond. Libraries across the country use the survey for benchmarking, understanding trends, advocating for better resources, assessment, and conducting deeper research. The survey questions are shaped by respondents from every size and type of academic library. We count on your participation to ensure a broad picture of academic libraries and welcome your input on changes to the survey and focus areas for our 2020 trends questionnaire. Survey participants can provide comments and suggestions for changes to future surveys as part of the 2019 survey.

**Overview of the survey**

The ACRL Academic Library Trends & Statistics Survey includes three parts:

* The IPEDS Academic Library Component (<https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/>), with instructions and definitions completely aligned. Alignment between ACRL’s survey and IPEDS began in 2015 and allows ACRL to make these data available with a few short months of turnaround time.
* Questions exclusive to this year’s survey, which are sometimes used to test questions for future IPEDS surveys.
* A section on trends which changes yearly: this year’s questions focus is libraries’ impact on **open educational resources**.

Access to the **Results**

Every participating library receives complimentary access to the aggregate survey results as soon as they are available in the late May/early June. The complete dataset will also be published in the 2019 edition of *ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics,* available from the ALA Bookstore by July 2020. A subscription to the [ACRL Metrics](https://www.acrlmetrics.com/) database offers additional functionality, including access to past data and the ability to compare specific institutions.

Two surveys in one: Easy **IPEDS Integration**

If you are required to submit data to IPEDS, we have made it easy for you to complete two surveys at once. Start with the ACRL survey. When you’re finished, you can download a zip file (which will also be emailed to you) which includes all the data required for the IPEDS Academic Library Component. If you are not the person responsible for submitting data directly to IPEDS, just share the zip file with your campus IPEDS keyholder.

**2019 Submission Details**
Data Collection Period: September 2019 – February 28, 2020
Submission website: <http://acrl.countingopinions.com>
Username: [USER NAME]
Password: [PASSWORD]

Please contact Counting Opinions support at 1-800-542-9847 or via email at acrlsupport@countingopinions.com with any questions about the survey or to correct contact information for your institution.

Thank you in advance for making the time to collect and report these important data so that our profession has a comprehensive look at trends in academic libraries.

Sincerely,



Mary Ellen K. Davis
Executive Director
Association of College and Research Libraries

*Committed to helping academic libraries demonstrate value*