

## **Problematic Statistics**

### Expenditures – where to find the figures; what to include

Recommendation for change possible. Task Force considers this to be a training issue. Suggestion was made to lead a webinar near the statistics collection date so MSL staff member can assist librarians with entering their information in the system. Overall budget training would be good.

### Transactions – there's a lot of different methods being used; particularly for reference, procedural, and directional

Recommendation for change possible: to drop procedural and directional, which are not required by Fed's. Just keep reference.

Definition suggestion possible: to include procedural of some kinds as reference

### Circulation – databases, e-books, and other electronic resources make this tricky

No recommendation for change.

But, since databases are not included in Federal definition, we could track as a state. For both statewide and individual subscriptions. If so, will need to determine and train on what to count (retrievals, searches).

Definition suggestions possible: what is and what is not interlibrary loan. What about including internal circulations.

### Computer use – this can be inconsistent as well due to different methodologies; also include devices and wireless

More of a training issue.

Definition suggestion possible: wireless included or not

### Interlibrary loans – resource sharing groups and how to count

Training issue especially for user sharing groups: what to count as circulation and what to count as ILL.

Definition suggestion possible: what happens in shared ILS versus looking at this through the current definition of autonomous libraries. There is also suggestion that this entire element be removed including a suggestion to remove at the federal level

### Electronic resources – collection side; what should be included and counted

Definition suggestion possible: what does "database" mean? Does it include online services? Would "licensed subscription content and services be clearer? Does "Audio" include songs?

### Staff – how to categorize staff; librarian versus library director:

Definition suggestion possible. Need to look also at Montana's Code and ARM. Might also have a training issue

Remaining statistics to discuss at the next meeting:

Staff FTE – count all library FTE or just those who serve public

Materials – print, electronic, and serial and how to categorize them

Revenues – categorizing and collecting

Overall goal of improving accuracy on collecting and reporting the data.