The ALLStAR Benchmarking Project

Academic Law Libraries: Statistics, Analytics and Reports

The Players

This project is led by Yale Law Librarian Teresa Miguel-Stearns. Many academic law librarians have contributed to its development.

NELLCO joined the project to provide logistical and financial support.

Counting Opinions’ LibPAS system is the backbone of the database.

Why Benchmarking in Libraries?

- Identify and quantify your library’s strengths and weaknesses
- Understand the drivers of demand on library resources and how they are changing
- Align resources to meet those demands
- Identify and learn from strengths and best practices of peer institutions

Project History

- 2014—Initial Design of the database on a spreadsheet
- 2015—UC Berkeley, Chicago, Cornell, Harvard, Yale complete spreadsheets
- Summer 2015—NELLCO and Counting Opinions join the project
- July 1, 2016—Internal beta testing of the ALLStAR database on Counting Opinions LibPAS platform
- July 22, 2016—Database goes LIVE

What You Can Do With ALLStAR

Benchmarking: Comparisons with Peer Institutions

ALLStAR allows you to make comparisons with peer institutions. You determine who your peers are based on the data you wish to compare! Because we own this tool, we also decide what questions to ask and how to define data points.

Reports, Reports and MORE Reports

ALLStAR allows you to create customized reports by combining performance indicators from any of the data collections. Reports can be displayed in charts and graphs or exported to Excel. Custom URL’s make it easy to share report results.

Derived Ratios

A derived ratio (or key metric) is the result of one indicator divided into another. The ratios are often used for peer benchmarking to identify best practices. We can create and add derived ratios that we determine to be important. We have already created one in the ABA set: collection dollars per student.

Best Practices: Discover New Library Services

Best Practices are used to discover new services, to improve a process or service, or to achieve a certain objective. ALLStAR will allow you to develop queries to find libraries performing services at the level you would like to provide.

Where The Data Comes From

The ALLStAR database is loaded with 5 years of data derived from the ABA questionnaire and is not limited to library data. ALLStAR includes faculty, student, and curriculum data, too, all of which is publicly available.

- ALLStAR contains 10 years of data from the Association of Research Libraries. ARL is made up of 124 research libraries from the U.S. and Canada. The ARL statistics measure the collections, staffing, expenditures, and service activities of member libraries.
- The ALLStAR database is loaded with 5 year of data from the U.S. News and World Report questionnaire used to generate its rankings of the top law schools in the country.
- The remaining data collection in the ALLStAR Benchmarking is inputted by participating libraries and includes over 3,000 data points to which libraries can respond. The majority of these data points were part of the initial spreadsheet completed by UC Berkeley, University of Chicago, Cornell, Harvard, and Yale law libraries in 2015. Through the hard work of the NELLCO Interest Groups and the ALLStAR Advisory Board, these data points have been refined, expanded, and many are accompanied by a clear set of definitions to insure consistency in the data provided by each participating library.

Who Can Participate

All Academic Law Libraries were invited to participate in July 2016. Institutional logins were sent out at that time to all the Library Directors. Karen Kupiec of Counting Opinions can resend institutional login upon request. Her email is: kkupiec@countingopinions.com.

Cost of participation for the first year was free, subsidized by NELLCO and Yale. Future costs have yet to be determined but will remain affordable.

Benchmarking Resources

- NELLCO ALLStAR Page: Contains information and introductory webinars.
  http://www.nellco.org/page/ALLStAR
- The ALLStAR Database:
  https://allstar.countingopinions.com/
- Getting Started with Evaluation by Peter Hernon, Robert E. Dugan, Joseph R. Matthews (2013)
- Viewing Library Metrics from Different Perspectives by Robert E. Dugan, Danuta A. Nitecki, Peter Hernon (2009)
- Managing with Data by Peter Hernon, Robert E. Dugan, Joseph R. Matthews (2014)