

Technical Review Panel No. 35 Reintegrating the Academic Libraries Survey into IPEDS

Final Actions

On August 2 and 3, 2011, RTI International, the contractor for the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) web-based data collection system, convened a meeting of the IPEDS Technical Review Panel (TRP) in Washington, DC. Meetings of the IPEDS TRP are conducted by RTI to solicit expert discussion and suggestions on a broad range of issues related to postsecondary education and the conduct of IPEDS. The TRP is designed to advise and work with RTI to improve IPEDS data collection and products, data quality, and user-friendliness. The TRP does not report to or advise the Department of Education.

The current Academic Libraries Survey (ALS), which is not a part of IPEDS, is collected from degree-granting postsecondary institutions every other year in even-numbered years. RTI's specific purpose for TRP 35 was to solicit input from the postsecondary education community regarding the feasibility of reintegrating the ALS into IPEDS. The panel consisted of 42 individuals representing institutions, researchers and other data users, state governments, the federal government, higher education associations, and others. Representation on the panel included individuals from academic libraries.

The TRP examined current ALS data elements, and discussed ways to improve data quality by clarifying definitions and better aligning key elements of the ALS with data reported in other IPEDS components in order to retain federal data necessary for policymaking and analysis, while also improving response rates and reducing reporting burden for institutions.

After the conclusion of the TRP, RTI posted a summary of suggestions to the web for public comment. RTI solicited comments by notifying keyholders and coordinators through a "This Week in IPEDS" email announcement. Comments were left open for approximately 30 days and the comment period closed on October 18, 2011. During the comment period, RTI received 19 comments from interested parties. Following the comment period, RTI outlined recommendations for NCES based on the outcome of the TRP meeting and subsequent public comment period. NCES has taken the actions listed below.

Reintegration into IPEDS

NCES requested and received clearance to implement a new Academic Libraries (AL) component in the IPEDS spring data collection, to replace the existing ALS. The purpose of the AL component of IPEDS is to collect information on library collections, library expenditures, and library services for libraries in degree-granting postsecondary institutions. The new AL component is mandatory and will be collected annually in the spring starting in the 2014-15 data collection year. The preview year for items to be implemented in 2014-15 will be 2013-14.

The preview screens and instructions for the survey forms are available from the link <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/visresults.aspx>, and also from the data collection system, under the Survey Materials option within the Help menu.

2014-15 Detailed Changes to Forms by IPEDS Survey Component

Summary of Changes to the Institutional Characteristics Header Component (Degree-Granting Institutions)

- Add new eligibility screening question for degree-granting institutions to determine level of reporting on new AL component: What are your annual total library expenditures?
 - If library expenditures = 0, there is no additional AL reporting.
 - If library expenditures > 0, institutions will report Section I of the AL component.
 - If library expenditures > 100,000, institutions will also report Section II of the AL component.

New Academic Libraries Component

Section I

- Add items for degree-granting institutions if expenditures > 0:
 - Is the library collection entirely electronic? [Y/N]
 - Collect library collections counts, physical and digital/electronic, as applicable for:
 - Books
 - Databases
 - Media
 - Circulation

Section II

- Add item to collect number of branch and independent libraries (exclude main or central library)
- Add items to collect expenditures for degree-granting institutions if expenditures are > \$100,000:
 - Total salaries and wages
 - Are staff fringe benefits paid out of the library budget? [Yes/No]
 - Fringe benefit expenditures (if paid by the library budget)
 - One-time purchases of books, serial backfiles and other materials
 - Ongoing commitments to subscriptions
 - Other materials/service cost
 - Preservation services
 - All other operations and maintenance expenditures

** Library expenditures are based on the institution's response to the screening question in the IC Header survey component.*

- Add items to collect interlibrary services for degree-granting institutions if expenditures are > \$100,000:
 - Total interlibrary loans and documents provided to other libraries
 - Total interlibrary loans and documents received
 - Does your library support virtual reference services? [Yes/No]