

FAST FACTS

Recent Statistics from The Library Research Service

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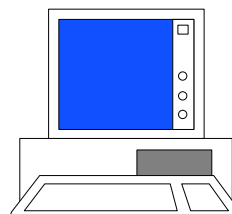
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ELECTRONIC SERVICES IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES, COLORADO & U.S., FALL 1996

For the first time, in Fall 1996, the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Academic Library Survey included questions about electronic services in academic libraries. In addition to such familiar services as the library catalog, online databases, and--more recently--Internet access, these libraries now offer a wide variety of additional electronic services, such as electronic full-text of periodical articles, interlibrary loan/document delivery services, and e-mail reference service. The prevalence of these service varies, however, among university, college, and community college libraries. It also varies frequently between Colorado institutions and their peers nationwide.

Catalogs of Library Holdings

Virtually all academic libraries in Colorado and their peers nationwide provide electronic catalogs of their holdings for use in the library. Virtually all university libraries and the majority of college and community college libraries also provide remote access to these catalogs both on campus and beyond.



Indexes/Reference Tools



Virtually all academic libraries in Colorado and their peers nationwide provide in-library access to indexes and reference tools.

Additionally, almost all university libraries provide such access elsewhere on campus and to faculty, staff, and students off-campus; but, only some of them provide off-campus access to those beyond their primary clientele. Colorado's university libraries are twice as likely as their peers to provide such off-campus access to individuals beyond their academic community (57 v. 27 percent).

College libraries in Colorado and their peers are less likely to provide access to these tools elsewhere on campus than the library and even less likely to provide such access to faculty, staff, and students off-campus. Still, two out of three college libraries do enable their clients to dial into these resources from their homes or workplaces. Off-campus access to these resources for the wider community is provided by a quarter of the peers of Colorado colleges, but none of our own institutions report doing so.

Community college libraries are less likely than university or college libraries to provide access to indexes and reference tools elsewhere on campus than the library; but, Colorado community college libraries are half again as likely to do so than their national peers (46 v. 27 percent).

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Full-Text Periodicals

Full-text periodical access is almost ubiquitous. Nine out of 10 academic libraries, both in Colorado and among their national peers, now offer it. A majority of university and college libraries also provide such access from elsewhere on campus than the library, but only about half of community college libraries do so. A majority of university libraries provide off-campus access to full-text periodicals, but barely half of college libraries and less than a third of community college libraries do so. Off-campus access to such resources for those beyond the academic community is rare at any level.



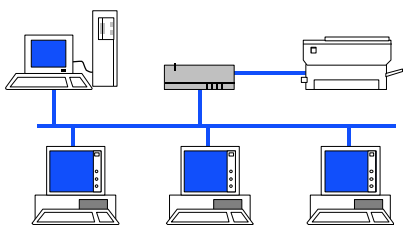
Internet Access and Instruction

Academic libraries are playing an increasingly prominent role as points of access to the Internet. Virtually all university and college libraries in Colorado and their national peers provide Internet access in the library and elsewhere on campus. Virtually all university libraries and the large majority of college libraries also provide such access to their clients off-campus. Only a few libraries at any level provide off-campus Internet service to non-clients. Most community college libraries provide Internet services on-campus, both within the library and elsewhere, but far fewer provide off-campus access to faculty, staff, and students, and fewer still provide off campus access to others. Colorado community colleges are about half again as likely to provide off-campus service to their clients (62 v. 46 percent) and to others (39 v. 24 percent).

Virtually all university and college libraries and four out of five community college libraries also provide instruction in Internet use.

E-Mail Reference Service

Most university libraries now answer reference questions submitted via e-mail by faculty, staff, and students. About half of college libraries do so. Nationally, only about a third of university and college libraries welcome questions from non-clients off-campus, and, in Colorado, only one in six does so. Only about a third of community colleges offer this service on-campus and off-campus to clients, and only one in six offers it to non-clients off-campus.



Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery

Electronic ILL/document delivery service is available to faculty, staff, and students on-campus or off at the large majority of university and college libraries among Colorado peer institutions nationwide. All or virtually all of the state's university and college libraries provide this service. Only a few of these institutions at state and national levels provide the service off-campus to non-clients. The large majority of community college libraries provide the service in the library, a few provide it elsewhere on campus and to clients off-campus, but very few provide it off-campus to non-clients.

About a third of university and college libraries will deliver documents to their clients on-campus. Among Colorado college libraries, half provide this service. Nationally, one out of 17 community college libraries provides this service; but, in Colorado, one out of seven do.

Technology for the Disabled

Technology for the disabled is widely available in academic libraries. It is found in nine out of ten university libraries, eight out of ten college libraries, and three out of five community college libraries.

