



National Statistics Award to State Library Agencies (Keppel Award)

The Public Library Statistics Cooperative (PLSC)¹ a cooperative program of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)², presents an annual award (known as the Keppel Award) to State library agencies that have excelled in the completeness, promptness, and high quality of the local public library data that they collect, edit, and submit annually to IMLS. The national public library data, including individual library data and State summaries, is made available by IMLS from its website:

<http://harvester.census.gov/imls/pubs/pls/index.asp> (publications).

<http://harvester.census.gov/imls/data/pls/index.asp> (data files)

Summary tables are also published annually and available on the IMLS website³.

The Francis Keppel Award is named after a distinguished U.S. Commissioner of Education who served from 1962 to 1965. He was also a well-known member of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science from 1978 to 1983. Francis Keppel was an early and enthusiastic advocate of reliable and regularly reported national, State, and local library statistics that would provide a basis for public policy formulation and the improvement of library services for the entire spectrum of the U.S. population.

The award is presented annually at the training conference.

The award is in the form of a working abacus with an appropriate plaque* and is given to the Chief Officer of the State library agency and to the State Data Coordinator.

* Second and subsequent year recipients receive a brass plate engraved with the year to add to their abacus.

¹ Formerly the Federal-State Cooperative System (FSCS) for Public Library Data

² Formerly a cooperative program of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS). [The President's Budget Request for 2008](#) included funds for the Institute of Museum and Library Services to administer the Public Library Survey and the State Library Agency Survey, effective October 1, 2007.

³ As of October 2007 this information is on the IMLS website. Printed copies are sent to State Library Agencies.