

Happy New Year! This is the first newsletter from the Office of Policy, Planning, Research, and Communications at IMLS. The newsletter will be published quarterly with information regarding the public and state library surveys and other areas of interest.

First Quarter FY 2009



State Library Agency Survey

The [FY 2007 StLA data files](#) were released on the web October 2, 2008. The [FY 2007 State Library Agency Report](#) was released on the web November 26, 2008.



Public Libraries Survey

The [FY 2006 PLS data files](#) were released on the web November 18, 2008. The [Public Libraries in the United States: Fiscal Year 2006](#) publication was released on the web December 19, 2008.

New SDC training – December 2, 2008

The new SDC training was held at the IMLS office. Twelve SDCs attended the new training session. The training consisted of an orientation for new State Data Coordinators (SDC) with an overview of the IMLS Public Library Survey (PLS) and hands-on training for the WebPLUS data collection tool.

SDC Conference – December 3-4, 2008



Dr. Anne-Imeda Radice
presenting remarks during
the Keppel Awards.

This year's conference was held at the Beacon Hotel in Washington, DC. The full SDC conference consisted of general sessions with discussion on survey data elements, data quality assurance, and twelve concurrent sessions presented by SDCs, Committee members, IMLS and

Census staff. Topics for a few concurrent sessions were: IMLS [Compare Public Libraries](#) and [Data Place](#) tool demonstration; Local Use of data; looking at Census figures and legal service area; SDCs "Show us what you are doing in your state"; a discussion of the IMLS State Library Agency Survey; and return on investment.

Kathryn Pettit, National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership, presented a general session on "National Trends and Examples of Using Local Data." The Keppel Award was presented to thirty-six states for FY 2007 data submission. The award was presented to eight new SDCs and four new Chief Officers. This is the 18th year for the Keppel award.

First meeting of the Library Statistics Working Group – December 5, 2008

The Library Statistics Working Group consists of five Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA), five SDCs and five members representing data users, research community, and representatives of relevant library associations. The Working Group replaced separate steering committees for the public library and state library surveys. The first meeting focused on the vision for research and statistics at IMLS and the role of the working group. IMLS identified high priorities, policy areas, issues for future IMLS data analysis and briefs. Suggestions for improving usefulness of data and new library statistics products were discussed. The Working Group also discussed proposed new data elements that were endorsed by the SDCs at the conference. A 2009 schedule was announced along with an outline of standing and ad-hoc committees. The Working Group will meet twice a year with bi-monthly conference calls. The next meeting will be held in summer 2009.

In the Works

IMLS is preparing a public release geo-coded 2006 PLS file for spring release. Kim Miller is heading up an effort to improve and expand the Library Statistics tab on the IMLS web site planned for this summer. IMLS staff are also working on short reports from the data in the form of Data Notes and Research Briefs. The Data Notes are similar to [Library Research Service's](#) Fast Fact series, in which a single chart or graph is used as point of departure to discuss current issues in library service. Our first Data Note will look at broadband access and services in public libraries. The Research Briefs are longer pieces that provide a more detailed look at the national library services issues. For the first brief Everett Henderson is looking at changes in circulation and library use over a 10 year period. We welcome any suggestions you might have for future Data Notes or Research Briefs.

FY 2008 StLA Survey

Survey information package mailed: October 2, 2008
Registration/data collection begins: October 15, 2008
John Lorenz Award: January 15, 2009
Survey close-out: February 17, 2009

**All states submitted their data by the deadline.
Congratulations!!!**

FY2008 PLS Survey

| Reporting group and fiscal cycle | Survey due date |
|--|-----------------|
| Group #1 (July–June) | April 15, 2009 |
| Group #2 (Oct–Sept, Jan–Dec) | July 29, 2009 |
| Group #3 (January–December) | August 26, 2009 |

FY 2007 Public Library unimputed data files for release on web – April 2009

FY 2007 Public Library imputed data files for release on web – May 2009

Public Libraries in the United States: Fiscal Year 2007 report release on web – June 2009

Census Corner

Introducing the Census Bureau team: The survey statisticians staff includes Chris Music, Survey Analyst for the State Library Agencies Survey; Jen Keng, Survey Analyst for the Public Libraries Survey; Patty O'Shea, Library Surveys Program Manager; Cindy Sheckells, Reengineering and Dissemination Program Manager; Lisa Frid, Program Analyst. The programming staff, managed by Michael Freeman, develops and maintains the data collection and processing systems. The mathematical statisticians staff, led by Terri Craig and Suzanne Dorinski, conducts research to update and improve the editing and imputation methodologies.

Recent Research Using PLS & StLA Data

[Why Libraries Close](#) – Christie M. Koontz, Ph.D., Dean Jue, and Bradley Wade Bishop, Florida State University; June 2008

[The New LJ Index](#) – Keith Curry Lance, RSL Research Group, and Ray Lyons, Consultant; [Library Journal](#), June 15, 2008

[Understanding the Methodological Foundations of Public Library National Ratings](#), Ray Lyons, Consultant, PowerPoint presented at IFLA *Library Statistics for the 21st Century World*, August 18-19, 2008, Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

[Hennen's American Public Library Ratings 2008](#) – Thomas J. Hennen, Jr.; October 2008

[America's Star Libraries, The LJ Index of Public Library Service 2009](#) – Ray Lyons, Consultant, and Keith Curry Lance, RSL Research Group; [Library Journal](#), February 15, 2009

Links**IMLS Library Statistics**

PLS Wiki: Updates to the wiki have included the 2008 SDC [conference presentations](#), [Keppel Awards](#) and editing the data elements page. The [FY2008 PLS log](#) and [data element life cycle diagram](#) have also been posted.

StLA Wiki: A new wiki for the StLA Survey. The [FY 2008 StLA Survey data file control log](#) is updated weekly and placed on the wiki.

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