

Frequently Used Terms and Acronyms

AALL	American Association of Law Libraries (not a part of ALA)
AASL	American Association of School Librarians (a division of ALA)
ACRL	Association of College and Research Libraries (a division of ALA)
AE	Administrative Entity (the library system – can be a single location, or headquarters for a system with branches, does not necessarily provide direct public service)
AIR	American Institutes for Research (current contractor for PLS and SLAA Survey)
ALA	American Library Association
ALA OITP	ALA Office for Information Technology Policy
ALA ORS	ALA Office for Research & Service
ALCTS	ALA Association for Library Collections & Technical Services
ALS	NCES Academic Library Survey (collected data biennially from academic post-secondary institutions; survey ended in FY2012) Replaced by:
ALSC	Association for Library Service to Children (a division of ALA)
ARL	Association of Research Libraries (large university research libraries)
ASCLA	Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (a division of ALA)
Chief Officer	Usually “State Librarian” but in some states the title will vary. Chief state level person who is responsible for oversight of the agency providing support to public libraries in the state. The Chief Officer may or may not have any responsibility for school libraries.
CORS	ALA Committee on Research and Statistics
COSLA	Chief Officers of State Library Agencies

Data elements	Each of the items collected and reported to the IMLS as part of PLS
Definitions	Official definitions can change from year to year. The definitions are published as part of the User's Guide and are on the IMLS web site. Definition changes are a major item of discussion at the annual SDC Conference.
ED or DoE	U.S. Department of Education
FSCS	<p>Federal-State Cooperative System (for Public Library Data) – predecessor organization and name for the data collection process.</p> <p>Each library and location is assigned a unique identifier, an FSCS number.</p>
IFLA	International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
IMLS	Institute of Museum and Library Services
IPEDS	Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System – beginning with 2014/15, this data collection will include academic library data formerly collected separately by the ALS.
Keppel Award	Recognition given annual to SDC and Chief Officer for timely submission of PLS data.
Library	<p>Official definition of a public library:</p> <p>A public library is an entity that is established under state enabling laws or regulations to serve a community, district, or region, and that provides at least the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An organized collection of printed or other library materials, or a combination thereof; 2. Paid staff; 3. An established schedule in which services of the staff are available to the public; 4. The facilities necessary to support such a collection, staff, and schedule; and 5. Is supported in whole or in part with public funds.
LRS	Colorado Library Research Service
<u>LSTA</u>	Library Services and Technology Act (IMLS funded)

LSWG	Library Statistics Working Group – serves as an advisory body to IMLS staff. Includes five (5) SDCs elected by the SDCs, 5 Chief Officers selected by COSLA, and up to 5 data users, research community, and representatives of relevant library associations.
NCES	National Center for Education Statistics (under the U.S. Department of Education)
NCLIS	(Former) (U.S.) National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (consolidated with IMLS April 1, 2008)
NISO	National Institute Standards Organization
OCLC	Online Computer Library Center, Inc.
OMB	Office of Management and Budget (White House)
Outlet	A location providing library services (a main library, branch, bookmobile)
PLA	Public Library Association (a division of ALA)
PLS AE Data elements/Definitions	IMLS Public Libraries Survey Administrative Entity PLS Definitions
PLS Web Portal	New name of the online software used for the IMLS Public Libraries Survey (beginning FY 2015)
PLSC Wiki	Contains information about the Public Libraries Survey (SDC Annual Meeting, data elements, news, awards, history, PLS contact information, LSWG information, other information regarding the survey). SDCs can make comments and also edit some of the pages on the wiki. SDCs can request access to the wiki by clicking “ To join this workspace, request access ” on the right side of the home page.

Public Library	<p>Official definition of a public library:</p> <p>A public library is an entity that is established under state enabling laws or regulations to serve a community, district, or region, and that provides at least the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An organized collection of printed or other library materials, or a combination thereof; 2. Paid staff; 3. An established schedule in which services of the staff are available to the public; 4. The facilities necessary to support such a collection, staff, and schedule; and 5. Is supported in whole or in part with public funds.
SASS	NCES School and Staffing Survey
SDC	State Data Coordinator (you)
SDC email list	<p>All SDCs are on the list; includes IMLS & Census staff working with the Library Statistics Program.</p> <p>Send a message to the list at: SDC@imls.gov</p> <p>Changes to the list: Please email Kim Miller kmiller@imls.gov</p>
SLA	State Library Agency
SLAA Survey	IMLS State Library Agency Survey
SPR	State Program Report (LSTA form/report)
StLA	IMLS State Library Agency Survey – now called SLAA
WebPlus	Old name of the online software used for the IMLS Public Libraries Survey
YALSA	Young Adult Library Services Association (a division of ALA)