

Resource Sharing Cost Study Fall 2011

Purpose: Determine new national average costs to provide resource sharing services

Principal Investigators:

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Intended output of data: We intend to publish an article in the Interlending & Document Supply journal that will include different types of average costs across multiple libraries.

Who has access to the data: Participating libraries will receive an Access database that can be installed on any computer that has Microsoft Access., and an Organizational Profile Questionnaire. Each library is responsible for locally collecting and entering their data into the database. The database will produce detailed reports showing various types of per unit costs.

The participating library will only send various types of average per unit costs for each cost area to the principal investigators. See attached reports as examples of the reports produced by the database that only your library and the two principal investigators will see.

For example, only the average staff costs per total requests and per filled requests for each “cost center” (e.g. ILL Borrowing copies) will be sent in. So the principal investigators will not see that John Doe is paid \$45,000 per year. They will see that ILL Borrowing Copies cost \$5.65 per filled request. Only the two principal investigators will have access to this information.

The principal investigators will combine this cost data across multiple libraries to determine averages across multiple libraries. These averages will likely be broken down into groups of “similar” libraries (e.g. public, larger university, smaller academic). The article we plan to publish will include these averages.

As we review the averages we will identify libraries that are noticeably above or below the average. We will contact those libraries to seek to determine why. With those libraries permission, we would then include some of those examples in our article. For example, Univ. of Utah has low shipping cost averages. If those low averages hold out in the larger Phase 2 then we'll get their permission to share why. Nothing will be shared without a follow-up communication to seek to understand why and to receive permission to include in the article.

The average cost data submitted by each library will be combined with other library data on Lars Leon's PC. It will be backed up onto our IT Department secure network storage that only Lars has access to. Lars will share data with Nancy via our KU IT secured network storage solution. Participating libraries locally held Access database files will be as secure as whatever process they have in place to secure information on that PC.

Participating libraries will receive back the averages that they can compare against their local information.