



GUIDELINES FOR VISION SCIENCE LIBRARIES

Compiled by

The Association of Vision Science Librarians

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INTRODUCTION

The Association of Vision Science Librarians (AVSL) Guidelines have been published regularly since 1976. A brief history of the publication and the changes to the guidelines is contained in Appendix A. This is the seventeenth edition of the Guidelines. The Guidelines should be used in conjunction with the Standards in order to obtain a full range of qualitative and quantitative information about the collections and services of academic vision science libraries. The Guidelines provide information of a quantitative nature, including monograph and serial prices, budgets, staffing, collection size and electronic packages purchases.

The Guidelines are built on two surveys; the AVSL statistical survey, which is done biannually, and the AVSL salary survey, which is done every 5-7 years. The guidelines are augmented by yearly updates of book price changes taken from the *Library and Book Trade Almanac* and *Doody's Core Titles in Health Sciences*.

ABOUT VISION SCIENCE LIBRARIES

Librarians whose collections serve industry, hospitals, and schools of optometry or ophthalmology, and other vision-related institutions comprise the Association of Vision Science Librarians.

ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION OF RESULTS (2010)

The 2010 survey received a total of 23 responses including 15 optometry libraries, 5 ophthalmology libraries and 3 other libraries, such as associations, government, industry, nonprofit and schools for the visually impaired. Means and medians were determined for all routinely collected data. New data collected in 2010 included lists of electronic databases and point of care resources currently being purchased by the respondents.

The survey results were analyzed and displayed in two ways. The first set of tables in each section show analysis by discipline, providing means and medians for optometry, ophthalmology libraries and all libraries. The second set of tables in each section present means and medians based on affiliation. The designations used in the past were as follows:

A – an independent library that is not a part of a larger university,

B - a branch library serving a school or college of optometry or ophthalmology which is part of a larger university or other academic institution,

C - a combined science or health science library serving the school or college of optometry or ophthalmology, as well as other schools, colleges or departments of the university.

Previously, AVSL had classified vision libraries according to the three types listed above. AVSL broke with tradition several years ago by combining the statistics for all types of libraries into one table using a discipline break down of optometry or ophthalmology or all libraries.

Based on member request, this version of the guidelines revived the A, B, C types based on affiliation and added a fourth category.

D – Other (industry, nonprofit, association, government, schools for visually impaired etc.)

By presenting both analytic frameworks an individual library can compare itself to other libraries of a similar discipline as well as a similar institutional affiliation. This may prove valuable, as an independent library might have different collection development requirements, budgets and access to opportunities, such as consortia purchasing, than a branch or combined health science library.

It should be noted that not all AVSL members participate in the survey every year. This results in occasional and sometimes dramatic fluctuations in results from survey to survey. When this occurs in the following tables, an asterisk * will denote the occurrence. For example, if a library with thousands of clients and multiple sites participates one year and not the next it can cause a marked fluctuation. In 2010 it was decided to treat libraries with multiple sites as separate libraries within the analysis, in order to reduce the degree of fluctuation described above, and create more realistic comparisons between individual library's holdings, costs and staffing.

COLLECTION SIZE, CLIENTELE, AND STAFF

Size

In order to determine relative collection size, vision libraries were asked to measure (or estimate, if time did not permit a measurement) the linear feet of volumes in class RE (for Library of Congress libraries), WW (for NLM) libraries, or the category corresponding to "ophthalmology" for libraries using other classification schemes. Both monographs and serials were to be included in this figure.

Obviously, some libraries hold many more volumes in their entire collections (vision and non-vision) than the figures here represent, while others' entire holdings will be much closer to these figures. The intent in measuring only RE, or WW, or equivalent, is to identify a constant that can apply across a wide variety of libraries that might otherwise not be comparable. Using this technique, the vision holdings of large health libraries can be compared meaningfully with the vision holdings of small hospital libraries, regardless of the percent of the library that those holdings represent.

| TABLE 1A: LINEAR FEET OF VOLUMES IN RE, WW, OR EQUIVALENT (Monographs and Serials) by discipline 2010 | | |
|--|-------------|---------------|
| | MEAN | MEDIAN |
| ALL (n=27) | 663.65 | 714.00 |
| OPTOMETRY (n=15) | 711.17 | 684.00 |
| OPHTHALMOLOGY (n=9) | 749.33 | 740.00 |

Note: One ophthalmology library had 5 sites. For the purposes of analysis the number of linear feet was divided by 5 and the number of libraries increased to include the 5 as separate sites. This approach has been used throughout these guidelines.

| TABLE 1B: MEAN LINEAR FEET OF VOLUMES IN RE, WW OR EQUIVALENT (Monographs and Serials) by discipline 1999-2010 | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 1999 | 2000 | 2002 | 2004 | 2006 | 2008 | 2010 |
| ALL | 768.94 | 4299.83* | 843.38 | 711.06 | 784.94 | 595.95 | 663.65 |
| OPT | 617.55 | 706.69 | 780.04 | 810.31 | 840.86 | 754.86 | 711.17 |
| OPHTH | 1136.6* | 426.48 | 1989.88* | 388.5 | 755.67 | 450.50 | 749.33 |

* Indicates one-time participation of libraries with very larger collections.

| Table 1C: LINEAR FEET IN VOLUMES IN RE, WW, or EQUIVALENT (Monographs and Serials) by institutional affiliation 2010 | | |
|--|-------------|---------------|
| | MEAN | MEDIAN |
| TYPE A - independent library not part of larger university (n= 4) | 1202.25 | 1047.50 |
| TYPE B - branch library serving school of optometry or ophthalmology which is part of larger university or institution(n=10) | 678.70 | 687.00 |
| TYPE C - combined health or science library serving the school or college of optometry or ophthalmology as well as other schools, colleges or departments of the university (n=5) | 405.10 | 320.00 |
| TYPE D - other (industry, nonprofit, association, hospital, government, schools for the visually impaired) (n= 8) | 525.88 | 740.00 |

Overall, the mean linear feet of RE or equivalent has been reduced by approximately 100 linear feet in the last 10 years. The linear feet in volumes of RE within optometry libraries rose from 1999 to 2006, but has now declined. The linear feet of volumes in RE within ophthalmology libraries appears to have fluctuated in the last ten years, but that may relate more to fluctuating participation in the survey than actual changes in linear feet of volumes. Type A libraries (independent libraries not part of larger university) have larger mean linear feet in volumes than all other types.

The figures above represent *linear feet* of volumes in these classification numbers, and since only vision-related materials are measured, meaningful comparisons of all types of libraries are possible. In addition, this method of gathering statistics allows vision science librarians to gather statistical information without extraordinary effort. If one wishes to calculate the numbers of volumes represented by these linear measurements, a figure of ten volumes per linear foot could be used.

Clientele

Several additional sets of statistics may be useful, particularly for those librarians who may be organizing new vision science collections or for those who would like to compare their libraries against an aggregate of similar libraries. Table 2A shows optometry libraries having more clientele than ophthalmology libraries in 2010.

| TABLE 2A: NUMBER OF PEOPLE COMPRISING VISION-RELATED INSTITUTIONAL CLIENTELE by discipline 2010 | | |
|--|-------------|---------------|
| | MEAN | MEDIAN |
| ALL (n=27) | 448.73 | 400.00 |
| OPTOMETRY (n=15) | 490.93 | 500.00 |
| OPHTHALMOLOGY (n=9) | 441.13 | 237.00 |

The following table was derived from the 1999-2010 AVSL statistical surveys.

| Table 2B: MEAN NUMBER OF PEOPLE COMPRISING VISION-RELATED INSTITUTIONAL CLIENTELE by discipline 1999 – 2010 | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|
| | 1999 | 2000 | 2002 | 2004 | 2006 | 2008 | 2010 |
| ALL | 363 | 1938.6* | 432.85 | 394.89 | 442.68 | 1445.20* (317.80) | 448.73 |
| OPTOMETRY | 437 | 424.77 | 453.07 | 479.23 | 501.4 | 2257.69* (445.83) | 490.93 |
| OPHTHALMOLOGY | 243 | 208.33 | 372.2 | 212.17 | 280 | 151.20 | 444.13 |

*In 2008 one library with 24,000 clients participated causing the mean numbers in All and Optometry categories to be in the thousands. That library has not participated since and is no longer in existence. In the above table the bracketed number show the mean number of clientele when this library was removed from the calculation.

Table 2B shows that in the last ten years, the overall number of clientele for both optometry and ophthalmology have climbed. Table 2C, below, demonstrates Type A libraries have the largest clientele of all libraries by type.

| Table 2C: MEAN NUMBER OF PEOPLE COMPRISING VISION-RELATED INSTITUTIONAL CLIENTELE by institutional affiliation 2010 | | |
|---|-------------|---------------|
| | MEAN | MEDIAN |
| TYPE A - independent library not part of larger university (n=4) | 666.00 | 587.50 |
| TYPE B - branch library serving school of optometry or ophthalmology which is part of larger university or institution (n=10) | 445.10 | 450.00 |
| TYPE C - combined health or science library serving the school or college of optometry or ophthalmology as well as other schools, colleges or departments of the university (n= 5) | 422.8 | 300.00 |
| TYPE D - other (industry, nonprofit, association, hospital, government, schools for the visually impaired) (n=8) | 360.4 | 237.00 |

Staff

The survey asks for numbers of full time equivalent (FTE) professional, nonprofessional and hourly staff assigned to each library. The results are listed below. Tables 3A and 3B demonstrate that while the average number of professional librarians overall by discipline is 1.38, in 2010, the number of professional librarians in Type A libraries is 2.25. Type A libraries also have higher numbers of non-professional staff and hourly staff than other affiliation types of libraries. This seems reasonable given that many functions of a university-affiliated library are taken care of by other departments or groups within the library system.

| TABLE 3A: NUMBER OF STAFF DEDICATED TO VISION-RELATED LIBRARY SERVICE IN FULL TIME EQUIVALENTS by discipline 2010 | | | | | | |
|--|--|---------------|---|---------------|--|---------------|
| LIBRARY TYPE | PROFESSIONAL Optometry (n=15) Ophthalmology (n=5) | | NON-PROFESSIONAL (NOT INCLUDING HOURLY) Optometry (n=12) Ophthalmology (n = 5) | | HOURLY Optometry (n=12) Ophthalmology (n=4) | |
| | MEAN | MEDIAN | MEAN | MEDIAN | MEAN | MEDIAN |
| ALL | 1.38 | 1.00 | 1.53 | 1.6 | 0.96 | 0.70 |
| OPTOMETRY | 1.62 | 1.00 | 2.06 | 2.13 | 1.54 | 1.45 |
| OPHTHALMOLOGY | 1.17 | 1.20 | 0.99 | 1.60 | 0.13 | 0.00 |

| Table 3B: MEAN NUMBER OF STAFF DEDICATED TO VISION-RELATED LIBRARY SERVICE IN FULL TIME EQUIVALENTS by institutional affiliation 2010 | | | |
|--|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | PROFESSIONAL | NON PROFESSIONAL | HOURLY |
| TYPE A - independent library not part of larger university (n=4) | 2.25 | 2.5 | 2.63 |
| TYPE B - branch library serving school of optometry or ophthalmology which is part of larger university or institution (n=10) | 1.39 | 1.13 | 1.0 |
| TYPE C - combined health or science library serving the school or college of optometry or ophthalmology as well as other schools, colleges or departments of the university (n=5) | 1.18 | 1.83 | 0.33 |
| TYPE D - other (industry, nonprofit, association, hospital, government, schools for the visually impaired) (n=8) | 1.08 | 1.36 | 0.10 |

Table 3C shows the stability in numbers of professional librarians in both ophthalmology and optometry libraries in the last 10 years. Table 3D shows slight increases are seen in numbers of non-professional staff and Table 3E demonstrates the mean number of hourly staff has dropped over the last ten years.

| Table 3C: MEAN NUMBER OF PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIANS (FTE) by discipline 1999- 2010 | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 1999 | 2000 | 2002 | 2004 | 2006 | 2008 | 2010 |
| ALL | 1.15 | 1.64 | 1.48 | 1.49 | 1.3 | 1.37 | 1.38 |
| OPTOMETRY | 1.18 | 1.54 | 1.59 | 1.52 | 1.38 | 1.55 | 1.62 |
| OPHTHALMOLOGY | 1.16 | 1.3 | 1.16 | 1.42 | 1.33 | 1.23 | 1.17 |

| Table 3D: MEAN NUMBER OF NON-PROFESSIONAL STAFF (FTE) by discipline 1999-2010 | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 1999 | 2000 | 2002 | 2004 | 2006 | 2008 | 2010 |
| MEAN STAFF FTE-ALL | 1.06 | 3.22* | 1.04 | 1.17 | 1.07 | 1.74 | 1.53 |
| MEAN STAFF FTE-OPT | 1.22 | 1.75 | 1.36 | 1.44 | 1.27 | 2.52 | 2.06 |
| MEAN STAFF FTE-OPHTH | 0.48 | 0.2 | 0.15 | 0.63 | 0.43 | 0.38 | 0.99 |

| Table 3E: MEAN NUMBER OF HOURLY STAFF (FTE) by discipline 1999-2010 | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 1999 | 2000 | 2002 | 2004 | 2006 | 2008 | 2010 |
| MEAN HOURLY FTE-ALL | 1.8 | 1.16 | 1.97 | 1.28 | 1.62 | 1.15 | 0.96 |
| MEAN HOURLY FTE-OPT | 2.8 | 1.73 | 2.41 | 1.68 | 2.02 | 1.80 | 1.54 |
| MEAN HOURLY FTE-OPHTH | 0.15 | 0.14 | 0.74 | 0.48 | 0.28 | 0.21 | 0.13 |

SALARIES

Salaries Survey 2007

During 2007, Maureen Watson conducted her fourth staffing, salary, and status survey in order to update her previous studies, conducted in 1989, 1996, and 2002. Responses from the 2007 survey indicate that the percentage of librarians receiving paid vacation, sick leave, retirement, health insurance, tuition reimbursement, dental insurance, and vision plan is higher than in 2002. Support for professional travel expenses, sabbatical leaves, and continuing education is lower than in 2002. Mean regional salaries are highest in the west and lowest in the south. Mean salaries are also highest in corporate or non-profit libraries. The following tables are derived directly from information disseminated by Watson at the AVSL annual meeting in Anaheim in 2008.

| TABLE 4: AVSL STAFFING, SALARY AND STATUS SURVEY RESULTS MISCELLANEOUS STATISTICS | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 1989 | 1996 | 2002 | 2007 |
| # LIBRARIANS REPRESENTED | 43 | 40 | 40 | 37 |
| # INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTED | 33 | 26 | 18 | 21 |
| AVERAGE YEARS WORKED | 6.8 | 8.7 | 9.4 | 14.26 |
| MEAN SALARY | \$31,647 | \$36,500 | \$45,450 | \$58,000 |
| MEAN SALARY FOR DIRECTORS/MANAGERS | N/A | \$46,654 | \$60,833 | \$70,000 |

| TABLE 5: MEAN REGIONAL SALARIES | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 1996 | 2002 | 2007 |
| NORTHEAST | \$34,625 | \$43,857 | \$59,200 |
| SOUTH AND SOUTH CENTRAL | \$33,200 | \$42,000 | \$55,750 |
| MIDWEST | \$38,115 | \$52,286 | \$55,846 |
| WEST | \$45,500 | \$55,333 | \$63,667 |

| TABLE 6: BENEFITS COMPARISON 2007 | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 1989 | 1996 | 2002 | 2007 |
| PAID VACATION | 98% | 98% | 90% | 97% |
| SICK LEAVE | 98 | 98 | 90 | 95 |
| RETIREMENT | 96 | 95 | 90 | 97 |
| HEALTH INSURANCE | 98 | 98 | 90 | 97 |
| PROF. TRAVEL EXPENSE | 94 | 75 | 88 | 81 |
| TUITION REIMBURSEMENT | 63 | 63 | 53 | 54 |
| SABBATICAL LEAVE | 22 | 20 | 23 | 22 |
| DENTAL INSURANCE | 76 | 90 | 90 | 97 |
| VISION PLAN | 50 | 60 | 78 | 81 |
| SUPPORT FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION | 67 | 87 | 85 | 81 |

| TABLE 7: MEAN SALARIES BY TYPE OF LIBRARY 2007 | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 1989 | 1996 | 2002 | 2007 |
| INDEPENDENT SCHOOL | \$30,000 | \$34,786 | \$41,052 | \$55,800 |
| BRANCH | \$32,476 | \$41,857 | \$65,333 | \$57,000 |
| COMBINED HEALTH SCIENCES | \$35,300 | \$30,071 | \$45,714 | \$48,000 |
| GENERAL UNIVERSITY | \$26,000 | \$36,500 | \$54,000 | \$61,600 |
| HOSPITAL | \$31,500 | \$41,000 | \$43,428 | \$65,667 |
| CORPORATE OR NON-PROFIT | \$34,700 | \$39,125 | NO DATA | \$71,000 |

LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

It is helpful for individuals responsible for starting new vision libraries, or vision librarians requesting resources from administrators, to be able to compare their local situation with a composite of similar libraries. The monograph and serials information in Tables 8, 9, and 10 is derived from the 2010 AVSL statistical survey.

Overview

From a library by discipline analysis, optometry libraries have higher mean annual monograph, serials budgets and more print and electronic journals than ophthalmology libraries in 2010. The analysis of library by affiliation indicates Type A libraries (independent libraries not part of a larger university) have slightly lower mean monograph budgets than Type C but much higher annual mean serial budgets and number of paper serials than other types of libraries. Type C libraries (combined health or science library serving the school or college of optometry or ophthalmology as well as other schools, colleges or departments of the university) have more electronic serials AND the highest mean monograph budgets for vision science. Type D libraries (other -industry, nonprofit, association, hospital, government, schools for the visually impaired) have the lowest mean monograph and serial budgets and significantly fewer paper and electronic journals.

Table 8A demonstrates that optometry libraries have significantly higher mean and median monograph budgets than ophthalmology budgets. One possible explanation is the likelihood that ophthalmology programs are affiliated with teaching hospitals and universities where some of the resources would be bought by, or in collaboration with, other collection development funds.

| TABLE 8A: ANNUAL MONOGRAPHS BUDGETS by discipline 2010 | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| | MEAN | MEDIAN |
| ALL (n=27) | \$13,337.52 | \$10,949.40 |
| OPTOMETRY (n=15) | \$17,225.92 | \$15,966.77 |
| OPHTHALMOLOGY (n=9) | \$6,697.22 | \$1,250.00 |

In Table 8B, it is interesting to note that Type A, B and C libraries are within a few thousand dollars of each other.

| Table 8B: ANNUAL MONOGRAPHS BUDGETS by institutional affiliation 2010 | | |
|--|-------------|---------------|
| | MEAN | MEDIAN |
| TYPE A -independent library not part of larger university (n=4) | \$16,523.00 | \$17,938.00 |
| TYPE B - branch library serving school of optometry or ophthalmology that is part of larger university or institution (n=9) | \$15,145.27 | \$13,307.00 |
| TYPE C - combined health or science library serving the school or college of optometry or ophthalmology as well as other schools, colleges or departments of the university (n=5) | \$18,557.71 | \$14,433.54 |
| TYPE D - other (industry, nonprofit, association, hospital, government, schools for the visually impaired) (n=7) | \$5,464.29 | \$1,250.00 |

Table 8C shows fluctuations in optometry monograph budgets over time and an average overall rise of a few thousand dollars in the last 10 years for optometry, while ophthalmology monograph budgets have been experiencing a decline since 2004. The peak year for monograph budgets was 2004, followed by a sharp drop in 2006. The consumer price index has only been below 0 once (-0.3% in 2009) and generally has fluctuated yearly between 1.6% and 3.8% (in 2007) over the last ten years. Monograph budgets have fluctuated as much as 20% per year up or down over the same years. This year optometry budgets made it back up to just

above the 2002 annual budgets, but nowhere near the 2004 budget levels, while ophthalmology budgets are a few thousand dollars less than 2002 levels.

| Table 8C: MEAN ANNUAL MONOGRAPH BUDGETS by discipline 1999-2010 | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2010 | | | | | | | |
| | 1999 | 2000 | 2002 | 2004 | 2006 | 2008 | 2010 |
| ALL | 13203.56 | 13122.72 | 14862.84 | 18817.2 | 12330.44 | 12548.82 | 13,337.52 |
| OPT | 15599.00 | 13056.29 | 16587.39 | 20098.05 | 13842.69 | 14704.06 | 17225.92 |
| OPHTH | 11324.80 | 10920.00 | 9693.21 | 16255.50 | 8546.00 | 7504.40 | 6697.22 |

Table 9A shows that optometry serials budgets in 2010 were much higher than those for ophthalmology. In Table 9B it is clear Type A libraries have considerably higher serials budgets than other types of libraries. Again, there may be multiple explanations for the lower budgets of other types of libraries, including within-library purchases shared between collection funds, difference in opportunities for consortia purchasing and the discounts available with increased buying power.

| TABLE 9A: ANNUAL SERIALS BUDGETS by discipline | | |
|---|------------------------------|---------------|
| 2010 | | |
| | ANNUAL SERIALS BUDGET | |
| | MEAN | MEDIAN |
| All (n= 24) | \$46,522.41 | \$28,872.50 |
| OPTOMETRY (n=13) | \$70,542.37 | \$77,000.00 |
| OPHTHALMOLOGY (n=5) | \$18,776.33 | \$2,291.60 |

| Table 9B: ANNUAL SERIALS BUDGETS by institutional affiliation | | |
|--|-------------|---------------|
| 2010 | | |
| | Mean | Median |
| TYPE A - independent library not part of larger university (n=4) | \$87,776.50 | \$88,500.00 |
| TYPE B - branch library serving school of optometry or ophthalmology that is part of larger university or institution (n=7) | \$54,821.24 | \$29,745.00 |
| TYPE C - combined health or science library serving the school or college of optometry or ophthalmology as well as other schools, colleges or departments of the university (n=4) | \$57,520.64 | \$65,791.28 |
| TYPE D - other (industry, nonprofit, association, hospital, government, schools for the visually impaired) (n=7) | \$5,994.00 | \$2,291.00 |

Table 9C shows that over time mean optometry serial budgets have climbed steadily since 2002 and have almost doubled since 1999. Mean ophthalmology budgets have fluctuated over the same time period peaking in 2004 and then declining to the point where they are 24% lower than 1999 budgets. A second calculation was done to ascertain North American mean serials budgets. This calculation indicated that North American serials budgets have risen by 38% since 1999 (see brackets).

| Table 9C: MEAN ANNUAL SERIALS BUDGETS BY DISCIPLINE 1999-2010 | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| 2010 | | | | | | | |
| | 1999 | 2000 | 2002 | 2004 | 2006 | 2008 | 2010 |
| ALL | 29854.67 | 26328.74 | 37252.73 | 45913.25 | 50346.85 | 44534.52 | 46522.41 (58162.09)* |
| OPT | 34080.30 | 31536.77 | 39554.57 | 53514.95 | 59276.27 | 59542.23 | 70542.37 |
| OPHTH | 24660.20 | 18033.6 | 30347.19 | 30709.83 | 21148.67 | 21535.20 | 18776.33 (39,382.25)* |

*Brackets denote results when a multi-site library with low serials budget is removed from analysis. This helps to ascertain North American average.

Table 10A shows optometry libraries holding more paper serials, or perhaps more paper and electronic versions of the same serial, in 2010 than ophthalmology libraries. They also hold more electronic serials on average than ophthalmology libraries.

| TABLE 10A: NUMBER OF PAPER AND ELECTRONIC SERIALS* by discipline | | | | |
|---|--------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 2010 | | | | |
| | PAPER | | ELECTRONIC | |
| | MEAN | MEDIAN | MEAN | MEDIAN |
| ALL (n=27) | 58.96 | 54.00 | 69.59 | 63.00 |
| OPTOMETRY (n=15) | 80.67 | 80.00 | 80.33 | 84.00 |
| OPHTHALMOLOGY (n=9) | 33.11 | 10.00 | 60.67 | 46.00 |

*For ease of reporting, libraries holding paper and electronic copies of the same serial were asked to report one paper serial and one electronic serial.

Table 10B shows Type A libraries with the highest mean number of paper serials and Type C libraries holding on average the most electronic serials.

| Table 10B: NUMBER OF PAPER AND ELECTRONIC SERIALS by institutional affiliation | | | | |
|--|--------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 2010 | | | | |
| | PAPER | | ELECTRONIC | |
| | MEAN | MEDIAN | MEAN | MEDIAN |
| TYPE A - independent library not part of larger university (n=4) | 119.00 | 101.50 | 75.25 | 73.50 |
| TYPE B - branch library serving school of optometry or ophthalmology which is part of larger university or institution (n=10) | 70.50 | 65.00 | 76.80 | 74.50 |
| TYPE C - combined health or science library serving the school or college of optometry or ophthalmology as well as other schools, colleges or departments of the university (n=5) | 55.4 | 66.0 | 90.4 | 90.0 |
| TYPE D - other (industry, nonprofit, association, hospital, government, schools for the visually impaired) (n=8) | 16.75 | 10.0 | 44.63 | 46.0 |

Table 10C shows that overall the number of paper serials dropping fairly steadily to the point where there are now less than half the 1999 numbers. Electronic serials have been tracked since 2002. Optometry libraries' electronic serials acquisition has doubled in that same time. Interestingly, there has been a dramatic increase of 25% in ophthalmology library acquisitions of electronic serials since 2008.

| Table 10C: MEAN NUMBER OF PAPER SERIALS OVER TIME by discipline 1999-21010 | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2010 | | | | | | | |
| | 1999 | 2000 | 2002 | 2004 | 2006 | 2008 | 2010 |
| ALL | 145.44 | 108.25 | 118.7 | 117.89 | 103.65 | 72.33 | 58.96 |
| OPT | 165.00 | 127.31 | 131.07 | 134.54 | 123.4 | 95.93 | 80.67 |
| OPHTH | 115.00 | 81.83 | 81.6 | 81.83 | 49.25 | 36.67 | 33.11 |

| Table 10D: MEAN NUMBER OF ELECTRONIC SERIALS OVER TIME by discipline 2002-2010 | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2010 | | | | | |
| | 2002 | 2004 | 2006 | 2008 | 2010 |
| ALL | 40.28 | 53.18 | 68.63 | 61.58 | 69.56 |
| OPT | 39.93 | 56.92 | 78 | 80.87 | 80.33 |
| OPHTH | 41.5 | 44.2 | 42.67 | 41.00 | 60.67 |

COST OF LIBRARY MATERIALS: MONOGRAPHS

Overview

For the year ending in December 2010, the U.S. consumer price index (CPI) was 1.6% an increase over 2009 when the CPI was 0.3%, and 2008 when it was 3.8%.¹ In recent decades it has been demonstrated that there is little correlation between the consumer price index and the cost of library materials. The general perception that price increases for library materials continue to be exorbitant can certainly be attributed to continuing serials inflation, but monograph prices are now contributing to price increases in vision science materials.

U.S. hardcover books have seen many fluctuations in price over the last few years with variations from a drop of 10.8% to an increase of 7.5% change. There has been a steady rise, despite marked fluctuations, in the price of North American academic books over the last few years. The most recent recorded percent change was 3.9% between 2007 and 2008. The CPI was 3.8% in 2008.

Library & Book Trade Almanac is now tracking North American academic textbooks and ebooks. In 2008 in all subject areas of interest to vision science the North American academic textbook average percent change was 5.5% roughly 1.5 times the CPI. In all subject areas of interest to vision science libraries North American academic ebooks dropped in their first year of being analyzed (2007 - 2008) by - 4.8%.

U.S. Hardcover Book Prices

Among areas of interest to vision libraries, preliminary analysis of U.S. hardcover book prices in medicine increased by 5.4% in 2009 on top of a 1.2% increase in 2008. The 2009 CPI was - 0.3%. Education and science hardcover books experienced a marked decrease in price -9.8% and - 10.8% respectively. Overall, the percent change for U.S. hardcovers for all subjects of interest to vision science libraries went down in 2009, on average -1.2%.

Table 11A, derived from the *Library & Book Trade Almanac*,² shows 2005 - 2009 average prices, the percent change from 2008 to 2009, with the index based on 2005 prices for U.S. hardcover books in several subject categories which are relevant to vision science.

| SUBJECT | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 - preliminary | % CHANGE FROM 2008 - preliminary | INDEX - preliminary |
|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| EDUCATION | \$95.10 | \$107.76 | \$111.28 | \$111.90 | \$100.92 | - 9.8% | 106.1 |
| MEDICINE | \$156.54 | \$160.58 | \$153.14 | \$154.91 | \$163.23 | + 5.4% | 104.3 |
| SCIENCE | \$203.44 | \$201.47 | \$213.59 | \$204.74 | \$182.60 | - 10.8% | 89.8 |
| TECHNOLOGY | \$187.80 | \$167.50 | \$156.46 | \$158.80 | \$156.21 | - 1.6% | 83.2 |
| ALL SUBJECTS | \$80.36 | \$85.10 | \$82.24 | \$84.55 | \$83.55 | - 1.2% | 104.0 |

Note: It should be noted that the index base was shifted to 2005 from 2004 which was the base for the 2009 guidelines. With this new index base adjustment the yearly average prices changed for all previous years in all subject areas. Some went up some went down.

Table 11B demonstrates fluctuations in percentage of change over time for all subject areas over the last 4 years.

| SUBJECT | 2005-2006 | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 (preliminary) |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|
| EDUCATION | +7.5% | +3.3% | + 0.6% | - 9.8% |
| MEDICINE | +2.6% | -4.6% | + 1.2% | + 5.4% |
| SCIENCE | - 1.0% | +6.0% | - 4.1% | -10.8% |
| TECHNOLOGY | -10.8% | -6.6% | + 1.5% | - 1.6% |
| ALL SUBJECTS | +5.9% | -3.4% | + 2.8% | - 1.2% |

North American Academic Book Prices

Table 12A, also from the *Library & Book Trade Almanac*,³ records prices for North American academic books. All academic books in the subject areas of interest to vision science libraries have increased on average by 3.9% with a range from 4.4% (education) to 9.7% (science). This is up from the average percent change from 2007-2008 of 1.9%. Overall there has been a steady rise in the price of North American academic books between 2004 and 2008.

| SUBJECT | 1989 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | % CHANGE FROM 2007 | INDEX |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------------------|-------|
| EDUCATION | \$29.61 | \$47.47 | \$51.30 | \$56.86 | \$58.83 | 61.44 | + 4.4% | 207.5 |
| MEDICINE | \$58.38 | \$76.72 | \$83.45 | \$85.21 | \$86.01 | 91.63 | + 6.5% | 157 |
| SCIENCE | \$31.97 | \$50.67 | \$56.85 | \$55.27 | \$59.04 | 64.67 | + 9.5% | 202.3 |
| TECHNOLOGY | \$56.10 | \$96.99 | \$86.82 | \$84.02 | \$92.59 | 101.57 | + 9.7% | 181.1 |
| ALL SUBJECTS | \$41.69 | \$61.50 | \$65.42 | \$67.29 | \$68.01 | 70.64 | + 3.9% | 169.4 |

Table 12B shows an overall decline of percent change over time in all subjects between 2005 and 2007, followed by an increase in the percent change between 2007 and 2008. The percent change over time has for the most part, excluding most of 2006, exceeded the CPI for those years.

| SUBJECT | % CHANGE FROM 2004-2005 | % CHANGE FROM 2005-2006 | % CHANGE FROM 2006-2007 | % CHANGE FROM 2007-2008 |
|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| EDUCATION | +8.1% | +10.8% | + 3.5% | + 4.4% |
| MEDICINE | +8.8% | +2.1% | + 0.94% | + 6.5% |
| SCIENCE | +12.2% | -2.8% | + 6.8% | + 9.5% |
| TECHNOLOGY | -10.5% | -3.2% | + 10.2% | + 9.7% |
| ALL SUBJECTS | +6.4% | +2.9% | + 1.19% | + 3.9% |

BRITISH ACADEMIC BOOK PRICES

In *Library & Book Trade Almanac 2009*, no 2008 update for the average price of British academic books was available due to discrepancies in the data. *Library & Book Trade Almanac* will decide to fix or remove the table completely for the 2010 edition.⁴ Therefore Table 13 remains the same as the 2009 edition of the guidelines.

Table 13, derived from *Library & Book Trade Almanac 2009*,⁵ reveals that price inflation for British academic books in all subjects increased by 2.9% from 2006 to 2007, but with wide variations in areas that are of interest to vision libraries, including one category with double-digit increases and one with a double-digit decrease. There were no 2008 prices listed in the 2009 (54th edition) of *Library & Book Trade Almanac*; therefore inflation for British books from 2007 to 2008 could not be determined.

| TABLE 13: BRITISH ACADEMIC BOOK PRICES [in pounds sterling] | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| (index base = 1985=100) | | | | | | |
| 2007 | | | | | | |
| SUBJECT | 1985 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | % CHANGE FROM 2006 | INDEX |
| EDUCATION | 12.22 | 38.92 | 44.54 | 45.59 | +2.4% | 373.1 |
| MISCELLANEOUS MEDICINE | 22.08 | 49.31 | 51.28 | 51.50 | +0.4% | 233.2 |
| NON-CLINICAL MEDICINE | 18.19 | 43.80 | 38.64 | 47.78 | -11.8% | 262.7 |
| GENERAL MEDICINE | 21.03 | 50.53 | 54.02 | 55.00 | +1.8% | 261.5 |
| PSYCHOLOGY | 19.25 | 42.56 | 47.02 | 48.25 | +2.6% | 250.6 |
| GENERAL SCIENCE | 13.73 | 38.57 | 39.98 | 47.64 | +19.2% | 346.9 |
| | | | | | | |
| ALL SUBJECTS | 19.07 | 43.37 | 45.09 | 46.39 | +2.9% | 243.3 |

North American Academic Textbook Average Prices

This is the first year *Library & Book Trade Almanac* has tracked North American academic textbook prices.⁶ Table 14 indicates that, in all subject areas of interest to vision science libraries, the price of textbooks rose, with the exception of science, which fell by 19.4%. Education and medicine textbooks rose significantly, 7.6% and 9.1% respectively, while psychology rose slightly (0.7%). With the consumer price index at 3.8% in 2008, medical textbooks experienced a price increase 2.5 times greater than that of the CPI. Overall, the North American textbook average percent change was 5.5%, roughly 1.5 times that of the CPI.

| TABLE 14: NORTH AMERICAN ACADEMIC TEXTBOOK AVERAGE PRICES | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Index base 2007 =100 | | | | |
| 2010 | | | | |
| SUBJECT | 2007 | 2008 | % Change 2007-2008 | Index |
| EDUCATION | \$61.83 | \$66.49 | + 7.6% | 107.6 |
| MEDICINE | \$104.04 | \$113.46 | + 9.1% | 109.1 |
| PSYCHOLOGY | \$86.19 | \$86.82 | + 0.7% | 100.7 |
| SCIENCE | \$103.09 | \$83.06 | - 19.4% | 80.6 |
| ALL SUBJECTS | \$88.05 | \$92.86 | + 5.5% | 105.5 |

North American Ebooks prices

Tracking ebook prices is also new to the *Library & Book Trade Almanac*.⁷ Table 15 indicates that ebooks prices for subject areas of interest to vision science libraries were down, with the exception of psychology. Tracking ebook prices over time will be of value to AVSL members as they grapple with tracking the acquisition of ebooks within the AVSL community. Ebooks prices dropped from -3.9% to -6.2%, except for psychology, which rose by 3.0% between 2007 and 2008.

| TABLE 15: NORTH AMERICAN ACADEMIC EBOOKS AVERAGE PRICES | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Index base 2007 =100 | | | | |
| 2010 | | | | |
| SUBJECT | 2007 | 2008 | % Change 2007-2008 | Index |
| EDUCATION | \$104.24 | \$97.76 | - 6.2% | 93.8 |
| MEDICINE | \$120.89 | \$116.12 | - 3.9% | 96.1 |
| PSYCHOLOGY | \$81.55 | \$83.98 | +3.0% | 103 |
| SCIENCE | \$112.29 | \$107.49 | - 4.3% | 95.7 |
| ALL SUBJECTS | \$107.99 | \$102.80 | - 4.8% | 95.2 |

Possible reasons for the drop in ebook prices could include the economic downturn experienced in 2008, selector's caution about purchasing ebooks based on user access issues and perpetual access availability. It could also be due to technical improvements in hosting, delivery and access for ebooks that led to cost savings for the vendor.

Doody's Core Titles

This is the third year in which *Doody's Core Titles in the Health Sciences* has been used in the Guidelines as a source of price trends for monographs in science and medicine. *Doody's* breaks its content into specialties, which makes it much easier to focus on the economics of vision-related titles and to track them from year to year. Over time this will afford a better summary of key economic factors facing vision librarians. Unfortunately, *Doody's* does not cover a very

large number of vision titles, and this small sample size may not be an accurate picture of true vision monograph costs.

While *Doody's* does make the distinction between “ophthalmology” core titles and “optometry” core titles, it seems likely that any vision library will collect materials from both specialties. Not surprisingly, some titles appear in both lists. Any meaningful attempt to monitor costs for vision-related monographs should consider both specialties.

Under the “optometry” specialty, *Doody's* lists 15 core titles,⁸ and under “ophthalmology” it lists 50 core titles⁹ in 2010. In 2009 there were 24 optometry core titles¹⁰ and 58 ophthalmology core titles.¹¹ The average cost per title appears in Table 16A.

Titles come and go based on availability and reviewer ratings so each year there are some new editions and new books added while other title are taken off the list. In the Optometry 2010 core titles, 5 new titles were added (1 new edition, 4 new books). Thirteen titles on the 2009 list were not present on the 2010 list. In the 2010 Ophthalmology core titles list, 12 new titles were added (3 new editions, 9 new books) and 17 books on 2009 list were not listed in 2010. Therefore, it is difficult to analyze changes in book prices within or between the two core lists and between years. It can, however, provide a general sense of pricing.

Within *Doody's* core titles, optometry sits within the associated health professions (AHP) category. The average cost of an AHP book in 2009 was \$108.87, and rose in 2010 to \$111.60.¹² Table 17A, derived from *Doody's*,¹² shows that optometry prices remain in line with the average price of AHP books. The average cost of a health science book in 2009 was \$158.89 and \$151.59 in 2010.¹² The average cost of an optometry book is well below the average health science book price. However, optometry training relies heavily on ophthalmology and other health science books (e.g. pharmacology, anatomy, pathophysiology) so optometry collection development budgets need to reflect the fact that health science books are of significantly higher cost.

It must be noted that the average cost is calculated for the unique books on each list contained in any category. Titles shared by both collections would not be included in the average cost calculations. Therefore the higher priced ophthalmology or health science books shared between the two lists would be eliminated from the calculation of average cost of both lists.

Ophthalmology is within the clinical medicine category. The average cost of a clinical medicine book in 2009 was \$109.58 and rose markedly in 2010 to \$198.85.¹² Table 17A shows that the average price of an ophthalmology title in 2010 is significantly more than the average clinical medicine text. This too should be noted in the development of collection budgets. Table 17A also shows the total cost per specialty.¹³

| Table 16A: COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF TITLES AND AVERAGE COST OF OPTOMETRY AND OPTHALMOLOGY BOOKS 2009-2010 | | | | |
|---|------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|
| | OPTOMETRY | | OPHTHALMOLOGY | |
| YEAR | 2009 | 2010 | 2009 | 2010 |
| NUMBER OF TITLES | 24 | 15 | 58 | 50 |
| AVERAGE COST | \$119.10 | \$109.92 | \$257.62 | \$263.54 |
| TOTAL COST | \$2,858.50 | \$1,644.30 | \$14,941.75 | \$13,177.05 |

Table 16B, derived from *Doody's*,¹² indicates a steady increase in the cost of ophthalmology books in the last five years. The percent change over time, as noted in Table 17C, has been positive but the amount of percent change has declined from 14.0% to 2.3% between 2006 and 2010. The average cost of optometry books rose from 2006 to 2008, but has declined since then to below the 2006 average cost per title. Again it must be noted that the list changes from year to year based on a variety of factors and that these numbers should be used cautiously.

| TABLE 16B: AVERAGE COST PER TITLE 2006-2010 | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | % CHANGE FROM 2009 |
| OPHTHALMOLOGY | \$205.29 | \$233.97 | \$249.09 | \$257.62 | \$263.54 | +2.3% |
| OPTOMETRY | \$120.50 | \$159.46 | \$162.49 | \$119.10 | \$109.92 | -7.7% |

| Table 16C: PERCENT CHANGE OVER TIME 2005-2010 | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | % CHANGE FROM 2006 | % CHANGE FROM 2007 | % CHANGE FROM 2008 | % CHANGE FROM 2009 |
| OPHTHALMOLOGY | +14.0% | +6.5% | +3.40% | +2.3% |
| OPTOMETRY | +32.0% | +1.9% | -26.70% | -7.7% |

Table 17A, derived from *Doody's*,¹⁴ reports pricing trends according to major classification, most of which are relevant to vision libraries. The following table illustrates these changes in a category entitled health sciences (excludes nursing) from 2005 to 2009. Inflation has increased in the associated health professions and clinical medicine categories. There was a marked increase in inflation for the basic sciences category.

| TABLE 17A: AVERAGE COST COMPARISON BY GENERAL CATEGORY IN HEALTH SCIENCES | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 2008 | | | | | | | |
| CATEGORY | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | \$ CHANGE FROM 2008 | % CHANGE FROM 2008 |
| ASSOCIATED HEALTH PROFESSIONS (Chiropractic, Dentistry, Occupational Therapy, Optometry, Pharmacy, Podiatry, Speech & Hearing, Veterinary Medicine, etc.) | \$85.76 | \$85.60 | \$101.56 | \$104.92 | \$108.87 | \$3.95 | +3.63% |
| BASIC SCIENCES (Anatomy, Biochemistry, Epidemiology, Microbiology, Neuroscience, Pharmacology, Physiology, etc.) | \$96.15 | \$110.29 | \$126.90 | \$129.49 | \$161.04 | \$31.55 | +19.59% |
| CLINICAL MEDICINE (Allergy/Clinical Immunology, Anesthesiology, Cardiology, Dermatology, Family Practice, Nutrition, Ophthalmology, Psychiatry, Urology, etc.) | \$157.17 | \$161.47 | \$170.62 | \$185.49 | \$190.58 | \$5.09 | +2.67% |
| OTHER DISCIPLINES (Health Information Management, History of Medicine, Library & Information Science, Managed Care, Medical Ethics, Medicolegal Issues, etc.) | \$76.64 | \$62.12 | \$71.14 | \$81.44 | \$77.92 | (-\$3.52) | -4.52% |

Table 17B shows the percent change over time by health science category.

| TABLE 17B: PERCENT CHANGE OVER TIME BY HEALTH SCIENCE CATEGORY 2005-2008 | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | % CHANGE FROM 2005 | % CHANGE FROM 2006 | % CHANGE FROM 2007 | % CHANGE FROM 2008 |
| ASSOCIATED HEALTH PROFESSIONS (Chiropractic, Dentistry, Occupational Therapy, Optometry, Pharmacy, Podiatry, Speech & Hearing, Veterinary Medicine, etc.) | -0.2% | +18.6% | +3.3% | +3.6% |
| BASIC SCIENCES (Anatomy, Biochemistry, Epidemiology, Microbiology, Neuroscience, Pharmacology, Physiology, etc.) | +14.7% | +15.1% | +2.0% | +19.6% |
| CLINICAL MEDICINE (Allergy/Clinical Immunology, Anesthesiology, Cardiology, Dermatology, Family Practice, Nutrition, Ophthalmology, Psychiatry, Urology, etc.) | +2.7% | +5.7% | +8.7% | +2.7% |
| OTHER DISCIPLINES (Health Information Management, History of Medicine, Library & Information Science, Managed Care, Medical Ethics, Medicolegal Issues, etc.) | -18.9% | +14.5% | +14.5% | -4.5% |

COST OF LIBRARY MATERIALS: SERIALS

U.S. Periodicals Prices

Table 18A, also from the *Library & Book Trade Almanac*,¹⁵ shows that all U.S. periodicals in subject areas of interest to vision science librarians, experienced an increase in price between 2009 and 2010. The average increase was 6.4%, more than 4 times the CPI (1.6%). Medical periodicals had the highest percent increase over the previous year at 8.3%. The current average cost of a chemistry journal is over \$2600.00, almost double that of medical periodicals, and almost four times that of psychology and engineering periodicals.

| SUBJECT | 1984 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | % Change from 2009- 2010 | Index |
|------------------------------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| CHEMISTRY & PHYSICS | \$228.90 | \$2,045.12 | \$2,189.67 | \$2,333.37 | \$2,482.16 | \$2,622.14 | + 5.6% | 1,145.50 |
| MEDICINE | \$125.57 | \$1,034.83 | \$1,113.97 | \$1,224.41 | \$1,317.81 | \$1,427.56 | + 8.3% | 1136.9 |
| PSYCHOLOGY | \$69.74 | \$539.07 | \$579.93 | \$631.79 | \$686.52 | \$726.87 | + 5.9% | 1,042.30 |
| ENGINEERING | \$78.70 | \$592.99 | \$634.85 | \$688.98 | \$734.14 | \$786.72 | + 7.2% | 999.6 |
| All SUBJECTS | \$72.47 | \$484.18 | \$518.55 | \$559.96 | \$603.85 | \$642.62 | + 6.4% | 886.8 |

Table 18B indicates that all U.S. periodicals have had positive percent changes over the last five years. There has been at least a 5.6% increase in the percent change of all subject area. Over time the percent change in chemistry periodicals has come down gradually but, the cost per journal is and has been markedly higher than other periodicals of interest. The percent change in the price of medicine periodicals has fluctuated but always climbed over 7% per year for the last 5 years. Psychology periodicals have experienced fluctuations in percent change in the last few years and dropped almost 3% in 2009-10. The percent changes for engineering journals have also fluctuated over the past few years remaining above 6.6% over the last five years.

| TABLE 18B: U.S. PERIODICAL PRICES PERCENT CHANGE (%) OVER TIME, 2005-2009 2010 | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| SUBJECT | % Change From 2005-2006 | % Change from 2006-2007 | % Change from 2007-2008 | % Change from 2008-2009 | % Change from 2009-2010 |
| CHEMISTRY & PHYSICS | +8.8 | +7.1% | +6.6% | +6.4% | +5.6% |
| MEDICINE | +7.5 | +7.6 % | +9.9% | +7.1% | +8.3% |
| PSYCHOLOGY | +8.5 | +7.6 % | +8.9% | +8.7% | +5.9% |
| ENGINEERING | +7.4 | +7.1 % | +8.5% | +6.6% | +7.2% |
| All SUBJECTS | +7.7 | +7.1% | +8.0% | +7.8% | +6.4% |

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

This was the first year the survey asked questions about specific types of resources that libraries had access to, with 23 libraries responding. The first question asked about specific research databases such as Medline, ERIC, Web of Science, CINAHL, Science Citation Index etc. The second asked about specific Point of Care tools and resources such as Dynamed, UpToDate, Cochrane, ACP Pier etc. Both questions provided an option to list other resources not listed in the question. A total 52 separate resources were identified by the responding libraries. The most commonly held resources are listed below.

The **Research Databases** the libraries indicated they had access included:

- Medline (20/23)
- ERIC (19/23)
- CINAHL, PsycINFO, Web of Science (14/23)
- Science Citation Index (13/23)
- Agricola, VisionCite, Visionet, HAPI, Social Science Citation Index, Micromedex, Biological Abstracts (10-12/23)
- Ageline, Drug Facts & Comparisons, Embase, Inspec, SPORTDiscus (6-9/23)
- Lexi Comp, Applied Science & Technology (3- 5/23)

These were available primarily to libraries within or affiliated with a university.

The **Point of Care** resources the libraries had access to include:

- Cochrane (19/23)
- MDConsult (12/23)

- Natural Standard (10/23)
- UpToDate (9/23)
- ACP Pier (6/23)
- Natural Medicine, Dynamed (5/23)

These were available primarily to libraries within or affiliated with a university.

SUMMARY

Monograph budgets have increased only a few thousand dollars more than 10 years ago (1999) and yet academic book costs have risen anywhere from 1.2 to 6.4% each year in the last five years alone. North American academic books of interest to vision science libraries have, on average, seen a 3.9% change in price between 2007 and 2008 and have experienced a steady rise in costs that has for the most part exceeded the CPI each year since 2005. North American academic textbooks have risen on average 5.5% in the first years (2007-2008) they have been tracked. Hardcover medical books costs rose 5.4%, while other U.S. hardcover books declined this year. Ebooks and academic textbook costs are an area of interest and will be included in future AVSL guidelines.

Serials budgets have almost doubled in the same 10 year period and the cost of serials have been rising at a percent change of 5.6 - 10% per year since 2006.

The number of support staff numbers has been decreasing slowly and the number of professional librarians has increased slightly over the last 10 years.

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