

MLA Survey of Hospital Libraries

PART I

The purpose of this survey is to gather data regarding the number of hospitals that have professional librarians on their staff and the types of library services that are available to hospital staff, patients, and consumers. This is part of a larger initiative by the Medical Library Association (MLA) to determine the current status of health sciences librarians who work in hospitals.

This survey should be completed by individuals who have responsibility for library services. If the hospital has no library or library staff, the chief executive officers or their designees should complete Parts I, II, and III.10-13. The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete if you have your hospital information available. Survey results (in aggregate) will be available to survey respondents, the health sciences library field, and other interested parties. Thank you for your cooperation.

- 1 Please complete the following hospital and respondent information. This data will not be used in any public reporting:

Respondent (Your Name):	<input type="text"/>
Library Name:	<input type="text"/>
Hospital Name:	<input type="text"/>
Address:	<input type="text"/>
City/Town:	<input type="text"/>
State/Province:	<input type="text"/>
Zip/Postal Code:	<input type="text"/>
Daytime Telephone:	<input type="text"/>
Email Address:	<input type="text"/>

- 2 If your institution has a Website, please include the URL below (the Website address can be for the hospital or for the hospital's library, if available):

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PART II

Please provide the following general information about your institution. The most recent **AHA Guide** may be helpful for some information.

3 Is your hospital:

- Federal
- State/Local Government
- Private, not-for-profit
- Investor-owned or private, for-profit
- Don't know
- Other (please specify):

4 Is your hospital part of a larger health care system?

5 Is your hospital a teaching hospital?

6 What is your American Hospital Association (AHA) reported bed-size?

7 Number of inpatient admissions?

8 Number of outpatient visits?

9 Occupancy rate?

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PART III: Library / Librarian Information

For purposes of this survey a hospital library is defined as an entity that “serves health service professionals in hospitals or elsewhere, whether in the private or public sector” and provides all of the following:

1. documents (print and other materials) held locally and remote resources

(such as electronic resources) for which permanent or temporary access rights have been acquired by the library for use by a clientele;

2. staff members doing work that requires professional education (the master's degree or its equivalent) in the theoretical and scientific aspects of librarianship; also, in some libraries, staff performing professional level tasks who, though not librarians, have equivalent education and training in related fields as required to meet the informational or educational needs of a clientele;
3. an established schedule in which services of the staff are available to clientele; and
4. a physically separate location where library materials and services are provided to the library's clientele.

This definition is based upon the [NISO Z39.7 library standards of 2001](#).



- 10** Does the hospital have a library onsite (a separate physical space located in the hospital or on the hospital campus that the library serves)?

 YES

 NO

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- 11** If no, did the hospital close its library within the past 5 years?

 YES

 NO


- 12** What was the primary reason for closing the library (please choose one best answer)?

- Acquisition, merger, or consolidation
- Difficulty recruiting/retaining qualified staff
- Lack of use of services
- Financial constraints
- Decided to offer virtual/online service only
- Have never had a library for this hospital
- Not sure/Don't know
- Other (please specify):



- 13** If the hospital does not have a library onsite, are library services provided by any of the following? (please check all that apply):

- An academic health center library
- Shared services with another hospital
- Health care system/centralized library
- Contracted service
- In-house library that is a part of another department
- None
- Other (please specify):

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- 14** If the hospital has a library onsite, please indicate whether the following are available (please check all that apply):

- An organized collection of print and/or electronic materials
- Staff trained to provide and evaluate information/materials and provide education to clientele
- An established schedule when services are available
- A physical facility

- 15** Is the onsite library a separate department with its own budget within the hospital?

YES NO

Additional Comments:

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- 16** If library services are provided by **any** of the ways previously mentioned, who who does the library primarily serve? (please check all that apply):

- Hospital staff
- Medical staff

- Patients
- Patients' families
- Consumers
- Other (please specify):

17 Does the hospital offer any of the following library services?
(please check all that apply):

- Access to commercial online services, e.g., StatRef
- Access to free Internet resources through workstations
- Access to MEDLINE/PubMed
- Annual budget for purchase of new books
- Consumer health information for patients and the public
- Database searching performed by library staff
- Electronic books or other online reference materials, e.g. Up-To-Date
- Electronic journals
- Existing collection of current books and journals
- Information resources imbedded into patient information systems, such as CPOE or an electronic health record (EHR)
- Interlibrary loan
- Library Web page/website
- On-going subscriptions to journals
- Reference services for finding needed information
- Services of a clinical librarian
- Training programs in database searching and using information resources performed by library staff

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18 Is staff assigned to maintain the library or library services for the hospital?

YES NO

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19 What types of staff are assigned to maintain the library or offer library services? (please check all that apply):

- Part-time clerical/paraprofessional
- Full-time clerical/paraprofessional
- Part-time professional librarian (with MLS)
- Full-time professional librarian (with MLS)
- Part-time non-library professional (administrator, nurse, MD)
- Full-time non-library professional (administrator, nurse, MD)
- Services delivered by library staff in another health system member
- Circuit rider agreement for professional library services
- Contract/agreement with another institution for professional library services
- The library is staffed with volunteers
- Other (please specify):

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20 How many hours does the part-time professional librarian (with MLS) work per week?

- 0-20 hours
- 21-30 hours
- 30-40 hours

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21 How many hours per week does the circuit rider work?

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22 With what type of institution does your hospital contract for professional library services?

- Area Health Education Center (AHEC)
- University
- Other (please specify):

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23 Has the library experienced a change in the **number** of staff in the past 5 years?

YES NO

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24 Has the number of staff:

- Increased
- Decreased

[Continue](#)

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25 Have the required job qualifications of staff:

- Increased
- Decreased
- Stayed the same



26 Does the library have adequate staffing to meet the needs of its clientele?

Additional comments:

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27 Does a professional librarian select online resources for the hospital?

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28 If online resources are not selected by a professional librarian, who does select them?

- IT staff
- Other (specify the person's title or department):

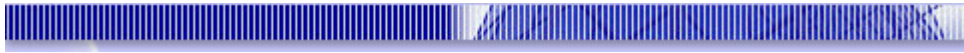
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29 Has the library ever participated in the Medical Library Association's Benchmarking Network / library statistics collection program?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know



30 Please include any additional, clarifying, or final comments about any part of this survey or about your library or institution:

Continue