

Library Analytics Toolkit

May 2011 update

Since our first update, we have completed our initial round of meetings with people around Harvard's many libraries, archives and special collections and have identified other institutions who have developed statistical dashboards. We plan to use the information collected through our meetings and research to develop a brief summary of common current practices for statistics and recommendations for how the library analytics toolkit can be designed to fit into existing workflows and enhance current statistical practices. The completion of this report will give us an opportunity to coalesce what we have learned through our project and will shape our proposal for the second phase of the project.

April 2011 update

The Library Analytics Toolkit plans to create a new way for librarians to visualize their data and create visual reports of this data using a new data dashboard we will develop. In order to achieve this goal, we must first determine what data and statistics are currently collected and used across a wide range of collections so that we can meet user needs and, hopefully, facilitate new and creative types of data collection and comparison. To this end, we have been meeting with people across libraries, archives and special collections, and also across a wide array of job functions, to see how this toolkit could best serve them. Through this process, we have gathered useful information about the priorities of different collections and the key types of statistics that users would most like to be able to see. We have also learned about the current collection techniques employed at these collections so that we can ensure that this toolkit will be able to make use of data that is currently being collected without requiring the adoptions of new collection methods.