

Harvard Library: FY2010

Harvard's library system now includes more than 70 separate library units, which are operated by nearly 1,000 full-time employees who provide a range of services that ensure access to 16.8 million volumes, 15.8 million digital files, 100,000 serial titles, 8 million photographs, and an estimated 400 million manuscript items.

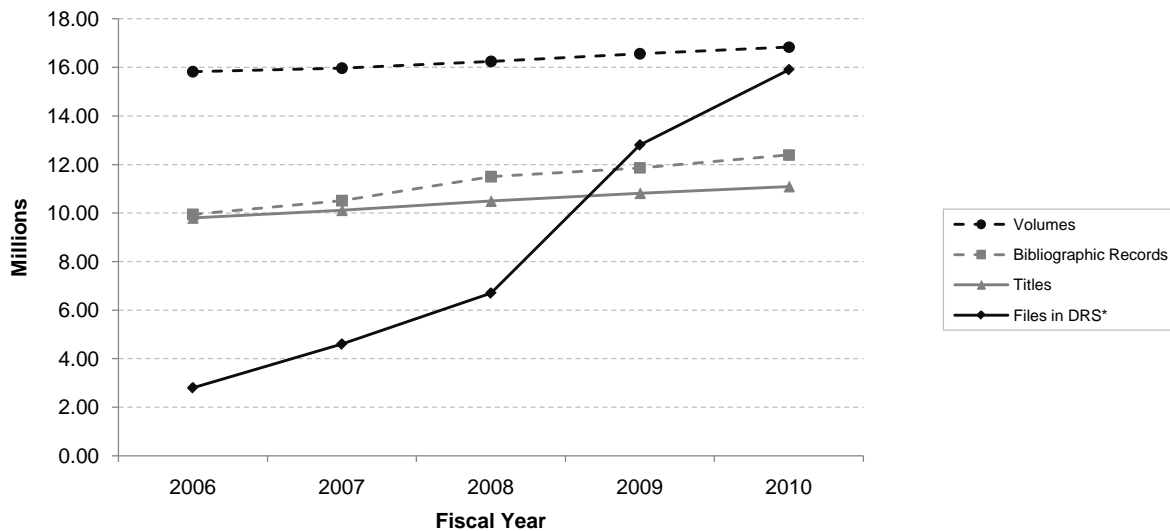
Even these impressive numbers fail to do justice to the importance of the library system for Harvard. For many students, faculty members, and departments, Harvard library collections are at the core of their intellectual experience. Harvard's libraries are not only a local strength, but also a global treasure that supports the scholarly work of an untold number of researchers worldwide.

The Harvard Library's annual report for 1919–1920 established the combined count of books and pamphlets as the essential metric for the University's library holdings. For generations, Harvard has supplied this and other statistics requested by the Association of Research Libraries, which compiles them from its entire membership and prepares the annual "rankings" of the member libraries. By several metrics, including the volume count, Harvard's Library is the largest of the ARL member libraries.

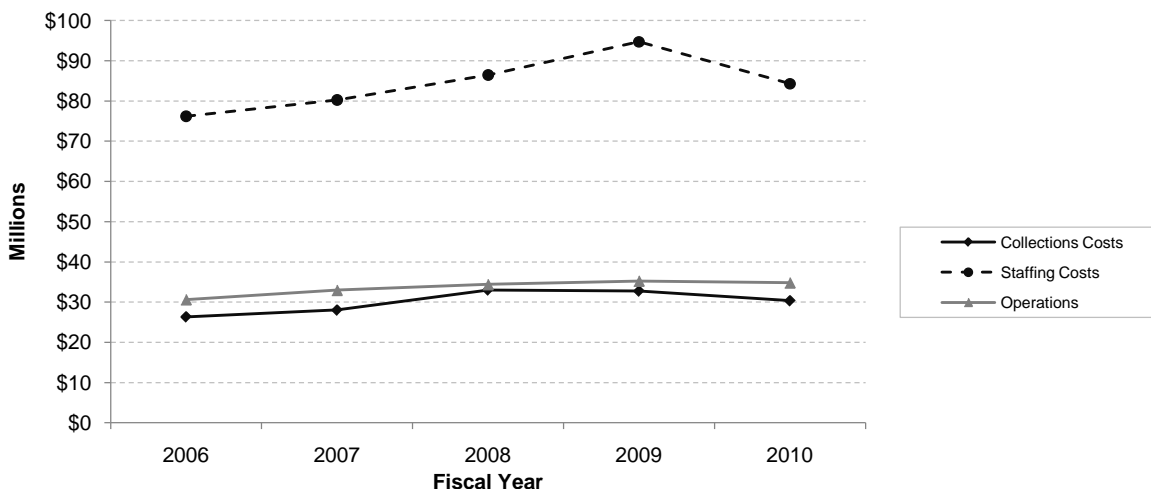
Throughout the ARL assessment community, there is a growing conviction that titles (or bibliographic records) provide a clearer, more accurate, more replicable statistic than volumes.

For the 2009–2010 academic year, we can estimate the Harvard Library's volume count at 16.8 million, and we can document the Library's title count at 11.1 million. In the interest of clear metrics, accountability, and best practices, the Harvard Library will shift its statistical emphasis from volumes to titles beginning in the 2010–2011 academic year.

Volumes, Records, Titles, and Digital Files



Total Expenditures



*Digital Repository Service
SOURCE: HARVARD LIBRARY OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Collections as of June 30, 2010

Expressed in thousands unless otherwise noted

Formats

Metric	FY 2009	FY 2010	Change
Manuscript items	–	400,000 *	0%
Volumes	16,500	16,800	2%
Bibliographic records	11,800	12,400	5%
Titles	10,800	11,100	3%
Microforms	–	10,000 *	0%
Photographs	–	8,000 *	0%
Items circulated	2,000	1,500	-33%
E-Resources	370	607	64%
Serial titles	132	158	19%

* Numbers provided for manuscript items, microforms, and photographs are estimated based on prior surveys.

Digital Repository Service (DRS)

Metric	FY 2009	FY 2010	Change
Files	12,415	15,888	28%
Disk storage (gigabytes)	96,467	115,308	20%

Harvard Online Library Information System (HOLLIS)

Metric	FY 2009	FY 2010	Change
Records	11,862	13,421	13%
Searches	5,334	5,053	-6%

Based on a new, user-centric discovery platform, Harvard launched a new version of the HOLLIS union catalog in 2009.

Visual Information Access (VIA)

Metric	FY 2009	FY 2010	Change
Records	589	678	15%
Records including digital images	457	545	19%
Searches	153	138	-10%
Number of images	2,019	3,109	54%

Online Archival Search Information System (OASIS)

Metric	FY 2009	FY 2010	Change
Records (finding aids)	4.2	4.5	6%
Sessions	588.4	480.4	-18%
Searches	61.4	58.5	-5%
Finding aids displayed	66.3	104.8	58%