



SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY

Saint Louis University Libraries

Benchmark Analysis

March 7, 2014

Saint Louis University Libraries Benchmark Analysis

March 2014

This document has been prepared by the University Libraries (Pius XII Memorial Library and the Medical Center Library). Through rigorous assessment, the University Libraries have identified competitor/peer and national/global aspirational institutions of higher education in the United States by which to benchmark, with the overall goal of moving Saint Louis University into the list of the top 50 colleges and universities in the U.S. as annually identified by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Specific areas within library and information resources, services, personnel, and facilities have been carefully selected to be used as benchmarks. Data points can be compared to identified institutions in order to determine relative relationship (e.g., better than, same, needs improvement in) to the University Libraries at SLU.

Additionally, due to the specificity of its collection and clientele, the Medical Center Library is compared to other AJCU institutions that have medical center libraries. These include: Georgetown University, Loyola Chicago, and Creighton.

In addition to NCES and IPEDS data and the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings for 2013, benchmarking and peer comparisons were guided by the following documents:

American Library Association. *Standards for Libraries in Higher Education*.

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/standardslibraries>. Dooley, J. and Luce, K. (2010).

Taking Our Pulse: The OCLC Research Survey of Special Collections and Archives. Dublin, OH: OCLC Research.

<http://www.oclc.org/research/publications/library/2010/2010-11.pdf>

Saint Louis University Libraries Benchmark Analysis

March 2014

University Libraries Comparative Institutions:

COMPETITOR/PEER	NATIONAL ASPIRATIONAL
Fordham* (57)	Washington University in St. Louis (14)
Marquette* (75)	Notre Dame* (18)
Loyola - Chicago (101)	Georgetown (20)
Saint Louis University (101)	Boston College* (31)

(#) = U.S. News & World Report Ranking (Dec. 2013) * = No Medical School

Institution Selection Methodology

Institutional profiles comprised of the following elements were created to select competitor/peer and national aspirational institutions. Institutions most closely aligned to SLU were identified as being the best matches.

- Total enrollment
- Undergraduate enrollment
- Graduate student population
- Faculty and graduate research dollars
- ARL (Association of Research Libraries) status
- AJCU institutions
- Institutions with both a medical school and a law school

In addition, the 2010 *Taking Our Pulse: The OCLC Research Survey of Special Collections and Archives* included the following organizations:

- Association of Research Libraries (124 universities and others)
- Canadian Academic and Research Libraries (30 universities and others)
- Independent Research Libraries Association (19 private research libraries)
- Oberlin Group (80 liberal arts colleges)
- RLG Partnership, U.S. and Canadian members (85 research institutions)

Saint Louis University Libraries Benchmark Analysis

March 2014

RESOURCES	SLU Libraries	Fordham	Loyola Chicago	Marquette	Boston College	Georgetown	Notre Dame	Washington U. St. Louis
Physical Volumes	1,892,623	2,351,035	1,939,194	1,351,606	2,979,489	2,937,036	3,796,168	3,889,955
Special Collections – Rare Books	30,171	n.a.	13,000	11,000	250,000	100,000	175,000	60,000
Materials Expenditures (Print plus Electronic)	\$4,982,211	\$4,900,640	\$6,015,721	\$8,834,888	\$10,752,641	\$9,313,646	\$13,180,749	\$12,329,222
Funds For Library IT	\$88,198	\$110,160	\$301,756	\$144,676	\$170,307	\$436,921	\$785,512	\$829,373

SERVICES	SLU Libraries	Fordham	Loyola Chicago	Marquette	Boston College	Georgetown	Notre Dame	Washington U. St. Louis
Circulation Of Materials	220,748	211,945	234,344	154,064	255,541	395,494	411,258	471,388
Interlibrary Loans Provided	17,493	15,140	18,064	12,807	23,964	43,363	24,249	53,990
Interlibrary Loans Received	21,349	7,572	21,146	13,527	30,434	28,275	30,138	51,542
Number of Instructional Sessions	700	278	681	472	717	1,881	396	999
Attendance in Instructional Sessions	16,057	3,894	10,168	9,068	12,880	13,426	7,008	9,964

FACILITIES	SLU Libraries	Fordham	Loyola Chicago	Marquette	Boston College	Georgetown	Notre Dame	Washington U. St. Louis
Square Footage (Main library only)	215,000	240,000	192,000	184,674	155,000	175,000	429,780	197,000
Gate Count (Typical Week)	33,437	40,693	22,589	23,883	40,031	23,606	26,544	28,000
Service Hours (Typical Week)	146	129	147	104	110	100	147	120

Saint Louis University Libraries Benchmark Analysis

March 2014

PERSONNEL	SLU Libraries	Fordham	Loyola Chicago	Marquette	Boston College	Georgetown	Notre Dame	Washington U. St. Louis
Librarians (FTE)	41	45	42	43	78	89	77	97
Staff (FTE)	55	58	46	42	77	108	132	104
Student Workers (FTE)	13	59	22	29	53	40	40	44
Total FTE	109	162	110	114	208	237	249	245

COMPARATIVE INFORMATION	SLU Libraries	Fordham	Loyola Chicago	Marquette	Boston College	Georgetown	Notre Dame	Washington U. St. Louis
Students Served (FTE)	13,502	13,194	14,475	10,836	13,941	15,300	11,874	12,629
Student-to-Librarian Ratio	329:1	293:1	345:1	252:1	179:1	172:1	154:1	130:1
Faculty Served* (full-time) *(Fall 2012 data)	1,315	582	813	634	761	1,158	1,077	1,547
Faculty-to-Librarian Ratio	32:1	13:1	19:1	15:1	10:1	13:1	14:1	16:1
Library Materials Expenditures (Print plus Electronic)	\$4,982,211	\$4,900,640	\$6,015,721	\$8,834,888	\$10,752,641	\$9,313,646	\$13,180,749	\$12,329,222
Library Materials Expenditures per FTE Student	\$369	\$371	\$416	\$815	\$771	\$609	\$1,110	\$976
Library Materials Expenditures per Full-time Faculty	\$3,789	\$8,420	\$7,399	\$13,935	\$14,130	\$8,043	\$12,238	\$7,970
Library Personnel Expenditures (Librarians, Staff and Student Workers)	\$4,520,932	\$5,990,679	\$3,804,564	\$5,136,609	\$11,533,767	\$12,659,221	\$10,879,916	\$10,041,681
Library Personnel Expenditures per FTE Student	\$335	\$454	\$263	\$474	\$827	\$827	\$918	\$795
Library Personnel Expenditures per Full-time Faculty	\$3,438	\$10,293	\$4,680	\$8,102	\$15,156	\$10,932	\$10,102	\$6,491
Total Library Expenditures	\$10,204,092	\$11,360,906	\$9,143,192	\$14,645,352	\$23,862,072	\$15,704,209	\$26,933,536	\$25,574,976
Total Library Expenditures per FTE Student	\$952	\$861	\$677	\$1,449	\$1,712	\$1,109	\$2,284	\$2,163
Total Library Expenditures per Full-time Faculty	\$7,760	\$19,520	\$11,246	\$23,100	\$31,356	\$13,561	\$25,008	\$16,532

Sources: IPEDS Data Center, National Center for Education Statistics Academic Libraries Survey for FY 2011-2012, unless otherwise noted.

Figures represent the total of all three SLU libraries: Pius XII Memorial Library, Law Library, and Medical Center Library.

Saint Louis University Libraries Benchmark Analysis

March 2014

AREAS OF DISTINCTION

RESOURCES

- Internationally recognized Vatican Film Library and Medieval Manuscripts Collection.
- Premier philosophy, religion, and theology collections.
- Undergraduate use of Special Collections materials.
- Library Digitization Center partners with SLU Center for Digital Humanities, located in Pius Library.

SERVICES

- Comprehensive liaison program partners with faculty and students across academic programs to support, teaching, scholarship, and research.
- Continued implementation of emerging technologies (e.g. information access via handheld devices, laptop loan program, Digital Document Delivery).

FACILITIES

- Among highest in number of hours open per week.
- Library renovation in 2012 added a second service desk, doubled seating capacity, increased group study space, significantly enhanced connectivity, and reconfigured spaces.

PERSONNEL

- All faculty librarians hold a master's degree in library and information science from an institution accredited by the American Library Association.

AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

RESOURCES

- Additional funding for materials will expand competitive advantage and strengthen support for new programs.

SERVICES

- Strengthening the integration of information literacy in academic programs to ensure SLU graduates students ready for the knowledge economy.
- Libraries continue to expand proactive early warning and intervention strategies for students with academic difficulties in order to strengthen retention and enhance student success in their disciplines, working closely with undergraduate & graduate writing centers, tutoring services, the EAP Resource Center, Office of Enrollment and Retention, department based retention efforts, and the CTTL.

FACILITIES

- Despite increase due to renovation, additional group study space is still in demand. Special Collections spaces were not included in the 2012 renovation.

PERSONNEL

- Additional professional development support will better leverage expert knowledge base of professional staff.

Medical Center Library

Benchmark Analysis – Areas of Distinction – Areas of Opportunity – March 2014 –

AREAS OF DISTINCTION

RESOURCES

- Nationally recognized digital document delivery program rapidly provides all journal articles to users' computer desktop.

SERVICES

- Comprehensive liaison program partners with faculty and students in all Medical Center programs to support teaching, research, scholarship, and clinical care.

The Library now offers an online elective for fourth year medical students called "Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) Information Skills for Residency."

This popular web-based course provides graduating students with effective EBM techniques for searching the bio-medical literature for the highest level evidence-based information for patient care.

- Representative comments from recent student evaluators include:
 - "This course provided a foundation for skills that I can access throughout residency."
 - "This course exceeded my expectations in a positive manner. My EBM search skills significantly improved as a result of taking this course."

FACILITIES

- 109 regular service hours per week highest among Jesuit peers.
- Library facility being developed as well-appointed, comfortable setting for quiet study and research.

PERSONNEL

- All medical reference librarians hold advanced subject credentials matched to the programs they serve, including MD, PhD, and RN degrees.

AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

RESOURCES

- Additional funding for materials will expand competitive advantage and strengthen support for new programs.

A dedicated endowment for biomedical information resources will supplement regular annual allocations for materials.

SERVICES

- Further engagement with clinical medicine users – particularly medical residents – will extend service effectiveness and impact.

FACILITIES

- Planned updates will improve functionality, efficiency, and appearance of physical library.
- Working with Medical Center Development to seek funding support will ease burden on capital budget.

PERSONNEL

- Additional professional development support will better leverage expert knowledge base of professional staff.



Programs Served: **Medicine** **SLU, Loyola, Creighton, Georgetown**
 Nursing **SLU, Loyola, Creighton, Georgetown**
 Allied Health **SLU, Loyola, Creighton, Georgetown**
 Dental **SLU, Creighton**
 Public Health **SLU, Creighton (online only)**

Benchmark Comparison – March 2014

Resources	SLU Medical Center	Loyola - Chicago	Creighton	Georgetown
Materials Budget	\$1,201,393	\$1,531,300	\$1,384,894	\$2,234,029
Physical Volumes	274,158	154,566	262,201	97,577
Book Titles	45,822	31,569	45,242	22,100
Journal Subscriptions	749	1,627	10,027	3,261
Databases	88	46	108	88
Services	SLU Medical Center	Loyola - Chicago	Creighton	Georgetown (est.)
Interlibrary Loans - Borrowed Items	12,078	4,013	635	653
Interlibrary Loans - Loaned Items	8,292	3,610	8,408	797
Circulation of Materials	8,458	5,287	22,094	23,000
Education Sessions	119	48	330	190
Attendance in Education Sessions	2,817	820	2,850	4,500
Facilities	SLU Medical Center	Loyola - Chicago	Creighton	Georgetown
Square Footage	32,000	7,360	37,500	40,000
User Seats	360	171	450	426
Gate Count	127,837	Not reported	89,963	320,000
Normal Service Hours per Week	109	50	105	40
Recent Renovation Costs (2010)	\$99,000.00	Not reported	\$148,589	\$40,000.00
Age of Library Facility	38 years old	Approx. 50 years old	36 years old	42 years old
Stand-Alone or Building-Within-Building	Building-Within-Building	Building-Within-Building	Stand-Alone	Stand-Alone



Programs Served: **Medicine** **SLU, Loyola, Creighton, Georgetown**
 Nursing **SLU, Loyola, Creighton, Georgetown**
 Allied Health **SLU, Loyola, Creighton, Georgetown**
 Dental **SLU, Creighton**
 Public Health **SLU, Creighton (online only)**

Benchmark Comparison – March 2014

Personnel	SLU Medical Center	Loyola - Chicago	Creighton	Georgetown
Professional FTE	6	6	14	11
Paraprofessional / Clerical FTE	8.67	4	7	8
Student / Part-Time FTE	1.04	0	2	7
Total FTE Staff	15.71	10	23.0	26.0
Professional & Staff Development	\$2,622	\$7,241	\$17,267	\$44,000
Salary Costs	\$642,721	\$597,920	\$1,077,024	\$1,116,584
Comparative Information	SLU Medical Center	Loyola - Chicago	Creighton	Georgetown
Students Served (FTE)	2,729	2,011	2,975	1,500
Faculty Served (full-time)	615	500 (est.)	557	386
Library Materials Expenditure per Student	\$469	\$544	\$493	\$1,489
Library Materials Expenditure per Faculty	\$2,082	\$2,188	\$2,634	\$5,788
Library Personnel Expenditure per Student	\$236	\$297	\$362	\$744
Library Personnel Expenditure per Faculty	\$1,045	\$2,033	\$1,838	\$2,893
Total Library Expenditure per Student	\$705	\$841	\$855	\$2,233
Total Library Expenditure per Faculty	\$3,127	\$3,384	\$4,568	\$8,681

Source: Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries Annual Statistics, 2012-2013 (*2011-2012 for Georgetown)