

Library Expenditures Increase in 2006

Findings from the annual Index of American Public Library Circulation

By Mijung Yoon & Charity Cree

The index of American public library circulation remained the same at 114 in 2005 and 2006, and the index of expenditures grew by 3 percent from 124 in 2005 to 128 in 2006. However, when expenditures are adjusted for the base year 2000, the index remained the same at 109 in 2005 and 2006. The indices are based on the reports from 283 libraries in 2005 and 244 libraries in 2006 out of 300 libraries that were invited to participate in the Annual Library Index of Circulation and Expenditures, created and administered by the Library Research Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Adult and Juvenile Circulation

A total of 179 public libraries (60 percent) provided adult and juvenile circulation figures for 2006. [insert here a sentence about number reporting total circulation figures versus adult and/or juvenile] Both the adult and the juvenile circulation indices increased by 1 percent: the adult circulation index grew from 105 in 2005 to 106 in 2006; the juvenile circulation index grew from 116 in 2005 to 117 in 2006. Sixty-six percent was attributed to adult circulation and 34 percent to juvenile. Although there is an increase in adult and juvenile circulation indices, the overall circulation index remains the same between

the years 2005 and 2006. This resulted from the proportion of libraries reporting only total circulation versus those reporting adult and juvenile circulation individually.

Annual Expenditures

The index value for salary expenditures increased by 4 percent from 128 in 2005 to 133 in 2006, and the index value for material expenditures increased by 5 percent from 109 in 2005 to 114 in 2006. The index value for other expenditures rose 9 percent from 118 in 2005 to 128 in 2006. The percentage distribution for total library operating expenditures in 2006 is as follows: 65 percent for salaries, 14 percent for materials, and 20 percent for other expenditures. The sum of the percentages does not equal 100 percent because the values are medians, which are less affected by extremes than are averages.

Circulation per capita increased by 3 percent from 6.3 in 2005 to 6.5 in 2006. Expenditures per capita have increased by 6 percent from \$26.62 in 2005 to \$28.27 in 2006. Expenditures per item circulated also increased by 3 percent from \$4.18 in 2005 to \$4.29 in 2006. Material expenditures per capita rose by less than 7 percent from \$3.53 in 2005 to \$3.77 in 2006.

Methodology

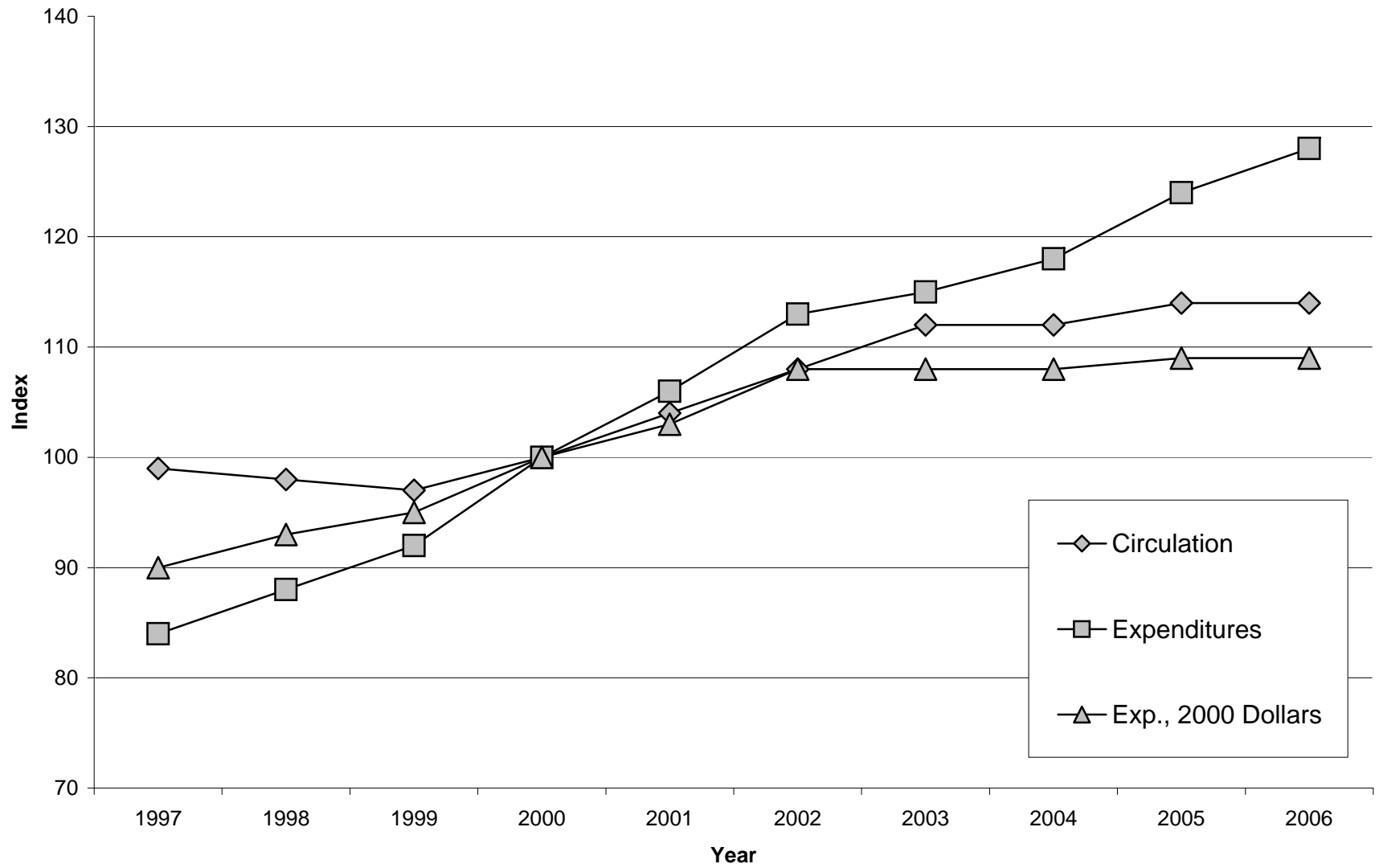
For the fiscal year of 2006, the base year of the Annual Library Index of Circulation and Expenditures

remained at the year 2000 (reference value = 100). The same libraries used in the 2000 study and the studies in subsequent years—a sampling of 300 libraries selected from all public libraries serving populations of 25,000 or more—were asked to participate again this year. From this sample, 244 libraries responded. The 300 libraries sampled were proportionally stratified according to rates of change in circulation and expenditures for the years 1993 through 1997, as established in the National Center for Education Statistics publication *Public Libraries in the U.S.*

The index scores (1997–2006) are computed by dividing each library's reported circulation and expenditures by its corresponding 2000 figures and multiplying by 100. The resulting scores are ranked from highest to lowest for each year, and the median score is selected as the index value, with a value of 100 representing the year 2000. The index of expenditures in constant 2000 dollars is calculated by dividing the expenditure index in each year by the Consumer Price Index (annual average for all urban consumers) modified to a year 2000 base. ■

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Public Library Circulation and Expenditures



Annual Indices for a Sample of American Public Libraries for 1997-2006: Medians

(N is the number of libraries reporting)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
N	112	112	112	300	300	300	298	291	283	244
Circulation	99	98	97	100	104	108	112	112	114	114
Expenditures	84	88	92	100	106	113	115	118	124	128
Exp., 2000 Dollars	90	93	95	100	103	108	108	108	109	109

Circulation Percentages: Medians

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
N	245	254	219	240	199	179
Adult	64	63	63	65	67	66
Juvenile	36	37	37	35	33	34

Expenditures Percentages: Medians

	2001	2002	2003*	2004	2005*	2006*
N	291	298	298	279	279	242
Salaries	65	66	67	67	67	65
Materials	15	15	14	14	13	14
Other	20	19	18	19	19	20

Annual Indices for Circulation and Expenditure Categories: Medians

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Adult Circulation	97	95	98	100	104	107	112	114	116	117
Juvenile Circulation	93	100	95	100	102	106	109	105	105	106
Salary Expenditures	82	87	95	100	107	115	121	124	128	133
Material Expenditures	81	87	94	100	104	107	107	106	109	114
Other Expenditures	88	94	89	100	106	109	111	115	118	128

Other Measures: Medians

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Circulation per Capita	5.7	6.1	6.3 (N=294)	6.3 (N=258)	6.3 (N=280)	6.5 (N=239)
Expenditures per Capita	\$22.32	\$23.82	\$24.15(N=298)	\$24.70 (N=261)	\$26.62 (N=281)	\$28.27 (N=242)
Expenditures per Item Circulated	\$3.87	\$4.06	\$3.95 (N=294)	\$4.08 (N=276)	\$4.18 (N=280)	\$4.29 (N=241)
Material Expenditures per Capita	\$3.40	\$3.43	\$3.43 (N=298)	\$3.51 (N=261)	\$3.53 (N=279)	\$3.77 (N=241)

* The sum of the percentages does not equal 100 percent because the values are medians, which are less affected by extremes unlike averages.