

2015 ALA RUSA STARS INTERNATIONAL INTERLIBRARY LOAN SURVEY

Executive Summary

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

The charge of the STARS International Interlibrary Loan Committee is to evaluate trends in international interlibrary loan (ILL) and resource sharing, to develop materials and resources for international ILL practitioners, and to promote international ILL resource sharing efforts. The Committee recognized the need for information about international ILL activities as the first step towards fulfilling this charge. Since 2007 a survey has been distributed every four years. In 2007 the International Interlibrary Loan Committee focused on U.S. libraries regarding their international ILL activities. Results of this survey are available on the STARS website.¹ Subsequently an analysis of the survey results was published in the *Reference and User Services Quarterly*.² As the first snapshot of International ILL issues, these two documents served to move the conversation on challenges, issues, and success US libraries encountered.

In 2011, the STARS International Interlibrary Loan Committee expanded the survey to include a more international perspective and distributed it to other continents. Data from this survey helped inform the International ILL committee to further explore gaps, concerns, and potential strategies to bridge issues in international resource sharing.³ In addition to the detailed executive summary, portions of the survey were discussed at the ILDS conference, and later published in *Interlending & Document Supply*.⁴

2015 Survey Response Highlights

In 2015 the next survey was distributed, and this time there was a substantial increase in the percentage of respondents from countries outside of North America. There were also noticeable changes from 2011 to 2015 in how requests were placed. OCLC decreased from 49% (2011) to 37% (2015), Docline from 13% (2011) to 9%(2015), while the other networks category increased from 20% (2011) to 41%(2015). Further investigation in the other category reveals additional changes. For example, Libris had a number one placement in 2011 but fell below the top ten rankings noted in 2015; RapidILL with a second placement dropped to tenth place in 2015; while Global ILL Framework (GIF) went from eighth place in 2011 to first place in 2015. At first glance, how lenders received requests seems somewhat similar, though email seems to be increasing (from 32% in 2011 to 38% in 2015).

There were increases in borrowing and lending at the international level. The following graphs representing these changes were used at the 2015 IFLA Interlending and Document Supply (ILDS) conference in Turkey.⁵

Africa

2011
Borrowing



2015
Borrowing



Lending



Lending



Asia

2011
Borrowing



2015
Borrowing



Lending



Lending



Australia

2011
Borrowing



2015
Borrowing



Lending

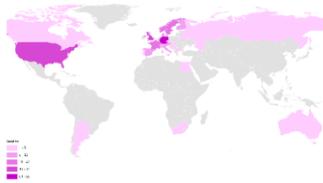


Lending

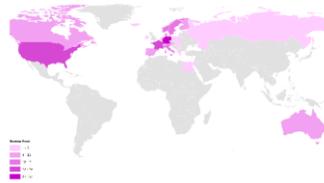


Europe

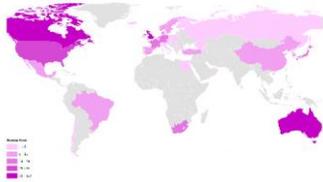
2011
Borrowing



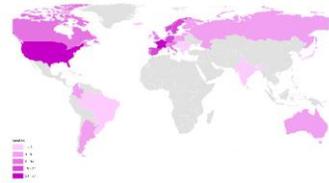
2015
Borrowing



Lending

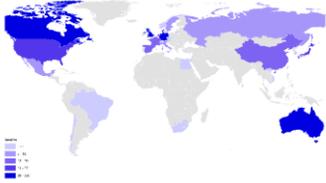


Lending

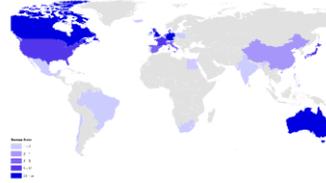


North America

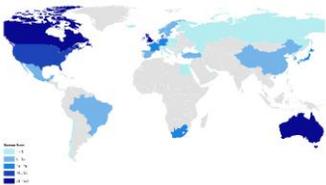
2011
Borrowing



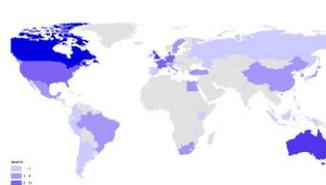
2015
Borrowing



Lending



Lending



South America

2011
Borrowing

No data

2015
Borrowing



Lending

No data

Lending



CONCLUSION

The top barriers to lending and borrowing at the international level were copyright, payment, and shipping concerns, including delivery time, loss, and customs. Future considerations to explore are the barriers. Have there been changes in government policies that have benefited international ILL? Has there been improvement to the accessibility to policies and procedures for international borrowing and lending? What changes are affecting the other systems and suppliers of ILL materials? What type of data might be gathered if Interlibrary loan listservs were reviewed to see if issues relevant to international transactions are discussed?

The 2015 survey provided the committee with data about the changing environment of international ILL, including changes in access and interest. This data provides a foundation for the committee to continue to explore new directions and possible trends, and it should help us to better understand ways to engage in dialog regarding International ILL and to increase participation on a global scale.

Look for a future paper with detailed discussion on the survey results to be published in an issue of the *Journal of Interlending and Document Supply*.

Respectfully submitted by: STARS International Interlibrary Loan Committee (2014-2016)

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¹ 2007 Survey of the International ILL committee. Executive Summary Report.

<http://www.ala.org/rusa/files/sections/stars/section/internationalill/ILLReportExcSummary.pdf>

² Baich, Tina, Tim Jiping Zou, Heather Weltin, and Zheng Ye Yang on behalf of Sharing and Transforming Access to Resources Section (STARS) International Interlibrary Loan Committee. 2009. "Lending and Borrowing Across Borders: Issues and Challenges with International Resource Sharing." *Reference & User Services Quarterly* 49, no. 1: 55-64

³ 2011 Survey of the International ILL committee. Executive Summary Report.

<http://www.ala.org/rusa/sites/ala.org.rusa/files/content/sections/stars/section/internationalill/2011ExecutiveSummary.pdf>

⁴ Baich, Tina & Heather Weltin. "Going Global: an International Survey of Lending and Borrowing Across Borders." *Interlending & Document Supply*, 40/1 (2012) 37-42.

⁵ Munson, Kurt; Poul Erlandsen, Hilary Thompson, Heidi Nance, and Jason Cabaniss. "The World is Your Library, or the State of International Interlibrary Loan in 2015." *Resource Sharing at the Crossroads. 14th ILDS Conference 1-3 October 2015, Istanbul, Turkey.*