

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

**Information and documentation—
International library statistics**



AS/NZS ISO 2789:2016

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee IT-019, Information and Documentation, Information Technology—Learning, Education, Training and Research. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 20 January 2016 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 18 January 2016.
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee IT-019, Information and Documentation, Information Technology—Learning, Education, Training and Research, to supersede AS/NZS ISO 4789:2004.

The objective of this Standard is to specify rules for the library and information services community on the collection and reporting of statistics.

This Standard is identical with, and has been reproduced from ISO 2789:2013 *Information and documentation—International library statistics*.

As this Standard is reproduced from an International Standard, the following applies:

- (a) In the source text ‘this International Standard’ should read ‘this Australian/New Zealand Standard’.
- (b) A full point substitutes for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

The term ‘informative’ has been used in this Standard to define the application of the annex to which it applies. An ‘informative’ annex is only for information and guidance.

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INTRODUCTION

This International Standard provides guidance to the library and information services community on the collection and reporting of statistics.

[Clauses 2](#) and [6](#) form the core of this International Standard. [Clause 2](#) provides definitions for most of the elements which constitute a library service; these are for statistical purposes only. [Clause 6](#) recommends how each of these elements should be counted. Users will need to consult both clauses for the complete picture.

This International Standard includes definitions and counting procedures for all types of resources and services that libraries offer to their users. The former [Annex A](#), including definitions and procedures for electronic resources and services, has been integrated into the main part of the standard, as these resources and services have become a normal part of library activities.

In order to explain the reasons for incorporating a number of new library services into this International Standard, [Clause 3](#) has been added to describe the current tasks of libraries.

It is recognized that not all measures specified in this International Standard can be collected by libraries of different types and sizes. To give greater completeness, several additional measures (important for some sectors only) are described in [Annex A](#). The aim is to ensure that, where a particular statistic is collected, the same definitions and methods are used.

[Annex B](#) is important for the compilation and publication of national statistics so that they can be truly comparable between countries and over time.

The strong requirement to describe and publicize library activities can only be satisfied if data collection in libraries follows the lines of this International Standard. As far as possible, it is advisable that libraries collect all data named in this International Standard that concern their activities.

Developments in relation to this International Standard will be monitored and additional statistical measures will be incorporated as needed.

An alphabetical index is given in [Annex C](#).

AUSTRALIAN/NEW ZEALAND STANDARD

Information and documentation—International library statistics**1 Scope**

This International Standard specifies rules for the library and information services community on the collection and reporting of statistics:

- for the purposes of international reporting;
- to ensure conformity between countries for those statistical measures that are frequently used by library managers, but do not qualify for international reporting;
- to encourage good practice in the use of statistics for the management of library and information services.

2 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

2.1 Libraries**2.1.1****academic library**

library whose primary function is to cover the information needs of learning and research

Note 1 to entry: This includes libraries of institutions of higher education and general research libraries.

2.1.2**administrative unit**

any independent library, or group of libraries, under a single directorate or a single administration

Note 1 to entry: The term “independent” does not imply legal or financial independence but only that the library is a recognizably separate unit, typically within a larger organization.

Note 2 to entry: The administrative unit can be a single library or a larger organization, typically containing a central/main library, branch libraries and administrative functions. See the Example in [6.1.1](#).

2.1.3**branch library**

part of a larger administrative unit providing, in separate quarters, a service for a particular user group (e.g. children, faculties) or for a locally defined clientele

Note 1 to entry: Institute, departmental and other affiliated libraries are included. Mobile libraries and external service points are excluded.

2.1.4**central library****main library**

usually that part or those parts of an administrative unit where the main administrative functions and the important parts of the library collection and services are located

Note 1 to entry: An administrative unit comprising several branch libraries does not necessarily include a central library.