The Evolution and Impact of Library Data

International Conference on Performance Measurement in Libraries
#LibPMC

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The Eras of Library Data

• 1990s: Performance Indicators
• 2000s: Benchmarking
• 2010s: Value & Impact
• 2020s: Data Intelligence
The Open University
The stats...

- 50+
- 210,000
- 32,000+
- 180 & 600

- 80% & 100%
- 91%
- 8,500+
- 24/7/365
100 Years and Counting...

How big and how much?

Source: SCONUL Statistics reporting tool
1990s: Performance Indicators

**Input**
- Number of books
- Number of staff
- Library budget

**Output**
- Stock Circulation (loans ÷ collection)
- Number of enquiries per staff member
- Cost per loan
2000s: Along comes ‘e’

e-Journals  
e-Books  
e-Resources  
e-Metrics  
e-Surveys  
e-Library
# 2000s: Benchmarking Journals

- **COUNTER Compliance Journal Usage Statistics**
- **National deals**
- **Institution collection management**

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2000s: Benchmarking Satisfaction

- LibQUAL+
- National Student Survey
- Improve or prove?
2010s: Breaking the Siloes

“Is there a correlation between Library activity data and student success?”

2020s: Data Intelligence

Number of Library Helpdesk enquiries received in a year from students studying on the same module, categorised by topic.

What training can we offer these modules?

What training can we offer on these topics?

What's going on here?
2020s: Data Intelligence

Library helpdesk workload forecasts 2021

- Librarian time
- Library Assistant time
- Minimum staffing level
The Unknowns...

• Do our group live training sessions result in a reduction in 1:1 helpdesk enquiries?

• Are our embedded skills materials having a positive impact on student success?

• Do modules with larger amounts of library content and skills embedded in them have greater student satisfaction?

• Does library content and skills reduce attainment gaps?
Deming’s seven deadly diseases of western industry:

Management by use only of visible figures, with little or no consideration of figures that are unknown or unknowable.
Thank you

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