



LINC Shared Costs
Report to the LTLS Board
July 20, 2009

The LINC Libraries have used the same shared cost formula for more than 15 years. This cost formula has relied on yearly Annual Profile Summary self-reported data for each agency and the agency's buildings. The APS fiscal year data used to calculate the LINC shared costs are: circulation, holdings, and materials budget (both total materials and periodicals expenditures).

For the past 5 years, the LINC libraries have seen an increase in the public library reciprocal lending circulation. More and more public library borrowers are going to multiple LINC libraries to check out materials. From FY2004 to FY2009, there has been a 62% increase in reciprocal lending circulation, while during the same period there has been a 38% increase in total circulation. In FY2009, 865,298 reciprocal circulations were done at the public libraries. With this noticeable trend in changes in borrower behavior, a review of the source of circulation data was brought to LINC Policy Council this spring.

LTLS staff prepared comparisons of LINC shared costs, with 4 different circulation data sources, for LINC Policy Council to review. The four circulation data sources were:

- APS circulation,
- LINC circulation only,
- LINC circulation minus reciprocal lending circulation, and
- LINC borrower circulation data at any location.

LINC Policy Council discussed the sources and, at its June meeting, voted that the 'LINC borrower circulation data at any location' was the fairest representation of circulation activity for the LINC shared costs.

A final draft spreadsheet with the LINC borrower circulation data has been distributed to the LINC Directors Group. LDG members have also been asked to vote on the use of LINC borrower circulation data as the circulation data source. With a vote deadline of July 17, 77% have voted in favor of this data source, with 17% indicating no preference and 6% voting against it.

Using the LINC borrower circulation data source has the most impact on those public libraries whose borrowers most frequently visit other libraries. Schools, academics, and special libraries are not affected by this change because their borrowers do not circulate materials at other libraries. Also, the LINC Shared Costs will continue using the APS data for holdings and materials budget.

LINC Policy Council also voted that a LINC Directors Group committee should be formed to examine the entire LINC Shared Cost formula beginning in the fall of 2009.