

# → **Fast Facts**



## **Serials expenditures at academic libraries in 2018**

Nearly 1,600 academic libraries spent a combined total of more than \$2 billion on ongoing commitments to serials during the 2018 fiscal year, according to the 2019 ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics Survey. While doctoral-granting institutions reported spending an average of \$4,451,932—an 8 percent increase in that category over the previous year—community colleges reported spending an average of \$85,512—a decrease of 33 percent. Libraries at master's colleges and institutions reported spending an average of \$598,735 (an increase of 6 percent), and libraries at baccalaureate colleges reported spending an average of \$389,339 (a decrease of 1 percent).

Association of College and Research Libraries, 2019 ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics Survey Summary Data Tables. [https://www.acrlmetrics.com/index.php?page\\_id=35](https://www.acrlmetrics.com/index.php?page_id=35) (retrieved January 8, 2021).



## **Journalists arrested in the United States**

There were at least 117 verified cases of a journalist being arrested or detained on the job in the United States in 2020—up more than 1,200 percent from 2019. Most arrests occurred during the Black Lives Matter protests last summer. Freedom of the Press Foundation, "New Report: A Record Breaking Number of Journalists Arrested in the U.S. This Year," December 14, 2020, <https://freedom.press/news/2020-report-journalists-arrested-us> (retrieved January 8, 2021).



## **Book industry sales**

"Print sales by units (were) up almost 8 percent (in 2020), according to NPD BookScan. E-books and audiobooks, which make up a smaller portion of the market, (were) up as well. Even though the number of people commuting has plummeted... audiobook revenue is up more than 17 percent over the same period in 2019, according to the Association of American Publishers, and e-book sales, which had been declining for the past several years, are up more than 16 percent."

Elizabeth A. Harris, "Surprise Ending for Publishers: In 2020, Business Was Good," *The New York Times*, December 29, 2020, sec. Books, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/29/books/book-publishing-2020.html> (retrieved January 8, 2021).



## **COVID-induced online learning inequality**

"Using high frequency Internet search data to study in real time how U.S. households sought out online learning resources as schools closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, researchers found by April 2020, nationwide search intensity for both school- and parent-centered online learning resources had roughly doubled relative to pre-COVID levels. Areas of the country with higher income, better Internet access, and fewer rural schools saw substantially larger increases in search intensity. The pandemic will likely widen achievement gaps along these dimensions given schools' and parents' differing engagement with online resources to compensate for lost school-based learning time."

Andrew Bacher-Hicks, Joshua Goodman, and Christine Mulhern, "Inequality in Household Adaptation to Schooling Shocks: Covid-Induced Online Learning Engagement in Real Time," *Journal of Public Economics* 193 (January 1, 2021): 104345, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpubeco.2020.104345> (retrieved January 8, 2021).

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