→*Fast*Facts

→ Librarian jobs and salaries

The nationwide median salary for full-time employed 2003 graduates in the library profession is $36,335. The lowest median starting salaries are in Canada and the Southeastern United States. The highest median starting salaries are in the Western United States.

"Tables for Placements and Salaries 2003," *Library Journal,* October 15, 2004, www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA471018. October 20, 2004

→ Latin American science and engineering articles

The number of science and engineering articles credited to Latin American authors almost tripled in the 13-year period from 1988 to 2001, signi cantly outpacing authors of other developing regions in the world. By contrast, scienti c article production by authors from Eastern Europe and the former USSR are down approximately 20 percent.

Derek L. Hill, "Latin America Shows Rapid Rise in S&E Articles," National Science Foundation Science Resources Statistics InfoBriefs NSF 04-336, August 2004. www.nsf.gov/sbe/srs/infbrief/nsf04336/start.htm. October 25, 2004

→ Wireless nation

Fifty-six million American adults are wireless ready. Twenty-eight percent of Americans within the past month have used devices (laptops, cell phones, etc.) that allow them to connect to the Internet by wireless means. Among Internet users with wireless ready devices, 44 percent say they have at one time logged onto the Internet away from home or work.

John B. Horrigan, Pew Internet Project Data Memo, May 12, 2004. www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_Wireless_Ready_Data_0504.pdf. October 20, 2004

→ E-mail explosion

In 2003, an estimated 40.3 billion e-mail messages traveled the Internet every day. By 2009, that number is predicted to rise to more than 88 billion. Over half of that traf c is spam. By way of comparison, worldwide domestic letter-post activity is expected to decline during the same period from 1.1 billion to 980,000.

OCLC Reports, "2004 Information Format Trends: Content, Not Containers," www5.oclc.org/downloads/community/2004infotrends_content.pdf. October 25, 2004

Gary Pattillo is reference librarian at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, e-mail: pattillo@refstaff.lib.unc.edu