

DALNET Statistics Coding Task Force

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

September 14, 1998

The Task Force was charged with recommending conventions for statistical codes that track circulation activities. These include:

1. Collection ISTAT codes for reporting circulation transactions by Collection Codes
2. Call Number ISTAT codes for reporting circulation transactions according to predetermined breakdowns of the various classification systems
3. Call Number Type codes, to which the Call Number ISTAT codes are linked
4. Borrower Statistics (BSTAT) codes for reporting circulation transactions according to any variety of borrower categories.

The Call Number Type and Call Number ISTAT codes, however, also work in conjunction with one Ad Hoc Horizon report that counts the number of items within collections, thus measuring collection size.

The challenge for the Task Force was to create systems of codes that would meet:

1. day-to-day and long-term management needs of the individual institutions
2. multi-institution consortial needs, such as separate data but parallel data from more than one institution for comparative purposes
3. system-wide consortial needs, such as grant applications by DALNET
4. unanticipated needs that might occur in the future.

Consequently, two working assumptions of the Task Force were:

- Flexibility for unanticipated needs is best served by providing as detailed breakdowns as is deemed practical at this time. Figures can always be combined at any later date, but rarely can they be further broken down without loss of data.
- Most of these codes can be easily changed at any later date, but historical data cannot usually be remanipulated to restructure it according to the newer needs, and gaps may often result within the data.