

DALNET Statistics Coding Task Force

RECOMMENDATION FOR COLLECTION ISTAT CODES

September 14, 1998

Collection ISTAT codes provide statistics of circulation transactions for collections. One Collection ISTAT code is assigned to each Collection Code; one Collection ISTAT code, however, may be assigned to more than one Collection Code.

Recommendation:

1. A collection's Collection ISTAT code should be the same as its Collection Code.
2. In rare cases, a library may routinely need circulation data for related groups of Collection Codes, rather than always needing separate data for individual Collection Codes. In these cases, Collection ISTAT codes should still be the same as the corresponding, individual Collection Codes. Merging of grouped data for the different Collection Codes should be handled through ReportSmith or by exporting that data to MS Excel or MS Access, rather than through creation and use of broader Collection ISTAT codes.

Rationale:

Collection ISTAT codes provide circulation statistics only for the specific Collections Codes to which they are assigned. Collection Codes consist of subcodes identifying location, collection, and type of material. When used in conjunction with ReportSmith's versatile wildcard options for extracting data, circulation statistics can be produced for the subcodes from any combination of locations, collections, or type of material.

Consistent use among the DALNET libraries of these embedded subcodes will easily provide a large range of multi-institution statistics for variety of collection development, staffing, budgeting, and other management and planning purposes. The recommended approach for Collection ISTAT codes will allow the greatest possibly flexibility for current and future, unanticipated needs, both at the institution level or across institutions.