Chapter 4: Collection Use and Statistics for Collection Developers

1. Why does Disher say it's important to collect data about a library collection?

   Library leaders who face increasing pressure to prove how their service impacts their community, and that they offer an efficient cost to benefit value, turn to data collected by collection developers for a good deal of this evidence.

2. What are the limitations of circulation statistics?

   Knowing that an item was checked out tells us nothing about how, or if, the item was used or useful. Furthermore, circulation data doesn't tell us if the patron liked the item, if the item they borrowed was actually the item they were looking for, or if that item made any impact on things like personal growth, education, or recreation.

3. Name and describe the 3 measurements developed by the US Accounting Standards Board.

   a) *Input measures: resources that are available to the system, such as staff time and financial resources*
   b) *Outcome measures: those things that the input effort accomplishes or produces, such as a program completed, an item checked out, or a reference question answered*
   c) *Efficiency measures: account for the relation of effort to accomplishment, such as the cost per person for a program or the staff time and cost required for each unit of service*

4. Name the 3 types of collections listed in this chapter.

   a) *Circulating collections*
   b) *Non-circulating collections*
   c) *Ready reference collections*

5. Which formulas and measurements are given as examples of the most useful pieces of statistical data gathered by collection developers?

   a) *Percentage of acquisitions rate*
   b) *Turnover rate*
   c) *Circulation per capita*
   d) *Volumes per capita*
   e) *Material expenditures per capita*

  f) Material expenditures as a percent of operating expenses
  g) Information delivery speed
  h) Percentage of rejected sessions on electronic resources
  i) Cost efficiency measures

6. What does Disher say you should consider when reporting statistics?

  Your audience and your goal