

ABA 2007 Annual Questionnaire Part 3
Library

Frequently Asked Questions

Compiled by the Law Libraries Committee

Supplement 1 – September 10, 2007

Note from the Committee:

For the sake of consistency and uniformity in reporting, we ask that everyone report the titles as indicated in the chart and FAQ. Unfortunately, the various permutations in purchasing and leasing agreements as well as the issue of campus wide access for materials in a university setting all provide significant challenges in establishing rules that are consistent from one title or database to other supposedly similar ones. The committee is going to continue studying these issues as well as others this coming year, developing a uniform and consistent list of titles and numbers. We want to thank you for your patience as we work through these issues as well as to encourage you to continue to provide your questions and suggestions.

16. I have a question about the "Guide to Counting Titles and Databases" chart. Under "Titles Licensed", HeinOnline, BNA Products, and CCH Products are all listed as 1 database to be counted in Q6. Since there are various separately priced modules available through HeinOnline, shouldn't a library count each licensed module as 1 database? My question regarding BNA is similar. We subscribe to BNA ALL. Do we count each title within the package as a licensed title or do we only count the package as 1 title? (If we only count the package, we will report the same figure as those who license BNA Core which consists of only 6 individual titles. This doesn't seem right.)

Response: The Committee discussed this at length and decided not to count these at the module level, but as one database. The number of modules you licensed would be reflected in the fiscal section, dollars spent on electronic resources.

17. After reading the FAQ's and the Guide to Counting..., I still have a couple of questions.

1. Why is it allowable to count all titles in the MOMLL set (21,811) but not allowable to count all titles in the LexisNexis US Serial Set Digital Collection? We are in process of creating bibs in our catalog for every title in the serial set so I think we should be able to count each one.

Response: See FAQ question 2, and response. The Committee recognizes that the issue of the Serial Set is controversial and will continue to review it at its next meeting. For now, count it as one electronic title and one electronic database.

2. We purchased the HeinOnline Foreign and International digital collection so we can count this as 1 database owned for question 6 and multi titles for question 3 as we are cataloging everyone of them?

Response: The Committee recognizes that Hein has been offering some of its packages in a hybrid-type of purchase/license agreement and we weren't quite clear on what that meant in terms of the ownership requirement. For this year, libraries purchasing a portion of HeinOnLine (as opposed to leasing the database) should count all of the service as one title owned in Q.3 and one database in Q.6, and we will examine this issue further at our next committee meeting. Libraries leasing the database would only count it as one database in Q.6.

18. I am responsible for filling out Part 6, Section G "Expenditures" of the ABA questionnaire for our library. I need your help with the following questions, please.

- We receive the Current Index to Legal Periodicals via e-mail. Our Automation Librarian distributes it to the teaching faculty by also using e-mail messaging system.

Should I include this service in the "Number 1- Serials Subscriptions (including web based licenses but including DVD's and CD-ROMs.....) only?

- We have a subscription to the online version of the "Poverty Law Review" through IP. It is, however, the access is available to one of the teaching faculty only. Which category should I use for this service?
- Should I consider "PACER" a tool and include it in number 7 (Collection Management Applications....) if not, where does this fit?

Response: The Committee recognizes that there are some unintended anomalies in the instructions for reporting library expenditures. For this year, report all of these expenditures under G.3

19. ... For example, a library that decides to subscribe to a journal title, electronic only from the publisher, not through an aggregator, to save space and shelving, processing costs, or to provide broader access, gets no credit for providing access to this title. It is not an etitle under the present definition and it is not a database resource...

Response: The hypothetical described here is an example of a single electronic title licensed, which can be reported in question 6. This is addressed on the chart with the example of the Foreign Law Guide.