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**From:** SHARP-L Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing [SHARP-L@LISTSERV.INDIANA.EDU] on behalf of Bob Williams [bobwill@GWM.SC.EDU]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2008 11:32 AM  
**To:** SHARP-L@LISTSERV.INDIANA.EDU  
**Subject:** 19th century library statistics: a guide

I have just completed a bibliographic guide to 19th century library statistics for the US and it is available at:

<http://www.libsci.sc.edu/bob/LibraryStatistics/LibraryStatisticsGuide.html>

This guide begins with the first identified survey of libraries in 1829 and covers all known surveys or studies of national scope to 1899. It includes information on: survey date; compiler; purpose of the survey; library types included; list of all variables covered in the survey (e.g., number of volumes, name of librarian, place/city, volumes added annually, value of library, etc.); method of study or survey; completeness (when known); quality (when known) and where published (usually a US government agency but also in journals, etc. of the period).

The guide covers only surveys or studies of libraries that covered the entire US (as it existed at the time) with occasional references to reports at state and city levels.

Library types covered in the surveys for this period include: social, private, subscription, public, academic, school, special, state/government, and others.

A similar guide covering the years 1900-2000 is in process but a long way from completion.

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