

TICFIA 2007: Panel I
Scholar (dis)satisfaction: challenges in accessing
international information for research

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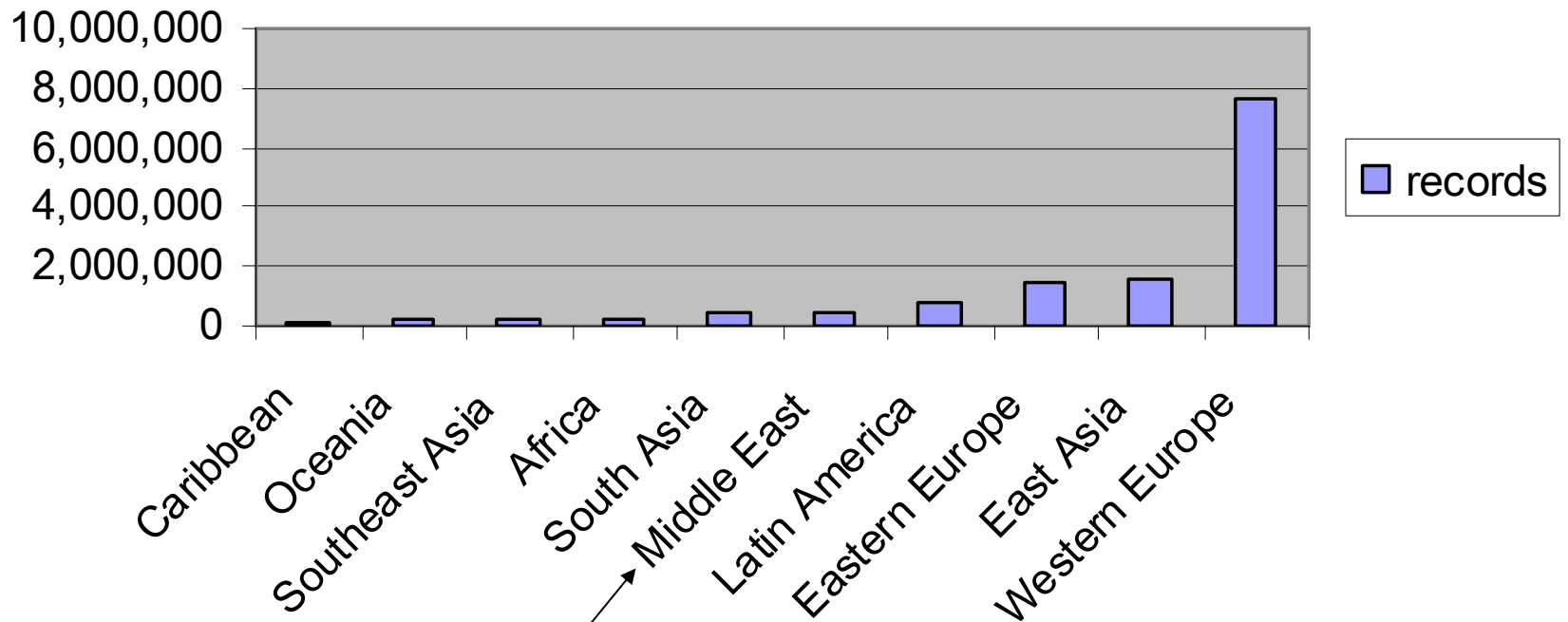
ARL Libraries' Records in OCLC WorldCat, by Region of Publication

world region	records
Caribbean	58,907
Oceania	171,667
Southeast Asia	206,923
Africa	271,651
South Asia	418,253
Middle East	444,200
Latin America	841,403
Eastern Europe	1,448,551
East Asia	1,559,494
Western Europe	7,633,262

Source: "Changing Global Book Collection Patterns in ARL Libraries" by Mary E. Jackson, Auto-Graphics, Inc. (formerly Association of Research Libraries), Lynn Silipigni Connaway, OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc., Edward T. O'Neill, OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc., and Eudora Loh, University of California, Los Angeles.

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ARL World Distribution Findings



Barriers for U.S. and Middle Eastern Scholars


- Use of technology ✓
 - In US, technology helps: Papyrology database, al-Azhar database
 - In ME:
 - Bandwidth problems
 - Reliable access to Internet
 - Secure transfer methods in place
- Lack of translated materials X
- Lack of catalogued information ✓
 - 2 national libraries sought as partners since 2002; only beginning to catalog holdings now in 2007.
 - “We don’t even know what we don’t know”
- AND...

Barriers, cont.

- Collection trends skipping 19th and 20th centuries
- Intellectual Property Rights impeding digitization projects
- Complete runs of serials difficult to find
- Newspapers easily destroyed or degraded

Thus the need to visit countries in ME rather than find materials in U.S.

- **Travel restrictions impede these visits.**
- **Once there, scholars face limited or conditional access to ME libraries.**

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- **What to do in the future?**
 - **support training programs on cataloging for ME librarians**
 - **sponsor digitization projects at ME libraries with specialized collections**
 - **work on site at ME libraries to configure good technical infrastructure**
 - **form a consortium to share serials, newspapers for digitizing**
 - **formulate options to provide access rights to digital content**