Item:	NYS Annual Reports
Background:	All public and association libraries and library systems are required each year to submit an Annual Report to New York State. This year, there was a major change to the Report which we were not notified about until January. A new section was added for ELECTRONIC USE, and a new question was added called "Successful Retrieval of Electronic Information" that basically has to do with the usage of databases (known as Electronic Collections for this Report).

The general guidance given by the State states: "If an item can be downloaded and kept forever, it is not counted under use (circulation)… [items] available for a limited period of time…should be counted under use (circulation)."

Status:	The good news is that this type of usage will now be captured; however, the bad news is that compiling this data was more complicated than expected. Many of our database vendors only provide systemwide statistics, and each electronic resource had to be reviewed to see how it fit into this different definition.

Executive Assistant Elise Burke and WLS Information Technology (IT) Director Rob Caluori helped analyze and compile the statistics for the new question; and Rob along with Melanie Carnes, Chris Hernandez and Allison Pryor helped complete the usual statistics supplied. Allison Midgley created a page on the IT wiki that points to all the resources that will help the member libraries complete their Annual Reports.

Because of the time devoted to compiling and issuing this new data for the member libraries, completion of the System Annual Report has been delayed. WLS Departments are in the process of gathering those statistics, which will be compiled over the next few weeks, and the System Annual Report will be presented to the WLS Board for their review and acceptance at the March 28th Meeting.

March 7, 2017