

2009
FACILITIES INVENTORY
AND UTILIZATION STUDY

LOUISIANA PUBLIC HIGHER
EDUCATION FACILITIES

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by
Regina M. Simoneaux
Information Services Division

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INTRODUCTION*

The main objective of the Board of Regents' Facilities System is to develop and then maintain, on an annual basis, facilities and inventory utilization data as a resource for the boards and institutions of higher education in assessing facility requirements and for institutional administrators in making managerial decisions. The intent is to coordinate a variety of personnel, financial, physical plant, and equipment resource data in order to determine facility requirements to accomplish selected goals and objectives and to provide the means for estimating costs to meet these requirements.

The Facilities System is largely based upon electronic data processing systems developed nationally. It employs a standard set of definitions and formats for data collection, thus allowing individual institutions to compare themselves with other institutions.

College and university buildings are a highly visible resource. An institution's image is strongly influenced by architectural quality, building usage, and usage of capital. The suitability of the facilities for the use to which they are being put directly affects the quality of institutional programs. The amount of available building space is directly related to the activities to which the institutions may commit itself.

The importance of the facilities data on financial decisions cannot be over-emphasized. Physical facilities absorb most of an institutions' capital dollars as well as a large portion of its operating dollars. The financial resources of an institution may be drained by inappropriate or inefficient facilities. The decision to construct or purchase new facilities represents a major commitment by an institution, and may define or influence its program offerings and educational environment.

The building inventory of the Facilities System is an index and description of all buildings and rooms at an institution. Building and room data are essential for allocating resources and analyzing use of these resources. The data are also useful for assigning available space as well as planning for future needed space. A current tabulation of information such as gross square feet, assignable areas, building conditions, etc. is the heart of an inventory system. It provides administrative planners with indicators of the general condition of higher education facilities. However, a word of caution: the data reflected in the inventory represents only one point in time—in this study it represents November 2009. Immediately following a utilization study, the data change; new or renovated space may be put into use or other space may be determined to be unusable. Thus, an institution's utilization status is constantly being altered.

**The LSU Law Center and the Agriculture Sciences Administration data are included in the LSU Baton Rouge statistics. Agriculture experiment station data are not included unless otherwise indicated.*