

Table 2. Per item cost figures for searching bibliographic databases using Z39.50

Database	Cost per item
OCLC	\$1.825
RLIN	\$1.428
LC	\$0.425

The formula used for these and other cost per item estimates in the original report is:

$.5$ (one standard number search cost + staff cost for 1 search) + $.3$ (standard number search cost + title search cost + staff cost for 2 searches) + $.2$ (standard number search cost + 2 title search costs + staff cost for 3 searches) = average cost per item searched