
Colombian Leadership Dialogue: The Renewal of Research Universities

Value of Comparative Data

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Why compare?

Comparisons provide valuable information to leadership

- Helps leadership understand how schools, departments and institutions are similar

- Helps leadership understand how schools, departments and institutions are different

- Helps leadership understand changes over time

- Helps leadership to put changes in context



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What are the comparison groups?

Externally

Against national trends

Other Institutions

Groupings of institutions (public, private, comprehensive, doctoral granting)

Selected peers (institutions that are similar)

Internally

Schools, departments, disciplines



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What to compare?

Measurable inputs

Funding

Students

Number by level

table



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What to compare?

Measurable outcomes

Graduation rates

Degrees Awarded

Publications and citations

Research funding and results

Alumni placement

Alumni giving



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How to compare?

Development of metrics allows comparisons of institutions of different sizes

Funding per faculty member

Funding per student

Students per faculty member

Degrees earned per faculty member

Average years to earn a degree

Cost per credit unit



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Who should do the comparing?

At the National Level

In the US, National Center for Educational Statistics using annual surveys and the National Science Foundation

At the State Level

In the US, most states have an office that collects data on education

At the Institutional Level

At most colleges and Universities, there is an Office for Institutional Research



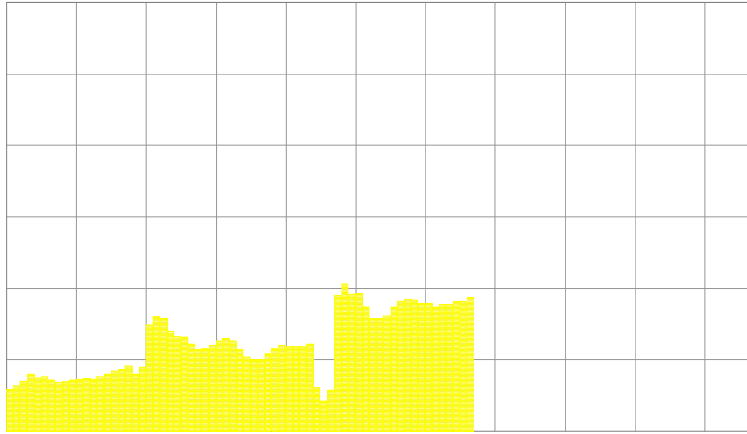
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Some Examples for MIT



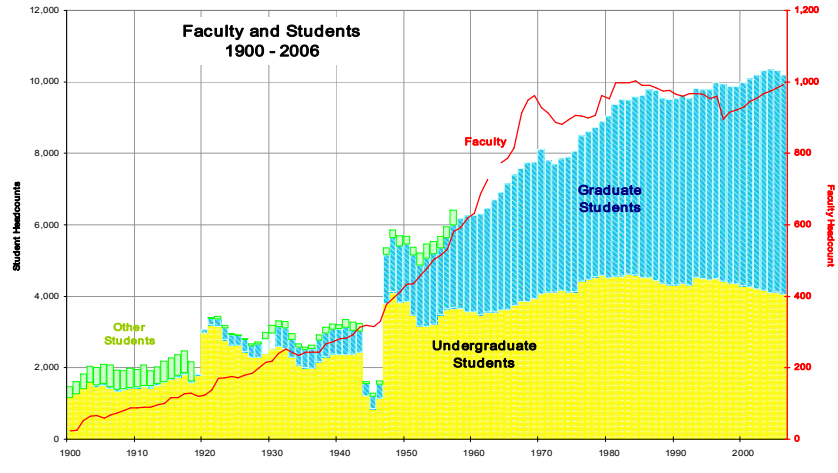
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MIT Population



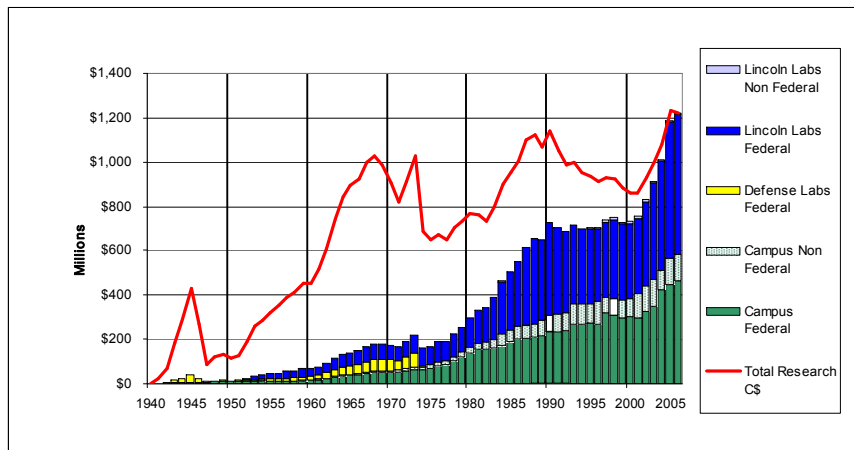
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MIT Population



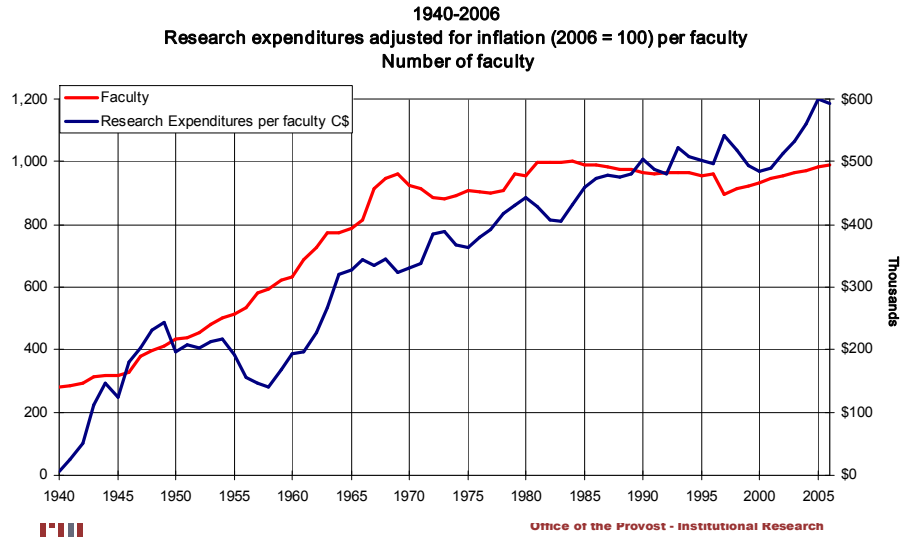
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Research Expenditures

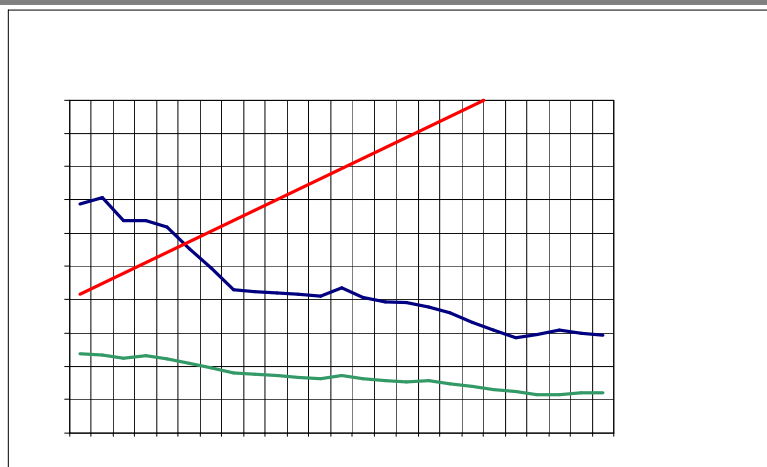


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Research Expenditures per Faculty



Research Peer Comparisons



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When compiling and analyzing data

Be consistent

Consistency is often better than absolute correctness

Be comprehensive

Get as much as you can while you can because you can never plan for every contingency

Make appropriate comparisons

Comparisons are limited by differences

Understand the context

Understand what the similarities and differences represent

Analyze creatively

Always try to look at data from new perspectives



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