NCES Academic Library Survey
Advisory Committee Meetings
Seattle, WA
Minutes

Meeting: Thursday, January 18, 2006, 2 pm – 5:00 pm, Washington State Convention Center, Room 3-A.

This agenda is continuous and is subject to reordering.

1. Preliminaries
   a. Introductions
   b. Logistics (breaks, other)
   c. Minutes approval, Annual Conference meeting, Chicago
      1. Moved Martha Kyrillidou and seconded by Leslie Manning, 2:11pm
   d. Agenda review, any new items
      1. None added; agenda approved.

Information Items

2. NCES update (Holton)
   b. Library stat website redesigned.
   c. ALS report came out in November 2002, 2004 report now available. Public use data files will be available any day now.
   d. Incentive brochures to be sent out to respondents. NCES will discuss (Jeff Owings and Barbara Holton) what changes will happen to the two surveys that are left with NCES (academic and school library).
   e. NCES is interested in research that demonstrates the importance of who libraries serve, the value of libraries especially qualitative data and impact.
   f. Questions were raised about the NCES publication First Look. Barbara explained that First Look is comprised of one page of bullets, 7 to 10 tables. The E.D. Tabs have been discontinued. The review process for NCES publications has not changed considerably.

3. Census update (Patty O'Shea and Laura Hardesty)
   b. By January 2007 a little over 3000 letters were sent by Census to non-respondents. This is about the same as the 2006 survey. Emails were sent to 252 users just after the December holiday. To date, only 17 LR’s had registered.
c. Per the project calendar, the next follow-up is the second week of February and the survey deadline remains March 22nd.

d. Datafile will have IPEDS address and additional address for new address. Email to LR’s in early February. No breakdown by state on website.

e. A conference call may be setup for mid-February if registrations and completions don’t pickup after the second reminder.

4. Other surveys and projects that do or could have an impact on NCES/ALS

a. ACRL (Petrowski)
   2006 survey opened late October 2006 and closes February 1, 2007.

b. ARL (Kyrillidou)
   The Assessment conference in fall 2006 was very successful, and a second conference is planned for August 4-6, 2008 Conference in Seattle, WA. A library assessment blog has been setup – [http://libraryassessment.info](http://libraryassessment.info)
   ARL has created a taskforce to investigate new ways of collecting data. The group will be meeting to discuss how ARL can use new models, and a final recommendation will be completed in February 2007. A small pilot project is underway to investigate methods for minimizing duplication of electronic titles reported my members to further inform survey revision. A new form is being developed collect information from ARL member library branches (approximately 400-500 buildings reporting, including the branches).

c. Oberlin Group (Hanawalt)
   A transition to a web-based survey is underway, merging two surveys – statistical and acquisitions. Looking at the actual substance of the survey – questions related to electronic serials, how to make the data collection process easier and clearer, how close do we want this to be to ALS survey, do we want to merge if even more or what? The measures are constantly changing and how definitive the survey questions are has become a point of discussion.

   Oberlin Group has five new member colleges – Bard, Furman, Holy Cross, Morehouse/Spelman, and Sarah Lawrence – bringing the membership up to eighty.

d. NCLIS (Neal Kaske)
   Literacy - NCLIS is partnering with the Chicago Public Schools Department of Libraries, Borders Books, Scholastic Books, Quills Literacy Foundation, TCF Banks, McDonalds, and the Downtown Chicago Rotary Program. The successful trial program of the “Battle of the Books” conducted last year with 17 Chicago elementary and middle schools, with particular attention to the role of school librarians, has been expanded. This coming year the Chicago Public Schools will feature 81 teams from 49 schools with over 500 children participating (46 teams at the 4-6 grade level, 35 teams at the 7-8 grade level). Geographically there will be schools participating from
10 of the 17 elementary areas. Twenty-six schools will have teams coached by librarians only, 8 by teachers only, and 15 by librarians and teachers in collaboration. The “Battle” will take place at a Chicago high school at the end of April, 2007.

E-Rate - NCLIS sent a letter in November to the President and Congress recommending the continuation of and support of the E-Rate program.

Net Neutrality - NCLIS sent a letter in November to the President and Congress urging all necessary action to ensure net neutrality. So far, the underlying transmission of information treats all packets of information equally but this could change unless Congress acts to prevent a move to tiered services.

NCLIS Health Awards Update - At its recent December Commission meeting, Becky Lyon of the National Library of Medicine spoke on the impact of the 2006 NCLIS Consumer Health Awards. COSLA also was instrumental in the success of this program.

Consolidating with IMLS and staffing unknown.

e. ALA (Davis)

A handout was provided, and the highlights were the

Public Library Funding and Technology Access Studies

Launched in November 2006, this project will develop and administer a comprehensive annual study assessing the extent of public access computing, Internet connectivity and Internet-related services, and the impact of public library funding changes on connectivity, technology deployment and sustainability in years (FY) 2007-2009. This project is made possible by a generous donation from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the American Library Association. More information about the project is online at http://www.ala.org/ala/ors/publiclibraryfundingtechnologyaccessstudy.

Library Networks, Cooperatives and Consortia Study

The project is in its final stages, and will be completed in October 2007. The second survey in the study completed in December 2006 and data analysis will continue into February 2007. The advisory committee meets during the Midwinter 2007 meeting on Friday, January 19, 2007. A searchable database will be available before June 2007, and a presentation about the study findings will occur at Annual Conference 2007. The final study report will be completed by fall 2007. Information about the project is on the ALA website at www.ala.org/lncc.

The ALA Office for Research & Statistics has worked with ALA Editions to begin a series for publishing research. A publication plan needs to be developed, including periodicity of the publication.

5. Survey process issues (Census)
a. Explore ways to reduce the number of lost keyholder packets
b. Survey questions issues (all)

Ownership issues – when to report collections that are shared, as opposed to wholly-owned collections. E-journals and databases are distinct, and databases need to be counted as one. The work of ARL on testing new measures and methods to de-dupe aggregation service databases full text content will inform the ALS survey. Also, Serial Solutions includes aggregator titles in its analysis, and may be a useful tool for libraries as they answer questions in the future.

Line 27 (Electronic reference sources and aggregation services) – if titles are not important enough to add to the library catalog, then perhaps they are not important enough to count. Perhaps reporting only 856 tags (persistent URL) in line 27 is worth investigating (explore as a supplemental question in the 2008 survey, Section K).

A question was raised about how parts C and part D relate to each other – they are parallel
Action: Barbara needs to have a correlation, content consistency chart – Denise needs to update

The Academic library is not clearly defined. NISO Standard Z39.7 (library statistics) can be used for clarification in the ALS survey to define a library. Eligibility questions also can be used to define a library. The committee may need to address the lowest common denominator in answering this question, and this needs further discussion by the group.

Clarification on the current survey – eligibility question #4 – consider changing language to read “physical/virtual facilities necessary to support such a collection, staff and schedule.” More discussion by the group needed.

6. Questions still confusing to respondents:
a. The table of comments based on respondent inquiries to date was reviewed. Discussion will continue at the June 2007 meeting.

7. The meeting business was concluded on Thursday, and no Friday meeting was required. The meeting adjourned at 5:10pm.

HANDOUTS SENT WITH THE AGENDA PRIOR TO THE MEETING (EMAIL)
- AC Minutes, June 2006 (New Orleans)
- Committee Roster
- ARL Toolkit
- ALA-ORS update
- Survey comments, FY2006 collection
- Travel reimbursement form