The agenda of the NCES ALS AC is continuous and subject to reordering. The work of the committee concluded on Thursday, June 26th and no Friday meeting was required.

Present: Julia Blixrud (for Martha Kyrillidou, ARL), Denise Davis (ALA, convener), Terri Fishel and Vicki Hanawalt (Oberlin Group), Patty O’Shea (Census), Tai Phan (NCES), Mary Jane Petrowski (ACRL), Pat Profeta (community colleges), Norman Rose (ALA ORS).

Guests: Annelle Huggins (LR, TN), Elizabeth Titus (LR, NM); Brandon Oh and Bobbi Woods (consultants, KForce)

Absent: The following members could not attend due to conflicts and travel restrictions - Colleen Cook (ARL member representative), Rita Pellen (universities).

1. Minutes of the Annual Conference meeting, Philadelphia, PA were approved.
2. Agenda for the ALS AC approved.
3. Bill Miller, Florida Atlantic University, will be representing the ACRL Research & Statistics committee, replacing Shawn Calhoun.

4. 2008 Survey
   a. Demonstration of the improved ALS Peer Comparison Tool and the preliminary 2008 survey site was made by Bobbi Woods and Brandon Oh from KForce. Recommendations for additional improvements were made by committee members.
      1. Questions about importing data into the ALS survey were raised, along with questions about using plainer language for some data entry messages (e.g., needs to be a number, rather than needs to be an integer).
   b. Online training for Library Representatives (state reps) is on schedule for October 2008. Letitia Earvin, recently departed from the ALA ORS, will develop the Moodle interactive modules for the training. Testing will likely occur in August, pending funding.

5. 2010 Survey
   a. Items requiring work between June 2008-January 2009 for the 2010 ALS
      1. Part E – Archival materials, digital collections. This needs considerable review and will be a working item for the AC for inclusion in the 2010 data collection. (AC)
      2. Is there value in knowing the detail of digital virtual reference (Pellen)? Marie Radford has done research in this area and Denise will pursue an online discussion with Marie and the ALS AC.
3. Definition of virtual library – NISO Z39.7 does not have a definition, and one needs to be developed.

4. Additional suggestions included reviewing the eligibility questions based on possible literal interpretation of “physical facilities necessary”. The committee will consider this as it reviews questions from the 2008 survey and the items listed above.

5. Mary Jane Petrowski asked committee member to consider test bed questions for ACRL that could be included in the NCES ALS 2010 survey. Ideas included budget trend questions (percent of change), personnel trends (% +/-), buildings/construction, funding sources, job description changes, pay equity, and faculty status. These will be forwarded to Bill Miller and recommended questions forwarded back to the NCES ALS AC for feedback.

6. NCES and Library Program update (Phan)
   a. Personnel changes at NCES (election year turnover).
   b. Barbara Holton has moved to a new position at NCES and Tai Phan is the only staff person for the Library Program.
   c. The 2006 ALS First Look should be released July 8, 2008 along with supplemental tables and the data files.
   d. The 2010 ALS survey package to OMB is in development. Any survey changes need to be to NCES between now and January 2009.
   e. NCES is considering moving the ALS to an annual survey, with alternate years used to field trend questions. ALS AC members were interested in this suggestion and want to continue the conversation. Tai indicated it would take several years to make this a reality, and input from this committee was important.

7. Census update (Patty O'Shea)
   a. Laura Hardesty is on maternity leave and will be back in time for the fall survey launch.
   b. ALS 2008 opens 11/5/08, closes 2/25/09.
   c. Edit parameter research was completed to update and improve survey edit checks. We are also working with our Census programmers on updating the post-collection processing system including the edit changes. There will also be a testing process for this system.
   d. Census staff worked with K-Force (NCES contractor) in preparing the 2008 web application. The application was redesigned and updated including the edit changes. Testing of the 2008 ALS survey site must be completed in July 2008.
   e. Letters to Chief Officer will be mailed 10/14/08; Key Holder letters will be mailed 10/20/08.
   f. The 2006 First Look report is in final review at NCES for target publication in July. The 2006 data is up on the Compare Libraries tool.

8. Other surveys and projects that do or could have an impact on NCES/ALS
a. ACRL (Petrowski)
   1. ACRL asked if there was any opportunity to use the LR’s to help with ACRL response rates.
      1. This really is up to the LR, as they are only tasked with helping on the NCES survey.
   2. The ACRL contractor (UIUC) has been asked to review the NCES ALS to improve the ACRL survey.
   3. Survey fielding timelines continue to be an issue. The ARL survey will have closed before the ACRL and NCES ALS are fielded. This committee could assist with messaging to reduce confusion between the three surveys and the burden in these alternate years.
      1. Committee members remarked that the fall time frame is problematic because many academic libraries are busy with budget matters during this same time period.
   4. ACRL has created a cross-walk table between the ACRL and NCES ALS surveys.
      1. This would be useful to use with LRs. Mary Jane will send to Denise Davis to include with the LR training materials, and post to the NCES ALS website hosted by ALA.

b. ARL (attached) (Blixrud)
   1. Changes to the detailed table include:
      1. Training for the serials definitions changes is ongoing.
      2. The task force for counting serials is working on a “best practices” report, due out in October 2008.
      3. Moving some supplemental questions into the base survey has impacted time series data and ARL is investigating how best to deal with these changes.

c. Oberlin Group (Hanawalt/Fishel)
   1. Oberlin Group members have identified some inconsistencies in how some measures are reported and are working to improve questions and normalize reporting criteria. Serials measurement was of particular concern to the group.
   2. The survey will remain unchanged and the group is focusing on getting older data sets online.
   3. The 2008 survey submission deadline is October 2008.

d. IMLS - no report

e. ALA (Davis) – report as handout; direct questions to Denise via the ALSAC listserv.

HANDOUTS SENT WITH THE AGENDA PRIOR TO THE MEETING (EMAIL)
• Anaheim hotel map [http://anaheimoc.org/pdf/ResortMap405.pdf]
• AC Minutes, January 2008 (Philadelphia); Committee Roster
• Handouts – ARL and ALA-ORS updates; Draft 2008 survey screen shots
• Travel reimbursement form