Meeting: Friday, January 25, 2013 9:00 am – 11:30 am
Location: Washington State Convention Center, Room 208

Advisory committee members present: Terri Fishel (college), Tai Phan (NCES liaison), Laura Hardesty (Census), Jamie Hug (Census), Julia Blixrud (for Martha Kyrillidou) (ARL), Rita Pellen (university), Mary Jane Petrowski (ACRL), Charles (Chip) Stewart (college, ACRL survey), William Miller (at large), Norman Rose (ALA-ORS), Kathy Rosa (ALA-ORS).

ALS Convenors: Dr. Kathy Rosa (ALA) and Kit Keller (ALA Consultant)
Guest: Dean Bryan, Office of Library Services, CUNY

The meeting was called to order by Kathy Rosa. Following introductions, approval of the minutes from the annual meeting in June 2012 were approved.

Information Items

ACRL
Mary Jane Petrowski reported as staff liaison to the ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics Editorial Board, on the most recent survey and the upcoming survey. The 2011 survey was completed with the usual response rate of about 45%. Responses were received from almost 1,500 institutions. Analyzing the results in terms of Carnegie class indicates an outstanding response from the doctoral/research-granting group, at 82%. Almost every ARL institution granted permission to include their data in print and in the online product, ACRL Metrics. Selected IPEDS elements were loaded into that product which allows for more analysis related to the impact on institutional goals and metrics. The 2012 survey was launched the second week in January. The trends questions this year are focused on the extent to which people are using and are aware of the new ACRL standards for libraries in higher education. This will provide impact data. The 2011 version is completed. The print version is available in the ALA bookstore.

NCES
NCES Reorganization update
Tai Phan reported the status of the reorganization of the National Center for Education Statistics. Changes have been approved by all entities except the union. If union members approve the changes, all changes will be final. The organization is restructuring along functional lines rather than by institutional type or level of education. According to this reorganization, IPEDS will be under Tai’s division, which handles all institutional collection instruments. As of now there is no director of the Post-Secondary division. Our contact for IPEDS has been Jessica Shedd, but that will change once a new head of the division is hired.

The focus of NCES is shifting to individual schools, and so a boundary survey is being undertaken. This will allow for poverty-level, and reduced-lunch level analysis. The goal is to fund needy schools rather than sending funds to counties or districts based on more specific
data about community members within school boundaries. This will be done first in 2013 and it is the first time this has been approved by OMB.

No Deputy Commissioner has been named as yet. Nine supervisory positions were cut from NCES in this reorganization. Commissioner Jack Buckley will determine the final reorganization details. Jeff Owings will no longer be Associate Commissioner. These changes eliminate some existing administrative layers in the organization. Processes should be streamlined as a result. Tai does not anticipate future budget cuts that would affect operations. Any possible cuts would be applied to grant funds.

**IPEDS and Academic Library Survey (ALS) update**

There should be OMB clearance soon for the new ALS survey part of IPEDS; it is under review now. Comments will be invited through the Federal Register. Tai will notify the committee when the comment period is opened. The academic library survey section of IPEDS will be a stand-alone survey, rather than having the questions distributed throughout the existing sections of the survey. IPEDS sends four surveys, in four quarters. It is anticipated that the ALS survey will be active in either fall or winter. Responding to the survey will be mandatory and it will be an annual survey. The sample screens that we have seen will be a stand-alone survey, active in the 2014 survey. One concern about the shift of the ALS to IPEDS is the quality of the data. Participation and responses are required, but that does not address the accuracy of the responses. Over the years the same questions will be asked, and the questions will be improved over time. **Action item:** Kit will email the sample screens to the committee. These show what academic library questions will be required as part of the 2014 IPEDS survey.

The Academic Library Survey Advisory Committee is scheduled to be dissolved after the newest contract ends. Once the NCES reorganization is completed, Tai will ask the Commissioner if the advisory committee can meet once a year to discuss the library aspects of the IPEDS survey. The current understanding is that the ALSAC will end after the January 2014 meeting activities are wrapped up (contract/funding goes through January 2014) and that Kathy Rosa would be the contact for IPEDS folks with regards to library questions and issues. The current understanding is that changes would only be initiated through a Technical Review Panel (TRP), initiated by IPEDS staff. However, Tai indicated that even this process could change under the new Commissioner’s direction. Tai reported that this group is scheduled to meet in January of 2014, following the final publication of the Academic Library Survey data, collected in 2012. If the advisory committee continues to meet (once a year), the missing piece is how to initiate a TRP or other form of review. **Action item:** Kit will work with Tai and Kathy Rosa to recommend a process for continuing input from the experts in the library community. We will build a new relationship following the completion of the reorganization. Kit will keep the committee informed about developments about possible extension of advisory committee activities.

Another change is that there will no longer be a publication related to the academic library data. IPEDS data are released online and customized reports can be generated from this source, based on selected data elements. After 2012 data release of academic library survey results, there will no longer be a First Look published. However, Tai indicated that there might be an opportunity to request continuation of this publication. **Action item:** Kit will
send to Tai a request on behalf of the academic library community, to continue the First Look publication.

All of the collected data is available to the public. The 2012 ALS data will be added to the Compare Academic Library tool, and it will remain available for several years after that, but it will eventually go away. However, the IPEDS data release process is fast, so the first library data should be available within six months of collection. Tai will continue to support the library survey through the transition process.

**Census**

Update on 2012 Survey
Laura reported that the 2012 collection process opened on time and is going smoothly. Reminder letters and emails have been sent. The third reminder letter goes out February 5. If the 85% rate is not achieved, another letter is sent out to the chief academic officer. Help Desk staff are making phone calls to non-respondents. The biggest question causing problems so far is full-time equivalent. The response rate is currently at 40.08%, which is better than where we were last year at this time. A lot of private schools have done a better job reporting this year. The email traffic related to problems responding has been lower this year.

Tai reported that NCES data is moving to the cloud and the NCES web site will be revamped. A question was asked about IPEDS structure, particularly the parent/child relationship structure. The resident expert on this aspect of the survey is Sam Barbette at IPEDS.

2012 Report tables
**Action item:** Any recommendations for changes to existing tables, or for new tables, have to be submitted in February. Laura will send information about existing tables to the committee for review, which reflects changes resulting from survey changes.

Tai reported that Commissioner Buckley complained that our First Look publication is dry and uninteresting to read. The committee is encouraged to add enhancements, as has been done in the past, to make it more interesting and to highlight significant data. If the committee wants to request the continuation of a library data publication, it might be more acceptable if it is written with more bullets and sidebars highlighting the data, which might produce a piece that is newsworthy.

Tai also reported that the IPEDS College Navigator in the future will include a Score Card in which the federal government scores every college and university based on expenditures and the graduation rate of students. The library data in the future will be part of that score card. This is a new congressional requirement, and it is possible that the Score Card will be made available through the White House Web site, instead of through the NCES site.

**NCES ALS committee**

Chip Stewart reported that they are using the ARL instrument, and adding a trends question as the one variable every year. This is a good test bed for questions that might feed into other channels, perhaps even IPEDS. The usage statistics are included and that would be one suggestion for future IPEDS consideration because so much is usage-driven. This is an example of where the metrics are still evolving.
**ARL (Julia Blixrud)**

There has been significant revision to the existing ARL surveys, statistics and salaries. This was done to reduce data elements and focus on title counts. Some volume count information is still collected but that is to mainly continue trend data. The format for expenditure counts is stable. It is no longer possible to extract ratios on expenditures because of the changes made in the data elements. The main ARL Web page includes a link to the survey documents, and includes a comparison with previous data elements to facilitate accurate reporting. The salary survey is seeking to collect data about new types of positions to be able to do a better analysis of the library work force, especially in the digital realm. It also asks about fringe benefits. The focus is on expenditures because the materials have become too complex to accurately collect. The survey is out with members now. ARL has a variety of activities going on related to assessment. Publications are not scheduled to change.

**Oberlin Group**

Terri Fishel reported that the group is currently administering its 2011/2012 survey, using a redesigned Web site which required rebuilding the survey. Response rate is currently under 50% but in previous years the final response rate has been 100%. This year there are a lot of new and interim directors so the process is taking longer. The Oberlin Group includes 80 private liberal arts colleges across the country, and the survey focuses primarily on expenditures and library instruction sessions and consultations.

**IMLS Report -- Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation**

Worth noting here is the reference to the library statistics working group Indicators Report, stating that Public Library Survey data and State Library Agency Assessment data is currently released in two big reports. IMLS is considering consolidating these reports, and also adding data from Academic Library Survey. This large report will be composed of a narrative that focuses on the national picture followed by indicators at smaller levels of analysis (state, region). The targeted release date listed is January 2013. This refers to the academic library data elements that will be part of IPEDS.

**ALA**

Kathy Rosa reported on the iMap project, which is a partnership with Florida State University. This project is designed to provide librarians tools to know more about their community. The lead researcher is Christie Koontz. The Technology Access Study has been extended through 2013. The Office of Research and Statistics received an IMLS National Leadership Grant that builds on the Technology Access survey. The study will focus on the roles public libraries play in creating and sustaining digitally inclusive communities. The Committee on Research and Statistics (CORS) is sponsoring a program at the annual conference that will focus on assessment.

Respectfully submitted,

Kit Keller

ALA Consultant to the Office of Research and Statistics