NCES Academic Library Survey
2011 Advisory Committee Meeting, San Diego, CA
Minutes

Friday, January 7, 2011
8:00 – 11:00 AM
San Diego Convention Center, Room 24C

Attending: Kit Keller (Chair, ALA), Caroline Jewell (ALA), Norman Rose (ALA), Cindy Sheckells (Census), Jamie Hug (Census), Laura Hardesty (Census), Brinley Franklin, Cathleen Bourdon (ALA), Bill Miller (FAU), Mary Jane Petrowski (ACRL), Terri Fishel (Oberlin/ Private Colleges), Rita Pellen (FAU, 4-yr institutions), Kenley Neufeld (SBCC - 2 yr institutions), Brandon Oh (K-Force/ NCES), Tai Phan (NCES), Brandon Oh (NCES), Julia Blixrud (ARL)

1. Preliminaries (Kit Keller)
   a. Introductions, logistics (breaks, other)
   b. Minutes approved, 2010 Annual Conference Washington DC
   c. Request new items for agenda; agenda approved

2. Information Items
   a. NCES update (Tai Phan): Library Statistics Program updates
      i. New commissioner, Jack Buckley, approved by Senate.
      ii. A program review to come soon.
      iii. Level funding expected in next 3-4 years, but program is stable. The money is there for the survey but clearance revision in a few years?
      iv. Already have OMB clearance for 2010 survey. Group might want to redesign the survey to get faster clearance.
      v. Questions to consider: Will the funding be safe in this environment in the fiscal environment? Is it time to think of an overhaul? Approval may be easy right now so it may be a good time to revise the entire survey. Questions from OMB will be about older questions, not the new questions on the survey.
      vi. ALA needs to contract with NCES every year since Denise’s position is vacant.
   b. Brandon Oh demonstrated the new Compare Tool. The biggest changes are: being able to pull down a target survey year; can save searches/make changes without starting over; can search by zip code radius; new sliders to compare by certain criteria, shows how many libraries are in that peer group. Still have to test it against major web browsers and for iphones, etc.
   c. Census update - 2010 Survey (Cindy Sheckells, Laura Hardesty).
      i. Letters and reminders sent out. Respondents are asked to respond to eligibility questions even if they are not eligible so Census knows to not impute their data.
      ii. Also – suggestion – contacting the person who actually responded to the previous survey at an earlier date might result in a faster response.
iii. Help desk questions: questions about the 500 and 900 sections - answers don't add up.

iv. Help desk questions: questions about reference transactions – now that the question asks for annual transactions (as opposed to the average every week), respondents estimating lower. Clarification needed – do we want to know what libraries possess or what they're providing via portals, subscription databases, freely available e-books? Idea: a link resolver (i.e., "you have access") doesn't count towards held materials, you have to subscribe to them/ have ownership. Also, Laura will email the group with questions. In future: split out database type? For redesign.

v. Staffing questions? Discussion of questions received about how to report staff members who do not spend all their working hours actually in the library. If the full time employee works in other departments, then assign their hours or the percentage.

vi. Publication tables for new data elements. Need guidance from the committee by end of February – feedback, changes from the committee. Kit will distribute the proposed tables once Census has developed them, and send them out with a request for feedback.

d. Discussion of other surveys and collection issues:
   Association of Research Libraries (ARL) group: ARL Statistics and ARL Supplementary Statistics are surveys that could have an impact on NCES/ALS data collection process, particularly definition clarification. The same survey slightly modified by ACRL/ALA is being distributed to all academic libraries through Counting Opinions. ARL has established a task force to review the annual descriptive statistics data elements. The task force is in the feedback mode from survey coordinators, and other library staff within research libraries. They want to streamline some issues with an eye on the burden factor. Preservation data is one item under discussion. How do we define collections in a research library is a major element. The ebook question keeps coming up. LibQual+®Lite is quite successful because of the short number of questions. LibValue is a research project just begun and ARL is one of the participants together with the University of Tennessee and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign that is looking at the methodology and tools for return-on-investment. Assessment capacity activities have been turned into a program called OPAL (Organizational Performance Assessment for Libraries). Many libraries are establishing positions of assessment coordinators and a biennial gathering for them has been established in the form of the Library Assessment Conference (latest one held in Baltimore in 2010 and the next one planned in 2012: [http://www.libraryassessment.org](http://www.libraryassessment.org))

e. Oberlin Group (Terri Fishel) [Report in packet] – on their survey, they will attempt to clarify circulation statistics for books vs. other physical items.

f. IMLS (Carlos Manjarrez) [Not in attendance, report sent]

g. ALA (Cathleen Bourdon) We are in the process of a search for the new ORS director. The public library funding & technology access study, funded by Bill & Melinda Gates
In a six-year project for this. Just finished survey this Fall for year five of the project. Move to getting some data element questions in this survey over to the PLS. There was a proposal to move 6 data elements from this survey over to the PLS. Four are under consideration now for this move. Cindy S. indicated these were presented at the data coordinator conference in December. It will be voted on in early spring. If passed, they will be added to the next collection cycle. Consideration was given to added these data elements to the State Library Agency Survey but it was decided not to do so at this time. Cathleen brought up Library Matters – research on the impact of libraries. Want to explore this further. We want to have quick access to information about the impact of libraries, of all types. The LibValue Web site links to articles about this topic. Hopefully the database will take the information one step further by providing links to the actual impact statement that came from the research. ALISE is a partner on this. We hope that ARL is going to expand this access.

3. **New Business**  None

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kit Keller
ALA Consultant for Academic Library Survey