American Library Association
Committee on Research and Statistics (CORS)
2008 Annual Conference
Anaheim, CA
Minutes

Sunday, June 29, 2008 from 1:30-3:30 p.m., Marriott Anaheim Room 315

Committee Members: Rochelle Logan (Chair), Steve Wiberley (incoming Chair), Mario Gonzalez (Executive Board liaison), Wanda Dole, Anne Houston, Kit Keller, Keith Curry Lance, Patricia O’Shea (Census Bureau, for NCES), Jan Sung, Gustavo Soto and Cindy Welch (interns). Denise Davis (ALA staff liaison) and Norman Rose (ALA ORS). Ernie Cox and David Loertscher (incoming committee members, 2008-2010)

Guests: Dan O’Connor, Cathleen Bourdon (ALA, AED Communications and Member Relations).

Absent: Colleen Cook, Steve Hiller, Sharyn Ladner, and Kyung Sun Kim (Sunny).

The meeting agenda is continuous and is subject to reordering.

Meeting Management: 1:30-1:50pm

1. Introductions

2. Approval of minutes from Midwinter 2008 (Philadelphia, PA) - approved

3. Approval of agenda for Annual Meeting (Anaheim, CA)

4. Mario Gonzalez, ALA Executive Board Liaison Report (EDIT using documents from executive office)

   - Continuing to look at e-participation @ conference, having members attend virtually. Need buy in and feedback from the units.
   - ALA website redesign continues and a preview is available for review/comment at [www.ala.org/preview](http://www.ala.org/preview).
   - Booth 1840 is the ALA Membership Pavilion. Hope people have visited.
   - Virtual Day on the Hill is Tuesday; use CapWiz to reach your local officials.
   - Advocacy Office in place and initiatives include school library funding.
   - A Task Force has been formed by President Loriene Roy to look at the ALA election process. Some of the issues they will be looking at how much “campaigning” the ALA candidates should do, the cost of running for election, and the issue of endorsements.
   - The Association of Library Trustees and Advocates (ALTA) and Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA) are considering creating one division within ALA.
   - ALA is soliciting feedback on a plan to reduce conference days not content by making better use of non-peak timeslots for programs and meetings. The decision to investigate scheduling options came from a range of issues, among them exhibitors concerns over cost of an additional exhibit day. Part of the plan is to close exhibits on Monday instead
Continuing Business: 1:50-3:00pm

5. Report of chair (Logan)

- CORS program – "Your Library, Your Space: Using Research to Make Libraries People Friendly" Monday, June 30, 1:30-3:30, Anaheim Convention Center, Room 207-D

  In preparing for a new or renovated library today, librarians and architects place the user at the center of design planning. To be successful, libraries must understand how customers currently use our spaces. Learn how qualitative methods such as observation, focus groups, and interviews provide the keys to designing libraries that enhance institutional missions as well as the social dimensions of learning and community. Program is tomorrow. Press release p. 21 of today’s issue of Cognotes about building or renovating a library, from the perspective of different kinds of libraries.

- Co-sponsorship on other programs
  a. ALSC program (name only) - “Let Me Ask You This: Constructing & Using Effective Surveys”.

  “Library Services and Programs Developed for Non-English Speakers”, Sunday, June 29, 1:30PM to 3:30PM Anaheim Convention Center 209A(ORS staff member speaking)
  c. ASCLA, ICAN – Based on the Library Networks, Cooperatives and Consortia national study (http://www.ala.org/ala/ors/lncc/Final%20report.pdf).

  “Size Does Make a Difference: Library Networks, Cooperatives and Consortia in the 21st Century”, Saturday, June 28, 1:30 pm - 03:30 pm, HYATT Salon VII/VIII (ORS staff member speaking)
  d. ORS-PLFTAS – “State of Technology Access and Funding in U.S. Public Libraries”, Saturday, June 28, 2008 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Anaheim Convention Center 207 D (ORS staff member speaking)

6. RASA reporting system – ACTION REQUIRED

- CORS will request division research and statistics committees send a copy of their Annual Conference and Midwinter reports to the CORS chair and ORS Director. Wanda moves, Kit seconds. Unanimously passed.

7. Report of staff liaison (Davis) – ALA Office for Research & Statistics update and financial report. Member demographic information being better gathered along with dues. 41% response.

  - Office of advocacy (Marci Merola) – working to link research factoids to advocacy. Identified data that supports messages, i.e., children who are read to… etc. Release date Sept.
  - Letitia Earvin resigned her position with ORS to pursue other opportunities. The CORS chair thanked her for all of her hard work with the committee, and for the Office (ORS).

Projects requiring Committee attention:
- ALA Research Series publication (Logan)
  a. Task Force member’s complete Research Series scope document including recommendation for Editorial Subcommittee composition and application process (complete work by December 2008) – have task force members already. Report at midwinter on the work of the task force. Once done, ORS will put together an editorial subcommittee.
  b. Form Editorial Subcommittee (accept applications to serve; Feb-April, 2009) – 2 publications already published, one in edit stage.

- 2009 ALA program discussion (Logan)
  a. There are three (3) research programs Monday, either CORS or CORS shared sponsorship and focused on practical applications.
  b. Beginning with the 2009 Annual Conference no more than 50% of meetings/programs may occur during the prime meeting times (Sat + Sun, 10:30, 1:30). Are the current times appropriate (Sun 1:30 Exec Cmte, Mon 1:30 programs)? The committee agreed with the current calendar for CORS. [Note: attendance at the Monday program was about 70-80 people; strong attendance.]
  c. Need title and dates confirmed; develop strategy for next program segment (June 2009, Chicago). ACTION - assignment to program task force to select best program suggestion from this brainstorming session.
    – Trying to keep it qualitative. Ideas: literacy research; social networking; single-service desks (all services in one person);
    – Journaling workshops – does it generate more interest in patrons involved;
    – Habits of the “Google generation” and how libraries are involved, information-seeking habits, “millenials “;
    – Aspects of the teen user group (mixed into the previous idea);
    – ATLAS TI (can they use qualitative software to analyze comments? the challenges and benefits of the software could be a program. How to organize comments into meaningful sound bites (NVivo). (Note: A number of other types of software including this are listed on http://www.eval.org/Resources/QDA.htm). Discussion: Do you ever want to reduce the qualitative data into quantitative?
    – Discussion: Library funding is dependent on circulation/ quantitative data, and skews library funding. Definition of qualitative vs. quantitative: Depends on whether the result is generalized to a population; how or whys are qual. U of MN did much qualitative research, but used quantitative #s to justify choices of services.)
    – Action: Anne Houston and Gustavo Soto are interested in working on the task force, along with Rochelle Logan and Steve Wiberley, and Denise Davis as ORS staff liaison.
8. IFLA Report (Logan)
   - Wanda Dole recommended as the CORS representative (2009-2013); will be affirmed at the August 2008 IFLA meeting.
   - IFLA meets in August in Quebec, Canada and Colleen Cook will have her report to CORS in early September.

9. Public Awareness Committee. Advocacy Coordinating Group (Ladner) – attach with agenda – It is unclear what the composition of committee will be now that there is an office and committee. A volunteer will still be needed to serve as the CORS representative to the advocacy group. Action: Kit Keller expressed interest and was appointed.

10. NISO Report (Davis)
    - Kit Keller attending for Kyung-Sun Kim “Sunny”, representing CORS at NISO meetings, Monday, June 30, 9am-noon, Hilton Anaheim, Executive Board Room.
    - New website for NISO. Last revision was a searchable database and having the committee become a continuous revision working group created issues with maintaining the standard. Unless there are significant changes, the standard will be revised to keep current with overall approval (voting of NISO members with review and comment from the information community) yearly. The new web tools allow for real-time commenting.
    - Update on discussions since January (Davis) – Performance indicators. Discussions include whether a standard for performance indicators is needed or should the international standard (which isn’t fully applicable to US libraries) be used?

11. Core Competencies- Keith Lance moves to endorse the statement 6a in the ALA’s Core Competencies for Librarianship. Seconded by Wanda Dole.
    - Discussion: How many schools adhere to the research competencies? Are schools similar in their curriculum? Dan O’Connor spoke to these concerns and the committee endorsed the competencies in principle, and asked the CORS Chair (Logan) to prepare a statement. Individual comments could come from committee members. Comment deadline is end of July.
    - Unanimous endorsement.

New Business: 3:00-3:30pm

12. Agency updates:
    - IMLS – none
    - NCES – (Patty O’Shea)
      a. Public Library (PLS) and State Library (StLA) surveys moved to IMLS in October 2007. The 2006 PLS data and report will be released early fall 2008; the 2007 StLA data and report will be sent to IMLS early July for review.
      b. Census supports NCES on the academic libraries survey (to open early November 2008). The 2006 Academic library survey data and report will be released on July 8th.
      c. Discussion: Kit Keller commented on the most recent PLSC meeting in June 2008. IMLS asked the steering committee to remain intact until the December
2008 training conference for state data coordinators is complete. The steering committee will become an advisory group to IMLS.

13. Any other items (round robin)
   2. Encourage people to self-nominate themselves to CORS. Get friends involved.
   3. Keith Lance has an article in the most recent issue of Library Journal regarding indexing of libraries, with Ray Lyons. First actual indexing will be in published in early 2009.
   4. Denise Davis reported that her office (ORS) is working with ALA divisions to promote research writing within their member groups. The purpose is to increase visibility of research and a column for PLA in its bi-monthly journal. LITA and YALSA are also investigating interest in a similar column with their member leaders.
   5. Rochelle Logan closed the meeting at 3:10pm and handed the gavel to the incoming CORS chair, Steve Wiberley.

Documents emailed with the agenda prior to the meeting:
   1. Minutes from Midwinter Meeting 2008, Philadelphia, PA
   2. Agenda, Annual Meeting 2008, Anaheim, CA
   3. Advocacy Coordinating Council report
   4. ORS update

NOTE: The Research and Statistics Assembly (RASA) are asked to submit reports to CORS Chair and the ORS Director.