American Library Association
Committee on Research and Statistics (CORS)
2009 Annual Conference
Minutes (for approval)

Sunday, July 12, 2009  1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Chicago Hilton, Conference Room 4G, Chicago, Illinois

Attendees:
CORS members – Stephen Wiberley (chair), Colleen Cook, Anne Houston, Kit Keller, Rochelle Logan, Steven Hiller, Sandra Hughes-Hassell, David Loertscher, Kyung-Sun Kim, Denise Agosto (LRRT Liaison), Denise M. Davis (staff liaison), R. Norman Rose (staff).

Incoming CORS members – Keith Curry Lance, Richard Leigh (intern), Zeth Lietzau, Mary Stansbury, Elena Rosenfeld.

Guests – Nahyun Kwon, Carlos Manjarrez (IMLS), Kim Miller (IMLS), Cindy Sheckells (Census Bureau), Laura Hardesty (Census Bureau).

Meeting Management:

1. Meeting relocation due to room assignment (too small); introductions and logistics.
2. Minutes from Midwinter 2009 (Denver, CO) - approved
3. Agenda for 2009 Annual Conference (Chicago, IL) - approved
4. Mario Gonzalez, ALA Executive Board Liaison Report
   a. Conference attendance was over 27,000 including vendors.
   b. Membership figures are down about 2,000 less than over 2008 (about 65,000 ALA members); student membership is up 3%.
   c. Advocacy U is new and improved (Office for Library Advocacy, http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/advocacyuniversity/index.cfm)
   d. ALA is actively working with libraries regarding opportunities with the federal stimulus initiative(s) (ARRA). The ALA Washington Office has the details at http://www.ala.org/knowyourstimulus
   e. ALA budget is about $1.6 million in deficit. Various actions (layoffs, staff furloughs, reductions) have brought the gap to about $400,000. The ALA Endowment balance is improving.
   f. Strategic Planning for 2015 will begin in fall 2009 with additional discussions at the 2010 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Boston.
   g. Other items of interest at the 2009 Annual Conference include virtual participation, strategizing for filling the Office for Intellectual Freedom Director position (resulting from Judith Krug’s death), and the SPECTRUM Scholarship initiative.

There were no questions or comments from CORS members for Mario to take back to the ALA Executive Board.
Continuing Business:

5. Report of chair (Wiberley)
   a. Welcome to invited guests
   b. Program, “Pay Attention to Your Users! Conducting Qualitative Research to Reinvent Library Services” (Anne Houston, Rochelle Logan, Gustavo Soto, Steve Wiberley planning group), Monday, July 13, 2009, 10:30 am – noon, McCormick Place West 175b/c
      a. In developing library services, librarians place the user at the center of planning. In this program, three experienced researchers show how qualitative methods provide effective means to learn what libraries should do to help people meet their information needs. The presentations will include discussions and examples of software used in qualitative research and ways qualitative research can inform practical management decisions.
      b. Speakers: Denise Agosto, Drexel University; Sandra Hughes-Hassell, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Lynn Westbrook, University of Texas at Austin.
      c. (Editorial note: Standing room only for the program; audience estimated at 200).

6. Research and Statistics Assembly (RASA) Reports (Wiberley)
   a. The process for gathering of reports was discussed and a reports summary was provided for review. Issues for CORS attention:
   b. Why aren’t more division research representatives active in the Research Assembly? ASCLA has disbanded its research committee (ORS will investigate why). Other comments included the reorganization of PLA to Communities of Practice as possible reasons for non-participation.

7. Library Education Task Force (Loertscher)
   a. David Loertscher reported on the blog and the predominance of comments from LIS faculty opposing the recommended changes.
   b. Sunny Kim mentioned the ALISE document.
   c. Comments to the Task Force may be made to the blog through 2009.

8. Report on Planning 2010 Program (Kim)
   a. Anne Houston, David Loertscher, Sandra Hughes-Hassell and Sunny discussed program options and recommend a program around qualitative and quantitative measures in planning services to different user groups (focusing on digital natives). Speakers may consist of researchers from University of Rochester (youth services research) and Rutgers (school children research). Scholars researching older adults’ information needs may also be considered if the program’s focus needs to be broader. The subcommittee will continue refining the program details and report at the 2010 Midwinter meeting in Boston.

9. Report of staff liaison (Davis)
a. ORS research update (handout) – updates include ALA Member Demographic study responses over 47,000 as of June 2009; Public Library Funding & Technology Access Services study (funded in part by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) renewed for three years (through 2012) at about $2M; ALA Research Series peer review panel selected and will begin work in summer 2009 with plans to publish the first peer reviewed title in late 2010.
b. 2010 CORS budget approved without changes.

10. IFLA Report (Cook)
   a. IFLA meeting in August 2009 in Milan. Colleen Cook is the IFLA Statistics & Measurement committee chair.
   b. IFLA Special Interest Groups now include e-metrics.
   c. Global Statistics initiative is still underway and they will be reporting at the 2009 meeting.
   d. The 2010 meeting is moved to Sweden due to world-wide financial issues for participants.
   e. The Northumbria International Conference on Performance Measures will be held prior to IFLA (August 13, 2009).

   a. Highlights of advocacy efforts include: Advocacy U (http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/advocacyuniversity/index.cfm), AddItUp (http://www.ala.org/additup), NJ State Library Snapshot Day, developing a speakers bureau for advocacy issues, and the ALA-Safeway back panel cereal box promotion beginning August 2009 using library data and key messaging (copies were shared with CORS).

12. NISO Report (Kim)
   a. The NISO Z329.7 Library Statistics working group meets Monday morning. Goals for the group include the ongoing maintenance of the base standard data dictionary, including a standards cross-walk table, and establishing library performance measures. More will be reported at the 2010 Midwinter Meeting.

New Business:
13. CORS and ALA Connect
   a. Denise updated CORS on ALA Connect, the current social networking utility. CORS may use ALA Connect to increase visibility of its work, more so than what is possible with the website and listserv (closed to CORS members only).
   b. A working group was established to experiment with ALA Connect and recommend its utility for CORS. Mary Stansbury, Keith Curry Lance and Elena Rosenfeld will work with Denise Davis and Norman Rose in ORS.

14. Agency and Organization updates:
   a. IMLS (Carlos Manjarrez)
      o FY2007 Public Library data and report released between April and June 2009. Thanks to Census staff for their hard work in making that possible.
o FY2008 State Library Agency report will be released very soon.
o Both data sets are also available on data.gov and data ferret (a Census Bureau
resource).
  ▪ Grants to States Program report is available (Catalyst for Change:
  LSTA Grants to States Program Activities and the Transformation of
  Library Services to the Public
o A discussion guide for Museums to jump start web 2.0 discussions also is
available (The Future of Libraries and Museums: A Discussion Guide)
o Studies underway include the University of Washington household study of
public access computing (results expected in fall 2009), and IMLS is re-
releasing InterConnections data with weighting.

b. Census Bureau update of NCES Library Surveys (Laura Hardesty, Cindy Sheckells)
o The FY2008 academic library data were released to the Compare Academic
Libraries tool on July 8, 2009 and the report is expected before January 2010.
o The FY2010 academic library survey will begin in November 2010; new data
elements include detail on reference services to individuals (in person and
virtual reference), technologies used to provide digital virtual reference
services, and digital institutional repositories.
o NCES is investigating with interested library organizations moving to an
annual survey.

c. ARL (Cook) (handout)
o In addition to the handout, Colleen reported that ARL is looking more at
descriptive statistics to gauge the depth of library content. ARL libraries also
will report both title and volume counts for monographs (as in the NCES ALS
survey), and title counts for serials (not volume counts). Titles need to be
accessible, not specifically cataloged, to be included in title counts.
  ▪ It was asked how staff was being prepared for measuring to the various
  changes in the collection counts, etc. Nothing has been established yet.
o ARL will no longer report the Membership Criteria Index, but rather the
Investment Index. The Membership Index did reflect historical investment in
collections. The Investment Index is highly correlated with the Membership
Index (so it too reflects collections investment). However, libraries having
greater expenditures and smaller collections fare as well as the historical, large
print collection libraries. Libraries also will provide 3-5 page profiles that will
assist ARL in identifying new variables to build the multi-factor index.
Colleen will be analyzing the profiles.
o The Third Library Assessment Conference is planned for October 25-27, 2010
in Baltimore, MD.

15. Any other items (round robin)
a. Keith Curry Lance reported he is developing the next LJ Index of Public Libraries
using the latest IMLS public library data (FY2007). The index should be
published in November 2009.
b. YALSA Research & Statistics group is establishing a research agenda. Sandra Hughes-Hassell will represent CORS in that activity.

**Documents emailed with the agenda prior to the meeting:**

1. Minutes from Midwinter Meeting 2009, Denver, CO
2. Agenda, 2009 Annual Conference, Chicago, IL
3. ORS update
4. RASA report
5. RASA Summary of Reports of Activities, June 2009
6. 2009 CORS program flier
7. ARL Update