Meeting: Saturday, June 21, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Fairmont Royal York, Saskatchewan Room

Members: Dan O’Connor, chair Stephen Wiberley
Joseph J. Mika

Staff: Mary Jo Lynch, Director, Office for Research & Statistics
Kat Bork, Administrative Assistant, Office for Research & Statistics

Visitors: Cindy Hepfer Bob Molyneux
Leslie Manning Scott Nicholson
Diane LaBarbera Will Wheeler

Meeting was called to order at 3:34 PM. Introductions commenced.

Meeting Management:

1. Approval of minutes from Midwinter Meeting 2003 (Philadelphia, PA) – Joseph Mika moved to approve, minutes were approved with no discussion.

2. Approval of agenda for meetings at Annual Conference 2003 (Toronto) – The agenda had been sent to the committee electronically, so Joe again moves to accept agenda. Agenda is approved without additions.

Continuing Business:

3. Report of chair
The CORS/ORS program: “ReRunning the Numbers” is on Sunday. The committee discussed the possibility of a program at the next Annual Conference. Dan O’Connor thinks CORS should have a program. Will Wheeler mentioned that sampling and statistical techniques is a topic of interest for the 2005 Conference. Mary Jo Lynch suggested having the same program as this year, only with different speakers. The idea of data you don’t have to collect yourself is appealing. Scott Nicholson just came from a conference in Alberta on evidence-based librarianship and suggested that topic for CORS in 2004. Dan suggests Scott set up the program. Scott will look over the Alberta program to see which speakers would cross over the best. Andrew Booth was an excellent speaker. Scott noted that evidence-based librarianship, which has not yet been clearly defined. It might be interesting for a panel to discuss what does evidence-based librarianship mean. Dan suggested Scott be a speaker, as well. The call for proposals form will be submitted by ORS.
Dan formally thanked those that have served on CORS and those that will be leaving the committee. Dan welcomes those incoming members that are here.

Dan attended the Planning and Budget Assembly yesterday. It doesn’t look good. The amount of available money to ALA has gone from speaking in the millions into the hundred thousands. Dan has never seen this kind of financial stress on ALA. ALA is scrambling for revenue sources because investments are not earning what they were.

4. Report of staff liaison
Mary Jo doesn’t really have a report, as the issues in the documents distributed with the agenda will come up under other headings.

Dan says this isn’t a tutorial for research proposals. Mary Jo thinks that this should be described as a tutorial for demonstration projects, but not for research. Joe asked if Mary Jo could ask IMLS to clarify the directives, even by contacting Bob Martin’s office. Mary Jo stated that such action isn’t enough. **Mary Jo will draft something to bring to committee.** Steve and Joe will look at the tutorial in the near future and respond to her draft.

6. Update on national statistics about libraries
Mary Jo passed around copies of this report and explained it to the committee.

7. Report to Executive Board re COPE1
There have been three conferences. The table of contents for Mary Jo’s issue of *Library Trends* (Spring 2003) was sent to the committee prior to the conference. COPE1 is asking for a problem-based research agenda. The committee plans tell the Board about the *Library Trends* issue with the research agendas and how other divisions of ALA have agendas. The committee liked that there are lots of agendas available and doesn’t want to demand that there be just one. A statement on this recommendation will be developed. Joe moved that the committee send this document forward to the Board. Someone suggested that Mary Jo change “sister organizations” to “MLA and SLA”.

The report on COPE1 ends by saying that CORS will draft a statement for ALA on evidence-based librarianship. Scott is willing to draft a statement on what is out there for San Diego, so committee can get feedback. He will post it to the committee’s discussion list. After CORS approves a draft we can share it with RASA at Midwinter for comment. Will asked if librarians are actually basing their decisions on research. He believes practitioners will want to review a draft of this statement.

**New Business:**

8. ALA Survey of Librarian Salaries
Five people in the room have seen the Salary Survey. Because of the Better Salaries Task Force, the report has taken a lot of criticism. Some people want the mean salary to be low so librarians can argue for better salaries. A motion has passed Council to include
support staff salaries in the survey, a move that will triple the work necessary to fill out the survey and double the cost. The document has always paid for itself, but sales this year were not good. Also, ORS is getting hit with the full cost of fulfillment. Given the current financial situation, 2004 is not a good year to attempt such a major expansion on this survey. A major overhaul is necessary to survey support staff. Questions, such as what is support staff exactly, have to be answered. Definitions would need to be given to HR people answering survey. Mary Jo might propose some questions for 2004 about how support staff are categorized. Leslie Manning admits, as a practitioner, that it would be very difficult to report on support staff. It would be hard for ORS to formulate questions and hard for the libraries to formulate the answers. If ORS uses the supplemental questions as suggested, we might find out how to do an expanded survey in the future. BARC has to come back with a report, possibly by Midwinter. Mary Jo asked Dan to talk to Pat Smith, chair of BARC, about the survey and how it is a bad idea to expand in 2004. Committee agreed that asking supplemental questions about support staff salary data is a good idea. In many libraries, the support staff salary is largely not a library control issue. Instead, it is a state civil service issue. Leslie notes that librarians are very confined in how they can alter support staff, they could not raise these salaries if they even wanted to. Leslie doesn’t know how much actual use this addition information would be. Mary Jo requests Leslie’s assistance for review of whatever plan she decides upon.

Meeting adjourned at 5:03 pm.