American Library Association  
Committee on Research and Statistics (CORS)  
2013 Annual Conference Meeting  
Seattle, WA  
Minutes

Sunday, June 30, 1:00pm - 2:30pm, Hyatt Regency McCormick Place-DuSable 21A

Members in attendance: Anne Houston (chair), Keith Curry Lance (incoming chair), Wanda Dole, Bede Mitchell, Ann Weeks, Linda Hofschire, Ann Ewbank, Ron Peterson, Rebecca Vargha, Carlos Manjarrez (IMLS), Kathy Rosa (ALA-ORS), Norman Rose (ALA-ORS)

1. Introductions
2. Approval of minutes from Midwinter Meeting 2013 (Seattle, WA); Approval of agenda for Midwinter Conference
3. Approval of agenda for Annual Conference
4. NCES Discussion – report from Tai Phan via email: after reorganization, IPEDS will be under direction of Ross Santy in the Administrative Data Division; ALS 2012 collection is done.
   - Concern about possible changes in regular collection and/or elimination of Schools and Staffing Survey from Midwinter; no news for sure, but changes require long public response period (years). **Action item**: Kathy Rosa will follow up.
   - Keith Lance mentions that most of the data is not publicly accessible because of privacy rules/ personal data.
   - Anne: as an advisory Committee, should the group more actively make formal requests about research activities (such as advocating for the importance of a survey). Carlos adds that best strategic opportunity to be heard is the public comment period prior to Office of Management and Budget review (as advertised in the Federal Registry); publicly available open letters are also a method to be heard.
5. ALA Executive Board report: Community Engagement focus groups at Annual Conference; ALA has applied for a grant to train librarians in the field to engage with their communities to identify community aspirations and drive innovation. ORS surveyed members, asking for a definition of what they consider their community; 3% chose ALA.
6. Discussion of 2013 Annual Conference session
   - Measuring Up: Developing New Metrics for Assessing Library Performance – July 1st, 2013, 10.30 AM – 11.30 AM. How can academic and public libraries develop new metrics that give a more complete picture of library effectiveness? Postscript – session attendance topped 300, with more attendees than seats.
7. 2014 Annual Conference CORS Program
   - Linda Hofschire: Pew Research has agreed to speak, subject/ speaker unknown, likely on user typology. Speakers likely to focus on methodology more than results, though the sessions usually touch on results. The sessions have been framed as for the “practicing researcher.” Linda, Terry, Ann Weeks as volunteers to be the conference planning committee.
   - Time/ day should be the same; **Action item**: information to ORS by early October.
8. Webinar series:
Committee of Bede Mitchell, Ron, Melissa Johnston started work on it, focused on “what would the average person want to learn”, and looked at other professional associations.

Are webinars cost or time prohibitive? Norman Rose: if webinars are a regular activity of the group, will take less time – moderators and ALA Staff will have experience. Note that using ALA’s Adobe Connect system, for over 100 participants, each user minute costs $1.60/ minute. **Action item:** subgroup to come up with more details to plan the series – possible topics, framework. Bede Mitchell/ Anne Houston/ Rebecca Vargha

   - Kathy Rosa: Research group brought together as part of an extension of the **Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study (PLFTAS)** Gates Foundation grant. Group of public library researchers discussed current landscape of public library research, what commonalities exist, how to share data, and more in a day-and-a-half invitational seminar. An open LinkedIn group will be started to continue the conversation; Linda Hofschire agrees to inform the Committee as a liaison.
   - ORS is administering three-year IMLS National Leadership grant on **Public Libraries as Providers of Digitally Inclusive Services and Resources** with the University of Maryland; first collection will be in the field this fall, second collection next year.
   - ORS continues to create partnerships with related groups and present to librarian groups.
   - ALA Research series (through ALA publishing) still in flux, criteria needs to be reconsidered.

New Business

10. **IFLA Report:** (Rebecca Vargha) This year’s IFLA will be Singapore, in August. Scheduled: discussions about metrics. Rebecca will present a comparative case study between a Durham public library and a library in Turku at the North Carolina Library Association in October.

11. **IMLS Report:**
   - IMLS has moved from reporting tables with a single page of analysis for Public Library Survey (PLS) data to 50 pages, fewer tables, and with state-level analysis – to make the reports more accessible.
   - Doing market research on the PLS collection, looking at private vendor to conduct the PLS, will still be open data per government requirements. Data may be released more quickly; Carlos foresees no reduction in the frequency of the survey. SLAA survey switched to American Institutes for Research, a private vendor. Collection was as much as 50% cheaper.
   - IMLS adopted a new open data requirement for all grantees – data must be made available to public in some form.