

TO: ALA Executive Board

RE: Office for Research & Statistics (ORS) Update

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:
Information only.

ACTION REQUESTED BY:
Denise M. Davis, Director, ORS

CONTACT PERSON:
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DRAFT OF MOTION:
N/A

DATE: May 4, 2007

BACKGROUND:
Update on activities of the Office for Research & Statistics since January, 2007.

Attachments: ORS Report

Update to ALA Executive Board, Annual Conference 2007
Office for Research & Statistics
Denise M. Davis, Director

The following projects were underway between February – May, 2007:

Member Demographic Survey

The American Library Association (ALA) started collecting member demographic information on May 3, 2005 in a voluntary online survey. As of May 4, 2007 more than 13,000 members had responded. An additional push to encourage member response will occur in summer 2007 through email alerts and a postage paid response card. The survey is located at <http://www.ala.org/memberdemog> and will remain online until the questions can be moved to the online membership renewal module.

Salary Survey

Jenifer Grady, ALA-APA, has taken the lead on this project, working in collaboration with the ALA Office for Research. The 2007 studies – MLS and non-MLS salaries – are completed and the report will be completed during July 2007. More information about the salary surveys is available at <http://www.ala.org/ala/ors/reports/reports.htm> and <http://www.ala-apa.org/>.

Library Networks, Cooperatives and Consortia Study

The project is in its final stages, and will be completed in October 2007. The searchable database is being showcased at the 2007 Annual Conference during the project advisory committee meeting (Friday, June 22nd from 2-5pm) The final study report will be completed by fall 2007 and will be available on the project website www.ala.org/lnc.

Public Library Funding and Technology Access Studies

The survey, state site visits and focus groups are completed for the first year of the project and an informational card is included with this report. Preliminary findings and more information about the project is online at <http://www.ala.org/ala/ors/publiclibraryfundingtechnologyaccessstudy>.

Public Library Service to the Nation's Linguistically Isolated

Funded by the World Book Goal Grant Award, ORS is working in partnership with the ALA Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS), the Office for Diversity (OFD), and the Public Programs Office (PPO) to collect information about public library services to non-English speakers. The information collected will inform ALA on how libraries have been successful and challenges they have to providing these unique services. The responses have been compiled and are being analyzed. A full report will be released in fall 2007.

Increasing the Effectiveness of Evaluation for Improved Public Library Decision Making

ALA-ORS was a successful partner with Florida State University School of Information Studies on this project to investigate how "best practice" evaluation strategies can demonstrate the value of public libraries to the communities they serve through a web-based instructional, assistive, and management system (Evaluation Decision Management System - EDMS). The first module and additional information about the project is available at http://www.libevaluation.com/edms_new/index.cfm.

Other Activities:

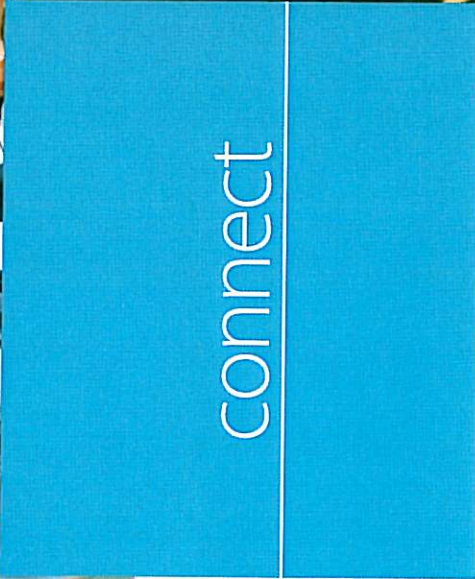
In addition to the major projects noted above, the ALA Office for Research & Statistics Director leads or serves in an advisory capacity on the following projects and initiatives:

- National Center for Education Statistics Academic Library Survey, Public and State Library Agency surveys <http://www.ala.org/ala/ors/statsaboutlib/statisticsabout.htm>
- National Information Standards Organization (NISO), Library Statistics Standard (Z39.7) <http://www.ala.org/ala/ors/ansinisoz397/nisoz397.htm>
- Advisor to Dominican University's IMLS National Leadership Grant "Do Public Library Summer Reading Programs Impact Student Achievement?"
- Advisor to UNC-Chapel Hill's Library Workforce study <http://libraryworkforce.org/tiki-index.php>

Libraries



communities



www.ala.org/plinternetfunding

Quick facts about computers in U.S. public libraries

Computers 10.7

Free access to the Internet is universal in U.S. public libraries. On average in 2007, there are 10.7 public computers in our libraries - compared to 5.7 a decade ago.

"Technology in libraries has gone from toy to tool." - Nevada librarian

Wireless 54.2%

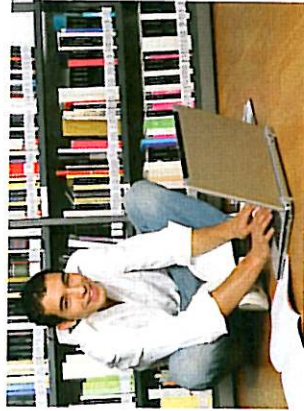
Libraries serve even more people with free wireless access. More than half of public libraries offer wireless, up from 17.9 percent only three years ago.

"It's the Information Age. We all need it." - Maryland patron

"The kids are lined up to use the computers." - Nevada patron

Broadband 62%

About two-thirds of U.S. public libraries offer broadband access (769kbps+) to the Internet, which draws many computer users, including those with Internet access at home.



Homework 68%

Sixty-eight percent of libraries offer online homework resources for community families — serving the educational needs of more than 36 million school-age children.

"The demand is always for the next service that can be delivered via the Web or email." - Utah librarian

E-Government 55%

Library staff in more than half of public libraries provide assistance to patrons applying for or accessing e-government services.



The Public Library Funding & Technology Access study is the largest and longest running study of its kind. The survey is conducted by the Information Institute at Florida State University and is funded by the American Library Association and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The above findings are preliminary, and the final 2007 report will be available in September at www.ala.org/plinternet/funding.

