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January 13, 2012

Judith Eaton  
President  
Council for Higher Education Accreditation  
One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 510  
Washington, DC 20036-1135

Dear Judith:

Thank you for your letter of December 16, 2011 regarding the Committee on Recognition (CoR) recommendation. What follows is offered as clarification and further substantiation of American Library Association (ALA) compliance with CHEA Standard 12B.1 relating to reliable information on performance, "including student achievement as determined by the institution or program," provided routinely to the public.

ALA reviews and responds to annual statistical reports, biennial narrative reports as well as special reports as needed, in addition to the comprehensive Program Presentations mentioned in your letter. Annual reporting, cited in the ALA application for recognition (p. 7) and at the meeting with the CoR, is reliable, routine, and the most current data available. This reporting has been compiled in trended form since 1992 and is provided on the ALA *Office for Accreditation reports and publications* web page <http://www.ala.org/accreditedprograms/reportsandpublications/prismreports>. The report provides a dashboard of comparative longitudinal data that speaks to sustained program quality.

In accordance with ALA Standards I.3., II.7, IV.2 and IV.6., programs routinely provide performance information publicly in a variety of ways beyond the Program Presentation. ALA Standard II.7 requires "assessment of students' achievement and their subsequent accomplishments" as measures of program performance. An example of this, to follow on the specific inquiry in the meeting with CoR, is what the School of Library and Information Science at San Jose State University provides at <http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/annualreview/>.

In order to comply with ALA Standard IV.2 “Current, accurate and easily accessible information on the school and its program is available to students and the general public,” each program must indicate where this information is made available. At spring meetings the ALA Committee on Accreditation reviews and responds to biennial narrative reports addressing each Standard and to annual reports and I am sure will be more keen than ever as a result of this CHEA review to understand from programs how the information they provide in response to Standard IV.2 pertains to their performance and to student achievement as required by Standard II.7.

This further clarification and substantiation is provided with the request that the CHEA Board of Directors review the Committee on Recognition recommendation in accordance with the CHEA recognition process as referred to in your letter, and reaffirm recognition of the American Library Association.

Sincerely yours,

*Karen L. O'Brien*

Karen L. O'Brien  
Director, Office for Accreditation  
American Library Association

cc: Keith Michael Fiels, Executive Director, American Library Association  
Mary Ghikas, Senior Associate Executive Director, American Library Association  
Kenneth Haycock, Chair, Committee on Accreditation, American Library Association  
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