

**American Library Association
Committee on Research and Statistics
Midwinter 2014 Report
Submitted by Kathy Rosa**

CORS Charge

To facilitate research and related activities in all units of the association, especially activities related to library statistics; to advise the ALA council and executive board on programs, policy, and priorities regarding research and related activities; to recommend procedures to achieve expeditious consideration of all ALA unit proposals for research and related activities by the ALA executive board; to encourage the establishment of divisional committees for the purpose of stimulating research and statistics; to maintain liaison with all units of the association regarding research and related activities in the units; to identify questions regarding library service which need to be answered through research and promote the conduct of research to answer those questions; to review and make recommendations concerning national data collection efforts pertaining to libraries, recommending inclusions, definitions, procedures, and policies as appropriate; to serve as a base committee for liaisons from other associations and groups with shared concerns about library statistics; and to serve as an advisory committee for the office for research and statistics.

CORS Roster

Rebecca Vargha (IFLA, July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2015)
Keith Curry Lance (Chair, July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014)
Theresa Kelly Darr (Member, July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2014)
Jessica Harris (Member, July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2015)
Anne M. Houston (Member, July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014)
Dr. Jody K. Howard (Member, July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2015)
Sandra M. Hughes-Hassell (Member, July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2015)
Wei Jeng-Chu (Member, July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2015)
Dr. Melissa P. Johnston (Member, July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2014)
W. Bede Mitchell (Member, July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2014)
Dr. Thomas L. Reinsfelder (Member, July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2015)
Dr. Gail A. Schlachter (Member, July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2015)
Dr. Ann Carlson Weeks (Member, July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2014)
Mrs. Zhonghua Du (Intern, July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2015)
Linda Hofschire (Intern, July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2014)
Kathy Rosa (Staff Liaison, June 1, 2012, to June 30, 2014)
Rudolph Rose (Staff Liaison, July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2014)

CORS Committee Meeting

The committee met on Sunday, January 26, 2014 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, in the Loews Hotel – Tubman Room. Attendees included Linda Hofschire (acting as chair in Keith Curry Lance's absence), Ann Weeks, Theresa Darr, Thomas Reinsfelder, W. Bede Mitchell, Rebecca Vargha, Alexia Hudson-Ward (Executive Board Liaison), Kathy Rosa (ALA Staff Liaison), and Norman Rose (ALA Staff Liaison). The Committee discussed:

- the Annual Conference 2013 CORS Session that drew over 300 people

- the Annual Conference 2014 CORS Session with Lee Rainie from the Pew Research Institute
- the plans for a webinar series
- the Report from Alexia Hudson-Ward (Executive Board Liaison)
- The Chair's report – Keith Curry Lance via Linda Hofschire
- Report from the Educations Assembly – Theresa Darr
- Report from NCES
- Report from IMLS
- The IFLA Report – Rebecca Vargha has been elected to serve as the Chair of the Statistics and Evaluation Section of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) Anne Houston serves as the CORS representative to the National Information Standards Organization (NISO)

Coming Up -- Annual Conference 2014 Program

Lee Rainie, Director, Pew Research Center's Internet Project will describe the Project's new study about the different kinds of library users and non-users. The research uses segmentation models to show how technology, community orientation, and library activities affect the way people use libraries. The research also shows the variety of reasons why people do not use libraries. He will explore the implications of this work for library leaders as they explore new services and for the library community as it does advocacy. The Conference Planning Committee includes Linda Hofschire, Theresa Darr, and Ann Weeks.

New Offering -- Webinar Series

CORS plans to offer a series of Webinars related to innovative research practices. Each year the ALA Committee on Research and Statistics will solicit proposals for webinars on topics selected by CORS and relevant to the committee's charge. The call for proposals would summarize the topics of interest, the desired learning outcomes, the preferred approximate length, the preferred webinar platform (whatever ALA is using), and preferred presentation dates (if we have any such preference). The deadline for proposals should probably be set so the submission-and-review process is completed in time for the selected webinars to be included as part of the committee's annual goal setting for the coming year. The CORS Webinar Series Committee includes Bede Mitchell, Anne Houston, Melissa Johnston, and Rebecca Vargha.

Working Together

CORS plans to partner with another unit for the Annual Conference 2015 program in order to reach a wider range of conference attendees and foster cooperation and a knowledge exchange with other ALA groups.

Relationship of the committee's work to the ALA strategic plan

- CORS contributes to the goal of Transforming Libraries by offering programs on innovative practices in research, assessment and evaluation.
- CORS contributes to the goal of Advocacy, Funding and Public Policy by the sharing of committee member research activities and highlighting new research and methodologies through conference programs and webinars.

- IFLA Report – Rebecca Vargha has been elected to serve as the Chair of the Statistics and Evaluation Section of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)
Anne Houston serves as the CORS representative to the National Information Standards Organization (NISO)