

PRISM

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COA Announces Accreditation Actions

The [Committee on Accreditation](#) (COA) of the [American Library Association](#) has announced accreditation actions taken at the 2008 ALA Midwinter Meeting under the 1992 Standards for Accreditation of Master's Programs in Library and Information Studies.

The Committee granted continued accreditation to the following programs:

- Maitrise en sciences de l'information at the [Universite de Montreal](#)
- Master of Arts in Library and Information Studies at the [University of Wisconsin – Madison](#)

The next comprehensive review visit at each institution is scheduled to occur in fall 2014.

The following institutions have programs being reviewed in the spring 2008 academic term:

- [Dominican University](#)
- [Emporia State University](#)
- [University of North Carolina at Greensboro](#)
- [University of Puerto Rico](#)

The following institutions have programs being reviewed in the fall 2008 academic term:

- [University of Hawaii](#)
- [Pratt Institute](#)
- [College of St. Catherine](#) (seeking initial accreditation)
- [Syracuse University](#)

For further information about a particular program contact the program. A complete list of programs and degrees accredited by COA, a current schedule of comprehensive reviews, and more information about the ALA accreditation process can be found at the ALA [Office for Accreditation](#) web site.

The American Library Association is a leading force in accreditation, having evaluated educational programs to prepare librarians since its creation in 1924. ALA's Committee on Accreditation is recognized by the [Council for Higher Education Accreditation](#) (CHEA) as a reliable authority to

determine the quality of education offered by graduate programs in the field of library and information studies.

From the Director: **OUTLOOK**

Outlook, by [Karen L. O'Brien](#), Director, ALA Office for Accreditation

Springtime for the [Office for Accreditation and Committee on Accreditation](#) tends to be more retrospective than prospective as we analyze annual reports. I will start retrospectively and then move to more prospective activities.

Updated Standards Approved

ALA Council approved the update to the [Standards for Accreditation of Master's Programs in Library and Information Studies](#) at the 2008 ALA Midwinter Meeting. Programs with [review visits](#) scheduled for fall 2010 and later will begin reporting to the updated Standards in their next [reports](#) and as they develop their [Program Presentations](#). A print version of the 2008 Standards is available upon request to Olive Bansa, Administrative Assistant in the Office for Accreditation, at obansa@ala.org or by phone at 312-280-2432.

Programs with review visits scheduled for spring 2008 through spring 2010 may continue reporting to the 1992 Standards in their required reports and in developing their Program Presentations until the conclusion of their comprehensive reviews. However, any program that wishes to report to the 2008 Standards may do so, making clear which version of the Standards is being addressed.

Policy Revisions Implemented

Two [policy changes](#) took effect on January 16, 2008. The first, affecting sections I.7.10(b) and I.7.10(c) of the [Accreditation Process Policies and Procedures \(AP3\)](#), expands the time allowed for currently enrolled students to graduate in the event of accreditation withdrawal from 18 months to 24 months. This change was made in recognition of the growing number of part-time students enrolled in our accredited programs.

Second, section II.6.1 now makes explicit the need to explain and prove conformity with each accreditation standard in the Program Presentation. This change simply codifies a previously implicit requirement for the Program Presentation.

Please update your AP3 binder by printing the following and replacing the pages.

- [Revised Policy I.7.10\(b\)](#)
- [Revised Policy I.7.10\(c\)](#)
- [Revised Policy II.6.1](#)

Statistical Reporting: Summary of Changes in ALA-Accredited Programs

The summary report of changes in ALA-accredited programs from fall 2006 to fall 2007, based on the latest statistical reporting, is available at <http://www.ala.org/ala/accreditation/prp/ss2007.pdf> and below in this newsletter. The news is good overall with enrollment up again this year for most programs

(54%) for an all-time high of 18,932 students enrolled. Seven fewer programs than last year experienced an increase in enrollment, however.

Last year marked the 15th anniversary of the statistical data collection collaboration between the [ALA Committee on Accreditation](#) (COA)/Office for Accreditation and the [Association for Library and Information Science Education](#) (ALISE). The Statistical Report Advisory Committee of ALISE, formed to make recommendations on data gathering and “to explore the feasibility” of a database “directly accessible to members,” is discussing possible changes in collection methodology. (<http://www.alise.org/mc/page.do?sitePageId=57073#stats> accessed 03/16/08)

Precandidate and Candidate Programs

The number of programs seeking ALA accreditation continues to rise. An initial accreditation decision for the [candidate MLIS program at the College of St. Catherine](#) is on the COA agenda for the 2009 Midwinter Meeting in Denver. In addition, three programs are in [precandidate status](#): the [Library Information and Media Studies \(LIMS\)](#) offered by Chicago State University; the [Master of Library Science](#) offered by East Carolina University; and the [Master of Information Studies](#) being developed by the University of Ottawa, Canada. Programs in precandidacy status report annually on progress to reach candidacy status, and are expected to be ready to enter the comprehensive review process within three years; although a one time three-year extension may be granted ([Accreditation Process Policies and Procedures, 2nd ed](#), I.7.3 (d)). COA responds to annual progress reports at its [spring meetings](#).

International Accreditation

Interest in accreditation from organizations outside the U.S. and Canada continues. I plan to attend the [World Library and Information Congress: 74th IFLA General Conference and Council](#) this summer in Québec to develop relationships especially with [AMBAC \(Asociacio'n Mexicana de Bibliotecarios, Asociacio'n Civil\)](#) and the [European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations](#).

Presidential Task Force on Library Education

COA member Karen Adams (Director of the University of Alberta Libraries) has been appointed to the ALA [Presidential Task Force on Library Education](#). The Task Force is working on a statement of core competences with plans to present it to ALA Council for adoption at the 2008 ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim. The Task Force also has plans to make recommendations on the Standards to the ALA Executive Board. Those recommendations will inform COA in their next five-year standards review process (2008-2012) already underway, even as implementation of the [updated 2008 Standards](#) begins. The first step in the process has begun with the [ALA Library](#) researching studies concerning graduates and workplace readiness. COA, the Office for Accreditation, and the [Office for Research and Statistics](#) will review the research to develop a program at the 2009 ALA Midwinter Meeting. The program will provide analysis of the research findings as they relate to the Standards.

Connecting

I look forward to the chance to exchange ideas at the next [ALA Annual Conference](#) and in the meantime by email at kobrien@ala.org or by phone at 312-280-2434. The Office is offering a general reviewer training at the Annual Conference on Friday, June 27th from 9:00 a.m. to Noon, followed by an appeals process session from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. Please get in touch with [Renée McKinney](#) if you are interested in attending either session. On Sunday, June 29th from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m., COA will present an open general program about their charge and composition at the Marriott Anaheim.



External Review Panelists Acknowledged

External review panelists contribute a substantial amount of their time and energy participating in the accreditation process to assure quality in LIS education. We extend our appreciation to the following panelists who served during the fall 2007 academic term.

Chairs

- Lynne C. Howarth, University of Toronto
- Joyce C. Wright, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

Panelists

- Sheila B. Anderson, Seymour Public Library (NY)
- Mary Ann Berry, Sam Houston State University
- Michele Cloonan, Simmons College
- William Curran, Concordia University
- Jean Donham, Cornell College (IA)
- Tula Giannini, Pratt Institute
- Mary Niles-Maack, University of California - Los Angeles
- Irene Owens, North Carolina Central University
- Betty Turock, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
- Del Williams, University of Akron



From the COA Chair: **PERSPECTIVE**

Letter from the COA Chair, [Richard E. Rubin](#)

The [Committee on Accreditation](#) (COA) serves many stakeholders. The interests of each must be considered when the accreditation process is engaged. Each stakeholder believes, rightfully, that its perspective is vital if accreditation is to be successfully conducted. For the COA, the challenge is balancing these many interests and executing a process that has the confidence of all concerned. It is a task that sometimes requires navigation of both fast and unpredictable waters.

The number of “sides” represented in the accreditation process is itself daunting. There are, of course, the students, who rely on us to ensure that a program is administered and delivered in a manner that permits them to develop strong professional skills in a timely manner. The program faculty expect us to set and enforce appropriate standards of academic performance in terms of teaching, research, and service. University administrators expect us to provide an objective assessment of the program and at the same time to understand the particular context in which a particular program resides within a given university. Employers expect us to encourage programs to match the knowledge, skills and abilities acquired by the students to the required competencies of the workforce. Members of the profession

expect the COA to promote diligently the values and traditions of the profession. The public at large expects the COA to act in such a manner that programs graduate individuals who will benefit society.

Each school attempts to serve its stakeholders through its own special amalgamation of academic program, faculty, students, facilities, and goals. The [standards for accreditation](#) provide the common lens through which the COA can view, in a unified way, the many special and unique aspects of each program. COA remains committed to serving all the stakeholders and, through the balancing of their interests, encouraging a vital and fertile ground for professional education.

Richard E. Rubin is Professor and Director of the School of Library and Information Science at [Kent State University](#). He can be reached at <mailto:rrubin1@kent.edu>.

Summary of Changes in ALA-Accredited Programs Fall 2006 to Fall 2007

By Karen O'Brien, ALA Office for Accreditation
March 24, 2008

Summarized here are changes in full-time faculty numbers, student enrollment, and funding for ALA-accredited programs between fall 2006 and fall 2007. Data for this summary is extracted from statistical trend spreadsheets prepared by the ALA Office for Accreditation, based on information that institutions provide to the Association for Library and Information Science Education ([ALISE](#)) and the Office annually by December 1. The spreadsheets track changes over the period of years since the Committee on Accreditation (COA) began reviewing statistics in 1992. Programs receive an updated trend summary spreadsheet with a letter from COA responding to their statistical report each spring.

Reports from previous years are available at www.ala.org/accreditation from the Prism, Reports & Publications page.

Overall, full-time faculty increased by 30, full-time headcount enrollment increased by 8, part-time enrollment by 1,339. Minority enrollment increased by 397. Institutional income increased by \$23,910,166; other income increased by \$6,460,166. A breakout of these numbers follows.

Enrollment continued to rise

Since 1992, enrollment has more than tripled, from 5,122 enrolled in 1992 to 18,932 in 2007. While overall enrollment increased once again in 2007, by 1,082, students, fewer institutions experienced an increase in enrollment in ALA-accredited programs compared with last year: 31 (54%) in 2007 compared with 38 (67%) in 2006.

Table 1: Change in Total Headcount Enrollment in ALA-accredited Programs Fall 2006 to Fall 2007			
Students	Increase	No Change	Decrease
		2	
1 – 9	11		6
10 - 19	7		7
20 – 29	1		5
> 30	12		6
Total	31	2	24

Full-time enrollment rose for 51% or 29 institutions (Table 2), compared with 60% last year.

Table 2: Change in Full-time Headcount Enrollment in ALA-accredited Programs Fall 2006 to Fall 2007			
Students	Increase	No Change	Decrease
		0	
1 - 9	16		15
10 - 19	5		6
20 – 29	1		6
> 30	7		1
Total	29	0	28

Part-time enrollment overall in 2007 did not grow as much as the previous year: 1,339 compared with 1,503 in 2006. Fifty-eight (58%) percent of institutions reported an increase, down from 67% in 2006.

Table 3: Change in Part-time Headcount Enrollment in ALA-accredited Programs Fall 2006 to Fall 2007			
Students	Increase	No Change	Decrease
		3	
1 - 9	14		9
10 – 19	8		4
20 – 29	1		3
> 30	10		5
Total	33	3	21

There was a gain of 397 minority students overall in 2007. That increase however, was spread over fewer institutions than the previous year: 31 institutions compared with 34 last year.

Students	Increase	No Change	Decrease	Not Reporting
		1		7
1 – 9	20		14	
10 - 19	5		3	
20 – 29	2		0	
> 30	4		1	
Total	31	1	18	7

Minority categories: American Indian/Alaskan Native; Asian/Pacific Islanders; Black, non-Hispanic; and Hispanic. International students are not included in these figures.

** The seven institutions in Canada with ALA-accredited programs are not included, as they are not permitted by law to collect or report information on ethnic origin.*

Faculty decreases ease, but gains are down

One fewer institution reported a loss in full-time faculty within ALA-accredited programs; two fewer institutions added full-time faculty to ALA-accredited programs: 16 reported a loss in 2006, while 15 reported a loss in 2007; 24 reported a gain in 2006, while 22 reported a gain in 2007.

Institutions	Increase	No Change	Decrease
0 - .75		20	1
1	12		10
2	4		3
3	2		0
4	1		1
>4	3		0
Total	22	20	15

Overall funding rose by \$30,370,332

Forty-three (43) or 75% of institutions reported increased funding for ALA-accredited programs. The overall gain from the previous year was \$12,870,357. Tables 7 and 8 show the breakout between institutional and other income.

\$	Increase	No Change	Decrease
		0	
1,000 - 50, 999	5		3
51,000 - 100,999	6		2
101,000 - 250, 999	5		4
51,000 - 50,999	11		2
501,000 - 1,000,000	8		2
> 1,000,000	8		1
Total	43	0	14

Institutional income to ALA-accredited programs rose overall by \$23,910,166. Three fewer programs enjoyed this increase in 2007 compared with 2006.

\$	Increase	No Change	Decrease
		0	
1,000 - 50,999	7		4
51,000 - 100,999	6		5
101,000 - 250,999	9		4
251,000 - 500,999	8		4
501,000 - 1,000,000	5		0
> 1,000,000	5		0
Total	40	0	17

Other income rose overall by \$6,460,166, less than the gains in 2006 of \$10,797,335. In 2007 thirty-seven (37) enjoyed an increase, while in 2006 the number was thirty-four (34).

\$	Increase	No Change	Decrease
		2	
1,000 - 50,999	11		4
51,000 - 100,999	6		3
101,000 - 250,999	5		3
251,000 - 500,999	6		3
501,000 - 1,000,000	5		2
> 1,000,000	4		3
Total	37	2	18

News and Announcements

2008 Standards

The Council of the American Library Association (ALA) adopted a revision of the 1992 Standards for Accreditation at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia. The [2008 Standards](#) place a stronger emphasis on systematic planning, student learning outcomes, assessment and diversity. The 2008 Standards will be discussed at the Committee on Accreditation open meeting at the 2008 Annual Conference in Anaheim, June 29, 2008, from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Anaheim Marriott, as well as at the External Review Panel training (see below for date and time).

External Review Panel Training at 2008 Annual Conference in Anaheim

Current and potential External Review Panel pool members are invited to attend a basic training on the roles of External Review Panelists, the Committee on Accreditation, and the Office for Accreditation in the ALA accreditation process. The final hour will be devoted to a discussion of the 2008 Standards for Accreditation. Friday, June 27, 2008, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., location TBA. Please RSVP to Renée McKinney, rmckinney@ala.org, and include “ERP Training” in the subject line.

The Office for Accreditation seeks experienced library and information professionals to participate in the accreditation process as External Review Panelists. We are particularly in need of librarians and educators with specializations and experience in the following areas:

- Public librarianship
- School library media
- Archives and records management
- Information science
- Information technology
- LIS graduate program administration
- Service to diverse populations
- French language skills
- Spanish language skills

If you are interested and meet the [minimum qualifications](#), please complete the External Review [Panel Member Information Form](#) and plan to attend the training session.

ALA Accreditation Appeals Process Training at 2008 Annual Conference in Anaheim

Experienced External Review Panelists (two or more on-site visits) are invited to attend training on the accreditation appeals process and policy. Friday, June 27, 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., location TBA. Please RSVP to Renée McKinney, rmckinney@ala.org, and include “ERP Appeals Process Training” in the subject line.

Google Map of ALA-Accredited Programs

The Office for Accreditation website now has a Google map of ALA-Accredited program locations as part of its [Directory](#). The map was developed in response to frequent inquiries from prospective students looking for ALA-accredited LIS programs in proximity to where they live/work/play.

Policy Update

At its fall 2007 meeting, the Committee on Accreditation approved an adjustment to Policies [I.7.10\(b\)](#) and [I.7.10\(c\)](#) of the Accreditation Process, Policies, and Procedures, increasing the time required for enrolled students to complete degree requirements following program withdrawal to 24 months. The COA also approved an adjustment to [Policy II.6.1](#), requiring all Program Presentations to contain a concise explanation and supporting evidence of conformity to each of the standards.

Olive Bansa Is New OA Administrative Assistant

The Office for Accreditation welcomed Olive Bansa as the new Administrative Assistant in December. Olive came to ALA from the Chicago Board of Education, where she worked in the Department of Postsecondary Education. Olive's future plans include going back to school for an MLIS degree.

Renée McKinney Earns JD Degree and Passes Bar Exam

Congratulations to Renée McKinney, Assistant Director of the Office for Accreditation, on her graduation from Chicago-Kent College of Law and passing the bar exam on her first try!

AASL-NCATE National Recognition News

AASL-NCATE Training for Programs and Reviewers in Anaheim

Training for program reviewers and program report writers at the ALA 2008 Annual Conference (Anaheim, CA) is scheduled for Friday, June 27, 2008, from 9:00 am – 11:00 am. The location is TBD. RSVP to rmckinney@ala.org by May 30, 2008.

Fall 2007 AASL National Recognition Decisions

Institution	Recognition Decision
Kent State University	Further Development Required
University of Memphis	Nationally Recognized with Conditions
Trevecca Nazarene University	Nationally Recognized with Conditions (pending NCATE initial accreditation)
University of Nebraska at Omaha	Nationally Recognized with Conditions
University of North Carolina at Greensboro	Nationally Recognized with Conditions
University of Rhode Island	Nationally Recognized
Towson State University	Nationally Recognized
Wright State University	Nationally Recognized

Programs under Review in Spring 2008

College of Notre Dame of Maryland
 McDaniel College
 University of Central Arkansas
 University of Central Missouri
 University of Central Oklahoma