

**American Library Association
Committee on Accreditation**

Accreditation Decisions and Actions Taken – Spring 2019 Meeting (April 25-26, 2019)

Issued May 3, 2019

Members of the 2018-2019 ALA Committee on Accreditation: Loretta Parham (Chair), Eric Albright, Rachel Applegate, Theresa Byrd, Kathleen De Long, David Eichmann, Robert Holley, R.E. LeMon, Dale McNeill, Linda Smith, Karen Snow, and David Weigle.

At its Spring Meeting, held April 25-26, 2019, the ALA Committee on Accreditation (COA) took the following actions:

Accreditation Decisions

What follows reflects the April 2018 policy revision to [section I.15 \(Accreditation decisions\)](#) of [Accreditation Process, Policies, and Procedures \(AP3\)](#), implemented to enhance public disclosure, that went into effect for all programs beginning in May 2018. The policy states that “any [standard](#) on which a program has follow-up reporting (following a comprehensive review or interim reporting review) is made public by the Office for Accreditation in the [Directory of ALA-Accredited Programs](#) and as a part of the usual means (e.g., [press release](#), [Accreditation Decisions and Actions Taken reports](#), and [Prism](#)).”

Conditional accreditation status was granted to the following program, with the next comprehensive review visit scheduled to take place in spring 2022:

- Master of Library and Information Studies at the University of Oklahoma. Standard cited for follow-up reporting: Standard IV.6 (applies the results of evaluation of student achievement to program development).

Reports from programs

- Reviewed and responded to the following reports from accredited programs and programs with Candidacy or Precandidacy status: 64 annual statistical data reports, 24 biennial narrative reports, one Candidacy status annual progress report, three special reports, and one combined special/biennial narrative report.
- Reviewed evidence of programmatic performance and student achievement accessible via program webpages.

Committee Matters

- Issued Notices of Concern to three programs.
- Discussed ALA-COA’s 6th-year Interim Report and Transition Framework, due to the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) on April 30, 2019.
- Reviewed plans of the COA Policy and Planning, Communications and Outreach, and Standards Review Subcommittees.

- Reviewed and approved the following policy adjustments to *Accreditation Process, Policies, and Procedures (AP3)*, fourth edition:

➤ ***Section I.5.1 Responsibilities of the Office for Accreditation:***

Removed the first sentence fragment and inserted the highlighted bullet point:

~~Among the responsibilities of the Office for Accreditation are:~~

- Coordinating and supporting activities that are directly related to the accreditation of master’s programs of education for library and information studies;
- Maintaining relationships with other accrediting agencies within the accreditation community, including CHEA and ASPA;
- Maintaining contact with programs. This may include programs that are in the process of undergoing a comprehensive review or those that are interested in seeking accreditation from the ALA;
- Providing information to graduate programs, potential students, employers, ALA members, the press, and the general public about the accreditation process, policies, and procedures, as well as the accreditation status of specific graduate LIS programs;
- **Manage conflicts of interest that may compromise the integrity of the accreditation process;**
- Providing publications, programs, and other activities to promote the awareness and enhance the knowledge of ALA members, other library and information associations, and the general public about the ALA accreditation process, trends in library and information studies education, and trends in higher education accreditation;
- Maintaining a schedule of comprehensive reviews and making it publicly available;
- Maintaining the Directory of ALA-Accredited Master’s Programs in Library and Information Studies.

Rationale: To replicate language on conflict of interest in other sections of *AP3* and to address the new Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Policy 2018 language in paragraph 12J: “... (2) an effectively administered conflict of interest policy that covers all accrediting organization staff...”

➤ ***Section I.5.2 Directory of ALA-accredited programs:***

Removed mention of the Google map and alpha-by-institution listing and added hyperlinks to the three remaining versions of the Directory.

A current directory of ALA-accredited master’s programs in Library and Information Studies is available in ~~several different~~ two formats on the Office for Accreditation website.

- [Directory of ALA-accredited programs in a searchable database format](#)
- [Directory of ALA-accredited programs in pdf format](#)
- ~~Directory of ALA-accredited programs as a Google Map~~

- ~~Directory of ALA-accredited programs by institution~~

A historical list of all ALA-accredited programs accredited since 1925 is ~~also~~ available on the Office for Accreditation website.

- [Historical list of accredited programs](#)

Rationale: To concentrate Office for Accreditation efforts on maintenance of the most authoritative version of the Directory (the database version).