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Library Schools - Accreditation & standards

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In December 1976 the ALA Committee on Accreditation surveyed the 67 library schools visited between 1973 and 1976 for evaluation under the Standards for Accreditation, 1972. The full report of that survey is now available from the ALA Publishing Services.*

The survey, conducted by Dr. Russell E. Bidlack, sought reactions to the entire accreditation process, from the 1972 Standards themselves to the final action of the COA on the visiting team report. The schools were asked to respond to ten broad questions. In order to evaluate every aspect of the accreditation process, some 38 specific concerns were given as subdivisions under the ten questions.

The first chapter of the report describes the reactions to the 1972 Standards. Following chapters deal with school responses to the selection and preparation of the visiting team, team performance on site, school reaction to the team report, the total effect of the accreditation process on the school, and recommendations made by the schools for the improvement of the whole process. The questionnaire, cover letter, and tabulated answers to the several questions are appended to the full report.

The study is both a current and a unique contribution to the literature of library education and accreditation.

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* The ALA Accreditation Process, 1973-1976: A Survey of Library Schools Whose Programs Were Evaluated under the 1972 Standards for Accreditation. Russell E. Bidlack. American Library Association, Chicago. October 1977.

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