

TO: ALA Executive Board

RE: *Office for Research & Statistics (ORS) Update*

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:
Information only.

ACTION REQUESTED BY:
Denise M. Davis, Director, ORS

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DRAFT OF MOTION:

DATE: *March 26, 2009*

BACKGROUND:
Update on activities of the Office for Research & Statistics since January, 2009.

Attachments: ORS Report

ALA American Library Association

Update to ALA Executive Board
Spring 2009
Office for Research & Statistics
Denise M. Davis, Director

The following projects were underway since January 2009:

Member Demographic Survey: ALA Demographic Studies

Beginning in May 2005, ALA invited members to participate in a brief demographic survey. As of March 1, 2009, 37,035 members have participated. A review of the responses indicates greater stability in the distributions of responses of age by decade and steady increase in youngest members responding to the questions. More than half of our current membership has participated in this voluntary, self-selected survey.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/ors/reports/MemberDemogSummary01022008.pdf>

Public Library Funding and Technology Access Studies: The 2008-2009 **Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study results are being compiled and the report written. Two new issues** briefs have been generated from the study findings:



Supporting Learners in Public Libraries (published March 2009) "Supporting Learners in U.S. Public Libraries" outlines many of the technology resources public libraries provide learners of all ages, challenges libraries face in meeting growing demand, and describes how sustained funding enables public libraries to offer increased assistance and services to their communities.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/Issues%20brief-Ed.pdf>



Job-Seeking in US Public Libraries (published February 2009) "Job-seeking in U.S. Public Libraries" discusses the range of library resources available to job seekers and challenges to maintaining these services. This was the most heavily downloaded ORS resource between February 1 and March 1, 2009.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/Issues%20brief-jobs.pdf>

More information about the project and published reports are online at

<http://www.ala.org/plinternetfunding> .

Workforce Trends

In response to a request by the ALA Presidential Task Force on Graduated Dues, the Office for Research & Statistics is updating the 2004 retirement trends study. The work is being completed by Decision Demographics (Arlington, VA) and will be discussed at the spring 2009 Executive Board meeting with other workforce research released.

NCES Academic Library Survey support

ORS continues providing support to NCES for its biennial academic library survey. The 2008 survey opened in November 2008 and closed mid-March 2009. Training materials, including a podcast, were developed for state representatives helping institutions respond. Additional information is online at

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/natlctrforedstats/ncesinfo.cfm>

under the "Academic Libraries" section.

