

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: *January 6, 2009*

BACKGROUND:
Update on activities of the Office for Research & Statistics since June, 2008.

Attachments: ORS Report

ALA American Library Association

**Update to ALA Executive Board
Midwinter Meeting, Denver
Office for Research & Statistics
Denise M. Davis, Director**

The following projects were underway since June 2008:

1. **Redesigned ORS website:** <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/index.cfm>
2. **Member Demographic Survey:** The American Library Association (ALA) started collecting member demographic information on May 3, 2005 in a voluntary online survey. As of October 23, 2008 more than 32,000 members (about 49%) had responded. The survey is now available for voluntary response when members exit the Dues Manager which has made a distinct difference in response rates.
<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/memberdemographicssurvey/memberdemog.cfm>
3. **Public Library Funding and Technology Access Studies:** The 2007-2008 **Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study – Libraries Connect Communities** - is complete and the report published. The results were presented at the ALA Annual Conference 2008 in Anaheim. The study also is the focus of the January 2009 Library Technology Report (LTR) (<http://www.techsource.ala.org/>). More information about the project and published reports are online at <http://www.ala.org/plinternetfunding> .
4. **Public Library Service to the Nation's Linguistically Isolated:** Funded by the World Book Goal Grant Award, ORS partnered with the ALA Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS), the Office for Diversity (OFD), and the Public Programs Office (PPO) to collect information about public library services to non-English speakers. The report was released during the 2008 PLA Conference in Minneapolis and is online with other resources through the OLOS website
<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/olos/nonenglishspeakers/index.cfm>.
5. **Retirement 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). Additional member demographic research was conducted by Harris Interactive for ALA in mid-May and results were shared with the ALA Executive Board at its fall 2008 meeting. A survey of ALA Trustee members was conducted in fall 2008 and the analysis is still underway.

6. ALA-APA Salary Survey

The coordination of the survey remains with APA, but under contract with ALA ORS. ALA retains rights to the data; APA may publish the salary survey report. The title remains unchanged.

7. 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 closes mid-February 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.