

EBD #12.15
2010-2011

TO: ALA Executive Board

RE: Office for Research and Statistics Update

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:
Information only

ACTION REQUESTED BY:

CONTACT PERSON:

Cathleen Bourdon, Associate Executive Director, Communications and
Member Relations, 312-280-3217, cbourdon@ala.org

DRAFT OF MOTION:

N/A

DATE: December 8, 2010

BACKGROUND:

Summary of ORS activities since the September 2010 Executive Board Report

Attachments: Report

ALA American Library Association

Midwinter January 2011 Update

Office for Research & Statistics, Cathleen Bourdon, Staff Liaison

Search for new ORS Director

Denise Davis, the director of the Office for Research and Statistics from 2004 – 2010, resigned on October 1, 2010 to accept a position at the Sacramento Public Library. A search for her replacement will begin in January with a goal of having a new director in place prior to the 2011 Annual Conference. Until the search is concluded, Cathleen Bourdon, the ALA Associate Executive Director for Communications and Member Relations is serving as the interim ORS director.

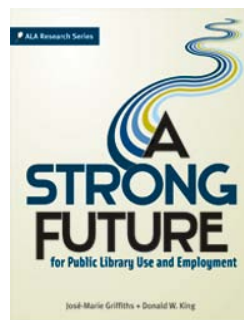
A Strong Future for Public Library Use and Employment by José-Marie Griffiths and Donald W. King will be the first peer reviewed title to be published through the ALA Research Series. It will be published this spring by ALA Editions.

96 pages

8.5" x 11"

Softcover

ISBN-13: 978-0-8389-3588-0



Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study

The Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study is a multi-year project that assesses public access to computers, the Internet and Internet-related services in U.S. public libraries, as well as the impact of library funding changes on connectivity, technology deployment and sustainability. The data collection portion of the 2010 survey closed in mid-November and the results are being analyzed by researcher John Bertot, Center for Library & Information Innovation, University of Maryland. A separate survey of state librarians is in the field now and results will be available by late January. The third component of the study – interviews and focus group discussions to explore trends from the national survey – will be completed this spring. The full report of the study is scheduled to be released as a digital edition of *American Libraries* this summer. The study is funded by ALA and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

ORS launches blog

In September 2010, ORS launched a new blog “Libraries Connect Communities” <http://www.ors.ala.org/libconnect/> to promote discussion around research findings from the Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study as well as research on other areas of interest to the library community. ORS staff also Tweet interesting tidbits from its research and we currently have more than 125 followers. Follow us at ALA_ORIS.

Academic Library Survey, 2010

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) conducts a biennial survey of all libraries of degree-granting colleges and universities. Registration and data collection for the FY 2010 Academic Libraries Survey (ALS) began November 9, 2010 and will close February 28, 2011. The ALA-ORS provides survey support to NCES, and more information about the 2010 survey is at <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/natlctrforedstats/index.cfm>.

ALA uses the data to advocate for academic libraries at the federal and state levels, and to respond to media inquiries. Congress uses the data to assess the need for revisions to existing legislation concerning postsecondary libraries and the allocation of Federal funds. Federal agencies use the data to evaluate and administer library programs. State education agencies, library associations, and researchers use the survey data to determine the status of academic library operations and the profession, and to analyze national and regional trends in academic library resources.