

**TO:** ALA Executive Board

**RE:** Office for Research and Statistics Report

**ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:**  
Information Only

**ACTION REQUESTED BY:**  
Cathleen Bourdon, AED, Communications and Member Relations

**CONTACT PERSON:**  
Cathleen Bourdon, 800-545-2433, x 3217, cbourdon@ala.org

**DRAFT OF MOTION:**  
N.A.

**DATE:** January 3, 2012

**BACKGROUND:**

A brief summary of the recent activities of the Office for Research and Statistics including the 2011-2012 Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study, an update on the call for proposals for the ALA Research Series, release of the 2010 data from the Academic Library Survey, and an update on the search for the new ORS director.

Attachment: ORS Report

### **2001-2012 Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study in final year**

The 2011-2012 survey was available for completion by public libraries between September 6, 2011 and November 18, 2011. The survey produced 7,260 responses, for a response rate of 83.1 percent. A second part of the study – a survey of state librarians – was conducted in November and responses from 49 states and the District of Columbia were received. The third component of the study – interviews of library and IT directors – is being conducted now. The results from all components of the study will be released in June. This survey provides an important opportunity for libraries to share information on computer and Internet resources and infrastructure, as well as funding, technology training and other uses of public libraries, such as providing public access technology centers in their communities. The study, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and ALA, continues work begun by John Carlo Bertot and Charles R. McClure in 1994. The survey is managed by the [Information Policy & Access Center](#) at the University of Maryland. The 2011-2012 survey is the sixth and final survey funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. ALA and its research partners are pursuing funding options to continue the study.

### **Proposals under review for the ALA Research Series**

The ALA Research Series expands the knowledge base of library research by publishing accessible and practical analysis that addresses topics of importance to libraries, librarians and professional educators. ORS issued a call for proposals for new titles in the series and five proposals were submitted. The proposals are now under review by the editorial panel composed of Lynn Connaway, OCLC; Nicole Cooke, Rutgers University; and Bernadette Lear, Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg.

### **Academic Library Survey 2010 data now available**

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has recently released the data from the 2010 Academic Library Survey. The First Look report and supplemental tables are available at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2012365>. The data file and documentation are available at [http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries/aca\\_data.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries/aca_data.asp).

### **Search for new ORS Director**

The search committee interviewed candidates on December 13. The committee hopes to complete the process by mid-January. The members of the search committee are Joan Giesecke, Dean of Libraries, University of Nebraska and chair of the Committee on Research and Statistics (CORS); Sandra M. Hughes-Hassell, Associate Professor, University of North Carolina School of Library and Information Science, and immediate past-chair of CORS; Annie Norman, State Librarian, Delaware Division of Libraries and member of the COSLA Research and Statistics Committee; Cathleen Bourdon, Associate Executive Director, Communications and Member Relations; Mary Jane Petrowski, ACRL Associate Director; Keith Michael Fiels, Executive Director; Marci Merola, Director, Office for Library Advocacy; and Cynthia Vivian, Director, Human Resources.