

**American Library Association
Committee on Accreditation**

Accreditation Decisions and Actions Taken – Spring 2017 Meeting

Issued May 10, 2017

Members of the 2016-2017 ALA Committee on Accreditation: Elizabeth Aversa (Chair), Diane Barlow, Kathleen De Long, Jean Donham, Brad Eden, David Eichmann, Robert Holley, Dale McNeill, Loretta Parham, Terry Weech, David Weigle, and Candace Wells.

At its Spring Meeting, held April 20-21, 2017, the ALA Committee on Accreditation (COA) took the following actions:

Accreditation Decisions

Denied Precandidacy status to one master of library science program and one master of library and information science program.

Reports from programs

- Reviewed and responded to the following reports from accredited programs, programs seeking Initial accreditation, and programs with Precandidacy status: 62 annual statistical data reports, 26 biennial narrative reports, one Candidacy status annual progress report, one Precandidacy status annual progress report, and four special reports.

Committee Matters

- Issued a Notice of Concern to one program.
- Reviewed and approved the following proposed revisions to *Accreditation Process, Policies, and Procedures (AP3)*, fourth edition:
 - **Section I.15 Accreditation decisions:** Revised to include “any standard on which a program has follow-up reporting is made public by the Office for Accreditation as a part of the usual means (e.g., press release, Accreditation Decisions and Actions Taken reports, and *Prism*), effective beginning with decisions in January 2018.”
 - Rationale: For fuller public disclosure on COA decision making in response to:
 - Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) standard 12B: Demonstrates Accountability
 - ALA Task Force on Accreditation Communication and Process recommendation 16: “Make accreditation decisions and documentation publicly available.”
 - **Section II.7.4 Examples of evidence that might be used to indicate compliance with the 2015 Standards for Accreditation:** Revised the bullet under “I. Systematic Planning” from, “Examples of how data are used in decision making to improve the

- program” to “Examples of how data are used in decision-making to improve the program, including examples for any specialized concentrations that are part of the ALA-accredited program (Standards I.2.3), effective beginning with program reviews with visits in fall 2018.
- Rationale: To more fully reflect the requirement of Standard I.2 of the *2015 Standards for Accreditation*.
 - **Section II.11 Meeting with the Committee on Accreditation (COA) to close the comprehensive review:** Revised to yield the two minutes of “Opening remarks by the ERP Chair” to the program for any remarks in closing. Effective beginning with reviews with visits in spring 2017 for meeting with COA at the 2017 Annual Conference.
 - Rationale: To provide programs an opportunity for summary comment to more fully inform the accreditation decision.
 - COA reviewed plans of the COA Policy and Planning, Communications and Outreach, and Standards Review Subcommittees.