

**TO:** ALA Executive Board

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

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

**ACTION REQUESTED BY:**  
Kathy Rosa, ORS Director

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

**DATE:** January 15, 2013

**BACKGROUND:**

A brief summary of the recent activities of the Office for Research and Statistics including the announcement of two new IMLS grant partnerships, status of the 2011-2012 Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study, and upcoming changes to the collection of the academic library statistics.

Attachments: ORS Report

### **iMap Libraries: Helping Provide Equity of Public Library Services, 2012-2013**

ORS is a partner with Florida State University in a one year IMLS National Forum Grant. The goal of the grant is to empower local librarians with development of more precise planning tools, to better serve diverse customer markets within their local community. The grant will identify the public libraries throughout the country that currently serve diverse populations as identified with a geographic information system (GIS) using variables such as linguistic isolation, race/ethnicity, education and income levels within a pre-determined radii around the library facility. Early results of the project are available on the iMap Libraries website located at <http://imaplibraries.org/index.html>.

### **Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study, 2011-2013**

PLFTAS was scheduled to end in November 2012; however, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation extended a No Cost Extension (NCE) to ORS. Among the final grant activities is a panel session during AC 2013 to discuss the next steps in assessing public access to computers, the Internet and Internet-related services in U.S. public libraries, and the impact of library funding changes on connectivity, technology deployment and sustainability. Panelists include Dr. John Bertot, University of Maryland - College Park, Information Policy & Access Center (IPAC), a representative from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Ron Carlee, International City/County Managers Association and Dr. Kathy Rosa, ALA Office for Research & Statistics.

### **Public Libraries as Providers of Digitally Inclusive Services and Resources: Transforming Communities, 2012-2015**

ORS received an IMLS National Leadership grant that builds on the Public Library Funding & Technology Access survey. The study will focus on the roles public libraries play in creating and sustaining digitally inclusive communities. The study team will develop the new survey instrument in conjunction with its advisory committee and the public library community between January and May 2013. The survey will be in the field September to November 2013. The study partners include the University of Maryland's Information Policy & Access Center (IPAC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

### **Academic Library Survey (ALS)**

ORS has an ongoing contract with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to provide guidance in the interpretation of survey questions and to assist in maintaining the survey sample for the biennial Academic Library Survey. NCES has managed the ALS as a standalone survey for the last ten years; however, a process is underway to include academic library reporting into the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). IPEDS, an NCES system of surveys, gathers information from every college, university, and technical and vocational institution that participates in the federal student financial aid programs. More information about the reintegration of the ALS into IPEDS is expected in the spring of 2013.