

**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:** June 3, 2011

**BACKGROUND:**

A brief summary of the recent activities of the Office for Research and Statistics including the 2011 Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study, a new title in the ALA Research Series, the ALA demographic membership study, and an update on the search for the new ORS director.

Attachments: ORS Report

### **2011 Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study to be released 6/21/11**

ALA will issue the 2011 study report on June 21<sup>st</sup> as a digital supplement of *American Libraries*. The supplement will be e-mailed to all ALA members. The report documents how public libraries continue to expand as technology centers for communities by providing essential resources for job-seekers, support for critical e-government services, and free downloads of e-books and other electronic resources. Conducted by ALA and the Information Policy & Access Center at the University of Maryland, this year's study builds on the largest study of Internet connectivity in public libraries that began in 1994. The study functions as an annual "state of the library" report on the technology resources brokered by our libraries and the funding that enables free public access to these resources. The study, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and ALA, will be available online at [www.ala.org/plinternetfunding](http://www.ala.org/plinternetfunding) on June 21, 2011.

### **New title in ALA Research Series published**

*A Strong Future for Public Library Use and Employment*, by José-Marie Griffiths and Donald W. King is now available, <http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=2898>. The authors examine the strong upward trend in the use of public libraries, how public libraries are being used, the value of public libraries and taxpayer return on investment, trends in public library operations, the status of public MLS librarians, evidence of career paths of public MLS librarians, a ten-year forecast of the number of public MLS librarians in the workforce, and librarian employment and library experience during the past three recessions (1978–2004).

### **ALA Demographic Studies**

The March 2011 analysis of the ALA membership, [http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/membershipsurveys/ALA\\_Demographic\\_Studies\\_March2011.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/membershipsurveys/ALA_Demographic_Studies_March2011.pdf) reports on the demographic composition of the 39,874 current members (69% of total membership) who have participated in this voluntary, self-selected survey. The report provides details on members' age, gender, ethnicity, disability, and education.

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

The search committee interviewed applicants on May 13 and selected a candidate for the position who unfortunately was unable to accept the job due to personal reasons. The call for applications will be reissued after Annual Conference. The members of the search committee are Cathleen Bourdon, Associate Executive Director, Communications and Member Relations; Mary Ellen K. Davis, ACRL Executive Director; Keith Michael Fiels, Executive Director; Sandra M. Hughes-Hassell, Associate Professor, University of North Carolina School of Library and Information Science, and chair of the ALA Committee on Research and Statistics; Marci Merola, Director, Office for Library Advocacy; Annie Norman, State Librarian, Delaware Division of Libraries and member of the COSLA Research and Statistics Committee; and Cynthia Vivian, Director, Human Resources.