Policy 57.

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Research and Statistics Policy Statement

The American Library Association recognizes the need to continuously build and strengthen the knowledge base upon which library services and the library profession depend. Basic and applied research in the field of library and information studies, as well as research results in related disciplines will, in large measure, shape library and information services and the nature of the library profession in the future. Statistics are a necessary foundation for many kinds of research as well as for policy and planning. Through its Office for Research and Statistics (ORS), as well as through related groups in its membership units, ALA strives to reach the following ALA goals:

- "Statistics about libraries are collected regularly and distributed promptly."
- "Research related to libraries and librarianship is conducted and results are widely disseminated."
  (Priority Areas and Goals, Priority Area F: Library services, development, and technology, Section 1.3. ALA Policy Manual, p. H135.)

In order to reach these goals:

- ALA defines and identifies priority research areas;
- stimulates and promotes the funding required to conduct research;
- cooperates with library education research programs;
- coordinates with other institutions and associations implementing the profession's research agenda;
- stimulates discussion of research methodologies;
- proposes programs designed to improve the quality, quantity, and impact of research;
- promotes the role, importance, and necessity of research.

In addition, the Association performs and supports research, and participates in cooperative research activities related to those research areas and topics identified as Association priorities.

Submitted by: ALA Committee on Research and Statistics
Barbara Immroth, Chair

Endorsed by: ALTA, LRRT, PLA.

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End of Section