

This resolution was *WITHDRAWN*—no discussion or action was taken on it.

The Public's Right to Know Performance Indicators for ALA's Accredited MLIS Programs

Whereas the ALA Standards for Accreditation state: "Accreditation serves as a mechanism for quality assessment and quality enhancement";

Whereas each accredited program defines its own program outcomes and student learning outcomes, along with the means through which both are met;

Whereas those means and outcomes are measured only against themselves and not against any professional standard;

Whereas the Federal Government through the "Student Right to Know" act, state governments, and state higher education boards support performance indicators;

Whereas potential Library and Information Studies' students, when choosing a program to attend, have a right to know certain performance indicators such as: acceptance, graduation, and placement rates;

Whereas potential Library and Information Studies' students, when choosing a program to attend, have a right to know the number of exceptions to the program's published admissions standards; and

Whereas potential Library and Information Studies' students have a right to know the full measure of diversity that exists among the accredited Library and Information Studies programs in such areas as program size, program focus, and means of delivery of the program: now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. request the Office of Accreditation and the Committee on Accreditation to develop immediately and implement as soon as possible the following indicators for ALA accredited graduate programs in order to ensure the public's right to know: (a) acceptance, graduation, and placement rates; (b) number of exceptions to published admission standards; (c) program size, program focus, means of delivery of the program; and
2. request that the Office of Accreditation and the Committee on Accreditation report back to the American Library Association Council by the 2014 Annual meeting on the steps taken to fulfill this request.

Moved by: Cindy Czesak, New Jersey Chapter Councilor, 201-317-1832

Seconded by: Larry Romans, ALA Councilor-at-Large, 615-479-5440

6/28/13

The Public's Right to Know Performance Indicators for ALA's Accredited MLIS Programs

This Form *must* be filled out and attached to all resolutions submitted to Council by voting Council members.

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1. TITLE OF RESOLUTION

The Public's Right to Know Performance Indicators for ALA's Accredited MLIS Programs

2. ALA UNITS AND/OR COMMITTEE CONSULTED (IF ANY):

To be consulted: Committee on Education

Note: Consultation with ALA's Committee on Accreditation would be inappropriate since the Resolution addresses a need for public information.

ALA and the Committee on Accreditation (COA) have a Memo of Understanding found at:

<http://www.ala.org/offices/sites/ala.org.offices/files/content/accreditation/Memo%20of%20Understandin.pdf>

Two of the principles agreed to in this MOU state:

3. "ALA recognizes that COA, as part of the professional association, serves the needs of the profession by protecting the public, including students seeking quality education and consumers of library services, by ensuring that academic programs in library and information studies are qualified to prepare individuals as librarians.
4. "COA and the ALA acknowledge that COA must have autonomy as specified herein to ensure that its professional accreditation functions are carried out independent of improper influence by ALA."

This resolution addresses the Public's Right to have information about MLIS programs and does not compromise COA's confidentiality nor autonomy.

5. ENDORSEMENTS BY ALA UNITS AND/OR COMMITTEES (IF ANY):

None

4. FISCAL IMPLICATIONS (specify the resources needed to carry out the resolution's directive(s))

None. Explanation: The collection and dissemination of information about MLIS programs would be done by the programs. Links to that information might be accomplished on ALA's website but that issue is not addressed in the resolution.

5. LIST ALL PARTIES TO WHOM RESOLUTION SHOULD BE SENT:

The Chronicle of Higher Education; Library and Information Science magazines and journals

6. IMPACT ON ALA POLICIES AND POSITIONS [Leave 6a thru 6d blank]

ALA's organizational excellence goal states ALA will operate in a "socially responsible fashion."

ALA's Strategic Plan states that: "ALA operates effectively, efficiently, creatively and in a socially responsible fashion to accomplish its mission."

7. INITIATING COMMITTEE OR UNIT (IF ANY):

None

7. INCLUDE ANY PERTINENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION (e.g. bibliography, citations, supportive quotes, URLs, etc.):

National Conference of State Legislatures "Performance Funding for Higher Education, February 2013.

<http://www.ncsl.org/issues-research/educ/performance-funding.aspx>

Article on "ALA Accountability and Accreditation of LIS Programs" by Dan O'Connor and Phil Mulvaney, *Library Journal*, May 23, 2013 available online at:

<http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2013/05/library-education/ala-accreditation-and-accountability-backtalk/>

8. MOVER/SECONDER INFORMATION:

[Name, Telephone or email address for mover/seconded]

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