In the news

“Standards for libraries in higher education,” approved by the ACRL Board in June 2004, is perhaps the most far-reaching of ACRL’s standards and guidelines, as it applies to all types of libraries in higher education and covers overall library service, staffing, facilities, budgeting, and other areas. In “Who uses ACRL standards?,” the authors provide some insight into the degree to which various library types are using the standards. Primarily citing usage of the now rescinded “Standards for college libraries,” the 2000 document that served as the basis for the current standards, the authors describe the methods by which 23 academic institutions have relied on the ACRL standards to prepare for accreditation review and internal assessment of library services.

This issue also contains two draft standards that will come before the Board at their June meeting during the ALA Annual Conference. “Guidelines for university library services to undergraduate students” was developed to be used in conjunction with the “Standards for libraries in higher education” and provides quantitative and qualitative guidelines specific to libraries serving an undergraduate population. “Information literacy standards for science and technology” uses the “Information literacy competency standards for higher education” as a basis for developing 5 standards with 26 performance indicators geared specifically toward students in the areas of science and technology. Your comments on these draft guidelines are encouraged. Contact information for providing feedback is supplied with each standard.

For a complete listing of ACRL preconferences, programs, meetings, and special events at the ALA Annual Conference (June 25–28, Chicago, Illinois), see the preliminary program. Don’t forget to take this pullout guide to conference for easy reference.

—Stephanie Orphan, Editor-in-chief
sorphan@ala.org