

**ALCTS Technical Services Directors of Large Research Libraries**  
**Interest Group (Big Heads)**  
**Membership Proposal**  
November 10, 2009  
Approved November 23, 2009

***Background***

The 2009 Big Heads Membership Committee (Richard Reeb, Nancy Gibbs and James Mouw) presented their report at the Annual meeting, recommending continued discussion of the membership in light of the changes in ARL statistical indices. During October 2009, the topic was discussed further on the Big Heads list.

***Proposal***

The following proposal covers the membership of the Big Heads for three years, beginning with the 2010 annual meeting:

- Continue to keep the membership of the Big Heads stable;
- Take no action regarding inactive members;
- Continue the same categories of membership:
  - The 24 largest ARL university libraries (including the Canadian libraries);
  - One non-ARL university library (Stanford University);
  - Two public libraries which meet the same criteria as the 24 largest ARL research libraries; and
  - Three national libraries (standing members)
- Determine the 24 largest ARL university libraries using the following criteria: three years of ARL data combined from both the Membership Criteria Index, a composite measure of volumes held, volumes added (gross count), current serials, total expenditures, and professional and support staff FTE total and the Library Investment (LI) Index, a composite measure of the total library expenditures, salaries of professional staff members, spending on library materials, and the number of professional and support staff members..

***Rationale***

The ARL Membership Criteria Index factors in collection size. Continuing to use this as part of the membership criteria is appropriate since “libraries with large historical collections have concerns that are rarely discussed elsewhere, and are important to our group”. “...Averaging the two indices has a lot of merit because it takes into account some of the ARL statistical criteria many of us still think are important and figure into our ongoing (formal and informal) discussions and does not totally reject the new investment index”.

***Impact***

Applying the new criteria will result in one change in the membership. The University of British Columbia would no longer be a member. The University of Alberta would be added. This change would take place at the 2010 annual meeting.

***Next review***

The next review of Big Heads membership would take place in 2012 for implementation in 2013.  
Attachment 1

**Institutional Members of ALCTS Technical Services Directors of Large Research Libraries  
Discussion Group (July 2010-June 2013)**

ARL Research Libraries

Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Duke University  
Harvard University  
Indiana University  
New York University  
Ohio State University  
Pennsylvania State University  
Princeton University  
University of Alberta  
University of California at Berkeley  
University of California at Los Angeles  
University of Chicago  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
University of Michigan  
University of Minnesota  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Texas at Austin  
University of Toronto  
University of Virginia  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Yale University

Non-ARL Research Library

Stanford University

National Libraries

Library of Congress  
National Agricultural Library  
National Library of Medicine

Public Libraries

Boston Public  
New York Public