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