ERIC Users Committee Update—ALA Midwinter
2/20/2015 2pm EST

- **Source selection :**
  - ERIC reviews new sources to be included in ERIC twice a year—in late November and May.
  - New sources are recommended to ERIC by users and publishers. To recommend a source, please email the name and a link to the publisher's website to ERICRequests@ed.gov.
  - We typically review 250 new sources per cycle and accept approximately half of them.
  - What we have been focusing on is increasing the number of peer-reviewed, full text materials. This has led to the majority of new journals accepted being open source.
  - Future source selections will continue to place a strong preference on peer-reviewed, full text materials.
  - The number of new sources reviewed each cycle will vary—ERIC aims to index 4,000 records a month and index new content within 30 days of being available to ERIC. This creates challenges in scheduling because we do not want to overcommit our resources.

- **Thesaurus update**:
  - There will be a thesaurus update this fall. The proposed plan includes:
    - Recommendations for additional descriptors and synonyms to the Thesaurus.
    - Recommendations for changes to existing terms in the Thesaurus.
    - Assessment of the need for future changes to improve the Thesaurus and maximize its usability by the ERIC community.
  - We will be soliciting feedback about the ERIC Thesaurus update. Please look for an email asking for your help to come out in the next week or so.
  - We will be hosting a webinar in July on the Thesaurus that will provide more information about the update process.

- **Selection policy**:
  - The next Selection Policy update will be in January 2015.
  - We expect to make a major change—we are exploring ways to assign peer-reviewed status to non-journals.
  - This approach will have several advantages, as well as possible disadvantages. We plan to post the draft policy this summer for content to get as much user feedback as possible.

- **Topic summaries:**
  - We are currently working on 15 topic summaries. These are going to be Wikipedia like summaries designed to give high level overviews on different topics.
  - The topic summaries are written by in-house researchers and subject matter experts. They are targeted for a college freshman reading level.
  - Under law, these are required to be peer-reviewed. We really value the peer review process and think that will strengthen the document. Unfortunately, peer review takes time.
  - We hope to unveil the first topic summary this spring and the rest by the end of this year or early next year.
  - Once several of the topic summaries are ready, we will unveil the ERIC Topic pages which will provide resources by topic.

- **New enhancements on the website:**
  - One thing that many users have been requesting is a citation management tool. Many users want the ability to export their citations to RefWorks and Endnote, and we want to find a way that we can allow users to export citations to any commercial citation manager. We are working to build a tool similar to the one used by the NIH's PubMed database. We hope to release that feature later this year.
  - Next year, in 2016 we hope to unveil an API as our source of data delivery. The advantage of this tool is that it will allow users to have real time access to ERIC, instead of having to wait until when our monthly files are posted. This will also allow users to build apps.
  - We hope that once we have an API we will be able to provide publishers with information about how frequently their materials are downloaded. This is something many publishers will want. Many of publishers have said that they will be willing to allow ERIC to display their full text once they have this capability.
  - New video on Online Submission search tips to be coming live in the next week or two

- **Implementing the public access policy:**
  - The Department of Education and other federal agencies are in the process of getting their public access plans approved and posted.
  - To help increase communication about the policy, IES is taking a multi-pronged approach to contact the community.
    - We will be communicating with Grantees and Contractors impacted by this policy at their annual meetings.
    - We will be producing videos explaining the policies and how to work with publishers around these issues. Look for more information about these this fall.
    - There will be a FAQs section for grantees on the ERIC website.