

AIR UPDATES

Winter 2008

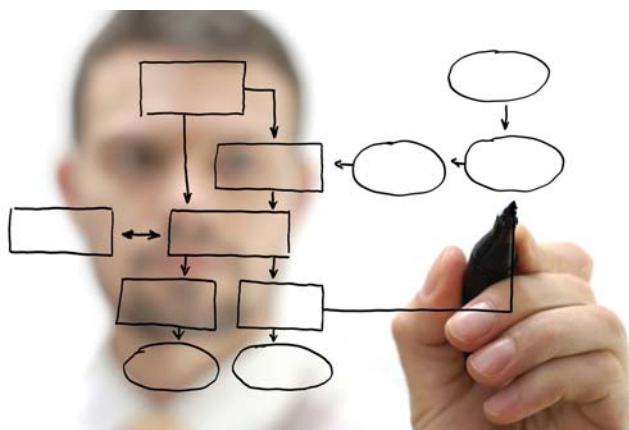
Professional Development, Information Resources & Networking

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2008 FORUM THEME: ADAPTING TO MEET NEW CHALLENGES

The Forum theme, Adapting to Meet New Challenges, recognizes that as the population changes, budgets change, and calls for accountability increase, the institutional researcher will be vital in providing the information needed to meet these challenges. One of the greatest attributes of an institutional researcher is the ability to adapt; whether it be developing a new set of skills, anticipating and responding to institutional needs, or changing directions in the middle of a project, being able to adapt is required of all institutional researchers. The sessions that will be presented will provide you with new skills and knowledge to help you adapt to these challenges. **Join your colleagues May 24 - 28 in Seattle!**



2008 FORUM HOTEL RESERVATIONS

The 48th Annual AIR Forum is May 24-28, 2008, at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel in Seattle, Washington. Stay in the heart of downtown at Sheraton Seattle, just steps from Pike Place Market, Seattle's top shopping and world-class restaurants.

Sheraton Seattle
1400 6th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
Phone: 206-621-9000
Fax: 206-621-8441
Rates: \$159.00 (single/double)

Make your reservations today:

- Call 800-325-3535 or
- Visit <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=0708276004&key=4EF23>

The Exhibit Hall and Forum sessions will be held in the adjoining Washington State Convention and Trade Center.

Make your hotel reservations by May 3rd, 2008, to get the AIR group rate.

2008 FORUM REGISTRATION

Forum registration will open January 22 at <http://airweb.org>! Register before May 2, 2008, and receive an early registration discount! You may register online using the Order Now! link on the left hand side of the homepage. You may also register for Pre-Forum workshops beginning January 22.

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION (all fees include membership for 2008-09)	If registered by May 2	If registered after May 2
Individual Member (07-08 dues paid)	\$425	\$455
Individual Non-member	\$540	\$570
Graduate Student Member (07-08 dues paid)	\$80	\$80
Graduate Student Non-member	\$110	\$110
Emeritus Member	Waived	Waived

ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE REGISTRATION (all fees include membership for 2008-09)	If registered by May 2	If registered after May 2
First Organizational Representative (07-08 dues paid)	\$666	\$696
Additional Organizational Representative (07-08 dues paid)	\$425	\$455
First Organizational Representative Non-member	\$781	\$811
Additional Organizational Representative Non-member	\$540	\$570

“As a **graduate student**, I have found **AIR** to be a tremendously valuable resource. By participating in **AIR**’s conferences, training webinars, and the National Data Policy Institute, I have developed a strong set of practical skills that will help me become a **well-rounded IR professional.**” - *Nick Hillman, University of Indiana*



ARE YOU GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Are you taking advantage of everything AIR has to offer IR professionals? Here are a few tips below to help you take advantage of member discounts and various resources!

- Advance your career by attending an Institute or Workshop at the **AIR member discounted price**
- Conduct **research projects** more effectively and efficiently by applying for a **AIR Research Grant** or **Dissertation Fellowship**
- Stay up-to-date with the latest trends, tools, and technologies in higher education by subscribing to **Electronic AIR** and **AIR Alerts**
- Expand your knowledge by taking advantage of the **FREE on-demand Webinars** and **IPEDS training** available at <http://airweb.org>
- Purchase leading publications **FREE** or at a significant **DISCOUNT**; and
- Learn about new **job opportunities** or post a job for **FREE!**

AIR/NCES 2008 FELLOWSHIPS FOR GRADUATE STUDY

Submission deadline: March 14, 2008

The AIR/NCES Fellowships for Graduate Study are for graduate study advancing or leading to careers in institutional research, thereby increasing the national level of expertise of institutional research officers and the data they produce.

Fellowships will be awarded for credit-bearing graduate study at various degree levels, with different funding categories:

- **Full-time doctoral students** may apply to receive a maximum of \$30,000 over a three year period (\$10,000 per year). Full-time awards will not be made to first time graduate students without IR work experience.
- **Part-time graduate students** may apply to receive a maximum of \$9,000 over a three year period (\$3,000 per year). Part-time students may move to full-time and apply for an increased award, but then are no longer eligible to re-compete at the end of their three year scholarship period.

Visit <http://airweb.org/fellowshipsforgraduatestudy.html> for specific guidelines and qualifications for the AIR/NCES Fellowships for Graduate Study.

The deadline to submit an application is **March 14, 2008.**

Please contact Sharon Lynn, National Manager of Grants & Contracts, slynn@airweb2.org, for any other questions.

IPEDS TRAINING WITHIN KEYSTROKES

AIR offers many comprehensive opportunities and IPEDS training programs for higher education professionals. Share the list below with your colleagues and take advantage of what AIR offers you and your institution!

- Visit the AIR online Webinar page and review past presentations at no charge:

<http://www.airweb.org/ondemandwebinars.html>

- The AIR IPEDS calendar contains information on annual Face-to-Face workshops available around the U.S.:

<http://www.airweb.org/IPEDStrainingnational.html>

- Stop by our IPEDS Training Center and take advantage of what AIR offers institutions and professionals:

<http://www.airweb.org/DataCollectionCenter.html>

AND MORE

- Register at <http://www.airweb.org/IPEDSonlinecourse.html> for the AIR Blackboard beginning IPEDS course which incorporates Webinar recordings and PowerPoint presentations, along with lecture materials, exercises and recorded lectures developed for the Blackboard (Bb) platform.

- Visit <http://www.airweb.org/IPEDSModules.html> to schedule a Face-to-Face Workshop at your affiliate group conference or institutional workshop. AIR also offers customized training for professional associations and higher education commissions.

- Need help with IPEDS? Contact the Help Desk's toll-free at the numbers below. The Help Desks are open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, M-F, and evenings and weekends during the last 10 days (or so) of the collection period:

- For IPEDS Data Collection call 1-877-225-2568 or e-mail ipedshelp@rti.org

- For IPEDS Data Tools (PAS, DAS, DCT, ExPT, College Navigator) call 1-866-558-0658 or e-mail ipedstools@rti.org



“A GRADUATE PERSPECTIVE”

BY ALEX YIN

Are you a graduate student in education or statistics faced with these constant questions: “What are you going to do with your Ph.D.?” “Are you hoping to be a faculty member or an administrator?”

Truthfully, when I entered my program, I had no clue what I was going to study, much less have a career path already decided. However, as I progressed toward a dissertation topic, I was fortunate to learn about an additional career option: institutional research.

Now I must admit that I still have not decided what I want to be when I grow up. Yet, through my institutional research courses, I have obtained skills which will make me a better researcher and practitioner. For example, in my IR courses, instead of just reading about quantitative studies, I learned how and when to apply statistical methods to “real” problems. More importantly, I also learned how to communicate these results to an audience, so they will understand them. Both of these skills are highly valued in all higher education career options.

Like any other young “whippersnapper” that needs guidance into the world called “academe,” AIR has provided many opportunities to help foster my growth for a faculty, administrator or institutional researcher position. I have been able to increase my knowledge about institutional research, statistics, including statistical methods, national datasets, and data management by attending AIR’s sponsored Institutes and Webinars.

Looking for opportunities to fund your development as an institutional researcher? AIR also offers many fellowships to support your growth as a graduate student. Visit <http://airweb.org/grants.html> for a full listing of funding opportunities.

In my opinion, AIR should be most recognized for its members who are always willing to provide the mentorship, advice, guidance and opportunities a graduate student needs to succeed not just in IR, but also in academe.

And finally, please come meet fellow graduate students in IR and learn more about AIR at the Newcomers’ Breakfast at the 2008 AIR Forum in Seattle, May 24-28!

Cheers,
Alex Yin, Graduate Student, AIR Membership Committee