

Knowledge Builders

Facts for a Better Future

by Maggie Kinnaman, Gary L. Reynolds, P.E., and Michael J. Sofield

The Information and Research Committee has a unique responsibility within the APPA organization. Jack Colby, APPA's Immediate Past President, articulated the role this way, "The APPA *Facilities Management* manual represents the existing body of knowledge related to our profession. The Institute for Facilities Management and the Leadership Academy teach the body of knowledge. The APPA Annual Conference reinforces the body of knowledge, and the Information and Research Committee and the Center for Facilities Research (CFaR) expand the body of knowledge."

In today's dynamic world, the ability to continually expand our knowledge as facilities professionals is critical in ensuring that our profession remains a valued partner in the education enterprise. Thus, CFaR was created to "advance the body of knowledge of facilities management through research, discovery, and innovation." From this broad mission statement there are six definable outcomes:

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CFaR | Center for Facilities Research

- Identifying needed research areas.
- Expanding and strengthening the facilities body of knowledge.
- Engaging more constituents/stakeholders in research.
- Ensuring stability and continuity of the research initiative.
- Consolidating existing and future facilities-related research.
- Improving access to facilities research information.

The sixth outcome is the reason for this article. While individual

research projects will provide their own reports, such a critical role deserves additional outlets for important information. Therefore we invite you to peruse a new standing column within *Facilities Manager* called "Knowledge Builders." These columns will provide you with the latest research results, reviews of data collection from the Facilities Core Data Survey and the *Facilities Performance Indicators* report, and alert you to publications and other research addressing critical issues that you are faced with every day.

It is our intent to provide you with the latest information that will ensure that you can do your job competently and within the larger context of your institution and the education environment. Watch for articles on such topics as: the dashboard and *Facilities Performance Indicators*, the Asset Investment Strategy, the Needs Index, and CRDM funding, to name a few.

Have we piqued your interest yet? We certainly hope so because in the last two years, over ten major research projects have been completed under the CFaR umbrella, all with useful information. So look for "Knowledge Builders" in upcoming issues of the magazine and let us know what you would like to see in future articles. 🏠

