TO: ALA Executive Board

RE: ALA Programmatic Priorities – FY2011

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommendation of the FY2011 Programmatic Priorities to the ALA Council for approval at the 2010 Midwinter Meeting

DRAFT MOTION: The ALA Executive Board recommends the following programmatic priorities in line with the ALA Ahead to 2010 strategic plan:

- Diversity
- Equitable Access to Information and Library Services
- Education and Lifelong Learning
- Intellectual Freedom
- Advocacy for Libraries and the Profession
- Literacy
- Organizational Excellence

REQUESTED BY: Keith Michael Fiels, ALA Executive Director

DATE: 5 October 2009

BACKGROUND:
In accordance with ALA Bylaws (Article IX, Sec. 1), the ALA Executive Board presents to the ALA Council for approval both the annual estimates of income and the budget objectives (programmatic priorities) for approval. By practice, the programmatic priorities or budget objectives are presented early in the budget preparation cycle (at the Midwinter Meeting) in order to provide guidance in its development. The annual estimates of income derive from the work of budget development and are presented to Council for approval at the ALA Annual Conference, prior to the final approval of the budget by the ALA Executive Board.

*ALAHed to 2010* goals and objectives were approved by the ALA Council at the 2005 Annual Conference. They articulate five-year goals and objectives that, collectively,
direct Association activity – such as advocacy or research – toward accomplishment of specific ends within the mission of the Association and the broad arenas of the programmatic priorities. Within the framework of approved mission, programmatic priorities, goals and objectives, specific implementation strategies are developed and implemented through the annual budget.

At the October 29, 2005, ALA Executive Board meeting, during the discussion on programmatic priorities, ALA President Michael Gorman suggested some changes to the draft list of FY2007 Programmatic Priorities (2005-2006 EBD#12.8). He then asked Board members Leslie B. Burger, Carol A. Brey-Casiano and James R. Rettig to review the list and make revisions to better align the programmatic priorities with ALA’s strategic plan – ALA Ahead to 2010.

**NOTE:** FY 2006 programmatic priorities, approved annually by the Council 1997-2005, were:
- Diversity
- Education and Continuous Learning
- Equity of Access
- Intellectual Freedom
- 21st Century Literacy

In January 2006, the ALA Council first approved the revised list of key action areas as the FY2007 programmatic priorities, developed in accordance with ALA Ahead to 2010:
- Diversity
- Equitable Access to Information & Library Services
- Education and Lifelong Learning
- Intellectual Freedom
- Advocacy for Libraries and the Profession
- Literacy
- Organizational Excellence

These priorities are again presented as a foundation for planning the FY2010 budget.
FOUNDING PURPOSE:
The object of the American Library Association shall be to promote library services and librarianship. (ALA Constitution, Article II)

MISSION:
To provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all. (ALA Policy 1.2)

VISION:
ALA is the leading advocate for:

- The value of libraries and librarians in connecting people to recorded knowledge in all forms.
- The public's right to a free and open information society.

KEY ACTION AREAS:
- Diversity
- Equity of Access
- Education and Continuous Learning
- Intellectual Freedom
- 21st Century Literacy

(Approved annually since 1997 by the ALA Council as the "programmatic priorities" of the Association.)

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
adopted by the ALA Council
June 28, 2005

These goals are intended to guide the Association for the next five years. The goal statements answer the question: "What would constitute success?" For each goal, strategic objectives are defined. These strategic objectives provide the bridge between the goals and specific strategies and action plans.
GOAL AREA I: ADVOCACY/VALUE OF THE PROFESSION

GOAL STATEMENT: ALA and its members are the leading advocates for libraries and the library profession.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:
1. Increase support for research and evaluation to provide evidence regarding the value and impact of libraries.
2. Increase public awareness of the value and impact of libraries of all types.
3. Increase public awareness of the value and impact of librarians and library staff.
4. Mobilize, support and sustain grassroots advocacy for libraries and library funding at local, state, and federal levels.
5. Increase collaboration on securing legislation favorable to libraries.
6. Increase public awareness of the importance of intellectual freedom and privacy, and the role of libraries in a democracy.

GOAL AREA II: EDUCATION

GOAL STATEMENT: Through its leadership, ALA ensures the highest quality graduate and continuing education opportunities for librarians and library staff.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:
1. Ensure that accreditation standards reflect the needs and core values of the profession.
2. Increase availability of and access to continuing education and continuous learning opportunities for librarians and library staff.
3. Make ALA continuing education programs and publications affordable and accessible in a wide variety of media and formats.
4. Establish standards for educational programs for library support staff.

GOAL AREA III: PUBLIC POLICY AND STANDARDS

GOAL STATEMENT: ALA plays a key role in the formulation of national and international policies and standards that affect library and information services.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:
1. Increase ALA's promotion of all forms of literacy.
2. Increase ALA's influence in promoting First Amendment rights, intellectual freedom and privacy.
3. Increase ALA's influence in promoting equity of access and fair use.
4. Increase ALA's influence in promoting the preservation of our cultural heritage.
5. Support grassroots efforts to influence local, state, federal, and international policies and standards that affect library and information services.
6. Increase understanding of international issues affecting library and information services and generate support for international partnerships that strengthen library and information services.
7. Expand and strengthen alliances with organizations that share common goals to advance policy issues.
8. Protect free, permanent public access to government information.

GOAL AREA IV: BUILDING THE PROFESSION

GOAL STATEMENT: ALA is a leader in recruiting and developing a highly qualified and diverse library work force.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:
1. Increase leadership development opportunities for librarians and library staff.
2. Increase the diversity of the library profession and workforce to reflect a changing population.
3. Support nationwide efforts to increase recruitment and retention of librarians and library staff.
4. Support efforts to increase career development opportunities for all librarians and library staff.
5. Through ALA-APA, advocate for improved compensation for librarians and library staff.

GOAL AREA V: MEMBERSHIP

GOAL STATEMENT: Members receive outstanding value for their ALA membership.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:
1. Increase the value of the Association to its members through identifying and responding to changing member needs.
2. Increase opportunities for association involvement that is customized to individual interests.
3. Increase opportunities for electronic and virtual involvement in association activities.
4. Provide high quality programs, workshops, and publications in print and electronic format.
5. Effectively communicate the value of association, division and round table membership.

**GOAL AREA VI: ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

**GOAL STATEMENT:** ALA is an inclusive, effectively governed, well-managed, and financially strong organization.

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:**

1. Increase ALA's ability to respond effectively to a changing environment.

2. Increase the amount and diversity of revenue sources to support ALA programs and services and meet current and future member needs.

3. Continuously improve ALA's technology capabilities in order to achieve the association's goals and meet member needs.

4. Increase and improve communications, cooperation and collaboration throughout the association, its divisions and round tables.

5. Provide greater opportunities for more members to assume leadership positions within the organization.

6. Strengthen efforts to recruit and retain members.

7. Strengthen efforts to support and collaborate with Chapters and Affiliates.
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GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

AS ADOPTED BY THE ALA COUNCIL

JUNE 28, 2005
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APPENDIX:
Envisioned Future and Organizational Values

(Not Attached)