Charge
The Programming Librarian Interest Group (PLIG) is a Member Initiative Group of the American Library Association. The group's mission is to bring together all types of librarians interested in public programming for their patrons.

Programming is an intrinsically essential library service. The PLIG will help librarians advocate for programming at their own institutions, share program ideas and successful strategies, and provide a space for professional development by librarians who do programming officially and unofficially as part of their job duties. The group will also be a vehicle for ALA members to connect more dynamically with ALA’s Public Programs Office.

Co-Chairs
Mallory Arents, Head of Adult Programming at Darien Library
Erinn Batykefer, Programming Librarian at Westport Library
Janie Hermann, Public Programming Librarian at Princeton Public Library

Accomplishments
The Programming Librarian Interest Group has had a busy year. With over 6,000 members, the PLIG Facebook group is one of the most collaborative places for professionals to connect to exchange ideas, swap stories, and champion one another. Our Facebook group is the largest network of Librarians interested in programming and is an active space.

Those relationships have extended in person with networking events (Programming Over Pancakes) at ALA Midwinter, PLA, and ALA Annual this year. During these informal conversations, attendees are often asked what they’ve been most proud of at their library, what are their challenges, and share best practices. In addition to these networking events, PLIG’s biannual meetings at ALA Midwinter and ALA Annual have grown into larger, more structured events. In preparing for ALA Annual this year, we invited PLIG members to become active participants (and leaders) of our meeting. Members submitted proposals for our first ever “Program Speed Dating”. Attendees were treated to brief, rapid-fire presentations for five unique programs, as well as take away how-to guides for each event. This meeting allowed members, many of whom are frontline staff without formal management training, to lead from where they are, offering an opportunity to share their knowledge and expertise with like-minded colleagues.

Planned activities
Midwinter 2017 Atlanta
- Bi-annual Interest Group meeting to facilitate professional learning and networking
- PLIG sponsored “Program Speed Dating” event, organized by Co-Chairs
- Programming Over Pancakes networking event

Annual 2017 Chicago
Co-sponsorship with Public Programs Office for a panel program focused on building successful library-based Artist Residencies, with a wide variety of examples drawn from academic, large municipal, and small municipal libraries. This program was developed in conjunction with the Library as Incubator Project and will be moderated by LAIP and PLIG representatives.

- Bi-annual Interest Group meeting to facilitate professional learning and networking
- Programming Over Pancakes networking event

**Ongoing**

- Collaborations with Programminglibrarian.org to document and share successful program models with the greater library community.
- Monitor and lead discussion on PLIG’s Facebook page
- Maintain PLIG Twitter account

**Interactions with other units within ALA**

Because of the nature of programming in libraries— in that is has not reached the professionally supported level of, say, reference librarian, or digital services librarian-- there is opportunity for PLIG to interact broadly across many ALA units. Two main reasons for this flexibility are first, that most members do not hold the “programming librarian” job title and therefore come to PLIG with other perspectives from their respective jobs, and second, that public programming is an in-person extension of the broad and deep collections libraries build for their communities and therefore covers a lot of subjects that often fall under other aegises.

PLIG regularly overlaps in terms of goals and services with such areas as: Children's / Family Services, Young Adult Services, Adult Services, Reference, Reader’s Advisory, Collection Development, and Digital Services. This translates to many potential collaboration opportunities, several of which are already being capitalized on in a formal way during the last 3 years of development, including:

- PLIG members serve on PPO (Public Programs Office) committees
- PLIG members are core content creators for Programminglibrarian.org
- PLIG members serve on the PCPAC (Public and Cultural Programs Advisory Committee)

Please see response for Current level of MIG members’ involvement (below) for more interactions on local / regional levels which build support for PLIG activities and professionalize Programming Librarianship.

**Relationship of the MIG’s work to the ALA strategic plan**

The mission of the American Library Association is 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.”
As part of its strategic plan, ALA has identified professional and leadership development as one of its strategic priorities. PLIG is unique from other ALA sections and offices, offering an opportunity for members to not just passively engage but instead, lead the charge, no matter their type of institution, community size, or where they live. Members collaborate, exchange ideas, and refine best practices together in our Facebook Group. Program Speed Dating, which we hope will become a signature piece of what PLIG offers, gives members the opportunity to learn directly from one another.

**Current level of MIG members’ involvement (in a form more substantive than an attendance roll)**

Membership in PLIG is not passive; in fact the demonstrated and vocal need for librarians involved in programming to have specific support in this area is the driving force behind all PLIG activities, all of which are informed by crowd-sourced engagement via the Facebook group.

Membership isn't about checking a box or liking a page. Members attend bi-annual interest group meetings at Midwinter and Annual, they participate in professional support via active participation in the Facebook group, they regularly create content for programminglibrarian.org, and they teach their successful programs during ‘Program Speed Dating’ events, which works on multiple levels to introduce programming librarians to one another, share new ideas, highlight programminglibrarian.org content, and extend the professional literature we help to create into real life (in the same way our programs do in our libraries).

Members are also active in creating professional development spaces for programming within State and Regional library organizations, such as the newly formed Southern Connecticut Programming Round Table, and the Mid-Hudson Library System Programming Summit.

Clearly, there is a need for professionalization in this area, if even the most basic of forums, like the Facebook page, explodes with members who need support and interaction to hone their professional skills.

**MIG self-check on its value and viability (update charge, discontinue MIG, consolidate with another, other observations)**

As co-chairs, we have decided to expand our charge, updating our mission just briefly:

The Programming Librarian Interest Group (PLIG) is a Member Initiative Group of the American Library Association. The group's mission is to bring together all types of librarians interested in public programming for their patrons.

Programming is a fundamental information service, connecting diverse learners with in-person opportunities to engage with experts and information in the library space and among community members. Programming is an extension of the collections that libraries build for the purpose of supporting lifelong learning and must be approached with similar rigor and professionalism.
The PLIG will help librarians advocate for programming at their own institutions, share program ideas and successful strategies, and provide a space for professional development by librarians who do programming officially and unofficially as part of their job duties. The group will also be a vehicle for ALA members to connect more dynamically with ALA's Public Programs Office.

In addition to this change, PLIG would like to renew its status as a MIG, while looking into becoming a Round Table.