**Purpose**

Libraries across the country have been reimagining their community role and leveraging their resources and public trust to strengthen community-based learning and foster critical thinking, problem solving, and engagement in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Just as 21st Century skills include innovation and creativity, libraries are developing new ways to engage their patrons, from pre-school to adults, in STEM learning. Introducing patrons to STEM research and the latest technological developments is something libraries are well-positioned to do. What started some years ago as independent experiments has become a national movement. As libraries evolve into community anchor institutions, this work is becoming an important piece of the programming and partnership puzzle. This group will help librarians engage their communities through the development and exchange of programming resources, hands-on training opportunities, activities that can be used in public programming, and announcements about new discoveries and upcoming events. The group’s efforts will support improved service to groups historically underrepresented in STEM fields, and help increase and sustain youth and public engagement in STEM.

**MIG Accomplishments**

The STEM in Libraries MIG was officially launched in February 2016 under the name *STEM in Public Libraries Members Initiative Group*. The ALA Connect group hosts 45 members, and the accompanying Facebook Group hosts 733 members.

The strong response received in the launching of the group, especially via the Facebook page, prompted the STEM MIG leadership to request the MIG name be changed to *STEM in Libraries*, thus allowing librarians of all interests and types to join the MIG. The name request change was granted at ALA Annual 2016.

The first meeting of the newly formed *STEM in Libraries MIG* was held at ALA Annual, with 32 members in attendance. Participants gathered in groups to share STEM ideas as well as to try hands-on activities that the STEM MIG Leadership brought. Activities range from playing with *LittleBits*, to building cup structures.

Also at ALA Annual, the STEM MIG Leadership partnered with STAR_Net to assist in their STEM Collaboration Share-a-thon presentation. At the presentation, a member of the leadership spoke briefly about the newly formed MIG and its stated purposes. Other leaders then led small discussions with participants about potential STEM programming.

**MIG Future Goals**

In order to freely facilitate the sharing of STEM programming ideas, the MIG will be launching a website, STEMLibrarians.com. The website aims to be an evolving resource and database of successful STEM programs and ideas from librarians across the profession. The website is currently in the design phase, and should be launched by the new year.
The STEM MIG is also planning on hosting membership meetings at both ALA Midwinter 2017 and ALA Annual 2017.

Additionally, in order to create and encourage open discussion on both ALA Connect and the Facebook group, weekly topics will be posted, asking librarians for ideas concerning a specific topic or theme. For example: What would you do if you were planning a microbiology program for teens? What STEM activities can you plan using only straws?

**Partnerships**

The Programming Librarian MIG has been a valuable resource in the creation of the STEM MIG. Their leadership has provided mentorship and advice to the new leadership of the STEM MIG on how best to proceed with the launching of the new group. There is a potential for crossover and further partnership with the Programming Librarian MIG when STEM MIG’s blog launches, with cross posting in each group.

**MIG Current Status**

Because of the relative newness of the group, growth and conversation has been slow to build up on both ALA Connect and the Facebook group. With the launch of several new projects, and the end of summer in sight, the group should soon perceive a more noticeable involvement from its membership, especially with two more membership meetings being planned soon.