ACRL 101: Making the Most of ALA Annual Conference: A Checklist

PRE-ALA ANNUAL

☐ Design your conference schedule
Select any programs of interest, including some back-up options, using the Conference Scheduler (https://www.eventscribble.com/2020/ALA-Annual/agenda.asp?pfp=FullSchedule). Try to pick a program outside of your specific area to branch out.

☐ Look for any other published conference highlights
Review any ALA Annual preview pages in American Libraries as well as the ACRL website for other programs of interest.

☐ Collaborate with colleagues
Talk to colleagues that are also attending about any sessions you can split up. Similarly, talk to colleagues that are not attending about any vendors you can meet on their behalf.

☐ Go mobile
Download the Conference Scheduler mobile app.

☐ Get career advice
Make a career counseling and/or resume review appointment with the ALA JobLIST Placement Center (https://2020.alaannual.org/events/joblist-placement-and-career-development-center).

☐ Stay connected
Start following the ALA Annual social media accounts, such as:
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/events/2330652800527910/
Pinterest: https://www.pinterest.com/alaannual/
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/americanlibraryassociation/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/alaannual?lang=en (#alaac2020)
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=ala+annual+conference+2020

POST-ALA ANNUAL

☐ Follow-up
Get in touch with the contacts and presenters you met during the conference, especially if you are interested in learning more about or getting involved with any of their committees or projects.

☐ Gather more information
Revisit the Conference Scheduler to “Attend” any programs of interest that you may not have flagged before; some presenters will upload meeting notes, slides, handouts, etc. after the conference. Marking the “Notify me of changes” box will allow you to receive automated e-mails anytime something changes on the page.

☐ Share and learn
Review or type up your notes and share any new ideas with your colleagues. You’ve gathered a lot of great inspiration so keep the discussion going and see how you can implement what you’ve learned at your own library.

THINGS TO PACK

☐ Business cards
☐ Copies of your resume
☐ Notebook, pens, pencils
☐ Envelope, manila folder (for handouts, receipts, business cards, etc.)
☐ Conference registration confirmation
☐ Conference schedule
☐ All travel documents, photo ID
☐ Maps
☐ Money for cabs
☐ Light, sturdy business bag
☐ Business casual attire
☐ Comfortable shoes
☐ Layering options (sweater, shawl, etc.)
☐ Sunglasses, sun screen
☐ Snacks
☐ Medicine, bandages, blister treatment, etc.
☐ Hand sanitizer, lotion
☐ Umbrella
☐ Mobile device and chargers
☐ Small (flattened) cardboard box and packing tape (if you’re planning on picking up lots of swag!)

TRAVEL LINKS

☐ Getting Around Chicago

☐ Get information for Chicago events, restaurants, and transportation at
https://chicago.org/

☐ Resources for First Times on the ALA 2020 Annual Conference web site
Some program of interest:
ACRL 101 (virtual webcast) coming soon!
ACRL Presidents' Program

ACRL SECTION ACRONYMS

ANSS  Anthropology and Sociology Section
ARTS  Arts Section
CICLS  Community and Junior College Libraries Section
CLS  College Libraries Section
DLS  Distance Learning Section
DSS  Digital Scholarship Section
EBSS  Education and Behavioral Sciences Section
ESS  European Studies Section
IS  Instruction Section
LES  Literatures in English Section
PPIRS  Public Policy and International Relations Section
RBMS  Rare Books and Manuscripts Section
STS  Science and Technology Section
ULS  University Libraries Section
WGSS  Women and Gender Studies Section

MORE CONFERENCE TIPS