

Dear Colleague,

In a time of dramatic technological advances the roles, capabilities and expectations of libraries continue to change rapidly with community demographics and needs. Inside the library community, we see both the opportunities and challenges to providing public access to information, training and services that can empower and engage people and their communities in new and meaningful ways.

But libraries cannot do this necessary and urgent work – helping to build healthy, informed communities – in isolation. It is essential that libraries build their services in partnership with their communities so that they are rooted in their communities’ needs. We also need each other, and we need external partners at all levels – from the most local levels to the national and international arenas. Libraries cannot wait to be invited to “the table.” We need proactive, strategic and aligned advocacy to support national policies that advance the public’s interest in the digital age and support libraries as essential community assets.

Librarians and library staff from across the profession—including representatives from the American Library Association, the Public Library Association, the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, the Urban Libraries Council, and the Association of Rural and Small Libraries—have come together to focus and guide this national agenda. They have asked: What are the library priorities that may be of most interest to decision makers and influencers in the near future and is there opportunity to advance them?

This Policy Revolution! agenda is a first step in building a collective library presence and amplifying the voice of the library community at the national level. If we are successful in connecting library capabilities to national priorities, we will be one step closer to ensuring that decision makers and influencers see libraries as resources and partners to better serve the communities they represent. When reviewing this agenda, I urge you to consider how you might help advance this work to strengthen libraries and empower communities.



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