

What Is RSS?

RSS represents the interests of librarians and library support staff engaged in all aspects of reference and information services including the delivery, management, and evaluation of reference and users services in all kinds of libraries.

The responsibilities of the Reference Services Section are

- to conduct activities and projects within the section's areas of interest;
- to be a means of sharing experience and information among interested librarians from all types of libraries and information services;
- to seek to synthesize the activities of other units within ALA that have a bearing on the management and operation of user services in libraries; to represent the needs and interests of the wide diversity of library users.

Previously, RSS was called the Management and Operation of User Services Section (MOUSS). The name change took effect on September 1, 2004.

RSS Committees

- Catalog Use
- Cooperative Reference Service
- Education and Professional Development for Reference
- Executive Committee
- Evaluation of Reference and User Services
- Library Services to an Aging Population
- Library Services to the Spanish-Speaking
- Management of Reference
- Marketing and Public Relations for Reference Services
- Nominating
- Organization and Planning
- Research and Statistics
- Services to Adults
- User Education and Information Literacy
- Virtual Reference (cosponsored with MARS)

RSS Discussion Groups

- Ethical and Legal Issues in Reference
- Hot Topics in Frontline Reference
- Performance Issues for Reference/Information Librarians
- Reference Services in Large Research Libraries
- Reference Services in Public Libraries
- Reference Services in Small and Medium-sized Research Libraries

RSS-L

RSS-L, the Section's electronic discussion list, promotes communication between members of RSS and represents the interest of librarians engaged in direct service to the public in all types of libraries. To subscribe to RSS-L, send mail to listproc@ala1.ala.org. The body of the message should read: subscribe RSS-L yourfirstname yourlastname.

RSS Web Site

<http://www.ala.org/rusa/rss>

The RSS Web Site provides an overview and description of the activities of the Section. Minutes of meetings, plans for future programs, committee members and their contact numbers, and publication information are included. RSS is always looking to expand participation in the section and a form is available to volunteer for committees.

Recent RSS Programs

- RSS sponsors the Reference Research Forum and 10th Annual Forum was offered in 2004.
- The Boomers are Coming! The Boomers are Coming! Emerging Programs for Meeting the Needs of Retired Boomers (2004)
- License to Fill (Licensing and Secured Systems) (2004)
- New Definition of Reference: Developing Guidelines (2004)
- One-Stop Metasearch Tools: Friendly Time Saver or Confusing Quagmire? (2003)
- Marketing Virtual Reference: Consortium Models (2003)

How to Join RUSA

To join RUSA, you must first be a member of the American Library Association. After becoming a RUSA member, you may add RSS membership at no additional cost.

For information on joining RUSA or ALA, please contact:

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Chicago, Illinois 60611

Phone: 1-800-545-2433 x4398
E-mail: rusa@ala.org

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Reference Services Section

ALA's Reference Department

A section of the
Reference and User
Services Association

A division of the
American Library Association