

An Introduction to LLAMA

Welcome and thank you for volunteering with the Library Leadership and Management Association! The LLAMA Board and staff look forward to working with you.

LLAMA is one of 11 divisions of the American Library Association (ALA), and has eight sections that uniquely contribute to fulfilling our mission:

- Assessment Section
- Building and Equipment (BES)
- Fundraising and Financial Development (FFDS)
- Human Resources (HRS)
- Library Organization & Management (LOMS)
- New Professionals Section (NPS)
- Public Relations and Marketing (PRMS)
- Systems & Services (SASS)

LLAMA believes that librarians in all types of libraries foster continuous individual discovery and learning and serve an essential function in a democratic society. Serving as the foremost professional organization committed to developing present and future library leaders, LLAMA provides members with knowledge, skills, resources, and tools that help members foster individual and organizational excellence in library leadership, administration, and management. LLAMA and our member leaders at all levels seek to create and develop innovative communities that foster diversity and inclusion. Developing present and future leaders in a holistic manner is part of our commitment to the enduring value of libraries in society and the people and communities we serve. Below are the foundational statements of our association.

Mission

To support and develop future and current leaders and managers at every level of library and information services in all types of libraries.

We value:

- Leadership development and continuous learning
- Exemplary and innovative service and practice
- Socially responsible management



A Brief History

The Library Administration Division (LAD) became an ALA division on January 1, 1957. At that time nine ALA groups were transferred to it: Board on Personnel Administration, Buildings Committee, Equipment Committee, Federal Relations Committee, Friends of the Libraries Committee, Insurance for Libraries Committee, Library Legislation Committee, Public Relations Committee, and Statistics Committee.

In the Spring and Fall of 1957, an additional eighteen committees were transferred to LAD from other ALA divisions. Most of these additional committees involved building construction and maintenance, recruitment of professional librarians, public relations and statistics. By the end of the year, the LAD Board had developed the basis for the structure of sections and responsibilities that it has today.

In 1978, the LAD membership voted to change the division's name to the Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA).

In 2008, division members voted to change the name to the Library Leadership and Management Association. The new name was intended to help ALA members, other divisions and units of ALA, the profession at large, and the general public to understand the important role we play in developing library leaders of the present and the future.

In 2013, the division approved its newest section, the New Professionals Section, to engage newer library professionals and LIS students.