Launch Yourself!

Discover how an ALA internship can lead to leadership in the library profession.

Moderators: Larissa Gordon, Arcadia University & Patrice Johnson, Chicago Public Library

Speakers

1. Marcia Boosinger
Chair, Reference and Instruction Services, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University
http://www.lib.auburn.edu
Marcia Boosinger is currently the Chair of the ALA Membership Committee and serves as the ALA Alabama Chapter Councilor.

2. Sarah Morris
Serials/Indexing Librarian, Carl F. Shepard Library, Illinois College of Optometry
http://library.ico.edu/
Sarah Morris, is a recent 2006 MLS graduate and an intern on the ALCTS SAGE Support Staff Travel Grants Award Jury.

3. Ria Newhouse
Reference and Instruction Librarian, Minneapolis Campus Library, Metropolitan State University
http://www.metrostate.edu
Ria Newhouse, is an ALA Councilor-at-Large, an intern on the ALA Conference Committee and an ALA Emerging Leader.

4. Michael Gutierrez
Senior Assistant Reference Librarian, Morris Library, University of Delaware
http://www.lib.udel.edu
Michael Gutierrez, is a ALA Councilor-at-Large, a member of ACRL's Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Committee, and a member of REFORMA's Membership Committee.

About the Intern Program

“The internship program began its two-year trial period in 1988. This program, initiated by the ALA Membership Committee, was designed to provide an avenue for interested members to become more easily involved in ALA activities and to introduce new people and ideas to ALA committee discussions and decision-making. The hope is that the experience gained by the interns will aid their official appointment on an association committee.”
http://www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/committees/otld/otldcmteminutes/internguidelines.htm

Becoming an Intern

To apply for a committee internship all you have to do is fill out the standard ALA committee volunteer form and indicate where appropriate that you wish to serve as an intern. The online committee volunteer form can be found on the ala website.

Each year the form must be completed and submitted by December for appointments to committees the following year. For example, the due date to submit the form to apply for a 2007-2008 committee appointment was December of 2006.

Last years form can be found at: https://cs.ala.org/roy/volunteer.html (Google cache)
Committees

All ALA committees can have interns. Below you can find an abbreviated list of ALA committees. For a complete description of the committees and their activities go to: http://www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/committees/committees.htm

Accreditation
American Libraries
Awards
Chapter Relations
Conference
Constitution and Bylaws
Election

Information Technology Policy
Literacy
Membership
Orientation, Training, and Leadership Development
Research and Statistics
Website

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who can become an intern?
Anyone who has not held an ALA office or been appointed previously to an ALA committee may become an intern.

2. How long is the appointment?
Interns are appointed for a two year period.

3. What are the duties of an intern?
The duties of an intern may vary depending upon the committee they are appointed to. Some committees will ask their interns to take minutes or complete special projects. Other committees treat their interns just like the other committee members.

4. Do interns get to vote?
Just as the intern’s duties may vary from committee to committee, so to will their voting status. Some committees give their interns a vote, while others chose not to do so.

5. Do I have to go attend midwinter and annual?
Interns are expected and required to attend both the midwinter and annual conference and participate in the meetings of the committee.

6. What happens after my internship ends?
After the end of an internship, interns are considered for appointment to another ALA committee as a full member.