

RESOLUTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABILITY AS A CORE VALUE OF LIBRARIANSHIP

Whereas the Council of the American Library Association (ALA) adopted the *Resolution on the Importance of Sustainable Libraries*¹ at the 2015 ALA Annual Conference which stated that libraries are uniquely positioned and essential to build the capacity of the communities they serve to become sustainable, resilient and regenerative;

Whereas the Executive Board of ALA accepted the **final report of the Special Task Force on Sustainability (EBD # 5.4 -- 2017-2019)**² at the 2018 ALA Annual Conference in which the Triple Bottom Line framework of sustainability was adopted: *“To be truly sustainable, an organization or community must embody practices that are environmentally sound AND economically feasible AND socially equitable.”*;

Whereas the first recommendation of the **final report of the Special Task Force on Sustainability** is to adopt sustainability as a core value of librarianship;

Whereas the results of a **2018 membership survey** indicated that two-thirds of ALA members currently feel ALA neither serves as a model nor provides leadership in the area of sustainability;

Whereas the **United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s latest report**,³ written and edited by 91 scientists from 40 countries who analyzed more than 6,000 scientific studies in October of 2018, finds that the immediate consequences of climate change are far more dire than originally predicted, calling for a transformation of the world economy at a speed and scale that has “no documented historic precedent” using the fundamental connections embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals;

Whereas the **Fourth National Climate Assessment**⁴, issued in November 2018, finds that societal efforts to respond to climate change have not expanded at the scale needed to avoid substantial damages to the economy, environment, and human health over the coming decades; and

Whereas **the association, library profession and libraries of all types - academic, public, school and special - have the stature, energy, determination and will** to build the coalitions, convene the conversations and act as the catalysts the world needs, not only today, but to inspire future generations, to take control of their future by working together to find the necessary adaptations and solutions to thrive as communities, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. **Shall define sustainability using the “triple bottom line” conceptual framework:** “To be truly sustainable, an organization or community must embody practices that are environmentally sound AND economically feasible AND socially equitable.”
2. Adopt **“Sustainability,”** as defined above, as a core value of librarianship.
3. Evolve **accreditation standards** to ensure the topic of sustainability is an inherent element in library school curriculum.

¹ <https://bit.ly/1SpItcY>

² <https://bit.ly/2lfAXdl>

³ <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

⁴ <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>

4. Provide ALA members with the necessary **knowledge and resources** to inspire, cultivate and encourage active leadership in the application of the triple bottom line framework to guide decisions for the future of our society.

Mover: Sara Dallas, ALA Councilor-at-Large [518.859.0742]

Seconded: Peter Hepburn, ALA Councilor-at-Large [773.426.8082]

Seconders:

- Jim Neal, Immediate Past-President, American Library Association
- Jennifer Ferriss, ALA Chapter Councilor New York
- Sara Kelly Johns, ALA Councilor-at Large
- Emily Elizabeth Clasper, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Keturah Cappadonia, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Louis Munoz Jr, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Ray Pun, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Mel Gooch, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Jules Shore, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Matthew Ciszek, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Nick Buron, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Roberto C. Delgadillo, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Erica Findley, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Julius C. Jefferson, Jr., ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Patty Wong, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Alexandra Rivera, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada, ALA Councilor-at-Large

Endorsers:

- Sustainability Round Table (1,021 members)
- Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, ALA Member - Special Task Force on Sustainability Implementation Team
- Rene Tanner, ALA Member - Special Task Force on Sustainability Implementation Team
- Monika Antonelli, ALA Member - Special Task Force on Sustainability Implementation Team
- Adrian Ho, ALA Member - Special Task Force on Sustainability Implementation Team
- Traci Lesneski, ALA Member - Special Task Force on Sustainability Implementation Team
- Margaret Woodruff - ALA Member - Special Task Force on Sustainability Implementation Team
- New York Library Association (6,579 members)
- Virginia Library Association (900 members)
- Carol Witt, ALA Member
- Mandi Goodsett, ALA Member
- Matthew Bollerman, ALA Member
- Ellen Rubin, ALA Member

- Lisa Kropp, ALA Member
- Janie Hermann, ALA Member
- Lisa Raff Varga, ALA Member
- Barbara J. Ford, ALA Member & Past ALA President
- Beth Filar-Williams, ALA Member
- Mary Beth Wilhelm Lock, ALA Member
- Claudia Depkin, ALA Member
- Richard Naylor, ALA Member
- Tim Furgal, ALA Member
- Sue Rokos, ALA Member
- Tessa Killian, ALA Member
- Jen Cannell, ALA Member
- Sarah Potwin, ALA Member
- Susan Polos, ALA Member
- Central NY Library Resources Council (CLRC)
- Jen McCreery, ALA Member
- Deanna DiCarlo, ALA Member
- Phyllis Keaton, ALA Member
- Michele Capozzella, ALA Member
- Michele Young, ALA Member & President of the New York Library Association
- Jenny Rocky, ALA Member
- Marc Wildman, ALA Member
- Chuck Thomas, ALA Member
- Jose Hernandez, ALA Member
- Karen LaRocca-Fels, ALA Member
- Casey Conlin, ALA Member
- Ellen Mollins Firer, ALA Member
- AnnaLee Giraldo, ALA Member
- Gina Loprinzo, ALA Member
- Sue LeBlanc, ALA Member
- Carol Desch, ALA Member
- Patricia Kaufman, ALA Member
- Kevin Verbesey, ALA Member
- Suffolk Cooperative Library System
- Elena Falcone, ALA Member
- Margo Gustina, ALA Member
- Grace Riario, ALA Member
- Samantha Jane Alberts, ALA Member
- Erica Freudenberger, ALA member
- Joyce L. Rambo, ALA Member
- Jerry Nichols, ALA Member
- Scott Kushner, ALA Member
- J'aime Pfeiffer, ALA Member
- Jill Davis, ALA Member

**2018-2019 ALA CD#37
2019 ALA Midwinter Meeting**

- Louise S. Sherby, ALA Member
- Roger Reyes, ALA Member
- Robert Hubsher, ALA Member
- Lisa Richland, ALA Member
- Mike Firestone, ALA Member
- Katie Bertrand, ALA Member
- Janet Scherer, ALA Member
- Joanne M. Adam, ALA Member
- Lauren Comito, ALA Member
- Betsy, Evans, ALA Member
- Marc David Horowitz, ALA Member
- Dani Scott, ALA Member
- Rebecca Miller, ALA Member
- Chris Brewster, ALA Member
- Derek Ivie, ALA Member
- Kate Hutchens, ALA Member
- Yvonne Kester, ALA Member
- Jill Leinung, ALA Member
- Nicole Turzillo, ALA Member
- Madeleine Charney, ALA Member
- Jamie Papandrea, ALA Member
- Shannon K. Supple, ALA Member
- Anne Jobin-Picard, ALA Member
- Danielle DeMicco Paisley, ALA Member
- Tracey Urbick, ALA Member
- Catherine Benson, ALA Member
- Ginger Tebo, ALA Member
- Uta Hussong-Christian, ALA Member
- Terry Z. Lucas, ALA Member
- Elissa Johnson, ALA Member
- Carol Albano, ALA Member
- Jamie Conklin, ALA Member
- Eric Tans, ALA Member