

**American Library Association
Library and Information Technology Association**

Conflict of Interest Statement

(Adopted June 2005)

Certain activities sponsored by LITA may pose an actual or potential “conflict of interest” between a member’s business or personal affiliations and his or her participation in the association. LITA members asked to serve as officers, on committees, or in other leadership roles must be conscious of real or potential conflicts of interest and the possible effects of such conflicts on the credibility of the division. Such activities include, but are not limited to:

- Service as an elected or appointed officer;
- Service on nominating committees;
- Service on award committees;
- Service as a liaison from LITA to other organizations within or beyond ALA;
- Discussion and evaluation of standards for services received from suppliers;
- Awarding of contracts to suppliers of library systems, materials, or services;
- Participation in programs or presentations to the membership as a whole;
- Acceptance of any services, loans, or promises of future benefits
- Acceptance of any gift or entertainment of greater than nominal value,
- Other activities which may influence or have financial implications for one's work or personal life.

No member should make, participate in making, or use his/her LITA position to influence the making of any committee, section or division decision in which the member has a direct or indirect financial or personal interest.

If a member determines that he/she should not *participate in a decision* because of an actual or potential conflict of interest, this should be disclosed to either the chair of the group in question or to the group as a whole. In the case of a *voting body*, the determination and disclosure should be made part of the official record of the body, and the member should abstain from action on the matter(s) in conflict. In the case of a *committee appointment* the disclosure should be made in writing to the appropriate appointing officer. Nominating committees approaching members to be *candidates for elective* office should ask possible candidates to disclose any potential conflict of interest before agreeing to run for office. Disclosures of potential conflicts of interest, written or verbal, in the case of committee appointments or as a candidate for elective office should receive a written response from the appropriate appointing officer or the nominating committee.

Any member who is unsure of his/her responsibilities in this area may request assistance from the LITA Executive Director and the executive committee of the association, as appropriate. LITA bears an equal responsibility for dealing fairly and professionally with its members in the area of conflicts of interest. Great care should be taken to ensure that a person’s reputation is not affected negatively in the resolution of such conflicts.

If a member fails to identify a conflict of interest which may reflect negatively on the actions of LITA, the executive committee may, by a majority decision, alter or eliminate the member's LITA assignment or responsibility.