The Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services (ODLOS)

ALA Annual Virtual 2021 Updates

In this report, you will find a sampling of key ODLOS initiatives and resources from January 2021 until June 2021. If there are any questions about these initiatives or if you’d like more information on how to get involved, please contact the Office at diversity@ala.org.

EDI Assembly

At the 2020 Midwinter Meeting, the ALA Executive Board charged the ODLOS Advisory Committee with creating an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Assembly. The purpose of this EDI Assembly is to provide a forum for all groups within ALA and ALA-affiliated organizations working on initiatives related to equity, diversity, and inclusion to discuss their activities, identify opportunities for collaboration and coordination, and explore new initiatives related to the association’s strategic direction for equity, diversity, and inclusion. The Assembly meets quarterly. In keeping with their charge, the Assembly is holding an information-sharing forum during Annual. The event, scheduled for Saturday, June 26, 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. CDT, is an opportunity for groups represented on the Assembly to provide updates on their activities and initiatives.

EDI & Social Justice Opportunities for Library Workers

ALA's Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services maintains a list of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) opportunities that are geared toward the LIS profession.

Library workers are encouraged to complete this form to add any and all upcoming EDI events that include registration options for individuals outside of a particular institution/membership organization.

Cultural Proficiencies for Racial Equity Framework: An Update

In 2020, the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), ALA’s Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services (ODLOS), and the Public Library Association (PLA) established a joint taskforce to create a framework for cultural proficiencies in racial equity. The work was originally scheduled to end in June 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the timeline. While unfortunate, this delay allowed the taskforce to more deeply explore racial inequity through surveys and environmental scans and to create a logic model to inform their work. During ALA Annual on Sunday, June 27, the committee members will provide an update on the group’s activities.
Rainbow Book Month

Rainbow Book Month™ is a nationwide celebration of the authors and writings that reflect the lives and experiences of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, pansexual, genderqueer, queer, intersex, agender, and asexual community.

Originally established in the early 1990s by The Publishing Triangle as National Lesbian and Gay Book Month, this occasion is an opportunity for book lovers and libraries with the very best in LGBTQIA+ literature.

Rainbow Book Month™ is an initiative of the American Library Association, and is coordinated through its Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services and the Rainbow Round Table.

ODLOS Trainings

The Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services continues to see a high demand for equity, diversity and inclusion trainings for library audiences. The Office is averaging six trainings per month, with hundreds of participants, across a diversity of library systems, institutions, and associations. Recent trainings include flagship training, “EDIcon: Foundations of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion,” for the Utah Library Association conference and “Cultural Competence,” as part of the virtual institute “Developing Responsive Library Leaders” held by the University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies.

K.C Boyd Receives 2021 EMIERT Distinguished Librarian Award

K.C Boyd, school librarian and member of the District of Columbia Public Schools Library Corps (DCPS), is the recipient of the 2021 American Library Association’s Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT) Distinguished Librarian Award. The Distinguished Librarian Award recognizes significant accomplishments in library services that are national or international in scope and include improving, spreading, and promoting multicultural librarianship.

K.C Boyd is a leader and respected voice in the field of librarianship. Boyd is a staunch advocate for school librarians and has worked to ensure that schools within the District of Columbia’s 7th and 8th Wards retained library positions and programming.

Rural Libraries Summit

ALA’s Rural, Native, and Tribal Libraries of All Kinds (RNTLOAK) Committee held the first-ever Rural Libraries Summit. During this virtual two-day summit, library workers had the opportunity to hear new innovative initiatives happening at libraries across the United States, share challenges and successes, and
network with peers. Sessions included information on creating partnerships, funding opportunities, and remarks from ALA President Julius Jefferson, Jr. and ALA President-Elect Patty Wong.