

Committee Information Update (CIU)

Appendix I: Revised Form

ALA COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Name: ALA Conference Committee

Conference Year: 2024

Committee Chair: Jennifer Ferriss

Staff Liaisons: Earla Jones, Kristin Lahurd, Alicia Hamann, Donna Hunter, Yvonne McLean, Wendy Prellwitz, Kara Stachowiak

Committee Members:

Ms. Lauren Sarah Kehoe (RUSA Accessibility Assembly Representative, November 18, 2022, to June 30, 2024)

Jennifer L. Ferriss (Chair, July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024)

Paul Graller (Member, March 24, 2021, to June 29, 2024)

Ms. Elizabeth N. Johnson (Member, July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2025)

Jamie Fujiko Kurumaji (Councilor-at-Large, September 28, 2022, to June 30, 2024)

Keturah Cappadonia (Chapter Councilor, September 15, 2022, to June 30, 2024)

Kevin A. R. King (Core Representative, October 2, 2023, to June 30, 2024)

Mrs. Marcie Nadene Boutwell (ACRL Representative, July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024)

Mr. Barry Trott (RUSA Representative, September 28, 2022, to June 30, 2024)

Mr. Charles E. Kratz, Jr. (Round Table Representative, September 19, 2022, to June 30, 2024)

Kelly Chaney (Committee Associate, July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2025)

Lori L. Dekydspotter (Committee Associate, July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2024)

Dr. Karen G. Schneider (Board Liaison, July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024)

Date of meeting(s)	Meeting format (in-person or virtual)	Number of members present	Guest Presenters, Speakers
7/25/23	Virtual	8	
8/23/23	Virtual	7	
9/19/23	Virtual	6	1
11/29/23	Virtual	8	
1/29/24	Virtual	9	

Committee Charge: 1) To recommend additions and changes to [ALA Policy A.7 \(Conferences and Meetings\)](#) as appropriate; 2) To recommend policies to Council for the coordination and scheduling of conference programming and for simplification of meeting scheduling, including use of technologies; 3) To recommend to Council policies guiding the selection of Conference and Meeting sites and dates; 4) To review recommendations of specific sites and dates prior to their

presentation by Conference Services to the ALA Executive Board; and 5) To recommend to Council and to ALA staff a means for communications with the membership to hear their concerns about Conference and Meeting procedures and policies; (6) To assist in identifying and reviewing potential major speakers and programs for all conference events.

Objectives of the committee for this conference year, including any planned activities:

1. ALA CD#59 Resolution to Investigate Changing Dates for Future Annual Conferences of the American Library Association
2. ALA Conference Jury and Program Review/Supporting LLX Program Subcommittee
3. Work on achieving Carbon Neutrality/Carbon Offsets with Council Committee on Sustainability – BARC Recommendation to Executive Board

Describe interactions with other units within ALA: In November we convened a meeting of the ALA Annual Conference Jury Chairs and their liaisons to look at the programming selections together. This was an opportunity to hear about each jury's experience this year with their selection process and to see if there were any topics that were abundant or lacking. This will become an annual meeting.

Synthesis of activities (summarize discussions, decision(s) or motion(s) reached, and note follow-up action(s) required:

1. The ALA Conference Committee's charge was changed at ALAAC23 to include reviewing conference programming for Annual. We had a large pool of submissions and each proposal received at least 3 readers. The overall acceptance rate for the entire conference was 23% and an acceptance rate of only 18% for the ALA jury specifically. We need to talk through if we need to change the number of slots each Division gets for conference since the submission rates are not evenly distributed.
2. In collaboration with SustainRT and the Council Committee on Sustainability, we updated the sustainability page for LLX – despite our best efforts, few registrants offset carbon. <https://2024.alaliblearnx.org/sustainability> I have brought this to the attention of the ALA Executive Board that the Resolution to achieve carbon neutrality by 2025 is difficult to achieve with the passive ask at conference registration.
3. The committee discussed the Digital Experience and the cost associated with after production. LLX24 had live streaming and pre-recorded/on-demand sessions with no post-production. We discussed the digital experience from an accessibility lens with hopes that the Board would find an alternative solution for members. The ALA Executive Board recently decided to end the Digital Experience beginning with Annual 2024.

If unable to achieve desired committee outcomes, what hampered the ability to achieve stated goals (lack of resources, member participation, communication issues, procedural delays, etc.?) We continue to struggle getting buy in for Carbon Offsets for Conferences. We have worked with the Council Committee on Sustainability and SustainRT with ideas and a marketing plan. The resolution has a 2025 goal and I hope that it can be achieved in the next year. SustainRT has an Emerging Leaders project to help move this forward.

My own time/resources as well as member participation has delayed working on the Resolution to

investigate changing the dates of Annual Conference.

Priorities/recommendations for the upcoming year:

LLX25 programming ideas

Creating a working team to pull together documentation and data regarding how conference is bid and dates are selected

ALA Annual Program Selection: Figuring out how to distribute the programs amongst the Divisions and ALA Jury to be more equitable and efficient

On-boarding the next Chair of the Committee

Other comments/information you believe will help the Association in its work:

Submitted by: Jennifer Ferriss

Date Submitted: 2/22/24