ACRL 101: Making the Most of ALA Annual Conference: A Checklist

PRE-ALA ANNUAL

☐ Design your conference schedule

☐ Look for any other published conference highlights
   Review any ALA Annual preview pages in American Libraries as well as the ACRL website for other programs of interest.

☐ Collaborate with colleagues
   Talk to colleagues that are also attending about any sessions you can split up. Similarly, talk to colleagues that are not attending about any vendors you can meet on their behalf.

☐ Go mobile

☐ Find a buddy
   Sign up for the ACRL Buddy Program (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSebd7ZotF11f0pKd_qiFD-evHP_xoohdKHD2hd1IPJ21Lgw/viewform).

☐ Get career advice
   Make a career counseling and/or resume review appointment with the ALA JobLIST Placement Center (https://2018.alaannual.org/whats-happening/joblist-placement-and-career-development-center).

☐ Stay connected
   Start following the ALA Annual social media accounts, such as: Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/events/1205248106181330/
   Pinterest: https://www.pinterest.com/alaannual/
   Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/americanlibraryassociation/
   Twitter: https://twitter.com/alaannual (#alaac2018)

POST-ALA ANNUAL

☐ Follow-up
   Get in touch with the contacts and presenters you met during the conference, especially if you are interested in learning more about or getting involved with any of their committees or projects.

☐ Gather more information
   Revisit the Conference Scheduler to “Attend” any programs of interest that you may not have flagged before; some presenters will upload meeting notes, slides, handouts, etc. after the conference. Marking the “Notify me of changes” box will allow you to receive automated e-mails anytime something changes on the page.

☐ Share and learn
   Review or type up your notes and share any new ideas with your colleagues. You’ve gathered a lot of great inspiration so keep the discussion going and see how you can implement what you’ve learned at your own library.

THINGS TO PACK

☐ Business cards
☐ Copies of your resume
☐ Notebook, pens, pencils
☐ Envelope, manila folder (for handouts, receipts, business cards, etc.)
☐ Conference registration confirmation
☐ Conference schedule
☐ All travel documents, photo ID
☐ Maps
☐ Money for cabs
☐ Light, sturdy business bag
☐ Business casual attire
☐ Comfortable shoes
☐ Layering options (sweater, shawl, etc.)
☐ Sunglasses, sun screen
☐ Snacks
☐ Medicine, bandages, blister treatment, etc.
☐ Hand sanitizer, lotion
☐ Umbrella
☐ Mobile device and chargers
☐ Small (flattened) cardboard box and packing tape (if you’re planning on picking up lots of swag!)

TRAVEL LINKS

☐ Getting Around New Orleans

☐ Get information for New Orleans events, restaurants, and transportation at http://www.neworleansonline.com/

☐ Resources for First Times on the ALA 2018 Annual Conference web site.
☐ ArtsGuide by the ACRL Arts Section.
ACRL PROGRAMS @ ALA ANNUAL

Some programs of interest:

ACRL SECTION ACRONYMS

ANSS  Anthropology and Sociology Section
ARTS  Arts Section
CJCLS  Community and Junior College Libraries Section
CLS  College Libraries Section
DLS  Distance Learning Section
DSS  Digital Scholarship Section
EBSS  Education and Behavioral Sciences Section
ESS  European Studies Section
IS  Instruction Section
LES  Literatures in English Section
PPIRS  Public Policy and International Relations Section
RBMS  Rare Books and Manuscripts Section
STS  Science and Technology Section
ULS  University Libraries Section
WGSS  Women and Gender Studies Section

MORE CONFERENCE TIPS