

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

## PRE-ALA ANNUAL

### Design your conference schedule

Select any programs of interest, including some back-up options, using the Conference Scheduler (<https://www.eventscribe.com/2018/ALA-Annual/agenda.asp?h=Full%20Schedule&BCFO=S|E>). Try to pick a program outside of your specific area to branch out.

### 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

Download the Conference Scheduler mobile app at <https://2018.alaannual.org/mobile-app>

### Find a buddy

Sign up for the ACRL Buddy Program ([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSebd7ZotF11f0pKd\\_qjFD-eVHP\\_xoohdyKHDZhd1iPJ21Lgwg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSebd7ZotF11f0pKd_qjFD-eVHP_xoohdyKHDZhd1iPJ21Lgwg/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 <https://2018.alaannual.org/travel/getting-around-new-orleans>
- Get information for New Orleans events, restaurants, and transportation at <http://www.neworleansonline.com/> <https://2018.alaannual.org/travel/local-information>.
- [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 101: <https://www.eventscribe.com/2018/ALA-Annual/fsPopup.asp?Mode=presInfo&PresentationID=366513>

ACRL Presidents' Program: <https://www.eventscribe.com/2018/ALA-Annual/fsPopup.asp?Mode=presInfo&PresentationID=353517>

## 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

- ALA Resources for First-Time Attendees at <https://2018.alaannual.org/resources-first-timers>.
- Alon Alroy. "10 Common Time-Wasters at Conferences." Bizzabo.Blog, April 30, 2014. <http://blog.bizzabo.com/10-common-time-wasters-at-conferences>
- Maha Bali, "EdTech Conference Etiquette: Tips from eLearning Africa," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, June 3, 2016. <http://chronicle.com/blogs/profhacker/edtech-conference-etiquette-tips-from-elearning-africa/62228>.
- Steven Bell. "Five Tips for a Better ALA Conference Experience." *ACRLog* (blog), June 16, 2009, <http://acrlog.org/2009/06/16/five-tips-for-a-better-ala-conference-experience>.
- "Links We Love: Attending Conferences Like a Pro." *TheMuse* (blog), 2018. <https://www.themuse.com/advice/links-we-love-attending-conferences-like-a-pro>
- Mary-Michelle Moore. "Top 10 Tips for Reluctant Networkers." *INALJ* (blog), May 13, 2014. <http://inalj.com/?p=71408>.
- Katie Rose Guest Pryal, "Conference Challenges for People with Psychiatric Disabilities," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, April 18, 2016. <https://chroniclevitae.com/news/1377-conference-challenges-for-people->
- . "How to Conference Like a Champ." *ALSC Blog*, August 26, 2014. <http://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2014/08/how-to-conference-like-a-champ-2/>.