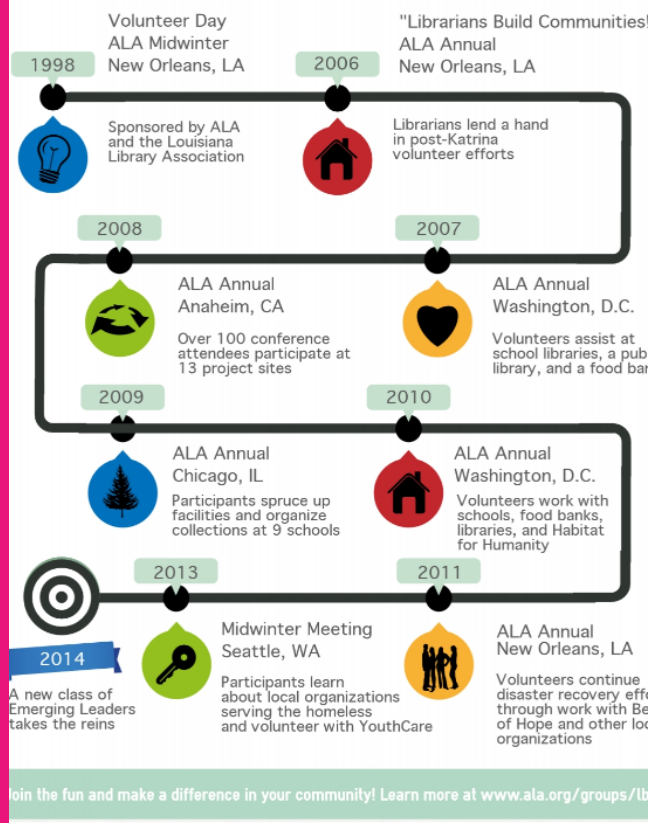


Philosophy

As librarians and information professionals, we wear many hats and possess various combinations of knowledge, skills, and experience. Through skills-based volunteering in community organizations, we have the opportunity to share our abilities and give back to our communities, including those who may not yet be library patrons. We can simultaneously give back to and expand the communities who support and advocate for us and for our libraries. For the institutions we work with, Librarians Build Communities offers a priceless opportunity to continue working to fulfill their missions in times of scarcity. Many institutions lack funding for even part-time staff, and are in need of assistance and skills that librarians excel at providing!

Librarians Build Communities: A History

1998 - present



Librarians Build Communities

Website:

<http://www.ala.org/groups/lbc>

Community:

<http://connect.ala.org/node/224031>



Librarians Build Communities

American Library Association

Membership Initiative Group

<http://www.ala.org/groups/lbc>

Our Story

The origins of “Librarians Build Communities” likely came from the 1998 Volunteer Day held at the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter meeting in New Orleans, co-sponsored by ALA and the Louisiana Library Association (LLA). Volunteer Day was a part of ALA President Barbara Ford’s theme, “Libraries: Global Reach, Local Touch.” It is speculated that this first event informed the first Librarians Build Communities program in 2006.

Subsequent ALA Annual conferences have held “Libraries Build Communities” programs, with over 100 ALA members volunteering to assist in the conferences’ host cities. In 2007 LBC assisted school and public libraries in Washington, DC; in 2008, Anaheim, CA; in 2009, Chicago, IL; and in 2010, Washington, DC. Some volunteers assist other organizations (e.g. Habitat for Humanity, local food banks), but the majority of LBC volunteers to date have assisted libraries and librari-

ans. Librarians Build Communities is currently managed by the ALA Chapter Relations Office (CRO).



ing year the EL group established a website, email and Facebook page. The 2012 group narrowed the focus and created a process to connect both venues and volunteers. Librarians Build Communities was continued in 2013 as an Emerging Leaders project. The current EL group has migrated the website to the ALA Groups page, they have submitted a petition for LBC to escape the Emerging Leader group project status and to establish a Member Initiative Group.

In 2011

Librarians Build Communities (LBC) was established as an Emerging Leaders (EL) group project. The first group researched librarian volunteerism and came up with best practices. The follow-

LBC Ideas

- Boys and Girls Club or a local shelter benefiting from the skills of a Children’s/YA librarian
- A librarian who enjoys events programming organizing a fundraiser for their local Humane Society
- A tech-savvy librarian teaches computer classes at the local senior center
- A small library needs assistance weeding their children’s collection.
- Local librarians organize a blood drive.
- Disaster assistance to libraries.
- The possibilities are endless!



Librarians assisting at a Senior Center.
Anchorage, Alaska 2012