

FACT SHEET

Contact: Public Information Office
312-280-5041
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Public Library Association

The Public Library Association (PLA), with more than 9,000 members, is a division of the American Library Association (ALA), the oldest and largest library association in the world. Founded in 1944 and based at ALA Headquarters in Chicago, PLA is governed by a [Board of Directors](#) and its core purpose is to strengthen public libraries and the contributions they make to the communities they serve. PLA core values are:

- To provide visionary leadership, ever-open to new ideas;
- To remain dedicated to lifelong learning;
- To be focused on and responsive to member needs;
- To be committed to a free and open exchange of information and active collaboration;
- To respect diversity of opinion and community needs; and
- To be committed to excellence and innovation.

Strategic Direction: For the next three to five years, PLA is committed to fostering: advocacy and awareness, leadership and transformation, a literate nation, and organizational excellence.

Organization and Member Benefits

PLA is a member-focused organization that exists to provide a diverse program of communication, publications, advocacy, continuing education, and programming for its members and others interested in the advancement of public library service.

PLA members receive the bimonthly periodical publication *Public Libraries*, the electronic newsletter E-News @ PLA, and preferred rates on PLA continuing education events.

Continuing Education

PLA offers a rich array of both in-person and online professional development opportunities.

- In-Person Education (www.ala.org/pla/education):
 - PLA Conference, offered biennially (www.placonference.org)
 - Regional Management Workshops (www.ala.org/pla/education/cpla)
 - PLA Programs at ALA Annual Conferences (www.ala.org/pla/education/alaannual)
 - PLA Institutes at ALA Midwinter Meeting

- Online Education (www.ala.org/pla/onlinelearning)
 - Public Libraries at Work Webinar Series, offered monthly (www.ala.org/pla/onlinelearning/webinars)
 - Turning the Page 2.0, advocacy training (www.ala.org/pla/education/turningthepage)
 - Virtual Spring Symposium (www.ala.org/pla/education/springsymposium)
 - PLA Virtual Conference (www.placonference.org/virtualconference)
 - Online Workbooks (www.ala.org/pla/onlinelearning/workbooks)

PLA Online Resources

- www.pla.org
- www.plablog.org
- www.publiclibrariesonline.org (Online companion to *Public Libraries Magazine*)
- www.facebook.com/pla.org
- www.twitter.com/ALA_PLA

PLA Print Publications

- *Public Libraries Magazine* (bimonthly, official journal of PLA)
- Books and Monographs, (www.ala.org/pla/publications) including Public Library Data Service Statistical Report (PLA, published annually 1988-present) and the Every Child Ready to Read @ your library 2nd Edition Kit

Professional Recognition Awards and Grants

- PLA offers annual awards and grants for public library professionals (www.ala.org/pla/awards)

PLA Partner Program

The PLA Partner Program offers vendors and others to support PLA and public libraries through direct or indirect contributions to PLA. (www.ala.org/pla/about/partners)

For more information, contact the PLA office at 1-800-545-2433, ext. 5PLA; e-mail: pla@ala.org or visit www.pla.org.

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