

Launch Yourself!

Discover how an ALA internship can lead to leadership in the library profession.



This program is sponsored by the ALA Membership Committee & the New Members Round Table (www.ala.org/nmrt)

Moderators: Larissa Gordon, Arcadia University & Patrice Johnson, Chicago Public Library

Speakers

1. Marcia Boosinger

Chair, Reference and Instruction Services, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University

<http://www.lib.auburn.edu>

Marcia Boosinger is currently the Chair of the ALA Membership Committee and serves as the ALA Alabama Chapter Councilor.

2. Sarah Morris

Serials/Indexing Librarian, Carl F. Shepard Library, Illinois College of Optometry

<http://library.ico.edu/>

Sarah Morris, is a recent 2006 MLS graduate and an intern on the ALCTS SAGE Support Staff Travel Grants Award Jury.

3. Ria Newhouse

Reference and Instruction Librarian, Minneapolis Campus Library, Metropolitan State University

<http://www.metrostate.edu>

Ria Newhouse, is an ALA Councilor-at-Large, an intern on the ALA Conference Committee and an ALA Emerging Leader.

4. Michael Gutierrez

Senior Assistant Reference Librarian, Morris Library, University of Delaware

<http://www.lib.udel.edu>

Michael Gutierrez, is a ALA Councilor-at-Large, a member of ACRL's Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Committee, and a member of REFORMA's Membership Committee.

About the Intern Program

“The internship program began its two-year trial period in 1988. This program, initiated by the ALA Membership Committee, was designed to provide an avenue for interested members to become more easily involved in ALA activities and to introduce new people and ideas to ALA committee discussions and decision-making. The hope is that the experience gained by the interns will aid their official appointment on an association committee.”

<http://www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/committees/otld/otldcmteminutes/internguidelines.htm>

Becoming and Intern

To apply for a committee internship all you have to do is fill out the standard ALA committee volunteer form and indicate where appropriate that you wish to serve as an intern. The online committee volunteer form can be found on the ala website.

Each year the form must be completed and submitted by December for appointments to committees the following year. For example, the due date to submit the form to apply for a 2007-2008 committee appointment was December of 2006.

Last years form can be found at: <https://cs.ala.org/roy/volunteer.html> (Google cache)

Committees

All ALA committees can have interns. Below you can find an abbreviated list of ALA committees. For a complete description of the committees and their activities go to: <http://www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/committees/committees.htm>

Accreditation	Human Resource Development & Recruitment.
American Libraries	Information Technology Policy
Awards	Literacy
Chapter Relations	Membership
Conference	Orientation, Training, and Leadership Development
Constitution and Bylaws	Research and Statistics
Election	Website

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who can become an intern?

Anyone who has not held an ALA office or been appointed previously to an ALA committee may become an intern.

2. How long is the appointment?

Interns are appointed for a two year period.

3. What are the duties of an intern?

The duties of an intern may vary depending upon the committee they are appointed to. Some committees will ask their interns to take minutes or complete special projects. Other committees treat their interns just like the other committee members.

4. Do interns get to vote?

Just as the intern's duties may vary from committee to committee, so to will their voting status. Some committees give their interns a vote, while others chose not to do so.

5. Do I have to go attend midwinter and annual?

Interns are expected and required to attend both the midwinter and annual conference and participate in the meetings of the committee.

6. What happens after my internship ends?

After the end of an internship, interns are considered for appointment to another ALA committee as a full member.