



# SO YOU WANT TO BE A MENTOR

## WHAT IS A MENTOR?



A mentor is a person who can provide real-life library experiences to those looking to gain a more impactful meaning in their current/future professional field. They are there to offer advice on navigating the field and to serve as a guide through any decisions that may arise. Though a mentor is not always necessary, it can be a rewarding experience for both parties involved.

## WHAT MAKES A GOOD MENTOR?



A good mentor is one who is empathetic, neutral, and flexible. They are there to actively listen without judgement and provide tips and advice when the situation calls for it. They are not there to ensure the success of the mentee, but to imbue the mentee with the power and confidence to thrive in their professional field. A mentor understands the different lives people lead, and will be flexible in the way they participate in the mentorship.

## BENEFITS OF BEING A MENTOR



Beyond relating one's own professional experiences to another seeking advice, a mentor is also there to learn. A mentor can gain a different, valuable perspective on the field from their mentee. Someone who is new to librarianship or seeking to move fields will have unique insights that can prove refreshing to those with deeper roots in the field. A mentor can also strengthen their leadership skills through insightful feedback from a mentee.

## WHO CAN BE A MENTOR



Anyone can be a mentor! If you feel that you have pertinent experiences and insights that you would like to pass on, sign up to lend your time at various ALA-affiliated organizations or even to your own colleagues. Remember that being in a mentoring relationship means adhering to the rules set by any ALA-affiliated organizations (if provided) and/or working on a process that benefits you and your mentee(s).