

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
2007 Annual Conference
Washington, DC, June 21-27, 2007**

- Topic:** Proposed New ALA Member Group
- Background:** Some ALA members are proposing a new member group within ALA and they are asking for support from YALSA. Details are provided below.
- Action Required:** Action
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Virtual Communities and Libraries

Virtual Communities and Libraries is a proposed ALA Member Initiative Group (MIG) currently soliciting signatures from ALA members interested in seeing a formal group within the Association formed around the role and visibility of libraries and library workers in virtual communities. These signatures will be presented on June 26, 2007 to the ALA Committee On Organizations (COO) at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington DC.

Statement of Purpose

The "Statement of Purpose" for Virtual Communities and Libraries will be presented to COO for their consideration, provided that at least 100 ALA members sign and return the petition. The Statement reads:

To provide a group within ALA for members interested in fostering the practice of library work, the visibility of libraries and library workers, and the extension of library services within online social networks, virtual worlds, and other communities of intention.

- To provide a mechanism for sharing experiences and practices in-person or virtually through programming or asynchronous communications.
- To encourage wider participation by the profession and the association in virtual worlds.
- To establish a forum across all types of libraries and at all levels of library employment concerned with the development of library services in emerging social networks, virtual worlds, and other communities of intention.

This group is open to all members.

More Background for VCL

From the DRAFT proposal to COO:

"Within the past year and a half a wide variety of libraries, library workers, and library-related organizations have begun exploring, working, and creating library services in virtual worlds, such as Second Life, Teen Second Life, Active Worlds, Whyville, and others. Just as real-world libraries serve communities of users, these initiatives in virtual worlds are striving to serve the

residents of these virtual worlds. An ALA VCL MIG will foster and facilitate communication, collaboration, and the sharing of best practices within the organizational structure and communication channels of ALA."

Designated Organizers for VCL

Every MIG requires ALA members to serve as the volunteer 'designated organizers'. These individuals create the Statement of Purpose and are the coordinators for meetings, programs and discussions had by the MIG. They facilitate a framework in which the desires and will of the members organized around an idea can be heard. The designated organizers for this MIG are:

Lori Bell, Director of Innovation
Alliance Library System

Tom Peters, CEO
TAP Information Services
816.228.6406
tpeters@tapinformation.com

Kitty Pope, Executive Director
Alliance Library System

Matt Gullett, Emerging Technology Manager
Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County

About Member Initiative Groups

Member Initiative Groups are defined in the ALA Handbook as 'formed when a group of ALA members identifies a common concern for some aspect of librarianship and wishes to establish a short-term mechanism to meet about or to address that concern.' Two other MIGs are currently in action within ALA: "Libraries Fostering Civic Engagement Membership" and "Information Commons".

To Sign the Petition

The member Petition to establish the Virtual Communities and Libraries MIG is a .pdf located at www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/membership/memberstories/filesformembership.htm

The Petition requires member signature(s) in ink and that the original be returned by mail to ALA. Instructions for mailing or dropping off during Annual Conference are on the Petition.

Questions and Discussion

An e-list, wiki and other discussion / collaboration tools will be established if the MIG is formed at Annual Conference. For now, please use this wiki VCL Discussion Page as a temporary location.