

LLAMA President's Message

Anne Cooper Moore



I am honored to serve as the President of LLAMA for the 2019-2020 year. It is challenging to follow in the mighty footsteps of Lynn Hoffman who was an outstanding president. This year will be exciting for LLAMA as we intensify collaborative efforts with ALCTS and LITA in the approach to the spring 2020 vote on creating a new division that will be called **Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures**. While the Core Steering Committee will outline the operating principles for the new organization, we will all be involved in many phases of the process. The Combined Board meeting held at Annual 2019 in Washington, D.C. was well-attended and expertly facilitated by Tyler Dzuba, President Elect of LLAMA. An important topic during that meeting was for the members of all three existing divisions to provide input on the tagline to be appended to the name Core. The President Elect Elects of the three divisions absorbed both oral and written input and then decided on "Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures" as the tagline before the conference concluded. ALA approved the name for the potential new division this summer.

While some previous ALA Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness (SCOE) communications described an ALA of the future with divisions organized by library type, our new division will provide professional development and collaborative opportunities for librarians serving in all types of libraries, a benefit SCOE recognizes. Core will support the professionals who make libraries function efficiently today and long into the future. We are the managers and leaders who maintain and guide the evolution of the "infrastructure" for every type of library. Merriam-Webster defines the word infrastructure as: 1) the resources (such as personnel, buildings, or equipment) required for an activity; 2) the underlying foundation or basic framework (as of a system or organization). Both leadership and futures are important to LLAMA and will continue to be pre-eminent in the new division. We are steadily moving our profession forward to a positive future and creating that future for our communities.

This year is extremely important to ensure that current members of LLAMA are engaged in fulfilling projects that enrich our profession and that we are attracting new members to join our committees, communities of practice, discussion groups, and project teams. The activities

LLAMA provides in support of library leaders and managers across our profession will continue and expand in the new organization.

My goals for 2019-2020 include:

- To communicate frequently and engage in constructive dialog with LLAMA members to incorporate their suggestions into the formation of the new division.
- To establish clear patterns for the existing Committees and Communities of Practice to complete their projects.
- To support the new Marketing and Communications Committee and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force to succeed.
- To assist with the re-emergence of the Human Resources Community of Practice.
- To establish two new discussion groups: one for solo directors and another for new directors/leaders.
- To ensure full participation in the planning, execution, and content provision for the ALCTS LITA LLAMA Exchange 2020 (spring) and the Core Forum 2020 (fall).

Many readers of LL & M work in small, medium, or large “systems” that may consist of one, a few, or many libraries led by various levels of managers and leaders. But other libraries are managed by a single or solo “librarian.” By “librarian,” I refer to the individual who runs a solo library because often this “librarian” may not have a masters in library and information science. We might refer to solo library practitioners as “soloists.” Their operations may be public, academic, school, corporate, government, museum, or other special libraries. But they are unique in the sense that a single library practitioner must perform all the infrastructure functions independently (often without support) as well as provide unique and specialized services for that environment. Soloists are leaders and managers, too. They are the library in their setting. SLA has an entire division dedicated to providing support for solo librarians, but ALA expects soloists to find their own way in our huge organization. As a solo librarian developing a new library on a new academic campus and then as the only librarian at a community college campus early in my career, I learned to appreciate the creativity, commitment, diligence, and leadership required of soloists. They need expertise in every area of librarianship and have to struggle every day to build support for the important (though often undervalued and overlooked) contributions of the library in every organization and setting. LLAMA needs to find a way to support the continuing education interests of these dynamos within our profession. We seek to begin supporting their needs by launching a Discussion Group to provide avenues for conversations both virtual and face-to-face. Hopefully, this fledgling attempt will lead to more professional development and support opportunities for this important section of our profession. Our co-leads, Ray Pun and Elspeth Olson, hope you will join them on the LLAMA Solo Practitioner Discussion Group on ALA Connect.

A second new discussion group for new directors will be led by Eril Nordberg and Lusiella Fazzino. Join them on the LLAMA New Directors Discussion Group on ALA Connect to discuss pressing issues for new directors of all types of libraries.

While it may seem to be a period of uncertainty regarding the future of LLAMA, our division is extremely strong and contributes essential professional development to librarians all over the U.S. We will remain vital alone or within the new division because we care about the

success of libraries, our employees, and our patrons. Your involvement keeps us strong and will make us better. As part of Core, we would spread the power of leadership and informed management more broadly throughout the library world and make our libraries more successful in meeting the needs of our patrons today and in the future.

Anne Cooper Moore (Anne.Moore@uncc.edu) is Dean of the J. Murrey Library at the University of North Carolina Charlotte

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