Libraries are a dynamic place that ignite young minds, academic thinkers and lifelong learners. Libraries are at the forefront of education, a window to the future and a lifeline to the ever-changing information world. They challenge conventional wisdom, protect our past, and always stay ahead of the curve. So it's not surprising that across the country, America's libraries are being used in record numbers. They are compiling resources and tools patrons need to find new work or change careers. They are teaching critical thinking to students and lifelong learners. They are providing access to computers and the internet for patrons who do without at home. And they are doing it all with less budget, less staff, less resources. America's libraries are there for us when we need them most. With this annual report, the American Library Association hopes to reenergize a national commitment to libraries – and launch the next generation of engaged lives.
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HOW DO YOU LAUNCH?

How do you launch the future of Americans when your library services are undermined by drastic budget cuts. To be honest, it’s a challenge we struggle with every day.

Yet, as the economy continues to create hardship on Americans, a story has emerged that grows stronger every day: Americans are turning to their libraries now more than ever. Recent statistics are impressive:

**Library use is up:**
76 percent of Americans visited libraries in the past year – public library visits exceeded 1.3 billion. Americans go to public, school and academic libraries 50 percent more than they go to movies.

**Circulation is up:**
Libraries circulate 2.1 billion books, CDs, DVDs, and more. In fact, more items than FedEx ships.

**Internet use is up:**
Nearly one-third of Americans age 14 or older used a public library computer or wireless network to access the internet in 2008.

**Library card registration is up:**
Today 68 percent of American adults have public library cards – the greatest number since ALA began collecting this data in 1990.

Today, libraries are alive with the pulse of their community. Libraries are a destination. Libraries are innovators. Libraries are the cornerstone of the education “ecosystem”. Libraries continue to help launch people’s hopes, dreams, and lives.

This is underscored by recent polls: nearly all Americans – 98 percent – (even if they are not regular library visitors) agree that libraries play an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed. Another 92 percent of respondents expect libraries to continue to be needed in the future, despite increased availability of information on the internet.
Good news to be sure. Still, despite the fact that the economic downturn is creating a surge in library use, funding for libraries – public, school, academic and special – is diminishing. Like most Americans, libraries are forced to do more with less.

And this is nothing less than unacceptable to the American Library Association. During the past year, ALA has redoubled its efforts to be a voice, a champion, a leader for the library profession and the libraries they serve. Released in April, 2009, ALA’s State of America’s Libraries, details soaring library use and threatened public funding. This helped launch a flood of news coverage on libraries and their role in the economic recovery. ALA continues to develop comprehensive communications for the national press and tool kits for libraries to use at the local level. The one-two punch of the national and local stories keeps the attention on the lifeline libraries provide communities and the pressure on local, state and federal decision-makers.

This advocacy effort is only one part of ALA. Our organization champions our 63,000 members, their profession and the public they serve through two national conferences, exhaustive professional development, 11 professional divisions, research, national book awards, literacy campaigns, student scholarships, and protecting First Amendment freedoms.

There’s another part of ALA that’s so important. You, our supporters. Every year our work is energized by the talent, counsel and financial support of committed individuals, corporations, organizations and foundations. Your participation in conferences, workshops, programs and service on boards and committees is vital to our success and we are very grateful to you.

This annual report is filled with research, statistic and information (heck, we’re librarians) about the past year. But it’s also filled with the powerful stories that make us proud of our profession and strengthens our voice – a voice that needs to be heard throughout the country.
When jobs go away, Americans turn to their libraries to find information about future employment or educational opportunities. According to ALA’s 2008 State of America’s Libraries Report, Americans visited their libraries nearly 1.3 billion times and checked out more than 2 billion items in the past year, an increase of more than 10 percent in both checked out items and library visits. Additionally, 30 million Americans used libraries to search for jobs.

Unfortunately, the sharp increase in demand for library services is met with sharp cutbacks in funding for public, school, academic and special libraries.

40 Over 40 percent of states report declining state funding for U.S. public libraries
20 20 percent of these states anticipate additional reductions in the current fiscal year.
30 The southeastern section of the country has been the hardest hit, with declines as large as 30 percent in South Carolina and 23.4 percent in Florida in FY09 compared with FY08.

“At the same time demand for public library services are skyrocketing, the funding needed to maintain these services is in jeopardy in many states,” said ALA Past President Jim Rettig. “Libraries are part of the solution when a community is struggling economically – assisting the unemployed with jobs searches and filing unemployment benefits, helping the unskilled learn to use a computer, providing homework help and access to e-government services,” Rettig added.
Frontline advocacy

Libraries of all types and sizes are finding that they have to do more with less. ALA is addressing this crisis head-on with exhaustive efforts to promote the highest quality library and information services and public access to information.

The presidential initiative of ALA President Camila Alire has significantly enhanced frontline advocacy efforts. “In library advocacy we always say: whose job is it? It’s everybody’s job,” said Dr. Alire. “Every voice makes a difference.”

In response, ALA has developed a set of practical tools to help frontline library staff to advocate for the value of libraries. The toolkits were created by frontline public, school, academic and special librarians with those specific audiences in mind. More information is available to anyone interested in “frontline advocacy” at www.ala.org/frontlineadvocacy.

Survey says: school libraries essential for education

A 2008 survey commissioned by the Texas Library Association shows that Texans view their libraries as a good value for their tax dollars, and support more funding for public and school libraries.

99% of those surveyed believe school libraries are an essential part of education. 94% agree that school librarians are critical to student achievement. A 93% majority supports legislation that would require public schools to provide a school library and librarian that meet statewide standards.

Libraries are a bargain

Libraries are among the most effective of all public services, serving more than two-thirds of the public with less than 2 percent of all tax dollars. Nationally, the average cost to the taxpayer for access to this wide range of public-library resources is $31 a year, about the cost of one hardcover book.

At the state level, ALA works closely with our state chapters to ensure that legislators are aware of these and other facts before voting to cut back funding for our libraries.

On the national level, ALA works on behalf of libraries through the ALA office in Washington, DC. The Washington Office represents libraries on Capitol Hill, and works to build coalitions and partnerships with other groups promoting literacy, education and public access to information.
ALA engages in public advocacy and awareness

Last year, ALA developed www.ILoveLibraries.org. This website keeps visitors informed about ways to take action and advocate on behalf of their local library. A second online resource is www.atyourlibrary.org, a website where visitors can find out about the benefits and services offered to them by their local library.

ALA’s Public Information Office continuously promotes libraries and librarianship through the Campaign for America’s Libraries. This is one of ALA’s most significant and strategic communication efforts to raise awareness on behalf of libraries and to promote literacy and community outreach programs, and encourage reading and continuing education. Support for ALA’s Campaign for America’s Libraries comes primarily from ALA’s Library Champions, a group of dedicated corporate and foundation supporters who significantly contribute to the campaign each year.

As America’s libraries struggle to launch their own community-centered economic stimulus package, ALA continues to advocate for library funding and raise awareness about the crucial role libraries play in American life.

Women Know Best

Since 2002, Woman’s Day magazine has asked readers how they used the library to improve their life. This year’s essay contest winners featured a wife who turned to the library for solace during her husband’s illness, a new mom who sought answers about postpartum depression at the library, a retiree who learned how to find trusted medical resources at a free library class, and a reader who rediscovered books through the Library of Congress’ Talking Books program after she lost her sight. Read the winning essays at: www.womansday.com/ALA.

Gates Foundation Improves Library Internet Access

In December 2008, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded $6.9 million in grants to Connected Nation and the American Library Association to help public libraries in Arkansas, California, Kansas, Massachusetts, New York, Texas, and Virginia secure faster Internet connections.

ALA’s Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP) will receive $851,889 to provide research and expertise that will help state library agencies develop and begin to implement strategies to ensure library broadband connections are sustainable.
Libraries: First Responders in Economic Crisis

According to data gathered by ALA, overall library use during the recession has risen by as much as 23 percent. Libraries across the USA are filling up with people waiting to get online to fill out applications, write résumés or look for job openings, a national study by the American Library Association shows. In some larger cities, libraries are opening up entire floors dedicated to the needs of job-hunters.

“The Denver Public Library is reaching out tech-savvy volunteers to offer classes or one-on-one instruction. The downtown branch is expecting to provide nearly 1,000 introductory lessons on computer and internet skills, and résumés writing.

“Libraries are really the first responder in this economic crisis, and particularly for job seekers,” says Larra Clark, project manager at the ALA Office for Research and Statistics (ORS).

Eight out of 10 libraries nationally have someone on a computer waiting list at some point during the day, Clark says. At the beginning of 2007, before the economy took a nosedive, 44% of libraries nationally said assisting job seekers was a “critical use” of their library. Now, it’s 67%. In addition, more than seven out of 10 libraries are the only place that offers public access to the Internet in their community.

Like a GPS for Jobs

Chicago Public Libraries’ CyberNavigator program employs college students to work with library staff to help patrons use the library’s computers. Patrons learn to update résumés, set up an email account, post résumés and learn to email potential employers.

Last year, the Chicago Public Library provided 3.5 million Internet sessions on 1,800 free public computers.
Libraries are the launching pad for imagination, careers, literacy, laughter and life-long learning. Yet, our libraries are struggling to meet the ever-increasing demand for programs and services. ALA, with its diverse array of divisions and offices, provides responsive, substantive and fun initiatives and support to help librarians meet today’s challenges. Here’s a snapshot of a few of the hundreds of ALA efforts underway.

Literacy for the under 5 and underserved

Many a reader and library patron got hooked on books at the library storytime of their youth. While the library storytime continues to be a favorite with the under 5 crowd, today’s librarians are challenged to provide literacy programs for adult learners and non-English speakers.

The Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS) of the ALA promotes library services that support equitable access to the knowledge and information found in libraries. OLOS focuses attention on services that are inclusive of traditionally underserved populations, including new and non-readers, people geographically isolated, people with disabilities, rural and urban poor people, and people generally discriminated against based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, language and social class.

Since 2007, ALA and OLOS have received significant grants from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation to help address the literacy and educational needs of Americans and immigrants. The latest two-year grant of $750,000 from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation will help fund resource development and library mini-grants for literacy programs.
Your Xbox is overdue: Connecting Libraries to Teenagers

Nationwide trends show that teenagers have fewer and fewer sources of reading materials in their homes. Although teens understand the importance of reading, their lives are filled with activities and reading has a tough time competing with sports, music and friends.

Through the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), ALA has helped libraries respond by working with national partners to support Library Gaming Day, Teen Read Week, Teen Tech Week, and teen-friendly volunteer opportunities.

“Working with WWE, Mattel and DK Publishing provides YALSA the chance to reach a wide audience of teens and tweens with a message about the vital role books, reading and libraries can play in their lives,” said YALSA President Linda Braun. More than 1,800 librarians registered for the fifth annual reading challenge in 2009, in which teens and tweens in grades 5–12 in the U.S. and Canada participated.

Spectrum Scholarship

The Spectrum Scholarship Program aims at recruiting applicants and awarding scholarships to American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students for graduate programs in library and information studies. Its mission is to improve service at the local level through the development of a representative workforce that reflects the communities served by all libraries in the new millennium. Spectrum provides a one-time, non-renewable $5,000 scholarship award paid directly to the recipient.

Since 1997, the ALA has awarded more than 700 Spectrum Scholarships. 69 scholarships were awarded in 2008-2009. Spectrum Scholars have been in attendance at over 50 library schools. Nearly 70 percent of past Spectrum Scholars remain active in the ALA three years after graduation.

Spectrum Scholarship recipients reside, study and work all across North America in a wide array of library positions in every type of library, ranging from the manager of special projects, rare books and special collections for the Princeton University Library to a librarian in a Bureau of Indian Affairs school on the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico.
Libraries Got Game

The first National Game Day in 2008 brought an estimated 14,000 young visitors to their libraries, a number that grew to 30,000 participants for the second annual National Game Day in 2009. Libraries participating in the event gave visitors the opportunity to play video games and board games, with a little encouragement to check out a book or two.

Through generous donations from Hasbro, more than 17,000 public libraries in the U.S. received a box set of its highly popular card games Monopoly Deal, Scrabble Slam, and the board game Pictureka! “Hasbro is honored to sponsor 2009 National Gaming Day, an event that brings people together to play games and create memories,” said Matt Collins, vice president of marketing for Hasbro Games.

Connect @ your library

ALA continues to reach out and promote the value of libraries and librarians through the Campaign for America’s Libraries (www.ala.org/@yourlibrary). Thousands of libraries of all types – across the country and around the globe - use the Campaign’s @ your library® brand. One of the challenges the campaign faces is the diversity of audiences to which it must speak. “Tailored” campaigns address these needs, providing the structure for maximizing the outreach to each audience. The Campaign is made possible by ALA’s Library Champions, corporations and foundations that advocate the importance of the library in American society.

Carnegie I Love My Librarian Contest

Librarians in over 120,000 libraries in the U.S. make a difference in the lives of millions of Americans every day. The Carnegie Corporation of New York/New York Times I Love My Librarian Award encourages library users to recognize the accomplishments of exceptional public, school, college, community college, or university librarians.

In 2009, ten winners were selected based on nominations from more than 3,200 library supporters. Each winner received a $5,000 cash award, a plaque and $500 travel stipend to attend an awards reception in New York hosted by The New York Times. In addition, a plaque will be given to each award winner’s library.

Winners were chosen by the Carnegie Corporation of New York/New York Times I Love My Librarian Award Committee, comprised of representatives from academic libraries, public libraries and school library media centers, with representatives from Carnegie Corporation of New York and The New York Times. The award is administered by the American Library Association with support from Carnegie Corporation of New York and The New York Times.
Financial Lifelines for Tumultuous Times

In 2009, ALA and the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA – a division of ALA), continued their partnership with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). The FINRA Investor Education Foundation supports research and educational projects that give Americans the knowledge and tools necessary for financial success. Information developed by FINRA is made available to libraries, providing guidance and tips for the general public on maintaining financial stability. John Gannon, president of FINRA Investor Education Foundation says they turned to libraries because libraries can reach large numbers of people who need financial guidance. “Whether that’s women facing retirement, teens or even younger people who are still in school, it’s figuring out how to get that information to people,” he says. “And that’s what libraries are good at.

Pass the sugar…and your library card

ALA is catching the attention of patrons in an unexpected place: the breakfast table. Safeway Inc. has partnered with ALA and state chapters to roll-out five Safeway-branded cereal boxes with back-panel content about libraries and librarians. The boxes came on sale nationwide at Safeway’s 1,500 stores in October 2009. “We are proud to partner with ALA and collaborate in the creation of educational panels for our line of Safeway Brand cereal. This is a way we can support the efforts of ALA and bring education and enjoyment to our consumers,” said Mike Minasi, Safeway president, marketing. Visit www.ilovelibraries.org/safeway to learn more.

@ Your Library E-Magazine

Carnegie Corporation of New York provided a two-year $270,700 grant to help launch ALA’s e-magazine pilot. The result is atyourlibrary.org. The e-magazine is targeted to the general public and encourages library use by linking services to topics of interest to families, young adults and children, and individuals interested in career development. The goal is to drive people to their local libraries and encourage long, vibrant relationships between communities and libraries.
Libraries have changed. And so has ALA. We stay on the cutting-edge of technology, research, diversity and education to help our library professionals lead our country through the digital age.

The librarians of today need to be familiar with multimedia resources, e-books, online databases and more. Librarians provide homework help, assist with unemployment and government-related questions. They must support a community that is probably far more diverse than it was 10 years ago.

ALA plays a unique role in assessing the continuing education needs of its members and of those in the profession. As a priority for the association, continuing education is sponsored and delivered by every division and office within ALA. Here is a look at some of the initiatives ALA has underway to prepare librarians for the future.

Librarian Scholarships
Since 1970, ALA has assisted aspiring librarians by awarding scholarships toward tuition at an accredited master’s degree program in library and information studies. ALA and its units provide more than $300,000 annually in scholarships. There are more than 110 applicants for each scholarship ALA awards. For more information, please visit www.ala.org/scholarships.

Conferences and Professional Development
ALA members find substantive, enriching professional development programs during ALA’s Annual and Midwinter Conferences. The 2009 Annual Conference in Chicago offered over 300 educational programs covering a variety of hot topics and over 2,000 committee meetings and events. Over 20,000 attendees have a chance to visit with more than 700 vendors to find out about the latest products and services available to libraries.
“She Doesn’t Look Like a Librarian”: Recruiting a More Diverse Workforce

Just as important as supporting today’s librarians in their chosen career is ALA’s effort to ensure the demand for librarians in the future. The number of librarians reaching retirement age has doubled over the past five years. The decade beginning in 2010 will see 45 percent of today’s librarians reach age 65. Librarianship is a growing field with a need for increased cultural and ethnic diversity.

In this light, ALA is focusing on recruitment, and specifically, recruiting a more diverse workforce. Through efforts like www.LibraryCareers.org, ALA actively provides information to potential librarians and generates interest in the profession.

Of the roughly 4,000 library master’s degrees awarded each year, only about 10 percent are earned by individuals from underrepresented groups. Still missing in most libraries is library staff that looks like and speaks like the diverse populations they serve. ALA is committed to changing this landscape.

ALA’s Spectrum Presidential Initiative is a call to action to meet the challenges that face our profession by offering additional Spectrum scholarships to MLIS students, strengthening the Spectrum Scholarship Endowment, and building a foundation for recruitment and career development.

Says Angela Barnes, Spectrum Scholar and Young Adult librarian at Brooklyn Public Library: “I serve as an example that librarians come in all shades. I love the looks of surprise on the kids’ faces when I walk into a classroom to promote library programs or do book talks. I also get a kick out of hearing their whispers ‘She doesn’t look like a librarian.’”

ALA Emerging Leaders Program

The ALA Emerging Leaders program is a leadership development program which enables newer library workers from across the country to participate in problem-solving work groups, network with peers, gain an inside look into ALA’s structure, and have an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity. It puts participants on the fast track to ALA committee volunteerism as well as other professional library-related organizations. Emerging Leaders began in 2007 as one of ALA Immediate Past President Leslie Burger’s six initiatives. 108 Emerging Leaders participated in 2009; all were chosen by the selection committee to ensure diversity in geography, gender, ethnicity and type of library. Participants are under 35 years of age or are new to the library profession with fewer than 5 years of experience working at a professional or paraprofessional level in a library.
Academic Libraries Transforming Service With Innovative Programs

Partnership, creativity and branding were the drivers in the 2009 Excellence in Academic Libraries Awards. Sponsored by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) and Blackwell’s Book Services, the award recognizes the staff of a college, university and community college library for programs that deliver exemplary services and resources that further their institution’s educational mission. The 2009 awarded winners are:

**Community College:** The Moraine Valley Community College Library for creating an environment that fosters numerous relationships with partners outside those traditionally associated with libraries.

**College:** Wyndham Robertson Library at Hollins University for its many innovative and creative programs including a Green program and a dining hall book mobile.

**University:** The University of Minnesota Libraries for developing strategies to successfully transform the libraries to secure a highly valued position on campus.

“Receiving an Excellence in Academic Libraries Award is a national tribute to a library and its staff for the outstanding services, programs and leadership they provide to their students, administrators, faculty and community,” said ACRL Executive Director Mary Ellen K. Davis.

New Scholarship for Academic Librarians Serving Diverse Communities

In an effort to support librarians serving diverse communities, the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) established a new scholarship to encourage participation at the 2010 ACRL/Harvard Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians. The scholarship covers $2,600 in tuition and $1,500 in travel expenses. Scholarship applicants must be current ACRL members employed at a historically black college or university, at a tribal college or university or at a Hispanic serving institution.

The ACRL/Harvard Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians provides important leadership concepts and applies them to the practical challenges of leading and managing within the contemporary academic library. The curriculum addresses three areas—planning, organizational strategy and change, and transformational learning.
Partnership for 21st Century Skills’ (MILE) Guide released at AASL National Conference

Last fall, a record-breaking 2,280 school librarians and educators attended the American Association of School Librarians’ (AASL) 14th National Conference in Charlotte, NC to discuss new technologies, gaming, and 21st century learning skills (L4L - Learning4Life). “This conference provides us with a national platform to discuss the needs of our increasingly tech-savvy students and the future of the 21st century learner,” said AASL president Cassandra G. Barnett.

Among the conference highlights was the release of the Partnership for 21 Century Skills’ (P21) Milestones for Improving Learning and Education (MILE) Guide. This resource was created for educators and administrators to help them measure the progress of their schools in defining, teaching, and assessing 21st century skills.

Since its inception in 2002, AASL has been a member of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21). P21 has emerged as the leading advocacy organization focused on transforming teaching and learning in the 21st-century. Julie Walker, Executive Director of AASL, is currently serving as Vice Chair of the P21 Strategic Council.

P21 brings together the business community, education leaders, and policy-makers to encourage schools, districts, and states to advocate for the inclusion of these skills in education and to provide them with tools and resources they need to do so. Key business partner of P21 include Apple, Dell, Microsoft, Verizon, McGraw Hill, Scholastic, Sesame Street Workshop and the Walt Disney Company.

U.S. Secretary of Education Duncan Meets With AASL Leadership

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan had an informal meeting with the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Board of Directors, newly elected board members and elected leaders from AASL-affiliated state school library organizations during the ALA 2010 Annual Conference. The meeting was scheduled to discuss how school librarians can be included in A Blueprint for Reform, President Obama’s plan for revising the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Pictured with Secretary Duncan is AASL President Cassandra G. Barnett.
ALÁ, ACRL and Google

In 2002, Google began digitizing books in libraries, followed by the launch of Book Search two years later allowing users to search its database of books. A class action filed by the Authors Guild and the Association of American Publishers in 2005 caused Google to temporarily suspend scanning copyrighted works.

A proposed settlement made in October 2008 promises to give librarians better access to these scanned books than was previously possible. Under the terms, Google would provide free Public Access Service (PAS) to each public library and not-for-profit higher education institution that requests it. A user sitting at a public access terminal in a public or academic library would be able to view the full text of all books in the Institutional Subscription Database (ISD). The settlement was amended in November of 2009 and is pending approval.


Kettering Foundation

The Kettering Foundation and ALÁ signed a research agreement to establish a Center for Public Life. The Center will train librarians from different types of libraries to convene and moderate deliberative forums and frame issues of local and national concern.

For many years, ALÁ has worked with libraries to encourage public deliberation, hosting moderator training sessions and other programs related to community building and engagement. A recent survey of librarians for the Kettering Foundation found strong interest in convening deliberative forums. But two-thirds of respondents said they needed training in order to participate, with most indicating that they were likely to participate in an ALÁ sponsored training program—particularly if it was affordable, nearby and/or electronic.

Initially, the new Center will tap into the experience of libraries already convening deliberative forums and form the hub of active mentors capable of strengthening and expanding their work locally, statewide and nationally. Unlike other such Centers, ALÁ will provide training to members of a single profession—librarianship.

“Libraries are among the most trusted public institutions. As the place where citizens turn for neutral information about common problems, many work closely with their communities to find new means to connect citizens and boost civic participation,” said Nancy Kranich, ALÁ Past President.
### Statement of Financial Position

**Assets**

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**Liabilities**

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**Total Net Assets**

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**Total Liabilities and Net Assets**

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### Statement of Operations by Program Activity

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<tr>
<td>Meetings and conferences</td>
<td>$11,138,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and administrative activities</td>
<td>$8,000,954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office activities</td>
<td>$5,804,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership activities</td>
<td>$5,432,834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Products and promotion</td>
<td>$1,543,051</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-term investment</td>
<td>$419,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td>$57,994,690</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Members may join one or more of eleven membership divisions that deal with specialized topics such as academic, school, or public libraries, technical or reference services, and library administration. Members may also join any of seventeen round tables that are grouped around more specific interests and issues than the broader set of ALA divisions. A network of affiliates, chapters, and other organizations enables ALA to reach a broad audience.

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American Association of School Librarians (AASL)
Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS)
Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC)
Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)
Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (ALTAFF)
Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA)
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Public Library Association (PLA)
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Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA)

Round Tables

Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange (EMIERT)
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Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered (GLBTRT)
Government Documents (GODORT)
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Learning Round Table of ALA (LearnRT)
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Mission
ALAs mission is “to provide leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.”

Key Action Areas
Key action areas include diversity, equitable access to information and library services, education and lifelong learning, intellectual freedom, advocacy for libraries and the profession, literacy, and organizational excellence.

History
Founded by Justin Winsor, Charles Ammi Cutter, Samuel S. Green, James L. Whitney, Melvil Dewey (Melvil Dui), Fred B. Perkins, and Thomas W. Bicknell in 1876 in Philadelphia and chartered in 1879 in Massachusetts, ALAs head office is now in Chicago. ALA is the oldest, largest, and most influential library association in the world.

Membership
ALA has approximately 63,000 members, including not only librarians but also library trustees, publishers, and other interested people from every state and many nations. The association serves public, state, school, and academic libraries, as well as special libraries for people working in government, commerce and industry, the arts, and the armed services or in hospitals, prisons, and other institutions.

Governing Structure
ALA is governed by an elected council and an executive board. Keith Michael Fiels has served as ALA executive director since 2002. Policies and programs are administrated by eleven membership divisions representing public, school, academic and special libraries, seventeen round tables and various committees, member groups and affiliations, and online communities that address specific issues and areas of interest, encompassing every aspect of library and information science.
Selected 2009 ALA Book Awards

**Newberry Medal:**
The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman, illus. by Dave McKean
(HarperCollins)
Presented by the Association of Library Service to Children (ALSC)

**Caldecott Medal:**
The House in the Night, illus. by Beth Krommes, written by Susan Marie Swanson
(Houghton Mifflin Company)
Presented by the Association of Library Service to Children (ALSC)

**Pura Belpre Award:**
Margarita Engle. The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba’s Struggle for Freedom
(Henry Holt)
Presented by the Association of Library Service to Children (ALSC)

**Coretta Scott King Award:**
Author Award: We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball, written and illus. by Kadir Nelson
(published by Disney-Jump at the Sun, an imprint of Disney Book Group)
Presented by the ALA Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS)

**Coretta Scott King Award:**
Illustrator Award: The Blacker the Berry, illus. by Floyd Cooper
(published by Joanna Cotler Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers)
Presented by the ALA Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS)

**Michael L. Printz Award:**
Jellicoe Road by Melina Marchetta
published by HarperTeen, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers
Presented by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) and ALA-Booklist

The Newberry and Caldecott medals, presented annually, focus public attention on excellence in writing and illustrating children’s literature. The announcement of the medal winners and honor books, selected by librarians, is eagerly awaited by the publishing, library, and reading communities each year.

Several other youth media awards presented by ALA recognize excellence in literature for children and young adult audiences, such as the Coretta Scott King award for African American children’s literature; the Pura Belpre award for excellence in children’s literature by a Latina/Latino writer; and the Michael L. Printz award for excellence in literature written for young adults.