

TO: ALA Executive Board

RE: Update on Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:

No action; planning update on a possible new ALA division

ACTION REQUESTED BY:

Jenny Levine, LITA Executive Director; Kerry Ward ALCTS Interim Executive Director/LLAMA Executive Director

CONTACT PERSON:

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DATE: January 6, 2020

BACKGROUND:

Throughout 2019, the members and staff of the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS), the Library Information Technology Association (LITA), and the Library Leadership & Management Association (LLAMA), under the leadership of the [Core Steering Committee](#), did extensive planning for a possible new division to replace the current three divisions. At the 2020 Midwinter Meeting, the three division Boards are expected to approve placing on the spring ballot the recommendation that their respective memberships vote to discontinue ALCTS, LITA, and LLAMA in order to form a new division, Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures.

This recommendation is based on our shared desire to create a new division that reflects the services, capacities, and professional development needs that are central to every kind of library and information organization. It also reflects an awareness of the alignment of the work and expertise of members across the increasingly intertwined and multifaceted library landscape.

By combining our resources, we can create the kind of sustainable and engaging community where members can learn from each other and continue to grow throughout our careers. We can't create that kind of member experience on our own. Declining membership (consistent with most other ALA divisions), along with small, siloed staff doing duplicative work, are progressively limiting our ability to engage members.

If approved, the new Core Board will evaluate current and emerging member needs to determine which initiatives, programs, and services will continue, combine, or sunset. The staff will focus more fully on their areas of expertise, devoting more time to membership, marketing, fundraising, advocacy, and other strategic initiatives. Guiding all this work will be the division's values: Transparency, Diversity, Inclusion, Knowledge Sharing, Collaboration, Sustainability, and Innovation.

Timeline:

- Midwinter Meeting: The three Boards vote to place the Core question on their respective ballots for a vote of each division membership.

- April 10: Election results.
 - If any of the three memberships do not approve Core, the project will end, and no further action will be taken by the division Boards.
 - If all three memberships approve Core, the project will move forward, with requests for ALA approval.
- Spring 2020: extensive communication and planning with ALA staff leadership, Executive Board, Committee on Organization (COO), and Council members.
- Annual Conference: the three division Boards will formally ask COO for support and transmittal of ALA Council resolutions. In accordance with ALA Bylaws, the Council must hold consecutive votes on this structural change:
 - Council 2 – vote one to discontinue ALCTS, LITA, LLAMA as divisions of the American Library Association.
 - Council 3 – vote two to discontinue ALCTS, LITA, LLAMA as divisions of the American Library Association, and vote to authorize Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures as a new division of the American Library Association.
- Summer 2020: extensive operational planning, member communication, etc.
- September 1: Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures, a Division of the American Library Association, formally comes into existence with a transitional Core Board of Directors. ALCTS, LITA, and LLAMA cease operations and members of the three divisions are transitioned to Core.
- A special member election takes place to choose the new Core President and President-elect.