


American Library Association, Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS)

- **Goals:** The Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS), of the American Library Association (ALA), is developing strategies to reach more outreach librarians so they will have the capacity to provide library services to nontraditional library patrons. OLOS is always working to build understanding and capacity about outreach within ALA. Outreach services ensure that ALA fulfills its mission of providing library services for all. Through conferences and planning sessions, OLOS is building a community of outreach librarians and library service providers.
- **Chapters, affiliates, members:** The American Library Association is a member organization made up of 65,000 librarians. ALA members represent the broad field of librarianship and include public librarians, school librarians, academic librarians, special librarians (music, medicine, law, etc.), library trustees, and library managers. ALA provides resources and professional development opportunities for members.

The purpose of an ALA chapter is to promote general library service and librarianship within its geographic area, to provide geographic representation to the Council of the ALA, and to cooperate in the promotion of general and joint enterprises with the ALA and other library groups.

Each state has its own library association. The American Library Association has affiliate relationships with state library associations in all fifty States, the District of Columbia, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and regional library associations in the Mountain Plains, New England, Pacific Northwest, and Southeast regions. Chapters are represented within the association by the Chapter Relations Office and the Chapter Relations Committee. Go to www.ala.org, select and click on **Our Association** in the banner. Then select **Chapters** from the left hand side bar for information about each chapter.

- **Best route to contact:** National Organization
 - ALA's Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS)
Satia M. Orange, OLOS Director
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611
800-545-2433, ext. 4295
sorange@ala.org
 - Dale Lipschultz, Literacy Office (for outreach related activities)
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611
800-545-2433, ext. 3275
dlipschu@ala.org
 - www.ala.org, www.ala.org/olos, www.ala.org/literacy 
- **The organization's culture:** ALA is the librarian's national membership organization. It is not the funding, governing, or administrative arm of the country's public libraries. Each public library, in each community, is an independent entity with its own mission and objectives. Libraries are funded by local and state funding streams, private foundations, friends groups and the occasional government grant. Libraries are governed by a local board of trustees and develop and implement programs and services to meet the needs of their community.

ALA divisions and offices do develop national programs and partnerships that are available to local public libraries. To find out more about ALA's divisions and offices go: Go to www.ala.org, select **Our Association** from the banner. Select **Divisions and Offices** from the left hand side bar for information about programs and services.

- **Resources:** Expertise and broad community research
- **Local chapter affiliation:** The best example is the new 4 X 4 Project. As a result of this initiative, public libraries and public television stations in the San Francisco bay area (KQED) and Austin, Texas (KCLR) are working together to develop meaningful outreach opportunities and programs for their communities.
- **Engagement program areas of interest:** rural, diversity and elderly