

**Question 1: Why did you decide to run for ALA President? If you are elected, what will be your primary focus? What do you hope to accomplish during your term?**

There were a number of reasons for my deciding to run for ALA President. First, I realized how powerful the voice of ALA can be from my experience on the Committee on Legislation and as Chair of COL's Privacy Subcommittee. While on COL, we prepared a series of resolutions in response to the passage of the Patriot Act, particularly the provisions that affected the privacy rights of library users. ALA showed great courage when many others were scared off or intimidated about protesting the Act's incursions on longstanding freedoms. ALA and its allies called attention to the threats being posed to personal liberties and changed the course of history. In recent weeks, the aggressive advocacy of ALA is evident in the increased visibility we've received in the national media about the crucial role of libraries during this difficult economic time. If elected President, I will continue and expand upon that effort and use the power of ALA's voice for libraries.

I've been on Council for two terms and the ALA Executive Board for more than two years. It is clear from receiving regular reports of the President's activities that the position involves a significant time commitment. Fortunately, I'm at the point in my career where I can take a year's leave without pay to devote myself to the responsibilities of being ALA's chief spokesperson. I feel so strongly about the need to advocate extensively for well-funded libraries that I'm willing to give up my salary for a year to be able to do so.

I have worked in all kinds of libraries ... I've been a school/library media specialist, headed up media services at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (a college of the Rochester Institute of Technology) and directed technical operations for a large public library system (Fairfax County Public Library in Virginia, current budget of \$33.5 million). I managed the product development, marketing, customer support and accounting functions of the Cataloging Distribution Service early in my career at the Library of Congress. In the last decade, I have managed major nationwide projects, including the Library of Congress Bicentennial Program and the National Book Festival. My 35-year career includes a breadth of experience and an understanding of how libraries of all types and sizes operate ... what they share in common and how they differ. I believe the variety and scope of the jobs I've performed are directly applicable to being President of ALA.

Although I have a number of "campaign platform planks," my primary focus is on advocacy for libraries. Advocacy has not only been a theme of previous ALA presidents, it is also the first and most important goal of ALA's strategic plan. As I listened to authors at the 2008 National Book Festival in late September (my eighth year as its project manager), I thought about the possibilities for tapping these well-known and widely recognized individuals as advocates for libraries. They are among the smartest, most articulate and passionate people I've ever met and they have a vested interest in seeing libraries financially supported and successful. The more funding we have, the more books we can buy of theirs. If elected President, I will pursue -- in collaboration

with ALA's staff and members -- using these natural allies to advocate for libraries, library employees and librarianship with the media and decision-makers, local and national, on our behalf.

Having been at the Library of Congress for nearly a quarter century, I've had a daily education in how Congress works as well as experience in working on projects directly with the lawmakers and their staff. As the Bicentennial Program Manager, I led a major nationwide project that documented local cultural traditions and events throughout the country and involved 92 Senators, nearly 80% of the House of Representatives and thousands of their constituents. I also worked with the Office of the First Lady's staff throughout the eight years of the National Book Festival. These job experiences are especially relevant for the ALA President as we increasingly look to the federal government for support.

Why did I decide to run for ALA President? In brief, it was a combination of timing, the ability to make a personal sacrifice for the good of the association's members and the opportunity to capitalize on past experience in leading ALA at a crucial time for our country, our libraries and our profession.

**Question 2: Please discuss how your ALA goals and philosophy relate to ALCTS. How might ALCTS help facilitate achievement of those goals?**

Although ALCTS has its unique expertise and concerns, as members of ALA, we all share the same commitment to providing opportunities to members who want to play a meaningful role in the association. I have heard many times the frustration of members who volunteer for committees and assignments and are never appointed to them. I will work with ALCTS on creating ways to get members actively involved in the association.

In addition, I believe support for better electronic participation is essential. With budgets tightening and the ability to travel to annual conferences and midwinter meetings diminishing, the role of electronic participation in connecting our members to the association's programs will only increase. I pledge to support ALA's work on expanding online communication and information sharing within and across its divisions.

As the premier library association in the world, the "brand" of ALA and its units commands great respect. I want to leverage that respect and move the organization forward by increasing the number and diversity of members nationally and globally. An important component in doing so is to promote ALA's products, services and training. These online opportunities for sharing training, materials and the expertise of ALCTS members, whose focus is on the bedrock skills of the library profession, are vital to keeping the association financially secure and successful.

I will work with ALCTS to accomplish these goals and ensure recognition of ALCTS' contributions to their achievement.

**Question 3: What do you see as the greatest challenges facing individuals engaged in the areas of work represented by ALCTS (acquisitions, cataloging, serials, preservation, and collections development) in the near term? How can ALA assist ALCTS members in meeting those challenges?**

Technical services have always faced near and long-term challenges. I speak from experience. When I became director of technical operations at the Fairfax County Library, they had purchased but not installed an automated circulation system. They used a microfilm library catalog that was at least a year out of date. They had not fully implemented AACR2 and MARC. Collections development was “idiosyncratic,” with library managers specializing in collection development for their branches that reflected their interests but sometimes had little to do with the population being served.

Working with the staff, we got the automated circ system up and running, automated cataloging, became the first site to integrate the two systems, provided training in AACR2 and MARC, and switched to a new format for the public catalog. Materials selection was centralized and simultaneously targeted to address needs of the branch libraries’ changing communities.

Implementing new automated systems with the technological limitations of the hardware and software were our big challenges then. Here are the challenges that I see for ALCTS, both near term and extending into the future:

- Implementing AACR2’s successor, RDA. There has understandably been a great deal of concern with the complexity of the earlier RDA drafts. However, the current plan to beta test RDA seems a step in the right direction. ALCTS will play an important role by having members participate in the beta test and provide feedback so that RDA is implemented with as little difficulty as possible.
- Developing an action plan based on the outcomes of the Library of Congress Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control. ALCTS members should not be “reactors,” but leaders in the critical discussion of next steps, the role that the Library of Congress and other institutions play in the development and distribution of cataloging records, etc.
- Engaging and listening to new members so that they are not only part of, but actively engaged in, ALCTS activities.
- Dealing with the proliferation of information that is only available digitally (this is, at least partially, tied to the implementation of a “new cataloging code”) and responding to how users now search for materials and information.
- Attracting the “best and the brightest” of the profession into technical services and providing opportunities for advancement and recognition.

- Dealing with the reliance on fewer professional staff to provide technical services.
- Ensuring that, during these difficult economic times, technical services are as well funded as public services in our libraries.

ALA can assist in meeting those challenges by having an electronic infrastructure in place that allows ALCTS members to communicate with each other. I will support the implementation of the second phase of the professional networking capabilities of ALA Connect, which will build on the first phase's features allowing communities of interest to form and members to quickly and easily contribute to group discussions and work.

**Question 4: How can ALA ensure that certain members, whose primary affiliation is to a “type of activity” division, feel connected to the concerns of the organization as a whole? How might their involvement be increased? How might ALA’s awareness of their concerns be increased?**

The specialization of the divisions and round tables of ALA is both its strength and its ongoing challenge. There is a niche for everyone in ALA ... when you join you can be certain that you will find individuals with whom you can share your problems and get advice. But the possibility of being narrowed into a very specific set of professional concerns is also present.

ALCTS members’ concerns about feeling connected to the larger ALA organization are no different than the concerns of the other divisions. I’m the Executive Board’s representative to the Seven Measures Working Group (the “seven measures of association success”) and this question is precisely the one we have been tackling.

Addressing the issue of electronic participation and using ALA Connect for communication and sharing the work of the divisions with their members and others will be a step forward in this area.

As the leader of numerous teams for the Library of Congress Bicentennial Program and the National Book Festival, I have a great deal of experience in including many parts of the organization and others outside the Library in the process of accomplishing goals. I pledge to include ALCTS as part of the planning and implementation of initiatives that I undertake as President. The formation of the communities of interest that I discussed above will go along way in bringing the various ALA divisions together into an organization that is more inclusive and far more powerful than the sum of its parts.

**Question 5: In recent years it has been difficult for ALCTS members to “see themselves” or to see that the association embraces issues that are critical to ALCTS. What steps will you take to increase ALA’s inclusiveness within its own ranks?**

First and foremost, ALA's President needs to listen to and fully understand the concerns of the ALCTS members. Having been the director of technical operations for a major public library system and the customer services officer for the Cataloging Distribution Service at the Library of Congress is a real advantage in being able to relate to, understand and value ALCTS concerns.

Second, an effective way to ensure that ALCTS sees itself as part of the association is to seat ALCTS members on ALA's committees. If elected, I will appoint ALCTS members to ALA committees and task forces so that they have a strong voice within the association.