Librarians Build Communities Progress Report

Submitted by:
2011 Class of Emerging Leaders, Project F
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This project sponsored by the ALA Chapter Relations Committee
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1. Executive Summary

Contributed by Easter DiGangi

The ALA Chapter Relations Committee sponsored Project F for the 2011 ALA Class of Emerging Leaders. This project involved working on the program now formerly known as Libraries Build Communities. The main goal of the project, according to the project description, was to "identify steps to transform and extend [the] annual volunteer service day into means to provide libraries with librarian-volunteers whenever and wherever needed". The following people worked on this project from January to June 2011: Kristi Brumley, Easter DiGangi, Heather James, Erin Leach, and Teri Shiel. Project F, fondly referred to as Faboo, met at the ALA Midwinter Conference on January 7, 2011 to commence their work.

Over the next five months, Project F had nine virtual meetings. Documentation in the form of agendas and minutes are available for reference upon request. The history of the program to date was researched in order to fully understand the program's genesis. Then appropriate methods could be identified to expand it. This is detailed in Section 2. Early on, short and long term goals were determined to accomplish the expected outcomes. This can be found in Section 3. The expected outcomes from which the goals are derived include the following:

- Methods to extend and implement Libraries Build Communities widely (local, state, national) will be determined
- Libraries, large and small, will have one or more resources to find and obtain specialized volunteer assistance, whenever and wherever it is needed
- Increased media exposure not only will highlight the importance of supporting libraries, but also demonstrate the importance of librarians
- Recommendations on whether this emerging leaders project should be extended for further research and development of Libraries Build Communities for local, state, and national volunteer service projects

Drafting a mission statement was a high priority for Project F because one did not already exist. This element is crucial in any program because it indicates who is involved and what it aims to achieve. Section 4 includes the program's mission statement as well as the mission statement for the American Library Association (ALA) as an organization and for the Office for Human Resource Development and Recruitment (HRDR). Both the ALA mission statement and the ALA Office mission statement were examined in order to inform the Librarians Build Communities mission statement. The reason for this is that this program is a part of the national ALA organization and this HRDR Office manages the Emerging Leaders program.
Existing volunteer models were researched in order to inform possible methods of extending and implementing Librarians Build Communities. Section 5 includes conclusions drawn and the description of some of the local, state, and national models that were examined. In the process of this research, volunteer best practices (Section 6), partnerships (Section 7), financial implications (Section 8), and volunteer management tools (Section 9) were discovered and compiled. When considering partnerships, Project F decided to generate interest within ALA divisions who may be interested in working with us on this program. DiGangi drafted an article about the program which described the goals for Librarians Build Communities and solicited feedback from the ALA community. This article was published by Wood in AL Direct and the ALA Student Membership Blog. In addition, the article was also shared via some library blogs and email listservs.

Early on, it was determined that the program would need some sort of entity to administer it. One of the state models examined (California State Library) utilized a taskforce to design the volunteer program and training. Project F decided to research the possibility of forming an ALA taskforce. A summary of this research can be found in Section 10.

Due to the magnitude of this project, Project F realized during its research that the work to expand this project will need to be continued by another emerging leaders team. Therefore, a project description was drafted by Shiel for a proposed project for the 2012 Class of Emerging Leaders.

In preparation for the ALA Emerging Leader Poster session at the 2011 ALA Annual Conference in June detailing our progress on the project, Project F designed some materials to share. These materials included a website (designed by James), a handout (designed by Shiel), and a poster (designed by James & Shiel). A report will also be given to the Chapter Relations Committee at the conference.

All members of Project F are enthusiastic about the development of this program even beyond their involvement in the 2011 Class of Emerging Leaders. Therefore, they all have offered to stay on project, which will be taken up by the 2012 Emerging Leaders Program (assuming it is approved), as co-mentors and/or an advisory board to its members. In addition, many of the Project F members and Lubin have offered to introduce this program in the states they are from (Idaho, New York, Minnesota, and Wisconsin). Since a pilot will be needed this is a great way to select states to test drive the program in. Both Wood and Lubin also have expressed an interest in remaining involved with the project.
2. History

*Contributed by Valerie Hawkins & Easter DiGangi*

The origins of “Librarians Build Communities” likely came from the 1998 Volunteer Day held at the ALA Midwinter meeting in New Orleans co-sponsored by the Louisiana Library Association (LLA). This was a part of former ALA president Barbara Ford’s initiative. It is speculated that this first Volunteer Day informed the first Libraries Build Communities program in 2006.

In 2006, ALA worked with a list of several organizations to coordinate volunteer efforts all over the city for two specific days and times. Attendees paid a $10 registration fee for the special event called “Librarians Build Communities!” Then ALA staffer Teresa Koltzenburg wrote about the project for the ALA TechSource Blog.

When the t-shirts were printed, though, there was some unintentional confusion with the presidential theme of former ALA President Sarah A. Long (1999-2000), which was the similar phrase, “Libraries Build Communities,” and so that’s the phrase that appeared on the t-shirts instead of “Librarians Build Communities”. The August 2006 issue of ALA’s member magazine American Libraries showed a photo of one of the volunteers (Verna Bond-Broderick) wearing the t-shirt, further cementing the idea that the program was named “Libraries Build Communities”.

The Annual Conference reports in that August 2006 issue provided information on the various volunteer sites and activities, the participating community service groups, and company sponsors. Libraries Build Communities programs have been at subsequent Annual Conferences. Over 100 ALA members continue to volunteer to assist in cities where they meet for Annual Conferences. In 2007 LBC assisted school and public libraries in Washington, D.C.; in 2008, Anaheim, CA; in 2009, Chicago, IL; and in 2010, Washington, D.C. Some volunteers assist other organizations (e.g., Habitat for Humanity, local food bank), but the majority of volunteers assist libraries and librarians. LBC is currently managed by the ALA Chapter Relations Office (CRO).

That brings us to the move to establish a national Libraries Build Communities program. Indeed, the 2011 Emerging Leaders, Project F, were charged to develop a national Libraries Build Communities Program. On March 10th, 2011 the name was officially changed by Project F from “Libraries Build Communities” to “Librarians Build Communities” to reflect the mission of the program.
3. **Goals**

**Short term**
- Mission statement
- Local, State, and National Models research
- Partner list
- Next EL project proposal
- Taskforce research

**Long term**
- Method(s) to extend and implement Librarians Build Communities widely (local, state, national) will be developed.
- Develop taskforce/committee to design/manage program
- Create a public relations plan to advertise and promote this program to librarian volunteers and to library & non-profit organizations around the country.
- Develop assessment measures
- Develop resources to find and obtain specialized volunteer assistance
- Method(s) to support financing the budget required for the program will be decided.
4. Librarians Build Communities Mission statement

“To connect librarians with libraries and community organizations in need of skilled volunteers in order to form meaningful volunteer opportunities and to improve awareness of the expertise librarians possess.”

Approved May 1st, 2011 by Project F, 2011 ALA Class of Emerging Leaders
(Kristi Brumley, Easter DiGangi, Heather James, Erin Leach, Teri Shiel)

ALA mission: “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.” -- http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/missionhistory/mission/index.cfm

ALA Office for Human Resource Development and Recruitment (HRDR) mission: “...is to facilitate the development of librarianship as a profession.”--http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/hrdr/index.cfm
5. Example models for expansion

Contributed by Kristi Brumley, Easter DiGangi, Heather James, Teri Shiel, and Erin Leach

- Local
  - Conclusions: Many local models use online clearinghouses to connect interested volunteers with opportunities in their area. There are a variety of online databases, which could serve as models for our project and which seem to be the most efficient way to pair volunteers with opportunities if they are not already affiliated with a church or other community group.
  - Examples:
    - Dane County (WI) branch of United Way - This includes an online clearinghouse <http://volunteeryourtime.org/> which was made possible by their partnership with the following institutions: RSVP of Dane County, Madison Area Technical College, the Morgridge Center for Public Service, and Edgewood College.
    - Docent program and the Denver Public Library - They include an interest form, a list of opportunities & benefits, and training materials. The website also indicates that volunteers must complete all training, commit to three hours per week for at least one year, and attend docent meetings. http://denverlibrary.org/content/docent-program
    - Librarians Mutual Aid Society (FL) - This was L. Nash White's idea from the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library. The group included catalogers, an automation specialist, library school students, library staff members, and even some people outside of the library profession. The effort expanded to the members' libraries.
    - New York Online Access to Health - This is a website of consumer info built by librarians. This website, http://noah-health.org/en/about/index.php, lists its partners past and present. These partners include the following: The Brooklyn Public Library, The City University of New York, the Metropolitan NY Library Council, The New York Academy of Medicine, The New York Public Library, The Queens Borough Public Library, the New York State Library, United States Department of Commerce, and The National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service.
    - Libraries and Info Services agency in Scotland http://www.edinburghlibrariesagency.info/
Example models for expansion continued

- State
  - Conclusions: The apparent primary concern of most state associations is to gain volunteers for association committees, conferences, and occasionally for mentors. However, there are some examples of acquiring volunteers for other purposes.
  - Examples:
    - Vermont Library Association: It has a section of its website, [http://www.vermontlibraries.org/employment](http://www.vermontlibraries.org/employment), dedicated to connecting volunteers with institutions in need. This includes a substitute pool as well as regular volunteer opportunities. The former is powered by a Google Docs Form that volunteers can fill out. The latter consists of a list of current volunteer position openings.
    - Georgia Library Association: Hosted by [librariansbuildcommunities.wordpress.com](http://librariansbuildcommunities.wordpress.com) and run by Valdosta State University. It is an account of a scholarship program available to MLIS students through the GA Public Library Service.
    - California State Library: They have a state-wide volunteer program called “Get involved: Powered by your Library”. It centers around this online clearinghouse supported by VolunteerMatch: [http://californialibraries.volunteermatch.org/](http://californialibraries.volunteermatch.org/). This clearinghouse lists different opportunities for skilled volunteers posted by public libraries across the state. There are a lot of materials available on their website to assist librarians in posting these opportunities and managing volunteers. A taskforce of state and national library leaders and volunteer managers was formed to design the training and the program.
    - Louisiana Library Association: Instrumental in the Volunteer Day at 1998 ALA Midwinter (New Orleans), which was a precursor to Libraries Build Communities.
    - DC chapter of SLA: It was established as part of the chapter's strategic plan and it coordinates volunteers from their chapter. The committee's first project was a result of a grant that they received from the World Bank. Leach stated that a lot of their projects utilized grant money in some fashion. Their current project is an LSTA grant.
Example models for expansion continued

- **National**
  - Conclusion: The “Skills-Based Volunteerism” model fit the core of what our project is about. “[B]asically, it is very similar to what we were discussing where volunteers are assigned to particular areas/opportunities based on their skill set, so, if a rural PL needs help cataloging materials, and you are a catalog librarian […] etc.”
  - Examples:
    - Volunteering Tasmania
    - Taproot Foundation
    - Peace Corps Day
    - Points of Light
    - All for Good
    - ALA Connect Volunteer Exchange- You can search, create, and manage opportunities here. These opportunities have the following characteristics: title, type, educational program level, ethnicity (if applicable), disability (if applicable), city, state, country, restrictions (if any), open to non-U.S. Residents, open to non-ALA members, contact information, type of library, interests, expiration date (if applicable), available through date, and deadline to apply.
  - On a more general level:
    - Google Forms could also be used on a National level as an online clearinghouse.
    - Volunteering could be done virtually
      - This has been done for the Internet Public Library, [http://www.ipl.org/div/about/](http://www.ipl.org/div/about/).
    - Management Software could be used
6. Volunteer Best Practices

Contributed by Easter DiGangi

Volunteer programming should have clearly defined guidelines for recruitment, selection, training, evaluation, and recognition. This program should have a general goal or mission statement as well as list its' benefits and purpose(s).

In terms of administrating a volunteer program, the following components should be considered: volunteer coordinator/manager, job descriptions both for volunteers and the coordinators, application form, interview, reference requests, orientation and training (including confidentiality, skill & safety training), contracts and releases, time forms, work schedule, assignment, communication & feedback, performance evaluation and recognition, educating the library staff about volunteers, valuing volunteers, rules & discipline, and record keeping (i.e. keeping track of number of hours volunteered).

Manuals and guidelines are also an important part of a volunteer program. Ideally there should be a general policy and procedure manual as well as guidelines for volunteers. In addition, there should be a handbook for volunteer supervisors.

The following issues should also be addressed:

- volunteer demographics
- motivation (develop volunteer program philosophy, consider agency mission)
- management (background checks, facilitate, etc.)
- matching volunteers based on their interests and skills
- flexible hours and location (i.e. virtual volunteering)
- ethical and legal issues

Additional resources:
http://www.library.ca.gov/lds/getinvolved/docs/F-resources/VolunteerInvolvementInCaliforniaLibraries-BestPractices.pdf

Effective Practices for Leveraging Volunteers: http://www.nationalserviceresources.org/ep-leveraging
7. Partnerships

Contributed by Kristi Brumley, Easter DiGangi, Heather James, Teri Shiel, and Erin Leach

Library Partnerships

- State Library Associations and State Libraries
- Public Library Association (PLA) and their blog [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/pla/index.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/pla/index.cfm)
- Special Library Association (SLA) [http://www.sla.org/](http://www.sla.org/)
- American Association of School Librarians (AASL) [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/index.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/index.cfm)
- ALA Chapter Relations Committee [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/committees/ala/ala-crc.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/committees/ala/ala-crc.cfm)
- ALA Student Chapters [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/affiliates/chapters/student/studentchapters1.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/affiliates/chapters/student/studentchapters1.cfm)

Other Possible Partnerships

- All for Good [http://www.allforgood.org/](http://www.allforgood.org/)
- Service Leader [http://www.serviceleader.org/](http://www.serviceleader.org/)
8. Marketing

Marketing opportunities
Magazines such as American Libraries magazine, Library Journal, PLA blog, Facebook, online newsletters, conference seminars, conference newsletters, presentations, local newspaper, posters, and more!

Upcoming Marketing Opportunity: Share Librarians Build Communities at PLA!
PLA Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA March 13-17, 2012. ConverStations provide conference attendees with forums for discussion on timely, relevant topics for public library professionals. Facilitators are expected to briefly showcase model programs or innovative techniques, or report on projects or studies (5–10 minutes) and stimulate discussion (50–60 minutes). The facilitator’s role is to ensure that the discussion stays lively and relevant to the topic and that all attendees who wish to speak have the opportunity to do so. ConverStation facilitators are not expected to prepare formal presentations.

If you have a question about a proposal, please contact Linda Bostrom, lbostrom@ala.org or 800/545-2433, ext. 5027
Media and Public Relations Resources

Dealing Effectively with the Media John Wade FIC 302.23 WADE 1992
Layperson’s guide to media use, guidelines for media opportunities, professional and personal benefits when using media in your organization.

Facebook Marketing: leverage social media to grow your business Steven Holzner 658.872 HOLZNER 2009
How to target your social media presence, use Facebook applications, host online events, and develop your own applications.

Friends With Benefits: a social media marketing handbook Darren Barefoot 658.872 BAREFOO 2010
How to monitor the Web understand and participate in online communities, Netiquette, market your service using social media marketing and promotion techniques.

Guerilla P.R. 2.0: wage an effective publicity campaign without going broke Michael Levine 659.2 LEVINE 2008
Cost effective ways to use online resources, and electronic media to benefit your organization.

Comprehensive step-by-step guide, showing how to generate publicity, enhance fund raising, build membership, handle crises and much more.

Making the News: a guide for nonprofits and activists Jason Salzman FIC 659.0973 SALZMAN 1998
User friendly guide that demystifies access to the news media. Strategic Communications for Nonprofit Organizations: seven steps to creating a successful plan Janel W. Radtke East to follow, 7 step programs to develop a comprehensive communications plan with worksheets, forms, surveys and self assessment tools.

The New Rules of Marketing and PR: how to use news releases, blogs, podcasts, viral marketing and online media to reach your buyers directly David Meerman Scott 658.872 SCOTT 2007
Effective ways to use all the web based communications tools to reach your audience directly, effectively leverage social networking sites to benefit your organization.

Promoting Issues & Ideas: a guide to public relations for nonprofit organizations Foundation Center FIC 659.288 PROMOTI 1995
How nonprofits can manage and carry out a public relations program from planning to full implementation.

Public Relations for Dummies Eric Yaiverbaum 659.2 YAVERBAUM 2006
Outlines and explains basic public relations techniques and tools.

Publicity & Promotion: [http://www.library.ca.gov/lds/getinvolved/resources.html#publicity](http://www.library.ca.gov/lds/getinvolved/resources.html#publicity)

Publicity Power: a practical guide to effective promotion Charles Mallory FIC 659 MALLORY 1989
Straightforward guide to develop a publicity plan, implement, use publicity services and how to prepare for interviews, appearances and special events.


Twitter Revolution: how social media and mobile marketing is changing the way we do business and market online Deborah Micek 658.872 MICEK
How to “tweet” with the best and benefit your services and organization.

Using Public Relations Strategies to Promote Your Nonprofit Organizations Ruth Ellen Kinzey FIC 659.2 KINZLEY 1998

8/18/2010 R.J., V.K, A.S. Covers the basics, nonprofit focus.
8. Financial implications

Contributed by Kristi Brumley and Easter DiGangi

Conclusions
This program does not necessarily require a significant financial contribution. Each Chapter (state library association) would keep costs down by having a board member (volunteer) who takes responsibility for putting the program information on to their website and keeping it updated. The volunteer responsible for updating the program could change once a year or once every two years. There could also be a small committee or task force of Chapter volunteers who work on the project for each state. It would be the decision of each Chapter how detailed or involved they wanted to get.

The Chapter board member or committee would post information about Librarians Build Communities on their Chapter website. The website can be as simple: a list of volunteer opportunities for librarians in particular cities or the entire state. It could also be complicated: the Chapter could match skilled librarian-volunteers to volunteer opportunities that suit their skills. In addition, each Chapter could initiate their own one-day Librarians Build Communities day once a year.

Grants
If the Chapter wanted to apply for a grant to cover some costs then they should do this through local or state grants. The librarian-volunteers would be responsible for their own transportation and food so there should not be many expenses for this program. However, some possible expenses would be website or database design and maintenance, marketing design, creating Librarians Build Communities t-shirts, and volunteer recognition (awards, parties, etc.). If funding is needed then the Chapter would need to apply for grants or conduct fundraising. Local grants would be the best option because it is often difficult to get national grants for small local projects. For example, in Idaho, the Idaho Humanities Council and the City of Boise offer accessible grants for local projects.

ALA Involvement
ALA does not have a lot of extra money to contribute to this program but Don Wood, Chapter Relations Program Officer, will oversee the program by serving as an advisor and mentor, sharing information, and answering Chapter questions. The ALA Chapter Relations Office could also assist with Chapter communications and program marketing. Publicity and marketing does not need to cost very much. Most of the marketing can be done online through websites, blogs, emails and listservs, and press releases. ALA or the Chapter could possibly design a Librarians Build Communities poster to hang in library staff rooms. This poster could be emailed to all types of libraries and then the poster could be printed at that library and hung in the staff room.
A librarian would first approach their Chapter by submitting a proposal to the board. For example, the librarian approached the Idaho Library Association (ILA) to start Librarians Build Communities in Idaho. The board meets to discuss the program (this can also be done through email) and then votes to add the program as a sustainable project supported by ILA. The board agrees to officially add the program to the ILA website and selects two ILA members to work on the program. In this case, two MLS students have volunteered to work on the project. They will start by adding information to the website. They will visit, call and send emails to organizations that might be interested in having skilled librarian-volunteers. The will send an email out all ILA members and ask for volunteers and leads on organizations that need volunteers. Organizations would fill out an online form to request a volunteer and the info would be placed on the website. Librarian-volunteers could read about volunteer opportunities on the ILA website and then contact organizations themselves or, if ILA has the time and man power, they could bridge the gap by matching librarian-volunteers skills to the skills that are requested by organizations. Librarian-volunteers would ultimately volunteer at organizations that need their help. For example, they could volunteer at senior citizen center libraries, school libraries, public libraries, state libraries, teen detention centers, Friends of the Library, and shelter libraries.

Online Resources


Grant Databases

- Foundation Directory Online: Search 72,000+ U.S. foundations, corporate giving programs and grantmaking public charities and a file of over 150,000 grants.
- Foundation Grants to Individuals: A unique database that focuses on foundations that provide financial support for individual grantseekers.
- Philanthropy In/Sight: Visual platform for global philanthropy.
9. Volunteer Management Tools

Contributed by Easter DiGangi

● Applications
  ○ Fauquier County Public Library: http://www.fauquiercounty.gov/government/departments/library/index.cfm?action=volunteer
  ○ Carver County Library: http://www.carverlib.org/yourlibrary/friends.php
  ○ Athens County Public Libraries: http://www.athenscounty.lib.oh.us/volunteer
  ○ Worthington Libraries: http://www.worthingtonlibraries.org/about/getinvolved/volunteer
  ○ Contra Costa County Library: http://ccelib.org/donations/volunteer.html
  ○ Hennepin County Library: http://www.hclib.org/pub/info/support/Volunteers.cfm
  ○ Seattle Public Library: http://www.spl.org/about-the-library/support-your-library/volunteer-opportunities
  ○ Brooklyn Public Library: http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/support/volunteer/
  ○ Fairfax County Public Library: https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/volunteer/vol_app.htm

● Coordinator Job Descriptions and Sample Interview Questions
  ○ CA’s Get Involved: Powered by Your Library
    http://www.library.ca.gov/lds/getinvolved/resources.html#mgr

● Manuals
  ○ Chester County Library:
  ○ California Library Volunteers:
    http://www.literacy.net.org/clv/resources/policy/index.html
    ■ Napa City-County, San Bernardino County Library, Shasta, Trinity County
  ○ Nonprofit Risk Management Center:
    http://nonprofitrisk.org/tools/volunteer/review/o_contents.htm

● Policies, Handbooks, and Training Manuals
  ○ CA’s Get Involved: Powered by Your Library
    http://www.library.ca.gov/lds/getinvolved/resources.html#policies
  ○ CA Library Volunteers: http://www.literacy.net.org/clv/resources/policy/index.html
  ○ Mid-Hudson Library System examples: Includes examples from NY (3), WI (2), CO (1), CA (1)
    http://midhudson.org/department/member_information/library_policies.htm#vol

● Position Descriptions
  ○ CA’s Get Involved: Powered by Your Library
    http://www.library.ca.gov/lds/getinvolved/resources.html#impact
  ○ CA Library Volunteers: http://www.literacy.net.org/clv/resources/jobs/
  ○ Chester County Library System:
    http://www.ccls.org/cwo/Find_a_Library/ChesterCounty/Volopeneings
  ○ Fairfax County Public Library: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/volunteer/volposdesc.htm
  ○ Free Management Library: http://managementhelp.org/staffing/volunteers.htm#anchor1272089

● Resources
  ○ Corp. for National & Community Service: http://www.nationalserviceresources.org/topics
  ○ Volunteer Management: http://midhudson.org/funding/fundraising/volunteers.htm
I corresponded with ALAs librarian, Karen Muller, to understand what would need to happen for a task force of ad hoc committee to be created to support Librarians Build Communities.

Karen stated that we would need to bring a proposal for the creation of the taskforce of ad hoc committee to the Chapter Relations Committee. The task force would report to the CRC and a member of the CRC (probably Don Wood) would be its chair.

In her correspondence, Karen included this link for guidance on the structure, formatting, etc. of the proposal: http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/governance/officers/eb_documents/2010_2011ebdocuments/ebd10_2_young_lbns_t.pdf
Librarians Build Communities Project Description

Librarians Build Communities is an exciting new program which builds and strengthens communities by making it easier for librarians to connect with local libraries and nonprofit organizations and put their librarian-skills to use by volunteering for good causes. The program is an expansion of the American Library Association’s annual volunteer service day Libraries Build Communities.

Program History

The American Library Association’s Libraries Build Communities project began in New Orleans during the 2006 American Library Association Annual Conference when ALA member-volunteers helped with projects related to the damage inflicted by Hurricane Katrina. Over 100 ALA members continue to volunteer to assist in cities where they meet for Annual Conferences. In 2007 Libraries Build Communities assisted school and public libraries in Washington, D.C.; in 2008, Anaheim, CA; in 2009, Chicago, IL; in 2010, Washington, D.C.; and in 2011, New Orleans. Some volunteers assist other organizations (e.g., Habitat for Humanity, local food bank), but the majority of volunteers assist libraries and librarians. Libraries Build Communities is managed by the ALA Chapter Relations Office (CRO).

Libraries Build Communities was proposed as a project for the ALA Emerging Leaders 2011 Team F, who worked to transform and expand the annual day of service to an ongoing, national volunteer program. Therefore, Project F renamed the program to Librarians Build Communities to reflect the positive impact that librarians as professionals have in building communities by volunteering for their local community. Project F created a viable template from which a year-round volunteer organization can be implemented.

Expected Program Outcomes

The 2012 Emerging Leaders team will build on the work started by Project F and implement the program in their home states. Some members of Project F will serve as project advisers to ensure a seamless transition from one team to the next.

Projected outcomes for Librarians Build Communities include the following:

1. Methods to extend and implement Librarians Build Communities widely (local, state, national) will be determined.

2. Create a resource for libraries and organizations with libraries to find and obtain specialized volunteer assistance, whenever and wherever it is needed. For example, one or more online resources (e.g., a website or web page, such as a clearinghouse; a blog; a Facebook presence; volunteer management tools) will be designed and created to connect librarians with volunteer opportunities.

3. Implement a public relations plan to advertise and promote the program to librarian volunteers and to library and non-profit organizations around the country. Increased media exposure will not only highlight the importance of supporting libraries, but also demonstrate the importance of librarians.
4. Explore partnerships with professional library organization’s (such as local library chapters and associations) to help support and manage the program.

5. Identify financial implications of project.

Clearly, libraries and librarians everywhere—every day—are in need of volunteer assistance, especially in these tough economic times, and in more cities than where ALA holds its Annual Conferences. Although offering one day of service in one city is certainly worthwhile, it is time to explore ways to extend the spirit of volunteerism and collegiality demonstrated in the ALA Libraries Build Communities project in order to provide all libraries requiring support with the specialized assistance only librarians can share.
12. Bibliography

History


Submitted by Teresa Koltzenburg on June 26, 2006 - 2:37am

Sarah A. Long Papers, 1999-2002 | The American Library Association Archives

ALA Membership Blog entry by ALA staffer John Chrastka, Volunteers Plan Libraries, Build Communities #ALA11,


“An Energetic Yellow Swarm Blankets the City.”
http://www.ala.org/ala/alonline/hurricanekatrinanews/volunteers/volunteers.cfm


ALA 2006 Annual Report
http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/governance/annualreport/annualreport/annualreportarch/20052006/conferenceandworkshops.cfm

Worth Remembering—ALA in New Orleans from CentenniAL, the American Libraries 100th anniversary
bloghttp://blogs.ala.org/AL100.php?title=worth_remembering&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1

http://wikis.ala.org/annual2008/index.php/Libraries_Build_Communities
http://wikis.ala.org/annual2009/index.php/Libraries_Build_Communities

2011 Emerging Leaders to Develop National Libraries Build Communities Program from the ALA Student Membership Blog

Why a National Libraries Build Communities? at ALA Connect Emerging Leaders forum
http://connect.ala.org/node/124519

President Barbara Ford Papers, 1994-1999
Volunteer models


Best Practices


