

ALA American Library Association

2020 Executive Board Candidate Bio



Alexandra P. Rivera
Student Success and Community Engagement Librarian
University of Michigan (UM) Library
Ann Arbor, MI

Type of Library: Academic

Statement of Professional Concerns:

As a longtime librarian and twenty year ALA member leader, I am proud of the work of our association. We are at a critical juncture as we re-envision ALA to meet the needs of the future. We must maintain our focus on the professional development and engagement of our membership so they (we) can continue to be effectively responsive to our communities' needs. We must also persist with advocating for our professional values, especially pertaining to intellectual freedom, equitable access to information, fostering critical thinking and embracing cultural intelligence as we promote diversity, equity, and inclusion across all library institutions. It is paramount that we efficiently and effectively steward our ALA's assets to ensure we can sustain these critical initiatives and advance our professional mission.

Previous Positions:

Outreach and Instruction Librarian, University of Arizona Libraries, Tucson Arizona -
2005 - 2011

Interim Coordinator, Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives – 25%, UM Library, Ann Arbor, MI
2014 - 2015

Substitute Librarian, Chelsea District Public Library, Chelsea, MI
2003 - 2004

Executive Secretary, Public Services Division, UM Library, Ann Arbor, MI
1994 - 2005

Education:

University of Michigan, School of Information
MS - Library and Information Studies–4/2004

Northern Arizona University, Department of Communications
BS - Telecommunications-Broadcasting/Production–12/1995

Affiliation(s):

Division Affiliation(s):
ACRL

Roundtables:

Ethnic & Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT)
Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT)
Library Instruction Round Table (LIRT)
New Member Round Table (NMRT)

Ethnic Affiliates:

Joint Council of Librarians of Color, Inc. (JCLC)
National Association to Promote Literacy and Information Skills to Latinos and Spanish Speaking (REFORMA)
Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA)
Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA)

ALA and/or ALA-APA activities:

ALA Council, Councilor-at-Large, 2012-present
2019 ALA Nominating Committee, Chair, Nov. 2017 - Feb. 2019
ALA Committee on Committees - Member, June 2016- 2017
International Relations Committee – Member, June 2014 – 2018
ALA Committee on Diversity – Member, 2009-2012; Chair, 2011/2012
ALA Committee on Education, Diversity Working Group, Committee on Diversity Representative, 2010-2012
ALA Planning and Budget Assembly - Committee on Diversity Representative, 2011-2012

ACRL

ACRL 2020 Leadership Recruitment and Nomination Committee, July 2018 - June 2020
ACRL 2017 Conference Roundtable Discussion Committee, July 2015 - April 2017
ACRL 2013 Conference Contributed Papers Committee, June 2012 - April 2013
ACRL University Libraries Section (ULS) Chair-elect/Chair/Past Chair, 2016 - 2019
ACRL ULS 2020 Nominating Committee Chair, 2018 - 2019
ACRL ULS Outstanding Professional Development Awards Committee Chair, 2016 - 2017/2018 - 2019
ACRL ULS Academic Outreach Committee - Chair, 2010-2012
ACRL ULS Executive Committee, Liaison for Academic Outreach Committee 2010-2012
ACRL Instruction Section (IS), Instruction for Diverse Populations Committee – Intern, 2006/2007; Member, 2007/2008; Chair: 2008-2010
ALA ACRL IS Executive Committee, Liaison for Instruction for Diverse Populations Committee, 2008-2010

Affiliates

Joint Council of Librarians of Color, Inc. Board of Directors, Vice-President, 2015 - present
Joint Conference for Librarian of Color II Executive Steering Committee, REFORMA Representative, 2007-2013
REFORMA JCLC Advisory Committee, 2019 - present
REFORMA Librarian of the Year Award Committee, 2012 - 2013
REFORMA Executive Board, Member-At-Large, July 2001–June 2002

Offices held in state/regional library associations and other associations:

Arizona Library Association, Services to Diverse Populations Interest Group, Program Coord. Aug.-Oct. 2005

Honors and/or Awards:

Harvard Leadership Institute for Academic Libraries - 2019
American Library Association Equality Award - 2018
Association of Research Libraries Leadership and Career Development Program Fellowship – 2011/12

Technology and Research Initiative Fund Grant-Higher Education for Rural Southern Arizona Initiative – May 2009
UA International Travel Grant - August 2007
ACRL Conference Travel Grant - March 2007
Minnesota Leadership Institute - August 2006
UMSI Thomas E. Alford Award - 2004
American Library Association Spectrum Scholar – 2001

Major Accomplishments:

One meaningful accomplishment is my work with the highly successful UM Library Peer Information Consulting program. I direct this peer education program which is comprised of a large cohort of undergraduate students from culturally diverse backgrounds. These consultants support the academic success of their peers and the K12 students involved in initiatives that I coordinate on behalf of the library. They also assist with library instruction and special projects. The program is also a pipeline to librarianship by attracting these student employees to our profession as a means to diversify our workforce. Other accomplishments include my mentorship of many graduate students and new library professionals and my sustained efforts to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion across the library ecosystem.

Publications:

Downing, Karen; Rivera, Alexandra; Welburn, Janice; Welburn, William, Zanoni, Jean. (2015, August 23). #ButHowLongWillTheyMatter? Preserving Digital Artifacts of Acts of Remembrance and Resistance. Innovation: journal of appropriate librarianship and information work in Southern Africa, Volume 2016, Number 53, 1 December 2016, pp. 56-72(17)

Rivera, Alexandra. (2013, August 17-23). “Indigenous Knowledge Paradigms and Cultural Competencies in the Library profession from Theory to Practice”, IFLA World Library and Information Congress, Singapore. August 20, 2013.

Rivera, Alexandra. “Diversity Counts Report: A Renewed Call for Action.” Synergy: News from ARL Diversity Programs, 2013, April 2013:10, 3-4.

Downing, Karen; Rivera, Alexandra; Winston, Mark. “Library Leadership 2.0: Leading from Throughout the Organization”, Library Book and Trade Almanac, 2012:57, 51-74.

Andrade, Ricardo, and Rivera, Alexandra. “Developing a Diversity-Competent Workforce: The UA Libraries’ Experience.” Journal of Library Administration, vol. 51, no. 7–8, Taylor & Francis Group, 1/10/2011, pp. 692–727, doi:10.1080/01930826.2011.601271.

Alire, Camila; Brown, Malore, Downing, Karen; Pitchford, Veronda; Rivera, Alexandra; Welburn, Janice, Welburn, William; Winston, Mark: “Memory, Authenticity and Cultural Identity: The Role of Library Programs, Services and Collections in Creating Community ” IFLA World, August 2009.

Alire, Camila; Cawthorne, Jon; Downing, Karen; Hall, Tracie; Jordan, Alysse; Offord, Jerome; Pitchford, Veronda; Rivera, Alexandra: “Library Leadership Development: Institutional Commitment, Increasing Underrepresented Populations And Impacting The Information Profession.” Continuing Professional Development: Pathways to Leadership in the Library and Information World, 2007, pp. 20–39.

Number of Years as an ALA Member: 20 years