

Steven Yates (he/him)

Associate Professor and Assistant Director
University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies
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Type of Library: LIS Educator, Former School and Public Librarian

Statement of Professional Concerns

As we near our 150th anniversary as an association, the ALA faces a number of challenges to remain the leading presence of our profession. As a mid-career professional with experience across the association, including AASL President (2017-2018), I am energized by the opportunity to serve with the thoughtful member leaders working with Executive Director Hall and ALA staff to overcome these challenges and lead libraries and library workers in an evolving world. I know we can realize the potential of the pivot strategy while operationalizing the governance changes currently in motion to support our work ahead.

ALA's structural and financial health to continue serving our mission are central responsibilities of the Executive Board. Our current cultural climate continues to test the capacity of our dedicated Public Policy and Advocacy and Office of Intellectual Freedom staff. We must bolster and expand our capacity in these areas to more robustly respond to federal, state, and local issues and more fully participate in the coalition building that is working to provide sustainable policy solutions that align with our core values.

My passion for this profession and our association remains steadfast. The work we are doing now gives our association the best chance to continue serving our evolving field for the next 150 years. If elected, I will bring my experiences as a volunteer, Emerging Leader, division leader, educator, and library advocate to the Executive Board as we continue to sustain the support of our core values. Let's work together to create the responsive association we all want to succeed.

Previous Positions

Faculty, University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies, 2013-present

- Associate Professor, 2022-present
- Assistant Director, 2018-present
- Assistant Professor, 2017-2022
- Instructor, 2013-2017

School Librarian, Mountain Brook High School (AL), 2010-2013

School Librarian, Spain Park High School (AL), 2007-2010

Library Assistant (part-time), Hoover Public Library (AL), 2007-2008

Media Aide, North Highland Elementary School (AL), 2007

Education

Doctor of Philosophy (Instructional Leadership), University of Alabama, 2017

Education Specialist (Library Media), University of West Alabama, 2010

Master of Library and Information Studies, University of Alabama, 2006

Master of Arts (Communication Studies), University of Alabama, 2005

Bachelor of Arts (History and Geology), University of Alabama, 2003

Affiliations (brief list)

ALA Divisions: AASL (American Association of School Librarians), ACRL (Association of College and Research Libraries), PLA (Public Library Association), YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association).
Related: Freedom to Read Foundation, Alabama Library Association, Alabama School Library Association

ALA Activities

American Library Association, 2007-present (Life member)
Member of multiple divisions and round tables, 2020-present
Policy Corps Advisory Group, 2022-present
Presidential Advisory Committee for Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada, 2021-2023
Committee on Library Advocacy (Chair), 2021-2023
Forward Together Working Group (Co-chair), 2020-2021
National Network Advisory Committee / Pilot State Participant (Public Policy & Advocacy Office), 2019-2021
Candidate for 2021-2022 President, 2019-2020
Policy Corps, 2019-present
Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness, 2018-2020
Committee on Appointments, 2016-2017
Committee on Diversity, 2013-2015
Emerging Leaders Program Subcommittee, 2013-2015
Emerging Leader, 2010

ALA Division and Roundtable Activities

American Association of School Librarians, 2007-present
Legacy Committee, 2020-2021; 2022-2023
Innovative Reading Grant Committee, 2021-2022
Immediate Past President, 2018-2019
Chair, Leadership Development Committee, 2018-2019
President, 2017-2018
President-Elect, 2016-2017
Member-at-Large, Board of Directors, 2014-2016
Board-Elected Representative to Executive Committee, 2015-2016
Chair, Fall Forum 2014 Committee
National Conference 2013 Committee / Virtual Conference Subcommittee Chair
Professional Development Advisory Group, 2013-2015
Knowledge Quest Editorial Board, 2010-2013
AASL Annual Program Committee, 2011, 2012

Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures; 2020-present
Awards and Scholarships Coordination Committee, 2020-2022
Frederick G. Kilgour Award for Research in Library and Information Technology Committee (Chair), 2020-2021

United for Libraries, 2020-present
Friend at Large, Board of Directors, 2022-2025

ALA/AASL Chapter Activities

Alabama Library Association, 2006-present
Awards Committee, 2019-present
President, 2011-2012
Young Adult Services Roundtable Moderator, 2009-2010
Alabama School Library Association, 2007-present
Treasurer, 2007-2009
Alabama Virtual Library (AVL) Council, 2016-2017

Honors

2021 Ken Haycock Award for Promoting Librarianship, American Library Association
2017 Lois E. Henderson Presidential Award, Alabama School Library Association
2015 Teaching Award, University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies Student Advisory Committee

Member of ALA since 2006