ALA Executive Director Tracie Hall has initiated a cross-unit effort to aggregate and develop resources for members and the field in what she is calling the “American Library Association COVID-19 Recovery Initiative.” The intent is to provide an online platform that meets recovery response needs of libraries, staff and their communities. PLA staff was among those involved in the first planning meeting on Thursday, April 29.

Initial topics proposed as part of this overall effort include:

* Advocacy and policy
* Communications and messaging
* Community and Crisis informatics
* COVID-19 containment and mitigation efforts
* Continued Education
* Data collection and research
* Digital content and services
* Legal and liability concerns
* Privacy
* Sector convenings
* Content curation
* Service and material handling procedures
* Story curation and archiving of personal and community narratives (e.g. work with StoryCorps and focus on first responders; essential workers; librarians; the elderly in assisted living facilities; families with young children; BIPOC communities; etc. )--
* Technology
* Thought leadership (Research and Toolkits that align with areas above)

This is the preliminary list for discussion and likely will evolve in terms of how it is categorized and work organized. PLA has begun discussions with Tracie and others in ALA about our next planned survey to the field, which we expect will be inclusive of all library types. PLA is coordinating this work, but we expect to focus our analysis on the public library community while contributing to the overall landscape of the profession.

The cross-unit planning group will meet again the week of May 4, and Tracie hopes to launch the first round of resources online around May 15, 2020. It is planned that this new ALA clearinghouse webpage will replace the current ALA [pandemic preparedness page](http://www.ala.org/tools/atoz/pandemic-preparedness). It should not affect other division pages that have been established, but we anticipate there will be significant cross-posting.

Subsequent conversations are expected in terms of fundraising to support the effort, or at least specific projects or deliverables.