

ALA American Library Association

2020 Executive Board Candidate Bio



Eric D. Suess
Director
Marshall Public Library
Pocatello, ID

Type of Library: Public

Statement of Professional Concerns:

I am in my fourth term as an at-large Councilor. Governance has been a strong interest for many years. I am primarily motivated by service to community and profession. I've learned much of what it takes to both run an organization as well as serve our communities, and I'd like to take the next step toward higher service. I enjoy a collaborative environment, and the opportunity to provide leadership, especially at critical times. We are in a hugely transformative period, and I hope to bring my experience and passion for the profession to bear. Having worked in both public and academic libraries, as well as for a vendor, I feel that my varied perspective is useful given the need to serve libraries of all types.

Previous Positions:

Director, Commerce Township (MI) Community Library 2005-2010
Director Wayne (NJ) Public Library 2004-2005
Director Fraser (MI) Public Library 1996-2004
EBSCO Subscription Services 1993-1996
Corpus Christi State University 1989-1991
University of Illinois at Chicago 1087-1989

Education:

University of Notre Dame, BA Government/English 1983
University of Notre Dame – non-degree Theology 1984
University of Michigan – MILS Info and Library Studies 1987
University of Michigan – PhD program Info & Library Studies – did not complete

Affiliation(s):

Member: ALSC, ASGCLA, LITA, LLAMA, PLA, YALSA, GRT, GNCRT, IFRT, IRRT

ALA and/or ALA-APA activities:

ALA Council 2008-11, 2012-21; ALA Committee on Legislation 2008-09, 2018-20, CoL Subcommittee on Grassroots Advocacy 2008-2011 (Chair 2009-10), 2019-20; ALA Committee on Organization 2015-2019, ALA Awards Committee 2013-15 (Chair 2014-15); ALA Constitution and Bylaws Committee 2012-14, ACRL LPSS Publications Committee 1988-90; ALCTS Esther

J. Piercey Award Jury 1989-90; LAMA FRFDS Program Committee 2003-05; LAMA SASS Acquisitions Systems Committee 1989-91; LITA Vendor User Group 1994-95; IFRT Executive Committee 2006-08, 2010-15 (Chair 2013-14); IFRT Organization and Bylaws Committee 2005-09; IRRT Nominating Committee (Chair) 1988-89; ALA Council representative to the Planning and Budget Assembly 2015-17

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

Michigan Library Association: IFC Chair 2001-2, Membership Committee Chair 2006-7. Idaho Library Association: IFC Chair 2011-2015. Delegate to OCLC's America's Regional Council/Global Council 2018-2020.

Major Accomplishments:

In Michigan I helped create a community's first library. Much attention was focused on having strong policies which support intellectual freedom and incorporated the Library Bill of Rights. While I have moved on, the library continues to grow and thrive.

Number of Years as an ALA Member: Member since 1988