

TO: ALA Council

RE:

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X REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED BY: *(if no action, please leave blank)*

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DATE:

December 18, 2024

BACKGROUND:

The Committee on Literacy continues its development for a strategic plan to better promote multiple literacies, facilitate the development of programs and other resources to assist librarians and libraries to promote literacy, and raise awareness of literacies within the association. The Committee remains in discussion regarding literacy definitions, including AI literacy, to ensure ALA remains at the forefront of literacy as new literacies become reality. The Committee is also beginning to raise the questions of literacy's role as a social justice. To achieve these goals, the Committee on Literacy recognizes the need to develop talking points to drive committee, organizational, and community engagement to help drive understanding of how libraries fit into the literacy ecosystem.

The Committee on Literacy has the following objectives for the coming year:

1. Continue the development of a long-term strategic plan to sustain the work of the Committee and expand its reach.

3. Drive the literacies conversation forward with increased educational offerings, especially webinars.

The Committee agreed to the following responsibilities:

Literacy Clearinghouse Working Group: This working group identified a need to update and refine Literacy Clearinghouse to better meet the committee's charge of providing resources to assist the library community in promoting literacy and raising awareness of literacy within the association. The long-term goals of this group include cementing the Clearinghouse's credibility as a resource, updating and formatting it for currency, accessibility, and visual appeal, and analyzing how to utilize the Clearinghouse to highlight the literacy work impacting the current landscape.

Strategic Plan Working Group: This working group will assess and continue the work of developing a strategic plan to better promote multiple literacies, facilitate the development of programs and other resources to assist librarians and libraries to promote literacy, and raise awareness of literacies within the association. They are currently focused on assessing the work progress to identify any pivot points to better address timely issues as planning continues.

Webinar Series Working Group: This working group is focused on the development and encouragement of programs and educational opportunities for the library community in promotion of literacy. Their goal over the next year will be develop and host three webinars in support of this focus.

Meeting frequency will continue to be alternating monthly meetings: one month as a full committee and one month as individual working groups. The workload and timing of these meetings are currently being assessed for sustained engagement and work progress.

Submitted by Aubrey Huf , Committee on Literacy Staf Liaison