

American Library Association (ALA) Liaison Report
August 2026

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- **ALSC and YALSA Merger**
 - The Association of Library Services for Children (ALSC) and the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) will be reuniting.
 - YALSA will dissolve on **Monday, August 31st**.
 - Reunification will be effective September 1st.
 - Have questions? Please consult our [Reunification FAQ](#) or reach out to YALSA staff at yalisa@ala.org.
- **Library Card Sign-Up Month (September 2026)**
 - The theme is “A library card hits all the right notes!” (A music theme.)
 - This year, the Honorary Chair will be Laufey. (Pronounced most correctly in English as LAY-vay.)
 - Laufey is an Icelandic-Chinese composer, singer, producer, and multi-instrumentalist who is the youngest ever and two-time recipient of a GRAMMY Award for Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album.
 - She is also the author of the picture book *Mei Mei The Bunny*.
 - Library Card Sign-Up Month themed swag from [the ALA store can be found here](#).
 - Library Card Sign-Up Month themed [clothing can be found here](#).
- **National Voter Registration Day (Tuesday, September 15th)**
 - [National Voter Registration Day](#) is a nonpartisan civic holiday dedicated to helping Americans access information about how to register to vote.
 - ALA is a Premier Partner of National Voter Registration Day, and hundreds of libraries participate every year.
 - [Sign up as a Community Partner](#) by Thursday, September 3rd to receive a free mailed poster.
 - For inspiration ahead of this fall’s elections, visit ALA’s [Reader Voter Ready](#) campaign.
- **Get ready for Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15th to October 15th) with PLA’s free workbook**
 - Just in time for use in planning [Library Card Sign-Up Month](#) activities and celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month in September, PLA’s new workbook *Family Engagement for Spanish-Speaking Community Members: A Practical Guide for Authentic Engagement* provides case studies and planning tools to help library workers better engage Spanish-speaking families.
 - The guide is available for free download in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
- **ALSC National Institute**
 - **Thursday, October 1st through Saturday, October 3rd** in Buffalo, NY
 - [Full conference information can be found here](#).
- **Banned Books Week**
 - This year, Banned Books Week will run **Sunday, October 4th through Saturday, October 10th**.
 - The theme is “Let Books Be: Protect the Freedom to Read”.

- [More information about Banned Books Week can be found here.](#)
 - There is a page for [free downloadable content which can be found here.](#)
 - Banned Books Week themed swag from [the ALA Store can be found here.](#) More content will be added as we get closer to the date.
- Core Forum
 - Core is ALA's newest division. It represents "leadership, infrastructures, futures".
 - It brings together "decision makers and practitioners that focus on the following areas: Access & Equity, Buildings & Operations, Leadership & Management, Metadata & Collections, Preservation, and Technology."
 - The Core Forum is a new annual event that is "structured around these seven topics, particularly the ways in which they interact with and complement each other."
 - The next Core Forum will be **Wednesday, November 18th through Friday, November 20th** at The Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky.
 - [More information about the Core Forum can be found here.](#)
- Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) releases additional reports on censorship in 2025
 - The American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom has released two reports providing additional detailed insights from 2025, the year with the highest level of library censorship ever documented in the U.S.
 - The reports are derived from additional analysis of the [2025 data.](#)
 - One report focuses on censorship activities that took place at public libraries, and the other examines censorship at school libraries.
 - Each report includes an overview of significant changes and trends, data on threats to intellectual freedom at public libraries or schools, and details on the censorship of books intended for children or intended for teens.
 - [Access the full reports here.](#)
- Federal court permits suit on Trump-halted Digital Equity Act to proceed
 - Following a July 15 decision by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, the Digital Equity Act (DEA) Competitive Grant Program is set to resume, but without a key provision that addresses racial disparities in internet access.
 - The \$2.75 billion DEA, a congressionally authorized program from the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, was designed to close the digital divide by establishing grants to support broadband access and digital skills training for underserved communities.
 - The National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA) lawsuit, filed on October 7, 2025, challenged the cancellation of the DEA Competitive Grant Program, one of the three DEA programs cancelled by President Trump on May 9, 2025.
 - ALA joined an amicus brief in support of NDIA's lawsuit, which will proceed until the government fulfills its commitment to resume the program.
 - ALA will provide updates and communicate when it is clear what the court decision means for libraries and organizations which had previously applied for funding.

- FAQs and more information about the DEA are available on ALA's [Digital Equity Resources for Libraries](#) webpage.
- Public Library Association (PLA) task force launches AI resources
 - Building on insights from a January 2026 town hall, the PLA Transformative Technology Task Force has curated AI guidance, sample policies, and resources for public library workers.
 - The resource lists are organized into the categories public library staff most often ask for information on: policies, training for staff, and training for patrons/customers.
 - [Explore and contribute here.](#)
- ALA Staff unionization process updates
 - A supermajority of ALA employees formally requested that ALA management voluntarily recognize their union, [ALA Workers United](#), in a letter delivered to ALA Executive Director Dan Montgomery on March 30th.
 - ALA employees voted overwhelmingly to approve the formation of “ALA Workers United”, a new union representing staff at the 150-year-old association.
 - The final vote count, tallied on May 27, was 77–4, with 81 out of 87 votes counted. (Six votes were challenged.)
 - The National Labor Relations Board will now certify the union, a process that may take approximately 10 days, allowing workers to begin collective bargaining.
 - At the moment, there are no new updates to this, but some are anticipated soon!
- House passes bill on appointment of Librarian of Congress
 - House lawmakers passed a bill on June 8th aimed at preventing future executive branch interference in some legislative branch agencies, a year after President Donald Trump fired the librarian of Congress.
 - It would allow House and Senate leaders to appoint the heads of both the Library of Congress and the Government Publishing Office, removing that power from the president.
 - But the president would get new appointment authority over another role, the register of copyrights. Historically part of the Library of Congress, the Copyright Office has long drawn debate over its proper place.
 - The bill was passed by a voice vote. Now it heads to the Senate, where it would need enough bipartisan support to overcome a filibuster.
 - Before the bill can be debated by the full Senate, it must clear the following legislative milestones:
 - The designated Senate committee must review the text, propose any Senate-specific amendments, and vote to report the bill out of committee.
 - Senate Majority Leadership must place the bill on the active legislative calendar for a floor debate and final vote.
 - [More information about the bill can be found here.](#)
- ALA “Forward Together” updates
 - ALA Forward continues to serve as ALA's roadmap for the future, aligning resources where they create the greatest impact, strengthening its foundation, and ensuring ALA remains a trusted leader for libraries nationwide.

- Members can continue following progress, updates, and our new ALA Forward visual roadmap on [ALA's dedicated webpage](#).
- 2027 National Library Legislative Day
 - **Wednesday, February 24th & Thursday, February 25th, 2027**
 - The event takes place in Washington D.C. and combines advocacy education, networking, and in-person meetings with legislators and congressional staff on Capitol Hill.
 - Save the dates! [More information will be coming soon!](#)
- 2028 PLA Conference
 - **Monday, March 13th to Wednesday, March 15th, 2028** in San Francisco, CA.
 - Mark it on your calendars!
 - The call for program proposals will open in “early 2027”.
 - [Sign up to be alerted when the call for proposals opens.](#)