

Michigan Academic Library Association (MI-ALA): ACRL Chapter-FAQ

Question-

Why have the MI-ALA President also serve as the ACRL Chapter representative? Why not give another person such a leadership opportunity?

Answer-

The ACRL Guide to Policies and Procedures states:

“Chapters Council. Each chapter participates in Chapters Council through two representatives who have one vote on behalf of the chapter. Representatives are the president (chair) and vice-president (vice-chair) or a delegate who is a member of the executive board of the chapter and also a member of ACRL.”

We currently follow the practice of having the association president and vice-president serve as the chair and vice-chair.

Question-

Why a second ACRL Chapter?

Affiliation with ACRL offers benefits and is the best way to ensure MI-ALA and its members stay connected with national issues related to academic libraries and librarians.

It offers leadership opportunities for members who wish to pursue future leadership at the national level. ACRL Chapter status gives MI-ALA a voice at ALA/ACRL meetings and ensures issues of importance at the national level will be reported back to the state’s academic libraries. Since the inception of MI-ALA, there has been a desire to obtain ACRL Chapter status.

Michigan is not unusual in having two chapters. Other states, including New York and California, have multiple chapters, serving the needs of their academic membership.

Answer-

What services does ACRL provide to the Chapter?

Funding. ACRL provides reimbursement to Chapters for each Chapter member who is an ACRL member, \$1.00 per member. For the 2015-16 fiscal year, ACRL will provide equal reimbursement to the two Michigan ACRL chapters that currently exist.

Communication. ACRL Chapters receive communication from ACRL regarding issues of national concern to academic librarians. Chapters are designed to serve as a funnel from ACRL national to the local level and from the local level to national level.

Webinars. ACRL offers Chapters free access to a fixed number of ACRL webinars per year.

Networking. ACRL provides professional volunteer, networking and leadership opportunities for our members.

Question-

Is ACRL membership a requirement for MI-ALA?

Answer-

No, MI-ALA members do not need to be a member of ACRL. ACRL members affiliated with MI-ALA will automatically be a member of the MI-ALA ACRL Chapter, but need to pay the annual MI-ALA membership fee to be a full member of MI-ALA.

Question-

Who serves as the ACRL Chapter leader?

Answer-

MI-ALA President (see first question above)

Question-

How will the chapter leader solicit feedback from MI-ALA members on issues before ACRL?

Answer-

The association will use existing MI-ALA Communication Channels (website, listserv, social media) to keep both the membership informed and to request feedback or guidance on issues before ACRL. It would be expected that the ACRL representative would provide a status report following each national ACRL meeting and/or conference.

Question-

How will the chapter leader report to the MI-ALA members on ACRL activities and/or votes?

Answer-

See note on preceding question.

Question-

If I am an ACRL member will I automatically be a MI-ALA member?

Answer-

No. Like ACRL, MI-ALA charges a modest annual membership fee that helps cover annual association costs.

Question-

How will MI-ALA fund Chapter leaders to attend required ACRL meetings?

Answer-

ACRL chapters do not fund members to attend meetings. Chapter members should seek support from their institutions to attend, as with all conferences and meetings.

Question-

With two chapters in Michigan will both chapters be eligible for any grants provided by ALA/ACRL?

Answer-

Any ACRL chapter is eligible to apply for any funding opportunities available through ALA/ACRL. The proposals would be judged and funds awarded by ACRL based on their criteria.

More information regarding ACRL Chapters is available online,
<http://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/chapters>