MICHIGAN ACADEMIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Annual Report

2025–2026

MiALA
Michigan
Academic Library
Association

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About This Report

MiALA's strategic plan commits the association to communicating clearly and transparently with its members — including about how the association functions, how decisions are made, and how the Board sets budgeting and spending priorities. This annual report is a direct product of that commitment, and it is intended to become a standing feature of the association year.

The report documents the work of the MiALA Board, its committees and task forces, the Interest Group Coordinating Council, and the association's interest groups across the 2025–2026 association year — from the August 2025 Leadership Retreat through the Annual Conference and Annual Membership Meeting in May 2026. The content is from the Annual Membership Meeting 2026 slides as presented at the 2026 Annual Conference in Traverse City and is organized around the four areas of the strategic plan, followed by the financial report, reports from each committee and council, and a look ahead to 2026–2027.

The Year in Numbers

27 Institutional members	**325** Individual members	**182** Conference attendees	**65** Conference proposals received
47 Conference sessions accepted	**$21,850** Conference sponsorship	**$3,600** Interest group programming funded	**16** Mentorship program participants
7 Conference scholarships awarded	**4** New or revived interest groups	**5** Advocacy Day registrations sponsored	**8** Committees, councils, and task forces reporting

Governance

2025–2026 MiALA Board

Position	Board Member
President	Julie Garrison
Vice President / President-Elect	Mary O'Kelly
Immediate Past President	Mies Martin
Secretary	Linda Miles
Treasurer	Jessica Hronchek
IGCC Chair	Katie Edmiston
Publicly Funded University Representative	Ed Eckel
Publicly Funded University Representative	Samantha Minnis
Privately Funded University Representative	Gina Bolger
Privately Funded University Representative	Jen Bowen
Community College Representative	Kelli Herm
Community College Representative	Kyle Ceci

Setting the Agenda: The August 2025 Leadership Retreat

The association year opened with a Board leadership retreat in August 2025 devoted to a single question: what would it take to move the strategic plan from a document into practice? The retreat generated a working list of concrete ideas, several of which became the defining projects of the year:

- Fix the association's email infrastructure
- Create a new job board
- Create a new-member orientation
- Create an Early Career Interest Group
- Create a Board archivist position for document control
- Explore two-year staggered terms for committee and interest group chairs to preserve institutional memory
- Develop targeted communications about the value of membership

- Update the procedures document and share required minimums and best practices for interest groups and committees
- Build a new website
- Plan and build infrastructure for a mid-year engagement event
- Determine new revenue streams
- Explore additional professional development opportunities

The Board then invited committee chairs into a series of strategic conversations. Those conversations sorted the retreat list into two categories: ideas that committees were already positioned to carry forward on their own, and priorities where the Board itself needed to spend its energy. The sections that follow report on both.

Strategic Plan Progress

The Board organized its 2025–2026 work under the four areas of the MiALA strategic plan. Committee-level detail appears in the committee reports later in this document; this section reports Board-level activity and the projects the Board took on directly.

Area 1: Strengthen Advocacy and External Partnerships

The Board reignited the Advocacy Committee after a period of dormancy and began defining what partnership with peer organizations should look like in practice. The committee treated 2025–2026 as a rebuilding year: it settled on a working definition of advocacy and of its own role, made connections with the Michigan Association of State Universities (MASU) and the Michigan Library Association (MLA), published several calls for action, hosted a webinar, and supported member participation in Advocacy Day. A fuller account appears in the Advocacy Committee report.

Area 2: Communicate Clearly and Transparently

Two structural commitments came out of this area. The first is the Annual Membership Meeting as a substantive reporting occasion rather than a procedural one. The second is this annual report, which gives members a durable record they can consult outside the meeting itself.

The Treasurer's report in this document reflects the same commitment, responding directly to the strategic plan's call to identify opportunities for greater transparency about how the association functions, how decisions are made, and how the Board sets budgeting and spending priorities. The Communications and Marketing Committee carried the operational side of this area through the listserv, calendar, newsletter, and a reworked social media presence.

Area 3: Empower Engagement, Leadership, and Career Growth

Work in this area concentrated on lengthening the MiALA conference cycle so that planning begins earlier and committee members are not compressed into a single scramble, and on encouraging and supporting interest group and committee programming. The Interest Group Coordinating Council chartered one new interest group and revived three others, and distributed $3,600 in programming funds across six member events. The Membership Committee launched a mentorship program with sixteen participants in its first cohort.

Area 4: Strengthen Our Core Infrastructure

This was the Board's largest area of direct investment in 2025–2026. Four projects ran in parallel: a website review, a full policy and procedure manual revision, the creation of an archivist role to bring the association's digital records under control, and a redesign of the annual leadership transition. Each is reported below.

Website Review Task Force

Ed Eckel, Chair; Kyle Ceci, Vice-Chair

The task force was charged with making recommendations to improve ease of navigation; discoverability of and access to critical, current information; visual design; member engagement and interaction; and digital accessibility. It was further charged with reviewing administration and posting protocols — recommending responsible parties and workflows so that content stays current and relevant — and with evaluating whether the current platform can meet MiALA's needs at all. If it cannot, the task force is to develop standards and guidelines for replacing it.

Work completed this year: a full website audit, captured in a working spreadsheet; analysis of Google Analytics data from 2023 through 2026; and a member user survey launched in May 2026.

Work ahead: diagram the current site structure, identify essential content and functionality, recommend content for archiving in Google Drive, and deliver a recommendation in September 2026 on whether to reorganize the existing site or move to a new web system.

Task force members: Ed Eckel (Chair), Kyle Ceci (Vice-Chair), Angela Brcka, Michael Greenlee, Samantha Minnis, Lee Parker, Raya Samet, and Elizabeth Stauch.

Policy and Procedure Manual Review

Ed Eckel, Katie Edmiston, Julie Garrison, Mies Martin

This group reviewed the manual in full against current association practice, aligning documented policy with what MiALA actually does, removing redundancy, updating language, and adding policies and practices that had never been written down.

Status: Content review and update are complete. The revised manual is expected to be posted to the MiALA website in late May or early June 2026.

MiALA Archivist

Lee Parker, with support from Julie Garrison, Linda Miles, Katie Edmiston, and MCLS administrative staff

The archivist role was created to bring order to MiALA's historic digital files. The scope includes reviewing the existing files; organizing, de-duplicating, and consolidating them into a standardized structure; developing and implementing consistent file naming conventions and folder hierarchies; documenting where records belong; reviewing sharing permissions and access levels; building training materials for future MiALA leadership; and advising on the infrastructure needed to keep the system organized over time.

Status: Work is just beginning and is anticipated to take the remainder of the 2026 calendar year.

Leadership and Annual Transition

Jessica Hronchek, Mies Martin, Samantha Minnis

The association's annual handoff was redesigned so that each step has a fixed place in the calendar rather than depending on individual memory:

- Shift the election cycle to conclude by mid-April
- Communicate the date and location of the Leadership Retreat by May
- Confirm committee leadership for the upcoming year in June
- Open the volunteer form from January through June, and confirm that every volunteer receives a committee appointment

Status: All changes are currently being implemented.

Financial Report

Jessica Hronchek, Treasurer

The Treasurer's report is tied to two specific strategic plan tactics: the commitment under Area 2 to identify opportunities for greater transparency about how the Board sets budgeting and spending priorities, and the commitment under Area 4 to create a long-term spending, saving, and revenue-generating strategy that sustains the association's fiscal health while keeping it affordable.

Where the Money Comes From and Where It Goes

Revenue	Expenses
Institutional and individual memberships	Operations: administrative and financial
Conference registrations	Programming: interest group and committee activities
Conference sponsorships and grant support	Conference

The conference is budgeted with the goal of being self-sustaining.

Overall Fiscal Health

MiALA is in good overall fiscal health. Three factors account for it: consistently lean spending, healthy conference participation and sponsorship, and a robust savings position — the association began FY25 with $200,000 in unbudgeted savings.

	FY25 Actual	FY26 Approved
Net revenue	$101,271.00	$92,375.77
Net expenses	$104,692.00	$103,122.12
End of year	**$(3,420.79)**	**$(10,746.35)**

Both years show a planned operating shortfall drawn against savings. That is a deliberate choice rather than a warning sign, and the Board's financial strategy explains why.

Board Actions Toward Strategic Financial Planning

- Maintain a conservative emergency fund equal to one year's expenditures, held in laddered CDs, to preserve stability
- Spend down surplus savings deliberately, through strategic planning projects and operational needs
- Plan what future revenue sources need to be — membership rates among them — for long-term operational sustainability, and communicate clearly to members why and when those changes will happen

Committee and Council Reports

Interest Group Coordinating Council

Katie Edmiston, Chair

Council members: Katie Edmiston, Chair (Central Michigan University); Raya Samet, Vice Chair (University of Michigan–Dearborn); Michael Bradford, Secretary (Wayne State University); Alex Hauser, Member-at-Large (Michigan State University); and Mariela Hristova (Oakland University).

New and Revived Interest Groups

Interest Group	Status	Chair
Early Career Library Professionals	New	Tiler Jewell, Founding Chair
Archives & Special Collections	Revived	Lee Parker
Distance and Online Learning	Revived	Rachel Smith
Assessment	Revived	Delaney Jorgensen

Funding for Interest Group Programming

Interest Group	Event or Program	Amount
Cataloging and Metadata	Developing a Culturally Relevant Classification System	$300
Interest Group Coordinating Council	MiALA Conference IG Leaders Happy Hour	$300
Cataloging and Metadata	Controlled Vocabularies: Alternatives to LCSH Symposium	$1,000
Fine Arts	Broad Art Museum Visit & Tour	$500
Health Sciences	MHSLA / HSIG Conference	$500
Instruction & Information Literacy	MIX Conference	$1,000
Total	**Six funded events**	**$3,600**

2026 Conference Planning Committee

Thad Dickinson and Christina Radisauskas, Co-Chairs

The 2026 Annual Conference drew 182 attendees from 189 registrations. The program committee received 65 proposals and accepted 47 of them: 23 presentations and panels, 9 lightning talks, 2 workshops, and 13 posters. Sponsorship totaled $21,850.

Scholarships

Fifteen members applied for conference scholarships and seven awards were made, to Nazelie Doghramadjian, Vaughn Haynes, Jeneen Jadallah, Delaney Jorgensen, Elizabeth Kenney, Emily Minott, and William Neumaier.

Committee Members

Thad Dickinson, Co-Chair; Christina Radisauskas, Co-Chair; Liz Svoboda, Past Chair; Mary O'Kelly, Board Liaison; Kalyn Huson (MCLS/MiALA); Johanna Boyle; Amy Brandt; Meagan Brown; Lisa Burns; Courtney Cooney; Jen Fiero; Linda Miles; Rachel Minkin; Lee Parker; Emily Sanford; David Scott; Jill Spreitzer; Caitlyn Stypa; Stephanie Swanberg; and Lauren Vogt.

Advocacy Committee

Samantha Minnis and Sheila Garcia Mazari, Co-Chairs

The committee described 2025–2026 as a rebuilding year, and it used the year to establish the foundation the committee had been missing. It defined advocacy and its own role in carrying it out, made connections with MASU and MLA, published several calls for action, and set up next year's committee to work from a running start.

- **Webinar:** Developing the Collective Power of Library Workers, with Meredith Kahn and Emily Drabinski
- **Advocacy Day:** sponsored registration fees for five members and arranged parking through Lansing Community College
- **Next year:** expand member support and involvement

Committee members: Samantha Minnis, Co-Chair; Sheila Garcia Mazari, Co-Chair; Natalie Hagopian; John Szilagyi; and Paul Gallagher.

Communications and Marketing Committee

Jon Jeffryes, Chair

The committee's work sits at the intersection of two strategic plan areas — communicating clearly and transparently, and strengthening core infrastructure — and it partnered in this year's policy review on the infrastructure side.

- **Core communications:** listserv, calendar, and newsletter
- **Collaboration with the Membership Committee:** impact stories, and promotion of the job board
- **Social media:** added LinkedIn, sunsetting Facebook and X

Committee members: Jon Jeffryes, Chair (Grand Valley State University); David Scott (Ferris State University); LaCharmine Jefferson (Wayne State University); Jodi Coalter (Michigan State University); Claire Myers (University of Michigan); Angela Brcka (Western Michigan University); and Ed Eckel, Board Liaison (Western Michigan University).

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) Committee

Lee Parker, Chair

- Reorganized the IDEA resource list around twelve aspects of privilege and identity, subdivided by resource type, and updated the existing collection
- Delivered two DEI-centered library presentations — to Wayne State University's FLID student group and to the University of Michigan ALA Student Chapter
- Hosted a "New Librarians" MiALA virtual orientation in Fall 2025
- Advised the Conference Planning Committee on accessibility and developed a new accessibility survey for this year's conference
- Began developing poster accessibility guidelines for next year's conference
- Began coordinating a virtual half-day workshop for all MiALA members, to be held in Spring 2027

Committee members: Lee Parker, Chair (Central Michigan University); Jennifer Bowen, Board Liaison (University of Detroit Mercy); Jodi Coalter (Michigan State University); Jen Davidson (Southwestern Michigan College); Linda Miles (Michigan State University); Avery Olearczyk (Grand Valley State University); Jill Sodt (Mott Community College); and Jen Washburn (Kellogg Community College).

Membership Committee

Brenna Wade, Chair

Mentorship Program

The committee launched MiALA's mentorship program in February 2026 with sixteen participants in the first cohort.

Key Statements and Impact Statements

The committee collaborated with the Communications and Marketing Committee on key statements and member impact statements, giving the association consistent language for describing the value of membership.

Membership Numbers

	Count	Notes
Institutional members	27	One member did not renew: Siena Heights University
Individual members	325	Membership dipped to 268 in October before renewal reminders were sent; totals are up over last year

Committee members: Brenna Wade, Chair; Jonathan Barber; Caitlin Benallack; Gina Bolger, Board Liaison; Lauren Day; Jen Fiero; Darlene Johnson-Bignotti; Wendy Kamps Tsao; and Lori Kirby.

Nominations and Elections Committee

Mies Martin, Chair

Committee members: Mies Martin, Chair (Aquinas College); Darlene Johnson-Bignotti (Oakland Community College); Kendra Lake (North Central Michigan College); Maurine McCourry (Hillsdale College); Emera Bridger Wilson (Northern Michigan University); and Stephanie Mathson (Central Michigan University).

Election Results

Office	Elected
Vice President / President-Elect	Katie Edmiston (Central Michigan University)
Treasurer	Jessica Hronchek (Hope College)
Publicly Funded University Representative	Edward Eckel (Western Michigan University)
Privately Funded University Representative	Marcus Richter (Alma College)
Community College Representative	John Szilagyi (Lansing Community College)
Interest Group Coordinating Council	Michael Bradford (Wayne State University)
Interest Group Coordinating Council	Andrea Kepsel (Michigan State University)
Interest Group Coordinating Council	Christina Radisauskas (Aquinas College)

Looking Ahead: 2026–2027

2026–2027 MiALA Board

Position	Board Member
President	Mary O'Kelly (Western Michigan University)
Vice President / President-Elect	Katie Edmiston (Central Michigan University)
Immediate Past President	Julie Garrison (Western Michigan University)
Secretary	Linda Miles (Michigan State University)
Treasurer	Jessica Hronchek (Hope College)
Publicly Funded University Representative	Edward Eckel (Western Michigan University)
Publicly Funded University Representative	Samantha Minnis (Grand Valley State University)
Privately Funded University Representative	Jen Bowen (University of Detroit Mercy)
Privately Funded University Representative	Marcus Richter (Alma College)
Community College Representative	Kyle Ceci (Delta College)
Community College Representative	John Szilagyi (Lansing Community College)
IGCC Chair / IGCC Representative	To be selected from within the IGCC

The 2027 Annual Conference

MiALA will meet at Washtenaw Community College's Morris Lawrence Conference Building in Ann Arbor, May 16–18, 2027. Thad Dickinson chairs the planning committee, with Beth Wallis as vice chair. Members interested in helping plan the conference can reach Thad Dickinson at dicki1te@cmich.edu or Beth Wallis at wallis@oakland.edu.

Interest Group Leadership and New Groups

Raya Samet will chair the Interest Group Coordinating Council in 2026–2027.

Following the 2026 Annual Conference, the IGCC approved the creation of two new interest groups: Pop Culture & Academic Libraries and Library of Things, both of which will begin activity in the next annual cycle.

Commitments Carrying Into Next Year

- Website Review Task Force recommendation — reorganization or a new web platform — due September 2026
- Revised Policy and Procedure Manual posted to the MiALA website, late May or early June 2026
- Archivist project continuing through the remainder of the 2026 calendar year
- Advocacy Committee expanding member support and involvement, building on this year's foundation
- IDEA Committee virtual half-day workshop for all members, Spring 2027, and poster accessibility guidelines for the 2027 conference
- Continued implementation of the revised leadership transition calendar
- Long-term revenue planning, including membership rates, with clear communication to members about what changes and when

With Thanks

MiALA runs on volunteer labor. The work described in this report was done by members who took on committee chairs, task force seats, interest group leadership, conference planning, mentorship, and Board service on top of full jobs at their own institutions. Every name listed in these pages belongs to someone who gave the association time they did not have to give. Thank you.