



OUR STORIES, OUR SHELVES

MLA • DLA Conference 2026



OUR STORIES, OUR SHELVES

MLA • DLA Conference 2026

ALA at 150: Pathways to Engagement and Professional Growth

PANELISTS:

Tatanisha “Tiki” Love, Joseph Thompson, Aaron M. Wilson

May 6-8, 2026 | Cambridge, MD

Session Panelists



Tatanisha Love

School Library
Media Specialist

Southwest Academy
Magnet School



Joe Thompson

Director of Public
Services

Carroll County
Public Library



Aaron M. Wilson

Serials/Government Information
Cataloging Librarian

University of Maryland
College Park

Getting Involved with ALA

Help us understand the basic structure of ALA and where the best entry points are. What drew you to become active within your committee, division, or roundtable, and what tips can you offer for getting appointed to a committee or taking on a leadership role?



The Value of ALA Membership & Community

What are the greatest benefits of being active in ALA? Can you share a partnership or collaboration — at the state, regional, or national level — that had a lasting impact, and what do you wish more librarians knew about connecting across library types?



Navigating Today's Political Climate

We're in a particularly charged moment for libraries — from book challenges to funding cuts to intellectual freedom debates. How are you navigating advocacy while supporting your staff, and how do you bridge national policy conversations with the day-to-day realities on the ground?



ALA's 150 Anniversary & the Road Ahead

ALA is celebrating 150 years of service. What does this milestone mean to you personally, and as we look ahead, what is the most important issue the profession must collectively tackle — and how can ALA lead that charge?



Finding Your Voice Through ALA

Many library professionals feel passionate about their work but uncertain about where they fit within a larger organization like ALA. How did you find your voice and your place, and what advice would you give to someone just starting to explore that path?



Surprises of Leadership

For those newer to ALA leadership — what has surprised you most about taking on a leadership role within ALA, a division, or a roundtable?



Public vs. Academic vs. School Libraries

Public, academic, and school libraries each serve very different communities yet share many of the same challenges. What are the most significant differences in how you approach leadership and advocacy in your respective environments — and where do you find the most common ground?



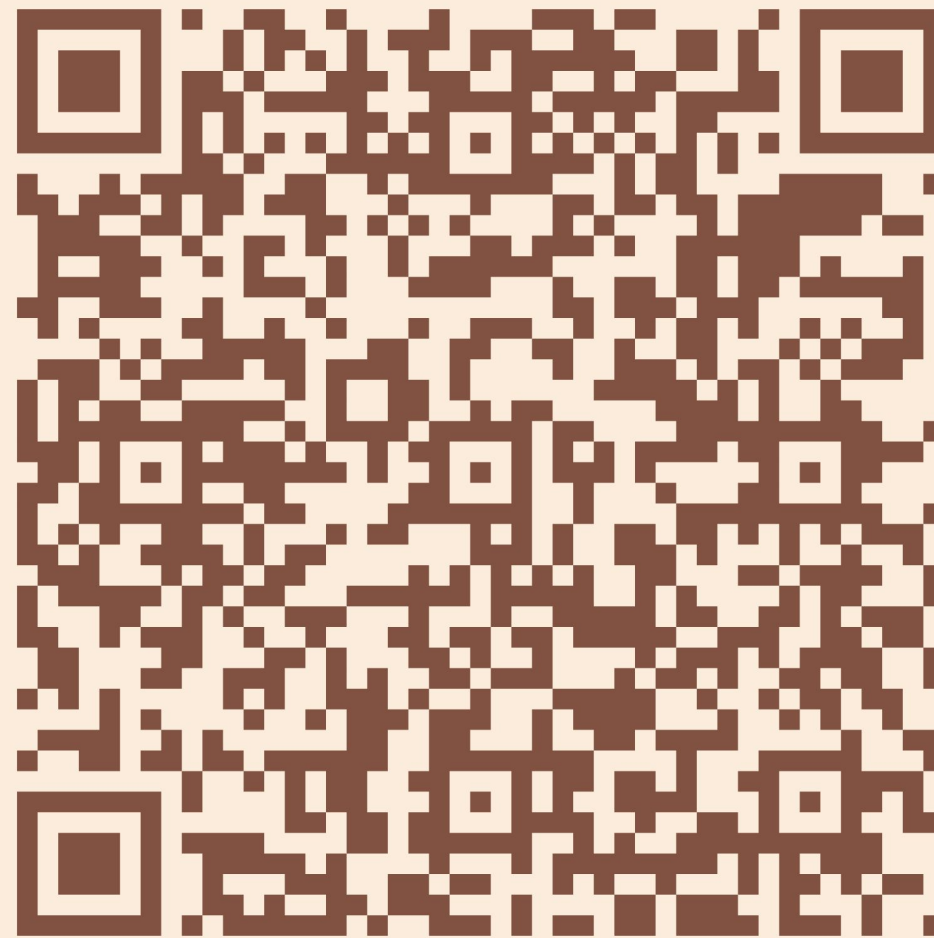
The Power of Collaboration

Can you share an example where collaboration through ALA helped you solve a problem or address a challenge you couldn't have tackled alone?



Thank you!

**Please take a moment to
complete the program survey.**



SCAN ME!



OUR STORIES, OUR SHELVES

MLA • DLA Conference 2026