

News Release: American Library Association

Public Information Office
American Library Association
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611
312 944-6780

From: Peggy Barber, Director
Public Information Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1976

ALA needs issue-oriented members to serve as discussion leaders for an innovative program scheduled during the 1977 annual conference in Detroit.

The day-long program, to be held on Tuesday, June 21, will be directed by ALA President Clara S. Jones.

Two hundred discussion leaders and alternates are needed. Those volunteering themselves or recommending others have until November 15, 1976 to submit names to: Annette Phinazee, Discussion Volunteers, ALA Headquarters, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. All discussion leaders must be ALA members. Appointments will be made by the end of the year.

The role of leaders will be to spark discussions within groups of 10-12 randomly assigned registrants of issues related to the theme, "First Step Into ALA's Second Century: The Information Society."

Discussion leaders must be able to attend, at their own expense, the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Washington, D.C. next January for a group dynamic training session and orientation.

This special President's program is only one part of the new conference format planned for Detroit. The program will feature an evening keynote session on Monday, June 20. All participants will be pre-registered for the special discussion sessions running throughout the day on Tuesday, June 21, and will have received personal copies of state-of-the-art papers commissioned by President Jones for the conference providing background for the three issues to be covered:

- more -

add 1. President's program

- the effect on libraries of technological, sociological and economic changes,
- the demand for new roles for librarians,
- the problems that ACCESS TO INFORMATION create for libraries.

The program is designed to:

- make participants aware of the issues libraries and libraries face in the immediate future,
- stimulate creative response and action for the White House Conference,
- promote a sense of unity within the library profession and ALA.

All ALA divisions and membership units have been advised of the programs purpose and have been asked to focus conference programs on these issues.