A Way Forward: LITA Sustainability Solutions

Kristen Cooper, Tonya Ferrell, Kelsey Flynn, Laura Mendez, Tonya Ryals, Paige Walker

Emerging Leaders 2020

For a more sustainable division, we recommend changes in the following areas: membership, education, events, and environmental issues.

Short term

● Add a sustainability fund option for Forum registration
● Increase member onboarding
● Create student board position(s)
● Promote affordable and virtual education

Mid term

● Pilot a certificate program
● Hold a biennial in-person Forum
● Hold a biennial virtual unconference

Long term

● Create certificate pathways
● Develop state and local partnerships
● Create varied membership options

Introduction

In January 2020, we were charged with identifying how the Library and Information Technology Association (LITA) division could live out the American Library Association (ALA)’s resolution on sustainability.

Methods

In March and April 2020, we researched a number of trade organizations across the United States and conducted a peer-reviewed survey of LITA members. Results gauged members’ financial commitment to environmental sustainability and interest in virtual events.

Analysis

We then analyzed 69 responses to our questions, identified organizational best practices, and formed larger conclusions to guide the financial and environmental sustainability of the division. Recommendations were then categorized into short-term, mid-term, and long-term directions.