

For Immediate Release  
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From: Pamela Goodes  
Linda Wallace  
312-280-5043, 5042

**Hardy R. Franklin is new ALA president**

Hardy R. Franklin, director of the District of Columbia Public Library, is the new president of the American Library Association (ALA). He assumed office on July 1, 1993, at the association's 112th Annual Conference in New Orleans.

As ALA president, Franklin is the chief elected officer of the world's oldest and largest association in support of libraries. Its 56,000 members represent all types of libraries -- public, school, academic and special.

Franklin will focus on customer service and service to youth as the theme of his presidential year.

"Libraries are America's longest running bargain," Franklin said. "But we must make sure the public is aware of that fact and know why it's so. Libraries are too often disregarded, or considered an expendable, rather than an essential service."

Franklin is a firm believer in marketing the library and reaching out to the public to determine and meet community needs.

"Librarians and libraries go hand in hand. You can't have one without the other. A library is a library only when it is open with trained, professional staff and materials."

**Hardy R. Franklin is new ALA president -- add one**

Franklin has received a contribution from the Margaret Alexander Edwards Trust to support a publication highlighting exemplary or model programs serving youth in libraries.

"We must raise the consciousness of the nation about libraries and their role in society," Franklin said. "The unifying principle of my career has been to measure everything I do in terms of service. I will challenge our profession not to become attached to any techniques, strategies, or issues which do not promote the overriding goal of all libraries - to serve the people."

Franklin holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Morehouse College in Atlanta, a master's degree in library science from Atlanta University and a doctorate in library science from Rutgers, The State University in New Brunswick, N.J. He is a member of Beta Phi Mu, the library honor society.

He has been director of the District of Columbia Public Library since 1974. Franklin has held a number of positions in the Library Science Department at Queens College of City University of New York in Flushing. He worked as senior community coordinator of outreach services, branch librarian and young adult librarian at the Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library; assistant adjutant general's librarian in Okinawa while in military service, and teacher-librarian for the Rockdale County Board of Education in Conyers, Ga.

Franklin has been a member of ALA since 1963, and has served the ALA and its units in many capacities. He has been a member of the ALA Council, the association's governing body; chair of the Joseph W. Lippincott Award Jury (1988-89), the association's most prestigious award; chair of the ALA Nominating Committee (1972-73) and chair of the Public Library Association (PLA) Nominating Committee (1978-79). PLA is a division of the American Library Association.

**Hardy R. Franklin is new ALA president -- add two**

He served as the 1992 president of the D.C. Library Association and was a member of the 1992 National Conference of African American Librarians Advisory Committee.

Franklin received the Rutgers University Library School Alumni Associations' Distinguished Alumni Award in 1992 and the Clark Atlanta University Library Schools' Distinguished Service Award in 1991. In 1990, he received the D.C. Public Library Board of Trustee's Distinguished Service Award. He was the 1983 PLA Allie Beth Martin Award recipient and received the Distinguished Public Service Award from the D.C. Public School Librarians Association in 1979. Franklin was selected Washingtonian of the Year in 1987 by Washington Magazine.