



2020-2021 Division Report to ALA Council and ALA Executive Board

American Association of School Librarians

Kathy Carroll, President

In the midst of a global pandemic, social protests, a polarizing political climate, and fluid school attendance methods, AASL continued to be at the forefront of teaching and learning for our school librarian communities. Beginning in mid-March of 2020, schools across the country closed and learning was shifted from in person to a virtual platform. While some areas were able to continue teaching and learning unscathed, many learning communities were unequipped to quickly pivot to this new learning format. This shift underscored the vast socio-economic, technology, bandwidth, staffing, and training inequities rampant throughout the country. School librarians continued to serve as technology leaders. From physically distributing devices to providing technology training to both teachers and students, school librarians were leaders and problem solvers. It has been a year for school librarians to solidify their essential role in their learning communities.

National shut down mandates were implemented and AASL followed suite to change meeting and programming formats to comply with government instructions to ensure our members' safety. On March 24, 2020, AASL launched a town hall series, *The Show Must Go On(line)* to give school library professionals the opportunity to gather as a community and discuss the impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on school, educators, and learners. The initial series ran weekly through the spring and resumed again in August with the new schools year as the monthly AASL Town Hall: Leading Learning. AASL staff also faced challenges in pivoting from working from the office to working at home, yet they continued providing exemplary member support and advancements for the association.

The AASL Board of Directors continued to make progress on the on the [Strategic Plan](#). Although the newly structured [Board of Directors](#) was unable to meet in person, great strides were made to accomplish the charge defined in the Operational Plan, and a collaborative board culture was established.

Working together as a cohesive unit, AASL was able to provide essential resources, guidance, and support to its members. Our achievements would not have been possible without the efforts of our staff and members working together in the midst of both personal and global upsets. School librarians modeled perseverance and courage to our learning communities and to our colleagues. We are coming out of this year with a renewed commitment to our learners to provide premiere teaching and learning for the children and learning communities of this country. While we will continue to advocate for our profession, this year has proven beyond any doubt that school librarians lead students toward engagement, inquiry, inclusion, collaboration, curation of information, and exploration. Schools without qualified school librarians do not maximize educational opportunities for their learners. That is why it is essential to have a certified, qualified school librarian in every school.

In June 2019, the AASL Board of directors reaffirmed the mission of the association and adopted a new strategic plan. This report is organized around the strategic plan.

Mission: The American Association of School Librarians empowers leaders to transform teaching and learning.

Vision: Every school librarian is a leader; every learner has a school librarian.

Core Values: Learning; Innovation; Equity, Diversity, Inclusion; Intellectual Freedom; Collaboration

Goal: Leadership Activation: AASL builds capacity for leadership at all levels.

1.1.1 Refine existing participation models.

This was the first year of the **newly structured AASL Board of Directors** which is intended to streamline governance, improve decision-making, and result in deeper board engagement. AASL members approved new Bylaws after a board approved decision in June 2019 to move from a 20 member board with geographical representation to a 9 member board with director positions based on competencies. The Board of Directors of the Association now consist of the following elected and voting members: the Association’s president, president-elect, immediate past president, secretary/treasurer, the AASL representative to the ALA Council, three (3) directors-at-large and an AASL Chapters representative. The AASL Executive Director is an ex officio non-voting member of the Board of Directors.

www.ala.org/aasl/bylaws.

Using the leadership model based on The Center for Association Leadership (ASAE)’s CEO Symposium (attended by then President-elect Kathy Carroll and executive director Sylvia Knight Norton in February, 2020), the **Board of Directors Board Orientation** model was updated to reflect the needs and expectations of the newly structured board. The new board now meets monthly, and this has enabled the board to be more effective in addressing issues and making decisions in a more timely fashion. During the pandemic, it was challenging to develop a board culture for a new competency-based board in an all virtual environment. Although the board has never met in person, it has made great strides and provided leadership for the association throughout the year.

During the 2020 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia, **AASL Affiliate Assembly** had voted to adopt the term **Chapters** for state and regional school library associations. The change in name better reflects the relationship of AASL to state and regional school library associations and aligns with other similar entities within ALA. To reflect the changing environment and increase communications, the AASL Chapter Assembly expanded their meeting schedule and now meet several times throughout the year culminating in a face-to-face meeting at ALA Annual Conference

1,2 Increase alternative participation models.

AASL Events and Continuing Education

This year school librarians exemplified leadership and innovation. When schools were abruptly closed and all students became virtual learners, school librarians relied on the [AASL Standards](#) and innovative thinking to facilitate teaching and learning. As schools abruptly closed in March, 2020, AASL sprang into action.

Town Halls

What began as an event to build community during the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic has evolved into a monthly opportunity for school library professionals to network and brainstorm around a central theme. During the town halls, participants share successes, solicit ideas, and strategize the best ways to meet their needs and those of their learners. Examples of the wide range of topics covered:

[AASL Town Hall | A Conversation with the AASL School Leader Collaborative](#)

Knowledge Quest

AASL's *Knowledge Quest* has shifted from themed issues to ones that provide more flexibility in addressing current issues. This was exemplified by the [March/April issue](#): "Black School Librarianship: Navigating Race and Creating Change." The content framed a conversation about EDI around identity and the experiences of African Americans in the profession. At the heart of the conversation was the question: What does EDI look like in a school library when the librarians are Black?

AASL continues to seek ways to provide information and community to its members. In 2021, AASL began a series of **Watch Parties**, an informal member gathering organized to view timely archived AASL National Conference presentations. The original session presenters also participated to answer questions from attendees. The May 2021 event [AASL Watch Party: Representation Matters](#), provided attendees with strategies to explain the rationale and vital role of LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum in school library collections.

Education Talk Radio podcasts with the AASL President

- **September:** How School Librarians are Leading Teaching and Learning During the Time of COVID-19
- **October:** School Librarian Role in Pandemic Learning Conditions
- **November:** K-12, the "COVID Slide"
- **December:** Why EDI in School Libraries matter
- **May:** Lessons Learned during the Time of COVID
- **June:** School Libraries post-COVID

Texas Library Association (TLA) April, 2021

President Kathy Carroll served as a panelist for the Director's Symposium: "Celebrate Differences Empower Voices". This event brought together library leaders from a variety of libraries (academic, public, school, and special) for a session designed to generate discussion and inspire.

AASL President's Program

Words Have Power: Exploring the School Library's Role in Promoting Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion through Resources and Diverse Narratives.

Best-selling author Nic Stone and Cicely Lewis, founder of Read Woke, will join AASL President Kathy Carroll to discuss the need for diverse collections and authentic student inquiry in school libraries during the 2021 ALA Annual Conference. www.ala.org/aasl/annual.

First Annual National Conference for Parents and Teachers as Education Co-Navigators

The School of Education at Holy Names University in Oakland, CA hosted its first Education Conference for Parents and Teachers in September, 2020. The goal for the conference was to provide parents and teachers with resources and strategies to sustain quality student learning continued during virtual learning. President Kathy Carroll spoke at the event and used it as an opportunity to promote the services of school librarians and to advocate for certified school librarians in every school.

Knowledge Quest blog: How School Librarians Can Get a piece of the ARPA Pie, featuring a Q&A with ALA Dr. Alan Inouye, director of Public Policy and Government Relations, for ALA Public Policy and

Advocacy, written by President Kathy Carroll-May, 2021.

<https://knowledgequest.aasl.org/how-school-librarians-can-get-a-piece-of-the-arpa-pie/>

“Developing Reflective Explorers and Innovators”

A resource guide to support school librarians inspiring future generations of explorers, it contains activities, resources, and professional development based on the Explore Shared Foundation in the AASL “National School Library Standards” and is organized by the AASL Standards four Domains. The guide and supporting resources were developed by the 2020 ALA Emerging Leaders team. standards.aasl.org/project/explorers

AASL Publications (published in conjunction with ALA Editions)

Each book is authored by an AASL member:

- [Learning Centers for School Libraries](#) by Maura Madigan
- Releasing June 2021: [Include](#) (Shared Foundations Series) by Julie Stivers
- Releasing July 2021: [Explore](#) (Shared Foundations Series) by Sarah Culp Searles

1.3 Increase opportunities for state and local leaders to enhance their leadership capacity.

Survey Snapshots

In March 2020 as schools closed, AASL began a series of surveys providing snapshots of how the pandemic was impacting schools libraries and the services they provide. Two *Knowledge Quest* blogs provide data and language about the surveys conducted throughout the year.

<https://knowledgequest.aasl.org/tag/snapshot-survey/>

[Pandemic Resources for School Librarians](#)

School librarians fulfill five important roles: instructional partner, teacher, leader, information specialist, and program administrator, all of which highlight the profession’s skill at building relationships and creating an inclusive school culture. This year has challenged school librarians unlike ever before to be at the forefront of teaching and learning in these unprecedented times. AASL provided school librarians with indispensable resources to support their efforts as they adapt to meet the current needs of learners in a constantly changing learning environment. “School Librarian Role in Pandemic Learning Conditions” has been made available as a standalone chart [Chart & Resources](#) or together with supplemental resources at www.ala.org/aasl/pandemic.

Professional Awards and Grants

AASL awards and grants recognize excellence and showcase best practices in the school library field in categories that include collaboration, leadership, and innovation.

- [AASL Chapter of the Year Award](#)
Awarded to: Maryland Association of School Librarians
Sponsored by AASL, the \$1,000 award recognizes the AASL Chapter most active and dynamic in achieving the goals of AASL at the state and local level.

- [ABC-CLIO Leadership Grant](#)
Awarded to: Oklahoma School Librarians, a division of the Oklahoma Library Association
Sponsored by ABC-CLIO, the \$1,750 grant is awarded to an AASL Chapter for planning and implementing leadership programs at the state, regional, or local level.
- [BTSB First Time Attendee AASL National Conference Travel Grants](#)
Awarded to: Grants in the amount of \$750, are awarded to thirty (30) first-time attendees to be used towards travel, hotel, and/or registration fees for the AASL National Conference.
Sponsored by Bound to Stay Bound Books, the \$22,500 total in grants to bring first-time attendee school librarians to AASL's National Conference.
- [Collaborative School Library Award](#)
Awarded to: Amanda Hurley and Sarah Zehnder, Fayette County Public Schools, Lexington, Kentucky
Sponsored by Scholastic Book Fairs, the \$2,500 award recognizes and encourages collaboration and partnerships between school librarians and teachers in meeting goals outlined in AASL's *National School Library Standards* through joint planning of a program, unit, or event in support of the curriculum and using school library resources.
- [Distinguished School Administrator Award](#)
Awarded to: Dr. April Grace, Superintendent, Shawnee Public Schools, OK
Sponsored by ProQuest, the \$2,000 award is presented to a school administrator who has made worthy contributions to the operations of an exemplary school library and to advancing the role of the school library in the educational program.
- [Frances Henne Award](#)
Awarded to: Maria Frederick, John Read Middle School, Redding, CT
Sponsored by Libraries Unlimited, the \$1,250 award enables a school librarian with five or fewer years who demonstrates leadership qualities with students, teachers, and administrators to attend an ALA Annual Conference or AASL National Conference for the first time.
- [Innovative Reading Grant](#)
Awarded to: Karen Snay, South Elementary School in St. Peter, MN
Sponsored by Capstone, the \$2,500 award supports the planning and implementation of a unique and innovative program for children that motivates and encourages reading, especially with struggling readers.
- [Inspire COVID Recovery Grants](#)
Awarded to (Round 1): DeAnna Arnold, Wheeler Attendance Center, Booneville, MS; Rebecca Cauffman, Radford High School, Radford, VA; Ginger Cowart, Natchez High School, Natchez, MS; Marissa Deku, Lewiston High School, Lewiston, ME; Alice Lang, South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind, Spartanburg, SC; Marie Southwell, Graphic Arts Campus Library, New York, NY; Emily Wilson, West Port High School, Ocala, FL
Awarded to (Round 2): Cindy Buerkle, Otselic Valley Central School, South Otselic, NY; Taylor Inverarity, Turner Middle School, Kansas City, KS; Amanda Jones, Live Oak Middle School, Denham, LA; Chari Kauffman, North Shore Middle School, Houston, TX.
Sponsored by Marina "Marney" Welmers, the grant assists an existing public middle or high school who sustained loss in collection due to school library closures during COVID.

- [Inspire Special Event Grants](#)
Awarded to: Rebecca Cauffman, Radford High School, Radford, VA; Matia Edwards, Griffin High School, Griffin, GA; Janet Parrish, Butler Traditional High School, Louisville, KY; Chris Peeler, Heather Ridge School, Frederick, MD; Melissa Raymer, DC Virgo Preparatory Academy, Wilmington, NC
Sponsored by Marina “Marney” Welmers, the grant supports a special event so that an existing public middle or high school library can create new or enhance its extracurricular activities in order to increase student academic achievement at their school
- [National School Library of the Year Award](#)
Awarded to: Calvert County Public Schools, Frederick, MD
Sponsored by Follett, the award recognizes school libraries as a unique and essential part of their learning community. NSLY honors school libraries exemplifying implementation of AASL's *National School Library Standards*.
- [Research Grants by the Educators of School Librarians Section \(ESLS\) of AASL](#)
Awarded to: Ann Ewbank, Professor and Head, Department of Education, Montana State University, “Place Consciousness: A Narrative Inquiry of the Advocacy Practices of Five Rural/Frontier School Librarians”; Dr. Margaret Merga, researcher and author in libraries and literacy, Edith Cowan University, “Collaborating with Teacher Librarians to Support Adolescents’ Literacy and Literature Learning”; Heather Moorefield-Lang, Associate Professor, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, “Factors Influencing Intention to Introduce Accessibility in Makerspace Planning and Implementation”
Sponsored by ABC-CLIO, the research grant recognizes excellence in manuscripts addressing a persistent and recurring challenge in the field of school librarianship.
- [Roald Dahl’s Miss Honey Social Justice Award](#)
Awarded to: Jennifer Northrup, Hali House, Kelley Feagin, and Katie Jane Morris, Gwin Elementary School, Hoover, AL
Sponsored by Penguin Random House, the award recognizes and encourages collaboration and partnerships between school librarians and teachers in teaching social justice through joint planning of a program, unit or event in support of social justice using school library resources.

AASL award winners will be recognized during the [2021 AASL National Conference](#) taking place October 21-23 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Programs, events, and products receiving AASL Commendations

Acting upon recommendations made by its state association chapters, AASL formally commended seventeen outstanding programs, events, and products for their support of the school librarian profession and the learners the profession serves. To be considered, programs must align with the principles expressed in the national association's mission and value statements. <https://www.ala.org/news/member-news/2020/12/aasl-commends-seventeen-programs-events-and-products-across-country>

Position Statements

Two position statements were approved by the AASL Board of Directors:

[The Critical Need for and Responsibilities of District-Level School Library Supervisors](#)

Task Force chair: Jeffrey DiScala

[Labeling Practices](#)

Task Force chair: Kate Lechtenberg

Task Forces/Working Groups

ASCD Task Force to Develop a crosswalk between the ASCD Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Initiative Framework and increase presence of school librarian authors in ASCD Educational Leadership. Chair: Lisa Brakel

Social Media Working Group

To frame the drafting of new social media policies which will describe the purpose, process, and procedures to meet the needs of the school library profession and engage the school librarian community. Chair: Allison Mackley

Partnerships

AASL served as an official cosponsor of the sixth annual [Jazz & Friends National Day of School & Community Readings](#) organized by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation's Welcoming Schools Program in February, 2021. As part of the event, AASL President Kathy Carroll read from "When Aiden Became a Brother" by Kyle Lukoff along with the presidents of HRC and NEA and other spokespeople.

AASL partnered with the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation on its [Project THRIVE](#). Project THRIVE is a multi-year national campaign to create more equitable, inclusive support systems and help families and youth-serving professionals become better equipped to affirm, support, and care for LGBTQ youth.

AASL partnered with **Booklist** in March, 2021, for the webinar, Breaking Barriers: Getting Kids Thinking Critically About Bias. President Kathy Carroll was the moderator for the roundtable discussion. The webinar focused on:

- Overcoming media bias and fake news
- Empathizing and supporting diverse perspectives with credible content
- Helping students find credible sources during COVID; and
- Adapting to being "digital" readers advisors to students.

This year's partnerships demonstrate the association's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion.

1.4 Cultivate AASL Leadership involvement throughout ALA

ALA Council

President Kathy Carroll serves on the ALA council as a Member at Large. In this capacity she is able to participate in ALA governance, share ALA council updates with AASL members, and advocate for school librarians within ALA.

ALA Nominating Committee

Charge: the ALA nominating committee shall nominate candidates from among the general membership for the position of president-elect annually; for the position of treasurer, whenever this is required. The nominating committee shall nominate annually candidates for members-at-large of council for three-year terms. President Kathy Carroll is a member of the ALA Nominating Committee. Several AASL members have been recruited to apply for positions on ALA Council.

ALA Working Group

President Kathy Carroll is a member of the ALA Working Group to Condemn White Supremacy and Fascism as Antithetical to Library

ALA Connect Live: Reopening, August, 2020. President Kathy Carroll participated and spoke about the instrumental role of school librarians as leaders and innovators in their learning communities during the time of COVID-19.

GOAL: Education Policy AASL influences local, state, and national policy to ensure that school libraries are well-funded and fully staffed with full-time, certified school librarians and dedicated support personal.

2.1 Increase ALA's understanding of and action on education policy issues that impact school librarians.

Provide feedback to ALA's Public Policy and Advocacy office on draft legislation and letters of support for the role of school libraries in education.

The AASL **Board of Directors** met with members from the ALA Public Policy and Advocacy Office to discuss the American Rescue Plan Act with the following focus:

- How school librarians and school libraries can be a prominent piece of Federal education legislation.
- Funding-Advocacy for legislation that makes funding for school libraries mandatory based on a per pupil expenditure. Are there any representatives in Congress or Senate who would/could be potential sponsors of a bill like this?
- Staffing-Advocacy for legislation for staffing level recommendations that makes an appropriate/realistic student to librarian ratios. If someone is willing to sponsor a bill for funding, could staffing be wrapped into it as well?

ALA PPA and ALA Executive Board hosted a **webinar** in March, 2021 for AASL Chapters. The event focused on

- What would AASL or chapters need to provide PPA to help provide a better understanding of how school librarians are an integral part of both the library and education landscapes in order to better grasp the 'why' for what school librarians are asking for?
- AASL Chapters have long expressed interest in being involved in legislative initiatives. How to tie to current concerns around broadband, SEL, reading support and information literacy?
- How can state level librarian leadership be involved to influence the dispersal of funds?

2.2 Influence funding entities to include school libraries and school librarians as leaders in transformative teaching and learning.

In January, 2021, the American Library Association (ALA), 48 state-level school library associations, and the leadership of the AASL Chapters Assembly sent a letter to President-Elect Joe Biden's transition team stressing how school librarians are an equity-oriented solution to some of the most pressing concerns

facing educators at this moment. The letter asks President-Elect Biden and incoming Education Secretary Miguel Cardona to include the following priorities as they lay the groundwork for a Department of Education focused on equity for all learners:

- provide Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) guidance that addresses the role of school librarians
- improve National Center for Education Statistic (NCES) data collection to accurately reflect the presence of a certified school librarian at the building level
- adjust the NCES definition of school librarian to reflect their instructional role and national standards
- ensure that, as teachers, school librarians are eligible for the same federal supports as their colleagues

<https://www.ala.org/news/member-news/2021/01/aasl-ala-and-48-state-level-school-library-associations-post-letter-president>

2.3 Enhance member understanding of how education policy issues impact practice.

ALA PPA and ALA Executive Board hosted a **webinar** in March, 2021 for AASL Chapters. The event centered on the American Rescue Plan Act:

- What would AASL or chapters need to provide PPA to help provide a better understanding of how school librarians are an integral part of both the library and education landscapes in order to better grasp the 'why' for what school librarians are asking for?
- AASL Chapters have long expressed interest in being involved in legislative initiatives. How to tie to current concerns around broadband, SEL, reading support and information literacy?
- How can state level librarian leadership be involved to influence the dispersal of funds?

Knowledge Quest blog: How School Librarians Can Get a piece of the ARPA Pie, featuring a Q&A with ALA Dr. Alan Inouye, director of Public Policy and Government Relations, for ALA Public Policy and Advocacy, written by President Kathy Carroll-May, 2021.

https://knowledgequest_aasl.org/how-school-librarians-can-get-a-piece-of-the-arpa-pie/

2.4 Enhance administrator understanding of school libraries within local, state, and national education policy.

AASL School Leader Collaborative

The AASL School Leader Collaborative: “Administrators and School librarians Transforming Teaching and Learning” is in the second year of a two-year initiative that aims to strengthen AASL’s collaboration with school administrators. This initiative champions the school librarian’s integral role in teaching and learning. The work is chaired by Kathryn Roots Lewis, Past President, with support from OverDrive Education. This group

- Meets monthly with AASL leadership to advise on messaging and advocacy
- Collaborated on an article for *The Learning Professional* focusing on *School leadership in stressful times*.
- Provided guidance on the expectations and role of the school librarian during the pandemic.

- The AASL School Leader Collaborative were the panelists for the November, 2020 AASL Town Hall. [AASL Town Hall | A Conversation with the AASL School Leader Collaborative](#)
- Planning to present a panel discussion at the AASL conference in October, 2021.

GOAL: Research AASL advances research that informs school librarian practice.

3.1 Facilitate evidence-informed school librarian practices.

AASL introduced **three new online courses** to members. These four-week, self-paced courses delve into AASL Standards-related topics and are facilitated by the authors of AASL publications.

[Lessons Inspired by Picture Books for Primary Grades](#)

February 1-26, 2021

Facilitator: Maureen Schlosser

[Shared Foundation: Collaborate](#)

March 1-26, 2021

Facilitator: Mary Catherine Coleman

[Shared Foundation: Inquire](#)

March 29 - April 23, 2021

Facilitator: Lori Donovan

The courses are designed to give participants 12 hours of self-paced learning led by experts in the school library profession.

3.2 Increase visibility of research related to school libraries.

3.3 Communicate research findings to practitioners and other leaders.

Research published in the American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) peer-reviewed online journal, *School Library Research* (SLR) <https://www.ala.org/aasl/pubs/slr>

- “Social Media to Survive and Thrive: School Librarians Describe Online Professional Learning,” Shares the results of an online questionnaire that recorded perspectives on personalized learning networks. Results were categorized by media type (self-published content, curated content, microblogs, discussion forums, and social networks) and by user role (Passerby, Lurker, Networker, Content Creator, and Community Leader). Michelle Cates
- “School Librarians’ Teacher Self-Efficacy: A Predictor of Reading Scores?” Examines the difference in school librarians’ teacher self-efficacy among those who worked in elementary, middle, and high schools. Jessica Thompson, Michelle Barthlow, and Kelly Paynter
- “Alignment of School Librarian Preparation Standards with AASL Standards”

Explores the alignment of the Standards Framework for School Librarians from AASL's *National School Library Standards* with the *ALA/AASL/CAEP Preparation Standards*. Elizabeth Burns and April Dawkins

- School Librarian and Teacher Collaboration

Examines successfully completed collaborative projects at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Each project used integrated instruction or curriculum and were analyzed within the context of "what strategies make collaboration successful?" Jenna Kammer, Matt King, Allison Donahay, and Heather Koeberl

- "Reflective School Library Practitioners: Use of Journaling to Strengthen Practice"

Explores the use of structured dialogic journaling as a pedagogical approach to inform and shape the reflective practice of pre-service school librarians. Elizabeth Burns

- Impact of genrefying the fiction section in an elementary school library

Explores the effects of genrefying the fiction collection on children's success in finding books within a school library. Alyssa Sultanik

- "Exploring the Literacy-Related Behaviors and Feelings of Pupils Eligible for Free School Meals in Relation to Their Use of and Access to School Libraries."

Analyzes the use of school libraries by students who receive free school meals. Clare Wood, Georgina Rudkin, Emma Vardyand Christina Clark ,and Anne Taravainen-Goff

- "School Librarians' View of Cooperation with Public Libraries: A Win-Win Situation in Hong Kong."

Explores the collaboration between public libraries and schools in Hong Kong from the perspective of school librarians to access public library and school library collaboration in Asian countries especially in a large metropolis like Hong Kong. Lok-Man Leung and Dickson Chiu, both from the University of Hong Kong, and Patrick Lo from the University of Tsukuba



AASL 2021 National Conference and Exhibition

AASL will hold its 2021 IN PERSON [National Conference and Exhibition](https://national.aasl.org) October 21-23 in Salt Lake City, Utah. The AASL National Conference is the only national conference specifically for school librarians and the unique role we serve as leaders, instructional partners, information specialist, teachers, and program administrators. This three-day event occurs once every other year and attracts over 2,000 school librarians from across the country coming together to share best practice, resources, and networking. This year's speakers include Opening General Session and Keynote speaker Dr. Omékongo Dibinga, a professor of Inter-cultural Communication and a faculty affiliate to the Antiracist Research & Policy Center at American University. Kekla Magoon, winner of the 2021 Margaret A. Edwards Award, will keynote the Saturday general session.

For school librarians, learning continues no matter the environment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Carroll". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathy Carroll
2020-2021 AASL President