

TO: ALA Executive Board

RE: ACRL 2021 Conference Site Recommendation – Seattle, Washington

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Board of Directors approved during its meeting at the 2014 ALA Annual Conference the selection of Seattle, Washington as the official location for the ACRL 2021 Conference.

DRAFT OF MOTION:

The ALA Executive Board approve Seattle, Washington as the official location for the ACRL 2021 conference.

ACTION REQUESTED BY:

Karen Williams, ACRL President
Mary Ellen Davis, ACRL Executive Director

CONTACT PERSON:

Mary Ellen Davis, ACRL Executive Director
Office Phone: 312-280-3248
Cell Phone: 847-971-9321
mdavis@ala.org

Tory Ondrla, ACRL Conference Supervisor
Office Phone: 312-280-2515
Cell Phone: 708-927-7830
tondrla@ala.org

DATE: July 9, 2014

BACKGROUND:

Per the ALA Policy Manual section 6.4.1 Policies of the American Library Association in Relation to its Membership Divisions the ACRL Executive Director and President are submitting these decisions to the ALA Executive Board for approval.

Policy 6.4.1: "Proposals for Division National Conferences should be made to the ALA Executive Board at least two years in advance of the anticipated meeting date following a prescribed proposal outline. ALA state and regional chapters in the geographical area of a proposed conference shall be notified in writing of a desired conference prior to submitting the request to the Executive Board."

ACRL has a strong 36-year history of successful National Conferences, beginning with our first conference in Boston in 1978 and most recently with our ACRL 2013 conference in Indianapolis. More than 9 out of 10 attendees (95.4%) characterized their experience at ACRL 2013 as either "very" or "somewhat positive." Nearly all respondents (95.0%) would be "very" or "somewhat likely" to recommend the ACRL Conference to a colleague. The factors most important to respondents in their decision to attend ACRL 2013 were: keeping up with the profession, program content, network with colleagues, and convenience of location (44.2%).

Requests for proposals to host the ACRL 2021 conference were issued in fall 2013. As described in the *ACRL Guide to Policies and Procedures*, staff researched sites that have the appropriate meeting and exhibit space, adequate hotel rooms close to the convention center, accessibility for air and ground transportation, reasonable rates for meeting space and hotel rooms, and date availability. Proposals were received from Denver, Phoenix, and Seattle.

Based on each city's proposal, availability, and costs, Seattle, Washington was recommended to the ACRL Board of Directors as the official location for the ACRL 2021 conference.

After identifying suitable sites based on an appropriate geographic rotation of its conference location, ACRL looks for conference dates in March or April that avoid all major holidays and similar conferences while avoiding scheduling too closely ALA and other major division's conference locations.

ACRL is currently holding two sets of dates with Seattle: April 7-10, 2021 and April 14-17, 2021. Dates will be confirmed with Seattle by the end of July 2014 based on best package scenario.

Both sets of dates avoid all major spring holidays in 2021 (Passover: March 28-April 4, Good Friday: April 2, Easter: April 4, Ramadan April 13).

ALA	AASL	ACRL	PLA
2015 Midwinter, Chicago 2015 Annual, San Francisco	2015 Columbus, OH (C)	2015 Portland (W) March 25-28, 2015	
2016 Midwinter, Boston 2016 Annual, Orlando			2016 Denver (W) April 5-7, 2016
2017 Midwinter, Atlanta 2017 Annual, Chicago	Denver or Phoenix TBD	2017 Baltimore (E) March 22 – 25, 2017	
2018 Midwinter, Denver 2018 Annual, New Orleans			2018 Philadelphia (E) March 20-24, 2018
2019 Midwinter, Seattle 2019 Annual, D.C.	Louisville or Nashville TBD	2019 Minneapolis (C) April 10 – 13, 2019	
2020 Midwinter, Philadelphia 2020 Annual, Chicago			2020 Nashville (C) February 25-28, 2020
2021 Midwinter, Indianapolis 2021 Annual, San Francisco		2021 Seattle (W) April 7-10 or April 14-17, 2021	
2022 Midwinter, San Antonio 2022 Annual, Philadelphia			2022 Portland (W)
2023 Midwinter, New Orleans		2023 (E) March 27-April 1, 2023	

2023 Annual, Chicago		<i>Philly on hold or: Atlanta, Nashville</i>	
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In accordance with ALA's "Organizational and Operational Practices," Policy 6.4.1, Section VIII, ACRL contacted in writing ALA state and regional chapters in the geographical areas of the proposed conferences and sought the cooperation of these chapters in respect to programming and scheduling. All chapters in the geographic regions responded positively to ACRL holding a conference in their region (see table below) and provided letters of support (*see attachments*).

Letters of Support received for ACRL 2021

State	ALA Chapters	ACRL Chapters
WASHINGTON	Washington Library Association	Washington State Chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries
IDAHO	Idaho Library Association	Academic and Special Libraries Division, Idaho Library Association
OREGON	Oregon Library Association	Association of College and Research Libraries, Oregon Chapter

Academic librarians highly value the ACRL Conference and we look forward to the ALA Executive Board's approval of the proposed 2021 location so that ACRL can continue to deliver this important program.

Attachments:
Chapter letters of support for Seattle

Ms. Marilia Antunez
Boise State University
Albertsons Library
1910 University Drive
Boise, ID 83725-1430
May 20, 2014

Ms. Margot Conahan
Association of College and Research Libraries
American Library Association
50 E. Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Ms. Conahan:

I am writing on behalf of the Idaho Library Association's Academic and Special Libraries Division in strong support for holding the ACRL 2021 Conference in Seattle, WA. On May 20, 2014, we conducted a quick poll asking librarians on the mailing list (libidaho@ala.org) if they would attend if ACRL were held in Seattle. During the day, 21 out of 24 respondents enthusiastically wrote back that they would attend.

We believe that several factors will compel librarians in Idaho and the region to participate in the ACRL conference in Seattle: proximity, convenience, time, cost, and personal reasons. Foremost, having this national conference in Seattle will help us foster and strengthen engagement among academic librarians in our state. We sincerely hope that the planning committee selects Seattle, WA as the hosting city for the ACRL 2021 Conference.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilia Antunez
Chair, Academic and Special Libraries Division

From: [Rempel, Hannah](#)
To: [Margot Conahan](#)
Cc: [Gilman, Isaac P.](#)
Subject: ACRL-OR Letter of Support for the Seattle ACRL 2021 Conference
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2014 4:45:51 PM

Dear Margot,

Please accept my letter of support for the proposed ACRL 2021 conference in Seattle, WA.

Academic librarians across Oregon will be excited to have the opportunity to attend ACRL at such a relatively local venue.

Feel free to contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Hannah

Hannah Gascho Rempel,
Vice-President/President-Elect, ACRL-OR
Science Librarian & Graduate Student Services Coordinator
121 The Valley Library
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331
(541) 737-9902
hannah.rempel@oregonstate.edu

June 9, 2014

Margot Conahan
Manager, Professional Development
Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)
50 E. Huron Street
Chicago IL 60611

Dear Margot:

As a Pacific Northwest library association, the Oregon Library Association (OLA) is pleased to offer our support to the possibility of hosting the ACRL conference in Seattle Washington, in 2021. As librarians on the "left bank" of the country, we are always happy to see national conferences of this caliber occurring in our region. We are very much looking forward to the ACRL conference in Portland next year, and would love to know there is another such professional development opportunity being planned in our area for the future.

If there is any additional information or support I can provide, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Penny Hummel
2013-14 President
Oregon Library Association



23607 Hwy 99, Ste 2-C
Edmonds, WA 98026
P: 425-967-0739
www.wla.org

May 5, 2014

Margot Conahan
Manager, Professional Development
Association of College and Research Libraries

[Via email mconahan@ala.org](mailto:mconahan@ala.org)

Dear Margot:

The Washington Library Association (WLA) is pleased to submit this letter in support of holding the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) conference in Seattle, Washington, in 2021.

There are almost 2,500 libraries in Washington State, operated by almost 700 different agencies and organizations. Each type of library—public, state academic, school, special and private—has a distinct mission, clientele, and funding method. As the state library chapter for the region, WLA is eager to see relevant continuing education and professional networking activities occur in our own backyard.

The ACRL Conference, which currently attracts nearly 4,000 academic and research librarians and related professionals from all over the country, would be of tremendous interest for the staff of the more than 75 academic library outlets in the state of Washington.

With much to offer by way of places of interest, Seattle would be a terrific venue for this event. WLA stands ready to assist in any way that would be helpful should Seattle be selected.

Sincerely,

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

Nancy Ledeboer, President
Washington Library Association (WLA)