

INTEREST GROUPS

The MLA Board of Directors launched informal Interest Groups to foster member engagement in addition to the current MLA professional development opportunities offered. By participating in an Interest Group, you can:

- explore networking opportunities with colleagues
- engage with others to discuss problems and find solutions
- keep current on trending topics
- share resources and materials with colleagues
- develop leadership skills
- create knowledge resources
- lead MLA into the future.

How is an MLA Interest Group established?

To start an interest group a volunteer coordinator should submit the [MLA New Interest Group Application form](#) with a topic description and the names of ten or more individuals with a common interest within the scope of MLA's guidelines.

If you are ready to establish a new interest group, review the [MLA Interest Group Procedures](#) , and submit the [MLA New Interest Group Application Form](#) to MLA@milibraries.org.

To join an existing Interest Group

To join a current MLA Interest Group, select the name below to submit your request. As a reminder, interest groups are for MLA members.

- [Youth Services](#) : To share ideas and focus on issues that are directly affecting Youth Services Librarians in Michigan.
- [Intellectual Freedom](#) : To educate library staff throughout Michigan and the communities they serve about intellectual freedom issues, and the role of the library in protecting, defending and advocating for intellectual freedom.
- [Academic Libraries](#) : To discuss items of interest relevant and useful to those working in

academic libraries. To promote the role and work of libraries on college and university campuses. To offer professional development opportunities and support to professional and support staff.

- [Readers Advisory for Adults](#) : To promote reading among adults in general and aspiring authors in particular, as well as to help fellow Michigan librarians select materials for purchase.

To indicate interest in groups that are now forming, select the name below to submit your request.

- [Library Administration](#) : To discuss topics of concern to current and future library directors including best practices, community engagement and advocacy. This group will encourage the sharing of ideas and help engage upcoming library leaders.

- [Public Programming](#) : To create a space for librarians and library staff who provide public programming to share ideas, keep up with new trends, and strategize innovative program planning and community partnerships.

- [Rural Libraries](#) : To create a space for rural libraries to discuss topics of interest and focus on issues that directly affect these libraries.