



Association of Library Professionals, ALP, Announces Formation

For Immediate Release

Mon, 03/04/2024

Tired of Political Agendas in Profession, Librarians Form New Organization

MANHATTAN, KANSAS —The Association of Library Professionals (ALP) is a new professional association geared toward library workers who desire a return of the profession to a more traditional non-activist, non-partisan approach to library service. In late spring of 2023, like-minded librarians and library employees began meeting together to discuss the possibility of the formation of a new professional association in response to a growing trend in the profession toward the promotion of certain social and political agendas at the expense of others.

They were concerned about the erosion of the image of libraries as neutral and trustworthy sources of information resources for all users, and about the dangers of promoting political agendas in libraries. Many had personally experienced times when open dialogue and intellectual freedom was discouraged in their workplace. Over time, they began to realize there was a role for an alternative, politically neutral organization for members of their field. From these discussions, the ALP was born.

Recognizing a growing dissatisfaction with existing professional associations for librarians, ALP's founders sought to create an organization for library workers who want to remain professionally active, but do not want to jeopardize their personal commitment to traditional library professional ethics. Of key importance are the principles of developing library collections that represent a diversity of viewpoints; recognizing that minor children are not developmentally ready for and are not typically interested in materials that are culturally, politically, and/or morally charged; and providing library service that is in-line with the cultural values and standards of the communities they serve.

"Our mission as an association is firmly rooted in the enduring values of institutional neutrality, open inquiry, individual liberty, freedom of thought, freedom of speech, and intellectual freedom, and in supporting the ability of library workers to serve the needs of individual library users and their communities, rather than in advancing specific political agendas," says ALP President C. Erik Wilkinson, MLS.

The ALP currently has charter members in 30 states and two Canadian provinces. Membership is open to anyone working in any type of library, even library school students and retired library workers. Those outside of the field are encouraged to support the ALP by signing up for an Advocate Membership or donating through the website.

For more information about ALP, including how to join, please visit www.alplibraries.org.

Contact:

Maggie Allbee

Media Relations Manager

Association of Library Professionals

Tel. 888-READ-ALP ext. 2

media@alplibraries.org