

STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2029



INTRODUCTION



The Illinois Library Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit, educational, and professional membership organization that represents Illinois libraries and the millions who depend on them. Founded in 1896, it is the third-largest state library association and a chapter of the American Library Association. ILA has more than 2,000 personal and 500 institutional members, made up of public, academic, school, and special libraries as well as librarians, library assistants, trustees, students, and library vendors.

On May 16, 2024, the ILA Executive Board voted to approve the association’s strategic plan for 2024-2027.

This plan is intended to guide our focus over the next few years. It is not a “to-do list,” nor is it a comprehensive description of the ILA portfolio of activities. Rather, a strategic plan is a directional document and statement of priorities for the near future.

We are so very appreciative of all those who have helped in the development of this plan by sharing with us your hopes, aspirations, praise, and constructive criticism of and for the association!

VISION, MISSION, CORE VALUES



VISION: Collaboratively shaping a strong future for libraries in Illinois.

MISSION: Advocacy, equity, learning, and engagement for the benefit of Illinois libraries.

CORE STRATEGIC VALUES

- Energizing, visionary leadership
 - Adaptation to change
 - Long-term strategic perspective/direction
 - Member service focus
 - Partnerships and alliances
 - Diversity and equity of opportunity
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CORE STRATEGIC VALUES OF THE PROFESSION

Information access, equity, intellectual freedom, and objective truth.

STRATEGIES AND GOALS

A library resource for library professionals, ILA focuses on advocacy and education as its primary contributions to the field. ILA supports libraries throughout the state through a variety of professional development programs, such as the Noon Network, and participation in committees and forums. ILA programs and activities include legislative advocacy, the Annual Conference, Reaching Forward Conferences, Directors University, Illinois Youth Services Institute, and iREAD Summer Reading Program.

STRATEGY: ADVOCACY

GOAL: Political Advocacy

Advocate for equitable and exceptional library services for the benefit of all Illinois libraries and the communities they serve.

GOAL: Legislative Collaboration

Collaborate with stakeholders statewide in crafting and gathering support for library-positive legislation.

STRATEGY: MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

GOAL: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

Incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion into training offerings, with an emphasis on raising up marginalized library leaders throughout Illinois.

GOAL: Education

Offer diverse, equitable, and responsive educational opportunities focusing on professional development at all career stages.

GOAL: Membership

Attract and retain members via regular communication and collaboration opportunities.

STRATEGY: ILA ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH

GOAL: ILA Staff

ILA will continue to focus on attracting, supporting, and retaining talented employees.

GOAL: Diversify Revenue

ILA will actively pursue a variety of revenue streams.



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