

LIBR202 - Discussion Topic Five, Professional Library Associations

Professional library associations are a creative and valuable way for librarians and libraries to help pool their resources and exchange knowledge and experience that helps each other professionally as well as impact the communities that the librarians and libraries serve. Here are some ways where I see the value of professional library associations:

- They provide a community and network for finding people with similar professional interests and pursuits. In this social community members can share ideas, solutions to problems, best practices, job openings, etc.
- These associations can help set industry standards, policies, and best practices.
- They can provide resources for improving librarians professional skills and the library's ability to serve their staff and patrons.
- The association can give members the opportunity to learn from each other and see new perspectives and insights for dealing with common professional challenges and work.
- The association helps one see the forest from the trees. Professional librarians and libraries can see they are part of larger work in the field of library and information science.
- The association can help members find their place in relation to the whole industry. When one finds their place and role they can be more motivated to play their part.
- Associations can act as a lighthouse that can see historical and emerging trends and alert its members to these currents.

I am glad that as MLIS students we receive complimentary membership in a professional library association. I look forward to better understanding this resource.