

The SustainRT Steering Committee has been working with the ALA Council Committee on Sustainability, to advocate for the inclusion of sustainability in the upcoming revisions to the ALA Core Competencies of Librarianship. Since 2017, ALA's Committee on Education (COE) has been updating the [2009 Statement of ALA's Core Competences](#) in response to multiple recommendations from Task Force on the Context of Future Accreditation and an action request from the ALA Executive Board. For more information regarding the 2021 update to ALA's Core Competencies of Librarianship, visit <https://www.ala.org/educationcareers/2021-update-alas-core-competences-librarianship>

The Council Committee on Sustainability and the SustainRT Steering Committee submitted the following statement to the feedback survey on the draft revisions to the Core Competencies, which are slated to be put forward for a vote during ALA Annual Conference in June 2022:

*ALA Council adopted the "[Resolution for the Adoption of Sustainability as a Core Value of Librarianship](#)" at the 2019 ALA Midwinter Meeting. The third resolved clause of the Resolution calls for the evolution of "...accreditation standards to ensure the topic of sustainability is an inherent element in library school curriculum." Therefore the ALA Council Committee on Sustainability is respectfully suggesting to the Committee on Education that the new core value of sustainability be addressed in the new revision of the ALA Core Competencies of Librarianship.*

*As a core value, sustainability is part of the foundation of modern librarianship. It helps to "define, inform, and guide our professional practice." The Core Values of Librarianship reflect the history and ongoing development of the profession.*

*As the issues of social justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion are identified in their relationship to this document, so should the topic of sustainability. It is our opinion that with ALA's adoption of the triple bottom line definition of sustainability, which requires an organization or community to embody practices that are environmentally sound AND economically feasible AND socially equitable, that there are intersections throughout the competencies.*

*We feel it is also deserving of its own entry as a competency unto itself to help those seeking professional development, including LIS students, exposure to basic concepts such as the triple bottom line, sustainable thinking, community resilience, and regenerative design.*

*As all citizens of the planet contend with the impacts of climate change it is clear we must all pull together to mitigate and adapt to the consequences, as the Resolution concludes: "...the association, library profession and libraries of all types – academic, public, school and special – have the stature, energy, determination and will to build the coalitions, convene the conversations and act as the catalysts the world needs, not only today, but to inspire future generations, to take control of their future by working together to find the necessary adaptations and solutions to thrive as communities..."*

*We feel you have an amazing opportunity to accelerate the adoption of sustainable thinking in the profession by including it as we have described into the next iteration of the Core Competencies.*

*Thank you for your consideration.*

Rebekkah Smith-Aldrich, Chair - ALA Council Committee on Sustainability

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