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## ALA and Tribal Libraries: We Collaborate to Celebrate Community and Culture

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# ALA and Tribal Libraries:

## We Collaborate to Celebrate Community and Culture

**by Dr. Loriene Roy**  
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American Library Association*



Dr. Loriene Roy

On May 1, 2006, I was elected the 2007–2008 President of the American Library Association (ALA). Along with responsibilities to the ALA membership, this election places me, as an indigenous person, in a role where I can help position tribal libraries to become involved with ALA initiatives. At the same time, I am also privileged to assist non-tribal libraries in learning more about tribal peoples and the information services they receive. Let me briefly introduce some initiatives I hope to launch and a few pertinent upcoming national and international events on the horizon.

Each ALA presidential candidate campaigns on a platform. I chose to direct attention to three areas. One is Supporting Library and Information Science (LIS) Education Through Practice. I believe all librarians share the responsibility of helping educate, train, and nurture the next generation of librarians. Many of my students contribute to service-learning efforts that support and extend library services to tribal communities. Their involvement in efforts such as “If I Can Read, I Can Do Anything,” a national reading club for Native children, are among the most meaningful experiences in these students’ educational careers. My Supporting LIS Education Through Practice Task Force is working with ALA’s Committee on Education to produce tangible products to help library school students connect to practice. These include the continuation of semi-annual forums on library education and the development of a database of fieldwork/Capstone/practicum activities. Students completing practical experiences will be invited to contribute content about their fieldwork with a link to their resumes.

A second component of my platform is the Circle of Literacy. My Circle of Literacy Task Force will highlight indigenous cultures through a reading celebration to

coincide with National Library Week 2008. One of our partners in this celebration is WGBH-Boston. WGBH is developing a five-part program in their “American Experience” series that will air nationally on PBS in the spring of 2008. This program, called “We Shall Remain,” will cover five episodes in American Indian history. Libraries will have opportunities to develop programming to promote community discussion of these historic events while learning about contemporary Indian life.

My third platform area is Workplace Wellness. The Workplace Wellness Task Force is planning a wellness fair to take place at the 2008 ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim. They will produce a personal health document for ALA members to help them retain healthy lifestyles.

A number of events will take place within the next three years that will further spotlight indigenous librarianship. The Fifth International Indigenous Librarians Forum is scheduled for June 2007 in Australia. The tenth anniversary of the Spectrum Initiative Scholarship Program will take place in summer 2007. The third national conference on Tribal Libraries, Archives and Museums will welcome attendees to Oklahoma in October 2007. I invite all of you to join me in supporting and learning about these endeavors.

Four support groups will help me infuse these initiatives with indigenous, and often, international perspectives. These include the Events Planning Circle, Envisioning Circle, Student Action Circle, and Cultural Advisors. The work of the task forces and support circles is described in more detail on my ALA President-Elect Web site at <http://www.lorieneroy.com>. This Web site also provides links to the blogs we are using to communicate about our progress. I welcome your comments and



Services to American Indians, chaired by Kelly P. Webster.

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## Warm Springs Library

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Today, the library employs a part-time Library Aide and is administered by the K-12 Education Support Services department. Funding continues to be a challenge. The facility is provided at no cost by the tribal government. Our primary funding source is IMLS. We have received cash support for personnel from the Warm Springs Community Action Team. Thanks to generous book donations from Sunriver, Tygh Valley, Maupin, and Jefferson County libraries, we have books on our shelves. The Willamette Writers organization and private donors from New York City and Connecticut

frequently send new or nearly new books and donations. An organization, Libraries of Eastern Oregon, donated equipment for loan to our patrons.

Now, my dream is that our library will provide the opportunity for tribal community members to access information and apply knowledge in order to reach their full potential for the benefit of our reservation and future generations. 🌿

IMLS Native American Library Services Grants: <http://www.ims.gov/applicants/grants/nativeAmerican.shtml>

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suggestions. Finally, please consider nominating yourself or a colleague to serve on an ALA committee. You will find my online

committee appointment volunteer form at <http://cs.ala.org/roy/volunteer.html>. 🌿

## Oregon Collaborative Project

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Institute of Museum and Library Services, sponsored by the Western Council of State Libraries, and hosted by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. 🌿

For more information about the Oregon Collaborative Project, please contact MaryKay Dahlgreen at: [marykay.dahlgreen@state.or.us](mailto:marykay.dahlgreen@state.or.us) or (503) 378-5012.

