

# MARLA Planning Meeting

## RECAP

MARCH 4, 2021 / 3:00 PM / ZOOM

## Meeting Objectives

- ✓ Establish an organizational structure, officers, and election procedures
- ✓ Discuss options for a mission, purpose statement, or guiding principles for the group
- ✓ Plan projects or trainings for the year and discuss a conference presentation

## Discussion Items

### Organizational Structure

1. The officer structure will be the typical, Chair-Vice Chair-Secretary structure
  - Chair will serve for one year, after which the Vice-Chair will succeed to Chair
  - Secretary will be elected every year
2. Elections for our officers will be held in November
  - Nominations will be opened at the annual business meeting which typically takes place at conference

### Mission or Purpose Statement/Guiding Principles

1. Need to work on defining accessibility for our organization
2. Purposes of the CI
  - Helps provide training
  - Forum to discuss accessibility issues
  - Increases awareness of accessibility issues
  - Provides a list of accessibility resources both locally and nationally

### 2021 Project Ideas

1. Webinar Ideas
  - Exploring what accessibility means in libraries, potentially through:

- Workshop from [Libraries and Autism](#)
  - Workshop or presentation from [Disability Rights Arkansas](#)
  - Working with advocacy organizations to understand barriers for our patrons
  - Hearing from a lawyer who advocates for people with disabilities
  - How to make services accessible
  - Using Universal Design in Libraries
2. Hands-on Web Accessibility Practice
- Provide web accessibility checklists and tools to evaluate a common website (ArLA website suggested by Jessica Riedmueller)
3. Meetings
- Quarterly meetings seem to be acceptable
  - Discussion topics could include
    - How to improve accessibility in physical spaces that can't be changed
      1. e.g. how to deal with a tall circulation desk or an awkward entrance
    - Universal Design
      1. What is it? How can all libraries use it?
    - What is accessibility? What does it mean in libraries?

## Conference Presentation

1. Plan to submit two conference proposals sponsored by the CI
  - Proposals are due May 31, 2021
  - Conference is October 12-15 using a virtual platform
2. Presentation Ideas
  - Navigating an OCR (Office of Civil Rights) complaint
  - Pull from webinar ideas listed above