

ALA Council Committee Report Form

TO: ALA Council

DATE: January 19, 2026

RE: *(select one)*

ACTION REQUESTED

INFORMATION

REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT: *(add below)*

Report from the [Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship](#)

January 2026

1. Web event

Title:

Financial Empowerment: Building Support Systems for Women in Librarianship Amid Defunding Challenges

Virtual event on December 11, 2025, at 2:00pm ET/ 1:00pm Central Time (2:00-3:30pm)

Description:

Join the American Library Association's Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship for a timely web event focused on financial empowerment. As libraries face ongoing defunding challenges, learn strategies for creating and strengthening support systems that empower women in the field. This session will explore practical approaches to securing funding, advocating resources, and fostering resilience through community and collaboration. Don't miss this crucial discussion on navigating funding challenges and securing a sustainable future for women in librarianship.

Topics:

- Innovative strategies for securing funding and grants in times of financial uncertainty
- Building and maintaining supportive networks for women in library leadership and women in libraries in general

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- Empowerment through advocacy: navigating defunding challenges
- Collaboration with community stakeholders to sustain library resources
- Case studies of successful funding campaigns or programs focused on women in libraries
- Mentorship and career development support for women in librarianship
- Financial literacy/empowerment/ inspiration

Speakers:

Carrie Donovan is Head of Public Services for Hillman Library at the University of Pittsburgh.

Lisa R. Varga, MLS. Associate Executive Director, Public Policy & Advocacy, American Library Association.

Shauntee Burns-Simpson, Director, Youth & Family Services, *District of Columbia Public Library*.

Adi Redzic, Radical Ownership Coach. Consultant for the 2014 ACRL President's Program focusing on Financial Literacy.

Rebekah Cummings, Digital Matters Director at the University of Utah Marriott Library, former President of the Utah Library Association, Co-Founder of Let Utah Read.

Moderator: Loida Garcia-Febo, ALA Past President 2018-2019, Chair ALA COSWL.

2. COSWL is meeting on January 20, 2026 to identify future activities and themes.

3. Topics of interest to women in librarianship identified by COSWL members:

- Women in leadership, leadership roles (lack of support, mentorship)
- Wage gap between male and female librarians
- Financial empowerment: creating and making support systems for women as we face defunding challenges, seek funding
- Supporting women immigrants in our community

CONTACT PERSON: Loida Garcia-Febo, COSWL Chair

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