

Tools for Adult Literacy through Your Library

Presented by:

Alicia Suskin, ProLiteracy

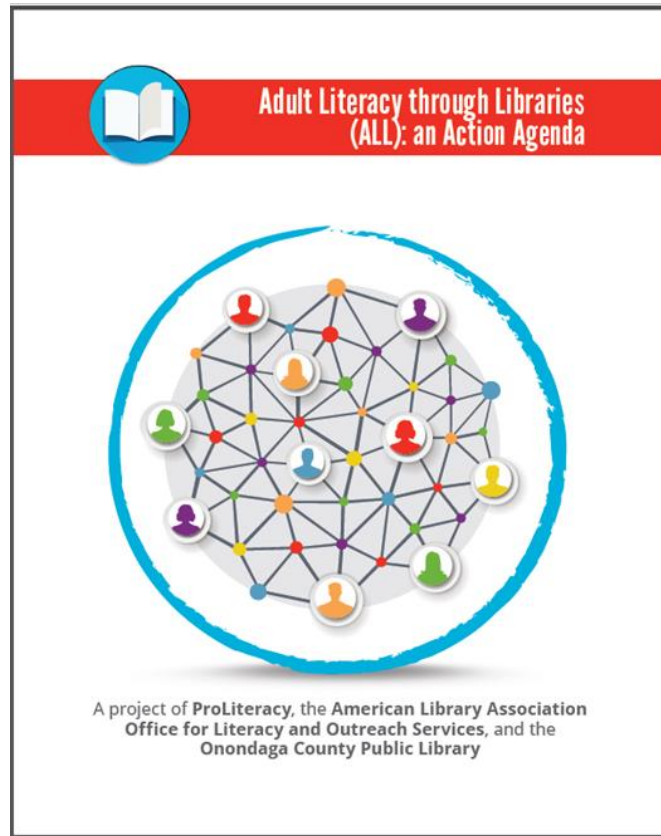
Kristin Lahurd, American Library Association



Adult Literacy through Libraries Project

Phase 1:

Adult Literacy through Libraries (ALL): an Action Agenda



- ▶ Published in 2014
- ▶ Available for download at no cost
- ▶ Intended to help literacy providers, librarians, and library workers develop and advocate for accessible and innovative adult literacy services and resources

Seven Priority Areas

- ▶ Collection Development
- ▶ Technology and Digital Literacy
- ▶ Collaboration and Strategic Partnerships
- ▶ Professional Development and Graduate Education
- ▶ Community Planning and Program Evaluation
- ▶ Raising Awareness and Influencing Policy
- ▶ Sustainability

 **PRIORITY AREA 3: COLLABORATION AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS**

The value of collaboration is widely acknowledged among resource managers and funders across all fields of public service. Collaboration allows partners to share ideas, use resources more efficiently, and create more impact. Many types of collaborations exist, but there are common characteristics underlying any successful partnership. These include open communication, relationship building, and clear negotiation of responsibilities. The following action recommendations aim to enable your library and its partner service organizations to leverage the advantages of partnership to improve services to adult learners.

OUTCOME 3.1 Libraries and adult instruction programs work together to increase awareness of the range of possible library and adult education collaboration models.

ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Regularly review case studies to better understand current and historical collaborations at the local and national levels. These range from one-time collaborative events to more robust, ongoing strategic partnerships such as shared staffing, space, or infrastructure.
- Share case studies about collaboration to help raise awareness of potential partnership models among other providers.

OUTCOME 3.2 Libraries and adult instruction programs create or expand partnerships in their community by increasing numbers of partners and/or intensity of collaboration and coordination.

ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Include service to all customers, including those with limited basic literacy, limited English speaking ability, and/or unique cultural needs, as an actionable priority area in the library's mission statements and strategic plans.
- Encourage representatives of local adult instruction programs to connect students to library resources, and invite these representatives to help library staff and administration better understand how to serve these customers. Encourage local adult instruction programs to officially reflect this commitment in their missions, strategic plans, and/or curricula.
- Publicly commit to partnerships with local adult instruction programs and use existing communications channels (social media, news releases, marketing and public relations tools) to promote these collaborations to customers, students, funders, administrators, and the community at large.
- Work with adult instruction programs to implement joint awareness raising projects and influence policy efforts to increase impact and awareness (for example, by crafting common language to use for local, state, and federal efforts to raise awareness and influence policy).

11 **Library Literacy Action Agenda | 2014**

ALL Action Agenda

Priority Area 3: Collaboration and Strategic Partnerships



- ▶ Increase awareness of potential models for collaboration
- ▶ Create/expand number & types of partnerships
- ▶ Recognize benefits of collaboration
- ▶ Establish shared processes & strategies
- ▶ Seek/define new/nontraditional community partnerships

Adult Literacy through Libraries Project

Phase 2: A New Online Course

- ▶ Online course launched in 2016
- ▶ Corresponds with the Action Agenda priority areas and recommendations
- ▶ Developed and tested with help from three libraries and a CoP:
 - ▶ Santa Monica Public Library
 - ▶ Halifax County Library
 - ▶ Pueblo City-County Library



ProLiteracy[®]
Education Network

Adult Literacy through Libraries Project

Phase 2: A New Online Course

- ▶ Ten modules
- ▶ Approximately 5 hours to complete
- ▶ Self-paced
- ▶ Narrated and interactive

The screenshot displays the ProLiteracy ALA online course interface. On the left is a 'Menu' sidebar with a 'Notes' tab. The menu lists 14 items under '1. Types of Materials for Your Collection', with '1.2. Course Map' highlighted. The main content area is titled 'Introduction and Overview' and 'Course Map'. It features a cartoon character with a speech bubble stating, 'The structure of this course reflects the content of the Action Agenda.' To the right is a vertical list of 10 numbered modules. At the bottom, there is a video player control bar with a progress bar, a volume icon, and 'PREV' and 'NEXT' navigation buttons.

Menu Notes

- ▼ 1. Types of Materials for Your Collection
 - 1.1. Introduction
 - 1.2. Course Map**
 - 1.3. Priority Areas
 - 1.4. Common Acronyms
 - 1.5. What is the Action Agenda?
 - 1.6. How Did the Action Agenda Come to Be?
 - 1.7. Why Libraries?
 - 1.8. How Low Literacy Impacts People
 - 1.9. How Low Literacy Impacts Communities
 - 1.10. Adult Literacy Statistics In Your Community
 - 1.11. Thinking About Literacy In Your Own Life
 - 1.12. Why Literacy is Important
 - 1.13. Putting It All Together
 - 1.14. Next Steps

Introduction and Overview ProLiteracy ALA American Library Association

Course Map Exit

The structure of this course reflects the content of the Action Agenda.

- 1 Introduction and Overview
- 2 Community Needs Assessment
- 3 Collection Development
- 4 Technology and Digital Literacy
- 5 Collaboration and Strategic Partnerships
- 6 Professional Development and Graduate Education
- 7 Community Planning and Program Evaluation
- 8 Raising Awareness and Influencing Policy
- 9 Sustainability
- 10 Conclusion

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- ▶ 1. Introduction
- ▶ 2. Library Assessment
- ▼ 3. Community Needs and Assets
 - 3.1. Impact of Community Needs
 - 3.2. Community Needs vs. Community Problems
 - 3.3. Community Assets
 - 3.4. Assets in My Community**
 - 3.5. Identifying Assets in Your Community
 - 3.6. Examining Other Communities
 - 3.7. Knowledge Check
- ▼ 4. Assessment of Community
 - 4.1. Why Conduct a Needs Assessment?
 - 4.2. Knowledge Check
 - 4.3. Six Step Process
 - 4.4. SWOT Activity
 - 4.5. Knowledge Check
 - 4.6. Knowledge Check
 - 4.7. Module Summary

Community Needs Assessment

Community Needs and Assets

Exit

Assets in My Community

Think about some of the assets in your community. Enter them in the appropriate box. When you have finished, print them out.



Type your text here.

Organizations, Institutions, & Facilities

Type your text here.

People & Community Experience

Type your text here.

Partnerships & Funding

Type your text here.

Policies, Regulations, & Other Assets



ProLiteracy Education Network

Professional Development > Education Network

ProLiteracy Education Network

Online Courses and Resources

ProLiteracy Education Network is a comprehensive collection of online courses and resources for adult literacy and ESOL instructors, program staff, trainers, and adult learners.

- ProLiteracy Education Network helps instructors learn new techniques and strategies for teaching reading, writing, math, citizenship, and basic life skills.
- It offers opportunities for program managers to learn how to improve or expand their services.
- It offers trainers online courses and other resources they can incorporate into their pre-service and in-service tutor training.
- And finally it offers students online resources and resources they can print out that help them practice and strengthen the literacy skills they are developing in their local program.

ProLiteracy Education Network Tutorial

If you need help navigating our new site, watch our orientation video.

Leamos™

New Online Spanish Literacy Course for Spanish Speakers

www.proliteracy.org/Professional-Development/Education-Network



Username/email:

Password:

Enter

Forgot Password? [Click Here](#)

Create Account? [Click Here](#)

Need Help? ednet@proliteracy.org

- Browse for Resources
- ProLiteracy's Basic Literacy and ESL Tutor Training
- National Book Fund**
- Adult Literacy: Libraries in Action
- Literacy
- ESL/ESOL
- Lesson Plans
- Online Courses
- National Quality Standards for Program Management
- Events
- ProLiteracy Member Toolkit Preview



INTRODUCING TUTOR TRAINING

Every literacy program needs well-trained tutors to meet the needs of their community.

[Get Started](#)



ProLiteracy Education Network is a comprehensive network and resources for adult learners, program staff, trainers, and teachers. For help navigating the site, click below to watch an **orientation video**. Then, explore all that we have to offer!

[Watch Video](#)

- ### Browse for Resources
- [Instructors](#)
 - [Program Managers](#)
 - [Students](#)
 - [Trainers](#)

- ### Featured Resources
- [ESL Tutor Training Face to Face Workshop Materials](#)
 - [ESL Tutor Training Online Workshop](#)
 - [Using a Problem-Posing Approach for Authentic Language Learning - Online Course](#)

Library Action Plans

Adult Literacy Action Plan

This template, which follows the structure of the Action Agenda, can help you create your library's adult literacy action plan. Use whichever number of priority areas, outcomes, and action steps is appropriate for your plan. As the sample libraries' plans illustrate, the Action Agenda is a resource for ideas but does not capture all of the possible strategies in any one area.

I. Priority Area:

Rationale: → → →

1) Outcome 1:

a. Action Step:

b. Action Step:

Estimated timeline for Outcome:

2) Outcome 2: → → →

a. Action Step:

b. Action Step:

Estimated timeline for Outcome:

II. Priority Area:

Rationale:

1) Outcome 1:

a. Action Step: → →

b. Action Step:

c. Action Step:

Estimated timeline for Outcome:

2) Outcome 2:

a. Action Step:

b. Action Step:

Estimated timeline for Outcome: → →

3) Outcome 3:

a. Action Step:

b. Action Step:

*For your **rationale**, consider:
Why are we focusing on this priority area and corresponding outcomes?
How did our community assessment inform these choices? How do they fit with our mission and strategic plan?*

*Think of **outcomes** as the specific benefits you anticipate for your library and community. In what measurable ways do you want to effect change? You can pull outcomes directly from the Action Agenda or use the ideas as a starting point.*

*The "action recommendations" from the Action Agenda and steps from the sample libraries' action plans can serve as a guide for your **action steps**.
Think of these as concrete interim steps or milestones to help you meet your intended outcome.*

*Think of the **timeline** as your target start and end dates for achieving the outcome.
In some cases, the timeline will be ongoing, but try to be as specific as possible with the initial target dates.*

“Seek out at least one informal mentor at a library with more experience providing adult literacy services.”
-Halifax Library

“The Action Agenda was an invaluable tool for creating our action plan.”
-Santa Monica Public Library

Evaluation Findings

- Lessons Learned

- ▶ Reach out to the “people in the know” in your community



Evaluation Findings - Lessons Learned

- ▶ Balance ambition with feasibility
- ▶ Pay attention to sustainability: fiscal, political, personnel





Opening the Door to Opportunity for Everyone

Watch this short video to see how poverty and low adult literacy are related:



Open Door Collective Video from David Rosen on Vimeo.

Open Door Collective

Open Door Collective

“Why Public Libraries and Adult Basic Education Programs Should Advocate for and Partner with Each Other”

- ▶ Public libraries can aid local adult basic skills programs in supplementing or enriching services they provide for adults
- ▶ Libraries and literacy are a natural fit
- ▶ Adult basic skills learners are an ideal underserved population for libraries to serve
- ▶ Ability to leverage additional resources for both libraries and adult basic skills programs

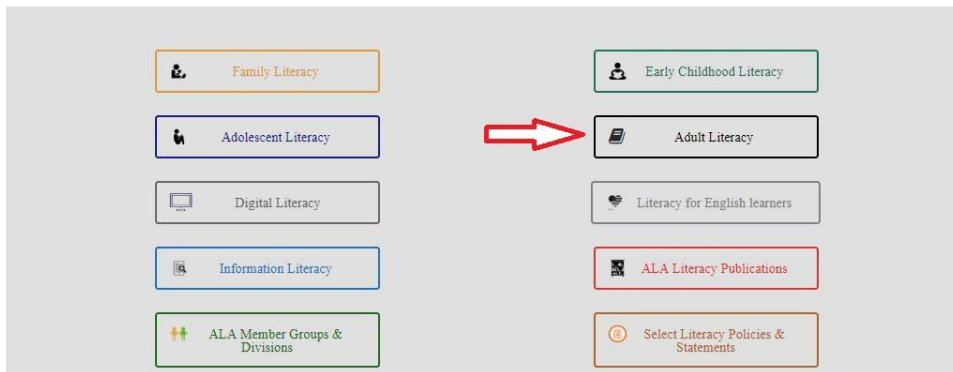
ALA's Literacy Clearinghouse



ALA Literacy Clearinghouse

This site brings together resources from across the American Library Association that promote literacy across the lifespan.

Libraries provide essential access to literacy — through programming, materials, one-on-one support and countless other services.



Multiple Literacies

Literacy in the 21st Century takes multiple forms, including but not limited to:

- **Financial Literacy** – an understanding of basic financial principles to be an informed consumer and manage one's finances
 - "Financial Literacy Education in Libraries: Guidelines and Best Practices for Service," developed under an IMLS SPARKSI grant with the Business and Reference Services Section (BRASS) of the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), ALA
- **Health Literacy** – skills for managing one's health and well being, including making effective decisions and partnering with healthcare providers to live a full, productive life
 - For Health Literacy Month in October, ALA's Libraries Transform campaign and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine created a [free toolkit](#) for raising awareness of how libraries support health literacy in their communities.
- **Cultural Literacy** – an understanding and appreciation of the similarities and differences between one's own system of behaviors and beliefs and those of others
- **Media Literacy** – an informed, critical understanding of mass media, including the ability to evaluate sources and synthesize information
 - From *American Libraries*, "Fighting Fake News: How libraries can lead the way on media literacy"

Accessing the Resources

Adult Literacy through Libraries: an Action Agenda

www.proliteracy.org/What-We-Do/Programs-Projects/Literacy-Through-Libraries

Adult Literacy through Libraries Online Course

www.proliteracy.org/Professional-Development/Education-Network

Open Door Collective

www.opendoorcollective.org

ALA Literacy Clearinghouse

literacy.ala.org/

American Dream Literacy Initiative

ala.org/americandream