



September 2010

Dear LIS Student:

We understand school is your main focus right now, but as a future librarian or information science professional, it's never too early to start planning your career. Get a head start on that career by becoming an active member of a professional association like the American Library Association (ALA)!

If you feel a little intimidated about working with long-time librarians, or are not sure where to start, consider joining the New Members Round Table (NMRT), one of several ALA Round Tables. NMRT membership is open to any member of the American Library Association who has been an ALA member for ten or fewer years. NMRT is a gateway to the profession and offers opportunities for you to develop leadership skills, build working relationships with colleagues, and learn about the profession as a whole. As an NMRT member, I cannot emphasize enough how beneficial NMRT membership has been to me.

As an NMRT member, we encourage you to take advantage of a number of services and programs to assist you in your professional development:

- Have your resume evaluated by a professional librarian through the resume review service;
- Apply for a NMRT sponsored scholarship or grant;
- Attend NMRT ALA conference programs, many of which are hosted specifically for students; and
- Take an active role in NMRT by volunteering for one or more NMRT committees.

Members of the Student and Student Chapter Outreach (SASCO) Committee of the New Members Round Table are here to help you to jump-start your career and take an active role in your career development. We invite you to join NMRT this semester, then get the most out of your membership by being an active member. Most prospective employers view association involvement favorably, as it demonstrates a commitment to service for the growth of your institution and profession.

Our committee is here to help you become informed about and involved in ALA and NMRT this semester. Please explore the NMRT website ([www.ala.org/nmrt](http://www.ala.org/nmrt)) and check back frequently. We will be posting new information of interest to you throughout the semester!

Sincerely,

Student and Student Chapter Outreach (SASCO) Committee Members