ALCTS news

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information professionals. Administrators, hiring managers, job seekers, current staff, and educators should use the Core Competencies to help them establish, meet, and benchmark performance expectations and institutional goals. To raise the impact and profile of these standards, NASIG should explore publishing future iterations of the Core Competencies in conjunction with other organizations (such as Force 11 or the Association of Research Libraries) for which scholarly communication is a priority. Additionally, NASIG should continue to build on, refine, and clarify these Core Competencies as librarianship and scholarly communication in general rapidly evolve and as diversity, inclusion, openness, and advocacy become increasingly foregrounded in all realms of professional practice.

Rating: 3.5 out of 5

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**ALCTS news**

http://www.ala.org/alctsnews/

The Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS) provides timely association information for librarians via its ALCTS News site. According to the site, “The primary purpose of the ALCTS News is to report the news and activities of ALCTS and its members, and to be the voice of the association.”

The top part of the site contains a banner with links to the American Library Association (ALA) and ALCTS sites. This top banner remains as users access various pages in the site. Below these links, there are more links to the Columns, Features, Announcements, Conferences, About, and Archive areas of the site. The Columns, and Conference areas are included below in the main body of the Home page. A More columns link provides access to additional Columns. All areas should have similar links for consistency and easy access.

The Columns area offers articles such as From the President, Focus on Committees and Interest Groups, and Interviews with ALCTS Leaders. Announcements features news and events posts from ALCTS. Conference Reports provide news reports from various conferences and committees. The Features area contains links to reports, e-forum summaries, issues, activities, etc. In these areas, the information displays in descending chronological order by post (most recent first). The About link gives some background information on the ALCTS News site including a site description, its purpose, and submissions policies. The Archive links lets users access previous online issues of the *ALCTS Newsletter Online.*
This site would benefit from links to all areas in the main body of the Home page. Plus, an explanation of these areas would be helpful since users may be confused about the difference in content among these areas.

Clicking on an article displays the full article. A breadcrumb trail on top of the article allows users to return to the site Home page. Articles include email, print, cite, and share this page links. When clicked on, the articles fill the screen. In some instances, the article is located in another area of the ALA or ALCTS sites and may better appear in a new window to maintain the site navigation. In the Columns, Features, and Conferences areas, there are links to more articles in the specific area on the left side of the page. Unfortunately in the Announcements area, these links to additional articles are on the right side of the page. It would be preferable if the design of the site was consistent for all pages.

There are additional buttons above the Columns, Announcements, and Conference Reports areas that link to the ALCTS site, feedback form regarding the site, and subscribe link. The Subscribe link lets users either read or download recent site updates via a Rich Site Summary feed. This format allows users to see all of the most recent site content, and is a good way for frequent users to scan and locate new content. Also, there is a search box in the top banner, but it searches all of the ALA sites. ALCTS News should consider adding a search box specifically for the site.

Unfortunately on a mobile device, the Columns, Features, Announcements, Conferences, About, and Archive links do not appear. The site should make them available so mobile users can easily access these areas. Also on smaller mobile devices after clicking an article, the additional links appear on the top of the page above the article in the Columns, Features, and Conference Reports areas. These links should appear on the bottom of the page like in the Announcements area, so users do not have to scroll to find the article they just clicked on.

The ALCTS News site is updated frequently in all areas and is freely available to all. Users do not need to be a member of ALCTS or ALA. However, users must log in or register to post comments. Articles are generally 300–500 words, and provide a quick wrap-up and introduction to a topic. The site is a convenient way for technical service professionals to keep up-to-date with current happenings related to ALCTS and ALA. Rating: 4 out of 5

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