

# WHY IS THE LSSSC IMPORTANT?

Why are Library Support Staff seeking national certification? We asked, and this is what they had to say:

► **From unpublished report (1991)**

*"I want recognition that my job is important, that my work is valued, that I am valued as a human being. This is more important than money."*

► **Linda Pierro, Retired LSS**

*"National certification is going to make a bigger difference than many folks realize. This portable standard of excellence will obviously benefit support staff. We are valuable assets to a well-functioning library."*

► **Dorothy Morgan, Liverpool Public Library (NY)**

*"Achieving the LSSCP will help me develop confidence in my skills and will show my employer that I am dedicated to providing excellent library service."*

The Library Support Staff Certification Program is an official certification program of the American Library Association (ALA; <http://www.ala.org>) and managed by the American Library Association-Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA; <http://www.ala-apa.org>). The LSSC Program was created as part of the effort to fulfill one of ALA's Key Action Areas of Education and Continuous Learning.

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**LIBRARY SUPPORT STAFF  
CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**  


# LSSC

## Library Support Staff Certificate

### Recognizing Value & Encouraging Growth



ALA

# LSSC

## LIBRARY SUPPORT STAFF CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

ALA-APA

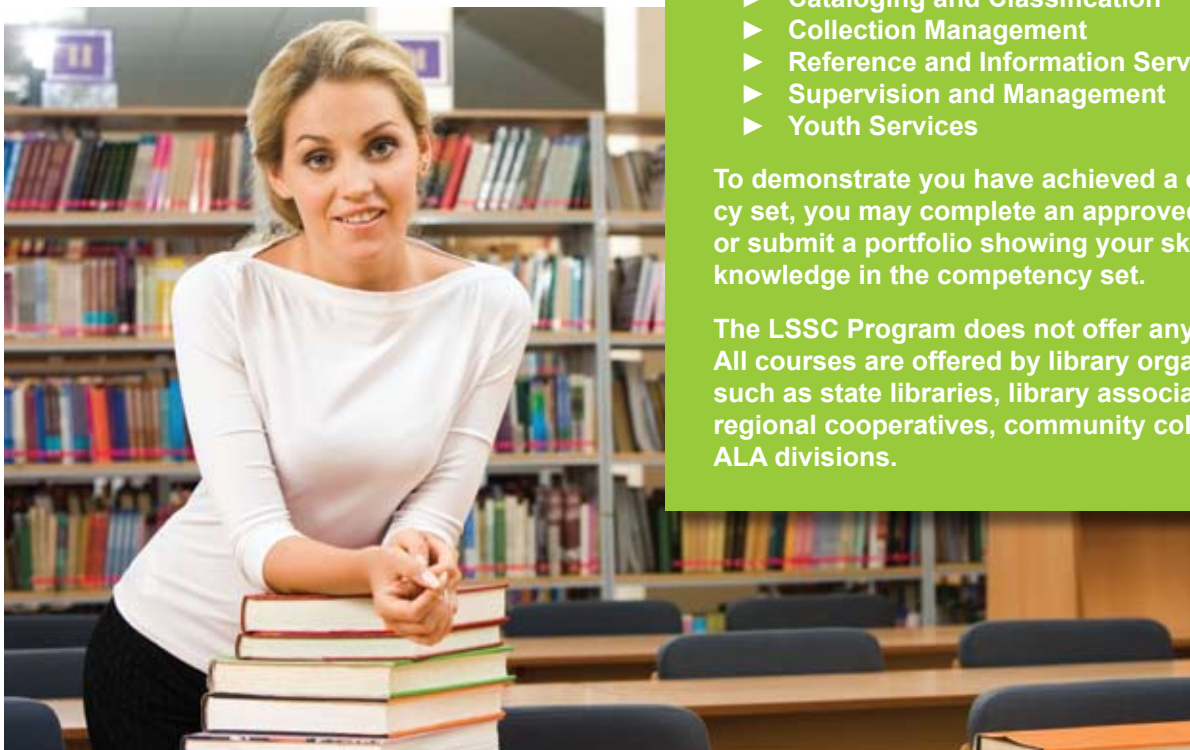
# WHO?

The LSSC is for Library Support Staff who have a high-school degree or its equivalent and worked (paid or unpaid) in libraries for at least one year and want to:

- ▶ Achieve recognition for your work
- ▶ Enhance your service
- ▶ Increase your skills & knowledge

You have four years after you start the program to achieve six sets of competencies.

For more information,  
please visit our Web site:  
<http://www.ala-apa.org/lsscp>



# WHAT?

What do you need to do to receive certification? You must achieve the competencies in the following sets:

- ▶ Foundations of Library Service
- ▶ Communication and Teamwork
- ▶ Technology

In addition, you must achieve the competencies in THREE of the following:

- ▶ Access Services
- ▶ Adult Readers Advisory Services
- ▶ Cataloging and Classification
- ▶ Collection Management
- ▶ Reference and Information Services
- ▶ Supervision and Management
- ▶ Youth Services

To demonstrate you have achieved a competency set, you may complete an approved course or submit a portfolio showing your skills and knowledge in the competency set.

The LSSC Program does not offer any courses. All courses are offered by library organizations such as state libraries, library associations, regional cooperatives, community colleges and ALA divisions.

# HOW?

Go to <http://www.ala-apa.org/lsscp> to complete an application form. Send the form with \$350 (\$325 if you are an American Library Association (ALA) member).

After ALA-APA evaluates your application, you will receive access to an online Candidate Achievement Record (CAR). The CAR allows you to develop portfolios that demonstrate that you have achieved the required competencies or allows you to show that you have completed approved courses.

# TYPICAL QUESTIONS

- ▶ **Where do I find out about approved courses?**  
Visit <http://www.ala-apa.org/lsscp> for a list of courses. Remember to check the site frequently as we add courses as they are approved.
- ▶ **I've taken many courses and workshops—do they "count"?**  
If you choose the portfolio method, you can include information about your previous course work. In addition, you will have to show how the course helped you to meet each individual competency.
- ▶ **When must I renew my certification?**  
Five years after you receive certification.
- ▶ **What are the fees for approved courses?**  
Fees vary according to the institution providing the course. Check fees on the Approved Course page at our website.
- ▶ **Do you provide reciprocity to state certificate holders?**  
When requested, we will compare a state's certification requirements to LSSC to determine reciprocity.