WHY IS LSSC IMPORTANT?

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

► Michael Stranaland, LSSC Candidate

“Library Support Staff have a great passion for libraries, for what they are and what they stand for. I feel my participation in LSSC will allow me to learn new methods, procedures, and techniques to share my love for the library with others and keep a library current and a needed part of the community as a whole.”

► 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.”

► Melissa Dellihoue, 2011 LSSC Graduate

“My experience with the Library Support Staff Certification program has been wonderful. I’ve been able to broaden my interpersonal as well as my technical skills beyond just cataloging when it comes to the library arena. I’m hoping in the near future, with my certification, that I can advance to the next level.”

The Library Support Staff Certification Program is an official certification program of the American Library Association (ALA; http://ala.org) and managed by the American Library Association-Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA; http://ala-apa.org/lssc). The LSSC Program was created as part of the effort to fulfill one of ALA’s Key Action Areas of Education and Continuous Learning.
WHO?
The LSSC is for you if you are a Library Support Staff who has high-school degree or its equivalent and have 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.

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 LSSC-approved course or submit a portfolio showing your skills and knowledge in the competency set.

The LSSC Program does not develop courses; instead, the Program approves courses from library education providers, such as community colleges, ALA divisions, and other organizations.

HOW?
Go to http://ala-apa.org/lssc to complete an application form. Send the form with $350 ($325 if you are an ALA member).

After ALA-APA evaluates your application, you will create online Candidate Achievement Records (CAR). You will use your CARs to develop portfolios or submit proof that you completed LSSC-approved courses.

TYPICAL QUESTIONS
► Where do I find out about approved courses? Visit http://ala-apa.org/lssc 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”? You may only receive credit for LSSC-approved courses. However, if you develop a portfolio, you can include pertinent information about your previous course work to show how it helped you to meet each individual competency.
► When must I renew my certification? Four 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 LSSC-approved course page on our website. There is currently no cost to have a portfolio evaluated.
► Does the LSSC Program recognize certificates from State Libraries or LTA degrees from Community Colleges (CC)? The LSSC Program is working with Community Colleges to develop agreements that recognize the achievements of their graduates and with State Libraries to recognize state certification. For more information, contact lssc@ala.org.