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Finding Your Voice in the Library Profession: Participating, Presenting, and Publishing

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3-2-1 Reflection

Participating, Presenting, and Publishing

<p>What area are you interested in pursuing?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Participating in: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Presenting on: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Publishing on/in:_____</p>
<p>Set a timeline</p>	
<p>3</p> <p>Write three things that you learned today.</p>	<p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Write two things that you will do following today's presentation</p>	<p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>
<p>1</p> <p>Write one question or concern that you still have.</p>	<p>1.</p>

Tips & Tricks

Participating, Presenting, and Publishing

Participating

- Start local. Choose a conference or committee in your community or state first.
- Try a committee that meets virtually at first. You can participate without traveling.
- Find a committee or conference related to what you are passionate about!
- Network with committee members and conference attendees to consult in the future.
- Look for scholarships. You can participate even if without funding from your library.
- Contribute your ideas, successes, and failures from your experience to the group work and conversations at conferences.
- Learn from the committee members and conference attendees.

Presenting

- Choose a format (poster, panel, presentation, workshop) that best fits your topic.
- Connect your proposal to the conference theme. Watch for early deadlines.
- Start with an outcome. What should people be able to do, understand, or apply?
- Engage your audience. Tell a story, give examples, discuss, utilize active learning.
- Less is more. Visuals should convey a specific point, message, or emotion.
- Provide a handout instead of putting all of your content on your slides.
- Practice, Adapt, Learn. Being prepared makes you more confident and flexible if something goes wrong. Learn from mistakes and try again.
- Want to learn more? <http://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/best-practices-ala-presenters>

Publishing*

- Carefully research publication venues before writing. Look at the journal's Author Guidelines and recently published articles. Send an email 'Letter of Inquiry' to the editor.
- Choosing your collaborators carefully because they can help or hinder your writing. Set clear expectations right away.
- Writing is a marathon, not a sprint. Set a manageable but concrete timeline. Detailed outlines can keep your writing on track. Always seek external feedback.
- Review your article with a fine toothed comb before submission. Re-read the Author Guidelines carefully to ensure that you're following them. Anonymize your manuscript by removing all identifying information.
- If rejected: You are allowed to be upset but always be professional (don't send an angry email). Take the opportunity to revise and resubmit.
- If accepted: Respond promptly and courteously to reviewer comments/requests for revisions. Celebrate and share your success!

*These tips are also applicable to other published forms of writing, such as book chapters and blog posts.

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