

2026 VLA Annual Conference Proposal Form - VLACRL SESSIONS

The 2026 VLA Annual Conference will be held from Sunday, October 18 - Tuesday, October 20, 2026 in Norfolk Virginia at Norfolk Hilton the Main. **The deadline to submit proposals is April 17, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.**

This proposal form is intended for the VLACRL (academic) track. All proposals will undergo peer-review. Conference proposals do not need to directly tie into the conference theme and may focus on any topic that is timely and relevant to library workers.

Peer-reviewers will examine each proposal for:

- Clarity (of outcomes/goals)
- Relevance (of topic)
- Appeal (of topic)

Relating to the conference theme, *Caring for Our Collective*, is encouraged and may be the deciding factor when multiple proposals are similar. This theme explores turning the idea of community care inward and the partnerships, best practices, and structures that allow library workers to create a culture of radical empathy and shared responsibility.

Proposals should include a session title, a brief description (up to 50 words) and the session format and type. Be sure to explain learning objectives/takeaways and include a brief explanation as to how your proposal is relevant and appealing to the audience, as well as how it relates to the theme if applicable.

Questions, comments, or concerns? Email the VLACRL Conference-within-a-Conference Chair Sherry Matis at sherry.matis@cnu.edu for feedback or assistance.

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

2. **Select Session Type** *

Mark only one oval.

45-minute session with single presenter *Skip to question 3*

45-minute panel presentation session with 2-5 presenters *Skip to question 3*

Presentation/Panel

3. Title of Presentation/Panel *

Give your session a short, snappy title. If accepted, this will appear in the conference app. Please note that using generative AI may give you a title that will be similar or identical to another submission; use an editing eye to make your title stand out.

4. Short Session Description *

What should VLA attendees know about your session? What will make them want to attend? Please write a short description (50 words or less). If accepted, this will be printed in the conference app, so please write it in third person, and make it lively, informative, and interesting. It may be edited for publication. Speakers will be listed separately; they should not be listed in the session description.

5. Elevator Pitch *

In 140 characters or fewer please provide a short description that gets attendees excited about attending this session. If accepted, this may be used for social media and related marketing purposes.

6. Session Learning Outcomes *

Please identify three (3) learning outcomes for your session that begin, “At the end of the session, participants will...”

Learning outcomes should use active verbs, be measurable, and state what the participants should know or be able to do after attending your session. Learning outcomes should not simply repeat topics that will be addressed or activities that will take place during the session. Your proposal will be evaluated on the clarity and specificity of its learning outcomes.

7. A strategic priority of VLA is a commitment to diversity, inclusion, equity, and accessibility in our profession and in library practice.

In one paragraph or less, describe how your session speaks to a broad variety of viewpoints and perspectives.

8. Presentation Equipment *

VLA will provide a wireless internet connection, a screen, projector, and microphone in each conference room. Sound is not guaranteed in any conference room. **All presenters are required to bring their own laptop.** If you use a MacBook, please bring your own VGA/HDMI cable.

Mark only one oval.

I understand and accept the Presentation Equipment details.

9. Session Time Preference *

Please indicate if there are any time slots where you CANNOT present.

Check all that apply.

- Monday afternoon (1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m.)
- Tuesday morning (9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.)
- Tuesday afternoon (1:00 p.m.)
- None

Presenter Details and Contact Information

10. First Name *

11. Last Name *

12. Organization *

13. Email Address *

14. Do you have additional presenters? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes *Skip to question 15*

No

Accommodations

Please contact Vanessa Garbarino at vanessa@vla.org with questions about accessibility in the conference center.

Additional presenters

Up to two presenters per session will receive a discount code for \$75 off conference registration fees.

15. First Name of second presenter (if any)

16. Last Name of second presenter (if any)

17. Organization of second presenter (if any)

18. Email Address of second presenter (if any)

19. First Name of third presenter (if any)

20. Last Name of third presenter (if any)

21. Organization of third presenter (if any)

22. Email Address of third presenter (if any)

23. First Name of fourth presenter (if any)

24. Last Name of fourth presenter (if any)

25. Organization of fourth presenter (if any)

26. Email Address of fourth presenter (if any)

27. First Name of fifth presenter (if any)

28. Last Name of fifth presenter (if any)

29. Organization of fifth presenter (if any)

30. Email Address of fifth presenter (if any)

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