



## A Home for All Lebanese Libraries

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## **A Home for All Lebanese Libraries**

Dalal Rahme

LLA board member 2017-2019

The [Lebanese Library Association](#) (LLA) was founded in 1960 in Beirut, Lebanon. Its aim is to improve the standard of libraries and support librarians in Lebanon and the region. It is meant to be a home for all libraries and information centers in Lebanon, to advocate for the establishment of policies and to advance the information field in Lebanon.

The Lebanese Library Association activities are managed by 10 elected volunteers, who set and run the agenda for two consecutive years. LLA has its own internal laws to facilitate and improve its work at the national and international levels.

The association used to publish a quarterly publication which was unfortunately discontinued. In 1975, LLA suspended its activities because of the Lebanese war and resumed its activities in 1990.

Since its foundation, LLA became a member of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and actively participated in all annual conferences and meetings. Board members have always been active members in different IFLA committees and have managed to encourage other professionals in Lebanon to get involved.

LLA work affected the information field in Lebanon in many ways. LLA contributed in setting the curriculum for the only university teaching Library Science and Documentation in Lebanon for years, the Lebanese University. Upon the request of the Lebanese Government LLA set and corrected entrance exams for students applying to the Library Science program at the Lebanese University (the public university in Lebanon). LLA board members provided training and consulting services for many institutions in Lebanon such as the National Library and the Youth Women Christian Association, many public libraries in different regions in Lebanon and much more.

Because of the work LLA is doing, it became a role model to follow among other library associations in the region. LLA holds a biennial conference, which attracts information specialists not only from Lebanon but also from the MENA region.

Today LLA has around 200 members from different types of libraries: school libraries, governmental libraries, academic libraries, special libraries and the national library. It is constantly increasing its annual activities and holding seminars, workshops, training courses and events targeting different types of information professionals.

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**About the author**

Dalal Rahme has over 13 years of experience in academic libraries. She received her M.S in Information Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign in 2014 with a specialization in the Data Curation and Socio-Technical Data Analytics. She is currently the Scholarly Communications librarian at the American University of Beirut (AUB) and an instructor at the Library Juice Academy. She served on several committees at IFLA (FAIFE 2018-2019), ALA (Students Chapter 2013-2014) and the Lebanese Library Association (board member 2017-2019).