

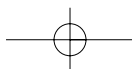
# **The PLA Reader for Public Library Directors and Managers**

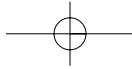


**Edited by**

**Kathleen M. Hughes**  
for the  
**Public Library Association**

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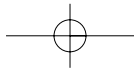
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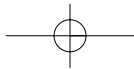
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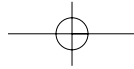
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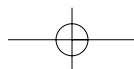
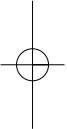
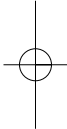
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## Introduction

Welcome to the *Public Library Association (PLA) Reader for Public Library Directors and Managers*, the first in a new series that is designed specifically for busy public library professionals. PLA staff and PLA committee members worked together to choose these key articles, culled from the pages of *Public Libraries* and from chapters of bestselling PLA books. For the original sources of the selections, please refer to the References list at the end of the book.

In an era of ever-encroaching budget cuts, many library directors and managers find themselves stretched increasingly thin. From working with a board of directors to making library policy recommendations, overseeing strategic plans, preparing budgets, supervising personnel, evaluating services, administering facility maintenance, overseeing materials selection, and more, it is tough for directors and managers to find time to read professional materials. In light of the often frantic pace that library managers and directors must keep in order to simply do their job, the book was designed specifically for those with a minimum of time. The collected writings in this book aim to provide accessible insight into some of the library world's most important and complex topics.

Each chapter tackles one of the prevalent topics faced by today's public libraries. They address issues such as advocacy basics, tips for retaining and motivating high-performing employees, learning more about library communications, a discussion of intellectual freedom matters, the latest topics in reference, and brief entries on technology. Each brief treatment of these important library subjects will provide knowledge crucial to becoming an outstanding library leader. By offering practical and applicable solutions to these problems, *The PLA Reader for Public Library Directors and Managers* aims to provide the best information to help public library managers and directors more effectively and successfully lead their libraries.

Carol Sheffer  
PLA President, 2008–2009