Call for Proposals for the 2016 FLA Conference

GUIDELINES
The Florida Library Association is accepting proposals to present conference and preconference workshops and programs at its 2016 Annual Conference.

Theme: Florida Libraries...Why Not?

Location: Plaza Resort & Spa, Daytona Beach, Florida


General Submission Information
- The deadline for submitting proposals is 8 p.m. EST on Friday, July 10, 2015. Proposals will not be accepted after 8:00 p.m. on this date.

- Programs with incomplete information will not be considered. For example, a proposal with no description or speakers or without contact information for the Program Organizer will not be sent to the Conference Committee for review.

- Proposals will be reviewed by the members of the Conference Committee and will be chosen according to

  - Content - Is it creative, interesting and timely? Is it relevant to effective, practical library service? Does it relate to the President’s statement? Are the speakers experienced presenters? What are their qualifications? Is the format it appropriate to the content being presented? Will it inspire innovation or highlight new policies or practices?

  - Programs should not be advertisements for vendors or demonstrations of products/services. Specific products/services may be used or described in a program only if essential to the understanding of the topic being presented. Library staff members who currently use the vendor product/service must participate in the presentation.

  - The person submitting the proposal application will be considered the Program Organizer and must agree to carry out the functions of a Program Organizer as stated in the Agreement Section.

  - Program Organizers will be notified of the status of proposals in August 2015. Program Organizers must register for the conference and be present at the program they proposed.
FLA reserves the right to reorganize content, combine proposals, and make other changes deemed appropriate. FLA also reserves the right to assign a different title to a program than was proposed. The involvement and agreement of the Program Organizer will be sought on all such changes.

**Program Formats**

**Preconferences**
Preconferences are half or full day workshops that focus on a particular subject of interest. These programs should allow participants to develop skills on the topic and should focus on interactive learning using a variety of presentation styles. Preconferences that offer practical tips and cutting-edge techniques, as well as programs that address the conference theme, are preferred. Preconferences have separate registration fees that must cover all costs (speaker fees and travel, AV equipment, food and beverage, etc.). Program Organizers of accepted preconference programs or workshops will be contacted by FLA staff several months before the conference regarding the break-even number of participants required to hold the preconference.

**Concurrent Breakout Sessions**
Concurrent sessions are 60, 75 or 90 minutes long and should allow participants to develop skills related to a specific topic and should focus on interactive learning and use a variety of presentation styles. Programs that offer practical tips, cutting-edge techniques, and focus on the conference theme and tracks are encouraged. Programs can be:

- **Presentations:** Presentations are lecture-style. Topics may include best practices for dealing with a particular issue (based on research into how various libraries are handling the issue), ideas you have for new ways of addressing a common problem, research you have conducted or are currently conducting, or strategies or programs you have implemented at your institution. This type of session should include time for audience questions and answers.
- **Panels:** Panels are moderated discussions with multiple speakers offering different perspectives on a topic. A panel could be a debate (two or more people take an active stance on various sides of an issue) or a moderated discussion (panelists from a wide variety of functional areas or organizations offer their thoughts on a particular topic). A panel session should incorporate opportunities for questions.
- **Other:** Other types of programs are encouraged and will be considered by the Conference Committee. Provide details.

**Poster Sessions**
A call for Poster Sessions will be issued in late Summer 2015 by the FLA Continuing Education Committee. Watch the FLA website and email list for notice of the application process.