

ACLS Member Society Services & Strategic Initiatives

Governance Capacity Building

ACLS governance programming supports member societies across the full spectrum of organizational scale—from small, volunteer-led organizations to large societies with professional staff and complex board structures. Through our *BoardSource Federated Membership*, leadership workshops for board members and executive directors, and targeted programming on governance and operations, ACLS provides practical tools and guidance to strengthen board effectiveness and foster productive board–staff partnerships.

Scholarly Exchange & Cross-Disciplinary Engagement

Through *Delegate Forums* and related scholarly programming, ACLS brings together academic representatives from its *member societies* to foster intellectual exchange, cross-disciplinary insight, and deeper connection across the humanities and social sciences. These convenings create a distinctive space for scholars to build networks across fields, develop broader sector awareness, and reflect collectively on the evolving landscape of research, teaching, and public engagement.

By connecting delegates to conversations that extend beyond any single discipline, ACLS helps societies situate their work within a wider field-level perspective, strengthens leadership pipelines within the scholarly community, and reinforces the public relevance of the humanities and social sciences.

Sectoral Sustainability

ACLS supports scholarly societies in addressing long-term financial and organizational sustainability challenges that cannot be solved by individual societies alone. Pressures such as evolving membership models, publishing transitions, meeting economics, and revenue diversification require shared analysis, coordination, and experimentation across the sector. ACLS convenes *Spring and Fall CEO Meetings* and monthly *CEO Insight Groups*, where executive directors engage in peer exchange, design thinking, and collective problem-solving around sustainability challenges. ACLS also offers workshops and conversations on emerging sustainability issues, including the rapidly evolving landscape of scholarly publishing and its implications for society revenue models.

Within this pillar, ACLS is launching a multi-year *Sectoral Sustainability Initiative* to document shared pressures, identify scalable approaches such as shared services or collaborative revenue models, and support societies as they reassess and strengthen their long-term value propositions. Together, these efforts provide the convening infrastructure and leadership dialogue societies need to explore solutions as the sector evolves.

Community Connections & Operational Support

Throughout the year, ACLS provides multiple opportunities for society leaders and staff to connect, exchange ideas, and address shared operational challenges. These include an active *CEO listserv* for day-to-day leadership questions and community support spaces for informal discussion. ACLS also supports communities of practice for society staff, including a *Publishing Community of Practice* and a *Communications Community of Practice*, which provide spaces for peer learning, practical exchange, and discussion of emerging challenges in society operations. In addition, ACLS offers targeted *workshops and programming for society staff* and leadership teams on emerging operational needs, including topics such as artificial intelligence and data visualization.

Together, these efforts position ACLS as a partner to scholarly societies, strengthening governance, supporting leadership decision-making, and helping societies navigate long-term sustainability challenges collectively.