DEVELOPMENTS IN POST MASTERS EDUCATION FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION IN NORTH AMERICA;

WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADMINISTRATORS’ CERTIFICATE PROGRAM AT THE PALMER SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

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BACKGROUND: THE PUSH FOR POST MASTERS EDUCATION

• 1996 - PLA & LAMA approve “in concept” the establishment of a “Certified Public Library Administrator” “program.

• 1998 - ALA Executive Board approves the proposal “in concept”.

• 2001 - ALA creates APA, the Allied Professional Association, in order to provide the capability to “certify” individuals.

• 2005 - ALA-APA approves Certification Guidelines. The first program to be launched will be the CPLA, Certified Public Library Administrator, program.

( www.ala-apa.org )
Overview of the Certificate Program

The Public Library Director’s Certificate Program consists of five courses, which carry graduate academic credit and culminate in a Certificate in Public Library Administration. The five course content areas are:

• Principles of Public Library Organization & Management
• Financial Management of Public Libraries
• Human Resource Administration in the Public Library
• Legal Issues & the Regulatory/Governance Environment of the Public Library
• Public Library Facilities, Automated Systems and Telecommunications
LESSONS LEARNED

• TANGIBLE REWARD

• REALISTIC COST

• COMMITTED HOST