

library leadership forum

June 2026 Resources



Discussed at Library Leadership Forum on 6/18/26:

the topic:

Competency vs. Character: What Makes a Good Leader with Anita Winger

LLF is thrilled to welcome special guest [Anita Winger](#), Discovery, Systems & Innovation Librarian from Mississippi State University, to discuss her research on the qualities of an effective leader.

"Leadership is essential at every level of an organization, as experienced library leaders reach retirement age, the next generation of leaders must be prepared to take the helm. Leadership is not confined to the administrative level of the organization, as a leader might be found in any role and any level in the organization. To ensure the next generation of library leaders are prepared, one needs to know what makes an effective leader. **Research indicates that the qualities of an effective leader are evolving from a focus on professional competencies to an emphasis on the character traits of the individual. A balance of competencies and character are needed for effective leadership.**" (CORE Forum 2026 session description)

- Advani, A., & Mergenthaler, J. (2024). [From competencies to strengths: exploring the role of character strengths in developing twenty-first century-ready leaders: a strengths-based approach](#). *Discover Psychology*, 4(1), 95.
- Ammons-Stephens, S., Cole, H. J., Riehle, C. F., & Weare, W. H. (2009). [Developing Core Leadership Competencies for the Library Profession](#). *Library Leadership & Management*, 23(2), 63–74.
- Martin, J. (2018). [What Do Academic Librarians Value in a Leader? Reflections on Past Positive Library Leaders and a Consideration of Future Library Leaders](#). *College & Research Libraries*, 79(6), 799.
- Professor Winger's Doctoral Capstone: [What Makes a Good Leader? MS LiLI: Mississippi Library Leadership Institute](#)

Responses to Registration Question: What character trait do you value in a leader?

- ability to recognize and celebrate others' strengths
- Honesty
- Compassion, awareness, driven
- approachable, humor
- Accountability and integrity
- High EQ
- effective communication
- Emotional intelligence (all 5 realms are key!) and honesty
- Empathy
- Trustworthy (2)
- generosity

- Integrity (2)

additional resources:

- ALA's Core Forum - <https://coreforum.org/>
- COSUGI (Customers of SirsiDynix Users' Group Inc.) Conference- <https://cosugi.org/conference>
- [MLA Institute for Leadership Excellence](#) (MILE)
- [Library Leadership Your Way](#) by Jason Martin (ALA, 2019)
- [LQ360 Leadership Assessment](#) (RightPath)
- [Free Strengths Survey](#) (VIA Institute on Character)
- [Strength Deployment Inventory](#) (Crucial Learning)
- [The Four Tendencies Quiz](#) (Gretchen Rubin)
- [Disc Communication Style](#) (Disc Profile)
- [Colin L. Powell's Thirteen Rules of Leadership](#), U.S. Dept of State
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- ❖ Contact LLF Co-facilitators: Carol Jackson (cljackson46@gmail.com) and Stacey Hendren (staceyrhendren@gmail.com)

