

Mellanye Lackey

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Because of the specific focus on leadership in academic libraries, I found LIAL far and above the most helpful of leadership trainings I have attended. The experience was a week-long immersive workshop with guest speakers from library directors and library association leaders. The facilitators of daily sessions were highly skilled at leading the large group through complex, yet familiar, scenarios to successfully analyze potential solutions through different perspectives – the four frames that other recipients have mentioned. Individual and small group activities helped us identify obstacles in our own professional practices so that we would be aware of behaviors that hold us back from achieving success. Daily briefs with our assigned ‘home’ groups offered a chance to discuss and (again) re-frame a challenging situation we have faced.

Overall, my time at the institute was outstanding. I would highly recommend it to anyone who wants to grow as a leader in an academic library. The coordinators of the program have perfected their craft, attending to the smallest details to ensure that we had an exceptional experience. What I learned at LIAL has proven incredibly valuable and has stuck with me. I appreciated the opportunity to connect with peers from across the country (and even internationally) as well as gaining exposure to dynamic and inspiring library directors at peer institutions. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to attend the Harvard Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians (LIAL) with the support of the AAHSL Scholarship.

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