

REFORMA

The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking



Are you interested in becoming part of a broad network of dedicated librarians passionate about serving Latinos and the Spanish Speaking?

Did you know that REFORMA was first started in Tucson and is now a network of various local and regional chapters across the U.S. and Puerto Rico?

Are you interested in resources for building collections and suggestions for creating innovative programming?

Spanish or bilingual ability is not required.

Dear student:

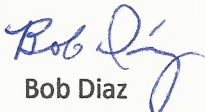
Hello. My name is Bob Diaz. I am a librarian and an archivist, and I currently work in Special Collections at the University of Arizona Libraries. I started my graduate studies in librarianship way back in 1985 here at the University of Arizona. I am reaching out to you today because I'd like to invite you to join REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking. Like many of you, I couldn't wait to obtain my master's degree and start working in service to my community as an information professional. Upon graduation in 1986, I landed my first job in Nogales, Arizona, as a children's and public services librarian. As you likely know, Nogales is a border city with a very large Spanish-speaking population. While my library school coursework didn't delve much into how to effectively serve the Spanish-speaking community, my involvement in REFORMA helped a great deal. I learned about this organization, founded in Tucson by a library school professor named Dr. Arnulfo Trejo, my first semester of library school, and I decided to join because I was interested in serving diverse communities, particularly the Mexican American community. As soon as I joined, I quickly became part of a broad network of dedicated librarians from all sectors of the profession and from all over the country, who were passionate about serving Latinos and the Spanish

Speaking. I found that there were many benefits to being a member. The REFORMA newsletter I received, for example, provided resources for building collections and suggestions for creating innovative programming. During conferences at ALA, I was able to meet other Latino/a librarians, and I was also provided with multiple opportunities for professional growth and leadership. Looking back, my decision to join REFORMA was one of the best decisions I ever made. The benefits have been enormous. As a member of REFORMA you will have the opportunity to develop your professional skills and increase your awareness of library and information services to Latinos, by participating in service projects, workshops, and field trips, by listening to guest speakers and engaging in a variety of networking opportunities. All students interested in working with Spanish-speakers and Latinos are welcome to join REFORMA. Spanish or bilingual ability is not required.

REFORMA, while a national organization, is comprised of various local and regional chapters across the U.S. and Puerto Rico. I am currently working to strengthen the Tucson chapter of REFORMA, which has been a bit quiet the past few years, and I would like to reach out to you to join me in this effort. Please contact me at jrdiaz@arizona.edu if you have any questions or are interested in joining our local chapter. Membership dues for students are \$10 a year, but please do not let that be a deterrent. If you're interested and willing to participate, we will find a way to cover your membership costs if you need assistance. Berlin Loa has also been a member of REFORMA and I'm sure she would also be willing to answer any questions you might have. You can find out more about our national organization and what it does at: <https://www.reforma.org/>.

Thank you! I look forward to hearing from you, meeting you and working with you.

Sincerely,



Bob Diaz
Special Collections Librarian, Archivist and
Curator for the Performing Arts and Architecture
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