

Membership Benefits

- › Access to the Member's Only portion of the ZRA website including:
 - Records and keeper resource manuals
 - Access to membership directories
 - Access to ZRA newsletter archives
 - Links to government agencies and related organizations
- › ZRA newsletter, For The Record (published tri-annually)
- › Continuing education, training and professional development opportunities
- › Reduced member registration fee for ZRA Annual Conference
- › Access to vendors and exhibitors within and outside of the zoological industry during the ZRA Annual Conference
- › Access to the Registrars listserv, a network of zoo and aquarium professionals with extensive experience in records management, wildlife permits and regulations, collection planning, domestic and international shipping, animal transactions and current industry technology
- › With ZRA Vendor Membership – first opportunity to exhibit at Annual Conferences

ZRA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization



photo by David Merritt

Join the ZRA!

Membership categories are:

› Professional

Open to zoo, aquarium, or related organization professionals who perform the duties regularly associated with registrar work including, but not limited to, managing animal records, overseeing the animal inventory, animal transactions and permitting. Annual dues are \$35. A letter of introduction is required to join in this category.

› Associate

Open to individuals who are not directly responsible for zoo or aquarium records but share an interest in the objectives of the Association. Annual dues are \$30.

› Retired

Open to retired registrars who have served ZRA for the last five (5) consecutive years as a Professional category member. Annual dues are \$25.

› Institutional

Open to organizations interested in and supportive of ZRA objectives but do not satisfy the requirements for Reciprocal membership. Annual dues are \$100.

› Vendor

Open to companies that provide products or services to the zoological or records management fields. The member company shall designate a representative to attend the yearly business meeting. Annual dues are \$150.

› Reciprocal

Membership is open to organizations of professionals which are, or whose members are, affiliated with zoological, horticultural or museum collections, and whose goals are supportive of our profession or ZRA. Upon the Membership Services Committee's approval of qualifications, the candidate organization's application shall be forwarded to the Board of Directors for consideration. No annual dues.

For membership application or more information, visit the ZRA website at www.zooregistrars.org.

ZOOLOGICAL REGISTRARS ASSOCIATION

Mission Statement

To enhance the value of zoos and aquariums through leadership, professional development, standardization and service to its members.

Vision Statement

- ZRA will inspire registrars to develop their careers to full potential by providing opportunities for professional enrichment, growth and development.
- ZRA will provide training and continuing education opportunities to ensure registrars have the skills to meet changing business needs.
- ZRA will provide leadership in the development and use of the highest standards achievable in managing animal transactions and the records and information that support them.
- ZRA will take a leadership role in animal transport, legislation and legal compliance.
- ZRA will continue to expand its network of professional partnerships within the zoo and aquarium industry and with associations that provide related services.



History and Beyond



photo by Robibn Winkelman

The foundation for the Zoological Registrars Association (ZRA) began in 1984 when twelve zoo registrars and records keepers gathered for a workshop at the Brookfield Zoo. Annual workshops soon followed, bringing registrars and records keepers together to discuss their common issues and unique solutions. In 1990, the Association's first Chair was elected and, in 1998, ZRA received its status as a not-for-profit organization.

› Since then, ZRA has:

- Designed and launched the Association website
- Established the Leadership Development Program now open to all members at the Annual Conference
- Implemented several professional development and educational programs
- Enhanced awards, recognition and scholarship opportunities for members
- Developed a formal business plan for the Record Keeping Awareness Program
- Expanded the Association through membership growth campaigns
- Introduced the Vendor membership category which generated Exhibitors for the Annual Conference

Professional Development

ZRA provides professional development opportunities for its members through the Annual Conference sessions, collaborations with other industry associations and specialized workshops.

› Records Training

- Records Resource Guide for Keeper Training published by ZRA (available on the website)
- Standards for Data Entry in North American Zoos and Aquarium Databases©, published by Lincoln Park Zoo (available on the website)
- Institutional Records Keeping (IRK) course offered at the AZA School in Wheeling, WV
- Records management and record keeping training at the ZRA Annual Conference

› ISIS-ARKS / ZIMS

International Species Information System (ISIS) is a non-profit organization providing the world standard zoological software to zoos and aquariums world-wide. Animal Record Keeping System (ARKS) was the world standard data collection software used by hundreds of zoological institutions for over 20 years.

ISIS has now launched a cutting edge, web-based software for zoos and aquariums – Zoological Information Management System (ZIMS). ZIMS provides a significant technological advancement for the entire zoological community. Find out more at www.isis.org.

› Scholarships and Sponsorships

- AZA Institutional Records Keeping Course (IRK) Scholarship – awarded to one member each year to cover the cost of course registration
- Certified Records Manager (CRM) Certification Scholarship – available to each member who completes the CRM Certification process
- ZRA Annual Conference subsidy – awarded to one member each year to cover the cost of Conference registration

Education and Networking

› The ZRA Annual Conference

The ZRA Annual Conference is hosted by a different ZRA-member institution each year and provides members with opportunities for professional development, continuing education and networking with other registrars and professionals throughout the zoological industry and related fields.

Professionals from a wide variety of institutions, including zoos and aquariums, government agencies, the International Species Information System



photo by Rachél Watkins Rogers

(ISIS), as well as from outside the zoological industry, are invited to speak at the Conference each year. Special events, such as Zoo and Aquarium Day, showcase the host institution, its city and other local attractions.

› Committees and Subcommittees

Strategic Planning	Professional Development
Nominations & Elections	Training
Standards Development	External Relations
Bylaws	Membership Services
Ethics	Annual Conference
History	Marketing & Public Relations

› IDMAG/IDMAGGOC

ZRA members helped establish the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Institutional Data Management Advisory Group (IDMAG) and its Government Ownership Committee (IDMAG GOC). IDMAG is a Scientific Advisory Group, and works on the development of effective and efficient data management practices and advancing the use of animal records data in AZA-accredited institutions. The primary goals for the IDMAG GOC subcommittee are development of best practices for records of animals owned by government agencies and providing expert data management advice to agencies which oversee government-managed species.