

Membership Benefits

- › Access to the Member's Only portion of the ZRA website including:
 - Records and keeper resource manuals
 - Links to agencies and related organizations
 - Archives of the ZRA newsletters
 - Online membership renewal
 - Reduced member registration fee for ZRA Annual Conference
 - Ability to join as a vendor and setup as an exhibitor at the ZRA Annual Conference
 - Access to vendors and exhibitors from within and outside the zoological industry during the ZRA Annual Conference
 - Access to membership directories
- › Access to the Registrars listserv with support from a network of skilled zoo and aquarium professionals with over 800 years of record keeping experience in wildlife regulations, permits, collection, planning, domestic and international shipping, transactions and technology
- › ZRA newsletter, For The Record, published tri-annually
- › Continuing Education, training and professional development opportunities



photo by Robin Winkelman

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

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 sponsorship 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 \$150.00.

› 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.

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

In 1984, twelve zoo registrars and animal records keepers met for a workshop at the Brookfield Zoo which led to the formation of the Zoological Registrars Association (ZRA). Annual workshops began very informally as a platform to assure registrars and records keepers came together once a year to share both their common and unique business problems and solutions.

In 1990 a Chair was elected and in 1998 ZRA received its status as a not-for-profit organization.

› Since then, ZRA has:

- Produced manuals providing a standardized and systematic approach to animal record keeping
- Established the Institutional Records Keeping (IRK) course which is a part of the AZA Professional Training School curriculum and taught by ZRA members

› Since then, ZRA has:

Developed its 2007-2011 Strategic Plan accompanied by a bylaws revision and new governance structure. Major objectives of the Plan include:

Designing a new website and implementing a leadership development program; enhancing awards and recognition and programs for professional development and education; creating a business plan for its Record Keeping Awareness Program; promoting its membership category for vendors including exhibitors at the ZRA Annual Conference; and deploying its first membership growth campaign.



photo by Nora Waddell

In 2009 ZRA will celebrate its 25th Anniversary.

Professional Development

ZRA provides professional development opportunities for its members through the educational sessions held during the Annual Conference, collaborations 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 730 zoos and aquariums in 73 countries. Animal Record Keeping System (ARKS4) is the world standard data collection software used by registrars and other professionals. ISIS is in the process of developing a cutting edge, web-based software for zoos and aquariums called ZIMS (Zoological Information Management System) which will provide a significant technological advancement for the entire zoological community. Find out more at www.isis.org.

› Scholarships and Sponsorships

- Scholarship awarded annually for a member to attend the AZA Institutional Records Keeping class (IRK)
- Conference subsidy given annually
- Additional scholarships available through the Professional Development Committee
- ZRA supports related animal records and data management projects worldwide by providing funding and other resources

Education and Networking

› The ZRA Annual Conference

The ZRA Annual Conference provides opportunities for professional development, continuing education and networking with registrars and other professionals working inside and outside the zoological industry.

The Annual Conference is held and hosted by a different ZRA member-institution each year offering a wide variety of speakers, events, professional development as well as “Zoo Day” and other activities showcasing the local city, zoological institutions, aquariums, museums and much more.



photo by Rachél Watkins Rogers

Professionals from institutions within the United States and internationally, government agencies, ISIS and specialists from a variety of interdisciplinary fields are invited to present at the ZRA Annual Conference.

› Committees and Subcommittees

Strategic Planning	Training
Bylaws	Member Services
Ethics	Communications
History	Conference
Nominations & Elections	Marketing
Standards	External Relations
Professional Development	

› IDMAG/IDMAGGOC

ZRA members helped establish the Association of Zoos and Aquarium's (AZA) Institutional Data Management Advisory Group (IDMAG) and its subcommittee IDMAGGOC (IDMAG Government Ownership Committee). Both are structured under AZA's Scientific Advisory Group with the primary goal of developing best practices for recording animals owned by government agencies specifically.

› About ZRA at:

Be sure to visit our website for more information about the organization at: www.zooregistrars.org