President’s Report to ALA Council

Ann Campion Riley, ACRL President, 2015-2016

ALA Annual Conference, June 23-28, 2016, Orlando, Florida

As the higher education association for librarians, the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) continued to advance learning and transform scholarship over the course of my presidential year. Our members continued to learn, grow, innovate, lead, and succeed as individuals and as part of the academic library community through the variety of activities listed in this report. I am grateful for the opportunity to lead ACRL over the past year.

Launched by a 2012 IMLS grant, our Assessment in Action (AiA) Program moved into its final phase this year, with a third cohort beginning the program. We continued reporting out on the results of the program this year, publishing *Putting Assessment into Action: Selected Projects from the First Cohort of the Assessment in Action Grant* in January 2016. Featuring the real world, practical experience of librarians who participated in the first cohort of the program, the report shows compelling evidence for library contributions to student learning and success. We also released *Documented Library Contributions to Student Learning and Success: Building Evidence with Team-Based Assessment in Action Campus Projects*, this April. The report focuses on dozens of projects conducted as part of the AiA teams that participated in the second year of the program and identifies strong evidence of the positive contributions of academic libraries to student learning and success.

In addition, a March 2016 special issue of *College & Research Libraries* featured a selection of seven action research studies by teams who participated in AiA and an introductory essay providing a basic overview to action research.

ACRL’s *Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education* was another major focus of the association this year. At the 2016 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Boston, the ACRL Board of Directors took action to formally adopt the Framework and affirmed its intent to make a decision on the status of the *Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education* at the 2016 ALA Annual Conference. You can read more about Framework-related activities in the Student Learning section of this report.

To demonstrate our continued commitment to open scholarship and access to research, ACRL’s special collections and cultural heritage-focused journal *RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage* became an open access publication in May 2015. This change in access policy lifts the online version of the publication’s current year embargo on new content and makes the complete contents of the journal from 2000 to the present, along with complete contents of its predecessor *Rare Books & Manuscripts Librarianship*, freely available...
through the publication website at http://rbm.acrl.org. The move of RBM to an open access model completes the transition to providing open online content for our serials publishing program.

The following report highlights ACRL’s many accomplishments during my presidential year across the three strategic goal areas highlighted in the Plan for Excellence – the value of academic libraries, student learning, and the research and scholarly environment – along with the association’s enabling programs and services.

**The Value of Academic Libraries**

ACRL made significant progress on the association’s goal of assisting academic libraries in demonstrating alignment with, and impact on, institutional outcomes this year. The association provides support and training to ACRL liaisons to other higher education organizations and disciplinary societies so that they are prepared to talk about the value of academic libraries in those contexts. In order to further influence national conversations and activities, ACRL members and staff have presented about the value of academic libraries initiative at several conferences, including the Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education Annual Conference.

ACRL’s *Standards for Libraries in Higher Education* continue to be an active part of the Value initiative. The association licensed and offered six full-day workshops on implementing the standards over the past year. More than 190 print copies of the revised *Standards for Libraries in Higher Education* have been distributed this year and the online version has been visited more than 14,000 times.

Members of the Value of Academic Libraries Committee continue to regularly highlight significant research and project reports on the VAL blog at http://www.acrl.ala.org/value/ and the Valueography at http://acrl.ala.org/valueography/.

**Assessment in Action Program**

In September 2012, ACRL was awarded a National Leadership Demonstration Grant of $249,330 by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for the program “Assessment in Action: Academic Libraries and Student Success” (AiA). Part of ACRL's Value of Academic Libraries initiative, AiA is being undertaken in partnership with the Association for Institutional Research (AIR) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU). The grant supports the design, implementation and evaluation of a program to strengthen the competencies of librarians in campus leadership and data-informed advocacy.

The AiA program employs a blended learning environment and a peer-to-peer network over the course of 14-months. The librarians participate as cohort members in a one-year professional development program that includes team-based activities carried out on their campuses. An important component of the AiA program is establishing a learning community where librarian team leaders have the freedom to connect, risk, and learn together.
Fifty-five institutional teams participated in the third year of the program. The teams, representing all types of institutions, come from 24 states, the District of Columbia and Australia. These teams join the 75 institutions which participated in the first year of the program and 73 from the second year. For a list of institutions from all three years of the program, visit the AiA program webpage.

ACRL published *Putting Assessment into Action: Selected Projects from the First Cohort of the Assessment in Action Grant*, edited by Eric Ackermann, in January 2016. The methodological issues addressed in *Putting Assessment into Action* are based on the real world, practical experience of librarians who participated in the first cohort of the AiA program. Twenty seven cases are presented in arenas as varied as assessing fourth year undergraduate learning, first year experience, graduate student information literacy, technology facilities, assessing outreach services and space, and more.

As noted above, we also released *Documented Library Contributions to Student Learning and Success: Building Evidence with Team-Based Assessment in Action Campus Projects* this April. The report focuses on dozens of projects conducted as part of the AiA teams that participated in the second year of the program. Synthesizing more than 60 individual project reports (fully searchable in an online database) and using past findings from projects completed during the first year of the AiA program as context, the report identifies strong evidence of the positive contributions of academic libraries to student learning and success.

The March 2016 special issue of *College & Research Libraries* featured a selection of seven action research studies by teams who participated in AiA and an introductory essay providing a basic overview to action research. It was promoted broadly to librarians and higher education community and an online discussion forum with authors was also held.

Learn more about the AiA team projects in the Assessment in Action Bibliography, listing dozens of journal articles, conference presentations, and other public reports. This bibliography aims to be comprehensive, capturing all scholarly and practice-based literature and presentations about AiA and campus projects conducted as part of the AiA program by campus team members, facilitators, and ACRL staff. An online database of reports from AiA project teams is also available.

**National Center for Education Statistics Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System/ACRLMetrics**

In FY15 the ACRL, ALA, ACRL Joint Advisory Task Force to worked to clarify the academic library definitions in IPEDS Survey and all recommendations for the 2015 survey were accepted by NCES in July 2015. A second round of revisions proposed for the IPEDS Academic Library Component in 2016 are likely to be approved by NCES for the 2016 survey. The ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics Survey incorporates the IPEDS Academic Library Component and makes the results available through ACRL Metrics. The survey also enables participants to easily transfer their IPEDS responses to the institutional keyholder for the IPEDS survey.


Student Learning

The following activities are examples of ways ACRL moved towards meeting the association’s goal of assisting librarians in transforming student learning, pedagogy, and instructional practices through creative and innovative collaborations during my term.

The ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education has introduced a new way of thinking and practicing to the academic library community, and it has already brought both inspiration and challenge to librarians as they explore new directions in information literacy practice and research. To support the implementation of the Framework, the ACRL Board of Directors created a new ACRL Framework for Information Literacy Advisory Board. These member leaders work with the ACRL Visiting Program Officer for Information Literacy to offer a range of expertise and perspectives that can positively and strategically shape the growth and development of the Framework. The advisory board is working to create a “sandbox” where individuals can share their Framework resources to benefit the broader community. Full information on the advisory board, including a roster and charge, is available on the Framework website.

The Board also affirmed its intent to make a decision on the status of the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education at the 2016 ALA Annual Conference, according to the timeline established at the 2015 ALA Midwinter Meeting. The new Framework document remains a framework, not a standard, so that it can move forward as a dynamic, living document with great flexibility and potential. A full update from the Board on the Framework is available on the ACRL Insider blog.

ACRL published Teaching Information Literacy Threshold Concepts: Lesson Plans for Librarians in June 2015. Edited by Patricia Bravender, Hazel McClure, and Gayle Schaub, Teaching Information Literacy Threshold Concepts is an essential resource for instruction librarians interested in promoting critical thinking and engaged learning. This volume offers concrete and specific ways of teaching the threshold concepts that are central to the Framework.

In late 2015, the Framework Advisory Board launched a weekly “Framework Spotlight on Scholarship” column on the Framework website. Curated by Advisory Board Member Donna Witek, this weekly post series highlights scholarship that uses, builds on, critiques, or responds to the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education.

The online version of the Framework has been accessed more than 68,000 times this year and 322 print copies have been distributed.

The Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education continue to be part of our constellation of information literacy documents. This year the standards were cited in numerous books, journal articles, and blogs along with ACRL’s own publications. More than 50 print copies of the standards have been distributed this year and the online version has been visited more than 108,577 times.
A variety of e-learning courses and webcasts, along with programs and preconference sessions at the ALA Midwinter Meeting, and ALA Annual Conference, provided additional opportunities for librarians to gain additional skills in these important areas. ACRL’s visiting program officer for information literacy also made numerous presentations about the Framework at conferences and through webcasts to various organizations.

We additionally published several books on information literacy related topics this year, including *Classroom Assessment Techniques for Librarians*, *The Craft of Librarian Instruction: Using Acting Techniques to Create Your Teaching Presence*, *Modern Pathfinders: Creating Better Research Guides*, *Teaching Information Literacy Threshold Concepts: Lesson Plans for Librarians*, and *The Discovery Tool Cookbook: Recipes for Successful Lesson Plans*.

**Information Literacy Immersion Program**

ACRL endeavors to improve members’ ability to teach and assess lifelong learning skills. To help librarians and institutions develop and implement information literacy programs on their campuses, the ACRL Immersion “Classic” Program was offered August 2-7, 2015, at Seattle University. The program provided two tracks of intensive training and education for 85 attendees. The Teacher Track focused on individual development for librarians interested in enhancing or extending their individual instruction skills, while the Program Track focused on developing, integrating or managing campus-wide and programmatic information literacy programs.

Forty-five attendees participated in the Assessment and Intentional Teacher Tracks, held November 4-8, 2015, in Nashville. The Assessment Track provided attendees with an understanding of assessment and information on how to use assessment as a tool to guide evidence-based classroom, curriculum, and program development. The Intentional Teacher Track offered a mixture of structured and co-constructed learning segments, such as peer discussions, individual reading and reflection times, and participant-led communities of practice to help attendees become more self-aware and self-directed as teachers.

A regional Immersion Program focusing on the Immersion Teacher Track was attended by 35 individuals at the University of Chicago in September 2015. Thirty-one individuals participated in the regional Immersion Program offered by the CTW Consortium (Connecticut College, Trinity College, and Wesleyan College) held in March 2016. A regional Immersion program was also held at Penn State University in May 2016.

**Research and Scholarly Environment**

ACRL’s scholarly communication program actively promotes a commitment to the greater good through the transition to a more open system of scholarship. As previously noted, ACRL’s, special collections and cultural heritage-focused journal *RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage* became an open access publication in May 2015. This change in access policy lifts the online version of the publication’s current year embargo on new content and makes the complete contents of the journal from 2000 to the present, along with
complete contents of its predecessor Rare Books & Manuscripts Librarianship, freely available through the publication website at http://rbm.acrl.org.

The ACRL Scholarly Communication Toolkit continues to provide context and background by summarizing key issues to offer quick, basic information on scholarly communication topics. It also links to examples of specific tools, including handouts, presentation templates and videos for librarians to adapt and use on their own campuses, and for library school students seeking to incorporate these issues into their course work. The toolkit, developed and maintained by the ACRL Research and Scholarly Environment Committee, serves as a valuable resource for scholarly communication discussions inside the library and for outreach programs to faculty and administrators. The ACRL Scholarly Communication Toolkit is freely available online.

The association also raised awareness of important scholarly communication issues by offering a free ACRL Presents webcast, “The Fair Use Factors: Their History and Application,” in February 2016, to celebrate fair use week. We also offered the four-week e-Learning course, “Recent Developments in Fair Use,” in March and April.

The ACRL Research and Scholarly Environment Committee has selected five sites to host the workshop “Scholarly Communication: From Understanding to Engagement” as road show events in 2016. Recognizing that scholarly communication issues are central to the work of all academic librarians and all types of institutions, ACRL is underwriting the bulk of the costs of delivering this proven content by sending expert presenters on the road. The institutions selected to host the 2016 road shows are the ACRL Maryland Chapter, Baltimore, MD; the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA; Georgia College & State University, Milledgeville, GA; the University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA; and the University of Missouri, Columbia, MO. The workshop focuses on access, emerging opportunities, intellectual property, and engagement. When the 2016 workshops are complete, the road show will have visited 27 different states, the District of Columbia, 1 U.S. territory, and 3 Canadian provinces. The 41 workshops offered over the program’s seven years will have reached over 2,600 participants from over 715 institutions. ACRL also makes the workshop available to additional interested institutions.

In November 2015, the Board appointed Will Cross to the roadshow team as a new presenter coordinator. We also selected four curriculum designer/presenters to create new professional development offerings in two important areas. For Research Data Management, a review team selected Abigail Goben, information services librarian at University of Illinois-Chicago Health Sciences Library, and Megan Sapp Nelson, associate professor of library sciences at Purdue University. For Intersections of Scholarly Communication and Information Literacy, a review team selected Maryam Fakouri, intellectual property librarian at Columbia College in Chicago, and John Watts, undergraduate learning librarian at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

ACRL offered two new professional development offerings focusing on the Intersections of Scholarly Communication and Information Literacy this. Developed by Fakouri and Watts, these programs help build librarians’ capacity as leaders on issues and projects of campus-wide interest that involve scholarly communication, information literacy, and their connections (e.g., data literacy, intellectual property, open access, etc.). The webcast “Teaching at the Intersections: Aligning Scholarly Communication and Information Literacy in the One-Shot Library Instruction Session” will be held in April 2016 and “Building a Curriculum on the
Intersections of Scholarly Communications and Information Literacy” was held as an ACRL Preconference at the 2016 ALA Annual Conference.

The ACRL Scholarly Communication Discussion Group, Scholcomm discussion list and the ACRL/ SPARC Forum on Emerging Issues in Scholarly Communication continue to be important venues for strengthening the association’s role in supporting new models of scholarly communication. Regular articles on scholarly communication issues and trends in C&RL News play an important role in disseminating a body of knowledge for the field.

**Enabling Programs and Services**

In addition to the three Plan for Excellence goal areas, ACRL serves our members, along with the academic and research library community, through a variety of programs and services. Highlights of the regularly recurring operations relevant to the ability of ACRL to lead academic and research librarians and libraries in advancing learning and scholarship are reported below.

**Member Engagement**

ACRL’s membership activities build on retaining core membership while recruiting from new and diverse communities. As of April 30, 2016, ACRL had 11,023 members, a decrease of 3.5% (407 fewer members) since FY14 (the last non-conference year). There are currently 10,341 personal members, 665 organizational members, and 17 corporate members. ACRL initiated quarterly surveys of new, lapsed, and current members in FY16 and learned that members join (and renew) because they value ACRL professional development opportunities, standards and guidelines, and resources that help members to do their jobs. We will continue to look for ways to partner with ALA to improve member retention.

The ACRL 101 programs held prior to, and during, the ALA Annual Conference continue to educate members and potential members on the wide range of ACRL activities and opportunities for participation. ACRL’s presences on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, and Twitter continue to grow and provide our membership with new avenues to connect with colleagues and the association. ACRL continues to explore new models for member connections. For the sixth year, we held a virtual orientation session for new leaders and offered a webcast to help members volunteer for ACRL committees. A number of ACRL committees, interest groups, discussion groups, sections, and the Board of Directors are working virtually and taking advantage of ALA Connect and other virtual meeting systems to keep the work of the association moving forward year round.

ACRL provides special connections for members, both virtual and personal. ACRL sections offer 17 vibrant and dynamic communities that nurture individual development and foster a deeper connection to the profession. Sections continue to offer successful mentoring opportunities along with programming and special social events at the ALA Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference to create community among new and continuing members. In addition, ACRL’s 17 interest groups address emerging areas of interest in academic librarianship and our 21 Discussion Groups provide avenues for members to connect around issues through informal networks for exchanging ideas and problem-solving.
The ACRL Dr. E.J. Josey Spectrum Scholar Mentor Program paired 17 ALA Spectrum Scholars interested in careers in academic librarianship with ACRL members to mentor them. The program has matched nearly 140 pairs of mentors and Spectrum Scholars since its establishment in 2003.

**Awards**

Since 1923, the ACRL Awards Program has recognized and honored the professional contributions and achievements of academic libraries and librarians. This special recognition by ACRL enhances the sense of personal growth and accomplishment of our members, provides our membership with role models, and strengthens the image of our membership in the eyes of employers, leadership and the academic community as a whole.

In 2016, 24 outstanding individuals and institutions received ACRL awards recognizing their accomplishments. ACRL’s top honor, the Academic/Research Librarian of the Year Award, was presented to Susan K. Nutter, vice provost and director of libraries at North Carolina State University (NCSU). Nutter was cited for being a visionary, outwardly-focused leader committed to demonstrating and heightening the value of the library in higher education.

ACRL continues to present the Excellence in Academic Libraries Award to recognize the staff of a community college, a college, and a university library for exemplary programs that deliver outstanding services and resources to further the educational mission of their institution. This year’s recipients were Hudson County Community College Library in the community college category, Macalester College in the college category, and the Robert W. Woodruff Library at Atlanta University Center in the university category. The award, sponsored by ACRL and YBP Library Services, includes a presentation ceremony on the campus of each award-winning library.

**Publications**

**Monographs**

The full back catalog of ACRL monograph publications is available in a variety of e-book formats through the ALA Store and Amazon. E-books of ACRL monograph titles are also available for purchase by libraries through EBSCO.

Daniel C. Mack, associate dean for collection strategies and services at the University of Maryland Libraries, was appointed editor of our Publications in Librarianship (PIL) monograph series this spring. The PIL series showcases research on a diverse range of contemporary topics in the field.

Erin Nevius joined the ACRL staff in March 2016 as Content Strategist, following the retirement of Kathryn Deiss. Erin has fifteen years of professional publishing experience, acquiring and editing books and working with online content for both commercial and non-profit publishers, most recently with the American Bar Association.

**Serials**

As previously noted, our special collections and cultural heritage-focused journal *RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage* became an open access publication in May 2015. This change in access policy lifts the online version of the publication’s current year embargo on new content and makes the complete contents of the journal from 2000 to the present, along with complete contents of its predecessor *Rare Books & Manuscripts Librarianship*, freely available through the publication website at http://rbm.acrl.org.

Wendi Arant Kaspar has been appointed to the post of editor for *C&RL*. Kaspar will serve a three-year term beginning July 1, 2016. Kaspar served as editor designate from July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016, in addition to serving as chair of the *C&RL* Editorial Board. She succeeds Scott Walter, university librarian at DePaul University in Chicago, as *C&RL* editor. Kaspar currently serves as policy sciences librarian at the Texas A&M University Policy Sciences and Economics Library and her extensive publishing experience includes serving as co-editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Academic Librarianship* (2012-14) and co-editor-in-chief of *Library Leadership & Management* (2010-12).

As also mentioned earlier, the March 2016 special issue of *C&RL* featured a selection of seven action research studies by teams who participated in ACRL’s Assessment in Action program and an introductory essay providing a basic overview to action research.

As part of its social media program, the journal hosted two online fora this year. Each forum highlighted a new *C&RL* study with a free, live, expert panel comprised of the study's authors and additional subject experts. “Impact of Library Resource Utilization on Undergraduate Students’ Academic Performance,” held in January 2016, featured an author panel discussion of “The Impact of Library Resource Utilization on Undergraduate Students’ Academic Performance” by Felly Chiteng Kot and Jennifer L. Jones. Held in March 2016, a session highlighting the AiA special issue featured an author panel discussion on Action Research with authors of articles in the March 2016 issue.
C&RL’s Facebook and Twitter presences are home to updates on pre-print and current articles, book reviews, highlights of past articles from the journal’s history, and exclusive content from C&RL editors and researchers.

C&RL News launched a new quarterly International Insights feature this May. Edited by Clara M. Chu and Barbara J. Ford of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Mortenson Center for International Library Programs, the column provides a global perspective on issues relevant to academic and research libraries, and offer ideas and opportunities for action.

ALA JobLIST, the online career center for job seekers and employers in library and information science and technology is run cooperatively by ACRL with ALA’s American Libraries magazine, in late 2015 transitioned from the proprietary site it had operated on since launching in 2006 to a platform hosted and operated by a third-party vendor specializing in association job boards. Due to ALA’s insistence on compliance with accessibility guidelines when contracting for the new service, the vendor awarded ALA with a customer recognition award for “Significant Product Contribution,” as it forced the vendor to improve the platform for all of the thousands of job boards operating on it. ALA JobLIST was also one of 25 sites worldwide voted a 2016 User’s Choice Award winner in WEDDLE’s Media Group’s annual survey of job seekers, recruiters, and employers.

During the past year, Choice has moved vigorously to implement its strategic plan, approved by the ACRL Board of Directors at the ALA 2015 Midwinter Conference. Central to the plan, and to our activities over the past twelve months, have been two efforts. First has been the rebranding of Choice. Enlisting the services of a professional design/advertising firm, we have worked to create a brand identity for Choice as a publishing unit, not simply a journal; position Choice as a content provider to multiple audiences; and create identities for multiple Choice-branded products. The culmination of these efforts has been the relaunching of the Choice microsite, www.choice360.org, which provides a comprehensive overview of our services to the academic library community.

Closely allied with this has been the rebuilding of the Choice flagship product, Choice Review Online (www.choicereviews.org). Working with our development partners, we have created a true database product that can be used not only by collection-development librarians but also by reference librarians, scholars, researchers, and students. Choice Reviews’ almost 200,000 records provide critical analyses of the best of scholarly publishing over the last quarter century and can be used to build, analyze, and weed collections; make recommendations to patrons; or share comments with library colleagues.

The past year has also seen the launching of a Choice tablet app, our first foray into mobile. The app is already proving to be an ideal platform for playing archival copies of the Choice-ACRL sponsored webinars, which, during the 2015-2015 academic year, garnered over 13,000 registrants and 4,500 attendees. The tablet also provides access to streaming content from the ACI Index to Scholarly Blogs, an authoritative source for discovery of this important content.

Two other editorial enhancements round out our activities for the year. One has been the publication of our bibliographic essays as open-access content on the LibGuide platform.
(http://ala-choice.libguides.com/), making them available for the first time to a broad audience of librarians and teachers. The other has been our efforts, since June of 2015, to support the work of community college librarians. This we have done in three ways: indicating community college–appropriate titles in each issue of Choice, creating a list of the 75 most highly recommended titles each month for those libraries, and through the inauguration of a special guest column for community college librarians to discuss issues of importance to their colleagues.

Finally, Resources for College Libraries (www.rclweb.net), our copublishing venture with ProQuest, continues to be enhanced with new edition updates and annual revisions. The combined RCL and RCL Career Resources database now contains over 85,800 titles. RCL is now also embedded in ProQuest's new Intota collection assessment tool, widening both the reach and the utility of the RCL database.

**Reports, White Papers, Online Publications**

This spring, ACRL joined the network of partners behind the NMC Horizon Report - Library Edition. Since the inaugural report in 2014, the academic and research library-focused edition of the NMC Horizon Report series has been a collaboration between the NMC, the University of Applied Sciences (HTW) Chur, the German National Library of Science and Technology (TIB) Hannover, and ETH-Bibliothek Zürich. In their new role as key dissemination partner, ACRL will help produce and distribute the NMC Horizon Report > 2017 Library Edition. The release is scheduled for the ACRL 2017 Conference.

*Keeping Up With...,* ACRL’s online current awareness publication series, continued issuing concise briefs on trends in academic librarianship and higher education. Each edition focuses on a single issue including an introduction to the topic and summaries of key points, including implications for academic libraries. The series’ offerings this year included information on Affordable Course Content, Andragogy, Culturally Responsive Teaching, The EdTech Surge, National Credentialing and Academic Libraries, Research Information Management Systems, and Systematic Literature Reviews.

**Blogs/ Social Media**

ACRL continued to leverage social media to deliver content over the past year. The ACRL Insider blog provides daily updates of association activities. ACRLog provides ideas, commentary, and reflection on the professional issues of the day. The Value of Academic Libraries blog features news on the association’s value of academic libraries initiative along with essays from members of the Value of Academic Libraries Committee. The ACRL TechConnect blog provides information and essays on cutting edge applications of technology in the academic library environment. Several ACRL groups also manage content blogs focused on their specialties. As noted in the member engagement section, ACRL social media presences on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Pinterest provide news and avenues for engagement with the association.

**Standards and Guidelines**

The development of standards and guidelines for all areas of academic and research librarianship is a core service of ACRL. These standards and guidelines are a key ACRL contribution to the
profession. As previously noted, the ACRL Board of Directors formally adopted the Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education at their January meeting.

**Education**
ACRL continues to offer a wide range of professional development programs and events to meet the needs of today’s academic and research librarians.

**ACRL Conference**
The ACRL 2017 Conference will be held March 22-25, 2017, in Baltimore, Maryland. Proposals for contributed papers, panel sessions, workshops, and preconferences are currently under review. Proposals due for TechConnect presentations, poster sessions, roundtable discussions, and virtual conference Webcasts are due in October 2016. Registration for the conference, themed At the Helm: Leading Transformation, opened in May 2016.

**ACRL @ ALA Conferences**
ACRL preconference sessions at the 2016 ALA Annual Conference in Orlando provided information on Building a Curriculum on the Intersections of Scholarly Communications and Information Literacy, Crossing the Threshold with Threshold Concepts: Redesigning a Library Instruction Lesson Plan, and Teaching Data Information Literacy. My President’s Program, Strategies and Partnerships: Tailoring Data Services for Your Institutional Needs, featured speakers addressing multiple approaches for academic libraries of various sizes to tailor their engagement with data services to their institutional priorities. ACRL sponsored an additional 19 section, committee, and individual programs in Orlando on topics such as academic libraries and open educational resources, open editorial and peer review, documenting a digital protest movement, assessment, instructional design, the value of cataloging, and more.

**RBMS Conference**
The 57th Annual RBMS Conference, Opening Doors to Collaboration, Outreach and Diversity, was held June 21-24, 2016, in Coral Gables, Florida. The conference explored and demonstrated the myriad ways special collections and archives can engage and interact with multiple constituencies. Highlights included talks on collaborative cataloging, underground collection development, diversity, linked data, special collections security, and more. This year’s event featured six panel sessions, eight participant discussion sessions, three plenaries, eleven seminars, and three workshops, along with 22 posters and tours of the Coral Gables Museum and Vizcaya, along with a walking tour of Coral Gables.

**Women's Leadership Institute**
ACRL again collaborated with other higher education associations to offer the Women’s Leadership Institute, held December 6-9, 2015, in Amelia Island, Florida. The Women's Leadership Institute is an experience which provides professional development opportunities on issues that affect women within the higher education community. The program has the added benefit of bringing together women from administrative and student affairs functions across institutions of higher education.
Online Learning

The ACRL e-Learning program offered 24 e-Learning events consisting of 21 Webcasts and 3 multi-week courses this year on a variety of topics such as learning analytics, the intersections of information literacy and scholarly communication, accessibility, mentoring, and more. More than 500 individuals, 178 groups, and 30 two-person teams participated in this year’s e-Learning offerings to date. This represents a 75% increase in the number of registrations from FY15.

ACRL Presents… Webcasts

The ACRL Presents… program offers free occasional webcasts on issues of broad interest and importance to the academic and research library community. ACRL Presents… webcasts offered this year included "Teaching Information Literacy Threshold Concepts" (July 2015), "Academic Freedom in the Digital Age" (September 2015), "Celebrate Open Access Week All 52 weeks of the Year" (October 2015), and "Celebrating Fair Use Week - The Fair Use Factors: Their History and Application" (February 2016).

ACRL-Choice Webinars

ACRL-Choice webinars connect academic and research librarians with content and service providers, publishers, authors, and other experts. Since the launch of the program in 2013, thousands of participants have attended these free interactive webinars, with topics ranging from using social media to build library communities and the latest reference databases to open access. The ACRL-Choice webinar series is an ongoing program, offering approximately thirty presentations each academic year. ACRL-Choice webinars presented a cornucopia of topics this year, including library technology, data mining, research design, PDA, open access, and more.

Scholarships

Knowing that professional development is essential to the success of academic and research librarians, especially during an economic downturn, we awarded more than $19,315 in scholarships this year. 33 scholarships were awarded for the ACRL e-Learning program, the Immersion Program, and 58th RBMS Conference. Plans are underway to launch ACRL’s next fundraising campaign for gifts to the ACRL Conference Scholarship Fund to provide support for those attending the ACRL 2017 Conference.

Advocacy

Legislative Advocacy

Public policy issues effecting higher education remain an essential focus of the strategic plan. Each year, the ACRL Government Relations Committee, in consultation with the ACRL Board of Directors and staff, formulates an ACRL Legislative Agenda. Drafted with input from the ACRL Scholarly Communications and Copyright Committees, along with additional committees, ACRL leaders, and ALA Washington Office, the legislative agenda is prioritized and includes objectives for legislative action at the national level on issues that may affect the welfare of academic and research libraries. The 2016 ACRL Legislative Agenda focuses on two issues that the U.S. Congress has recently taken, or will most likely take, action on in the year ahead: access to federally funded research and curbing government surveillance. The agenda also includes a watch list of policy issues of great concern to academic librarians. Legislation on these issues is not likely to arise and, moreover, ACRL does not believe that any legislation about
these issues is necessary. Issues on the watch list are: net neutrality, copyright reform, fair use, “making available” right, preservation and reproduction exceptions, orphan works, and the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

This year, ACRL joined a broad coalition of more than 90 education, library, technology, public interest, and legal organizations in a letter calling on the White House to take administrative action to ensure federally funded educational materials are made available as Open Educational Resources (OER) that are free to use, share, and improve. The call come in response to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy’s request for ideas to strengthen the U.S. Open Government National Action Plan. The executive action envisioned by the coalition would build upon the Administration’s strong leadership in advancing public access to publicly funded resources with a strong Executive Branch-wide policy for the open licensing of educational, training, and instructional materials created with federal funds.

In April, ACRL joined more than 140 national nonprofit and library groups, schools, and academic libraries in a letter to the United States Senate Committee on Rules and Administration urging Dr. Carla Hayden’s rapid confirmation as Librarian of Congress.

ACRL continues to be an active partner with ALA and the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) in the Library Copyright Alliance (LCA). Over the course of the past year, LCA has taken action on a number of important issues by issuing comments on pending legislation and court cases, joining briefs, and releasing papers and guides on a wide range of copyright and fair use issues including orphan works, copyright protection for visual works, technological preventive measures, access to published works by the visually impaired, intellectual property enforcement, and mass digitization.

**Strengthening Partnerships with Higher Education**

ACRL continues to work with higher education associations to strengthen both partnerships and the profession. We collaborated with members of the Council of Higher Education Management Associations to offer the 2015 Women’s Leadership Institute. This program brought together mid-level administrators from across campus functions to share experiences, develop a better understanding of the campus as a workplace and culture, and create new networks and networking skills.

As mentioned in the Value of Academic Libraries section of this report, the Association for Institutional Research and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities partnered with ACRL to receive a National Leadership Demonstration IMLS Grant for the ongoing “Assessment in Action (AiA): Academic Libraries and Student Success” project.

ACRL additionally maintains liaison relationships with a number of higher education associations through the Liaisons Assembly. ACRL currently has formal liaison relationships with the American Anthropological Association (AAA), American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), American Chemical Society (ACS), American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS), American Physical Society (APS), American Political Science Association (APSA), American Society for Engineering Education
Final Thoughts/An Appreciation

My year as ACRL President has been exhilarating and exhausting. Attending and presenting at the awards ceremonies for all three categories of Excellence in Academic Libraries award winners was certainly a highlight. These winning libraries exemplify all the things we do as academic librarians to serve our users and lead within our institutions, in student learning, student support, technology, student-centered design, and many other areas. Meeting the staff and librarians from these institutions has been a real treat, and has given me a very positive view of the future of our profession.

Chapter visits have been enjoyable for the same reason—our members and others in librarianship that have attended meetings and presentations make our work at ACRL worthwhile. Without exception, people I have met at regional and state meetings have demonstrated how they engage with issues and take a real interest in the work of the organization. They care about the role of ACRL. Many discussions about the ACRL Board of Directors’ actions regarding the Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education have happened on my visits, and have helped inform the work of the Board.

Changes in the profession have led the Board to propose a new goal area for our strategic plan, the Plan for Excellence. The new goal area, New Roles and Changing Landscapes, is being established as a result of input the Board has received from the ACRL Leadership Council meetings and other member communication, along with the views of the Board members themselves. Being able to take this information and establish a new direction for the association has been very gratifying. Encompassed within the new goal area are many activities that are related to previous goal areas also. Certainly the expanding role of librarians in data management and preservation is a new area for many libraries, with a close relationship to our work in the scholarly publishing and communication environment.

Scholarly communication and documenting the value of academic libraries are goals on which significant progress was make this year, as mentioned above. The ACRL Leadership Council re-affirmed these as important and relevant to our association last summer at Annual Conference in San Francisco. This year, at our meeting Orlando, among other topics we will give Leadership Council a chance to react to the ACRL statement to ALA on accreditation for library and information professional education. What competencies newly-minted MLS graduates should
bring into the workplace is a recurring topic, and we want to give our members a chance to channel their thoughts and comments where they might make a difference. We can all work to help our newest members have a good experience as they enter the profession.

Finally I want to thank everyone who has supported the work of ACRL this year. Even if all you did was read one of our online discussion lists, you participated. Many of you did much more than that, and that commitment to volunteer in support of the association makes us what we are. One more activity related to gratitude that the ACRL officers have undertaken in the last ten years or so is writing thank you notes to members who have supported ACRL’s work financially. We know that volunteering your time, paying your dues, and often covering conference expenses are major aspects of support our members provide. Additional financial support like donations for conference scholarships are wonderful testaments to the connection we feel to ACRL and its goals. Knowing how many people share those goals, and how much they affect libraries and librarians, is the best thing I will take away from my year of services as President.