Thanks to the generosity of ACRL leaders, volunteers, members, and staff, the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) awarded a record-breaking 179 scholarships for the ACRL 2015 conference. Scholarships were awarded in six categories, including early- and mid-career librarians, support staff and Spectrum Scholar travel grants, amounting to a total of $112,995. Funding for 75 of these scholarships (more than $56,000 in value) was raised through the ACRL 75th Anniversary Kick Start the Future Scholarship Campaign. Almost ninety scholarship recipients have written short testimonials about the impact of attending the 2015 ACRL Conference.

Your support helped new academic librarians and library school students to make meaningful connections, advance in the field, contribute to the knowledge base, lead change in their libraries, and find inspiration. The testimonials below were made possible thanks to the generous support of our members, volunteers, leaders, and staff. We hope this report conveys ACRL’s broad and positive impact on academic and research libraries as well as the higher education community.

**Scholarship recipients were grateful for the opportunity to attend the ACRL Conference.**

“I plan on paying forward a portion of my saved costs to the ACRL 2017 scholarship fund. While I can never repay the generosity of the ACRL 2015 donors, I hope you’ll join me in supporting the next generation of academic librarian leaders by donating to the ACRL 2017 scholarship fund.” – **Elizabeth Lieutenant**, student, School of Library and Information Science, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

“I truly appreciate this scholarship: it gave me the opportunity to present my work, connect with colleagues across the country, and serve the profession I love. . . Thank you so much.” – **Julie M. Adamo**, Librarian and Instructional Technology Liaison, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA

“Without the scholarship award, I would not have learned how much I love ACRL and want to continue to be a part of the organization, take on more leadership roles, and attend future conferences.” – **Kai Alexis Smith**, Librarian-in-Residence, Notre Dame University, Notre Dame, IN
“I will be attending every ACRL conference I can in the future and, when it is possible for me, be donating to help others attend their first conference. Thanks so much to all the donors!” – Christopher Seay, Reference Librarian and Reference Coordinator, American University, Washington, D.C.

“I plan on donating when I can so that other early career librarians can experience the professional enrichment and inspiration that I did. Thanks so much!” – Sarah M. Ralston, librarian, East Oregon University, La Grande, OR

“Thank you ACRL, for being a great organization who cares about its members so much!!” – Claudia Peterson, Reference and Instruction Librarian for Languages and Cultures, Carleton College, Northfield, MN

Scholarship recipients made meaningful connections:

“I came back to my library inspired and filled with a sense of belonging. It was a relief to know that other early career librarians are dealing with similar issues and actively looking for solutions.” – Terri Artemchik, Information Literacy Librarian, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC

“With help from donors and ACRL, early career academic librarians had the chance to feel like they really belong in this inspiring field.” – Nimisha Bhat, Non-Roman Cataloging Program Coordinator, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

“The librarians I met at ACRL 2015 have become important people in my life as a librarian. They are guiding me, challenging me, supporting me and helping me blossom into a wholehearted, dedicated academic librarian.” – Lee Ann Fullington, Health and Environmental Sciences Librarian, Brooklyn College, NY

“I am more confident in my new role because of the connections I made and the energy I brought back from Portland. . . I hope others will be able to enjoy this opportunity at future ACRL conferences.” – Erin Gallagher, Electronic Resources and Serials Librarian, Rollins College, Winter Park, FL

“I’m a better librarian today because of the connections I made and presentations I absorbed at ACRL 2015.” – Megan Hartline, Head of Access and Public Services, Auraria College, Denver, CO
“It was in that moment, that morning in that ballroom in Portland, that I really felt like I was a real professional with colleagues who shared my passions for working with students and my interest in librarianship.” – Zemirah Lee, User Engagement Librarian, National University in San Diego, CA

“I now know there is an even bigger community of academic librarians that I feel I can talk to.” – Julie A. Shenk, Information Technology Librarian, Mount Saint Mary’s University, Emmitsburg, MD

“. . . The importance of networking opportunities at ACRL 2015 can’t be overstated. I met professionals from all over and was able to forge relationships that will help me develop as a librarian.” – Krista White, Digital Humanities Librarian, Head Media Services at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Newark, NJ

Scholarship recipients were able to advance their careers:

“Indeed, my commitment to conference attendance and early participation in professional development probably strengthened my job application–I got the first job I applied for out of school!” – Susan C. Floyd, Archivist at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Austin, TX

“I had a potential employer say that having the ACRL Conference on my resume made me a ‘standout’ for an interview. It definitely helped me out in the job hunt in a multitude of ways.” – Patrick W. Lee, a recent graduate of the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI

“Thank you so much for the opportunity that helped put my early career on a firmer foundation.” – Sarah Morris, Research and Instruction Librarian at Lafayette College in Easton, PA

“I know that attending this conference made me more marketable as a new professional in libraries and archives, and I look forward to attending the next ACRL meeting in 2017!” – Alix Norton, University Library Associate at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI

“Attending the 2015 ACRL Conference eased my transition into a new job and a different state.” – Marissa Saenz, Public Services Librarian at the J. M. Hodges Library, Wharton County Junior College in Wharton, TX

“Without the scholarship I don’t know that I would have been able to present, an opportunity that helped me secure a tenure track position that I recently accepted.” – Kimberly Shotick, E-Learning Librarian, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL
Scholarship recipients made new contributions to the professional knowledge base:

“Because of my poster presentation, I received my first invitations to publish following the conference.” – Talea Anderson, Scholarly Communication Librarian, Washington State University, Pullman, WA

“After the conference, I was contacted by a journal editor who wanted my ACRL poster to be transformed into a journal article – which was accepted in later July.” – Ian McCullough, Physical Sciences Librarian, University of Akron, OH

“A journal editor noticed that my roundtable topic was a good fit for their journal, contacted me about submitting an article, and I just recently submitted revisions for the article after its initial peer review.” – Kimberly Miller, Learning Technologies Librarian and Liaison to Psychology, Towson University, Towson, MD

“Following my paper’s publication in the proceedings, I have been contacted by editors soliciting submissions for other publishing opportunities. One of these contacts has already led to my acceptance in a peer-reviewed, nationally-recognized journal!” – Ariel K. Turner, Automation and Batch Cataloging Librarian and Assistant Professor of Library Science, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA

“As a direct result of that poster, I received an email from an editor of a journal that had seen our poster at the conference expressing interest in our topic. We have just submitted a scholarly article to the journal and are waiting to hear if it will be published!” – Katy Kavanagh Webb, Head, Research and Instructional Services, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC

Scholarship recipients developed capacity to lead change in their institutions:

“I shared what I learned with colleagues across the library and led a discussion at a department meeting about how our library could support high impact educational practices.” – Suzanne Bernsten, Web Services Librarian and Liaison to English, ESOL, Speech, Developmental Writing, and eLearning, Lansing Community College Library, Lansing, MI

“I have transformed my library instruction curriculum to include some of what Lawrence Lessig talked about with regard to information privilege.” – Paul Clayton Campbell, Instructional Librarian/Instructional Designer, Ohio University, Lancaster, OH

“I was also able to take ideas from other presentations, roundtables, and poster sessions back to my small, urban campus.” – Natalie Burclaff, Head of Information Literacy Initiatives, University of Baltimore, MD
“I am ready to take the lead in new library-wide assessment initiatives when opportunities arise.” – Yu-Hui Chen, Bibliographer and Outreach Librarian for Education, University at Albany, SUNY, NY

“I have been able to move forward with many of the ideas I gained at ACRL 2015 in my small university library.” – Amber D’Ambrosio, Special Collections Librarian and Archivist, Dixie State University Library, St. George, UT

“I have used my experience at ACRL 2015 to further improve how I teach information literacy skills to all students, especially first-generation students of color.” – Kenny Garcia, Reference and Instruction Librarian, California State University – Monterey Bay, Seaside, CA

“I was just able to co-present a faculty development webinar on e-books at my institution, using research I saw presented at Portland.” – Lindley Homol, Reference and Instruction Librarian, University of Maryland University College, Marlboro, MD

Scholarship recipients strengthened their connection to the field:

“Spending that time with librarians from all over the world allowed me to return to my library with a renewed commitment to my library and a greater sense of the work we all perform as librarians and its importance to our communities.” – Kristina M. Edwards, Acquisitions Librarian, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT

“I came home full of ideas and inspiration for my work at my library and how best to serve similar libraries in my state as a leader in our state library association. Thank you again.” – Mara M. Egherman, Library Services Manager and Adjunct Instructor, Marshalltown Community College, Marshalltown, IA

“As a new librarian, I know few people outside of my home library, and hearing words of advice and encouragement from librarians across the country was invaluable as I establish myself in the profession.” – Laurean Fralinger, Learning and Research Services Librarian, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL

“I was energized and inspired by much of what I experienced – particularly Jad Abumrad’s electrifying and entertaining keynote.” – Jamie G. Hazlitt, Librarian for Collection Development and Evaluation, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA