



President's Report to ALA Council

Jon E. Cawthorne, ACRL President, 2020-2021

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) continued to advance learning and transform scholarship over the course of my presidential year. Our members 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.

ACRL 2021 Virtual Conference

The ACRL 2021 conference represented a significant accomplishment and highlight of my term in office. In October 2020, the ACRL Board of Directors announced that the face-to-face portion of the ACRL 2021 Conference scheduled for April 14-17, 2021, in Seattle, Washington, was canceled because of the serious health risks posed by COVID-19. Thanks to the dedication and expertise of our conference planning committees led by Conference Chair Beth McNeil, presenters, and ACRL staff, the ACRL 2021 Virtual Conference was held April 13-16, 2021. The virtual conference attracted 3,660 registrants and exhibitors who explored the complex issues impacting the future of library service.

Themed "Ascending into an Open Future," the virtual conference included more than 300 programs addressing issues affecting higher education and libraries such as social and racial justice, qualitative data analysis, innovation and problem solving, instructional collaborations, student success, copyright policies, mentoring, sustainability practices, remote learning, first-generation students, information ethics, and more.

The conference also featured author Tressie McMillan Cottom and journalist Mona Chalabi as keynote speakers along with invited presentations from Kaetrena Davis Kendrick, Meredith Brown, and We Here administrators Jennifer Brown, Jennifer Ferretti, and Charlotte Roh. In addition to the variety of programming, conference highlights included interactive discussion groups, eye-popping posters, a social wall, networking opportunities, and prizes.

ACRL 2021's high-end virtual event platform offers multiple ways to connect with colleagues from around the world, including 1:1 text/video chat, chat rooms, sentiment features (applaud/like/heart) polling, Q&A with upvoting, and gamification. The ACRL 2021 Virtual Exhibits highlighted the best services and tools in the profession, featuring live demos and prizes from exhibitors and sponsors.

COVID-19 Response and Impact

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to have a major impact on our communities this year. As the ACRL Board of Directors noted in a statement to our membership at the beginning of the pandemic, COVID-19 has had an overwhelming effect on our workplaces and our lives, upending daily life and causing widespread fear and uncertainty. As an association, we continued working to address the impact of the pandemic this year.

The ACRL Pandemic Resources for Academic Libraries LibGuide features a variety of resources for distance education and engagement, details on free webcasts and publications, information on self-care and working from home, best practices on collection maintenance and preparing to reopen, up-to-date information from public health officials, and collections of ALA and community-sourced resources to assist in navigating a pandemic.

The Advocating for Library Workers During Uncertain Times blog series launched on the LibGuide in July 2020. In this three-part series, library leaders from institutions of all sizes discuss practical strategies for engaging campus administrators in conversations that emphasize the importance of supporting library employees and the critical work they are doing for their students and organizations. The posts provided support for library workers who found themselves in increasingly more complex fiscal situations, with layoffs, furloughs, and budget reductions being announced and anticipated.

A new ACRL Consulting service, Regenerating the Academic Library, also launched this year with a focus on the impact of the massive changes in higher education and academic libraries as a result of the pandemic.

The remainder of this report highlights ACRL's many accomplishments during my presidential year across the four strategic goal areas highlighted in the Plan for Excellence – the value of academic libraries, student learning, research and the scholarly environment, and new roles and changing landscapes – along with the association's core commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion, and 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.

The ACRL Value of Academic Libraries (VAL) Committee announced the launch of the new Learning Analytics Toolkit in January 2021. The Learning Analytics Toolkit is a freely available professional development resource that library professionals can use to learn more about learning analytics and how they intersect with academic libraries. In addition to providing foundational knowledge about learning analytics, the Toolkit provides users with up-to-date publications

about privacy and ethics, student success, potential outcomes, sources of data, and examples of libraries' contributions to learning analytics.

The VAL Committee sponsored a free ACRL Online Discussion Forum in March 2021, highlighting findings from ACRL Library Impact Grant recipients. The forum featured Deb Baker, Manchester (NH) Community College, on failing forward when a student success intervention doesn't work. Liz Cheney, California State University-Northridge, shared affordable learning solutions for student success at a Hispanic-serving institution, and Kathleen Baril of Ohio Northern University discussed how personalizing student services for developmental writing students can improve academic and retention outcomes.

A monthly VAL Spotlight Series: Practices of Equity & Social Justice was launched on ACRL Insider in February 2021. The series features librarians from various corners of librarianship discussing what it means to integrate equity and social justice into their practice and assessment, as well as how they are working toward that goal.

Project Outcome for Academic Libraries continues to be a vital part of our Value initiatives. Based on a model developed by PLA, this free toolkit is designed to help academic libraries understand and share the impact of essential library programs and services by providing simple surveys and an easy-to-use process for measuring and analyzing outcomes. The standardized surveys allow libraries to aggregate their outcome data and analyze trends by topic and program type. Training and resources are provided to participating libraries so they can use data-driven results to advocate for their library. Several upgrades were made to the toolkit in 2020, including redesigning the survey management page to make it more user friendly and adding qualitative visualizations to the data dashboards. As of May 2021, Project Outcome for Academic Libraries has 3,637 users and 612 academic libraries have created surveys and collected 72,000 responses.

ACRL's *Standards for Libraries in Higher Education (SLHE)*, another important component of our Value of Academic Libraries work, has been visited more than 15,000 times this year.

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

The ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics Survey incorporates the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Academic Library Component and makes the results available through ACRLMetrics. The 2020 survey closed on April 17, 2021. The response rate for academic libraries in the United States was 48.5% with 1,629 respondents. The survey also received an additional 33 responses from academic libraries outside the United States. The survey also enables participants to easily transfer their IPEDS responses to the institutional keyholder for the IPEDS survey. The ACRL/ALA/ARL IPEDS Task Force completed revisions to the instructions for counting digital/e-serials to include COUNTER 5 in advance of the 2020 IPEDS survey launch in September.

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 continues to bring both inspiration and challenge to librarians as they explore new directions in information literacy practice and research. The ACRL Framework Sandbox, an openly accessible platform and repository for librarians and their educational partners to discover, share, collect and use ongoing work related to the ACRL Framework in practice and professional development, was visited more than 57,000 times this year. The Sandbox now provides access to 272 resources, including more than 49 resources that were added or revised this year. The online version of the Framework itself has been accessed more than 87,500 times this year.

ACRL published *Hidden Architectures of Information Literacy Programs: Structures, Practices, and Contexts* related to student learning and information literacy issues this year and offered a variety of e-learning offerings focused on student learning and information literacy topics, including "Developing Signature Pedagogies in Information Literacy," "Hidden Architectures in Information Literacy," and "Thinking Critically About Information in Uncertain Times."

Perspectives on the Framework, a column focusing on the Framework and edited by our Student Learning and Information Literacy Committee, continues to appear bimonthly in *C&RL News*. Column topics this year have included "Transforming theory into practice: Creating student-centered instructional activities rooted in the Framework," "No need to go big: Teaching Framework concepts with small teaching," "Constructing authority: Using the ACRL Framework to connect with underserved students," and "Loaded questions: The Framework for Information Literacy through a DEI lens."

Information Literacy Immersion Program

ACRL endeavors to improve members' ability to teach and assess lifelong learning skills. Unfortunately, the 2020 summer Immersion Program scheduled for August 2-7, 2020, at Loyola University in Chicago was cancelled due to COVID-19, but plans are underway to offer virtual Immersion programming in summer 2021.

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.

Due to the impact of the ongoing pandemic, presenters from the ACRL RoadShow "Scholarly Communication: From Understanding to Engagement" adapted their curriculum for a three-part live webcast series. Launched in April 2021, the series explore what scholarly communication looks like in 2021. The webcast series was directed at those with administrative responsibilities,

with new leadership assignments in scholarly communication or digital publishing, as well as liaisons and any others who are seeking to advance their professional development in scholarly communication. The ACRL RoadShow “Building Your Research Data Management Toolkit: Integrating RDM into Your Liaison Work” has also been converted for a digital environment and is available to be licensed to institutions, chapters, and consortia for a customized online experience.

ACRL raised awareness of important scholarly communication issues by offering a free ACRL Presents webcast, “Celebrating Open Access Week: Building Structural Equity and Inclusion in Scholarly Communications,” in October 2020, featuring a panel of recipients of the 2019 Scholarly Communications Grants. Scholarly Communications Grant recipients also participated in a panel presenting their research at the ACRL 2021 Virtual Conference.

ACRL/SPARC also held an online version of the forum on scholarly communication, “Navigating the Current Budget Crisis While Creating a More Sustainable, Values-Aligned Future for Research,” in August 2020. In May 2021, ACRL and SPARC collaborated on a free Negotiations 101 Workshop focused on providing a better foundation for librarians tasked with negotiating on behalf of their library.

Monthly articles on scholarly communication issues and trends in *C&RL News* play an important role in disseminating a body of knowledge for the field. We also published two books, *Open Educational Resources: CLIPP #45* and *Reflections on Practitioner Research: A Practical Guide for Information Professionals*, on scholarly communication-related topics this year.

The Scholarly Communication Toolkit, developed and maintained by ReSEC, continues to provide content and context on a broad range of scholarly communications topics and offers resources and tools for the practitioner. The freely-available toolkit features sections on topics such as fair use, public access mandates, and library publishing in addition to more fully developed sections on open access publishing and repositories.

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.

New Roles and Changing Landscapes

Our New Roles and Changing Landscapes goal focuses on assisting the academic and research library workforce in effectively navigating change in higher education environments. *Fostering Change: A Team-Based Guide*, the open access publication that resulted from the committee’s change course project, published in October 2020. Written by Brianna Marshall, Dani Brecher Cook, and Cinthya Ippoliti, this open access guide is a practical tool for teams immersed in the labor of leading change in the library and on campus and is intended to help place people at the center of every change process and give individuals across academic libraries the tools to spark, lead, and sustain change, no matter their organizational position. A free introductory webcast on using the guide was presented in October 2020.

A call for up to two facilitators to help launch an online cohort program based on *Fostering Change* was announced in March 2021. This new professional development program will debut in 2021 for teams of librarians, library workers, and/or administrators from institutions planning an organizational change. The group of facilitators will help to shape and guide the structure of this six-week program.

A virtual version of the Open Educational Resources & Affordability RoadShow launched in February 2021. This three-part webcast series increased understanding of the basics of open educational resources (OER) and how libraries can be involved in affordability initiatives. The series was designed for attendees new to the topic of OER, including librarians with leadership and administrative responsibilities, liaisons, or any library staff member interested in building a foundational knowledge of affordable and open educational resources.

The New Roles and Changing Landscapes committee also focused on the role of user experience (UX) librarianship during the pandemic by hosted a free ACRL Presents webcast, “Let’s Keep Doing This! Found UX Opportunities in the Midst of the Pandemic” on February 18, 2021. In several lightning talks, presenters shared a UX initiative established at their institution during the pandemic that is working well and that they hope continues post-pandemic, along with key points and resources needed to put the initiative into place.

ACRL Consulting Services

Delivered by a knowledgeable, experienced team of consultants, ACRL Consulting Services works with libraries to design and assist with library reviews and planning activities, organizational change and development initiatives, staff retreats, and campus collaborations. A newly launched service, Regenerating the Academic Library, focuses on the impact of the massive changes in higher education and academic libraries over the past year. The new service helps libraries through the process of regeneration—emerging from crisis, navigating a dramatically altered landscape, and rebuilding for the future.

Core Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

As the higher education association for librarians, ACRL is dedicated to creating diverse and inclusive communities in the association and in academic and research libraries. This core commitment permeates the work of the association, cutting across all ACRL sections, committees, interest and discussion groups, and communities of practice by acknowledging and addressing historical racial inequities; challenging oppressive systems within academic libraries; valuing different ways of knowing; and identifying and working to eliminate barriers to equitable services, spaces, resources, and scholarship. We strove to live this commitment in a number of ways during my term in office.

During the unprecedented times of the COVID-19 pandemic; heightened social awareness of systemic racism, oppression, and institutional violence; and economic recession-- all of which disproportionately impact communities of color-- the ACRL Board of Directors has approved funds to support up to 50 memberships for ALA and ACRL (a value of over \$200 per

membership) for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) library workers, especially those who serve underrepresented populations.

The three-part virtual ACRL Leadership Council series held in September 2020 focused on advancing ACRL's Core Commitment to EDI, providing ACRL leaders with frameworks for anti-racism work within their respective institutions and ACRL, and to emboldening us all to action. Led by anti-oppression consultant McKensie Mack, the series featured two large group sessions - There's No Such Thing As Race Neutral: Developing Strategies for Anti-Racist Librarianship and Taking Action, Seeking Repair: Organizing for Anti-Racism – and small group discussion focusing on There's No Such Thing As Race Neutral.

ACRL issued a statement in October 2020 recommending that North American research libraries continue to collect and preserve valuable print materials, even as the global COVID-19 crisis and associated financial circumstances may compel them to shift, at least temporarily, to digital formats where available. The association strongly urges libraries to take a deliberate, measured approach to any shift, temporary or permanent, toward an e-centric collection development model, an approach that balances fiscal exigencies with equity, diversity, and inclusion imperatives; takes full stock of the important research and teaching that cannot be accommodated through electronic resource collecting alone; and ensures support for continued print collecting in relevant areas.

Also in October 2020, ACRL joined 28 organizations in signing onto the Statement Urging Retraction of Executive Order Prohibiting the Inclusion of “Divisive Concepts” in Employee Training Sessions from the American Historical Association urging the retraction of the recent executive order prohibiting the inclusion of “divisive concepts” in employee training sessions carried out within the federal government and by federal contractors and grantees.

In March 2021, ACRL issued a statement standing in solidarity with the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA) and amplifies ALA's Executive Board in recognizing and condemning anti-Asian hate crimes. ACRL affirmed APALA's March 3, 2021, statement which noted that the association “recognizes and strongly condemns the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes that have permeated our country over the past year.

As a member of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), ACRL additionally signed on to an ACLS Statement Condemning Anti-Asian Violence that, in part, encourages “educators, lawmakers, and community leaders to take this moment to listen closely to Asian and Asian-American voices and work with them in stemming this latest scourge of prejudice and violence.”

Choice this year announced the launch of a new content vertical, Toward Inclusive Excellence, focusing on racial justice, and the appointment of Alexia Hudson-Ward, associate director of research and learning at MIT Libraries, as its editor-in-chief. Launched in March 2021, Toward Inclusive Excellence explores issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion, particularly as they affect the library community. The project is anchored by a weekly updated blog and will incorporate podcasts, webinars, and research reports. Among the goals of this project is the development of a pool of knowledge and actionable resources for information professionals, undergraduates, and faculty seeking to understand racism from new perspectives and promote racial justice on their

campuses.

The work of the ACRL, PLA, Association of Research Libraries (ARL), and ALA Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services (ODLOS) Building Cultural Proficiencies for Racial Equity Framework Task Force continued this year. The task force is charged to create a framework for cultural proficiencies in racial equity that can be used in public and academic libraries. The task force plans to draft the Framework and seek comments from the academic and public library community in spring/summer of 2021.

The ACRL Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion LibGuide contains a wealth of information on ways we have implemented the association's Core Commitment, including the ACRL Diversity Alliance; standards and guidelines; information on conference and online learning programming; links to books, articles, and other publications focusing on EDI topics; a calendar of association activities; and suggestions on ways you can get involved in this important work.

ACRL Diversity Alliance

The ACRL Diversity Alliance unites academic libraries who share a commitment to increase the hiring pipeline of qualified, talented individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups. The ACRL Diversity Alliance grew out of an initiative led by founding members American University, the University of Iowa, Virginia Tech, and West Virginia University. There are currently 41 ACRL Diversity Alliance member institutions.

Enabling Programs and Services

In addition to the four 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 2021, the most recent informal numbers available at the time of this report, ACRL had 9,190 members. We will continue to look for ways to partner with ALA to improve member retention.

ACRL sections offer 15 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 social events 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 17 discussion groups provide avenues for members to connect around issues through informal networks for exchanging ideas and problem-solving. The Distance Learning Section was renamed the Distance and Online Learning Section (DOLS) in September 2020.

ACRL staff worked with ALA to transition our community and topical email discussion lists to ALA Connect spaces this year. The transition allows our member communities to better manage conversations, ensure access, help with continuity, and streamline engagement.

As part of our ongoing commitment to furthering equity, diversity, and inclusion in librarianship, ACRL is supporting Lyndon Batiste as its 2020-21 Spectrum Scholar. Lyndon Batiste is a student at the University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies.

The ACRL Dr. E.J. Josey Spectrum Scholar Mentor Program paired 33 ALA Spectrum Scholars interested in careers in academic librarianship with ACRL members to mentor them this year and has now paired a total of 246 Scholars with mentors since its establishment in 2003. This year the committee overseeing the program introduced several new tools to help the pairs develop their relationships, provide suggested discussion topics, and prompt them to communicate with each other regularly.

ACRL's social media presences continue to grow and provide our membership with new avenues to connect with colleagues and the association. We will be holding a virtual orientation session this summer for incoming 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.

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.

In 2021, 25 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 Julia M. Gelfand, Applied Sciences and Engineering Librarian at the University of California (UC)-Irvine. Gelfand exemplifies excellence in academic and research librarianship through her leadership, service, and passion for the profession.

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 the Davidson College E.H. Little Library (Davidson, NC); the Tulsa Community College Library (Tulsa, OK); and the Loyola Marymount University William H. Hannon Library (Los Angeles, CA). The award, sponsored by ACRL and GOBI Library Solutions from EBSCO, includes a presentation ceremony on each recipient library's campus.

At its January 2021 meeting, the ACRL Board of Directors approved a proposal to pause ACRL's Awards program for the 2021-2022 program year in order to engage in a critical programmatic review. During this review period, ACRL will not promote or jury any of its

annual awards, and award committees will instead work with, and provide input to, a task force charged to make recommendations for the program's future. The Board felt that the pause provides an opportunity to fully assess the awards program's impact on the profession, future sustainability, and connection to ACRL's core commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion following a year of unprecedented and ongoing challenges permeating through the communities that ACRL members serve.

Publications

Monographs

ACRL released a wide variety of monograph publications in the past year, including *Academic Library Job Descriptions: CLIPP #46*; *Approaches to Liaison Librarianship*; *Creativity: A Toolkit for Academic Libraries*; *Faculty-Librarian Collaborations: Integrating the Information Literacy Framework into Disciplinary Courses*; *Fostering Change: A Team-Based Guide*; *Leading Together: Academic Library Consortia and Advocacy*; *The Library Outreach Cookbook*; *Open Educational Resources: CLIPP #45*; *Reflections on Practitioner Research: A Practical Guide for Information Professionals*; *Student Wellness and Academic Libraries*; and *Training Research Consultants: A Guide for Academic Libraries*

The 2019 edition of *Academic Library Trends and Statistics* was issued in October 2020. The full back catalog of ACRL monograph publications is available in a variety of formats through the ALA Store and Amazon. E-books of ACRL monograph titles are also available for purchase by libraries through EBSCO and ProQuest.

ACRL's Publications in Librarianship (PIL) series—a peer-reviewed collection of books that examine emerging theories and research—launched its third open peer review, for *Intersections of Open Educational Resources and Information Literacy*, edited by Elizabeth Dill and Mary Ann Cullen, in April 2020. *Intersections of Open Educational Resources and Information Literacy* is expected to publish in summer 2022.

Serials

ACRL continues to make enhancements to the online versions of ACRL's *College & Research Libraries (C&RL)*, *College & Research Libraries News (C&RL News)*, and *RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage* in the Open Journal Systems (OJS) platform.

C&RL News, the official newsmagazine and publication of record of ACRL, will adopt an online-only publication model beginning in January 2022. The December 2021 issue will be the final print issue of the magazine. The ACRL Board of Directors and *C&RL News* editor-in-chief sought input from the Budget & Finance Committee, *C&RL News* Editorial Board, ACRL Publications Coordinating Committee, ACRL Membership Committee, and ACRL Section Membership Committee on a variety of potential publication models for the magazine. These representative groups of the ACRL membership agreed that the transition to an online-only model is in the best interest of the publication and association moving forward. The shift to an online-only publication model brings *C&RL News* in line with *College & Research Libraries* journal, which moved to an online-only model at the beginning of 2014. *C&RL News* online

features freely open access to a near-complete run of the magazine's contents from 1967 to the present.

In June 2021, *C&RL* published a special issue on the evolving role of academic librarians, featuring articles highlighting the ways in which librarians assert their expertise and engage with the changing environment while modelling professional values, excellence in service, intellectual humility, agility and patience. The articles in this issue investigate the activities and efforts from area studies librarians and subject specialists to scholarly communications librarians to those dedicated to instruction and teaching.

RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, & Cultural Heritage launched a new reviews portal this year. The online portal is an extension of the Reviews section in the biannual print issues of *RBM* and expands the journal's capacity for reviews beyond the limitations of print page count.

ALA JobLIST is the online career center for job seekers and employers in library and information science and technology run cooperatively by ACRL's *C&RL News* and ALA's *American Libraries* magazines. After falling to about one quarter of their usual volume during the early months of the pandemic in the summer of 2020, by spring 2021 the number of job openings recovered to near normal levels. ALA JobLIST continues to develop improvements to the service to serve job seekers and employers well in any hiring environment and shares timely job search, hiring, and career advice through its popular social media channels.

Choice

Choice has continued to expand its content offerings, garnering an audience that now numbers some 52,000 members of the academic library community. These content offerings include professional-development webinars; podcasts; newsletters; and the Choice research program, publisher of white papers on topics in academic librarianship. Published alongside these, but with a more focused audience, is the traditional Choice content: subscription databases intended to support the collection-development function through the publication of reviews. Circulation and revenues are down in these latter products, both as part of an ongoing historical trend and as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, but together they still account for well over a million dollars of revenue annually.

While the pandemic has challenged Choice in some areas, amidst these challenges have been some genuine opportunities, chiefly among those free services and formats mentioned above. The well-attended webinar program has seen a robust increase in attendance as the pandemic caused librarians to seek professional development from a wide variety of sources. The weekly podcast series "The Authority File" is equally popular and is now being heard by an average of 3,500 listeners a month. Thus far this year, "The Authority File" has presented 36 episodes on such diverse topics as MIT Press's "Direct-to-Open" publishing program and libraries and archives in the digital age.

As noted earlier in this report, Choice took an important step toward joining the struggle for racial and social justice through the creation of a new content portfolio devoted to these issues. "Toward Inclusive Excellence" explores issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion, particularly,

though not exclusively, as they affect the academic library community. This new content strand incorporate weekly blog posts fortified with occasional podcasts and webinars in which contributors explore the intricacies of racial identity as they relate to implicit bias, systemic racism, and ableism, among other pertinent topics.

These and many other content initiatives became much more visible this past year with the launch, in October, of a completely redesigned public website, www.choice360.org. Rather than making traditional subscription products its focus, the new site provides immediate, one-click access to Choice's more popular content offerings: blogposts, bibliographic essays, webinars, white papers, podcasts, and so forth.

Reports, White Papers, Online Publications

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 open science and misinformation and news literacy, along with highlighting ACRL activities such as the ACRL 2021 conference.

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. Several ACRL groups also manage content blogs focused on their areas of specialization. As noted in the member engagement section, ACRL social media presences provide news and avenues for engagement with the association.

Standards, Guidelines, and Frameworks

The development of standards and guidelines for all areas of academic and research librarianship is a core service of ACRL. These standards, guidelines, and frameworks are a key ACRL contribution to the profession. The ACRL Board of Directors approved a new *ACRL Framework for Impactful Scholarship and Metrics* this year along with approving revisions of *A Standard for the Appointment, Promotion and Tenure of Academic Librarians*; *ACRL Standards for Academic Librarians without Faculty Status*; and *ACRL Standards for Faculty for Academic Librarians*.

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

As noted at the start of this report, the ACRL 2021 Virtual Conference was held April 13-16, 2021. The virtual conference attracted 3,660 registrants and exhibitors who explored the complex issues impacting the future of library service. Themed "Ascending into an Open Future," the virtual conference included more than 300 programs addressing issues affecting higher education and libraries such as social and racial justice, qualitative data analysis, innovation and problem

solving, instructional collaborations, student success, copyright policies, mentoring, sustainability practices, remote learning, first-generation students, information ethics, and more.

ACRL @ ALA Conferences

My President's Program at the 2021 ALA Annual Virtual Conference, "Making Change: Organizing for Action While Caring for Each Other," featured activists, organizers, and intellectuals Dean Spade and Mariame Kaba in a conversation about how library workers can use organizing principles to fight against white supremacy and widening inequality through community action and mutual aid. ACRL sponsored an additional 19 section, committee, and individual live and on-demand programs at the virtual conference. on topics such as racial justice, student learning assessment, diverse children's literature, online instruction, emergency preparedness, the myth of library neutrality, and more.

RBMS Conference

The RBMS 2021 Virtual Conference, "Power. Resistance. Leadership.," was held June 8-10, 2021. The conference critically examined the existing power structures that have shaped and continue to impact special collections and archives by exploring the power dynamics within our profession and the ways in which we experience, exert, and/or defy power. Conference programs provided participants tools and strategies to inspire and lead to transformative change. More than 500 registrants and 59 bookseller companies participated in the conference.

RoadShows

The ACRL RoadShow program brings high quality workshops directly to campuses covering a wide range of topics that help academic librarians tackled the greatest issues facing the profession today. While the in-person workshops have been on hold due to the impact of COVID-19, workshop teams have pivoted the content from these workshops into new Off-RoadShow virtual learning opportunities. Pilot Off-RoadShow webcast series designed for individual participation covered topics including Scholarly Communication and Open Educational Resources & Affordability, and new multi-day virtual workshops covering the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education and Research Data Management are now available for libraries and organizations to host for their communities upon request.

Online Learning

The ACRL e-Learning program offered 26 e-Learning events consisting of 23 webcasts and 3 multi-week courses this year on a variety of topics such as signature pedagogies, copyright, leadership, student wellness, OERs, and more. More than 500 individuals and 117 groups participated in this year's e-Learning offerings to date.

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 "Reopening Campus During the Pandemic: Treading Water in the Deep End" (October 2020), "Let's Keep Doing This! Found UX Opportunities in the Midst of the Pandemic" (February 2021), "An Insider's Guide to Preparing for Promotion: the Good, the Bad and the

Ugly” (March 2021), “Cultures of Collecting: Sustaining Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Collection Development” (May 2021), and “Regenerating the Academic Library” (June 2021).

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, including approximately thirty presentations each academic year. During the past twelve months, webinars have explored such varied themes as elevating women in science, advancing diversity and inclusion in STEM, transforming course reserves, remote learning during COVID-19, teaching environmental justice, and more.

Scholarships

Knowing that professional development is essential to the success of academic and research librarians, 92 individuals received scholarships in the amount of \$24,008 for the ACRL 2021 Virtual Conference. The Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) awarded 31 scholarships for the RBMS 2021 Virtual Conference worth \$5,289.

ACRL Speaks Out

Legislative Advocacy

Public policy issues effecting higher education remain an essential focus of ACRL. We acted on this focus in a number of ways during my term in office.

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 key ACRL committees, ACRL leaders, and the ALA Public Policy and Advocacy Office, the Legislative Agenda is prioritized and focuses on issues at the national level affecting the welfare of academic and research libraries.

The 2021 ACRL Legislative Agenda focuses on eight issues that the U.S. Congress has recently taken, or will most likely take, action on in the year ahead. They are, in priority order, federal funding for libraries, net neutrality, the Affordable College Textbook Act, consumer data privacy, open access, the Accessible Instructional Materials in Higher Education Act, federal funding for higher education, and the environmental impact of data centers. The 2021 agenda also includes a watch list of policy issues of great concern to academic librarians but where there is no pending legislation. Issues on the watch list are public access to federally funded research, the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) Modernization Act, and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA)/ other immigration issues.

ACRL joined the ARL, the American Council of Learned Societies, the American Historical Association, the University of California Libraries, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Library, and the University of Iowa Libraries in September 2021 in filing an amicus brief in the Michigan Supreme Court case *Ahmad v. University of Michigan*, a case involving the use of a public records request to circumvent a deed of gift.

In late October 2021, ACRL joined 28 organizations in signing onto a statement from the American Historical Association urging the retraction of the recent executive order prohibiting the inclusion of “divisive concepts” in employee training sessions carried out within the federal government and by federal contractors and grantees.

ACRL additionally partnered with the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) to develop a replacement for the current information literacy module and develop plans to promote the use of NSSE data with the academic library community this year.

The association 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 acted 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 the impact of two copyright provisions in the omnibus spending bill—extending felony penalties to illicit streaming and establishing a small claims tribunal for copyright infringement—on libraries and library users, the Digital Copyright Act of 2021, a possible Digital Millennium Copyright Act reform bill, sovereign immunity, and a proposed section 1201 exemption for the purpose of preservation of DVDs.

Strengthening Partnerships with Higher Education

ACRL continues to work with higher education associations to strengthen both partnerships and the profession. The association maintains liaison relationships with a number of higher education associations through the Liaisons Assembly. ACRL currently has liaison relationships with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), American Association of Community Colleges (AACCC), American Physical Society (APS), American Sociological Association (ASA), Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), Modern Language Association (MLA), International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience (NRC-FYEST), National Women's Studies Association (NWSA), and more.

Final Thoughts and Appreciation

As I reflect on the past year, I am deeply grateful to many who made this a special year, but I must start by acknowledging the amazing ACRL staff. Despite all the uncertainty and unprecedented interruptions, requirements, and mandates resulting from the pandemic, we are witness to the large and small ways ACRL staff help us - members and member leaders - stay focused on the mission to lead academic and research librarians and libraries in advancing learning and transforming scholarship. All members owe a deep appreciation to our ACRL staff for their dedication, creativity, and perseverance working with a new ALA Executive Director, a physical move of the ALA offices, and furloughs during these remarkable times.

A special recognition is in order for Kara Malenfant, ACRL's Interim Executive Director. Her tremendous care, self-less dedication, and leadership for ACRL during this past year has been exceptional. While I cannot name everyone on the staff individually, please know that they all contributed much to our collective success and their work is truly appreciated by the ACRL Board of Directors and membership.

I am proud that we encouraged all academic and research libraries workers, including many talented folks who weren't able to attend in-person conferences in the past, to join us for the ACRL 2021 Virtual Conference. More than 40% of attendees were attending an ACRL conference for the first time and 28% said they would not have attended if the conference was not virtual. I am deeply grateful for everyone who worked together to make the conference memorable, with a special thanks to ACRL staff members Tory Ondrla and Margot Conahan for their tireless attention to detail that made the conference fun, engaging and inspiring. It was an honor and privilege to help kick the conference off by interviewing Tressie McMillian as part of the opening keynote.

As noted earlier in this report, there has been a great deal of work to advance our Core Commitment to EDI this year. I am grateful for the enthusiasm, passion, and hard work Mary Beth Locke and the ACRL Diversity Committee invested in these activities over the course of the year. The ACRL Diversity Alliance Task Force, co-chaired by Annie Belanger and José Aguiñaga continues to make towards acknowledging and addressing racial inequities and systemic oppression in academic and research libraries, and I thankful for their amazing work as well.

I also want to thank ACRL Board members Cinthya Ippoliti and Faye Chadwell for their dedicated work, partnership, and the excellent idea to focus the September 2020 ACRL Virtual Leadership Council on EDI. Additionally, Carolyn Allen, our amazing Budget & Finance Committee chair, has led a process with the ACRL Board to examine how our funding matches our priorities, particularly as they related to EDI. As an association, we do all this work with an eye towards realizing the goal of integrating the Core Commitment to EDI into all areas of the association, cutting across all ACRL sections, committees, interest and discussion groups, and other communities of practice.

Additionally, I am so thankful for the ACRL President's Program Committee, particularly the leadership of Jennifer Garrett and Emily Drabinski. The program, "Making Change: Organizing for Action While Caring for Each Other," explored what academic and research librarians can learn from community organizers when creating systemic change, particularly when confronting white supremacy and inequalities inherent in our organizations and in our profession.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention how much I appreciate Julie Garrison in her role as Vice-President/ President-Elect. I look forward to her leadership of the association in 2021-2022. My heartfelt thanks also go out to ACRL Past-President Karen Munro who started a process to collect demographic information through the appointments process. I am proud to say this work has now continued through three appointment cycles. The result has been a greater sensitivity to diversity among appointments, not only racial and ethnic diversity, but also diversity of institutions.

Finally, this year has allowed me to meet new people who love this profession as much, if not more than I do! Despite the uncertainty with budgets, COVID-19, and the after-effects of the pandemic we all face in our specific environments, I remain positive and hopeful because of all the wonderful people I've met through ACRL state chapter conferences, divisions, roundtables,

sections, and discussion groups. Colleagues, these are extraordinary times, let's all take care of ourselves, be kind and forgiving.

Let's go!

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