

COLLEGE LIBRARIES SECTION

NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE CLS CHAIR

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Spring and welcome to the end of another long semester under the shadow of COVID. This is a time of transition to happier times as we prepare for commencements at our respective colleges and plan hopefully opening our campuses more fully in the Fall semester. As we discussed at the College Libraries Section (CLS) Town Hall on April 27th, this is a time for many changes at CLS and ACRL as well.

We said hello to our incoming CLS Executive Committee, which is headed by Kevin Butterfield, CLS Chair-Elect. He has worked hard recruiting an outstanding group of new CLS Officers for the coming year including: Kimberley Bugg, Atlanta University Center (Vice Chair); Heather James, Gonzaga University (Incoming Secretary), and Elaine Hirsch, Lewis & Clark College, (Incoming Member-at-Large).

At the CLS Town Hall, we also reviewed this past year's Executive Committee's accomplishments. One major initiative was the work with the ACRL Board on adopting the CLS Statement on the Importance of Library Staff and Management. The ACRL Board approved the revised CLS Statement in November, but they asked for more refinements based on comments from the University Library Section Executive Committee. I worked with Dena Hutto (CLS Past Chair) and Cinthya Ippoliti (CLS Board Rep) on making these revisions, and we submitted them to the Board. After two sets of revisions in January and again in March, Jonathan Cawthorne, the ACRL Board President, reported to me and Kevin Butterfield last week that the Board requested that CLS withdraw the Statement and "instead, we would like to suggest you consider developing programming/materials around advocacy for staffing/funding, partnering with campus administration to support library initiatives, and developing a purposeful way to discuss the impact libraries have on student success and retention. This may also be an opportunity to reach out to the ACRL Value of Academic Libraries Committee and other sections such as ULS to collaborate." As we start this new fiscal year, the CLS Executive Committee agreed that we will work on these new initiatives with the other ACRL Sections and the Board to support college library staff and management throughout the post-COVID transitions.

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Other CLS accomplishments this year include:

- **Goodbye to COLLIB-L and transition to ALA Connect:** Special thank you to COLLIB-L Moderator since 2015 Lisa Broughman of Randolph College and Lauren Carlton, ACRL Central Office staff, for their leadership in successfully moderating the COLLIB-L listserv for so many years.
- **CLIPP publications:** For the College Library Information on Policy and Practice (CLIPP) publishing program, the Publications Committee was able to publish in February *CLIPP 46: Academic Library Job Descriptions* (Kathleen Baril and Jennifer Donley are the co-authors). One more CLIPP is currently in the copy editing process. See: <https://www.alastore.ala.org/content/academic-library-job-descriptions-clipp-46>
- **Joint CLS/Distance and Online Learning Section (DOLS) ALA Conference Panel Session** CLS and DOLS will co-sponsor a joint panel at the ALA Virtual Annual Conference this June. It will be a 60-minute session on Online Learning Assessment Methods that will be pre-recorded.

If you missed it, you can still catch up by viewing the CLS Town Hall Powerpoint presentation, which is posted online on the CLS ALA Connect Homepage at:

<https://connect.ala.org/HigherLogic/System/DownloadDocumentFile.ashx?DocumentFileKey=134f5c9d-b00b-14f5-1c5b-f3d73882b73f&forceDialog=0>

As I come to the end of my year as CLS Chair and review our accomplishments, I want to extend special thanks to the current CLS Board members who have helped keep our community together and moving forward this year through the many uncertainties, transitions and pauses: Britt Anne Murphy (Secretary), Deborah Prosser (Member-at-Large), Cinthya Ippoliti (Board Liaison to ACRL), Lisa McDaniels (Member-at-Large), Jenny Horton (Past Secretary), and Alexia Hudson-Ward (Past Chair).

I look forward to seeing everyone virtually at the virtual 2021 ALA Conference during its exciting speakers and sessions from June 23 to 29. Have a great summer!





[RBMS 2021 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE](#) (#RBMS21)

POWER. RESISTANCE. LEADERSHIP.

JUNE 8 – 10, 2021

Thanks to the over 350 of you that have already registered for the RBMS 2021 Virtual Conference. There's still time to get the best rates! Early bird registration ends May 28, 2021! Join us to critically examine the existing power structures that have shaped and continue to impact special collections and archives. This conference will explore the power dynamics within our profession and the ways in which we experience, exert, and/or defy power. Come hear stories of resistance, large and small, successful or not. Learn practical tools and strategies and explore thought-provoking ideas. We will hope you will be inspired to help make transformative change in our field!

ACRL eLEARNING

ACRL's e-Learning program provides a unique opportunity to participate in professional development events that are focused on practical, tangible topics to meet the demands of your schedule and budget. Visit the [ACRL e-Learning website](#) to stay up-to-date on current e-Learning offerings from ACRL!

OFF-ROADSHOW VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

ACRL's traveling RoadShow workshops are on hold until it's safe to resume large in-person gatherings, but we're working to bring you the same great content through virtual experiences. These "Off-RoadShows" will continue to help academic library professionals tackle the greatest issues facing the profession today. Host a multi-day virtual workshop for your library or organization! Learn more at ala.org/acrl/offroad.



FOLLOW CLS ONLINE

[CLS Website](#): for committee information, events, and policies as well as links to supporting CLS-sponsored pages

[CLS Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) feed: for upcoming events, announcements, and interesting happenings related to college libraries. Suggestions are welcome from CLS members

[CLS LibGuides through ACRL](#): LibGuides offer a great way to highlight specific CLS programs you are working on as they allow you to have direct control over the content of your page, as well as a unique link for access

If you are interested in posting content through any of these options, please contact CLS volunteer [Stephanie Diaz](#).

ACRL BOOKS

ACRL publishes a range of books to assist academic librarians in developing their professional careers, managing their institutions, and increasing their awareness of developments in librarianship, providing timely, thought-provoking, and practical content and research to academic and research librarians worldwide. Some recent titles:

- [*Leading Together: Academic Library Consortia and Advocacy*](#)
- [*Creativity: A Toolkit for Academic Libraries*](#)
- [*Academic Library Job Descriptions: CLIPP #46*](#)
- [*Training Research Consultants: A Guide for Academic Libraries*](#)
- [*Open Educational Resources: CLIPP #45*](#)
- [*Approaches to Liaison Librarianship: Innovations in Organization and Engagement*](#)
- [*Faculty-Librarian Collaborations: Integrating the Information Literacy Framework into Disciplinary Courses*](#)
- [*Student Wellness and Academic Libraries: Case Studies and Activities for Promoting Health and Success*](#)
- [*The Library Outreach Cookbook*](#)
- [*Reflections on Practitioner Research: A Practical Guide for Information Professionals*](#)

Interested in writing for ACRL? Contact Erin Nevius, ACRL's Content Strategist, at enevius@ala.org for more information, or visit www.ala.org/acrl/publications/publishing to learn more about our book publishing program and submit a proposal.



COUNCIL OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES UPDATE

In my role as the liaison from ACRL to the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), I virtually attended the Chief Academic Officers Institute (CAOI), hosted by the CIC, from Nov. 7-10, 2020. I am pleased to share this report of my experience with the CLS community.

I was invited to lead a roundtable discussion at the institute on “Challenges for Libraries during the Pandemic.” Seven people participated in the discussion, including two fellow library directors and five chief academic officers. All contributed to the wide-ranging conversation, which touched on opportunities, challenges, and potential permanent changes to library work. I created a public [Google Doc](#), listing a wide variety of opportunities, challenges and potential permanent changes I’d collected from my experiences and that of colleagues, to serve as a foundation for our discussion. Subsequent to the discussion, I edited [the document](#) to include additional ideas surfaced in the conversation.

From attending several concurrent and plenary sessions at the conference, the following themes emerged:

Virtual/online teaching is no longer a matter of if, but how. It’s here to stay, in some form or another, in all our colleges, even those who have been most resistant.

- There has been a 180-degree turn in faculty attitudes toward online teaching.
- Professional development for faculty, and instructional designers/technologists to improve our virtual education, have never been more important.
- There is a desire to reframe virtual education as a necessity for the new workforce, not as a sub-standard alternative to our in-person experience.
- We must think about the work needed to enable good online learners. We must prepare students.
- The digital divide must be addressed. This divide can occur through both technology and the learning environment (wherever the student may be). It can also occur for faculty.

Curricular futures: Flexibility must be built into curricula.

- Should we be thinking of ourselves as “educational” institutions, rather than “academic” institutions?
 - We must consider alternatives to our current rigid structures (e.g., 15-week semesters; 50-minute class periods).
- What will a post-pandemic curricula look like? How can we provide the experiences and education that youth shaped by this pandemic will desire?

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CIC UPDATE (CONT.)

Financial futures: All are aware of the challenges to institutional budgets.

- We can't lose sight of education quality and student success in the concern about finances.
 - Even more than previously, linking our work to student success is vital.
- There is a growing need for services to support student success, but fewer faculty/staff may be around to provide them (e.g., see media coverage of cuts to higher education workforce).
 - There is increasing discussion around re-deploying staff, and identifying new roles for part-time faculty.

Decision-making: The current rapidly-changing environment has created new decision-making structures that may continue into the future

- New models of shared governance (e.g., a summer faculty governance group) may become permanent.
- Institutions will emphasize collaborative decision-making with students, faculty, and staff included.
- Transparency about decisions is required; there's no such thing as over-communication in the present time.
- The following philosophy of decision-making was echoed repeatedly: "make the best decision at the time for the institution" -- it's not about being "right."

Race and Inequality was also at the forefront of presentations and discussions.

- We must "see" our black students, not just welcome them.
- What's needed to make progress: leadership (embedding this work in everything we do, not as separate diversity initiatives); relationships (your network must include a diverse group of people); alignment (policies must reflect racial justice -- an example could be test-blind admissions).
- Disaggregating academic performance data is critical: until we know if/where under-represented students are falling short, we cannot address the shortcomings in our educational environments.

Finally, in the months since the CAO conference, the CIC has launched a study of [open educational resources to reduce textbook costs](#), focused on HCBUs and other minority serving institutions. I encourage you to review this initiative.

If you have questions for me, or comments to help guide my liaison work, please contact me at lvilelle@hollins.edu. I welcome your thoughts.

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