

# ebss) Newsletter



## EBSS Chair Report

*Ashlynn Kogut, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX  
EBSS Chair 2024 - 2025*

Greetings, EBSS colleagues!

It's officially fall – classes are in session, pumpkin spice items abound, and maybe some are enjoying slightly cooler outdoor temperatures.

I'm excited to reach out to you in this issue of our EBSS newsletter. EBSS members and committees have been working on exciting projects and bringing forward new ideas to best support EBSS members and the wider library community.

To start, I would like to highlight some work that has been accomplished since the spring:

- The 2024 ALA conference program “Developing Data Literacy Champions: Building a Culture of Critical Engagement with Data” was a huge success. Thank you to the 2024 Conference Program Planning Committee for coordinating with the Digital Scholarship Section to plan a wonderful learning opportunity!

- The 2025 Conference Program Planning Committee submitted an ALA conference proposal titled, “Read and Publish Agreements: Functions and Impacts for the Social Sciences.” If accepted, this program would be an educational program at the 2025 ALA Annual Conference in Philadelphia.

- The Nominating Committee has submitted an outstanding slate of candidates for EBSS officer positions in the spring 2025 election. EBSS will be in excellent hands!

As a section, we aim to be organized in a way that best supports our members, and we can adjust our committee structure to do this. To better meet the needs of librarians working with the communications discipline, on July 1, 2024, the Electronic Resources in Communication Studies Committee became part of the Communication Studies Committee. Additionally, many EBSS members are engaged in evidence synthesis work, and the idea of creating an EBSS committee related to evidence synthesis was discussed at the September 2024 EBSS Advisory Council meeting.

The goal for this committee would be to support those working on evidence synthesis projects and services specifically in EBSS disciplines. With the support of the Advisory Council, which is composed of the chairs of the EBSS committees and members of the Executive Committee, the EBSS Executive Committee is drafting a charge for a potential EBSS committee on evidence synthesis in education and behavioral sciences.

In this newsletter, you will find more information about the work of our committees and discussion groups. If you are interested in contributing to this work, keep in mind that on December 1, 2024, the ACRL volunteer form used for section level committee appointments will open. All committee appointments will be made by EBSS Vice Chair, Robin Ewing. If you have questions about volunteering, please reach out to Robin at [rlewing@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:rlewing@stcloudstate.edu).

Wishing you all the best!

Ashlynn Kogut

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## Committee & Task Force Reports

### *Instruction for Educators Committee*



*Amy James, Co-Chair*

The Instruction for Educators Committee (IFE) began the fall semester with many projects in progress. The Companion Document to the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education: Instruction for Educators, approved in June 2023 by the ACRL Board of Directors, continues to play a central role in our activities. In response to feedback, committee members are adding content to the Companion Document related to the assessment of learning objectives identified in the document. Activities on the [Companion Document LibGuide](#) are also being assessed to reflect current trends and practices in library instruction for teacher education programs. We look forward to sharing our work with our ACRL colleagues in the future.



*Christina Jones, Co-Chair*

In collaboration with the Curriculum Materials Committee, the Instruction for Educators offered Partners Against Censorship: Education Librarians and School Librarians on Friday, September 20th. The program consisted of a panel discussion on the topic of the current climate of book challenges within the context of teacher education moderated by outgoing IFE member, James Rosenzweig. Panelists included Dr. April Dawkins, Assistant Professor of Information, Library, & Research Sciences at UNC-Greensboro, Gavin Downing, teacher-librarian in Kent School District (Washington state), and Elissa Malespina, school librarian and consultant based in New Jersey.



*Eric Silberberg, Vice-Chair*

## COMMITTEE & TASK FORCE REPORTS (cont)

In addition to attendee questions, panelists addressed pre-written questions provided by committee members related to why the defense of the right to read is important to their work, how academic librarians can support school librarians in the context of book challenges, current legislation, and more. This lively discussion was not recorded due to the sensitive nature of the topic and the various policy and legal constraints experienced by participants based on their institution or geography. The collaboration between two kindred EBSS committees was a friendly and fruitful experience - the first of many collaborations in the future!

We welcomed two new committee members: Hannah Lee Park, from American University and Caitlin Stewart, from Illinois State University. We also thank Alison Lehner-Quam, from Lehman College, James Rosenzweig from Eastern Washington University, and Dana Hettich from the University of Alabama, Birmingham for their leadership and incredible energy, creativity, productivity and enthusiasm for our work as a committee. Truly, continuing IFE committee members have big shoes to fill, but have a strong foundation and direction for more creative work yet to come.

If you would like to join the committee, submit [this volunteer form](#).

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### Awards Committee

*Nancy O'Brien, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Chair*

Members of the EBSS Awards Committee will spend 2024/2025 reviewing and updating the criteria and the selection process for the award, addressing gendered language, and following guidance from the ACRL Awards Coordinating Committee to prepare for soliciting nominations in 2026. All ACRL Awards were placed on hold for the past three years while ACRL revisited awards within an equity framework. Nominations will be submitted through a central ACRL awards portal. ACRL awards will no longer have a monetary component. A single division-wide awards ceremony will be held, most likely online. Further information will be shared as the EBSS Award is re-activated.

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### Education Committee



Lesley Farmer, a member of the EBSS Education Committee and the Special Libraries Association Education Division, continues to host webinars on various subjects throughout the year. The scheduled topics and names of the speakers are below:

Nov 8, 2024, Arthur Harper: Tiktok  
Dec 13, 2024, Ginny Boehme: Health Literacy  
Jan 10, 2025, Emily Vardell: Health Literacy and Misinformation  
March 14, 2025, Jennifer Boettcher: Using Census Data

*Ewa Dziedzic-Elliott,  
The College of New  
Jersey, Chair*

You can register for these sessions using [this link](#).

# Committee Member Highlights: New Officers & Liaisons

Many members of EBSS have recently become committee officers or liaisons. We recognize the following members as they began their new roles this past July and thank all new and returning committee members for their contributions to EBSS and beyond.

## Executive Committee

- Ashlynn Kogut, Chair
- Robin L. Ewing, Vice-Chair
- Yu-Hui Chen, Past-Chair
- Ms. Kara Whatley, Board Liaison
- Megan R. Griffin, Staff Liaison

## Advisory Council

- Ashlynn Kogut, Chair
- Robin L. Ewing, Vice-Chair
- Yu-Hui Chen, Past-Chair

## Awards

- Nancy P. O'Brien, Chair

## Communication Studies

- Kristin T. Peace, Chair
- Megan R. Griffin, Staff Liaison

## Conference Program Planning 2026

- Megan R. Griffin, Staff Liaison

## Curriculum Materials

- Mrs. Melissa Kempfski, Vice-Chair

## Education

- Mrs. Ewa M. Dziedzic-Elliott, Chair

## Education Research Libraries

### Discussion Group

- Melissa Beuoy

## Instruction for Educators

- Christina M. Jones, Co-Chair
- Eric Silberberg, Vice-Chair

## Membership and Orientation

- Charlene H. Loope, Chair

## Nominating 2026 Committee

- Megan R. Griffin, Staff Liaison

## Psychology

- Ms. Nicole Carpenter, Co-Chair

## Publications and Communications

- Mrs. Melissa Kempfski, Communications Manager
- Micaela Deogracias, Newsletter Editor
- Patrick R. Labelle, Web Editor

## Reference Sources and Services

- Sarah Brooks Cohn, Chair

## Research Committee

- Thomas C. Weeks, Chair
- Emily Fornwald, Vice-Chair

## Scholarly Communication

- Margie Ruppel, Chair

## Social Work

- Maureen E. Barry, Chair
- Ms. Laurel Scheinfeld, Vice-Chair
- Jessica L. Rardin, Secretary

# Items of Interest from ACRL

## ACRL Books

ACRL books provide timely and practical advice and thought-provoking research for academic library workers worldwide. Some recent titles include:

- [Creating an Inclusive Library: Approaches for Increasing Engagement and Use with Students of Color](#)
- [Information Literacy and Social Media: Empowered Student Engagement with the ACRL Framework](#)
- [Critical Library Leadership: Managing Self and Others in Today's Academic Library](#)
- [Toxic Dynamics: Disrupting, Dismantling, and Transforming Academic Library Culture](#)
- [Toward Inclusive Academic Librarian Hiring Practices](#)
- [Universal Design for Learning in Academic Libraries: Theory into Practice](#)

Explore [ACRL's online catalog](#) for more great books, and [visit our site](#) to learn more about publishing your own. ACRL is the only not-for-profit publisher specifically for academic and research libraries and library workers. Purchases of ACRL books help fund advocacy, research, and continuing education programs for the academic library community worldwide.



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## Project Outcome

Project Outcome is a FREE online toolkit designed to help 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. Participating libraries are also provided with the resources and training support needed to apply their results and confidently advocate for their library's future. Project Outcome's standardized surveys allow libraries to aggregate their outcome data and analyze trends by service topic, program type, and over time. Sign up today at <https://acrl.projectoutcome.org/>, and check out our new book, [Assessment and Advocacy: Using Project Outcome for Academic Libraries](#), for more ways to use the toolkit.

## *Professional Development RoadShows*

Looking to further your institution's impact? ACRL's professional development RoadShows bring affordable, high-quality workshops directly to your campus, chapter, or consortium. We offer in-person or virtual experiences on curated topics like strategic assessment, open educational resources, implementing the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education, and more! These engaging workshops are designed to enrich skillsets and strengthen competencies. Led by expert academic librarians and researchers, RoadShows can help you and your colleagues tackle the greatest challenges facing our profession today. Contact us to schedule a RoadShow for your institution today. Organizational members of ACRL receive a special 10% workshop fee discount!



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### *RBMS 2025, A Multitude of Stories*

*June 24 - 27, 2025 || Hosted by Yale University, New Haven, CT*

Join us at RBMS 2025 for an immersive exploration of how we critically examine colonialism's impact on libraries and cultural heritage institutions. This conference is your opportunity to showcase how you are actively engaging with critical themes such as repatriation, reparative cataloging, reconciliation, and more. We want to hear about the bold steps you're taking to rethink and reshape the narratives within your collections, particularly those connected to colonial histories, Indigenous cultural heritages, and marginalized communities. The call for proposals will be announced in October and registration will open in March. Watch [rbms.info](https://rbms.info) for details.

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### *Benchmark for Planning and Advocacy in Academic Libraries*

[Benchmark](#) is the newest tool for data-driven planning and advocacy in academic libraries. Launched by ACRL in late 2021, Benchmark provides enhanced access to ACRL annual survey data from 1998-2023. With Benchmark, you can illustrate ongoing activities and usage in a compelling fashion for different audiences, as well as generate key metrics for strategic planning, budget justifications, annual reports, fundraising, and more! Benchmark is also where you can contribute your library's data to national surveys to further research and advocacy. [Login to your free account](#) today to complete the 2024 Academic Library Trends and Statistics Survey, which includes trends questions on the topic Open Education Resources (OER) and other Open services!

## *ACRL 2025 Registration Opens October 2024*

We are living in a time of extraordinary change. From global unrest and climate change to transformative technologies like generative AI, the world around us is evolving at an unprecedented pace. These shifts are reshaping the landscape of higher education for generations to come. In the midst of these challenges lies an incredible opportunity. We have the chance to reimagine how academic libraries can serve our communities and democratize information access in a complex, ever-changing world.

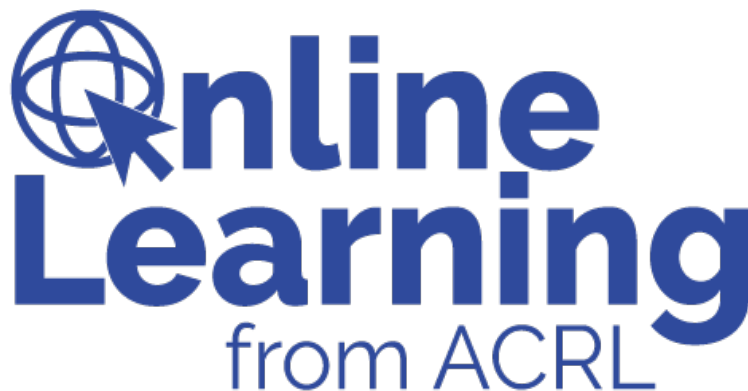
ACRL 2025 will be a platform for us to engage in critical conversations and explore solutions-centered approaches to the challenges facing our profession. We will focus on themes like embedded bias, inclusive excellence, and the role of technology.

Whether you join us in Minneapolis or virtually, we welcome you to be a part of this important conversation! [Registration](#) opens October 2024.

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## *ACRL Online Learning*

ACRL's live webcasts and multi-week online courses are designed to meet the demands of your location, schedule, and budget. Learn more about these events on the ACRL website.



## *ACRL Immersion Returns with Blog Series and Survey about Future Programs*

After a four-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the ACRL Immersion Facilitator Team is excited to reconnect with the library community through a new blog series. The five-part series delves into the Immersion Program's foundational pillars. Additionally, the facilitators are actively planning the summer 2025 Immersion Program and regional Immersion in a Box program and want to hear what kinds of professional development you are interested in, related to information literacy and the role of libraries in higher education. We invite you to take a [short survey](#) to share would you like to see from upcoming Immersion professional development opportunities!

### **[April 11, 2024: Discussing the 4 Pillars of Immersion: Information Literacy](#)**

This first post in the series focuses on the pillar of information literacy. In this conversation, Carlos Duarte and Rebecca Miller Waltz share their perspectives on information literacy, communication, and our communities.

### **[April 29, 2024: Discussing the 4 Pillars of Immersion: The Educational Role of Librarians in Higher Education](#)**

In this second post, Daisy Benson and Melissa Bowles-Terry reflect and share their perspectives on the changing roles of librarians in higher education.

### **[June 11, 2024: Discussing the 4 Pillars of Immersion: Leadership](#)**

In this third installment, Jessie Loyer and Veronica Arellano Douglas explore the role of leadership in the work of teaching librarians.

### **[August 5, 2024: Discussing the 4 Pillars of Immersion: Critical Reflexive Practice](#)**

In this fourth installment, Carlos Duarte and Mary Broussard examine the role of critical reflective practice in the work of teaching librarians.

### **[August 27, 2024: Discussing the 4 Pillars of Immersion: Community as Another Pillar?](#)**

This final post in the series has been authored by Jessie Loyer and Melissa Bowles-Terry. This post is a consideration of the role that community plays in our practice — and we have a short survey to learn what you (our extended community) would like to see from Immersion professional development opportunities!

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