



President's Report to ALA Council

Erin L. Ellis, ACRL President, 2022-2023

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) continued to advance its mission and goals over the course of my presidential year. Our members learn, grow, innovate, lead, and engage as part of the academic library community, furthering efforts to articulate the value of libraries, transform student learning, promote more open systems of scholarship, and support the academic and research library workforce to effectively navigate the changing higher education environment. Details of association activities are listed in this report. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve ACRL as President this past year.

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.

ACRL launched a new Academic Library Advocacy Toolkit this year. Developed by a joint task force comprised of members from our Value of Academic Libraries and New Roles and Changing Landscapes goal-area committees, the toolkit is a curated collection of resources that can help equip academic library administrators and library professionals with the resources they need to advocate for the value, roles, and contributions of academic libraries to their campus communities. The Academic Library Advocacy Toolkit was created in response to current and concrete pressures many academic libraries are facing, including challenges related to budgets, a diminished workforce, professional roles, and more. The toolkit has garnered nearly 7,500 views this year.

The Value of Academic Libraries (VAL) Committee offered the free ACRL Presents webcast "Libraries and Learning Analytics: The Future is Now" on November 17, 2022. This presentation was part of the committee's effort to refocus attention on using data to support data-driven decision making and making sure academic libraries have a place at the table at the larger institutional level. VAL also hosted an online discussion forum, "Creating and Nurturing Partnerships for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Social Justice," in May 2023 and an online Trend Talk: Listening to Our Students in June 2023 in conjunction with the New Roles and Changing Landscapes Committee.

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 2022, including adding the NSSE high impact practices as taggable outcome measurements and allowing surveys to be distributed with QR codes. As of May 2023, Project Outcome for Academic Libraries has 4,915 users and 833 academic libraries have created surveys and collected more than 156,000 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 11,500 times this year. Our virtual workshops "Putting the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education into Action" and "Assessment in Action: Demonstrating and Communicating Library Contributions to Student Learning and Success" continue to help academic library professionals tackle value and assessment issues facing the profession today. The Learning Analytics Toolkit, a freely available professional development resource developed by the VAL Committee, provides an avenue for library professionals to learn more about learning analytics and how they intersect with academic libraries.

National Center for Education Statistics Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System/ ACRL Benchmark

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 ACRL Benchmark: Library Metrics and Trends. The 2022 survey closed on April 14, 2023. 1,509 institutions completed the 2022 survey for a 44.4% response rate, and the survey data is expected to be published in June 2023. The survey also enabled participants to easily transfer their IPEDS responses to the institutional keyholder for the IPEDS survey. The ACRL/ALA/ARL IPEDS Task Force provided feedback regarding the migration of the IPEDS Academic Library Component to IMLS by 2025.

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. Building on our commitment to advancing student learning, this year we acquired the Threshold Achievement Test for Information Literacy (TATIL), an online information literacy assessment instrument developed by Carrick Enterprises, Inc. Based on the ACRL Framework, TATIL is a simple, easy-to-use standardized test that measures the achievement of the information literacy education outcomes, regardless of a student's major or research focus, across four modules which address learning across all the frames in the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy. TATIL reports help educators identify student areas of

strength and areas that need improvement, supporting evidence-based decision-making and inform actions for strengthening student outcomes. Following a redesign and rebuilding period, TATIL will relaunch under the ACRL brand in summer 2023.

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 67,000 times in this period. The Framework itself was viewed more than 89,000 times this year and the ACRL Board of Director also approved a new Companion Document to the Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics in August 2022.

ACRL published a number of books including *Exploring Inclusive & Equitable Pedagogies: Creating Space for All Learners* (2-Volume Set), *Intersections of Open Educational Resources and Information Literacy* (PIL #79); *Learning in Action: Designing Successful Graduate Student Work Experiences in Academic Libraries*; *Teaching Critical Reading Skills: Strategies for Academic Librarians* (2-Volume Set); *Undergraduate Research and the Academic Librarian: Case Studies and Best Practices, Volume 2*; and *Using Open Educational Resources to Promote Social Justice* related to student learning and information literacy issues this year.

We also presented a variety of Online Learning offerings focused on student learning and information literacy topics, including “Cognitive Load and Instructional Design,” “Critical Information Literacy Instruction in an Age of Misinformation,” Developing Signature Pedagogies for Information Literacy, “From Dall-E to ChatGPT: Navigating AI in Academic Libraries,” “Increasing Engagement Using Active Learning Techniques,” Online library instruction: Best practices for live synchronous teaching,” “Strategies for Teaching Adult Learners” and “Universal Design for Learning: principles and techniques for library instruction.” The Student Learning and Information Literacy Committee also offered an online discussion forum, “Getting started with OER tools: H5P and Pressbooks,” this June. Our virtual workshop “Engaging with the ACRL Framework: A Catalyst for Exploring and Expanding Our Teaching Practices” continues to help academic library professionals tackle student learning-related issues facing the profession today.

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 “Student learning and engagement in a DEI collection audit: Applying the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy,” “Looking at information with the sociological eye: Introducing the sociology companion document,” “What’s art got to do with politics? Show me the evidence,” “De-colonizing one-shots: Critical pedagogies and the ACRL Framework,” and “Teaching the politics of citation: Challenging students’ perceptions.”

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.

In November 2022, ACRL joined the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) in co-sponsoring a listening session on the 2022 Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) public access

guidance, "Ensuring Free, Immediate, and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research." In this session the academic/research library community shared statements and top-of-mind issues with US Federal agency members of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Subcommittee on Open Science (SOS) about the new public-access memo. Afterwards the organizations sent a brief letter to the chairs of the NSTC SOS outlining what library representatives highlighted in their statements, along with the video recording, and the data from a survey registrants completed prior to the event.

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 three books, *The Data Literacy Cookbook*; *Intersections of Open Educational Resources and Information Literacy* (PIL #79); and *Using Open Educational Resources to Promote Social Justice*, 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 (NRCL) goal focuses on assisting the academic and research library workforce in effectively navigating change in higher education environments.

As noted in the Value of Academic Libraries section, the NRCL Committee, in conjunction with the VAL Committee, published the Academic Library Advocacy Toolkit in February 2023 to provide techniques, tips, and strategies for academic library advocacy that use a variety of sources and impact factors.

NRCL's User Experience subcommittee also worked with the VAL Committee to create a series of Trend Talks. The first is an online discussion forum, "Trend Talk: Listening to Our Students," held in June, exploring the challenge of reaching our students and specifically connecting with groups of students who have a variety of experiences, backgrounds, and circumstances. The Diversity Pipeline subcommittee this year created a Retention Toolkit using existing and new resources, including possible video testimonials on how people have successfully increased retention in their libraries. The toolkit was released in June 2023.

Our virtual workshop "Open Educational Resources and Affordability" continues to help academic library professionals interested in learning about OER and/or developing OER initiatives.

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.

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. This commitment permeated all aspects of the association during my term in office.

In November 2022, the ACRL Board of Directors approved a new Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) goal for the association's Plan for Excellence. The new goal states that "Academic and research libraries will practice cultural humility, promote community accountability, and be unwavering in their ongoing, iterative commitment to remedy systemic inequalities in their contexts." Objectives for the goal area include enhancing members' capacity to acknowledge, interrogate, and dismantle white supremacist structures and other systems of oppression; providing professional development and resources to attract, hire, support, retain, and promote workers from marginalized communities, which helps build inclusive working environments that center trust and belonging; and building relationships and coalitions to cultivate "collective ownership, accountability, and responsibility."

Members of the ACRL Board of Directors and EDI Committee held an ACRL Presents webcast on "ACRL's Strategic Vision for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion" in June 2023. Presenters shared how ACRL will center and emphasize the Board's vision and implementation for the new EDI goal and objectives, as well as implications for the association more broadly.

ACRL published two books – *Exploring Inclusive & Equitable Pedagogies: Creating Space for All Learners* (2-Volume Set) and *Using Open Educational Resources to Promote Social Justice*. - on EDI-related topics this year. A new bimonthly column, Academic Library Workers in Conversation, launched in the October 2022 issue of *C&RL News*, with a focus on minimizing barriers to traditional publishing with an accessible format through the sharing of conversations about transforming libraries with ideas from the frontlines.

A free ACRL Presents webcast, "Supported to Stay: A Discussion of Retention Experiences and EDI-informed Approaches," was presented by the New Roles and Changing Landscapes Committee and the ACRL Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (EDI) Committees in March 2022. We also presented Online Learning offerings focused on EDI-related topics including "Critical Information Literacy Instruction in an Age of Misinformation" and "Strategies for Teaching Adult Learners."

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. Additional information on EDI activities is included throughout this report.

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. This year the Board voted to evolve the ACRL Diversity Alliance Task Force into a standing committee.

Enabling Programs and Services

In addition to our 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 2023, the most recent numbers available at the time of this report, ACRL had 8,447 members. We continue to look for ways to partner with ALA to enhance member recruitment and retention efforts.

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 16 interest groups address emerging areas of interest in academic librarianship and our 14 discussion groups provide avenues for members to connect around issues through informal networks for exchanging ideas and problem-solving.

ACRL's social media channels continue to 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.

At its January 2021 meeting, the ACRL Board of Directors approved a proposal to pause ACRL's awards program and appointed a task force to undertake a critical review of the program and make recommendations for its future. This pause presents an opportunity to ensure all ACRL awards align with the Association's Core Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, and for the awards program to emerge in a stronger position in both solid finances and inspired purpose. During my term in office, ACRL has formed an Awards Process Implementation Task Force to consider all ACRL awards and make specific, implementable recommendations for streamlining the ACRL awards process. The task force provided a preliminary verbal progress report at the ACRL Board II Virtual Meeting on February 17, 2023, to be followed by an interim report during the ALA Annual Conference in June 2023, and a final report for the 2024 ALA Annual Conference.

Publications

Monographs

ACRL released a wide variety of monograph publications in the past year, including *Academic Librarian Burnout: Causes and Response*; *Academic Librarian Faculty Status: CLIPP 47*; *Cultural Heritage and the Campus Community: Academic Libraries and Museums in Collaboration*; *The Data Literacy Cookbook*; *Designing Libraries for the 21st Century*; *Exploring Inclusive & Equitable Pedagogies: Creating Space for All Learners (2-Volume Set)*, *Integrated Library Planning: A New Model for Strategic and Dynamic Planning, Management, and Assessment*; *Intersections of Open Educational Resources and Information Literacy (PIL #79)*; *Learning in Action: Designing Successful Graduate Student Work Experiences in Academic Libraries*; *Managing Crises in the Academic Library: Past, Present, and Future*; *Teaching Critical Reading Skills: Strategies for Academic Librarians (2-Volume Set)*; *Thriving as a Mid-Career Librarian: Identity, Advocacy, and Pathways*; *Twenty-First-Century Access Services: On the Front Line of Academic Librarianship, Second Edition*; *Undergraduate Research and the Academic Librarian: Case Studies and Best Practices, Volume 2*; and *Using Open Educational Resources to Promote Social Justice*.

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.

Kristen Totleben, Librarian for Modern Languages and Cultures at the University of Rochester's River Campus Libraries, began a three-year term as editor for *College & Research Libraries (C&RL)* in July 2022, succeeding Wendi Arant Kaspar of Texas A&M University as *C&RL* editor.

A special issue of *C&RL* published in September 2022 focused on critical librarianship approaches to one-shot library instruction. Guest edited Nicole Pagowsky, articles in the special issue cast a critical eye on the traditions of one-shot instruction through a variety of lenses

including equity, diversity, and inclusion models, meta-analysis, and relational teaching.

C&RL News, the official newsmagazine and publication of record of ACRL, adopted an online-only publication model beginning in January 2022. The December 2021 issue was the final print issue of the magazine. 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.

A new bimonthly column, *Academic Library Workers in Conversation*, launched in the October 2022 issue of *C&RL News*. Edited by Dustin Fife of Colorado College, the column seeks to minimize barriers to traditional publishing with an accessible format through the sharing of conversations about transforming libraries with ideas from the frontlines.

In February 2023, the ACRL Board of Directors approved the appointment of Diane Dias De Fazio as the next editor of *RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage*, ACRL's journal covering issues pertaining to special collections libraries and cultural heritage institutions, De Fazio will assume the editorship from Richard Saunders beginning July 1, 2023. I would like to thank Richard for his years of service to the journal and welcome Diane to the ACRL publishing team.

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. 2022–23 built on the previous year's success, setting a new record for the number of job openings posted. Employers advertised 18% more openings than in the last full pre-pandemic year of 2018–19. ALA JobLIST continues to work with its platform provider to develop improvements to the service to serve job seekers and employers well in any hiring environment. By providing employers with an effective, competitively priced means of reaching the most qualified and engaged candidates in the profession with their opportunities, revenue earned by ALA JobLIST helps to support programs and initiatives throughout ACRL and ALA.

Choice

During my term in office, Choice has grown its content offerings on Choice 360.org while continuing to produce quality review and DEI content. A new content vertical, LibTech Insights (LTI), launched in January 2023 and has quickly grown engagement both on Choice360.org and via newsletter signups. LTI provides actionable content that examines the day-to-day impact of library and education technology on academic librarians, faculty, researchers, administrators, and students. Choice has also used LTI as an opportunity to promote programming from across the association. In April, for example, LTI promoted an ALA eLearning offering about AI literacy and the vertical routinely highlights ACRL's book publishing program by posting chapters of recent books about library technology.

Toward Inclusive Excellence (TIE) continues to highlight issues in equity, diversity, and inclusion from across academe. The most popular posts this year included *The Life and Times of Diamond and Silk*, which highlighted the scourge of disinformation campaigns, and *DEIA Resources for Understanding Mental Health*, which brought together mental health resources through a diversity

framework. In February 2023, TIE Editor Alexia Hudson-Ward spoke with Dr. Rasul Mowatt and Dr. Davarian Baldwin about the recent attacks on Advanced Placement (AP) African American studies curricula and why the fight over teaching Black Studies is a fight for intellectual freedom. In mid-May, LTI hosted a free webinar, Inclusive Workplace Practices to Support Mental Health in Higher Education.

Choice's content is not only building engagement with the larger academic community but has also attracted the attention of media industry awards. The TIE Podcast was shortlisted for Best Hobbies & Special Interest Podcast at the Publisher Podcast Awards while The Authority File podcast won Best B2B Podcast, beating out eight other contenders. This win boosted engagement across both podcasts and Choice in general.

Choice remains dedicated to our traditional review products: Choice Reviews, Choice magazine, and Choice Reviews on Cards, but subscriptions and advertising revenue for these products continue to decline. Subscriptions for our print products, Choice magazine and Choice Reviews on Cards, were hit particularly hard during the pandemic years and have yet to recover. At the same time, these print products bring in over \$200,000 in net revenue, while the entire reviews program contributes over one million dollars in revenue. These products, combined with original multimedia content, DEAI and LibTech content streams, and innovative sponsorship packages have put Choice on track to contribute \$323,000 to the ALA general fund in FY23.

Reports, White Papers, Online Publications

The ACRL Research Planning and Review Committee released its latest environmental scan of higher education, including developments with the potential for continuing impact on academic libraries. The 2023 Environmental Scan provides a broad review of the current higher education landscape, with special focus on the state of academic and research libraries. Topics featured in the 2023 scan include polarization, politicization, and civic discourse; economics and administration of higher education; the enduring influence of COVID-19; emerging technologies; and more. The document builds on earlier ACRL reports, including the Top Trends in Academic Libraries, published every other June in *C&RL News*.

ACRL released the freely available digital publication *Conducting a Map Collection Review: A Workbook to Help You on the Journey* by Janet Reyes, Geospatial Information Librarian at the University of California-Riverside, this May. This workbook covers the review process from beginning to end, from getting started to potential partners through developing criteria, establishing processes, and how to make crucial dispersal and disposal decisions. It also includes a thorough list of terms and easy-to-print worksheets. The focus is on sheet maps, although shelved and miscellaneous items are also considered.

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 Digital Equity Funding along with highlighting ACRL activities.

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. ACRLLog 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 Companion Document to the Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics along with revised Standards for Distance and Online Learning Library Services this year.

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

More than 3,500 library workers, exhibitors, speakers, and guests from around the world, met March 15-18, 2023, in Pittsburgh for the ACRL 2023 conference. Themed Forging the Future, ACRL 2023 featured keynote speakers Rebecca Nagel and Heather McGhee along with more than 300 live educational programs including invited presentations, panel sessions, contributed papers, workshops, lightning talks, roundtable discussions, and poster sessions. Virtual registration included live streams of the opening and closing keynotes, hybrid programs with live chat, virtual-only presentations, and networking and wellness opportunities. Recordings of the majority of virtual and hybrid presentations are available to attendees for the next year. Nearly 150 exhibitors showcased cutting-edge products and services. The conference hosted 2,140 paid in-person and 717 paid virtual attendees, including 1,109 first-time attendees, for a total of 2,857 total paid attendance. We also awarded 100 scholarships for the conference in six categories, worth \$89,081.

ACRL @ ALA Conferences

My President's Program at the 2023 ALA Annual Conference, "Cultivating, Applying, and Assessing the DEIA Lens: Building on the diversity count," featured Dr. Kawanna Bright and Dr. DeLa Dos in a lively conversation exploring how to cultivate, apply, and assess a DEIA Lens that can build on the efforts to increase diversity in libraries by fostering greater accessibility, inclusion, equity, and belonging. Moderator Steven Adams facilitated the conversation about how to cultivate curiosity, institutional humility, and moving from abstraction to activation in libraries' DEIA efforts.

ACRL sponsored an additional 14 section, committee, and individual programs at the conference on topics such as strategies for retaining library employees, hybrid work culture, open access, supporting invisibly disabled students, threshold concepts, and more.

RBMS Conference

The RBMS 2023 Virtual Conference, "A New Kind of Professional," was held June 26-30, 2023, at Indiana University-Bloomington and virtually. The need for greater focus on diversity, equity, and accessibility in all areas of Special Collections work, from hiring to acquisitions to researcher services, requires us all as practitioners to rethink how we recruit and retain special collections workers. RBMS 2023 explored how we educate both new and established workers at a time when the need to reframe and reimagine our collections and audiences is even more vital. The conference addressed questions of not only how to welcome, prepare, and retain new workers for the increasingly complex demands of GLAMS (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums, and Special Collections) professions, but also explored continuing education framed around changes in critical library theory and new approaches to our collections and careers. More than 400 in-person and virtual registrants, along with 60 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 tackle 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. Off-RoadShow webcast series designed for individual participation covered topics including "Scholarly Communication and Open Educational Resources & Affordability," and 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 Online Learning program offered 15 events consisting of 10 webcasts and 5 multi-week courses this year on a variety of topics including active learning, signature pedagogies, critical information literacy instruction, reframing library spaces, universal design for learning, ChatGPT, and more. More than 450 attendees participated in our Online Learning events this year.

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 "Ethical Engagement in Learning Analytics" (July 2022), "Libraries and Learning Analytics" (October 2022), "Inclusive Leadership" (January 2023), and "ACRL's Strategic Vision for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion" (June 2023).

ACRL-Choice Webinars

The ACRL-Choice webinar program continues to provide information on the latest trends in academic librarianship and is an important part of Choice's lead generation program. FY23 was a period of transition for Choice's webinar program. Although the total number of programs was fewer this year than last year (27 programs in FY23 versus 38 in FY22), the average registration rate is still higher than pre-pandemic levels. The webinar that saw the most registrations this year was the "What's the Point of APA Style? Relevance of a Writing Style to Life After Graduation"

program in late January 2023, with a registration of 1,503. The program featured four DEI-focused webinars including “Putting the ‘A’ in DEIA: Accessibility as a Necessity in the Scholarly Communications Workflow,” “DEI 2.0: What’s Next with Content and Collaboration,” “The role of the library in the DEI journey: Creating, promoting, and measuring inclusive practices,” and The Toward Inclusive Excellence webinar “Inclusive Workplace Practices to Support Mental Health in Higher Education.”

Choice also had the opportunity to help the Public Library Association (PLA) produce their first sponsored webinar as a test-case to potentially replicate the success of the ACRL-Choice webinar program across ALA.

Scholarships

Knowing that professional development is essential to the success of academic and research librarians, the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) awarded 24 scholarships for the RBMS 2023 Conference worth nearly \$18,650. As noted above, we awarded 100 scholarships for the ACRL 2023 conference in six categories, worth \$89,081.

ACRL Speaks Out

Legislative Advocacy

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

In December 2022, ACRL and the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) submitted a letter to the chairs of the US National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Subcommittee on Open Science in response to the recent Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) memo, “Ensuring Free, Immediate, and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research.” The letter reflects the views expressed during a jointly sponsored listening session between the academic and research library community and the Subcommittee on Open Science.

Also in December, ACRL joined five other organizations that participate in the Open Access Working group to provide feedback to the White House Office of Science & Technology Policy as it works to develop its Fifth National Action Plan. The comments recommended that federal agencies covered by the Nelson Memo align their public access plans with open government principles by requiring research articles and data to be made public under an open license that allows for full reuse and carefully considering the impacts of publishing models that may limit participation.

In March 2023, ACRL joined other organizations in supporting the reintroduction of the Affordable College Textbook Act (H.R.1811/S.978) by U.S. Senators Durbin (D-IL), King (I-ME), Smith (D-MN), and Sinema (I-AZ) and U.S. Representative Neguse (D-CO). This bill would reduce the cost of text at U.S. colleges and universities by expanding the use of open textbooks (and other open educational resources) that everyone can use, adapt, and share freely. It would formally authorize the Open Textbook Pilot grant program at the U.S. Department of Education which has provided \$47 million in grant funding since its inception in 2018.

ACRL Vice-President/President-Elect Beth McNeil, Past-President Julie Garrison, and I authored an ACRL Insider post on “Confronting Book Challenges and Censorship in Libraries” this April. In the post, we noted that “There is a tendency to assume that higher education is immune to book challenges; that censorship is solely a K–12 school or public library issue. But what happens in our local schools, libraries, and communities has a lasting impact on our colleges and universities, along with the wellbeing and intellectual curiosity of our future students. While we may not yet have personally encountered situations where books in our libraries are directly challenged, that may change as the landscape of American politics continues to shift.”

ACRL hosted an online strategy session for digital equity advocates to think together about how to communicate the role (and potential) of academic libraries to further digital equity at the state planning stage. An edition of our *Keeping Up With...* series published in April 2023 also focused on Digital Equity Funding issues.

The association continued to be an active partner with ALA and the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) in the Library Copyright Alliance (LCA) through the end of 2022, when we suspended our participation in the group. 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 support of proposed rulemaking regarding termination rights under the Music Modernization Act’s blanket license and the "server" test for the display right.

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 (AACC), 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

It has been an incredible privilege to serve as ACRL President this year. Reflecting on my term, I’m struck by how quickly it’s gone by and how rewarding it’s been to serve in this role. My respect and admiration for this association, its members, and this profession has grown tremendously. I’ll always be grateful for this time and for the many generous and committed library workers I’ve met along the way.

I’m deeply gratified by the progress we continue to make on achieving ACRL’s mission, “to lead academic and research libraries and librarians in advancing learning and scholarship” and advancing the work in our commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI). Despite the relentless pace of change, myriad uncertainties, and the considerable challenges we face at our institutions and within our profession, ACRL continues to be responsive and committed to member needs. As my presidency concludes, library workers in every setting are increasingly

dealing with even tighter budgets, reduced staffing, questions of relevance, and unprecedented legislative interference and restriction. Academic and research libraries have not been immune.

Among the number of initiatives advanced to support our ACRL community through such challenges this year, the Academic Library Advocacy Toolkit stands out as a critically essential resource. Working with the team to launch this toolkit was a highlight of my term. I'm also extremely proud that ACRL's commitment to EDI has not wavered and, in fact, has been strengthened in the face of continued violence against BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ communities, ongoing threats to shared governance, open inquiry, intellectual exploration and academic freedom, and aggressive challenges to the roles libraries play within higher education. Revising our Plan for Excellence to further elevate ACRL's commitment, the Board of Directors approved the addition of a new EDI goal area this year. The Board also charged task forces to apply an EDI lens to our nominations processes and policies, to our volunteer recognition practices, and to our awards program. The dedication of our member volunteers and leaders to this work is remarkable. It's through their efforts that the EDI commitment remains strong, focused, and threaded throughout the association.

Working with my ACRL Board colleagues has been an exceedingly rewarding experience and I'm thankful for their service. I'm also grateful to all our section, committee, and task force leaders who bring such incredible creativity and passion to their roles. The talent and commitment of the Board and of these member leaders has led to critical conversations and has generated invaluable resources and tools for academic and research libraries. I want to especially thank Past-President Julie Garrison and Vice-President/President-Elect Beth McNeil for their incredible insights and support this year, along with their exceptional patience and good humor. It's been a true joy working with them both. I also want to acknowledge Executive Director Jay Malone whose curiosity, wisdom, and thoughtfulness have been deeply appreciated. Jay's judicious perspective and considerable generosity have helped the association advance in meaningful ways.

A special thank you goes to the ACRL President's Program Committee and the leadership of Annie Belanger and Leo Lo in guiding the committee's work. This year, "Cultivating, Applying, and Assessing the DEIA Lens: Building on the Diversity Count," continues a five-year tradition of Presidents' Programs exploring themes of equity, diversity, and inclusion. I'm thrilled that this has become a commitment of ACRL presidents, and I hope that this tradition continues. Another special thank you goes to my colleagues at Indiana University Libraries. Their patience, flexibility, and generosity throughout my term has been extraordinary. I've been so fortunate to have their support.

I'm especially thankful for the ACRL staff whose dedication is beyond measure. Though often unseen, their work is fundamental to ACRL's effectiveness and success. Shout-outs to Elois Sharpe, Allison Payne, David Free, and Lauren Carlton who were especially helpful to me during my term. Also of particular note are Margot Conahan and Tory Ondrla who led the way through another hugely successful ACRL Conference this year in Pittsburgh. To be president in a conference year was an unexpected joy. Meeting our opening keynote speaker, Rebecca Nagle, was incredible and talking with students and first-time attendees was energizing. Hearing their excitement about the conference and their enthusiasm for joining ACRL is something I'll never forget.

There have been several changes in the ACRL staff this year. Notable among these, Associate Director Mary Jane Petrowski retired after more than 20 years with the association; long-time staff member and Senior Strategist for Special Initiatives Kara Malenfant announced her departure; and Rachel Hendrick was promoted to editor and publisher of Choice. ACRL Executive Director Jay Malone also announced his departure from the association this spring. I'm deeply thankful to staff member Allison Payne, who has stepped into the interim executive director role. I'm confident that Allison's strong commitment and considerable experience will serve ACRL well during this time of significant transition.

As I prepare to leave office as president, I feel hopeful, grateful, and inspired. My time as ACRL president has been an incredible journey and I'm so fortunate to have had this opportunity. As past-president, I'll continue to advance ACRL's EDI goal and contribute to meaningful engagement and connection with our academic and research library communities. I'm looking forward to supporting incoming ACRL President Beth McNeil in these and other initiatives.