



## **President's Report to ALA Council**

**Karen A. Williams, ACRL President, 2014-2015**

*ALA Annual Conference, June 26- 30, 2015, San Francisco, California*

As the higher education association for librarians, the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) continued to advance learning and transform scholarship over the course of my presidential year. Our members continued to 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.

One highlight of my term in office was participating in ACRL's 75th anniversary celebrations. I feel honored to have been given the opportunity to serve as ACRL president during this historic year. Among the highlights of the anniversary celebration were the publication of *New Roles for the Road Ahead*, a collection of essays including reflections on ways academic libraries can succeed in a changing higher education environment, and a special issue of *College & Research Libraries* looking back at a selection of seminal articles from the journal's history. We were fortunate to be able to celebrate the association's history while looking to the future at the ACRL 2015 Conference in Portland, Oregon. Anniversary events included special panel discussions, the ACRL time capsule and time line, a celebratory cake cutting, and even a custom 75th anniversary cocktail at the Friends of ACRL reception. I was also heartened by the commitment of our membership to the future of the association as evidenced by the overwhelming participation in our 75th anniversary scholarship campaign which raised more than \$56,000 and allowed us to award an additional 75 scholarships for ACRL 2015. We continue to celebrate our past on the [ACRL 75th Anniversary website](#).

In addition to all of the anniversary events in Portland, I was very pleased to see so many academic and research librarians gather in person and online for a wonderful learning and networking experience. ACRL 2015 set a record with the combined registrant attendance ever for an ACRL conference, with 3,390 face-to-face and more than 300 virtual attendees from all 50 states and 24 countries. By all accounts, attendees went home energized and ready to apply what they learned at their institutions. More information about ACRL 2015 is available in the Learning section of this report.

This year, the association also concluded the process that began as a revision of our *Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education* so that they reflect the current thinking on the creation and dissemination of knowledge, the changing global higher education and learning environment, the shift from information literacy to information fluency, and the expanding definition of information literacy to include multiple literacies. The task force appointed by the Board of Directors in 2013 to guide the process did an outstanding job collecting ideas and

comments from across the ACRL and higher education communities, leading to the development of the *Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education*, and I would like to thank them for their commitment and hard work.

Following a process that included several drafts and public comment periods, the Board took the official action of ‘filing’ the Framework at the 2015 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Chicago. This action allows the Framework to move forward as a dynamic, living document that can be changed in the future without needing a vote and full Board approval. In plain English, this means that the Board has accepted the Framework and it will assume its place among the constellation of documents used by information literacy practitioners. Additional information on the Framework is available in the Student Learning section of this report.

The following report highlights ACRL’s many accomplishments during my presidential year across the three strategic goal areas highlighted in the Plan for Excellence – the value of academic libraries, student learning, and the research and scholarly environment – along with the association’s enabling programs and services. After conversations with the three goal-area committee chairs and vice-chairs at the 2015 ALA Midwinter Meeting, the ACRL Board of Directors approved editorial revisions to each of the three goal areas for the association’s Plan for Excellence. The full Plan for Excellence can be found on the ACRL website, and a list of the recently approved revisions is available on the [ACRL Insider blog](#).

### ***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. In order to further influence national conversations and activities, ACRL members and staff have presented about the value of academic libraries initiative at several conferences, including the 2014 Assessment Institute, Library Assessment Conference and Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education.

ACRL’s *Standards for Libraries in Higher Education* continue to be an active part of the Value initiative. The association licensed and offered five full-day workshops on implementing the standards over the past year. More than 185 print copies of the revised *Standards for Libraries in Higher Education* have been distributed this year and the online version has been visited more than 14,500 times.

Members of the Value of Academic Libraries Committee continue to regularly highlight significant research and project reports on the VAL blog at <http://www.acrl.ala.org/value/> and the Valueography at <http://acrl.ala.org/valueography/>. The committee also released customizable template posters that use research to highlight the value of libraries in November 2014.

### ***Assessment in Action Program***

In September 2012, ACRL was awarded a National Leadership Demonstration Grant of \$249,330 by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for the program “Assessment in Action: Academic Libraries and Student Success” (AiA). Part of ACRL’s [Value of Academic](#)

[Libraries](#) initiative, AiA is being undertaken in partnership with the Association for Institutional Research (AIR) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU). The grant supports the design, implementation and evaluation of a program to strengthen the competencies of librarians in campus leadership and data-informed advocacy.

The AiA program employs a blended learning environment and a peer-to-peer network over the course of 14-months. The librarians will participate as cohort members in a one-year professional development program that includes team-based activities carried out on their campuses. An important component of the AiA program is establishing a learning community where librarian team leaders have the freedom to connect, risk, and learn together.

ACRL released a new report “Academic Library Contributions to Student Success: Documented Practices from the Field” which synthesizes results from over 70 higher education institutions from across North America which recently completed team-based assessment projects. These projects, from the first year of AiA, resulted in promising and effective approaches to demonstrating the library’s value to students’ academic success.

Fifty-five institutional teams were selected to participate in the third year of the program. The teams, representing all types of institutions, come from 24 states, the District of Columbia and Australia. These teams join the 75 institutions which participated in the first year of the program and 73 from the second year. For a list of institutions from all three years of the program, visit the AiA program [webpage](#).

Eric Resnis, who serves in a dual appointment as Assessment Coordinator in the Center for Teaching, Learning, and University Assessment and as Organizational Effectiveness Specialist in the Libraries at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and John Watts, Undergraduate Learning Librarian at University of Nevada Las Vegas, were named as new facilitators for the program this year.

### ***ACRLMetrics***

To assist with evaluating library performance, ACRLMetrics added the 2013 ACRL survey data as well as selected IPEDS elements. This online product provides unprecedented access to the annual ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics Survey data as well as the biennial National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Academic Library Survey data from 2000 to 2013. ACRLMetrics facilitates performance analysis and decision-making with peer benchmarking and customized reports for use in presentations, grant applications, self-studies, and strategic planning.

### ***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 Board of Directors appointed a task force in 2013 to update the *Information literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education*, adopted by the association in 2000, so that they reflect the current thinking on the creation and dissemination of knowledge, the changing global

higher education and learning environment, the shift from information literacy to information fluency, and the expanding definition of information literacy to include multiple literacies. To better equip students to navigate, understand and contribute in this dynamic information ecosystem, the task force determined that a move from the traditional standards model to a framework was needed to allow for more creative and integrated information literacy learning outcomes. As noted earlier in my report, the Board took the official action of ‘filing’ the new *Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education* at the 2015 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Chicago. The Board also decided to defer sunsetting the *Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education*.

To help with the implementation of the Framework, Sharon Mader was hired as ACRL Visiting Program Officer for Information Literacy in February 2015. Mader hosted an ACRL Presents... webcast on the new Framework in March 2015. An archive of the webcast is freely available on the ACRL YouTube channel. In addition, the ACRL 2015 conference featured 10 panel sessions covering various aspects of the Framework, along with an update session on the document that I was pleased to present with Mader and Merinda Hensley.

To facilitate additional sharing information, we created a listserv to provide a convenient spot for exchanging ideas about the Framework. The new list serves as an open forum for asking questions, posting professional development opportunities, and sharing examples of how libraries are using the framework. Additional information on the new list and other activities around the Framework is available through a dedicated website at [acrl.ala.org/framework](http://acrl.ala.org/framework).

The *Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education* continue to be widely cited as a benchmark in information literacy instruction. This year the standards were cited in numerous books, journal articles, and blogs along with ACRL’s own publications. More than 325 print copies of the standards have been distributed this year and the online version has been visited more than 118,000 times, showing the level of engagement with the revision/ Framework development process. Since its filing in February 2015, the online version of the Framework has been accessed more than 22,000 times.

A variety of e-learning courses and webcasts, along with programs and preconference sessions at ACRL 2015, the ALA Midwinter Meeting, and ALA Annual Conference, provided additional opportunities for librarians to gain additional skills in these important areas.

### ***Information Literacy Immersion Program***

ACRL endeavors to improve members’ ability to teach and assess lifelong learning skills. To help librarians and institutions develop and implement information literacy programs on their campuses, the ACRL Immersion “Classic” Program was offered from July 20 – 25, 2014, at Champlain College in Burlington, Vermont. The program provided two tracks of intensive training and education for 87 attendees. The Teacher Track focused on individual development for librarians interested in enhancing or extending their individual instruction skills, while the Program Track focused on developing, integrating or managing campus-wide and programmatic information literacy programs.

Fifty-five attendees participated in the Assessment and Intentional Teacher Tracks, held November 19-22, 2014, in Nashville. The Assessment Track provided attendees with an understanding of assessment and information on how to use assessment as a tool to guide evidence-based classroom, curriculum, and program development. The Intentional Teacher Track offered a mixture of structured and co-constructed learning segments, such as peer discussions, individual reading and reflection times, and participant-led communities of practice to help attendees become more self-aware and self-directed as teachers.

An additional forty individuals participated in the Practical Management for the Instruction Coordinator Track held March 25, 2015, in conjunction with the ACRL 2015 Conference in Portland, Oregon. This interactive one-day program addresses how to lead from within – developing the powers of persuasion to influence in multiple directions. Other topics include creating the right environment for a successful instruction program, understanding a broader campus environment, providing constructive feedback, and coaching for success.

Approximately 30 individuals participated in the institution-based Yale Immersion Program held July 21-23, 2014 in New Haven, Connecticut, Regional Immersion programs were also held at the University of Alabama in May 2015 and the National University of Singapore in June 2105.

### ***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. ACRL released a new version of its popular Scholarly Communication Toolkit with updated content in September 2014. The toolkit, developed and maintained by the ACRL Research and Scholarly Environment Committee, continues to provide content and context on a broad range of scholarly communication topics, including expanded information on data management. It provides links to examples of specific tools, including handouts, presentations, and videos for libraries to use on their own campuses, and for library school students seeking to incorporate these issues into their course work. The Toolkit is also widely used by libraries in conjunction with Open Access Week, an annual global event promoting open models of scholarly communication. The ACRL Scholarly Communication Toolkit is freely available [online](#).

We also established a new Digital Scholarship Centers Interest Group during my term in office to provide a forum for discussion and the exchange of ideas related to digital scholarship centers. The association also raised awareness of important scholarly communication issues by offering a free ACRL Presents... webcast, "Celebrating Fair Use Week: Does Fair Use Really Work?" during the February 2015 celebration of Fair Use Week. Another free ACRL Presents... webcast in October 2014 "Celebrating Open Access Week: Scholarly Communication Initiatives at Academic Libraries," helped librarians better understand the landscape, collaborations with faculty and students and connections to information literacy.

The ACRL Research and Scholarly Environment Committee (ReSEC) selected four sites from eight applications to host the subsidized version of our popular workshop "Scholarly Communication: From Understanding to Engagement" as road show events this spring and summer. The institutions selected to host the 2015 road shows are Auburn University Libraries (Auburn, Ala.), Iowa State University Library (Ames, Iowa), Tri-College University Libraries (Fargo, N.D.), and University of South Carolina (Columbia, S.C.). The workshop focuses on

access, emerging opportunities, intellectual property, and engagement. When the 2015 workshops are complete, the road show will have visited 26 different states, the District of Columbia, 1 U.S. territory, and 1 Canadian province. The 36 workshops offered over the program's six years will have reached over 2,200 participants from over 600 institutions. ACRL also makes the workshop available to additional interested institutions.

The Scholarly Communication Road Show added two new presenters this year. The new presenters are Katie Fortney, Copyright Policy and Education Officer for the California Digital Library, and Anali Maughan Perry, Associate Librarian for Collections and Scholarly Communication at the Arizona State University Libraries.

The first-ever unconference sponsored by the ARL/ACRL Institute on Scholarly Communication (ISC) was held in March 2015, in Portland, Oregon, in conjunction with the ACRL 2015 Conference. During this community-driven experience, attendees shared skills, learned what has worked at other campuses, and built plans for their library's scholarly communication program throughout the day. More than 25 additional sessions at ACRL 2015 focused on scholarly communication issues. To help strengthen the connection between scholarly communication and information literacy, ACRL's Intersections of Scholarly Communication and Information Literacy task force presented a three-part e-Learning webcast series, *From Awareness to Transformation: Intersections of Scholarly Communication and Information Literacy in 21st Century Academic Libraries*, in winter 2014-15.

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. Regular articles on scholarly communication issues and trends in *C&RL News* play an important role in disseminating a body of knowledge for the field.

## ***Enabling Programs and Services***

In addition to the three 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 30, 2015, ACRL had 11,538 members, a decrease of 5.0% (608 fewer members) since FY13 (the last conference year). There are currently 10,819 personal members, 701 organizational members, and 18 corporate members. For FY15 to date, ACRL had 13.5% fewer member renewals (-954) than during the same period during the last conference year (2013). Additionally, 16.4% (136) more members have reinstated their membership compared to the same period during the previous conference year (2013). Year-to-date, 8.69% (154) fewer members dropped their ACRL membership compared with FY13.

The ACRL 101 programs held prior to, and during, the ALA Annual Conference continue to educate members and potential members on the wide range of ACRL activities and opportunities for participation. ACRL's presences on Facebook, LinkedIn, Pinterest, and Twitter continue to grow and provide our membership with new avenues to connect with colleagues and the association. ACRL continues to explore new models for member connections. For the fourth year, we held a virtual orientation session for new leaders. 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.

The ACRL Board of Directors approved two new interest groups, the Digital Badges Interest Group and the Digital Scholarship Interest Group, this year.

ACRL provides special connections for members, both virtual and personal. ACRL sections offer 17 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 special social events at the ALA Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference to create community among new and continuing members. In addition, ACRL's 15 interest groups address emerging areas of interest in academic librarianship.

### ***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 as a whole.

In 2015, 31 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 Robert A. Seal, dean of university libraries at Loyola University Chicago. Seal was cited for his commitment to international library cooperation along with his reputation as a strong, visionary leader and as a caring mentor to new and experienced academic librarians.

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 Santa Fe College in the community college category, Amherst College in the college category, and Purdue University in the university category. The award, sponsored by ACRL and YBP Library Services, includes a presentation ceremony on the campus of each award-winning library.

### ***Publications***

#### ***Monographs***

ACRL released a wide variety of monograph publications in the past year, including *Assessing Liaison Librarians: Documenting Impact for Positive Change*, *Digital Humanities in the*



*Library: Challenges and Opportunities for Subject Specialists, Getting the Word Out: Academic Libraries as Scholarly Publishers, The Living Library: An Intellectual Ecosystem, Not Just Where to Click: Teaching Students How to Think about Information, Owning and Using Scholarship: An IP Handbook for Teachers and Researchers, and Putting the User First: 30 Strategies for Transforming Library Services.* The 2013 edition of *Academic Library Trends and Statistics* was issued in February 2015.

The full back catalog of ACRL monograph publications is available in a variety of e-book formats through the ALA Store and Amazon. E-books of ACRL monograph titles are also available for purchase by libraries through EBSCO.

### **Serials**

The 75th anniversary special issue of *College & Research Libraries* was released online in March. The issue contains commentary essays on a series of seminal articles from the journal's history, along with re-published versions of those articles, an introductory essay from editor Scott Walter, and a look at the future of publishing in scholarly societies. The special issue is freely available on the *C&RL* website.

Mark Shelton of Harvard University was appointed to the post of *C&RL* Book Review Editor in October 2014. Currently head of collection development at Harvard's Gutman Library, Shelton brings more than 17 years of academic library leadership experience to the position, including extensive knowledge of collection development, acquisitions and licensing. Shelton has written numerous book reviews for *C&RL* and *Collection Building*, in addition to serving as a library advisory board member for a variety of publishers.

*C&RL* continued to experiment with new models of scholarly communication by adding altmetrics statistics for all articles to the journal website this year.

As part of its social media program, the journal hosted two online fora this year. Each forum highlighted a new *C&RL* study with a free, live, expert panel comprised of the study's authors and additional subject experts. "Degrees of Impact: Analyzing the Effects of Progressive Librarian Course Collaborations on Student Performance," held in December 2014, featured authors of a study conducting a rubric assessment of first-year seminar research papers to analyze the level of instruction it takes to improve information literacy learning. Held in May 2015, "A Survey of Campus Coordinators of Undergraduate Research Programs" featured a panel sharing the findings of a study, which included two parts: a survey of libraries which gauged current support for undergraduate research programs and an investigation of how undergraduate research program coordinators perceive and value library support for undergraduate research. May also featured a forum on the "Future of the 'Research' in the Association of College & Research Libraries," including wide-ranging discussion of what we need from our Association if it is to remain central to our work as researchers and evidence-informed practitioners.

*C&RL*'s Facebook and Twitter presences are home to updates on pre-print and current articles, book reviews, highlights of past articles from the journal's history, and exclusive content from *C&RL* editors and researchers.



This past year has brought significant changes to *Choice* and to the publishing unit that creates it. As part of our efforts to expand readership, two important new series were added to our journal, “Ask an Archivist,” an editorial feature—in interview format—intended to spotlight special collections, and “Guest of Choice,” a platform for leaders in the library community to discuss issues of importance. All the while, *Choice* kept pace with contemporary scholarship by once again publishing over seven thousand reviews. As an expression of the continued interest in our publication, visits to *Choice Reviews Online* increased by 15% during the academic year, with subscribers accessing over half a million pages on the site.

This past January saw the fiftieth publication of our prestigious Outstanding Academic Titles list. This year’s list singled out 694 of the most noteworthy titles of 2014, representing selections from fifty-four academic disciplines, for exceptional praise. The 2014–15 academic year also witnessed the vigorous expansion of the ACRL-Choice webinar program, with the hosting of thirty-two presentations designed to connect the library community with publishers and other content providers around topics of common interest. Through early May of 2015 registrations stood at 10,074 librarians, with 38%, or some 3,859, actually attending the sessions. An archive of the complete series, forty-two presentations to date, is available on our YouTube channel, Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries.

*Resources for College Libraries* ([www.rclweb.net](http://www.rclweb.net)), our co-publishing venture with ProQuest, continues to be enhanced with new edition updates and annual revisions. The combined RCL and RCL Career Resources database now contains over 85,800 titles. RCL is now also embedded in ProQuest’s new Intota collection assessment tool, widening both the reach and the utility of the RCL database.

Finally, during the summer of 2014 Choice moved to enhance its discoverability by creating a marketing microsite, Choice360.org, providing rapid access to information about the entire portfolio of Choice products and services. Newly featured on the site is a link to “Collecting to the Core,” the bibliographic essay series published in *Against the Grain*, edited by Anne Doherty, the editor of *Resources for College Libraries*.

### ***Reports, White Papers, Online Publications***

As part of its 75th anniversary celebration, ACRL published “New Roles for the Road Ahead: Essays Commissioned for ACRL’s 75th Anniversary” in March 2015. Authored by well-known bloggers and thought leaders Steven J. Bell, associate university librarian at Temple University, Lorcan Dempsey, vice-president of OCLC research and chief strategist, and Barbara Fister, academic librarian at Gustavus Adolphus College, the collection features a series of twenty essays including reflections on ways academic libraries can succeed in a changing higher education environment, take advantage of opportunities, and think about the best ways to deliver both ongoing and innovative services to students and faculty. ACRL members provided commentary on the draft of the report, much of which was incorporated into the final work.

ACRL released the first in a two-part set of Occasional Reports on academic library construction and renovation in February 2015. Authored by Christopher Stewart, “Building with Purpose: A Quantitative Overview of U.S. Academic Library Construction 2000-2014” presents a rich set of

data on, and analysis of, new library construction over the past fourteen years. The analysis presented in Stewart's report examines new library construction through a framework of institutional characteristics, which provides an opportunity to identify patterns in terms of where libraries are investing in new space. This information also provides evidence of shifting institutional intentions and aspirations for the library building. A forthcoming second report will cover academic library renovations in the same period.

*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 competency-based education, the *Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education*, iBeacons, learning analytics, library value, and net neutrality.

### ***Blogs/ Podcasts/ 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. The Value of Academic Libraries blog features news on the association's value of academic libraries initiative along with essays from members of the Value of Academic Libraries Committee. The ACRL TechConnect blog provides information and essays on cutting edge applications of technology in the academic library environment. Several ACRL groups also manage content blogs focused on their specialties. As noted in the member engagement section, ACRL social media presences on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Pinterest provide news and avenues for engagement with the association.

### ***Standards and Guidelines***

The development of standards and guidelines for all areas of academic and research librarianship is a core service of ACRL. These standards and guidelines are a key ACRL contribution to the profession. As previously noted, the *Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education* was filed in February 2015 as one of the constellation of information literacy documents from the association.

### ***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 5,000 library staff, exhibitors, speakers, and guests from all 50 states and 24 countries attended the ACRL 2015 Conference, held March 25-28 in Portland, Oregon. ACRL 2015 set a record with the combined registrant attendance ever for an ACRL conference, with 3,390 face-to-face and more than 300 virtual attendees from all 50 states and 24 countries. The number also included 1,250 first-time attendees, the highest recorded. Themed "Creating Sustainable Community," the conference offered more than 500 programs that explored a host of pressing issues affecting higher education. Key topics included the changing nature and role of academic and research librarians, libraries as partners in higher education, scholarly communication,

libraries and social justice, assessment, and trends in information literacy instruction, along with a variety of technology-related subjects such as e-textbooks, mobile services and social media.

ACRL 2015 also featured a Virtual Conference, which enhanced the experience for onsite attendees as well as providing a venue for participation for those not able to attend in person. Virtual Conference participants have access to more than 200 Slidecasts (PowerPoint presentations synced with real-time audio) from every contributed paper, invited paper, panel session and TechConnect presentation offered at the face-to-face conference in Portland for the next year. The Virtual Conference also included 12 live webcasts, which allowed librarians to interact in real time, as well as more than 30 asynchronous virtual poster sessions.

As I mentioned earlier in this report, ACRL 2015 took place during ACRL's 75th anniversary year, and to celebrate special events and programs were held throughout the entire conference. ACRL held a fundraising campaign that awarded a record-breaking 179 conference scholarships, totaling \$112,995, for librarians and staff to attend ACRL 2015. The ACRL 2017 conference, themed "At the Helm – Leading Transformation," will take place March 22 – 25, 2017 in Baltimore.

### ***ACRL @ ALA Conferences***

ACRL preconference sessions at the 2015 ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco provided information on crafting effective narratives, data management plans and visualization, and reflective teaching. My President's Program featured Thomas Hoerr, noted author of *Fostering Grit*, and OCLC research scientist Constance Malpas discussing the emerging higher education landscape in order to learn to embrace its challenges, celebrate mistakes, persist in the midst of setbacks, and focus on continuous learning to re-invent ourselves and our libraries. ACRL sponsored an additional 18 section, committee, and individual programs in Las Vegas on topics such as academic freedom and social media, curating LGBT history, data services, education and outreach to prisoners, instructional design, making libraries work for veterans, streaming media, visual literacy, and more.

### ***RBMS Conference***

The 56th Annual RBMS Conference, Preserve the Humanities! Special Collections as Liberal Arts Laboratory, was held June 23-26, 2015, in Oakland, California. The conference explored the role of special collections libraries in the context of larger trends in the humanities and higher education. Highlights included talks on special collections and instructional collaboration, undergraduate education, classrooms as liberal arts laboratories, donor relations, social media, and leveraging collections to shape the humanities. This year's event featured ten panel sessions, five discussion sessions, three plenaries, thirteen seminars, and four workshops, along with nine posters and tours of historic Richmond, California; the University of California-Berkeley campus; African American Museum and Library at Oakland; Oakland Public Library Oakland History Room; the UC Berkeley Museum of Vertebrate Zoology; and the UC Berkeley Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life.

### ***Women's Leadership Institute***

ACRL again collaborated with other higher education associations to offer the Women's Leadership Institute, held December 2-5, 2014, in Laguna Niguel, California. The Women's

Leadership Institute is an experience which provides professional development opportunities on issues that affect women within the higher education community. The program has the added benefit of bringing together women from administrative and student affairs functions across institutions of higher education.

### ***Online Learning***

The ACRL e-Learning program offered 20 e-Learning events consisting of 14 Webcasts and 6 multi-week courses this year on a variety of topics such as data management, action research, preparing for accreditation, and digital humanities. More than 300 individuals and 100 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 "An Update on the New IPEDS Academic Library Component" (October 2014), "Celebrating Open Access Week: Scholarly Communication Initiatives at Academic Libraries" (October 2014), "Celebrating Fair Use Week: Does Fair Use Really Work?" (February 2015), and "Putting the Framework for Information Literacy into Action: Next Steps" (March 2015).

### ***Scholarships***

Knowing that professional development is essential to the success of academic and research librarians, especially during an economic downturn, we awarded more than \$137,000 in scholarships this year. 38 scholarships were awarded for the ACRL e-Learning program, the Immersion Program, and 56th RBMS Conference.

As part of the celebration of ACRL's 75th anniversary, the association awarded a record-breaking 179 scholarships for the ACRL 2015 conference. Scholarships were awarded in six categories, including early- and mid-career librarians, support staff and Spectrum Scholar travel grants, amounting to a total of \$112,995. Funding for 75 of these scholarships (more than \$56,000 in value) was raised through the ACRL 75th Anniversary Kick Start the Future Scholarship Campaign. The association expresses its sincere appreciation to the individuals and groups who participated in the 75th anniversary campaign. Their support enables ACRL to build the skills and capacities of the next generation to serve the academic and research library profession and create a sustainable community.

### ***Advocacy***

#### ***Legislative Advocacy***

Public policy issues effecting higher education remain an essential focus of the strategic plan. 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 the ACRL Scholarly Communications and Copyright Committees, along with additional committees, ACRL leaders, and ALA Washington Office, the legislative agenda is prioritized and includes objectives for legislative action at the national level on issues that may affect the welfare of academic and research libraries. The 2015 ACRL Legislative Agenda focuses on two

issues that the U.S. Congress has recently taken, or will most likely take, action on in the year ahead: access to federally funded research and curbing government surveillance. The agenda also includes a watch list of policy issues of great concern to academic librarians. Legislation on these issues is not likely to arise and, moreover, ACRL does not believe that any legislation about these issues is necessary. Issues on the watch list are: net neutrality, copyright reform, fair use, “making available” right, preservation and reproduction exceptions, orphan works, and the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

ACRL 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 taken action 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 unlocking technology, assistive technologies, internet consumer protection, copyright and 3D printers, exemptions for audiovisual works for nonprofit educational programs, anti-circumvention measures for MOOCs, and exemptions for motion picture excerpts and literary works distributed electronically.

### ***Strengthening Partnerships with Higher Education***

ACRL continues to work with higher education associations to strengthen both partnerships and the profession. We collaborated with members of the Council of Higher Education Management Associations to offer the 2014 Women’s Leadership Institute. This program brought together mid-level administrators from across campus functions to share experiences, develop a better understanding of the campus as a workplace and culture, and create new networks and networking skills.

As mentioned in the Value of Academic Libraries section of this report, the Association for Institutional Research and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities partnered with ACRL to receive a National Leadership Demonstration IMLS Grant for the ongoing “Assessment in Action (AiA): Academic Libraries and Student Success” project.

The ACRL maintains liaison relationships with a number of higher education associations through the Liaisons Assembly. ACRL currently has formal liaison relationships with the American Anthropological Association (AAA), American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), American Political Science Association (APSA), Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIST), Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE), Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), Modern Language Association (MLA), National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition (NRC-FYEST), National Women's Studies Association (NWSA), Society for College and University Planning (SCUP), and Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education (SITE).

### ***Final Thoughts/An Appreciation***

Serving as ACRL President is an honor and pretty darn cool any year, so I feel especially lucky to have this privilege when our association turned 75 and we had a year-long celebration. This report highlights a vibrant organization, fueled by the knowledge, energy, and commitment of more than 11,500 members. As noted in our Conference tagline, ACRL continues to be “peer revered.”

ACRL benefits from a shared leadership model, which extends through all of our division committees, communities of practice, chapters, and staff. I am fortunate to have worked with a Board of Directors comprised of professionals who are both inspirational and down-to-earth. I would need a string of superlatives to describe the outstanding ACRL staff and want to offer special thanks to Executive Director Mary Ellen Davis, who demonstrates leadership, deep knowledge, and integrity in all she does. Many thanks to my fellow past-presidents and vice-presidents for sharing your wisdom and for the incredible contributions you have made to our Association. I loved tackling thorny issues and sharing the joy of successful ventures with you.

A special thank you to my colleagues at the University of Arizona Libraries for your support, understanding, and encouragement as I took on both a new role as dean and this commitment to ACRL at the same time. I’m looking forward to my year as past-president!