

# BIBLIO-NOTES

## ACRL Literatures in English Newsletter

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*Kristina De Voe*

### NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Dear LES members,

Greetings! I hope your fall semester has been filled with excitement and energy whether you have been (re)connecting with faculty, students, and other users in virtual, in-person, or hybrid environments. And, if you are new to LES, welcome! Your perspectives and insights help make our section thrive.

Our in-person program at ALA Annual 2022 in Washington D.C. - which drew over 140 enthusiastic attendees - was an engaging session entitled "Cramping Your Style: The Role of Citation Styles in Academic Writing, Today and Tomorrow." The program was jointly sponsored with the ALA Publications Committee and featured a diverse and compelling panel of speakers: Angela Gibson, Director of Scholarly Communication at the Modern Language Association; Lorisia MacLeod, member of the James Smith Cree Nation and Learning Services Librarian at The Alberta Library; and, Emily Drabinski, Interim Chief Librarian at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, and ALA President.

The panelists discussed challenges to maintaining a multitude of discipline-specific citation styles, inherent power structures embedded within citation styles, and the potential influence of container collapse on the future of citation practices. Hearty congratulations to Co-Chairs Ava Brillat and Candice Dahl and the rest of the Conference Program Planning Committee on a very successful and relevant program!

Looking to the year ahead, there are some exciting LES initiatives. Continuing the trend of collaboration, the Conference Program Planning Committee has partnered with Ithaka S&R to propose a program for the 2023 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago focused on interdisciplinarity in humanities teaching and research, and how that can shape librarian roles now and in the future. Fingers crossed that it is accepted!

Further, the Planning Committee is working on developing onboarding materials for officers and committee chairs that incorporate inclusive meeting practices to aid them in the important work that they do. Members of the Publications Committee and Executive Committee are working to organize the LES website for greater ease of use. And, Past-Chair Glenda Insua will lead a task force comprised of Sara Whitver, Jenny Dale, and myself to draft a charge for a new committee within LES focused on EDI, per some of the recommendations from the Anti-Racist Ad Hoc Committee's final report.

In other LES news, I am pleased to announce that Christine Fena has been selected as the ACRL liaison to the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) for both the Literatures in English Section and the Instruction Section. Christine is the Undergraduate Success Librarian at Stony Brook University, and the library liaison to the Program in Writing & Rhetoric and the English Department. In addition to regularly teaching library instruction sessions, she has taught a variety of credit-bearing courses, including in the Program in Writing and Rhetoric. Christine holds degrees in Musicology as well as Library and Information Science, and her current research interests include topics related to information literacy instruction and information behavior. As the ACRL liaison to CCCC, she will collaborate with members of CCCC and share ideas and reports with both LES and IS. Christine succeeds Kathy Anders, who was the inaugural ACRL liaison to CCCC. Moreover, LES, in partnership with the European Studies Section (ESS), continues to maintain an ACRL liaison to the Modern Language Association (MLA), and Arianne Hartsell-Gundy has been ably serving in this role by attending the MLA Convention, representing LES.

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect M. Leslie Madden will be appointing members to LES committees this coming year, so keep an eye out for the posting of the ACRL committee volunteer form this winter. If you have any interest in these committees or questions about getting more involved with LES in the future, please contact Leslie for additional information.

I would like to encourage you all to volunteer for one of the LES committees or discussion groups. Volunteering is a great way of meeting some of the amazing people of this section, of getting service experience, and most importantly, of shaping the section to be what you want it to be - whether as a committee member, committee chair, or discussion group convener!

As I wrap up this note, know that LES continues to make an impact on the future of ACRL: the bulk of the section's budget for the recently concluded fiscal year was again invested in the ACRL Conference Scholarship Fund in memory of David Oberhelman, an active and engaged LES member who passed away in 2018. I anticipate that LES will be able to support 1-2 individuals in having the rewarding professional experience of attending an ACRL Conference.

My thanks to all of you for the many contributions you make to LES! Best wishes for a productive fall semester, and I look forward to seeing many of you - virtually and in person - over the next year!

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ACRL

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## **SYMPOSIUM ON STUDENT EMPLOYMENT IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES, OCTOBER 20–21 2022**

by Candice Dahl, Librarian, University of Saskatchewan

As coordinator of the monthly “PD Hour” for colleagues in my division of the library (Learning and Curriculum Support Division), I’m always on the lookout for interesting topics that apply broadly to the various professions and roles represented within our group. When I read “HIP Check: Equity, Learner-Centered Pedagogies, and Student Employment” by Liz Vine I was excited to share it with my colleagues. Now, Vine and her colleague Paul Moffett have launched an online two-day symposium on the topic of student employment in academic libraries.

The full program is at <https://iupui.libguides.com/studentemployment/home>  
Registration is open until October 17th or until capacity is reached.

I want to learn more because of what I see happening in our library. Like me, you may be a liaison librarian to a department of English and meet English majors who are interested in working in libraries, completing library internships, and even going to library school. You may also want to ‘use’ students (sometimes employees or volunteers) to test online learning modules, share perspectives on wayfinding in the library, assess the web site, etc. Vine encourages us to act ethically in our employment of students and to “integrate [students’] work and learning in ways that actively contribute to their intellectual development.”<sup>11</sup> She helps us envision student employment in academic libraries as “educationally purposeful – as experiential learning (EL), or as a high-impact practice (HIP).” Is it complex to implement? Yes. It is an exciting idea? Also yes.

Further, my division employs students as tutors but also recruits student volunteers for our peer assisted learning program. In other library divisions, students are employed to staff service desks, assist with collections (shelving and shifting), and more. Some students (peer mentors) get developmental training and mentoring from library staff. Other students are just there to do their job. Students’ experiences of working in the library, as employees or volunteers, differ greatly. Sometimes that makes sense and sometimes it doesn’t. I think academic libraries are remarkably well-positioned to create educationally purposeful employment for students across the board, but it will take some effort to get there. I look forward to learning more at the symposium!

<sup>11</sup> Vine, Liz. “HIP Check: Equity, Learner-Centered Pedagogies, and Student Employment.” *Ascending into an Open Future: The Proceedings of the ACRL 2021 Virtual Conference*, April 13-16 2021 (Chicago: ACRL, 2021): 321-29.

## **BANNED BOOKS WEEK PROGRAMMING AT MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN**

by Bailey Phillips, Library Associate at John C. Fant Memorial Library

Mississippi University for Women's Fant Memorial Library participated in Banned Books Week this year. We had several events planned and partnered with the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library, which hosted several events of their own. Our first event was a read-aloud. At this event, community members were given the opportunity to read from a book of their choosing that has been banned or challenged. An interesting spread of books were read during the event, ranging from *Walter the Farting Dog* to *Fahrenheit 451* to *Ulysses*. Readers were concerned with LGBTQ+ representation, the experiences of people of color in the United States, sexual expression and exploration, the free use of language deemed "vulgar" by some, and challenging the authority of immoral authoritarians and corrupt bureaucracies. Some of the passages were jovial and lighthearted, others were moving passages of literature, and some were uncomfortable, traumatic events told to inspire reflection and change. The event was well attended and exceeded our expectations, which shows that intellectual freedom and increased access to different ideas and experiences is important to our community.

Our second main event was a panel discussion about the human costs of censorship and suppression. The panel consisted of Tonja Johnson, director of the Madison County Library System; Toby Price, an author, illustrator, and former educator; and Dr. Allene Nichols, professor of literature at MUW. Tonja Johnson's libraries had funding withheld by local politicians because LGBTQ+ books were displayed. Toby Price lost his job as an assistant principal because he read the lighthearted children's story *I Need a New Butt* to a group of students. Allene Nichols teaches classes about young adult literature, a genre which frequently sees challenges and bans because adolescence is a confusing, exploratory, and complex time in many of our lives. The discussion focused on the ways that censorship can have tangible effects on people - livelihoods can become endangered, hostility can be encountered online and at the grocery store, reputations can be damaged, threats can be received, and marginalized voices can continue to be silenced and dismissed. The event helped us show that Banned Books Week is not only about the books, with their dangerous ideas and impure scenes, it is also about those of us who are searching for answers or the experiences of others to prove we're not alone, that our perspectives matter. It is about the freedom to share the dark, scary thoughts that lurk in our minds and the glowing warmth of love, regardless of to whom those feelings flow. With book bans and challenges at record highs over the past couple years, we think that we must celebrate the right to read, the creation of authentic literature, and the voices brave enough to speak their truths. After this year's success, Fant Memorial Library aims to improve our programming for 2023.

You can take a look at our Banned Books Week programming here:

<https://athenacommons.muw.edu/bannedbooks/>

# ACRL LES COLLECTIONS DISCUSSION GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Co-chairs: Alexis Pavenick, Erin Durham

The LES Collections Discussion Group held two discussions this past year: one during Mid-Winter on January 19th and one for Annual on June 14, 2022. The discussions took place virtually over zoom, with 20 participants in January and 13 in June.

The collection discussions included the following topics: faculty recommendations and outreach, textbooks/class readings, DEI, popular reading, material format (print and ebooks), awards lists, graphic novels, and political censorship. Participants shared suggestions via chat and discussion during the sessions.

Detailed minutes of the discussions can be found through these links:

Midwinter: <https://tinyurl.com/LEScollectionsJan2022>

Annual: <https://tinyurl.com/LEScollectionsJune2022>

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### ACRL Books



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

**Designing Libraries for the 21st Century**

**Intersections of Open Educational Resources and Information Literacy**

**Learning in Action: Designing Successful Graduate Student Work Experiences in Academic Libraries**

**3D Data Creation to Curation: Community Standards for 3D Data Preservation**

**Embracing Change: Alternatives to Traditional Research Writing Assignments**

Explore ACRL's online catalog for more great books, and visit our site to learn more about publishing your own:

<https://www.ala.org/acrl/publications/booksanddigitalresources/booksmonographs/catalog/publications>

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

ACRL 2023, Forging the Future, March 15 - 18, 2023, Pittsburgh, PA



Higher education has changed dramatically over the last few years. Academic libraries are addressing an increased emphasis on remote learning, rising calls for social justice, and an acknowledged need for flexibility that supports a sustainable work-life balance. At ACRL 2023, we will explore these issues and more around the theme of Forging the Future. If you are interested in finding strength in a community of academic library professionals, discussing our mutual issues while crafting innovative ways to solve them, enhancing relationships with faculty, and re-engaging with students, we welcome you to join us in Pittsburgh or virtually! Registration opens in October, and proposals for select session types are being accepted through October 14, 2022. See the [ACRL 2023 Conference Website](#) for details.

**RBMS 2023, A New Kind of Professional, June 27 - 30, Indiana University Bloomington**

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. This conference will explore 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 call for proposals will be announced this fall and registration will open in the spring. Watch [rbms.info](http://rbms.info) for details.

**ACRL Off-RoadShows**



Bring robust online learning directly to your library, chapter, or consortium with ACRL's virtual Off-RoadShow workshops! Led by expert presenters over multiple days, these online workshops are based on our popular in-person RoadShow workshops and support academic library professionals in tackling the greatest issues facing the profession. Workshop hosts can work with presenters to adapt the content to their institutional contexts. Schedule a virtual workshop for your library or organization today. Organizational members of ACRL receive a 10% discount off the hosting cost!

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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](#).