



President's Report to ALA Council

Beth McNeil, ACRL President, 2023-2024

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.

ACRL Speaker Honoraria Policy Updates

Just prior to the start of my term, but still noteworthy, the ACRL Board of Directors received the final report and recommendations from the ACRL Member Accommodation/Compensation Task Force at the 2023 ALA Annual Conference. Due to changing landscapes, member feedback, and requests in recent years, the Board asked the task force to review existing policies and norms pertaining to member participation and compensation to better engage, acknowledge, and support a diverse library workforce and to help make ACRL a more welcoming, equitable, and accessible association.

On the task force's recommendation, the Board approved a series of policy updates that allow ACRL units such as committees (including the President's Program committee) and sections to offer honoraria to all speakers, regardless of their membership in ALA/ACRL, job position, or degree status. Examples of work for which honoraria can now be offered include speaking at virtual or in-person events, leading workshops, or presenting at ALA Conferences. The Board also reaffirmed that the association will continue providing discounted registration for all speakers at future biennial ACRL Conferences.

ACRL Bylaws Revisions

Five proposed amendments to the ACRL Bylaws were adopted by the ACRL membership in the spring 2024 ALA/ACRL election. The revisions align the ACRL Bylaws with current ALA and ACRL policies along with defining action for special elections:

- Article VII Budget and Finance Committee Chair: Revised to reflect current Board-approved term length of up to ten consecutive appointed years on the Budget and Finance Committee and five consecutive years on the Board.
- Article IX Board of Directors, Section 5: Removed references to "Midwinter" and replaced language to reflect quarterly meetings. Revised language regarding "virtual meetings."
- Article XI Nominations, Section 1: Added language to reflect Leadership Recruitment

and Nomination Committee (LRNC) actions for special elections.

- Article XIII Elections, Section 2: Added language in a new sub-section regarding special election actions for Vice-President/President-Elect and Councilor positions.
- Article XVIII Mail and Electronic Votes, Sections 1, 2, and 3: Updated language to align with ALA’s policy/protocol regarding mail ballots for membership votes.

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.

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. This winter, we published the fiscal year 2023 report for the Project Outcome for Academic Libraries toolkit. Data in this report includes all immediate and follow-up surveys and responses from institutions in the United States and covers the period September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023.

This year, Project Outcome for Academic Libraries published a new toolkit resource Accessibility and Project Outcome, created through grant funding from the ALA Public Programs Office. We also worked with our technical partner, Community Attributes, to ensure that the toolkit remains accessible to both users and survey participants, including improvements to make the Project Outcome surveys and toolkit easier to use with a screen reader to benefit those who are blind or have low vision.

ACRL and PLA held a free webcast in December 2023 to discuss how the data and assessment products Project Outcome and Benchmark can help groups, consortia, or state library administrative agency. As of May 2024, Project Outcome for Academic Libraries has 5,554 users and 932 academic libraries have created surveys and collected more than 215,377 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 7,000 times this year. At the request of the ACRL Board of Directors, the VAL Committee began the process of reviewing and revising the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education. The review and revision process is scheduled for completion in June 2025.

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.

Developed by a joint task force comprised of members from the VAL and New Roles and Changing Landscapes Committees, the ACRL Academic Library Advocacy 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 toolkit has garnered nearly 7,500 views this year.

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. There have been more than 5,500 visits to the toolkit during my time in office.

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 2023 survey closed on April 8, 2024. 1,435 institutions completed the 2023 survey for a 43% response rate, and the survey data, including trends data on equity, diversity, and inclusion, is expected to be published in summer 2024. The survey also enabled participants to easily transfer their IPEDS responses to the institutional keyholder for the IPEDS survey. ACRL joined ALA, the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), and the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) in a comment objecting to the proposed elimination of the Academic Libraries component from IPEDS, the interrelated surveys conducted each year by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

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.

Based on the ACRL Framework, Threshold Achievement Test for Information Literacy (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. 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 relaunched under the ACRL brand in summer 2023. As of May 2024, TATIL has been used by 17 schools to administer 79 tests and collected 9,686 responses.

We presented a free ACRL Presents webinar on The Threshold Achievement Test for Information Literacy (TATIL) in July 2023 and June 2024 to demonstrate how the tool can help facilitate conversations throughout the profession about what information literacy means to students today and into the future.

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 70,000 times in this period. The Framework itself was viewed more than 75,000 times this year.

At the request of the ACRL Board of Directors, the Student Learning and Information Literacy Committee and Instruction Section began collaborating to review and revise the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy this year. The review and revision process is scheduled for completion in June 2025.

ACRL published a number of books including *The Critical Librarianship and Pedagogy Symposium: Reflections, Revisions, and New Works, Instructional Identities and Information Literacy* (3-volume set), *Unframing the Visual: Visual Literacy Pedagogy in Academic Libraries and Information Spaces*, and *Universal Design for Learning in Academic Libraries: Theory into Practice* 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 “Exploring AI with Critical Information Literacy;” “Developing Signature Pedagogies;” “Transforming Information Literacy Instruction through the Lens of Our Instructional Identities” (three-part series); “Building an Information Literacy Micro-Course in Six Weeks;” and “Making Connections: Strategies for effective, engaging one-shot library lessons.” 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 “It’s not just us: Sharing the ACRL Framework with writing tutors,” “Where does ChatGPT fit into the Framework for Information Literacy? The possibilities and problems of AI in library instruction,” “Six frames, four moves, one habit: Finding ACRL’s Framework within SIFT,” “Pairing Texts and Podcasts: Teaching Scholarship as Conversation in First-Year Seminar,” “Teacher Education and Information Literacy: Introducing the Instruction for Educators Companion Document,” and “Incompatible with the Framework: State Laws Targeting DEI, LGBTQIA2s+, and CRT.”

Information Literacy Immersion Program

The ACRL Immersion Program has been on hiatus since March 2020 due to the pandemic. Over the past four years, however, the Immersion facilitator team has stayed connected and collaborative. As part of this process, the facilitators launched a four-part blog series, “Discussing the Four Pillars of Immersion,” on ACRLog in April 2024. The series delves into information literacy, the educational role of librarians, leadership, and critical reflection, sparking conversation and reconnection with these core tenets of Immersion. The program is

expected to relaunch in 2025.

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.

The free, virtual ACRL/SPARC Forum "Editorial Board Resignations to Align Journals with Community over Commercialization" was held in October 2023. This ACRL/SPARC Forum featured a discussion among representatives from editorial boards that have recently resigned in protest over publisher policies. As a lead-in to International Open Access Week, the forum provided important context for this year's theme of "Community over Commercialization" and examples of researchers using their power to better align a community's journals with that community's interests.

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 four books, *Digital Humanities in the Library, Second Edition*, *Predatory Publishing and Global Scholarly Communications*, *Rethinking Institutional Repositories: Innovations in Management, Collections, and Inclusion*, and *Scholarly Communication Librarianship and Open Knowledge* on scholarly communication-related topics this year.

The Scholarly Communication Toolkit, developed and maintained by our Research and Scholarly Environment Committee, 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 toolkit has been visited more than 13,000 times this year.

The ACRL Scholarly Communication Discussion Group and Scholcomm discussion list 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.

The NRCL Committee User Experience subcommittee, working with the Value of Academic Libraries (VAL) Committee, held a Trend Talk in April 2024. Building on the success of their initial collaborative Trend Talk in June 2023, the session discussed how to use the ACRL Academic Library Advocacy Toolkit created by the committees last fiscal year.

At the request of the ACRL Board of Directors, the NRCL Committee is additionally working with the VAL Committee to review and update six ACRL documents related to the status of academic librarians - Joint Statement on Faculty Status of College and University Librarians;

Statement on the Certification and Licensing of Academic Librarians; Statement on the Terminal Professional Degree for Academic Librarian; Standard for the Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure of Academic Librarians; Standards for Academic Librarians without Faculty Status, and Standards for Faculty for Academic Libraries.

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. In June 2024, Ari Zickau joined the ACRL staff as Program Manager for Consulting and Professional Development. In this role, Ari is working to develop and expand our Consulting Services program, along with the ACRL RoadShows.

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.

This year, the ACRL Board of Directors approved funding for one year of ALA and ACRL membership for up to 25 library workers who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color (BIPOC) and 15 library workers who identify as persons with disabilities. This membership amounts to annual savings ranging from \$106 to \$236 per membership for the recipient. Funding for the memberships will be provided for two years (July 2024 – June 2026). The ACRL EDI Committee will request an additional year of funding from the ACRL Board for recipients interested in continuing for a second year.

As part of ACRL’s commitment to supporting institutions serving diverse communities, we offered subsidized RoadShows to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges or Universities, and other minority-serving institutions this fiscal year. Through a cost-sharing model, ACRL covers the majority of the workshop expenses, requiring only a minimal contribution of \$2,000 from successful host institutions.

ACRL published two books - *The Critical Librarianship and Pedagogy Symposium: Reflections, Revisions, and New Works*, and *Supporting Student Parents in the Academic Library: Designing Spaces, Policies, and Services* - on EDI-related topics this year. The bimonthly Academic Library Workers in Conversation column in *C&RL News* moved to a monthly format starting in January 2024. The column focuses on minimizing barriers to traditional publishing with an accessible

format through the sharing of conversations about transforming libraries with ideas from the frontlines, often focusing on EDI-related topics.

A free ACRL Presents webinar, “Cultural Proficiencies for Racial Equity Framework,” was held in February 2024. The Cultural Proficiencies for Racial Equity Framework is a tool both theoretical and practical in its orientation, as a guide for developing personal, organizational, institutional, and systems-level knowledge and understanding of the nature of racism and its many manifestations. practice that will lead to better outcomes for racialized and minoritized populations. A four-part webcast series exploring the CPRE Framework and its practical applications in libraries was also presented in April 2024. We also presented the Online Learning webcast “Exploring AI with Critical Information Literacy” this year.

The ACRL Dr. E.J. Josey Spectrum Scholar Mentor Program paired five ALA Spectrum Scholars interested in careers in academic librarianship with ACRL members to mentor them this year. The program has matched more than 200 pairs of mentors and Scholars since its establishment in 2003.

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.

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. At the beginning of the fiscal year, the ACRL Diversity Alliance moved from management by an ACRL Task Force to an ACRL division-level committee. The committee hosted an open conversation for all DA institutional coordinators on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, as part of its focus on rebuilding community among alliance members.

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 2024, the most recent numbers available at the time of this report, ACRL had 8,154 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. Many ACRL sections participate in onboarding activities to orient new members to the work of the section and ACRL in general. In addition, ACRL's 14 interest groups address emerging areas of interest in academic librarianship and our 16 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.

The ACRL Awards Process Implementation Task Force has completed its work and the ACRL Board of Directors approved the task force's recommendations at their January 26, 2024, virtual meeting. Included in the approved recommendations was the establishment of the ACRL Awards Coordinating Committee, lifting of the awards pause, ending cash awards, and aligning awards policies and procedures to ACRL's Core Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. These recommendations included that, during the 2024-2025 program year, each awards committee be charged with reviewing the description, selection criteria, and selection process for the award(s) is juries.

Publications

Monographs

ACRL released a wide variety of monograph publications in the past year, including *Comic Books, Special Collections, and the Academic Library*; *Creators in the Academic Library*; *The Critical Librarianship and Pedagogy Symposium: Reflections, Revisions, and New Works*; *Critical Library Leadership: Managing Self and Others in Today's Academic Library*; *Digital Humanities in the Library, Second Edition*; *Empathy by Design: Empathy-Driven Marketing for Libraries*; *Everyday Evidence-Based Practice in Academic Libraries: Case Studies and Reflections*; *Instructional Identities and Information Literacy* (3-volume set); *Predatory Publishing and Global Scholarly Communications*; *Practicing Privacy Literacy in Academic Libraries*; *Rethinking Institutional Repositories: Innovations in Management, Collections, and Inclusion*; *Scholarly Communication Librarianship and Open Knowledge*; *Spatial Literacy in*

Public Health: Faculty-Librarian Teaching Collaborations; Supporting Student Parents in the Academic Library: Designing Spaces, Policies, and Services; Toxic Dynamics: Disrupting, Dismantling, and Transforming Academic Library Culture; Unframing the Visual: Visual Literacy Pedagogy in Academic Libraries and Information Spaces and *Universal Design for Learning in Academic Libraries: Theory into Practice*.

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.

Michelle Demeter, head of instruction and undergraduate services at New York University, was appointed to the post of editor for *C&RL*. Demeter will serve as editor-designate for the journal beginning July 1, 2024, and begin an initial three-year term as editor on July 1, 2025, succeeding She succeeds Kristen Totleben, open publishing librarian at the University of Rochester, as editor.

A special issue of *C&RL* published in January 2024 spotlighted new research advancing the priority areas established by ACRL's 2019 research agenda "Open and Equitable Scholarly Communications."

Diane Dias De Fazio was named the next editor of *RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage* this year. As editor, she also serves as chair of the *RBM* Editorial Board. Dias De Fazio succeeded Richard Saunders of Southern Utah University as editor of the journal.

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.

The bimonthly Academic Library Workers in Conversation column in *C&RL News* moved to a monthly format starting in January 2024. The column focuses on minimizing barriers to traditional publishing with an accessible format through the sharing of conversations about transforming libraries with ideas from the frontlines.

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. Like employment trends in the broader economy, hiring in the library profession has cooled significantly in FY24 compared to the previous two post-pandemic years, which set records for the number of job openings advertised. Approximately 2,400 jobs will be advertised during FY24, which is on the soft side of a typical year prior to the pandemic. ALA JobLIST's platform provider regularly rolls out incremental improvements to the service, including industry-leading security measures and new usability features for both job seekers and hiring employers.

Choice

During my term in office, Choice has continued to provide the academic library community with recommendations on what to read, what to collect, and how to navigate the constantly changing information technology landscape. In the last year we concentrated on understanding AI in higher education and reworking our Toward Inclusive Excellence blog offerings. Choice has also started to examine ways to better integrate the Choice reviews program into our content verticals.

After three years at the helm, Alexia Hudson-Ward, the editor in chief of Toward Inclusive Excellence (TIE), Choice's equity, diversity, and inclusion channel, decided to step down. Although her vision and hard work is very much missed, Choice editor Fatima Mohie-Eldin stepped in to guide TIE, focusing on recruiting new writers for the blog and developing resources that help academic librarians diversify their collections.

This year has been a period of rapid growth for LibTech Insights (LTI), Choice's library technology blog. Choice editor Daniel Pfeiffer manages this content vertical and has developed a vision that provides a multimedia look at technology trends in higher education. AI is on everyone's mind this year and Choice is working with Gary Price of InfoDOCKET and ARL Day in Review to develop content that empowers academic librarians in the face of rapidly changing technology needs in higher education.

2024 marks the sixtieth anniversary of Choice and we've used the opportunity to reflect on how Choice (and the higher education landscape) has changed since 1964. It was also a sad year as we had to shut down Choice Reviews on Cards, first published in 1968. Subscriptions for this product decreased rapidly during the COVID-19 pandemic and never recovered. A new project, reviewing AI products for higher education, is on the horizon. Choice hopes to start publishing reviews of generative AI tools by the end of the summer.

Our reviews, which include *Choice* magazine (print), Choice Reviews (digital), Resources for College Libraries (RCL), and our licensing business brought in 76% of Choice's revenue in FY23. The remaining 24% came from webinars and other sponsored content advertising vehicles, including newsletters, eblasts, whitepapers, and case studies. Although we have diversified our business, Choice is still very much committed to bibliography and collection development. Our content verticals are centered in providing actionable advice for academic librarians across an array of subjects. These editorial products, combined with our innovative sponsorship packages have put us on track to contribute \$337,444 to the ALA general fund in FY24.

Reports, White Papers, Online Publications

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 Cultural Heritage Crowdsourcing, Peer Tutoring, Predatory Publishing, and Primary Source Literacy 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 ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education: Instruction for Educators along with new Competencies for Academic Library Outreach Work this year. The Board also approved revised Guidelines for Loans of Special Collections Materials for Exhibitions and Resource Sharing, Guidelines Regarding the Security of Special Collections Materials, and Proficiencies for Assessment in Academic Libraries.

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

The Call for proposals for the ACRL 2025 Conference to be held April 2-5, 2025, in Minneapolis and online. Themed Democratizing Knowledge, Access, and Opportunities, ACRL 2025 will be a platform to engage in critical conversations and explore solutions-centered approaches to the challenges facing our profession, focusing on themes like embedded bias, inclusive excellence, and the role of technology. The conference is planned as a hybrid event with live-stream sessions, as well as in-person and virtual-only programs. ACRL 2025 features eight session formats to suit a wide range of presentation and learning styles. Contributed paper, panel session, and workshop proposals are due June 7, 2024. Community chat, lightning talk, poster session, roundtable discussion, and virtual presentation proposals are due October 18, 2024. Registration is scheduled to open in fall 2024.

ACRL @ ALA Conferences

My President's Program at the 2024 ALA Annual Conference, "Workplace Belonging Matters: Key Insights for Library Professionals" featured professor Terrell Strayhorn, one of the foremost authorities on sense of belonging in living, learning, and workspaces emphasizing the significance of building community, strengthening relationships, and fostering a strong sense of belonging in the workplace for ALA 2024 attendees. He explored how libraries can create an inclusive environment where all employees feel valued, respected, and connected, drawing insights from his newest book, *Workplace Belonging*. By sharing practical strategies and insights, Dr. Strayhorn inspired library professionals to cultivate a sense of community and promote collaboration within and outside their organizations.

ACRL sponsored an additional 14 section, committee, and individual programs at the conference on topics such as artificial intelligence; inclusive scholarly publishing; equitable access for blind, visually impaired, and print-disabled students; LibParlor; setting boundaries in the workplace; challenges to humanities librarianship; and more.

RBMS Conference

The RBMS 2024 Conference, "Momentum," was held June 25-28, 2024, in Costa Mesa, California, and virtually. The conference featured an immersive exploration of how we can leverage the invaluable lessons, experiences, and progress of the past three years to propel our profession towards greater equity, diversity, inclusivity, and community engagement. RBMS 2024 delved into critical questions: How do we reignite and sustain vital initiatives in both physical and virtual realms? How can we maintain momentum in a landscape where change often comes in small steps? Attendees discovered the keys to fostering and sustaining momentum in collaborative partnerships with fellow librarians, special collections experts, booksellers, and museum curators. More than 400 in-person and virtual registrants, along with nearly 50 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. Following a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ACRL's traveling RoadShow workshops are beginning to resume, and we're also working to bring you the same great content through virtual experiences. In-Person RoadShows include "Assessment in Action," "Engaging with the ACRL Framework," "OER and Affordability Research Data Management," "Scholarly Communication," and "Standards for Libraries in Higher Education." Off-RoadShow online experiences feature "Building Your Research Data Management Toolkit," "Engaging with the ACRL Framework," "OER and Affordability" and "Putting the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education into Action."

Online Learning

The ACRL Online Learning program offered 18 total events consisting of 3 webcasts, 2 multi-part webcast series, and 5 multi-week courses this year on a variety of topics including AI, signature pedagogies, mid-career librarianship, one-shot library lessons, building an information literacy micro-course, and more. More than 664 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 "The Threshold Achievement Test for Information Literacy (TATIL)" (July 2023), "Cultural Proficiencies for Racial Equity Framework" (January 2024), and "Youth Services to Academia – Transitioning Positions within Librarianship" (March 2024).

ACRL-Choice Webinars

The ACRL-Choice webinar program provides a venue for publishers, library vendors, and education technology companies to speak directly to the Choice audience. In FY24, Choice hosted 34 programs (up from 27 programs in FY23) and had an average registration of 1,061 (up from 852 in

FY23). Programming on generative AI was of most interest to the audience and Choice is currently working to partner advertisers to develop more content around this subject. The top three webinars this year were Elsevier’s “Unlocking Insights with Generative AI: How to Enhance Research Efficiency in the Library,” with 2,429 registrants; Springer Nature’s “The Inside-Out Library – How OA is Changing the Role of the Librarian,” with 2,294 registrants; and Cabell Publishing’s “Cover to Cover: Profiling Predatory Publishing,” with 1,864 registrants.

Scholarships

Knowing that professional development is essential to the success of academic and research librarians, the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) awarded 22 scholarships for the RBMS 2024 Conference worth over \$19,000.

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.

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 key ACRL committees, ACRL leaders, and the ALA Public Policy and Advocacy Office, the ACRL Legislative Agenda is prioritized and focuses on issues at the national level affecting the welfare of academic and research libraries. The 2024-25 ACRL Legislative Agenda focuses on five issues that will be the focus of ACRL’s advocacy efforts, listed in priority order, Upholding Intellectual Freedom, Federal Funding for Libraries, Net Neutrality, Safety and Security of Artificial Intelligence, Open Access to Federally Funded Research, and the Affordable College Textbook Act

The agenda also includes a watch list of policy issues of great concern to academic librarians. The 2024-25 watchlist includes Proposed Elimination of the IPEDS Academic Libraries Survey, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA)/Immigration Issues, Environmental Impact of Data Centers and Emerging Technologies, Consumer Data Privacy, Accessible Instructional Materials, and Pending Cases.

In May 2024, ACRL joined the ALA, Association of Research Libraries (ARL), and Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) in a comment objecting to the proposed elimination of the Academic Libraries component from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), the interrelated surveys conducted each year by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The associations strongly object to the elimination of academic library data from IPEDS, believing it is essential to understanding the value of libraries and their contributions to the mission of higher education.

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

What a privilege it has been to serve ACRL and its members this past year. With my term as president coming to an end it feels appropriate to reflect on what we have accomplished this year, as well as the work still to do. When I began my presidency, I hoped to continue the progress ACRL has made in advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion for our association and for our individual members. I'm pleased with what we have been able to accomplish this year and look forward to ACRL continuing to lead in this important work.

Throughout my career, ACRL has consistently given me opportunities for professional development and growth, with this year being no exception. I have learned so much about the important behind-the-scenes work of the ACRL and ALA staff. I have heard from members hoping to become more involved, members interested in serving on committees, and Section members who shared questions or comments. Conversations with ACRL Chapter members from across the United States have reminded me of both the value of ACRL and the pressure for our association to evolve to meet the changing needs of our members and the field of academic and research libraries. Each interaction has reinforced for me how dedicated ACRL members are to the profession and the association.

It was a real pleasure to talk with many ACRL members at Leadership Council and Membership meeting, and reception at ALA Annual in San Diego. Leadership Council marked our first time back together, in person, in four years. Thank you to all who were able to attend, and especially to ACRL members Je Salvador, Walter Butler, and Bonnie Fong for sharing their personal experiences and insight about the value of ACRL.

Thank you to Michael Flierl and Lauren Pressley for their work co-chairing the ACRL President's Program Committee for 2024. This ALA Annual Conference marked the 6th year of President's Programs honoring ACRL's continued focus on issues of inclusion, diversity, equity, and this year in particular, on belonging. We were pleased to have Dr. Terrell Strayhorn present on workplace belonging.

I am so very grateful for the hard-working, thoughtful, and brilliant ACRL Board of Directors members. Some work we began this year will continue, very capably led by incoming ACRL President Leo Lo along with our board members, goal area committees, and section, working group, and task force members. I owe much to Past-President Erin Ellis for her guidance during our weekly presidents' calls with ACRL Interim Executive Director Allison Payne. Erin's love for bylaws and strategic planning was such a valuable asset. As ALA moves to a new operating agreement with its divisions and other units, the ACRL Board and member leaders will continue to be actively involved to ensure the best future for ACRL and ALA. I look forward to assisting in this process during my year as past president.

Both ALA and ACRL have experienced staff changes this year, with interim executive directors admirably doing the good work that keeps our organization moving. I am especially thankful for the excellent leadership of our Interim Executive Director Allison Payne, who has led ACRL during my term. Allison's solid understanding of the work of our association made my term easy. Many thanks also to David Free, Margot Conahan, Erin Nevius, Elois Sharpe, and all the staff members, for always doing the hard work in support of our members and association. ACRL can't do it without them!

Thank you to everyone who provided support during my presidency, including my colleagues at the Purdue University Libraries and School of Information Studies, most especially Mandi Gramelspacher.

This year has gone so quickly! I look forward to joining my ACRL colleagues in Minneapolis next April, for ACRL 2025: Democratizing Knowledge, Access, and Opportunities.