



FY2023 Budget Assumptions

ACRL develops budget assumptions annually to guide staff in preparing annual project budgets. ACRL's budget is mission-driven and should provide sufficient revenues to support the strategic initiatives outlined in the [ACRL Plan for Excellence](#), including initiatives related to its Core Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI). This is accomplished through a blend of programs and services, some of which generate net revenues, e.g., ACRL professional development, especially its biennial conference, and others that the association expects to support, e.g., advocacy, member services, etc.

The ACRL Budget & Finance Committee will discuss the draft assumptions on November 2, 2021, and any recommendations will be incorporated before they are sent to the ACRL Board. The full Board will have an opportunity to give asynchronous input and the Executive Committee will review, suggest revisions as needed, and approve the assumptions below at its 2021 Fall Executive Committee Meeting on November 9, 2021. Based on the approved budget assumptions, ACRL staff will prepare the preliminary FY23 budget for review by the Budget and Finance Committee at their winter meeting (anticipated near or during the 2022 ALA's LibLearnX, January 21-24).

General Overview: The economic climate and U.S. higher education

As ACRL begins to prepare its FY23 budget, the economic outlook is still largely influenced by the effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. During April to June 2020, the US economy took one of its worst downturns at a rate of -32.9%¹. For the year over year comparison in 2020, the US and world GDP's decreased by 3.5%^{2, 3}. The economy began to rebound from this initial shock in late 2020 and continues to rebound in 2021. Global GDP growth is projected by the International Monetary Fund at 5.9%⁴, World

¹ Jeff Cox, "Second-quarter GDP plunged by worst-ever 32.9% amid virus-induced shutdown," *CNBC*, July 30, 2020, <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/07/30/us-gdp-q2-2020-first-reading.html>.

² Martin Crutsinger, "US economy shrank 3.5% in 2020 after growing 4% last quarter," *The Associated Press*, January 28, 2021, <https://apnews.com/article/us-economy-shrink-in-2020-b59f9be06dcf1da924f64afde2ce094c>.

³ Eduardo Levy Yeyati and Federico Filippini, "Social and economic impact of COVID-19." *Brookings*, June 8, 2021, <https://www.brookings.edu/research/social-and-economic-impact-of-covid-19/>.

⁴ International Monetary Fund, "Global recovery continues, but the momentum has weakened and uncertainty has increased," October 2021, <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2021/10/12/world-economic-outlook-october-2021>.

Bank at 5.6%⁵, and Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development at 5.7%⁶. This projected turnaround is partly due to a global response by the World Health Organization, as well as legislation, such as the US's CARES Act and Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan. Despite global inequities for vaccine access, with a 3.07% vaccination rate in low-income countries versus a 60.18% in high-income countries, more than 5.5 billion doses have been administered worldwide.⁷ As the global pandemic continues into its second year, it is expected that its effects will be longstanding and a full recovery may take years, and will depend on a number of factors, such as the potential proliferation of new variants and the global response to supply chain disruptions.

Like the world economy, higher education is rebounding but not without uncertainty. To fully understand higher ed's economic rebound, one must look at the pre-pandemic numbers. Before the pandemic, state spending on public colleges and universities was already well below historical levels prior to the Great Recession of 2008-09.⁸ *Insider Higher Ed* reported that, "State funding nationwide is nearly 9 percent below pre-Great Recession levels and 18 percent below where it was before the 2001 tech bust."⁹ Although "most Americans believe state spending for public universities and colleges has increased or at least held steady over the last 10 years," in fact, "states have collectively scaled back their annual higher education funding by \$9 billion during that time, when adjusted for inflation."¹⁰ Despite public perception, it is estimated that, "the financial impact of the pandemic on students and institutions would total at least \$120 billion."¹¹ Higher ed is considering and has implemented a number of cost savings measures, including tuition discounts to increase student enrollment and overall revenue, borrowing from endowments, and seeking additional federal and state funding.

⁵ The World Bank, "Global Economic Prospects," June 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/global-economic-prospects>.

⁶ OECD, "OECD Economic Outlook, Interim Report: Keeping The Recovery On Track," September 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/economic-outlook/>.

⁷ United Nations, "COVID vaccines: Widening inequality and millions vulnerable," September 19, 2021, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/09/1100192>.

⁸ Michael Mitchell et al., "Unkept Promises: State Cuts to Higher Education Threaten Access and Equity Reduced Quality," *Center on budget and Policy Priorities*, October 4, 2018, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/state-budget-and-tax/unkept-promises-state-cuts-to-higher-education-threaten-access-and>. Accessed November 5, 2019.

⁹ Emma Whitford, "Public Higher Ed Funding Still Has Not Recovered From 2008 Recession," *Inside Higher Ed*, May 5, 2020, <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/05/05/public-higher-education-worse-spot-ever-heading-recession>. Accessed September 11, 2020.

¹⁰ Jon Marcus, "Most Americans don't realize state funding for higher ed fell by billions," *The Hechinger Report*, February 26, 2019. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/education/most-americans-dont-realize-state-funding-for-higher-ed-fell-by-billions>. Accessed November 5, 2019.

¹¹ Kery Murakami, "Colleges: Financial Toll of Coronavirus Worse Than Anticipated," September 29, 2020. Accessed September 29, 2020. <https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2020/09/29/colleges-financial-toll-coronavirus-worse-anticipated>

It should be noted that, unlike after previous economic downturns, state spending on higher education did not bounce back after the 2008 recession.”¹² In the last ten years, state funding has decreased by \$9 billion when adjusted for inflation, and “state appropriations per full-time student have fallen from an inflation-adjusted \$8,489 in 2007 to \$7,642 in 2017.”¹³ Decreased state funding is a trend, as funding for public two- and four-year colleges remains well below pre-recession levels in almost every state and in the school year ending in 2018, funding was more than \$7 billion below its 2008 level, after adjusting for inflation. Without considering inflation, state fiscal support for higher education grew by just 1.6 percent in 2018, according to the most recent Grapevine survey which noted that the level of support is “down sharply from a 4.2 percent increase last year and represents the lowest annual growth in the last five years.”¹⁴ “In only six states have higher education budgets returned to or surpassed their pre-recession levels; in 19 states, expenditures per student are at least 20 percent lower than before the recession.”¹⁵ To cope with these cuts, institutions have raised tuition and made deep cuts to programs and services, reducing access to college education for some and calling into question the quality of the program remaining.¹⁶ Financial challenges face higher education as public investment and tuition revenue are on the decline while labor and facility costs continue to rise¹⁷. Further complicating state funding decreases is the America’s College Promise Act of 2021, which proposes free community college for more than nine million students. If this legislation is passed, many states will need to increase institutional funding in order to participate in the program.¹⁸ In the coming year, there will be a greater need for coordinated advocacy from ALA, ACRL and other higher education associations for funding at the state level for public institutions.

Enrollment data during the pandemic is pending, but total enrollment in degree-granting postsecondary institutions decreased by 5 percent from 2009 to 2019, from 17.5 million to 16.6 million students.¹⁹ Between 2019 to 2029, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) projects that enrollments will

¹² Luba Ostashevsky, “As economy rebounds, state funding for higher education isn’t bouncing back,” *PBS News Hour*, September 14, 2016, <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/economy-rebounds-state-funding-higher-education-isnt-bouncing-back/>.

¹³ Jon Marcus, “Most Americans don’t realize state funding for higher ed fell by billions,” *PBS News Hour*, February 26, 2019, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/education/most-americans-dont-realize-state-funding-for-higher-ed-fell-by-billions>.

¹⁴ Rick Seltzer, “‘Anemic’ State Funding Growth,” *Chronicle of Higher Education*, October 23, 2018. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/01/22/state-support-higher-ed-grows-16-percent-2018>.

¹⁵ Jeffrey Selinger, “States’ decision to reduce support for higher education comes at a cost,” *Washington Post*, September 8, 2018, accessed October 24, 2018. https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2018/09/08/states-decision-reduce-support-higher-education-comes-cost/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.4f55fd302b14

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ *Chronicle of Higher Education* (2019) Beyond Budgets, <https://connect.chronicle.com/ByndBdgtRT19>

¹⁸ Emma Whitford. “States Will Need to Pony Up for Biden’s Free College Plan,” *Inside Higher Ed*, September 28, 2021. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/09/28/free-community-college-plan-requires-states-funding>

¹⁹ U. S. Department of Education: National Center for Education Statistics, “Undergraduate Enrollment,” (May 2021. Accessed October 14, 2021. <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator/cha>

increase 2.64%, from 16.6 million to 17.0 million.²⁰ These numbers are somewhat disjointed with high school graduation rate projections, which show the number of high school graduates peaking at 3.9 million in 2025, then declining to 3.5 million in 2037.²¹ Further analysis on higher education trends is needed to understand NCES's projected increase against decreasing high school enrollment data.

Economic climate and academic libraries

Before and during the pandemic, ACRL membership numbers have been on a slow but steady decline, which is in part due to the closing of institutions that have an impact on both ACRL's organizational and personal members. According to NCES data, 53 postsecondary institutions closed in 2020, 236 in 2019, 86 in 2018, 112 in 2017.²² The pool of potential academic librarians as evidenced by MLIS degrees awarded drastically declined 37%, from 7,729 in 2011 to 4,843 in 2017, but has since increased slightly at 6.63%, from 4,843 in 2017 to 5,164 in 2019.²³ Of the placements between 2013 and 2019, the number of placements in academic libraries decreased from 347 to 206, or by 41%.^{24, 25} The decline during and after the 2008 recession may be stabilizing, as the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 9% increase job outlook, which is in line with the job outlook for all occupations.²⁶ Another factor that could influence the size of ACRL's membership is whether academic libraries are requiring those they hire to hold MLIS degrees. Anecdotally, we are hearing that, especially at large research libraries, subject specialists, and other professional staff (IT, HR, development, marketing, etc.) are being hired to do work that once required an MLIS. A recent study of ARL directors found that while 1/3 of ARL directors did not perceive the MLIS as necessary, 42% did and it is these directors who will hire the next generation of those working in academic and research libraries.²⁷

²⁰ U. S. Department of Education: National Center for Education Statistics, "Total undergraduate fall enrollment," Accessed October 14, 2021. https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d20/tables/dt20_303.70.asp

²¹ Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, "Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates through 3037," Accessed October 14, 2021. <https://knocking.wiche.edu/executive-summary/>

²² U. S. Department of Education: National Center for Education Statistics, "Total undergraduate fall enrollment," Accessed October 14, 2021. https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d20/tables/dt20_317.50.asp?current=yes

²³ U. S. Department of Education: National Center for Education Statistics, "Master's degrees conferred by postsecondary institutions, by field of study," Accessed October 14, 2021. https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d20/tables/dt20_323.10.asp?current=yes

²⁴ Stephanie L. Maatta, "Placements & Salaries 2013: Explore All the Data." *Library Journal*, October 17, 2013, accessed September 24, 2020. <https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=explore-all-the-data-2013>

²⁵ Suzie Allard, "Jobs by Region: Placements & Salaries 2019." *Library Journal*, October 10, 2019, accessed September 24, 2020, <https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=Jobs-By-Region-Placements-Salaries-2019>

²⁶ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Librarians, accessed October 14, 2021, last modified date September 8, 2021, <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/education-training-and-library/librarians.htm>

²⁷ Russell Michalak, Monica D.T. Rysavy, and Trevor A. Dawes*, "What Degree Is Necessary to Lead? ARL Directors' Perceptions," *College & Research Libraries*, Vol. 80, N. 6, (2019). Accessed November 7, 2019. <https://crl.acrl.org/index.php/crl/article/view/23526/30835>

Fewer financial resources may also have contributed to the consolidation of vendors in the library marketplace.^{28, 29} Fewer vendors will mean a smaller pool of companies to provide sponsorships, rent exhibit space, support library and association programs. Because "the current model of large publishers dominating scholarly publishing and inflation grinding down library budgets continues,"³⁰ tighter library budgets could mean less funding for staff development (e.g., association membership, continuing education) or sponsorship of library association programs.

The impact of the pandemic, along with the pre-pandemic trend of the continued state of lower funding and a consolidation in the marketplace, will affect ACRL's FY23 budgeted revenue expectations. We expect that library budgets and individual spending will continue to be reduced and thoughtfully considered. While we are still awaiting final numbers for FY21, pre-pandemic data from FY19 show that revenues were declining. Gross revenues for consulting were below budget due to fewer than expected clients in the 4th quarter of FY19, but the 1st quarter of FY20 was off to a busy start. In FY19, webinar revenues exceeded budget in part due to a successful multi-part series. Revenues from licensed workshops were below budget. In September 2020, the ACRL 2021 Conference planned for April 2021 was canceled as an in-person event and was held as a virtual conference around the same dates. Based on preliminary FY21 reports, the virtual ACRL 2021 Conference was a programmatic and financial success, and it is expected that the project net will perform better than budget. This performance is due to online conferences paying half the overhead rate per the ALA Operating Agreement, as well as cost savings for meal functions, transportation, equipment rental, and other expenses associated with an onsite event.

The FY23 budget will include traditional revenue streams (e.g., non-serial publications, ad sales, webinars). ACRL staff will continue to adapt to a post-pandemic environment by further exploring virtual offerings, when needed, for in-person events (e.g., ACRL Conference, RBMS Conference, RoadShows). ACRL staff will continue to look for new entrepreneurial ideas and revenue streams and consider cost savings throughout the year. As part of ALA's five-year pivot strategy³¹, FY23 is planned to be the second net neutral year for the organization. Strategies for ALA to achieve a net neutral by FY23 include a new

²⁸ James M. Day, "Consolidation of the Library Vendors," *Library Technology Launchpad*, October 12, 2016, <http://libtechlaunchpad.com/2015/10/12/consolidation-of-the-library-vendors/>

²⁹ David Parker, "ATG Special Report — Industry Consolidation in the Information Services and Library Environment: Perspectives from Thought Leaders," *Against the Grain*, July 6, 2016, <http://www.against-the-grain.com/2016/07/industry-consolidation-report/>

³⁰ Stephen Bosch, Barbara Albee, & Sion Romaine. "Costs Outstrip Library Budgets | Periodicals Price Survey 2020" *Library Journal* April 14, 2020 <https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=Costs-Outstrip-Library-Budgets-Periodicals-Price-Survey-2020> Accessed October 31, 2020

³¹ ALA Executive Board Doc FALL EBD 12.1.1 Five-Year Pivot Plan. <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/governance/ExecutiveBoard/20202021Docs/ebd%2012.1.1%20ALA%20Pivot%20Strategy.pptx>

revenue stream (date services), the rollout of the LibLearnX event, and testing public markets for Annual Conference.

In recent years, ACRL has been tasked by its Board and Budget & Finance Committee to spend down its net asset balance, and to look for appropriate opportunities to spend a portion of this net asset balance in strategic programs and services that benefit membership. Recent examples of such investments include the promotion of Project Outcome, research grants to practitioner-scholar academic librarians to carry out research identified in the 2019 research agenda, and digitization of past issues of *C&RL News*. Through careful stewardship, the net asset balance, which had grown to \$5,002,115 at the beginning of FY16, has through investments in strategic initiatives been reduced to \$3,247,098 (FY21 August preliminary close).

Even though the preliminary FY21 results are showing strong performance, it still should be expected that, going forward, the ACRL Board and Budget & Finance Committee will need to take a much harder look at any proposed new expenditures, as ACRL would need increased revenue streams (e.g., more members joining, increasing book sales, or projected growth for conference and professional development registrations) to support potential requests for increased or new expenditures. Our goal is to moderate many operational expenditures to be more in-line with current revenue expectations while aligning the budget to support the Plan for Excellence and the Core Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion through strategic investments from ACRL's net asset balance and the annual endowment transfer. It is important to note that the net asset balance (beginning reserve level for FY23 is expected to be \$1,520,188 per the FY22 budget) is moving closer to the mandated operating reserve amount of \$952,599. Ensuring that the net asset balance stays within the mandated operating reserve is another motivating factor for the Board and Budget Committee to carefully monitor expenses in FY23.

Because ACRL works to stay above the mandated operating reserve while still investing strategically in member programs and services, it will cease transfers to its long-term investment fund. If the Board and Budget Committee would like to resume these transfers in future years, there is a two-year notification requirement by ALA if ACRL wants to transfer more than \$50,000 to its LTI; transfers below \$49,999 do not require the two-year advance notification. Per the 2005 ACRL Board recommendation, the ACRL budget includes an LTI interest transfer (Project 3200) up to the maximum allowable amount. In FY19, ACRL transferred \$125,000 for FY19 and \$135,000 in FY20 in appreciation from its LTI to its operating budget to support strategic initiatives. Due to the outstanding performance of the virtual ACRL 2021 Conference, ACRL did not take the budgeted LTI interest transfer in FY21. The FY23 budget will include an interest transfer of \$135,000 from the endowment to the operating budget.

Choice FY23 Budget Assumptions

Business Environment

The changing character of Choice is something that has been liberally remarked upon in previous budget assumption documents, but the topic bears briefly revisiting here as so much of our budgeting is based on our evolution as a publishing unit.

Over the past decade the historical core of Choice's publishing program—reviews of new academic monographs—has gradually eroded as the use of reviews in the collection-development process succumbed to the twin forces of technological innovation and the tightening of materials budgets. Indeed, the collection-development function itself no longer occupies the central position it once commanded in many academic libraries. As a result, since 2009, combined circulation of *Choice* magazine and *Choice Reviews* has declined by almost 60%, from 3,500 the year of the Great Recession to 1,525 today, an average (CAGR) of about 7% a year. Latterly, the COVID-19 pandemic has exerted accelerating downward pressure on circulation and revenue. By the end of FY21, *Choice* magazine earned income was off 27% from a year ago; cards, 14%; and *Choice Reviews*, 5%. Compare these, then, to the more typical year-over-year declines of 10%, 7%, and 4% from FY18 to FY19.

The decline in the use of reviews has affected other parts of our business as well. Choice reviews generate two other streams of revenue: in-publication advertising and royalties from the licensing of reviews to publishers, aggregators, and purchasing platforms. These too are under stress. Since fiscal 2013, in-publication revenues—space ads in the magazine and banner ads in the database—have shrunk by 70%, while royalties have declined by a statelier 22%, from \$640K in FY13 to about \$500K in this year's budget.

Recognizing these trends, in recent years we have been vigorously working to create alternate sources of revenue, based not on reviews but on sponsorships of newsletters, podcasts, and webinars and the underwriting of white papers. During the same period that traditional advertising was shrinking by almost three-quarters, these sponsored-content initiatives grew steadily, from a scant \$70K in FY13 to a budgeted \$560K this year. Webinar sponsorships alone have generated gross revenue of over \$1.3MM since the inception of the program in FY13.

The rise in sponsorship revenue is an important indicator of a larger trend at Choice: the development of an audience outside of the collection-development space, an audience eager to consume Choice content in formats and on platforms far removed from reviews. While review-based readership has fallen, we have been amassing a readership of far greater size and diversity around our media-intensive sponsored programs. Consider these engagement figures from the year just finished:

- Choice360 page views: 352,768
- Choice newsletter subscriptions: 19,435

- Unique newsletter subscribers: 7,903
- Webinar registrants: 48,145 (43 webinars)
- Webinar attendees: 24,063
- Webinar screenings on the Choice Media Channel (YouTube): 173,905
- The Authority File podcasts: 15,633 downloads
- White paper downloads: 6,296 (cumulative, 8 reports)

So, as fiscal 2022 gets underway, Choice presents two faces to the outside world: the one, as a publisher of workflow tools supporting the traditional collection-development process; the other, as a producer of a media portfolio engaging an audience of approximately 60,000, roughly five times as large as that for its traditional products. Herein lies our dilemma. Despite the phenomenal success of our media program (a success admittedly contingent upon the business plans of our advertisers and sponsors), the former remains the mainstay of our business, bringing in \$1.7MM, or 76% of budgeted FY22 unit revenues. The sponsored-content/media portion of the business will generate only 24% of that, some \$525K.

PROQUEST: Leaving aside these broader market trends, perhaps no single factor has the potential to influence budget planning for FY23 and beyond as much as the impending \$5.5B (!) acquisition of ProQuest by Clarivate. ProQuest is a major contributor to all three revenue streams at Choice: subscriptions, through their co-publication of *Resources for College Libraries*; royalties, through four separate agreements for the licensing of our content on ProQuest platforms; and advertising, for their robust participation in our webinar program. (In FY21, ProQuest sponsored thirteen webcasts, 30% of our total program.) Over the past three years, revenue from these sources has averaged almost \$600K a year, about 24% of our total annual revenue.

With so much of our business in thrall to a third party, any changes in the ownership of that party have the potential to have a serious impact on revenues. It is far too early to know in what direction the acquisition will take ProQuest. Clarivate is heavily invested in the sciences, with research and scientific publishers as major players in its ecosystem. ProQuest's business is squarely directed toward academic libraries. Will the "merger" strengthen both vectors or deflect one in favor of the other? Will a singular strategic focus and the anticipated \$100MM in cost synergies drive the removal of properties deemed "non-core"? What impact will the acquisition have on ProQuest's major competitor, EBSCO, with whom we enjoy a lesser but still important business relationship? Facing the enormous concentration of discovery and workflow tools represented by the deal, and its implications for further consolidation of the content and enterprise software industries, EBSCO might well be looking for a strategic buyer itself. Way too soon to tell, although each of these issues has the potential to disrupt Choice. (A useful first take on the acquisition can be found in Roger Schonfeld's comments in *The Scholarly Kitchen* (<https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2021/05/18/clarivate-to-acquire-proquest/>)).

The timing of the acquisition is also an issue. As of this writing, the deal is still under *pro forma* review at the FTC, which will probably delay the close until at least the end of the calendar year (<https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/industry-deals/article/87120-clarivate-purchase-of-proquest-extended.html>). Even then, a wholesale pivot in business strategy or significant changes to organizational structures at the unit level are unlikely to be implemented during the remainder of our fiscal year, and obviously, in the midst of a \$5.5B acquisition, the vicissitudes of a \$600K relationship with a small library publisher will not be on anyone's radar, at least at first. But given our level of dependence upon ProQuest, we will be watching carefully throughout the next twelve months for clues as to changes in their plans.

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Given these environmental factors, below please find a discussion of major revenue and expense assumptions for FY23.

Strategic Realignment

In response to the problems in our traditional business, Choice is now pursuing a strategic realignment of its publishing program, the goal of which is to reduce our dependence upon reviews and to allocate greater resources to the creation of new, more timely and important content. This new content will consist of a congeries of articles, blogposts, topical newsletters, webinars, and podcasts organized around *topics*, or, as we like to say, distributed among “content verticals.” The content will be made available on Choice360, will be largely supported by corporate underwriting, and will be directed toward a broad readership consisting of library professionals, scholars, instructors, and researchers—in short, the entire academic library community.

The undertaking is more than simply a plan. March of 2021 saw the launch of the first of these content verticals, Toward Inclusive Excellence™ (TIE, <https://www.choice360.org/toward-inclusive-excellence/>). Under the general editorship of Alexia Hudson-Ward, Associate Director for Research and Learning at the MIT libraries, the program explores issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion, particularly, though not exclusively, as they affect the academic library community. As of mid-October, we have published thirty blog posts on such disparate topics as trans-inclusion in DEIA, medical experimentation on people of color, and critical race theory. In addition to this, we have hosted interviews with Martha Jones on the history of banned books in the United States and with Steven S. Jones on his *A Letter to My White Friends and Colleagues*. Earlier in the summer, Hudson-Ward joined a panel of her colleagues in the first TIE webinar, a discussion of equitable staffing models in the post-pandemic landscape.

Budgeting for this and future programs currently under discussion is now grouped under a new budget project, 3919, with underwriting revenues charged to Advertising (line 4143) and expenses (editor and contributor honoraria) to Professional Services (line 5110). See below s.v., Choice360 for more information.

Subscription Products

NATIVE CHOICE PRODUCTS: Yet despite tectonic shifts in our business environment, our native subscription products, reviews of new academic monographs, continue to form the core of our publishing program, providing over a million dollars annually in subscription revenue. During FY21 year-over-year cash receipts fell 29%, 33%, and 10% for the magazine, cards, and database, respectively, provoked in part by cuts to library budgets in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Of course, these declines are not fully reflected in the performance reports, as the finances of any subscription business are governed by the rules of accrual accounting, in which revenues are recognized (“earned”) when a good or service is delivered rather than when cash is received from the subscriber. For accounting purposes, our subscription revenues are recognized in one-month increments over the term of a twelve-month subscription. The result is to effectively “buffer” even a sudden downturn in renewals, as revenue continues to be recognized at a constant rate (1/12th) for subscriptions acquired prior to the downturn. But of course, a sharp year-over-year fall in cash such as we saw in fiscal 2021 will inevitably be reflected in revenue performance further down the road, as the earned income figures in the Business Environment section above attest, and thus is a critical factor in our assumptions around the FY23 budget.

Far and away the majority of our subscriptions come from one subscription agent, EBSCO, which brings us a large number of batched subscriptions in November and December of each year and hence a large infusion of cash. Typically, these account for between 30% and 33% of total annual cash received for *Choice Reviews* and some 55% to 60% of *Choice* magazine subscriptions. So it is the November and December cash receipts that will provide us with our first real look at subscription revenues over the next year or so. From these we will be able to make a more informed judgment about calendar 2022, as renewal rates are a reliable indicator of future revenue.

For its part, our *Reviews on Cards* continues to generate high-margin income despite its admittedly anachronistic format. That said, *Card* subscriptions have not been immune to the historical trend. Circulation was down 22% in FY21, and we expect continued declines of this magnitude in FY23.

RESOURCES FOR COLLEGE LIBRARIES: Subscription revenue from *Resources for College Libraries* arrives quarterly as a percentage (30%) of sales made by our partners at ProQuest, and since we are effectively the “author,” not the publisher, of the work, *that* revenue is considered earned when we receive it. But as the putative “author,” we have little visibility, and even less influence, over RCL sales, which are handled by a dedicated sales force at ProQuest. For FY21, the Choice portion of subscription revenues fell to an estimated \$110K, attesting to the fact that declines in subscription revenue are not unique to Choice.

Writing in October of 2021, we await the possibility that RCL sales will rebound this year with the relaunch of ProQuest’s Bowker Book Analysis System (BBAS), in which RCL data plays a major role and

for which we receive the standard revenue share of 30%. If it does, that growth will be reflected in the FY23 budget.

CCADVISOR: Launched in September of 2017, *ccAdvisor* was our attempt to enlarge our readership base by publishing high-quality, peer-reviewed reviews of digital resources, and to do so on a scale and with a depth of coverage not possible in the format of *Choice*. For this we partnered with The Charleston Company, the highly respected publisher of *The Charleston Advisor* in print, in the shared conviction that the creation of a companion digital product, built on the infrastructure of *Choice Reviews* and offering all the benefits of a continuously updated database, would lead to a migration of print subscribers and overall growth in both circulation and revenue. Under our agreement, Choice and The Charleston Company share both revenue and expenses equally.

Now, after four years of publication, it has become clear that the anticipated growth in circulation has not—and will not—take place, nor have advertising revenues performed at projected levels. Even the outsourcing of the sales effort to the large and highly professional sales team at EBSCO three years ago failed to yield significant new business. Overall, 85% of CCA revenues derive from a single consortial subscription with the Center for Research Libraries. As a result, and following discussions with The Charleston Company, as of October of this year we are no longer accepting new or renewal subscriptions for *ccAdvisor*. The existing subscriptions, all but one of which expire by the conclusion of FY22, will continue to be supported through the end of the fiscal, after which the site will be depreciated. The fiscal 2023 budget, therefore, will contain no revenue or expenses for this product line, and any remaining undepreciated capital expenses will be written down.

Third-party Licenses

Our licenses with the major platform providers and aggregators provide us with a fairly reliable stream of income. In recent years ProQuest, the largest of our licensees, has been regularly reducing the amount it is willing to pay for using Choice reviews in *Books in Print* and *Syndetics*, and those losses, along with the loss (\$108K) of the ProQuest Intota license when that product failed in the marketplace, account for the lion's share of the decline in royalty revenue since 2013. We see no losses on that scale from other sources in the near term.

Nonetheless, it is worth pointing out that these assumptions do not include drastic, unanticipated losses in royalty income that might yet result from the COVID-19 pandemic. While COVID has certainly subjected subscription revenues to additional stresses, it would take cancellations on the part of hundreds of libraries to equal the loss of even one major licensee. The probability of this type of sudden, wholesale loss is small and has not been factored in our assumptions for FY23, but it cannot be ruled out entirely.

Advertising and Sponsorships

TRADITIONAL ADVERTISING. We have already noted the precipitous decline we are seeing in traditional advertising, with several publishers openly stating to us that they will no longer produce print advertisements. Advertising in *Choice* magazine, which in FY13 brought in over \$430K (net), fell to an estimated \$128K last year (FY21) and is running at 69% of last year's performance thus far in FY22, well below budget. This trend, and its much smaller analogue in banner advertising in *Choice Reviews*, appears irreversible.

WEBINARS. Now in its ninth year, the Choice/ACRL webinar program is well established and continues to draw large and enthusiastic audiences, with lifetime-to-date registrations approaching 175,000. Early concerns about the limited life-cycle of our program seem premature at best, in part because the professionalism of our productions and the guidance we provide at every step of the process have made our webinars a trusted source of information for librarians and an attractive platform for sponsors, who increasingly look to us for support in approaching the academic library market. No better example of this is ProQuest's (ProQuest again!) decision to have Choice produce a special live event, "When You Picture a Scientist, What Do You See?" a panel discussion on advancing diversity and inclusion in STEM, featuring Dr. Jennifer Doudna, biochemist and Nobel Prize-winning co-inventor of CRISPR technology. The event drew 9,079 registrations and 4,674 attendees, brought us \$20,500 in gross revenue, and was deemed so successful that ProQuest has scheduled other such premium events on our platform.

During FY21 gross webinar revenue came to \$299,450 (15% of which was paid to ACRL), and scarcely over a month-and-a-half into FY22 we have booked \$204,500 in contracts through the end of the fiscal year. So, we are forecasting revenues equal to or better than those of FY21 in both FY22 and FY23.

PODCASTS. During this past year Choice media staff hosted and produced 64 episodes of The Authority File, grossing \$36,550 in sponsorships. Thus far in FY22 full-year podcast bookings are already at 85% of budget, so we are confident that we will meet or exceed budget. Since in producing 64 episodes in 52 weeks we are already running at 125% of our once-a-week production schedule, there is little room for further growth with current staffing. For FY23, then, we will again budget \$35,000 as our "baseline" figure.

CHOICE RESEARCH. Our white paper program, more labor- and time-intensive than either webinars or podcasts on a unit basis, is growing more slowly, restrained both by resource issues at Choice and by sponsor participation. The longer sales cycle this project entails, and the scant staff resources available to produce the studies, are serving to limit the number of publications we publish to two a year. For FY23 we will assume two white papers, with gross revenue of \$40,000.

CHOICE CUSTOM PUBLISHING: New this fiscal year is the Choice custom publishing program, a series of sponsored case studies highlighting library solutions to operational problems. The first such study, in which representatives of five academic libraries describe how they implemented service and policy

adjustments in response the COVID-19 pandemic, launched in August, and for FY22 we have budgeted for two more studies at \$10,000 each. Our working assumption is that the program will be a success, and failing evidence to the contrary we shall budget similarly for FY23.

CHOICE360: Central to our planning for the redesigned Choice360.org was the decision to use the site as the platform for publication of our content verticals, effectively making C360 a revenue-generating “product.” Revenue and expenses for the product are captured in project 3919, new to the Choice budget in FY22. As discussed above, the content verticals are supported by corporate underwriting, and income from them will thus be recorded here as advertising revenue. Choice360 is budgeted to break even in FY22, with net revenue of \$33,425 (\$23,875 of it from TIE) and \$32,564 in expenses (comprising contributor honoraria, web operations costs, and ALA overhead). As of mid-October we have already booked \$25,300 in advertising revenue in this project, and our operating assumption at this point is that we will budget along equal or better lines for FY23.

Expenses

For payroll, we have assumed no layoffs, no reductions in force, and a continued 2% salary adjustment annually, and we have used pre-furlough salaries as the base. These are best-case assumptions that may not survive the budget-making process. Because of our success in reducing expenses—\$362K in direct spending reductions between FY15 and FY19—payroll now accounts for roughly 65% to 70% of our direct spending. Aside from staffing, then, there are few remaining areas to cut without cutting revenue as well.

For all other direct expenses, we have taken FY22B as the base and subjected it to an annual increase of 3% (meaning a 1% drop in inflation-adjusted wages . . .). This assumption is subject to restatement as we receive further data regarding the anticipated stabilization of inflation rates. ALA overhead has been calculated using the current rate of 13.25% (per the operating agreement, the division rate on publishing revenue is 50% of full rate applied to education and other non-dues revenue). Obviously, an increase in that rate as the result of ongoing discussions at ALA about revising the operating agreement will further burden Choice.

With these points in mind, Choice *pro forma* assumptions regarding the FY23 budget can be found on pages 23-24.

ACRL General Assumptions

Basic Budget Assumptions

1. All ALA and ACRL fiscal policies will be followed in the development of the budget.
2. The mandated reserve (as set by the ACRL Board, following ALA policy) for ACRL and *CHOICE* will be maintained.
3. Professional development offerings must be operated on a full cost-recovery basis.
4. Non-serial publications must be operated on a full cost-recovery basis.
5. Salaries and benefits for division staff will be equal to or less than 45% of the total operating budget using a 2-year average to match the swings in the operating budget.
6. Total administrative costs for the Division will be equal to or less than 60% of the total operating budget using a 2-year average to match the swings due to the ACRL Conference.
7. New projects that don't generate revenue will be charged to the membership services category.
8. Personnel allocations for salaries, benefits, and other related costs and office services, such as postage, copying, telephone, etc., will continue to be charged to the various programs as a percentage of the time spent on the programs.

Modified accrual accounting

ALA uses accrual accounting, a method which recognizes revenues and expenses at the time the event is held, or product delivered. This method ensures that revenues are on hand for refunds should said event or product not be delivered. However, ACRL has requested that ALA continue to "recognize" the expenses leading up to the conference/event as they occur so that staff can monitor expenses and adjust as needed. Should ALA be able to develop easily obtained reports detailing expenses, ACRL would consider switching to a full accrual system. At this time, however, we are "paying as we go" and earning the revenues only after we deliver the product, e.g., the publication, the conference, etc.

Given that FY22 is a non-conference year, ACRL would expect to generate a negative year-end net. Looking ahead to FY23, due to past investment of ACRL's net asset balance in strategic initiatives, absent significant new revenue streams, the association will need to reduce expenditures substantially, which may result in disruption to member services. The Budget & Finance Committee and staff will closely monitor the deficit budget to ensure that ACRL's net asset balance remains above the mandated operating reserve (i.e., one-quarter of the average of the last four years of expenses).

Revenues

- + Primary sources of revenue will be education (e-learning, institutes, pre-conferences), publications (including advertising and sponsorships), dues and donations.
- + At least \$25,000 will be budgeted for donations to ACRL Friends (pending further discussion by the Board as to the type of campaign to launch for FY23).

- + The Colleagues program has been a strong source of revenue for ACRL programs and special activities in past years. Although fundraising has gotten more difficult, dedicated member leaders continue to exceed expectations in the fundraising for the ACRL Conference. Other programs have been slightly more challenged, e.g., awards, as sponsors continue to look for more engagement with customers in return for their sponsorship. Staff will budget conservatively for donations related to specific projects. (Projects 3206, 3800, 3833, and 3835).
- + An estimated \$135,000 in income from the ACRL long-term investments will be recognized in the draft operations budget (final amount will be derived in consultation with ALA Finance staff to ensure that will be the eligible expected earnings) (Project 3200).

Expenses:

- Travel and communication costs will continue to increase and will be carefully monitored (all projects). Travel and administrative expenses were reduced based on prior year actuals.
- All current staff positions will be included in the budget. As of September 2020, ALA policy does not allow for the majority of vacant positions (possible exceptions: grant-funded, executive directors) to be filled, and if applicable, any vacancies will be a cost savings. Some funds will be budgeted for interns and temporary help.

Assumptions by Strategic Goal

Goals are listed in the order in which they appear in the *ACRL Plan for Excellence*.

Value of Academic Libraries

Goal: Academic libraries demonstrate alignment with and impact on institutional outcomes

Objectives

1. Cultivate research opportunities that communicate the impact of academic and research libraries in the higher education environment.
2. Promote the impact and value of academic and research libraries to the higher education community.
3. Expand professional development opportunities for assessment and advocacy of the contributions towards impact of academic libraries.
4. Support libraries in articulating their role in advancing issues of equity, access, diversity, and inclusion in higher education.

Expenses

- \$1,000 will be budgeted for potential VAL activities in consultation with the chair of the VAL committee. (Project 3703)

Student Learning

Goal: Advance equitable and inclusive pedagogical practices and environments for libraries to support student learning.

Objectives

1. Empower libraries to build sustainable, equitable, inclusive, and responsive information literacy programs.
2. Collaborate with internal and external partners to expand understanding of the impact of information literacy on student learning.

Expenses

- \$1,000 will be budgeted for potential SLILC activities in consultation with the chair of the SLILC committee (Project 3711).
- \$8,400 will be budgeted for maintenance and development of the Information Literacy Sandbox and \$2,400 for web hosting (Project 3711).
- One Immersion Program will be offered in FY23 either as an in-person or virtual program; this has yet to be determined by the Immersion facilitators who are currently discussing the program format. The program will break even or net a small profit. All Immersion programs will be offered on a cost-recovery basis. Because of its proven-track record of drawing a consistent number of participants, registration revenues will be budgeted at 95%. (Project 3830)
- Funds will be budgeted for one Immersion facilitator observer for the non-regional Immersion Programs (Projects 3830).

Research and Scholarly Environment

Goal: The academic and research library workforce accelerates the transition to more open and equitable systems of scholarship.

Objectives

1. Increase the ways ACRL is an advocate and model for more representative and inclusive ways of knowing.
2. Enhance members' capacity to address issues related to scholarly communication, including but not limited to data management, library publishing, open access, and digital scholarship, and power and privilege in knowledge creation systems.
3. Increase ACRL's efforts to influence and advocate for more open and equitable dissemination policies and practices.

Expenses

- \$1,000 will be budgeted for scholarly communication activities in consultation with the chair of the Research and Scholarly Environment Committee. (Project 3702)
- An additional \$29,257 is budgeted to pay the following:
 - \$15,010 for Library Copyright Alliance (\$15,010 shown in Govt. Relations Project 3704)
 - \$6,750 for SPARC dues;
 - \$5,000 for Open Access Working Group;
 - \$2,000 for OpenCon2022, 1 sponsored scholarship

New Roles and Changing Landscapes

Goal: The academic and research library workforce effectively fosters change in academic libraries and higher education environments.

Objectives:

1. Deepen ACRL's advocacy and support for the full range of the academic library workforce.
2. Equip the academic library workforce to effectively lead, manage, and embrace change, advocate for their communities, and serve as a catalyst for transformational change in higher education.
3. Increase diversity, cultivate equity, and nurture inclusion in the academic library workforce.

Expenses

- \$1,000 will be budgeted as a placeholder for new initiatives to support this goal, with an additional (project 3403).
- \$3,000 budgeted for updates to the Fostering Change Cohort curriculum and publication and potential reoffering (Project 3403).

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Revenues

- + \$21,750 in revenues from the ACRL Diversity Alliance will be budgeted. 58 institutions @ \$500. Number of institutions based on 75% of 2021 membership (Project 3402).

Expenses

- \$1,000 will be budgeted for potential EDI activities in consultation with the chair of the EDI committee (Project 3402).
- \$1,500 in ongoing costs to support the ACRL Diversity Alliance (Project 3402).
- \$14,000 will be budgeted to support two ALA Spectrum Scholars. The B&F Committee and the Board recommended increasing support from one to two Spectrum Scholars. The Board approved at its 2018 Fall Meeting. (Project 3838).
- Bulk of expenses paid for subsidized RoadShows to HBCU, tribal colleges, and other minority-serving institutions. After a two-year pause, offer ACRL licensed workshops with up to five subsidized versions on a partial cost-recovery model. Delivery to five locations means an estimated direct cost of \$16,750 total: \$9,250 travel = (2 presenters x 5 workshop locations) * (\$450 flight + \$300 hotel (\$200 * 1.5 nights) + \$100 2 days per diem + \$75 ground transportation) and \$7,500 honorarium (\$750 x 2 presenters x 5 locations) (Project 3402).

Enabling programs and services: Member Engagement

The following budget assumptions are presented by enabling programs and services areas so that we continue to think of resource allocation aligned with the strategic plan.

Membership Services***Revenues***

- + These are preliminary estimates based on partial FY21 data, and we are still waiting for more up-to-date info from ALA Membership, as well as tactics to grow membership. Membership revenues will be budgeted by first looking at FY21 July actual, the most current membership data available, then adjusted to reflect a small increase in FY22 (a non-conference year) and adjusted for an expected increase in FY23 (a conference year). As FY23 will be a conference year for ACRL, historically membership increases by 1.54%. Therefore, FY23 membership will be budgeted at a total membership of 8,340 paying members (and 8,523 total members). This reflects the 10.3% membership decrease in FY20, projected membership decrease of 6.1% decrease in FY21, and 1% increase in FY22 as ALA simplifies membership categories. ACRL may increase dues slightly in FY23 (if the Board implements an increase based on a possible change to the HEPI index). The initial personal membership dues rate for FY23 will be based on FY22 HEPI. Staff will continue to adjust this recommendation based on the monthly membership reports and quarterly HEPI forecasts.

Expenses

- Membership benefits and support for member services will be strategically reviewed by the Board and Budget and Finance Committee in light of decreasing revenues and absent net asset balance spend down. (Project 3200)
- ACRL will budget \$3,000 to sponsor three ALA Emerging Leaders. (Project 3200).
- Leadership Council catering for Annual Conference split between 3200, 3201, 3250, 3275. Budget based on average of previous years: \$5,000
- Reduced to \$15,000 from \$25,000 for as yet unidentified strategic initiatives will be budgeted. (Project 3200-5350)

Board and Executive Committee***Expenses***

- Funds will be budgeted to support a suite for the ACRL President at Annual Conference—typically about \$340/night/5 nights. As ALA sunsets MW and business meetings do not take place in conjunction with the new LibLearnX event, a suite will not be budgeted (Project 3201).
- Funds estimated at \$63,022 will be budgeted for a FY22 Board Strategic Planning and Orientation Session (SPOS). Funds will be budgeted to include senior staff participation in the Strategic Planning Session as well as chairs/ vice-chairs of the four goal-area committees and the EDI Committee (Project 3201).

- Leadership Council catering for Annual Conference split between 3200, 3201, 3250, 3275. Budget based on average of previous years: \$5,000/4 (Project 3201).

Advisory services and consulting

Revenues

- + Consulting will continue to recover costs and yield a modest net of \$7,300. (Project 3203)

Discussion Groups

Expenses

- No funds beyond staff support will be budgeted as discussion groups do not receive a base funding allocation.

Awards

Expenses

- Donations to support awards will be recognized and staff time, administrative fees, and direct expenses will be budgeted to support the awards program. (Project 3206)

Chapters

Expenses

- Per member allocations to ACRL Chapters will be funded at \$1.00 per ACRL member residing in the state or region but budgeted based on historic usage of these funds which is below the maximum funding allowed. As ACRL looks to reduce expenses this area of expense reimbursement merits examination. Less than half of the chapters avail themselves of this funding. (Project 3207)
- Funds will be budgeted to support the ACRL Chapter Speakers Bureau program, which funds ten visits to ACRL chapters by ACRL officers. (Project 3207)
- Because no chapter has ever requested funds under this program since its inception, no funds will be allocated in the FY22 budget to implement the Board's policy to give \$10 to chapters for each new member of ACRL in the chapter's geographic region who joined in the previous fiscal year after chapters document membership campaign activities focused on recruiting to ACRL national. If a chapter did undertake this activity, ACRL could fund this from the net asset balance.

Committees

Expenses

- Committees are allowed up to \$150 each. Based on historical requests, \$600 will be budgeted.
- Leadership Council catering for Annual Conference split between 3200, 3201, 3250, 3275. Budget based on average of previous years: \$5,000/4 Sections and Interest Groups.

Sections

Expenses

- Expenses for sections will be budgeted using the section funding formula in place, a base allocation of \$1,000.00 with an additional \$0.75 per section member over 400 (as of August 31).
- Interest Groups are allowed up to \$150 each. Based on historical requests, \$1,500 will be budgeted.
- Leadership Council catering for Annual Conference split between 3200, 3201, 3250, 3275. Budget based on average of previous years: \$5,000/4

Liaisons to Higher Education Organizations

Expenses

- See Advocacy section.

Special Events

Expenses

- In recent years, the number of ACRL section and interest group special events at conferences has averaged 16 per year. With the reorganized Midwinter Meeting starting in 2021, the average number of events per year may drop to 12 as fewer units meet onsite. (Project 3833)

Government Relations (Project 3704)

Expenses

- \$15,010 for Library Copyright Alliance (\$15,010 shown in Scholarly Communication Project 3702)
- \$4,000 will be budgeted to cover the costs of the officers (or other leaders) attending ALA's Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. (*Project 3704*).
- \$2,000 for general travel to support legislative and policy advocacy (*Project 3704*).

Scholarships

Expenses

- Funds for scholarships shall be budgeted as follows, although these amounts may be reduced as the budget gets assembled (Project 3838):
 - ACRL 2023 scholarships @ \$50,000, divided among in-person and virtual attendees and in addition to Friends fund donations supporting conference scholarships
 - 2022 RBMS Conference scholarships @ \$18,000 reduced to \$13,000
 - Immersion Programs @ \$12,000; reduced to \$10,000
 - E-learning scholarships @ \$1,000

- Support for 2 ALA Spectrum Scholars @ \$14,000
- Miscellaneous @ \$3,000; eliminated

Annual Conference Programs

Expenses

- Financial support for ACRL’s ALA Annual Conference programs will be a total of \$7,150. (Project 3835)
- The President’s Program budget will be \$6,500. (Project 3835)
- Funds of \$200 will be budgeted for a front and back flyer that includes the award winners for the ACRL President’s Program. (Project 3835)

Enabling programs and services: Publications

Non-periodical publications

Revenues

- + In FY23, non-periodical publications will be able to recover costs and net a small excess total revenue based on the current list of books in progress and expanding backlist. (Project 3400)
- + ACRL should see continued robust sales and royalties from EBSCO and ProQuest for institutional e-book sales in FY23. (Project 3400)

Expenses

- Expenses will be budgeted higher than in previous years to account for increased costs of warehousing and fulfillment, production, costs of sales, etc. as the new title count and backlist continues to grow. (Project 3400)

Library Statistics (Project 3202)

Revenues

- + In FY22 the redesigned ACRL information service Benchmark: Library Metrics and Trends will launch. Net revenue is projected to be \$62,153 and will be budgeted in 3202.

Expenses

- We will budget \$21,000 in depreciation costs and \$21,500 as repayment to PLA to cover ACRL’s share of the rebuild cost in FY21. (Project 3202)

Standards and guidelines (Project 3204)

Revenues

- + Sales of print standards fell off to zero during the pandemic. Anticipate very negligible sales to continue in FY23 as well, unless there is a bigger than anticipated economic rebound and/or

RoadShows move back to an in-person model (RoadShows IUT costs of booklets for programs back to this line).

Expenses

- There should be no, or very limited, printing expenses in FY23 due to current inventory and lack of sales in FY20, FY21, and most likely FY22.

C&RL (Project 3300)***Revenues***

- + Online advertising revenues for FY23 are projected to remain at FY22 budget levels. (Project 3300)

Expenses

- Online hosting and labor expenses should remain steady with FY21 actual/ FY22 budget. (Project 3300)

C&RL News (Project 3302)***Overview***

- *C&RL News* will become an online-only publication beginning with the January 2022 issue. FY23 will be the first full year that the magazine is not printed.

Revenues

- + Subscriptions: No subscription revenue in FY23 due to transition to online-only model during FY22.
- + Print product ads: No print ad revenue in FY23 due to transition to online-only model during FY22.
- + Online product ads: Revenue from banner ads on the C&RL News website and table of contents alert sponsorships should hold steady at FY22 budget levels.
- + Online ads: Online advertising on which we pay overhead, including eblasts and newsletter sponsorships, are projected to increase from \$90,000 to \$110,000 due to advertisers shifting to digital ads from print along with current FY22 demand.
- + Classified job ad revenues will be budgeted with a significant increase over FY22, back to the levels seen in the years prior to the pandemic. Job advertising recovered much more quickly and strongly than anticipated following the abrupt dive to record lows in 2020, returning to “normal” pre-pandemic levels by the spring of 2021. Job ad sales grew steadily from 2010 through 2017, then declined slightly in 2018 and 2019 as the job market plateaued. ALA JobLIST maintains high awareness in the LIS niche and is a uniquely powerful recruitment tool for the profession. But an uncertain economic environment and policies supporting ALA’s mission and values that restrict the ads JobLIST will publish—restrictions JobLIST’s for-profit competitors

don't have—potentially threaten its future performance. Online job ad revenues and expenses are split with *American Libraries* 50/50 through operation of the ALA JobLIST online career center. (Project 3302)

Expenses

- A small amount of funds will be budgeted to support marketing initiatives for the online career center, ALA JobLIST. (Project 3302)
- \$14,000 will be budgeted to contribute to HRDR for operating costs of the ALA JobLIST Placement Center at ALA MW and AC. (Project 3302)
- \$18,000 will be budgeted for ALA JobLIST's ongoing operating expenses, a monthly fee to the platform provider. (Project 3302)
- There will be no printing or mailing expenses in FY23 due to transition to online-only publishing model during FY22. (Project 3302)
- Online hosting expenses are anticipated to remain steady at FY21 actual/ FY22 budget levels. (Project 3302)

RBM (Project 3303)

Revenues

- + Subscriptions continue to decline by approximately 20-25% per year with a similar decline anticipated for FY23 over FY21 and FY22. Small annual subscription price increases have been implemented which will partially offset smaller number of subscribers.
- + Print advertising revenue is projected to decline from \$8,000 in FY22 to \$6,000 in FY23 due to long-time advertisers retiring or closing shop. Online advertising revenue is projected to decline from \$1,500 in FY22 to \$1,000 in FY23.

Expenses

- Online hosting expenses will remain at FY21 actual/ FY22 budget levels following the transition to Open Journal Systems in FY17. (Project 3303)
- Increases in printing and postage are anticipated but have the potential to be volatile depending on whether paper shortages and USPS turmoil continue. (Project 3303)
- Page counts should remain at FY22 levels. (Project 3303)

CHOICE

Keeping in mind the points made in the overview section, here are the following *pro forma* assumptions regarding the FY23 budget, subject to change as we go further into FY22. (All percentages are to FY22 budget unless otherwise noted):

CHOICE Revenue

- + *Choice Reviews* subscription revenue will fall by 5%.
- + *Choice* magazine subscription revenue will fall by 20%; *Reviews on Cards*, by 15%
- + Subscriptions to *Resources for College Libraries* will be marginally higher than in FY21, at around \$125,000. RCL licensing will remain at \$10K for the use of RCL content in ProQuest's eBook Central, with an additional \$10K credited to Choice (3902) for OAT matches.
- + *ccAdvisor* will be depreciated at the close of FY22.
- + Advertising net revenues should increase by 2%-3%, with declining magazine advertising offsetting gains in sponsored content:
 - o *Choice* magazine: 120,000
 - o *Choice Reviews*: 35,000
 - o Case studies and white papers: \$60,000
 - o Podcasts: \$40,000
 - o Newsletters and eblasts: \$225,000
 - o Choice360 (including TIE): \$50,000
 - o Webinars: 262,500
- + Royalties from licensing of *Choice Reviews* will remain at or slightly below current levels, to perhaps \$490K.

CHOICE Expenses

- Choice will budget salary, benefits, and overhead according to the directives of ALA Finance.
- All other direct expenses, with the exception of amortization of capitalized expenses, will remain consistent with FY22B, adjusted upward for 3% inflation.

CHOICE Bottom Line

- Revenues will be down approximately 4%.
- Assuming no furloughs, expenses will rise 3%
- For FY22, net revenue may be as high as (-\$290K), requiring a further draw-down from the Choice reserve fund, currently at about \$2.8MM thanks to an infusion of cash from the federal COVID bailout.

Enabling programs and services: Education

ACRL 2023 Conference (Project 3801)

Revenues

- All revenues pertaining to ACRL 2023 will be recognized in March 2023 after the conference is held.
- FY23 is an ACRL Conference year so total ACRL revenues will be approximately more than 1.5 to two million dollars more than FY22 total revenues.
- ACRL 2023 is being planned as a hybrid conference with approximately 50-60% of attendees attending in-person and approximately 40-50% participating remotely. We anticipate the total number of paid registrants around 3,000, which is an 8 percent decrease from the average of the past four conferences which was 3,243.
- We will set the F2F and virtual-only registration fees in order to cover expenses and to have a budget with a projected net revenue similar to the FY19 net.
- ACRL 2023 exhibitor revenues will be budgeted with a modest decrease from 2019 (the last in-person ACRL Conference). We have dropped between booths per conference since 2013 (327 booths actual 2019, 375 booths actual 2017, 386 booths actual 2015, 398 actual 2013), with a fairly large 48 booth drop from 2017 to 2019.
- ACRL 2023 sponsorship revenues will be budgeted around \$150,000-200,000 which is a 20-40% decrease from the usual \$250,000 goal. We expect fundraising to be challenging as we recover from the pandemic, as well tight budgets and ongoing company mergers.
- Because conference revenues have consistently met or exceeded budget for at least the last ten conferences, 100% of revenues will be recognized.

Expenses

- Staff are taking active steps to find cost-savings and reduce expenses when possible.
- The ACRL 2023 conference budget will include a modest amount of funds for “innovation” and/or new programs/services/accessibility which will enhance the hybrid conference experience.
- Scholarships will be budgeted as a “contra-expense” transfer from ACRL’s scholarship project and/or Friends Fund rather than shown as revenue.

Preconferences and workshops***Revenues***

- + Revenues generated from registration fees will cover the costs for one Annual preconference, as the event is budgeted to at least break even. We will budget attendance conservatively to minimize the possibility of having to cancel due to low registration numbers. (Project 3811).
- + The RBMS 62nd Annual Conference will be held in FY22. Revenues and expenses for this program will be set to break even. (Project 3800)

Expenses

- Sections sponsoring conferences (e.g., RBMS) in FY22 may participate in the program to share net revenue with ACRL, which is spent from the fund balance in FY23. (Project 3275 and 3838)

Online learning (Project 3340)***Revenues***

- + E-learning webcasts and courses will be developed and offered in FY23. Since FY23 is an ACRL Conference year, we don't anticipate an increase in the number of offerings from FY22 levels. We anticipate total revenues will be even or a little down from FY21 actuals due to the implementation of standardized online learning pricing being implemented across ALA . (Project 3340)
- + ACRL and CHOICE will split revenues and expenses (15/85%) for the ACRL/CHOICE sponsored webinars and will budget approximately 30 of them in FY21.
- + ACRL will continue to offer group registration discounts for e-Learning webcasts and special pricing for webcast series. (Project 3340)

Expenses

- ACRL will continue to provide two complimentary e-Learning webcasts to ACRL chapters per fiscal year.

Licensed workshops (Project 3341)***Revenues***

- We expect to resume licensing of full-day in-person workshops to institutions, chapters, and consortia upon request, though at reduced numbers from FY20. Seven available workshops will cover these topics: the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education, Scholarly Communication, Assessment, Open Educational Resources and Affordability, Research Data Management, the Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education, and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. These programs will be offered on a cost-recovery basis and should generate a modest net. (Project 3341)
- ACRL will continue to offer virtual "Off-RoadShow" offerings based on the current workshop topics, developed in FY21/FY22. We project this to be a popular option for institutions and

organizations unable to host an in-person workshop and to generate a modest net, making up for the reduced number of in-person workshops. (Project 3341)

- \$10,000 in partial revenue for subsidized RoadShow (Tent. Projects 3702, 3703, 3711).

Expenses

- ACRL will continue to cover travel costs for new presenters to shadow workshops. With the expectation that ACRL will develop at least one new workshop and hire new presenters in FY23, ACRL will budget for 3 new presenters to shadow one workshop each in FY22.
- \$15,000 to support curriculum development of new workshops and curriculum refreshes of existing workshops, up from a reduced \$7,500 in FY22 but below pre-pandemic budget of \$20,000/year.
- Subsidized RoadShows to HBCU, tribal colleges, and other minority-serving institutions shown in EDI section.

Enabling programs and services: Advocacy**Strengthening partnerships with other organizations (Project 3501)*****Expenses***

- \$15,000 will be budgeted to support the work of ACRL's External Liaisons Committee (formerly Liaison Coordinating Committee) through its grants working group. (Project 3501).
- ACRL will continue organizational support Project COUNTER, CHEMA, EDUCAUSE (dropped EDUCAUSE Dues from draft budget saving \$2,000), FTRF, American Council of Learned Societies, National Humanities Alliance, and CNI. (Project 3501)
- Modest funding to support additional visits (as opportunities arise) to higher education organization conferences and meetings and those of information –related organizations will be included in the budget. (Project 3501)

Communication on major issues and trends in libraries and Higher Education***Expenses***

- Continue membership in Library Copyright Alliance at direct cost of \$30,020 plus staff time. (Projects 3702 and 3704)
- Funds will be budgeted to support ACRL's advocacy efforts to influence legislative and public policy. (Projects 3702 and 3704)
- The full Board will participate in a virtual spring meeting but \$4,000 will be budgeted to cover the costs of the officers (or other leaders) attending ALA's Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. (Project 3704)

Project Outcome (Project 3712)

Revenue

- + Project Outcome offers fee-based group accounts for consortia that may bring in revenue. Fees range from \$600 to \$5000 per group, depending on the number of institutions. There are likely to be fewer than 2 groups added in a year.
- + Revenue from training workshops will be budgeted at \$1750.
- + Revenue for sponsored webinars will be budgeted at \$5,000 (\$2,500 each for two webinars)
- + Revenue for new options (e.g. training kits, external partnerships, toolkit "resale")

Expenses

- \$60,550 will be budgeted for monthly web maintenance costs for the ACRL Project Outcome toolkit. This includes \$250/month for Amazon Web Services, \$50 for Civilized Discourse Construction Kit, and \$225/month for Digital Divide Data Ventures. Community Attributes is paid monthly for maintenance and ad hoc troubleshooting (estimated at \$3000/month).
- ACRL staff time of at least 15 hours/week to: provide customer service and technical support for Project Outcome users, act as staff liaison to the Project Outcome for Academic Libraries Editorial Board and organize new online learning opportunities.

Operations

Operational activities relevant to the quality of ACRL's strategic and enabling programs and services are reported below.

Staff and office

Expenses—ACRL

- ACRL's staff budget will include full staffing at FY22 level.
- \$2,500 will be budgeted for temporary staff as needed. (Project 0000)
- Staffing costs for existing staff will be budgeted as directed by ALA Finance. (Project 0000)
- Costs to provide professional development opportunities for staff will be budgeted. Budgeted funds for professional development and membership, business meetings, and general operational costs reduced.

Expenses—CHOICE

- See *Choice* expenses.

ALA Relationship

Overhead—ACRL

- ACRL’s general overhead payment to ALA will be budgeted at FY22 levels as policy requires, currently estimated at about \$464,132 (FY21 final actual).

Overhead—CHOICE

- CHOICE’s general overhead payment to ALA will be budgeted at approximately \$297,654 in FY23, based on FY22 budgeted OH.