



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

**Julie Garrison, ACRL President, 2021-2022**

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, PLA Partner to Launch Benchmark**

In October 2021, ACRL and the Public Library Association (PLA) launched Benchmark: Library Metrics and Trends to power library data analysis and visualization. This new digital resource can help libraries plan, make informed decisions, and tell the story of their impact. Through Benchmark, library professionals have access to a centralized collection of their library data and the ability to compare with peer libraries using a robust set of visualization and reporting tools. Academic libraries have access to ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics Survey data. Subscribers will find an intuitive interface that supports analysis and reporting efforts. Virtual data dashboards and customized comparison tools are interactive and user-friendly.

Benchmark offers dashboard visualizations aligned with principles in the ACRL Standards for Libraries in Higher Education and provides access to data from the ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics Survey, the largest survey of academic libraries in the country. Fielded annually since 1998, the survey provides one of the most comprehensive portraits of academic libraries' impact across the U.S. Oversight for the survey is provided by the ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics Survey Editorial Board.

### **Robert Jay Malone Named ACRL Executive Director**

In September 2021, ALA announced that Robert Jay Malone as the new executive director of the ACRL. Malone comes to ACRL and ALA from the History of Science Society (HSS), where he served for 23 years. As the HSS's first executive director, he furthered the organization's advocacy agenda; promoted equity, diversity, and inclusion; oversaw and implemented strategic planning; created a fundraising infrastructure; served on a 22-member board; and worked with hundreds of volunteers. Malone earned a B.A. in History and an M.A. and Ph.D. in the History of Science, all from the University of Florida. We were excited to welcome Jay to the ACRL leadership team.

### **Mark Cummings Retires as Choice Editor and Publisher**

In April 2022, Mark Cummings, the editor and publisher of Choice, retired after nine years with

the association. Under Mark's leadership Choice rebuilt the Choice Reviews subscription database, launched The Authority File podcast, developed the Towards Inclusive Excellence content vertical, expanded the webinar program, developed a content marketing program, and moved Choice360 from a marketing site to a content distribution site. He kept up the spirits of his team while Choice made the difficult pivot from an office almost totally devoted to producing book reviews to the multi-channel publishing unit we are today. Mark is very much missed at Choice, and we are grateful for his guidance over the last nine years. Rachel Hendrick, Choice's director of operations, assumed the interim editor and publisher role.

## ***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.

The Value of Academic Libraries (VAL) Committee sponsored a free ACRL Online Discussion Forum in August 2021, to share findings from a survey asking what protocols academic libraries used during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure safe library operations (services, resources, spaces, personnel interactions). The forum highlights survey findings followed by questions from participants. The committee also sponsored two free webcasts in Spring 2022. "Beyond Words: Initiating, Implementing and Sustaining Change" featured librarians profiled on the ACRL Insider blog as part of the VAL Spotlight Series: Practices of Equity & Social Justice, while "The Impact of Covid-19 on Academic Libraries" featured panelists from multiple institutions in a discussion centered around the theme of engaging students in academic libraries during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In March 2022, ACRL signed a letter of support for an IMLS grant proposal that seeks to pilot the integration of library data in institutional learning analytics, center student voices in this emerging use of data, and develop shareable models for academic librarians preparing to engage these practices to increase data-informed decision-making in libraries.

Project Outcome for Academic Libraries continues to be a vital part of our Value initiatives. Based on a model developed by PLA, this free toolkit is designed to help academic libraries understand and share the impact of essential library programs and services by providing simple surveys and an easy-to-use process for measuring and analyzing outcomes. The standardized surveys allow libraries to aggregate their outcome data and analyze trends by topic and program type. Training and resources are provided to participating libraries so they can use data-driven results to advocate for their library. Several upgrades were made to the toolkit in 2021, including adding Arabic translations of the surveys and allowing for more customization of additional survey questions. As of May 2022, Project Outcome for Academic Libraries has 4,274 users and 732 academic libraries have created surveys and collected over 110,000 responses.

ACRL's *Standards for Libraries in Higher Education (SLHE)*, another important component of our Value of Academic Libraries work, has been visited more than 13,000 times this year. Our virtual workshops "Putting the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education into Action" and

“Assessment in Action: Demonstrating and Communicating Library Contributions to Student Learning and Success” continue to help academic library professionals tackle value and assessment issues facing the profession today. The Learning Analytics Toolkit, a freely available professional development resource developed by the VAL Committee, provides an avenue for library professionals to learn more about learning analytics and how they intersect with academic libraries.

### ***National Center for Education Statistics Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System/ ACRLMetrics***

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 2021 survey closed on April 17, 2022. The 2021 survey data is expected to be published in June 2022. The survey also enabled participants to easily transfer their IPEDS responses to the institutional keyholder for the IPEDS survey. The ACRL/ALA/ARL IPEDS Task Force provided feedback regarding the migration of the IPEDS Academic Library Component to IMLS by 2025.

### ***Student Learning***

The following activities are examples of ways ACRL moved towards meeting the association’s goal of assisting librarians in transforming student learning, pedagogy, and instructional practices through creative and innovative collaborations during my term.

The ACRL *Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education* has introduced a new way of thinking and practicing to the academic library community and continues to bring both inspiration and challenge to librarians as they explore new directions in information literacy practice and research. 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 3,064 times in this period. The Sandbox now provides access to 331 resources, including more than 32 resources that were added or revised during my term in office. The Framework itself was viewed more than 86,000 times this year.

ACRL published a number of books including *The Community College Library Series – Reference and Instruction*; *Embracing Change: Alternatives to Traditional Research Writing Assignments*; *Envisioning the Framework: A Graphic Guide to Information Literacy*; *Mind, Motivation, and Meaningful Learning: Strategies for Teaching Adult Learners*; *Once Upon a Time in the Academic Library: Storytelling Skills for Librarians*; *Teaching about Fake News: Lesson Plans for Different Disciplines and Audiences*; *Teaching Business Information Literacy*; *The Teaching with Primary Sources Cookbook*; and *Your Craft as a Teaching Librarian* 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 “13 Things in Instructional Design for Library Instructors,” “A Practical Guide to Implementing UDL in Libraries,” “Critical Information Literacy Instruction in an Age of Misinformation,” “Increasing Engagement Using Active Learning Techniques,” “Cognitive Load and Instructional Design,” and “Teaching with Digital Primary Sources.” 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 “Authority is constructed and contextual: Empowering students to navigate privilege in academic publishing;” “Crowdsourced pedagogy: Editing Wikipedia and the Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education;” “Valuing the everyday: Using experiential scenarios to evaluate information;” and “You can improve: Using the Framework in How to Read workshops.”

## ***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.

Presenters from the ACRL RoadShow “Scholarly Communication: From Understanding to Engagement” offered a three-part live webcast series in May 2022. The webcast series was directed at those with administrative responsibilities, those with new leadership assignments in scholarly communication or digital publishing, as well as liaisons and any others who are seeking to advance their professional development in scholarly communication. The ACRL RoadShow “Building Your Research Data Management Toolkit: Integrating RDM into Your Liaison Work” has also been converted for a digital environment and is available to be licensed to institutions, chapters, and consortia for a customized online experience.

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 two books, *The Scholarly Communications Cookbook* and *Stories of Open: Opening Peer Review through Narrative Inquiry*, on scholarly communication-related topics this year.

The Scholarly Communication Toolkit, developed and maintained by ReSEC, continues to provide content and context on a broad range of scholarly communications topics and offers resources and tools for the practitioner. The freely available toolkit features sections on topics such as fair use, public access mandates, and library publishing in addition to more fully developed sections on open access publishing and repositories.

The ACRL Scholarly Communication Discussion Group, Scholcomm discussion list, and the ACRL/ SPARC Forum on Emerging Issues in Scholarly Communication continue to be important venues for strengthening the association’s role in supporting new models of scholarly communication.

## ***New Roles and Changing Landscapes***

Our New Roles and Changing Landscapes (NRCL) goal focuses on assisting the academic and research library workforce in effectively navigating change in higher education environments.

The 2021 Fostering Change Cohort, a 12-week program based on the *Fostering Change: A Team-Based Guide* open access publication, launched in September 2021 and concluded in December. A second round of the cohort was announced in April 2022. Each cohort team can be made up of two-to-five library workers, and a full scholarship is awarded to one team from a minority-serving institution. Participating teams will each be assigned a facilitator to help them scope a specific change within their institution. Facilitators will aid in identifying and establishing team dynamics, provide strategies for working with people who are struggling with change, and demonstrate project management tools for organizing your work. The second cohort will run from June to August, 2022.

In February 2022, members of the NRCL Committee's user experience subgroup offered the ACRL Presents webcast "Hybrid Challenges in the New Normal," while NRCL's diversity subgroup joined with the ACRL Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee to present the ACRL Presents webcast "Supported to Stay: A Discussion of Retention Experiences and EDI-Informed Approaches" in March 2022. Our virtual workshop "Open Educational Resources and Affordability" continues to help academic library professionals interested in learning about OER and/or developing OER initiatives.

A working group comprised of members from the NRCL and Value of Academic Libraries Committees was formed this year to create an Academic Library Workers Advocacy Toolkit, designed to help librarians and library workers advocate for themselves, the profession, and the necessity of academic libraries. The project is slated for completion by January 2023.

### ***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.

A new service, Facilitative Support for Library Leaders, launched in January 2022, to help libraries facing leadership challenges due to the changes and pressures in libraries and higher education from the ongoing pandemic, hybrid in-person and online working environments, and the pressing need to create more equitable, inclusive, and supportive workplaces. Virtual sessions include an initial assessment, followed by facilitated discussions, exercises, recommendations for relevant tools and activities, and a curated package of ACRL-published literature based on specific institutional needs.

### ***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.

ACRL continues to look for new ways to encourage more diverse participation within the association. Recognizing the need to reduce financial barriers to membership, the ACRL Board of Directors approved funding for a second round of one year of ALA and ACRL membership for up to 25 library workers who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC).

ALA and ACRL issued a joint statement this February in response to incidents of bomb threats against Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The statement reads, in part, “We especially wish to reach out to our library colleagues whose libraries anchor these important institutions. We lament that racism and the threat of violence continue to plague our colleagues in higher education, places where students, faculty, and workers come to learn and expand understanding. HBCUs do not exist as places apart.” ACRL additionally signed a letter of support for an IMLS grant proposal that seeks to study BIPOC paraprofessionals in academic libraries in March 2022.

The work of the ACRL, PLA, Association of Research Libraries (ARL), and ALA Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services (ODLOS) Building Cultural Proficiencies for Racial Equity Framework Task Force continued this year. The task force is charged to create a framework for cultural proficiencies in racial equity that can be used in public and academic libraries. A draft of the Framework was circulated for public comment in January 2022 and the task force incorporated comments into a second version of the document. The draft Framework was approved by the ACRL Standards Committee in spring 2022 and sent to the Board of Directors for consideration at the 2022 ALA Annual Conference.

The ACRL 2023 Scholarship Committee expanded the preference given to applications from underrepresented groups that have been historically marginalized or excluded due to race, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, economic background, age, and/or ability. The ACRL 2023 proposal rubric was also revised to provide expanded preference to proposals from underrepresented groups that have been historically marginalized or excluded due to race, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, economic background, age, and/or disability.

At its January 2022 meeting, the ACRL Board of Directors approved adding a fifth strategic goal area of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion to the ACRL Plan for Excellence to make the association’s EDI efforts clearer and more visible to our members and the community at large. Our existing Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee will become this goal area’s committee and the goal language and objectives are being drafted at the time of this report.

ACRL published two books - *Ethnic Studies in Academic and Research Libraries* and *Implementing Excellence in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion* related on EDI-related topics this year. A free ACRL Presents webcast, “Supported to Stay: A Discussion of Retention Experiences and EDI-informed Approaches,” was presented by the New Roles and Changing Landscapes Committee and the ACRL Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (EDI) Committees in March 2022.

We also presented a variety of Online Learning offerings focused on student learning and information literacy topics, including “Ethnic Studies in Academic and Research Libraries: A

Three-Part Webcast Series.” In March, the New Roles and Changing Landscapes Committee and EDI Committee jointly hosted an ACRL Presents webinar, “Supported to Stay: A Discussion of Retention Experiences and EDI-informed Approaches.”

In March 2022, ALA, ACRL, the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the Society of American Archivists (SAA), the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), and the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions and Tuskegee University Library Deans/Directors Association, Inc., sponsored a virtual screening of the short film *Hidden in Full View*, the story of the lynching of Matthew Williams in Salisbury, Maryland, in 1931.

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.

The ACRL Diversity Alliance Task Force launched a series of webinars this year on hiring and residency topics. The first two webinars, “Kindly Hire Me: The Process and Impact of Inclusive Hiring,” and “Residency Interest Group’s (RIG) Diversity Residency Toolkit & Resident-Centered Framework,” were held in February 2022.

### ***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 January 2022, the most recent numbers available at the time of this report, ACRL had 8,531 members. We continue to look for ways to partner with ALA to enhance member recruitment and retention efforts.

ACRL sections offer 15 vibrant and dynamic communities that nurture individual development and foster a deeper connection to the profession. Sections continue to offer successful mentoring opportunities along with programming and social events to create community among new and continuing members. In addition, ACRL’s 17 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.

As part of our ongoing commitment to furthering equity, diversity, and inclusion in librarianship, ACRL is supporting Brandi Hart as its 2021-22 Spectrum Scholar. Hart is a student in the University of Illinois School of Information Sciences.

ACRL's social media presences continue to grow and provide our membership with new avenues to connect with colleagues and the association. We will be holding a virtual orientation session this summer for incoming leaders and offered a webcast to help members volunteer for ACRL committees. A number of ACRL committees, interest groups, discussion groups, sections, and the Board of Directors are working virtually and taking advantage of ALA Connect and other virtual meeting systems to keep the work of the association moving forward year-round.

### ***Awards***

Since 1923, the ACRL Awards Program has recognized and honored the professional contributions and achievements of academic libraries and librarians. This special recognition by ACRL enhances the sense of personal growth and accomplishment of our members, provides our membership with role models, and strengthens the image of our membership in the eyes of employers, leadership, and the academic community.

At its January 2021 meeting, the ACRL Board of Directors approved a proposal to pause ACRL's awards program and appointed a task force to undertake a critical review of the program and make recommendations for its future. This pause presents an opportunity to ensure all ACRL awards align with the Association's Core Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, and for the awards program to emerge in a stronger position in both solid finances and inspired purpose. The task force solicited feedback from a variety of stakeholders and members of the academic library community during my term in office and conducted an environmental scan of other associations to explore alternate models and benchmark effective practices for recognizing achievement.

The Board of Directors accepted the task force's 13 recommendations at its virtual meeting in January 2022 and made the decision to continue to pause the awards program for the 2023 cycle while the recommendations are being implemented. Complete details on the task force recommendations are available in in April 2022 issue of *C&RL News*.

### ***Publications***

#### ***Monographs***

ACRL released a wide variety of monograph publications in the past year, including *Academic Library Mentoring: Fostering Growth and Renewal* (three volume set); *The Community College Library Series – Assessment/Reference and Instruction*; *Embracing Change: Alternatives to Traditional Research Writing Assignments*; *Envisioning the Framework: A Graphic Guide to Information Literacy*; *Ethnic Studies in Academic and Research Libraries*; *How to Be a Peer Research Consultant*; *Implementing Excellence in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*; *Interim Leadership in Libraries: Building Relationships, Making Decisions, and Moving On*; *Mind, Motivation, and Meaningful Learning: Strategies for Teaching Adult Learners*; *Once Upon a Time in the Academic Library: Storytelling Skills for Librarians*; *The Scholarly Communications*



*Cookbook; Stories of Open: Opening Peer Review through Narrative Inquiry; Teaching about Fake News: Lesson Plans for Different Disciplines and Audiences; Teaching Business Information Literacy; The Teaching with Primary Sources Cookbook; The Rise of AI: Implications and Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Academic Libraries; and Your Craft as a Teaching Librarian.*

ACRL's Publications in Librarianship (PIL) series—a peer-reviewed collection of books that examine emerging theories and research—launched its third open peer review, for *Intersections of Open Educational Resources and Information Literacy*, edited by Elizabeth Dill and Mary Ann Cullen, in April 2020. *Intersections of Open Educational Resources and Information Literacy* is expected to publish in summer 2022.

### **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.

*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.

Kristen Totleben, Librarian for Modern Languages and Cultures at the University of Rochester's River Campus Libraries, was appointed to the post of editor for *College & Research Libraries* in July 2021. Totleben will serve an initial three-year term beginning July 1, 2022. She succeeds Wendi Arant Kaspar of Texas A&M University as *C&RL* editor. Thanks so much to Wendi for her service and contributions to ACRL.

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. The number of job openings shot up over the past year to the highest levels seen in JobLIST's 16-year history, following the swift and severe contraction in job openings experienced during the first year of the pandemic. 2021-22 saw more than 3,000 job openings advertised on the site, 13% greater than the previous best year of 2016-17. ALA JobLIST continues to work to develop improvements to the service to serve job seekers and employers well in any hiring environment and shares timely job search, hiring, and career advice through its popular social media channels.

### **Choice**

In the past year Choice continued to produce quality content with the goal of maintaining user engagement on Choice360.org and with our webinar and podcast programs. Since its launch in March 2020, Towards Inclusive Excellence (TIE) has produced vital content around diversity, equity, inclusion, and access (DEIA). In FY21, Choice launched a series of quarterly resource guides that feature lists of books, articles, and online resources recommended by experts in the

DEIA space. The fall and winter editions featured bibliographies that explored diversity in higher education leadership, critical race theory, and ways to support BIPOC students and employees. The spring edition focused on voting rights. The TIE blog posts, resource guides, and podcasts continue to draw audiences to Choice360.org and provoke conversation on social media.

Choice's podcast series *The Authority File* reached a milestone this year - recording its 250th episode. Some of the highlights from episodes produced this year include Robert Brinkmann, Professor of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment at Northern Illinois University, and author of *Practical Sustainability: A Guide to a More Sustainable Life* and the blog *On the Brink*, who talked about environmental sustainability. Uli Beutter Cohen, creator of the Subway Book Review social media project, joined us to talk about her new book, *Between the Lines: Stories from the Underground*, and the reading trends she's witnessed since she started the project in 2013.

Choice remains dedicated to its traditional review products: Choice Reviews, Choice magazine, and Choice Reviews on Cards, but subscriptions and advertising revenue for these products continue to decline. Subscriptions for our print products, Choice magazine and Choice Reviews on Cards, were hit particularly hard during the pandemic years and will most likely not recover. At the same time, these print products bring in over \$200,000 in net revenue, while the entire reviews program brings in over one million dollars in revenue. These products, combined with our innovated multimedia content, DEAI content stream, and innovative sponsorship packages have put us on track to contribute \$313,000 to the ALA general fund in FY22.

### ***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 Data Visualization, First-Year Experience, and Micro-Credentials and Economic Data 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. ACRLog 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 new Companion Documents to the Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education focusing on Journalism, Research Competencies in Writing and Literature, Sociology, and Visual Literacy this year.

## ***Education***

ACRL continues to offer a wide range of professional development programs and events to meet the needs of today's academic and research librarians.

### ***ACRL Conference***

The ACRL 2023 Conference will be held March 15-18, 2023, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Higher education has changed dramatically over the last few years. Academic libraries are addressing an increased emphasis on remote learning, rising calls for social justice, and an acknowledged need for flexibility that supports a sustainable work-life balance. ACRL 2023 will explore these issues and more around the theme of "Forging the Future." The conference call for proposals was issued in March 2022. Contributed paper, panel session, and workshop proposals are due June 3, 2022. Lightning talk, poster session, roundtable discussion, and virtual conference presentations are due October 13, 2022.

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

My President's Program at the 2022 ALA Annual Conference, "Connect. Collaborate. Cooperate. Commit," featured a panel discussion highlighting ways to become a leader within your institution through digital literacy programs that prepare students' to be socially mobile, civically responsible, entrepreneurs, innovators, and productive members of the workforce. ACRL sponsored an additional 11 section, committee, and individual programs at the conference on topics such as engaging new generations of diverse library professionals, critical information literacy, open inclusive pedagogy, research data management, and more.

### ***RBMS Conference***

The RBMS 2021 Virtual Conference, "Power. Resistance. Leadership," was held June 21-24, 2022. This virtual gathering took a hard look at the field in the wake of the pandemic. Plenary sessions highlighted reflections on the past two pandemic years, reckoning with social change, and recovery through creative and artistic work. Conversations focused on continuing actions for racial, social, and environmental justice, along with examining opportunities to focus efforts toward effecting necessary change. More than 600 registrants and 30 bookseller companies participated in the conference.

### ***RoadShows***

The ACRL RoadShow program brings high quality workshops directly to campuses covering a wide range of topics that help academic librarians tackle the greatest issues facing the profession today. While the in-person workshops have been on hold due to the impact of COVID-19, workshop teams have pivoted the content from these workshops into new Off-RoadShow virtual learning opportunities. Off-RoadShow webcast series designed for individual participation covered topics including "Scholarly Communication and Open Educational Resources & Affordability," and multi-day virtual workshops covering the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education and Research Data Management are now available for libraries and organizations to host for their communities upon request.

In September, ACRL debuted a new virtual workshop, "Open Educational Resources and Affordability," as part of our Off-RoadShow program. This introductory virtual workshop is intended for academic librarians and library staff interested in learning about OER and/or

developing OER initiatives at their institutions.

### ***Online Learning***

The ACRL Online Learning program offered 26 events consisting of 21 webcasts and 5 multi-week courses this year on a variety of topics including critical information literacy, copyright and course reserves, ethnic studies in academic libraries, online library instruction, the scholarship of teaching and learning, leadership, and more. More than 700 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 “Hybrid Challenges in the New Normal” (February 2022), “Introducing the Fostering Change Cohort” (August 2021), “Introduction to Benchmark: Library Metrics and Trends” (November 2021), “Opening Peer Review in LIS” (September 2021), “Supported to Stay” (March 2022), and “The Community College Library: Integrating the Framework into Library Instruction” (April 2022).

### ***ACRL-Choice Webinars***

The ACRL-Choice’s webinar program continues to produce compelling content and was bolstered this year by two ProQuest sponsored events that attracted attendees from beyond the academic library space. In October, “Mission JOY: a panel conversation on creating happiness in troubled times” attracted 3,653 registrants who wanted to know more about the movie Mission: JOY, a documentary that explores the friendship between His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. In April, Choice hosted a panel discussion about the first days of the COVID-19 pandemic in New York City. The discussion included doctors and public health officials featured in the documentary “The First Wave.” This webinar attracted almost two thousand registrants. Choice’s webinar program saw remarkable growth during the pandemic and while many offices are open and people are traveling again, librarians and the greater academic community continue to enthusiastically engage with our content.

### ***Scholarships***

Knowing that professional development is essential to the success of academic and research librarians, the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) awarded 64 scholarships for the RBMS 2022 Virtual Conference worth \$11,800.

### ***ACRL Speaks Out***

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

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

ACRL joined ALA and its other divisions in issuing a statement in support of the Ukrainian library community. ALA and its divisions support our Ukrainian colleagues and will work with the global library community to answer the appeal from the Ukrainian Library Association to provide accurate information as a means to support democracy and freedom of expression.

In March 2022, ACRL joined 11 other members of the Open Access Working Group (representing national and regional library, publishing, funding, research and advocacy organizations) in a coalition letter asking Congressional leaders to retain language ensuring that taxpayers are guaranteed timely, free access to the results of publicly funded research. ACRL also joined with 13 other groups this March to support the Affordable College Textbook Act, reintroduced by U.S. Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL) and U.S. Senators Angus King (I-ME), Tina Smith (D-MN), and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ), along with U.S. Representative Joe Neguse (D-CO-02). The legislation is designed to help students manage costs by making high quality textbooks easily accessible to students, professors, and the public for free.

ACRL joined ALA, ARL, and the Library Futures Institute this February in an amicus brief by the Software Preservation Network in the case *Apple Inc. v. Corellium LLC* urging the circuit court to affirm that security research is a fair use. In January 2022, ACRL joined ALA, ARL, and 15 other organizations and individuals who promote functional fair uses of copyrighted works and advocate for equitable access in signing onto an amicus brief in *Green v. Department of Justice*, an Electronic Frontier Foundation lawsuit which challenges Section 1201 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act as an unconstitutional restraint on fair use.

In December 2021, ACRL joined 13 other members of the Open Access Working Group (representing national and regional library, publishing, funding, research and advocacy organizations) in applauding the ratification of UNESCO's Recommendation on Open Science during its 41st General Conference. ACRL joined an amicus brief by the Electronic Frontier Foundation (together with the American Library Association, the Association of Research Libraries, and the Freedom to Read Foundation among other public interest groups, small tech companies, and representatives of the start-up community) in October 2021 in support of a petition for rehearing in *Hepp v. Facebook et al.*

The association continues to be an active partner with ALA and the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) in the Library Copyright Alliance (LCA). Over the course of the past year, LCA has acted on a number of important issues by issuing comments on pending legislation and court cases, joining briefs, and releasing papers and guides on a wide range of copyright and fair use issues including a new approach to foreign commercial-scale infringement; opposition to a proposal to establish the Copyright Office as an executive branch agency within the Department of Commerce, led by a presidentially appointed Register of Copyrights; new exemptions to Section 1201; and more.

### ***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.

During my term in office, we also increased our involvement with the National Associations of

Librarians of Color (NALCo), consisting of the American Indian Library Association, Asian/Pacific American Librarian Association, REFORMA, Black Caucus of ALA, and Chinese American Librarians Association, and began exploring deeper connections with the HBCU Library Alliance, as part of the association's work with EDI.

### *Final Thoughts and Appreciation*

It has been a whirlwind of a year as ACRL President, and it is hard to believe that it is already ending. I have had the opportunity to engage in thought-provoking and impactful conversations about our profession and learned so much working with ACRL staff and with colleagues from across the United States and beyond. Collectively, as an association, we have made progress on many fronts to deliver on our core purpose to "lead academic and research libraries and librarians in advancing learning and scholarship" and further the goals in the Plan for Excellence. The conversations about how we do this have shifted and are centering diversity, equity, and inclusion, in alignment with our Core Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI). In addition to the many programs and resources offered on a variety of aspects of EDI, work is underway to examine ACRL leadership recruitment practices, to reconsider member accommodation/compensation guidelines, and to encourage broader professional engagement of all academic library workers with the association. I am grateful to my fellow ACRL Board of Directors members, our member volunteers, and the ACRL staff for their commitment to the work, dedication to the profession, and confidence in our association's ability to help lead our academic and research libraries into the future.

It has been an honor to work with two capable and exceptionally talented Executive Directors and with the amazing ACRL staff over the course of the year. As members, we all owe ACRL staff a debt of gratitude for the critical work they do every day to keep our association vibrant and delivering on member needs. I want to express my deep appreciation to Kara Malenfant, who served as Interim ACRL Executive Director until Jay Malone joined ACRL in September 2021. Kara and the whole ACRL staff provided steady leadership and guidance throughout an extraordinary time.

I have enjoyed helping to onboard ACRL's new Executive Director Jay Malone and experiencing the association through his fresh eyes. I am pleased that we were able to find a thoughtful, knowledgeable professional, with a great association background and a vision to lead ACRL into the future. Thanks to his inquisitive mind and ACRL staff's deep knowledge and support, Jay has quickly learned the intricacies of the academic library profession and the division's role within the greater ALA environment. I appreciate the ways he is helping ACRL develop new connections and actively work to diversify the association and make it more inclusive and equitable.

It takes a village to sustain a thriving professional association and I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge my ACRL Board colleagues for their time, commitment, and deep engagement in stewarding the association. Many thanks to Erin Ellis, ACRL President-Elect, and Jon Cawthorne, ACRL Past President, for their support and counsel throughout the year. I also want to thank outgoing ACRL Board Directors-at-Large Faye Chadwell and April Cunningham, ACRL Division Councilor Jacquelyn Bryant, and Budget and Finance Committee Chair Carolyn Allen for their sustained leadership and service. Along with the full Board, they have helped ACRL navigate a myriad of issues, challenges, and changes throughout their tenures.

Additionally, I am eternally grateful for our many member volunteers who continue to make space in their busy lives and dedicate their time and talents to association service. I want to thank Lynn Connaway and Earl Givens for co-chairing ACRL's President's Program Committee. The program "Connect. Collaborate. Cooperate. Commit." explored and discussed opportunities for how academic library workers can address inherent and systemic biases that prevail within our institutions and create barriers to student success. I also want to recognize all ACRL division level committee and task force chairs. Without their leadership, we would not be able to innovate and respond to the evolving profession and member needs.

My time as ACRL President has been intense and energizing. As I reflect on this past year, I am heartened by the strength of our library community and our commitment to forging a path to a brighter future together. I am so grateful to have had this once in a lifetime opportunity and now look forward to supporting Erin as she takes over the reigns as President in 2022-2023.