

## LIRT Steering Committee Minutes

5/9/2023 | 12:30pm CT

Becca Neel, Rachel Mulvihill, Laura Pearle, Blake Klimasara, Susan Mythen, Brendan Johnson, Stan Trembach, Trina McCowan, Renee Kiner, Sarah Simms, Alexandra Rivera, Alissa Droog, Liya Deng, Kim Copenhaver, Michelle Roubal, Ning Zou, Samantha Kannegiser, Wayne Finley, Victor Baeza

1. Minutes from October and December 2022 meetings were approved
2. Kel Hughes Jones stepped down, EDI Assembly needs new LIRT representative
  - a. This is an appointed position, we will need to appoint someone else. Interested parties please self-nominate to Becca.
3. Remember to fill out the [Committee Report](#) form shortly after ALA Annual
  - a. Can also be found on the LIRT web page under “Resources for Member Leaders” at top of page, one chair fills out the form for each committee
4. Executive Board report from Alex Rivera

Alex shared highlights from the Executive Board’s January and February 2023 meetings

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NLSRcVvAVTBw7rVJNxIBIwrwoTR58cvdxWcXfQUthKA/edit?usp=sharing>

The Executive Board meets once a month, awaiting notes from March and April meetings. The primary focus currently is the challenges being experienced in public schools and school libraries, public libraries, and now academic libraries. ALA is creating toolkits, working through state chapters to provide opportunities for training on handling these types of challenges, etc.

ALA is in the black, thanks to some grant funding, but that’s not sustainable. Need to shore up memberships. Publishing is improving, continuing education environment improving as well. Funding is stabilizing. Looking at improving data, creating and a data warehouse to be a pillar in the ALA strategy. Looking to do a Diversity Counts report (first in almost 10 years).

Alex invited questions or issues to be raised by the group.

Susan Mythen is in Florida. As the dean of a college library, was asked to report on everything we’re doing with DEI. Reached out to ALA OIF for support. Not much in response, advised to reach out to state library association. Met with other Florida Deans and Directors and found that the responses to the state from college library peers were greatly varied. It would have been nice to have guidance so they could have responded in a similar way.

Alex suggested ACRL should be helping to lead that. Offered link to a Webinar on Anti-DEI Legislative Dynamics: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_RZ5-RdnAQu2bUzNGIftgXA](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RZ5-RdnAQu2bUzNGIftgXA)

Also shared a link to a web page: “Honesty for Ohio Education” on a state bill:

<https://www.honestyforohioeducation.org/sb-83.html#:~:text=The%20bill%20bans%20mandatory%20DEI,%2C%20tenure%2C%20and%20state%20funding>

Because so much is happening with school/public librarians, there haven’t been enough resources directed to academic libraries. Hope there’s programming at ALA Annual Conference.

Looking at dues standardization, trying to minimize the number of categories.

Victor Baeza noted that LIRT dues have conformed to the new standard for a long time so it’s not a big concern for us. Victor noted that he’s been part of state organizations that feel they can’t mention ALA when combatting unfriendly state legislature, because that shuts down conversation.

Alex noted that the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color met in Florida in the winter, and was pressured to leave FL. California is dropping travel restrictions to specific states, because these types of bans are not effective.

Alex urged the group to Look at ALA financials and ask questions. There are tutorials to help you understand them. The ALA Operating Agreement is also moving forward, which will impact the Divisions.

Reach out with further questions: [alexriv@msu.edu](mailto:alexriv@msu.edu) 734-585-4287

5. Committee Report-Outs (e.g. updates, needs, current projects)

a. Adult Learners Committee (Stan/Alissa)

- i. Updated charge: “This committee is charged with assisting library professionals to understand, find information or promote ideas on learning styles, teaching methods, and training resources for adult learners, as well as accept and appreciate differences in serving adult communities who have diverse intersecting identities.”
  1. This charge was approved by the committee. It was necessary to emphasize commitment to DEI
    - a. Must be approved by Executive Board, will use ALA Connect, Rebecca will submit to Exec for vote
  2. Accomplishments for the year - Hosted 4 different journal clubs to talk about articles and resources
- ii. Upcoming webinar save-the-date – June 6, 12 noon central, on applied adult learning theory in contemporary libraries

b. Awards (Wayne)

1. Winners have been selected, yet to be posted on web site. Will move forward with celebration planning
2. Becca will follow up with Danielle on web page posting

c. Communications (Renee)

- i. Proposal on moving to e-newsletter format (using Informz), the newsletter will be sent via email to LIRT members, can also be sent via Connect.
  - ii. The LIRT Communication Committee proposes that the current .pdf version of the LIRT Newsletter, that goes out via ALA Connect, be moved to the Informz ALA email platform. Using Informz will do a few things; it will provide us with a standard format, allow us to see statistics on # of times the email is opened, and will go out to all current members via the IMS database (not Connect). The LIRT News editor and the Communications committee will work with Danielle Ponton, ALA Liaison, to establish the format of the Informz newsletter and publish it quarterly. The Electronic Resources Manager would continue to make the newsletter available on the LIRT web page.
  - iii. Still seeking an Editor for the newsletter
  - iv. Planning to put together a June newsletter including award winners, Top 20
  - v. The above proposal was approved 😊
  - vi. Victor noted that the email newsletter will only reach members, and we'll also post the newsletter online and through ALA Connect. We may be able to determine how many non-LIRT members are reading the newsletter.
- d. Conference Planning
  - i. Submitted report in writing:
    - 1. ALA 2023 Conference Program
      - a. Title: Universal design for learning – planning for all learners
      - b. Date/Time of Presentation at ALA: Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1pm CT
      - c. Presenters:
        - i. Carrie Banks, Brooklyn Public Library
        - ii. Emily Porter, Curie Metropolitan High School, Chicago
        - iii. Cristina Colquhoun, Oklahoma State University
    - 2. ALA 2024 Proposed Conference Program Title & Description
      - a. Title: Gamification & Game-Based Learning in Library Instruction
      - b. Description: Integrating game elements or a game framework in library instruction has become increasingly popular in libraries in recent years. Gamification and game-based learning is designed to increase learner motivation and engagement and has been facilitated with an increasing number of accessible tools and methods. In this session, participants will learn how librarians from school, public, special, or academic libraries are incorporating gamification and game-based learning into instruction in the classroom, in programming, and in outreach activities.
    - 3. Trina McCowan posed the question – is that a done deal or still accepting proposals? AI is hot right now, might be a great topic for next year (2024)
      - a. Becca will touch base with Conference Planning Committee

- e. Liaison committee (Laura)
  - i. Current Charge: This committee shall initiate and maintain communication with groups within the American Library Association dealing with issues relevant to library instruction and shall disseminate information about these groups' activities.
  - ii. Proposed new charge: This committee shall initiate, coordinate and maintain communication with groups within the American Library Association dealing with issues relevant to library instruction and shall disseminate information about these groups' activities. The LIRT Liaisons to other areas of ALA -- for example, NMRT, YALSA, RUSA, ACRL are automatically members of this committee and report out through the committee.
  - iii. We expect members to meet virtually four times a year and to submit their reports to the Chairs in a timely manner. If, by June 2024 there isn't increased participation and engagement with this Committee, we recommend that the Committee be sunsetted.
  - iv. Hoping to have everyone reporting through committee (e.g. EDI Assembly representative reports separately)
    - 1. Becca will submit new charge to Exec for vote
- f. Membership (Blake)
  - i. Will start process of reserving restaurant for Bites with LIRT for ALA Annual. Need to know a good date/time with respect to other conference happenings related to LIRT so as not to conflict. Thanks to Susan Mythen for hosting. Susan noted location from last time ALA was in Chicago, it was on a shuttle route, she will forward info to Blake.
  - ii. Upcoming virtual [Lunch & Learn with LIRT for May 19<sup>th</sup>](#) (Chat GPT for instruction), capped at 30 registrants
- g. Top 20
  - i. No report
- h. TLT
  - i. No report
- i. Transitions (Brendan)
  - i. Report on collaborations with school librarians and AASL
  - ii. Recalibrating mission, trying to tie in with school librarians
    - 1. Do conversations include legislation, book challenges? Not yet, laying the groundwork at this point
- 6. Other
  - a. Victor – this is Victor's last week at Oklahoma State, starts in June at Colorado State University Pueblo, so he may be slow to get to email and contact chairs regarding appointments for next year.