**ACRL Chapters Council Meeting**

**January 12, 2022**

**2:00-3:30 PM EST**

**Held remotely via Zoom**

Note: If any of the hyperlinks do not work, copying-and-pasting them into a web browser should take one to the appropriate webpage.

1. Welcome by Chair Dawn Behrend

Chair Behrend called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM Eastern Time.

1. Program with Q&A

Dr. Emily Knox, Associate Professor in the School of Information Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, presents:

*Intellectual Freedom and Social Justice: Core Values of Librarianship*

Program Description:

Throughout my work, I argue that intellectual freedom leads to social justice. A quick review of the 2020 American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom’s (2020) Most Challenged Books list demonstrates that the majority of the books on the list are focused on diverse topics including race and gender expression. Without support for intellectual freedom, the voices of people who are marginalized would not be heard. However, the discourse continues to focus on how support for intellectual freedom leads to the proliferation of hate speech and other harmful expression and is against the core value of social justice/social responsibility. I believe this is because the field of library and information science has not sufficiently integrated Kimberle Crenshaw’s (1989) concept of intersectionality into our core philosophical foundations. Crenshaw’s theory of intersectionality argues that individual progress and development, social space, and group identity are all equally important for human flourishing.

Please see the accompanying presentation slides.

1. Business meeting
	1. Introductions (in chat box please)

Dr. José Aguiñaga, San Jose State University (candidate for ACRL Vice-President/President-Elect); Elizabeth Batte, Nicholls State University (ACRL Louisiana); Dawn Behrend, Lenoir Rhyne University (ACRL Chapters Council Chair); Lydia Bello, Seattle University (Washington State ACRL); Lauren Carlton (ACRL Staff Representative); Leslin Charles, Rutgers University (ACRL *Chapter Topics* Newsletter Editor); Rachel Cooke, Florida Gulf Coast University (Florida ACRL); Ashley Creek, University of Saint Marry (College and University Libraries Section of the Kansas Library Association); Carrie Dunham-LaGree, Drake University (ACRL Chapters Council Legislative Liaison); Eric Edwards, Illinois State Library (ACRL Chapters Council Secretary); Julie Garrison, Western Michigan University (ACRL President); Erin Jerome, University of Massachusetts Amherst (ACRL New England); Rebecca Kelley, Louisiana State University (ACRL Louisiana); Dr. Emily Knox, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign iSchool (guest speaker); Alyssa Koclanes, Eckard College (Florida ACRL); Ali Larsen, Siena College (ACRL Chapters Council Past Chair); Dr. Jay Malone (ACRL Executive Director); Kelly McCallister, Appalachian State University (ACRL Chapters Council Vice-Chair); Dr. Beth McNeil, Purdue University (candidate for ACRL Vice-President/President-Elect); Sandy Schiefer, University of Missouri (Missouri ACRL); and Virginia Shaffer, Allen Community College (College and University Libraries Section of the Kansas Library Association)​

* 1. Updates from Chair

Chair Behrend reminded everyone that the elections for Vice-Chair and Secretary will take place at the summer Chapters Council meeting. More information on the positions' responsibilities is available at <https://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/chapters/acr-cco>. A formal call for candidates will go out in the spring. She will work on that with Vice-Chair Kelly McCallister.

* 1. Message from ACRL Vice-President/President-Elect candidate Dr. Beth McNeil

Dr. McNeil emphasized that these are complicated and challenging times for libraries. This is why it is important for librarians to stay actively involved in professional organizations. She encouraged ALA and ACRL members to take advantages of the opportunities those organizations offer for service to the profession, including voting in the elections. Dr. McNeil has been making her own efforts to familiarize herself with the ALA operating agreement and how that might affect ACRL.

* 1. Message from ACRL Vice-President/President-Elect candidate Dr. José Aguiñaga

Dr. Aguiñaga announced that he is open to ideas on how to make ACRL a more effective and inclusive organization for its members. He also asked attendees to encourage other ACRL members to exercise their right to vote in the upcoming elections. The February issue of *C&RL News* will feature the candidate statements.

* 1. Report from Leadership
		1. Dr. Jay Malone, ACRL Executive Director

Executive Director Malone noted that he comes to ACRL from an academic non-profit organization. He assumes that most of the statewide and regional chapters are 501(c)(3) organizations. In the case of ACRL itself, however, ALA is actually the holder of the non-profit status. He looks forward to learning more about this issue, and he encouraged anyone with questions regarding this matter to reach out to him, at rmalone@ala.org.

Registration is open for the LibLearnX event, which will take place January 21-24. This meeting is entirely online, and it is limited to ALA members. It takes the place of Midwinter. As this year’s LibLearnX meeting is a first-time event and an experiment of sorts, the organizers will evaluate feedback and plan accordingly for any future LibLearnX meetings. Registration is available at <https://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2021/10/registration-now-open-ala-s-liblearnx-library-learning-experience-conference--pass>​. **This event has now passed.**

Also, registration for the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., opens in February. As of now, the event is scheduled to take place in person, from June 23 to 28. Anyone interested in attending should watch for related announcements very soon, at <https://2022.alaannual.org/>.

Executive Director Malone encouraged members of statewide chapters to volunteer for ACRL committees. The organization has been striving to make it easier for new members or new committee volunteers to gain a seat on a committee. This effort is in keeping with ACRL's goal to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion within the organization, along with promoting social justice in the broader profession.

In response to a question from Vice-Chair Kelly McCallister, ACRL President Julie Garrison emphasized that pretty much all committees will have openings this year, due to the rotation cycles. New volunteers will need to fill out forms that give them an opportunity to provide more background information on their professional interests and achievements. Volunteers will also need to provide direct e-mail contact information, so that the ACRL leadership can remain in touch with people who aren't chosen for a committee one year, but who might be candidates for that committee should a spot open later. The volunteer form is available at <https://www.ala.org/acrl/membership/volunteer/volunteer>.

* + 1. Ms. Julie Garrison, ACRL President

President Garrison thanked the ACRL Board for familiarizing new Executive Director Malone with the organization's structure and programs. She mentioned that new benchmark tools are available on the main page of the ACRL website, at <https://www.ala.org/acrl/proftools/benchmark>. The benchmarks provide access to ACRL annual survey data from 1998 to 2020.

As Executive Director Malone emphasized, ACRL is renewing its focus on DEI initiatives, including enhancing support for current BIPOC members and encouraging new ones to join. As an example, ACRL recently granted free one-year memberships to 50 BIPOC individuals. Members should watch for more information on these initiatives and related ones soon, as several ACRL Board meetings take place the last week of January.

On a related matter, ACRL is evaluating its budget and how to spend its money. In particular, the organization strives to assist the individual statewide and regional chapters with making their memberships and programs more diverse and inclusive. ACRL welcomes any specific examples of such initiatives that chapters have found especially productive.

* + 1. Ms. Lauren Carlton, ACRL Program Coordinator, Program Services

Ms. Carlton reiterated that the volunteer period for ACRL committees and sections opened in December and closes on February 15. The contact information for current committee chairs is on the website, at <https://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/committees>, so prospective committee members should reach out to them with questions about serving on a particular committee. Additionally, anyone with questions on the committee appointment process in general should contact ACRL staff members Allison Payne (apayne@ala.org) and Elois Sharpe (esharpe@ala.org).

All chapters should have received a budget for 2022 in October of last year. Anyone on the call who does not have a budget should reach out to the other officers for that chapter. She emphasized that chapters should be very diligent and conscientious about expense requests, since chapter budgets are limited.

Ms. Carlton also reminded everyone to confirm that their chapter's roster and contact information are up-to-date. That information is available at <https://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/chapters/roster>. Additionally, any chapter leaders not on the ALA Connect space should contact the Chapters Council’s List Administrator, Paula Martin, at Paula.Martin@uwyo.edu.

As in the past, each chapter is allowed two free ACRL webcasts per year. The list of available webcasts is at <https://www.ala.org/acrl/conferences/elearning/acrlpresents>. Anyone interested in arranging a webcast viewing should contact Margot Conahan, at mconahan@ala.org.

* + 1. Ms. Carrie Dunham-LaGree, Legislative Representative

The ALA Public Policy & Advocacy Office is working on its agenda for 2022 and will complete it by early spring. The legislative agenda will consist of eight core areas, including federal funding for libraries, net neutrality, and the Affordable College Textbook Act. The Office is revising the previous list of legislative priorities to adapt it for the areas that currently require the greatest focus. Infrastructure will likely be a focus of some of the core areas for 2022.

More information is available on the ALA website, at <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/>. Ms. Dunham-LaGree encouraged attendees to keep their colleagues at public and school libraries in mind during this year’s advocacy efforts, since many of the most pressing issues, such as censorship, affect those libraries significantly. ALA is also available to help state and regional chapters with their own advocacy efforts.

* 1. Announcements from Chapters

The Louisiana Chapter will host its second annual Summer Research Forum. This year's event will take place virtually. The meeting will give Louisiana's academic librarians an opportunity to present on research projects, and they will also have the opportunity to network with their colleagues from throughout the state. The feedback on last year's event was very positive.

* 1. Old Business

Chair Behrend congratulated the chapters on an 86 percent response rate for the Chapters Directory project. Any chapters that have not yet added their information should access the form, at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13SNEDB4sQjInvHVjJ5WIoQ_6qFsF8oyHTik_3_y6xyQ/edit?usp=sharing>. Additionally, chapters that have already entered their information but have undergone changes, especially leadership transitions, should remember to update the spreadsheet, as needed.

Chair Behrend added that the Greater Metro New York Area Chapter posted a message via the Chapters Council listserv on concerns over low levels of member engagement. Anyone with ideas for improving member participation, including initiatives from one's own chapter, should post those to the Connect space.

* 1. New Business

Past Chair Ali Larsen described the project she has undertaken to create a spreadsheet listing the responsibilities of each ACRL Chapters Council leadership position. The link to the spreadsheet is <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1gaJV4djDmeIGmAs8YYK6yZOokWpt1vx_SIbW81m6B-4/edit?usp=sharing>. The current Chapters Council leaders have been working on adding their responsibilities to the spreadsheet. When the spreadsheet is complete, the information will help potential candidates for ACRL Chapters Council leadership positions decide whether or not to run or volunteer.

* 1. Next Meeting

The next meeting is currently scheduled to take place in person at ALA Annual, but there will be a hybrid option. Chair Behrend asked if there would be interest in having a speaker at the next meeting, especially if it takes place in person, and she encouraged anyone with ideas for potential speakers to contact her, at Dawn.Behrend@lr.edu. Members should also watch for an e-mail from Leslin Charles with the call for submissions for the Spring, 2022, issue of the *Chapter Topics* Newsletter soon. If anyone has general ideas or questions for the Chapters Council, please contact Chair Behrend or one of the other officers.​

* 1. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Behrend adjourned the meeting at 3:30 PM Eastern Time.

Respectfully submitted by Eric Edwards, ACRL Chapters Council Secretary, on January 28, 2022.