

**ACRL Chapters Council Meeting**  
**June 24, 2022**  
**8:30-10:00 AM EST**  
**The Renaissance Rooms 08 and 09/Virtual via Zoom**

1. 8:30-8:35: Welcome by Chair Dawn Behrend

Due to technical issues, Chair Behrend called the meeting to order at 8:50 AM. Discussion preceding the official start of the meeting focused on the impact COVID-19 has had on staffing and services at attendees' respective libraries. Some of the challenges attendees described included deciding how soon to return to work, determining whether staff should work in-person full-time or part-time, and how best to accommodate the needs of remote, commuter, and on-campus students. Other issues revolved around staffing levels, with particular challenges for solo librarians, and convincing the administration to take necessary precautions against the virus, with libraries in medical institutions having more success.

2. 8:35-9:10: Program with Q&A

Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe, past ACRL President and Coordinator for Information Literacy Services and Instruction in the University Library and Affiliate Professor in the School of Information Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, presents:

*The Libraries Our Institutions Need: Assessment, Impact, and Organizational Resilience*

Program Description: Every aspect of our institutions were "stress tested" by the pandemic -- and our libraries are no exception. We made programmatic changes, adopted new pedagogical practices, leveraged our long-developing virtual capacities, and responded to a dynamic information environment in order to support student learning, faculty research, and institutional success in very difficult circumstances. In many cases there was almost no time to plan and we have had little time for reflection. We may not realize just how much we achieved in light of the challenges we faced. In reality, our successes are tremendous and our contributions to institutional resilience should be a source of great pride. As we look to the coming years, we can draw wisdom and insight from our experiences through the frameworks of reflective practice and appreciative inquiry, which offer us a way to make sense of our experiences, to recognize our collective challenges, and to celebrate our successes.

The speaker was unable to attend the meeting, so there was no presentation.

3. 9:10-10:00: Business meeting

a. Introductions (in chat box please)

Virtual: Leslin Charles, Rutgers University (ACRL *Chapter Topics Newsletter* Editor); Rachel Cooke, Florida Gulf Coast University (Florida Chapter); Eric Edwards, Illinois State Library (ACRL Chapters Council Secretary); Jamie Hammond, Naugatuck Valley Community College (New England Chapter); Erin Jerome, University of Massachusetts Amherst (New England Chapter); Ali Larsen, Siena College (ACRL Chapters Council Past Chair); Brian Maass, University of Nebraska Medical Center (Nebraska Chapter); Linda Miles, Hostos Community College-CUNY (Greater New York Metropolitan Area Chapter)

On-site: Abby Adams, University at Albany (Eastern New York Chapter); Dawn Behrend, Lenoir-Rhyne University (ACRL Chapters Council Chair); Ashley Creek, University of St. Mary (Kansas Chapter); Laura Hall, University of Kentucky (Kentucky Chapter); Starr Hoffman, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (Nevada Chapter); Stephen "Mike" Kiel, University of Baltimore (Maryland Chapter); Kelly McCallister, Appalachian

State University (ACRL Chapters Council Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect); William Martin, University of North Dakota (North Dakota-Manitoba Chapter); Sandy Schiefer, University of Missouri-Columbia (Missouri Chapter)

b. Election of Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect and Secretary

There was one nomination for Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Eric Edwards of the Illinois State Library. Meeting attendees voted him into office by general acclamation.

There were no nominations for Secretary. The Chapters Council leaders will work with Lauren Carlton to recruit people to run for Secretary. Ideally, someone should be in place by July 31. Any member of a statewide or regional ACRL chapter is eligible; the person does not necessarily have to be a current chapter officer.

c. Call for Volunteer to Serve as Legislative Representative

There were no volunteers at the time of the meeting. Afterwards, however, Laura Hall of the Kentucky Chapter offered to serve as Legislative Representative.

d. Leadership Updates:

- i. Dr. Jay Malone, ACRL Executive Director—Dr. Malone could not attend the meeting, so there was no update.
- ii. Ms. Julie Garrison, ACRL President—Ms. Garrison could not attend the meeting, so there was no update.
- iii. Ms. Lauren Carlton, ACRL Program Coordinator, Program Services—Ms. Carlton could not attend the meeting, so there was no update.
- iv. Ms. Carrie Dunham-LaGree, Legislative Representative—Ms. Dunham-LaGree could not attend the meeting, so she submitted an update separately. ACRL’s Board of Directors has approved the 2022 ACRL Legislative Agenda, which is available [here](#).

e. Announcements from Chapters

The Greater New York Metropolitan Area Chapter is having trouble recruiting new people to serve in leadership positions, and it has also had to cancel events, such as a symposium. To determine why the Chapter faces this difficulty, the current leadership held a town hall at which members could voice concerns. One issue is that members do not feel as if they are represented among the leadership and the conference presenters, creating a disconnect. The Chapter’s strategic planning will focus on reimagining the structure of the organization, in order to make active participation more welcoming.

The Florida Chapter is planning its annual conference, which will take place virtually on Friday, October 21. This year’s theme is “Information Ethics and Access”. The deadline to submit a proposal is Friday, July 8. More information is available [here](#). Working at a library in Florida is not a requirement to participate, and the meeting often has many out-of-state attendees. The Florida Chapter is one of the fastest-growing nationally, reflecting the state’s changing demographics.

The Maryland Chapter is also planning upcoming events. Please see the Chapter’s [website](#) for more information. Since the Maryland Chapter is part of the larger Maryland Library Association, developing programming requires accommodating a broad range of library types, not just academic and research ones.

The Eastern New York Chapter recently held its annual meeting virtually. The Chapter hopes to move back to an in-person meeting format soon. More information on the Chapter’s activities is available [here](#).

f. Old Business

- i. Chapters Directory Project

Chair Behrend congratulated the statewide and regional chapters on a very high response rate, over 90 percent, for the Chapters Directory project. Only a few chapters did not respond, and the Chapters Council leadership is following up with those organizations. Chair Behrend reminded chapters to revise the information in the spreadsheet if anything changes, such as who the current officers are. The link to the spreadsheet is [here](#).

ii. Chapters Council Position Description Project

Past Chair Ali Larsen thanked the other Chapters Council officers for their assistance with compiling and reviewing the list of Chapters Council positions and responsibilities. The spreadsheet includes both elected and volunteer positions, with such information as the length of a term and the time of year at which certain tasks need completing. The list is still a work-in-progress, and the Chapters Council officers will revise it, as needed. The spreadsheet is available [here](#).

g. New Business

i. Incoming Chair Focus Discussion

Incoming Chair Kelly McCallister welcomes any ideas for projects and initiatives Chapters Council could undertake over the coming year. She is especially interested in examples of collaboration among library organizations, both domestic and international, that Chapters Council could use as a model for its own programs. Such collaboration could focus on recent issues of interest to academic and research libraries, including COVID-19, social and racial justice, and meeting the needs of non-traditional students. Incoming Chair McCallister will put out a call for examples, but anyone is welcome to contact her directly, at [mccallisterkc@appstate.edu](mailto:mccallisterkc@appstate.edu).

Another goal is to improve Chapters Council's communication with the statewide and regional chapters. The main platform for conveying updates is ALA Connect. Many statewide and regional chapter officers are not aware of the platform or do not currently access it, however. Chapters Council did work on a project last year to add current officers to the Connect space, but incoming officers may not have joined yet. Incoming Chair McCallister will work with the ACRL leadership to identify methods of improving member engagement via ALA Connect.

ii. *Chapter Topics Newsletter* Articles

Editor Leslin Charles announced that the *Newsletter* received virtually no submissions for its Spring issue, which was supposed to have come out in May. Her goal is still to put out an issue over the summer. She encouraged anyone with news on interesting projects and initiatives from the statewide and regional chapters to write brief reports for submission. The length limit is 300 words, so an article does not need to be long; just a few paragraphs would suffice.

Editor Charles is concerned that the marked decrease in submissions could be aligned with the move to the Connect community as the platform for distribution. Perhaps fewer people are receiving the call for content because of this change. Charles will reach out to Lauren Carlton to determine if this could be the reason and to discuss ways of expanding the reach of the audience for the *Newsletter*.

As of now, the *Newsletter* takes the form of a LibGuide. This format has some limitations, in terms of making the *Newsletter* as interactive and appealing as

possible. Anyone with suggestions for a replacement platform should e-mail her at [leslin.charles@rutgers.edu](mailto:leslin.charles@rutgers.edu).

h. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at LibLearnX in New Orleans. The potential dates are January 27-31. The meeting will take a hybrid format. Chapters Council members should watch for information, including registration, on ALA Connect closer to that time.

i. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Behrend adjourned the meeting at 9:53 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Eric Edwards, 2021-2022 ACRL Chapters Council Secretary, on July 11, 2022.