

Illinois Association of College and Research Libraries Annual Report

July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023

The Illinois Association of College and Research Libraries (IACRL) provided a variety of opportunities for networking, support, and continuing education for academic librarians throughout 2022-2023. This report highlights the work the committee took on over the past year and the plans for 2023-2024

IACRL held a number of events for members that remain mostly in a virtual format. These included two Journal Club meetings discussing online programming and one-shot instruction sessions. The IACRL Scholarly Publishing Working Group, a new networking opportunity was offered this year. This discussion group offered academic librarians a space to discuss their publishing efforts and to share their experiences and expertise around getting published. IACRL also hosted Social Hours for its members where librarians could meet casually and connect based on their interests. We also had a presence at ILA in Rosemont and ALA in Chicago this year, providing literature about the organization and various pieces of swag with IACRL branding. At ILA, IACRL hosted the IACRL Unconference, offering librarians a chance to meet one another in person, many of us after working for a number of years together virtually. The IACRL luncheon hosted a talk by Anthony Dunbar that was well received by the membership.

IACRL continues to work to recognize its membership's accomplishments. With funding from ILA, the Awards Committee instituted a new award this year. The OER Campus Kickstart: Award for Growing Illinois OER Programs provided 5 winners with \$500 to use as an incentive for doing work with faculty to implement OER on their campuses. We are excited to report that we received 7 applications for the first round of awards, and are looking forward to growth in interest in this endeavor in the coming years. The 5 recipients for the first award are:

- Cari Didion and Alli Cipra of Governors State University
- Robin Hofstetter and Edward Green of Roosevelt University
- Beth Hultman and Patrick Carberry of Elgin Community College
- Loren Mindell and Rasha Elhage of Chicago State University
- Michelle Oh and Adrienne Smith of Oakton College

The awards committee also awarded three publications with the People's Choice Award in Scholarly Publishing:

- **First Place**
Title: "Student and Supervisor Experiences Conducting an Entirely Virtual LIS Practicum During COVID-19"
Authors: Tina Griffin, University of Illinois Chicago, and Holly Beverley, Cadence Group
- **Second Place**
Title: "Impact of Undergraduate Students' Library Use on Their Learning beyond GPA:"

Mixed-Methods Approach"

Authors: Jung Mi Scoulas and Sandra De Groote, University of Illinois Chicago

- **Third Place**

Title: "Using the Cataloguing Code of Ethics Principles for a Retrospective Project Analysis"

Authors: Angela Yon and Eric Willey, Illinois State University

The committee also honored Jade Kastel with the Academic Librarian of the year award.

The Communications Committee provided support in all IACRL outreach efforts. The biannual newsletter provides a great mix of upcoming events and programming and allows readers a glimpse into the activities happening at various libraries within the membership. The committee did an excellent job in supporting other committees in marketing their events and making sure that all the events were promoted via all of our media outlets.

The DEI committee continued to collaborate with various entities within and outside of ILA. The committee reviewed their charge and goals, which were approved at the June Executive Board Meeting. The updated charge and goals can be found [here](#). There was a change in leadership on the committee with a sudden departure from the chair. We appreciate Rob Morrison and Jacqueline Zook for stepping up to co chair the committee for the remainder of the term.

Looking to the future, IACRL notes a couple of shifts to come. The conference and continuing education committee solicited feedback via survey this year and will be using the data to determine their programming focus. After low responses to the call for proposals for SPARK, the committee is hoping to tailor its offerings to the membership's interests. With the DEI committee's updated charge and goals, conversation has begun about adding the committee to the IACRL bylaws, and we will be investigating if that is to happen outside of our scheduled bylaws review. We are planning for increased social events at the upcoming ILA Annual Conference in Springfield.

I'd like to end the report with notes of gratitude. There are so many people who have made IACRL not only function, but help to maintain a friendly professional space valuable to academic librarians. Outgoing President, Emily Gilbert, has done a truly massive amount of organizing for IACRL and shaped processes that will be used for years to come. It is easier and more enjoyable to serve in IACRL because of her work, and she has been an excellent colleague and a joy to work with. Outgoing Secretary, Christina Norton, has been critical to the Executive Committee's ability to maintain continuity in our meetings and keep all of our business moving forward. Her work has been invaluable. We run on volunteer work, and we could not do anything without the continued investment from our member librarians serving on committees, their time and energy is crucial to our success. Tamara Jenkins, ILA Communication and Engagement Manager, is the backbone of our Executive Committee, and has provided us with unending patience for our questions and requests, and has offered much needed insight into our endeavors. We could not function without her. Laura Barnes, our ILA Board Liaison, consistently attended IACRL Executive Board meetings and shared her expertise with us.

Finally, we appreciate all that our members for engaging in our programs, being friendly colleagues, and providing us with essential feedback about how best IACRL can serve them.

Submitted by Dan Matthews, IACRL President, on June 27, 2023.