

NEWSLETTER

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RUSA honors former FAFLIG Chair with Federal Achievement Award

Lee Lipscomb, Assistant Librarian at the Federal Judicial Center and 2020-2021 FAFLIG Immediate Past Chair, was recently named the recipient of the 2022 RUSA Federal Achievement Award. According to RUSA Update, "The Federal Achievement Award, presented by RUSA, recognizes an individual for achievement in the promotion of library and information service and the information profession in the Federal community."

Lipscomb hails from Charleston, West Virginia. She has been in federal service for over nine years and a member of FAFLIG for six. Because of her passion and commitment to public service, she transitioned to federal service after working in state government for five years where she served as a prosecutor in the rural counties of North Carolina. Explaining her attraction to public service, she says, "I am always active in my local community personally and professionally and gravitate to public service in work, especially in government... Contributing to my community through my profession is vital."

RUSA's award announcement characterizes Lipscomb as an



aspirational, gracious, and creative leader who operates with a strong focus and enthusiasm. "Ms. Lipscomb has promoted tirelessly library and information services throughout the federal library community and is a staunch advocate for the worth and value of librarianship, promoting career development, user services, and access to information... She has a talent for bringing people together; she recruited a diverse force of federal librarians to showcase the wealth of opportunity in the federal government for aspiring librarians."

The notice also notes the significance of her work with FAFLIG, for which she served as a former chair and immediate past chair. She explains, "I joined FAFLIG to assist an organization that helped me. I was an Adelaide DelFrate Scholarship recipient. The scholarship allowed me to attend my first ALA Annual Meeting as a student in library school."

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FAFLIG is a common forum for library staff working in U.S. federal agencies and the U.S. armed forces.



Are you the missing piece that we need?

Get involved by joining one of our six committees, including the FAFLIG Executive Committee! To volunteer, contact: Joan Blaylock, FAFLIG Chair, at joan.b.blaylock.civ@army.mil.

Have a story or an idea for a story to share? Send it to faflig.ala@gmail.com.

Join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, **May 25, 2022, at 7 p.m. EST** via Zoom.

I wanted to ensure that the organization would survive and even thrive so that other student members would experience the camaraderie of FAFLIG and awareness of attending an ALA Annual Conference.”

During her tenure on the FAFLIG Executive Committee, Lipscomb not only contributed to many well-attended and well-received ALA programs and webinars that focused specifically on careers in federal libraries, but also ensured the survival of the organization within ALA. Upon the dissolution of ASGCLA, she was the driving force behind preserving a place for federal and military librarians by bringing FAFLIG into RUSA. Prior to this organizational change, she had also worked with FAFLRT leadership to merge it from ASCLA into being under ASGCLA.

As with her approach to her work and professional service within ALA, Lipscomb can only express gratitude for this very deserved recognition by RUSA, “I am so very honored. Thank you to RUSA, ALA, and most of all, the federal and armed forces library community.”

The award announcement was published on March 18, 2022, by RUSA at [rusaupdate.org](https://www.rusaupdate.org).



#FederalFindsFriday is here!

We know that many FAFLIG members are interested in federal employment information so we created a curated list of federal library vacancies, primarily from USAJOBS, that are open to the public. Special attention is given to promoting entry-level roles and other specialized programs such as those for students and other new librarians.

The list is updated bi-monthly and shared via our ALA Connect, LinkedIn, and Facebook pages. It can also be viewed by visiting bit.ly/3DB7Rf9.

If your agency is hiring, please send the listing to our Gmail inbox.

The FAFLIG Executive Committee would like to thank Dianne Babski (Associate Director for Library Operations, National Library of Medicine) and Meg Tulloch (Director, Center for Library Science, Government Accountability Office) for their presentations in January and March 2022 respectively.

Meet Michael, FAFLIG Elections Committee Chair

Michael Steinmacher is FAFLIG's current Immediate Past Chair and Elections Committee Chair. He has served for 13 years as the Director of the Barr Memorial Library at Fort Knox in Louisville, Kentucky. In 2016, he was recognized as Federal Librarian of the Year by the Library of Congress.

Prior to federal service, Steinmacher spent a decade at the Louisville Free Public Library, where he rose from



reference to management. Seeking further professional advancement, he successfully applied to become a civilian employee at Fort Knox where he led an effort to reinvigorate library services and undertook a building project.

The launch of FAFLIG in 2020 presented another professional leadership opportunity. He says, “I had presented under the organization's former identity (FAFLRT) at ALA. When the call came looking for executive leadership two years ago, I opted to take up the challenge.”

In March 2022, Steinmacher represented FAFLIG at RUSA's Virtual Forum where he presented on library branding to about 50 attendees. He has been with FAFLIG for more than four years.