President's Report to ALA Council

Steven J. Bell, ACRL President, 2012-2013

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When I began my term as ACRL president in 2012, I chose leadership as the theme through which I could best inspire members to get engaged with ACRL. It also seemed an appropriate theme for Maureen Sullivan's ALA presidency as I was aware she would also be promoting member leadership development. I launched my series of presidential articles in *C&RL News* highlighting new thinking for leadership with an essay titled "A year of learning for your lifelong leadership journey." My year as ACRL president provided me with such a learning opportunity. As an association, we accomplished a great deal during my time in office, assisting librarians across the academic community as they advance learning and transform scholarship on their campuses. As my term nears its end, with a capstone President's Program that will feature a leadership expert, I am proud that I was able to lead during a period of dynamic progress for ACRL – thanks to my Board colleagues, our Executive Director May Ellen Davis, the ACRL staff, and all of our dedicated member leaders. Together we worked to advance our strategic Plan for Excellence.

As the higher education association for librarians, ACRL has long been recognized as a leader in professional development and education. Our major professional development offering, the biennial ACRL Conference, was held this April in Indianapolis. I was very pleased to see so many academic and research librarians from around the world gathering in person and online for a wonderful learning and networking experience. In fact, face-to-face registration combined with Virtual Conference participation made ACRL 2013 our largest conference to date. I was extremely gratified to have so many members stop me at the conference to share their experience, all of who indicated it was by far the best ACRL conference, and possibly the best conference, they had ever attended. By all accounts, attendees went home inspired by their experiences, ready to innovate, lead, and succeed at their institutions. More information about ACRL 2013 is available later in this report.

Our second major accomplishment as an association this year was receiving an IMLS grant to continue the work of ACRL's Value of Academic Libraries Initiative. The newly funded project, Assessment in Action (AiA): Academic Libraries and Student Success, is a professional development program to strengthen the competencies of librarians in campus leadership and data-informed advocacy will be designed, implemented, and evaluated. More information on AiA is available in the Value of Academic Libraries section below.

The association also focused on branding and fundraising during my term in office. The Board of Directors, with input from a range of member leaders and stakeholders, worked over the course of the past year to refresh the ACRL brand. This activity resulted in the development of a new ACRL brand promise, along with a new tagline for the association – Advancing Learning, Transforming Scholarship. The new brand is more than just taglines or clever phrasing, however. It is a message that communicates the idea that our Board of Directors is committed to creating an association that lives up to this promise by acting in the best interest of our members in providing them with continuously improving value. Watch for the new branding as it continues to be rolled out across association communications and presences.

Fundraising and donor recognition were also important parts of my presidential year. We created a new ACRL Circle of Friends group that acknowledges the sustained generosity of those who have been Friends of ACRL for five or more years. The Friends of ACRL group was created to provide a means for the association to take bold steps above and beyond its traditional member programs and services. Rapidly changing demographic, economic, and technological trends are presenting academic libraries and librarians with new challenges and competition that demand immediate solutions. The Friends of ACRL have responded to these new challenges and provided additional support that will enhance and ensure the relevance of our profession. We showed our gratitude to this important group by hosting an appreciation event for the Friends of ACRL at the ACRL 2013 conference in Indianapolis. Twenty-one donors were inducted into the ACRL Circle of Friends at this event.

The following report highlights ACRL's many accomplishments during my presidential year across the three strategic goal areas highlighted in the Plan for Excellence – the value of academic libraries, student learning, and the research and scholarly environment – along with the association's enabling programs and services.

The Value of Academic Libraries

ACRL made significant progress on the association's goal of assisting academic libraries in demonstrating alignment with, and impact on, institutional outcomes this year. The association provides support and training to ACRL liaisons to other higher education organizations and disciplinary societies so that they are prepared to talk about the value of academic libraries in those contexts. In order to further influence national conversations and activities, ACRL members and staff have presented about the value of academic libraries initiative at several conferences, including the Library Assessment Conference, Coalition for Networked Information, and the Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education. We additionally held an invitational meeting at the 2012 ALA Annual Conference, examining the potential scope of a national research agenda.

Members of the Value of Academic Libraries Committee continue to regularly highlight significant research and project reports on the VAL blog at http://www.acrl.ala.org/value/ and the Valueography at http://acrl.ala.org/valueography/. In the year ahead, committee members will begin work on developing a competency statement for librarians and have begun exploring the creation of a template poster that would be customized locally

Assessment in Action Program

Building on the National Leadership Collaborative Planning Grant Level II by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) we received for the "Building Capacity for Demonstrating the Value of Academic Libraries" project in fall 2011, ACRL was awarded a National Leadership Demonstration Grant by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for the project "Assessment in Action (AiA): Academic Libraries and Student Success" in September 2012. The grant funding of $249,330 will support ACRL, in partnership with the Association for Institutional Research (AIR) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), and build on their IMLS 2011 Collaborative Planning grant that convened two invitational summits in December 2011 in suburban Chicago. With this grant, a professional development program to strengthen the competencies of librarians in campus leadership and data-informed advocacy is being designed, implemented and evaluated.

In January 2013, we announced the selection of three new designer/facilitators for the program. They are April Cunningham (Library Instruction Coordinator at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, CA), Carrie Donovan (Head of Teaching & Learning for the Indiana University Libraries in Bloomington, IN), and Libby Miles (Associate Professor of Writing and Rhetoric in the Harrington School of Communication and Media at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, RI). Seventy-five institutional teams were selected from a pool of 98 applicants to participate in the first year of the program. The teams, representing all types of institutions, come from 29 states and 3 Canadian provinces. For a list of currently confirmed institutions, see the AiA program [webpage](#).

The three-year program, part of ACRL's [Value of Academic Libraries](#) initiative, employs a blended learning environment and a peer-to-peer network. The first seventy-five teams will participate in a 14-month long program, which runs from April 2013-June 2014. In year two 100 new institutions will participate, and in year three an additional 125 institutions will be selected. To ensure project results are disseminated to the broader community, each institutional team will submit a final report and each librarian team leader will prepare and deliver a poster at the 2014 ALA Annual Conference.

Standards for Libraries in Higher Education

ACRL added four new presenters for the "Planning, Assessing, and Communicating Library Impact: Putting the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education into Action" workshop during my term in office They are Andrea Falcone (University of Northern Colorado), Rhonda Huisman (Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis), Sharon Mader (University of New Orleans), and Lisa Stillwell (Franklin & Marshall College). The day-long workshop is led by expert presenters at locations across the country. The workshop curriculum is designed to support librarians in applying the *[Standards for Libraries in Higher Education](#)* at their institutions.

A three-part webcast series on applying the standards was presented in November 2012 as well as a three-week online course in February 2013. In addition, a full day preconference on the standards was offered as part of the ACRL 2013 conference in April and will be re-offered at the

ALA Annual Conference in June. More than 700 copies of the revised *Standards for Libraries in Higher Education* have been distributed this year.

ACRLMetrics

To assist with evaluating library performance, ACRLMetrics added the 2011 ACRL survey data as well as selected IPEDS elements. This online product provides unprecedented access to the annual ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics Survey data as well as the biennial National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Academic Library Survey data from 2000 to 2011. ACRLMetrics facilitates performance analysis and decision-making with peer benchmarking and customized reports for use in presentations, grant applications, self-studies, and strategic planning.

Student Learning

The following activities are examples of ways ACRL moved towards meetings the association's goal of assisting librarians in transforming student learning, pedagogy, and instructional practices through creative and innovative collaborations during my term.

The ACRL *Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education* continue to be widely cited as a benchmark in information literacy instruction. This year the standards were cited in numerous books, journal articles, and blogs along with ACRL's own publications. The ACRL Board of Directors appointed a task force this year to update the *Information literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education* so that they reflect the current thinking on the creation and dissemination of knowledge, the changing global higher education and learning environment, the shift from information literacy to information fluency, and the expanding definition of information literacy to include multiple literacies. The work of the task force is expected to be completed by the 2014 ALA Annual Conference.

A variety of e-learning courses and webcasts, along with programs and preconference sessions at the ALA Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference, provided opportunities for librarians to gain additional skills in these important areas.

Information Literacy Immersion Program

ACRL endeavors to improve members' ability to teach and assess lifelong learning skills. To help librarians and institutions develop and implement information literacy programs on their campuses, the ACRL Immersion Program was offered from July 22-28, 2012, at Champlain College. The program provided two tracks of intensive training and education for 90 attendees. The Teacher Track focused on individual development for librarians interested in enhancing or extending their individual instruction skills, while the Program Track focused on developing, integrating or managing campus-wide and programmatic information literacy programs.

Seventy-two attendees participated in the Immersion Program Assessment and Intentional Teacher Tracks held November 14-18, 2012, in Nashville. The Assessment Track provided

attendees with an understanding of assessment and information on how to use assessment as a tool to guide evidence-based classroom, curriculum, and program development. The Intentional Teacher Track offered a mixture of structured and co-constructed learning segments, such as peer discussions, individual reading and reflection times, and participant-led communities of practice to help attendees become more self-aware and self-directed as teachers.

ACRL launched two new Immersion Program tracks this year, Teaching with Technology and Practical Management for the Instruction Coordinator. The Teaching with Technology track provides a practical and design-minded framework for evaluating instructional technologies in order to integrate them more effectively into face to face and/or online teaching. The curriculum includes instructional design, online learning theories, a critical and accessible approach to instructional technology, and strategies for creating engaging and outcomes-focused instructional experiences. Forty-five individuals were accepted to participate in the new track, which will kick off with face-to-face program at the 2013 ALA Annual Conference, followed by four weeks of online learning.

The Practical Management for the Instruction Coordinator track is an interactive one-day program addressing how to lead from within – developing the powers of persuasion to influence in multiple directions. Other topics included creating the right environment for a successful instruction program, understanding a broader campus environment, providing constructive feedback, and coaching for success. Fifty attendees participated in the program, held April 10, 2013 in Indianapolis in conjunction with the ACRL 2013 Conference.

Research and Scholarly Environment

ACRL's scholarly communication program actively promotes a commitment to the greater good through the transition to a more open system of scholarship. To this end, ACRL encouraged members to join Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access in Particle Physics Publishing (SCOAP3) as the project made a significant advancement. ACRL has long welcomed this experimental new funding model as having tremendous potential to inform scholarly publishing more globally and has encouraged libraries to participate. The project will convert the peer reviewed journal "version of record" literature of an entire discipline (High Energy Physics, HEP) to open access. We encouraged members whose libraries subscribe to HEP journals to join in this initiative now and express a firm commitment to redirect your subscription money.

We additionally joined other national and regional library, publishing, research and advocacy organizations in a letter thanking members of Congress who introduced the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act (FASTR) in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate in February 2013. This bi-cameral and bipartisan legislation would require federal agencies with annual extramural research budgets of $100 million or more to provide the public with online access to research manuscripts stemming from funded research no later than six months after publication in a peer-reviewed journal. We also advocated for the passage of FASTR during the 2013 National Library Legislative Day.

To further the open access cause, ACRL is a sponsor of a new Public Library of Science award, the Accelerating Science Award Program. The goal of the program is to demonstrate and

recognize the impact of Open Access research on science and society. The awards will recognize specific instances of using research, published through Open Access channels, which has led to significant innovations or break-through solutions in any discipline of science. As a sponsor, ACRL will help promote the call for nominations for entries from researchers and institutions, as well as from individuals and advocacy groups who have directly witnessed and/or benefitted from Open Access research.

The ACRL Research and Scholarly Environment Committee selected five sites from eight applications to host the "Scholarly Communication: From Understanding to Engagement" workshop in spring and summer 2013. ACRL is underwriting the bulk of the costs of delivering this proven content by sending expert presenters on the road. The institutions selected to host the 2013 road shows are Pennsylvania Academic Library Consortium, Inc. (Philadelphia); Academic Libraries of Indiana (Indianapolis); Illinois Wesleyan University (Bloomington, Ill.); Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (Edmonton, Alberta, Canada); and the University of Texas Libraries. (Austin, Tx.). The workshop focuses on access, emerging opportunities, intellectual property, and engagement. When the 2013 workshops are complete, the road show will have visited 19 different states, the District of Columbia, 1 U.S. territory, and 2 Canadian provinces. The 25 workshops offered over the program's five years will have reached more than 1,500 participants from over 400 different colleges and universities. ACRL also makes the workshop available as a paid program to additional interested institutions.

ACRL published a new white paper, "Intersections of Scholarly Communication and Information Literacy: Creating Strategic Collaborations for a Changing Academic Environment," in March 2013. Written by a working group of leaders from many parts of the association, this white paper explores and articulates three intersections between scholarly communication and information literacy. The paper also provides strategies for librarians from different backgrounds to initiate collaborations within their own campus environments between information literacy and scholarly communication. This white paper is issued as both a downloadable PDF and an interactive online format. In March 2013, we also released a related book, *Common Ground at the Nexus of Information Literacy and Scholarly Communication*. Edited by Stephanie Davis-Kahl and Merinda Kaye Hensley, this volume explore how librarians at a variety of institutions can engage students and faculty in discussing topics such as open access, copyright, fair use, publishing models, the social and economic aspects of scholarship and publishing through the lens of information literacy.

In September 2012, members of the ACRL Research and Scholarly Environment Committee made updates and enhancements to the association's Scholarly Communications Toolkit then promoted it as a resource for librarians to use as they prepared for the October 2012 Open Access Week celebration.

The ACRL Scholarly Communication Discussion Group, Scholcomm discussion list and the ACRL/ SPARC Forum on Emerging Issues in Scholarly Communication continue to be important venues for strengthening the association's role in supporting new models of scholarly communication. Regular articles on scholarly communication issues and trends in *C&RL News* play an important role in disseminating a body of knowledge for the field.

Enabling Programs and Services

In addition to the three Plan for Excellence goal areas, ACRL serves our members, along with the academic and research library community, through a variety of programs and services. Highlights of the regularly recurring operations relevant to the ability of ACRL to lead academic and research librarians and libraries in advancing learning and scholarship are reported below.

Member Engagement

ACRL's membership activities build on retaining core membership while recruiting from new and diverse communities. As of April 30, 2013, ACRL had 12,146 members, a decrease of 3.87% (489 fewer members) than FY11 (the last conference year). There are currently 11,389 personal members, 735 organizational members, and 22 corporate members. For FY13 to date, ACRL had 1.7% fewer member renewals (123) than during the same period during the last non-conference year (2011). Additionally, 1.19% (10) fewer members have reinstated their membership compared to the same period during the previous non-conference year (2011).

The ACRL 101 programs preceding and during the ALA Annual Conference continue to educate members and potential members on the wide range of ACRL activities and opportunities for participation. ACRL's presences on Facebook, LinkedIn, Second Life, and Twitter continue to grow and provide our membership with new avenues to connect with colleagues and the association. ACRL continues to explore new models for member connections. For the third year, we held a virtual orientation session for new leaders. A number of ACRL committees, interest groups, sections, and the Board of Directors are working virtually and taking advantage of ALA Connect and other virtual meeting systems to keep the work of the association moving forward year round.

The ACRL Board of Directors approved two new discussion groups this year. The new discussion groups are First Year Experience Discussion Group and Sponsored Research Administrators and Grants Managers Discussion Group. The Board also approved two new interest groups, Librarianship in For Profit Educational Institutions Interest Group and Library and Information Science (LIS) Education Interest Group, this year.

ACRL provides special connections for members, both virtual and personal. ACRL sections offer 17 vibrant and dynamic communities that nurture individual development and foster a deeper connection to the profession. Sections continue to offer successful mentoring opportunities along with programming and special social events at the ALA Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference to create community among new and continuing members. In addition, ACRL's ten interest groups address emerging areas of interest in academic librarianship.

Awards

Since 1923, the ACRL Awards Program has recognized and honored the professional contributions and achievements of academic libraries and librarians. This special recognition by ACRL enhances the sense of personal growth and accomplishment of our members, provides our

membership with role models, and strengthens the image of our membership in the eyes of employers, leadership and the academic community as a whole.

In 2013, 28 outstanding individuals and institutions received ACRL awards recognizing their accomplishments. ACRL's top honor, the Academic/Research Librarian of the Year Award was presented to Patricia Iannuzzi, dean of university libraries at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). Iannuzzi was cited for her dedication to information literacy and student learning, and her passionate advocacy for academic libraries through developing outcomes-based standards for measuring their value in higher education.

ACRL continues to present the Excellence in Academic Libraries Award to recognize the staff of a community college, a college, and a university library for exemplary programs that deliver outstanding services and resources to further the educational mission of their institution. This year's recipients were Walla Walla Community College in the community college category, Rollins College in the college category, and Villanova University in the university category. The award, sponsored by ACRL and YBP Library Services, includes a presentation ceremony on the campus of each award-winning library.

Publications

Monographs
ACRL released a wide variety of monograph publications in the past year. *The Busy Librarian's Guide to Information Literacy in Science and Engineering* and *Interdisciplinarity and Academic Libraries* (PIL No. 66) were issued in the second half of 2012. 2013 saw the release of *Common Ground at the Nexus of Information Literacy and Scholarly Communication, Handbook of Academic Writing for Librarians,* and *Pay it Forward: Mentoring New Information Professionals* (Active Guide #4). The 2011 edition of *Academic Library Trends and Statistics* was issued in January 2013.

In April 2013, the association made its full back catalog of monograph publications available in a variety of e-book formats through the ALA Store and Amazon. E-books of ACRL monograph titles are also available for purchase by libraries through EBSCO.

Serials
As part of the our commitment to scholarly publishing and open access, the full archive of ACRL's official scholarly research journal *College & Research Libraries* (*C&RL*) is now freely available online. The online *C&RL* archive now contains the complete contents of the journal from its beginnings in 1939 through the current issue. C*&RL* archival contents from 1939 through 1996 were digitized through the generous volunteer efforts of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library. The library's Digital Content Creation department performed scanning and metadata creation for the approximately 340 back file issues of the journal in 2011 and 2012. The digitized files were added to the journal's online presence with the financial assistance of the ACRL Friends Fund. The archive is available through the *C&RL* website. In addition, mobile optimized versions of the *C&RL*, *C&RL News*, and *RBM* publication websites were launched in October 2012.

C&RL will adopt an online-only publication model beginning in Jan. 2014. The Nov. 2013 issue will be the final print issue of the journal. *C&RL* is freely available as an open access online publication. This shift in publication model is the result of thoughtful study undertaken with input from a survey of the ACRL membership by the Board of Directors, Budget & Finance Committee, *C&RL* Editorial Board, Publications Coordinating Committee, and other stakeholder groups to balance the ways readers prefer to engage with ACRL publications with the financial realities of the changing scholarly publishing landscape.

It was with much sadness that we shared the news of *C&RL* Editor Joseph Branin's untimely death in December 2012. He continued the efforts of his predecessors to seek a way to make *C&RL* an open access journal and it was during his tenure that the ACRL Board of Directors committed to moving *C&RL* to this model. *C&RL* thrived under his leadership and his contributions to the research base will enhance the profession for years to come. The association is very grateful that he shared his time and talents with ACRL in this role. Editor-designate Scott Walter, university librarian at DePaul University, assumed the *C&RL* editorship upon Branin's passing.

CHOICE is on track to publish more than 7,000 reviews for the current volume year. The January 2013 issue featured the "Outstanding Academic Titles, 2013" list, highlighting 644 exceptional print and online publications. CHOICE continues to share information and reviews with readers through six free e-Newsletters, Facebook, Twitter, and a "Today's Top Review" iPhone app.

CRO3, the new version of Choice Reviews Online (http://www.ala.org/acrl/choice/cro), was introduced at the CHOICE exhibit booth at the ACRL 2013 Conference in Indianapolis. HighWire Press, the database developer, is making final improvements to search engine speed, and once this is completed, customers will be migrated to the new version. The CHOICE E-Collection *(*http://www.choicenewbooks.com/), which launched in September 2012, continues to grow as the number of participating publishers increases. The collection currently includes some 400 titles with 1,500 more in production. The CEC is the first collection of e-books consisting exclusively of titles reviewed by CHOICE.

Resources for College Libraries (http://www.rclweb.net/) continues to be enhanced with new edition updates and annual revisions. *RCL Plus* (*RCL + Career Resources* content) now contains nearly 85,000 titles. In addition, a free mobile app for iPhone users, Bookwire, was launched for use with RCL. This spring RCL also partnered with ebrary to offer online access to RCL titles for ebrary customers to showcase and improve discovery for RCL e-book content.

Irving Rockwood has announced that he will step down as CHOICE editor and publisher on July 5, 2013, after 17 years of service. Mark Cummings was named as the new CHOICE editor and publisher in June 2013. Cumming joined ACRL as editor-designate on June 17, 2013, and will assume the editorship following Rockwood's retirement.

Reports, White Papers, Online Publications

ACRL released a research report, "Academic Libraries and Research Data Services: Current Practices and Plans for the Future," to provide a baseline assessment of the current state of and future plans for research data services in academic libraries. Authored by Carol Tenopir, Ben Birch, and Suzie Allard, the report, released in November 2012, highlights the need and imperative for research data services in colleges and universities. Academic libraries may be ideal centers for research data service activities on campuses, providing unique opportunities for academic libraries to become even more active participants in the knowledge creation cycle in their institution.

In October 2012, ACRL and the Ontario Library Association (OLA) published *Beyond Literacy* by Michael Ridley of the University of Guelph. *Beyond Literacy* is an interactive, serialized online thought experiment exploring the demise of literacy and the rise of other capabilities, capacities or tools that will effectively and advantageously displace reading and writing. The work was created in conjunction with a graduate course at the University of Toronto iSchool. The course, INF2301H – Special Topics in Information: Beyond Literacy, placed students in the roles of learner, researcher, curator and contributor in a network-based scholarly dialogue as they created additional content for "Beyond Literacy" and engaged in dialogue about the concepts with each other and the broader community of readers. The work is freely available for reading, comment and discussion on the project website.

ACRL launched Keeping Up With…, an online current awareness publication featuring concise briefs on trends in academic librarianship and higher education, in April 2013. Each edition focuses on a single issue including an introduction to the topic and summaries of key points, including implications for academic libraries. The series' initial offerings included information on digital humanities and gamification.

The 2013 environmental scan by the ACRL Research Planning and Review Committee, published in April 2013, explores the current atmosphere in the world of academic and research libraries along with trends that will define the future of academic and research librarianship and the research environment. The document builds on earlier ACRL reports, identifying several emerging issues.

Blogs/ Podcasts/ Social Media
ACRL continued to leverage social media to deliver content over the past year. The ACRL Insider blog provides daily updates of association activities. ACRLog provides ideas, commentary, and reflection on the professional issues of the day. The Value of Academic Libraries blog features news on the association's value of academic libraries initiative along with essays from members of the Value of Academic Libraries Committee. The ACRL TechConnect blog provides information and essays on cutting edge applications of technology in the academic library environment. Several ACRL groups also manage content blogs focused on their specialties. As noted in the member engagement section, ACRL social media presences on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Pinterest provide news and avenues for engagement with the association.

Standards and Guidelines

The development of standards and guidelines for all areas of academic and research librarianship is a core service of ACRL. These standards and guidelines are a key ACRL contribution to the profession. The *Joint Statement on Faculty Status of College and University Librarians* was revised this year.

Education
ACRL continues to offer a wide range of professional development programs and events to meet the needs of today's academic and research librarians.

ACRL Conference
More than 4,500 library staff, exhibitors, speakers, and guests from around the world, met from April 10-13, 2013, in Indianapolis and online for the ACRL 2013 Conference. The conference boasted face-to-face and virtual attendees from all 50 states and 19 other countries. Themed "Imagine, Innovate, Inspire," the conference offered more than 300 programs that showcased the most current and relevant trends in academic and research librarianship. The conference also featured a line-up of distinguished keynote speakers including education reform crusader Geoffrey Canada, punk rock icon Henry Rollins, and journalist Maria Hinojosa. ACRL continued its focus on innovative programming through the IdeaPower Unconference, Powers of Ten Dialogue, and THATCamp.

More than 500 academic and research librarians unable to make the trip to Indianapolis attended the conference virtually. The ACRL 2013 Virtual Conference provided 12 webcasts, as well as asynchronous activities, allowing for convenient scheduling and flexibility. ACRL 2013 attendees (both face-to-face and virtual) have access to more than 130 slidecasts within the ACRL 2013 Virtual Conference Community. Access to 87 contributed papers is also freely available to all online at http://www.ala.org/acrl/acrl/conferences/2013/papers. The next ACRL Conference, themed "Creating Sustainable Community," will take place from March 25-28, 2015, in Portland, Ore. and will be one of the premiere events highlighting ACRL's upcoming 75th anniversary.

ACRL @ ALA Conferences
ACRL preconference sessions at the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago provided information on managing change and ACRL's *Standards for Libraries in Higher Education*. The ACRL/ LLAMA Joint President's Program featured business consultant Karol M. Wasylyshyn. Wasylyshyn described three common patterns of leadership behavior and illustrated them through free verse or what she terms leadership vignettes to challenge library leaders at all levels to consider their own approaches to leadership. ACRL sponsored an additional 19 section, committee, and individual programs in Chicago on topics such as information literacy instruction and assessment, the use of mobile devices in libraries, user experience, digital scholarship and the arts, intellectual freedom, and creativity in the library workplace.

RBMS Preconference
The 54th Annual RBMS Preconference, *O Rare! Performance in Special Collections,* was held June 23-26 in Minneapolis. This year's event featured ten panel talks, ten discussion sessions, three plenaries, nine seminars, six unconference sessions, and three workshops, along with ten

posters and tours of St. John's University and the American Craft Council. Highlights included talks on theater collections, cataloging, library management, and regional repositories; discussion groups on diverse collections, digitization, and archives; and plenary sessions on new media, underground performance, and the digital age.

Women's Leadership Institute
ACRL was again a sponsor of the 2012 Women's Leadership Institute November 27-30, 2012, in Dana Point, California, and December 2-5, 2012 in Amelia Island, Florida. Through presentations, small-group exercises, and discussion, attendees gained a practical understanding of what it takes to be a leader on a college or university campus—both the challenges and the rewards. The program has the added benefit of bringing together women from administrative and student affairs functions across institutions of higher education.

Online Learning
The ACRL e-Learning program offered 25 e-Learning events consisting of 17 Webcasts and 8 multi-week courses this year on a variety of topics such as data curation, embedded librarianship, MOOCs, the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education, and new technologies. More than 450 individuals and 80 groups participated in this year's e-Learning offerings to date.

ACRL/CHOICE launched a sponsored webinar program in spring 2013. This new program launched in April with a webinar sponsored by Rowman & Littlefield on the topic "The Library in 2020 Will Be…." The featured presenter was Joe Janes, chair of the MLS Program at the University of Washington Information School and author of the forthcoming book *Library 2020*. More than 1,000 individuals registered for the inaugural sponsored webinar. The second webinar, held May 22, was sponsored by EBSCO on the topic "eBooks and Libraries," and had more than 450 registrants.

Scholarships
Knowing that professional development is essential to the success of academic and research librarians, especially during an economic downturn, we awarded more than $50,000 in scholarships this year. 123 scholarships were awarded for the ACRL 2013 conference, the ACRL e-Learning program, the Immersion Program, and 53rd RBMS Preconference.

Advocacy

Legislative Advocacy
Public policy issues effecting higher education remain an essential focus of the strategic plan. Each year, the ACRL Government Relations Committee, in consultation with the ACRL Board of Directors and staff, formulates an ACRL Legislative Agenda. Drafted with input from the ACRL Scholarly Communications and Copyright Committees, along with additional committees, ACRL leaders, and ALA Washington Office, the legislative agenda is prioritized and includes objectives for legislative action at the national level on issues that may affect the welfare of academic and research libraries. The 2013 ACRL Legislative Agenda focuses on three issues that the U.S. Congress has recently taken, or will most likely take, action on in the year ahead: first sale doctrine, public access to federally funded research, and federal funding for

libraries. New this year, the agenda includes a watch list of policy issues of great concern to academic librarians. Issues on the watch list are government information, safe harbor provisions of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, orphan works/section 108, and fair use.

On Thursday February 14, 2013, the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act (FASTR) was introduced in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. This bi-cameral and bipartisan legislation would require federal agencies with annual extramural research budgets of $100 million or more to provide the public with online access to research manuscripts stemming from funded research no later than six months after publication in a peer-reviewed journal. ACRL joined other national and regional library, publishing, research and advocacy organizations in a letter thanking members of Congress who introduced the bills.

The ACRL Board of Directors approved a statement on the libel suit by Mellen Press against Dale Askey on Feb. 19, 2013. The statement called the suit is a challenge to both academic and intellectual freedom in academic libraries and could potentially do great harm to the ability of all academic librarians to perform their professional duties.

ACRL continues to be an active partner with ALA and ARL in the Library Copyright Alliance (LCA). Over the course of the past year, LCA has taken action on a number of important issues by issuing comments on pending legislation and court cases, joining briefs, and releasing papers and guides on a wide range of copyright and fair use issues including the first sale doctrine, orphan works, mass digitization, Authors Guild vs. HathiTrust, and access to copyrighted works by individuals with print disabilities.

Strengthening Partnerships with Higher Education
ACRL continues to work with higher education associations to strengthen both partnerships and the profession. We collaborated with members of the Council of Higher Education Management Associations to offer the 2012 Women's Leadership Institute. This program brought together mid-level administrators from across campus functions to share experiences, develop a better understanding of the campus as a workplace and culture, and create new networks and networking skills.

As mentioned in the Value of Academic Libraries section of this report, the Association for Institutional Research, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, and the Council of Independent Colleges partnered with ACRL to receive a National Leadership Demonstration IMLS Grant for the "Assessment in Action (AiA): Academic Libraries and Student Success" project.

The ACRL maintains liaison relationships with a number of higher education associations through the Liaisons Assembly. ACRL currently has formal liaison relationships with the American Anthropological Association (AAA), American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)*,* American Educational Research Association (AERA)*,* American Political Science Association (APSA), American Sociological Association (ASA), Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), Council of Independent Colleges

(CIC), EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative (ELI), Modern Language Association (MLA), National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition (NRC-FYEST)*, National Women's Studies Association (NWSA), Society for College and University Planning (SCUP), and Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education (SITE)*.

Final Thoughts/An Appreciation
During the course of my three-year term as an ACRL president I will have visited at least 13 of our 42 chapters. Each visit provided an opportunity to connect with our members, and directly see how the many initiatives described in this report serve to deliver consistently high value to our members. I also came to know many of ACRL's member-leaders through our Leadership Council, and working together we advanced the Plan for Excellence. While there are many significant contributions, this year was not without challenges, whether it was completing the final details of our committee restructuring, developing new guidelines for the Communities of Practice or resolving member concerns about our policies and practices. It was in working through these challenges with my fellow presidents, our Board of Directors and ACRL Executive Director that I learned a great deal about myself as a leader, and how to be effective and strategic in leading complex organizations. I appreciate sharing this report with the ALA Council as I believe it communicates all of the great work ACRL does for the benefit of its members and the global community of academic librarians.

In closing I would like to express my thanks to all the members of the ACRL Board of Directors for their contributions to a year of great progress for our association. In particular I would like to give special thanks to Joyce Ogburn, past-president and Trevor Dawes, vice-president/president-elect for the wisdom they shared and their support as we dealt with many issues along with managing the work of the Board. I also want to share my incredible appreciation for the work of ACRL Executive Director Mary Ellen Davis and all the members of the ACRL staff. My year as ACRL president was made all that much more enjoyable and successful thanks to their dedication and hard work. It has been a great honor to be able to serve ACRL and its members in this capacity.