Susan Swords Steffen, Director of the A.C. Buehler Library at Elmhurst College is the 2014 recipient of the Illinois Library Association Illinois Academic Librarian of the Year Award.

The award, presented by the ILA Illinois Association of College and Research Libraries Forum, recognizes an Illinois librarian who is making an outstanding statewide contribution to academic or research librarianship and to library development. The award is sponsored by the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois.

Susan Swords Steffen has made a strong and vibrant mark on Illinois academic librarianship through her dedication, leadership, mentoring relationships, her highly active service to the profession, and her research. While leading the A.C. Buehler Library, Swords Steffen has developed and mentored a team of effective librarians who are dedicated in their service to their library, their college, and to the profession. Long before the practice became common, Susan Swords Steffen was placing “embedded librarians” into the teaching and learning infrastructure at Elmhurst College.

As a highly engaged leader, Susan has her finger on the pulse of Illinois libraries. She understands the ecosystem of Illinois academic libraries and is willing to help colleagues, both seasoned pros and the newly minted, navigate the complicated balance within it. Susan has made an impact on IACRL through her leadership and the force of her dynamic personality that continues to be felt. As stated in her nomination, “She has infused the group with energy and momentum. Her determination to encourage the next generation of academic leaders in Illinois libraries to step forward and take the reins is noteworthy.”

The Illinois Academic Librarian of the Year Award will be presented at the Illinois Library Association Annual Conference Awards Luncheon.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.