

Presidents Report

Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2014

This shall serve as the annual report of the IACRL President to the membership and to the Illinois Library Association for 2014.

The activities of IACRL for 2014 can be separated into 5 segments: Education, Publications, Advocacy, Member Engagement, and Planning for the Future.

1. Education

In March we held the 2014 IACRL Conference, a full day of programs, panels and posters presented by our members, library students, and librarians from nearby (MO). Illinois is a geographic challenge for an organization to meet, but more than 175 were in attendance. IACRL's conference with its theme Telling Our Stories: Assessment and Impact, was on March 21, but to add value we arranged for two pre-conference choices by partnering with the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) and the Health Science Librarians of Illinois (HSLI). CARLI offered speakers and programs on Assessment in a Day, while HSLI offered Measuring What Matters to Stakeholders, both complementary to the next day's featured programming. Our conference featured four tracks: instruction, technology, assessment, and a miscellaneous category, but the 16 presentation topics varied from scholarly communication to discovery tools, from embedded instruction to the Ithaka faculty survey, and from impacting General Education classes on campus to partnering with faculty on research. We specifically solicited and sponsored library students and this year almost a dozen attended and 3 participated by having 2 of the 9 posters that were also part of the day's activities. As a promotional activity, we held a webinar, hosted by College of DuPage. While not well-attended, it was a first-time attempt and IACRL hopes to do educational webinars using ACRL generated content in the future.

2. Publications

IACRL's Publications' committee published two online newsletters, spring and fall, to disseminate information to our membership. An annual roll call of member publications is included in each newsletter. An active listserv is kept that shares information and allows for member engagement. This year both a Facebook page and a Twitter accounts were set up for IACRL.

3. Advocacy

Executive board members of IACRL use the organization email list to share information on issues in which academic librarians need to be informed, involved or voice opinions on a state or national legislative level. These issues have included net neutrality, funding for IMLA and

higher education, and a state law on open access directed at publicly funded universities in Illinois.

4. Member Engagement

The leadership of IACRL continued to update the organization's web site, IACRL.net, with information of value to our members, and this year we added a jobs board where members could post available positions and which could be freely viewed by job seekers. For the first time we also posted slides and presentations (as available) from our biennial conference, an action appreciated by attendees and non-attendees alike. In October at the ILA annual conference, IACRL will have a booth in the exhibits and will hold the annual business meeting, accompanied by a lunch. Current membership of IACRL as of July 2014 is 227.

5. Planning for the Future

IACRL will be an integral part of the 2015 ILA Conference: A Library State of Mind. IACRL leaders and members attended a planning meeting with ILA and other library organization leaders (ISLMA, SLA) at Joliet Junior College in July of 2014. Just a few weeks later, IACRL leadership and interested members held a strategic planning session for IACRL at Joliet Junior College, that also had members attend by phone or who participated by web conferencing. I enjoyed my time as IACRL President and value the time spent with members and professional colleagues. I look forward to a strong future presence for IACRL and continued progression in the state and nationally by Illinois academic librarians.

Respectfully,
Pattie Piotrowski
IACRL 2013-14 President