

## Illinois Association of College and Research Libraries Annual Report

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

This report describes the array of programs that the Illinois Association of College and Research Libraries (IACRL) offered to academic librarians to promote networking and professional development in 2023-2024.

IACRL has largely moved to virtual programming for reasons of convenience and accessibility. In November of 2022, the Conference and Continuing Education Committee (C&CE) offered “Disability 101 and Neurodiversity: A Primer” with JJ Pionke as speaker. In March, C&CE offered the panel discussion “Kickstart OER with Grant Funding, aka ‘So I’ve Been Named Project Director/Manager ... What Does That Mean?’” with Kim Hale (Columbia College), Lauren Kosrow (College of DuPage), Cathy Mayer (Elgin Community College) and Dan Matthews (Moraine Valley Community College), and each of these speakers talked about their experiences in applying for OER grants and gave their advice. Finally, C&CE offered “Connection with Kaetrena Davis Kendrick: Clarifying Low Morale in Libraries” in April. The IACRL Communications Committee produced the customary fall and spring newsletters as well as promoted these programs.

IACRL had a presence at the ILA Annual Conference, October 24-26, 2023, in Springfield, Illinois. Most notably, we had our annual Unconference event on Wednesday, October 25, and the IACRL Luncheon was also on the 25<sup>th</sup>. The luncheon was a great opportunity for attendees to network and chat. After IACRL President Sarah McHone-Chase delivered a membership report, the attendees enjoyed a pre-recorded talk from the luncheon speaker, Fobazi Ettarh. Like every year, IACRL had a booth in the exhibit hall to promote our forum and answer related questions.

The DEI Committee has been hard at work trying to define direction. The committee has designated liaisons to other committees doing similar work within ILA, RAILS, and elsewhere. The committee has also been looking at the status of a toolkit and discussing how to best enhance and promote that toolkit’s use.

The IACRL Awards Committee had a busy year as well. Three publications were awarded the 2024 IACRL People’s Choice Award:

- **First Place**

Title: “Survive and Sustain”: Adaptive and Innovative Library Instruction in the Time of COVID-19.

Authors: Christina Norton (Bradley University), Anne Armstrong (University of Illinois Chicago), Dee Anna Phares (Northern Illinois University), Kristin Allen (Harper College), Amy Hall (National Lewis University), and Tish Hayes (Moraine Valley Community College)

- **Second Place**

Title: Cracking the Code on Acquisitions: Transitions from Voyager to Alma

Authors: Will Midgley and Kavita Mundle (University of Illinois Chicago)

- **Third Place**

Title: Going beyond the Source: A Revised Curriculum for Source Evaluation

Author: Firouzeh Rismiller, Holly Cerney, Susuan Shultz, Grace Spiewak, and Sveta Stoytcheva (DePaul University)

We plan a webinar in the coming year to showcase the winners and their publications.

The IACRL Awards Committee also awarded the OER Campus Kickstart: Award for Growing Illinois OER Programs to the following teams:

- Evangeline Reid and Renae Franiuk – Aurora University
- Charlene Snelling and April Andry Rah'man – Chicago State University
- Jennifer Funk and Timothy Ros – McKendree University
- Michelle Oh and Susan Uribe – Oakton College
- Lukas Wenner and David Dosier – Rock Valley College
- Robin Hofstetter and Vincen Francone – Roosevelt University
- Sangeeta Kumar and Juhelia Thompson – South Suburban College
- Tineka Scalzone and Dr. Cynthia Vessel – Wilbur Wright College

The IACRL Awards Committee selected Emily Gilbert, Assistant Professor and Information Services & Liaison Librarian at the University of Illinois Chicago Library of the Health Sciences, as the 2024 recipient of the ILA Illinois Academic Librarian of the Year award. Gilbert, a Past President of IACRL, will be honored at the 2024 ILA Awards Luncheon on October 8, which will be held in conjunction with the 2024 ILA Annual Conference.

Finally, our Nominations Committee gave our membership a high-quality roster of candidates for our board positions. Joshua Newport (Illinois State University) is our incoming Vice President/President-Elect and the incoming Secretary is Ted Schwitzner (CARLI).

The Executive Committee was of immeasurable assistance this past year and I would like to personally thank them. I think we are in good hands as Shannon Pohrte takes the helm as President for this coming year, and I'm grateful, too, for Sanga Sung's service as Secretary. Tamara Jenkins, ILA Communications and Engagement Manager, has been a great support as our forum/staff liaison and I feel secure in the knowledge that she will be a support to the incoming board. Past President Dan Matthews, as always, is a wonderful source of information. We have also been truly fortunate to have Gwen Harrison as our Board Liaison. The committee chairs worked hard this year and it certainly shows: I sincerely thank them all. IACRL works as well as it does because of our great membership. It has been an honor and a privilege to have been able to serve the forum in the capacity of President this past year.

Submitted by Sarah McHone-Chase, IACRL President, on June 21, 2024