



ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

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ASERL Endorses Keeper's Registry Statement
"Working Together to Ensure the Future of the Digital Scholarly Record."
A new Visiting Program Officer will launch ASERL's regional efforts.

ATLANTA – 16 March 2017 – At its recent Membership Meeting, members of the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) unanimously endorsed the "Working Together to Ensure the Future of the Digital Scholarly Record" statement proffered by the Keeper's Registry. The statement sets out a series of recommended activities, research libraries, publishers, and national libraries can undertake to support archiving and preservation initiatives. The statement represents the consensus of preservation specialists, archivists, librarians and technologists who met in Paris in June 2016. Please see <http://bit.ly/2aZyWiv> for the full text of the statement, published in four languages.

"ASERL members and other libraries around the globe have developed amazing print and electronic collections to further teaching, research, and learning," commented Carrie Cooper, ASERL's Board President and Dean of University Libraries at the College of William and Mary. "The Keeper's Registry statement outlines clear steps libraries and other partners can and should undertake to ensure these materials remain useful into the future. We are excited to be working under the Keepers Registry banner on these efforts."

To further these efforts within its membership, ASERL is [recruiting a Visiting Program Officer](#) (VPO) position to launch a new Special Collections Interest Group within the Association, including taking initial steps to foster the activities described in the Keeper's Registry statement. The VPO post is expected to begin on or about July 1, 2017 as a 12-month appointment.

"One of the many things that ASERL libraries have in common is their steadfast support for developing, preserving, and providing access to highly specialized local collections that undergird their institutions' missions and strengths," commented ASERL's Executive Director

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John Burger. “Together, ASERL libraries can develop cooperative programming to preserve these rare and unique materials for future access -- without having to re-invent the wheel.”

The Special Collections VPO will follow-up on brainstorming activities held as part of the ASERL Membership Meeting in December 2016. Initial ideas include greater information sharing and communication, expanded professional development activities, creating new shared digital collections, and creating user groups for ASERL libraries that use similar tools for content digitization and preservation.

Founded in 1956, the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries is the largest regional research library cooperative in the country, with 38 members in 11 states and other partnerships across the country. ASERL members share more than 200,000 library items amongst each other annually through a network of resource sharing programs. ASERL was created to foster a high standard of library excellence through inter-institutional resource sharing and other collaborative efforts. By working together, ASERL members provide and maintain top quality resources and services for the students, faculty, and citizens of their respective communities. More information about ASERL can be found at www.aserl.org.

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