REFLECTING, GROWING WITH RENEWED INTENTION

The Association of Southeastern Research Libraries commemorated our 60th anniversary in 2016-17 with an alumni reunion celebration, a series of oral history interviews with past leaders, and in many other small ways. As we look forward to our next 60 years, we are encountering an environment characterized by unprecedented rates and types of change. Change in the political and technologic spheres are perhaps the easiest to recognize, but closer to home we have also seen significant shifts within our own membership. Perhaps most importantly, more than half of the library deans/directors within ASERL took on their roles in the past five years. This bumper crop of new leaders brings with them new ideas, desires, and expectations for their consortial relationships. The importance of inclusion and diversity are also taking on new importance.

As a result, in addition to our array of regular programming, ASERL is undertaking an extensive environmental scan and planning process to identify how we want our organization to grow and thrive into the future. This includes an in-depth exploration of the workings of other regional research library consortia in North America, to determine how our peer organizations are alike and different from ASERL, to identify possible opportunities for new programming, and to fuel discussions that will ensure alignment within our membership.

It's an exciting prospect: To document our successes, identify our challenges, forecast ongoing and future needs, and analyze how our resources can be utilized to optimally serve our members and their communities. The early results of our environmental scan are clear: ASERL provides services to the most libraries at the lowest cost of any consortium that we studied. Our members continue to find our longstanding resource sharing programs and professional networking events to be enormously valuable. Our professional development webinars — free and available to all — are second to none. Our challenges include continued budget restrictions among many of our member libraries. The proliferation of new, highly-specialized organizations and events means increasing competition for those limited resources. As a result, ASERL needs to improve how we communicate our value and services to our regular users and to an increasing range of audiences outside our membership.

By design, ASERL is a lean organization. With a small staff, ASERL has always needed to reduce unnecessary duplication of effort — we simply do not have capacity to re-do the work of others. Therefore, we engage with myriad partners to ensure our members' resources are deployed efficiently and effectively. We seek technology solutions to streamline manual processes but also maintain a "high touch" environment to ensure our members feel engaged, enthused, and secure in their interactions with us.

This exploration and planning exercise will continue into the 2018-19 program year, with many opportunities for our members and other partners to engage and provide input into our planning activities. Our heartfelt thanks everyone who provides input. Here's to another 60 great years of effective collaboration and beneficial partnerships!

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

In 2017-18, ASERL continued to offer our acclaimed series of professional development webinars, with two dozen new sessions reaching more than 1,700 'live' attendees and nearly 2,000 participants using the recorded sessions. These sessions focus on new technologies, emerging best practices, and other 'hot topics' as identified by our membership. In the six years since ASERL began this program, we have produced more than 150 unique webinars, serving a global audience of more than 12,000 people. The live sessions continue to be available at no cost to our members and guests, and the recordings are posted under a Creative Commons license to ensure easy, no-cost access into the future.

ASERL has devoted renewed attention to inclusion and diversity issues, culminating in the approval of our Vision Statement for Diversity and Inclusion in May 2018. We chartered a new standing dean/director committee to implement our Diversity and Inclusion goals. Relatedly, ASERL adopted a Code of Conduct to ensure all participants feel safe and welcome at our events, both in-person and online. We also ratified a formal set of principles for providing aid to each other in the event of natural disasters or other discontinuity events in the future.

This past year ASERL also conducted our first-ever salary survey, compiling salary and

Map of ASERL webinar viewers, July 2017-June 2018

demographic data for both professional and support roles within 24 ASERL libraries. This appears to be the only such dataset in the United States in recent memory. An initial analysis was conducted by our partners at Ithaka S+R and identified at least one area of compensation disparity; further analyses are being contemplated now.

From July 2017 through June 2018, Suzan Alteri, Curator of the Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature at the University of Florida, served as ASERL Visiting Program Officer for Special Collections. In this role, Suzan compiled much-needed information about collecting

strengths, areas of expertise, staff size and equipment, and other aspects of Special Collection programming across ASERL. This will inform upcoming professional development webinars and, in 2019, a new shared online exhibit.

ASERL also convened important discussion groups on Digital Scholarship, Student Success, the Intersections of Information Literacy and Scholarly Communications (in partnership with ACRL), and a Library Liaison summit (in partnership with ARL). Part of ASERL's ongoing planning process will determine how to continue engaging with these audiences within our membership.

Top 5 Recorded Webinars:

1. Overview of BitCurator (109 plays)
2. Red Light, Green Light: Testing a new licensing model (93 plays)
3. Rosemont Shared Print Alliance Decision Support Tools (75 plays)
4. Findings from Ithaka's US Library Survey (65 plays)
5. Directory of Open Access Journals: Indexing and Best Practice (63 plays)

Top 5 Live Webinars:

1. Not For The Faint Of Heart: Sleeper Clauses in E-Resource Licenses (101 attendees)
2. Rosemont Shared Print Alliance Decision Support Tools (82 attendees)
3. Library educators making a difference on institutional outcome metrics and No Pain No Gain Print collections and storage (tie) (81 attendees each)
4. Strategies Driving the Evolution of Academic Libraries (69 attendees)
5. Empowering Librarians and Users to Mine HathiTrust (65 attendees)

Top 5 Webinar Attendees, by library:

1. Virginia Commonwealth University (84 registrants)
2. George Mason University (69 registrants)
3. University of Tennessee (60 registrants)
4. Emory University (58 registrants)
5. Georgia State University (57 registrants)

COLLABORATIVE STEWARDSHIP
Shared Print Collections & Resource Sharing

Collaborative Federal Depository Program

Forty-one libraries serve as ASERL Centers of Excellence (COE) to retain and build collections of content published under the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP); one new Center of Excellence was gained this year.

The Documents Disposition Database continues to be widely popular and effective: 223 of the 306 FDLP libraries in the ASERL region use the Disposition Database to manage their discard process. Since 2012, more than 78,500 FDLP items posted for disposal by libraries in the Southeast have been adopted

into new library collections. Nearly 40,000 documents have been adopted into Centers of Excellence collections using this system.

Database enhancements implemented this past year allow the transfer of data between ASERL's Disposition Database and FDLP eXchange, a newly-developed national needs/ offers listing from GPO. These enhancements eliminate duplication of effort and promote use of the FDLP eXchange database to identify and fill collection gaps at the national level.

Four Centers of Excellence also signed on as Preservation Stewards with the Government Publishing Office (GPO), building on their COE collections to support continued public access to historic U.S. Government documents.

ASERL solicited input from the Documents community as part of a thorough review of the Guidelines that govern the program, leading to minor updates to the Guidelines. The Guidelines were last reviewed in 2012.

Scholars Trust Print Archive

Scholars Trust holdings continue to grow: The archive contains 37,249 holdings records, of which 23,598 titles (80%) are not duplicated within the archive (i.e. the title is retained by a single holding library).

ASERL, BTAA, FLARE, TRLN, WEST and WRLC record their retention commitments in the Journal Retention and Needs Listing [JRNL] database, now serving 80 institutions.

Combined, these programs have 51,743 holdings records, of which 25,693 (72%) are unique within the archive.

Six ASERL Scholars Trust libraries — Emory University, the University of Alabama, the University of Florida, the University of South Carolina, the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and Virginia Tech — are participating in a serials collection analysis pilot

with the Center for Research Libraries [CRL] to gain a greater understanding of the scope of serials holdings among Scholars Trust libraries.

ASERL continues to provide data on the Scholars Trust archive to the PAPR database, a national clearinghouse of journal retention data hosted by the Center for Research Libraries.

Rosemont Shared Print Alliance

In March 2018, EAST (the Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust) became the sixth shared journal retention program to join the Rosemont Shared Print Alliance. Along with the Big Ten Academic Alliance, the Florida Academic Repository, Scholars Trust (includes ASERL and the Washington Research Library Consortium) and WEST (Western Regional Storage Trust), Rosemont Alliance partners work collaboratively to ensure the preservation and availability of print journal literature into the future. For more information about Rosemont activities, see https://www.rosemontsharedprintalliance.org/.

Resource Sharing

ASERL convened a new working group to examine the future of resource sharing technologies. The group seeks to formulate recommendations for ASERL libraries to undertake to streamline staff processing and improve library user experiences.

The ASERL RAPID-ILL pod gained three new libraries in 2018: UNC Charlotte, University of Alabama Birmingham (UAB) and UAB-Lister Hill Library. There are now 27 ASERL libraries in the ASERL pod.

Interlibrary loan volumes continue to decline within ASERL libraries: ILL activity (as recorded via OCLC) saw a 14% decrease in FY18, while the RAPID-ILL pod was down 2%. The Kudzu resource sharing group within ASERL saw a 1% decline.

Libraries from the ASERL region will host their first-ever Southeastern Resource Sharing Conference to be held in October 2018. Attendees will discuss ways to strengthen regional resource sharing in all its aspects and among all types of libraries.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Association of Southeastern Research Libraries, Inc.
Balance Sheet for Period Ending June 30, 2018

ASSETS

SunTrust Checking	$	7,106.49
SunTrust Investments	$	40,435.53
Commerce Checking	$	627,823.22
Accounts Receivable	$	318,050.00
Total Assets		**$ 993,415.24**

LIABILITIES

CC Payable Burger	$	6,014.54
CC Payable Cole-Bennett	$	301.04
Unearned Income KUDZU	$	3,288.53
Unearned Income Courier Svc	$	99,802.30
Unearned Income Digital	$	16,000.00
Deferred Income KUDZU Courier	$	172,116.00
Deferred Income ASERL Dues	$	338,200.00
Deferred Income Project Fees	$	2,100.00
Deferred Income Workshops	$	1,950.00
Total Liabilities		**$ 639,772.41**

MEMBERS' EQUITY

Reserve Fund	$	284,672.18
Net Income	$	68,970.65
Total Members' Equity		**$ 335,642.83**
Total Liability & Equity		**$ 993,415.24**