



Reports from ASERL Committees & Interest Groups

April 2021

1) Scholarly Communications Interest Group

Co-Chairs: Devin Soper, Scholarly Communications Librarian, Florida State Univ
Zackary Lukemire, Institutional Repository and Scholarly Communication Librarian,
University of Alabama

- December 2020 community call: Ubiquity Press' open source institutional repository platform – featuring Brian Hole, Founder and CEO of Ubiquity Press. (Zach)
 - Link to recording: <https://vimeo.com/492561476>
 - Speaker slides: http://www.aserl.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/up_aserl_20201217-1.pdf
- 2021 ASERL Scholarly Communication Unconference, March 11-12 (Devin)
 - Link to full program including session notes and ancillary materials: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/16dl8bGHfPszBrDkGYxXG5JzzJNiHBlscLe755pCZRQ0/edit?usp=sharing>
 - Approximately 40 people registered and 20-30 were in attendance at any given time over the two days
 - Included nine sessions on a range of topics, including:
 - Engaging Faculty in Open Access Publishing
 - Evaluating Licensors/Vendors using the PAPPI Scoring System
 - Evaluating Transformative Agreements
 - Investing in Open Infrastructure
 - Working with Faculty & Students on Digital Classroom Projects
 - The Open Scholars Project @ FSU
 - Choosing a Repository Platform
 - Enhancing IR Accessibility
 - Creative Commons Licensing
- Planning for May 2021 community call: Open Access Outreach in 2021. (Zach)

2) Special Collections Interest Group

Co-Chairs:

Overall Goals

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

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The ASERL Special Collections Interest Group focused on the following issues in the 2020-2021 academic year:

- Focus on communication and networking among the ASERL Special Collections Interest Group
- Developing webinars, discussion topics, and web resources for archives and special collections professionals
- Enhancing resources available through the shared digital exhibit [Enslaved in the Southeast](#)

Accomplishments for 2020-2021 (Tanya)

Webinars (as of April 1):

13 webinars have been organized, involving 31 presenters from over 20 institutions. A total of 1,360 registered for topics ranging from the micro-appraisal of electronic records, disaster preparedness and response, zines and social justice, culinary collections, and creating a racial justice blog series. The top three highest registrations were for: moving special collections online during the pandemic, oral history and trauma, and exploring black digital history. A complete list is [available here](#).

Still to come, webinars on the following topics:

- April: On These Grounds: Developing an Event Ontology and Resources for Describing Enslaved Lives (Mellon, UVa)
- May: Universities Studying Slavery: Multi-Institutional Collaboration (Info and Updates)
- May-July: Special Collections and K-12 (2 panels and 2 institution-focused)

Web Resources:

Two web lists were created for ASERL institutions: COVID Documentary Projects and Culinary Collections. Once completed, they will be available online via the ASERL web site.

Digital Exhibit:

Adam Hunt, Florida State University, was appointed Volunteer Coordinator and he added additional submitted images. A bibliography on secondary resources (crowdsourced by our Interest Group and others) was begun.

Goals for 2021-2022 (Cristina, Kate, and Adam)

Networking and Resources

- Additional collection topics using Google docs/form: Architecture, Arts, Fashion, Literary, Science
- Advancement and fundraising – sharing expertise; possible survey about training – support for outside trainer/facilitator for workshop

Webinars:

- Renaming and Monuments Issue (resource for university committees)
- Special Collections fundraising--capital campaigns, working with Advancement
- <https://vimeo.com/379347500> (update, with two other institutions, possible workshop?)
- Real estate development and universities
- Digital history (multiple topics)
- Literary collections

- Digital humanities/intersection with special collections
 - CREATE (Mellon-funded)
 - Documents of the enslaved/triggering language and emotion trauma resources/dealing with difficult conversations and content
 - Practical project for university archives to review yearbooks:
 - <https://zsr.wfu.edu/special/research/guides/insensitive-and-discriminatory-content-in-wake-forests-howler-yearbooks-and-other-records/>
 - Working class and labor documentation
 - Community fashion design/artistic life/book arts/artists books
 - Enslaved in the Southeast exhibit panel (contributors/background/future development)

Other Resources

- Enhancing resources available through the shared digital exhibit [Enslaved in the Southeast](#)
 - Review and remediate item-level metadata as needed
 - Create and perform an evaluation of the exhibit with a wide range of archivist and scholar participation
 - Grow HBCU participation and partnership with the exhibit
 - Identify and begin implementing a long-term digital preservation program for the exhibit

3) Collection Assessment Interest Group

Co-Chairs: Alice Daugherty, Coordinator of Acquisitions and Electronic Resources, U-Alabama;
 Jennifer Daugherty, NC Collection Librarian, East Carolina Univ;
 Helen McManus, Head of Collections Strategy, George Mason Univ

Since our Fall 2020 activity report, the Collection Assessment Interest Group has sought members' input on priorities, held several successful live events, and embarked on a new collaborative project to support members in their efforts to build Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) into their collection development and assessment work. Specifically, we have:

1. Hosted a post-Charleston Conference conversation, a virtual networking and discussion opportunity in lieu of the traditional in-person networking events. With 19 participants, there was a lively discussion.
2. Shared the results of a survey to better understand the group's preferences on programming. The survey found that, while traditional webinars continue to be popular, the group is also interested in Zoom conversations on a particular topic and "meet the expert" sessions. The topic most in-demand was Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion with 9 votes. There were 11 responses.
3. Held a planning meeting in January to determine group priorities. This meeting also had 19 participants. The group identified topics for future webinars and discussed options for initiatives beyond programming, including a resource list on DEI in collection development and assessment. See below (under Next Steps) for more information on this project.
4. Sponsored the following webinars:
 - a. "A Practical Guide to COUNTER Release 5," by Heather Getsay. 222 participants (November 2020)
 - b. "Rethinking Collection Development in Research Libraries: The Impact of a Successful Demand Driven Acquisitions Program," by Michael A. Arthur. 84 participants. (February 2021)
 - c. "Realize Your Assessment Dreams: Practical Strategies for Making Collection Analysis a Reality," by Madeline Kelly. 76 participants. (March 2021)

Next Steps

- The group will continue to work on its [DEI in Collection Assessment Resources list](#), with a view to sharing the list on the group's webpage. The project has two components at this time: a Zotero group, where members can contribute resources, and a Google Doc containing a bibliography generated from the Zotero group, updated monthly. The group plans to add annotations to the list, share additional resources as they become available, and host discussions and other events on the topic.
- The co-chairs are working on a media collection assessment webinar and an end-of-year panel discussion on directions for collection development after the (or amid the ongoing) pandemic.

4) Big Deal Community of Practice

Co-chairs: Lois J Kuyper-Rushing, Associate Dean of Public & Collection Services, LSU
Jennifer Mezick, Collection Strategist, U-Tennessee

Recent Activities

- The Big Deal Community of Practice (CoP) met 'as a whole' on January 11. For the next several months we agreed to focus our energies on drafting a set of **Licensing Principles** that ASERL members could use in vendor negotiations.
- We received a very strong response to our call for volunteers to draft the Licensing Principles – too many volunteers, in fact. So we split the large group into two: one group to research and draft the document, and the other group to review and comment. The final draft – expected to be ready sometime this Summer – will be put before the ASERL Board of Directors for review and sign-off.
- The research group has reviewed / extracted sample wording from numerous other documents created by other libraries/consortia. We are compiling those ideas into a single document currently, to be used as our starting point for the writing phase.
- ALSO: We are offering a webinar on April 6th to present an overview of the different types of transformative agreements that have emerged recently. Speakers are Curtis Brundy and Matthew Goddard (Iowa State University Libraries).

Progress Towards Goals

- Encourage group members with similar packages and renewal dates to share information about renewal or cancellation
 - End-date data has been shared among CoP members; informal feedback suggests members are communicating with each other
- Collect further information on OA and transformational deals within ASERL
 - Planned for next quarter
- Seek further feedback from group members to formalize CoP direction
 - Complete: Discussed during January 11 meeting; webinar ideas emerged as well as direction for ASERL licensing principles.
- Respond to suggestions for additional packages to include in the spreadsheet
 - Planned for next quarter

- Continue to call for additional participants from ASERL Libraries who currently are not participating in the Big Deal CoP
 - Planned for Fall 2021

5) Accessibility Interest Group

Co-Chairs: Beth Ashmore, Associate Head, Acquisitions & Serials, NC State Univ

Sara Belmont, Web Developer, William & Mary

Jon Ezell, Coordinator of Media & Instructional Design, U-Alabama

David Rodriguez, Repository & Media Librarian, Florida State Univ **(NEW!)**

ASERL's Accessibility Interest Group is working via six teams:

- a) Library Spaces
- b) Policy and Advocacy
- c) Campus Collaborations
- d) Media & Captioning
- e) Training & Professional Development
- f) Instruction

Updates

- Accessibility policy catalog - We are gathering accessibility policies from ASERL libraries/universities and beyond for reference by those who are looking to revise their policy. In addition to providing the links, we also hope to provide some tools for writing an accessibility policy.
- Vendor advocacy toolkit - We are putting together a toolkit of resources to help with communicating with vendors about accessibility issues. This includes tools for resource evaluation, sample communications with vendors, links to licensing language, and user stories of successful negotiations with vendors to improve accessibility.
- Recruiting functionally diverse users for testing - We are surveying user experience staff and others in libraries who do user testing to see how they attempt to recruit functionally diverse users to ensure that their testing is representative of their user community. We are hoping that this work will result in a webinar or discussion with the community about user testing.
- We are conducting an environmental scan of resources on library space accessibility – including resources for training, resources for evaluating spaces, and vendors/individuals who can help with accessible space audits. The goal is to add these resources to the library spaces and training section of the LAA Accessibility Toolkit
- We are surveying Accessibility Interest Group members to learn more about who is responsible for accessibility evaluations at their libraries, and how and where those tests are done. The goal is to find out how many of our member libraries are doing their own testing or would like to do their own testing, and how we can help make that process easier. This will help us develop resources and best practices to share.

- The Media & Captioning subgroup is in the initial stages of determining what documentation and tutorials would be most useful for our member libraries. We have focused on the following three areas:
 - Evaluating third-party captioning vendors - What to look for, what questions to ask when looking for a vendor.
 - Video accessibility requirements - Update the LAA Accessibility Toolkit with what the current recommendations and best practices are for making media accessible.
 - Starting a repository of written documentation and video tutorials showing how to use a variety of captioning tools.
- The Instruction & Professional Development subgroups are exploring options for additional webinars via the ASERL platform, creating a shared bibliography, and seeking easy, low-cost solutions for software fixes and other workflows.

Library Accessibility Alliance

- The Library Accessibility Alliance (LAA) recently added the Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA) and Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC) as new consortial partners.
- With this change, LAA also adopted a new governance model, creating a Steering Committee (1 Representative per consortium) and Action Committee (3 representatives per consortium).
- Sara Belmont (W&M) serves as ASERL's representative to the LAA Steering Committee, and is a Steering Committee co-chair for 2021.
- Beth Ashmore (NCSU), Jon Ezell (Alabama), and Dave Rodriguez (FSU) serve as ASERL's representatives to the LAA Action Committee. Jon Ezell is Action Committee chairperson for 2021.
- Each LAA consortium has the option of inviting a library dean/director to serve as an advisor to the LAA Steering Committee. ASERL's dean rep = TBD.
- The assessment of vendor interfaces continues apace – two reviews are conducted per month. Reports are posted to <https://www.btaa.org/library/accessibility/library-e-resource-accessibility--testing>.
- With the delivery of the cache of e-content delivered by Adam Matthew to ASERL libraries, the ADM interface will be assessed in the coming months.
- The LAA Action Committee continues to assess the impact of this work – whether vendors are improving their interfaces based on LAA reviews – as well as the use of BTAA's model licensing language focusing on Accessibility requirements.
- The LAA is developing its own, standalone website. For obvious reasons, it aims to be a model of website accessibility, as well as a ready resource for libraries seeking to improve the services they offer to patrons with disabilities.

6) Controlled Digital Lending Discussion Group (“CDL on the DL”)

- An informal discussion group at this time; no notes are taken to alleviate participants' concerns about potential CDL legal issues. Comfort levels seem to be increasing with time, so this may change.

- ASERL published “Future Thinking” CDL resource guide on February 24, 2021, in both PDF and plain-text formats to improve accessibility. Available via the ASERL homepage. This guide has been accessed more than 1,500 times. A webinar is planned for June 6 in conjunction with the Charleston Conference.
- A “what’s next?” discussion is scheduled for April 13 to brainstorm about additional activities.

7) Shared Print (Scholars Trust / Rosemont Alliance, Collaborative Federal Depository Program)

Program updates are posted online:

- Scholars Trust – see <https://bit.ly/3u3Nvpj>
- CFDP – see <https://bit.ly/3rsPwtF>