

ASERL Work Status Report

November 2018

1. Our next membership meeting will take place **November 29-30, 2018 in Atlanta**. The agenda is online at www.aserl.org. Major topics will be:
 - Long-term planning for ASERL's future, led by ASERL's Board of Directors
 - Diversity and Inclusion in Higher Education, led by Dr Michele Garfield Cook, University of Georgia
 - Strategies for communicating with university administrators about journal costs

Prior to this meeting, ASERL conducted member surveys to gain additional insights into member perceptions about ASERL's strengths, weaknesses, benefits of membership, and their desired areas for future growth. 23 of ASERL's 38 deans/directors (61%) responded. The data will be presented at the meeting by ASERL's president, Yolanda Cooper (Emory University).

As another part of ASERL's strategy review, Executive Director John Burger focused much of his summertime efforts on an organizational research project. This included seven in-person visits with his counterparts at other research library consortia in North America and corresponding 'dean to dean' conversations between members of the ASERL Advisory Panel* and leaders from the participating consortia. John will report his findings at the Fall Membership Meeting.

* = ASERL Advisory Panel members are David Banush (Tulane), Jan Lewis (East Carolina), Anne Moore (UNC Charlotte), Judy Russell (U-Florida), John Unsworth (U-Virginia).

2. Following approval of the Values Statement and Committee Charge at our Spring Membership Meeting, ASERL recruited library deans/directors to serve on the Diversity and Inclusion Committee over the summer months. The ASERL Board affirmed the appointments at its September meeting; the Committee had its first conference call in October. Chris Cox (Clemson) and Martin Halbert (UNC Greensboro) agreed to serve as committee co-chairs; other committee members are Deborah Jakubs (Duke Univ), Jan Lewis East Carolina Univ), Anne Cooper Moore (UNC Charlotte), Jeff Steely (Georgia State Univ), and Judy Russell (U-Florida, committee liaison to ASERL Board). John Burger serves as staff liaison to the Committee.

Initial tasks include conducting an updated environmental scan of related activities within ASERL libraries and the development of a resource list for reputable providers of training and consulting services. The committee aims to compile these data and submit a proposed course of action to ASERL in time for the Spring 2019 meeting.

3. ASERL is also exploring new Resource Sharing opportunities via participation in a new ad-hoc group called "CARS" (Consortial Advocacy for Resource Sharing). Other participants include Big Ten



Academic Alliance, Boston Library Consortium, Ivy Plus Libraries, Triangle Research Libraries Network, and Greater Western Library Alliance.

CARS was formed in part due to the anticipated demise of ILLiad as a critical resource sharing tool. ASERL convened a series of seven webinars for CARS-member libraries to gain more information about other available tools. The recordings and slides are online at www.aserl.org/archive. The initial result: There are significantly more options available than initially expected. And, importantly, OCLC has delayed the demise of ILLiad indefinitely, removing any pressures to make decisions hastily.

ASERL is also attempting to remedy service quality problems with Lanter Delivery Systems, the vendor that provides the flat-rate courier service for Kudzu. This includes monthly conference calls with Lanter staff and frequent correspondence/troubleshooting about service issues as they arise. Changes to shipping label format and a new “service timer” are under development at Lanter.

4. For the past several months, ASERL has provided logistical support for a new regional Southeast Resource Sharing Conference that took place on October 11-12, 2018 in Charlotte (during Hurricane Michael!) Heidi Nance (Ivy Plus Libraries) was keynote speaker. The conference is expected to recur in 2020. See <https://sites.google.com/view/sersconference/> for details.
5. With the end of her tenure as ASERL Visiting Program Officer Special Collections, Suzan Alteri, Curator, Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature at the University of Florida, now serves as co-chair of our new Special Collections Interest Group through June 2019. Jessica Perkins Smith (University Archivist, Mississippi State Univ) is the other co-chair of the group, through 2020. Suzan and Jessica are developing webinars to respond to professional development needs, starting with a presentation on fundraising/donor cultivation. Suzan and Jessica are also convening a Task Force to create a shared online exhibit relating to the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Africans in the US (to debut in Summer 2019.) The Interest Group will also assess the Big Ten Academic Alliance’s “[Principles and Protocols for InterLibrary Loan of Special Collections](#)” report to determine its applicability to ASERL.
6. Scholars Trust Print Journal Retention:
 - a. 31 of 38 ASERL libraries participate in Scholars Trust. Through the combined efforts of ASERL, FLARE, TRLN and WRLC, retention commitments have been secured for approximately 29,477 unique ISSNs.
 - b. The National Agricultural Library recently signed on as an ASERL Program Affiliate (our first ever!) and pledged to retain 488 journal titles to the Scholars Trust archive. A copy of NAL’s retained title list is posted along with the list of all Scholars Trust titles on the publically-accessible [program website](#). In addition, our retention records are exported quarterly into Print Archive Preservation Registry [PAPR], hosted by the Center for Research Libraries. This allows



other journal retention programs and libraries to discover titles committed for retention within Scholars Trust.

- c. ASERL, BTAA, FLARE, TRLN, WEST and WRLC all register their retention commitments in the JRNL database, hosted by the University of Florida Libraries. This includes 80 institutions with 83 locations. Representatives from these shared print programs serve on the JRNL Oversight Committee, which is currently examining the decision support needs for libraries participating in print journal retention programs and the potential for enhancements to JRNL.
- d. The Fall 2018 Scholars Trust Town Hall e-meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at 2:30pm ET. ASERL hosts two town hall e-meetings per year to share updates on the program and to gather feedback from participating libraries.
- e. Tom McNally (U-South Carolina) joined Don Gilstrap (U-Alabama) and Lars Meyer (Emory) as ASERL's representatives on the Scholars Trust Governing Council. The Council met on September 24, 2018 at George Washington University. Their next meeting is anticipated for mid-summer 2019.
- f. Scholars Trust continues work on a pilot project to test the collection analysis services offered by the Center for Research Libraries (CRL). Six ASERL libraries who are also CRL members are participating in the pilot:
 - Emory University
 - University of Alabama
 - University of Florida
 - University of South Carolina
 - University of Tennessee-Knoxville
 - Virginia Tech

The goals of the pilot are to learn about the capabilities of the CRL service and to develop a better understanding of the scope of serials holdings among Scholars Trust libraries. Participating libraries submitted a list of their serials holdings in late January/early February. The first reports were received on June 14th, considerably later than first anticipated. The most recent report in the series identifies the top three libraries with the deepest holdings of titles held among all six libraries. Currently under review, this report analyzes approximately 1,350 titles and includes a comparison against holdings of other libraries in WorldCat. This allows us to identify potentially rare/unique titles, and identifies titles committed for retention by other shared print programs recorded in PAPER.

Our thanks to the staff at University of Tennessee Libraries for their extensive work on data visualization of the CRL data. An overview of the pilot will be presented at the Town Hall e-meeting on December 12.

- g. In late August, the Scholars Trust Steering committee conducted a brief participant survey to learn more about libraries' goals and expectations for future participation in Scholars Trust, as well as their feedback on decision support tools such as the Journal Retention & Needs Listing

[JRNL] and the functionality needed to support their retention efforts. Results of the survey will be presented at the December 12 Town Hall e-meeting.

7. Rosemont Shared Print Alliance:

- a. Under the Scholars Trust banner, ASERL and WRLC have joined with the Big Ten Academic Alliance Shared Print Repository (BTAA), Eastern Academic Scholars Trust (EAST), FLARE and Western Regional Storage Trust (WEST) to develop program goals for significantly growing the corpus of print journals held under retention agreements. Initial five-year program goals can be found at <http://www.rosemontsharedprintalliance.org>.
- b. Don Gilstrap recently began serving as ASERL's representative on the Rosemont Alliance Executive Committee. John Burger will serve as co-chair of the Rosemont Operations Committee for 2019.
- c. The Rosemont Executive Committee met on October 31, 2018 in Rosemont, IL. Representatives from OCLC and CRL were in attendance to discuss their infrastructure development plan.
- d. Cheryle Cole-Bennett joined other RSPA program coordinators for a daylong focus group to advise OCLC and CRL as they undertake a new Mellon-funded project to improve the data infrastructure for managing shared print collections.

8. Collaborative Federal Depository Program:

- a. The CFDP governing committees conducted a review and revision of the "Guidelines for Management and Disposition of Federal Depository Library Collections in the Southeast — Implementation Plan" (last reviewed and revised in 2012). The revised Guidelines were approved by ASERL deans/directors via electronic vote in August, and affirmed by the ASERL Board in September.
- b. In September, the CFDP Steering Committee received two requests to discontinue participation in the program: Hollins University (Center of Excellence / COE for the Women's Bureau — also covered by Duke University) and the Georgia State University (Subject COE for the City of Atlanta). A minimum of 24 months' prior notice is required to allow for the disposition or transfer of materials, and to finalize any outstanding activities for their COE collection; both libraries will be removed from the program in August 2020.
- c. Florida International University has expressed interest in serving as a COE for the Census Bureau. An MOU has been drafted for their review.
- d. FDLP eXchange, a national needs and offers database developed by the US Government Publishing Office (GPO), was released for public use in June. Libraries using the ASERL Documents Disposition Database are able to export both their Needs Lists and Expired Offers lists into FDLP eXchange. This functionality eliminates duplication of effort and promotes use of the FDLP eXchange database, improving gap-filling at the national level.
- e. Since ASERL implemented the Disposition Database in 2012, more than 78,500 documents posted for disposal have been claimed by another library for their collections. More than 39,000 of these were claimed for Centers of Excellence collections.



- f. On October 23, 2018 in Washington, DC ASERL hosted a lunch meeting of the ASERL Government Documents Coordinators during the Depository Library Council [DLC] Conference; 23 people attended.
 - g. Plans are in development for a Town Hall e-meeting for the ASERL documents community, to be scheduled in February 2019.
9. ASERL's longstanding Collection Development Interest Group is now re-formed as the Collection Assessment Interest Group. A new charge statement has been drafted and approved by the ASERL Board. Liz Siler (UNC Charlotte) will continue to serve as a co-chair in this new Interest Group; we have recently concluded a recruitment period to fill the other co-chair post.
 10. On November 6, ASERL hosted its annual networking reception in conjunction with the Charleston Library Conference. Despite record crowds attending the conference, participation in our networking was much lower than previous years. We will review the timing and other aspects of our event planning to determine if/how we can improve attendance in the future. It may be time to pull the plug on this event.
 11. ASERL's professional development program continues to enjoy a busy schedule. Our "Digital Scholarship Show & Tell" series continues with sessions from University of Miami (December 5), University of Georgia & Georgia State University (December 14) and a session from Florida International University and University of South Florida (date = TBD.) A session from Virginia Commonwealth University is on the docket for Spring 2019. More volunteers are needed!

ASERL is also hosting a new, three-part webinar series on Principles of Contracting. Led by librarians from the University of Georgia, the first session was "Contracting basics" held on October 25. "What's in a licensing agreement" is set for Nov 16, and "Essentials of a publication agreement" will be offered on December 11.

ASERL's webinars are offered at no cost to member libraries and guests, and recordings are available under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-ShareAlike license. Registration links are available at www.aserl.org. Recordings and PPT slides are posted to www.aserl.org/archive.

12. Ellen Ramsey (University of Virginia) is the new co-chair of ASERL's Scholarly Communications Interest Group, through June 2020. Andy Wesolek (Vanderbilt) is the other co-chair, through 2019. The Schol-Comm group continues its "Five Questions With..." blog series, highlighting the work of scholarly communications librarians in our Association. In particular, we seek interviews with people who are new to libraries or new to their roles as a means of building connections with newcomers to our community.

Participants in our 2015 and 2017 Scholarly Communications Unconference (“SCUNC Alumni”) events will gather electronically for our next online koffee klatch on December 7. We will discuss options for the next SCUNC event, to take place in late Spring 2019.

13. Other professional development activity: In April 2018, ASERL hosted two in-person workshops in Atlanta: “Intersections of Scholarly Communication and Information Literacy” (in partnership with ACRL, on April 26), and a Library Liaison Institute (in partnership with ARL, on April 27-28). More than 100 people attended. See <http://www.aserl.org/april-2018-conferences/> for more details and follow-up information.
14. ASERL has finalized an agreement for an across-the-board discount for ASERL members from Backstage Library Works. We are close to finalizing an agreement with EBSCO for ebook content. See <http://www.aserl.org/offers/> for details on these and other discount offers available to ASERL libraries.
15. Twelve ASERL libraries had expressed interest in developing/piloting a new system for evaluating the ROI of electronic resources based on the concepts of the “Red Light, Green Light” blog post authored by Roger Schonfeld in August 2017. (For the original blog post, see <http://www.sr.ithaka.org/publications/red-light-green-light-licensing/>.) The project kick-off conference call was held on January 11, 2018. This led to the development of a small Working Group that is proposing a system of badging to identify certain qualities of e-resources, rather than a binary red/green system. More badges would equal more library-friendly aspects of a resource. A white paper is under development.
16. ASERL is hoping to rekindle interest in the “Deeply Rooted” shared digital collection. The Digital Library of Georgia has agreed to harvest metadata for this project provided by libraries that are not served by a DPLA Service Hub. To do this, the metadata guidelines for Deeply Rooted will be revised to include the IP/rights statements required by the Digital Public Library of America. Significant upheaval at DPLA may hinder future progress on this goal.

