



## ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

### Position Announcement:

### ASERL Visiting Program Officer: Expanded Resource Sharing

May 30, 2023

#### OVERVIEW

A part of its [“ASERL Ahead” strategy](#), the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) includes a desire to “ensure rapid and convenient user access to library content via enhanced resource sharing and through opportunities for member libraries to share special and unique content in new ways.”

- Efforts in this area initially included investigating the potential for implementing Controlled Digital Lending (CDL) as a new means of increasing access to library materials, including the publication of a simple resource guide to assist library leaders consider their options for CDL activities, [“Future Thinking,”](#) in 2021.
- While it will be important to continue watching developments with CDL in the library community, we will also look at deepening the impact of the consortium’s resource sharing capacities in other areas—such as OCLC’s push into ILL services for consortia and independent efforts to open the sharing infrastructure, could lead to opportunities for reducing demands on staff time, limitations of discovery, and other causes of friction.

#### THE OPPORTUNITY

ASERL now seeks applicants from member institutions to serve as a Visiting Program Officer (VPO) to research potential options for expanding resource sharing in the consortium; develop overall goals and strategies for building robust ILL systems in the network; and prepare ASERL to meet those demands.

As a collaborator with ASERL’s consortium team, the VPO will have the opportunity to be a leader in the critical resource sharing field. Along with access to travel funding, the VPO will develop experience working with projects beyond the institutional level, building relationships across the libraries of 38 of the best research universities in the region.

The successful candidate will research existing models and programs, develop a rapport with key innovators, and propose a work plan and timeline for building ILL capacity with ASERL’s membership. Byproducts of this work may include:

#### ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

% Robert W. Woodruff Library, Suite 316

540 Asbury Circle

Atlanta, GA 30322-1006

Telephone: 404-727-0137 | Web: [www.aserl.org](http://www.aserl.org)

- Working closely with ASERL's Program Coordinator for Shared Collection Resources to build understanding and volunteer capacity necessary to continue these efforts.
- Recruiting and convening a resource-sharing committee from across ASERL, including participants of KUDZU (ASERL's resource sharing network) and representatives from schools that are not KUDZU members.
- Leading a review and refresh of the Future Thinking resource guide.
- Identifying potential workflows that would need to be designed/implemented within participating libraries to ensure enhanced ILL is implemented effectively and within its legal framework.
- Creating an environmental scan of the technology options available/in development that could support traditional and innovative resource sharing in a consortial context, and advocating for interoperability among technology providers and other partners

The successful VPO candidate will serve as the project manager, with primary responsibility for identifying and implementing the above goals. If the VPO's program plan anticipates that funding will be needed outside of existing resources, the VPO will be expected to work with ASERL staff to propose a plan to secure the additional funding. The VPO will also be charged with creating a presence for this program on ASERL's website. ASERL anticipates this being a one-year assignment, starting on or about **August 1, 2023**, and requiring approximately eight hours per week (**.20 FTE**) for the duration of the assignment.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

### *Required qualifications:*

- Conversant in CDL principles, with an up-to-date awareness of the current technological landscape to support resource sharing broadly.
- Strong interpersonal skills, excellent verbal and written communications skills, and the ability to think creatively, work independently, establish goals, and meet deadlines.
- Ability to work with ASERL staff in a fully remote, self-directed work environment.

### *Preferred qualifications:*

- Ideally the VPO will also possess a broad array of experience working within Resource Sharing environments and technologies, and knowledge of resource sharing policy/best practice and workflows.
- Fluent in the use of WYSIWYG web content tools (WordPress) to maintain relevant page(s) on ASERL's website.

## **REMUNERATION**

This position is a part-time, limited-duration assignment. The sponsoring ASERL library will be expected to continue the VPO's regular salary and other personnel expenses as an in-kind contribution to this effort. The VPO's employment status at the sponsoring library/institution and benefits thereof must continue uninterrupted. ASERL has budgeted funds to cover out-of-pocket

expenses (relevant travel costs, conference fees, software licensing, etc.) for the VPO for the duration of the assignment.

### **APPLICATION & REVIEW PROCESS**

Applicants are encouraged to speak with ASERL's Executive Director about this project and discuss the applicant's ideas for supporting its development. Interested candidates must submit a letter of application to ASERL's Executive Director at the address below no later than **June 30, 2023**. This should include:

- a brief description of the applicant's relevant experiences and skills;
- a summary of the applicant's anticipated process for implementing the goals of this project;
- a simple, high-level summary of the costs that are anticipated for the completion of this assignment;
- a summary Curriculum Vitae (maximum of two pages).

**NOTE: A letter of support from the sponsoring library dean/director must be supplied.** This letter should describe which of the applicant's regular duties will be reassigned to allow time to undertake the VPO role. The Executive Director will review all applications and forward a recommendation to the ASERL Board of Directors for final selection. The appointment **decision will be announced on or about July 15, 2023**.

### **QUESTIONS**

Please contact ASERL's Executive Director John Burger at [jburger@aserl.org](mailto:jburger@aserl.org) with any questions.