Report of Activities: June 2023 - May 2024

FACRL Events

- The **2023 FACRL Conference** was held virtually on October 20, 2023, with the theme "Where Do We Go From Here? Best Practices & Trends in Academic Libraries." Chad Mairn (St. Petersburg College) was the keynote speaker ("Unlocking the Potential and Possible Perils of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries"). Two student scholarships were awarded to Hannah Gauthier and Mary Diaz de la Portilla, both MLIS students at Florida State University. There were 152 registrants, 16 live presentations, 7 poster sessions, and three lightning round presentations. Work has begun planning the 2024 conference, which will be held virtually in the fall.
- The FACRL Programming Committee held a free webinar on May 8, 2024, entitled "Career Building in Academic Libraries: Identifying Paths to Your Success." This was a panel session that discussed pathways for careers in academic libraries, featuring Crystal Mathews (Student Engagement Librarian, FSU), Danny Feinberg (Online Learning Librarian, UNF) and Mindy Berg (Cataloging and Metadata Librarian, USF) and moderated by Richard Hodges (Assistant Vice President of Library Services FSW).

Board Activities

- Approved a letter of support from FACRL for the Flagler College Freedom to Teach Conference, which ran September 28-30, 2023. FACRL had a table at the event.
- Approved an academic freedom statement and created an academic freedom toolkit with resources for members is in progress and will be shared shortly.
- Reviewed and updated duties of liaisons and ex officios per by-laws as well as committee charges and descriptions.
- Approved two new interest groups: the Private Libraries Interest Group and the AI Exploration Interest Group.
- Clarissa West-White and Sarah Hammill presented at the ACRL Chapter Council Webinar on February 21, 2024.
- Elections were held in March 2024 for the FACRL Board. New Board Orientation was held on April 9, 2024.
  - President: Ana Diamand *[special election due to the current President-Elect leaving Florida]*
  - President-Elect: Leah Plocharczyk
  - Secretary: Emily Norton
  - Diversity Equity and Inclusion Officer: Alejandra Rodriguez
  - Board Members: Diana Matthews and Angie Neely-Sardon
- Current Board members created an onboarding guide for new Board members to ensure continuity and provide advice.

- FACRL emailed all members on April 12, 2024, about the proposed elimination of the Academic Libraries component of IPEDS reporting, urging members to post a public comment against the change.
- FACRL was a Bronze Sponsor at the Florida Library Association (FLA) conference, held May 15-17, 2024, in Orlando, providing a coffee station.
- Discussion is ongoing about how to welcome new members, especially those who join by virtue of becoming an ACRL member.
- Phishing emails continue to arrive regularly, with scammers impersonating an FACRL Board member and asking to talk.

Treasurer's Report

- The finances for FACRL are healthy. We continue to maintain a tight budget and keep expenses to a minimum. We are able to do this is by having our annual conference online. The advantages to an online conference include costs such as conference space, food, and logistics.
- In the past, we received a chapter reimbursement fee from ACRL but they have since stopped doing this so it is important that we keep down our costs.
- Our biggest expenses are the website (Go Daddy, due in June), the Wild Apricot Annual Subscription (due in 2025), online conference platform and contract services, and scholarships (usually funded by vendor donations).

Opportunities for FACRL Members

- Members are welcome to join FACRL committees on a variety of topics.
- Two interest groups are available for all FACRL members to join: Private Academic Librarians Interest Group (PALIG) and AI Exploration Interest Group (AIEIG). Contact the conveners to be added to the groups.
- Photos of libraries are always welcome to be showcased on the homepage of the FACRL website. Submit to the Communications Manager, Rachel Tait-Ripperdan, rtait@fgcu.edu.