



2023 Annual Report

Continued Innovation & Leadership

ASERL's BIPOC Professional Development events have been a great success in 2022-2023! These events are all about connecting and growing the amazing BIPOC faculty and staff people at our member institutions. Our

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first in-person event at the University of Miami in April 2023 had a standing-room-only crowd of 41 participants, with people on a waiting list. Our next session took place at [Georgia Tech](#), where 38 fantastic folks joined us for informative panel discussions along with a keynote presenter who talked



to us about research on workplace morale.

The true highlight of these in-person events isn't just the professional development; it's the profound impact they have on participants. As one attendee excitedly shared, "This event changed my life... I never knew I could go to a library event and feel so at ease and at home." Another remarkable testimonial came from a library staff member who shared, "As a library staff person, this has been my first event where I left the state. I had never felt welcome in library spaces... Thank you ASERL for making us feel at home." More events in this series will continue in 2024, as ASERL strives to continue changing lives and fostering a sense of belonging together.

ASERL Plans for its Future, Seeks to Open Doors

In 2022-2023, ASERL hosted numerous conversations for its membership to review updates to our Strategic Plan, Mission and Values statements, and our membership criteria — the latter of which has not been reviewed in more than a decade. ASERL members were clear in their desires: To keep ASERL a trusted, close-knit, and collegial community focused on ensuring our libraries are great places to work and study, and to open doors for potential new members to join ASERL. Perhaps most importantly, the proposed changes to ASERL's membership criteria are designed to more closely align the criteria used to review member libraries with their institution's research missions

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and to widen the options for new libraries to join ASERL in coming years. "In the past, membership in ASERL was seen as an exclusive privilege in the region — a marker of achievement — but that exclusivity also has long shadows for its exclusionary results. We hope these changes will redress some systemic issues and open doors that have long been closed to potential new members," commented Gale Etschmaier, ASERL's Board President. "By changing our membership requirements, ASERL is taking an important first step in building trusting relationships with other libraries that we hope will grow and enhance our community well into the future."

Additional Highlights

ASERL's Impact

31 webinars/online events offered in FY23, serving 16K+ participants

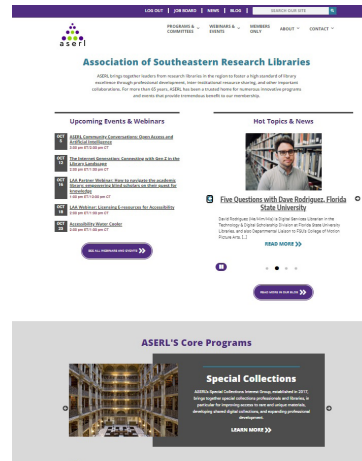
64K print journal titles archived by [Scholars Trust](#)

15K [federal documents](#) re-homed into new library collections

70K library items shared among ASERL libraries [ILL agreements](#)

\$1.1M saved in FY23 via discount purchase agreements [available to members](#)

ASERL Launches New Website



After more than 10 years of service, in October 2022 ASERL [launched a new site](#) based on member feedback and best practices. The new site greatly improves the site's accessibility features for users with disabilities, and enables much simpler access to our highly acclaimed [webinars and events](#) and other commonly used pages. The

new site also provides slideshows [to highlight the work of our volunteers](#) and a [spotlight on digital collections](#) selected by our members. Our thanks to our Advisory Board for their guidance and to the many, many community members who provided input for the new site!

Rebecca Crist Joins the ASERL Team



Rebecca Crist

As of February 1, 2023, [Rebecca Crist](#) is ASERL's new Program Coordinator for Shared Collection Resources. She is the successor to Cheryle Cole-Bennett who retired from ASERL following 15 years working as ASERL's Program Coordinator for Shared Print Programming.

Prior to joining ASERL, Ms. Crist has served as Project Manager for the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA), leading development and implementation of BTAA's Shared Print Repository Program. "A productive consortium brings institutions together to achieve more than they might accomplish alone, and ASERL has a proven record of uniting some of the finest research libraries in the country for highly effective, targeted initiatives," commented Rebecca. "I am delighted to be part of this team and look forward to supporting ASERL's member libraries."

Associate Deans Networking Continues to Grow

As part of our professional development portfolio of activities, ASERL has offered quarterly online forums for people serving in Associate Dean/Associate University Librarian roles since 2021. Thanks to their timely discussion topics and welcoming environment, these activities continue to attract new participants. Over the past year, discussion topics have included managing hybrid work environments (now a perennial issue), new staffing models for engaging the university community, assessment and organizational change, and information-sharing about AI-related initiatives on ASERL campuses. With a new crop of volunteer leaders, the AD/AUL group has a lineup for four additional "hot topics" ready to discuss for the year ahead.



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