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| Updates from ASERL Committees / Interest Groups  **May 2025** | A logo with purple and green dots  Description automatically generated |

**Accessibility Interest Group / Library Accessibility Alliance**

Volunteer Leaders:

1. Sheri Edwards, University of Florida – ASERL Committee Chairperson
2. Sara Belmont, William & Mary – LAA Steering Cmte Co-Chair
3. Amelia Rodarte, Duke University
4. Ashley Blinstrub, George Mason Univ
5. Cheryl Gowing, University of Miami
6. Elyssa Gould, University of Tennessee
7. Erika Boardman, UNC Charlotte
8. Holli Kubly, Old Dominion University
9. Jared Mooney, Georgia State Univ
10. Jen Montavon-Green, University of Kentucky
11. Jess Barmon, Florida State University
12. Jessie Copeland, Emory University
13. Kate Silton, Wake Forest
14. Robert Pillow, Virginia Tech
15. Tammy Stitz, George Mason University
16. Zachary Tumlin, Duke University
17. Elaina Norlin – ASERL staff liaison

The ASERL Accessibility Interest Group and the Library Accessibility Alliance (LAA) are two separate groups, although some activities and initiatives overlap. The LAA is currently a partnership of ASERL and the [Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA),](https://www.btaa.org/) [Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC)](https://www.wrlc.org/), the [Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA)](https://www.gwla.org/), [Ivy Plus Libraries Confederation (IPLC)](https://ivpluslibraries.org/), [Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC](https://www.flvc.org/)), and [University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions (USMAI)](https://usmai.org/). Several ASERL Accessibility Interest Group members plus John Burger currently serve on the LAA Steering and Action Committees. Elaina Norlin became the primary staff liaison for these groups starting Summer 2024.

## Library Accessibility Alliance

1. **ASERL Representation:** ASERL members serve on four LAA action committees: Testing (Erika Boardman), Communications (Dhy Edwardsberry), Impact & Analysis (Sheri Edwards), Vendor Relations (Elyssa Gould). Sara Belmont has returned to her co-chair role for the LAA Steering Committee for one year to provide continuity after other leaders experienced job changes.
2. **Testing Subgroup:**  To date, 123 product accessibility evaluations have been completed. The Testing subgroup is developing a contract for a second, independent testing partner. Member libraries can suggest databases to test through a new form available on the [LAA website](https://libraryaccessibility.org/testing). The group completed auditing the testing website to ensure accessibility and usability of the testing reports.
3. **Impact/Analysis Subgroup:**  The group will publish its literature review on the relationship between libraries and disability resource offices. The group also is near completion of a data report showing vendor WCAG compliance.
4. **Training Subgroup:**  LAA’s Accessibility Training Action Committee, in 2024, led by FSU’s David Rodriguez, held [two webinars](https://www.libraryaccessibility.org/events) on ADA Title II and neurodiversity in library employment. The group also developed a training curriculum for new members of the LAA action committees, with implementation targeted for 2025.
5. **Communications Subgroup:**  The group will be publishing an annual report of activities in 2025.
6. **Vendor Relations Subgroup:**  The group drafted a “Dear Vendor” letter to be sent to all vendors that LAA has tested their products, alerting them to the Title II ruling. The group also is working on an Accessibility Commitment and Product Compliance questionnaire to send to all vendors.

## ASERL Accessibility Interest Group

1. **Ongoing Conversation Guides and other projects:** In summer 2024, the working group created the [ASERL Accessible Hiring Conversation Guide](https://www.aserl.org/programs/accessibility/accessible-hiring-conversation-guide/). The group also shared a self-paced online course from our partners at the Big Ten Academic Alliance called “Cultivating Belonging: Library Accessibility Essentials”. A link is available on our website (<https://www.aserl.org/programs/accessibility/>).
2. [**Accessibility Water Cooler**](https://www.aserl.org/events/category/webinar/accessibility/)**:** Planning underway for a Watercooler event for December 2, 2024 and for 2025 Watercooler gatherings.

**Associate Dean / AUL Networking Group**

Volunteer Leaders:

1. Ariel Turner, Clemson University
2. Bridget Euliano, George Mason University
3. Carol Ann Borchert, Univ of South Florida
4. Julie Griffin, Virginia Tech
5. Liz Gushee, University of Miami
6. Mark Sanders, East Carolina Univ
7. Melissa Mallon, Vanderbilt
8. Michael Arthur, University of Alabama
9. Sara Wright, University of Georgia
10. Shamella Cromartie, Clemson
11. Tammy Sugarman, VCU
12. John Burger – ASERL staff liaison

ASERL’s AD/AUL group is focusing much of its activity this year on the impacts of AI developments.

* On December 13, the group leaders hosted an open-mic session to discuss what our greatest successes and challenges were this year and plans for the coming year in our libraries.
* On March 7, group leaders convened a discussion of how ASERL libraries are skilling-up their teams for AI. After introductory comments from colleagues at University of Miami, University of South Florida, and Clemson University, the group discussed AI hires in the libraries, pros and cons of AI, and AI pilots in progress. The discussions also covered AI and copyright, data privacy, and how members are respectively managing all of the above.
* The next session will take place on June 11 with a focus oncurrent events and their impacts on libraries and higher education.
* Several of the group leaders have been in their roles for 2+ years and are weighing whether to continue.  New volunteers to serve on the leadership group are very welcome!

**Collaborative Federal Depository Program Oversight Committee**

Volunteer Leaders:

1. David Durant, East Carolina Univ – CFDP Steering Cmte chairperson
2. Amy Laub, University of Kentucky
3. Bill Sudduth, Univ of South Carolina
4. Cecelia Botero, University of Mississippi
5. Judy Russell, University of Florida
6. Sara Erekson, University of Florida
7. Rebecca Crist – ASERL staff liaison

The [CFDP](https://www.aserl.org/programs/gov-doc/) brings Depository Libraries within the Southeast (ASERL member and non-member alike) together to explore ways to improve the management of, and access to, Federal government information for the citizens of the states of the southeastern United States.

The CFDP addresses the increasing cost of managing, preserving, and providing access to large collections of Federal government publications through the creation of comprehensive collections known as “[Centers of Excellence](https://www.aserl.org/programs/gov-doc/center-of-excellence-libraries/)” (COE)—for Federal government agencies, for a chosen format, or in a chosen subject area. Built on the foundation of existing holdings at Depository libraries, these collections become more complete with assistance from both Regionals and Selectives in the ASERL states.

Through the CFDP, ASERL also works with the University of Florida to host and facilitate the [Documents Disposition](https://www.aserl.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/ASERL_FDLP_GUIDELINES_Revised_Final_2018_09.pdf#page=11) database, allowing libraries to offer and accept documents to build strategically complete collection areas.

In the last year, the FDLP’s has implemented its plans for very limited print distribution, promoting access to most content through digital access. The CFDP has worked with the FDLP’s South National Collection Service Area to ensure these print titles are received and maintained within the Southern region. Additionally, ASERL is working with the Leveraging Existing Networks (South) working group to ensure efforts are not duplicated by the two programs as the federal program adopts more concentrated efforts to collaboratively store and share print documents.

The CFDP Oversight Committee is preparing a Town Hall to follow up on these issues and the spring Depository Libraries Council meetings.

Finally, the CFDP would like to take this opportunity to express its gratitude to Dean Judy Russell for her deep commitment to ensuring the preservation and stewardship of federal information. Judy has been a champion for the right of the people to access the information created by the government working in their behalf, and she brought this same dedication to promoting ASERL as a nationally recognized leader in the management of government documents.

**Collection Strategy Interest Group**

Volunteer Leaders:

1. Ben Rawlins, University of Kentucky
2. Brent Appling, University of South Carolina
3. Chris Palazzolo, Emory University
4. Craig Whetten, Virginia Tech
5. Ed Lener, Virginia Tech
6. Ibironke Lawal, VCU
7. Jaycee Chapman, UAB
8. Karen Brunsting, University of Memphis
9. Kat Brooks, University of Tennessee
10. Kaypounyers ("Kay") Maye, Tulane University
11. Laura Bright, East Carolina Univ
12. Rebecca Crist – ASERL Staff Liaison

The Collection Strategies Interest Group has met monthly, with a break in the new year semester transition.

The group has acted as an advisory council for ASERL on matters relating to collections development and management:

* The IG evaluates and advises on publisher-submitted offers, including in this term offers from DeGruyter, Exact Editions, DOAJ, Coherent Digital, Gale, AM passed on to the membership.
* In February and March, the group hosted vendor spotlight webinars for these vendors to present their offers and demos to the full membership.
* The IG provides ASERL with campus perspectives on budgets, hiring, and travel funding as federal grant-funding and policy decisions filter to libraries:
  + Noted strong preference for one-time purchases rather than ongoing subscriptions, in line with trends. Although most have not experienced budget cuts as an immediate impact of government priority shifts, most are preparing scenarios expecting flat to declining collections budgets.
  + Clarivate model shifts are leading many to look for alternatives.
  + Transformative agreements are not a high priority for ASERL libraries; although most libraries engage in at least some agreements, the number and variety of agreements can create complexity and take time to promote, and libraries find researchers are not seeking OA titles for publications.

In the coming months, the group is planning webinars for our public series, beginning with a session on weeding and withdrawing. Other topics they are considering include

* Alternate collections (games, art kits)
* ADA Title II compliance
* Supporting the number and variety of emerging programs and new research units on campus

**ASERL Eleven License Review Working Group**

Volunteers

Chris Palazollo, Emory University

Christee Pascale, University of South Carolina

Elyssa Gould, University of Tennessee

Erin Gallagher, University of Florida

Mandi Smith, University of Arkansas

Peggy Kain, University of Alabama–Birmingham

Scott Schmucker, Florida State University

Tessa Minchew, NC State University

Whitney Bates Gomez, Emory University

Alice Daugherty, University of Alabama

Craig Whetten, Virginia Tech

James Rhoades, University of Virginia

The ASERL Eleven License Reviews Group was formed to examine publishers’ adoption of the licensing principles outlined in [The ASERL Eleven: Recommended Principles and Terms for Electronic Resource Agreements.](https://www.aserl.org/programs/coll-assess/the-aserl-eleven/) The group established a protocol for reviewing agreements in a doubly anonymized process; reviewers do not know the purveyor of the license they review, and publishers are not given the names of the reviewers. Each license is reviewed individually by at least three librarian reviewers, who then meet to write a final assessment collectively. The team developed assessment rubrics for both individual and collaborative use, and solicited standard agreements from a number of publishers.

To date, the group has [completed reviews of six licenses](https://www.aserl.org/programs/coll-assess/the-aserl-eleven/), with two more in process awaiting the final group consensus reports.

* DeGruyter
* EBSCO
* Royal Society of Chemistry
* Wiley
* ASME
* Coherent Digital

In the coming months, the group plans to seek additional license agreements to review. They are also preparing a webinar for this summer to publicize their efforts and invite additional reviewer librarians.

**Professional Development Interest Group**

Volunteer Leaders:

1. Patrick Tomlin, Virginia Tech – co-chair
2. Susan Klopper, Emory University – co-chair
3. Catalina Piatt-Esguerra, UVA
4. Denice Lewis, Wake Forest
5. Dhanushka Samarakoon, University of Miami
6. Doris Jui, University of Miami
7. Jennifer Hoyt, Old Dominion Univ
8. LaTiffany Davis, University of Tennessee
9. Laura Carscaddon, Georgia State Univ
10. Sarah Hammill, Florida International University
11. Shaundra Lee, Florida State University
12. Elaina Norlin – ASERL staff liaison

For the 2024-2025 term, two members were appointed as co-chairs; this model worked very well and will continue into the 2025-2026 term. In order to build succession planning into the committee’s structure, one of the co-chairs will remain on the committee for an additional year and work alongside a newer member interested in taking on a co-chair role.

This group hosted two webinars in February 2025:

* **Elevating Others: Unlocking Your Team’s Full Potential.** February 19, 2025. Speaker: Meghan Kowalski, Outreach and Reference Librarian at the University of the District of Columbia. Attendees:122. The webinar explored how to amplify your team by identifying their strengths, promoting work, and helping them to overcome challenges such as self-doubt and imposter syndrome. The speaker also discussed the mutual benefits of promoting others. Attendees learned practical strategies to highlight their team’s skills and projects, fostering growth and collaboration within and beyond the library community.
* **Together we Learn: Democratizing Knowledge Through an AI Community of Practice.**  February 26, 2025. Speakers: Dr. Heidi Blackburn, Computing Librarian, Georgia Mason University and Chris Magee, Social Sciences Librarian, George Mason University. Attendees:53. Monthly virtual sessions, led by peers, foster an inclusive environment where staff learn to integrate AI into their work. The CoP’s evolution from tool-specific to task-based learning demonstrates adaptability to emerging technologies. This approach ensures all employees, regardless of technical expertise, can effectively navigate the AI landscape. They democratize AI knowledge and empower staff from diverse backgrounds to integrate cutting-edge tools into daily work.

**Additional webinars**  
The committee is currently exploring offering two additional learning opportunities in summer 2025:

* Addressing Workplace Bullying in Academic Libraries: A Discussion and Call to Action (Montclair State University, Louisiana State University)
* Library Discussion Planning (FSU Information Institute)

**Library Technology Immersion Conference, North Carolina State University, August 20-25, 2025**As the committee did last year, we plan to participate in marketing and possibly helping to identify presenters for this year’s conference. See [www.atechcon.org](http://www.atechcon.org) for more information.

**Resource Sharing Interest Group**

Volunteer Leaders

1. Ashli Wells, Vanderbilt University Law Library
2. Courtney Taulbee, University of Kentucky
3. Jacob Fontenot, Louisiana State Univ
4. James Harper, Wake Forest
5. Jose Rodriguez, University of Miami
6. Lily Pang, University of Florida
7. Loftan Hooker, VCU
8. Mia Partlow, NC State University
9. Michael Hunter, George Mason University
10. Rebecca Crist – ASERL staff liaison

The ASERL Resource Sharing Interest Group works with the ASERL staff and member libraries to identify, develop, and encourage cooperation and collaboration in sharing the consortium’s collective resources.

As collections budgets remain limited while the available pool of resources continues to expand, the ASERL Resource Sharing Interest Group has been looking critically for ways to increase or improve sharing collections across the member libraries without expanding costs or effort. As ASERL multiple members libraries migrate to new systems, the complexity of resource sharing requests can ease borrowing from libraries using the same systems—but may also increase manual effort required to identify and request materials from other libraries. Our conversations this year have focused on ways to reduce the friction in those inter-system borrowing and lending transactions, while also considering the larger issues facing library ILL units.

The Interest Group has followed developments of multi-consortial ILL projects over the past year, including Project ReShare, CrossLink, and OpenRS. These projects continue to develop, and with grant funding for such projects currently in question, we will continue to observe the progress of these efforts.

Among the topics the group is now considering:

* How best to promote and assess resource sharing efforts in the library
* ILL support for collections decision-making; as budgets tighten, how does ILL help inform which titles are selected or deselected to ensure the broadest possible access for all members?
* ADA Title II: What are the requirements for resource sharing?

The Kudzu Operations Group convened a call of Kudzu libraries in March. The libraries expressed interest in smoothing resource sharing logistics, including standardizing longer loan periods and understanding invoicing both with and without OCLC’s ILL Fee Management.

In January, the Interest Group hosted a demo of SILVRR, a service for sharing streaming media. Unfortunately the service is dependent on shared consortial infrastructure, and requires individual configuration for each vendor’s agreements, making it unusable for a consortium the size of ASERL.

Finally, the Interest Group is preparing to update information from the member libraries, including the systems overview. This information has proved helpful as we attempt to knit together multiple platforms. Additionally, the team will solicit additional information from the libraries regarding their lending and borrowing policies, with the aim of facilitating the sort of group policy directories embedded in resource sharing systems.

**Resource Sharing Interoperability Working Group**

1. Amy Chew, University of Tennessee
2. Courtney Taulbee, University of Kentucky
3. Erika Anderson, Clemson University
4. Jacob Fontenot, Louisiana State University
5. Martin Patrick, Georga Tech
6. Megan Simon, Florida State University
7. Rebecca Crist – ASERL staff liaison

A working group under the larger umbrella of resource sharing, the Interoperability Working Group is pursuing practical implementation options for knitting together the multiple systems in use across ASERL libraries for discovering and sharing returnable resources.

The group has configured and tested ISO 18626-based resource sharing for transmitting no-fee borrowing requests. Although the goal is to conduct transactions independent of vendor systems, the effort has thus far proven successful in tests using ILLiad to configure the ISO request mechanism. Led by Amy Chew (UTK), they are now preparing a guide for others to configure their local systems, and to gather the necessary systems addresses and other information necessary for configuring library-to-library requesting paths. They no of no other consortium working on a collaborative level to configure this type of resource sharing, and have submitted a proposal to the Northwest ILL Conference to present their work virtually.

The group is also documenting the implementation of an Alma-to-Alma peer resource sharing integration between the University of Kentucky and Vanderbilt. We hope to expand this to more Alma libraries and look to convene an Alma users group to advance this discussion.

**Scholarly Communications Interest Group**

Volunteer Leaders

1. Elaine Walker, University of Alabama, convener
2. Amy Cooley, East Carolina University
3. Anna Dimoula, University of Miami
4. Jenny Townes, Emory University
5. Kim Wheeler, Tulane University
6. Olivia Chin, University of Tennessee Knoxville
7. Sarah Norris, University of Central Florida
8. Stephen Krueger, University of Kentucky
9. John Burger, ASERL staff liaison

On December 12, 2024, SCIG provided a space for casual conversation with Schol-Comm colleagues about interesting events from the past year and plans / ideas for 2025.

Based on input received in December, on February 27, 2025, SCIG hosted its first reading club-style meeting with conversation revolving around the assigned article, “Artificial Intelligence in Academic Libraries: An Environmental Scan,” which prompted a lively discussion about how campuses are responding and adapting to AI in the workplace.

On June 2, 2025, the next reading group meeting will focus on modern applications in librarianship of “The Five Laws of OER: Observations from Ranganathan.”

Over the past few months, the group has also refreshed the list of Schol-Comm resources on ASERL’s website.

**Shared Print Journal Archive: Scholars Trust / Shared Print Partnership**

WRLC: Del Hornbuckle, Kim Armstrong, Aaron Krebeck

FLARE: Judy Russell, Ben Walker, Tabby Pursley

ASERL: Chris Cox, Doug Way, Shoko Tokoro, John Burger, Rebecca Crist

Scholars Trust is a regional collaborative partnership that brings together consortia that wish to share the effort of the long-term retention of and access to shared print journal collections held by academic libraries in support of learning and scholarship. ASERL, along with the Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC) and the Florida Academic Repository (FLARE) comprise the membership. Scholars Trust currently claims more than 200,000 retained print journal titles; of these, 19,804 are held by ASERL libraries (not including volumes retained in FLARE’s repository).

The Scholars Trust Oversight Committee convened March 17 to update the constituent programs and to introduce new committee members. The Oversight Committee is responsible for guiding collective efforts among member programs and their participating libraries to develop shared print journal collections in the region. Chris Cox (Clemson), Shoko Tokoro (UNC Charlotte), and Doug Way (University of Kentucky) represent ASERL, with John Burger and Rebecca Crist as program officers. Judy Russell serves for FLARE.

In 2024, the Rosemont Shared Print Alliance and the Partnership for Shared Book Collections combined to become the Shared Print Partnership. This organization has spent the past year largely dealing with administrative decisions following the transition, and has recently announced new mission and vision statements. In May 2025 they requested affirmation for a slate of candidates to govern the newly merged organization, as well as feedback on a proposed staffing model. Scholars Trust has remained observant during this transition phase as we await information on cost models, strategic plans, and the intended scope of work.

**Special Collections Interest Group**

Volunteer Leaders

1. Aaron Pahl, UAB
2. Annia Gonzalez, Florida International
3. Arnetta Girardeau, UNC Charlotte
4. Cristina Favretto, University of Miami
5. David Benjamin, University of Central Florida
6. Jason Tomberlin, UNC Chapel Hill
7. Jennifer McGillan, Mississippi State University
8. Kayla Annan, Emory University
9. Kris Bronstad, University of Tennessee
10. Laura Micham, Duke University
11. Lynn Eaton, George Mason Univ
12. Natalie Kazmin, University of South Florida
13. Nick Richbell, Clemson University
14. Tara S. Wood, Clemson University
15. Ximena Valdivia, Florida International Univ
16. Elaina Norlin & Rebecca Crist – staff liaisons

The Special Collections Interest Group meets monthly to advise and collaborate on issues related to special collections and archives.

The group’s activity in the last six months has primarily been focused on preparing for the upcoming mini-conference, [*Business as Usual? Special Collections as a Microcosm of the World*](https://www.aserl.org/event/business-as-usual/)*.* The event, occurring at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA, on May 28-30, will bring together special collections librarians from across the southeast to engage with topics particularly affecting their work. The group has worked hard to create an event that will allow participants to form meaningful connections with their peers while developing their own skills and knowledge. Topics on the agenda include:

* Dealing with burnout and creating well workplaces
* Working successfully with collection donors
* Fundraising, advancement, and donor relations
* Connecting Special Collections with the library and the institution
* Capturing Protest, a photojournalist’s story
* Reflecting Our Communities in Our Collections

Through this event, the group will determine topics and areas of focus for potential future work. Beyond the conference, the group has discussed a number of issues concerning compliance with changes in local and federal priorities:

* Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act implementations
* Evaluating for language or topics that might be considered problematic
* Using AI in special collections, and how to add AI to instruction and unit goals
* Professional development for non-faculty-level staff