

ARL Member Representatives Retiring or Stepping Down in Fall/Winter 2019–2020

ARL’s Kaylyn Groves interviewed one of the four member representatives who are retiring or stepping down in fall/winter 2019–2020. A bio is included in this document for the directors the Association was unable to interview.

Joyce E. B. Backus	2
Nancy E. Gwinn	2
Wendy Pradt Lougee	3
Ann Campion Riley	6

Joyce E. B. Backus

Joyce Backus has served as associate director for Library Operations at the US National Library of Medicine (NLM) since 2012. NLM is the world's largest medical library and a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Joyce plans to retire February 29, 2020.

Joyce began her NLM service as a member of the 1985–1986 class of Associate Fellows. Since then, she has served in a number of key positions of increasing responsibility. Among many other achievements, she was a key player in the development of the library's primary consumer-health website, MedlinePlus. She also led the creation and implementation of MedlinePlus Connect, the free service that allows health organizations and health IT providers to link patient portals and electronic health-record systems to MedlinePlus. Joyce has worked to sponsor changes that will continue to transform NLM, including a Board of Regents Collections and Preservation Policy; the integration of Specialized Information Services staff, programs, and services; and plans for transforming the public and staff spaces of Building 38.



Joyce has represented NLM and NIH in many contexts and in collaborations with other federal agencies, libraries, and professional associations. She has served on several Association of Research Libraries (ARL) committees and working groups, including the Working Group on Transformation at Scale (2018–2019), the ARL Academy Advisory Group (2016–2018), and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (2012–2016, chair 2014–2016).

Nancy E. Gwinn

Nancy E. Gwinn has been director of the Smithsonian Libraries since 1997. Nancy oversees a network of 21 libraries and central services units and is a recognized leader in international librarianship, in developing digital libraries, in building cooperative programs and partnerships, and in promoting Smithsonian scholarship to external communities. She plans to retire at the end of 2019.

Under Nancy's leadership, the libraries became the Smithsonian Institution's principal resource for digital access to its collections, including via the creation of new tools for scholars and students. The libraries were instrumental in launching the Biodiversity Heritage Library, an open-access database of biodiversity literature collected by a global consortium that has digitized over 245,000 volumes (57 million pages). The preservation program grew beyond the Book Conservation Laboratory to incorporate environmental monitoring and preservation microfilming. During Nancy's tenure, the libraries established their first Advisory Board and inaugurated an advancement program, raising nearly \$20,000,000. The libraries initiated an exhibition, publication, and outreach program to



ARL Member Representatives Stepping Down Fall/Winter 2019–2020

bring their collections to a broad audience, and launched fellowship and intern programs to bring researchers and new librarians to work with staff and collections.

Nancy joined the Smithsonian Libraries in 1984 as the assistant director for collections management. Her career includes positions at the Library of Congress, the Council on Library Resources, and the Research Libraries Group. She received the Waldo Gifford Leland Prize of the Society of American Archivists in 1988 and the American Library Association's Blackwell North American Scholarship Award in 1984 for two of her publications. In 2013, the University of Wyoming awarded her an honorary degree.

Nancy is the Smithsonian Libraries' representative to the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), serving on the IFLA Governing Board in 2004–2009. She has served on many ARL committees and working groups, including the Member Engagement and Outreach Committee (2016–2018), the Collective Collections Design Team (2015–2016), the Advancing Scholarly Communication Committee (2012–2014), the Special Collections Working Group (2008–2012), and the Preservation of Research Library Materials Committee (1998–2003, chair 2000–2003).

Wendy Pradt Lougee

Wendy Pradt Lougee has served as university librarian and dean of libraries and McKnight Presidential Professor at the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities since 2002. The University Libraries were recognized by the Institute of Museum and Library Services with the National Medal in 2017, the nation's highest honor for museums and libraries. Wendy plans to step down with the appointment of her successor in 2020.

Prior to her appointment at the University of Minnesota, Wendy held several positions at the University of Michigan over a 20-year period, including director of the Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library and associate director of the University Library for digital library services. Her work in launching and developing a premier digital library program at Michigan was recognized with the American Library Association's Hugh Atkinson Award (2003), Computerworld Honors Program Laureate (2002), and Michigan's Walter H. Kaiser Award (2001). She held earlier appointments at Brown University and Wheaton College in Massachusetts.

Wendy has served on the boards of directors for the Research Libraries Group, the Council on Library and Information Resources, the Digital Library Federation (president 2009), the National Information Standards Organization, the Association of Research Libraries (president 2012–2013), and HathiTrust (chair 2017). In addition to serving as president of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), she has served on many ARL committees and working groups, including recently chairing the ARL Academy Advisory Committee (2017–2018) and participating in the Working Group on Transformation at Scale (2018–2019) and the Strategic Thinking and Design Working Group (2014).



ARL's Kaylyn Groves interviewed Wendy via email in September 2019. The interview follows.

Why and how did you get started in librarianship?

With an undergraduate degree in English, there is not an abundance of obvious career paths. My sister was a librarian at Time Warner and her work conducting in-depth research for reporters around the world sounded intriguing, so I opted for an MLS program. While my sister and I took different career paths, I found the opportunity space working within the academy on information issues to be one that aligned with my own interest in working within higher education.

Plus, truth be told, my mother chaired our small-town library board, and it was fascinating to hear her stories about the issues at hand. She was also the first to read the “challenged books,” so our household always got these “hot titles” before anyone else.

What is a highlight of your career?

I would single out the experience of being at “ground zero,” if you will, of the digital era. The opportunities afforded at the University of Michigan in birthing a digital library program were heady, with funds flowing in support of innovation—everything from the creation and launch of JSTOR, to the early work with large-scale digitization, to multi-disciplinary research partnerships that engaged the library's expertise in this new frontier of digital content and tools.

My tenure at Minnesota has built on some of that early digital work, but focused more significantly on meaningful engagement and collaboration on campus and beyond. I'm immensely proud of some of the models we've developed that have resonated with others and our lead roles in multi-institutional collaborations, such as the Data Curation Network, *Umbra Search African American History*, or the Big Ten Geoportal.

Were there goals that you set as a director that you have not yet reached?

In a local context, there have been capital projects not yet fulfilled. While we've created a number of new, innovative spaces, we have not been able to address large-scale renovations in our main library. That said, the road toward capital efforts has immersed us in significant analysis of collections and necessary management, as well as a well-honed understanding of research behaviors—something we began early in my tenure with support from the Mellon Foundation and has been an ongoing theme. Understanding workflow and user behaviors is essential in better integrating library resources and in planning for impactful services and spaces.

These capital processes, including the projects we have undertaken, have also underscored a fundamental change in how we approach our substantial real estate. There is a constant need for refresh, reconception of spaces rather than renovation once every couple of decades. That requires a different campus approach toward understanding and financing libraries infrastructure.

What advice do you have for individuals who aspire to leadership positions/roles in libraries?

Read widely, connect broadly, and engage deeply. Librarianship is not the sole source of intelligence for our work. We draw consistently from research and practice in other disciplines, whether computer science, psychology, economics, organizational development, or more. Similarly, my mantra has always been about engagement—“weaving the library into the

fabric of the campus”—the library should be inextricably integrated as a key dimension (or thread) in research and learning.

What still inspires you about librarianship?

I'm not sure “librarianship” adequately captures our field. What has excited and motivated me has been the distinctive role that libraries can play on campus, the distinctive expertise and resources. We bring fundamental understanding about that intersection of information/technology/behavior, with critical skills that are unique to the information sphere and have enduring impacts on our campuses. Long ago I “borrowed” the phrase from some other institution: “no one ever graduated from a library, but no one graduated without one.” We could say something similar about the research enterprise: researchers may not “visit” a library, but they could not do their work without our portfolio of resources.

What key issues do you think research libraries will face in the next five years?

Early in my dean chapter, I authored a CLIR report on *Diffuse Libraries*, which forecast the forces toward deep collaboration. We still have work to do on that evolution. Libraries need to advance the integrated roles and our expertise in the teaching, learning, research, and outreach missions of our universities. That plays out in many areas, including research data, digital assets of all sorts, learning and research analytics, faculty development in new methodologies and tools, innovation, entrepreneurship, etc. The list is extensive.

There is also important opportunity and urgency in working at scale with each other. How do we address the challenges and opportunities where collaboration is essential? HathiTrust is a success story in tackling the issues of digital preservation and access, but equally important is the fact that it offers opportunity for us to collectively manage collections, to draw on a data corpus for research, to serve those with disabilities. There are other areas where deep collaboration, at scale, will be critical to our future.

What do you look forward to in the next phase?

I have some writing projects in mind, some professional and some personal. I have a friend who says we shouldn't think of this as retirement but rather “re-firement.” I've always had opportunities appear (often unexpectedly) that piqued my interest and, in that context, I'm confident there will be interesting endeavors that come my way to contribute to organizations, perhaps volunteer, or continue engagement in professional contexts.

Ann Champion Riley

Ann Champion Riley has been vice provost for libraries and university librarian at the University of Missouri–Columbia (Mizzou) since 2017 and was acting director of the libraries from 2015. Serving a student body of 30,000 and a faculty of 2,000, the libraries advance the teaching, research, and service programs of the university and the economic development of the state of Missouri. Ann plans to retire in December 2019.



During her tenure at Mizzou, Ann has increased partnerships with other member institutions of the Association of American Universities (AAU) and the Southeastern Conference (SEC). She has also been instrumental in fund-raising, including a student initiative designed to enhance library offerings and services.

Ann joined Mizzou in 2007 as the associate director for access, collections, and technical services. She previously served in professional roles at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, St. Louis Community College–Meramec, Maryville University, University of Missouri–St. Louis, and New Mexico State University.

She has been active in the profession, including serving on the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Member Engagement and Outreach Committee (2017–2019), as an ARL Leadership Fellow (2011–2012), and as president of the Association of College & Research Libraries (2015).