

Annual Report

2021

The Association of Research Libraries fosters the open exchange of ideas and expertise; advances diversity, equity, and inclusion; and pursues advocacy and public policy efforts that reflect the values of the library, scholarly, and higher education communities. ARL forges partnerships and catalyzes the collective efforts of research libraries to enable knowledge creation and to achieve enduring and barrier-free access to information.

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Message from the ARL President and the ARL Executive Director

On reflection, 2021 represents a year in which ARL member institutions, like so many other organizations, faced daunting operational and strategic challenges. Perhaps as a result of COVID-19 and its reverberations, political polarization, ongoing mis/disinformation, and persistent violence against BIPOC peoples, our Association was even more focused on its collective accountability for advancing a research and learning mission consistent with our guiding principles.

In the evolving context, ARL came together virtually and strengthened through our informal conversations, our Association Meetings, and the largest number of attendees ever at the Fall Forum on “Building Up, Reaching Out: Talent Management in Academic Libraries through Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging.” We welcomed two new member institutions: Texas State University, whose application was approved by the membership in October 2020 and became effective in January 2021, and the University of California, Santa Cruz, approved by the membership in October 2021 for January 2022. Even more research library and archives employees were engaged in the Action Plan than in previous years, and the Association staff developed new and deeper relationships with others in the library, archive, research, and learning community. We achieved our shared priorities together—convening, informing, shaping, and influencing our collective intentions.

ARL continues to contribute to policies and practices that expand equitable access to information and copyrighted materials and broadly supports policies and practices that enable scholars to do their best work. Together with our partners, we advanced our commitment to accessibility, digital rights, and university-based publishing. With international, national, and institutional partners, we advanced research policies and practices, including research funding, international students, and particularly research data, open scholarship, and the future of scholarly communications.

As part of our commitment to our role in diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice, the Board of Directors led and adopted the recommendations of an external review of the Association’s governance structure to address structural inequities. With its focus on leadership, ARL relaunched the ARL Leadership Fellows program, the flagship offering of the ARL Academy, to develop and prepare the next generation of senior library and



archives leaders. The program features best practices in contemporary leadership development, including integrating diversity, equity, and inclusion principles and perspectives throughout the curriculum. As trusted stewards of knowledge, ARL joined the US Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT) Movement to establish a United States Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation and an Archive of Racial and Cultural Healing.

With 44 new permanent and interim member representatives joining us since January 2018 (19 during the pandemic) and the tumultuous months since March 2020, ARL reached out to key stakeholders to identify strategic opportunities for aligning research library and archives contributions with key stakeholder priorities. Thanks to stakeholders' significant interest in engaging with ARL, and given our member surveys and discussions, we are prepared to inform our members and to work collectively to further strengthen collaborations that advance our shared commitments.

We invite you to read more about these highlights and others in this Annual Report 2021. Thanks to our member institutions, the Board, our partners, and the ARL staff, the Association remains strong and well-positioned to make meaningful contributions in advancing research and learning. We would like to specially recognize the contributions of our current past president, John Culshaw (Iowa), and the Board members whose service ended in the fall of 2021: Lorraine Haricombe, past president (Texas at Austin); Diane Parr Walker, treasurer (Notre Dame); Virginia Steel (UCLA); and Tyler Walters (Virginia Tech).



K. Matthew Dames
ARL President



Mary Lee Kennedy
ARL Executive Director



2021 by the Numbers

Convene

125

member institutions

17

member and interim member representatives new to the Association

1

new member institution: Texas State University

2,502

attendees at ARL events

Inform

254,000

active users and 359,000 sessions on flagship website ARL.org

13

member events (in addition to Association Meetings) on presidential records, publisher negotiations, digitization, research security, anti-racism, leadership and diversity strategies, talent management, career paths, organizational development, COVID-19 operations and budgeting

6,332

subscribers to daily and weekly ARL newsletters (*Day in Review* and *ARL News*)

10

presentations to external organizations about ARL's strategic priorities (AAU/APLU Summit on Accelerating Public Access to Research Data, Confederation of Open Access Repositories, Council on Governmental Relations, Digital Public Library of America, Federal Demonstration Partnership, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, Jisc, National Information Standards Organization, North Carolina Summit on Accelerating Public Access to Research Data, Society for Scholarly Publishing)

24

briefings (10 member briefings, 14 public policy briefings)

Shape

35

participants in the Digital Scholarship Institute Summer Virtual Series

20

Leadership Fellows representing the broadest range of research institutions and communities in the program's history

80

participants in ARL diversity programs

\$474,020

invested in fellows and scholars programs (including sponsorships)

\$300,000

new grant awarded to ARL to conduct research, develop models, and collect costing information for public access to research data across five disciplinary areas

8

board/steering committee memberships (AGU Publications Committee, Coalition for Networked Information, Dryad, Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services, Research Organization Registry, SPARC, US National Academies' Board on Research Data and Information, and US National Committee for CODATA)

Influence

Representing institutions collectively serving **millions** of professionals, students, faculty, researchers, innovators, and the public from around the **world**

174

media mentions (digital and print media)

46

public policy positions, including 26 sign-on letters, 14 public statements submitted to the US Government and 6 public statements

Board of Directors



K. Matthew Dames
University of
Notre Dame
(2019–2023)



Susan Parker
The University of
British Columbia
(2020–2024)



John Culshaw
University of Iowa
(2017–2022)



Bob Fox
University of
Louisville
(2018–2024)



Mary Lee Kennedy
Association of Research
Libraries



Jon E. Cawthorne
Wayne State
University
(2021–2024)



Trevor A. Dawes
University of
Delaware
(2020–2023)



Lorraine Haricombe
The University of
Texas at Austin
(2015–2021)



Melissa Just
University of
Saskatchewan
(2021–2024)



Joe Lucia
Temple
University
(2019–2022)



Robert McDonald
University of
Colorado Boulder
(2020–2023)



Lisa O'Hara
University of
Manitoba
(2021–2024)



Sarah Pritchard
Northwestern
University
(2019–2022)



Virginia Steel
University of
California, Los
Angeles
(2020–2021)



Lorelei Tanji
University of
California, Irvine
(2021–2024)



Diane Parr Walker
University of
Notre Dame
(2016–2021)



Tyler Walters
Virginia Tech
(2020–2021)

Visiting Program Officers



Ava Brillat
University of
Miami



Pascal Calarco
University of
Windsor



Scout Calvert
Michigan State
University



Gordon Daines
Brigham Young
University



Greg Davis
Iowa State
University



Stephanie McReynolds
Syracuse
University



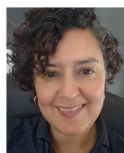
Alanna Aiko Moore
University of
California, San Diego



Jennifer Muilenburg
University of
Washington



Darcée Olson
Louisiana State
University



Jennifer Osorio
University of
California, Los
Angeles



Victoria Owen
University of
Toronto



Peter Potter
Virginia Tech



Micah Vandegrift
North Carolina
State University

ARL Staff



Mary Lee Kennedy
Executive Director



Jessica Aiwuyor
Senior Director of Communications



Jessica Andrade
Associate Director of Board and Member Relations



Kevin Borden
Senior Director of Research and Analytics



Ryan Brennan
Accounting Manager



Jaymey Butler
Associate Director, Events



DeLa Dos
Senior Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



Deborah R. Grayson
Senior Director, Leadership and Organizational Development



Holly Gross
Senior Applications Developer



Kaylyn Groves
Senior Writer and Editor



Cynthia Hudson Vitale
Director, Scholars and Scholarship



Pat Kent
Accounting Coordinator



Katherine Klosek
Director of Information Policy



Anam Mian
Research Analyst



Samantha Musser
Program Manager



Angela Pappalardo
Program Manager



Gary Roebuck
Deputy Executive Director



Judy Ruttenberg
Senior Director of Scholarship and Policy



Mira Swearer
Program Manager



Shawna Taylor
Project Manager, Realities of Academic Data Sharing



Amy Yeager
Communications Manager

ARL Priorities

Per ARL's 2021-2022 Action Plan, please find progress on our priorities on the following pages:

- 10 Advocate for Public Policies in Support of Our Mission and Shared Objective
- 12 Catalyze Collective Efforts to Achieve Enduring and Barrier-Free Access to Information
- 14 Create Diverse, Equitable, Inclusive, and Accessible Work Environments, Services, and Collections
- 16 Provide Data and Analytics on Research Library Practices, Effectiveness, and Impact
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Advocate for Public Policies in Support of Our Mission and Shared Objective

Objective: Advocate and advance law and policy for balanced copyright that safeguards the interests of researchers and learners by ensuring that libraries can acquire, share, lend, reformat, and preserve content with maximum digital affordances

In 2021, ARL's Scholarship and Policy Team collaborated on cross-cutting issues, such as research security, producing an [issue brief](#) and member session; scientific integrity, through submitting [comments](#) in response to a US federal request for information; and science funding legislation, issuing a [public statement](#) welcoming increased investment in research and data sharing. ARL kept the membership and the community informed through a monthly [Public Policy Briefing](#) [member login required], more than 15 [ARL Views](#) blog posts, and social media engagement. Major accomplishments are described below.

The Advocacy and Public Policy Committee's (APPC) contributions to the 2021–2022 Action Plan were centered around safeguarding libraries' digital rights. With a new visiting program officer from Louisiana State University, we researched and identified the special exemptions and limitations within the Copyright Act that enable libraries and educational institutions to fulfill their missions—with a particular focus on the digital environment and digital lending in particular. We held discussions with members of APPC and the University Information Policy Officers (UIPO) to understand the legal and policy barriers embedded in licensing digital scholarly materials in research libraries. We held meetings with congressional offices informing them of challenges for libraries in these areas. Finally, while copyright is a cornerstone

of ARL's advocacy work, the Association remains firmly committed to open and public access policies that would resolve many of the conflicts of copyright of scholarly works for libraries and the research community. Our work in this area in 2021 laid the foundation for our forthcoming launch of a refreshed KnowYourCopyrights.org website with public position papers on research libraries and digital rights.

The ARL/CARL Joint Task Force on Marrakesh Treaty Implementation expanded its structure and capacity. We added an additional visiting program officer to the [task force](#) and created new technical and beneficiary working groups. With accessibility as a core area of focus for the APPC, we are able to connect the Marrakesh work to our broader digital-rights strategy, including our work on the triennial rulemaking for Section 1201 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act on circumventing technological protection measures.

ARL led the library voice in policy discussions around reform of Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act. In collaboration with our colleagues in the Library Copyright Alliance, the Internet Infrastructure Alliance, and EDUCAUSE, we developed an [issue brief](#) on Section 230 and libraries that was member-informed, and recognized as extremely helpful by congressional offices and member libraries. Based on the brief and

accompanying [webinar](#), a key member of Congress contacted us to understand our position on specific bills that would reform Section 230. APPC is tracking congressional proposals to reform Section 230, as well as broader conversations about online transparency and privacy that also have implications for Section 230 and the open internet.

We developed a research library advocacy strategy to advance legislation on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation. In 2021, ARL [joined](#) a broad-based coalition of academic, artistic, civic, and faith organizations calling for the establishment of a US Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation ([H. Con. Res. 19](#)). Libraries and

archives are in this movement to advance a more just and equitable society by bringing our expertise, our collections, and our relationships to advance truth for teaching and scholarship, remembrance, community building, and healing. Leaders of the movement worked with committee members on a panel discussion with ARL members in October 2021. ARL partnered with the American Library Association (ALA) and the Society of American Archivists (SAA) to develop a [statement](#) for the National Day of Racial Healing in January 2022, signaling the commitment of libraries and archives to collaborate, and to document the diverse history of the US.





Catalyze Collective Efforts to Achieve Enduring and Barrier-Free Access to Information

Objective: Enhance partnerships within the greater research ecosystem in order to strengthen research libraries within the open-science-by-design framework and related open-scholarship initiatives

A key outcome of 2021 is increased visibility of research libraries among stakeholders and partners in higher education and national agencies. Our work has resulted in renewed opportunities and relationships, particularly in the area of research data, with the CODATA US National Committee, Council on Governmental Relations (COGR), the US National Academies' Board on Research Data and Information (BRDI), the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the US National Science Foundation (NSF).

ARL and the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) published the final report of the [ARL/CARL Joint Task Force on Research Data Services](#), with recommendations for the roles of research libraries with regard to research data principles, policy, and strategy for managing research data. The report also offers guidance on discipline-specific research data approaches, priorities for automation of processes, economic models to scale and sustain shared resources, prioritization of research data to steward, and decision-making rubrics. The task force engaged 24 deans, directors, and data librarians from the ARL membership across Canada and the US to complete this work.

The Scholars and Scholarship Team kicked off a two-year, \$300,000 NSF grant project to study the [realities of academic data sharing](#).

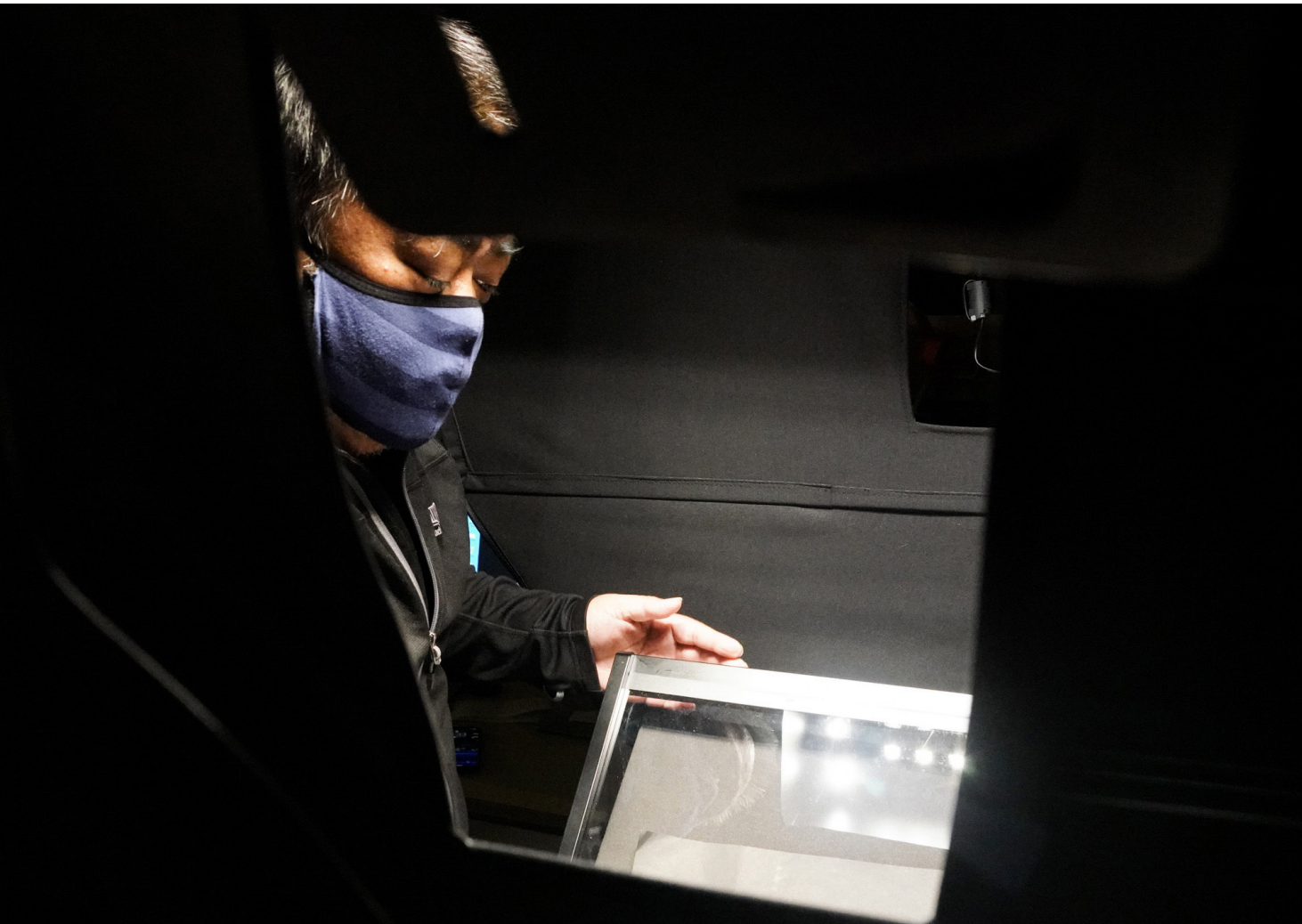
This project builds upon the US National Library of Medicine's prior work on the costs of public access to research data and continues the outcomes recommended by the Association of American Universities (AAU) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) in their Accelerating Public Access to Research Data initiative. Specifically, this project will work with six ARL member organizations to answer the following questions:

1. Where are funded researchers across these institutions making their data publicly accessible and what is the quality of the metadata?
2. How are researchers making decisions about why and how to share research data?
3. What is the cost to the institution to implement the federally mandated public access to research data policy?

In collaboration with AAU and APLU, ARL co-convened a cross-sectional group of institutional administrators and service providers to pilot the [NIST Research Data Framework \(RDaF\)](#). The RDaF is meant to be a map of the institutionally based research data landscape and a guide for various stakeholders in research data to understand best practices for research data management and dissemination. The first of the pilot meetings was held in November 2021 with additional meetings expected to be scheduled throughout 2022.

The [Toward an Open Monograph Ecosystem \(TOME\)](#) initiative marked its fourth year in

2021. This initiative, which is a collaboration among AAU, ARL, and the Association of University Presses, provides a subvention award of up to \$15,000 per monograph to create a digital open-access version of the title. To date, more than 100 books have been published under TOME, which represents an investment of more than \$1.5 million dollars in supporting open humanities and social sciences scholarship. At the 2021 meeting of TOME stakeholders, featuring presentations and discussions of several open-access monograph initiatives, participants affirmed the ongoing need for a collective approach (like TOME) to funding open monographs.





Create Diverse, Equitable, Inclusive, and Accessible Work Environments, Services, and Collections

Objective: Advance sustainable and systemic change particularly as it relates to racism by helping ARL members recruit, retain, and advance people of color and other underrepresented populations, as well as through programs, frameworks, and partnerships to build structural equity and inclusion

In 2021, ARL engaged in numerous efforts aligned with its goal of advancing sustainable and systemic change to build structural equity and inclusion. ARL continues its work as a member of the joint [task force](#) to develop a framework for proficiencies in racial equity for libraries and archives; this group is led by the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL), Association of Research Libraries (ARL), American Library Association (ALA), and Public Library Association (PLA). The framework working group, which convened in spring 2021, shared the draft framework with the full task force over the summer and initiated an [open comment process](#) in January 2022. Additionally, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee partnered with the ARL Academy Advisory Committee to draft the ARL Learning & Development Framework. This framework, which was presented to the ARL Board in February 2022, establishes an intentional structure to provide guidance, organization, and consistency to learning and development opportunities for ARL community members, while remaining adaptable in order to encourage innovation and to respond to unpredictable circumstances.

ARL continues to deepen its long-term commitment to diverse populations throughout their careers through enhancements made to the [Leadership and Career Development Program \(LCDP\)](#) and [Kaleidoscope Program](#). The 2020–2021 LCDP cohort—“The Pandemons”—comprised 24 fellows who successfully navigated the unprecedented circumstances of COVID-19. After their in-person orientation in March 2020, the fellows adapted to a virtual structure that included extending their fellowship for six months. The cohort presented their experiences during the Fall 2021 Association Meeting and called on member representatives to identify active ways to cede or share power and make actionable changes in order to create more space and opportunities for rising BIPOC leaders. Twenty-four leaders from ARL and non-ARL institutions served as career coaches and hosted virtual visits for their matched fellows. Preparations for the 2022–2023 LCDP cohort began at the end of 2021, which included soliciting applications for fellows as well as launching the [LCDP Task Force](#) and [LCDP Selection Working Group](#).

Within the Kaleidoscope Program, 17 diversity scholars from the 2019–2021 cohort completed the program. Another 18 diversity scholars from the 2020–2022 cohort completed the first year of the program, which included attending the virtual 2021 Leadership Symposium and the Research Library Site Visit at Arizona State University; these diversity scholars will continue to receive financial, mentoring, and job-search support through their second year in the program. Additionally, 18 diversity scholars were selected for the 2021–2023 cohort, which began meeting in September 2021. We selected a mentoring consultant who successfully matched all 18 scholars with their mentors; the mentoring consultant, who also serves as an ARL visiting program officer from UC San Diego, is developing materials and resources to strengthen and enhance the mentoring components of the Kaleidoscope Program for the scholars and the mentors.

ARL’s intentional focus on structural inequity includes centering anti-racism and developing

a framework to scaffold systemic change.

After a delay in 2020, ARL began work in fall 2021 on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Institute planning, which is supported by an Institute of Museum and Library Services FY2020 Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program award ([RE-246354-OLS-20](#)). The [DEI Institute Task Force](#), supported by a research scholar from the University of Illinois Chicago, launched in December 2021. Additionally, in lieu of hosting the IDEAL: Advancing Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility in Libraries & Archives Conference in 2021, ARL was a [Diamond/Diamante Sponsor](#) for the REFORMA National Conference VII; this opportunity, which celebrated the 50th anniversary of REFORMA, included conference registration for three Kaleidoscope Diversity Scholars, the sponsorship of four conference sessions—all of which involved colleagues from ARL member institutions, and a virtual exhibit space. Towards the end of 2021, the ARL DEI Committee began initial planning for the next IDEAL Conference with the hope of hosting it in 2023.





Provide Data and Analytics on Research Library Practices, Effectiveness, and Impact

Objective: Implement a research agenda for the Association that enables research libraries to address impact and outcomes

In 2021, the Research and Analytics program focused on implementing initiatives to improve the Salary Survey and the ARL analytics experience, and strategizing for the future. Putting past recommendations generated from direct engagement with the membership into practice and initiating conversations about the future of research and analytics at ARL moved our agenda forward substantially.

Two major accomplishments of note include launching a revised [ARL Statistics website](#) and implementing improvements to the [ARL Annual Salary Survey](#) put forth by the ARL Salary Survey Task Force and approved by the Board of Directors. Collectively, these efforts make ARL data easier to gather and access, and make the data more relevant to today's library environment. The revised ARL Statistics website provides a cleaner interface, more efficient workflow for members, and several new tools and functionality to make it easier to use. Implementing recommendations from the Salary Survey Task Force provides critical updates to this valuable data set that will allow member libraries to obtain insights that are more applicable to their institutions.

Strategically, the Research and Analytics Committee began the important work of rethinking the data collected through the [ARL Statistics](#) survey. Through consultation with the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and ARL staff, the committee crafted an approach centered on member engagement to refresh this flagship survey.

The [ACRL/ALA/ARL Joint Advisory Task Force on IPEDS Academic Libraries Component Definitions](#) submitted their recommendation to the US National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) on adding a question to the Academic Libraries Survey (ALS) about shared collections. Further, the IPEDS Task Force also contributed comments to a report about the implications of moving the ALS from NCES to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

ARL also continued its work to revise the [LibQUAL](#) survey and plans to launch a pilot with a partner institution in 2022 to complete additional testing. In 2021, 46 institutions ran a LibQUAL survey.

All of these efforts demonstrate how Research and Analytics at ARL continues to be a part of the broader conversation with the analytics community about how best to measure impacts and effectiveness of research libraries and archives.



Shape and Inform Leadership Practice throughout Research Libraries

Objective: Implement a strategy for leadership and organizational development through programming and events that develop library deans, directors, and employees to meet the challenges and opportunities presented by the significant changes underway in research, teaching, and learning

ARL advanced this objective in 2021 by laying the foundation for deepening and delivering on critical work for library leaders at all stages of their leadership development. Major achievements from the year are described below.

We launched the revamped [Leadership Fellows program](#) with the most diverse class (institutions, individuals, perspectives) ever. The program and curriculum have been completely redesigned and implemented. The program has now established an ARL approach to leadership and mentorship that provides fellows insight into the day-to-day leadership challenges and opportunities they can expect to encounter regularly as senior leaders. Fellows are offered advice and counsel for learning about topics covered by monthly sessions, applied best practices related to those topics, and stakeholder connections in institutional settings that shape those topics in practice.

The [ARL Academy](#) prepared recommendations for a name change in order to better convey that learning facilitated by ARL is continuous and ongoing; that it happens at all levels of the organization; that it fosters a community of practice and inquiry; and that, through learning, ARL shapes libraries of the future. ARL members have been polled to determine the best name for the Academy Advisory Committee to present to the Board of Directors.

In partnership with the senior director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, we completed the ARL Learning & Development Framework which was presented to the Board in February 2022. The framework establishes an intentional structure to provide guidance, organization, and consistency to learning and development opportunities for ARL community members, while remaining adaptable in order to encourage innovation and to respond to unpredictable circumstances.

The Leadership Research Task Force completed its work to examine the changing roles of library leaders, identify gaps between current and future needs, determine any necessary skill sets that would enable research library leaders to better engage with their campuses, and inform ARL programming and strategic priorities. Moving forward the Academy Advisory Committee plans to mine the data that has been collected to find opportunities for publication and further analysis of those findings.

The ARL Academy established a new working group to update, design, and implement content for mid-career and senior leaders via the AUL/Senior Leadership Institute. The ARL Academy AUL/Senior Leadership Institute is a professional development opportunity for senior leaders of research libraries to strengthen strategic thinking and decision-making skills to

ensure effective leadership of research libraries in a time of rapid, continuous change. The institute will teach participants ways to strengthen their individual leadership qualities, including integrity, empathy, and collegiality, as they develop their

strategic leadership skills. The institute will be open to current associate and assistant deans and directors of research libraries and other senior managers who report directly to the university librarian/dean/director.

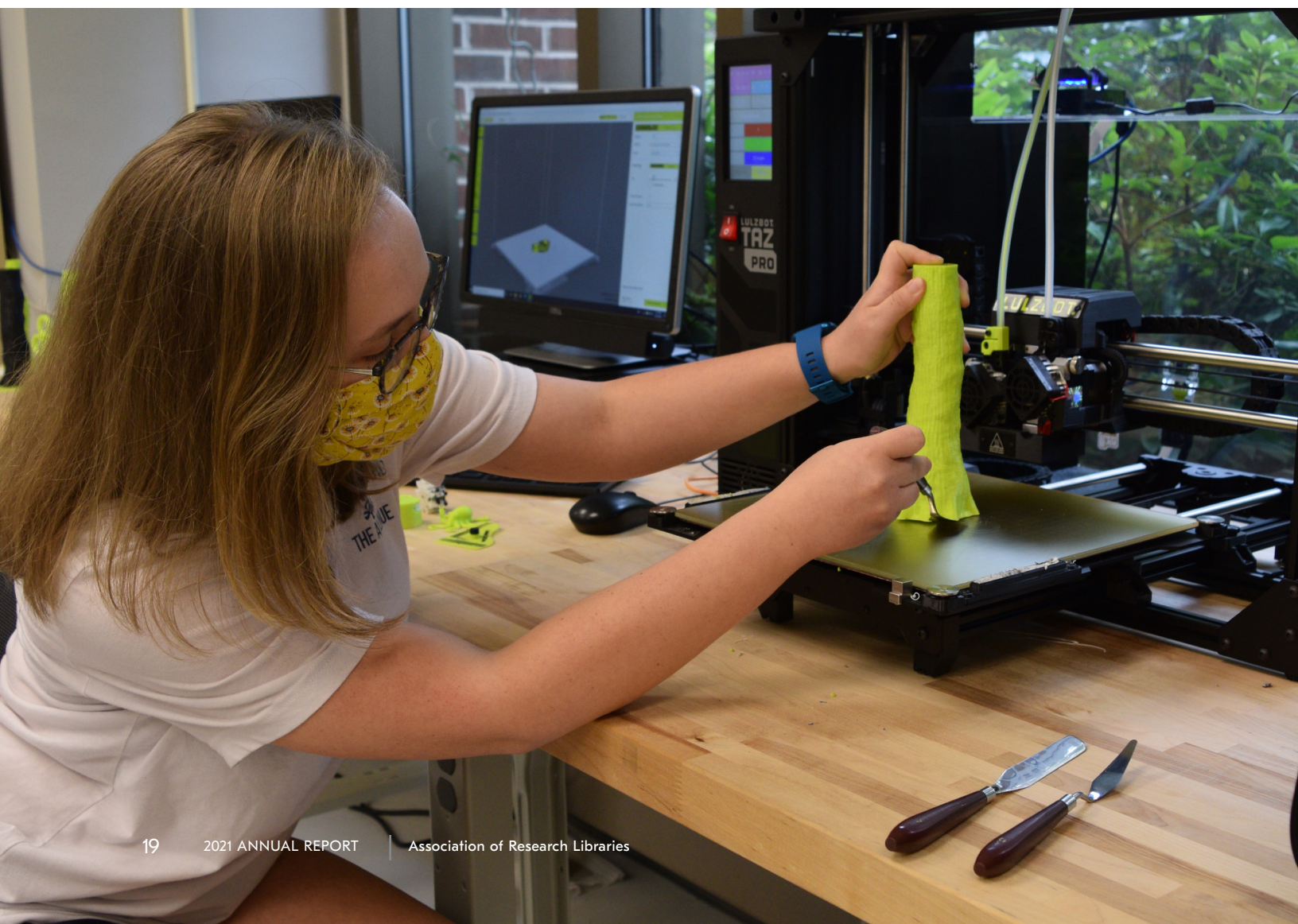




Deepen and Expand Understanding of Research Library Impact in the Research Enterprise and More Broadly

Objective: Deepen and expand the understanding of the research library's value and brand identity, particularly in terms of its impact in the research enterprise and more broadly

During a year of continued turmoil in our countries, institutions, and individual lives, the Association engaged with key stakeholders, partners, and the media to raise their awareness of the impact of member library and archives contributions to the broader ecosystem.



In [partnership](#) with the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) the Association of Research Libraries engaged Ithaka S+R to interview key stakeholders in higher education to identify their strategic priorities and the role of research libraries and archives in achieving them. The report is forthcoming in early 2022, along with case studies and key indicators to assist member institutions in identifying opportunities for increased alignment. More than 60 stakeholders enthusiastically participated and our partners in higher education expressed their interest in working with the Association going forward to develop a deeper understanding of what research libraries contribute.

The Association staff worked on behalf of the member institutions through close collaboration with other library and archives associations, higher education associations, in scholarly communications, and with other associations representing key stakeholders in the research and learning community. ARL represents the membership and participates in the work of eight boards/steering committees (AGU Publications Committee, Coalition for Networked Information, Dryad, Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services, Research Organization Registry, SPARC, US National Academies' Board on Research Data and Information, and US National Committee for CODATA). Along with less-structured discussions and joint task forces, in 2021 staff presented to groups including the AAU/APLU Summit on Accelerating Public Access to Research Data, Confederation of Open Access Repositories, Council on Governmental Relations, Digital Public Library of America, Federal Demonstration Partnership, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, Jisc, National Information Standards Organization,

North Carolina Summit on Accelerating Public Access to Research Data, Society for Scholarly Publishing. These key relationships resulted in greater collaboration in our policy work; our leadership programs; our work on diversity, equity, and inclusion; our contributions to research and analytics standards and practices; and in the realm of scholars and scholarship.

The Association expanded its reach in sharing news about member institutions and our collective initiatives through social media and email marketing, which are up since 2020. Between December 2020 and December 2021, ARL's [Twitter](#) following increased 8% from 11,490 to 12,460. Followers also increased on both [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). The [Day in Review](#) newsletter, launched in June 2020, increased its number of subscribers in 2021 by 129% from 1,014 subscribers to 2,321. The weekly [ARL News](#) email grew its subscriber base in 2021 by 47% from 2,719 to 4,011. Additionally, we launched the [ARL Views](#) blog's [first podcast](#) in a series covering topics ranging from copyright and the Marrakesh Treaty to the social impact of research libraries.

ARL [press releases and public comments](#) reached various media outlets and publications with readership from the low thousands to the millions. Media outlets that cited ARL in 2021 included *Library Journal*, *Inside Higher Ed*, and *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Media coverage focused on ARL's advocacy and public policy initiatives, along with our work focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion. In 2021, we also began showcasing member library events and resources covering holidays, commemorations, and other important events.

ARL Communications will continue its focus on showcasing the work of member libraries and demonstrating brand value.

2021 Media Coverage of ARL

ARL had 174 online media mentions in 2021. Our media coverage showcases ARL's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, copyright, and policies that expand access to information.

The most prominent ARL media mentions of 2021 include the following:

Re-Envisioning Humanities Infrastructure, *Inside Higher Ed*, February 22, 2021

Research Libraries Commend Biden's Use of Science, *Inside Higher Ed*, February 24, 2021

The Case of Ahmad v. University of Michigan, *Archival Outlook*, March/April 2021

Academic Libraries Led Universities into the Socially Distant Era. Now They're Planning for What's Next, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, April 27, 2021

DeLa Dos on the Equity Work Ahead for ARL, *Library Journal*, May 20, 2021

If Not Overturned, a Bad Copyright Decision Will Lead Many Americans to Lose Internet Access, Electronic Frontier Foundation, June 3, 2021

\$1 Billion Piracy Ruling Could Force ISPs to Disconnect More Internet Users, *Ars Technica*, June 7, 2021

2021 Public Statements and Letters by ARL

Statements

[A Message from the ARL President: Centering Our Values in Defense of Democracy and Social Justice](#), January 8, 2021

[Statement from the ARL President: The US Inauguration and the Importance of Research Libraries in the Democratic Process](#), January 15, 2021

[Statement from ARL on the 2021 US Presidential Inauguration](#), January 20, 2021

[Statement on Biden-Harris Administration's Prioritization of Scientific Integrity and Evidence-Based Policy-Making](#), February 23, 2021

[ARL Statement on New Transformative Publishing Agreement between the University of California and Elsevier](#), March 16, 2021

[#StopAsianHate: ARL Statement on Violence against AAPI Communities](#), March 19, 2021

[Association of Research Libraries Welcomes Increased Investment in Research and Data Sharing in Reauthorization of National Science Foundation](#), April 14, 2021

[ARL Signs On to Statement on Voting Rights by Higher Education Organizations](#), April 23, 2021

[ARL Membership Convenes Online for Spring 2021 Association Meeting on "The Big Pivot: Disruption, Discovery, Transformation"](#), May 14, 2021

[ARL Supports Creation of US Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation](#), June 18, 2021

[ARL Joins Library Publishing Coalition as Strategic Affiliate](#), June 30, 2021

[ARL Joins Coalition for Diversity & Inclusion in Scholarly Communications](#), June 30, 2021

[ARL Welcomes Researcher-First Policies in Bills to Reauthorize US National Science Foundation](#), July 1, 2021

[ARL Publishes Issue Brief on Section 230 of Communications Decency Act](#), July 6, 2021

[Micah Vandegrift Appointed ARL Visiting Program Officer for Accelerating Social Impact of Research](#), July 16, 2021

[ARL/CARL Joint Task Force on Research Data Services Releases Final Report](#), July 20, 2021

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[Digital Democracy Project Letter to President Biden on Good Government](#), February 9, 2021

[American Council on Education \(ACE\) Letter to US House Leadership Supporting a Budget Reconciliation Package](#), February 25, 2021

[Access to Knowledge Coalition Letter to US Trade Representative on Protecting Fair Use in International Copyright Policy](#), March 17, 2021

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[American Council on Education \(ACE\) Letter to Senate Leadership in Support of James Kvaal](#), April 26, 2021

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[Coalition for International Education Letter to House Appropriators in support of funding for International Education and Foreign Language Studies](#), May 12, 2021

[American Council on Education \(ACE\) Letter to Senators Kennedy and Sinema Recommending Flexibility in the “Improving Mental Health Access for Students Act of 2021,”](#) May 13, 2021

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[American Historical Association \(AHA\) Statement Opposing Legislative Efforts to Restrict Education about Racism and American History](#), June 14, 2021

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[International Alliance of Research Library Associations \(IARLA\) Statement Welcoming the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science](#), November 25, 2021

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LCA Comments

[Library Copyright Alliance Comments on “Digital Copyright Act of 2021” Discussion Draft](#), March 5, 2021

[Library Copyright Alliance Reply Comments to Class 5 Oppositions](#), March 10, 2021

[LCA and Other Partners Send Letter to Ambassador Tai Supporting Promoting a Balanced Copyright Policy to Benefit All Americans](#), March 18, 2021

[LCA Submits Comments on CASE Act](#), April 21, 2021

[LCA Submits Reply Comments on CASE Act Notice of Inquiry](#), May 10, 2021

[LCA Supports LDCs’ Request for TRIPS Transition Period](#), June 25, 2021

[LCA Submits Comments on the Copyright Amendment Bill](#), July 8, 2021

[LCA Statement on Copyright Office Sovereign Immunity Study](#), September 1, 2021

[LCA Comments on Proposed Rule for Preemptive Opt-Out](#), September 30, 2021

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[LCA Comments on Publishers’ Protection Study](#), November 24, 2021

[LCA Comments on Proposed Rule for Compliance Review by Copyright Claims Attorney](#), November 30, 2021