

Fall 2022 CJCLS Newsletter

From the CJCLS Chair



By Vicky Hart, Director, Library Services, Northeast Lakeview College

Goodbye August, Hello “BER” months!

I don’t know about you, but as a community college librarian, I live my life by the academic calendar. For me, September is the “start” of the year. Here at Northeast Lakeview College in Universal City, Texas, we are 100% back, with a combination of face-to-face, hybrid, and online classes. It looks to be a great year!

As we move forward, I ask you, the CJCLS members, what you would like to see from your section? Questions about scholarly research? There’s a committee for that. Interested in mentoring or finding a mentor? There’s a committee for that too.

Here is the full list of CJCLS Committees:

- [Awards](#)
- [Communications](#)
- [Conference Program Planning](#)
- [Library Staff Education](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Mentoring Program](#)
- [Nominating](#)
- [OER](#)
- [Scholarly Research](#)

The possibilities are endless. Have a great Fall Semester 2022 y’all!

From the Past CJCLS Chair



By Robin Brown, Head of Public Services, Borough of Manhattan Community College Library

Reflections on Community College Librarianship

When I finished library school, I assumed I was going

to be working at a prestigious ivy-covered university. The universe had other ideas. My child arrived 2 weeks after graduation. Almost 4 years later my library school was putting together a resume book. I got a call from a local community college. I began as an adjunct, which was wonderful for a young mother. I fell in love. I loved the variety of students that came to community colleges. I really honored the older women who needed computer skills to return to the work force. I won’t share with you my complete career trajectory, but only acknowledge that I had a chance to also work for the local state university. I know the difference. I found the students there were all the same age, and often the same ethnic background. I wanted to really make a difference and be part of institutions that made it possible to give people a boost into the middle class. So, when I was ready for my next challenge (having completed another graduate degree) I went looking for a community college. I believe that we are doing really important social justice work.

CJCLS Committee Updates

Mentoring Program

By Sandy McCarthy, Mentoring Program Chair

This year's committee includes two new members: Laura Mondt and Christine Mi-Seon Kim. The Mentoring Pilot Program, April - June 2022, was a success and received many positive reviews and feedback. The 2022-2023 Mentoring Program application process closed on September 15. This year's program will run from October 15, 2022 - June 30, 2023. The Committee is in the process of pairing mentors with mentees and will be hosting a kick-off meeting in October. Learn more on the [CJCLS Mentoring Program LibGuide](#).

Awards

By Sara Smith, Awards Committee Chair

The CJCLS Awards Committee was tasked with convening a virtual social event in lieu of the usual "Hot Topics" session and social event typically held at ALA Annual, but not held in 2022. After rescheduling the virtual social from its original June date, it was held on July 20, 2022 as a discussion of hot topics identified by the attendees. The first prompt was, "What resources do you consult to keep abreast of trends in higher education of impact to libraries?" The engaging conversation was captured in a [Virtual Discussion Resources document](#) that was posted to the CJCLS community in ALA Connect.

Many thanks to the immediate past-chair of CJCLS, Robin Brown, and her institution (CUNY) for providing Zoom access to this event. Great appreciation for the members of the 2021-2022 CJCLS Awards Committee, Nancy Bialek and Laura Mondt, for their planning assistance.

In other news, per an April 2022 ACRL Board decision, [ACRL Awards](#) (including those offered by CJCLS) will continue to be on hold for 2022-2023.

CJCLS leaders joined in multiple discussions related to awards programs and the associated ACRL Awards Task Force recommendations during spring 2022 to provide feedback.

Scholarly Research

By Stephanie D. Davis and Christine (Mi-Seon) Kim, Scholarly Research Committee Co-Chairs

Is research on your radar? The CJCLS Scholarly Research Committee is here to help! In the year ahead, we'll host two webinars, enhance our [Scholarly Research Committee LibGuide](#), and conduct a Needs Survey for community college (CC) librarians. The results of the survey will be used to learn more about the research needs and interests of CC librarians and develop professional development webinars and training, specifically designed for CC librarians to support their research and publications. We also hope to collaborate with other CJCLS committees for the future events and workshops to provide well-organized and curated services for CC librarians.

Library Staff Education

By Casandra Norin, Library Staff Education Committee Chair

The Committee on Library Staff Education is looking for people eager to join us in promoting staff education. We will be meeting soon to formulate goals and projects for the year and keep our [Committee on Library Staff Education LibGuide](#) updated with what we are working on.

Membership

By Lisa Eichholtz, Membership Committee Chair

Membership reports are delayed, but as of April 2022, CJCLS Membership was 1,165, down from 1,228 in April 2021. We ask CJCLS members to help us recruit new members. Talk to your colleagues about the value of CJCLS membership. Not satisfied with your membership? Talk to us.

Communications

By Suzanne Bernsten, Communications Committee Chair

Learn more about CJCLS and share what is happening in your communities with us by visiting the [CJCLS website](#). If you'd like us to share information on Facebook, Twitter, CJCLS Blog, or ALA Connect, use the [News & Events form](#). Browse recent [blog posts](#). Write an article about what is happening in your library or community in a future [CJCLS newsletter](#). We hope to hear from you!

Join the ALA Connect CJCLS Community

By Ken Simon, Communications Committee



The CJCLS Community needs our voices to thrive! Please join your colleagues there. No formalities, just ask a question that's been on your mind or reply to an existing post. Ask a quick question or strike up an open-ended conversation about any aspect of community college libraries and librarianship.

To join the community, just visit the [CJCLS Community](#) on ALA Connect and click **Login** in the upper right corner. If you are not an ALA or ACRL member, you can [create a free ALA Connect account](#). Once you're logged in, if you see a big blue **JOIN COMMUNITY** button at the top of the CJCLS Community page, click it and you're in! If the Join button isn't there, you are already a community member. Either way, you may need to opt into receiving our community posts, so read on...

Once you've joined, you can send and receive posts by email – like a listserv. Add this email address to your address book: ALA-ACRL-CJCLS@ConnectedCommunity.org

When you send a message to the above address, it will post to the community. You can start a new discussion on any relevant topic. You can also reply to any incoming discussion post to send your answer out to the community -- right from your email. Make sure you post from the same email you signed up with on the ALA website.

To receive discussion posts by email (as individual messages or in a digest), follow this [short tutorial](#). Read our [ALA Connect FAQ](#) to learn more.

Contact Ken Simon, CJCLS ALA Connect Group moderator, at kssimon@pasadena.edu with any questions.

CJCLS Blog

By Ken Simon, Communications Committee

Have you visited the [CJCLS Blog](#) lately? Why not [subscribe](#) to be notified about new blog posts?

If you would like to write a guest blog post, contact us at acrlcjcls@gmail.com

Here are some recent posts:

- [Afternoon of Social Justice Roundup](#)
- [Chat Training Resources](#)
- [To serve or not to serve. Is that the question?](#)
- [Dissertation Summation: An Examination into the Library's Influence on Community College Success](#)
- [Apply to the CJCLS Mentoring Program](#)
- [First Year \(Not for the First Time\)](#)
- [Web Team Show & Tell](#)
- [Researching as a Community College Librarian](#)
- [Reading on the Job](#)

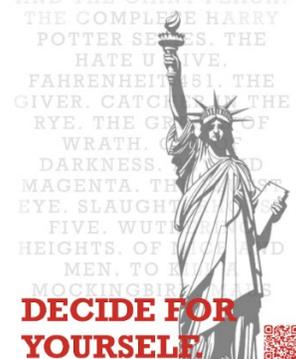
Reaching Across the Campus to Support the Freedom to Read

By Dr. Kate McGivern, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Sidney Silverman Library, Bergen Community College, Paramus, New Jersey

Across the country, the freedom to read and the free and open access to information are being challenged as people attempt to remove books that they feel are objectionable from schools and libraries. School board meetings are being barraged by parents, residents, and non-residents who want books removed from shelves. Several contentious meetings took place last spring in Hunterdon County, New Jersey where a right-winged parent's group advocated for the removal of several LGBTQ+ themed books and verbally attacked the high school librarian. The school board ultimately passed a resolution retaining all the materials. The school librarian has, subsequently, been awarded the [2022 Lemony Snicket Award for Noble Librarians Faced with Adversity](#). Students from the North Hunterdon – Vorhees High School Gay Straight Alliance, who bravely spoke up at board meetings to defend not only the librarian but the value of the materials being challenged were awarded the New Jersey Library Association's [Intellectual Freedom Award](#).

After watching recordings of the Hunterdon school board meetings, Dr. Leigh Jonaitis developed and directed a play for performance and discussion. "Hunterdon" includes actors portraying school board members, supporters of book banning and detractors. All character names are fictional with the exception of the high school librarian. This performance is part of Bergen Community College's Banned Book Week celebration.

BANNED BOOKS WEEK AT BERGEN



Banned Books Week image from Actors' T-shirts

In light of the book challenges, The Sidney Silverman Library at Bergen Community College stepped up plans to mark Banned Book Week 2022 and reached across the campus community to enjoin others to participate.

The Bergen Banned Books Committee came together over the summer with participation from English, Theater, and Basic Skills faculty as well as students, the Bergen Alumni Theatre Group, and other college staff and faculty. The Committee put together a series of readers' theatre events where banned books were read aloud, as well as a banned book trivia event and story time at the Child Development Center, a campus based childcare center. The committee also participated in a program to help faculty engage in classroom discussions, encourage civic engagement, and aid in the creation of related research, writing and public speaking assignments. Our [Banned Books research guide](#) includes scripts and recordings of all events, advocacy information, banned book data and library resources.

The committee applied for and received the Judith F. Krug Memorial Fund for Banned Books Week grant of \$1,000. Plans call for these funds to subsidize a college sponsored bus trip to a theater production of a banned or challenged play.

The Value of Community Professional Development

By Kayla Kuni, Associate Director of Libraries Spring Hill Campus, Pasco-Hernando State College, New Port Richey, Florida

Since I began working for Pasco-Hernando State College in 2018, I have always felt supported in my academic interests and professional development. The local communities offer two professional development programs – Leadership Pasco and Leadership Hernando – dedicated to creating leaders in local businesses and organizations. Being involved in either is a big deal since many college employees are interested in participating. This past spring and summer, I completed the [Leadership Hernando program](#). Even though the program was not focused on libraries, I learned more about my community and the goals of various businesses in the area.

While participating in the program, I met a local business owner who had ambitions to create a historical center. I also visited a local high school and learned how their program utilizes citations. The visit helped me understand why some of my students coming from the local high schools were struggling with adjustments to using MLA or APA. During local government day, I connected with the library director of my county’s public library system. Since then, the public library has tabled at a few of our college’s welcome week events. While working as a public librarian, I was always eager to be involved with the college that I now work for because college students and their families still need public library resources. Public and academic libraries can work together to support students who need both academic texts *and* programs that are beneficial for their children or siblings.

Beyond professional development and networking opportunities, I contributed to a project dubbed

“Tools 4 Schools.” This project was a long-held dream of the Hernando County Education Foundation that we were able to turn into reality. My Leadership Hernando class [renovated an old school bus into a mobile school supply cabinet](#) for teachers. In addition to making dozens of stops per month at various schools in the district, the bus also makes appearances at community events where community members can donate to local teachers in need of supplies. We secured local sponsors which line the windows.



Mobile school supply cabinet photo taken by Kayla Kuni

This project required everyone to contribute in a way that suited their skills. While painting the interior of the bus, I learned more about the wonderful people in my class. I heard about their hopes and dreams and the hopes and dreams they had for their children. During these conversations, I realized how essential community and state colleges are to those that can’t afford to send their child off to an expensive school without incurring high debt, and how some people just want to stay near family in the community they were raised in.

As a community college librarian and a leader on my campus, I highly recommend local leadership programs that are not necessarily associated with libraries.

Knowing more about the communities we serve and making sure they know about what we do in the college is essential for our continued growth as leaders in our communities.

Join a Regional Community College Group

By Suzanne Bernsten, Web Services Librarian,
Lansing Community College, Lansing, Michigan

Thanks to the following librarians for sharing information about their organizations: Lisa Eichholtz, Tina Bradley, Shannon L. Paul, and Meagan M. Fowler.

As a CJCLS member, I have had the opportunity to meet and share ideas with community college librarians from across the country. I was inspired to join CJCLS after I became involved in a community college interest group as part of the Michigan Academic Library Association. Curious to find out how many states have regional groups of community colleges, I used ALA Connect to crowdsource a list of [regional community college groups](#). Librarians have added information about groups in Arkansas, California, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, and Washington.

I reached out to these groups to find out more. Below are some of the responses I received loosely paraphrased. Activities range from informal to formal, impromptu to regular, and personal to professional.

Some groups organize discussions about topics of interest throughout the year:

- We have monthly coffee and conversations focused on a theme. The next conversation is about inclusive cataloging. (Kentucky)
- We have book and article studies on topics relevant to two-year and community college libraries; recent topics have included diversity, equity, and inclusion, library trends/hot topics, and collection development. (Ohio)

Other groups mention informal or asynchronous opportunities to share ideas:

- We have less structured sessions for librarians to discuss ideas and challenges with other librarians in similar situations and receive feedback. (Ohio)
- For the past two summers, we have sponsored a series of Zoom “socials” to give our members the chance to relax and share both professional and personal stories. (North Carolina)
- We have a listserv to communicate throughout the year and occasional Zoom meetings if the need arises. The group is for networking and as a sounding board when situations come up in our libraries, i.e. asking how other libraries handle certain situations or changes in policy, etc. (Arkansas)

Several groups discuss organizing conferences, running conference sessions, or meeting at state conferences:

- We host an annual conference which rotates among the community colleges within the state; the 2022 event started with a DEI Professional Development day featuring speakers from around the region. (North Carolina)
- We organized a panel of lightning talks by community college librarians for our state’s annual conference. It was well attended by librarians from many types of academic libraries and was a low stakes way for community college librarians to present and share ideas among themselves and with the wider academic library community. (Michigan)
- We meet once a year in person at the Arkansas Library Association conference (Arkansas)

If you are a member of a regional organizations, [add it to the list](#). If not, maybe you’ll be inspired to start one!

Call for Proposals

The Community College Library: Collections & Technical Services

By Kaela Casey, Librarian, Ventura College and Janet Pinkley, Head of Access Services, CJS Channel Islands and Adjunct Librarian, Ventura College

We are soliciting chapter proposals for our forthcoming ACRL book, *The Community College Library: Collections and Technical Services* with an anticipated publication date of Fall 2023. This book is part of the book series, *The Community College Library*.

This edited volume will be comprised of chapters written by practitioners in community colleges across the country. Collection development and technical services are the silent work that takes place in most libraries. Although the work takes place in the background, the importance of this work should not be overlooked as it ensures that libraries have relevant, usable content that is easily accessible by students. Collection development management and technical services processes have a wide range of successful models for implementation. This book will highlight exceptional practices and innovative approaches to collection development and technical services in community college libraries.

Visit the [Community College Library Series website](#) for more information or contact the editors at theclibrary@gmail.com.

Valuing the Community College Library: Powerful Impact for Institutional Success

By Terra Jacobson, Dean, Learning Resource Center, Moraine Valley Community College and Spencer Brayton, Director of Library Services, Waubesa Community College

This edited volume provides a holistic approach to exhibiting community college library value through historical context, practical applications, and future thinking. It addresses why community college libraries exist and should exist. In this process, we ask authors to reflect on their practice with an eye toward nuanced approaches to how they situate themselves at their institutions. Through case studies, editorials, and practical approaches, this volume addresses community college library value and, as such, advocates that perspective with campus administration.

Often academic librarianship is dominated by the perspectives of 4-year and beyond colleges and universities. We aim to fill this gap with a text that shines a light on the compelling work in community college libraries and provides authors the support they need to write about that work. We believe that community college librarians can lead our libraries into the future. We can learn from each other through dialogue and create space to share ideas and practical approaches to our work. It's time we give voice to and showcase innovative, practical approaches to the work in community college libraries across the country.

If you haven't published before, that's okay! We want fresh perspectives, new perspectives, and unpublished authors!

Visit the [Valuing the Community College Library website](#) for more information or contact the editors at cclibraryimpact@gmail.com.

From ACRL

Recent Titles from ACRL



ACRL books provide timely and practical advice and thought-provoking research for academic library workers worldwide. Some recent titles:

- [Designing Libraries for the 21st Century](#)
- [Intersections of Open Educational Resources and Information Literacy](#)
- [Learning in Action: Designing Successful Graduate Student Work Experiences in Academic Libraries](#)
- [Embracing Change: Alternatives to Traditional Research Writing Assignments](#)

Explore [ACRL's online catalog](#) for more great books, and visit our [ACRL Publications website](#) to learn more about publishing your own.

Project Outcome



[Project Outcome](#) is a free online toolkit designed to help libraries understand and share the impact of essential library programs and services by providing simple surveys and an easy-to-use process for measuring and analyzing outcomes. Participating libraries are also provided with the resources and training support needed to apply their results and confidently advocate for their library's future. Project Outcome's standardized surveys allow libraries to aggregate their outcome data and analyze trends by service topic, program type, and over time.

ACRL 2023, Forging the Future, March 15-18, Pittsburgh, PA



Higher education has changed dramatically over the last few years. Academic libraries are addressing an increased emphasis on remote learning, rising calls for social justice, and an acknowledged need for flexibility that supports a sustainable work-life balance. At ACRL 2023, we will explore these issues and more around the theme of *Forging the Future*. If you are interested in finding strength in a community of academic library professionals, discussing our mutual issues while crafting innovative ways to solve them, enhancing relationships with faculty, and re-engaging with students, we welcome you to join us in Pittsburgh or virtually!

Registration opens in October and proposals for select session types are being accepted through October 14.

See the [ACRL 2023 Conference Website](#) for details.

Benchmark

[Benchmark](#) is the newest tool for data-driven planning and advocacy in academic libraries. Benchmark provides enhanced access to ACRL annual survey data from 1998-2020. With Benchmark, you can illustrate ongoing activities and usage in a compelling fashion for different audiences, as well as generate key metrics for strategic planning, budget justifications, annual reports, fundraising, and more! [Login to your free Benchmark account](#) today to complete the 2022 Academic Library Trends and Statistics Survey, which includes trends questions on the topic of post-Covid library service and workplace trends.