**Research and Publication Committee, Annual Report FY2020-2021**

**Committee page:** **https://www.library.illinois.edu/staff/committee/research-and-publication-committee/**

**Charge**: The Library Research and Publication Committee is a standing committee of the Library Faculty established to encourage research and publication among Library Faculty by:

- providing monetary support
- bringing alternate sources of funding to the attention of the Library Faculty
- stimulating interest in and discussion of research ideas and methodologies among librarians
- providing practical criticism of and support for research projects
- advancing Library research and publications within the University community

The Committee reviews and approves or disapproves funding requests for student wages, graduate assistants, travel to other research collections, photocopying, manuscript preparation, data analysis, the creation of illustrations, editing for non-native English speakers, etc. The Committee sponsors occasional brown-bag series that focus on library research.

**FY2020-2021 Membership**

- Merinda Kaye Hensley, Chair (Aug 2017 - Aug 2021) Second Consecutive Term
- Chris Bailey (ex officio - Visiting Information Sciences Librarian)
- Antonio Sotomayor (Aug 2019 - Aug 2021)
- Margaret (Peg) Burnette (Aug 2019 - Aug 2021)
- Erin Kerby (Aug 2020 - Aug 2022)
- Tracy Popp (Aug 2020 - Aug 2022)

Link to FY20 Annual Report: https://www.library.illinois.edu/staff/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/2017/10/RPC_AnnualReportFY20.pdf

**Accomplishments**

1. The dean approved $17,000 for the FY21 annual budget for faculty awards and $3,000 for academic professional awards, a total of $20,000. This is a near 50% budget cut for the committee due to one-time budget cut. The FY20 budget was $35,000 (with $5,000 allocated specifically for APs).
2. The committee approved ten awards for a total of $15,849.11 leaving $1,150.89 unspent for the year and the total of $3,000 for APs unspent.
3. APC Award process: The committee drafted a pilot program to approve funds for article processing charges with a fund of $1,000 for FY21. The committee approved one application for 100 GBP and recommends continuing this pilot for one more year before making a decision for future APC funding through the RPC budget.
4. The chair met with five new librarians throughout FY21 to review RPC charge, documentation, and services provided.
5. Scheduled research support events:
    1. Brown-bag panel of RPC awardees including Paula Carns, Emilee Mathews, and Matt Roberts, 9/11/20
    2. Brown-bag panel of RPC awardees including David Morris, Piper Martin, and Ayla Kenfield and Dan Tracy, 9/14/20
    3. "WebTools and Alchemer: Choosing between survey tools" with Dawn Owens from CITL, 1/15/21

4. "Designing surveys: An Introduction" with Dawn Owens from CITL, 2/9/21
5. "Visit with an Editor, Marianne Ryan, *portal: Libraries and the Academy*," 3/17/21

6. Emails to LIBNEWS
   1. "FP: Special issue of portal -- academic libraries: responsive in crisis" on 9/10/21
   2. "CODE4LIB Digest - 29 Oct 2020 to 30 Oct 2020" on 11/2/20
   3. "IRDL Speaker Series - Loyola Marymount University" on 1/19/21
   4. "Finding a good fit faster: Tips for writing query letters to LIS journals" on 6/5/21

7. Library Research Showcase
   1. Planning: We sent a survey to the faculty to gauge the best timing for scheduling the LRS and we sent out a call for proposals, as per usual.
   2. Attendance was much lower this year for the LRS. This could be for several reasons: we scheduled just after the spring semester concluded or Zoom burnout. Feedback from attendees indicates that while there is some desire to offer sessions online, many folks appreciate the in-person nature of this event and the opportunity to connect with colleagues.
   3. The LRS included the following events:
      - Two panels with 3 presentations each. These will run for 75 minutes, 15 minutes for each presentation and 15 minutes for Q&A
      - One lightning talk session with 5-6 presentations. This will also run for 75 minutes with 7-10 minutes each and 15 minutes for Q&A
      - The committee organized a session, "Research Life at Illinois Library" a session about our varied research endeavors at Illinois Library marketed to our campus as well as iSchool across the nation.
   4. Archiving: All LRS events are archived in IDEALS, as has been done in past years. We made sure to caption all of the videos to make them accessible to all.
   5. Feedback: We sent a survey to LIBNEWS to gather feedback after the LRS. There was an even mix of preferences for online vs in-person and annual vs bi-annual. A few additional comments:
      - A suggestion to facilitate recruitment to collaborate on research projects.
      - There was a comment regarding lack of diversity on the panels and for the lightning talks. As in past years, the committee accommodated all of the applications submitted to present at the showcase. The LRS is dependent on presenters volunteering through the Call for Proposals, that being said, the committee can absolutely (and should!) recruit members of the faculty to present as well. For the "Research Life" panel, the committee did organize this event and does recognize the lack of diversity on the panel.
   6. Reflections from committee: The one event that we wished we had been able to share with more attendees was the panel on doing research as a librarian for iSchool students. Even though this event was shared with iSchools across the country, we only had five iSchool attendees. This event was planned as an opportunity to share our research and to answer questions for graduate students that may be thinking about applying for positions at libraries that require research as part of their tenure and promotion process. This event was also seen as an opportunity to recruit possible future applicants to UIUC. We suggest that this type of event be held again but be scheduled in the middle of a semester, at a time when students are more tuned into attending professional development opportunities.

8. Contacted awardees for FY20-21 to complete Project Outcomes Form and invite to participate in panel early Fall 2021.
9. Significant update to the RPC website and reviewed policies to recommend review for FY22.

8/23/2021