



ACRL-WA Chapter Membership Meeting
Center of Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest,
Eatonville, Washington
Thursday, October 24, 2019

In attendance:

Heather Newcomer (Olympic College); Heather Jeffries (Green River College); Christy McDaniel (UW iSchool/UW Tacoma); Michelle Schewe (Bellevue College); Chelsea Leachman (Washington State University); Libby McKeighen (Washington State University); Kimberly Kramer (University of Washington, Bothell/Cascadia College); Karen Diller (Washington State University Vancouver); Caitlan Maxwell (Western Washington University Library); Gerie Ventura (Highline College); Erin Grant (University of Washington Seattle); Eli Gandour-Rood (University of Puget Sound); Negeen Aghassibake (University of Washington Seattle); Carol Fisher (University of Washington Seattle); Emilie Vrbancic (University of Washington Seattle); Jessica Jerrit (University of Washington Seattle); Ahniwa Ferrari (The Evergreen State College); Sally Pine (University of Washington Seattle); Zoe Fisher (Pierce College); Colleen Sanders (Skagit Valley College); Ryer Banta (Centralia College); Esther Sunde (South Seattle College); Deepa Banerjee (University of Washington); Lotus Norton-Wisla (Washington State University); Jonathan Potter (Washington State University Spokane); Elliott Stevens (University of Washington Seattle); Sue Wozniak (Lake Washington Institute of Technology); Dan Mandeville (University of Washington); Kael Moffat (St. Martin's University); Lydia Bello (Seattle University); Reed Garber-Pearson (University of Washington); Jen Saulnier (Washington State University); Chelsea Nesvig (University of Washington Bothell/Cascadia College); Madeline Mundt (University of Washington); Elizabeth Brown (Central Washington University)

New Logo by Heather Jeffries

Thank you, Heather! Our old logo was old and designed by a white man using native imagery, so this an appropriate change. We are very pleased, and our new website redesign that matches it. Many thanks to Zoe Fisher for all the updates to the website.

Scholarship & Award Winners

Two winners – a student award and a first-time attendee

- First-time Attendee Winner – Kimberly Kramer
- LIS Student Winner – Carol Marie Fisher

Excellence Award Winner – Jonathan Potter for his project titled “The Risse Center for the History of Medicine”
Congrats to everyone!

Financials Overview (Ahniva)

The bi-annual conference is the largest expense for the chapter. As of October 2019 the ACRL-WA account has over \$20,000; this will drop to around \$7,000 after the conference expenses are settled.

There was a discussion regarding the rising costs of Wild Apricot, the membership tool that is used to run the website, send emails, and manage memberships. We transitioned from PayPal to AffiniPay to save 20% of the cost of the system and reduced the “contacts” list in order to stay within a certain cost bracket. The cost of Wild Apricot goes up if we have more than 250 contacts; we currently have 95 members and 130 people on the mailing list. We monitor this list of 220 “contacts” in order to ensure it doesn’t exceed 250.

Minutes (Lydia)

Minutes from fall 2018 were approved with small modifications.

Discussion About Relationship with Washington Library Association (WLA) (Ahniva and Lizzie)

A separate handout (included at the end of these minutes) includes details such as past history and context.

Currently, ACRL-WA is not affiliated with WLA. A conversation about merging has been happening on and off over the years, but this is an opportunity to have a concrete discussion. This membership meeting looks to make a decision about whether we want to pursue merging ACRL-WA with WLA. Decisions made at this membership meeting are about deciding to research merging, not making a decision to merge.

Key framing information was presented; slides are included below. It was noted that ACRL-OR is affiliated with OLA, and WLA has a membership of 1,322 as of October 2019. The board has not done an overlap analysis, but a quick poll of the room showed 7 ACRL-WA members who are also WLA members.

There are a number of elements to WLA to think of when discussing how ACRL-WA can grow. Library workers join WLA and then join divisions, and section. The first division is free. Membership of WLA is a sliding scale based on income but is based on the honor

system of “pay what you can.” WLA uses a management company to handle logistics and there is a lobbying arm. As a matter of transparency, Ahniwa is a part of the WLA board.

What are concerns about this merger that would need to be addressed? Concerns were brought up about the cost of dues, and a loss of academic librarian culture.

Below is the discussion, captured in a series of themes and questions.

WLA is growing the Academic Library Division (ALD); if there was a merger would ACRL-WA continue to have a conference at Pack Forest?

- WLA has a number of conferences coming up, and there is no reason why ACRL-WA would have to eliminate the Pack Forest conference. Especially if the conference is financially sustainable.
- It was noted that the ACRL funded speaker, which the chapter gets as being a chapter of ACRL, isn't necessarily a benefit we are worried about losing.
- Concerns about the growth of the ACRL-WA bi-annual conference (often referred to as “Pack Forest”) and outgrowing Pack Forest as a venue anyway. It was clarified that the interest in keeping Pack Forest was keeping the Joint Chapter Meeting with ACRL-OR, not necessarily the venue of Pack Forest.

Dues

- WLA does not provide a built-in discount for members of ACRL National, but dues are a sliding scale based on income and use an honor system.

Are there any stipulations about the makeup of the WLA board in terms of representation from different types of librarians or libraries?

- Reviewed WLA site. It's not an official policy, but WLA tries to have a president from a different type of library every year. The upcoming president will be an academic librarian. There are representatives from different divisions, an ALA Councilor, and a student rep. As to governance, there is an Executive Director, who runs Primary Source, and different sections have their own governance.

What would happen to WLA-ALD if there is a merger?

- Current proposal would be for ACRL-WA become the ALD division. This would still be the state chapter of ACRL, which means ACRL National would supply more money because there would be more members. There would need to be more conversations about this.

What would happen to current ACRL-WA Funds?

- WLA has merged with at least two other organizations in the recent past. In the past the incoming organizations had a MOU set up to keep control over their own funds.

- Divisions handle money differently than ACRL-WA does. WLA has a management company and that company handles funds. Each division gets \$500 annually and divisions make requests for funds.
- In the 1990s, there were concerns about the fall conference, if WLA would expect part of the registration fee, and what the division would be able to do with profits. Profits would be returned to the general fund. Merging does result in a loss of autonomy in exchange for access to a larger pot of money.
- We could write some autonomy into the MOU. This is particularly in regard to setting a set amount of registration fees to go to indigenous support.

What would moving to WLA do to conference fees? And potentially increasing dues?

- This is difficult to answer because we are also talking about outgrowing Pack Forest as a venue. If we get larger, we will need a bigger space, so there are many variables to that question.
- We have not discussed with ACRL-OR how a larger ACRL-WA would affect the joint conference for them. They might also be outgrowing Menucha.
- For comparison, CAYAS at Timberland was \$95 a member, and \$125 nonmembers. Rates are not set for WLA-AD. WLA Conference in Tacoma in 2018 was \$325 for a multi-day conference, not including lodging.
- A benefit of merging is that the management conference would help with conference planning, rather than having conference planning be solely the responsibility of the ACRL-WA board members.

What would happen to the ACRL-WA newsletter?

- ACRL-WA could still continue its own newsletter. We would also be able to take advantage of the weekly WLA newsletter, list of continuing education events, and ALKI, which is now published three times a year and indexed in EBSCO.

Concerns about dues

- When CLAMS joined WLA, not all institutions joined. Institutional memberships have limited seats, so some institutions have to rotate members. This results in individual librarians paying more and more out of pockets. Currently individuals who are ACRL members can join ACRL-WA at a reasonable rate; dues for WLA are higher. CLAMS used to be very inclusive but now is a little more exclusive due to cost.
- Feedback about CLAMS will be taken back to WLA.

Could we expand the board to have more people to run the conference?

- We have difficulty recruiting people to run for office, particularly for vice president.

Would the members present like the board to move forward with exploring this merger?

This is not a vote to merge.

- 28 in favor
- 2 opposed

- 1 abstaining

The board will move forward with exploring this option. A vote on the merge will happen later.

Other Business

A short discussion on whether membership should be required for Campus Liaisons, at least one member says yes. If an institution does not have a liaison to ACRL-WA, please talk to Kael.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05 pm.