

## **VLACRL in a Nutshell 2019**

### ***What is VLACRL?***

VLACRL is a professional organization for academic librarians living in Virginia. It began informally in April 2005, when over 50 librarians gathered at University of Virginia to discuss ways to increase professional development and networking opportunities in the Commonwealth. Anyone with an active membership in the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) or the Virginia Library Association (VLA) can be considered a member of VLACRL.

### ***What is VLACRL up to in 2019?***

- May 1, 2019: Spring program, "*Libraries, Analytics, and Student Privacy.*", at Longwood University in Farmville, VA
- June 2019: The Innovative Library Classroom, at William & Mary
- July 17, 2019: *Project Outcomes for Academic Libraries: Data for Impact and Improvement*
- October 23-25, 2019: VLACRL Conference-Within-a-Conference, Williamsburg, VA

### ***What is VLACRL's relationship with ACRL?***

The ACRL bylaws require that chapters be completely autonomous from the national organization. A local, state, or regional group officially requests affiliation with ACRL, but the group itself is run either independently or through the state library association.

As a recognized chapter of ACRL, VLACRL receives a yearly list of ACRL members living in Virginia, and can receive \$1 in funding for each member. ACRL has very strict rules about how this money can be spent, prohibiting any payment towards speakers' honorariums or travel. In recent years, we've used the money (usually around \$300) towards lunch costs at the Spring Program.

### ***What is VLACRL's relationship with VLA?***

Rather than incorporate as a separate identity, VLACRL is aligned with our state association, VLA. Even before 2005, VLA had an academic forum; VLACRL built on this foundation to offer more programming and professional development. VLACRL relies very heavily on the VLA and its Executive Director, Lisa Varga, for organizational support. Our website is part of the VLA website. When we have events, VLA runs the registration, including collecting and processing fees, and pays the resulting bills for space, food, and speakers.

### ***What is VLACRL's budget?***

Aside from the \$300 it receives annually from ACRL, it doesn't have one. When VLACRL hosts a program, the officers price out the cost and then estimate how many people will register. In an effort to keep registration as low as possible, the fee is set so the program will break even. If the program makes a profit, the extra money goes back to VLA—but there are times when the event is under attended, and VLA has to then cover the VLACRL costs. This assurance that the VLACRL bills will get paid is one big benefit of being part of VLA, rather than being a stand-alone chapter.

### ***Who runs VLACRL?***

VLACRL is member-driven. It has a small set of volunteer officers who plan the yearly events: the spring program, the summer regional meetings, and the conference-within-a-conference at VLA.

This year's 2018 officers:

- CHAIR: Lisa Nickel, William & Mary
- CO-CHAIR: Sophie Rondeau, VIVA, the Virtual Library of Virginia
- PAST CHAIR: Dorinne Banks, George Washington University
- SECRETARY/TREASURER: Currently Vacant

But VLACRL relies heavily on its members. The spring program often has an outside keynote speaker, but includes Virginia librarians to explore how the program themes are reflected at our places of work. The summer regional meetings focus on presentations from Virginia librarians, and the fall conference slate is all VLACRL members.

### ***Why doesn't VLACRL offer more on....?***

VLACRL is member-driven. If you have an idea for a program or a speaker, please contact an officer! We would love to talk to you about the options. We might be able to put together a program on the topic, or support you as you plan one. We also strongly encourage you to present at one of the VLACRL events. Remember, if no one offers to speak on a topic, we can't offer a session on it!

VLACRL does have some event challenges. Since registration fees need to cover speaker costs, speaker fees, and travel--costs need to be carefully considered. VLACRL has the best turnout for events when they are held somewhat centrally in Charlottesville or Richmond, yet these cities do not offer major airports. Airfare into the regional airports can be cost prohibitive, and some speakers decline invitations which require them to have connecting flights, which are often necessary when flying into smaller airports. We usually have the best luck engaging speakers who are within driving distance of the venue, or are on the East Coast and can fly in with the least inconvenience.

### ***How could someone become more involved in VLACRL?***

- Attend VLACRL events
- Offer your library to host an event
- Suggest speakers
- Volunteer to be a speaker
- Submit proposals for the fall conference-within-a-conference
- Run for an officer position