

# Research Instruction & Patron Services Special Interest Section

Annual Report, 2020-2021

## Officers

The officers of the Research Instruction & Patron Services Special Interest Section during 2020-2021 were: Taryn Marks, Chair; Rebecca Mattson, Vice Chair/Chair Elect; Genevieve Tung, Immediate Past Chair; Clanitra Stewart Nejd, Secretary/Treasurer; and Zanada Joyner and Nicole Downing, Members-at-Large.

## Special Thanks for Above-and-Beyond Service

The Executive Board are especially appreciative to our committee chairs, vice chairs, and members for their excellent service this year. Despite living through the COVID-19 global pandemic and dealing with the disruptions caused by that pandemic, our members completed several new initiatives along with maintaining the usual tasks of their committees. This year's Executive Board is especially proud of and grateful to our wonderful volunteers.

## Awards and Sponsored Program

RIPS-SIS awarded the Paul Gatz Publication Award, which “recognize[s] excellence in writing by a current RIPS-SIS member,” to Mari Cheney, for the article *Best Practices for Supporting Hearing-Impaired Law Library Patrons*, 16 Pub. Services Q. 206 (2020).

RIPS-SIS awarded the Service Award, which “honors a RIPS-SIS member who has made outstanding contributions to RIPS-SIS in areas of section activity and professional service,” to Heather Joy.

The RIPS-SIS Sponsored Program at the 2021 AALL Virtual Conference will be “Helping Students Focus in a Word on Fire: Using the Science of Keeping Attention to Improve Our Teaching in a Distracting Year and Beyond.”

## Major New Initiatives

This year, the RIPS-SIS executive board took on several new projects, including: converting the Membership Taskforce to a new Outreach and Mentorship Committee, which will begin in July 2021; updating the RIPS bylaws to allow for at least three committee members on the Nominations Committee; collaborating with other AALL entities on several joint projects and statements in support of increasing diversity and inclusion efforts, including creating an [Antiracism, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion And Social Justice Resources](#) page; and revamping the support provided to committee chairs and vice chairs, including creating an overview document, surveying past committee chairs, and developing an annual training and get-together. The Executive Board also worked closely with the Teach-In Kit committee to reorganize the teach-in kits on the website. This work will continue next year, as the committee works to upload the teach-in kits from previous years; and will support a proposed joint committee between the Teach-In Kit committee and ALL-SIS's Legal Sourcebook committee.

Several committees also completed work that deserves to be highlighted in an annual report, especially during the 2020-2021 year, which was substantially disrupted due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. For example, the Teach-In Kit committee created a mini-teach-in kit in the fall to highlight the online teaching resources of the community; as well as reorganized all of the available Teach-In kits online to make them more usable. The Nominations committee held a mid-year session on Demystifying the Executive Board and Committee Leadership to encourage members to volunteer for these roles, leading to an excellent slate of executive board and committee leadership volunteers. The Patron Services committee worked tirelessly on a white paper on student employees in the law library, while the Public Relations & Recruitment committee conducted 17 interviews as well as used a new Canva account to increase their promotional activities. The Research Instruction committee posted summaries of 17 texts and 44 articles, and will continue working on revising the subject headings for the articles next year.

The Executive Board expresses its deepest appreciation for departing board members Genevieve Tung, Clanitra Stewart Nejdil, and Zanada Joyner, who have provided significant expertise and guidance during their years on the Board.

Last, the Board is excited to welcome Matt Timko (incoming vice chair); Jenna Pontious (incoming secretary/treasurer); and Malukah Hall (incoming member-at-large), who will serve on the 2021-2022 board along with Rebecca Mattson, Taryn Marks, and Nicole Downing.

Submitted by Taryn Marks, RIPS-SIS Chair (2020-2021)