



RESEARCH INSTRUCTION & PATRON SERVICES  
SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION



## RESEARCH INSTRUCTION & PATRON SERVICES SIS ANNUAL REPORT, 2021-2022

### OFFICERS

The officers of the Research Instruction & Patron Services Special Interest Section during 2021-2022 were: Rebecca Mattson, Chair; Matt Timko, Vice Chair/Chair Elect; Taryn Marks, Immediate Past Chair; Jenna Pontious, Secretary/Treasurer; and Nicole Downing and Malikah Hall, Members-at-Large.

The Executive Board would like to thank the committee chairs, vice chairs, and members for their excellent service this year as we all continue to live through the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### 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 Bonnie Schucha, for the article *Representing Law Faculty Scholarly Impact: Strategies for Improving Citation Metrics Accuracy and Promoting Visibility*, 40 *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 81 (2021).

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 Laura Ax-Fultz.

The RIPS-SIS Sponsored Program at the 2022 AALL Annual Meeting and Conference will be “(Re)Searching for Justice: Teaching Critical and Alternative Legal Research to Aspiring Social Justice Lawyers.”

### MAJOR NEW INITIATIVES

This year, the RIPS-SIS executive Board took on several new projects.

*DEI Annual Meeting Grant:* The new DEI Annual Meeting Grant was created to assist a member belonging to a traditionally underrepresented group with attending the annual meeting. The inaugural grant was awarded to Mari Cheney, who plans to use her attendance at the annual meeting to advocate for equity for hearing impaired librarians.

*RIPS-SIS Teach-In Kit/ALL-SIS Sourcebook Merger:* At the end of last year’s term, the Board voted to merge the RIPS-SIS Teach-in Kit with the ALL-SIS Sourcebook. The Teach-In Kit requested to be heard on the issue, and that meeting resulted in the formation of a joint RIPS/ALL-SIS taskforce to further explore the logistics of the merger as well as the possibility of



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collaborating with other SISs. The taskforce will begin its work in July.

*RIPS-SIS Handbook:* In order to further institutional knowledge, the Board created a handbook that combines information about RIPS-SIS, information about each committee, and a timeline of activities.

*Blog Post Initiative:* This year the Board began highlighting member accomplishments in a quarterly blog post.

Several committees also completed work that deserves to be highlighted in an annual report. The Patron Services Committee completed a Whitepaper on student workers. The Grants Committee successfully reviewed applications for the new DEI Annual Meeting Grant and made suggestions for future iterations. The Teach-In Kit Committee surveyed non-academic law librarians to find out what they need in a Kit. The Scholarship Committee is planning a 5-day writing event in June. The DEI Taskforce (a 2-year taskforce formed last year) was hard at work assessing RIPS documents, processes, and procedures and comparing to other association DEI initiatives. The new Mentorship & Outreach Committee conducted several focus groups of non-academic law librarians to determine what non-academics are looking for in a SIS and how we can better serve them. The Research Instruction Committee completed 11 book reviews and 7 article reviews for writing related to research instruction and research. Finally, the PR Committee continued Questions with Puron and consistently publicized RIPS news and events on social media. They also used the Canva account to create amazing graphics for other committees and the Board.

The Executive Board expresses its deepest appreciation for departing board member Taryn Marks, who has provided significant expertise and guidance during her years on the Board. The Board is excited to welcome departing Member-at-Large Nicole Downing into her new leadership role as Vice Chair.

Last, the Board is excited to welcome Eve Ross (incoming member-at-large), who will serve on the 2022-2023 Board along with Matt Timko, Rebecca Mattson, Nicole Downing, Jenna Pontious, and Malikah Hall.

Submitted June 2022, Rebecca Mattson 2021-2022 Chair