

Research Instruction & Patron Services Special Interest Section (RIPS-SIS)
2013 - 2014 Annual Report
By Jennifer Wondracek

The elected 2012 - 2013 RIPS-SIS Executive Board members were Jason Sowards, Past Chair; Uwe Beltz, Chair; Jennifer Wondracek, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect; Austin Williams, Secretary/Treasurer; Sarah Glassmeyer, Member-at-Large, and Julie Graves Krishnaswami, Member-at Large. In September 2013, Uwe Beltz left law librarianship and stepped down as Chair. Jennifer Wondracek assumed the Chair position for the rest of Uwe's term, and the board appointed an Interim Vice-Chair, Laura Ax-Fultz.

- Membership Survey
 - After the loss of approximately 50 members, the Executive Board decided to survey membership to determine what value the members currently found in RIPS and the types of activities that they would like to see RIPS host. The results showed that many members were hurt by budget cuts and that they were looking to the SIS to help them continue with some sort of professional development. There were many requests for free learning opportunities in-between annual meetings.
- Call for committee volunteers
 - The previous Board had drafted and passed succession guidelines for committee chairs. Some of the committees were severely lacking in members, making the guidelines difficult to implement due to lack of future chair volunteers. The current Board decided to postpone the succession guidelines for one year and to send out a call for volunteers in order to revive the committees. The response was dramatic and the committees are now overflowing with members.
- Programming for San Antonio
 - The Programs Committee's role decreased significantly from prior years based on changes in AALL's programming process. One consequence of these changes is that the number of proposals the Programming Committee received continued to be substantially smaller than in past years.
 - RIPS sponsored one program in San Antonio, *Ditch PowerPoint and Pick Prezi for Your Presentations*, and co-sponsored one workshop, *AALL Hackathon*.
- SIS sponsored Webinars
 - After reviewing the survey results, the Board voted to investigate the purchase of webinar software. The Board foresees the software being used to provide free webinars and electronic roundtables to RIPS members. Ideally, a minimum of one program per month would be offered by the SIS. Committees and the Executive Board could use the software for online meetings when it is not scheduled for use.
- Committee Formation and Leadership Succession
 - RIPS created two committees this year.
 - Online Member Training was created by the Board. With the SIS attempting to move into online education, someone will need to coordinate and solicit trainings. The new committee has been charged with doing so. Robb Farmer was selected as the inaugural chair. The committee's first task was to select webinar software. The committee recommended Citrix's GoToWebinar, which is used by AALL headquarters.

- Gail Partin recommended that the Legal Research Competencies committee be formed to further the work started by AALL. The Board felt that this is an important issue and one very dear to our members. The committee formed in July 2014 under Gail Partin's leadership.
- Future plans for RIPS for 2013-2014
 - Due to the unexpected changes to the Executive Board resulting from Uwe Beltz's stepping down and the time that it took figuring out what needed to be done, the Board decided to postpone the drafting of a strategic plan. The new plan will be evaluated and drafted in 2014-2015.
 - The committee succession guidelines will be implemented in 2014-2015. A call for committee volunteers will also be conducted again, with the volunteers taking on their committee commitments beginning at the annual meeting in July 2015. It is hoped that this will become an annual process.
 - The Chair, Jennifer Wondracek, is in discussions with AALL to determine the options for RIPS purchase of webinar software. It is hoped that the software purchase will be finalized as soon as possible, and that online educational events can begin to take place soon. The three roundtables which take place at the Annual Meeting – research instruction, patron services, and distance education – have all been notified that the Board would like to see electronic versions begin this year.