

Research Instruction and Patron Services Special Interest Section (RIPS-SIS)

Annual Report 2014-2015

The 2014-2015 RIPS-SIS Executive Board consisted of Jennifer Wondracek, Chair; Laura Ax-Fultz, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect; Austin Williams, Secretary/Treasurer; Sarah Glassmeyer, Member-at-Large; and Catherine Lemmer, Member-at-Large. The Executive Board also has a position for Immediate Past Chair which would have been held by Uwe Beltz. Uwe, however, left law librarianship prior to completing his tenure as RIPS-SIS Chair, and Jennifer completed both his term of office and her own, leaving the position of past chair vacant this year.

Committees:

The RIPS-SIS Executive Board moved forward with implementing the succession guidelines that had been created by the 2012-2013 Executive Board. All committees have now implemented the guidelines and either have new chairs or have chairs that are in their last year of leadership and are now training Vice Chairs to take over the leadership roles next July. Each Chair will serve for no more than two years.

RIPS-SIS currently has ten committees and one task force. A call for volunteers went out this year, and seventy-four members responded, volunteering to serve on one or more committees.

While this was a rebuilding year for some of our committees, others were quite busy. For instance, the Patron Services committee conducted a survey on disruptive patron behavior. Three of the committee members – Nicole P. Dyszlewski, Kristen Moore and Genevieve Tung – then turned the survey results into a white paper: “Managing Disruptive Patron Behavior in Law Libraries: A Grey Paper.” The paper won the New Member Division of the AALL/LexisNexis call for papers awards, and it is currently available on SSRN at <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2616264>. It will be published in Law Library Journal. The Patron Services Committee also partnered with LISP-SIS and GLL-SIS to moderate an online discussion on mental health issues in law libraries.

The reports for all of the committees can be found in the 2015 RIPS-SI Business Meeting Report on the RIPS Law Librarian Blog: <https://ripslawlibrarian.wordpress.com/>

Teach-In Kit:

RIPS-SIS is well-known for its National Legal Research Teach-In Kit. This year marked the publication of the 23rd Teach-In Kit. The 2015 Kit contains fifteen contributions, including exercises, assignments, activities and guides. The Kit is located at <http://www.aallnet.org/sections/rips/teachin/2015.html>. New to the Kit are cover pages for each contribution that provides additional context to the submissions to assist readers in assessing the currency and continued validity of the materials, especially if the readers accessed the materials through a search engine rather than through direct Teach-in Kit pages.

Programming:

The Executive Board of RIPS-SIS continues to support the educational needs of its membership. This year, the SIS sponsored one program, “Ditch PowerPoint and Pick Prezi for Your Presentations,” three roundtables, and co-sponsored the Hackathon. The Board had hoped to have webinars up and running this past year to provide training opportunities for members outside of the annual meeting. Unfortunately, the chair of the Online Member Training Committee, which is charged with coordinating online training, left law librarianship suddenly, and the committee was unable to get any webinars online.

Plans for 2015-2016:

The Executive Board has a few key initiatives for 2015- 2016. First is to update the strategic plan. Second, several of the committees have not been very productive, and the executive board intends to reevaluate the committee structure and charges. Third, under the supervision of RIPS-SIS webmasters Maribel Nash and Liz McCurry Johnson, the RIPS-SIS website will be redesigned and relaunched.

Submitted by:

Jennifer Wondracek, Chair 2014-15