

Candidate bios/statements for ILA-ACRL Vice-President / President-Elect for 2026



Jill Edgerton, Assistant Director of the Center for Educational Enhancement-Library Services at Des Moines University Medicine and Health Sciences, earned her BA in English from Simpson College, and her MLIS from Drexel University. Jill is currently in the process of obtaining her Ph.D in Education from Drake University. Jill has worked at Des Moines University for 19 years. In that time, she has served in a variety of roles that include instruction, reference, collection development, technical services, and administration of library services. Jill is a member of DMU's artificial intelligence community of practice and a faculty member serving on the Educational Resources and Technologies Committee. Jill is a distinguished member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals (AHIP) and serves as an NNLM Resource Librarian and represents DMU on several committees including the Iowa Academic Library Alliance, IPAL Directors, AACOM's Council of Osteopathic Librarians, and the Osteopathic Librarians Caucus. Jill has been a member of ILA since 2001 and an ongoing member of ILA-ACRL, currently serving as the chair of the Health Sciences subdivision of ILA.

"As an academic librarian, ILA-ACRL has provided me with multiple opportunities for growth, networking, and professional development. In a rapidly changing landscape, this organization has been a place to come and share ideas and to collaborate. It would be an honor to be given this opportunity to serve as your Vice-President/President-Elect and to continue the great work of this organization."



I'm **Debra Lowman**, Associate Dean of Library and Learning Resources at Eastern Iowa Community Colleges. I serve as an academic librarian at Scott Community College and as the District Lead Librarian, a role I've held since 2020. Prior to this, I worked as a public librarian in Iowa for 18 years.

I earned my BA in Ethics and Public Policy, with an emphasis in economics, from the University of Iowa, and my MLIS from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. I've been actively involved with the Iowa Library Association (ILA) for over two decades and with ILA/ACRL since 2020. Most recently, I served on the ILA/ACRL Awards Committee and previously held the position of Secretary/Treasurer for ILA/ACRL.

With a career that began in public librarianship and evolved into academic leadership, I bring a unique perspective shaped by experience across library sectors. I'm a passionate advocate for equitable access to learning resources and open pedagogy, and I've led initiatives that support student success across diverse populations—including dual credit, traditional, and non-traditional learners.

"As a public librarian turned academic, I deeply value the distinct strengths each type of library brings to our communities. I believe ILA/ACRL is uniquely positioned to foster meaningful collaboration among Iowa's fifteen community colleges, our public and private four-year institutions, and public libraries. These partnerships are essential to meeting the evolving needs of Iowa's students—whether they're earning dual credit in high school, pursuing degrees, or returning to education later in life.

If elected, I will champion inclusive, cross-sector initiatives that elevate library services and empower library professionals to innovate together."