

Candidate bios / statements for ILA-ACRL Member-at-Large for 2026-27 term



Laura Riskedahl (she/her) is the Director of Library Services at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She has served in various capacities in the Coe library since 2008, beginning with her role as the Audiovisual Librarian. Prior to beginning her career at Coe College, Laura graduated with her BA in Studio Art from the University of Northern Iowa. Following an especially rewarding volunteer experience serving under the Collections Curator at the Grout Museum of History and Science, she enrolled at the University of Iowa and received her MLIS with a focus in Metadata Librarianship. During her graduate studies, Laura was fortunate to serve as the Assistant to the Registrar at the then University of Iowa Museum of Art (now Stanley Museum of Art). Laura currently serves as the Vice Chair for the Iowa Private Academic Libraries Steering Committee (IPAL). In her free time, Laura enjoys painting in her art studio, biking with her husband, and attending concerts.

“ILA/ACRL has served as a vital touch point and professional community throughout my career in academic librarianship. I cannot think of a stronger state organization to support both my work and that of my colleagues. If elected, I look forward to serving fellow librarians through advocacy and initiatives that strengthen our profession as well as sustain the health of the higher education landscape.”



Sarah Slaughter is a reference and instruction librarian at The University of Dubuque. Her first job was as a page in the Oconomowoc Public Library at age 14, and she worked all four undergrad years as a student assistant at the Lawrence University library while majoring in Philosophy and German. Sarah went on to the MLIS program at The University of Wisconsin - Madison, where she focused on academic librarianship, reference, and information literacy instruction. She also enjoyed using her philosophy and ethics background in courses on intellectual freedom and information ethics.

After graduating in 2015, Sarah started as an instruction and reference librarian at the University of Dubuque. UD has been a good fit with a welcoming staff and the small college atmosphere is where she feels most at home. Ten years later she's still at UD and she enjoys helping students solve problems both at the reference desk and in the classroom. Sarah was accepted to the 2022 cohort of the Institute for Research Design in Librarianship, where she was able to begin conducting her own research. The study that came out of that project earned her the ILA/ACRL Research Award in 2024.

Sarah has been a member of ILA/ACRL since 2015, and has presented at several ILA/ACRL conferences and served on the Electronic Communications, College Readiness, and Professional Development committees.

"I enjoy learning from and sharing ideas with the community of academic librarians in our state, and I would love the chance to serve the membership as member-at-large. Thank you for your consideration."