

OK-ACRL 2014

L3: Libraries, Leadership, & Learning

Conference Report from Nicole Sump-Crethar (Digital Services Librarian, OSU Stillwater)

At the 2014 conference of the Oklahoma chapter of ACRL, we were privileged to hear from Ann Champion Riley, President-Elect of ACRL. Ann shared an update on association activities with us in her keynote address. The core purpose of ACRL is to lead academic librarians in advancing research and scholarship which is essential to a thriving community of learners and scholars. ACRL makes up 20% of ALA's membership. Among other activities, ACRL is working on creating liaisons with other professional societies. Additionally, Ann talked about the areas of the Plan for Excellence, including the Value of Academic Libraries, Student Learning, and the Research and Scholarly Environment.

We also learned some tips on leadership from Ann. She asked us to consider a definition of leadership that might be interpersonal, situational or goal-focused. According to Ann there are different leaders for different situations and one of the overall goals of leadership is to help make change happen. Conference attendees were encouraged to remember that while leadership is certainly about personal style and values, it can be learned. Ann asked us to remember that "cynicism is easy" but "progress is hard." People should think about how they spend their time and how that reflects their values. Before each meeting people should ask themselves, "How can I contribute positively?" and then after the meeting as, "How did I do?" Ann's presentation cited research from a variety of sources, and she encouraged attendees to read further on the subject.