



NJLA College and University Section
and
ACRL New Jersey Chapter



ACRL-NJ / NJLA CUS Organizational Report for NJALC 2022

Welcome to the 2022 New Jersey Academic Libraries Conference! This year, the VALE Conference Planning Committee put forth an idea to change the name of the conference to the New Jersey Academic Libraries Conference (formerly the VALE/ACRL-NJ/NJLA CUS Users' Conference). Our hope is that this change will make our conference more easily understandable to others and will draw in new presenters and attendees in the coming years. I extend many sincere thanks to Alyssa Valenti for stepping in as an excellent conference Co-Chair, as well as many thanks to our Conference Planning Committee, to Melissa Lena, and to the VALE Member's Council and the VALE Executive Committee for their support and hard work to make the virtual conference a great experience this year. While we hope to return to an in-person conference in the future, we appreciated the opportunity to create another immersive, rewarding, and high-quality virtual experience for 2022. And we all extend our thanks and gratitude to Amanda Piekart for her many years of expertly leading the conference planning process!

For most of us, this Fall probably brought a 'return' to campuses -- with some changes and modifications -- as well as continuing to balance virtual presences. NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ has continued to meet and conduct our work together, with a focus on bringing together our many affiliations and sharing our skills and knowledge. Our annual Open Membership Meeting took place virtually on Friday, September 10, and included presentations from the following colleagues: Jessica Trujillo, NJLA Vice President/President-Elect; Rita Route, Deputy Director of Accelerated & Innovative Programs, Paterson Public Schools; Theresa Agostinelli, former LibraryLinkNJ Programming & Outreach Specialist, and Neil Grimes, Education & Curriculum Materials Librarian at William Paterson University. We also learned about the NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ Committees (<https://cus.njla.org/content/membership>), and we played a fun game of virtual Pictionary, led by Gary Marks, Reference & Outreach Librarian at William Paterson University! Our October 15th monthly meeting featured a joint meeting with the Young Adult Services Section of NJLA (<http://njlamembers.org/yasection>), which we had also offered in Fall 2020. It's always wonderful to connect with other NJLA Sections and Committees! We also have great representation of our own CUS members on other NJLA Sections and Committees.

We are also happy to work closely with LibraryLinkNJ and VALE. We co-sponsored the fantastic Information Equity Conference hosted by LibraryLinkNJ on October 25 (<https://librarylinknj.org/calendar/information-equity-conference>), and we have a LibraryLinkNJ Liaison on our Executive Board. With VALE, our President continues to attend Members Council meetings to provide reports on our NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ work and our conference planning process, assessment, and reflection.

We look forward to the 2022 NJLA Annual Conference in June with the theme of Embracing Opportunity (<https://www.njlaconference.info/content/2022-embracing-opportunity>), and many of our members are already planning to submit proposals and attend. We also plan to have our annual CUS Luncheon at the conference and to honor our award winners for the 2021-22 year. We are excited that this year, the conference will be back in person in Atlantic City!

We thank everyone who volunteers with our organization, including our Executive Board members, committee chairs, committee members, NJLA leadership, ACRL connections, supporters from VALE, and all of our general members. We are so grateful for your leadership, enthusiasm, expertise, resource-sharing, and networking. It is truly a privilege to work with you all, and I look forward to a rewarding year ahead! Enjoy the conference!

Hilary Westgate, President
January 7, 2022