

ALISE President's Report, 2019-20

It has been a privilege and a highlight of my career to serve as president of ALISE this year. Little did any of us anticipate what a tumultuous year this would turn out to be! Thanks to a dedicated board, an extremely responsive and flexible staff, hard-working conference chairs, and numerous other ALISE member volunteers, we have continued the important work of our association despite the unprecedented unknowns and challenges wrought by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Even with all the disruption, ALISE has move forward in several ways, including:

- Updating the strategic plan that will guide the association for the next five years, based upon feedback and input from members, former members, and non-members about how ALISE should deliver on its mission to be the global leader for educating information professionals;
- Producing a narrative ALISE Statistical Report for the first time since 2012 and updating the annual survey infrastructure to focus on streamlining data collection and reporting metrics most useful to ALISE members;
- Expanding our working committees and our volunteer recruitment efforts with an increased emphasis towards equity, diversity and inclusion to ensure our association benefits from everyone who wants to drive ALISE forward;
- Establishing the “iFederation,” which formalizes an ongoing working relationship with the iSchools and ASIS&T to engage in discussions and activities of mutual benefit, such as co-sponsored conference panels, ALISE management of placement services at the ASIS&T conference, and ALISE member engagement in the iSchool conference doctoral student colloquium; and
- Working to re-envision the Council of Dean, Directors, and Program Chairs as a year-round working body to provide a ready forum for discussion, problem-solving, and communication for our institutional members.

Built on the fiscal turnaround and solid foundation overseen by my two predecessors, Dietmar Wolfram and Heidi Julien, the ALISE board was able to resume its focus on members' priorities and position the association to address the ever-evolving nature of library and information science education worldwide. We have dramatically reduced our annual administrative costs and obtained far superior services from our management firm. Thanks to their proactive help, belt tightening, and hard work, our membership is on the upswing, our services are expanding, and the future of ALISE is looking brighter every day.

I would like to sincerely thank my board colleagues: Sandra Hirsh (President-Elect), Heidi Julien (Past-President), Heather Moulaison Sandy (Secretary/Treasurer), Lilia Pavlovsky (Director, SIGs), Denice Adkins (Director, Membership Services), and Rong Tang (Director, External Relations). Thank you to journal editors, John Budd and Denice Adkins, and to our book series editors, Dietmar Wolfram and Jaya Raju. Sincere thanks also go to our tireless 2020 conference co-chairpersons, Suliman Hawamdeh and Keren Dali, as well as the

numerous member volunteers who evaluated our conference submissions and selected the recipients of our awards and grants. Thanks to Hannah Gunderman, who again did a terrific job managing the conference proceedings. And, finally, to the staff at McKenna Management, especially our Executive Director, Cambria Happ, and our meeting planner, Linda Bailey, who went into overdrive to ensure we transitioned to a virtual conference without a hitch.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Bajjaly