

Research Librarian Cohort

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Article One:

The name of this organization will be the Research Librarian Cohort (RLC) of the Comics Studies Society (CSS).

Purpose

Article Two:

The purpose of the Research Librarian Cohort (RLC) is to assess the needs and represent the interests of librarians, archivists, and curators of comics collections within the Comics Studies Society, to promote collaboration between librarians and the comics studies students and scholars who employ these materials in support of learning, scholarship, and engagement, and to provide fellowship, support, and advocacy for cohort members as they pursue their work in collecting, preserving, and providing access to comics and related materials as part of the academic mission of colleges and universities. The RLC will provide opportunities for continuing professional education in comics librarianship, recruitment and mentoring opportunities for professionals in the field, opportunities to engage with comics studies students and scholars on projects of shared interest, and places to discuss their professional and scholarly interests and concerns. Specifically, the RLC will seek to:

- Determine and assess the needs of librarians in collecting and preserving comics and comics-related materials, making them accessible and discoverable, and promoting engagement with them
- Create spaces that allow members to network with one another
- Facilitate discussions about collections, technical services, teaching and learning, scholarship, and public programming. with regard to comics and comic-related materials.
- Integrate librarians into the community of international comics scholars
- Engage with academic programs in Library and Information Studies to promote comics librarianship as a career path
- Mentor librarians preparing for the job market, with specific regard to their comics specialization
- Connect librarians with comics studies scholars, researchers, and students
- Assist librarians in integrating comics into their collections and programming
- Recognize the outstanding efforts of librarians working in the field through prizes for outstanding work
- Facilitate librarian participation in national and regional conferences in comics studies
- Run a librarian-centered column or page in CSS's online presence, regularly updated with reflections and news
- Recruit librarians with an interest in comics
- Support and promote comics librarian scholarship
- Facilitate conversations around issues in comics publishing, including electronic licensing, and advocate for more equitable access

Membership

Article Three:

Section 1: All Comics Studies Society members who are interested in collecting and preserving comics and comics-related materials, making them accessible and discoverable, and promoting engagement with them may be a member of RLC.

Section 2: Members of the RLC are eligible to run for RLC executive committee positions, vote in elections and on cohort matters, and benefit from all the rights and privileges guaranteed by the cohort.

Section 3: The Research Librarian Cohort follows an equal opportunity policy, recruiting members and electing leaders without regard to race, creed, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexuality, gender, age, physical or mental ability, HIV status, political affiliation or belief, citizenship, veteran status, military obligations, or marital or relationship status. The RLC strives to be an inclusive organization and to build solidarity among all librarians. It will actively seek out to promote the participation and engagement of marginalized groups and underrepresented persons.

Executive Committee

Article Four:

Section 1: The executive power of the Research Librarian Cohort will be vested in the RLC Executive Committee.

Section 2: The RLC Executive Committee will consist of six elected officers and one officer appointed by the Committee. The elected officers are the president, vice president, and secretary-treasurer, and three members-at-large with staggered terms. The appointed officer is the web editor.

Section 3: A member of the RLC Executive Committee may be removed through a vote of no-confidence, which is accomplished through a quorum majority vote. In the case of the removal of a member of the Executive Committee, the remaining Executive Committee members will appoint, if deemed necessary, a temporary replacement to fulfill the duties of the vacated office until an official election can be held.

Section 4: The Executive Committee and any general meeting of members are each empowered to establish from time to time such committees as may be deemed advisable and to appoint the membership thereof.

Powers and Duties of Officers

Article Five:

President: The President shall assume responsibility for the RLC executive board's strategic work in the interest of the society's members. They may organize the RLC by committee as needed in the best interest of the members. They will implement committee activities, decisions and plans in accordance with the RLC mandate and constitution. In addition, they shall determine the agenda of the annual RLC meeting. Upon completion of their one-year term as President, the President will serve one year on the RLC Executive Board as the Immediate Past President to advise and assist as needed.

Vice President/President-elect: The Vice President shall work with and assist the President in various duties, acting as a stand-in if necessary. They will manage internal committee affairs, such as overseeing

and delegating various tasks to committee members working cooperatively on rendering the RLC functions operational (building online presence, delivering news, organizing workshops/events, etc.). Upon completion of their one year term as Vice President, the Vice President will advance to the position of President for one year.

Secretary-Treasurer: The Secretary-Treasurer shall assume responsibility for the records of the RLC. As such, they will obtain and preserve a copy of the RLC constitution and they will create and maintain a written record of the RLC during their one year tenure as secretary-treasurer. That written record will be composed of minutes from RLC executive board meetings and minutes from the annual RLC meeting. In the event that the Secretary-Treasurer cannot attend a RLC executive board meeting or the annual meeting, they will endeavor to secure a stand-in. The Secretary-Treasurer will assist the president in scheduling such meetings. Further, the Secretary-Treasurer will assume the responsibility of managing RLC finances. The Secretary-Treasurer serves a three year term.

Member at Large: The three Members at Large provide advice and aid to the officers on an ongoing basis in carrying on the business of the Cohort, including, but not limited to, assisting in the maintenance and editing of Cohort web activities. Members at Large serve three year terms.

Web Editor: The Web Editor is responsible for maintaining, editing, and growing the Cohort's online presence. The Web Editor is appointed by the elected members of the Committee and serves a one year term. The Web Editor may serve an indefinite number of terms.

Voting Procedures

Article Six

Section 1: Elections for the Executive Committee (Secretary-Treasurer, Vice President, and, when necessary, President) and (two) Members-at-Large will be held annually, concurrent with the general election of the society.

Section 2: The Executive Committee of the RLC shall, with the help of the society's governing executive committee, solicit suggestions from the membership for nominees to the positions of (two) Members-at-Large, Secretary-Treasurer, and Vice President.

Section 3: The quorum for virtual voting is established at half the membership plus one.

Section 4: When deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee, members may be requested to vote on matters important to the Society at times other than the annual general meeting or annual general election. Matters to be voted on may include amendments to the Constitution.

Meetings of Members

Article Seven:

Section 1: An extraordinary meeting may also be called by a decision of the Executive Committee, or upon the request of at least 25% of the membership, but no meeting may be held unless all the members receive adequate notice.

Section 2: A call for agenda items and any documents that will be voted on shall be distributed to the membership at least 14 days in advance. The agenda for meetings of members shall be distributed to the membership by email at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

Amendments to the Constitution

Article Eight:

Section 1: The constitution may be amended by half the membership plus one via the annual general election, present and voting at the annual meeting, or special virtual vote..

Section 2: The minimum six weeks written notice shall apply and members will be given six weeks to submit responses before the vote during the election, meeting or virtual vote.