

## **ALAO Sustainability Interest Group**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this interest group is to provide a statewide forum for the exchange of ideas and opportunities related to sustainability in academic libraries. The interest group's intent is to encourage and support the actions of academic librarians and library staff in accordance with the following definition of sustainability: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."<sup>1</sup>

### **Areas of Interest**

- Sustainability in library facilities and functions (i.e. technology, waste management, energy usage, space planning, etc.)
- Sustainability in library instruction and reference services (i.e. support for research in sustainability, use of sustainability-related topics in library instruction, etc.)
- Sustainability in library collections (i.e. preserving information into the future and curating sustainability-related collections)
- Sustainability as a subject of community engagement, collaboration, and outreach
- Sustainability in ALAO events and functions

### **Goals**

- To build a community of academic librarians and library staff in Ohio who share a concern for the social, environmental, and economic sustainability<sup>2</sup> of our communities
- To allow for the exchange of ideas and opportunities related to sustainability in libraries among interested librarians and library staff across the state
- To collect and provide access to resources related to sustainability in libraries for interested librarians and library staff across the state
- To provide support to the ALAO Board, Interest Groups, and members in their efforts to follow sustainable practices in the planning and facilitation of events/functions
- To advance and promote relevant sustainability initiatives across the state and beyond by developing partnerships and advocacy skills

*Additional goals may be added as they are identified in the planning and development process.*

### **Short Term (First Year) Objectives**

- To develop the organizational/leadership structure necessary to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the interest group
- To establish a website and/or blog that will serve as a means of communicating with others about the interest group's mission, activities, and contact information
- To provide a regularly updated listing of resources for academic librarians in Ohio who would like to implement sustainability initiatives on their own campuses

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<sup>1</sup> WCED, United Nations. "World Commission on Environment and Development." *Our common future* (1987).

<sup>2</sup>John Elkington, "Towards the Sustainable Corporation: Win-Win-Win Business Strategies for Sustainable Development," *California Management Review* 36, no. 2 (1994): 90–100.

- To explore potential partners, both within ALAO and outside of it, for sustainability programming, events, and opportunities relevant to members
- To discover the preferences of members regarding the method of holding interest group events and the event topics explored
- To begin developing a set of recommendations for ALAO and its interest groups regarding sustainable practices in planning and hosting events and conferences

*Additional goals may be added as they are identified in the planning and development process.*

### **Long-Term Objectives**

- To hold at least one continuing education opportunity per year for members that highlights sustainability practices and strategies for academic librarians
- To continue developing recommendations for ALAO and its interest groups regarding sustainable practices in planning and hosting events and conferences
- To communicate the interest group’s activities and resources regularly to its members and the ALAO community through the ALAO newsletter, social media, blog posts, and the ALAO list-serv, among other media
- To continue developing collaborative relationships with ALAO interest groups, Ohio organizations, the ALA Sustainability Roundtable, AASHE (The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education), and other potential partners

*Additional goals may be added as they are identified in the planning and development process.*

### **Membership**

Membership will consist of members of the ALAO community with an interest in sustainability as it relates to academic libraries.

These individuals have expressed interest in joining the ALAO Sustainability Interest Group:

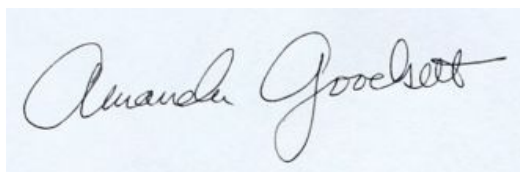
<b>Name</b>	<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Institution</b>
Maureen Barry	Student Success Librarian	Wright State University
Joseph Dudley	Campus Librarian	Bryant & Stratton College
Jenny Donley	Cataloging Librarian	Ohio Northern University
Shelby Stuart	Electronic Resources Librarian	Case Western Reserve University
Debby Andreadis	Deputy Director	Denison University
Fran Mentch	Social and Behavioral Sciences Librarian	Cleveland State University
Bethany Spieth	Instruction & Access Services Librarian	Ohio Northern University

Kristin Cole	Assessment & Special Projects Librarian	Otterbein University
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### Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries of this interest group's activities include members of the interest group, as well as all ALAO members, who will have access to the resources and professional development opportunities developed by the group. Importantly, the communities and campuses of our libraries will also benefit from having adopted sustainable best practices and sustainable leadership by academic libraries.

In summary, this group's proposed activities explore and promote a subject that is both relevant to the interests and values of academic library personnel, and important to the communities they serve.



Mandi Goodsett  
Performing Arts & Humanities Librarian  
Cleveland State University  
ALAO Member



Alison Ricker  
Head, Science Library  
Oberlin College  
ALAO Member



Charles Vesei  
Library Director  
Baldwin Wallace University  
ALAO Member