

Emily Brown
Lib200
Assignment #2
9/14/11

Association of Research Libraries (ARL)

There are 126 research libraries from the US and Canada that are members in the ARL. Each research library is from a comprehensive, research-extensive institution. Most of the members are from institutions of higher learning, but some are from other institutions.

Only research institutions who share common values, goals, interests and needs are able to join. Also, only single institutions may apply. Membership is determined by the quality of the research libraries collection and services. The parent institution's aspirations and achievements must rate a High or Very High by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Learning or comparable affiliations or documentation. The majority of members are research libraries from institutions of higher learning.

The cost to the research library institution seeking membership is a non-refundable fee that is determined by the Board of the Association. The fee will cover the administrative expenses as well as all travel costs for the Membership Committee representative. In addition, the candidate library will be responsible for all costs incurred by Visiting Subcommittee. Neither of these fees guarantee membership.

The ARL offers it's members several benefits: advancing their members goals, helping create new roles for research libraries, the opportunity to work with other higher education societies and associations who share similar goals, supporting their members, and focusing on their members needs.

Conferences for the ARL are held every two years, in a variety of locations in North America, which reflects their membership base. The last 3 conferences were held in Charlottesville, Virginia in 2006, Seattle, Washington in 2008, and Baltimore, Maryland 2010. The next conference is due to be held in 2012 at Charlottesville, Virginia.

The ARL's present officers and board are President Carol Mandel, Vice President Winston Tabb, Brinley Franklin, Charles B. Lowry, Deborah A. Carver, Colleen Cook, Carol Pitts Diedrichs, Ernie Ingles, Deborah Jakubs, Anne R. Kenney, Wendy Lougee, James Mullins, Carton Rogers, Jim Williams, Ann Wolpert, and Sandra G. Yee.

Once you are a member of the ARL there are a few options on how to become active in the Association. There are numerous committees, task forces, and working groups that members can apply to join. Any member representative can bring up an idea for a subgroup to the Executive Committee or to the Executive Director to create their own group. Also, there are affinity groups, discussion groups at ARL Membership Meetings, and self-funded groups. In addition, there are many working partnerships with other organizations that members become active with.