

ACRL-LA Column: Awards at the Summer Research Forum

Zachary G. Stein, University of Louisiana at Lafayette



This year's Association of College and Research Libraries Louisiana Chapter (ACRL-LA) Summer Research Forum proved to be smashing success, with 10 presentations on a wide variety of library topics. In addition to the presentations and a keynote speaker, the forum also included awards for the best presentation and best article published in the 2021-2022 issues of *Codex*. The inclusion of these awards helps reward excellence in the library field and will hopefully encourage others to submit materials for both the journal and future research forums.

In its bylaws, ACRL-LA charges the Awards Committee for presenting “award possibilities to the Executive Board” and “determining winners of all Chapter awards” (ACRL-LA, 2022, Article VII – Standing and Ad Hoc Committees section, para. 5). After deciding on the types of awards and receiving approval from the Executive Board, the Awards Committee developed guidelines for judging presentations and articles. The guidelines for articles were based on the standards *Codex* uses, while the presentations were judged by the organization, content, quality and use of communication aids, pace and comprehension, and use of language. After reviewing the articles and presentations, the Committee added scores and the highest were determined the winners.

Kure Croker, formerly the Special Collections Registrar and Archivist at Loyola University New Orleans, won the Best Presentation award for “Mapping Post WWII New Orleans Commercial Areas: Using the LDL as DATA.” In her presentation, Ms. Croker described a digital map she built using the Charles L. Franck and Franck-Bertacci Photograph

Collections in the Louisiana Digital Library. With this map, she demonstrated how digital humanities tools can be used to analyze digitized items, or in this case, see how the commercial areas of New Orleans changed through the passage of time.

The winners of the Best Article award came from outside Louisiana: Junli Diao and Stefka Tzanova at York College Library, and Anthony Bishop at the Borough of Manhattan Community College. Their article was entitled *Wikipedia and Scholarpedia: A Comparative Case Study and its Implications for Information Literacy*. Featured in the first 2021 issue of *Codex*, the article presented a case study which compared articles from the two aforementioned online encyclopedias and showed how they may assist academic librarians with engaging their students in information literacy.

Since there was always the possibility of more than one participant for presentations and articles, the Awards Committee provided a cash prize to the winners: \$220 for each award. For multiple participants, the \$220 was split among the authors. In the future, the Committee may consider other kinds of rewards, such as a year-long free ACRL membership or free online library-related courses. The cash prize made it simpler to award since there were multiple winners. Whatever the prize ends up being in the future, ACRL-LA wants to recognize the excellence of its members and the extraordinary work conducted in the library field. The Committee is proud to award these excellent examples of library scholarship and encourages others to submit next year for a chance at winning an award.