



# LPC Peer Mentorship Program Community Call

January 15, 2021

## Description:

Hosted by the LPC Professional Development Committee, this informal call is an opportunity for current and former peer mentors to reflect on their experience in the LPC Peer Mentorship Program, and for prospective participants to ask questions.

[Program Page](#)

[Blog Post](#)

[Signup Form](#)

## Attendees:

*Please include your name and affiliation and (optionally) your twitter handle and interest in attending.*

- [Attendee name, Affiliation, Twitter handle (optional), Interest in attending]
- Amanda Hurford, PALNI, on the Prof Dev Committee supporting the program
- Chelsea Johnston, University of Florida, also on the LPC Professional Development Committee and co-leading the Peer Mentorship Program
- Perry Collins, @perrycollins, University of Florida, current peer mentor
- Erin Jerome, University of Massachusetts Amherst, also on the LPC Professional Development Committee
- Angel Peterson, Penn State University, interested in hearing more about the program
- Ian Harmon, West Virginia University, sharing experience in the program
- Liz Hamilton, Northwestern University, on LPC Professional Development Committee
- Janet Swatscheno, University of Illinois at Chicago, past peer mentor participant
- Rhonda Marker, Rutgers University, current peer mentor
- Jane Buggle, Dublin Business School, current peer mentor program participant



- Tracy MacKay-Ratliff, LibraryPress@UF Graphic Designer & Coordinator, @macrat\_uf, current peer mentor participant
- Sonya Betz, University of Alberta, current peer mentor participant
- Ally Laird, Penn State University, interested in hearing about the program and looking to participate
- Beth Fuget, UW Press, interested in learning more about the program and the possibility of cross-library-press mentoring
- Joe Muller, Michigan Publishing, @jhmuller20, interested to learn more about opportunities
- Emily Stenberg, on LPC Professional Development Committee

Have you ever participated in a mentoring program (LPC or other)?

Name, Affiliation	Mentorship experience	Comments
Chelsea Johnston, University of Florida	LPC and institutional	Co-lead of the LPC Peer Mentorship Program - ask me any questions, now or later (cjohnston@ufl.edu)!
Erin Jerome, UMass Amherst	Institutional, both as mentee and mentor	
Perry Collins, University of Florida	LPC, conference-specific mentorship, institutional mentee	
Ian Harmon, West Virginia University	LPC and institutional	
Liz Hamilton	AUPresses, both as mentee and mentor	
Beth Fuget	AUPresses	



## Discussion Notes:

*Notes from this call should conform with the [Chatham House Rule](#) (no names or institutional affiliations ascribed to specific comments). Notes will be shared with the LPC listserv following the call for the benefit of those who were not able to attend.*

Mentoring program launched in 2019 (pilot year). Slight change to peer mentoring model for 2020.

Still mostly focusing on peer mentoring model. Added additional prompts to the application form. Applications close on 1/22/21.

Adding a few optional structure ideas for this year, sending out monthly prompts to participants (questions, articles, etc.). And possibly a series of workshops or facilitated discussions (maybe quarterly) to discuss mentoring more formally beyond this program. Trying to do a more structured training on mentoring (late February/early March) to give idea of what mentoring roles are like.

## Discussion Prompts:

Questions for former and current participants:

1. How would you describe your year in the LPC Mentorship Program?
  - The year in the program was very successful, beneficial. It was pretty casual (no established agendas going into meetings). The program helped me maintain a connection to LPC because I'm not seeing people as regularly as usual. We happened to have similar projects working on undergrad journal publishing and it was nice to be able to share those experiences. Highly recommend this program. Second time participant.
  - Structure as a peer mentor program took the pressure off of both of us. We never lacked for anything to talk about. One of the unforeseen benefits of it was networking for panel proposal for a conference.
  - Really enjoyed the program because it gave me the sense of being normal. Talked about how to deal with everyday working relationships, both members were relatively new.
  - Really great, organic conversations. Super to work with someone more experienced than me. It was great seeing the big picture and more upscale model. I've been encouraged to get more involved.
  - What a great year to have a peer mentor. Great for sanity checks and dealing with feelings of isolation. Wonderful, supportive, and a positive experience who could talk over everything during this year.



2. Why did you want to participate in the program?
  - A colleague was involved in the program and did a great job chatting it up. It sounded like a great opportunity and was worth the time of completing the application. It's been really valuable.
  - Was concerned that I wouldn't be a good fit for the program, but now I'm encouraged to do it again.
3. Did you have any reservations about participating? Have those reservations changed now that you've completed the mentoring year?
  - The one reservation was the time commitment. It's not that much, but the idea of taking something else on is always something to think seriously about. The return on investment is really great. Getting outside the bubble of my own institution has a really refreshing feel to it. Feels like a break in a really good way.
  - My reservation is always the time commitment. The first year felt kind of novel, but now that everything is on zoom, that kind of detracts a little bit. Self care isn't always the easy or fun things. It's making the time to sit and talk about things that maybe you don't want to talk about, can work through things that cause you stress in your work/professional life.
4. Do you think your participation has helped you to feel more connected in the LPC and with other library publishers?
  - Goal for this year's program was to connect with someone outside of North America and that's been really helpful. Hard to find opportunities to connect with folks in other parts of the world, so this was very successful/helpful.
5. What was the most valuable takeaway from participating in the program?
  -
6. Would you sign up again?
  - We've heard from people who have done this more than once. Is anyone excited about participating in the 2021 cohort?
  - Useful to have guidance on how to continue your previous relationship while engaging with a new peer mentor. This sounds like a good discussion prompt!
7. What advice would you have for new mentorship program participants in 2021?
  - It's a little intimidating if you're the person with less experience in the pairing, but it's all very relaxed and positive. You're just having conversations.

#### Questions for prospective participants

8. What are your questions?
  - Can you tell us when things begin? Applications close 1/22 and we're hoping to have pairings down by 2/1 (or beginning of February). We'll send information on



how to get things started and we'll do a casual training/facilitated discussion to discuss mentorship, roles in mentoring, etc.

9. What are hesitations?

10. What are you excited about?

- Excited for the bit of structure that will be provided for this year. By the fall it seemed really hard to connect.
- Very excited to submit an application for the first time. Looking forward to the shared prompts, having a connection, and the opportunity to talk. Want to connect with folks who are doing cool and exciting things in their own programs.
- Going remote has reduced the chance of incidental relationships. Hoping this is a way to make friends as well as get inspired professionally/make connections.
- Excited to see our application pool and we look forward to matching everyone up!

Encourage folks who are apprehensive about the program to go ahead and apply. All are welcome! Anyone affiliated with your library can apply. If you're interested in this work more broadly, there will be the annual call for committee volunteers in March and there will be a few open slots on the Professional Development Committee (the organizers of this program and many community calls).