

Feature Articles

APLA 2022 Conference Experience Report

Colin MacKay, Recipient of APLA First Timer's Conference Grant

This year, I was one of the recipients of the APLA First Timer's Conference Grant for the APLA 2022 Conference *Bridging the Gap: Inclusion and Diversity in Libraries*. I was hesitant about how I would find the experience as this was my first virtual conference (ever!). Happily, I can report that it was a wonderful event! The organizers and presenters did a fantastic job, and I enjoyed all of the opportunities to listen and learn this year. I appreciated feeling that I was part of APLA through participating in this conference, and I look forward to being a part of future conferences.

As a new member (I only joined the APLA earlier this year) it was wonderful to see so many members attending this virtual event, and it was nice to put a face (or more often voice!) to the names of APLA members who I have been receiving emails from over the past year. I would like to thank the Keynote Speakers **Ryan Dowd** and **Julie Pellisier-Lush** for sharing with us this year and to all the speakers who gave presentations! As I was not able to attend some of the presentations live, I would also like to thank **Krystal Dionne**, our Conference Chair, who shared YouTube recordings of some of the presentations, which allowed me to enjoy many of the sessions after the conference.

Finally, I wanted to thank the APLA Executive for giving me the APLA First Timer's Conference Grant, which allowed me to participate in this year's conference. In particular, I wanted to thank **Cate Carlyle** and **Krystal Dionne** who worked with me to register and participate in this event, and the editors of the APLA Newsletter who helped share this report with you all.