

On behalf of the Association of Architecture School Librarians (AASL), I am pleased to announce that **Maya Gervits** has been selected as the 2017 recipient of the AASL Distinguished Service Award.

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual who has achieved distinction in the field of architecture librarianship and Maya more than meets this criteria through her work with architecture students and faculty members at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), through her scholarship and publishing in the fields of architecture librarianship and art history, and through her participation in AASL and her service on behalf of her fellow architecture librarians.

Maya has served as director of the Barbara & Leonard Littman Library at NJIT since 2002. During that time, she has been unceasing in her efforts to expand library services and collections and bring increased attention to them from the students and faculty members in the architecture and design programs that the library supports. She designed and implemented the library's instructional program, established the Digital Image Lab, started a rare book collection, and, most recently, created a materials collection. In addition to displays and a newsletter, Maya brings attention to the library through exhibitions of student work, hosting teas in the library for students and faculty members to engage with new acquisitions, and scheduling a series of chamber music concerts that take place in the library. Maya's efforts have not gone unnoticed, and she was awarded the Student Senate Award for Outstanding Staff Member at NJIT in 2015.

Prior to her work at NJIT, Maya was Art Librarian at Rutgers University, where she received the 2000 Faculty Academic Service Award, and prior to that she was Western Art Bibliographer at Princeton University. Before she embarked on her library career with a master's in Library and Information Studies degree from Rutgers University, Maya earned a PhD in Art and Architectural History from the Institute of Art History in Moscow, Russia, and worked as a curator at the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg. At the Hermitage, she curated an exhibition on the German architect, painter, and writer Leo von Klenze and she is the author of *Works of Leo von Klenze in the Hermitage* (in Russian; Hermitage Museum, 1984) and the later publication *Leo von Klenze and the New Hermitage* (also in Russian; Hermitage Museum & ARS, 2003). Maya continues her scholarship in art and architectural history and she is currently working on the *Russian-English, English-Russian Dictionary of Art and Architecture Terms*.

In addition to her books and articles in art and architectural history, Maya publishes and presents on a range of topics in architecture librarianship. Her most recent works have been on the topic of citation metrics for faculty tenure in architecture. She has also written and presented on building university design communities through libraries, the Digital Archive of Newark Architecture, and optimizing library space. Often Maya collaborates with a fellow architecture librarian in a presentation or an article, and her colleagues report that Maya has a strong work ethic and high standards, and that she never fails to offer encouragement and a positive attitude throughout a project.

Maya's service on behalf of AASL includes her contributions to the development of the *Information Literacy Standards in Architecture and Design*, a joint project of AASL and the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA). She has served on the AASL Awards Committee and the organization's Career Guidance Task Force, which merged with the Mentoring Task Force to become the Professional Development Committee, a committee that Maya now chairs. She co-authored the *Professional Development for Architecture Librarians* online research guide for AASL and it stands as an example of the many ways that she supports her fellow architecture librarians. In her award nomination, the letters of recommendation from AASL members often noted Maya's importance as a role model and mentor in their professional careers. In particular, they made reference to her warmth in welcoming them to AASL, her collegiality, and her generosity in sharing her architecture librarian experience with them in conversation, in her conference presentations, and in her writing.

Please join me in congratulating Maya on her Distinguished Service Award, which confers on her lifetime membership in the organization that she has done so much to support. She will be presented with a certificate for the award at the AASL annual conference in Detroit, Michigan, March 23-25, 2017.

Mar González Palacios
AASL President