

CCALD Year in Review 2025-2026

This year, the Council of Connecticut Academic Library Directors (CCALD) hosted member meetings on a variety of topics and sponsored the Connecticut Academic Library Conference (CALC).

Member meetings and discussion included:

October 3, 2025 (Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art): **Discussion/Planning Regarding the Proposed 2026 NECHE Standards**

Jaime Hammond facilitated a review of the draft version of the 2026 New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE) Standards. As a result of the discussion, CCALD members composed a letter of response and sent it to the Commission on October 15, 2026. That letter is attached as an appendix to this annual report.

November 7, 2026 (online): **Evolving Culture & Climate Work at Yale Library through Staff Development & Engagement**

Risë Nelson, Director of Staff Development and Engagement at Yale Library, and Nick Wantsala, Kenya S. Flash Resident at Yale Library, presented their work and how it has been impacted by institutional and federal changes.

February 6, 2026 (online): **The Big Weed: What Would You Do?**

Roseanne Krzanowski, Head Librarian, and Tanya Robillard, Access Services Coordinator, both at the University of Saint Joseph, presented on the major renovation of their library and how the reduced stacks footprint forced them to engage in a large-scale weeding project.

April 10, 2026 (online): **Connecting Employers and Students: An Inside Look at SCSU's Library Science Internship Program; State Library Update**

Professor Cindy Schofield, Coordinator of Southern Connecticut State University's Library Science Internship Program, presented on the program's format, successful intern experiences, and how library directors can benefit from hosting an intern. Deborah Schander, State Librarian, then gave a brief update on the State Library's projects, initiatives, and challenges.

June 5, 2026 (CT State Community College Manchester): **What's Happening in Your Library & Annual Business Meeting**

Directors participated in a round robin-style session, sharing interesting and innovative ideas, challenges and opportunities, and news about their libraries with colleagues. This session was followed by the Annual Business Meeting.

CALC Conference

<https://ccald.org/calc/>

From the web page: The theme of this year's conference is The Future of Academic Libraries: Renewal, Innovation, and Change. Institutions of higher education are increasingly navigating the intersection of innovation and improvement, user support, and organizational renewal. Libraries across the country are exploring innovative ways to integrate emerging technologies across all

departments. These advancements are reshaping the physical and digital spaces of libraries, enhancing academic resources, improving accessibility, and redefining user engagement. In addition to embracing these changes and new technologies, libraries are recognizing their critical role in supporting mental wellbeing for both users and staff. With rising mental health challenges in academic settings, libraries are uniquely positioned to offer restorative spaces, provide stress-relief programming, and foster supportive communities. Libraries can also lead the way in adopting change management strategies, ensuring that technological transformation and cultural shifts are met with resilience, adaptability, and a focus on overall wellbeing.

The future of libraries will require a comprehensive approach—where innovation in technology, mental health initiatives, and organizational renewal work together to build resilient, dynamic, and supportive environments. This theme invites presentations that address how libraries can leverage new tools while also prioritizing mental health and wellbeing, driving positive change for the better, and envisioning a future that empowers both users and staff.

Many thanks to CCALD for once again providing the platform for the online conference.

- 46 people registered (besides Committee members).
- Ticket price: \$10.
- Gross sales: \$460.
- 38 people attended live.
- Those 38 spent an average of 120 minutes, or two hours, at the live conference.
- Program topics included AI tools, OER, wellness, accessibility, fostering student discussions and collection development.
- The conference program and recordings are available at <https://ccald.org/calc/>

2025-26 CCALD Officers:

Chair: Jaime Hammond, Director of Library Services, CT State Community College Naugatuck Valley

Vice chair/ Chair-elect: Taja Sylvester, Director of Library Services, CT State Community College Housatonic

Treasurer: Alison Wang, Director of Library Services, CT State Community College Norwalk

Secretary: Katie Nazarian, Director of Library & Information Services, Mitchell College

Submitted by Jaime Hammond, 2025-26 Chair, August 4, 2026



October 13, 2025

To the Commissioners:

The Council of Connecticut Academic Library Directors (CCALD) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the 2026 Draft Standards for Accreditation. We understand that the commission seeks to revise the standards in a way that encourages flexibility and will be appropriate to the many different types of institutions accredited by NECHE. However, we have concerns regarding the absence of language related to libraries and research, particularly in light of what the next ten year span promises to hold in store for us with relation to dis- and misinformation and the mass adoption of artificial intelligence.

Our specific suggestions are as follows:

1. Taking into account the removal of the data first forms, we ask that NECHE consider including ACRL survey data (see [link](#)) as evidence of institutional quality and continuous improvement.
2. In section 2.8, we ask that staff be included when referring to academic freedom (see [link](#)).
3. Add language regarding student (2.15; 2.22) and faculty (3.9) research.
4. Add the word “information” to the subsection header for 3.6 to 3.10 to match the language used in 3.9.
5. Consider adding a glossary of terms that define key terms in the standard such as “academic staff” and “information resources”.

Misinformation is pushed to consumers on a regular basis. This is made easier with the use of generative artificial intelligence. Institutions of higher education are struggling to come to terms with both the helpful and detrimental applications of AI. Access to reliable, current and appropriate information is imperative, as is the ability to assess information independently. The world of information changes continuously with the interplay of technology, publishing, higher education, government and nonprofit organizations. Librarians are distinctively equipped to stay ahead of these changes. We continue to lead faculty, students and staff to think critically about the information they consume and create. When a new medium emerges, we demystify it by curating and organizing content, making it easier to access and teaching people how and when to use it.

We hope that you take this feedback into consideration and look forward to engaging in the new self-study process in the future.

Thank you,

The Council of Connecticut Academic Library Directors