



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BUILD YOUR CAREER

Finding Your Joy and Passion

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hen I think about the trajectory of my career and the ways in which my interests and passions have changed over the years, it reminds me of how helpful AALL and our members have been in helping me to locate, prepare for, apply for, and excel in various jobs.

For example, AALL and its members have helped me discover, prepare for, find joy, and build skills in personnel management. It is through conversations with members—those who love management and those who hate management—that I have gauged my own interest and aptitude for law library management. By attending AALL programs on management, by reading articles in *AALL Spectrum* aimed at aspiring managers, and ultimately by reflecting on my own management style in preparation for speaking to AALL members about law library management, I refined and developed my own unique approach to supervising personnel.

Thus, I am excited about this issue of *AALL Spectrum*, which focuses on career development. There are exciting articles by members working in every aspect of the law library and legal information industry. If you are on the job market, you will find helpful information here. If you have a position available, you will also find helpful information on crafting a job posting and attracting the best candidate.

What is particularly unique and exciting about this issue is that it transcends the theoretical. In this issue, you will hear from some of our peers who are running successful law libraries talk about what they look for in candidates, including what questions they like to ask potential candidates. There is no better preparation for interviewing than this.

Another facet of job hunting and career building is, of course, networking. AALL members tell me regularly how much they value the networking opportunities that AALL provides. This issue of *AALL Spectrum* explores, in several of the articles, what it means to build, sustain, and utilize a professional network. Often we think of networking as a job hunting tool, but professional networks are useful for finding appropriate candidates to fill open positions, finding mentors, providing mentorship, and more. In my own professional life, it was my mentors who introduced me to their professional networks, which continue to sustain me even today.

These valuable articles contributed by members help us all to grow and to understand our changing profession. They not only inform new members about job searching, but also inform seasoned members, such as myself.

I urge each and every one of you to take advantage of this valuable tool and the many others, educational and otherwise, that AALL has to offer. As always, please do contact me with any questions or concerns.

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