



It's not too soon to propose programs for the next AALL Annual Meeting

By Steve Anderson

ALL's Annual Meetings are always successful, thanks to the high-quality program proposals and other suggestions you—the member—offer to the Annual Meeting Program Committee and Headquarters staff. This reliance on member contributions will continue with next year's Annual Meeting in Denver. In fact, it is fair to say that member involvement is more critical than ever before.

In today's global social and economic environment with instantaneous communications and turbulent flux, it is increasingly necessary for law librarians to anticipate new tomorrows. We all need the skills to anticipate the future and the knowledge to position ourselves, our profession, and our institutions for success in a changing world. Attendees of Summit 2010: Mapping Our Future will discover together as a professional community how to renew ourselves, plan for our institutions, and build for the challenges we face.

One of the best ways to do this is to share positive success stories and fresh innovations with colleagues—those who understand our workplaces and professional needs. For this reason, the

Annual Meeting Program Committee is particularly interested in proposals that feature concrete, practical case studies about library services. What are your accomplishments that are worth repeating in other law libraries? What are your pioneering efforts that, if shared with others, might advance the entire profession?

Of course, we can best look to the future if we additionally draw upon the “best practices” of other businesses, organizations, and professions outside of librarianship. What new developments in these areas might also apply to our settings?

The Annual Meeting Program Committee for Summit 2010: Mapping Our Future is already seeking proposals that will demonstrate creative new ways of envisioning libraries and information services. Because the future is so important, now is the time to begin generating ideas for next year's conference. The committee plans to select proposals that inspire your colleagues—and our profession—to seek viable and imaginative solutions for the challenges of the future. The committee is especially receptive to insightful proposals that address some of the following questions:

- How do we build relationships that bridge divisions?
- How do we sustain the networks we create?
- Are information resources becoming “places”?
- How will libraries' services transform as libraries themselves become more “virtual”?
- What can we do to enhance the creation, design, and flow of information?

Of course, we welcome all program and workshop proposals that are related to the theme.

The online program and workshop proposal collection site (<http://proposals.aallnet.org>) is now open for your program and workshop proposals. It will enable you to develop your proposal in your own workspace, share it with your colleagues, and submit it online by the August 23 deadline. A program planner's handbook is also available on the site. This is the first of many resources that will provide you with help, suggestions, and guidance to turn your ideas into top-notch program proposals. There is also a recent Webinar, linked from the site, which provides additional useful tips.

All AALL members are eligible to propose programs. The committee welcomes ideas from brand new librarians and veterans alike and from law librarians in a variety of positions and settings. The only requirements are

that your suggested proposal be original and useful for your colleagues and that they closely follow the recommended proposal guidelines outlined on the proposal collection site and in the handbook and Webinar. A wise rule of thumb is to consider the practical “takeaways” (e.g., skills, newfound knowledge) that other law librarians will gain from attending your program.

The Annual Meeting Program Committee for Summit 2010: Mapping Our Future looks forward to your program and workshop proposals, and to meeting everyone in Denver as we work together to map our future. ■

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Summit 2010 Essentials

Program and workshop proposals for Summit 2010 are due **August 23**. Check out these online resources for help with your proposal idea:

Online Program and Workshop Collection Site
<http://proposals.aallnet.org>

The Program Planner's Handbook
www.aallnet.org/events/ProgramPlannersHandbook.pdf

Proposer Quick Glance
www.aallnet.org/events/10_proposer_quick_glance.pdf

Perfect Program Proposals: A Webinar for Annual Meeting Program Planning
www.aallnet.org/members/media_show.asp?mnum=54