

ACADEMIC SIS STRATEGIC PLAN JULY 2007–JUNE 2010

PREAMBLE

Recognizing that the American Association of Law Libraries and other Special Interest Sections address many issues and functional responsibilities of academic law librarians and the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section has limited resources, the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section will pursue goals that are of high priority to its members and that are not presently addressed by other groups.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section provides leadership in identifying the needs and concerns of academic law librarians and developing appropriate programs and services to address them; and represents the interests of academic law librarians within law schools, universities, and to other groups.

Strategic Direction I: Advocate

Academic Law Librarians play the leading role in advocating and supporting the role of professional librarians in academic libraries and in ensuring the value of law librarians to the academic institution.

Outcome I.A. Academic institutions recognize the essential role of academic law librarians and acknowledge that they are the primary legal information resources in their institutions and the surrounding communities.

Initiatives:

The ALL-SIS will:

1. Collaborate with AALL to develop and utilize basic and advanced core competencies to demonstrate to the academic institutions the professional nature of the work done by law librarians.
2. Supply members with information on new developments in legal research that they can use in communicating with library patrons.

3. Train librarians in skills and strategies to influence decision-making within their institutions.

Outcome I.B. Academic law librarians advocate for appropriate compensation and status, both financially and professionally.

Initiatives:

The ALL-SIS will:

1. Continually monitor and report on the current state of professional status (including benefits) within academic law libraries.
2. Periodically provide comparative information on the status and benefits of academic law librarians to provide to their governing institutions.
3. Periodically update the ALL-SIS web site for information and links to current tenure/continuing status and promotion documents from academic institutions throughout the country.
4. Train librarians in skills and strategies to influence decision-making within their institutions.

Outcome I.C. Attract and retain diverse and qualified librarians into academic law librarianship.

Initiatives:

The ALL-SIS will:

1. Actively promote the profession of academic law librarianship to law and library schools and undergraduate career centers.
2. Partner with professional library associations and schools of library and information science to develop and teach courses on law librarianship.
3. Investigate ways of funding scholarships, grants, and internships for minority and disadvantaged library students interested in academia.
4. Encourage retention through programs such as NALLM, mentoring, and other initiatives.
5. Encourage and promote diversity scholarships and programs.

Outcome I.D. Provide both general and targeted educational programs for academic law librarians' professional development.

1. Survey members periodically to identify key professional development needs.
2. Develop continuing education and professional development opportunities for academic law librarians in conjunction with AALL and/or other library organizations.
3. Develop and/or subsidize programs, including ones that encourage the interchange of ideas in current positions, assist in the learning of new skills and/or provide guidance on career advancement.

Strategic Direction II: Coordinate and Disseminate

Academic law librarians are informed of issues and activities relating to legal education and law schools. The Academic Special Interest Section provides programs and services designed to enhance this understanding and role of its members in the academic environment.

Outcome II.A. Academic law librarians understand their role in the ABA accreditation process, and lobby for necessary changes and consistent and meaningful library standards in the evaluation of law libraries.

Initiatives:

The ALL-SIS will:

1. Assist the ABA Section on Legal Education in setting current standards by which law school libraries are evaluated, taking into account format, access, and retention issues.
2. Survey the membership and post reports on members' libraries data collection policies and practices.
3. Establish liaisons to the ABA and AALS and submit a formal report on these relationships and activities to the membership once a year.

Outcome II.B. Academic law librarians play a leading role in assisting law schools in the changing nature of legal education.

Initiatives:

The ALL-SIS will:

1. Take the lead in working with faculty to integrate technology into the educational process.
2. Advocate for the role of librarians in formal classroom instruction especially in legal research and serve as a clearinghouse for the kind of legal research instruction which librarians are doing in law schools.
3. Serve as a clearinghouse to develop strategies with law review, moot court staff, and legal writing instructors to develop standards for cite checking and other areas of instruction and assistance.
4. Partner with private and court librarians to ensure students make a successful transition from student to attorney.
5. Foster relationships with the legal writing community, including the appointment of a liaison to the Legal Writing Institute.

Outcome II.C. Academic law librarians effectively engage patrons in all library activities, including the promotion of library services and activities.

Initiatives:

The ALL-SIS will:

1. Develop programs to work with all organizations, including student bar associations and alumni groups, to assess patron perspectives and respond to their needs.
2. Use educational programs, publications, listservs, etc. to assist members in providing services and educating patrons on their roles in law school and library development and publicize successful strategies.
3. Engage with faculty on instructional programs and teaching needs.

Outcome II.D. Academic law librarians support, understand, and participate in campus, law school, and law library fund raising initiatives.

Initiatives:

The ALL-SIS will:

1. Host listserv discussions, sponsor educational programs, and prepare publications, such as wish lists, tip sheets, and tool kits, on fundraising.
2. Raise the profile of the law library as an integral part of the law school and as an individual fundraising identity.

Strategic Direction III: Develop and Adapt

Academic law librarians play the leading role in understanding the role of the library as the intellectual, historical, and cultural center of the law school and for educating law school administrators and patrons on the role and importance of the library to the institution and community.

Outcome III.A. Academic law librarians learn, implement, advocate for, and are responsive to new technologies.

Initiatives:

The ALL-SIS will:

1. Provide leadership and advocate for the development and use of consortia and encourage the creation of cooperative ventures between and among libraries and library associations.
2. Provide leadership in and disseminate information on identifying and evaluating methods of long term information storage and retrieval, including print and digital initiatives, software programs and products and hardware specifications.
3. Explore and report on practices of other information professions, and examine their usefulness for law libraries.
4. Develop cooperative programs between law libraries and non-library organizations, where the programs might meet needs that cannot be met by either organization independently.

Outcome III.B. Academic law librarians develop information collections that integrate the formats that best serve library patrons and that ensure long term archival retention.

Initiatives:

The ALL-SIS will:

1. Create and support educational programs within AALL and other organizations to address format issues in collection development and collection management.
2. Identify grants and other funding sources for academic law libraries to study, support and/or to implement retention and archival projects.

Outcome III.C. Academic law librarians coordinate the sharing of information regarding development and planning for multi-functional space within their institutions.

Initiatives

The ALL-SIS will:

1. Work with AALL and other library organizations in developing programs to explore new technologies and services for patron access (e.g., adaptive technology).
2. Develop programs and recommendations for libraries to plan with administrations for space planning initiatives.
3. Collect and disseminate information about on-going space initiatives and concerns in member libraries.

Strategic Direction IV: Preserve and Enhance Information Policies

Academic law librarians play a leading role in shaping information policy to ensure access to legal information.

Outcome IV.A. Academic law librarians work to ensure free access to government information at the national, state, and local levels.

Initiatives:

The ALL-SIS will:

1. Coordinate activities with or be aware of the activities of the Washington Affairs Office.
2. Provide leadership in advocacy and educational efforts concerning the changing nature of state and federal depository programs.
3. Strongly advocate free access to government information through educational programs, publications, listserv discussions, etc.

Suggestion: Outcome IV mentions the Government Affairs Office, but AALLs website still refers to the Washington Affairs Office.

Outcome IV.B. Academic law librarians work to ensure copyright law and licensing practices preserve the rights of users, including fair use in all formats.

Initiatives:

The ALL-SIS will:

1. Work closely with professional library associations, especially the AALL Government Affairs office, to provide leadership in working with legislators, the Copyright Office, and others to:
 - a. Develop federal and state licensing legislation that preserves the right of users.
 - b. Ensure that database protection legislation preserves user rights.
 - c. Preserve user rights to information in all formats.
2. Develop educational materials and courses on the substantive law and issues in copyright and licensing in conjunction with the AALL Copyright Committee.
3. Develop educational materials, courses, and strategies to use in negotiating with legal information providers.
4. Support AALL's model code of fair business practices for legal publishers.
5. Organize academic libraries to join together to encourage worthwhile and beneficial publishing practices and discourage those practices that are harmful to end users.
6. Continue to foster relations with the Government Printing Office.