

Suzanne Thorpe

Suzanne Thorpe is the Associate Director for Faculty, Research, and Instructional Services at the University of Minnesota Law Library. She oversees all public and faculty services offered by the library, provides legal research instruction, and is also responsible for collecting Scandinavian legal materials for the Law Library. Suzanne earned B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and received her J.D. degree from the University of Minnesota. Before joining the staff at the University of Minnesota Law Library, Suzanne was a librarian at Hamline University Law Library and the Hennepin County Law Library.

Among her professional contributions, Suzanne has served as Secretary/Treasurer and President of the Minnesota Association of Law Libraries. For the American Association of Law Libraries, she has chaired the Special Committee on Member Publications, Mentoring Committee, Awards Committee, Membership Committee, and the OBS-SIS. She also served on the FCIL SIS Clearinghouse for Internships and International Placements and was a presenter at several FCIL programs. For the ALL-SIS, Suzanne currently serves as Member at Large on the Executive Committee. She has also chaired the BNA Task Force and the Vision Statement Committee, and co-chaired the Membership Committee. She was a member of the initial CONALL committee.

Statement:

As a member of the ALL-SIS Executive Committee for the past two years, I have had an opportunity to reflect closely on all the work the SIS is doing. I am delighted and impressed by the amount of grassroots participation that is occurring. Not only are our members ready to carry out the tasks of existing committees; many are eager to form new task forces, roundtables, and committees addressing emerging issues. This high level of enthusiasm and dedication has resulted in numerous dynamic program proposals, surveys sharing vital information about the work we do, and excellent products such as the Newsletter, Website, Legal Research Sourcebook, and the Marketing Toolkit—all of which help us to network and improve our performance as academic law librarians. As Chair of the SIS, I would work very hard to increase this already high level of participation and productivity within our specialty.

I would also channel some of our efforts into working with others outside our profession. We already have liaisons to the ABA and the AALS, who thoroughly inform us of the work done by these organizations affecting our libraries, our job security, and our role in legal research instruction. I believe, however, that our SIS has a sufficiently large membership base to have a louder voice in influencing the decisions of the AALS and ABA that relate to law school law libraries. I would try to mobilize the many talented members of the ALL-SIS, not only to support our liaisons, but to proactively lobby for law libraries in these related organizations.

As a longtime academic law librarian, I find working with newer members of our profession to be incredibly enriching since we approach matters with totally different perspectives. I would work diligently to foster cross-fertilization between members with varying experience levels. In addition to our CONALL programs, I would make a concerted effort to encourage new librarians to partner with more experienced colleagues on particular projects, including writing for

publication and developing programs.

I am honored to be nominated for the Chair position and would welcome the opportunity to serve in this capacity.