

Linda M. Ryan  
Assistant Dean for Library and Information Resources  
Director of the Rittenberg Law Library  
St. John's University School of Law

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Linda M. Ryan serves as Assistant Dean for Library and Information Resources and Director of the Rittenberg Law Library at St. John's University School of Law. She has directed the law library for almost nine years and is responsible for all aspects of library operations including strategic and short term planning, development of library programs and services, collection development, technology planning, and fiscal and human resource management; and is also responsible for all aspects of technology planning and implementation for the law school.

She began her career at St. John's teaching Legal Research and Writing, designed and taught the law school's first course in Advanced Legal Research and has also taught a two-semester course in legal research to students enrolled in St. John's M.L.S. program. Before joining St. John's, she practiced law in New York and New Jersey. She received her B.S. from Rutgers University, M.L.S. from St. John's and J.D. from New York Law School.

Linda is a current member of and incoming Chair of the AALL Placement Committee, a member of the AALS Section on Libraries and Technology Executive Committee, a member of the ALL-SIS Statistics Committee and has been a member of several ABA site inspection teams. She has been a panelist at various CALI Conferences and moderated the AALL panel *Room at the Top: Strategy Tips from the Hiring Squad* in San Antonio, which was voted a "Favorite Program" by conference attendees. She has authored several articles on legal research instruction and joined the late Julius J. Marke as co-author of *Legal Research and Law Library Management* in 2002.

#### Statement:

Academic law libraries may be at a turning point in their history. For the first time, some within the legal academy are questioning the role of the library and its librarians in the educational life of the law school. Questions regarding the status of directors as tenured members of the faculty; the role librarians in teaching legal research; and the allocation of resources, most notably money and space, needed to maintain library collections and services are being raised at law schools across the rankings spectrum. Why, when and how these issues are raised – and resolved -- is unique to each institution, but the AALL Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section can play an important role in supporting members and the libraries they serve as they address these issues, and others, in their law schools.

In 2004 I conducted a detailed survey on the academic law library directors' listserv, gathering information from more than 130 colleagues on their faculty status, their administrative responsibilities beyond the law library, and their teaching role and that of their librarians. The survey was the first of its kind and has allowed many colleagues to advocate for themselves and their libraries with "hard numbers," not simply anecdotal information, on these important matters.

I would like to work with members of the ALL-SIS to identify other issues of common interest/concern, gather relevant data, identify trends and best practices and disseminate this information to members so that all academic law librarians are not only informed about the current state of their profession, but also in a position to advocate on behalf of libraries with their Deans and faculties and thus ensure that what one colleague has called "the marginalization of the academic law library" does not come to pass.

There is no organization more ideally situated to take on this role than the ALL-SIS and I would be pleased to serve as its Secretary-Treasurer.