ALL-SIS Strategic Plan

January 2018 – July 2021

MISSION STATEMENT

The Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section provides leadership in identifying the needs and concerns of academic law librarians, develops appropriate programs and services to address them, and serves as the voice of academic law librarians within AALL.

GOAL: POSITION ALL-SIS TO ADDRESS FUTURE CHALLENGES

Objective: The structure of ALL-SIS will be reimagined in order to effectively address new realities and challenges

Satisfying this objective could include:

1. Updating the ALL-SIS mission to be more aspirational than descriptive

2. Taking a high-level approach to restructuring ALL-SIS committees: consolidate in areas of overlap with other SISs, evaluate how much each committee is doing and what the benefit of committee output is, and assess ongoing need for each committee

3. Considering the use of smaller task forces and project teams with shorter-term commitments

4. Considering disbanding committees no longer relevant and/or consolidating committees with overlapping charges

5. Considering creating new committees relevant to changes in legal academy: e.g., ABA Compliance/Learning Outcomes committee

Objective: Develop and implement new approaches to support different types of librarians, libraries, and law schools

Satisfying this objective could include:

1. Increasing organizational outreach to ALL-SIS members. Some examples may include seeking feedback from membership by having members of the executive board contact decisively chosen ALL-SIS members for feedback on how ALL-SIS

can better serve them (e.g., reach out to a passive member by email to set up a phone conversation) and by conducting regular, short surveys of membership

2. Developing strategies to increase support of "hybrid librarians," public services librarians who do not teach, and librarians who are not in public service roles

3. Finding new ways to reach out to and focus on affinity groups (i.e., librarians with similar research and scholarship interests, doing similar work, or in pursuit of similar goals or initiatives) under the law librarianship umbrella

4. Recognizing that there are many different types of law schools and libraries, and that those who work in these diverse environments face varied and diverse challenges, and providing resources to support librarians in all environments

GOAL: COLLABORATE

Objective: Collaborating with other SIS groups that do work similar to ALL-SIS

Satisfying this objective could include:

1. Creating a collaboration committee with liaisons to other SISs where there is overlap in mission or work

2. Building alliances with other SIS groups, leading to the development of collaborative projects and partnerships

3. Revisiting ALL-SIS Popular Resources and Additional Resources to identify areas of overlap with other SIS resources, and:
    a. Determine how to consolidate information for comprehensive resources, or
    b. Parse resources for division to better address needs of our members to focus on resources for sub-groups within the ALL-SIS community, and
    c. Work with AALL to better utilize their Knowledge Center resources by incorporating links to related SIS resources

Objective: Integrating into our broader institutions

Satisfying this objective could include:

1. Working with attorneys and firm librarians, through surveys, programming, and advisory councils, to ensure that research instruction accurately reflects the research tasks and realities of the modern lawyer

2. Working with the ABA to learn more about and become a voice in the discussion and development of legal education learning outcomes

3. Providing resources to the membership on how academic law librarians can serve our institutions in new ways

GOAL: DEVELOP THE LIBRARIANS OF TOMORROW

Objective: Help members develop professional skills

Satisfying this objective could include:

1. Offering broader training opportunities to address the needs of members, including, but not limited to: management, leadership, and soft skills

2. Offering more discrete and specific professional skills training opportunities including, but not limited to:

    a. Project management
    b. Leading teams/groups/departments
    c. Working with human resources
    d. Learning about our broader organization(s) – i.e., How to learn about the organizational structure, its mission and strategic directions, and your role in both
    e. How to identify gaps and fill them
    f. Leading in times of crisis or uncertainty
    g. How to identify your own weaknesses
    h. Giving feedback and teaching others how to give good, constructive feedback
    i. How to learn from mistakes
    j. How to develop and increase problem-solving and strategic thinking skills

3. Using webinars and e-roundtables as a way to deliver skills training to more members

Objective: Help members become experts in teaching technology and teaching law students about law practice technology

Satisfying this objective could include:

1. Offering training, via webinar or conference presentations, on a variety of teaching tools, including slideware, student engagement tools (such as clickers, integrated polling services, etc.), screencasting, and more

2. Creating resources, such as toolkits, for the best teaching technologies to be used in fully online, hybrid, and in-person courses

3. Partnering with PLL-SIS to develop courses or trainings for law students to learn about technology in law practice

4. Investigating the possibility of creating a self-guided, open access course on technology in law practice

5. Working with the CS-SIS education committee to create librarian-created online sessions or scripts about new technologies outside of Lexis, Westlaw, and Bloomberg for distribution to audiences outside of libraries and librarians

Objective: Create professional development and education opportunities

Satisfying this objective could include:

1. Creating more opportunities for professional development and education outside of the AALL annual meeting, such as:

   a. Working with regional chapters or chapter consortia to develop regional workshops
   b. Creating more programming throughout the year, e.g., lunchtime webinars

2. Developing a more regular and robust series of webinars to discuss specific topics, not broad topics focused on theory and generalizations. Investigating the possibility of structuring these webinars as a type of case study method that will invite discussion and create a collaborative group of librarians who are thinking about and trying to work through similar issues

3. Developing meaningful ways of supporting librarian scholarship, such as:

   a. Reviving the Scholarship Mentor initiative to connect new librarian scholars with seasoned, published librarians
   b. Creating affinity groups for librarians pursuing feedback on or collaborations for research and scholarship opportunities

4. Creating a formalized structure that provides ALL-SIS members with the skills development and experience to become better presenters. For example:

   a. Actively reaching out to newer members of ALL-SIS and those who have never presented at the annual meeting or in other venues (e.g., look at previous year's CONELL attendee list)
   b. Maintaining a list of ALL-SIS members who have served on the AMPC who might act as mentors or consultants for preparing program proposals
   c. Maintaining a list of ALL-SIS members who have presented at the annual meeting, regional meetings/workshops, in webinars or other forums, or other Chapter or Organization (ALA) events, to serve as mentors in the program proposal and presentation development processes