



ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARIES
SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION



NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Anna E. Lawless-Collins
Boston University Law Library

In the [Winter 2018](#) issue of this Newsletter, I asked you to think about what a library is and in conjunction with that, what you want ALL-SIS to be. In the Election Issue, you have the opportunity to learn about the candidates who will shape the next two to three years of this Special Interest Section.

I would like to thank the Nominations Committee, headed by Faye Jones at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. She was supported by Jonathan Franklin at the University of Washington School of Law, Rachel Gordon at the Duke School of Law, Margaret Maes and Joe Custer at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Deanna Barmakian at the Harvard Law School, and Ronald Wheeler at the Boston University School of Law.

“...learn about the candidates who will shape... this Special Interest Section.”

This year we are electing a Vice-Chair/Chair Elect and a Board Member-at-Large. The candidates for Vice Chair/Chair Elect are:

- **Sabrina Sondhi**, Director of Law Library Administrative Services and Adjunct Professor of Law at Cornell University
- **Caroline Young**, Associate Director of the Law Library at Rutgers University

[cont'd](#) ▶

FROM THE EDITOR

I am excited to bring you the Spring/Election Issue of the *ALL-SIS Newsletter*! The focus of this issue is the personal statements and biographies of the candidates for Chair/Chair Elect and Member-at-Large. As Anna Lawless-Collins emphasizes, these dedicated ALL-SIS members will shape the next two to three years of the SIS, and the profiles contained within the newsletter hopefully will help guide you in deciding your vote. The issue also includes both a great discussion of the leadership academy and an article highlighting the varied perspectives of past ALL-SIS award and grant recipients.

As you peruse this newsletter, also please remember that we are always looking for content. The newsletter would not exist without interesting submissions from readers like you. We want to hear from you, so if you have any questions, suggestions, ideas or articles you would like to submit, please contact me, the Editor, Katie Hanschke at katie.hanschke@vanderbilt.edu. //

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

◀ cont'd

The candidates for Board Member-at-Large are:

- **Austin Williams**, Assistant Law Library Director at North Carolina Central University
- **Amanda Watson**, Director of the O'Quinn Law Library and Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Houston Law Center

Please take the time to review the candidate statements and biographies, included in the Election Issue, and please vote in the upcoming elections. This Special Interest Section is its members; it is our knowledge, our effort, our time, our energy, and our vision for academic law librarianship. These candidates are offering to lead us, and you have the opportunity to help choose the path based on their visions.

This Special Interest Section also is comprised of, and shaped by, our committees and the work they do. You have the opportunity to get involved and help shape that work by volunteering for an ALL-SIS committee. In addition to the elections emails from Ingrid Mattson, our Secretary-Treasurer, please look for information from Lisa Goodman, our Vice-Chair/Chair Elect, regarding opportunities to volunteer for an ALL-SIS committee.

Thank you for your time and your efforts to help shape the future of this Special Interest Section. I look forward to continuing to work with you all throughout the next year. //

ENGAGING WITH COLLEAGUES AT THE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

AJ Blechner
Harvard Law School Library

In the [Fall](#) and [Winter](#) issues of the ALL-SIS Newsletter, Patrick Parsons provided an excellent overview of the official conference events, and Zanada Joyner gave insight into the mentorship opportunities that are a part of the Leadership Academy experience.

Equally important, but harder to quantify, are the informal and professional connections we forged as a part of the program. For me, the benefits of the Leadership Academy extended well beyond the official conference events. During the weekend, I was able to meet and connect with emerging leaders from across the country and learn about different areas of the law library profession. I was surprised by the number of amazing colleagues I met for the first time. The fact that we came together with a similar purpose, and a genuine desire to learn, made it easy to forge new connections.

Mealtimes offered a great opportunity to get to know colleagues from around the country, who work in different types of libraries, and offer diverse perspectives on leadership. The night before the conference, I

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ALL-SIS SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANTS COMMITTEE: REFLECTIONS FROM PAST ALL-SIS AWARD AND GRANT WINNERS

Katie Brown
Charleston School of Law

As was mentioned in the last *ALL-SIS Newsletter*, our Special Interest Section has the honor each year of giving out both financial and professional honors through numerous grants and awards.

In December of 2018, I reached out to past ALL-SIS grant and award winners with a short survey. Through the survey, grant and award recipients had the opportunity to share some insights from their experiences seeking funds or recognition, drafting their application, and receiving the grant or award. This article provides a few highlights from the survey responses that hopefully will inspire you to apply or nominate a deserving member to ALL-SIS's many award and grant opportunities.

Many past winners applied for the financial needs-based grants during the economic downturn when many institutions froze or completely cut their professional development funding opportunities and budgets. Others applied for a grant because a particular conference met an educational need for their professional growth. One survey participant, who was a new middle manager at the time of her application, stated, "I was interested in attending the Management Institute to learn more about how to be a better manager and improve my skill set. The ALL-SIS grant helped me do just that." Others were inspired to complete the application because they wanted to keep their prior commitments, including one to the Annual Meeting Program Committee and another to present at a conference.

Survey participants also had the opportunity to share what advice they would give to an individual considering applying for a grant award. There was a strong theme of both "just do it" and "do not be afraid to try." Others shared practical advice like "the money is there for a reason and shouldn't be left unused" and "make sure you have time to put together all the materials." Still others shared the gains simply completing the application brought them. For example, "the application was not onerous, so even if I was not awarded the grant, I decided the application alone would be a good process." One past recipient even shared some sound drafting advice stating, "From experience on awards committees, I'd add put some effort into the application." One survey participant emphasized the importance of proofreading your application before submission.

The committee also was interested in learning how the prior recipients of an ALL-SIS Grant or Award benefited their careers. For many, it enabled a professional development opportunity which was unaffordable without financial assistance. Others expressed the benefit of obtaining "new tools and ways of approaching issues that arise on my team" and "maintain(ing) relationships and establish(ing) new ones." Others spoke to the wonderful recognition that obtaining the grant or award brought, stating; "it was well received by my dean and provost," it was nice to "put it on my CV" and "awards are always attention-getting on a resume."

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ENGAGING WITH COLLEAGUES

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shared dinner with the director of a firm library and an academic law librarian from the other side of the country. On the first night of the conference, the Leadership Academy organizers hosted a dinner and a chance for open discussion. The dinner allowed us to get to know a wider group of people than we interacted with during the course of the day's formal exercises, discussions, and activities. The group was a great size. It was large enough to get a lot of different perspectives but small enough that it was possible to get to know everyone just a little bit better.

After dinner, not yet ready to wrap up for the night, the new Leadership Academy cohort spent hours talking and bonding over the events of the conference, similar experiences as law librarians, and our shared nerdy interests. Like CONELL, the chance to meet and connect with similarly situated colleagues was invaluable. When the conference was over, as we gathered to say our goodbyes to new friends leaving for the airport, it was encouraging to hear that many of us would meet up again soon at the annual conference in July. In the meantime, the Academy used My Communities both to help keep us connected and to allow participants to share relevant takeaways from mentoring conversations with the group.

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At the annual meeting and conference, the Leadership Academy encouraged ongoing relationships, providing badge ribbons for the new Leadership Academy cohort to identify us to previous Leadership Academy classes. At the annual conference, I was excited to reconnect with some of the wonderful people I had met. For many of us, these relationships will extend beyond the two days of the Leadership Academy conference and into

Recipients of ALL-SIS's AALL Leadership Institute Grant have the opportunity to reflect on their experiences in an article for the newsletter. For more information on ALL-SIS grants for AALL professional development opportunities like the Leadership Institute, see <https://www.aallnet.org/allsis/awards-grants/>. //

ALL-SIS SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANTS COMMITTEE

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At the end of the survey, we asked participants if they had any final thoughts they wanted to share about their experiences. The majority of the participants simply stated thank you again. A few shared the honor they felt in being selected, and one participant shared that people should not be afraid to ask people to write letters of recommendation.

The ALL-SIS Awards and Grants Committee do hope that these experiences from the past award and grant recipients inspire you to apply, recommend or nominate someone for an ALL-SIS award or grant. //

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CANDIDATE FOR CHAIR-ELECT

Caroline Young
Rutgers Law Library

BIOGRAPHY

Caroline Young is the Associate Director at Rutgers Law Library in Newark, NJ where she has been for the past eleven years. In addition to her core responsibilities, she also teaches Advanced Legal Research and other legal research classes. Caroline is an active member of AALL. Her activities include serving as Chair of CS-SIS and as President of NJLLA. In addition, she has served on several ALL-SIS committees, including the Awards Committee, ALL-NEW, and currently the By-Laws Committee.

Caroline holds a BA from the University of Pennsylvania, a JD from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and an MLIS from Pratt Institute. She has published articles in *Law Library Journal*, *Legal Reference Services Quarterly*, *Medical Reference Services Quarterly* and *Computers in Libraries*. She is also the co-author of *Legal Research and Law Library Management* (Law Journal Press, LLC, Release 23-25, 2018-2019).

Outside of work, Caroline loves to spend time with her husband and son. She also loves to travel, especially to Asia. She has been to China, Japan, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.



PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am honored to be nominated to serve as Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect of ALL-SIS. ALL-SIS has been an essential part of my professional development. It has provided me with many opportunities to collaborate with incredible colleagues across the country on the major issues facing law libraries today. I have benefited tremendously from the networking and knowledge sharing I have gained through my participation in ALL-SIS.

ALL-SIS continues to be an indispensable part of bringing our profession forward. We continue to face exciting times of great change in academic librarianship with pressures to make our law libraries more innovative, often without additional resources. However, these pressures force us to be creative and efficient and can be great opportunities to demonstrate our value and strategic leadership abilities to our institutions. ALL-SIS provides us with great support for this environment, whether it is ALL-SIS's important programming, relevant publications or the many other ways of exchanging our experiences and knowledge. Virtually every possible issue relevant to academic law librarianship is addressed through ALL-SIS. Given that academic librarianship is continually evolving and dependent on technological advances, we will continue to need the essential work of ALL-SIS well into the future. It would be a privilege to serve as Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect of ALL-SIS and have the opportunity to work with the amazing people who make up ALL-SIS. //

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CANDIDATE FOR CHAIR-ELECT

Sabrina Sondhi
Cornell University Law Library

BIOGRAPHY

Sabrina Sondhi has been the Director for Administrative Services and an Adjunct Professor of Law at the Cornell University Law Library since August 2018. Prior to that she worked for ten years at Columbia University's Arthur W. Diamond Law Library as their Special Collections & Services Librarian. Before becoming a librarian, Sabrina practiced law in California and clerked for a Federal Magistrate Judge in Cleveland, Ohio. She received her BA from Pomona College, her JD from Cornell Law School, and her MLIS from the University of Washington.

Education has been a major focus of her professional involvement in AALL. Sabrina has served on program committees for multiple SISes, including the Government Documents SIS and the Research, Instruction, and Patron Services SIS. She successfully proposed and coordinated three AALL Annual Meeting programs (in 2014, 2015, and 2016). In 2015-16 she served as the Co-Chair of the Education Committee for the Law Library Association of Greater New York (LLAGNY) and was commended for successfully expanding the group's webinar-based programming from three programs/year to eight programs/year. She went on to serve on AALL's Annual Meeting Program Committee (AMPC) as both a Team Member and then as a Team Leader.



Sabrina is a prior Chair of the Legal History and Rare Books SIS (LHRB-SIS) and is just about to complete her two-year term as Secretary/Treasurer of the Foreign, Comparative, and International Law SIS (FCIL-SIS). As a member of the ALL-SIS Strategic

Planning Committee, she helped draft the strategic plan for 2013-2016. She also served as Co-Chair of the ALL-SIS Web Presence Committee (2013-2014). Outside of AALL, Sabrina is a member of the ALLSTAR Advisory Board and Co-Chair of its content group.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am honored to be nominated to serve as Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect of ALL-SIS. During my decade as an academic law librarian, I have benefitted greatly from meeting, conversing with, and learning from my fellow members of this SIS. As librarians our *raison d'être* is making information available to our patrons but, more than that, I love the way in which the SISes use their power to make tailored and relevant information available to each and every one of us. Through the listserves, online programming, and the Annual Meeting we have the ability to reconnect with each other over and over again—and ALL-SIS helps make that happen!

We all know libraries have a bit of an image problem. AALL has wrestled with this in the past few years (most notably with the rebranding efforts). But as one of the larger SISes, we are in an excellent position to do something about our profession's image problem from the ground up. So often our law school patrons don't realize all that we're doing behind the scenes to support them. If elected, I'd like to see more conversations and programming where we talk about what we want our role in the "law school of the future" to be and how to obtain buy-in from our constituents as to that role.

Finally, the timing of this nomination is particularly apt. This summer I will be cycling off various committees and my officer role in FCIL-SIS. I would be thrilled to devote that newly freed up time to supporting ALL-SIS and its members.

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CANDIDATE FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Austin Williams
North Carolina Central University
School of Law

BIOGRAPHY

Austin Martin Williams is the Assistant Law Library Director at North Carolina Central University School of Law in Durham, NC.

He previously served as the Coordinator of Research Instructional Services at Georgia State University College of Law in Atlanta, GA. He has taught first-year and advanced legal research courses. He currently co-teaches Law Practice Technology and serves as the academic advisor for the *North Carolina Central University Science and Intellectual Property Law Review*.

Austin is an active member of the law library profession. He has authored several articles, book chapters, and CALI lessons, as well as presented at national and regional conferences. He currently serves on the Indexing of Periodical Literature Committee and the Leadership Development Committee for AALL, and is the Chair of the Placement Committee for SEAALL.



PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am honored to be considered for the Member-at-Large position on the ALL-SIS Executive Board. The opportunity to serve in this role brings me great joy, and I would gladly take on the responsibilities of this position.

ALL-SIS is one of the best resources for members of the academic law library community. ALL-SIS develops invaluable tools that support the daily work of academic law librarians. The professional development support ALL-SIS provides through publishing resources, grants, programming, and advocacy allows members to face today's challenges and meet tomorrow's opportunities.

My previous experience serving on executive boards for the Atlanta Law Libraries Association (ALLA) and RIPS-SIS has prepared me for the responsibilities of the Member-at-Large position. Serving in this position will require significant time and dedication, both of which I am ready to give to ALL-SIS and its members.

If given the opportunity, it would be a privilege to serve the membership and the AALL-SIS Executive Board as the Member-at-Large.

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CANDIDATE FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Amanda Bolles Watson
Law Library at the University of
Houston Law Center

BIOGRAPHY

Amanda Bolles Watson is an Assistant Professor and Director of the O'Quinn Law Library at the University of Houston Law Center. Her previous positions include Associate Director at the Tulane University School of Law Library, State Librarian of Mississippi, and Manager of Information Services at Phelps Dunbar, LLP.

Amanda has been an active member of AALL for many years. She will serve on the 2020 AALL AMPC committee and the AALL Nominations committee beginning in July of 2019. She has served as President of the New Orleans Association of Law Librarians, membership chair of Southeastern Association of Law Librarians, and the strategic planning committee of CS-SIS.

Her research interests explore the intersection of law librarianship and technology. Her publications include the chapter *Understanding and Utilizing Digital Authentication*, in *DIGITAL RIGHTS MANAGEMENT: THE LIBRARIAN'S GUIDE* (Cathernie Lemmer & Carla Wale 2016), and *Don't Burn the Books, Read Them* 46.2 *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEGAL INFORMATION* 79 (2018). Her most recent presentations include "Technology Competence in Legal Practice: Where Do Libraries Fit In?" at AALL National Conference, July 17, 2018, and "Fake News" on Houston Public Radio, Briefcase Radio on November 8, 2017. This specific segment received a gold medal at the Collegiate Advertising Awards for best webcast/podcast.

Before law librarianship, Amanda clerked for Chief Judge Roger McMillan of the Mississippi Court of Appeals. She holds a JD from the University of Mississippi, a MIS from Florida State University, and a BA from Mississippi University for Women.

When she isn't working, Amanda invests significant time mentoring LGBTQ+ law students. She and her wife (fellow AALL law librarian Elizabeth Bolles Watson, Harris County Law Library) have two children and two dogs.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I'm happy to be nominated for the position of Member-at-Large on the ALL-SIS Executive Board. As someone who has served as a corporate, government, and now head of an academic law library, I know well the importance of academic libraries. They are met with many challenges, but also have so many opportunities to influence law libraries and law librarianship.

If elected, I hope to encourage new voices, especially diverse voices in our group. As the legal community becomes more diverse, we must strive to grow into our own diversity. I am constantly fed by the ideas of my colleagues, and feel confident I can seek out and find those ideas to represent the membership on this important committee.



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This publication of "Improving Access to Notes and Comments in Digital Collections" has been corrected to include footnotes not included in the previous publication.//

IMPROVING ACCESS TO NOTES AND COMMENTS IN DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

Aaron Kirschenfeld
UNC School of Law's Katherine R.
Everett Law Library

Law journal case notes, statutory notes, and comments (collectively called notes and comments) can be an excellent resource, especially when starting research in a new or unfamiliar area. Notes and comments are rich with footnotes that have been cited carefully. They are descriptive or explanatory in nature and mercifully short. In an era when many law journals are available in online digital collections, I have come to think of notes and comments as a vast, disorganized set of encyclopedia entries that have been hiding in plain sight. This article tells the story of how our library went about revealing some of them.

When we launched our [BePress Digital Commons institutional repository](#) in early 2016, we sought to add unique materials that our patrons, both at the law school and across the state, would value. Following the lead of other law libraries, the first collections we added were backfiles, purchased from Hein, of law journals affiliated. As the Digital Initiatives Law Librarian, I managed the process for getting the documents and descriptive metadata into the repository.

Although I am a member of our Collection and Technology Services department, I am also a reference librarian, with regular desk shifts, teaching duties, and the like. After our *North Carolina Law Review* collection was published to the web, I fielded a reference question for an article that appeared to be missing from the repository. I discovered, to my deep embarrassment, that while the article – a student note – was in fact on the repository, it was not easy to find.

I worked to figure out the scope of the problem and its cause. For some reason, individual notes or comments were not indexed at the item level in the data we received from Hein. Instead, they were chunked together in large files, sometimes up to 200 or more pages long, that were titled "Notes and Comments."¹ Researchers with a citation in hand could of course navigate to the proper "Notes and Comments" document and scroll to the appropriate page, but they were unable to find it otherwise.²

The individual notes or comments had titles that essentially amounted to rich subject headings. For instance, "Real Property -- Easements -- Prescriptive Acquisition in North Carolina," a note written by John G. Aldridge and published in 1966 at [45 N.C. L. Rev. 284](#), does a great job of describing itself. The Supreme Court of North Carolina subsequently cited it in 1974, but there was no way to search for it by title, subject, or author either in our repository or on HeinOnline. As a result, the data were not indexed in search engines, either. The notes were available online, but they were largely inaccessible.

1. I initially suspected that this was caused by the notes never being indexed in *Index to Legal Periodicals*, but this is incorrect. Notes were indeed indexed. Representatives from Hein concluded that the omissions occurred due to "an indexing decision made many years ago [during the late 1990s] which may have resulted from a lack of table of contents provided in the print edition that was digitized." For more information on the history of legal periodical indexing, see Richard Leiter, *A History of Legal Periodical Indexing*, 7 *LEGAL REF. SERVS. Q.* 35 (1987). For more on the ILP's indexing policy, see, e.g., Miles O. Price & Harry Bitner, *EFFECTIVE LEGAL RESEARCH* 279 (3d ed., 1969)
2. For an example of a "chunked together" document still on the repository, see, e.g., *Notes and Comments*, <https://scholarship.law.unc.edu/nclr/vol45/iss2/4/> [<https://perma.cc/847S-W7BE>]

IMPROVING ACCESS TO NOTES AND COMMENTS IN DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

◀ cont'd

We decided that while this was not a particularly urgent problem, we wanted to do what we could to help people find these notes. For one, the notes seemed to be about topics still relevant not only to scholars with an interest in the law's development, but also, in some cases, to practitioners looking for summaries of law that had not changed much over time. So we set about our work to create metadata and individual digital objects for each note or comment.

Over the course of six months, I supervised a reference librarian, Allison Symulevich, as she meticulously hand-keyed much of the descriptive metadata for the notes and comments. We had some false starts prior to Allison joining the project, and the final product benefitted greatly from her knowledge of legal sources and attention to detail. I also was able to employ a student worker, Christopher Bishop, to carefully split the large PDF files into individual files.³

By May 2018, we transformed 188 "Notes and Comments" files from the *North Carolina Law Review* into more than 1,700 individual items, each with its own descriptive metadata and PDF file.⁴ The notes and comments stretched from Volume 5 to Volume 62, or from 1926 to 1983, covering 58 years of student contributions.

We have been able to learn a bit about the notes and comments since we completed the project. As one would expect, many of the authors of student notes went on to play important roles in the profession. A sample of twenty-five newly described documents turned up notes by a future U.S. Court of Appeals judge, a future North Carolina Court of Appeals judge and state legislator, and several prominent attorneys.

Likewise, based on download counts, access to the notes themselves has increased. Since September 2017, the newly described notes have been downloaded more than 18,000 times. In the same period, the old chunked-together notes and comments documents were downloaded only 748 times. It turns out that good metadata really does increase accessibility, at least in this case.

Finally, I was able to work with Hein to transfer our work into the HeinOnline Law Journal Library.⁵ That work was just completed in late October, and all subscribers will now be able to access the newly indexed notes. The company has also identified a little more than 1,000 additional "Notes and Comments" sections in other law journals, and they are in the process of putting together a production schedule for work to describe and separate those items. //

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3. For more technical detail, there is an archived video recording of a talk I gave on this project at CALICon18 in June 2018, *Notes & Comments: Unique Resources for the Law School Institutional Repository*, <https://youtu.be/Tk4VoyRt3dA> [<https://perma.cc/4V28-EBPU>].
 4. See *North Carolina Law Review*, https://scholarship.law.unc.edu/nclr/all_issues.html [<https://perma.cc/VR34-JCSD>].
 5. This collection contains more than 2,600 law journals, many with article level metadata since inception. See *Law Journal Library*, <https://home.heinonline.org/content/law-journal-library/> [<https://perma.cc/6G6W-7JLP>]. For more information on the origins of HeinOnline, see Joe Gerken, *The Invention of HeinOnline*, AALL SPECTRUM, Feb. 2014, at 17.

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DEADLINES FOR THE 2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR

We rely on member contributions to keep the *ALL-SIS Newsletter* going strong. We welcome your comments, questions, and ideas to help make this quarterly schedule a reality.

Are you organizing or presenting at an event of interest to your academic law library colleagues? Is your library working on a special project? Have you recently attended a professional development activity and learned something new to share? Or are you just eager to speak out about an issue of concern to academic law librarians?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, please contribute! Member News announcements may also be submitted to the column editors, or directly to the *ALL-SIS Newsletter* Editor.

The remaining submission deadline for the 2018-2019 academic year will be—

- Summer issue: (posts mid-June): May 20, 2019

GENERAL INFORMATION

ALL-SIS was established in 1979 to promote interest in and to address issues of common concern to those employed in academic law libraries. The SIS serves as the umbrella organization for all interests—administration, collection development, consortia, directors, fees for service, interlibrary loan, public services, technical services, middle management, etc.

ALL-SIS provides opportunities for all librarians to contribute to the overall betterment of the entire academic law community. ALL-SIS has grown to approximately 1,200 members and is the largest SIS in AALL. Our members come from all aspects of academic law librarianship. Because of the SIS's broad coverage and subtopic focus, all those working in academic law libraries can benefit from membership and are encouraged to join.