

WHAT DO THE RECIPIENTS HAVE TO SAY?

The 2015 winner, Atarino A. Helleisar, is Chief Law Librarian of the Supreme Court for the Federated States of Micronesia

“I am happy to say I made many connections that will likely last throughout my career. The opportunity to connect with government and special law librarians... enhanced the value of the experience.”



“The opportunity to talk with other law librarians from all over the country convinced me that, regardless of library type, we all share a common commitment to provide our library patrons with the best possible access to the law. The face-to-face contact – the human connection – was truly my favorite part of the conference.”

“With shrinking budgets and rising costs, the FSM Supreme Court law libraries are challenged to successfully meet the legal information needs of the regions we serve.... In the Exhibit Hall, I met face-to-face with vendors and previewed new products and services. I also spent most of my time visiting booths where I had the chance to talk to publishers on ideas for collection development, and also on how they can help by providing services to the law libraries in the Pacific, especially here in Micronesia.... I attended other presentations that were very useful.... The presentation titled *Increase Your Library's Resources and Enhance Your Outreach Efforts Without New Funding: Using the AGLI Model* was an interesting session where the speakers shared... ways to ease [financial] strain by building new information-sharing networks...”

The 2014 winner, Irene Kraft, is Associate Library Officer in the International Criminal Court Library in The Hague, Netherlands

“I very much appreciate [FCIL-SIS members’] genuine interest in my own professional context and their generosity in sharing their experiences.”

“... having the opportunity to share our library’s vision with an expert audience, gave me priceless feedback on how to tackle the challenges ahead, and reconfirmed my conviction that the ICC Library can provide a valuable service to the FCIL community as a whole by disseminating and facilitating access to international criminal law materials.”

“My conference week was an intense experience and a perfect mix of business and pleasure.... This was only my second trip to the United States, and the first to Texas.... I managed to fit in a visit to the Alamo and a walk along the Riverwalk before joining fellow first-time attendees for the CONELL welcome dinner. The week came to a fascinating finish with a two-day stopover in Austin and the University of Texas School of Law following Jonathan Pratter’s kind invitation to visit the Tarlton Law Library.”



The 2013 winner, Bård Tuset, is Head of the Library at the Department of Public and International Law at the University of Oslo Library

“Since I was lucky enough to be awarded the Schaffer Grant, I had the opportunity to attend the AALL Annual Meeting; that would otherwise not have been possible.”

“...since the AALL Annual Meeting is easily the biggest law library conference in the world, it offers unparalleled opportunities for learning from colleagues and networking.”



“While I was preparing my presentation on Nordic legal cooperation and researching Nordic law, I discussed the topic with... faculty members here in Oslo. All of them agreed that the subject was interesting... Nordic legal cooperation is very interesting as a legal and historical phenomenon, and it highlights many traits of the Nordic legal systems... I learned a lot while preparing the talk and hopefully it proved interesting to those in attendance as well.”

“As a total package the AALL Annual Meeting is unmatched for professional development, sharing new ideas and improving law libraries. Not only do I consider myself very fortunate for having had the opportunity to attend, but my law library will also benefit from the many new ideas that I brought with me from Seattle.”

The 2012 winner, Priya Rai, was the Deputy Librarian In-Charge at the Justice T.P.S. Chawla Library, National Law University Delhi, India:

“... [b]eing the participant, an award recipient at AALL and representing the developing country [such as] India is a great honor and privilege.”

“... AALL provided a platform to share various digital initiatives being done by governmental and non-governmental organizations on legal information and research in India.”

“The experience I witnessed from selection to presentation has strengthened and built the notion of confidence and will help my effort [to] disseminat[e] effective information exchange with my Indian colleagues.”



“... AALL has provided me with the opportunity to connect with a network of experts from various organizations congregate to share their valuable experiences. I hope the new journey of learning continues ... with AALL.”

The 2011 winner, Gloria Orrego Hoyos, was the Legal Reference Librarian and Professor of Law & Legal Research Methods at Biblioteca Max von Buch at the Universidad de San Andrés in Buenos Aires, Argentina:

“... [I had] the privilege to learn about different legal systems at the multiple educational programs and workshops. The knowledge and experience I gained enhanced the services and legal reference offered at the Max von Buch Library at the Universidad de San Andrés, resulting in benefits for other librarians, students, teachers and all users of the library.”



“... the exchange of experiences and informal talks with the different attendees gave me infinite networking opportunities, which has already proved to be very useful in promoting the cooperative efforts between the Max von Buch Library and other libraries’ associates.”

“... after returning to Argentina, I conducted several workshops presenting the experience and knowledge gained to my colleagues at the Max von Buch Library as well as to the librarians who are members of the Asociación de Bibliotecarios Jurídicos and the Consortia.”

“Winning the grant was the high point of a journey that began years ago. As an immigrant I always looked for an opportunity to legitimize my work and to publicize professional librarianship in Latin America. Attending the conference and presenting gave me the confidence to write in academic journals and to take my work to another level.”

The 2010 winner, Ufuoma Lamikanra, headed the Readers’ Services Section at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies at the University of Lagos in Nigeria:

“My attendance at AALL Annual Meeting opened up a lot of networking opportunities for me and my library.”

“By working closely with the contacts that I have made at this conference, the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies library is working in close cooperation with a major U.S. legal publisher to preserve Nigerian legal materials, through their offer of free digitalization of our publications. Plans are on, and in the not too distant future, Nigerian legal materials and possibly some African legal materials will become more easily accessible to legal researchers on electronic legal databases.”



“That American law librarians combine teaching legal research skills to law students with information delivery services has shown me how librarians in Nigeria can improve their image by becoming teachers of legal information skills. I have to convince my Institute management that Librarians are capable of doing much more than conducting Library Tours.”

“I have been thinking and hope that the problem of collection development in Nigerian libraries can be partly overcome if one can find a cheap means of transporting weeded books from the US libraries back home. “

The 2009 winner, Ahmadullah Masoud, worked as Law Library and Legal Research Advisor at US AID funded Afghanistan Rule of Law Stabilisation Program:



“... the experience brought great changes to my mind and new visions. The knowledge I gained has been useful not only to me but also to my nation.”

“Participation in AALL conference, its workshops and trainings has proved to be vital and very fruitful for me, since regular professional training is non-existent in my country; it was the best chance for me to gain practical experience.”

The 2008 winner, Leanne Cummings, served as the Australian National Library Manager:

“The Grant afforded the opportunity to meet with leaders in the American Law Librarian field and provided an international forum from which I could network, learn and discuss concepts and hear of other's experiences. From this experience, I have acquired a broader understanding of issues and trends in law libraries across the globe and am more attuned to changes abroad with the view to anticipate similar challenges and or trends occurring within the Australian landscape.”

“I look to the American Law Library Industry to extract various trends and concepts as part of my strategic planning process both as a Library Manager and in my capacity as National President, Australian Law Librarians' Association.”



“It was a wonderful, exciting and very rewarding experience and I do hope that many more international librarians are provided with the same professional development opportunity.”

The 2007 winner, Cheng Zhen, worked at the National Library of China:



“After returning to China, I gave a presentation about the AALL conference to share my experiences from the U.S. With the help of Library Society of China, we hosted three seminars on library government information services; one at the Annual Conference of China Society in 2008 and another one in a public library. I was invited to coordinate these three seminars, and I believe that my experience of attending AALL influenced the planning of the seminars.”

“The FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians was so important for me; without it, I would have never had the opportunity to work with so many law librarians from other countries. “

The 2006 winner, Hind Al-Helaly, worked at the American University in Cairo Law Library in Technical Services:

“Being the 2006 FCIL Schaffer Grant recipient was an unforgettable experience for me That experience has reflected on me, my career and my whole life.”

“It was the first time for me to visit the United States. I really loved it. Americans are very friendly, helpful and respectable people. My favorite thing about Americans was their faith; they believe in everything they do and respect it. I really appreciate to have had the chance to connect with so many great people.”

The 2003 winner, Emmanuel M. Darkey, worked at the University of Ghana Law Library – Faculty of Law:

“The grant offers an invaluable opportunity for young Librarians in developing countries to learn new things about other Libraries.”



“The conference I attended greatly imparted new ideas and improved my skills. The various activities, the visits and the interactions with senior colleagues gave me encouragement and determination to do something new for my library. Now, my library has computers and on-line materials. I feel satisfied to see our students being able to access valuable information. “

“Not too long ago, the Dean of my Faculty needed important information for a report. I e-mailed a colleague in Chicago, whom I met at the Seattle conference, and with whom I am still in communication, and the next day the information was in my mail.”

“The conference has also bolstered my confidence and now I write articles in International Journals.”

The 2001 winner, Sania Battalova from Kyrgyz Republic, was the Director of Information Resources and Technology at the American University of Central Asia:

“With all my confidence I can say that winning Ellen Schaffer Grant was a great step ahead in my professional carrier development, and the ideas I was inspired with at the conference influenced the library services development in my country. “

“The experience and knowledge I shared with my colleagues after the conference helped us to organize and develop a network of law libraries (Library Centers for Legal Information network) which has covered now all regions in our country. The network is still working, developing and is well known in Kyrgyzstan.”



“I also can say that the ideas of the libraries cooperation I found during my visit to US in 2001 influenced the process of creating the Kyrgyz Libraries Information Consortium in 2002. The Consortium is one of the most powerful organizations in the country at the library area, and I am happy to serve as a President and a Vice-president of the Consortium.”