Ms. Priya Rai is the Deputy Librarian In-Charge at the Justice T.P.S. Chawla Library, National Law University in Delhi, India.

Since 2009, she has been responsible for providing legal information services to law students & faculty. She conducts legal research training at the National Law University in Delhi. She contributed to the Legal Information Institute of India Project where she provides legal research services to attorneys, judges, and members of the Parliament. Ms. Rai is a member of the IALL & the SLA. She is a life member of the Delhi Library Association and has published extensively.

Ms. Rai’s recent interests focus on library automation and information management in a globalized digital era. She fronted the first Int’l Conference on Access to Legal Information & Research in the Digital Age addressing the future of law libraries and information centers.

Ms. Rai looks forward to the 2012 conference and to meeting legal information professionals from around the world. She hopes to learn about different service models addressing the gap between researchers and law librarians.
What Past Recipients Have to Say

2003 - Emmanuel M. Darkey from Ghana is currently at the University of Ghana Law Library—Faculty of Law: “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 online materials. I feel satisfied to see our students being able to access valuable information.”

2004 - Sonia Battalova from Kyrgyz Republic is currently the Director of Information Resources and Technology at the American University of Central Asia: “… winning the Ellen Schaffer Grant was a great step ahead in my professional career 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 which has now covered all regions in our country.”

2008 - Leanne Cummings from Australia is currently the Australian National Library Manager: “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 and with the view to anticipate similar challenges and or trends occurring within the Australian landscape.”

2009 - Ahmadullah Masoud from Afghanistan is currently Law Library and Legal Research Advisor at the US AID funded Afghanistan Rule of Law Stabilisation Program: “Participation in the AALL conference, its workshops and trainings have proved to be vital and very fruitful for me, since regular training is non-existent in my country; it was the best chance for me to gain practical experience.”

2010 - Ufuomo Lamikanra from Nigeria is currently heading the Readers’ Services Section at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies at the University of Lagos in Nigeria: “By working closely with the contacts I have made at the conference, the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies is working in close cooperation with a major U.S. legal publisher to preserve Nigerian legal materials … 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 databases.”

2007 - Cheng Zhen is currently at the National Library of China: “The FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Librarians was so important for me; without it, I would never have had the opportunity to work with so many law librarians from other countries.”

2011 - Gloria M. Orrego Hoyos from Argentina is currently at the Biblioteca Max von Buch, Universidad de San Andrés in Buenos Aires: “… exchange of experiences and informal talks with the different attendees gave me an infinite networking opportunities, which has proved to be very useful in promoting the cooperative efforts between the Max von Buch Library and other libraries’ associates …. 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.”

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The FCIL-SIS Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians was founded in 2000 with matching contributions from Ellen G. Schaffer and the AALL. The Grant provides financial assistance to ensure the presence and participation of a foreign librarian at the AALL Annual Meeting. Foreign attendees enrich AALL events by sharing global perspectives for the benefit of all participants.