From the Editors

Dear Fellow GD-SIS Members,

Both the calendar and thermometer indicate that summer has arrived, and we hope you’re able to take advantage of the season’s perks — and eschew its hazards. In this issue of Jurisdocs, we have a multitude of reports from activities across the country, so enjoy learning about the many initiatives and opportunities underway in the world of government documents.

Looking ahead to the next issue, as usual, we welcome reports and highlights from attendees of this year’s upcoming AALL Annual Meeting. As you know, the conference schedule is quite full, and these reports will help inform members who can’t be there to experience all the sessions.

See you in Austin!

Sincerely,

Stacy Fowler and Michael Umberger,

Your Editors
Summer time is here again. I am not quite sure how it came along so fast.

This has been a year of change. We have a new president, and with him, many new government officials. New laws and regulations are on the horizon. A new generation of government digital access systems (Hello, govinfo!) and new government document formats (XML legislative branch bulk downloads, and Budgets via mobile app!) are coming online. Some of us have new neighbors—Government Publishing Office and Office of Federal Register are now in the same building! New awards: congratulations to GPO for winning six 2016 American Graphic Design Awards from Graphic Design USA magazine! New initiatives such as FIPNET, passports, new Ben’s Guide to the U.S. Government (I was lucky enough to hang out with two Bens on the brown carpet at the DLC meeting this past fall), and even a new Style Manual! Personally, I am enjoying UNT Dallas College of Law’s being the newest law school, granted ABA provisional accreditation just this month. My emotions surged up and down with all of these changes.

In the end, I am left to contemplate everything that has occurred over the last few years. One thing on which my mind has dwelt is all the documentation my law school generated and the procedures we used to create that content during our progress toward accreditation. For those of you unfamiliar with the accreditation process, the documents needed to show evidence of compliance with the ABA Standards easily fill four or five 2+ inch binders – it’s like our own version of the Congressional Record! If a relatively small 350 student law school generates that much documentation, how many documents does the federal government produce each year? While I am unable to answer that last question, the GPO 2016 Annual Report provided me with some mindboggling statistics of what they did last year:

- Titles available in FDsys and Govinfo: 1.6 million (360+% increase from 2010)
- Documents retrieved from FDsys: 499 million
- Tangible items distributed to FDLP libraries: 989,826
- Titles cataloged: 17,783
- Passports produced: 20.1 million (32.9% increase since last year)
- Secure Credential Cards: 12.9 million
I forget, at times, how much GPO does. I commend GPO for their hard work and productivity. I also commend all of the government documents librarians who work with GPO, be it partnering to provide digitization services or helping patrons with documents out in the wild.

My year as Chair of GD-SIS is quickly drawing to a close. I enjoyed my time tremendously, especially getting to know the members of GD-SIS. We all worked to create what is, in my humble opinion, one of the greatest communities in the library world. Thank you all for being part of it. I also want to thank all of the volunteers, committee chairs, and board members who have worked for the SIS this year. You are all spectacular!

I hope to see you all in Austin in July!
I look forward to seeing many of you in Austin! Make sure to mark your calendars for the GD-SIS sponsored program Tuesday morning directly after the Business Meeting and Breakfast.

We have an incredible lineup of speakers who will discuss current projects involving collaborative efforts between law libraries and various partners to ensure public access to legal materials. Peggy Jarrett will lead the way as moderator for the panel consisting of Margie Maes, Beth Williams, and Kim Dulin. After each makes brief remarks, audience members will work together to brainstorm additional projects currently in the works or potential future projects aimed at preserving key legal collections.

For more information visit the conference website here: https://eventmobi.com/aall2017/agenda/213084/1115794

Law Libraries Collaborating to Steward National Legal Collections
Tuesday, July 18
8:30-9:30am
ACC-Room 19AB

Also check out the annual AALL Public Policy Update with Richard Leiter, Pam Brandon, Emily Feltren, and Erik Beck: https://eventmobi.com/aall2017/agenda/213084/1115807
Sunday, July 16
4:00-5:00pm
ACC-Room 19AB
The annual conference of The Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI) is the intersection of law school information technology, legal education instructional technology, and teaching substantive law and practical aspects of law using technology. This year’s meeting was hosted by the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University, at their one year old building in downtown Phoenix.

This year’s CALIcon opened as upbeat as the title and promotional material advertised with a drum circle, facilitated by John Fitzgerald. During the course of the hour, he used the collective drum beating as a metaphor of how we can handle change—getting back in sync or going off on our own beat. He also showed how, with a little coaching, a new talent could strive alone, carrying on the beat when everyone else suddenly stopped.

An invigorating drum circle is a hard act to follow, but the keynote speaker, Michael Caulfield, was up to the challenge. He provided a broad, high-level view of how education should adapt to online resources, which form communities, so students get meaningful, practical impact. One simple example he gave was how beneficial students work can be if applied to real world circumstances, even little things like updating Wikipedia. Thankfully, Caulfield ended on a solid note as he recognized, literally, that he was standing between the audience and our lunch!

While the typical CALIcon program talks about success and failure of adopting the latest technology, there are often programs that go deeper into the philosophical and management theories behind the use of technology. Once such program this year was “How to Talk to Your Dean,” in which Chad Covey, Kris Niedringhaus, Tome Ryan, Courtney l. Selby, and Vicki Szymczak addressed the how to talk tech and the related concerns of its management and funding. Short answer: adapt your communications style to that preferred by your dean, and make sure you have all your facts straight.

CALI consistently works to provide its members schools alternatives to what otherwise could require costly solutions. Both John Meyer, CALI’s Executive Director, and Deb Quentel, Director of Curriculum Development & Associate Counsel, provided updates about CALI efforts, including the newest offering, QuizWright, an online quiz writing and distributing service delivering formative assessment.

The CALI effort that will probably have the largest, long-run impact on law schools is their growing collection of eLangdell books for legal education. This year at UNT Dallas, in our first year Legal Research class, we used the eLangdell title Sources of American Law by Beau Steenken and Tina Brooks of the University of Kentucky. I was sold on the book after the first chapter alone, which answered a problem I have never really thought of before, the hierarchy of authority, which was becoming a real problem in our second and third year research assignments. The authors also culled through the CALI Lessons and identified which ones work best with each chapter of the book. Students can download a Word or PDF file of the book or order a print copy for less than $15.

But at the heart of CALI are its substantive lessons on law that are the organization’s backbone. They have provided formative assessment long before that concept became vogue with the latest ABA Standards. And to learn something about the people behind these lessons, I recommend you attend a CALI conference! CALIcon18 will be in Washington, DC, at the American University Washington College of Law.
The last Advocacy Committee update was written before the Presidential election. At that time, we believed that no matter the outcome, law librarians would have both an “opportunity for renewed commitment to advocacy and a challenge to educate a new Congress and Administration about our issues.” We were right! Here in the spring of 2017, looking ahead to fall and beyond, we have an abundance of opportunities, challenges, and work to do.

In a fundamental way, our advocacy work starts with the budget. President Trump signed H.R. 244, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, on May 5, 2017. This omnibus bill funds the federal government through September 2017. It includes full funding for the Government Publishing Office (GPO) and a $32 million increase for the Library of Congress (LC), which includes a National Collection Stewardship Fund to be used for “preservation and storage facilities,” i.e., compact shelving for the vast and valuable print collection, with $4 million specifically dedicated to Law Library of Congress storage. In addition to GPO and LC, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) received an extra $1 million over FY2016, and the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) received funding at the same level as FY2016.

This is very good news, and our individual and collective advocacy efforts helped make it so. But as soon as we are done raising a glass to FY2017, we need to gear up for FY2018, which will be here before we know it (in just a few months). The President’s America First budget blueprint proposes to eliminate IMLS and LSC, so we need to look sharp. GPO and LC are not mentioned in the blueprint (because they are legislative branch appropriations), but work has already started – on May 3, 2017, AALL submitted written testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch in support of FY2018 funding for GPO and LC. The testimony, available on AALLnet, is worth reading. It nicely summarizes the why and what of our support for GPO and LC: access to trustworthy legal information in print and online, digitization projects and preservation, and continued development of govinfo.gov and Congress.gov.

AALL’s recent testimony also included a statement of support for public access to unclassified, non-confidential Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports. H.R. 2335, the Equal Access to Congressional Research Service Reports Act of 2017, was just introduced, and a companion bill in the Senate should follow soon. H.R. 2335, directs GPO, in consultation with CRS, to “establish and maintain a public website containing CRS Reports and an index of all CRS Reports contained on the website.” This issue is of great interest to GD-SIS members. Although
we use the unofficial free and commercial sources for CRS Reports in our day-to-day work as government information librarians, we understand the problem with taxpayers spending more than $100 million each year to fund CRS without systematic free access to the reports. We can count on being called to take action on the bills as the legislative session progresses – and the AALL Government Relations Office can count on us to step up and follow through.

Many of us stepped this year, in our role as AALL chapter members, to advocate for passage of the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA) in our respective states. Success ensued! Four jurisdictions passed UELMA this year: the District of Columbia, Maryland, Washington State, and West Virginia. That brings the total of UELMA states to seventeen.

Does legislative success inspire you to be more active? Does the challenge of speaking up about government information in uncertain times excite you? When you are reading the news, are you drawn to the articles about the federal budget negotiations because you understand GPO and LC rely on congressional appropriations? Do you believe, as James Madison wrote, that “a popular Government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy?” Want to do something about it?

If so, here’s what to do. If you haven’t already, join the AALL Advocacy Team and subscribe to the advocacy listserv. Read the monthly Washington E-Bulletin. Watch for news updates and alerts. When an alert goes out, take action through the easy-to-use (and effective) Legislative Action Center.

If you will be in Austin in July for the Annual Meeting, consider the Public Policy Update on Sunday, July 16, from 4:00-5:00. And attend the Advocacy Leadership: Skills for Influence and Action on Tuesday, July 18, from 2:30-4:30, where we will have an opportunity to ask questions of experienced AALL advocates and write our members of Congress. Let’s make our voices heard, and while we are at it, let’s thank Emily Feltren, AALL’s Director of Government Relations for her thoughtful, effective, and gracious leadership. We could not do this without her hard work and commitment. Thanks, Emily!
Thanks in part to a generous grant from the Government Documents Special Interest Section, I had the privilege of attending the AALL Management Institute on March 29 - April 1 in Chicago, Illinois. Bright and early on Tuesday, 50+ colleagues and I gathered to embark on 3 days of intensive discussion and review of management practices. There was a great mixture of both firm and academic law librarians in attendance, and experience varying from new managers to directors.

The Management Institute sessions were facilitated by Maureen Sullivan, who brought a wealth of experience and research, making the sessions both practical and engaging. After introductions, the first day's topics included principles and practices of leadership, managerial leadership and staff engagement. During the morning session we worked in small groups that were punctuated by larger discussions. The goal was to examine the various roles and responsibilities of a manager, differences between managing and leadership and techniques to do both. The afternoon sessions delved into techniques and tools to motivate and empower staff. The day's sessions were an important reminder that librarians often must balance two career development paths, being a librarian and being a manager.

The next day started with a quick recap and follow-up session of the previous day's topics. Then the program dove back into new topics to enhance our management skills. We discussed the importance of developing and maintaining interpersonal relationships. This focused on the importance of being able to identify mentorship and coaching opportunities. We were reminded not just sit back but to actively pursue such opportunities. The remaining sessions of that day included discussions of the tools for effective communication, handling conflicts, negotiating and strategic management.

The final day focused on how to create change and setting up goals and plans to implement the new tools that we learned over the course of the previous days. A unique aspect of the institute was the opportunity to get practical advice from peers, as well as more experienced librarians and managers. This allowed us to work on actual (as opposed to hypothetical) situations faced in the workplace as a manager. This really enhanced the applicability of the information we learned. The Management Institute was a great experience. It provided a strong theoretical approach to management but was also grounded in the practical. I would recommend it to anyone interested.

My Takeaways:

- Communication is one of the most important tools for a manager.

- Leadership can take many forms. It is important to understand your strengths and weakness as a leader and evaluate how these attributes can be best used in a variety of situations.

- The only person that you can change is yourself and your actions; however, you can set up conditions that lead to change in others or in organizations.
AALL sponsored a one day conference at Boston University School of Law on December 2, 2016. To quote the description of the program, “The goal of the conference was to bring together legal information professionals, policymakers, copyright experts, and others to explore policy and practical issues related to copyrighted state legal materials and discuss possible solutions to ensure more state legal information is in the public domain.”

While there is an exclusion from copyright protection under section 105 of the Copyright Act for the publications and works of the U.S. Government, there is no express provision about state materials. In fact, several states have asserted their right to claim a copyright interest in their publications, especially their compiled statutes and regulations. The recent litigation between Fastcase and Casemaker over Casemaker’s copyright assertions on behalf of the state of Georgia for that state’s administrative code is one of many examples.

Here are just a couple highlights from the conference:

The keynote was given was by Corynne McSherry, Legal Director, Electronic Frontier Foundation. Of increasing concern for her is the incorporation by reference into administrative codes, both Federal and state levels, and local ordinances standards written by standards developing organizations (SDO). One example is the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials who draft standards for building inspection, plumbing, and solar energy. The government body adopts the standards, but instead of including the standards line for line into the administrative code or ordinances, they merely cite the standard and say it has the same power as other content of the code. The SDOs retain their copyright, seeking to earn income selling the standards to members and the public. Little provision is made for public access to the standard, except maybe a print copy deposited, as with the U.S. Archives for standards incorporated into the Code of Federal Regulations. Non-profits such as Public.Resources.Org are seeking to remedy this by capturing these standards and publishing them for public access. The question is how the courts will settle the conflict.

Kyle Courtney, Copyright Advisor at Harvard University, shared his findings, which can be found at the State Copyright Resource Center, a website created by the Copyright at Harvard Library office. The website is a map of the United States that reviews the copyright status of state government documents, coding the states in red, orange, yellow, or green, spanning from a presumption of copyright to a presumption that materials are in the public domain, or somewhere in between.

The conference provided much more content about this topic that you can discover for yourself, thanks to the recordings of the conference’s proceedings available to AALL members at the conference website.
A Law Librarian Goes to ALA Legislative Day

Larry Meyer
Director
Law Library for San Bernardino County

In early May, I had the opportunity to attend ALA Legislative Day in Washington, D.C., as a member of the California delegation. Legislative Day is actually 2 – 3 days, typically during the first week of May.

On Monday, the first day (“Briefing Day”), we were welcomed to D.C. by unseasonably hot and humid weather as we gathered in an equally humid and packed meeting room at the Liaison Hotel for the opening orientation activities. Speakers included the President of ALA, the President of the D.C. librarians, the Chair of the ALA legislative committee, various ALA policy experts and our keynote speaker.

The keynote speaker and her topic were of great interest to this law librarian. Hina Shamsi serves as the Director of the National Security Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Amongst the topics she covered were her own experiences with the (proposed) travel ban when it was temporarily in force, her perception of what may happen to those covered by DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), the freedom to read and receive ideas and issues surrounding surveillance.

Following Ms. Shamsi’s presentation, the day continued with a moderated panel and question and answer opportunity on the primary issues ALA hoped attendees would cover in their Tuesday (and Wednesday) meetings with members of Congress and/or their respective staffs. While many of the issues would have been on the list to discuss with Congress, there was added urgency since many of those issues would be affected by the “skinny” budget proposed by the President; therefore, there were continuing negotiations regarding the extension of the 2016-2017 budget to the end of the Federal Fiscal Year. (As an FYI, by the time Wednesday’s meetings were held, the budget extension had been agreed to, to the relief of most of the library community.)

Topics covered in the panel included funding and reauthorization issues for library related agencies and activities (Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL)), broadband funding, continued support for the E-rate program, “Net Neutrality” protections, support for public access to government data and taxpayer funded research (for example, the CRS reports), modernization of the Copyright Office (and ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty) and privacy and surveillance issues.
Most of the speaker/panel members were ALA Washington staff speaking on matters within their subject expertise. The reports were both interesting and educational in nature. As an active member of AALL, it was a helpful reinforcement to learn that, in many cases, the interests of the greater librarian community dovetail nicely with our community’s. I also realized how many of the AALL group have expertise on topics that could be of benefit to the greater community.

Upon the conclusion of the morning session and lunch, the first part of the afternoon was devoted to the nuts and bolts of advocacy, where attendees could choose to attend one of two breakout sessions. The final “program” of “Briefing Day” was built around a theme familiar to many of us who read the Washington Post: “Democracy Dies in Darkness,” a motto prominent on the Post website. This interesting program included Molly Roberts, Digital Producer for Opinions from the Post, who, along with the other panelists, spoke about how to help editorial boards shed light on library-related issues.

The following day began the Congressional visits. The Inland Empire of California, where I live and work, has a total of 8 Congressional districts fully or partially within the region. This is in addition to our two U.S. Senators. Beforehand, I had scheduled visits with the two Congressional members who represent sections of my city, along with a staff member and two staffers for two of the other districts in the region. (Two of the districts, primarily centered in other counties, were handled by delegation members from those counties.)

As many of you know, meeting a member or staff, when representing library interests, can be fairly friendly. After all, everyone likes libraries. This proved true for both the scheduled meetings as well as the literature drops. For a number of the meetings, I was accompanied by an MLIS student from California. The meetings were generally short and to the point. In every case, we were able to cover the majority of the points ALA hoped to have covered, as well as additional comments on funding for GPO. The final Tuesday meeting was with a small group of librarians from around the state who met as a group with one of Senator Kamala Harris’ staff. For those of who may not be familiar with Senator Harris, she is California’s newest Senator and began her term earlier this year. As suggested at the beginning of this paragraph, those we spoke with were genuinely interested in the topics and discussion.

In addition to my scheduled meetings with two house members, the California delegation was scheduled to attend Senator Dianne Feinstein’s Wednesday breakfast. Unfortunately, that meeting will have to be another time. The breakfast was cancelled due to the Senator’s need to be at a Congressional hearing the following morning. Late Tuesday, the news broke that agreement had been reached on funding, so the funding discussion in the meetings with the two members on Wednesday focused more on continuing needs for the next fiscal year, to begin October 1st, in addition to the other items mentioned in previous meetings.

The bottom line is the trip proved to be quick, busy and productive. I would highly recommend that law librarians, especially those of us involved with Government Documents, make the effort to attend ALA Legislative Day in addition to our advocacy efforts in support of AALL and our specific issues. Congressional members and their staffs do wish to hear from their constituents, and what better way than to do so in person in D.C.?
GD-SIS Grants

The grants committee, consisting of Pat Behles, chair, Erik Beck and Katie Lewis, met virtually this spring to award three grants to the annual AALL meeting in Austin. It was a difficult decision as there were multiple qualified candidates from which to choose.

The Veronica Maclay student grant of $1000 was awarded to:

Elizabeth Manriquez, J.D., an M.L.I.S. Candidate (August 2017) at the University of Washington and an intern at the Marian Gould Gallagher Law Library.

The two member grants of $1250 each were awarded to:

Lacy Rakestraw, Director, St. Louis County Law Library, St. Louis County Courthouse, Clayton, MO.

Gregory Wurzer, Associate Librarian, Law Library, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK. Look for Gregory at the meeting in Austin. He is eager to share information about documents in Canada.

Congratulations to all grant recipients—we look forward to reading your reports in the next issue of Jurisdocs!
OFFICERS

Chair: Jenny Wondracek  
Jennifer.Wondracek@untsystem.edu

Vice-Chair/Chair: Cate Kellett  
cate.kellett@yale.edu

Secretary/Treasurer: Rebecca Kunkel  
rkunkel@kinoy.rutgers.edu

Past Chair: Kate Irwin-Smiler  
irwinsc@wfu.edu

Advocacy Committee: Peggy Jarrett  
pjarrett@uw.edu

FDLP Task Force Committee: Taryn Marks  
tlmarks@law.ufl.edu

Grants Committee: Pat Behles  
pbehles@ubalt.edu

Listserv Owner: Michael Samson  
ad4092@wayne.edu

Member-at-Large: Charlotte Schneider  
eds153@camden.rutgers.edu

Nominations Committee: Kate Irwin-Smiler  
irwinsc@wfu.edu

Program Committee: Cate Kellett  
cate.kellett@yale.edu

Public Relations Committee: Shannon Roddy  
roddy@wcl.american.edu

Publications Committee: Emily Carr  
ecarr@loc.gov

Webmaster: Erik Beck  
erik.beck@colorado.edu

Adie the Eagle

Government Documents Special Interest Section
American Association of Law Libraries