

Government Law Librarians (formerly State, Court, County) Special Interest Section 2014-2015 Strategic Directions Committee Annual Report

Members:

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The Section's most recent strategic directions were set to expire in 2015, so the Committee was charged with developing new ones. The group began by reviewing the current AALL Strategic Directions for 2013-2016, as well as those of the other type-of-library Special Interest Sections. It sought input from the strategic directions chairs of the other type-of-library SIS's on their processes, and also consulted SCCLL member and strategic planning expert Gail Warren. The Committee made two preliminary recommendations: that the Section's directions should continue to closely track those of AALL, and that the time span for the directions should change from the previous five years to three years, as is now the case for AALL's directions. These approaches were accepted by the Executive Board.

The next step was to develop a survey to solicit member input on what was most important to SCCLL members. An announcement of the survey was posted on the SCCLL list, with a link to the survey on SurveyMonkey. Several follow-up announcements were also posted. A total of 71 responses were received (16.66% of the membership). While this seemed like a somewhat low response, the survey was detailed and had many open-ended questions, to which very thoughtful answers were received. The Committee reviewed and analyzed the results, and the Chair prepared an article for the Section newsletter reporting on the results.

Next, the Committee grouped the major trends from the survey under AALL's Strategic Directions of Authority, Advocacy, and Education. It was found that some adjustment was needed in order to fully accommodate all of the areas that members recognized as important, so the group altered the third direction to "Education and Networking." The Committee formed teams in order to draft the specific objectives for each direction as well as an updated mission statement. These were reviewed and commented upon by committee members and then a final version was submitted to and approved by the Board.

Finally, the Chair prepared a recommended timeline for future revisions of the Strategic Directions.