



**GOVERNMENT LAW LIBRARIES
SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION**



REPORT OF THE GLL-SIS FUNDING TASK FORCE COMMITTEE 2023-2024

GLL Chair Karen Westwood appointed a Funding Task Force to research how public law libraries are funded throughout the country. This will be a two-year task force to produce an interactive database and/or an article for LLJ. Members of the task force are Karen Westwood and Thomas Marsh, Co-chairs, Pauline Afuso, Venita Hoover, Lauren Morrison, Caroline Nevin, Liz Reppe. Halle Eichert began on the task force but withdrew due to other demands on her time and attention.

GLL Funding Task Force

Purpose:

To create a freely available database of information that is both broad (encompassing all of the US and Canada) and detailed with respect to how government/court/county law libraries (GLLs) are currently funded.

Rationale for the Project:

There is no existing inventory of how government/court/county bar law libraries (GLLs) are authorized and funded in the US and Canada, and there is no coordinated sharing of knowledge about primary and ancillary funding streams available to support the work of GLLs. In order to provide access to this information – and to ensure that it can be updated in real time going forward -- the AALL GLL-SIS Task Force on Funding proposes to locate and provide this data in a usable format for anyone to access.

Outcome Expectations:

A freely accessible database that will allow library directors to explore how other law libraries are funded and what ancillary revenue streams and/or arguments have proven successful in raising funds.

Specifically:

1. Data with respect to funding sources/models currently in use in the US and Canada
2. Data with respect to per-capita (by population served) funding
3. Feedback on successful initiatives to increase primary funding streams
4. Feedback on experiences with ancillary funding streams

The task force met several times throughout the year and used an earlier spreadsheet which was apparently created by the Law Librarians Working Group of the Self-Represented Litigation Network and subsequently updated by SCCLL-SIS (the precursor to GLL-SIS). The most recent spreadsheet we located was dated 2012 and we worked throughout the year to update it.



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At the AALL Annual Meeting (Chicago, July 2024) the task force created an interactive poster and gathered some ideas from that. Tom Marsh hosted a “discussion den” on the topic and additional ideas were generated there.

The task force anticipates editing the information that’s been gathered so far, contacting some law libraries directly for further information and deciding on a finished work product. The anticipated conclusion of the task force’s work is estimated to be in summer of 2025.

Sincerely,

Karen Westwood and Thomas Marsh, Co-Chairs
GLL-SIS Funding Task Force