



LEGAL INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION

LEGAL INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY SIS ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

ANNUAL MEETING

The Legal Innovation and Technology SIS (LIT-SIS) business meeting will be held virtually after the AALL Annual Meeting on August 6, 2024. LIT-SIS award winners will be recognized during the virtual LIT-SIS Annual Meeting. Our Annual Meeting Program Planning Committee, chaired by Syd Stephenson, sponsored a proposal for the annual conference: Law Librarians as Knowledge Workers: Applying Cal Newport's Key Ideas to Law Librarianship, which was accepted by the AMPC. Other activities at the in-person annual meeting included representation at the CONELL marketplace, a poster in the exhibit hall, a roundtable entitled "Are Students Ready for AI Assistance? Perspectives on Mandated Optional and Restricted Use of AI in Legal Research Courses", and a social event held jointly with GLL-SIS at CALI HQ at Chicago-Kent College of Law.

ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGIES COMMITTEE

Chair: Ryan S. Overdorf

There was no Committee project this year because it got overtaken by events. The intended Committee project was collecting a list of AALL member institutions that had web accessibility policies. This was superseded by the Justice Department issuing regulations that make web accessibility mandatory for many AALL member institutions. A list of policies is now redundant.

ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chair: Syd Stephenson

The Annual Meeting Program Planning Committee worked on a few projects throughout the year. During the Fall 2023 semester, the committee reviewed and selected two conference proposals for LIT-SIS to

sponsor at the 2024 Annual Meeting in Chicago. One of these two programs was selected (The Power of Deep Work and Slow Productivity: Strategies for Law Librarians in the Age of Distraction). Additionally, the committee proposed the annual Cool Tools session, which was also selected as a conference program. To encourage AALL members to volunteer to present at Cool Tools, the committee worked with the coordinator of the FCIL Cool Tools program to put on a coffee chat titled “Cool Cats Present Cool Tools.” This coffee chat was well attended. The Cool Tools program at the 2024 Annual Meeting was very well attended, and 10 speakers presented on their “cool tools.”

BLOG COMMITTEE

Chair: Mari Cheney

This year we featured blog posts by committee members Victoria Swindle, Debbie Ginsberg, Shay Elbaum, Shelby Nivitanont, and Mari Cheney, as well as guest posts by Christopher Collins, Raphael Jackson-Ortiz, Aimee Self Pittman, and Justin Tung.

We updated the blog’s URL to litsis.classcaster.net and subsequently updated the links on our AALL pages. Due to a job change, committee chair Mari Cheney did not have the ability to cross-post on X (formerly known as Twitter) as she’s done before, so the next committee chair should think about whether they’d like to post on Twitter moving forward or other ways to publicize posts.

Based on blog comments, the favorite blog title was, [“Striking Similarities: Law Librarianship and the Art of Bowling.”](#) and the most engaged-with post based on the number of comments was, [“Can Lexis+ AI pass 1L year? An experiment.”](#)

DET COMMITTEE

Chair: Mariah Lewis

The DET Committee met once during the 2023-2024 term. During these meetings the topics of accessibility, digitization, and other areas within digitization and educational technology were discussed. Additionally, the Committee corresponded via email to accomplish committee projects and functions.

Administrative Updates

The Committee continued to streamline DET by utilizing the DET Google Folder to store all committee related information and projects. In an effort to remove ambiguity from the name of the Committee, “DET” was written out on the AALL website to provide more information for those skimming through the website. We hope this will increase interest in the Committee and garner additional participation. The Committee also changed its charge to outline the expectations of the Chair of the DET Committee.

Project Updates

The Committee created a form to collect information from AALL members on what digital platforms they use and created documentation outlining different digital collection vendors. The Committee redistributed a survey regarding digitization vendors to the LIT community and updated the documentation with the responses received since last year. Additionally, the Committee created the Accessible PDF Resources document which outlines a number of different vendors in the area of accessibility and PDF remediation.

Outreach Updates

The primary way the Committee handled outreach was using the LIT AALL community board. It was used in order to get more input on the current resources and new resources offered by DET. Additionally, a note was added to the resources created by DET to let people know how to suggest additions. Surveys were distributed to collect information from libraries and vendors. An email highlighting the resources was also sent after they were updated for the 23-24 year.

The DET Committee partnered with the Adaptive Technologies Committee and wrote and submitted a Discussion Den for the AALL Annual Meeting on the topic of Digital Accessibility in Law Libraries. The proposal was accepted and will be led by current Adaptive Technologies Committee Chair, Ryan S. Overdorf.

Advertising for the DET Committee was also done when sending out surveys to LIT members. A gentle highlighting of what the DET Committee's mission was and when to sign up was included in correspondence.

Looking Ahead

Looking forward, the Committee hopes to utilize an interest form to collect information from AALL members who wish to present on the topics of digitization and educational technology and host presentations throughout the next year. We hope to work on projects previously identified such as: a guide on accessibility/captioning tips and software, other 'one-pagers' with guidance or general information (such as a one-pager for tips on preparing items for digitization), and possibly a list of all the Cool Tools from past years. We would also like to spend the next year reviewing how Generative AI works out in the legal field and identify any possible comparison charts or other resources we could provide for AALL members. We also received feedback in one of our surveys that it would be helpful to outline digital collection collaborations/consortiums, such as the Legal Information Archive, which will be something to look into in the future.

Committee members, in the course of their normal work duties, also found that peers were interested in finding out what other academic law libraries are offering their users in the realm of circulating technologies (e.g., external monitors/keyboards, laptop chargers, noise-canceling headphones, etc.).

Additionally, we hope to add links to particular collections utilizing digital collection platforms on the Digital Collections Platform document.

As always, the DET Committee would like to be larger in order to have broader discussions and more ability to execute presentations and other Committee work.

Awards, Publications, Panels, and Presentations by Committee Members

Mariah Lewis, Panelist, Approaching Accessibility in Your IR, Northeast Institutional Repository Day, November 30, 2023

Mariah Lewis, Panelist, Accessibility & You(r IR), NELLCO Virtual Symposium, March 21, 2024

The DET 2023-2024 Members:

Mariah Lewis, Chair

Abdulrahman Alzahrani

Celia Gavett

Pat Sayre-McCoy

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair: Eliza Boles

I am pleased to report that the LIT-SIS Education Committee accomplished both of its major goals for the 2023-2024 academic year. The first of these goals was to draft and disseminate a survey to LIT-SIS membership regarding the future of the SIS, and how members would most like to participate. In advance of the survey's creation, the Executive Board approved a prize drawing to increase participation. In total, 66 members responded to the survey questions, providing a guidepost for section growth and evolution in the profession.

The second goal of the Committee was to host a virtual webinar or discussion den before the end of the Spring semester. On March 19th, 2024, the Committee hosted "Generative AI in Legal Research: Your Next Professional Obsession" through AALL's virtual learning platform. Over 100 AALL members attended the discussion and all participants expressed interest in repeating the chat in the future. It is worth mentioning that many of the attendees were not current LIT-SIS members, thus increasing our impact on the profession.

I would like to thank committee members Colleen Skinner, Kincaid Brown, Kristie Chamorro, Katie Brown, Khelani Clay, Wei Fang, and Sean Harrington for their contributions to a productive year.



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GRANTS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Chair: Marin Dell

Thank you to all the members of the LIT-SIS Grants and Awards Committee for their work over the past year. The Committee members were: Iain Barksdale, Kristie Chamorro, Debbie Ginsberg, Leanna Simon, Shannon Kemen, Susan Boland, and Dinah Minkoff (Board Liaison).

2024 Kenneth J. Hirsh Distinguished Service Award

Jennifer L. Wondracek, Director of the Law Library & Professor of Legal Research & Writing, Capital University Law Library

2024 ABA TECHSHOW Travel Grant \$1000

Aimee Self Pittman, Reference and Legal Research Librarian, LSU Law School

2024 AALL Leadership Academy Grant \$1000

Christopher Collins, Research & Emerging Technologies Librarian, Western New England University School of Law

2024 AALL Annual Meeting Grant for Experienced Librarians \$1000

Brandi Ledferd, Manager, Technical Services, Library & Research Services, K&L Gates LLP

2024 AALL Annual Meeting Grant for Student/Newer Librarians \$1000

Debra Jobes, Legal Research, Gaming Industry Lead, Regology.

JOBS DESCRIPTION DATABASE COMMITTEE

Chair: Tawnya Plumb

In September, the LIT-SIS Executive Board decided to sunset the Job Description Database Committee in response to AALL leadership concerns on potential copyright infringement of content shared within the database. Thanks to everyone who has previously led and served on this committee.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: Christopher Collins

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I would like to thank the Committee, Shay Elbaum and Gordon Russell, for the successful completion of our work. We collected enough nominations for a full slate of candidates for the LIT-SIS Executive Board's two open positions. After the LIT-SIS election, Tanya S. Thomas was elected Vice-Chair and Julie Tedjeske Crane was elected Member-at-Large.

RECRUITMENT & INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs: Laura Dixon Caldwell and Jennifer Gonzalez

The LIT Recruitment & Involvement Committee consisted of Laura Dixon Caldwell (Co-Chair), Jennifer Gonzalez (Co-Chair), and Eliza Boles. This committee got a late start and had all new members. We have met several times since October, especially preparing for AALL as the major recruitment event. The committee planned the poster and giveaways for the AALL conference in July, as well as coverage of the table and promotion of our AALL events. The banner from previous years was lost, so a new one was ordered. The committee will meet at AALL and discuss further recruitment events.

OFFICERS

The 2023-24 Executive Board included Chair: Brian Huffman; Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect: Michael Robak; Secretary/Treasurer: Rebecca Fordon; Members-at-Large: Dinah Minkoff and Matthew Braun; and Immediate-Past Chair: Will Monroe.

The 2024-25 Executive Board will be Chair: Michael Robak; Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect: Tanya Thomas; Secretary/Treasurer: Rebecca Fordon; Members-at-Large: Matthew Braun and Julie Tedjeske Crane; and Immediate-Past Chair: Brian Huffman.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Huffman, LIT-SIS Chair, 2023-24