The 2023-2024 LSRD-SIS Executive Board members were Rebecca Bearden, Chair; Joe Cera, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect; Keiko Okuhara, Past Chair; Sam Cabo, Secretary/Treasurer; and Keelan Weber and Bee Bornheimer, Members-at-Large. The LSRD-SIS committee chairs are Christopher Thomas, OCLC Committee; Keiko Okuhara, Local Systems Committee; Rebecca Bearden/Joe Cera, Education Committee; Lauren Seney, Nominating Committee; Larissa Sullivant, Membership Committee; Chi Song, Web Advisory Committee; Joe Cera, and a new Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee. There is one LSRD-SIS and TS-SIS joint committee, Funding Research Opportunities Grants (FROG) Committee chaired by Jessie Tam.

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee

Creating a new strategic plan per the past chair’s recommendation, the strategic planning committee was formed to achieve the goals set forth in the revised object adapted in June 2023. Chaired by the Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, the committee was charged with a 3-year plan with 3 stages: reflection, planning, and action. The committee met several times throughout the year, where they reflected upon various aspects of the SIS. The Strategic Planning committee successfully went over Part II: Object of LSRD in the Bylaws and discussed ways that we are currently supporting these ideas and ways that we could be supporting these ideas in the future.

Increased Communication and Collaboration with TS-SIS

Due to the nature of LSRD-SIS and TS-SIS, and the countless ways they intersect, it was recommended both within the strategic planning and education committees to take action to increase communication and collaboration between the SIS’s. LSRD SIS Chair, Rebecca Bearden began having monthly meetings with Shawn King, Chair of TS-SIS, which will be put on the LSRD-SIS procedures for future chairs as a continued practice. These meetings allowed both chairs to keep each other up to date on relevant issues and initiatives, and to assist one another in many ways. One outcome of these discussions between groups led to creating a joint position starting in July 2024. A member of both SIS’ will be appointed each year to both the LSRD-SIS Education Committee and TS-SIS Professional Development Committee to serve as a liaison to communicate programming activities and ideas to increase collaboration.

Website Updates
The Members-at-Large worked closely with Chris Siwa at AALL Headquarters to migrate the Areas of Interest Guide to the LSRD-SIS website from an institution owned LibGuide. In addition, they made some updates and improvements, in hopes to increase accessibility and use of this resource.

The Web Advisory Committee also began a comprehensive review of the current website. The overarching goal is to enhance user experience by improving access to relevant information by consolidating related content, removing outdated/duplicative content, and simplifying website navigation. As part of its review, the committee also identified areas for content expansion and designated an update schedule for each webpage. After relevant conversations and recommendations, following Executive Board approval, the LSRD’s Facebook page was sunsetted on April 30, 2024.

PROGRAMMING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Throughout the past year, the SIS hosted a variety of webinars and programming. It planned and sponsored multiple programs at the 2023 AALL Annual Meeting, including “Batch Please: Leveraging Batch Record Loading for Integrated Library System Improvements and Enhancing Resource Discovery,” “Discovering Diversity through Linked Data,” a VIP program on FOLIO, and the Local Systems meeting had informal discussions and a breakout session for Alma, Folio, and Sierra.

Following the conference, the Education Committee hosted four follow-up programs to the “Batch Please” program at AALL, covering batch loading for Alma, FOLIO, Institutional Repositories, and a general discussion. Joe Cera and Keiko Okuhara organized two programs as part of the Wiki Wiki Webinar Series; “OpenRefine: Managing Faculty Publication Profiles with Wikidata” in Fall 2023, and “Lawful Linked Data --- Creating Linked Data using Wikidata” in Spring 2024. The Local Systems Committee hosted four virtual in February 2024. The multiple meetings were topic driven and system specific. The sessions for Institutional Repositories and Alma covered statistical reports. A general system overview was given for Aspen Discovery and Folio. The OCLC Committee also organized and sponsored a webinar on using Google Scholar with OCLC WorldShare Discovery in August 2023.

This year, presenters or an attendee of each program or webinar submitted reports to which were published in the Technical Services Law Librarian (TSLL) newsletter to share highlights and provide record of these programs. The Chair of the OCLC Committee, Christopher Thomas, has also continued to author the quarterly OCLC columns. In addition, Keiko Okuhara has continued to distribute the LSRD-SIS Legal Website of the Month which is memorialized on the LSRD-SIS website.
LSRD-SIS has an in-person Local Systems meeting and two sponsored programs taking place at the 2024 AALL Annual Meeting; “Taking the Mystery out of Discovery” Roundtable and “Making it Count: Collecting Electronic Resources Statistics in Law Libraries.”

SUMMARY

The Executive board met monthly from July 2023-May 2024, and held the 2023 Annual Business meeting in June 2024. The outgoing 2023-2024 Executive Board meeting is held in early July, prior to the AALL Annual Meeting, where the incoming 2024-2025 Executive Board meeting will take place. Committee chairs were encouraged to attend all board meetings to report on the committee activities.

After the Nominating Committee worked hard to create a slate of qualified candidates, the LSRD-SIS election was conducted electronically in April 2024 with a total of 55 members casting their vote. Our incoming officers are Ben Carlson, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, 2024-2027 and Sam Thorne, Member-at-Large, 2024-2026.

LSRD-SIS started FY 2024 with a balance of $7,085.11. The most-recent financial statement, dated March 31st (Q3), reported an ending balance of $5,168.88. This year’s expenses include a donation to BLL-SIS (pending) and programming fees and incidentals from AALL Boston in July 2023.

As of June 24, 2024, LSRD-SIS has 280 active members. LSRD gained 54 members between September 26, 2023, and June 24, 2024. This is a very positive trend that we are so pleased to see. We have also been fortunate enough to get enough volunteers to fill all positions on committees to provide ample support to our membership. This special interest section has had an extremely productive year thanks to a wonderful and capable group of individuals serving on the board and committees.

Respectfully submitted by
Rebecca Bearden
2023-2024 LSRS-SIS Chair