Who We Are

Originating in 1977 as the Online Computer Library Center Special Interest Section, the Online Bibliographic Services Special Interest Section (OBS-SIS) broadened its scope to include all bibliographic utilities and local online systems. The section's interests include all aspects of national and local bibliographic online systems, including public access to bibliographic data, information technology, technical services functions, interlibrary loan services, and the integration within local systems of data from remote sources.

Our Mission

OBS-SIS provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information on the use and capabilities of various online bibliographic services (including OCLC) and on local automated library systems. In addition, the section explores ways that emerging technologies can be integrated with traditional bibliographic systems and how these changes affect libraries and librarians. Committee work, Annual Meeting programs and roundtables, and special projects serve as the primary vehicles for carrying out the goals of the SIS.

Membership

The OBS-SIS membership is diverse, embracing staff from both public and technical services who serve in law libraries of every type and size. The section addresses the professional concerns and interests of its members, extending across all organizational boundaries.

AALL members interested in joining the OBS-SIS can register on AALLNET at www.aallnet.org/sis. Click on “Sign up here” for the online form.

Committees and Roundtables

Membership in committees and roundtables is open to any interested OBS-SIS member. The chair of each committee is selected biennially by the OBS chair. Ad hoc committees are appointed and staffed by the chair as needed to further the work of the section. Committees include:

OCLC Committee
Local Systems Committee
Education Committee
Web Advisory Committee

OBS/TS Joint Research Grant Committee
Heads of Systems Roundtable
Research Roundtable

Newsletter

The official online newsletter of the OBS-SIS and the Technical Services Special Interest Section (TS-SIS) is Technical Services Law Librarian (TSLL). It is the vehicle of communication for SIS committee activities and publishes columns on various topics of concern to both sections, current awareness articles, special features, and reports of Annual Meeting programs. TSLL’s editor is guided by an editorial board that is jointly appointed by the TS-SIS and OBS-SIS. TSLL is freely available at www.aallnet.org/sis/tssis/tsll.
Education

The OBS-SIS offers a variety of practical and theoretical programs and workshops for members. Programming is primarily provided as part of AALL’s Annual Meeting. Programs mainly address using technology to enhance both online bibliographic services and overall library services, as well as keeping members apprised of top library trends. Specific examples of programs include vendor showcases featuring new library discovery platforms and electronic resource management systems and OCLC updates and roundtables.

Contacts

OBS-SIS officers and board members are listed on the website at: www.aallnet.org/sis/obssis/about/officers.htm.

Please contact these individuals with any questions that you might have about the work of the section or if you are interested in volunteering your services. The volunteer form can be found at www.aallnet.org/committee/volunteer_login.asp. Suggestions for programming or special projects are also always welcome.

Also, you are cordially invited to join the open OBS-SIS business meeting held during the Annual Meeting. Committee chairs and section representatives make informative presentations during the meeting. Executive board meetings are also held during the Annual Meeting and are open to all AALL members.