

2024-2025 RIPS-SIS ANNUAL REPORT

DATE: June 30, 2025
TO: annualreports@aall.org
FROM: Heather Joy, RIPS-SIS Chair
RE: 2024-2025 RIPS-SIS Annual Report
URL: <https://www.aallnet.org/ripssis/about-us/annual-reports/>

OFFICERS

The officers of the Research Instruction & Patron Services Special Interest Section during 2024-2025 were: Heather Joy, Chair; Sara Gras, Chair/Chair Elect; Nicole Downing, Immediate Past Chair; Shari Berkowitz Duff, Secretary/Treasurer; and Emily Donnellan & Theresa Tarves, Members-at-Large.

The Executive Board would like to thank the committee chairs, vice chairs, and members for their excellent service this year.

AWARDS AND SPONSORED PROGRAM

RIPS-SIS awarded the Paul Gatz Publication Award, which “recognize[s] excellence in writing by a current RIPS-SIS member,” to Amber Kennedy Madole, Bonnie Shucha & Rebecca Plevel, for the article *Integrating Tribal Law into the Legal Research and Writing Curriculum: Benefits, Challenges, and Strategies*, Perspectives, Spring 2024, at 4.

The RIPS-SIS Sponsored Program at the 2025 AALL Annual Meeting and Conference will be “Playing to Learn: Creating Authentic Legal Tech Experiences for Law Students,” by Rebecca Fordon & Mari Cheney.

MAJOR INITIATIVES

This year, the RIPS-SIS executive Board took on the following new initiatives:

- Solicited feedback from RIPS Committees regarding existing committee charges, purposes, and goals. After reviewing the feedback and extensive discussion by the Board, updated committee charges were approved, and committee names revised. Additionally,

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two committees were combined for greater effect and from here forward the Legal Research Competencies Committee joins with the Research Instruction Committee to form the Research Skills & Instruction Committee.

- Received a proposal from the Grants Committee Grants Committee to amend the number and type of grants awarded to attend conferences. The board approved several adjustments and was pleased to support the committee's initiatives.
- Annual Meeting 2025
 - Thanks to the efforts of Emily Donnellan, RIPS will co-host a joint social event with GD-SIS at the Annual Meeting in Portland.

RIPS-SIS also continued efforts from prior years

- *Grants and Funding*
 - Teaching the Teachers Grant
 - Lisa Varon, Jacksonville University College of Law
 - Kelsey Renz, University of Miami School of Law
 - AALL Annual Meeting Grant
 - Tanya S. Thomas, University of Maryland, Carey School of Law
 - Alison Guffey, Georgia State University
 - AALL Annual Meeting DEI Grant
 - Rebecca Plevel, Sturm College of Law, University of Denver
 - RIPS-SIS continued our strong relationship with the Teaching the Teachers Workshop, co-sponsoring the event and also providing two grants for participants.
- *RIPS-SIS Teach-In Kit/ALL-SIS Sourcebook Merger*: The taskforce completed their third year and reported on a completed organization for tagging materials in a merged product. The Board, in cooperation with ALL-SIS, renewed the Task Force's charge with an update to determine an appropriate platform for the future joint product.
- Efforts at transparency and collaboration were continued, including constant outreach to committees through the Board liaisons.

RIPS SIS Programming at AALL

- Sunday, July 20 at 12:45PM - DEI Joint Roundtable with ALL-SIS and BLL-SIS
- Sunday, July 20 at 12:45 PM - Teach-In Roundtable
- Sunday, July 20 at 7:0PM - RIPS-SIS & GD-SIS Social Event, Lewis & Clark Law School
- Monday, July 22nd at 11:30PM - Playing to Learn: Creating Authentic Legal Tech Experiences for Law Students

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Several committees also completed work that deserves to be highlighted in an annual report.

- DEI Committee got off to a strong start, offering an interactive DEI Training in the fall to all RIPS members, and collaborated with JEDI to offer an AALL Coffee Chat on Executive Orders in June 2025.
- Grants and Awards Committee selected several qualified awardees and grantees this year (see above).
- Legal Research Competencies hosted a “5 Competencies in 5 Days” email exchange on the RIPS-SIS list which generated active participation even without promotion; the committee followed up with an AALL Coffee Chat held on June 4th, 2025, with 45 participants. The Committee also began developing a self-paced course on competencies.
- Legal Research Teach-in Kit gathered and approved new entries for the 2025 Teach in Kit.
- Teach in Kit/ALL Sourcebook Merger Taskforce completed evaluation of merger logistics for resource tagging and continues joint evaluation of platforms to host the final product.
- Nominations Committee collected a strong slate of candidates to serve on the 2025-2026 Board resulting in the election of Emily Donnellan as Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Julia Mizutani as Secretary/Treasurer, and Olivia Smith Schlinck as Member at Large.
- Patron Services Committee took the initiative to update two RIPS-SIS Toolkits – Circulation and the ILL – including new materials, updated links, and greater detail and clarity. Additionally, the committee drafted a plan to contribute to the RIPS Blog which will roll out in fall of 2025.
- Program Committee provided constructive feedback to members proposing programs for the AALL Annual Meeting, and selected proposals of interest to RIPS members for the RIPS sponsored program at the 2025 Annual Meeting.
- Public Relations revived the *Questions with Puron* interview series on the [RIPS Law Librarian Blog](#), issued calls for accomplishments to the members, began evaluating RIPS’s social media presence, cooperated with the Mentorship and Outreach Committee to plan participation in the CONELL marketplace, and is preparing advertising and marketing to promote RIPS events at the AALL Annual Meeting.
- Scholarship Committee performed very well when Vice Chair Ellie Campbell assumed the role of Chair partway through the service year, and continued to host the successful “Write this Way” program with over forty members participating in the spring iteration.
- Law Librarian Blog had a successful year under Nick Norton’s editorial guidance. There were 64 new posts from August 2024 to June 2025.

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Submitted June 30, 2025, Heather Joy, Chair