

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION (SR-SIS)

### ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017-2018

*The object of the Social Responsibilities SIS shall be to act as a stimulus to the Association and its members by focusing attention on, providing a forum for discussion of, exchanging information about, and proposing resolutions on critical social issues that affect library workers as members of the profession and as members of the human family. – SR-SIS Bylaws, Article II*

The SR-SIS has had another busy year of both continuing and new projects:

#### **SR-SIS projects & member activities.**

The SR-SIS again participated in the online discussion: Critical Conversations about Social Justice (5 topics, 5 days). This discussion is sponsored by four SISs: GLL-SIS, LISP-SIS, RIPS-SIS, and SR-SIS. The topic this year was “law library inclusiveness.”

The SR-SIS ran a successful election in the spring. Sara Pic was elected as incoming Vice-Chair/Chair Elect, and Cindy Guyer was elected Secretary/Treasurer for 2018-19.

The Annual Children’s Book Drive, co-chaired by Michele Knapp, Joshua LaPlante, and Lisa Schultz was an extraordinary success, collecting 590 books, and collecting/donating \$560 in cash for the [Maryland Book Bank](#).

For the 5<sup>th</sup> year, Meg Butler ran another amazing Toiletries Drive, which benefitted [Project PLASE](#), a Baltimore organization that provides housing and related support services to homeless adults.

Meg Butler, the SR-SIS newsletter editor, continued to promote the SR-SIS work and publish the newsletter as a PDF on the AALL My Community site with the technical help of A.J. Blechner.

The SR-SIS continued to promote its work and again, this year, participated in the SIS Council, and at the CONELL marketplace.

The SR-SIS Education Committee, under the stewardship of Jane Larrington, developed the SR-SIS’ new Education & Awareness Grant. The purpose of the SR-SIS Education & Awareness Grant is to support a wide variety of projects that relate to SR-SIS priorities. The subject matter supported by this Grant rotates each year to ensure that projects related to the work of each of the SR-SIS’ standing committees will receive support. The inaugural grant went to A.J. Blechner and Sarah Ann Lewis to support their production of videos featuring experts in disability issues. The videos will be part of a larger difficult conversations toolkit that AJ and Sarah are developing. The 2018-19 grant will support projects related to environmental sustainability.

At the annual meeting, the Education Committee also highlighted the many projects of the SR-SIS in an exhibit hall poster and a series of flyers and ribbons. The SR-SIS once again joined GLL & LISP in co-hosting a Joint Roundtable on Law Library Services to Prisoners and Public Patrons. Many SR-SIS members were involved in annual meeting programs including:

- Karen Selden coordinated [“Reaching the Invisible Customer”](#) and coordinated and moderated [“Data Mining for Meaning: The Law and Corpus Linguistics Project”](#)
- Courtney Selby spoke on the panel [“Top Ten Tips for Teaching Administrative Law Research”](#)
- Liz Reppe spoke on the panel [“Our Knowledge Put into Action: Helping Public Librarians Learn Basic Legal Research”](#)

The SR-SIS’s work is also accomplished through its standing committees: the Standing Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SCSOGI), the Standing Committee on Law Library Services to Prisoners (SCLLSP), the Standing Committee on Disability Issues (SCDI), and the Standing Committee on Environmental Sustainability (SCES).

**SCSOGI.** For the first time, under the stewardship of Marty Witt, SCSOGI made arrangements for attendees to get tickets for the annual SCSOGI reception benefiting the Alan Holoch Memorial Grant fund with their annual meeting registration. It proved to be a popular option with 41 persons pre-registering. The reception was generously sponsored by Bloomberg Law, and the event raised approximately \$1500 for the Alan Holoch Memorial Grant.

The SCSOGI continued its successful pronoun ribbon campaign.

It also introduced a new commemorative pin at the annual meeting. Each year, the LGBTQI community’s rainbow flag will be incorporated into a design reflecting the host city. The pins are distributed for a modest donation and participating attendees are encouraged to collect and wear them each year at the annual meeting. The donations go to the Holoch Grant.

Finally, the SR-SIS/SCSOGI project *Sexual Orientation, Gender Identities, and the Law*, edited by Dana Neacșu and David Brian Holt, and Meg Butler as Contributing Editor, was finalized and the manuscript submitted to the publisher. The editors received substantial help from a team of volunteers. Hein expects to have it published in 2018. All royalties will go to the Alan Holoch Memorial Grant fund.

**SCLLSP.** Under the stewardship of Kimberli Kelmor, SCLLSP continues to update its flagship database of law libraries across the country that serve prisoners. The current ongoing projects are:

1. State by State Recommended collections for prison law libraries. Ms. Kelmor called for volunteers for the project and expressed an intent to actively recruit new volunteers.
2. List of Law Libraries providing services to prisoners
3. Survey of Prison Library Services

**SCDI.** Under the stewardship of A.J. Blechner, SCDI focused on strategic planning, member recruitment, and raising awareness. SCDI laid out a plan for seven projects: community building within AALL and learning more about the accessibility of AALL’s digital presence; providing training and assistance to librarians engaging with disability services and accessibility issues within their libraries; proposing new language for the Procurement Toolkit & Code of Best Practices for Licensing Electronic Resources that is inclusive of accessibility considerations; researching and drafting a whitepaper on PDF tagging best practices; developing a web training and bibliography to assist librarians in serving patrons with mental health issues; creating a dialogue about disability

issues within the social responsibility special interest section; and engaging in awareness raising activities at the AALL annual meeting. At the annual meeting this year, SCDI offered badge ribbons with the messages “#thefutureisaccessible” and “Not all disabilities are visible.” Attendees at the conference wore over 225 ribbons, raising awareness for disability issues, and sparking meaningful conversation. This year the SCDI leadership includes a vice chair, Sarah Ann Lewis.

**SCES.** Under the stewardship of David Selden and Lewis Zimmerman, SCES continued to focus on finding ways to help AALL meet the priorities of the [Resolution on Sustainability in Law Libraries](#). The committee worked with AALL offices to find ways to reduce environmental impacts of travel to/from the annual conference. AALL headquarters helped SCES market a voluntary travel offset project, the CoolEffect project, and offer attendees carbon offset credits. As of 7/14 \$350 in credits were purchased resulting in 59 tons of offset carbon emissions through the efficient cook stove project.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Neacsu\*

SR-SIS Chair, 2017-2018

\*This report was prepared with the assistance of the Chairs of the Standing Committees.