The Power of Connection was the theme of the 2015 AALL Annual Meeting and Conference held in Philadelphia, PA from July 18-21. The theme, selected by President Holly Riccio, called upon law librarians to harness their connections and assert their roles in the rapidly changing and ever-expanding world of legal information management.

AMPC reviewed 175 member-submitted program proposals and selected approximately 61 programs for presentation. We selected 3 preconference workshops – the Legal Research Teaching Academy, Researching EU Law and the Hackathon. Additionally we curated seven programs on the topics of process mapping, legal project management, e-books, Six Sigma legal lean, collaboration tools, knowledge management and introduction to content management. We selected 3 hot topics: IBM Watson, technological innovations in the practice of law and net neutrality. We provided five recharge sessions on the topics of: the art of influence, stress management, motivating staff, forensic business development research, and managing your reputation. Coffee talks and posters were also presented.

To advance the goal of making AMPC more strategic and forward-thinking, this past year we implemented the concept of must-have programming topics. To identify the must-have topics, we created six Content Area Teams (CATs) to supplement AMPC. Each CAT was comprised of five members representing different library types, including one AMPC member who served as CAT leader. Each CAT developed five must-have programming topics in the following areas: Management/Leadership, Technology, Content Management, Legal Research/Reference, Raising the Profile of the Library/Librarian, and Collaboration. The Call for Proposals included the 30 must-have program topics. Both AMPC and the CATs evaluated program proposals for the 30 topics. AMPC curated programs for topics that lacked fully developed program proposals.

Additional changes to programming this past year include converting all program sessions to 60 minutes for ease of scheduling and increasing the number of programs per slot from six to eight simultaneous sessions. Previously recharge sessions had all been scheduled simultaneously on Monday morning. To allow members to attend more than one recharge session, we scheduled recharge sessions throughout the conference.

To enrich the conference experience of AALL members, we added early morning yoga sessions; broadcast the Law Librarians podcast series onsite in Philadelphia; provided a comment wall for visual feedback; and added twitter handles to attendee nametags.

To provide continuity between program committees, the previous year’s AMPC chair will serve as an ex officio member of the following year’s committee. Suggestions for future consideration to improve the committee’s work include exploring a speaker recognition event or reward and developing a speaker training program.

The committee members worked hard this past year. In addition to being flexible with the new process for implementing must-have programs, they served as SIS liaisons and program liaisons. Several AMPC members also curated programs.

2014-15 AMPC members: Carol Watson (chair), Pauline Afuso, Ellen Frentzen, Darla Jackson, Elaine M. Knecht, Gayle Lynn-Nelson, Mary E. Matuszak, Elizabeth Outler, Michelle Tolley, Holly M. Riccio (board liaison)