Technical Services Special Interest Section (TS-SIS)
Annual Report 2014-2015

The TS-SIS Executive Board 2014-2015 was comprised of Suzanne Graham, Chair; Hollie White, Vice Chair/Chair-elect; Brian Striman, Past Chair; Katherine Marshall, Secretary/Treasurer; and Eric Parker and Ashley Moye, Members-at-Large. The four standing committee chairs were Diana Jaque (Acquisitions), Maxine Wright (Preservation), Lia Contursi (Cataloging and Classification), and Jacob Sayward (Serials).

The TS-SIS Executive Board recognizes and thanks the AALL Executive Board for its responsiveness in reinstating support for three representative positions most fundamental to the mission of our SIS.

The Section engaged in several major reassessments and revitalizations of our member services this year.

In an effort to reduce the overall number of meetings held during Annual Meeting, the Executive Board charged a task force, chaired by Ashley Moye, to evaluate roundtable effectiveness. The task force concluded that roundtables are much-needed vehicles for professional exchange and networking among members. Rather than dissolve them, the Section should revitalize and support them energetically throughout the year in physical and virtual forums. The TS Board appointed motivated chairs to each of our existing roundtables, found informal space during Annual Meeting to host them, and promoted the meetings to members. The Board will evaluate the committees next year.

In recognition of the importance of access to continuing professional education, the Board created three large working groups under a new Professional Development Standing Committee. Amidst this change, the existing Education and Professional Development Committees successfully recruited and reviewed program proposals for Annual Meeting, sponsoring “More Hip Tips for the Acquisitions Librarian” and won an AALL Bloomberg CPE Grant for the January webinar entitled “Soft Skills: Professional Indicators of Success.”

After evaluating practices, the Awards Committee recommended, and the Board approved, simplification of its electronic application processes. It also administered an expanded number of grants for an expanded number of educational opportunities (to include the Leadership Academy and Management Institute). The committee awarded educational grants to Samantha Cabo, Kevin Carey, Ajaye Bloomstone, and Sarah Lin, and it selected Brian Striman as recipient of the 2015 Renee D. Chapman Memorial Award for Outstanding Contributions in Technical Services.

The Funding Research Opportunities Grant (FROG) Committee underwent a fundamental rebranding and simplification of its submission process this year with active member support and participation. The Executive Boards of TS and OBS-SIS voted to continue funding for the grant.

With global impact on discovery, Cataloging and Classification Committee continues important improvements to existing metadata standards. The Descriptive Cataloging Advisory Working Group, under the leadership of Georgia Prager, tackled disadvantageous description guidance for
legal materials (e.g., the uniform title “Laws, etc.,” languages of treaties, and qualifying authorized access points). The Classification and Subject Cataloging Advisory Working Group, led by Yael Mandelstam, promoted the disambiguation of subject and genre/form terms and continues to refine the genre/form vocabulary for legal materials. In tighter coordination with the AALL Vendor Liaison, Margaret Maes, the Vendor-Supplied Records Advisory Working Group, led by Angela Jones and Caroline Walters, provided best-practice cataloging guidance to electronic resource vendors.

The Acquisitions and Preservation Committees sparked conversations with monthly member tips. The Preservation Committee also solicited and compiled a list of archivists working in law libraries to assist members in networking and finding expertise.

From the competitive slate compiled by the Nominating Committee, the membership elected Eric Parker (vice-chair/chair-elect) and Wilhelmina Randtke (Member-at-Large).

For the complete text of each committee report for 2014-2015, please see: http://www.aallnet.org/sections/ts/annualmeeting/2015/Reports

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne R. Graham
TS-SIS Chair, 2014-2015