The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), the largest professional organization in the world representing law libraries, was founded in 1906 to promote and enhance the value of law libraries to the legal and public communities, to foster the profession of law librarianship, and to provide leadership in the field of legal information. We number nearly 1,900 academic law librarians among our approximately 5,000 members. A nonprofit educational organization, AALL has long been member-driven. Our policies and positions are determined by an elected Executive Board and an actively participating membership.

Following are updates on some recent activities of the Association.

Principles and Standards for Legal Research Competency

At its recent board meeting, the AALL Executive Board approved and adopted the AALL Principles for Legal Research Competency. Previously, the AALL Executive Board approved the Legal Research Competencies and Standards for Law Student Information Literacy at its board meeting on July 20, 2012. Those competencies and standards were developed by the AALL Law Student Research Competencies Task Force to establish measurable competencies for legal research instruction based on research principles.

Attorney’s Legal Research Practices

In tandem with the Competencies project, the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section of AALL appointed a task force in 2012 – Task Force on Identifying Skills and Knowledge for Legal Practice. The chair of this task force is also a member of the Research Competencies Task Force. This task force was asked to create a survey to identify the current and future research skills that law school graduates need to succeed in legal practice. Because the majority of American lawyers do not have librarians, the Task Force did two surveys: one was directed at practitioners and focused on how research projects were started, what resources were used, and how the attorneys evaluated the skills of new associates. There were over 660 practitioner responses from all over the country, and over 250 of them were from solos and 205 attorney firms. The librarian survey asked for similar information about the attorneys the librarians worked with. There were nearly 200 librarian responses.

The Task Force recently released its report: A Study of Attorney’s Legal Research Practices and Opinions of New Associates’ Research Skills. The results of the study work in conjunction with
the previously released Principles and Standards. The Principles and Standards identify the basic set of competencies an information literate graduate must possess, and the elements of each of those competencies. The study results provide granular research on how those competencies translate into types of practice, size of firm and geographic location.

**Return on Investment Study**

AALL President Steve Anderson has appointed a Special Committee on the Economic Value of Law Libraries. That committee is charged to define methodologies for determining the economic value of and return on investment of law libraries. In order to accomplish that goal, the committee will participate in the selection of a consultant who will draft a study report that employs quantitative data to demonstrate institutions’ returns on investments in law libraries. The committee will also provide advice to the consultant in the collection and analysis of the data. The final report should be available in the fall of 2014.

**Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act**

In July 2011, the Uniform Law Commission approved the *Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA)*, which provides a technology-neutral, outcomes-based approach to ensuring that online state legal material deemed official will be preserved and will be permanently available to the public in unaltered form. In April, 2012, Colorado became the first state to enact *UELMA*. Since then, as of May 2013, *UELMA* has become law in eight states: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Minnesota, Nevada, North Dakota, and Oregon. We are grateful for the support from the ABA House of Delegates which adopted a resolution approving the *Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA)* at the ABA Midyear meeting in February 2012.

**Federal Depository Library Program**

In April 2012, President Darcy Kirk appointed a task force – Federal Depository Library Program Task Force to further support law library participation in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). This goal was to be accomplished by highlighting the benefits of the program, by identifying changes to the program that will enable law libraries to continue to participate and by working to facilitate a broader role for law librarians in the national conversation concerning the future of the program. Approximately 150 of our academic law libraries are members of this program. The report of the task force was submitted to the AALL Executive Board at its July 2013 meeting. The report recommends, among other things, that AALL and the Government Printing Office (GPO) maintain their strong relationship through AALL’s continued support of the FDLP. As federal government resources move from print to digital, it is even more important to have professional law librarians providing assistance to patrons in locating and using federal government information. Access to justice begins with law libraries and AALL must maintain “a seat at the table” during the ongoing conversation regarding the changing nature of government information.
2013 Annual Meeting

We just completed another very successful annual meeting, held in Seattle, July 13-16. The turnout was close to 1500 registered attendees. Keynote speaker, David Weinberger, addressed a large crowd regarding the need for libraries to become the platforms for knowledge and discovery furthering the networking of information and change. The closing speaker, Andy Hines, encourage our members to embrace change, while thinking about the future.

In addition to the lead speakers, the meeting offered a variety of new program formats and tracks. AALL and ILTA (International Legal Technology Association) teamed up to offer a series of programs on legal technology. Informal “Coffee Talk” discussions were held for attendees to brainstorm, share ideas, experiences and challenges regarding specific topics. “Deep Dive” programs provided for longer sessions (running across two program slots) in order to provide more time for comprehensive exploration of some critical content areas. Finally, “Monday Morning Recharge” was a mid-conference program slot providing opportunities for the individual member to re-evaluate their value and improve their business skills.

Copies of all reports mentioned above can be found on the AALL website: www.aallnet.org

The American Association of Law Libraries appreciates the opportunity to keep the members of the Council on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar updated on its activities. AALL values its partnership with the Council on issues related to legal education, especially as related to legal research instruction and the administration of academic law libraries.