

## **Shared Principles for Law Librarians and Legal Information Vendors**

June 1, 2011

These Shared Principles were developed by the participants of the AALL Colloquium on Creating, Disseminating, Using, and Preserving Legal Information in Challenging Times. They provide an aspirational foundation for further work and communication, similar to a mission statement, and are the basis for the development of a corresponding action plan.

- We have a commitment to constructive and civil communication based upon mutual respect, trust, and a recognition of the value each brings to the table.
- We strive to maintain clear and transparent communication while understanding that we are each managing a business and owe duties of loyalty to our employers.
- We each are committed to providing library users the highest quality research tools and information content, even in times of social and economic transformation.
- We accept that librarians and vendors are partners, not competitors, who are committed to the long term success of each other and the justice system.
- We recognize that it is in our collective interest for vendors to promote librarians' continuing and developing professional roles.
- We have a mutual interest in developing guidelines and practices for measuring the usage of products and services, the return on libraries' investments in products and services, and the value of library services.
- We recognize the value of training librarians and end users so each is proficient in the use of a product.
- We recognize the importance of collaboration as the most effective and respectful way to share information; such collaboration can result in mutually beneficial high quality products and services.
- We mutually commit to efficient business procedures and systems.
- We have a shared interest in the preservation and authenticity of legal information in all formats, including working with government entities on authenticity and preservation.