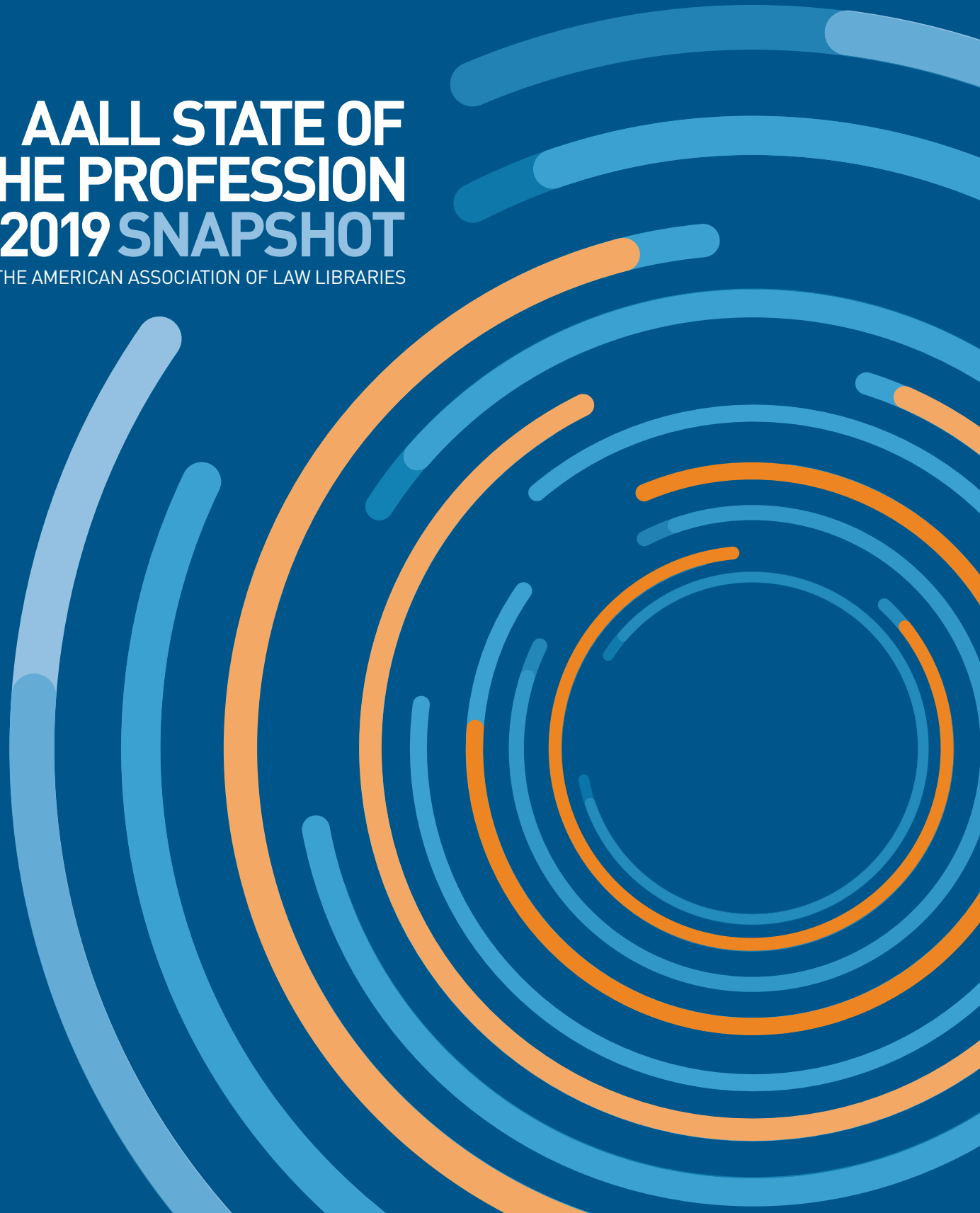


AALL STATE OF THE PROFESSION 2019 SNAPSHOT

FROM THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES





SNAPSHOT

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) believes that people need timely access to relevant legal information to make sound legal arguments and wise legal decisions. Members include—but are certainly not limited to—research librarians, chief knowledge officers, metadata managers, law professors, and law library directors. Their range of expertise spans legal research, customer and client relations, machine learning, and pro se services.

The inaugural *AALL State of the Profession* provides an overview of the law library and legal information landscape. This report captures the range of legal information professionals' contributions and talents, challenges in the field, and ambitions for the future. It is intended to be used as a tool for benchmarking, advocacy, organizational planning, and personal development.

This report is the culmination of the State of the Profession Advisory Group's work. The group created a survey for each main law library type—academic, government, and firm/corporate—in order to effectively address the nuances of each audience. Surveys were sent to all AALL members in November 2018, and others in the legal

information community. A total of 883 responses were received.

The report is available for preorder on AALLNET (<http://bit.ly/AALLSOTP19>). This preview takes a quick look at law librarians' role in technology management, as well as topics of note in each setting.

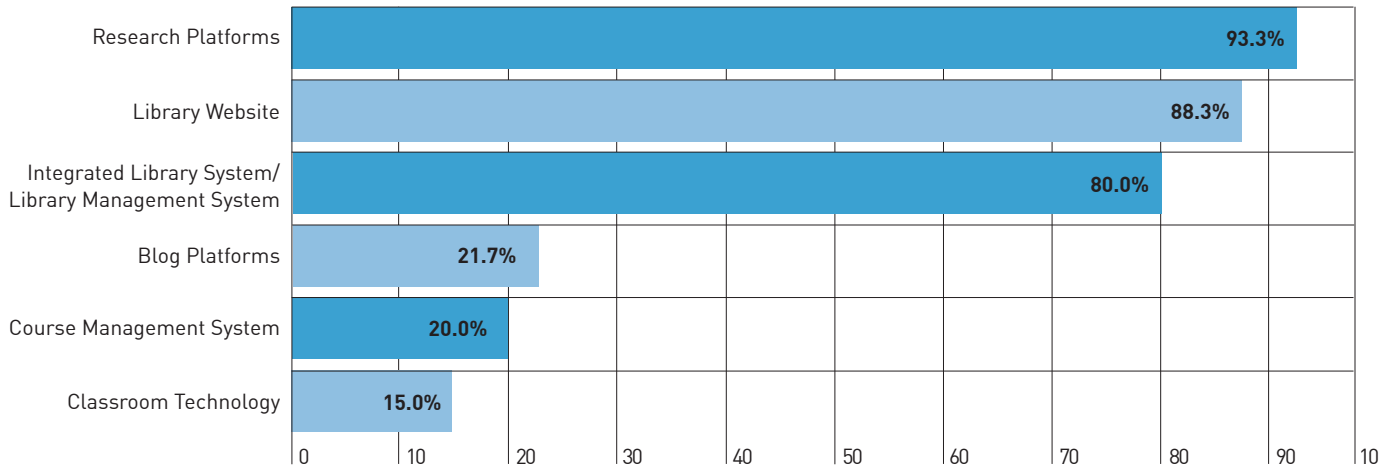
ALL LIBRARY TYPES: TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

AALL members are technology experts, and take the lead with the purchase, implementation, operation, and overall management of research databases in their organizations. Their expertise extends to overseeing knowledge management systems, websites, intranet, and other digital services.

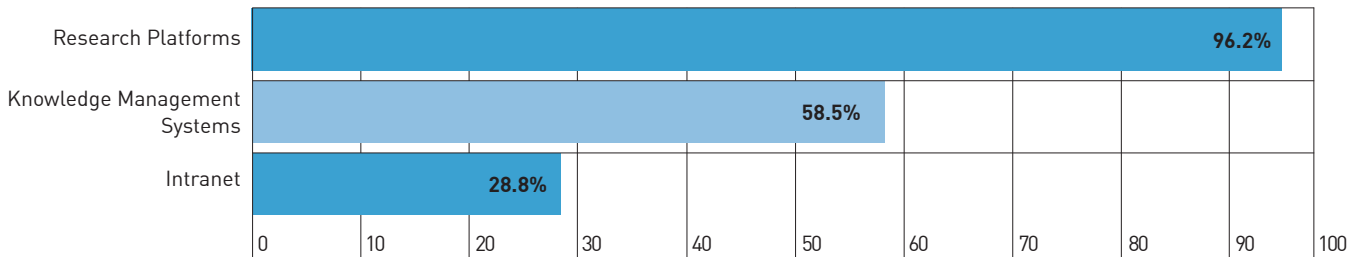
Below is an overview by library type.

PERCENTAGE OF LAW LIBRARIES MANAGING EACH PLATFORM, BY LIBRARY TYPE

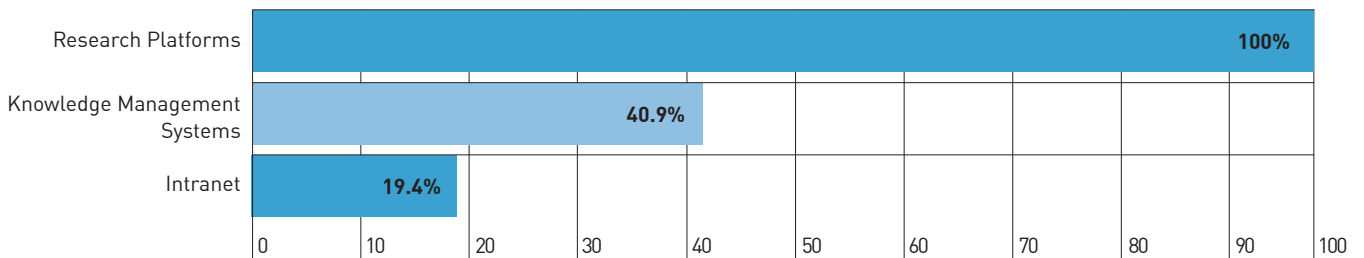
Academic



Government



Firm/Corporate

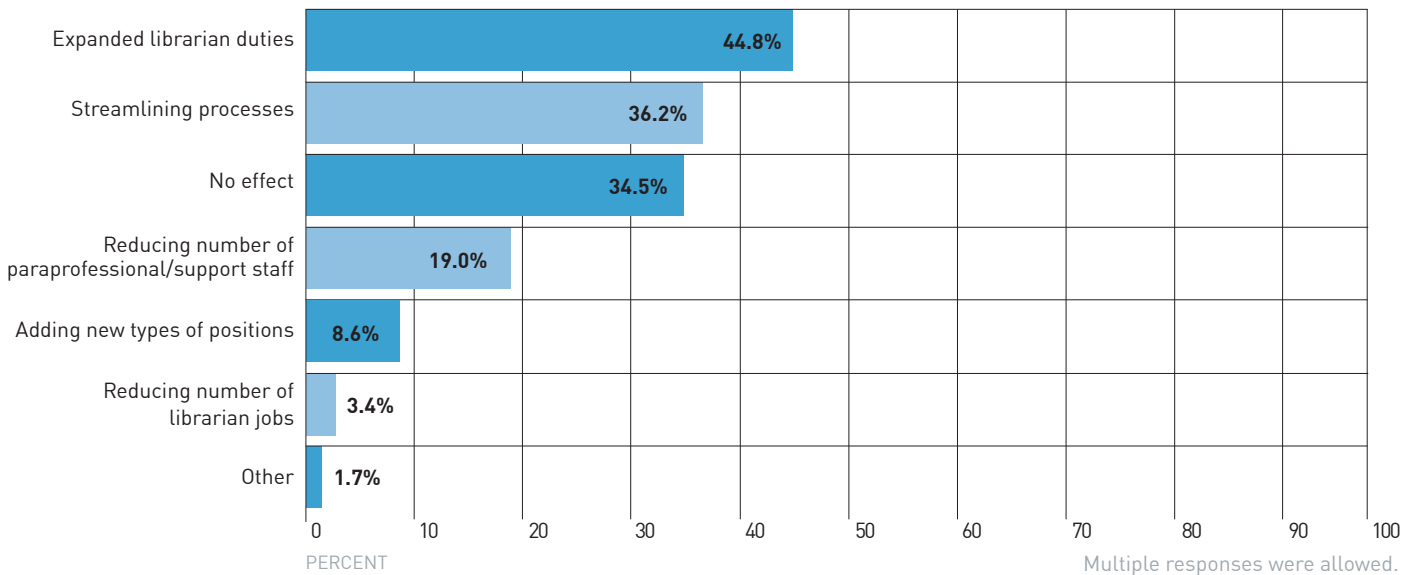


GOVERNMENT LAW LIBRARIES: DIGITAL TRANSITIONS AND BUDGET CHALLENGES

Librarians' history with digital technology started in the 1960s with Henriette Avram's invention of MARC (MACHine-Readable Cataloging), progressed with the computerized card catalog in the 1980s, and continues to flourish in exciting ways.

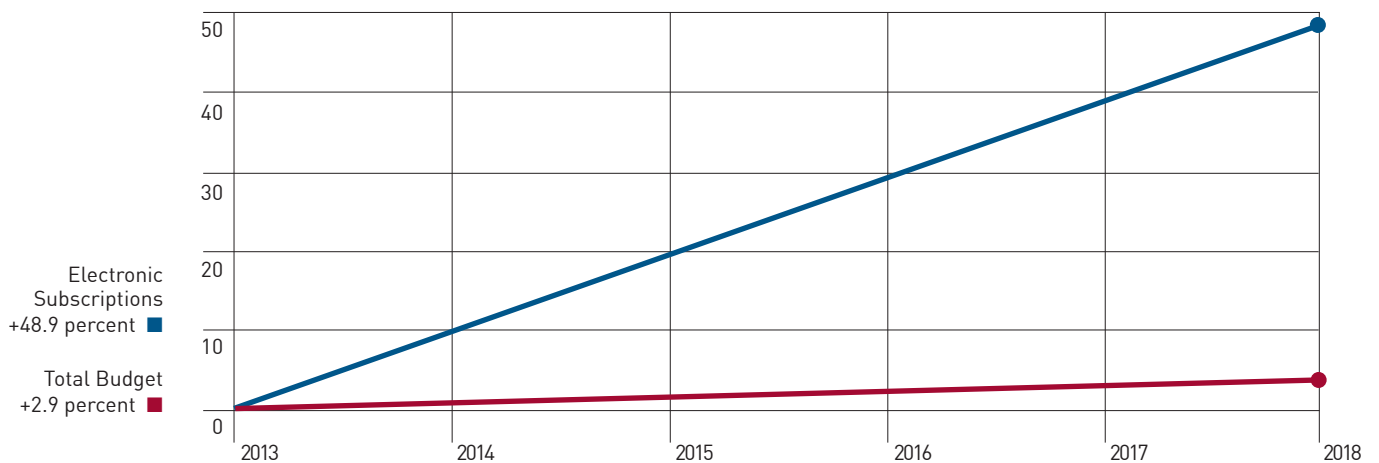
When asked how transitioning from print to electronic resources have impacted positions at their library, the most frequently cited impact was expanded librarian duties, followed by streamlining processes, no effect and reducing the number of paraprofessional/support staff.

GOVERNMENT LAW LIBRARIES: IMPACT OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES ON ROLES



Between 2013 and 2018, budgets for government law libraries increased a total of 2.9 percent. During this time, spending on electronic subscriptions increased **48.9 percent**.

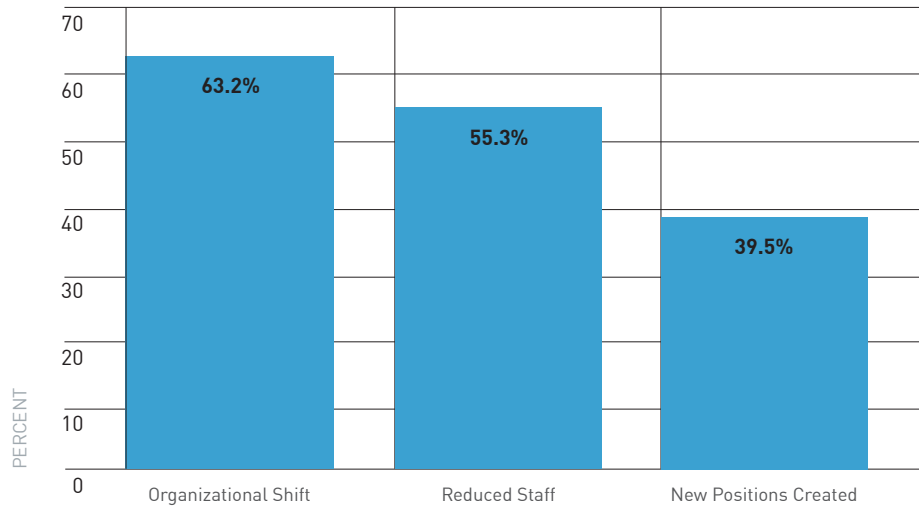
GOVERNMENT LAW LIBRARIES: BUDGET INCREASE (2013-2018)



ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARIES: ORGANIZATIONAL SHIFTS AND TEACHING

Rapid shifts in the legal market and law school enrollment have meant changes for many in academia. Of the director-level respondents, 57.8 percent have reported restructuring since August 1, 2016; 63.2 percent of respondents cited organizational shifts as the reason, along with 55.3 percent naming reduced staff, and 39.5 percent reporting new positions being created.

ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARIES: TOP THREE CAUSES FOR RESTRUCTURING



Multiple responses were allowed.

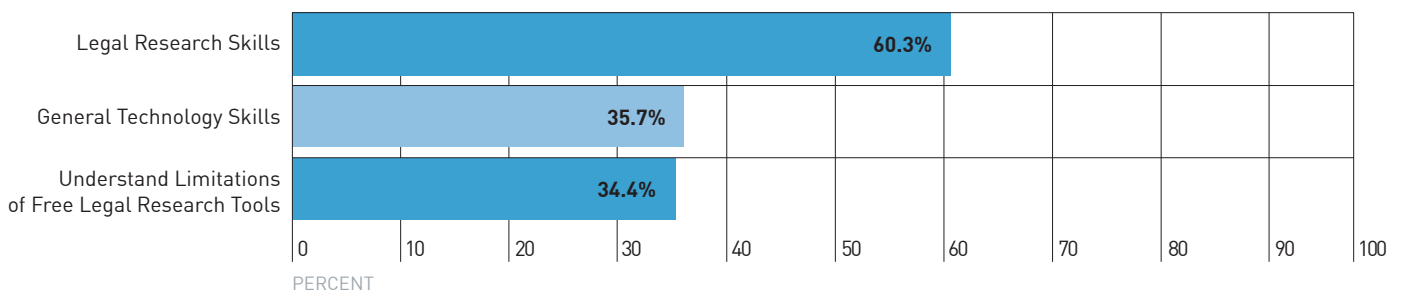
Teaching

Another shift in academia is law librarians' increased classroom instruction responsibilities, with 64.5 percent of respondents stating they are more involved in teaching than they were in 2013. Of the organizations surveyed, 96.7 percent have law librarians teaching for-credit classes.

Assessing The Practice-Readiness of Law School Graduates

As legal research professors and reference librarians, academics have a keen understanding of students' technology and information expertise. While 60.3 percent are confident or very confident in recent graduates' legal research skills, less than forty percent are very confident or confident in their general technology skills and their understanding of the limitations of free legal research tools.

ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARIES: PERCENTAGE WHO ARE VERY CONFIDENT OR CONFIDENT IN RECENT LAW SCHOOL GRADUATES' EXPERTISE



FIRM/CORPORATE LAW LIBRARIES: SKILLS SYNOPSIS

Legal information professionals have long embraced change—and have the expertise to show for it. Here’s a snapshot of where firm/corporate law librarians stand on a selection of skills.



Looking Ahead: Skills 2021

Plans for professional development during the next two years focus on AI/machine learning, blockchain, and data expertise.

SELECTION OF CURRENT EXPERTISE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR FIRM/CORPORATE LAW LIBRARIANS

