The theme of the 112th AALL Annual Meeting in our nation’s capital is “Capitalizing on Our Strengths.” One thing that became very evident to me as I crisscrossed the country this past year, meeting and engaging with AALL members, is the diversity of talent and highly skilled expertise that lies within our profession. In March, we officially launched the AALL State of the Profession 2019 report, which confirms my observation. This groundbreaking inaugural survey across three library segments (academic, government, and private) provides important data about trends in law libraries and the legal information industry. (Learn more about the report on page 7.)

Even as new demands arise, legal information professionals continue to be relevant, responding nimbly to changes in the legal industry with our members upgrading or looking to enhance their technology and project management skills, particularly in the areas of data analytics, machine learning, and artificial intelligence. The increase in acquisition of digital resources versus print continues even as most library budgets have experienced decreases, remained flat, or increased minimally.

Space is changing in libraries, with some of the footprint assigned to print collections making way for other dynamic institutional purposes. Overall, the legal industry landscape continues to evolve rapidly. Nevertheless, due to the proven resiliency and resourcefulness of our members, the future of our profession remains bright.

A few months ago, I was interviewed for the AALL Spectrum leader profile and was asked what my favorite quote was. At the time I answered, “To everything there is a season.” Yes, I am waxing a bit reflective with my term as AALL President coming to a close and as I pen my last President’s Message. To say that the year has hurtled by with many initiatives and developments is somewhat of an understatement. It has certainly been a whirlwind, roller-coaster season of sorts, thankfully of more highs than lows. But I also recognize that it is both the high and low experiences that shape, mold, and develop the best in us. I am extremely grateful for the support of AALL members, with many of you dispensing words of encouragement and providing constructive feedback. I am also thankful for a stellar Executive Board, great colleagues, and the wonderful staff at headquarters who implement the vision. Almost halfway into my term, I changed jobs and moved to another library and warmer location, but was able to continue the business of the Association without missing a beat. This was made possible, in large part, due to the support from a superb team at home and at work.

Thank you for the awesome privilege of having served as the President of your Association this past year. I hope to see you this summer in Washington, DC for what promises to be another dynamic conference.

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