As law libraries continue to be transformed from a physical “space” to a “service,” as our budgets increasingly support an online digital footprint, and as the lawyers, judges, and students we support are now armed with sophisticated smart technology, it should come as no surprise that legal instruction for lawyers, judges, and students is also moving to an online environment.

With an ever-increasing number of faster-growing domestic and global law firms—at my firm, for example, we now have over 800 lawyers in 10 international offices—it is no longer cost-effective to provide traditional in-person instruction. Instead, our knowledge management (KM) services department, comprised of almost 20 law librarians in various offices, provides online instruction via live videoconferencing software (GoToMeeting, an online webinar platform), as well as Windows Remote Assistance software, enabling law librarians to conduct one-on-one point-of-need training. These sessions can also be recorded and added to the firm’s Desktop Learning Management System, enabling lawyers to view recordings of live online instruction.

Most experienced classroom instructors will confess that online instruction is challenging, as it can be a difficult transition from traditional classroom to online instruction. Luckily, the authors of our AALL Spectrum cover story, “Engage! The Next-Gen of Online Instruction” advise librarians to learn new strategies to “create sustained engagement with students and attorneys in their online courses and instruction,” and provide best practices to keep your audience engaged.

Keeping with the topic of enhancing education, this issue also provides an article on creating screencasting videos that engage viewers. At law firms and law schools alike, screencasts present law librarians with an opportunity to provide direct instruction to users, making learning much more flexible and convenient for those who wish to learn at their own pace or on their own schedule.

As we enter a new decade in which new technologies will continue to advance at exponential rates and digital natives will demand online instruction as the “new normal,” law librarians will be expected to become proficient, if not expert, at providing online instruction. It is not too late to make your New Year’s resolution to embrace online instruction and learn the underlying technology that supports it. Carpe diem!