By educating ourselves about the newest tools, technologies, pedagogical approaches, and strategies, we not only become better librarians, but also better teachers, which in turn helps us to better empower our patrons for the rapidly changing world we all live in. Along those lines, if you are interested in educating yourself or your stakeholders about your patrons’ needs, demographics, or user-satisfaction levels, I encourage you to read “Discovering Diamonds in Your Survey Data” by Jessica De Perio Wittman and Katie Brown. The article provides several tips for creating a robust survey that produces quality results. In addition to offering general guidance on survey creating, the article also covers issues you may not necessarily think are important to survey creation, such as developing strong relationships through collaboration.

Amy Lipford and Kathryn Crandall’s article “Engage: The Next-Gen of Online Instruction” is a great read for anyone looking to create engagement with their audience in an online setting. Similarly, this issue also offers tips from Alisa Holahan, Joe Noel, and Lei Zhang on creating engaging videos for library users (“Lights, Camera, Action! Creating Screencasting Videos that Engage Others”).

Aligning with AALL’s 2019-2022 strategic plan pillar of Alliances, this issue has a wonderful article on how law libraries can build strategic partnerships. Collaboration and networking can help us build strong relationships that can continue to grow in value. The article “Building Strategic Partnerships Through Collaboration Between Law Libraries” discusses the value in collaboration and provides examples of collaboration by library type.

Legal information professionals tend to be knowledge seekers, and continuing education can feed that need. If you are looking for continuing education opportunities, AALL will be hosting the Competitive Intelligence (CI) Strategies & Analysis program May 7-8 in Chicago, Illinois. This course is for those interested in expanding the CI offerings of their library. CI Strategist Zena Applebaum will educate participants on several topics, including framing CI reporting, communicating results, and the role of data and data visualization. Similarly, I encourage you to register for the 2020 AALL Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. From Saturday workshops to a myriad of program offerings, you are sure to find something of interest to attend.

I hope you find this issue of AALL Spectrum as informative as I do, and that it inspires you to take advantage of the many educational resources that AALL offers.

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