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AALL Releases 2021 State of the Profession Report

CHICAGO – June 22, 2021 — The [American Association of Law Libraries](http://www.aallnet.org) (AALL) today releases its *2021 AALL State of the Profession* report, a data-driven exploration of the landscape in law libraries and in the legal information profession. It is intended to be used as a tool for organizational benchmarking, advocacy, strategic planning—as well as for personal and professional development. The report provides quantitative insights on the impact of COVID-19 in law libraries, diversity, budgets, user services, operations, collections, preservation, partnerships, and technology.

“The role of law librarians and legal information professionals is always evolving. The COVID-19 pandemic provided law librarians with the opportunity to demonstrate how essential their abilities and roles are within the legal ecosphere by stepping up and becoming true leaders within their organizations,” said AALL President Emily R. Florio.

Law librarians are technology leaders and innovators, finding the right products and solutions for onboarding new hires, training lawyers, teaching law students, and providing their users with essential legal research and a more seamless and successful process. They are crucial in creating and implementing strategic plans to keep business operations running smoothly—during times of uncertainty, as well as into the future. With all these changes, AALL is pleased to release the second edition of the *2021 AALL State of the Profession* report to provide organizations with the insights needed to understand the current legal information landscape. This report further supports the legal information profession’s ongoing goals of innovation, research, technology, and adaptability.

Key items to note in this report include data on the fact that firm/corporate law librarians are instrumental in innovation—with more than 95 percent of organizations reporting that staff is involved in testing new technology and research products (95.6%), recommending new products for purchase (97.1%), and negotiating contracts (100%).

The report is broken down by three main library types—academic, law firm/corporate, and government. Following are a few insightful highlights from the report.

Academic: Respondents reported that two-thirds (66.7%) of law school libraries' staff are involved with testing technology and research tools for purchase.

Law Firm/Corporate: 84.8 percent of firm/corporate law libraries are involved in partnerships and endeavors outside their department that utilize their research skills, technical knowledge, leadership, and adaptability.

Government: More than 60 percent (61.3%) of government law libraries have collaborative relationships with bar associations and 58.1 percent partner with other government law libraries.

This report is the culmination of the State of the Profession Special Committee work. The group created three different versions of the survey—one for each director-level: 94 (academic), 107 firm/corporate, and 117 (government)—in the legal information community. The complimentary [AALL State of the Profession 2021 Executive Summary](#) provides main highlights to the full report. Purchases of the full report (print, digital and print + digital bundle) are available through AALL's website at bit.ly/AALLSOTP.

About AALL

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) is the only national association dedicated to the legal information profession and its professionals. Founded in 1906 on the belief that people—lawyers, judges, students, and the public—need timely access to relevant legal information to make sound legal arguments and wise legal decisions, its more than 4,000 members are problem solvers of the highest order. AALL fosters the profession by offering its members knowledge, leadership, and community that make the whole legal system stronger. For more information, visit www.aallnet.org.