

Help is on the

ALL-SIS and RIPS-SIS partner to improve access to legal research instruction materials

by Jennifer Murray, Mary Ann Neary, and Gail Partin

It happens all too often. You get a call from someone higher up on the food chain in your organization, be it a director, faculty member, or partner, requesting that you give a presentation the next day about some specialized legal research topic.

Everyone knows how this scenario plays out. You run around like crazy trying to pull something together in time. But what if you didn't have to spend the night before your presentation stressed? What if you had a collection of your law librarian colleagues' instructional materials right at your fingertips to browse, adapt, and reuse?

This is not a fantasy—now this is reality. AALL offers two high-quality resources from which you can benefit. One is an innovative development from the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section (ALL-SIS): the *Legal Research Sourcebook*. The other is a time-tested favorite: the Research Instruction and Patron Services Special Interest Section (RIPS-SIS) *Teach-In Resource Kit*.

ALL-SIS and RIPS-SIS, two long-standing AALL special interest sections, have joined together to solicit submissions of legal research training and instructional materials. The RIPS-sponsored National Legal Research Teach-In campaign has provided the popular *Teach-In Resource Kit* for many years as a print publication. The *Teach-In Kit* is designed to support the instructional activities of law librarians and is published annually each April in conjunction with National Library Week. The *Teach-In Kit* offers research guides, lecture notes, handouts, and lesson plans,

as well as fun materials like crossword puzzles and trivia quizzes to appeal to a wide audience. It also includes library outreach and promotional materials. For more information on the National Legal Research Teach-In campaign and links to resource kit materials, visit the RIPS Teach-In Web page at www.aallnet.org/sis/ripssis/teach_in.html.

ALL-SIS recently established its groundbreaking *Legal Research Sourcebook* as an electronic source of any legal research instructional materials that AALL members wish to submit. Hosted on the ALL-SIS Web site, the sourcebook is currently a collection of PDF documents organized by area of research, e.g., regulatory research, statutory research, international law, etc. Materials range from basic instructional guides to detailed course syllabi, PowerPoint shows, examinations, and guided quizzes (see www.aallnet.org/members/LegalResearchSourcebook.html).

Prior to the 2005 AALL Annual Meeting, the ALL-SIS *Legal Research Sourcebook* Committee plans to launch a new database format to accommodate the anticipated growth of the sourcebook. Access to the sourcebook Web site is restricted to AALL members only. You must have your e-mail address and password to view the *Sourcebook*. This security provides

members with assurance that potential students will not be able to access examinations and other sensitive materials. Detailed security and copyright issues are also in the process of being addressed.

In order to solicit the widest range of submissions possible for both sources, RIPS and ALL-SIS are partnering in their public relations efforts. Both SISs will continue to separately maintain these unique resources to provide the best legal research materials to AALL members. The only difference is that now your legal research materials can go the extra mile by supporting two resources simultaneously. And, if your materials are not quite right for one resource, they will certainly be appropriate for the other, because each has a separate goal and purpose.

How can you play a part in this exciting new partnership? Please get involved by sharing your comments, suggestions, and materials. Teach-in/sourcebook submissions are currently being accepted. You can contact or send submissions as e-mail attachments to any of the people listed below. Any document format that can be



attached to an e-mail is acceptable. Watch your e-mail for new developments from AALL Headquarters. We will contact chapters and newsletter editors to help spread the word, too.

The ALL-SIS *Legal Research Sourcebook* Committee is chaired by **Jennifer Murray** (MurrayJ@gtlaw.com), and the RIPS-SIS Teach-In Committee is chaired by **Gail Partin** (gap6@psu.edu). We welcome your ideas and suggestions and encourage you to contact either of them to discuss your contributions to or comments about this exciting new partnership.

Remember, you never know when that next call will come from your boss to schedule a last minute training session or presentation. Wouldn't it be a great feeling to know that you have a sophisticated databank of tried-and-true instructional materials at your fingertips? The time you devote to sending your materials will be recouped. ■

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