

**ACADEMIC SIS STRATEGIC PLAN
JULY 2002-JUNE 2005
DRAFT DATED MARCH 25, 2002**

Preamble

Recognizing that the American Association of Law Libraries and other Special Interest Sections address many issues and functional responsibilities of academic law librarians and the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section has limited resources, the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section will pursue goals that are of high priority to its members and that are not presently addressed by other groups.

Mission Statement

The Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section provides leadership in identifying the needs and concerns of academic law librarians and developing appropriate programs and services to address them; and represents the interests of academic law librarians within law schools, universities, and to other groups.

Strategic Direction I: Academic law librarians are informed of issues and activities relating to legal education and law schools. The Academic Special Interest Section provides programs and services designed to enhance this understanding and role of its members in the academic environment.

Outcome:

- A. Academic law librarians support and understand the role of campus and law school fund raising initiatives.

Initiatives:

The ALL-SIS will:

1. Prepare publications, educational programs, tip sheets, tool kits, and listserv discussions on fundraising.
- B. Academic law librarians understand their role in the ABA accreditation process.

Initiatives:

The ALL-SIS will:

1. Assist the ABA Section on Legal Education in setting standards by which law school libraries are evaluated.
 2. Create its own evaluation forms and create alliances with other key groups to promote members' abilities to contribute to the self-study and accreditation process.
- C. Academic law librarians play a leading role in assisting law schools in the changing nature of legal education.

Initiatives:

The ALL-SIS will:

1. Plan in the development of technology in the educational process.
 2. Advocate for the role of librarians in formal classroom instruction especially in legal research.
 3. Serve as a clearing house to develop strategies with law review and moot court staff to develop standards for cite checking and other areas of instruction and assistance.
- D. Academic law librarians effectively engage students and alumni in the promotion of library services and activities.

Initiatives:

The ALL-SIS will:

1. Develop programs to work with student governments to assess student perspectives and respond to their needs.
2. Use educational programs, publications, listservs, etc. to assist members in providing alumni services and educating members on the role of alumni in law school and library development.

Strategic Direction II: Academic law librarians play the leading role in understanding the role of the library as the intellectual, historical, and cultural center of the law school and for educating law school administrators and patrons on the role and importance of the library to the institution and community.

Outcome:

- A. Academic law librarians learn, implement, and advocate new and alternate forms of information storage and delivery.

Initiatives:

The ALL-SIS will:

1. Provide leadership and advocate for the development and use of consortia and encourage the creation of cooperative ventures between and among libraries and library associations.
2. Provide leadership in identifying and evaluating methods of long term information storage and retrieval, including print and digital initiatives, software programs and products and hardware specifications.

- B. Academic law librarians develop information collections that integrate the formats that best serve the library users and that ensure long term archival retention.

Initiatives:

The ALL-SIS will:

1. Create and support educational programs within AALL and other organizations to address format issues in collection development and collection management.
2. Identify grants and other funding sources for academic law libraries to study, support and/or to implement retention and archival projects.

- C. Academic law librarians are the leading advocates in developing and planning for space within their institutions.

Initiatives:

The ALL-SIS will:

1. Develop programs in exploring the application of adaptive technology.
2. Develop programs and recommendations for libraries to plan with administrations for space planning initiatives.

Strategic Direction III: The ALL-SIS plays the leading role in advocating and supporting the role of professional librarians in academic libraries and in ensuring the value of law librarians to the academic institution.

Outcome:

- A. Academic institutions recognize the professional status of academic law librarians and acknowledge that they are the primary legal information authorities in their institutions.

Initiatives:

The ALL-SIS will:

1. Collaborate with AALL to develop and utilize basic and advanced core competencies to demonstrate to the academic institutions the professional nature of the work done by law librarians.
2. Develop continuing education and professional development opportunities for academic law librarians.
3. Supply members with information on new developments in legal research that they can use in communicating with library patrons.

- B. Academic law librarians receive appropriate benefits and status, both financially and professionally.

Initiatives:

The ALL-SIS will:

1. Conduct an environmental assessment to determine the current state of professional status (including benefits) within academic law libraries.

2. Provide comparative information on the status and benefits of academic law librarians to provide to their governing institutions.
3. Develop a web site for information and links to current tenure/continuing status and promotion documents from academic institutions throughout the country.
4. Train librarians in skills and strategies to influence decision-making within their institutions.

C. Attract and retain diverse and qualified librarians into academic law librarianship.

Initiatives:

The ALL-SIS will:

1. Actively promote the profession of academic law librarianship to law and library schools and undergraduate career centers.
2. Partner with schools of library and information science to develop and teach courses on law librarianship.
3. Investigate ways of funding scholarships, grants, and internships for minority and disadvantaged library students interested in academia.

Strategic Direction IV: Academic law librarians play a leading role in shaping information policy to ensure access to legal information.

Outcome:

A. Academic law librarians work to ensure free access to government information at the national, state, and local levels.

Initiatives:

The ALL-SIS will:

1. Form an alliance with the AALL Government Affairs office.
2. Provide leadership in advocacy and educational efforts concerning the changing nature of state and federal depository programs.
3. Strongly advocate free access to government information through educational programs, publications, listserv discussions, etc.

- B. Academic law librarians ensure copyright law and licensing practices preserve the rights of users, including fair use in all formats.

Initiatives:

The ALL-SIS will:

1. Work closely with AALL, especially the AALL Government Affairs office, to provide leadership in working with legislators, the Copyright Office, and others to:
 - a. Develop federal and state licensing legislation that preserves the right of users.
 - b. Ensure that database protection legislation preserves user rights.
 - c. Preserve user rights to information in all formats.
2. Develop educational materials and courses on the substantive law and issues in copyright and licensing.
3. Develop educational materials, courses, and strategies to use in negotiating with legal information providers
4. Support AALL's model code of fair business practices for legal publishers.
5. Organize academic libraries to join together to encourage worthwhile and beneficial publishing practices and discourage those practices that are harmful to end users.