

What do the winners have to say ...

The 2011 winner, Gloria Orrego Hoyos from Argentina, currently working as the Legal Reference Librarian and a Professor of Law and Legal Research Methods at Biblioteca Max von Buch at the Universidad de San Andrés in Buenos Aires:

"... [I had] the privilege to learn about different legal systems at the multiple educational programs and workshops. The knowledge and experience I gained enhanced the services and legal reference offered at the Max von Buch Library at the Universidad de San Andrés, resulting in benefits for other librarians, students, teachers and all users of the library."



"... the exchange of experiences and informal talks with the different attendees gave me an infinite networking opportunities, which has already proved to be very useful in promoting the cooperative efforts between the Max von Buch Library and other libraries' associates."

"... after returning to Argentina, I conducted several workshops presenting the experience and knowledge gained to my colleagues at the Max von Buch Library as well as to the librarians who are members of the Asociación de Bibliotecarios Jurídicos and the Consortia."

"Winning the grant was the high point of a journey that began years ago. As an immigrant I always looked for an opportunity to legitimize my work and to publicize professional librarianship in Latin America. Attending the conference and presenting gave me the confidence to write in academic journals and to take my work to another level."

The 2010 winner, Ufuoma Lamikanra from Nigeria, currently heading the Readers' Services Section at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies at the University of Lagos in Nigeria:

"My attendance at the AALL Annual Meeting opened up a lot of networking opportunities for me and my library."

"By working closely with the contacts that I have made at this conference, the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies library is working in close cooperation with a major U.S. legal publisher to preserve Nigerian legal materials, through their offer of free digitalization of our publications. Plans are on, and in the not too distant future, Nigerian legal materials and possibly some African legal materials will become more easily accessible to legal researchers on electronic legal databases."



"That American law librarians combine teaching legal research skills to law students with information delivery services has shown me how librarians in Nigeria can improve their image by becoming teachers of legal information skills. I have to convince my Institute management that Librarians are capable of doing much more than conducting Library Tours."

"I have been thinking and hope that the problem of collection development in Nigerian libraries can be partly overcome if one can find a cheap means of transporting weeded books from the US libraries back home. "

The 2009 winner, Ahmadullah Masoud from Afghanistan, currently working as Law Library and Legal Research Advisor at US AID funded Afghanistan Rule of Law Stabilisation Program:



“... the experience brought great changes to my mind and new visions. The knowledge I gained has been useful not only to me but also to my nation.”

“Participation in AALL conference, its workshops and trainings has proved to be vital and very fruitful for me, since regular professional training is non-existent in my country; it was the best chance for me to gain practical experience.”

The 2008 winner, Leanne Cummings from Australia, currently the Australian National Library Manager:

“The Grant afforded the opportunity to meet with leaders in the American Law Librarian field and provided an international forum from which I could network, learn and discuss concepts and hear of other's experiences.

From this experience, I have acquired a broader understanding of issues and trends in law libraries across the globe and am more attuned to changes abroad with the view to anticipate similar challenges and or trends occurring within the Australian landscape.”

“I look to the American Law Library Industry to extract various trends and concepts as part of my strategic planning process both as a Library Manager and in my capacity as National President, Australian Law Librarians' Association.”

“It was a wonderful, exciting and very rewarding experience and I do hope that many more international librarians are provided with the same professional development opportunity.”



The 2007 winner, Cheng Zhen, currently at the National Library of China:

“After returning to China, I gave a presentation about the AALL conference to share my experiences from the U.S. With the help of Library Society of China, we hosted three seminars on library government information services; one at the Annual Conference of China Society in 2008 and another one in a public library. I was invited to coordinate these three seminars, and I believe that my experience of attending AALL influenced the planning of the seminars.”



“The FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians was so important for me; without it, I would have never had the opportunity to work with so many law librarians from other countries. “

The 2006 winner, Hind Al-Helaly from Egypt, currently at the American University in Cairo Law Library – Technical Services:

“Being the 2006 FCIL Schaffer Grant recipient was an unforgettable experience for me That experience has reflected on me, my career and my whole life.”

“It was the first time for me to visit the United States. I really loved it. Americans are very friendly, helpful and respectable people. My favorite thing about Americans was their faith; they believe in everything they do and respect it. I really appreciate to have had the chance to connect with so many great people.”

The 2003 winner, Emmanuel M. Darkey from Ghana, currently at the University of Ghana Law Library – Faculty of Law:

“The grant offers an invaluable opportunity for young Librarians in developing countries to learn new things about other Libraries.”



“The conference I attended greatly imparted new ideas and improved my skills. The various activities, the visits and the interactions with senior colleagues gave me encouragement and determination to do something new for my library. Now, my library has computers and on-line materials. I feel satisfied to see our students being able to access valuable information. “

“Not too long ago, the Dean of my Faculty needed important information for a report. I e-mailed a colleague in Chicago, whom I met at the Seattle conference, and with whom I am still in communication, and the next day the information was in my mail.”

“The conference has also bolstered my confidence and now I write articles in International Journals.”

The 2001 winner, Sania Battalova from Kyrgyz Republic, currently the Director of Information Resources and Technology at the American University of Central Asia:

“With all my confidence I can say that winning Ellen Schaffer Grant was a great step ahead in my professional carrier development, and the ideas I was inspired with at the conference influenced the library services development in my country. “

“The experience and knowledge I shared with my colleagues after the conference helped us to organize and develop a network of law libraries (Library Centers for Legal Information network) which has covered now all regions in our country. The network is still working, developing and is well known in Kyrgyzstan.”



“I also can say that the ideas of the libraries cooperation I found during my visit to US in 2001 influenced the process of creating the Kyrgyz Libraries Information Consortium in 2002. The Consortium is one of the most powerful organizations in the country at the library area, and I am happy to serve as a President and a Vice-president of the Consortium.”