

STATE, COURT



& COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

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A Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries

SERIALS

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UNIV OF WASHINGTON
GALLAGHER LAW LIBRARY

Chair's Message

Since the convention in New Orleans, I have spent a lot of time thinking and acting on new directions for State, Court and County Law Libraries. Our Special Interest Section is comprised of innumerable professionals with unique talents and interests. Of all the AALL sections, ours is the least homogeneous and the most challenged.

Our challenges come from many directions. Funding is unpredictable and tenuous for most of us. During the current economic crisis for public entities, most of us are facing stagnation at best, and severe budget cuts in the worst instances. Even the California county law libraries, now celebrating both their 100th anniversary and their recent success in having filing fees increased, had years of status quo, hard work, and temporary setbacks.

We are challenged by our sense of not being recognized appropriately by either our parent institutions or our national association. Your frustrations were heard during our strategic planning in New Orleans. You want to get your bosses more involved in what you do; you want greater opportunities for participation in both the Section and AALL. We need to know more about what all of us have in our collections and how we handle common problems.

Many of you want the opportunity to meet more than once a year. During our institute last winter in Williamsburg, I heard again and again how rewarding that opportunity was for you. We will do our best to provide you with similar opportunities. I have asked our new Membership Committee to work with the AALL Chapters in providing meeting time and space for our members to gather during chapter meetings.

You will see other references to our Strategic Plan in this newsletter. Our goal is to have the Plan finalized and approved by the Board of Directors before our meeting in San Francisco. I hope that all of you will keep in mind that Strategic Planning is a dynamic process, not a document or an event. We will modify it, improve it, and update it in the years ahead, but only with your determination and help.

I have learned that Mead Data Central has again sponsored a conference on teaching legal research. This year's was held in Dallas and focused on private law firm librarians. Last year's was called the Graylyn Conference, and was designed for the academic law librarians. I have written to Mead, and asked them to keep in mind that members of our Section are actively involved in teaching online research. I suggested that not only would we learn at a research conference, but that Mead would benefit tremendously from taking advantage of our expertise.

(Continued on page 4)

Strategic Planning Phase II: Survey

At the end of this newsletter is a survey regarding the next phase of our strategic planning process. It's very important that you take a few moments to fill it out and return it, as your input and ideas are essential to our SIS's future.

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