

Comments from the AMEPC Online Survey

Note: the SIS column indicates the SISs to which the respondent indicated they belonged. The SISs are in alphabetical order, not in order of importance to the respondent.

SIS	Comment
ALL CS GD OBS TS	<p>"I have served on AMPSC and know what's involved in program selection, and like the idea of a balanced program. However, as a tech services librarian, much of what I come to the conference to learn happens in discussion groups and committee meetings, which are ALWAYS scheduled against each other at inconvenient times. I would LOVE the opportunity to hold these during the ""regular program times"". They ARE educational for us, and I don't think the association has clearly understood the disservice they are doing by not permitting greater scheduling flexibility."</p>
ALL GD TS	<p>I am glad this issue is being tackled. It has been a great source of frustration. I hope you can come up with a viable solution.</p>
ALL OBS	<p>The Annual Meetings are intensely rich. I believe a great deal of thought and energy go into the programs and also into selecting the programs from those proposed.</p>
ALL OBS TS	<p>"I'm of the opinion that at the very least the AMPC should be a standing committee with two or three year terms for some continuity. And of course rotations that assures some experienced folks as well as new comers to the committee. I don't think all the effort spent on haggling over themes is really worth the effort when we'd get more out of creating a track system like the Online Meeting.</p> <p>The best solution would be a committee that is composed of all the SIS Education Chairs and some At Large representation. (SIS by laws might need adjusting to deal with the term of office issue.)</p> <p>I would like to see closer connection between the work that goes on at the program development level and the being nibbled to death by ants stuff that happens after the proposal is submitted. Right now the ""negotiations"" that exist to create one program out of two or more ideas is misunderstood and causes hard feelings. This would make better sense if the Ed Chairs were in a room together.</p> <p>Puleeeze.. stop the madness of 7 am meetings. There is no reason that adults can't deal with conflicts between programs and committee responsibilities.</p> <p>Get a decent budget for outside speakers. It is a mortifying process for program coordinators to be expected to haggle with people for a cheap deal. AALL is not such a big deal that speakers should be gaga about an invitation.</p> <p>The process is too long and drawn out. We shouldn't be planning programs 18 ahead. ALA always seems to have hotter technical stuff a year before we</p>

	<p>do.</p> <p>Let's forget the regional rotation and pick a couple of good sites so we know about room availability and size on a more consistent basis. This will make a big difference in program planning.</p> <p>Outsource local arrangements, so the librarians in the various regions aren't burdened every x years."</p>
ALL OBS TS	<p>"I find that there are distinct topics that only a swath of members are interested in, and there are other topics that draw a broader audience. Those ""swath"" topics should be able to be scheduled against each other. There are some program slots with nothing of interest to me (!), although not the last meeting in Minneapolis, one of the best (if not *the* best) meetings I've ever attended (and I've attended all the odd-year meetings since 1989)."</p>
ALL OBS TS	<p>"Technical services people have had many complaints about programing for many years. It is frustrating for us to attend a meeting and feel that we have not learned everything we need to keep up-to-date. Regional programing for T.S. tends to be on the weak side, so we rely on the annual meeting to get what we need. We have many needs. Many of us are the only professional doing what we do at our institutions. The ""meetings"" we attend at AALL are our lifelines and our reality checks.</p> <p>1-2 hour programs are often not the best way for us to learn. There is a big need for hands-on learning, but there are only occasional opportunities for that. The other method that works very well for our topics is a short presentation (maybe 20 minutes) followed by discussion. That might be followed by a related short presentation and discussion. We do as much of this as we can in the meeting times allowed, but there are never enough.</p> <p>Having to plan a year in advance also causes problems in some cases. National standards undergo major changes with some frequency. While we know the change is coming, we usually do not know when it will be implemented until shortly before implementation. It is very difficult to learn something new a year or more before implementation. But we find ourselves either learning it very early or very late.</p> <p>As a person active in OBS and TS activities (both are vital), I have never once been able to attend all the meetings I would like to attend. I do have time to attend programs that</p> <p>are of marginal value. I do not attend Academic SIS meetings because Sunday morning is the ONLY time I am not busy from 7:00 am until 6:00 pm or later."</p>
ALL OBS TS	<p>"The current AALL process for selecting programs and setting up rigid ""no-conflict"" periods of time is based on a much earlier model of AALL and its</p>

	<p>membership needs. It is time to change AALL's selection process and our historic definitions of what constitutes the best continuing education experience for today's tech services law librarian. In today's world, many of us in Tech Services and Cataloging have very specialized and technical needs for information that cannot be properly addressed in general large programs designed to appeal to everyone in order for a tech services program to get on the selected programs schedule list at all, and yet satisfy no one in Tech Services but the most novice beginner. In Cataloging, we accomplish most if not all of our need for continuing education through workshops or smaller discussion groups. We need to be allowed to schedule those discussion groups and committee meetings opposite historically defined ""programs."" Our cataloging committee work and workshops and discussion groups are our ""programs."" I attend AALL exclusively for those comittee meetings and discussion times ... for several years I have attended only a couple of programs during the entire meeting. And as a West coast librarian going to AALL East coast annual meetings, I am tired of being forced to attend our most important cataloging committee meetings (my reason for even attending AALL at all!) several times each conference at 7:00 am because we are not allowed to hold these meetings during the day opposite AALL's single definition of what constitutes our important continuing education opportunities! We need to look at the ALA model, which allows each division to set its own guidelines for programs and committee meeting. Increasingly over the years I have come to resent the paternalistic ""we know what's best for you"" attitude that our AALL program selection process has established. We in Tech Services know what we need for training and how best to address our education needs; we should be able to do this without interference from the the general AALL. I think these comments apply also to other special interest sections as well. I would like to see a decentralization of the program/committe/workshop/discussion group selection and scheduling process. Allow each SIS to have its own hours of committee meetings, define what type of experiences most benefit its members etc. etc. Give the SISs more autonomy to choose what topics to schedule when we want how we want. Unless AALL can quickly and properly correct these ""one size fits all approach"" to the SISs continuing education needs, I envision attending ALA more often for its cataloging info, and AALL less often. I have made these comments at every opportunity for many years; I hope something is finally done."</p>
<p>ALL TS</p>	<p>"I resent having to attend TS-SIS meetings & discussion groups at ridiculously early or late hours - e.g. 7AM or 7PM. We have to do this because we cannot conflict with other scheduled events. Last year one of these scheduled events - a plenary session, was filled to capacity & was closed. For those two hours I could have had a meaningful SIS meeting but we are prohibited from scheduling it. If you are going to enforce no conflicts with plenaries, then put the plenaries in spaces large enough to accomodate everyone. Otherwise, let us plan something else at that time."</p>

ALL TS	<p>"Some of these were tough to answer with an agree/disagree range. Although I don't know a whole lot about the technicalities of proposing programs, it seems that EVERYONE is encouraged to submit proposals, and there is an attempt to select a range of options to address the range in membership. I think an SIS should be able to schedule meetings that are not part of the ""approved"" program. Although they could potentially conflict with the ""official"" program, the point is to address the needs of the attendees. Meetings at 7/7:30? ICK! But in so many cases there just isn't enough time for everything, and this may be a way to get them in. I'd worry about attendance tho."</p>
ALL TS	<p>"I feel there are never enough tech services programs (esp. those on collection development) offered. SIS's should have more input as programs selected. Why not let those with the expertise in their own fields suggest programs their members want? Also the programs should be more practical rather than theoretical. Making a program so general (read: blah)to appeal to a broad audience, makes the information merely pap instead of something I can use everyday. More substance, more handouts, websites, etc.. is more helpful than a lecture or a fancy powerpoint demo, no matter how well known the speakers. Panel discussions with vendors, how our library completed/did x project, and lots more time for questions would also be helpful.</p> <p>SIS meetings are squeezed in either early morning or at the end of a very full day. Why not let SIS schedule their meetings during the business day. If you schedule a tech serv. SIS meeting during a public service program, there shouldn't be any conflict."</p>
CS OBS PLL TS	<p>"I belong to numerous SIS because my job responsibilities are diverse. Since the programming change of allowing only certain times for SIS Business Meetings, I have been unable to attend all of the meetings that I should. They are usually scheduled for the same time and in various locations. I have forced to either partially attend one meeting and race for the ending of another or miss out entirely on one or the other.</p> <p>Having been in the profession for a long time the focus of many of the programs are too basic for me. My most important avenue of obtaining new information is the interaction at the SIS. The programs are geared for the new members.</p> <p>I am a morning person so the early morning meetings do not bother me. But if I have a rare morning without a meeting, I find being able to have a breakfast with either new people that I have met at the Convention or old friends, I find just as useful as sitting through those meetings where half the time is spent complaining about the time."</p>
CS OBS TS	<p>There is a strong need to bring speakers in from outside our profession. AALL must provide more support for this.</p>

CS PLL	<p>"I think the system that SLA has in place for their interest groups and programs is a better one. The interest groups decide on the programs, and can pretty much do whatever they want assuming they have the budget. With AALL's present system it often seems that the programs that people would be most interest in are the ones that get rejected."</p>
CS TS	<p>"Re Question 7: I wanted to say ""I don't know, but once I had checked a radio button, I couldn't leave the question blank, so marked it N/A. Could we include ""I don't know"" next time ... it's different from N/A.</p> <p>Re Question 14, I also attended AALL 1993 - Boston???</p> <p>I left some spaces blank because I have attended ALA more than AALL, and therefore had little or no information to answer the question.</p> <p>I've attended ALA far more than AALL because ALA offers more technical and tech services programs, and ALA is where decisions get made about technical services and technical issues, and where I can talk with national and international decision makers in the area of technical standards, etc. (in which I am interested).</p> <p>I tried this month to suggest that AALL provide a program on the new serials cataloging rules that will be published in July 2002. These will affect all of us who have catalogs, daily, yet apparently no program had been scheduled on this topic. When I returned from ALA Midwinter, I suggested such a program for July 2002, but by and large, it was too late for AALL's schedule. We probably will try to squeeze something in to a committee meeting time slot, and are on the list for Hot Topics, but I must say, as a newcomer, that the process was somewhat difficult.</p> <p>Obviously I was late, but until January 2002, I was not slated to attend AALL, and was therefore not previously involved in program planning.</p> <p>I would suggest that AALL needs to allow for late programs for technical issues, because things change so fast in the technical and technical services arenas, that a one-year planning process is sometimes too long. There needs to be a loophole for last-minute events. Waiting a whole year for a program may be too late: the technology will have moved on.</p> <p>I asked the recent TS-SIS survey the following, and will ask this survey also: How many Tech Services and other technical people attend AALL? Do Tech Services and technical members of AALL attend OTHER conferences instead? What is the ratio of tech services and technical programs to public service-related topics, and how does this compare to the ratio of technical and tech services attendees?</p> <p>I don't mean to sound curmudgeonly, and realize that I'm a relative newcomer</p>

	<p>to AALL, but have been planning and presenting programs in other venues for over 25 years, and hope to be able to contribute to AALL."</p>
FCIL	<p>"My primary disagreement with programming in recent years goes beyond the difficulties of SIS program scheduling. Because AALL is so intent on programs that serve large numbers of people, our SIS is discouraged from even submitting programs that address the special needs of our members, especially the continuing education needs of senior librarians. As a result we can no longer get SIS support for programs that might be deemed ""advanced"" by the AALL Program Committee. Without SIS support such programs do not even get considered. Instead, we have a series of beginning and intermediate level programs which are designed to train new librarians and librains who are not specialista in our area. The result is that those of us with need for ""advanced"" program content must turn to other organizations like IALL to get our continuing education. Since most of us have trouble getting funding for even one major meeting a year, we wind up attending and supporting the meeting of the organization that better meets our needs. For me, at least, AALL is no longer that organization."</p>
FCIL LHRB TS	<p>"I was in the past few years very discouraged by the programs offered:</p> <p>I thought there was very little substance in programming overall (not only my opinion).</p> <p>Since money dries up for travel, we have to make real hard choices in my institution.</p> <p>When I attended the Annual Convention, I did so in recent years because of the Business meetings of the SIS's.</p> <p>I fopund it unfair that they often overlaid and started at 7 in the morning, even if our chairs tried to keep us happy with breakfast.</p> <p>To attend the convention, has become rather expensive. Although it is great to see old friends, this is not enough of an justification."</p>
FCIL OB STS	<p>"All my primary SIS's - TS OBS and FCIL - all have track records of offering speakers and discussion fora during committee meeting times. For the cataloging committee section of TS-SIS, this is our primary means of member education. These sessions pull in large numbers of people compared to a working meeting such as a nominations or education committee.</p> <p>Scheduling these primarily against the programs only increases the problem of conflicts. Instead, I want to see the no-conflict periods for plenary sessions, vendors, the business meetings, and the association luncheon severely reduced.</p> <p>The drawings, desserts, etc. are sufficient to get people to the exhibit floor.</p>

	<p>A few years ago TS-SIS ran a program called ""cataloging a la carte"" which involved four concurrent sessions repeated twice. Each participant could attend two. Since these were smaller sessions, we were able to cover advanced topics in depth using a classroom format. Since then, we've been told each year that there is not enough space and time to do something similar.</p> <p>Do it as a workshop is problematical because of the need for workshops to pay their own way, and because directors are unwilling to send people out of town for pre-conference workshops in addition to the week-long conference. A solution might be to allow SIS's the freedom to propose workshop-format programs (of two, four or 6 hours) to run concurrently with the regular educational program timeslots within the meeting schedule. Even if the workshop counted as multiple programs, or involved a small additional fee, it would be easier to get sufficient registration, and cheaper for members to participate when a workshop is the most appropriate format for meeting a educational need. some programs as mini-workshops of two hours, four hours or one day to run concurrently with the educational program."</p>
<p>FCIL OBS</p>	<p>"It seems that too often high level programs geared to specialists are not approved because the appeal is so limited. We have lost AALL members because they feel it is a waste of time to sit through entry-level programming.</p> <p>For me, the SIS programming is much more significant than much of the general education programming, so it is a shame that the specialized programs are at awkward times and preference given to programs that attract larger crowds. I enjoy some cross-fertilization at AALL, but that should not be the primary focus. Instead, there needs to be a better balance between general education programs and specialized meetings that the subject-area SISes are best equipped to give their members."</p>
<p>FCIL SCCLL</p>	<p>"Some of these questions were extremely difficult to answer in the format given. For instance, a 7 or 7:30 a.m. meeting is a hardship, especially for those not staying in the official convention hotel nearest the meeting facilities. On the other hand, it may be a necessity.</p> <p>For instance, my positive answers to questions 7, 8 & 10 are based on my experiences with the Education Committee of the State, Court & County SIS. If I were a member whose SIS had a less active program proposing process, I might feel very different and much more negative about this.</p> <p>As to question 19, I don't think that the programs should be Balkanized to so that there are only SIS programs and none of wiser interest. One thing I do think is that the SIS programs should not be scheduled back to back and conflicting with each other has happened with the Sunday morning programs in Minneapolis. This forced SIS members to choose between two programs</p>

	<p>particularly to them.</p> <p>In fact, back to back scheduling of programs that would appear to appeal to the same segment of the membership, then a drought of relevant programs the next time slot seems to be a perennial problem at AALL Annual Meetings!</p> <p>I don't if this is possible, but it would help to have the next Education Committee (I'll use that as shorthand for Annual Meeting Program Committee) in place well before the annual meeting. For instance, if the 2003 Education Committee could be formed right after the AALL Board Elections and make their goals known well ahead of the Annual Meeting. People customarily come to the Annual Meeting with program proposals already prepared or, at least, rough drafts, etc.</p> <p>It would be very helpful for the membership of the incoming president could announce the topic of the next year's annual meeting in late spring and she and the Education Committee could announce their goals and requirements for program proposals at that time.</p> <p>It would also help if the whole practice had more long-term cohesion. There are so many changes each year, once committee wants this, one committee insists upon that, etc that I think some mebers feel really dis-enfranchised. No sooner do they think that they have learned the system, than the system changes again!</p> <p>I got into the program proposing cycle by being asked to serve on the State, Court & County Education Committee in 1992. I thought that meant that I had to bring proposals with me, not just evaluate other peoples' suggestions, and the rest is history. State, Court & County is fortunate enought to have had strong Education Committees and chairs and they have been able to encourage their members to submit programs that have appealed to the various AALL Education Committees. These committees have also acted as mentors to members by helping them fine tune proposals and getting them involved in the process. One way to strengthen the program proposing process might be a concerteed effort to strengthen the Education Committees of the individual SIS's. One way to accomplish this would be to schedule their meetings at some time other than 7:00 a.m.! In fact, these meetings are important because they are the genesis of the next year's program. Their tiiming etc should reflect their importance to the association.</p> <p>Also, annual programs on who to prepare a program proposal, what the committee is looking for, etc whoudl be useful. Similar information should be on the AALL web site as well. (I realize that there is some, but it could be expanded upon and also made more user friendly for the neophyte.)"</p>
FCIL	"SIS's need more time for business meetings, and should not have to have

<p>TS</p>	<p>them at 7:00 in the morning, if possible. Also, SISs should have also be encouraged to schedule programs during their business meeting times -- for instance, if TSSIS wants to have a program on seriality douring the serials committee roundtable, i think AALL should provide some amo0unt of funding for speakers for that meeting. Or, even better, given the dearth of meeting time available, some program time could be devoted to hot topics that each SIS could pick -- free of the program committee.</p> <p>Some times we have lots of programs, and it's great, and some times we have no programs, and it's terrible. Recently, we've had lots of great programs. But I think it would be great if we could schedule programs during our roundtable times that might be of interest to us -- I think part of the reason we haven't is because we are worried about costs.</p> <p>I have to go to all the annual meetings anyway, but I really wish we wouldn't schedule them at Disneyland or Disneyworld again. I also wish we'd go to Toronto or Vancouver. I think those would be nice cities to visit."</p>
<p>GD OBS TS</p>	<p>I suggest that AALL look at the ALA model for annual meeting programs and meetings</p>
<p>GD TS</p>	<p>"For me, the most valuable part of attending AALL annual meetings is talking to other librarians with similar job responsibilities; that usually happens in the SIS meetings and discussions. I realize that it's impossible to schedule so many programs, meetings, etc. without conflict, but every year I find I cannot attend one SIS event because it conflicts with another. Also, I don't feel the education committee realizes the importance of ""practical"" programs to tech. services librarians."</p>
<p>LHRB SCCLL</p>	<p>"Offer fewer programs and have speakers who are not law librarians. Some of our members are downright boring.</p> <p>Offer time for ""birds of a feather"" type gatherings similar to what III does at its annual meeting. These offer networking opportunities for those with similar interests.</p> <p>Stop the non-compete times and allow sis meetings or other type meetings to be held during program times.</p> <p>Sometimes I think we take ourselves too seriously. We attend these annual events to network, to learn and to conduct the business of the association. If you participate in the latter, it is difficult to do much else due to the non-compete policy. One might even get a few moments to put her feet up if committees could meet during programs.</p> <p>Set an entire day aside for type library programming and another for subject oriented sis's. That way the type libraries can even break away into smaller groups and the subject oriented ones can offer an array of programs</p>

	throughout the day."
LHRB TS	<p>"Although I am somewhat new to AALL, I am not new to Technical Services; unfortunately, it comes as no surprise that TS is the orphan child of AALL. As chair of the Cataloging and Classification Committee, I was told that, although 85% of the catalogers at the business meeting wanted training sessions, they would never be approved by AMPC. And guess what? They weren't.</p> <p>TS librarians need different programs--some of the catalogers at the last meeting thought we needed a different organization.</p> <p>After every program or workshop I have ever submitted has been shot down, I'm tempted to agree."</p>
LHRB TS	<p>"There must be more flexibility given to SISEs to schedule discussion sessions, breakout sessions, etc. during the same time slots as programs. There are usually numerous time slots in which there are no programs relevant to me. That's fine--I don't expect the program committee to cater to me. However, I do think this same time could be used to better advantage if an SIS were allowed to schedule something that was relevant to its members."</p>
LHRB TS	<p>"Question 1: The programs from the last few years have not included the sponsoring group so that can't be a deciding factor. Question 19: an SIS cannot have the final decision on which programs are presented. A national committee must have that responsibility. TS-SIS prioritizes the program ideas submitted to it and sends them on with those priorities noted. An individual in TS-SIS has the option of submitting a program idea independently so it's not prioritized by the SIS. I will be coordinating another program in Orlando. I am satisfied with the current process. Question 17: if meetings don't start early, the whole conference will have to go on another day. Conflicts are difficult to avoid with so many meetings and groups. Could there be a program at a special time to explain the process of program selection, what the Education Committee looks for, how they decide to accept some programs over others? That would help to alleviate some of the questioning of the Education Comm."</p>
LISP PLL RIPS	<p>"In the past I have attended some of the pre and post sessions. This is not always an option. I look for programs that tend to have advanced content rather than an overview, discussion or beginner/intermediate levels. These are important but I would like to attend at least one or two programs each day that offer me a learning challenge. Too many of the programs repeat or update previous programs with different speakers and titles. I would like programs that offer specific content. The Biotech/Medical program a few years ago was of this type. Very useful in content and presentation."</p>
LISP SCCLL	<p>"The AMPC should have the final say in which programs are offered. They see all the proposals so can make the most informed choices, and can work with the President to determine which programs best fit the needs of the</p>

	with the President to determine which programs best fit the needs of the membership and the conference theme."
MA TS	"Re question 16, the SIS meetings should of course only be scheduled against programs not sponsored by or of particular interest to that SIS. There will be conflicts, of course; but there are conflicts now, between two programs of interest and between meetings of different SIS's that one might belong to."
OBS PLL TS	"Anaheim was a horrible place. You took your life in your hands trying to cross the street between the conference center and the hotel. I attend for the program, not the city, but I do expect to be able to walk around and enjoy the city when I'm not in sessions. That was impossible in Anaheim! Please, schedule conferences in real cities."
OBS TS	"As a new member, I found this survey somewhat confusing. I'm not sure what many questions were asking. Also, I don't choose the programmes, workshops, conferences, etc. that I attend; my library's management does. Every librarian from our library can't attend AALL at the same time - your questions do not account for this."
OBS TS	"I am delighted to fill out this survey. I am sick and tired of attending Cataloging meetings at 7 in the morning. They are one of the main reasons I attend AALL. Long service members often are able to recharge their professional batteries from committee meetings and discussions. Often the programs are okay but not great for experienced TS members. I am finding AALL of less and less benefit to me. I would like to see TS/OBS be able to run their own programs picked by the SIS's themselves and not other law librarians. We really know what we need to know and should be able to choose our educational programs ourselves. We should have more time for committees, open forums and discussions. We should be able to plan our educational institutes and workshops ourselves. I very much resent that the current crop of insitutes are being planned by a general group and not by our TS. I would like to see TS/OBS be allowed to bring in more outside speakers from ALA, LC. We have some very competent TS members but they are called on again and again. I could go on and on but I have been very impressed by the ALA annual and midwinter meetings I have attended. It is nice to learn something new at ALA -- why can't I do it at AALL."
OBS TS	Provide 1 hour slot where an SIS can provide anything without being restricted by AALL programs.
OBS TS	"There are both ""forest"" and ""tree"" issues here. I think the program planning committee is an appropriate venue for chosing programs relating to the ""forest"". But when it comes to the ""trees"", those detailed places that affect many of us daily, on the job, the SIS has a far better handle on things. I frequently find myself with nothing to do in the middle of the day because all of the programs are busy with ""forest"" issues. I have no interest in attending all of those. Meanwhile, my SIS has no time to provide critical discussion of issues of importance--issues that do not readily lend themselves

	to an educational slot."
OBS TS	"I recognize that vendors see the meeting as a massive sales opportunity, but I do not, and I believe that many of my colleagues do not believe that the ""no conflict"" times, both with the exhibit hall and association wide events (key note, business meetings, etc.) are the best way to help us with the primary purpose of attending the meeting -- networking with other librarians and EDUCATION."
OBS TS	<p>"RE QUESTION 8:</p> <p>I understand how the selection process is said to work. I don't believe that politics, personality, and a general aversion to un-cool cataloging programs are not the most important deciding factors. A concerted protest by law catalogers two years ago resulted in decent cataloging programs for ONE MEETING. We apparently must mount a major protest every year just to get program slots.</p> <p>Cataloging discussion groups and business meetings are frequently SRO. We are a special audience that requires specialized continuing ed programs in order to keep up to speed. The vast majority of AALL meetings, including the one in Orlando, don't have much to offer. I would like to see the annual meeting include a cataloging TRACK with relevant programming in each time slot."</p>
PLL	<p>"1. The Private Law Libraries SIS should use the annual meeting to have one or more general discussions re. fundamental issues that are of concern to its members--sort of a town hall meeting-- and to have the top areas of concern addressed by the AALL.</p> <p>2. The top issues for many private law librarians are job descriptions, salary, and training. I don't think AALL has done enough for private law librarians to get our salaries up where they should be and to establish a standard job description and salary range, which would make it easier for firms to understand the job, what it contributes to their bottom line, and what they need to pay for a good law librarian. Specialized, high-quality training for private law librarians should be created and provided on a regional basis. There should be a charge for the training; firms would be happy to pay for training their librarians.</p> <p>Library schools do not train law librarians-- I would like to see the AALL fill this need. "</p>
PLL	"Although I belong to only 1 SIS, there are a few subgroups to which I belong that have conflicting meeting times. 7/7:30 am meetings are a killer - the poor attendance at the PLL business meeting is a prime example, and there is the inducement of food. Why not extend the conference for a half day (finish at 5 pm on Wed.)so that SIS meetings could be integrated into the program schedule. Or, bring back the SIS Sunday, which was a great

	<p>educational, morale and networking opportunity. I was co-chair of the PLL annual meeting programming committee a few years ago and I still don't comprehend how/why programs get selected or rejected. Does an SIS need a champion on the annual program planning committee to get its programs selected? Thanks.</p>
PLL	<p>Each SIS should be able to hold a weekend conference separate from the AALL Annual Meeting.</p> <p>These could either immediately precede or follow the Annual Meeting or be held during another season in a separate location.</p>
PLL	<p>"I have never been involved in the program selection process. I am not familiar with the with the role that the SISs play; therefore, I was unable to answer some of the questions. Your survey does not address this issue, but I would like to add that I think AALL could have better programs if we employed more ""outside"" speakers. It seems that often times we are law librarians listening to other law librarians. Maybe speakers who offer different perspectives and come from varying work experiences would enhance our education and our outlook."</p>
PLL	<p>"I have probably misunderstood the process by which programs are selected for annual meetings. Firstly, I have submitted programs without a definite speaker, believing that there it was a multi-step process by which if my program were given tentative approval I could find appropriate speakers.</p> <p>Because I was not told why my program suggestions were rejected, nor what exactly the criteria is for program selection, I have stopped submitting suggestions for them. Any additional information about what the program committee wants would help me and maybe others to create better program ideas.</p> <p>Frankly, I have had a difficult time making the meetings of my SIS. More convenient times to attend them would help me perhaps. Similarly, if my SIS or others would publicize a specific meeting agenda, I might be more motivated to attend. Additionally, some indication of how this meeting would benefit me would further motivate my attendance.</p> <p>Thank you for reading this.</p> <p>"</p>
PLL	<p>"I have started attending the SLA annual meetings, because they are more directly job related and less theoretical. More hands on technology programs"</p>
PLL	<p>"I just haven't been involved in any aspect of the AALL Annual Meeting</p>

	<p>Programming.</p> <p>I have been able to go automatically to all the AALL meetings, regardless of program or city, thanks to my firm. I've only missed 2 meetings in 23 years--one due to being on medical leave, and the other due to firm budgetary reasons."</p>
PLL	<p>I really do not know anything about SIS politics as pertains to scheduling meetings and programs and I only am a member and only attend PLL</p>
PLL	<p>"I think that there should be MUCH more flexibility in the timeframe and approval procedures for the programs to be included. Issues change too rapidly to plan programs as much as 2 years in advance.</p> <p>Also, I think there should be more professional support from AALL HQ for these programs--e.g., money and staff. Private Law Librarians, especially, do not have the time to devote to extensive programming and approval processes."</p>
PLL	<p>I thought some of the SIS programs were on Saturday. I would rather see them from Sun to Wed because I usually don't arrive on Saturday.</p>
PLL	<p>I would not want to see the SISs doing their own programming to the exclusion of the other SISs. The profession has more in common than not. It would likely create divisiveness and conflict. Let's look for topics of common concern for most programming with others for specialized interests.</p>
PLL	<p>"I'm very tired of seeing the same speakers on the list every year. There is a belief that the only way to get a program approved is to have ""tried & true"" speakers. This process does not give new speakers a chance. It is not right that new speakers can only get on the program if they are ""substituted"" for the speakers on the list when the program is approved. I've actually been told to submit a program with speakers that would not be able to attend, but were ""guaranteed"" to get the program approved. If programs are not approved based upon the speakers, than something must be done to change the perception that this is the case.</p>
PLL	<p>"Including this year in Orlando, 5 of the last 6 years the meetings have been scheduled in the east. That does play a big role in not going to the conference. If there was an outstanding set of programs geared toward my needs, I would deal with the expense and hassle of going to the east in the summer. When it is just one or two programs that are relevant, I am not going to request that my firm send me to AALL. I am not perhaps the ideal person to ask, as my firm is very specialized in focus. We do not do litigation, and focus on corporate and securities law. My needs are more along the lines of management training & support, and keeping current with technology. How to run several departments, how to negotiate contracts,</p>

	what is the latest in Knowledge Management...."
PLL	"Re: Question 19, Programs need to fit within a framework, and therefore I did not select No. 1. However, the SIS should have as much leeway as possible to decide which programs would be offered."
PLL	The present process of oftentimes making an amalgam of several similar program ideas frequently results in programs that are unsatisfactory to all the submitters and miss the original intent of the program. There are way too many academically orientated programs. The academic world tends to run the programming for the conference. I often have a difficult time finding enough programs of interest to justify attending the conference.
PLL	The programs are weak and the process for selecting them is weaker. It needs to be made a lot easier.
PLL	"The reason I choose programs based on the group that is putting it on is that experience has taught me that if it is sponsored by a particular group the entire program is geared to that group. The majority of programs can be applicable to most groups, but they usually aren't. Why don't we have substantive subject programs done with a cross section of the SISs? I need to know about circulation but my needs in a Private firm are totally different from an Academic library etc. I have no problem listening to other SIS ideas, but I don't want a whole program on them. This would make the whole program more valuable and get the members to mix more."
PLL	The SIS for PLL needs to have advanced sessios for experienced members. All levels would be appreciated. Thanks.
PLL	What I don't see addressed here are the options for committees and their program proposals. I would add that I don't see any difference between SIS and committee submission. I don't understand the submission/acceptance process and find it rather arbitrary. I've heard of several really good offerings that were rejected.
PLL	"While I have attended meetings, I have not been involved in planning, so some of my questions whould have been more accurately answered ""Do Not Know""."
PLL	"You left out one of the most important factors in deciding whether or not to attend an educational program - cost, including transportation, lodging, etc."
PLL RIPS	"If each SIS could have one or 2 program slots to choose on its own an interesting program, that would benefit all. Some of the SIS's are much smaller than others, and the number of time slots should be alloted based on the size or the SIS and the targeted audience."
PLL RIPS	"1)I feel there needs to be a balance between SIS scheduling programs & overall planning to create a balanced program, with the balance going to overall planning.

	<p>2)The more active you are in AALL, the more conflicts you have, because committee meetings can conflict with each other and with other events. This wasn't asked.</p> <p>3)I appreciate the process of SISs ranking proposals that come from their members. It helps the selection."</p>
PLL RIPS SR	<p>"The SIS structure needs reinventing. There are too many competing interests for time slots and too many conflicts as a result. When there are nearly 150 SIS ""business and discussion"" sessions scheduled, it is too much. People who belong to more than one SIS cannot attend all meetings because of the concurrent scheduling. Secondly, the proprietary nature of the SISs with regard to having programs selected is ridiculous. The annual meeting is not an event to see who can get more of the sessions for their group. If the SISs could figure out how to run efficient business meetings, communicate with their members year round, and remember their programs don't have to be JUST for their specific group, this special committee and this survey might not be necessary!! Naturally, there are many other issues...."</p>
PLL SCCLL	<p>"I have not been to a conference since I was on the local arrangements for one. I felt we were treated poorly and resented that after doing all that work, I still was expected to pay yhte registration, even though I attended nothing without working."</p>
PLL SCCLL TS	<p>"Another question you should ask is ""Does funding play a significant part in whether or not one attends the annual meeting?""</p> <p>This year lack of financial support by our institution, as well as location, determined that I would NOT be attending. Next year? We'll see...</p> <p>Regard the programs: When I first joined AALL in 1978, there were fewer programs and they were repeated at least once during the course of the annual meeting. I found this very helpful. Last year I had to choose to attend ONE of THREE programs that were of interest but being given at the same time. This has happened several times over the last few years."</p>
PLL SR	<p>"I feel very strongly that if you are not well-connected in an SIS or to AALL leadership, generally, the chances of your proposal for an educational program being accepted as part of the annual meeting curriculum are non-existent. Generally, that John Q Librarian's ideas for programs have absolutely no chance of ever being selected. There has got to be a better way of letting the non-SIS membership suggest programming and have as much chance as anyone else of having it selected. It also amazes me that with so few spots for educational programs at the annual meetings there is so much JUNK presented as educational programming."</p>
PLL SR	<p>"Please, please, PLEASE don't make me wake up for a 7:00 a.m. meeting!"</p>
PLL SR	<p>"I am a big believer in SIS's. I only wish that members would become more active. I think that the SIS meetings should be on one day like they used to</p>

	<p>be previously, preferably on the first day, so that people won't leave town before the convention is over. I think that it is generally terrible that there is not a bigger buildup for the last day. Vendors should stay to the very end. Start them later, I say."</p>
SCCLL	<p>I don't think our present system is a bad one. I also don't think it is a bad thing that people have to make choices. What I don't want to see is the annual meeting extending longer than it already is. I suspect our problem is that our annual meeting is the one time when we want to: get all of our association business conducted; 2) get all of our continuing education accomplished; and 3) take maximum advantage of all of the networking afforded to us. So of course there are conflicts. And what is wrong with that?!</p>
TS	<p>I don't think that SIS should ALONE decide what programs to offer but I think they could schedule discussion groups or other informal meetings without competing for times.</p> <p>Also I would prefer meeting that DO NOT start at 7 am. I need to get breakfast before starting to work (for medical reasons) and that does not allow enough time.</p>
TS	<p>"I feel the SIS know what types of educational programs will be valuable to their members and should be allowed the opportunity to present the programs and discussion sections they feel would be most beneficial, rather or not there is a time conflict with another program."</p>
TS	<p>I have not yet attended any annual meetings and only recently joined AALL so I have very little knowledge of how programs are determined</p>
TS	<p>"I would like to see more flexibility given to the SIS chairs. Being selected by their peers, they most closely represent the needs and goals of the membership. I believe the SIS Chairs should be allowed the flexibility to plan meetings that fall opposite programs, after all they have a good clue as to what their membership will be interested in attending. Furthermore, if the SIS Chair schedules something incorrectly, the members will feel that they can approach him or her directly and have their complaints heard, and resolved for the next meeting."</p>
TS	<p>The Annual Meetings are intensely rich. I believe a great deal of thought and energy go into the programs and also into selecting the programs from those proposed.</p>
TS	<p>"We need to look at the ALA model, which allows each division to set its own guidelines for programs and committee meeting. We in Tech Services know what we need for training and how best to address our education needs; we should be able to do this without interference from the general AALL. Allow each SIS to have its own hours of committee meetings, define what type of experiences most benefit its members etc. etc. Give the SISs more autonomy to choose what topics to schedule when we want how we want.</p>

	<p>Stop "one size fits all approach" to the SISs continuing education needs.</p> <p>I attend AALL exclusively for those committee meetings and discussion times. I am tired of being forced to attend our most important cataloging committee meetings (my reason for even attending AALL usually) several times each conference at 7:00 am because we are not allowed to hold these meetings during the day opposite AALL's single definition of what constitutes our, important continuing education opportunities!</p> <p>In Cataloging, we accomplish most if not all of our need for continuing education through workshops or smaller discussion groups. We need to be allowed to schedule those discussion groups and committee meetings opposite historically defined "programs." Our cataloging committee work and workshops and discussion groups are our "programs."</p>
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