



MAALL Markings

Mid-America Association of Law Libraries

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DAZED AND INSTRUCTED

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WANT TO SEE MY COLLECTIONS COLLECTION?

Students are always busy, and never more so than at the end of the semester. Final exams, projects, and end of semester paperwork all pile

up, seemingly out of nowhere (or at least some students would have you believe) to place the hectic cherry upon the stress sundae which is a law school semester. It may seem as no surprise then when students are completely unaware of the various collections that law school libraries have for student, faculty, and the public's use. Often nearing finals students will ask what "Reserve" is, or "where is the Illinois collection?" and I will politely point them to the collections shelved about 10 feet away from them: Collections they have passed dozens of times during the semester. The heads down mentality of students is understandable, but something has to give.

Students do not seem motivated to do any extra reading during the semester, striving to keep their heads above water while some intentionally aim to do the bare minimum. Those who do have it together (in law school adjusted terms) fill the small gaps in their time through involvement in extracurricular or professional activities. Students will seek out library resources when they need them, but otherwise are oblivious to the resources around them. Unfortunately, this utilitarian mindset provides inefficiencies in students' studies, as well as application of law school library resources. It also explains why students don't know where to go when they do need the resources. The lack of use during the semester leads to a lack of recognition that is detrimental to students' studies and the collections themselves.

Many of the reference collections need to be utilized throughout the semester, not just at the end. As with any resource, regular use of study aids and hornbooks will not only help students understand the layout and purpose of these materials, but will help to secure understanding of the subject in conjunction with the course lectures and readings. Applying these resources at the end of the semester simply reintroduces the material in a rushed manner, rather than integrating it into the broader understanding of the subject. Relatedly, practice ready collections may often not seem relevant during law school, but will be highly useful in practice and may offer context for students wishing to understand the legal doctrines in a real world setting.

Beyond reference collections, special collections offer students the opportunity to break away from black letter legal studies to look at law in the wider world; philosophically, literarily, historically, politically, socially, etc. Unfortunately, these collections are often black holes in the library, since it is incomprehensible for many

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students to read more, and (perish the thought!) read for fun. The lack of use of these collections is even more lamentable since time, money, and consideration went into the collecting, organization, and display. Without a “collections pusher” the usefulness of these resources remain dormant.

These collections need to be publicized and marketed (even hyped) to the students and other patrons in any and every way possible. For instance, I bring up these collections in my classes and to my students as an opportunity to broaden their legal understanding, or at the very least give them a leg up on studying for their finals. We have held events touting the collections, like dedications

for new collections, book clubs using materials from the collections, and using resources from these collections in class lectures or library informational sessions. In most cases students continue to ignore them, but if even one student takes note, then the collection becomes far more useful than before. Many of the collections are buried treasures that are often ignored, but rather than letting them remain benign shelving units in the library, we need to strive to make them vibrant and dynamic resources which students are eager to use. While this is a difficult task to be sure, it is also an essential one.



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MANAGING THE CIRCUS: TIPS FOR JUGGLING STAFF REQUESTS, PATRON ISSUES, AND YOUR OWN NEEDS

*Lacy Rakestraw, Law Library Director, Saint Louis County Law Library,
(Lacy.Rakestraw@courts.mo.gov)*

LETTERS, I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND THEM

Oh look, a group you love is hiring for a new position! They just need your resume, cover letter,....and two letters of recommendation. You're suddenly reconsidering the entire group. Do you really love them that much to bother to ask for not one, but two letters of recommendation? Not only should this give you pause about this group, it really should make you flinch at the entire practice of soliciting these letters.

Demanding letters of recommendation has become an outdated practice. Fewer employers are asking for, or even accepting them. What's the use of soliciting letters of recommendation, when the possible lack of confidentiality has such a strong potential to bias the authenticity of the letter?

Even worse are the instances where professional associations require a letter of recommendation (or more than one!) before considering a colleague's application for grant funding. This creates an unnecessary

stumbling block for those potential applicants who have supervisors in jobs who are too busy to be bothered for something so trivial. For example, should one of my employees ask me to write a letter, I have the freedom as a library director to do so. However, if I need one for myself, I'm appointed under the authority of the Director of Judicial Administration after a vote by the entire Court en Banc of my circuit. These are Judges and Administrators who have full dockets and barely have time to eat lunch, let alone write a letter asking that I be considered for \$500 to travel to a conference. Would they be willing to write it? Of course! Would I be willing to ask them to take the time out of their already busy schedule to write it? Not on your life.

Why are groups still clinging to this outdated practice? Inertia. The practice of needing letters of recommendation is very common for college scholarships, where there are potentially thousands of applicants and these letters can provide quick insight into a student, and a way to weed out those applicants who can't follow directions and fail to submit any letters. These students also generally don't yet have employment history worthy of a resume. The same isn't true of professionals in the field, who have a resume full of experience and education. It is that document that employers should be using to grade applicants for a job, not letters of recommendation.

That's not to say that you shouldn't want to learn more about an applicant for a job or funding from your institution. Instead of letters though, the preferred method of communication for recommendations is the reference phone call. By calling, an employer can hear the tone of the recommender and sometimes read between the lines. The employer can ask questions that may not otherwise be answered in a standard recommendation letter, and usually get the answers they seek in less than 10 minutes. It's also possible that in our litigious society, a recommender will say things during a phone call that she wouldn't otherwise commit to putting in a printed letter.

If you are part of a hiring team or an advisory group who regularly solicits letters of recommendation, consider asking your team to update their practices. You'll get much better and more candid answers through a reference phone call, and won't be turning away those applicants who don't want to bother with letters. That's a recommendation I'm happy to put in writing.



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AFFIRMATIONS

Annette Parde-Maass, Legal Resources Assistant, Koley Jessen P.C. L.L.O., Omaha, Nebraska, Annette.Parde-Maass@koleyjessen.com

AALL WEBINAR REPORT: “LAW SCHOOL AND LAW FIRM COLLABORATION: A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE LAW SCHOOL AND THE FIRM”

(Recording of webinar and slides available on the AALL PLLIP SIS Community)

On Thursday, April 11, 2019, law school and firm librarians presented their successes, barriers, and ideas on working together to help summer and first year associates be practice ready as part of the “Law School and Law Firm Collaboration: A Bridge Between the Law School and the Firm” webinar hosted by AALL Private Law Librarians & Information Professionals Special Interest Group (PLLIP SIS).

Successes

Several of the speakers brought up the usefulness of class visits from law firm librarians. A visit could be a 30 to 45 minute session within a 2 hour class or a drop-in to a specialized course to help with a specific subset of research. It appeared that the main goal of these sessions was to demonstrate how firm librarians can help new associates succeed and build relationships and networks between potential attorneys and multiple types of librarians. In addition, these visits provided “real world” examples from firms, which were useful in preparing students and in adding to the academic librarians repertoire. For the firm librarians, they had more complete insights as to which topics to emphasize during training. One presenter even mentioned that visits by firm librarians and attorneys assisted in recruiting employees.

Several people also mentioned hosting a professional development seminar toward the end of the 1st year. At some institutions, Career Services was in charge of this; the library could still be a part of it though it could take some explaining to Career Services about the roles librarians play.

Barriers

Barriers for the firm librarians included deprioritized training on information resources due in part to summer associates having more substantial projects and even less time. For some firms, the length of the associate experience shrunk by 50%. Another barrier was lack of awareness of prior art developed by the firm and how to use it. Even if associates knew it existed, some thought they either shouldn't or couldn't use it.

From the law school side, one of the barriers was firms perceiving law school librarians as having more time with students to develop research skills when often the librarians' time with students was severely limited. This could lead to a gap in expectations for new associates. In addition, there were some skills that were difficult to grasp, and therefore teach, until the students experience them in a firm.

Continuing the Discussion

Two questions were mentioned as needing lengthier discussions: 1) Which skills can and need to be taught in law school? 2) Which skills need to be taught at the firm?

Presenters and participants also mentioned several ways to sustain the communication and collaboration at local, regional, and national levels. Ideas included participating in Community discussions on AALL, electing

or appointing Liaisons to other AALL sections, hosting Bridge the Gap programs where all librarians are invited to meet students, network, learn, and share, inviting each other to training sessions, keeping law school librarians informed regarding what the firms ask the associates to do, and continuing to seek ways to work together even if there isn't traction the first few times.

Webinar Presenters:

Steve Lastres - Debevoise & Plimpton - Director of Knowledge Management Services

Femi Cadmus - Director, Michael J. Goodson Library, Duke University

Camille Broussard - Director, The Mendik Library, New York Law School

Katie Brown - Deputy Director of the Law Library, Charleston School of Law

Margaret Schilt - Associate Law Librarian for User Services, D'Angelo Law Library, University of Chicago

MOMENT WITH MALLCO

*Susan Urban, MALLCO Executive Director, Head of Access Services,
Oklahoma City University Law Library, (seurban@okcu.edu)*

Greetings from MALLCO! I hope your summers are off to a great start!

As a result of our strategic planning process, MALLCO has created a Legal Technology Task Force that will work to help our members be leaders in teaching Legal Technology. To that end, various 30-minute long webinars have been held and many are still scheduled. These webinars include law librarians and library directors talking about what they do at their institution as well as presentations and demos from vendors. Previously recorded presentations and the schedule for upcoming webinars can be found under the "Education and Events" tab at mallco.org.



MALLCO is also committed to providing other opportunities for professional development to our member libraries. The LMN (LIPA, MALLCO, NELLCO) partnership has previously provided two webinars on grant prospecting and writing that are also available to view on the "Education and Events" tab. And now, we need YOUR help. Please take this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LMN2019> and let us know what your current professional development needs are. We will compile the results this summer and make plans for providing more great content in the 2019-2020 school year!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Karen Wallace, Circulation/Reference Librarian, Drake Law Library, (karen.wallace@drake.edu)

In the bitter days of winter (think polar vortex changes), the Drake Law Library digital signage included a screen with a photo of a flowering tree and the reminder that spring is coming. At the time, that seemed a very distant hope. Somehow, in both the blink of an eye and a minor eternity, spring is now almost past and summer is nearly here. My point is not just that my experience of time is warping with age. It's also that the AALL Annual Meeting is just around the corner.

I hope those attending can work the MAALL luncheon and business meeting into their schedules: Sunday, July 14, 12:45-2:15 p.m. We will convene at the City Tap House in Penn Quarter (D.C.), a short distance from the convention center and headquarters hotel. The venue will allow a lunch that we hope will be tastier than we could get at the hotel; at \$30, we know it will be significantly less expensive. To view the menu, designed to try to accommodate a variety of diets, and register for the meeting, please visit <https://maall.wildapricot.org/event-3258435>. Please be sure to complete your registration by July 10.

MAALL will be well represented at AALL beyond our own meeting. Thanks to the Public Relations Committee (committee chair Matt Braun, Cathy Chick, and Courtney Segota) who are creating a new chapter poster. Be sure to check it out in the Exhibit Area, where we hopefully will not repeat Baltimore's mascot-napping debacle. (I hope whoever thought they were getting the greatest exhibit giveaway ever is treating you right, Marbury 1.0.) The PR folks will also be representing MAALL at CONELL.

In terms of programming, look for these MAALL names among session speakers and moderators: Kenton Brice, Cynthia Brown, Lindsey Carpino, Erika Cohn, Susan deMaine, Benjamin Keele, Heidi Kuehl, Annie Mentkowski, Allison Reeve, Rena Seidler, and Heather Simmons. I'm hoping to see some additional MAALL members represented as poster presenters and Innovation Tournament participants.

Worth another mention, some MAALL members will be receiving well-deserved recognition of their significant contributions to the profession.

Ken Hirsh will receive AALL's highest honor, the Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award and will be inducted into the AALL Hall of Fame. Rich Leiter will receive the 2019 Roy M. Mersky Spirit of Law Librarianship Award. I have no doubt additional MAALL names will emerge as other award and grant recipients are announced, and I look forward to compiling a more complete list of member recognitions.



If you are attending AALL for the first time, I encourage you to reach out to other MAALL members for suggestions about navigating the conference. Send a note on the discussion list or connect early with a familiar face at the conference. Here are just a few sample tips:

1. Don't be afraid to strike up a conversation with others you may not have met yet. Most people are friendly, and we all have quite a bit in common. Remember that the name tags are not just there to help the vendors, and informal exchanges with other attendees can be very informative.
2. Mine the [Annual Meeting site](#), which has resources for [first-time attendees](#), information about getting around D.C., tools to plan your time, and more.
3. If you want to partake in a free lunch in the exhibit hall, try to arrive about 10 minutes early to avoid an awfully long line.

I hope to see you this summer!

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

*Lacy Rakestraw, Law Library Director, Saint Louis County Law Library,
(Lacy.Rakestraw@courts.mo.gov)*

It's June, which means AALL is just around the bend! I hope to see many of you in D.C. in July, where it promises to be hot, muggy, and an overall great time. Check out Karen's Presidential Column for the juicy details. Personally, I can't wait for the tasty food at the City Tap House. I call dibs on the chicken tenders!

Let's skip ahead a bit to October, my favorite month of the year. Not only because the weather is cooling down, but because of the spirit(s) of the season. And speaking of spirit, don't forget about the MAALL 2019 annual meeting in October, where we will Get in the Spirit in St. Louis. This year promises to be an exciting annual meeting, with many very spirited programs and engaging speakers. Watch for the lineup announcement coming to your inbox soon.



Until then, keep enjoying the dog days of summer, and pack your bags for D.C.!

STATE MEMBER NEWS



UALR Law Library

The law school held a reception on May 2, 2019 honoring Reference and Special Collections Librarian Kathryn Fitzhugh on the occasion of her upcoming retirement. Current faculty, staff, and many alumni, along with Kathryn's husband Dewey and daughter Erica were on

hand to celebrate her 27 years of service to the Bowen and central Arkansas library and legal community.

The Law Library hosted a very successful Southwestern Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting April 14-16. Highlights included the opening luncheon keynote address by Honorable Bernice Donald of the 6th Circuit



Court of Appeals, an opening night reception at the newly-opened UA Little Rock Downtown Center, and a breakfast and tour of the Clinton Presidential Center & Library.

Drake University Law Library

Iowa adopted UELMA thanks to MAALL member efforts. Supported by critical lobbying efforts from Drake Law School, Iowa has become the twenty-first state to adopt the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA). MAALL



members Karen Wallace, John Edwards, David

Hanson, Rebecca Lutkenhaus, and Julie Thomas drafted multiple communications to legislators urging support for the bill, as well as rallying support from other Iowa librarians. Drake's former Dean, David Walker, a Uniform Law Commissioner, and Drake's Legislative Practice Center made multiple contacts with key legislators to ensure the bill's passage this session. Researchers accessing electronic materials from the Iowa Legislative site will soon be able to rely on them as authenticated documents.



Wheat Law Library, KU

The angst level in the building has subsided now that exams are over. Some of us participated in the Diversity Dash (<https://www.facebook.com/kulawschool/videos/1206827572817701/?t=79>) last month, the fast-paced scavenger hunt that reminds students of the diversity – in all of its forms – that we enjoy in Green Hall. We've been busy interviewing public service student assistants for fall and have selected 9 to replace the ones graduating this spring; only 1 will remain of this year's crew.

Our Hooding was on May 18 with the traditional "walk down the Hill" on the 19th. Monday morning the 20th was the beginning of the first summer session of classes with the Summer Starters arriving later in the week. We're winding down and gearing up at the same time!

Kansas Supreme Court Law Library

Brenna Truhe, University of Emporia State graduate, joined our staff July 2018. Brenna earned her BA in English Literature with minors in Leadership and Psychology from Southwestern College in Winfield, KS in 2016. She received her Master's in Library Science in May 2018. Throughout library school, Brenna worked at a law firm library: Key in her decision to pursue work at a law library. Brenna very much looks forward to engaging with all members of MAALL.

Natale LaPlate joined our staff January 2019. She comes to us from Washington Public Library, Washington MO. Washington is a small town an hour west of St. Louis in the heart of the Missouri Rhineland. It is known for its distinctly German heritage as well as its many vineyards and wineries and is a great place to visit if that's something you're interested in! Natale attended Webster University for her B.A. in Media Communication.



After that she spent some time abroad in South Korea and Japan teaching English before deciding to pursue a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science, and the rest is history!

Marcia Hannon was one of 36 graduates recognized at the Leadership Greater Topeka during a luncheon at the Cyrus Hotel on Wednesday May 15, 2019. LGT is a Greater Topeka Partnership program that identifies aspiring and established leaders from the community to participate in its annual course. The class of 2019 was selected from more than 175 nominations.

The Supreme Court of Kansas Law Library will be hosting the Traveling Magna Carta display from July 15 - 31, 2019. Please help spread the word!

Law Library Association of St. Louis

The Law Library Association of St. Louis welcomes summer practicum student Jamie Rasmussen. Jamie's practicum began on May 23. Jamie is a current student in the Masters of Library and Information Science program at U. of Missouri-Columbia and also holds a JD from Michigan State University College of Law.



Littler Mendelson, P.C.

Littler welcomes the addition of two new team members: Assistant Librarian Ben Chipman and Research Attorney Christine Sellers. The library also recently hosted an internal contest to boost the usage of Lex Machina amongst our librarians—cheers to Barb Gonzalez for winning!

We also heartily congratulate our Library Manager, Allison Reeve, on her recent marriage! (Photos include guest appearances from MAALL members Pam Crawford and Joyce McCray Pearson.)



University of Missouri School of Law

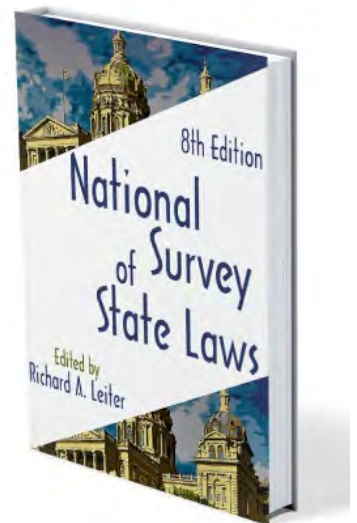
We celebrated National Library Week this year with events around the theme of Libraries = Strong Communities. We offered a combo of prepare-to-practice events and community events. One of our sessions for 1Ls, given by one of our most popular professors, introduced students to issues of Evidence they may encounter in summer practice. We had great attendance! We also offered two prepare-to-practice sessions from Westlaw and Lexis that were well attended.

Students REALLY enjoyed the Community Coffee (literally, Community Coffee) and homemade (or home baked, but who's quibbling?) treats. We handed out a summer reading list of books our faculty "wish they could read again for the first time." Even if the students did not eat treats, they definitely wanted a reading list. And they wanted to add their own books to the list! So, we gathered a list of students' recommendations and distributed those, too. Students loved the give and take, and they are definitely looking forward to a summer when they might have time to read.



University of Nebraska School of Law, Schmid Law Library

The 8th edition of the National Survey of State Laws, edited by Rich Leiter, Director of the Schmid Law Library and Professor of Law, was recently published by William S. Hein & Co., Inc.



Do you have news from your library to share? Institutional or individual accomplishments to highlight? You can also submit items to MAALL President, Karen Wallace (karen.wallace@drake.edu), for inclusion in First Friday Fanfare, which is compiled and distributed to the MAALL listserv on the first Friday of each month.

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Interested in viewing past issues of MAALL Markings? Check out the archive on the MAALL website [here!](#)

See how current issues, trends, and technology have changed over the years! For example, ten years ago, the feature article of the summer issue was about Second Life... 20 years ago we were prepping for Y2K and tucking items away for an AALL Annual Meeting time capsule (sorry, five more years until it's opened!) Thirty years ago... well, the clip art speaks for itself!



MAALL MARKINGS INFORMATION

MAALL Markings is published four times a year by the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries, a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries, and is a benefit of membership. The purpose of MAALL Markings is to publish news of the Chapter, selected news of AALL and other professional associations, and MAALL members, as well as to solicit and publish articles to add to the body of literature in the profession of law librarianship. All articles are copyrighted and any republication or use of any portion of the content for any purpose must have written permission from the author/s.

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The Mid-America Association of Law Libraries assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by the contributors of its publications. Editorial views do not necessarily represent the official position of the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries or AALL.

LINKS TO AALL CHAPTER & SIS PUBLICATIONS

The lists on the following page were originally compiled by Lindsey Carpino for the CALL Bulletin and are reprinted with permission. (Broken links have been omitted.) The original post is available at <http://bulletin.chicagolawlib.org/2016/05/aall-chapter-sis-publications/>.

AALL Chapter	Chapter Links/Newsletter	Blog
Arizona Association of Law Libraries (AZALL)		AzALL Member Blog
Association of Law Libraries of Upstate New York (ALLUNY)	ALLUNY Website	
Atlanta Law Libraries Association (ALLA)	ALLA News	
Chicago Association of Law Libraries (CALL)	CALL Bulletin	
Dallas Association of Law Librarians (DALL)		Lex Scripta
Greater Philadelphia Law Library Association (GPLLA)	GPLLA News	
Houston Area Law Librarians (HALL)	HALL Quarterly	
Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin, Inc. (LLAW)	LLAW Briefs	
Law Librarians of New England (LLNE)		
Law Librarians of Puget Sound (LLOPS)		LLOPS Cited
Law Librarians Society of Washington, D.C., Inc. (LLSDC)	Law Library Lights	
Law Libraries Association of Alabama (LLAA)		LLAA Blog
Law Library Association of Greater New York (LLAGNY)	Law Lines	
Law Library Association of Maryland (LLAM)	LLAM Newsletter	
Michigan Association of Law Libraries (MichALL)	MichALL Website	
Mid-America Association of Law Libraries (MAALL)	MAALL Markings	
Minnesota Association of Law Libraries (MALL)		MALL News Blog
New Jersey Law Librarians Association (NJLLA)		NJLLA Blog
New Orleans Association of Law Librarians (NOALL)	NOALL Website	
Northern California Association of Law Libraries (NOCALL)	NOCALL News	
Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries (ORALL)	ORALL Newsletter	
San Diego Area Law Libraries	SANDALL Newsletter	
Southeastern Chapter of the Amer. Assn. of Law Libraries (SEAALL)	SEAALL Website	
Southern California Association of Law Libraries (SCALL)	SCALL Newsletter	
Southern New England Law Librarians Association (SNELLA)	Obiter Dicta	
Southwestern Association of Law Libraries (SWALL)	SWALL Website	
Virginia Association of Law Libraries (VALL)	VALL Newsletter	VALL Talk
Western Pacific Chpr. of the Amer. Assn. of Law Libraries (WestPac)	WestPac Website	
Western Pennsylvania Law Library Association (WPLLA)	WPLLA Website	
AALL SIS	SIS Links/Newsletter	SIS Blog
Academic Law Libraries SIS (ALL-SIS)	ALL-SIS Website	What's New
Computing Services SIS (CS-SIS)	CS-SIS Website	CS-SIS Blog
Digitization and Educational Technology SIS (DET-SIS)	DET-SIS Website	
Foreign, Comparative & International Law SIS (FCIL-SIS)	FCIL-SIS Website	DipLawMatic Dialogues Blog
Government Documents SIS (GD-SIS)	JURISDOCS	
Government Law Libraries SIS (GLL-SIS)	GLL-SIS Website	
Legal History & Rare Books SIS (LHRB-SIS)	LH&RB Newsletter	
Legal Information Services to the Public SIS (LISP-SIS)	LISP-SIS Website	
Online Bibliographic Services SIS (OBS-SIS)	OBS-SIS Website	TSLL TechScans Blog
Private Law Librarians & Information Professionals SIS (PLLIP-SIS)	PLLIP E-Newsletter	On Firmer Ground
Professional Engagement, Growth, and Advancement SIS (PEGA-SIS)	PEGA-SIS Website	
Research Instruction & Patron Services SIS (RIPS-SIS)	RIPS-SIS Website	RIPS Law Librarian Blog
Social Responsibilities SIS (SR-SIS)	SR-SIS Website	
Technical Services SIS (TS-SIS)	TS-SIS Website	TSLL TechScans Blog

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Members: Matt Braun, Jackie Lemmer & Jeannine Linnane

There are still a number of opportunities available to serve MAALL. Please contact Karen Wallace at karen.wallace@drake.edu if you would like to serve on a task force or committee.