Advocacy Efforts

**LexisNexis**

On July 2, AALL held a meeting with representatives from LexisNexis, to discuss member concerns regarding a new sales practice that ties access to its electronic and print publication products to the purchase of a license to Lexis Advance. Those in attendance were Greg Lambert, then AALL president, Kate Hagan, AALL executive director, James P. Fieweger, AALL counsel, and Lexis representatives Sean Fitzpatrick, managing director of North American research solutions, Paul Speca, vice president, large law & law school markets, Jeffrey Pfeifer, vice president, product management, and Logan Breed, counsel.

The meeting was in response to a letter AALL sent to LexisNexis CEO Mike Walsh, requesting the company “cease its recently enacted policy of tying access to its electronic and print publication products to the purchase of a license to its Lexis Advance search product.”

The [letter](#) states that:

> . . . [i]t is evident that LexisNexis has elected to leverage the demand for certain products and publications to extract purchases of its Advance search product. Such conduct is anticompetitive and likely prohibited by law. Equally as important to AALL, this new policy is detrimental to its members and the law firms they serve.

It also has put LexisNexis at odds with standards AALL has promulgated for its members and publishing professionals. The *AALL Guide to Fair Business Practices for Legal Publishers* describes standards for the business practices of publishers that most directly affect librarians and other legal information consumers. . . .

During the meeting, AALL had a series of questions it wanted addressed regarding the new policy. Specific questions included the terms of the policy, why the policy was put in place at this time, and why members who were able to purchase stand-alone Lexis print and electronic products in the past are now required to purchase Lexis Advance for access to those products.
Lexis advised AALL it is unable to discuss any product packaging or pricing matters, except with their customers, since each relationship is customized to meet the firm’s needs, and because Lexis has negotiated NDAs with all of its customers. They also reiterated their earlier statement: “As we retire Lexis.com this year and upgrade users to Lexis Advance, we will more fully leverage our platform that consolidates all content and tools to one ecosystem.”

AALL also could not confirm what markets the new sales policy affects, but to date, it has only heard from law firm members regarding this change. AALL strongly urged Lexis leadership to reconsider the new practice, and urged Lexis to communicate in detail to its members and to their individual customers at the local level, the specifics of this new sales practice and how it will affect them when renewing their Lexis contracts.

AALL will continue to pursue any rights it might have in addressing these product-tying policies. In the meantime, AALL is working to make its members aware that the Lexis strategy of tying its print and electronic products to the purchase of Lexis Advance is an issue affecting the legal information marketplace, and to communicate to their firm leadership these changes and the implications for the firm’s legal information and research needs.

Library of Congress
On May 3, 2018, AALL wrote to Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden to raise concerns about the impact of the Library’s Special Announcement 18-5 “User-Centered Realignment” on the Law Library of Congress. The realignment repositions the Law Library of Congress from a stand-alone service unit to a subunit under a new Library Collections and Services Group (LCSG). The plan raised questions about the independence of the Law Library under the new structure. In her response dated May 18, Dr. Hayden addressed most of our concerns, including that the Law Library will maintain custody of its collections; that the Law Librarian will maintain her title and position on the Library’s Executive Committee; and that the Law Librarian will continue to develop her budget requests and maintain responsibility for collection development and reference service.

Title 44 of the U.S. Code
AALL continues to lobby for modernization of Title 44 of the U.S. Code on Public Printing and Documents, lending our support to the FDLP Modernization Act of 2018 (H.R. 5305). The FDLP Modernization Act will update the Federal Depository Library Program to include digital information, add flexibility for libraries, and strengthen oversight of the U.S. Government Publishing Office.

Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA)
AALL continues to work with the ABA Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress and the Uniform Law Commission in support of enactment of the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA). We are coordinating with Commissioner Tom Bolt, the ABA Board of Governors liaison to the Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress, and the Uniform Law Commission’s Enactment Committee to identify states for enactment. UELMA has been enacted in eighteen states and Washington, D.C.
Body of Knowledge

AALL has launched its Body of Knowledge (BoK) that serves as a universal benchmark for legal information professionals’ career development. The BoK covers six crucial domains where law librarians need to excel:

- professionalism and leadership at every level
- research and analysis
- information management
- teaching and training,
- marketing and outreach
- management and business acumen.

Each domain is defined by the requisite competencies and skills for mastery. Through these elements, the BoK assists legal information professionals in identifying strengths and opportunities. Users will also find enormous value in the application of these standards in crafting job descriptions, writing performance evaluations, designing curricula, and developing training programs.

All professional development content will be designed around the BoK’s domains including the Annual Meeting & Conference programs, publications, webinars, and resources.

AALL Annual Meeting & Conference

The 111th AALL Annual Meeting & Conference was held July 14-17 in Baltimore. Nearly 1,400 legal information professionals—representing academic, law firm, and government law libraries —attended 83 educational sessions and visited with 87 exhibiting companies. Highlights of the tech-heavy conference included the second annual AALL Innovation Tournament; “must-have” programming covering artificial intelligence, APIs, bitcoin, digitization, and research platform algorithms; and product launches from top legal information vendors.

Media mentions included:

- Law Librarians Ready to Dive Into Tech (The American Lawyer)
- Law Librarians: Keeping the Industry Honest (LawSites)
- The State of Biglaw and the Evolving Role of the Law Librarian (Above the Law)
- Law Librarians Are Pissed Off (TechLaw Crossroads)

The 2019 AALL Annual Meeting will be held in Washington, DC, July 13-16.
State of the Profession Survey

A member advisory group has been preparing the inaugural AALL State of the Profession benchmarking survey. It will document the current landscape of law libraries, specific to each library type, and will provide benchmarking in the following areas: Technology, collections and library resources, constituent services, institutional learning outcomes, training, staffing, and leadership. The purpose of the State of the Profession Survey is to provide members and their organizations with the information and insights they need to effectively assess their offerings, advocate for their interests, and strategically prepare for the future. The response period for the survey will be from August 13 through September 28, and the final report will be released late this year or in early 2019.

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) is the only national association dedicated to the legal information profession and its professionals. Founded in 1906, AALL fosters the profession by offering its members knowledge, leadership, and community that make the whole legal system stronger. Of its nearly 4,200 members, more than 1,600 are law librarians at academic institutions. AALL is a member-driven nonprofit educational organization; an elected Executive Board and actively participating membership determine its policies and positions. For more information, visit www.aallnet.org.