American Association of Law Libraries (AALL)  
Report to the Council  
ABA Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar  
February 2018

Following are updates on some recent activities of the Association:

AALL has appointed a member advisory group to conduct a *State of the Profession* benchmarking survey that 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 outcomes, research competencies, 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, advocate, and strategically prepare for the future.

This past November AALL released its biennial salary survey. It is the only comprehensive, comparative salary survey of legal information professionals at law schools, law firms/corporate law offices and government law libraries. In addition to contextualizing the average income of certain library information roles across multiple U.S. regions, the survey results indicate that contrary to some assumptions tied to the digitization of law libraries, the need for legal information professionals and legal research resources continues to grow. The 146-page report revealed the average total information budget for law libraries increased, rising by 4.1 percent compared to the AALL Salary Survey findings of 2015. Total government and law firm/corporate law information budgets grew the most, rising 27 percent and 10 percent, respectively. Respondents reported spending on premium electronic information resources as an overall percentage of the information budget continues to increase in all settings, rising from an average of 33.3 percent in 2007 to 51.3 percent in 2017.

AALL has been actively involved in discussions on Capitol Hill about the modernization of Title 44 of the U.S. Code on Public Printing and Documents. The House Committee on House Administration is rewriting Title 44 to reflect the digital era, and we are working with Committee staff to ensure permanent public access to tangible and electronic government information. The Committee’s revision includes significant changes to the Federal Depository Library Program, in which approximately 150 academic law libraries and 50 state, court, county, and government law libraries participate.

AALL also issued a statement on December 14 denouncing the decision by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), to repeal U.S. net neutrality rules. Without net neutrality, Internet users will not have equitable access to online legal and government information, which is important to all citizens.

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. UELMA, which would ensure permanent
public access to authentic electronic legal information, is now law in Washington, DC and sixteen states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington, and West Virginia. We are expecting introductions in at least eight states in 2018.

Finally, you are invited to join us in Baltimore for AALL’s Annual Meeting & Conference, July 15-17. The meeting will open with a keynote from American film director, screenwriter, author, self-proclaimed bibliophile, and Baltimore native John Waters.

_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._