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Report to the Council ABA Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar November 2018

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 will begin in November, and the final report will be released February/March 2019.

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.

Innovation Bootcamp

AALL supports innovation and opportunities to support members who want to help drive innovation within their organizations. After hosting two successful innovation tournaments over the past two years at our annual meeting, AALL is continuing its support of innovation through dedicated innovation programming. AALL will host its first innovation boot camp program in April 25 – 26, 2019 in Chicago. We seek to support members who want to learn how to move their ideas forward and engage stakeholders within their organizations. Attendees will learn about design processes, hear from innovation experts, and have the opportunity to share ideas with colleagues from across the country. We are excited about the possibilities of this new endeavor and innovation within AALL.

Prisoners' Access to Reading Materials

In early October, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC) issued a new books policy for its prisoners where they would have to pay \$147 to access books and other reading materials that their families and friends mail them. This rule was put in place to discourage contraband drugs being sent to prisoners.

AALL is keeping track of this regulation and has reached out to ALA about the possibility of working with them as part of a coalition. ALA opposes regulations that prevent prisoners from receiving or accessing particular materials. In the past, ALA has worked in coalition with other organizations and has issued statements to oppose similar actions.

It is worth noting that other states such as New York, Maryland, Florida, have adopted similar policies but later rescinded those policies due to push backs.

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.