



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# USING DATA TO TELL YOUR STORY

## TAP INTO AALL'S RESOURCES

I am very excited about this issue of *AALL Spectrum*, as it covers how we in the legal profession use data analytics. As information professionals, data is at the core of what we do on a daily basis. We use data in our efforts to best opposing counsel, to advise on strategy, to increase transparency, and to advocate for resources. We are a data-driven society, and the skills that librarians and legal information professionals possess make us an essential cog in the proverbial wheel.

Personally, I like to use data to tell the story of my library. Storytelling mixed with data can be a great way to demonstrate progress. My library recently purchased the *AALL State of the Profession 2019* report to help tell the story of the field of law librarianship. (Purchase the report at [bit.ly/AALLProfession2019](http://bit.ly/AALLProfession2019).) I also recommend using data visuals to advocate for your library or to demonstrate return on investment to external stakeholders.

As an association for legal information professionals, AALL collects a lot of data, such as membership statistics. (View AALL's membership data at [bit.ly/AALLmemberstats](http://bit.ly/AALLmemberstats).) We also collect salary information in the *AALL Biennial Salary Survey & Organizational Characteristics*, a resource many of us benefit from when negotiating salaries or keeping pay equitable. (View the full report at [bit.ly/AALLSalary](http://bit.ly/AALLSalary).)

This issue also commemorates AALL's 30 years of advocacy efforts. As a participant in this year's Lobby Day, I learned so much more about the efforts that AALL takes to ensure equal access to justice. AALL's legislative priorities for the 116th Congress include access to justice; balance in copyright; greater access to government information; openness in government; and protection of privacy. These priorities get updated with each session of Congress. Detailed information on these priorities can be found under the Advocacy tab on AALLNET. (Learn more about AALL's legislative priorities at [bit.ly/116legislativepriorities](http://bit.ly/116legislativepriorities).) To receive weekly updates from the AALL Government

Relations Committee, be sure to subscribe to the AALL Advocacy Committee at [bit.ly/AALLadvocates](http://bit.ly/AALLadvocates).

The AALL Executive Board, in conjunction with other AALL entities, approves policies and procedures. The Board is made up of 11 members: President, Vice-President, Immediate Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and six board members. AALL members elect new executive board members each October. To strategically govern the Association, the AALL Executive Board uses available data for informed decision-making. Sometimes this data is gathered through surveys; other times it is gathered through the work of a committee, special committee, or through a jury. AALL's special interest sections and chapters each vote for one representative from each group to represent them at all Executive Board meetings. The Board meets three times a year and its meetings are open for any AALL member to attend. If you are ever curious as to what is on the agenda for a particular board meeting, the Executive Board Book is always available on AALLNET. (See past Board Books at [bit.ly/AALLBoardbook](http://bit.ly/AALLBoardbook).) Actions from each meeting are available in *AALL Spectrum* and in the monthly eNewsletter.

I encourage everyone to take advantage of the Association's data-rich resources and make them part of your advocacy and storytelling efforts.

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