A fundamental attribute of professionalism is the recognition that education is a resource that enriches one's daily work. Concern for basic and continuing education has been a hallmark of law librarianship, and the American Association of Law Libraries has played a central role in the development of education for legal information specialists. The importance of professional education to AALL can be seen in its very constitution, which states that the AALL was "established for educational and scientific purposes . . . to promote librarianship, . . . [and] to cultivate the science of law librarianship." From the AALL's beginning in 1906 to the present day, the development of an education program has been a paramount goal that has been pursued through annual meetings, publications, committees, specific courses on law librarianship, rotating institutes, workshops, certification, scholarships, and grants.

In the early years, AALL's education program consisted largely of annual meetings and publications. By the 1920s, debate on the proper training for a law librarian led to in-depth examinations of AALL's education program, and in the early 1930s, this resulted in the formation of a Standing Committee on Education for Law Librarianship. A series of reports outlined the further development of an education program and focused on both basic education required for entry into law librarianship and continuing education for those already in the field.

In the years since World War II, the overall growth of the AALL has been paralleled by expansion in the role and responsibility of the Education Committee. By the 1970s, with the development of LISs and local chapters with their own education programs, the Education Committee has become more of a coordinator than a planner of specific AALL educational offerings. AALL's continued growth recently has called attention to rethinking and strengthening its education program. In the fall of 1987, President Albert Brecht appointed a special committee to prepare an education policy for AALL. Additionally, a professional development officer was hired in 1988 to coordinate and support AALL's many educational activities, a sign of the importance and vitality of the AALL's contribution to education for law librarianship.

This exhibit highlights major historical developments in AALL's work to enhance the education of law librarians since the organization's founding in 1906. The exhibit includes correspondence, publications, photographs, and documents drawn from the AALL Archives. These documents illustrate the continuity of AALL's involvement in education and its innovations to meet the needs of law librarians as their work and their association has grown.

The centrality of education to AALL's mission can be seen in the basic promotional brochures used by the AALL since the early 1960s. These emphasize education as they advertise the AALL and articulate the basic requirements for law librarianship. (Item 1)

The most fundamental resource of AALL's educational program has been the talents and efforts of individual members who contribute to and participate in its educational activities. The time and effort required for this work is not inconsequential, as can be seen in Helen Moylan's 1936 letter to AALL President William Roalfe. After more than twenty years of service as a law librarian, Moylan entered law school to improve her professional standing. (Item 2)

**ANNUAL MEETINGS AND CONELL**

The annual meeting is the keystone of AALL's education offerings. Since its founding, AALL's meeting programs have provided the opportunity to learn the latest techniques and technologies in law librarianship. In this 1906 letter to G. E. Wire, A. J. Small proposed the central topic of the first official meeting program—whether law library classification should be based on author or subject. (Item 3)

A major incentive for AALL members to attend annual meetings has been the opportunity to reflect on the nature of law librarianship and the profession. Evidence of this phenomenon can be found in these notes of an AALL member regarding a 1965 paper by Leo Raskind, entitled "Law Library AALS Standards." (Item 4)
As the annual conference has grown, it has become increasingly important to have a formal mechanism to introduce new members to the richness of the meetings and to AALL in general. The Conference of Newer Law Librarians (CONELL) was established to address these problems. At the 1970 inaugural CONELL held at the American University, Marian G. Gallagher served as moderator for a panel discussion on "Education for Law Librarianship." (Item 5)

CONELL has been held each year in conjunction with the annual meeting, and its goal remains to provide new members the opportunity "to become acquainted with one another and to be introduced to the structure and organization of AALL." The lasting impact of CONELL on its attendees can be seen in this September 26, 1978, letter from Margarita Powers. (Item 6)

**AALL PUBLICATIONS**

The development of publications on law librarianship has been a fundamental part of AALL's education program since the organization's first years. From the core titles of the Law Library Journal and the Index to Legal Periodicals, AALL's publications have expanded to include eleven separate series, as listed in the Executive Director's January 1988 report. (Item 7)

Of all the publications, the Law Library Journal is the best and most widely known. In this 1907 letter to G. E. Wire, A. J. Small cautioned the founding members' purpose in creating the LLJ as a resource to unite and educate law librarians through dissemination of information on the nature of the profession. (Item 8)

The widely circulated LLJ has a central role in the AALL's educational mission. (Item 9) In his 1955-56 annual report on the journal, William B. Stern stated that the journal was a primary "means of professional communication among members of the association."

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Despite the inherent focus of AALL as an educational association, its Committee on Education was not established until after a roundtable discussion at the 1929 annual meeting. The Committee's first report in 1932 called for establishment of minimum standards for the practice of law librarianship. Essential background to the report's recommendations was a long-standing debate within AALL on the proper educational background for law librarians. Some, such as Will Shafroth, suggested law librarians must have a law degree as well as library training. Others, such as Rosamond Parma, the 1932 AALL president, thought this too strict a requirement. To resolve this question, Arthur S. Beardsley, a member of the Committee on Education, submitted a 1935 report examining the full scope of AALL's educational programs. Beardsley is shown in a photograph taken at the 1939 AALL annual meeting in San Francisco. (Item 10)

In the 1930s, AALL embarked on an ambitious reorganization plan. Just as the so-called Roalfe Plan focused on AALL's structure, a similar effort led by Beardsley concentrated on education. After President Roalfe appointed Beardsley to chair the education committee for 1935-36, their correspondence outlined long-range educational goals for AALL. (Item 11)

The resultant 1936 education committee report became a cornerstone for AALL's education programs for the coming decades. It recommended: 1) developing courses in law librarianship; 2) developing institutes in association with the annual meeting; 3) creating a certification program for AALL-approved law librarians; and 4) making the Committee on Education for Law Librarianship a standing committee.

Since the 1936 Beardsley report, the education committee has continued as a standing committee. The committee's later emergence as a central clearinghouse for AALL's programs occurred as the number of AALL's educational offerings expanded starting in the 1960s. With the development of the SISs in the mid-1970s, some of the education committee's functions, such as the organization and presentation of workshops, were shifted to other segments of AALL, as evidenced in this 1978 letter from member Anita L. Morse. (Item 12)
COURSEWORK IN LAW LIBRARIANSHIP

The goal of having university-based courses to serve as prerequisites to work in law librarianship has been a long term goal of AALL members since the organization’s founding. This was reflected in the 1936 education committee’s report recommending the development of specific courses in law librarianship. A few institutions had offered courses, but none had been coordinated formally with the AALL. Despite the wish for a greater role for AALL in developing and monitoring university-based courses, no formal accreditation mechanism has emerged.

More typical was the development of courses in law librarianship by AALL members at a few institutions. In 1937, Miles O. Price, law librarian at Columbia University, began offering a summer course, which continued under his direction for over twenty years. (Item 13)

While the Columbia University course was not an officially approved AALL course, Price’s efforts to coordinate plans for the course with AALL can be seen in his October 2, 1937, letter to Helen Newman. (Item 14) AALL provided a degree of sanction for the courses through advertisements in its official publications and in correspondence with those requesting information about careers in law librarianship as seen in Mary Oliver’s 1961 letter to Laura Elkins. (Item 15)

Through the 1960s, AALL continued to monitor the development of law library courses and advertise them in its publications. In the 1988-89 academic year, eighteen library schools offered joint JD and MLS degree programs, and eight offered specialization in law librarianship.

INSTITUTES AND WORKSHOPS

Another recommendation of the education committee’s 1936 report was to develop institutes and workshops to supplement the annual meeting’s continuing education offerings. The first such institute, in 1953, was under the direction of Miles O. Price. Institutes offer a variety of presentations to investigate a single aspect of law librarianship in-depth. This is illustrated by the program for the Fifth Biennial Institute in 1961. (Item 16)

The program and photographs from the 1967 Institute on Law Library Administration at Boulder, Colorado, provide a glimpse of law librarians twenty years ago. (Item 17)

Workshops are an equally critical part of AALL’s educational programs. They are presented in conjunction with the AALL annual meeting or meetings of other organizations. Once organized by the education committee, workshops are now planned by SISs. The enduring popularity of the workshops with AALL members can be seen in these 1977 comments from Igor I. Kavass, president of the International Association of Law Libraries, and from an anonymous attendee of the 1979 workshop on legal reference. (Item 18)

Workshops, like institutes, promote education both in their presentations and in the curricular materials they generate as reflected in this handbook from the 1979 Workshop on Legal Memoranda. (Item 19)

CERTIFICATION OF LAW LIBRARIANS

Reflecting a desire to establish greater control over the minimum requirements of practicing law librarians, the education committee’s 1936 report recommended a program of examinations to certify law librarians. After nearly three decades of debate, AALL finally approved a certification program in 1960.

Under the plan, a member could file an application describing his/her credentials and request that certification be granted to reflect his/her competence. The process is reflected in this correspondence with Raymond M. Taylor. (Item 20)

Upon approval by the Board, AALL issued a certificate indicating the applicant’s ability to serve as a law librarian. (Item 21)
While the program certified 1,047 individuals between 1961 and 1984, AALL members questioned its value by the early 1980s. In 1982, the Certification Board itself criticized the program as "meaningless" and proposed a new program of examinations and rigorous eligibility requirements. This, too, met with skepticism as indicated in this AALL Newsletter commentary by Roger Jacobs. His conclusion was that certification would never compare with the possession of a JD or MLS (Item 22). A special committee concluded that the original AALL certification plan was flawed and should be abandoned. Acting on this recommendation, the Executive Board cancelled the AALL certification program at the 1983 annual meeting.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

A more successful aspect of AALL's educational activities has been its scholarship and grants programs. They began in 1953 when Matthew Bender and Company established four grants for attendance at annual meetings. Other publishers, such as West, Oceana, and W. H. Anderson, also began to donate money to support AALL's grants program. In addition to grants, a long-recognized need was for scholarships to support students seeking degrees in law or librarianship, but it was not until 1967 that AALL awarded scholarships to prospective law librarians. Meanwhile, AALL furnished information on other funding sources for students, as this 1960 letter from Mary Oliver, chairman of the education committee, to Max Primmer indicates. (Item 23)

The scholarships and grants program has benefited many individuals while enriching AALL and the profession. In 1975, for instance, AALL awarded Robert L. Oakley a scholarship to finish law school. He is now the director of the law library at Georgetown University, AALL official representative on the Library of Congress Network Advisory Committee, and the co-director of the first AALL Winter Institute in 1985. As he completed law school in 1976, he wrote to Caroline C. Heriot, chairman of the Scholarship and Grants Committee, to express his appreciation for the scholarship. (Item 24)

As important as money is to the success of the scholarships and grants program, equally important are people as a resource for education—donors and recipients. In this 1972 letter to Mr. and Mrs. Harvey T. Reid, Viola Bird noted, "The Education and Scholarship programs of AALL are unmatched by any other library association and you have had a major part in providing for the latter." (Item 25)

To broaden the impact of educational offerings for law librarianship, many of the elements of AALL's educational program are paralleled at the local level in the programs of AALL Chapters especially via their meetings, workshops, institutes, committees, and publications. (Items 26-29)

The depth of AALL's ongoing interest in the role of education is evidenced by the fact that a prime recommendation of the 1986 Wiatt Report on the Future of the AALL was to hire an education director. This goal was fulfilled in February 1988 when Martha Brown was appointed AALL's Professional Development Officer. Her duties include coordinating a cohesive overall education program for AALL, planning and executing programs, studying education issues, surveying program demand, and providing staff support for the education committee and the Annual Meeting Program Chair. (Item 30)

This exhibit was prepared by Louis Haas under the direction of William Maher at the University of Illinois Archives at Urbana-Champaign. The photographs and documents are from the AALL Archives administered by the University of Illinois Archives. The Archives welcomes additional AALL records and information concerning the papers of law librarians. Send materials and inquiries to:

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