"I feel that the association will accomplish that for which we all have been looking for a long time ... when we find the principles that have been laid down by the miscellaneous libraries that will apply to the law libraries we can benefit by their experience and build upon the foundation already laid."

A. J. Small

In the spring of 1906, A. J. Small, Curator of the Law Department of the Iowa State Library, wrote to several of his fellow state librarians and other law librarians suggesting a meeting at the upcoming annual American Library Association conference in Narragansett Pier, Rhode Island to consider establishing a separate organization for law librarians. In a June 16, 1906 letter to Worcester County Librarian G. E. Wire, Small wrote "With the letters of encouragement I am sure a 'very much' alive association can be effected and to think of the great good we can accomplish in the discussions of the various questions that naturally arise in our daily work."

THE FOUNDING OF AALL

A brochure published on conclusion of the conference reported that the American Association of Law Libraries was established, officers for 1906-07 were elected, constitution and by-laws were written, and several special committees were formed. From the beginning, ALA was eager to maintain a close relationship with the new organization. ALA's existing constitution did not allow separate organizations, but "after several interviews with the executive officers of the parent organization the laws were so amended as to comply with our wishes," as Small recalled in a 1928 article in Law Library Journal. A message "To Law Librarians" from ALA Secretary J. I. Weyer, Jr. sent just after the 1906 conference, indicated that the ALA would favor either creating a new law library section within ALA itself or, if law librarians felt that a separate association was preferable, they would be able to become an "affiliated organization" according to an amendment to ALA's Constitution newly made at its Narragansett conference. (Item 1)

In an August 13, 1906 letter to G. E. Wire, Small agreed that although the AALL needed to be a separate organization, it could not stand alone. "We cannot afford or hope to get the good from the law association outside and apart from the mother organization. The association and mingling with others gives a lively inspiration and an enthusiasm that we could not possibly get by being apart; and to say nothing of the increased number that we have at the A.L.A." (Item 2)
At the time of AALL’s founding, other organizations were affiliated with ALA, including the National Association of State Libraries and the League of Library Commissions which had formed separate bodies in the years prior to 1906. By the time of the 1917 ALA Handbook, AALL was one of four affiliated organizations which had established themselves to be "of kindred purpose." (Item 3)

In the early days, AALL members were not required to be members of ALA for their organization to be considered an affiliate, but were encouraged to join ALA if at all feasible. By 1935, when Helen Newman was AALL Secretary, ALA received "affiliation dues" in the amount of ten cents per capita for members of AALL who were not members of ALA. A letter from Cora M. Beatty, Chief of ALA’s Department of Membership Organization and Information referred Newman to the 1934 ALA Handbook to determine how many AALL members belonged to both organizations so the appropriate amount could be paid. (Item 4)

As an affiliated organization, AALL had a non-voting representative to the ALA Council. The representative was appointed by AALL to attend Council Sessions and report any items of interest back to the AALL membership. (Item 5) However, the position of affiliated organization representative to the ALA Council was eliminated during ALA’s major reorganization in 1972 since the Council of National Library Associations served the same purpose. (Item 6)

By 1985, AALL had a general liaison to ALA, but questions arose to the purpose and necessity of such a liaison, especially since AALL had representation to special committees such as ALA’s Cataloging Committee: Description and Access (CCDA). (Item 7)

### ANNUAL MEETINGS

In 1853, the first convention of librarians was held in New York City. Although the meeting was a success, and participants planned to meet the following year and to establish a permanent association, librarians did not again meet formally for another twenty-three years. In 1876, primarily on the initiative of Melvil Dewey, there was another call for a librarians’ convention. The group met in October in Philadelphia, and by the end of the meeting had formally established the American Library Association, elected officers and declared the American Library Journal, which had published its first issue earlier that year, as the Association's official publication.

By the time of the 1906 founding of AALL, precedent had been set for the formation of independent library organizations. The National Association of State Libraries (NASL) and the Medical Library Association were founded in 1889 and 1898 respectively. The League of Library Commissioners and the Bibliographical Society of America both began in 1904. With the exception of the Medical Library Association, these independent groups continued to meet during the ALA conference. Before AALL’s formation, most law librarians met with the NASL because so many of them worked for state libraries.
At the 1906 Narragansett Pier Conference, in addition to meeting with law librarians and forming the AALL, charter member Franklin O. Poole found time to share ice cream with other ALA members as seen in this photo (Item 8) which was originally part of a "souvenir book" sent by F. W. Faxon to ALA members in case they wished to order copies for themselves. The accompanying commentary read "Such ice cream groups as this were on every session ... Mr. Poole, stouter than of yore, but the same jolly fellow we knew in the Canadian trip of 1900."

Prior to the 1907 Asheville, North Carolina meeting, Poole, in his capacity of Secretary-Treasurer, wrote to President A. J. Small regarding problems encountered when attempting to obtain the same hotel and railway rates for AALL members as those given to ALA members. (Item 9) Fortunately, these difficulties were overcome, and the AALL continued to hold its meetings with the American Library Association for three decades.

The 1912 ALA meeting program listed four Presidents of "Affiliated Societies" and included their sessions alongside those for ALA. (Items 10-11) Dr. G. E. Wire, one of AALL's three founders, was an active member of both ALA and AALL throughout his career. This 1921 photograph includes Dr. Wire, ALA President Alice Tyler, Vice-President H. H. B. Meyer, and other prominent members of the organization at New Ocean House, the headquarters hotel for the Swampscott, Massachusetts convention. (Item 12)

The AALL Twentieth annual meeting convened at ALA's Forty-seventh conference held in Seattle in 1925. (Item 13) A post-meeting hike up Mt. Rainier was a highlight. (Item 14) Post-convention trips to surrounding scenic areas were typical of annual conventions. These trips were organized "... to see the beautiful country, but also to get acquainted," according to F. W. Faxon's note in the 1924 Post Conference Trip Brochure.

George S. Godard, Connecticut State Librarian (1900-1936) was an active member of both AALL and the National Association of State Libraries and served as president of each organization. At the 1927 Toronto meeting, he spoke to the National State Association of State Libraries about the Connecticut State Archives. He also found time to socialize with colleague G. E. Wire as seen in this photograph. (Item 15)

A 1935 "Identification Convention Certificate" illustrates that the early problems Franklin Poole encountered with convention status for non-ALA members had been rectified. The certificate assured that members of ALA's Affiliated Organizations such as AALL could obtain a reduced-fare railroad ticket. (Item 16)

As early as 1914, members of ALA discussed the problems of the growing organization and the need to meet in larger cities as opposed to more rustic resorts like Kaaterskill Falls, NY. By 1936, it had become clear that both organizations had grown so large that meeting together in all but the largest of cities was prohibitive. AALL's bylaws were amended to allow the Executive Board to decide where and when the annual meetings would be held rather than requiring that they be held at the same time as the ALA annual meetings. (Item 17) Still, the groups met together three more times, in New
York (1937), San Francisco (1939) and Milwaukee (1942). During World War II, neither organization met in 1943 or 1944, but AALL resumed meetings in 1945 while ALA waited until 1946. The two organizations have not had another joint meeting since the war.

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**SHARED PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS**

*Education of Librarians*

Formal education for librarians began in 1887 when the first library school, the School of Library Economy of Columbia College opened in New York City. Followed soon after by library schools in Brooklyn (Pratt Institute, 1890), Philadelphia (Drexel Institute, 1892) and Chicago (Armour Institute, later University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1893), these schools were encouraged by ALA and took on increasing importance in the education of librarians. By 1923, training programs for librarians were found in public libraries, normal schools, colleges, and universities. ALA undertook a survey of the field of library education in order to establish standards for library training and a program for accreditation of library schools. Not all librarians were comfortable with the new requirements as seen in a letter from New Jersey librarian Sarah Askew. *(Item 18)*

Law librarians had the additional question of whether or not formal legal training was necessary to perform the requirements of their jobs. In 1939, AALL’s Committee on Cooperation with the American Library Association submitted recommendations for the education of law librarians to the Board of Education for Librarianship which included "Scholarships and fellowships to ... law school graduates as well as to promising library school students who are interested in law librarianship." *(Item 19)*

Education for law librarians has been an ongoing challenge for AALL. Special Committees were established over the years to survey library schools and determine what was offered in the way of training for law librarians. *(Item 20)* To assist ALA in its accreditation of library school programs, AALL created guidelines for graduate programs in law librarianship in 1988. *(Item 21)*

Ongoing changes in technology and the rash of library school closings in the past two decades caused ALA to re-assess the accreditation process. As part of this assessment, the ALA held hearings at affiliated library organization meetings in order to meet the needs of all interested groups as seen in this 1991 AALL annual meeting program. *(Item 22)*

*Copyright*

Copyright has been an ongoing issue for both AALL and ALA. As early as 1935, Carl Milam, ALA’s Executive Secretary, received a letter from Donald Coney regarding "reproduction by photography of copyright material." *(Item 23)* By 1970, the famous Williams and Wilkens case had been filed. Stephen McCarthy, Executive Director of the Association of Research Libraries, wrote
to Morris Cohen, President of AALL, requesting the Association's participation in an *amicus curiae* brief as well as funds to assist in the payment of legal fees. *(Item 24)* Cohen replied that while AALL would join in the brief, they would only be able to pay a nominal amount, $100, to support the legal fees. *(Item 25)*

By 1975, when the copyright revision bill was before the House Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties, and the Administration of Justice, six library organizations, including AALL and ALA, united to present their view at a hearing before the subcommittee. As Chairman of ALA's Copyright Subcommittee, Edmon Low represented his own organization and presented the unified testimony. *(Item 26)*

**Codes of Ethics**

ALA first drafted a Code of Ethics in 1929, but did not approve a text until December 1938. *(Item 27)* The Library Bill of Rights, another major philosophical foundation of librarianship, was drafted in 1939, underwent a major revision in 1948 and was further amended in 1961, 1967 and 1980. By 1969 it was decided that AALL needed to explore the necessity for having its own ethical code and the Ethics Committee was established with Ervin Pollack serving as chair. The same year, Pollack participated in an AALL panel discussion called *Do Law Librarians Need a Code of Ethics* where he presented his views in a paper entitled "A View of a Statement of Professional Ethics for Law Librarians." *(Item 28)* Fellow panelists included Walter P. Armstrong Jr., Chairman of the American Bar Association's Committee on Professional Ethics and Ruth Frame, Executive Secretary of the ALA's Library Administration Division. Under Pollack's guiding hand, the committee worked long and hard polling members of AALL for their opinions and desires and studying the ethical codes of other associations. In 1974, two years after Pollack's death, a four-page draft code was submitted to the membership for a vote. *(Item 29)* The draft did not receive a majority agreement and the committee spent 1975-1977 re-drafting the text. *(Item 30)* The committee continued to work on the Code, and in 1978 once again brought the matter to the attention of the membership. This time the text was adopted and stands today as the *AALL Code of Ethics*. *(Item 31)*

A. J. Small's assertion that AALL would profit by continued association with ALA has proven true. While the relationship between the two groups has changed since 1906, the affiliation of the two organizations has benefitted both, particularly in the area of professional concerns shared by all librarians such as education of librarians, copyright, and ethics.
This exhibit was prepared by Melanie Kimball under the direction of William Maher at the University of Illinois Archives at Urbana-Champaign. The photographs and documents are from the AALL Archives and the ALA Archives both administered by the University of Illinois Archives. The AALL Archives form one part of the University Archives program to serve as a leading documentation center for the history of librarianship. Complementing the strength of the ALA and AALL Archives are additional library-related archives held at the University Archives. They include the University of Illinois Library and The Graduate School of Library and Information Science, the American Library Institute, the Association for Library and Information Science Education, the Council of Planning Librarians, Friends of the Library USA (FOLUSA), Map and Geography Section of the Special Libraries Association, Universal Serials and Book Exchange Archives, White House Conference on Library and Information Science and the National Advisory Commission on Libraries. The Archives welcomes additional AALL records and information. Send materials and inquiries to:

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