HACKERS INVITED TO ATTEND THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES’ JULY HACKATHON

CHICAGO, June 16, 2015 — The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) is looking for programmers and developers to create new tools that will make crucial governmental and legal information more accessible to the public at its second AALL Hackathon this July.

Hackers will work with legal information professionals to create apps and other resources using datasets such as the Government Printing Office’s FDsys digital system; the U.S. House of Representatives Document Repository; legislative data provider GovTrack.us, which was built by a civic hacker; and Data.gov, which houses U.S. government business, climate, energy, local government, and other data.

Last year, AALL Hackathon attendees produced a number of innovative tools, including a script that creates an integrated search interface, providing improved access to South Carolina judicial opinions; a site that harvests, cleans, and reformats data from all 50 states’ web-based administrative codes; and a site that provides streamlined public access to New York Department of Education opinions.

During the challenging, yet rewarding 2015 AALL Hackathon, hackers will receive a continental breakfast, lunch, and afternoon refreshments. Groups will share their final results at the end of the day; a winner will be chosen, based on each team’s progress, and will receive a $250 prize. Apps will be judged on use of government information, innovation, user-friendliness, and viability and functionality.

Participants should plan to bring a laptop and, if possible, brainstorm potential approaches ahead of time, based on datasets AALL will post in advance at www.aallnet.org.

The Hackathon will be held at Peirce College on July 18 as part of the 108th AALL Annual Meeting & Conference in Philadelphia. Programmers can register at www.bit.ly/AALL15hackpros to attend the AALL Hackathon at no cost.

For more information about the 2015 AALL Hackathon, visit bit.ly/AALL15hackathon or the ChallengePost page at cpo.st/1BKwPlj. For more information about AALL and the upcoming AALL Annual Meeting & Conference, please visit www.aallnet.org.

About AALL
The American Association of Law Libraries was founded in 1906 to promote law libraries’ value to the legal and public communities, foster the law librarianship profession, and provide leadership in the legal information field. With nearly 5,000 members, AALL represents law librarians and related professionals who are affiliated with law firms; law schools; corporate legal departments; courts; and local, state, and federal government agencies. For more information, visit www.aallnet.org.

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