The Special Committee on Leadership Development was appointed in 2007 to implement one of AALL’s 2005-2010 Strategic Directions: “Law librarians will be recognized and valued as the foremost leaders and experts in legal information, research, and technology.” The committee implements this goal by providing leadership training and opportunities to help AALL members “position themselves as essential to the mission of their organizations.”

Members of the committee are Michele Lucero, Margaret Maes, Lee Peoples, Alvin Podboy, Valerie Railey, Gail Warren, and Judy Meadows, Chair. Sally Holterhoff has served as Board Liaison, and Celeste Smith has provided exemplary staff support.

The committee has explored policies, practices and funding mechanisms used by other organizations to train new leaders. An annual Leadership Academy has been designed to empower new librarians to become leaders in their work environments and communities. The first Academy will be held in October 2008, in Oak Brook, Illinois. The thirty selected fellows will participate by using self-assessment tools, group exercises, case studies, and skill practice to develop eight key behaviors of leadership, including self-appraisal, inquiry, persuasion, and connection. The fellows will be involved in a rigorous and introspective year-long event that will include assigned readings, work with special mentors, and list discussions on the challenges found in learning and applying new leadership skills.

Dr. Barbara Mackoff was selected as the faculty for the Academy. In conjunction with the committee’s desire that this not be a one-time event, Dr. Mackoff is conducting original research to define the unique challenges and opportunities of leadership in the role of law librarian, and to identify the experiences, strengths and knowledge base associated with the development of leadership in the field and in AALL. Her article summarizing this research will be published in a future issue of Law Library Journal.

Dr. Barbara Mackoff was selected as the faculty for the Academy. In conjunction with the committee’s desire that this not be a one-time event, Dr. Mackoff is conducting original research to define the unique challenges and opportunities of leadership in the role of law librarian, and to identify the experiences, strengths and knowledge base associated with the development of leadership in the field and in AALL. Her article summarizing this research will be published in a future issue of Law Library Journal.

In addition to planning for the fellows program and the Leadership Academy, the committee has also worked with AALL’s staff to create the ability for a member to attach a resume of accomplishments and activities to their member profile on AALLNET.

The committee has also been charged with identifying a process for creation and maintenance of a closed “Rising Star” database to be used for committee appointments and other matters that we might find useful. The committee’s original timeline has been extended to July 2009, in recognition of the extensive work it has been assigned.

Judy Meadows, Chair
2007-08