AALL Committee Activities and Action Plan

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Committee Name: Placement Committee

Committee Charge:
- Manage and staff the Placement Office at the Annual Meeting assisted by volunteers from the membership, as well as at least one full-time employee from headquarters or convention staff.
- Provide policy guidance on career issues relating to placement in the profession.
- Determine statistics necessary to develop and understand the current state of the profession, including where the positions are, types of libraries and geographic locations and where job growth is expected.
- Develop career publications necessary for placement and develop new publications when appropriate.
- Work with headquarters staff to provide a forum on AALL’s website where members can obtain career advice, counseling and discuss issues relating to the profession.
- Work collaboratively with the Economic Status of Law Librarianship, Membership and Retention, Mentoring, Public Relations, and Recruitment to Law Librarianship Committees.

Major Activities for 2009-2010:
The committee worked on alternatives for automating the Placement Center at the 2011 conference. Three scenario’s were explored involving retaining the room for the Placement office as well as rooms for interviewing and converting the resume/job postings print process to an automated system. Staffing the Placement Center under the present system becomes more difficult each year. Automating the center will require fewer people each day to assist users. At this time it is not clear if the automation will take place for the 2010 meeting or begin in 2011. AALL has budgeted for the additional cost of computers for this transition in 2011.

Committee members under the direction of the Vice-chair developed and submitted a Placement Committee program for AALL’s annual conference in Denver. Description as follows:
"Current jobseekers are often unaware of how an Internet presence can impact prospective employers' willingness to take them seriously as candidates. Photographs on MySpace and Facebook, personal blogs, and YouTube videos present information to the world that can be open to misinterpretation. How are employers using the Web to investigate job applicants, and what constitutes overexposure? What kinds of questions can come up in an interview, how can one answer them, and how can the pitfalls be avoided? The perspective of both employers and jobseekers will be presented."
The committee program as described above for the 2010 meeting was not accepted.

The committee webmaster made changes to the Placement website as needed.

With input from committee members the chair wrote an article for the Member’s Briefing titled “Preparing for Your Next Career Move.” It was published in December 2009.

Proposed Activities for 2010-2011:
The committee will continue to work on keeping the Placement web current and relative to the times; work on and submit publications and program proposals relative to the Placement Committee’s charge; and prefect the automation of the Placement Center.