

Suzanne Sears
Assistant Dean for Public Services
University of North Texas Libraries



I was extremely honored to be invited by the Government Documents Special Interest Section to attend my first AALL meeting as their VIP. Denver is one of my favorite cities and law librarians are some of my favorite colleagues. I crashed my first law librarian's dinner at the spring 2003 Depository Library Conference and have been continuing to do so ever since. Thanks to the generosity of the GD-SIS, I have now attended my first AALL conference and I am sure it will not be my last.

I have always felt that one of the most important parts of attending a conference is networking with the other attendees. The size of this conference made it so easy to mingle and meet new people. I thoroughly enjoyed the discussions I had with old and new acquaintances regarding the Federal Depository Library Program and government information in general. As the current Chair for the Depository Library Council I found it very valuable and often enlightening to be able to talk to so many new faces and to hear fresh perspectives on issues facing the depository community.

During his keynote speech, R. David Lankes talked about the commonality of librarians and that we sometimes forget that many issues facing one group face us all. This comment struck me as very apropos, since I am considered an academic librarian, yet I found many applicable sessions at a law librarian conference. Although I have never worked in a law library, I do have a large legal collection at the University of North Texas. I thought that I would find the sessions useful, but I had no idea just how relevant they would be. The breadth and depth of the programs were exceptional. The GD-SIS programs were extremely valuable. The programming committee should be commended.

One of my favorite sessions was a panel discussion, *The Changing Look of Government Information: Impact on Reference, Technical Services and Public Services*. The session was very thought provoking and covered all aspects of library services. The speakers were very knowledgeable and offered some good suggestions for integrating digital content into library collections. I also was able to attend sessions on authentication, FOIA, copyright, reference statistics, and supervisory tips.

It was very inspiring to see how dedicated and passionate law librarians are regarding government information. It was one of the best conference experiences I have ever had the opportunity to attend. I returned home with a renewed appreciation for the field of law librarianship and eyes on when I can attend my next AALL conference. Thank you again to GD-SIS for giving me this wonderful experience.