

Emily Nimsakont, Schmid Law Library, UNL

NLA C&U Professional Development Grant Report

2017 Mid-America Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting

Thanks to the funding from the NLA C&U section professional development grant, I was delighted to have the opportunity to travel to Milwaukee for the annual meeting of the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries (MAALL).

My main goal in attending the conference was to hear what other law schools are doing with institutional repositories and faculty scholarship, since our law school is trying to do more in this area. On the first day of the conference, I attended a round table of Mid-America Law Library Consortium (MALLCO) member libraries about institutional repositories. Since this was a round table discussion and not a presentation, it was nice to be able to talk in an informal setting about what other libraries are doing. On the second day of the conference, I attended a presentation about LawArXiv, an open access repository for legal scholarship. This is a very new endeavor, and it was interesting to learn about how our law faculty could upload their scholarship here, either as an alternative to, or in addition to, UNL's institutional repository.

In addition to these institutional repository sessions, I attended round table discussions about acquisitions, collection development, and resource sharing. I also attended presentations titled "Managing Up: How to Make Waves without Rocking the Boat," "It's Hard to Collaborate with Your Foot on My Throat," "Motivating Library Staff and Why It Matters," and "Legal Clinics, Libraries, and Law Schools – Collaborations That Work."

Another thing that I enjoyed about the conference was that it provided opportunities for networking outside the formal conference presentations. To give just one example of these networking opportunities, the conference committee organized dine-arounds on the first night, and I had an enjoyable dinner with librarians from Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan, and Missouri. I enjoy regional conferences because I am able to talk to a wider circle of librarians than I normally see at Nebraska conferences; however, unlike at national conferences, these librarians all feel like they are my neighbors, in a sense. I met many people that I would feel comfortable reaching out to by phone or email with a question about my work.

I am very grateful that I was able to attend the MAALL conference. I learned many things that I was able to bring back to my library, and I was able to network with many librarians from around the region.