

**NLA C&U Professional Development Grant Report**  
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2018 American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting

Due to the funding from the Professional Development Grant provided by the NLA C&U Section, I was able to attend the 2018 American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) Annual Meeting. This is my “go to” conference for learning about what is happening in law library technical services librarianship, especially law cataloging.

The MarcEdit workshop I attended was excellent and provided lots of hands-on practice and practical advice that I will definitely use in my job.

I attended the Technical Services Special Interest Section (TS-SIS) committee meetings related to cataloging, an OCLC update, and the Vendor Records Advisory Group. I heard reports from the AALL liaisons that attend the Cataloging and Classification: Description and Access Committee, Subject Analysis Committee, and MARC Advisory Committee meetings at ALA about the most recent developments from those committees. The TS-SIS committee meetings are also where my most beneficial networking occurred. My library migrated to Ex Libris Alma two years ago and sharing information with other law libraries that have also recently migrated will be very helpful for my job.

Visiting the exhibit hall and visiting with vendors was also beneficial to learn about new products that will help with day-to-day tasks as well as legal research.

There were also programming sessions that will be helpful. There was a session on “APIs: What They Are and How to Use Them.” This provided me with a better understanding of how APIs work, so I can reflect on the possibilities of using APIs at my library. There were several sessions on digitization and special collections where I learned more about digitizing our special collections and using those collections to work with other campus entities. There was a very interesting session on “Weaponizing Social Media” that provided me with criteria for analyzing news sources. I attended “Telling Your Story: Using Metrics” to help me with ideas for how our library can better market itself. Finally, I attended a session on cool tools where I learned about new tools such as Monosnap, PowerNotes, and IFTTT. I hope to incorporate some of these into my everyday tasks.

Thank you to C&U for the grant so I had the opportunity to attend the 2018 AALL Annual Meeting. The conference provided me with new ideas that I will bring back to my library and hopefully put into place. Additionally, the networking opportunities were invaluable.