

Strategic Plan

Virginia Association of Law Libraries

Adopted: April 6, 2015

INTRODUCTION

Law libraries today face a changing world. Technological developments pose new challenges and provide new opportunities. Pressures on library space and physical collections, demands for greater efficiency, and lawyer employment and law school enrollment challenges have immediate and long-term implications for our profession. The Virginia Association of Law Libraries (VALL) is dedicated to supporting law libraries in Virginia and the professional development of its members, and has adopted this Strategic Plan to chart its course over the next five years. The Strategic Plan focuses on the four primary components of VALL's Mission Statement: fostering leadership and cooperation, providing educational and leadership opportunities, promoting and enhancing the value of law libraries, and advocating for access to legal information and library user education.

MISSION STATEMENT

Adopted: June 2014

The Virginia Association of Law Libraries (VALL) supports and serves its members' professional pursuits by fostering a spirit of leadership and cooperation, providing educational and leadership opportunities, and promoting and enhancing the value of law libraries. VALL also advocates for easy and equitable access to legal information and education of library users.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Spirit of leadership and cooperation

Goal: VALL will foster a spirit of leadership and cooperation among its members.

Strategies:

- Provide members with information on leadership conferences, training, and professional opportunities with the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), VALL, and other relevant professional organizations by means of the VALL wiki, VALL Talk blog, VALL listserv, and social media.
- Develop a mentoring program for newer VALL members.
- Provide in-person and online forums for formal and informal interaction and networking.

- Provide opportunities for networking with members of other AALL chapters and other professional organizations.

Educational and leadership opportunities

Goal: VALL will provide educational and leadership opportunities for its members.

Strategies:

- Offer relevant, current, and cost-effective in-person and virtual educational programming that addresses technological and other changes and trends affecting law libraries, legal education, and the legal profession, as well as practical instruction.
- Collaborate with other AALL chapters and other professional organizations as a means of providing enhanced educational offerings.
- Offer grants and scholarships to support the educational needs of members.
- Provide opportunities for the development of members' leadership skills through involvement in VALL officer and committee roles, as well as collaborative projects with AALL, its other chapters, and other professional organizations.
- Explore the development of short-term projects and volunteer opportunities that do not require committee membership.

Promoting and enhancing the value of law libraries

Goal: Create opportunities for VALL members to offer their knowledge and expertise to the public, to the general library community, and to the legal community; and increase VALL member participation.

Strategies:

- Investigate possibility of presenting VALL educational programs to outside organizations (e.g., bar associations, non-law-library associations).
- Create and publicize speakers bureau of VALL members.
- Improve the quality and availability of legal information products and services.

Goal: Advocate the value of law libraries and their services within the legal and business communities, especially to decision-makers at organizations.

Strategies:

- Create continuing education courses that offer certificates of completion.
- Support and promote VALL member libraries during National Library Week and Law Day.
- Represent VALL by participating in public service activities.
- Publicize grant and chapter award winners within legal community.
- Write and promote magazine- or journal-length history of VALL.
- Look for ways for VALL to participate in the Virginia legal community.

- Promote the value of law libraries at the local, state and federal levels, and publicize the need for adequate resources to ensure access to justice.

Goal: Promote the field of law librarianship to law students and to library and information science students.

Strategies:

- Develop and maintain relations with library schools.
- Develop and maintain relations with law schools.
- Participate in law and library schools' career days.
- Explore options of representing VALL virtually to library students in other states or studying online.
- Make sure that VALL career postings are sent to library and law schools.
- Develop VALL program on profession of law librarianship for interested students.
- Create model curriculum for class on law librarianship that could be used in law schools or library schools.

Advocacy for easy and equitable access to legal information and education of library users.

Goal: VALL will be a leading advocate for innovation in legal information access.

Strategies:

- Develop an app that meets a clear need in the legal community.
- Participate with groups developing open source or low cost alternatives to traditional resources to accessing law.
- Develop a portal to showcase and make easily available the resources that VALL member institutions have already developed (e.g. Wythepedia, various subject guides, etc.)
- Create a listserv for VALL members interested in emerging technologies as a means of both sharing information and fostering skills that might be of broader use to the public.
- Invite legal entrepreneurs and open government advocates to speak on their projects and products.

Goal: VALL will be a resource for those who educate library users.

Strategies:

- Devote a VALL meeting to teaching legal research.
- Devote a VALL meeting to discern the information needs of Virginia's public users, Virginia's attorneys, and Virginia's courts to get a sense of what resources might be useful to develop.

- Develop a portal to showcase and make easily available the resources that VALL member institutions have already developed (e.g. Wythepedia, various subject guides, etc.).

Goal: VALL will be an advocate for easy and equitable access to legal information.

Strategies:

- Examine and strengthen VALL's relationship with AALL's Government Relations office.
- Designate a liaison to the AALL government relations committee.
- Send a VALL representative to advocacy training at the AALL Annual Meeting.
- Invite a member of AALL's Committee on Relations with Information Vendors or the AALL vendor liaison to provide training on vendor negotiations.
- Continue to partner with other local library organizations (such as the Virginia Library Association and the Virginia chapter of the Special Libraries Association) to share information and advocate effectively.
- Inform and educate VALL members about issues that impact law libraries and how to adapt to changing environments (format availability, finances, etc.).
- Communicate with the legal community about the value of access to legal information.