

COMPUTING SERVICES

SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION



Who We Are

The Computing Services Special Interest Section (CS-SIS) serves the fastest-growing sector within law librarianship. Our members come from all types of law libraries and all functions of librarianship, and represent all levels of experience, from newer law librarians to law library directors. Most importantly, Computing Services SIS members are law librarians dedicated to serving the information needs of their library users with the aid of computing technologies.

CS-SIS has a long history of leadership and innovation in the implementation and utilization of technology in law libraries. The section began in 1972 as a special committee and became a special interest section in 1976. In 1996, the section changed its name to the Computing Services SIS. The purpose of the group has evolved along with computer technology and its use in libraries.

Our Mission

The mission of the Computing Services Special Interest Section is:

- To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, information, and knowledge concerning information technology among law librarians; and
- To serve in a leadership role in the ongoing professional development of law librarians as they evaluate, implement, and use information technology-related services.

Governance and Meetings

CS-SIS is governed by an executive board consisting of six elected officers, including a chair, vice chair, secretary/treasurer, immediate past chair, and two members-at-large. Elections for officers are held annually, and section business meetings are held during the AALL Annual Meeting.

Committees

Computing Services SIS members have numerous opportunities to participate in section activities by joining or chairing a committee. Committees include:

- Adaptive Technologies
- Awards and Grants
- Communications
- Education
- Emerging Technologies (*Education Subcommittee*)
- Job Descriptions Database
- NISO Standards (*Education Subcommittee*)
- Nominations
- Program Planning
- Recruitment and Involvement

Education

The CS-SIS has a strong tradition of sponsoring excellent educational programming, and presents several programs at each AALL Annual Meeting. Programs cover a wide variety of topics and varying levels of technology expertise. Recent topics have included Web 2.0 issues, network neutrality, licensing and digital rights management, blogging, vlogging, podcasting, law technology in the curriculum, and presentation technologies.

Roundtable discussions on a range of topics are another regular CS-SIS feature at the Annual Meeting. Open to all, these sessions provide practical, hands-on advice and information on technology issues faced by all types of law libraries.

Web 2.0 Challenge

In 2008, the Computing Services SIS presented the Web 2.0 Challenge, a five-week online course designed to introduce law librarians to social software and how to use it in their libraries. The course was enormously popular and will be offered again. The Challenge is free to any law librarian and provides a collaborative hands-on learning experience.

Grants Program and Awards

Eligibility for the grants program is a benefit of CS-SIS membership. Since 2000, CS-SIS has awarded at least three grants each year to its members for Annual Meeting attendance. Grants can be used to support attendance at AALL educational activities, including workshops, the Annual Meeting, or relevant chapter workshops and seminars.

The grant for experienced law librarians provides financial assistance to librarians who have a demonstrated commitment to the law library profession, especially those who are directly involved in providing technology support of any kind within law libraries. The purpose of the grant for students and new librarians is to provide financial assistance to librarians who hold promise of future involvement in the law library profession, again, especially those who are directly involved in providing technology support.

The Kenneth J. Hirsh Distinguished Service Award is presented to a CS-SIS member who has made outstanding contributions to the SIS, AALL, and who is well regarded for his or her service to the profession. The award was named for inaugural recipient and longtime CS-SIS member Ken Hirsh in 2004.

Web Site and Blog

The Computing Services Web site and blog can be found at <http://cssis.org>. The site provides information about the current and forthcoming activities of the SIS, as well as library technology news of interest. In addition, the blog contains an archive of documents including newsletters, bylaws, and past Annual Meeting activities.

Karaoke Night

Every year since the 1997 Annual Meeting in Baltimore, a small group of AALL members has found a karaoke bar and listened to at least one colleague's attempt at a song or two. In 2001, the Computing Services Special Interest Section officially sponsored the event. With 25 participants in attendance, several sang their own renditions of familiar songs, establishing karaoke night as an annual tradition not to be missed!

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