



Summer 2026

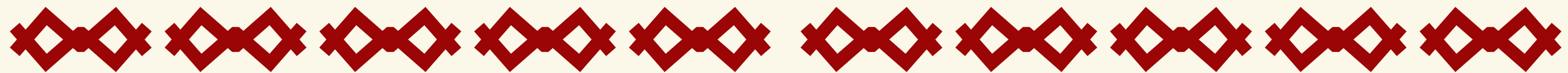


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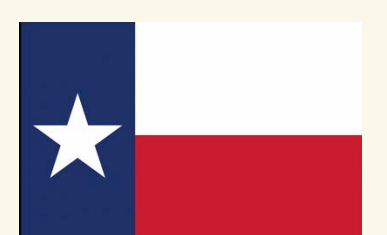
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Letter from the **PRESIDENT**

Greetings SWALL-stars!

I want to begin by thanking you all for the opportunity to serve as President for the coming year and thank Stewart for his excellent stewardship in the year prior.

An especially big thank you to our members at Texas Tech University and last year's Local Planning and Programming committees for putting on an amazing conference in Lubbock, TX. A further thank you to everyone that has already volunteered to assist with next year's conference in Denver, CO. I hope to see all of you there!

Regarding the yearly conference, the Board and I are hoping to institute more formalized procedures for evaluating and selecting future conference sites. Our hope is that, starting with the 2027 meeting, we can have potential hosts present bids to the membership to be voted on. The site for the 2028 meeting has already been approved in Fort Worth, TX, in partnership with the Tarrant County Law Library and Texas A&M's Dee Jay Kelly Law Library, so at the 2027 SWALL Conference, we'd love to see proposals for hosting the 2029 SWALL Conference.

The Board is going to begin the process of working with last year's conference committees and the current committees to assemble an information packet for potential hosts regarding the planning and budgetary expectations for these bids. For those that are interested, feel free to reach out to me or the other Board members, and we will keep you informed as this work proceeds.

I hope every one of you has a fantastic summer! If any of you have any questions, concerns, or ideas for how to make SWALL a better organization for all our members, please don't hesitate to contact me at Michael.whitlow@colorado.edu.

Sincerely,
Michael Whitlow



Jason Youngstrom

Kate Mara Grant Award

This spring, as the recipient of the 2026 Kate Mara Award, I had the privilege of attending my first SWALL conference. After many years working in a science library, I am now turning over a new leaf as an academic law librarian. So, I feel like I both know a lot and have a lot to learn at the same time. With this mindset (mostly the "a lot to learn" part), I set off for my first law library conference, and the SWALL conference turned out to be a great introduction to an incredible community. The small nature of the conference sets it up as an intimate gathering. At the same time, the attendees are a varied group of professionals representing every corner of the law library world: academic libraries, court libraries, firm libraries, and public libraries alike. I was able to make connections through small group interactions, small workshops, and lots of one on one conversations. The connections I made were genuine and made me feel welcome in the law library community. It was invigorating to be surrounded by so many passionate, knowledgeable colleagues who were eager to share their expertise and learn from others.

The programming this year offered something meaningful for every stage of a law librarian's career. On the technical side, sessions on AI tool evaluation gave practical frameworks for navigating an increasingly complex landscape of emerging technology. Equally valuable were the discussions around soft skills, particularly how to build stronger collaborative relationships with partner libraries and navigate the realities of cross-institutional coordination. Perhaps most unexpectedly impactful were the sessions devoted to personal development, including the keynote presentation by Dr. Lisa Garner Santa, who took us on a deep dive into communication styles that left me with immediately applicable tools for working more effectively with colleagues, supervisors, and patrons alike. In addition to serving as the Director of Faculty Excellence at Texas Tech, Dr. Garner Santa is a Professor of Flute and an accomplished musician. I admit that my inner high school flutist was disappointed there was no recital!

The SWALL conference is coming to Colorado in 2027. Having just experienced firsthand what this conference has to offer, I am excited to attend next year in my home town! Denver is a great city with lots going on, and if you are a skier, you should by all means extend your stay and take the train up to Winter Park.

This conference energized my practice, expanded my network, and reminded me of the very best this profession has to offer. I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the SWALL conference next year.



AALL 2026

Cleveland, Ohio
July 18-21

Attending the AALL Annual Meeting in Cleveland? Support our SWALL members by attending these sessions:

Sunday, 11:30 AM, HCC Room 25A-C

See It, Fix It, Open It: ADA Assessment for Every Law Library

Michael Whitlow, Wise Law Library Colorado Law School

Sunday, 11:30 AM, HCC Room 5

Strategic Planning 101 for Law Libraries

Annalee Hickman Pierson, BYU Law Library; Catherine M. Dunn, University of Denver Sturm College of Law; Tiffany R. Jenkins, Troutman Pepper Locke; Amanda I. Karel, AKR Consulting

Sunday, 2:00 PM, HCC Grand Ballroom A

Cultivating Positivity & Connections in the Workplace

Jennifer Mart-Rice, University of Alabama School of Law; Ariel Newman, UMKC Law Library; Amy Small, Texas State Law Library

Sunday, 2:00 PM, HCC Room 25A-C

Toward Best Practices in Law Library Services for Online Students

Tammy Pettinato Oltz, Mitchell Hamline School of Law; Jan Fleckenstein, Syracuse University School of Law; Katherine Haldeman, Suffolk University School of Law; Dustin Johnston-Green, Ohio Northern University Law Library; Dan Kimmons, Arizona State University School of Law

Sunday, 3:15 PM, HCC Room

Diversify Your Case Law: Using Foreign, International, and Indigenous Law to Teach Lateral Thinking

B. Austin Waters, University at Buffalo Law Library; Rebecca Chapman, University at Buffalo; Loren Turner, University of Minnesota Law; Sherri N. Thomas, University of New Mexico

Sunday, 3:15 PM, HCC Room

Hot Topic: AI Tools and the Future of Public Law Libraries

Rebecca Fordon, The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law; Deborah Ginsberg, Harvard Law School Library; Cindy Guyer, O'Melveny & Meyers; Nick Hafen, BYU Law; Sean A. Harrington, University of Oklahoma College of Law

Sunday, 3:15 PM, HCC Room

Losing Space, Losing Funds, Not Losing Our Minds

Anna Lawless-Collins, Boston University School of Law; Stacy Fowler, St Mary's University Law Library; Rebecca Bearden, Boston University School of Law; Christine Dulac, University of Maine School of Law Library; Alissa Black-Dorward, Maloney Law Library, Fordham Law School

Monday, 11:00 AM, HCC Room

AI Law and Policy Across Borders: Impact on Legal Research and Libraries

Alex Zhang, Duke Law School; Paul D. Callister, University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law; Saskia Mehlhorn, Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP; Anne Mostad-Jensen, LLMC

Monday, 1:15 PM, HCC Room

LAWPods: Promoting a Futuristic Solution to Present-Day Problems?

Andre Davison, Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library; Andrew Bennett, Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library; Marie Brignac, Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library; Edward Melton, Harris County Public Library

Monday, 3:45 PM, HCC Exhibit Hall C

Aloha Management

Rena K. Seidler, Ogletree Deakins; Andre Davison, Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library; Susan deMaine, Indiana University Maurer School of Law; Amy Harrison, Ogletree Deakins

Monday, 3:45 PM, HCC Room

Fighting for the Freedom to Read: Law Library Edition

Mandy Lee, Seton Hall University School of Law; Margaret Butler, Georgia State University College of Law Library; Amy Small, Texas State Law Library; Edward Melton, Harris County Public Library

Tuesday, 8:30 AM, Room OCC Oregon 201

Democracy Demands Disclosure: Legal Barriers to Public Information

Rachel Jorgensen, Texas Tech University; Speaker: Sarah Ryan, University of North Texas

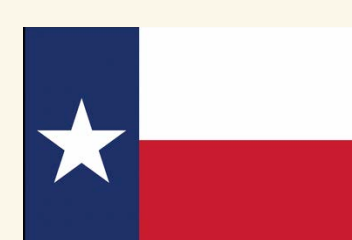
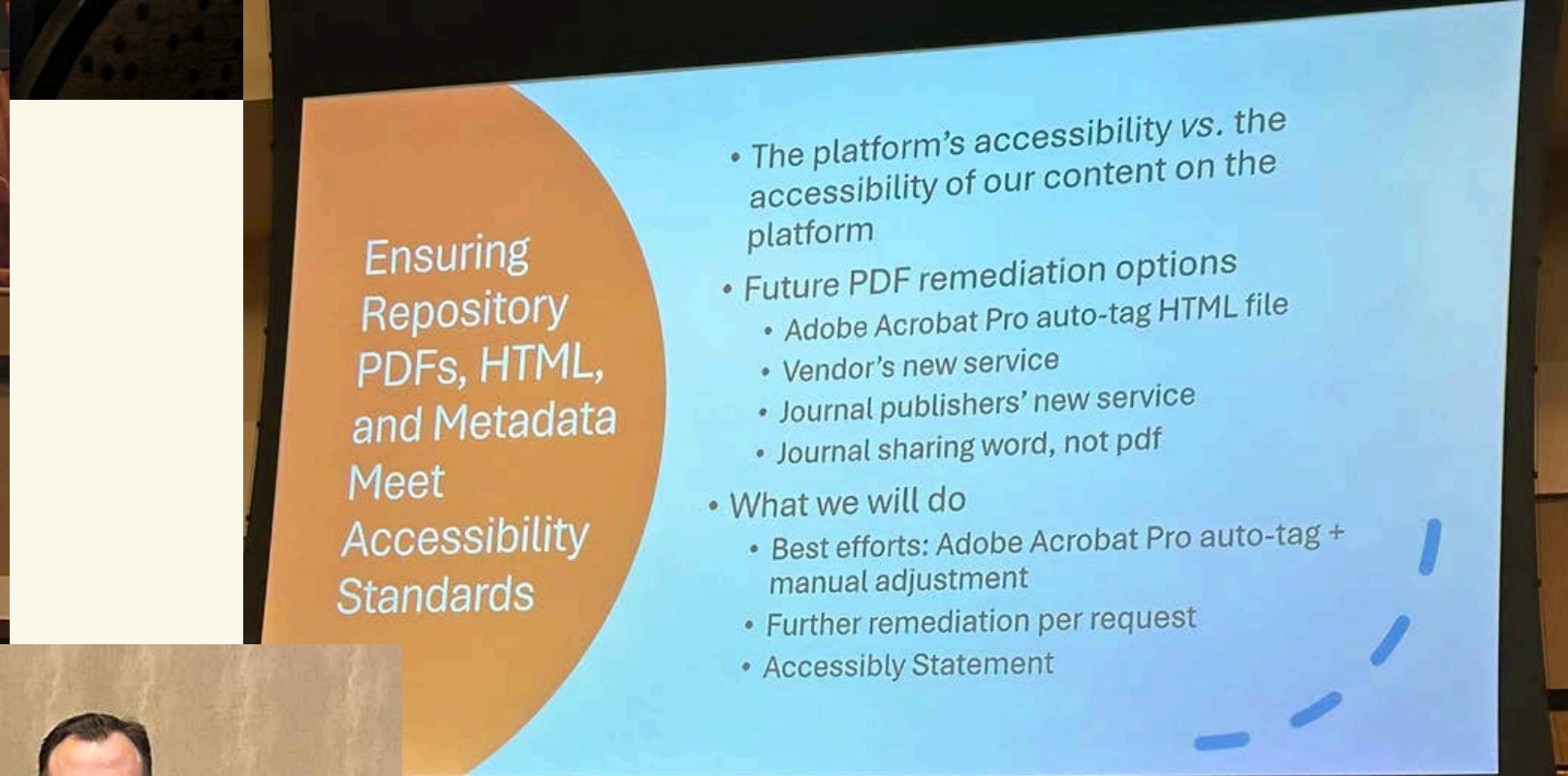
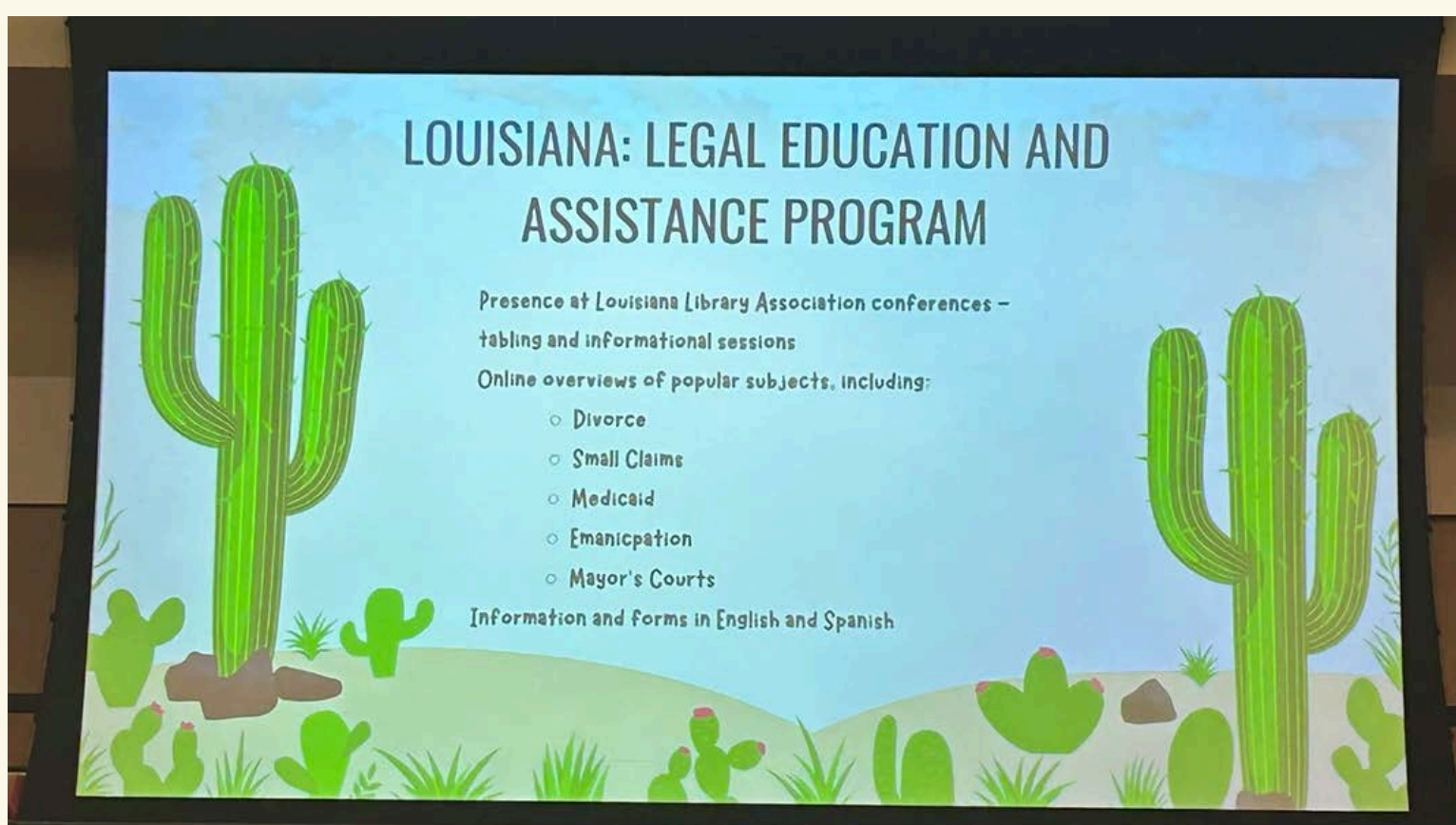
Tuesday, 11:30 AM, Room OCC Oregon 201

Alternative Teaching: How to Reach Students Outside of the Traditional Classroom

Tanya Johnson, UConn School of Law; Anne Rajotte, UConn School of Law; Andre Davison, Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library; Katie Brown, Charleston School of Law



Some highlights from the SWALL Annual Conference in Lubbock...thanks to all who attended and presented!!





Our 2027 annual meeting will be in Denver, Colorado, co-hosted by the law schools of the University of Denver and the University Colorado. At SWALL, we strive to have something for every new and seasoned law librarian, no matter your institution type or location, so start thinking about your presentation now!

