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from the editor

By Catherine A. Lemmer



Cabin Thoughts

This month, the *AALL Spectrum* Member to Member question asked readers to share their favorite cabin fever activity. The responses are light-hearted and helped connect me with a few members who I've not yet met. In the spirit of community building, I decided to use this column to share one of my cabin fever remedies—kitchen cleaning.

My beautiful and empathetic daughter accuses me of engaging in *lonely cleaning*. In her opinion, when left alone at home I waste my time cleaning instead of doing some other exciting and interesting activity. What she does not understand is that in addition to the satisfaction of clean and uncluttered kitchen surfaces, I get in some uninterrupted mulling time. I greatly appreciate uninterrupted mulling time! This past week gave me the opportunity to mull over the responses to the *AALL Spectrum* survey as I cleaned and reorganized kitchen cabinets.

A huge "thank you" goes out to everyone who responded to the survey. Your responses, especially your comments, will provide needed guidance and direction for the future of our professional publication. In creating the survey, we didn't follow the general advice given to lawyers to *never ask a question to which you don't know how the respondent will answer*. Our goal was to find out what we didn't know or only anecdotally suspected, and you told us! So again, thank you.

Although the raw numbers are helpful for quick understanding, I've learned over the years that the most interesting data is in the footnotes or, in this case, the 92 pages of comments. Your comments confirmed a few things that I have already been considering; for example, an issue dedicated to architecture may have run its course after 15 years. This month's issue is a trial of sorts on whether topic-specific issues may still have value depending on the topic selected.

You may have noticed that this issue includes articles on the development and management of special collections in a variety of libraries, from academic to private law firm libraries. From the survey comments I've culled a few other topics that might make for an interesting topic-specific issue if covered from a variety of perspectives. Let me know if you like this concept, and, if so, please don't hesitate to send me a topic or idea that could make for an interesting issue.

On the other hand, some of the survey responses might be considered surprising. For example, respondents were overwhelming in their interest in maintaining *AALL Spectrum* in print at this time for a wide range of reasons.

This March 2015 issue is the 15th issue for which I have served as editorial director. Since day one I have worked to ensure that *AALL Spectrum* remains relevant to the entire AALL membership. Changes are in the making with respect to the content and look of *AALL Spectrum*, much of which have been prompted by the survey results, comments you have sent my way in the past year, and my own outreach efforts. In addition, the editorial structure is being expanded to bring more voices and insights to the table. I asked for this change in the editorial structure because I believe it is imperative that *AALL Spectrum* serve the entire membership. A broader editorial structure will support this effort.

AALL membership is large and diverse. *AALL Spectrum* is but one professional tool for us to use to continue to enhance our profession, educate ourselves, share our knowledge, and develop and connect our diverse membership. I sincerely hope that you will continue to enjoy and find value in the publication as it evolves in response to your comments and the needs of the law librarianship profession. ■

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