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### I'm From the Government and I'm Here to Help: State and Federal Resources

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# I'm From the Government and I'm Here to Help

Sharon Bradley  
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# Legal Information Must Be Made Available to the Public - Online

- ▶ Ignorantia juris non excusat - ignorance of the law excuses not
- ▶ Law must be free
- ▶ Rights as citizens
  - ▶ Human right
- ▶ Enhance access to justice
- ▶ We all pay for it's creation
- ▶ The Internet changed everything

But it must be authentic, complete, credible, current, free, reliable, and useable.

You must be able to easily determine authenticity, credibility, currency, etc.

# AALL - Core Values

- ▶ Information on government websites must be **accessible to all people**.
- ▶ Information published on government websites must be **trustworthy and reliable**.
- ▶ If an electronic version of legal information is **official**, it should be **designated** as such ... .
- ▶ Information published on government websites should be **comprehensive**.
- ▶ Information on government websites must be **preserved** by the entity ... .

# Who Should Be Responsible?

- ▶ States
  - ▶ Courts
  - ▶ Legislature
  - ▶ Agencies
- ▶ Professional organizations
- ▶ Law schools and law libraries

# Digital States Survey 2018 - Center for Digital Government



GENERAL INFORMATION

NEW TO GATEWAY?

ARE YOU A PARTNER/PROVIDER?



# Georgia Portal



2017

2020



# Who Should Be Responsible?

- ▶ States
- ▶ Professional organizations
  - ▶ American Association of Law Libraries (AALL)
  - ▶ American Bar Association (ABA)
  - ▶ State Bar of Georgia
- ▶ Law schools and law libraries



# What We Should Be Doing

- ▶ Stop abrogating our responsibility
  - ▶ Putting online is not an afterthought
- ▶ The states should be more like the Feds
  - ▶ Portals
  - ▶ Authentication
- ▶ Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA)
- ▶ Partnerships

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the frame, creating a modern, dynamic feel.

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I'm not from the government but I will want to help