

NEXT

MEETING

- **September 9, 2009**

Harris County District Clerk Online Database Information Session with Loren Jackson

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From the President...

Welcome to HALL, 2009-2010! What a whirlwind of a summer. I was fortunate to have received the chapter registration award for AALL and had a wonderful time in Washington, DC. My only complaint was that there were so many exciting and interesting programs, roundtable, and SIS meetings, that I had no time to visit the exhibit hall. I flew up early to attend AALL's Government Relations advocacy program, A Day on the Hill. I will be talking about my experience at our AALL recap on Wednesday.



*HALL President
Ann Patterson*

The Board and I have a lot planned for this year. We are

designing a website for HALL members that will provide a much better forum for sharing information. Although, AALL is also redesigning their website for member chapters, we have decided to continue with our project and make this website the place law librarians can go for HALL's web 2.0 community. We have exciting features that will be available for everyone. I can't wait for us to get our site in operation.

We also plan to encourage our members to join committees where they can share their passions and good works. I am especially excited about our Government Relations committee this year. We have so much work we can do to make a difference. Just as we do in our Community Relations committee. Much is already planned for us to spend one meeting as we give back to our community.

Report continues on page 4...

Continuing Education...

A Look at What is Coming, Fall 2009

It's time to get back into the swing of things with HALL! I would like to thank Chris Dykes and Lauren Schroeder for their help in planning the meetings and seminars for this year. I look forward to a wonderful year!

The meeting topics for 2009 are as follows:

- **September 9:** *Harris County District Clerk Online Database Information Session:* Loren Jackson, Harris County Dis-

trict Clerk and Mike Lykes, Director - Special Projects/Community Affairs



*HALL Vice-President
Natalie Lira*

- **October 14:** *Half-Day Seminar: Surviving the Economic Times - Law Libraries and Librarians*

- **November 11:** *Disaster Preparedness for Libraries*

- **December 12:** *HALLiday Luncheon*

Please let me know if you have any suggestions for speakers or topics. You can contact me at nlira@kslaw.com.

-Natalie Lira

AALL Recap—Riva Laughlin

For the first time in a long time, I really feel like I got something from the AALL convention. I came back recharged; my brain buzzing with all the things I could do.

Without a doubt, the most useful session I've attended in years was Working Smart: Innovative ways to do more with your day. This was presented by Juli Hughes of Barley Snyder LLC in Pennsylvania. I've attended these types of programs before and have been disappointed. The presenter usually recommends things that don't work in the real world (how many of us can really get away with checking our email once or twice a day?) Juli, however, had concrete examples of ways to make your work flow more efficient.

Many of her suggestions involved using tricks available in the software you use daily. For example, while we have to read email from our office when it comes in, we DON'T have to read external email immediately. Juli's suggestion: create a rule that routes external email to a folder and check it when you have time. Assuming that most of us use Outlook, routing mail to a folder doesn't trigger a notification. So, you're not bothered with that notification chime unless it's a message from an internal sender. I've been using this since I got back from convention and have noticed that it really does cut down on the distractions.

Another suggestion from Juli – remember that Windows has a tile windows vertically feature. This allows you to have two windows open at the same time so you can more easily copy information from one window to the other. Tiling vertically is preferred over tiling horizontally because the tool bars take up so much room otherwise.

Juli has created a webpage listing a number of her timesaving tips. If you are interested, I'll forward the link to you.

Another impressive session was Law Librarian: The New Private Investigator, presented by Howard Trivers with Baker Daniels. Trivers had the unenviable task of keeping folks interested in the last presentation on the last day of the convention – and he succeeded. A self-proclaimed “dirt meister”, Trivers thinks that librarians are better suited for doing people finding type research because we (as a group) tend to love piecing puzzles together and have a better handle on the alternative sources available. And we know how to do a proper reference interview!

Continued, next page..!

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While most of the information in this presentation was familiar, Trivers did have a few gems:

- Google searches tend to work better if you search the address instead of the name.
- It's still really difficult (almost impossible) to locate cell phone or unlisted phone numbers.
- Searchsystems.net is the best aggregator of free public record sites.
- In this day and age, don't forget to check the various social networking sites: Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, etc.

I have a copy of Trivers' PowerPoint presentation if anyone is interested. It is also available at AALL2Go as a video of the presentation synched with the PowerPoint.

Finally, a word about the Exhibit Hall. You could tell that times are tough. There weren't as many vendors at the convention, and there weren't as many gimmies available. (Amazon must have had bulk rates on Kindles. Just about every vendor [and AALL] had a drawing for one. And I won!) But, having fewer vendors on the floor meant it was easier to see everything available and have meaningful conversations with the vendor reps. It wasn't as overwhelming as it's been in years past.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to attend AALL this year. It was definitely one of my most productive meetings.



Riva at the HALL/DALL/SWALL reception with Jennifer Stephens and Laurie Schwed (photo courtesy of Dina Dreifuerst)

AALL Recap—Dina Dreifuerst

Thanks to the HALL Board for the generous travel grant, which made it possible for me to attend AALL this year in DC. Because of the nature of my work at B&G, I probably spent more time in the Exhibit Hall than in actual programs or business meetings. I don't generally do the "visit 5 stations and get a toy" booths, but instead devote my time to visiting with key vendors, particularly those with whom we have issues. Unfortunately, some of the vendors we really need to see don't exhibit at librarian conferences!

I did attend some very good sessions, including one on salary & compensation negotiation, a skill which librarians tend to not possess. The speaker, Nan Siemer, has her own company, Breakers (www.breakersconsulting.com), and does a lot of negotiation consulting for the government. She had many excellent points, including Herb Coen's quote: "You can negotiate anything." Also, children are "masterful negotiators" because they lack self-consciousness and a desire to be liked. They just want to get the best deal possible. Negotiate on your worth (skills, experience), not what you need (rent, insurance). Money is only one negotiating point, and usually not the most important. Quality of Life issues often outrank compensation ... think flexible schedule, tuition reimbursement, parking space, etc. Also, "management issues," such as autonomy, supervisory responsibilities, and a clearly-defined chain of command (if I'm to be in charge of this department, are you going to override my decisions?).

I actually spoke at a program on career changes ... ironically, the librarian who first proposed this program found herself laid off shortly after it was accepted. And I of course am now changing jobs! The other speakers were Joan Axelroth of Axelroth & Assoc., and Christine Seller, the brains behind the Law Librarians of Leisure blog. Joan offered excellent advice of making connections, finding opportunities (don't limit yourself to the title of librarian), filling resume gaps, and how to ask friends, family & colleagues for help. My own advice is to remain optimistic, don't be afraid to try something just because you haven't done it before, and always keep your resume up-to-date!

Continued, on page 6....

President's report, continued from page 1...

And what can I say about our Continuing Education committee...what a wonderful group of people. We are so lucky to have them planning our meetings and workshops. I want to thank our Committee Chairs for all the hard work they have done recently to get this year off to a very good start.

- Charles Gibson - Bylaws
- Continuing Education - Natalie Lira
- Membership - Jeannie Mazzone
- Nomination - Caralinn Cole
- Publications - Barbara Szalkowski
- Scholarships/Grants - Judith Jackson
- Archives - Heather Kushnerick
- Community Service - Heather Waltman
- Government Relations - Mary Ann Wacker
- Library School Liaison - Blythe McCoy
- Vendor Relations - Colleen Pincumbe
- HALL Website Design and Maintenance -
- Elise McCutchen & Saskia Mehlhorn

And special thanks to our newsletter editor, Mary Ann Wacker and our webmaster, Richard Guajardo.

Please take a look at our committees and see which one is interesting to you and sign up to help. We still need a chair for our Placement committee. Let me know as soon as you can if you are willing to join this committee and/or be its chair. This committee is especially important to the members of HALL during these difficult economic times in our field.

Please make plans to attend our monthly meetings and our fall and spring workshops. We will have lots of exciting things for you to attend this year.



Ann Patterson and Yvonne Chandler pose in front of Richard Russell, a former Senator from Georgia at AALL's "Day on the Hill". (photo courtesy of Ann Patterson)

AALL Review: Beyond Copyright: How License Agreements & Digital Rights Management Post Challenges to Fair Use & the Provision of Electronic or Media Services

By Michele A. Lucero
Manager, Librarian Relations
West, a Thomson Reuters business
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License agreements and Digital Rights Management (DRM) technologies are common among content suppliers. DRM is the use of technological means to control digital content. Librarians need to understand the connection between copyright and contract, and the implications of fair use.

Senior Electronic/Media Services Librarian Ryan S. Overdorf of LaValley Law Library University of Toledo College of Law described a case study dealing with the ethical obligations and practical difficulties on providing service in the current environment. Associate Professor, Rebecca Tushnet of Georgetown University Law Center followed with an examination of how legal and technological changes are impacting libraries.

Overdorf manages the media services unit at LaValley Law Library and has the responsibility of media services policy making. He provided a case example from their organization in which a vendor required a detailed written explanation regarding the use of its product on open computers at the law school. His unit agreed to monitor the authorized open computers and block the product on the unauthorized computers with subsequent agreed oral modification to allow campus wide use by the vendor. In analysis of this situation, there was little evidence of usage and cancellation would result in loss of access.

There are three fair use examples to think about in our current environment: streaming video, kindles and Google Books. Streaming video was the main issue with concerns of streaming problems including not always stream-

ing, unable to download and asking media services department to record it for them in this case study. It was determined by LaValley that streaming video can be a form of DRM, governed by the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), 17 U.S.C. § 1201(a)(1)(A) and governed by a Terms of Use agreement.

The following policy choices were determined as options for their institution. Keep in mind these choices may be different for other institutions. Media services could cut back in order to record the video for faculty. They may regulate only the availability of its services and not seek to police copyright. Media services may also continue to be concerned with significant intellectual property violations. The point of this case study was to illustrate to the audience that there is the need to be concerned with the frequency of licensing and there are restrictions on what a copyright owner can do.

Associate Professor, Rebecca Tushnet of Georgetown University Law Center discussed how legal and technological changes are impacting libraries. In her article entitled, *My Library: Copyright and the Role of Institutions in a Peer-to-Peer World*, 53 *UCLA L. REV.* 977 (2006), Tushnet questions how media should give traditional libraries special consideration in copyright. With easily available technologies, how can a library justify lending and copying? DRM technologies impose barriers to copying and sharing that often conflict with institutional policies. One prevalent case Tushnet discusses is that of Google Book Search Library Project in which Google will digitize and make books searchable. There are a bunch of legal issues revolving around this type of "library."

Both Overdorf and Tushnet provided a good overview of issues libraries may face concerning license agreements and digital rights management. Librarians should be aware of the intersection between copyright and contract, fair use consequences and how technology is changing the way in which we do business.



Michele Lucero keeps an eye on the Hope Diamond at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum during the Westlaw Business party (photo courtesy of Dina Dreifuerst)



Festive Westlaw Business party at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History (photo courtesy of Catherine Whitney)

Dina's Recap, continued...

Christine focused on the merits of staying connected, which is how she ended up creating a blog! Mark Estes, moderator, asked us for 3 closing points. Here are mine, which do not necessarily apply only to new jobs:

- Visualize your ideal, then bring it to reality.
- Self-promotion is an ongoing, essential process – toot your own horn!
- Network, network, network ... even (especially) when you're not in crisis, keep your connections open.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to attend AALL this year. It was one of the best conferences I've attended in recent years, except for the fact that so many of my friends & colleagues stayed home!

-Dina Dreifuerst



Above, inside the beautiful Library of Congress, where the Lexis-sponsored Opening Reception was held

Left, Library-themed cake in the Library of Congress Reading Room at the Opening Reception

(photos courtesy of Dina Dreifuerst)



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Celebrating HALL in the AALL Convention hall! (photo courtesy of Ann Patterson)



Above, Dina speaking on the "Career Changes" panel at AALL (photo courtesy of Dina Dreifuerst)

The HALL Newsletter, published 6 times a year by the HALL Publications Committee, is the official publication of the Houston Area Law Librarians. The purpose is to communicate information to its members. Send contributions, comments, news items, or advertising queries to Mary Ann Wacker, Editor, maryann.wacker@bgllp.com.

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Membership dues for HALL are \$25/year. For membership information, please contact Laurie Gaas at lgaas@stcl.edu or 713-646-1714. Membership form is available here: <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/dues.pdf>



*HALL-spotting at the HALL/DALL/SWALL reception:
left – (l-r) Barbara Fullerton, Caren Luckie, and Ann Patterson;
right – Paula Howe*

(photos courtesy of Dina Dreifuerst)



HALL Meeting Minutes—August

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
HALL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
August 19, 2009
South Texas College of Law

Meeting called to order: By Ann Patterson at 12:05; Roger Smith was introduced as a new member.

Blythe McCoy moved that the minutes be approved as written, Jane Holland seconded. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: We're in good shape. Barbara Szalkowski moved that the report be accepted, Colleen Pincumbe seconded. Treasurer's Report accepted.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

We're looking for committee members across the board. If you're interested in serving on a committee, contact Ann or the committee chairperson. A list of committee chairs is on the website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Archives: no report

Bylaws: Board will be reviewing the bylaws

Continuing Education: Sept. Harris County District Courts online service. This meeting will be open to nonmembers. Feel free to invite anyone who might be interested.

Community service: Tentatively for the Jan. meeting: A presentation by Community in Schools in conjunction with a fundraiser.

Government relations: MaryAnn Wacker is Government Relations liaison between AALL, HALL, DALL. Working on PACER access, authentication issues, network neutrality, Regulations.gov

Library School Liaison: Can help find library school interns if a firm is interested.

Membership: Membership open until 9/16. Update mailing lists.

Nominations: no report. Ann requested committee members to help get nominations

Placement: no chair - Ann requested someone volunteer.

Publications: Out next week. Next issue in mid September.

Scholarships and Grants: Remember that committee service is considered on the application for grants or scholarships.

Vendor Relations: nothing currently scheduled. Working on a couple of programs.

Website design & Maintenance: Elise McCutchen and Saskia Mehlhorn will be working on the new website. Current site is on AALLnet, and it's old. AALL doesn't support what we may want to do. The hosting site we are considering will make possible email accounts for each member, voting logs, ILL possibilities. Probable URLs HALL-lib.com, HALL-lib.org

AALL2Go is now online.

Paula Howe - Roberta Shaffer is now Law Librarian of Congress. Maybe have her for program.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:22.

-Submitted by Riva Laughlin

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HALL Treasurer's Report August 2009

HALL Treasurer's Report (unaudited) August 12, 2009

Balance forward 05/31/09			\$ 13,775.23
	Income	Expenses	
Dues			
2009-2010	\$ 2,275.00		
Newsletter			
Ads	\$ 125.00		
Luncheons/Receptions/ Seminars			
April-09	\$ 15.00		
Scholarships/Grants			
Administrative			
Supplies/Stationery/ Miscellaneous		\$ 10.81	
Total	\$ 2,415.00	\$ 10.81	
Balance 08/12/09			\$ 16,179.42

Mariann Sears, Treasurer
August 12, 2009

AALL Government Relations Committee

Hi Everyone,

I was asked to join the AALL Government Relations Committee by Camilla Tubbs who serves as Chair of the Committee. We have had one meeting via conference call so far, so I am still learning the ropes!

I have been asked to be the liaison between the Committee and HALL, DALL, and the PLL so I am hoping to have an item in each newsletter with what's going on with the Committee. Mary Alice Baish is the person at AALL in charge of our lobbying efforts. She is quite a dynamo!

Since the annual meeting was held in DC, Mary Alice organized a "Day on the Hill" where AALL members fanned out and visited their representatives in the House and Senate.

Some of the current issues the GRC is wrestling with include: network neutrality, authentication, and the Regulations.gov (people think it's kind of a mess) site.

These topics were submitted as possible GRC-sponsored presentations at next year's conference: "So You Think You Can Advocate?"; "E-Rulemaking"; "The Future of FOIA in the Obama Administration."

The Committee is trying to get more members interested in sending letters to members of Congress, from individuals as well as chapters.

Here is the Government Relations page at AALL if you'd like more information: <http://www.aallnet.org/aallwash/>
And there is a blog as well: <http://aallwash.wordpress.com/>

-Mary Ann Wacker

HALL Board Meeting Minutes—August

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
 HALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
 August 6, 2009
 Fulbright and Jaworski

Meeting called to order by Ann Patterson at 12:07

In attendance: Ann Patterson, Patti Curtis, Caralinn Cole, Lydia Ramirez, Riva Laughlin, Natalie Lira (by phone), Elise McCutchen (by phone), Judith Jackson (by phone), Colleen Pincumbe (by phone), Heather Waltman (by phone)

Minutes: approved as amended

Treasurer's Report: Mariann Sears was absent, but forwarded the preliminary report.

Old Business: Since Charles couldn't attend the meeting, Board decided to table bylaws discussion until next meeting.

Ann reminded Board that dues assistance is available if members need it.

Proposal presented to host HALL website ourselves and remove from AALLnet. Ann suggested creating a HALL website design committee. Motion made by Ann, seconded by Natalie, approved by the Board. New design will allow Web 2.0 access, email addresses for the board.

We need to have signatures changed on the bank account to reflect new officers. We also need to have officer names changed with SOS.

New Business: Community services committee: Planning something similar to Peanut Butter and Pantyhose from last year. Maybe with Communities in Schools?? Planning on speaker and fund raiser. Maybe Jan or Feb.

AALL visit - We may not have one this year. May have the Government Advocacy Board person for a half day seminar.

We've been asked to try including Austin librarians in our meetings - perhaps by offering podcasts, including Austin in workshop invitations.

Update mailing list - possible sources: TLA, ALA, SLA, AALL chapters.

Committee reports:

Membership: New chair - Jeanine Mazzone. 109 members have already renewed.

Vendor Relations: Colleen Pincumbe - Research Solutions was suggested as possible vendor.

Scholarships and Grants: Judith Jackson will have an article in the January newsletter reminding members of the application deadline. Let Judith know if we need to make changes to the application or criteria.

Nominations: Carolinn Cole is considering stepping down because of increased job responsibilities. Also, it's difficult getting people to run for office. She suggests a possible change to bylaws. Currently, the Nominating committee can't nominate anyone on the committee. Maybe the bylaws should be changed so committee members can be nominated as last resort.

Placement: Need committee chair for placement.

Publications: We need to update HALL brochure.

Archives: Check on minutes - are there copies for archives?

Library School Liaison: Ask Blythe to help get a mailing list from library schools.

Bylaws: Possible bylaw changes will be discussed at the next Board meeting. We may need to change from Roberts to Sturgis Rules of Order.

Continuing education - Natalie Lira

Holiday party - need to decide on after work or lunch

Check on getting CLE credit for meetings

Look into sponsorships for seminars and holiday party

Meeting adjourned 1:15 pm.

-Submitted by Riva Laughlin

Houston Area Law Librarians

P.O. Box 61648
Houston TX 77208

- Ideas
- Sharing
- Education
- Cooperation
- Resources
- Networking

Houston Area Law Librarians is a chapter of the American Association of Law Librarians.

Our monthly meetings are held at the South Texas College of Law. We present a half-day seminar in the Fall and a full-day seminar in the Spring on legal topics.

There are close to 200 members of HALL. We are librarians in firms, law schools, and courts as well as vendors.

<http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/>

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By-Laws:

Charles Gibson

Continuing Education:

Natalie Lira

Membership:

Jeannie Mazzone

Nominations:

Caralinn Cole

Placement:

Publications:

Barbara Szalkowski

Scholarships/Grants:

Judith Jackson

Archives:

Heather Kushnerick

Government Relations:

Mary Ann Wacker

Library School Liaison:

Blythe McCoy

Community Service:

Heather Waltman

Vendor Relations:

Colleen Pincumbe

HALL Website:

Elise McCutchen and

Saskia Mehlhorn

Newsletter Editor:

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