

*From
the President...*

Bethany Bletsch, ExxonMobil Law Library

Spring is upon us, and it is interesting to see the world come back to life after the winter months. The trees are budding out, and flowers and shrubs are starting to show color. This is such a nice time of the year. Isn't it wonderful that SWALL will be in Houston during this special time? In addition to our HALL hospitality, the participants will get to enjoy some nice weather.

Speaking of SWALL, the conference is on the final count-down. Thanks to the efforts of several of our HALL members, the programming, registration, and local arrangements for the conference promise to give us an extraordinary experience. Since SWALL is in Houston, those of us who won't get to attend a national conference will have an opportunity for professional and personal growth right here at home. I am one of those lucky ones, and am looking forward to the meetings and networking opportunities.

Along with the spring, come thoughts about our HALL leadership for next year. Monica and her committee have proposed an excellent slate of officers. This slate will be published in this newsletter. Also, be thinking about who to nominate for our Volunteer of the Year award. There certainly are a lot of candidates among our ranks. Your board is looking forward to your nominations!

Upcoming HALL Meeting

The April General Meeting will feature Colette Knisely, sole proprietor of Legislative Intent Research. You can learn more about L.I.R. at their website <http://www.io.com/~lir/>

Ms Knisely has a Masters of Public Affairs from the L.B.J. School at the University of Texas at Austin. She served as an administrative assistant writing legislation and amendments, and researching statutes for Texas legislators in both the House and the Senate before starting her company in 1984. Upon request, she provides training in legislative history for associations, groups, or law firms.

Nominations Report

Monica Ortale, South Texas College of Law

Thanks to those HALL members who made suggestions or encouraged colleagues to serve, the following slate for the 2004-2005 HALL Executive Board is submitted to the membership for consideration at the May annual business meeting:

Immediate Past President	Bethany Bletsch ExxonMobil Law Library
President	Trisha Fabugais Gardere Wynne Sewell, L.L.P.
Vice-Pres./Pres.-Elect	Kim Serna Jones Day
Treasurer	Caren Luckie Jackson Walker L.L.P.
Secretary	Mary Ann Wacker Bracewell & Patterson, LLP
Member-at-Large (2003-2005)	Maggie Crowley Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw
Member-at-Large (2004-2006)	Laura Tieken Dewey Ballantine LLP

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Thank you note to HALL

Trisha Fabugais, Gardere Wynne Sewell, L.L.P.

I received a thank you note from James Duggan, the AALL Board member we had speak at the February HALL meeting. It commented very well on the hospitality of HALL and I thought everyone would be interested in seeing his note:

Dear Trisha,

Thank you for a marvelous visit to Houston as the AALL visitor to HALL. You have a wonderful chapter and I was pleased to be part of such a fun and collegial group – if only for a few days (alas). Best wishes for the upcoming SWALL meeting – and thanks again!

*Sincerely,
James Duggan*

***Deadline for the next issue
(May/June 2004):
Monday May 17, 2004***

HALL Volunteer of the Year

Last year, the HALL Board established the HALL Volunteer of the Year Award. The Award was established to recognize an individual member's contribution to HALL, including but not limited to HALL committee work, planning, and preparations; someone who can be counted on to pitch in with HALL activities of any kind; someone who goes above and beyond in service to the group. Current HALL Board members are not eligible, but current committee chairs can be nominated. The Award consists of a framed Official Certificate and a \$50.00 gift certificate, which will be presented at the May business meeting.

The current HALL Board is continuing this tradition, but needs nominations! So, if you have in mind someone whom you think deserves the HALL Volunteer of the Year Award, please submit his or her name to any member of the Board (Holly Watson, Bethany Bletsch, Trisha Fabugais, Caren Luckie, Kim Serna, Mariann Sears or Maggie Crowley) by April 15. The Board will select the recipient at the May Board meeting.



Member News...

Congratulations to **Karl Gruben!** As of March 1, he is the new director at the St. Thomas University School of Law Library in Miami, Florida.

Elise McCutchen is now Reference Librarian at Winstead Secrest & Minick.

Maryellen O'Brien, formerly Research/Reference Librarian at Winstead Secrest & Minick, is now Reference Librarian at the fledgling Florida Coastal School of Law Library in Jacksonville, Florida.

Welcome to Our New Members!

Monica Babaian, Student, University of North Texas School of Library and Information Sciences.

Spencer Simons, Director, University of Houston O'Quinn Law Library.

Norman Urbanovsky.

Scholarships and Grants Deadlines Imminent

Judith Jackson, Harris County Law Library

The HALL Scholarship and Grant criteria and applications are available on the HALL website at <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/grants.htm>. The forms are on the "Members Only" section of the website. Contact Susan Spillman at spillman@stcl.edu if you need the login and password. Applications must be submitted to Scholarships/Grant Chair, Judith Jackson, by Thursday, April 1, 2004.

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 Barbara Szalkowski, Editor, The Fred Parks Law Library, South Texas College of Law, 1303 San Jacinto, Houston, Texas 77002-7000; fax: (713) 659-2217; email: szalkow@stcl.edu; or call (713) 646-1724.

All contributions submitted for publication are subject to editorial review. HALL does not assume responsibility for the statements of contributors. Views or opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of Houston Area Law Librarians. The *HALL Newsletter* is not copyrighted, however, permission should be sought from the authors and credit given when quoting or photocopying material from this publication.

Membership dues for HALL are \$25.00 a year. For membership information, contact Susan Spillman, Computer Instructional Services Librarian, The Fred Parks Law Library, South Texas College of Law, 1303 San Jacinto, Houston, TX 77002-7000.

HALL home page: <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall>

Executive Board Meeting Houston Area Law Librarians February 4, 2004 ExxonMobil

Minutes Subject to Correction and Approval

Bethany Bletsch called the meeting to order at 12:05pm. Those in attendance were Bethany Bletsch, Trisha Fabugais, Maggie Crowley, Caren Luckie, Mariann Sears, Moncia Ortale, and Kim Serna.

New Business

- Monica Ortale discussed the upcoming SWALL/HALL seminar. Registration packets will be going out Friday, February 6, 2004. Information will also be posted on the SWALL and HALL websites. Professor Arthur Miller will be the guest speaker at the opening reception. Many vendors have donated items to be placed in the registration packets. Monica asked the board if HALL wanted to do something. It was agreed upon to purchase rulers for both the SWALL seminar and AALL. There will be a call going out for volunteers. Stay posted to HALL-L.
- HALL is still looking for a volunteer to update our brochure. Monica Ortale is checking with Mark Lambert to obtain a copy of the existing brochure from archives. Caren Luckie is checking with someone outside HALL on updating it.
- Bethany asked if it was appropriate to forward information pertaining to the Excellence in Marketing Award to the listserv. It was agreed that this was appropriate and Bethany will be submitting the information to HALL-L.
- Monica Ortale presented the nominations slate for 2004-2005 to the board. It was approved by the board and will be presented to the membership at our next business meeting. The slate is as follows: V.P./President Elect, Kim Serna; Secretary, Mary Ann Wacker; Treasurer, Caren Luckie; Member at Large, Laura Ticken. Maggie Crowley will continue her term as Member at Large and Trisha Fabugais will serve as President.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:50pm.

The Executive Librarian

(Legal and Tax Library Filing and Maintenance Service)



Monika Miura

3510 Kiamesha Drive
Missouri City, Texas
77459-4413

office (281) 437-2135 mmiura@houston.rr.com pager (713) 720-8214

HALL Member Dues 2004-05

Susan Spillman, South Texas College of Law

Please note that the 2004 HALL Membership form is now available on the website at

<http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/dues04.pdf>

Dues payments *and accompanying information forms* are due not later than June 1, in order to be included in the HALL Directory.

It is important for each and every member – institutional, individual, associate, retired or student – completely fill out an information form so that our membership database remains up to date and accurate. Very often titles, phone numbers, addresses, e-mail addresses, even names change. By filling out a membership form completely, you ensure that at least once a year, your directory entry is completely accurate and current.

If you have any questions or need any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me at spillman@stcl.edu.

Vendor Relations Forum

Colleen Pincumbe, Thompson & Knight LLP

Plans are in the works for an April Vendor Forum with our Westlaw Librarian Relations Manager, Blythe McCoy. Details are to follow.

A Note of Thanks

We would like to extend a most gracious thank you to Jay Hochman, Regional Sales Manager with Thomson-Elite, and Chad McAllister, Sr. Strategic Enterprise Consultant with Lexis for their most eloquent presentations at the February 25th Brown-Bag/Vendor Forum on the "West KM" and "Lexis Total Search" systems. The back-to-back insightful comparison of these two very innovative and timely applications from West & Lexis was not only informative but enjoyable and as well coming from these two gentlemen.

We also had the pleasure seeing both Librarian Relations Managers – Susan Skyzinski of Lexis and Blythe McCoy of Thomson-West – along with a special visit from Gretchen Zucco, Regional Sales Manager of Lexis and Susan Lazane, Client Relations Manager of Thomson-Elite.

Very tasty appetizers and desserts were provided by West & Lexis to go along with our lunches, and once again HALL members were enlightened and brought up-to-speed on the "latest & greatest" from these two amazing companies. Again, very special thanks to all of you at Lexis & West!

General Meeting Minutes

Houston Area Law Librarians

Feb, 11, 2004

South Texas College of Law

Minutes Subject to Correction and Approval

Bethany Bletsch called the meeting to order at 12:05pm. The January minutes were approved and visitors were welcomed. There were no new members present.

Caren Luckie distributed the Treasurer's report. If there are any questions please contact Caren directly.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

- SWALL / HALL upcoming seminar information and registration packets have been mailed out and posted to the HALL and SWALL websites. The board voted and approved the purchase of a 12 inch ruler with Houston Area Law Librarians imprinted and the slogan "Librarians Rule" for distribution at the SWALL/HALL seminar, as well as AALL.
- HALL will once again have a table at AALL. Trisha Fabugais is the contact person.
- Bethany is currently working with AALL on the acknowledgment of our chapter pledge to the George Strait Scholarship fund.

Committee Reports

Archives: No report.

Bylaws: No report.

Continuing Education: Trisha Fabugais announced the March SWALL/HALL seminar.

HBA Liaison: No report.

Library School Liaison: No report.

Membership: Susan Spillman will be updating the HALL directory to include new members and add phone numbers for Interlibrary Loan and Reference requests for the various institutions.

Placement: Library Assistant opening at Weil Gotshal. Job descriptions are available at today's meeting.

Publications: Newsletter deadline is March 15th. Barbara will be looking for any pre-conference news or announcements pertaining to the March seminar.

Scholarship/Grants: Scholarships are due April 1st.

Vendor Relations: No report.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.

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SWALL Grants Available

Anna Teller, Chair, SWALL Grants Committee

Do you need money to attend the AALL annual meeting? Why not apply for a SWALL grant. This year we will award two grants for \$1000 each to attend the AALL Boston meeting. Applications for the Boston meeting must be received by May 14, 2004 (**note changed date from earlier announcements**).

Please see the SWALL Grant Guidelines link on the SWALL homepage <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/swall/grants/index.html> for additional information and copies of the application form. If you have any questions you may contact me at ateller@law.txes.edu.

Just a reminder!

Publication deadlines for the
HALL Newsletter are:

May/June	5/15/2004
July/August	8/1/2004
September/October	9/15/2004
November/December	11/15/2004
January/February	1/15/2005
March/April	3/15/2005

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We Need You! Volunteer in Boston

Judy Gire, 2004 AALL Annual Meeting Volunteer Chair

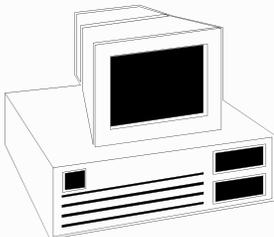
The Annual Meeting Local Advisory Committee needs you! Join the wonderful group of dedicated people volunteering their time to help make the 2004 AALL Annual Meeting in Boston a success.

The Committee needs volunteers for a variety of activities at the Annual Meeting. Meet new people and re-connect with old friends while working at the Registration Desk. Scoop stories and write articles for *The Hub*, the daily conference newspaper. Collect tickets and seat people at the Association Luncheon and Closing Banquet. If you plan to be in Boston early, help stuff the conference tote bags on July 9 or set-up booths and visit with attendees' children at the Family Social Hour on July 10.

Volunteers make the conference run smoothly – and they have fun. Thanks in advance!

For more detailed descriptions of volunteer opportunities at the Boston AALL Annual Meeting, check the Volunteer Form available on the AALL Web site at <http://www.aallnet.org/events/>. Please fax, mail, or e-mail the completed Volunteer Form available on the AALL Web site or in the Preliminary Program by June 4 to:

Judy Gire, Volunteer Chair
Franklin Pierce Law Center Library
2 White Street
Concord, NH 03303
Phone: (603) 228-1541 ext. 1129
Fax: (603) 228-0388
Email: jgire@piercelaw.edu



Editor's Comments...

Spring is here and summer is just around the corner. These are great times in our profession, the professional conference season. HALL members have an almost-rare opportunity to attend our regional SWALL meeting right here in downtown Houston this year, co-sponsored by HALL, and I hope everyone takes advantage of this excellent program. Registration materials are posted on both the SWALL and the HALL websites at <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/> and <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/swall/meeting2004/index.html>

I hope to see a lot of photos and presentation reports from all of you for the next issue of the newsletter!

—*Barbara Szalkowski*

Research Grants Available

Ellen McGrath, Chair, AALL Research Committee

The Research Committee of the American Association of Law Libraries is accepting applications through April 12, 2004 for grants from the AALL Research Fund. The Committee will award one or more grants totaling up to \$5,000 to library professionals who want to conduct research that affects librarianship.

Established with an endowment from LexisNexis in July 2000, the annual grants fund projects that create, disseminate or use legal and law-related information. The AALL Research Agenda offers suggestions for research projects that cover the profession of law librarianship, law library patrons, law library services, legal research and bibliography, legal information resources and law library facilities. However, projects are not limited to those described in the Agenda; the Committee will consider all applications and research projects. To review the AALL Research Agenda, please go to:

<http://www.aallnet.org/committee/research/agenda.asp>

To apply for the grants, all applicants must provide resumes and statements of their qualifications for carrying out their projects. The applications must demonstrate experience with research projects and an understanding of the dissemination and use of legal and law-related information. Priority will be given to practicing law librarians and AALL members, working individually or in partnership with other information professionals. The grant application and complete guidelines are available at: http://www.aallnet.org/about/grant_application.asp

The submission deadline for applications is April 12. Grants will be awarded and announced by July 1. Allocation of the research grants will be at the sole discretion of the AALL Research Committee. For more information, please contact Ellen McGrath, chair of the AALL Research Committee, at emcgrath@buffalo.edu

The members of the AALL Research Committee are: Ellen McGrath, Chair, University at Buffalo; Scott Childs, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Edwin Greenlee, University of Pennsylvania; Michael Jeffrey Slinger, Cleveland State University; Trina Tinglum, University of St. Thomas; Susan Tulis, Southern Illinois University.

Houston Public Library Book Sale

Caren Luckie, Jackson Walker L.L.P.

Just a reminder that the Friends of the Houston Public Library Bargain Book Sale will be held next weekend, March 27-28, at the George R. Brown Convention Center, Exhibit Hall B. Admission on Sat. and Sunday is free, open Sat. 9-5 and Sun. noon-4 (Sunday is "bag day" – \$10/bag (bags provided)).

The Sale will also be open on Friday evening, 4:30-9:00, for Friends members (memberships available at the door).

We will have approx. 80,000 books, most priced at \$2 or less. Hope you can come by, and buy!

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AALL Annual Meeting in Boston

The Preliminary Program has been sent out from AALL Headquarters, and some members in Houston have already received their copies. Registration and Housing can be completed online <http://www.aallnet.org/events/> or through the forms in the preliminary program. Here are some highlights of the meeting to consider:

Plenary Sessions

Last year's plenary speakers were two of the most dynamic presentations of the Seattle conference. This year, Plenary Session 1 speaker is Siva Vaidhyanathan, Director of Communication Studies, New York University. He has been a professional journalist, and has a Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. His most recent book, *The Anarchist in the Library*, is "a radically original look" at the coming battle over information. Plenary Session 1 is on Sunday, 3:00-4:00pm.

Plenary Session 2 will feature a speaker, as yet undetermined, on the topic of international privacy and global security, one of the hot issues facing our nation and world today. BNA will be publishing a special report on international trends and developments in privacy and security law and regulation for AALL members in support of this session. Plenary Session 2 will be Wednesday, 10:45-11:45am.

Program Materials

One of the most important things to note about the programs this year, is that the *Education Program Handout Materials Book* will *not* be included in the registration bags. The materials will be available for download and printing beginning in mid-June at <http://aall.omnibooksonline.com/2004>. You can also purchase a bound copy as part of your registration for \$50.00, and pick the volume up at the Registration Desk when you arrive.

Items of Local Interest

The DALL/HALL/SWALL Joint Reception will be Tuesday, July 13, 5:15-6:15pm.

Susan Skyzinski, our Lexis Library Relations Manager, coordinated *E-4: The Gumshoe Librarian*, which will identify reliable sources for investigative research on the Web, and utilizing various Web resources for legal research on the Internet. This program will be presented on Tuesday, July 13, 9-10am.

Out-of-state HALL Member **Linda Will** will be a speaker for *F-2: Let's Make a Deal: Strategies to Avoid Paying List Price* on Tuesday, July 13, 10:15-11:30am. The program identifies strategies for negotiating deals for materials and services below list price and allows participants the opportunity to practice negotiating such a deal.

For those of you who would like to sample some of Boston's local flavor, a variety of excursions are available. Excursions include whale watching off of Cape Ann, a trip to Newport, Rhode Island, a trip to Concord, a complete tour of Boston, a sunset cruise of Boston Harbor, Boston Duck Tours, and a tour of Harvard University and the JFK Library.

Various library tours are also available, some by bus and some walking tours. Pre-registration for these tours is required.

Walking tours are available to the Boston Athenaeum, the Mary Baker Eddy Library, the Moakley Courthouse and First Circuit Library, the Boston Public Library, and the Moakley Law Library of Suffolk University Law School, among others.

Bus tours are available to the Boston College Law School Library, and the Harvard Law School Library. The schedule for all of these tours is available in the preliminary program on page 48, and on the AALL website http://www.aallnet.org/events/04_library_tours.asp

Planning Your Convention Experience

The Preliminary Program gives you assistance to plan your optimum convention experience. In addition to the chronological listing of programs, a listing by topic or competency is also provided on pages 50-51. A "meeting at a glance" scheduling agenda is available on pages 58-59.

Expanding Your Horizons

Whether you are in a court/county, firm, or academic law library, the AALL annual meeting in Boston is full of meaningful programs and opportunities for growth and continuing education. Some of the programs even sound like they could be, well, fun.

There are innumerable programs dealing with resources on the Web, including a program on utilizing Google special syntaxes (program I-3, Wednesday July 14, 1:30-2:00pm).

There is a program on e-newsletters (E-5, Tuesday July 13, 9:00-10:00am).

And, a program on increasing efficiency (G-1, Tuesday July 13, 4:00-5:00pm).

For those of you involved in teaching legal research or conducting any kind of training, you may want to check out the program on non-traditional teaching techniques (program A-5, Sunday July 11, 10:15-11:45am). They're talking games shows in the classroom!

And, for something completely different for some, but oh, so true for others who regularly deal with public patrons, there is a program that deals with conducting a reference interview with "someone who is not sharing your reality" (program D-3, Monday July 12, 4:15-5:15pm).

Be sure to consider making time for programs in areas which aren't a part of your current position to expand your horizons or allow you to relate better to colleagues in other areas.



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SLA Legal Division Programs at Nashville Conference

Karen Krupka, 2004 SLA Legal Division Program Chair

The Preliminary Program for the Special Library Association's annual conference, June 5-10, in Nashville. has been issued and registration is open. To insure that you don't miss any of the programs on which our Division's speakers are working diligently, the Program Committee has prepared a brochure which summarizes all of our sessions and events. It will appear on the Division web site <http://www.slalegal.org/> in the near future. A preliminary list is available at <http://www.slalegal.org/2004programs.htm>.

Additionally, you may direct any questions regarding the programming to me as well at karenkay54@hotmail.com or krupka@wildmanharrold.com. I look forward to seeing many of you in Nashville. Don't forget to register for any ticketed events you may want to attend!

Highlights from the brochure

(Programs marked with an asterisk (*) are ticketed or invitation only events and may be sold out or otherwise not available for onsite registration.)

Saturday June 5

- * 1:00-5:00pm
CE Course, Criminal & Investigative Research : Satisfying Due Diligence
Instructor: Genie Tyburski

Sunday June 6

- * 9:00-10:30am Tax Roundtable
Speakers: Paul Kleckner, Lee Carnes, Missy Murphey.
- *10:30am-12noon International Roundtable : The Patriot Act
Speaker: Professor Jonathan Drimmer
- 1:30-3:00pm Corporate Librarians in Legal Settings Roundtable : What's in Your Job Description?
Speakers: Bonnie Fox Schwartz, Agnes Mattis
- 3:00-4:30pm Courts, County and Province/State Roundtable

Monday June 7

- 2:00-3:15pm Multioffice Management
Speakers: Mary Ames, Connie Pine
- 3:45-5:00pm Refresh, Renew, Remind : Three R's of Legal Research
Speakers: Constance Ard, Deidra Payne, Mary Lynn Wagner, Colleen Cable

Tuesday June 8

- 9:00-10:15am Tax Research on the Web : Beyond Technological Bells and Whistles
- 12:15-1:30pm Generational Differences at the Private Law Firm : Workplace Issues
Speakers: Kit Hartnett, Gayle Lynn-Nelson
- 2:00-3:15pm Cost Recovery, Cost Avoidance, and Understanding Who Uses What Inside Your Firm
Speakers: Cindy Adams, Jim Thorpe, Nola Vanhoy
- 3:45-5:00pm Web Tools
Speakers: Gary Price, Genie Tyburski

Wednesday June 9

2-part program co-planned with Business & Finance Division;
*Box lunch for attendees of both programs.

- 11:30am-12:45pm Business Research for Non-Corporate Librarians
Speaker: TBA
- 1:15-2:30pm Legal Research for Non-Law Librarians
Speakers: Robyn Rebollo, Abigail Ross
- 3:00-4:15pm Practical Knowledge Management in the Law Firm : Initiatives in Action
Speakers: Nina Platt, Nola Vanhoy
- 4:30-5:15pm 60 Sites in 60 Minutes
Speakers: Jenny Kanji, Genie Tyburski

Additional informal events such as no-host dinners, etc. may be organized on-site. Information regarding such events will be available at the Hospitality Suite.

Other meetings to note:

- Saturday June 5
4:00-6:00pm 2003-2004 Legal Division Board Meeting
- Monday June 7
*7:30-8:45am Emerging Technologies Breakfast.
Speakers: Nathan Rosen, Tom Fleming
- *12:15-1:30pm Legal Division Business Meeting/Luncheon
- Wednesday June 9
7:30-8:45am 2004-2005 Legal Division Board Meeting

Send us your news, please!

This is a reminder to all members, the HALL Newsletter needs your news. When you or your staff members have attended a seminar, published an article, received an award, been elected to an office, or done anything interesting, personally or professionally, please let us know! We also need to know any innovative programs you may have developed, special events you are working on or achievements you are proud of. Give Barbara a call at (713) 646-1724, fax her at (713) 659-2217, or email her at szalkow@stcl.edu , or just take a minute to complete this fact sheet.

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What?

Where?

When?

Why?

How?

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