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## President's Message by Joe Custer

After having the opportunity to observe Lee Peoples' very capable administrative skills this past year, I feel more prepared than I anticipated when I first was elected as vice president/president elect of MAALL back in the late summer of 2007. Since Fayetteville, I've begun my tenure as the humble leader of this association. I want to thank you all again for giving me the honor of serving you and I look forward to working with all of you over the course of this coming year. As I mentioned in my general remarks at the Annual Conference, my vision of association work centers on the work of the committees. I want to thank all of you who stepped up to the plate and volunteered to chair or to be a member of a committee.

The committees are listed on the MAALL Web site, and as I stated at Fayetteville, I am pushing for all the committees to be meeting at least three times during the course of the upcoming year. Meeting once in January/February, once about 4 to 6 weeks be-

fore AALL, and once about 4 weeks before the fall annual meeting. The committees can meet more often, of course, but this is what I hope for at a minimum.

Some of what I have suggested to the Executive Board liaisons to the committees is to consider how they can work with their committee chairs and members in creating charges that will better advocate for the libraries in MAALL in their efforts to develop and maintain quality library and information services. I have asked all the liaisons to have made contact for a set meeting to be held during this last part of January or the first part of February.

It should be a very exciting year with the AALL conference being held at Washington DC, with the theme being *Innovate*. We have placed a reservation application for the MAALL luncheon to be held on Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, from noon to 1:15 p.m. Confirmation of this time should be forthcoming and made known on the Web site and also in this newsletter.

The 2009 fall MAALL conference is scheduled for October 15-17 in Columbia, Missouri. The theme is "Show Me the Past/Imagine the Future." Vice President, Darla Jackson and the Education Committee are working hard on coming up with a great program. As always, we look to our own to fill many of the speaker slots. One could cynically point to finances as the reason for this but I think those who have spent some time in our association know that it's the top talent we have to offer in presenting a myriad of important law librarianship topics that makes such an approach so sensible.

Please submit program proposals using the form available at the MAALL Web site: <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/maall/proposals.htm>. Alternatively, you may also submit proposals in a similar format by email to [djackson@okcu.edu](mailto:djackson@okcu.edu).

Looking forward to a great year! Peace out.

Joe

## From the Vice-President by Darla Jackson

### Call for 2009 Annual Meeting Program Proposals

The Education Committee invites program proposals for the 2009 MAALL meeting scheduled for October 15–17th in Columbia, Missouri. The theme for the 2009 meeting, “Show Me the Past/Imagine the Future,” is a play on Missouri’s designation as the “Show Me” State. The theme is also intended to give a glimpse into some of the events currently in planning, including a “Famous Trials” presentation/show. While famous trials of the past will be highlighted, MAALL members also want to look to the future with presentations focusing on developments, both technological and other.

We are interested in programs that appeal to the various types of member libraries in varying formats and varying lengths. Our goal is to select quality programs and to facilitate attendance of members as presenters. As a result, if, due to financial constraints, your attendance is contingent on your participating as a presenter, you may desire to include this information as a comment on the program proposal form.

Please submit program proposals using the form available at the MAALL Web site: <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/maall/pgproposals.htm>. Alternatively, you may also submit proposals in a similar format by email to [djackson@okcu.edu](mailto:djackson@okcu.edu). If you have questions about a program proposal or would like to discuss a program idea, please contact an Education Committee member (Darla Jackson, Ann Fessenden, Mary Kay Jung, Cindy Shearrer, Chris Steadham). Contact information is available via the MAALL Membership Directory

### Nomination News: Call for Nominees

Know of someone who would be a good MAALL leader? Want to gain leadership experience and better know your fellow MAALL members? Tell us about it.

The MAALL Nominations Committee (Karen Wallace, Brian Striman, Stefanie Pearlman) are seeking candidates to run for the following positions and assume duties at the start at the 2009 annual meeting:

**Vice-President/President-Elect.** The vice-president serves as a member of the executive board and chairs the program committee for the 2010 MAALL Annual Meeting. At that time, the vice-president assumes the presidency for a one-year term. As president, the individual is responsible, with other member of the executive board, for organizational decision-making.

The president is also responsible for oversight of the administration of the activities of the organization including appointment of committee members, coordination of chapter activities with AALL, and contact with vendor representatives and other regarding the MAALL annual meeting. At the completion of the one year term as president, the individual serves one additional year on the MAALL executive board (2011-2012).

**Treasurer.** The treasurer keeps association accounts and pays association bills. The treasurer issues periodic financial reports and ensures that any necessary financial papers, e.g., regarding tax-exempt status, are filed. The treasurer also participates in other organizational decision-making and serves a two-year term.

**Member-at-Large.** There are two members-at-large, who serve staggered two-year terms. Each has the same duties: to represent the membership on the executive board and to help with organizational decisions and duties arising during the course of service.

The slate of candidates will be announced in June with elections to follow later in the summer.

Please send us your nominations for these important offices by e-mailing [Karen.wallace@drake.edu](mailto:Karen.wallace@drake.edu). Remember, you can nominate yourself. Thanks for your consideration!

# MAALL Executive Board

**President**  
Joe Custer  
785-864-9262

**Vice-President/President Elect**  
Darla Jackson  
405-735-3756

**Past President**  
Lee Peoples  
405-208-6030

**Secretary**  
Pamela Tull  
785-864-9264

**Treasurer**  
Jan Medved  
816-221-2221

**Member at Large**  
Karen Wallace  
515-271-2989

**Member at Large**  
Jeri Kay Hopkins  
402-661-7590

## MAALL Committees 2008-2009

**Archives**  
Ann Kitchel, Chair  
Nancy Cowden  
Jennifer Spector  
Pamela Tull

**Bylaws**  
Randy Thompson, Chair  
Judy Morgan  
Jessie Wallace Burchfield

**Digitization and Regional Retention Coordination**  
Brian Striman, Chair  
Cindy Bassett  
Paul Callister  
John Christensen  
Susan Goldner  
Lorraine Lorne

**Education**  
Darla Jackson, Chair  
Richard Amelung  
Randy Diamond  
Ann Fessenden  
Mary Kay Jung  
Chris Steadham

**Government Relations**  
Chris Steadham, Chair  
Catherine Chick  
David Gay  
Phil Johnson  
Joyce McCray-Pearson  
Neil Pereira  
Rhonda Schwartz  
Candice Spurlin  
Brian Striman  
Julie Thomas

**Grants**  
Needra Jackson, Chair  
Catherine Chick  
Stefanie Pearlman

Brian Striman  
Karen Wallace

**Internet**  
Liz Glankler and Blake Wilson, Chair  
Crata Castleberry  
Susan Goldner

**Library School Relations**  
Barbara Ginzburg, Chair  
Stefanie Pearlman  
Courtney Shelby  
Candle Wester Mitten

**Local Arrangements**  
Resa Kerns and Cindy Shearrer, Chair  
Cindy Bassett  
John Dethman  
Randy Diamond  
Needra Jackson  
Steve Lambson  
Kathy Smith

**Membership**  
Andrew Evans, Chair  
Joyce McCray Pearson  
Cindy Shearrer

**Newsletter**  
Matt Novak, Chair & Editor  
Marilyn Nicely, Articles Editor  
Deborah Sulzbach, Member News Editor  
Cindy Bassett, Karen Kalnins, and Karen Wallace, News from Other Chapters Editors  
Melissa Serfass, Arkansas liaison  
Julie Thomas, Iowa liaison  
Neil Pereira, Illinois liaison  
Pamela Tull, Kansas liaison  
Jan Medved, Missouri liaison  
Mary Stultz, Nebraska liaison  
Suzanne Morrison, North Dakota liaison  
Joel Wegemer, Oklahoma liaison  
Stefanie Pearlman, South Dakota liaison

**Nominations**  
Karen Wallace, Chair  
Stefanie Pearlman  
Brian Striman

**Placement Coordinator**  
Frederick Chan, Chair

**Public Relations**  
Lauren VanWaardhuizen, Chair  
Catherine Chick  
Jessie Wallace Burchfield

**Service to the Public**  
Colleen Williams, Chair  
Deborah Showalter-Johnson  
Melissa Serfass  
Pamela Tull

### Publication Schedule

MAALL Markings is published in electronic format in January, April and August by the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries.

### Submission Deadlines

V.19:no.1 (Jan. 2009).....09 Jan. 2009  
V.19:no.2 (Apr. 2009).....10 Apr. 2009  
V.19:no.3 (Aug. 2009).....07 Aug. 2009

Editor: Matt Novak, [mnovak3@unl.edu](mailto:mnovak3@unl.edu)

Those wishing to submit items should contact the editor for policy and format information.

## MALLCO: Sharing Resources and Information from the Badlands to the Red River

By: *Darin K. Fox, MALLCO President, Director and Associate Professor, Donald E. Pray Law School, University of Oklahoma College of Law*

The Mid-America Law Library Consortium (MALLCO) is a group of eighteen academic law libraries from the Midwest, stretching from North Dakota to Oklahoma. The consortium was born in 1980 out of a desire for midwestern law libraries—many of which are similar in size and budget—to collaborate, share resources, and exchange collection information.<sup>1</sup> These ideals were formalized in 2007 with the adoption of a mission statement expressing the following four goals: (1) assist member libraries in delivering relevant, timely, cost-effective information in a legal, ethical and collegial manner; (2) facilitate cooperative networking, professional development, and an on-going exchange of ideas among members; (3) facilitate mutually beneficial and enduring collection analysis, resource sharing, preservation, and retention arrangements; and (4) embrace appropriate and innovative technologies which forge effective partnerships and which significantly improve law library services offered by members.<sup>2</sup> Along these lines, MALLCO has undertaken several project in recent years designed to facilitate the sharing of information and create opportunities for collaboration.

Many of MALLCO's projects in recent years have focused on collection development. There are a few reasons for this. First, the transition from print to electronic formats has become increasingly rapid. In fact, a recent MALLCO survey found that there are more than 100 different databases to which member libraries subscribe. Second, budget constraints and unsustainably high inflation rates from some vendors have forced member libraries to explore a variety of avenues for controlling costs. Finally, as budgets become tight and more material becomes available online in PDF format, many libraries are finding that it is no longer possible to duplicate even "core" materials in both print and electronic formats. Many libraries are having to consider the cancellation of titles, which were previously considered "core" materials. As law libraries grapple with these changes, MALLCO has undertaken two projects recently which will provide the member law libraries with detailed collection information.

First, MALLCO obtained a group discount from OCLC to purchase the WorldCat Collection Analysis

(WCA) tool. This database allows member libraries to identify strengths and weaknesses (or areas of improvement) in their own collections, and it allows them to prepared detailed statistical reports that could be used for everything from weeding and selection to budgeting and promotional information. A working group has been established to examine how this tool might be used to help member libraries coordinate their collection development efforts. Paul Callister, the Director of the University of Missouri at Kansas City Law Library, made a detailed presentation at the 2008 Annual MAALL Meeting in Fayetteville describing how WCA could be used in academic law libraries to examine collections.

Second, with the assistance of Interim Executive Director Susan Goldner of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, MALLCO completed a detailed collection survey of member schools. With tight budgets experienced in the last two years and even tighter budgets anticipated in the coming two years, the survey sought to examine, on a title by title basis, how many libraries were currently maintaining and planning to continue to maintain print versions of titles that had previously been considered "core" materials, such as state codes, digests, regional reporters, law journals, and more. It also examined which electronic databases each school currently licenses. Following in the footsteps of the New England Law Library Consortium, MALLCO has also strived to obtain discounted, group pricing for some of the most sought-after electronic titles. These discounts help member schools to make the most of their available funds. MALLCO currently coordinates the group purchase of the following databases: LexisNexis Congressional Universe, Oxford's Treaties and International Agreements, and the Current Index to Legal Periodicals (CILP) service. MALLCO also coordinated a large discount for the expensive legal history database, the Making of Modern Law, in 2005 and 2006. For some time now, MALLCO has enjoyed a discounted group purchase of Yankee Book Peddler's (YBP) GOBI service, which automates the online purchase of monographs, provides free weekly shipping, a 15.5 percent discount on regular orders, and allows schools to identify and to compare which schools have selected a particular title for purchase (the GoBetween feature).

However, collection development is not the only as-

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pect of law librarianship that MALLCO has recently examined. Just this year, MALLCO voted to fund the creation of a new electronic journal dedicated to law librarianship. The journal, which was conceived by MALLCO Vice-President/President-Elect Randy Diamond, will be established on the SSRN (Social Science Research Network) service where many law faculty currently publish their articles and working papers. Diamond has received widespread support for this idea among academic law library directors across the country. Expect this new journal to launch sometime in 2009.

In 2008, MALLCO continued two projects, which have been ongoing for several years and which allow member schools to collaborate and share information. First, MALLCO investigated and selected a new video conferencing tool, called HearMe, which allows 25 people to simultaneously talk, see each other, and view a shared computer desktop. The cost is only \$950 per year with no usage charges and no long distance charges since all information is transmitted via the Internet. HearMe has been used for MALLCO and MAALL Board meetings and for special committee meetings. This product is available for any MAALL or MALLCO-related use by member schools. Second, MALLCO continued to compile a separate set of Excel spreadsheets with the ABA statistical information from each member school. These spreadsheets allow MALLCO members to easily compare collection and budget information from the annual ABA questionnaire.

MALLCO has been able to accomplish many projects over the years through the efforts of volunteers from member schools. These projects have included a comprehensive serials union list on OCLC in the early 1980s, the establishment of a no-fee telefax system for interlibrary loans later in the 1980s, a CD-ROM based union catalog in the 1990s, and most recently, under the leadership of former President John Edwards of Drake University Law Library, expanding group discounts for electronic products.<sup>3</sup> However, there is general agreement that one key factor needed to grow MALLCO's efforts in the future is the identification and selection of a permanent Executive Director who can serve the consortium and its member libraries just as Susan Goldner did for MALLCO in 2008 and just as Tracy Thompson,

NELLCO's active and well-known Executive Director, has done for that consortium. MALLCO is currently investigating options for an Executive Director, and this will remain a high priority for the consortium in the coming months.

## NOTES AND REFERENCES

- <sup>1</sup> MALLCO was originally formed under the name Mid-America Law School Library Consortium (MALSCLC), but the name was changed to MALLCO in 2005, partly to make the consortium's name easier to pronounce, partly to make the consortium's connection to MAALL clear, and partly as a tip-of-the-hat to NELLCO (New England Law Library Consortium) which many MALLCO members have looked to with admiration in recent years as an effective and active law library consortium.
- <sup>2</sup> See <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/maall/maallco/mission.htm> (lasted visited January 20, 2009).
- <sup>3</sup> For an overview of MALLCO projects over the years since its founding in 1980, see <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/maall/maallco/consorthistory.htm> (last visited January 21, 2009).

# Enjoy a Second Life! Or How to Go Dancing When You Really Can't Dance!

By Liz Glankler  
Emerging Technologies Librarian  
Saint Louis University Law Library



### The Adventure Begins

I have a wonderful nightlife! I can go dancing and attend concerts almost every night. They are not in my city, they don't make me tired, and I can dance like I was on *Dancing with the Stars*! I do this as my avatar in Second Life.

I became involved about two years ago when I heard about law libraries having a presence in Second Life. They held classes and offered research assistance through the island created by the Alliance Library System. I wanted to explore it and find out what it was all about.

I went to the Second Life Web site (<http://www.SecondLife.com>) and I signed up for an avatar, which is an icon or representation of a user. I was given a choice of last names but got to pick my own first name. I was able to setup my avatar without spending any money. The next step was to determine if my computer was robust enough to enter into Second Life. Mine had a video card that was okay, but after a few months, one of the releases changed the requirements and I had to upgrade my video card. Since I was enjoying the virtual world and learning to get around, I decided to bite the bullet and buy a new computer. I did make sure that the video specifications met the standards set out by Second Life. I checked the Second life Web site closely as I was ordering my computer. On the support page there is a link to "System Requirements" (see <http://secondlife.com/support/sysreqs.php>).

When you first log in to Second Life you are on Orientation Island. For this article I created a new avatar named Eliza Haiku. On Orientation Island you learn

the basics of getting around like walking, flying, teleporting, and talking to others. These things are not hard but it takes a little practice, and you need to know what keys to hit in order to get up in the air and fly, teleport, and to move around. Once you finish the tutorials you leave Orientation Island and go to the Mainland.

The world of Second Life is made of individual regions, or "islands," which are separate areas of virtual space. "The Second Life virtual world physically resembles the real world. It consists of interlinked regions that contain land, water, and air . . . with gravity, weather, and a sun and moon that regularly cut across the horizon" (Michael Rymaszewski, *Second Life: the Official Guide*, 2d [Wiley, 2008] 6).

Almost all the objects in this world are created with a basic building block called a "prim." A prim can assume any shape but there are basic shapes to start. Second Life has its own scripting language, Linden Scripting Language, which is a little difficult to learn. Classes are taught in-world (within Second Life) and teach you how to build objects with prims and to create scripts to make the objects do certain things.

Second Life has its own currency—the Linden dollar. They are exchangeable for real-life dollars, and the average exchange rate right now is 242 Lindens for \$1 U.S. dollar. Money can be made in-world. You can purchase it from Second Life or a large number of vendors in the real world, such as Ebay.

The world of Second Life is amazing. It has every activity available such as sports, shopping, entertainment, education, travel, and even adult worlds. Just a

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few of the world areas that have been recreated are Dublin, Ireland, China, Amsterdam, Laguna Beach, Mexico, Australia, San Diego, Harlem, Paris, and the Alamo. In this virtual world you can see avatars in any shape or form—human, furry, Tinies, elves, Vulcans, religious people, and even political people. There is everything from Star Trek to Transylvania to the Lost Gardens of Apollo. You can travel from Stratford upon Avon, to the Holocaust Museum, to the Sistine Chapel. You can attend book talks, live concerts, festivals, and even go dancing. You can go shopping to your hearts content. There are many places that have large selections of free items so you don't even need money. There are also areas for gambling, weapons, and adult activities, if you choose to participate in those things.

Real life universities create replicas in Second Life. They hold classes in outdoor classrooms and create libraries, galleries, and exhibits. In the fall of 2006, Harvard Law School offered the first course in Virtual Worlds in Second Life. Nova Law Library has a presence in Second Life. “Already there are broad range of prominent educational institutions and organizations exploring the use of virtual worlds for the delivery of a wide range of courses and educational events including Distance and Flexible Education, Presentations and Discussions, Historical Recreations, Multimedia and Games Design and Language Learning practice” (Jo Kay and Sean FitzGerald, “Second Life in Education,” <http://sducation.wikispaces.com/>). There are over 130 universities, colleges, and schools participating in Second Life. Just a few of the universities represented in Second Life are: Duke, Columbia, Edinburgh, Hong Kong Polytechnic, Iowa State, NYU, and Penn State. Flickr.com has a Second Life Slide-show of Educational Uses of Second Life that is extremely interesting (see <http://www.flickr.com/photos/jokay/sets/72157612171568581/show/>).

Within Second Life, people who have similar interests form groups. Many of the dance and music venues have groups. Organizations such as Law Librarians and Librarians in Second Life have groups. When you rent houses or stores, you get membership in the landlord's group. There is no cost to belong and you get notifications of the programs and entertainment that is coming up.

The experiences that you have in Second Life are worthwhile for those who choose to explore. The learning curve is a little steep and the computer requirements are strict, but if you enter the world of Second Life you can slip away into amazing places and adventures. Only time and imagination are needed, no money is required.

### Advanced Adventures

To stay in world for a long time, it is nice to have a home location. The advantage of having Lindens (\$0 L), the currency of Second Life, is in renting houses, stores, or buying land. There are many pages written on the Second Life Web site about buying land, so I won't go into it here. But you can rent houses, condos, beach huts, skyboxes, or caves if you want a place to live. I currently rent a house, located in a skybox, for about \$1.00 a week (\$250 L). I have a house that I can furnish, a swimming pool, waterfall and land and sky that I can change if I want to. I use the land outside of my home to build my tables. Yes, I am a designer. I love taking classes and making furniture. I have rented a small store where I try to sell my tables.



Tink's home and swimming pool

### The Future and Virtual Worlds

Second Life is popular because it is a development of virtual communities. Participation in Second Life allows you to be part of a large social community with many people and activities. You can meet people from all over the world and in all walks of life. You can sometimes make friends with the person on the other end of the avatar.

Law libraries work well in Second Life because of the variety of participants. Kate Fitz, a Sacramento

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## Second Life

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County public law librarian, has created a law library in the Alliance Library in Second Life. She also has created 3 branch libraries. The information is displayed on replicas of computer monitors. To access information, an avatar clicks on the monitor and a web browser opens with the requested information. This is how much of the intellectual content is presented.



The Law Library Section  
in the Alliance Library

Lawyers and law librarians are drawn to Second Life because of the variety of experiences that they can learn in this virtual environment. They have created a Second Life Bar Association and some lawyers have set up virtual offices. Librarians meet people from all over the world and share ideas and information. Meg Kribble's excellent article "A Law Librarian's Second Life" (*Spectrum*, November, 2007) goes into more depth about a law librarian's use of Second Life.

Many virtual worlds exist. According to the Association of Virtual Worlds, in August 2008, there were over 300 virtual worlds. Some are focused on children, like Webkinz.com and Disney's Toon Town and Club Penguin. Some are for young adults, like IMVU, Sims Online, and Teen Second Life. For Adults, there are many virtual worlds, some of which include Virtual Ibiza, The Manor, and Cybertown. If you would like to see a partial list of virtual worlds by category, visit the Virtual Worlds Review Web site (see <http://www.virtualworldsreview.com/info/categories.shtml>).

Many elementary school students are given computer time to "play" and learn in virtual worlds. More and more families have computers in their homes and are logging their children into Web sites that teach them. Children and teens are rapidly becoming very computer savvy. These children will be the college students, and possibly law students of the future. We

must be prepared to teach them in a format which they learn best. It is very possible that future iterations of Second Life will contain the next type of virtual classroom that these students will use. So, as you can see, this is an alternate universe where you can do anything or be anything you want to be! The possibilities are endless. If you visit the world, contact Tink Rang for a personal tour.

### Articles and Web Sites of Interest:

"A Law Librarian's Second Life: Explore the Virtual Frontier with Your Colleagues and a Whole other World of People," by Meg Kribble, AALL Spectrum, Volume 12 No. 2 November 2007 [http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub\\_sp0711/pub\\_sp0711\\_Second.pdf](http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub_sp0711/pub_sp0711_Second.pdf)

"The Parallel Information Universe: What's out There and What it Means for Libraries," by Mike Eisenberg. Library Journal, 5/1/2008  
<http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6551184.html?q=parallel>

"Fantasy Life, Real Law," by Stephanie Francis Ward, ABA Journal, March 2007.  
[http://www.abajournal.com/magazine/fantasy\\_life\\_real\\_law/](http://www.abajournal.com/magazine/fantasy_life_real_law/)

"Online Virtual Worlds: A Mini Guide: A Rundown of the Features Offered by Several Sites," by Robin Good, TechSoup, April 19, 2007  
<http://www.techsoup.org/learningcenter/internet/page6759.cfm?cg=searchterms&sg=second%20life>

"You Still Have to do Library Exhibits in Second Life," by Bill Sowers, Cataloger and Second Life Coordinator, State Library of Kansas  
[http://skyways.lib.ks.us/news/publish/article\\_00649.shtml](http://skyways.lib.ks.us/news/publish/article_00649.shtml)

Terra Nova, Make Your Own World, (Web site)  
[http://terranova.blogs.com/terra\\_nova/2005/12/make\\_your\\_own\\_v.html](http://terranova.blogs.com/terra_nova/2005/12/make_your_own_v.html)

The Association of Virtual Worlds (Web site)  
<http://associationofvirtualworlds.com/index.php>

Metaplace, Where Worlds Grow  
<https://www.metaplace.com/>

*By Cindy Bassett, Electronic Services Librarian at the University of Missouri Law Library*

Am I a leader? What is a leader? Doesn't a leader ride bravely at the head of the troops like Joan of Arc? She has vision. She has charisma. She sparkles! Could that person possibly be me?

I applied to the Leadership Academy with some of these questions and thoughts bouncing around in my head. I knew this much about myself: I am a librarian doing the best I can to make personal progress in my life, both personally and professionally. I am a fairly introspective person and I have done some reading and previous work in this area, so I was curious to learn what benefit I or my workplace would gain by my participation in the Leadership Academy. Would I experience real change as a result of this workshop?

The Leadership Academy was built and facilitated by Dr. Barbara Mackoff, a noted expert on the psychology of leadership. As a speaker and workshop facilitator, she was extremely effective in keeping us interested and involved by coordinating a variety of different types of exercises, moving us from independent reflection to group work and back again, seemingly effortlessly.

To prepare to work with a group of law librarians, Dr. Mackoff did extensive research into law librarianship and the qualities of effective leaders in our profession. I was very impressed with the amount of work that she did to make the workshop really matter to us by making it relevant to our interests and not a general workshop on leadership qualities. Dr. Mackoff organized the workshop around the concept of the eight signatures of a leader: self-appraisal, inquiry, invention, connection, resilience, persuasion, intention, and conviction. She then related all these concepts to law librarianship.

This workshop was not geared to be a passive transmission of information. Participants started work well before arriving at the workshop site by taking a variety

of tests to learn more about our personalities and by reading the large collection of articles selected by Dr. Mackoff on the topic. Two major themes seemed to evolve through the weekend. First, know yourself and how you work most effectively. In addition to analyzing the personality tests we had taken, such as the Myers-Briggs, we did a variety of exercises to learn more about ourselves and our talents. One interesting such exercise was to think of 'seeds' or sayings that we may have heard repeatedly as children from influential family members. These sayings can form an unconscious basis for how we approach leadership. One saying that came to my mind is one that I hear from my mother, "What doesn't kill you only makes you stronger!" This old adage has brought me comfort in times of struggle, sometimes just by reminding me to keep things in perspective. Usually whatever I am upset about is not something that will literally kill me.

The second theme that emerged was that of understanding and accepting your colleagues so that you can work most effectively with those who may have different working styles. One of the notes that I wrote to myself from Dr. Mackoff's presentation reads, "Leadership is about leveraging the strengths of people." Dr. Mackoff reminded us that we tend to look negatively at approaches that differ from our own; she counteracted this tendency by presenting the strengths of multiple approaches and by providing alternatives to how we might view other's perspectives. This concept of re-framing situations struck me as one of the key tools that I could take away from the workshop. I realized that many of the ways that I look at situations in our library is limited by how I frame them negatively. One practice that I am working to adopt is to re-frame these challenges as opportunities for growth, both personally and organizationally. I am giving myself space to make this change in an imperfect way. Dr. Mackoff assures me that, "All change begins as an affectation. It is not always comfortable. Experiment. Try it on."

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## Leading from Where You Stand

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So, you might wonder if my initial question was answered. Did I experience real change as a result of this workshop? Yes . . . and no. The answer was yes because I could take the talents I already have and build on them in ways that I haven't yet. I definitely came away with a variety of tools that I didn't have when I went. But the answer was also no because the point of the workshop was not that I will have to change to become a leader. I can lead from the place where I am standing with the talents I already possess. I don't have to be a different person to lead. I just have to be me.

## Travel Grant Recipient Reports on the 2008 MAALL Conference

I would like to thank the Grants Committee for the travel grant that enabled me to attend my first MAALL conference. I am new to law librarianship and this was my first opportunity to network in person with others in the field.

I was really impressed with the quality and selection of programs for a regional conference. Several vendors gave some very informative presentations. The "ABA Questionnaire" session produced some lively and entertaining discussions. As a cataloger my personal favorite was probably Brian Striman's "OCLC v. Swartz" presentation.

Downtown Fayetteville is beautiful and the Cosmopolitan Hotel seemed like the perfect venue. Everyone I met was very friendly and helpful and I'm really looking forward to my next opportunity to attend.

By: Richard Todd, Technical Services Librarian  
Mabee Legal Information Center  
University of Tulsa

## Meet MAALL Members

Meet . . . Jessie Burchfield (by Stefanie Pearlman)

Grammar geek. Bejeweled addict. Sunday school teacher. These are some of the ways Jessie Burchfield describes herself. Her interest in grammar has led her to proofread for her grateful friends at the law school. She has a secret (now revealed) addiction to the computer game "Bejeweled" and "Bejeweled Twist." Jessie teaches Sunday school to second and third grade students at her church and volunteers once a month at the church nursery. She enjoys music (especially contemporary Christian) and going to concerts, reading and ballroom dancing.

Jessie is a reference and circulation librarian at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) Law Library at the UALR William H. Bowen School of Law and has held that position since 1997. She currently serves as the faculty articles editor of the *Journal of Appellate Practice and Process* and has a strong interest in partnering with legal services to serve members of the public. She was the first non-traditional student in the Donaghey Scholars Program at UALR and graduated with a BA in English. She received her MLS in 1996 and entered the part-time program at UALR as a Bowen Scholar in 2000. She spent five years in law school, working full time in the library during the day and then going upstairs for class, earning her JD in 2005. Despite the length of time spent at the law college, she still loves it there.

Jessie joined AALL and MAALL eleven years ago and has been active in the Research Instruction & Patron Services Special Interest Section (RIPS-SIS) since her second AALL meeting. At that meeting, she followed her friend Melissa Serfass into a room and found herself on the Strategic Planning Task Force. Since then, she has served on many RIPS-SIS committees and as Chair. She is also a member of the Arkansas Library Association, the Arkansas Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the Southwestern Association of Law Libraries and the Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity. In addition to chapter and SIS activities, Jessie also enjoyed serving on the AALL Mentoring Committee from 2005 to 2007 as "it gave me the opportunity to meet a lot of wonderful people throughout the organization."

## News From Other Chapters

### **CALL (Chicago Association of Law Libraries)**

*CALL Bulletin* <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/call/publications/callbull208.pdf>

Summer 2008 Number 208

With thirty-six pages, this issue contains something for virtually everyone. Highlights include a thorough examination of Fastcase, memories from a member's teaching experiences in Chile, and presentation summaries from CALL's Institute Day 2008, which had the theme of "Emerging Technologies and their Applicability to Law Librarianship." In the "TechBuzz" column, Susan M. Boland focused on portable applications and their applicability for law librarians.

### **CoALL (Colorado Association of Law Libraries)**

*CoAll Scuttle* <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/coall/scuttle.asp>

Spring 2008 Volume 18 Issue 2

Interested in implementing open source software for your ILS? This issue spotlights several different pieces of open source or low cost software that might work for your library.

Summer 2008 Volume 18 Issue 3

Anne Lucke and Martha Campos report on the TRIPLL (Teaching Research in Private Law Libraries) conference they attended in April. They share ideas on industry trends, learning styles, public speaking, technology, and marketing in private law libraries. They also used PBWiki, a technology new to them, to collaboratively write their article (see <http://pbwiki.com/academic.wiki>).

### **HALL (Houston Area Law Librarians)**

*Houston Area Law Librarians Newsletter* <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/Newsletter/NovDec08.pdf>

November/December 2008 Volume 25 Number 6

Saskia Mehlhorn offered her thoughts about Twitter and how law librarians might use it to connect to other law library professionals and help them with their daily tasks. Next, Camilla Tubbs updated members about the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Right to Know project (see [http://otrans.3cdn.net/f1abd87eba398af71a\\_sjm6bdwv8.pdf](http://otrans.3cdn.net/f1abd87eba398af71a_sjm6bdwv8.pdf)). This project entails improving public access to government information and strives to achieve these improvements in a "transpartisan" manner.

### **LLNE (Law Librarians of New England)**

*LLNE News* <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/llne/LLNENews/index.htm>

Volume 28 Issue 1

Rachel Ortiz, of Boston University, sums up her experiences with the CS SIS Web 2.0 challenge. She found Facebook to be the most useful of the new tools in connecting with colleagues and friends. She'll continue to delve into its applications for law librarianship in the next issue of LLNE News.

### **LLOPS (Law Librarians of Puget Sound)**

*LLOPSCited* <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/llops/committees/newsletter/winter08.pdf>

Winter 2008 Volume 19 Issue 2

Although slightly unusual for this audience, the article by Grand Juror number thirteen about his/her grand jury duty gave a fascinating insider's view of the grand jury process. Whatever a law librarian's current position, this article is a must-read for anyone interested in the criminal justice system. Ronee Persons described a recent exhibit at the Washington State Law Library about Justice Walter B. Beals and his role in the Nuremberg Trials (see <http://www.courts.wa.gov/library/?fa=library.display&fileID=2008Exhibit>). Lastly, Fred Ward outlined strategies on how to market library services. While always important, in these tough economic times marketing library services plays an even larger role.

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### **LLSDC (Law Librarians Society of Washington D.C., Inc.)**

*Law Library Lights* <http://www.llsdc.org/attachments/files/78/Lights.pdf>

Fall 2008 Volume 52 Number 1

Themed “How I Spent My Summer Vacation,” this issue presents a number of perspectives slightly outside the daily grind of many law librarians. Leslie Lee shares lessons from her year as acting director of the George Washington University Law School Library during director Scott Pagel’s sabbatical. From the conference circuit beyond AALL, Christine Ciambella and Michele Masias respectively describe their experiences at the 2008 Legal Writing Institute Conference and the 2008 SLA Annual Conference.

### **MALL (Minnesota Association of Law Libraries)**

*MALL Newsletter* <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/mall/mnews.htm>

July/August 2008 Volume 35 Issue 1

Several members of MALL presented at the AALL annual meeting. This issue of the *MALL Newsletter* includes an overview of those presentations. The presentations covered a range of topics including partnerships to help pro-se patrons, fair use policies in law firm libraries, using drama to teach legal research tools, and the authentication of electronic legal information.

September/October 2008 Volume 35 Issue 2

Seldom does a career path follow the straight and narrow; this is especially true of the career paths of your fellow law librarians. This issue delves into the decisions made by MALL librarians as they followed a variety of career paths to their current positions. You might find inspiration here to pursue a dream!

November/December 2008 Volume 35 Issue 3

Conan the Librarian makes a reappearance and is instructed to quest into the world of Web 2.0. You can read about his adventure in this issue and explore more at: <http://23thingsonastick.blogspot.com/>.

### **NOCALL (Northern California Association of Law Libraries)**

*NOCALL News* <http://www.nocall.org/nocallnews/archives.html>

September – October 2008 Volume 29 Issue 1

Do you or your colleagues suffer from burnout? How do you know? This issue of *NOCALL News* gives an overview of a session on employee burnout given at the most recent AALL annual meeting. Included in the newsletter are ways to spot and handle employee burnout.

### **ORALL (Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries)**

*ORALL Newsletter* <http://www.orall.org/>

September 2008 Volume 2008 Number 2

In the “Communications” columns, learn more about a customized Google Map to pinpoint all the Ohio county law libraries. The map can be used to generate driving directions or find local businesses if you are visiting. You’ll also learn how to set up a Facebook Fan Page for your library.

### **SANDALL (San Diego Area Law Libraries)**

*SANDALL News* <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/sandall/newsletter2008-11.pdf>

November 2008 Volume 11 Issue 2

Various articles recapped this chapter’s fall workshops and brownbag seminars. Some of the workshops included Library 2.0 and the Future of Libraries, the 2008 SANDALL Fall Institute which included sessions about Second Life, gadgets, and the changing face of librarianship. The brown bag seminars focused on sports and animal law. The members who attended the Internet Librarians’ Conference gave excellent reports detail-

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ing their sessions on super searching, creating videos for libraries, and the Searchers Academy. Finally, Heather Phillips listed ten helpful tech tools that law librarians can use.

### **SCALL (Southern California Association of Law Libraries)**

*SCALL Newsletter* <http://aallnet.org/chapter/scall/newsletter/Newslettersepoct2008.pdf>

September/October 2008 Volume 36 Number 1

With the current economic downturn, Brian Keefe's article about finding a law library job provides useful information for unemployed law librarians or first-time job seekers. Gina S. Catalano gave readers an excellent review of the book entitled *Reading People: How to Understand and Predict Their Behavior—Anytime, Anyplace*. Considering the amount of time law librarians spend interacting with people, this volume seems especially relevant to information professionals.

### **SEAALL (Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries)**

*The Southeastern Law Librarian* <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/seaall/newsletter.htm>

Summer 2008 Volume 33 Issue 3

Burnout seems to be a popular topic! SEALL also hosted a workshop for their librarians on this topic to help combat this challenge to librarian's well-being. Do you see the symptoms of fatigue, insomnia, weight change, anger, cynicism, different behaviors, loss of self-esteem, and inability to complete tasks in yourself or others? If so, check out the article for possible solutions.

Fall 2008 Volume 33 Issue 4

Margaret Hall of the UNC School of Law has found an innovative way to advocate the profession of law librarianship to law students who may not be interested in practicing law. She serves as a faculty advisor to a student organization called the Carolina Law Peer Partnership Organization. The proximity to law students puts her in a unique position to discuss librarianship as an alternative career to students.

### **VALL (Virginia Association of Law Libraries)**

*VALL Newsletter* <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/vall/VNLv24n1.pdf>

Fall 2008 Volume 24 Number 1

Gail Zwirner summarizes speeches by two judges at recent continuing education events. The longer profile concerns Judge Leonie Brinkema, who was a practicing librarian before attending law school and being appointed to the bench of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. This experience has affected Judge Brinkema's judicial behavior. For example, she was assigned to the *Moussaoui* case and took steps to make sure as much associated documentation as possible would be available and formatted for online access.

### **WestPac (Western Pacific Chapter American Association of Law Libraries)**

*WestPac News* <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/westpac/newsletter.asp>

Summer 2008 Volume 32 Issue 3

WestPac definitely wins the Miss Personality award for this issue of the newsletter! Check out the latest photo of their mascot, WestPac Willie (a buffalo), and for the poem inviting WestPac members to Bozeman, MT, for their annual meeting.

### **WPLLA (Western Pennsylvania Law Library Association)**

*WPLLA Newsletter* <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/wplla/>

Fall 2008

Kate Frey gives an overview of budgets. She includes ways that all members of the staff can participate to bring the budget into balance in tough economic times. She also touches on the importance of demonstrating that the library is a vibrant part of its parent organization.

## Member News

### Iowa

**Sara Lowe** began work January 5th as Drake University Law Library's new reference librarian. Previously, Sara was electronic resources specialist at Drake's Cowles Library (main library).

Sara earned her Master of Library Science at Indiana University. She also earned an MA in History from Indiana University and a BA in History from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She has six publications; the most recent, "Clear as Glass: A Combined List of Print and Electronic Journals," has just appeared in the *Journal of Electronic Resources Librarianship*.

Sara fills the position opened by the retirement of **Susan Lerdal**. Sue retired on December 31st after eight years as Drake Law Library's reference librarian.

### Missouri

The Kansas City Association of Law Libraries (KCALL) Executive Board for 2009 is:

President: Brian Larios, Lathrop & Gage

Vice-President/President-Elect: Glenn Higley, UMKC Law Library

Secretary: Judy Esrig

Treasurer: Cindy Crary, Spencer Fane Britt & Browne

Board Member (2008-09): Eric Brust, Jackson County Law Library

Board Member (2009-10): Ginger Schulmeister, Lathrop & Gage

Congratulations to the winning candidates and welcome to the Board!

### Nebraska

**Richard Leiter**, director and professor of the Schmid Law Library at the University of Nebraska College of Law returned from leading a People to People delegation to China. Eleven law librarians and Rich visited Beijing and Shanghai from October 24 to November 5, 2008. The delegation visited three universities with law schools, their libraries, and the Shanghai Public Library. Visit this Web site to read the journal: <http://theleiters.net/China>.

**Stephanie Ewen**, librarian, Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP-Omaha, is president of the Nebraska Chapter of the Special Libraries Association. She was installed on December 4, 2008. **Kathie Fennell**, team leader-research services, Kutak Rock LLP, is president-elect of the Nebraska Chapter of SLA. She will serve as president in 2010. Mary Stultz, Baird Holm LLP, is immediate-past president. **Maureen O'Riordan**, library resource manager, Koley Jessen PC, was appointed treasurer in 2009. SLA meets monthly in the Omaha or Lincoln area.

**Marie Wiechman**, deputy state librarian, Nebraska State Library announced the availability of the State Library online catalog in the spring of 2008. The staff received a grant from the Nebraska Secretary of State's Office and created the online catalog located at <http://207.67.203.78/N94011Staff/opac/?sub15> using EOS software.

### Oklahoma

Professor Darin Fox will be the president of MALLCO for 2009–2010.

## Bob Oakley Memorial Symposium: The Future of Today's Scholarship

The Georgetown Law Library will be holding a symposium on the topic of preserving the research value of blogs on July 25, 2009.

We believe that blogs have become part of the canon of legal scholarship and that future legal researchers will turn to blogs as sources for their scholarship. This conclusion, however, presents great challenges for future researchers of material currently populating the blogosphere. How will these future researchers of today's blog scholarship find valuable, historic blogs? How will they be assured of perpetual access to this scholarship? How can any researcher be confident that documents posted to blogs are reliable?

This symposium will bring together academic bloggers, librarians, and experts in preservation to brainstorm and debate these topics and to develop best practices to ensure that the value of blog scholarship is not easily lost.

Our first panel will lay the groundwork for these discussions by presenting librarians' and legal scholars' views on the future research value of today's blogs. Will future legal scholars turn to legal blogs as reputable and reliable sources of information? In this panel, experts on legal research will analyze the much-debated issue of whether future legal scholars will be interested in the analysis found in blogs or the documents posted to blogs. In addition, the panel will also address the rise of legal blogs and blogging as a phenomenon.

Our second panel will assemble a group of national experts and leaders from a variety of backgrounds to share their perspectives, experiences and visions with respect to the problem of blog preservation. Specifically, this panel will discuss who is responsible for blog preservation; how will we begin the process of prioritizing and collecting legal blogs; and what are the current standards, as well as the technological, economic, and social considerations that must be addressed, in Web harvesting and digital preservation.

Our third panel will be devoted to examining the issue of the reliability of legal documents uploaded to blogs. From *Newsweek's* posting of the "Torture Memos" to ScotusBlog's postings of Supreme Court briefs, news agencies and bloggers regularly upload legal documents to support their stories. Although these web sites and blogs are often the only sources for these documents, few electronic documents have any verifiable proof of reliability. Future researchers wanting to rely on these documents must be aware of this issue and must be able to confirm that the posted document is complete and unaltered from the version authorized for publication by the author. This panel will discuss this issue and the current standards for proving the authenticity of a document in order to foster a system for preserving the value of blogs and documents found on blogs for future researchers.

The symposium will conclude with a working group break out session to create a uniform standard for preservation of blogs for bloggers and librarians.

Our late director, Bob Oakley, firmly believed that librarians have an obligation to ensure access to information and was committed to meeting the challenges posed by information in a digital form. In this spirit, we dedicate this symposium to him.

Details about the symposium can be found at <http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/ftls/>.