



# MAALLMarkings

Mid-America Association of Law Libraries Volume 22, Issue 2, 2013

## GOING MOBILE WITH THE MLIC: IMPLEMENTING A MOBILE ACCESS INITIATIVE

Intern Megan Donald  
& Collection Development  
and Technology Law Librarian  
Daniel Bell

*University of Tulsa College of Law*



### I. Partnering Up

During the fall semester of 2012, the University of Tulsa College of Law’s Mabee Legal Information Center (MLIC) embarked on a mobile access initiative. Recognizing the growing trend of law students and faculty accessing information via mobile devices and in continuance of the ABA requirement that law libraries be “an active and responsive force in the educational life of the law school,” the MLIC partnered with Library Anywhere to develop a mobile application. Technology and Collection Development Librarian Dan Bell and Intern and aspiring law librarian Megan Donald spearheaded the month-long project.

Developing a mobile app from scratch can be a difficult project. One has to know how to program for both the Android and Apple operating systems and then submit the app to a months-long approval process. Library Anywhere, an extension of Library Thing for Libraries, is a new alternative for libraries desiring to join the app revolution but lack the programming abilities and patience required to develop an original app. Library Anywhere has ingeniously created an app, already approved by the Apple and Android markets, which serves as a content wrapper for many different libraries. New users download the app in the app markets. Then browse geographically to find their home library. This greatly streamlines and simplifies the whole process for libraries. Library Anywhere seemed the simplest solution for our needs.

### II. Creating the Content

Once we established a partnership with Library Anywhere, we set out to create and develop content for the app. One of the more difficult tasks was deciding what to include. There was constant tension between the desire to be all-inclusive

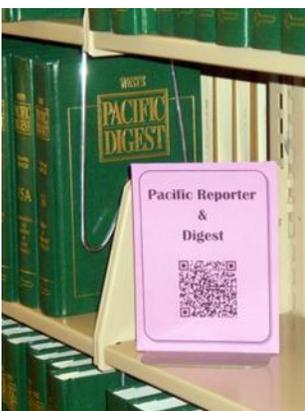
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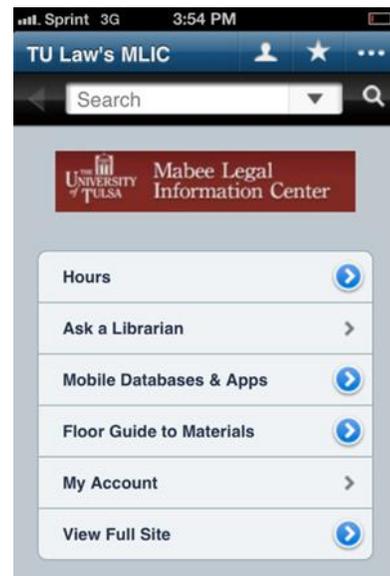
with the features we offered and the need to keep the app simple to avoid information overload. We knew it was necessary to include standard information, such as hours of operation and how to contact a librarian, but we also wanted to offer unique features – features that weren't readily found on our full website.

Since the MLIC already used LibGuides, which were wonderfully formatted for mobile access, we decided to create our content in LibGuides and then link from the app to the guides. Capitalizing on this, the Mobile Databases & Apps tab links to a LibGuide with suggestions of free apps for law students and practicing attorneys. The Guide includes everything from legal research apps to organization apps.

The most unique feature of our app was the Floor Guide to Materials. We were initially inspired by CALI's LibTour project. CALI's project features signs with QR Codes which,



when scanned by users' smart phones, act as links to audio descriptions of various book sets like the Digests. While we liked the concept behind this project, we decided against using LibTour due to the concern that audio would be distracting to other patrons in the library and also because of the time required to download the .mp3 files. Instead, we created a Libguide with short, capsule descriptions of major book sets within the library. Each description included a few brief paragraphs covering what the set is, how and why you would use it, and the appropriate Bluebook rule. A patron could either scan the QR code directly or, if using the app for access, select a floor level and book set. The 1L wandering the stacks at night now has a virtual librarian housed within a QR code reminding the student how to use the resource, update it, and cite to it.



The most robust feature of the app was the seamless integration Library Anywhere provided with our OPAC – allowing patrons to search for and save items. Personal accounts could also be accessed, allowing patrons to renew items and save records.

### III. Starting a Buzz

Like most library projects, marketing has been crucial to the success of our app. To get the word out, we planned several events on the day of our official app launch: November 1, 2012. The day began with a noontime apps workshop attended by the school's Lexis and Westlaw representatives. A QR code scavenger hunt was designed using the QR codes placed throughout the library. Students could drop by anytime throughout the day and test their skills. However the most successful event was the app launch party held in the law school commons area. Students and faculty stopped by for cake and camaraderie, and left with the app downloaded to their phones.

Our promotional efforts have continued with the creation of publicity bookmarks. QR codes on the bookmarks link to the iTunes or Google Play store, for Apple and Android devices respectively. The app is also being introduced during incoming students' library orientation sessions.

#### IV. Bumps in the Road

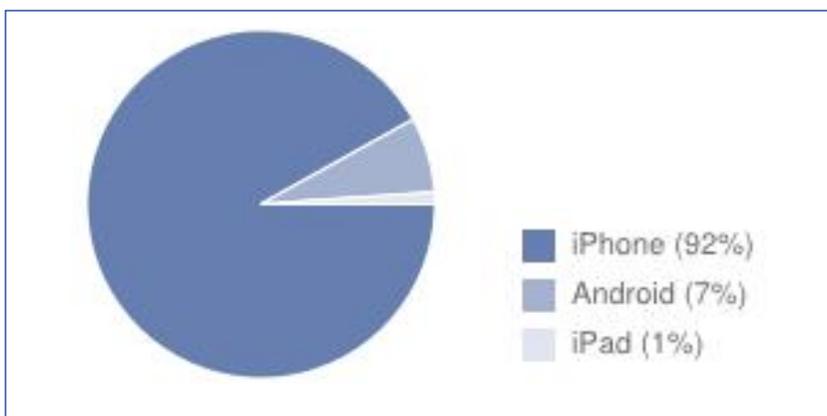
For the most part, we've been very pleased with the success of our app. However, there have been a few unexpected issues. While we like to stereotype our younger students as being extremely tech-savvy, many do not know what QR codes are. This required creating informational handouts and giving individual tutorials explaining how to access QR codes. Nevertheless, it presented another opportunity for the MLIC to showcase itself as a forward-thinking, early adopter of technology, and encouraged our patrons to do likewise.

There was also the issue of not knowing which mobile device platform our patrons would be using. We wanted to keep things as simple as possible, but due to this question of Android or Apple, we were forced to publicize our information with two different QR codes. Often our first interaction with students and faculty began with the question, "Which device are you using?" Luckily nobody ever responded with "Palm Pixi" or "Blackberry."

#### V. Statistics, Anyone?

Statistics on app use generated automatically by Library Anywhere were quite revealing. As we suspected from anecdotal evidence, our law students are predominately using iPhones. Since the app's launch last November, over 90% of native app use is occurring on an iPhone.

Somewhat predictably, the most popular content on our app is our Hours page. Beyond that, results vary and there is no one most popular page.



Libguides allows for customized statistic viewing, revealing that our most popular content within the Floor Guide to Materials includes the Pacific Reporter and Digest, Corpus Juris Secundum, and American Law Reports. There have been 45 mobile views of our Mobile Databases & Apps LibGuide, presumably accessed from the app. Within this guide the most viewed page is for research app suggestions. We are continuing to

monitor our statistics to glean insight as to the needs and desires of our patrons.

#### VI. Looking Forward

Now that we are comfortable with the Library Anywhere application platform and the process in general, we must continually re-evaluate our app. Without fresh content interest is sure to wane. Thankfully, Library Anywhere has made it simple to change the pages and content. All it requires is creating a new LibGuide and then inserting the URL into the app. Or we can use the app to help establish an MLIC presence on the latest social media websites. In the future, we will experiment with customizing our content to appeal and reach out to different patron groups, like recent graduates and local attorneys. The opportunities for innovation are endless, and we plan to seize them.

Questions or Comments? [Megan-Donald@utulsa.edu](mailto:Megan-Donald@utulsa.edu); [Daniel-Bell@utulsa.edu](mailto:Daniel-Bell@utulsa.edu)

# MAALL MARKINGS PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Ted Potter

*Head of Public Services, College of Law Library University of Iowa*

With St. Louis in our rear view mirrors, it's time to look ahead to summer and the next time that many of us can get together once again! The AALL Annual meeting is in Seattle this July, and if you haven't been there in the summer, I urge you to consider it. My brother-in-law said that he put up with the clouds and the rain for nine months of the year in exchange for living in a picture postcard for the three months of summer. The weather can be unbelievable – clear blue skies, warm days (with little humidity), comfortable nights, and spectacular views of ocean and sound and mountains. MAALL will be holding a luncheon during the meeting, with a speaker to be named later, so we can catch up with one another, look back on the St. Louis meeting, and look forward to the meeting in Omaha. We'll even subsidize your lunch. Start making plans today!

For those of you who want to find funding to travel to the AALL conference this year, several AALL Special Interest Sections provide grants (see <http://www.aallnet.org/main-menu/Member-Resources/grants/sis-grants>). Check the SIS websites periodically, and watch for other announcements via the AALL website. In the past, the Research Instruction and Patron Services Special Interest Section provided an annual meeting grant for which you need not be a member of RIPS-SIS to receive. Some grants are specifically set aside for firm law librarians and state, court, and county law librarians. You can also review other grant opportunities on the AALL website. (<http://www.aallnet.org/main-menu/Member-Resources/grants>)

I want to sincerely thank all of you who have agreed to serve or continue to serve on a committee. MAALL is a very friendly, hard-working association, and I appreciate people stepping up to further the good work already being done!

Have a good spring!

## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Jeri Kay Hopkins

*Branch Librarian, US Courts Library 8th Circuit*

The Education Committee invites program proposals for the 2013 MAALL meeting scheduled for October 17-19, 2013 in Omaha, Nebraska.

The theme for the 2013 meeting is: Connecting Law Libraries for 40 Years: Mid-America Association of Law Libraries 40th Annual Meeting.

The Education Committee encourages proposals on any topic of interest to law librarians in any setting. The program sessions may be in a variety of formats including panel discussion, single speaker, roundtable discussion, unconference style, or salon style. We also encourage programs that are as short as 30 minutes or as long as 75 minutes (up to 90 with break-out sessions).

Please submit your proposal by Friday, May 24, 2013. Submissions received after May 24 may be considered, but primary consideration will be given to those proposals received prior to the submission deadline.

Instructions and program ideas are in the last pages of this issue. Proposals may be submitted directly to Jeri Kay Hopkins at [Jeri\\_Hopkins@ca8.uscourts.gov](mailto:Jeri_Hopkins@ca8.uscourts.gov). A Program Proposal Template is available. If you have questions about a program proposal or you would like to discuss a program idea, please contact an Education Committee member:

Jessie Burchfield: [jwburchfield@ualr.edu](mailto:jwburchfield@ualr.edu)

Kathy Fennell: [kathie.fennell@kutakrock.com](mailto:kathie.fennell@kutakrock.com)

Troy Johnson: [troyj@creighton.edu](mailto:troyj@creighton.edu)

Jennifer Prilliman: [jsprilliman@okcu.edu](mailto:jsprilliman@okcu.edu)

## MEMBER NEWS

Deborah Sulzbach

*Acquisitions / Reference Librarian and Associate  
Professor of Law Librarianship, Drake Law School*

### ARKANSAS

Kathryn C. Fitzhugh, Melissa M. Serfass, & Jessie Wallace Burchfield of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law wrote "Arkansas Practice Materials: A Selective Annotated Bibliography" to be included in *State Practice Materials: Annotated Bibliographies* (Frank G. Hodek & Adeen Postar eds., William S. Hein & Co., Inc. 2006 & Supp. 2013).

### KANSAS

Wheat Law Library, KU's site visit is very soon so preparation is in the final phase. They are adjusting to less fulltime staff and more student assistants this semester...so far so good!

### MISSOURI

Deborah Showalter-Johnson, Branch Librarian for the U.S. Courts Library in Kansas City, MO, retired December 31 after 22 years. Originally hired as the assistant librarian, she became branch librarian in 2002. She also served as president of the Kansas City Association of Law Libraries in 2005-2006. An expert researcher, she was often called upon by other 8th Circuit staff to help with their toughest questions.

Her position will remain vacant until the current uncertainty over the federal budget is resolved. In the meantime, Library Technician Kathryn Ballard is operating the library.

## NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the newest members of MAALL:

**Andrea Cotton** Catalog Assistant, Creighton

**Susan Daubard** Competitive Intelligence Analyst,  
Thompson Coburn LLP (St. Louis)

**Erin Dunkleman** Circulation/ILL Assistant, Creighton

**Rosemary Hahn** Cataloger, St. Louis University

**Diane Kriley** Administrative Assistant, Creighton

**Brian Maass** Assistant, Eastern Library System

**LeAnn Noland** Library Associate, Sr., St. Louis University

**Jessica O'Dowd** Government Documents/Circulation  
Assistant, Creighton

**Lacy Rakestraw** Student

**Megan Savannah Donald** Student

**Benjamin Swofford** Assistant Reference Librarian,  
Thompson Coburn LLP (St. Louis)

**Debbie Temple** Library Technician, Thompson Coburn  
LLP (St. Louis)

**Tory Van Heuvelen** Serials Assistant, Creighton

**Carolyn Weber** Librarian, Armstrong Teasdale LLP (St.  
Louis)

**Susan Yirak** Acquisitions Assistant, Creighton

*Compiled by the MAALL Membership Committee, Karen Wallace  
(Drake University Law Library) chair.*

## NEBRASKA

### **Baird Holm LLP**

Rachel Zill is a part-time library assistant in the Baird Holm Library. She is a Library Science major in the College of Education at University of Nebraska Omaha. She is applying to join the Master's Program of UNO-Missouri in the fall.

### **Creighton University Klutznick Law Library**

Ann Kitchel is leaving Creighton and Omaha on April 12th. She was appointed the Law Library Director at Willamette University College of Law in Salem Oregon and starts her new position on June 3rd. Ann has been the Associate Director at Creighton since 1993. Ann will continue her duties as MAALL Treasurer until the term ends in the fall. Congratulations on your new position and appreciation for your service to Creighton, MAALL, and the library community.

### **Kutak Rock**

Melissa Tiemann started as a Research Services Specialist at Kutak Rock on January 21, 2013. Melissa came to us from the College of Saint Mary's library where she was their Serials Librarian/Circulation Supervisor. She has a Master of Arts Information Science & Learning Technologies with an emphasis in Library Science.

Avis Forman, retired law librarian, passed away October 12, 2012. She wrote, at the time of her retirement, about her career at the law firm that spanned 32 years and the technological changes and challenges as well as the boon in print publishing and then in electronic formats and the internet. Avis shared her knowledge and experience with her colleagues and appreciated the "many librarians ... who worked to make me look good." She was supportive of her family and neighbors in her retirement and her kind heart and caring nature was her way of being.

### **Nebraska State Library**

Marie Wiechman of the Nebraska State Library has added the ability to access the JUSTICE Court Case Search to the public access computer terminals in the Library. The online system is designed to allow easy access to information about court cases throughout Nebraska. Individual users can search for parties statewide using a password provided by the State Law librarian.

### **UNL-Law**

A new support staff member in technical services, Margaret Gipson, replaces Paul Lommasson who retired on April 4th and had been at the Schmid Law Library for 10 years. Margaret comes to us with an MA from University of Arizona School of Information Resources and Library Science.



Margaret Gipson

## OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma City University School of Law is pleased to announce that the law school and law library will be relocating to a landmark historical building in downtown Oklahoma City. Our new location puts us within walking distance of federal and state courts, agencies, law firms, and the revitalized downtown area. The planning process for renovations is well underway. More information and photos are available [http://law.okcu.edu/?page\\_id=29371](http://law.okcu.edu/?page_id=29371).

# COMMUNICATING FROM THE BACKROOM: HOW TECHNICAL SERVICES CAN BE A PUBLIC SERVICE

Heather Buckwalter

*Serials/Acquisitions Librarian, Creighton University Law Library*

When I am asked what area of the library I work in I usually say Technical Services. I do not mention that I also work at the Reference Desk a few hours a week. I do not think of myself as a Public Services Librarian, but I have come to the realization that Technical Services is a public service; we are just not always out on the front lines. I would like to share with you some of the procedures that I follow that are a public service when interacting with faculty.



When a new member of the faculty joins Creighton School of Law I ask for a few minutes of their time to introduce myself and enquire about their research and teaching. During this meeting I will tell them what my role is in the library as far as ordering and routing material. I will ask them if there are print journals they wish to have routed to them. I ask what classes they will be teaching and I find out about their area of research. I find, quite often, that faculty research interests can be different from their teaching interests. I will tell them about relevant electronic resources to which the library subscribes. I also ask if they have been using a particular electronic resource so that if the library does not subscribe to that particular resource, then we can evaluate the resource for future purchase. I usually will

also ask them if they have received their Creighton ID card and explain that their ID is also their library card. I will explain to them how to log in to the proxy service so that they can use the resources that are available off-campus. If they have questions about LexisNexis and Westlaw I refer them to the Reference Librarian who coordinates the library's Lexis and Westlaw passwords. I also assure new faculty that I am more than happy to help them with any request even if I am not the person who oversees that area of the library.



When I know that a member of the faculty is going on sabbatical I will stop in to see them to ask about their routing requests, if they will be working in their office or off-campus, and generally inquire if they will need anything from the

library during their sabbatical. When they return I will touch base with them to see if they are ready to start their routes again and if there is any new material that they need.

Other ways in which I try to help faculty include emailing them when new titles are related to their teaching or research interests. When the library starts a subscription to a new database, I try to inform faculty whose research would benefit from using the database. Also, when faculty make requests for new titles, I try to follow up so that the material is checked out to the faculty members and delivered to their offices. I feel that the personal touch helps in establishing a good working relationship with the faculty.

I also maintain the Faculty Scholarship Display Case located in the Law School. When I know that a professor has written a new article, I will contact them about getting an off-print for the display case. If they have written a new book or chapter and I need more complete information to order the book, I will either email them or go see them in person. Since faculty can check out any material from the library for an extended time period, there are times when library staff must retrieve the material for other patrons. When that occasionally occurs, I will make the time to retrieve the material when the faculty member is in their office, which adds a personal touch.

My job title may not say Public Services, but I do realize that my actions as a Technical Services Librarian impact public services. Even the short quick communication from the backroom can have an impact on the perception of good public service. Whether you work in Technical Services or Public Services, or both, it is important to keep in mind that all of us perform a public service.

## BILL TRACKING SERVICES FOR STATE LEGISLATURE

Chad Pollock

*Electronic Services Librarian, Robert A. and Vivian Young Law Library,  
University of Arkansas School of Law*



The Arkansas General Assembly convened their regular session in January of 2013. The regular session meets only every other year now and this is an historic session: It is the first time that there has been a Republican majority in the Assembly since Reconstruction. Whether because of the historic first or because of a slate of controversial bills, public interest in the Assembly's legislative activity has been strong. The law library has been getting requests from our faculty and the public for help in keeping current with the legislature.

In the pre-digital world, the best method of staying current on the Arkansas legislature was the Arkansas Daily Legislative Digest. The AR Daily is run by an independently-owned publisher who has stood in the legislative information gap for decades. Unfortunately, the AR Daily has not transitioned well into an online environment. Although they have a website that includes a bill tracking service, the online AR Daily looks like it was created for the web, circa 1995.

I suspect there are similar services in other MALLCO states. The AR Daily website is visually unattractive, difficult to navigate, and, worst of all, provides limited access options for libraries. In lieu of a site license, the publisher only offers a single-user password. There is no remote use and no simultaneous use. Patrons must be logged on to the site by a reference librarian, and only within the walls of the library. These restrictions make the online site less useful than the print. Though the publisher does not provide usage statistics, the librarians know from experience that the online service is not being used. This is a shame, since one of the great advantages of the online as opposed to the print is the ability to set up bill trackers (an email service that sends nightly recaps of legislative activity tailored to user interest).



Fortunately, the Arkansas Daily Legislative Digest is no longer the only game in town. This legislative session, I have been trying out free online bill trackers. Govtrack ([www.govtrack.us](http://www.govtrack.us)) is an online service originally created for tracking Federal legislation, but last year Govtrack expanded their service to include state legislatures. Govtrack is operated by Civic Impulse, LLC, a private enterprise that relies on advertising for support. The site, however, is clean; there are no advertisements breaking the flow. Setting up tracking is intuitive and easy. One of the more esoteric bills before the AR General Assembly this year is a bill to ban the use of plastic bags in the state. Using Govtrack, I created a keyword tracker for all legislation related to shopping bags. Keyword tracking is one of the advantages of using Govtrack. One of the disadvantages of the keyword tracker is that you cannot specify a particular state. My tracker for shopping bags returns legislation for all states. This could be an advantage if you are interested in comparing state legislation on a particular topic. If you are looking for targeted, state-specific information, this can be a huge disadvantage.

Enter Scout (<https://scout.sunlightfoundation.com/>), the legislative tracking service of the Sunlight Foundation. The mission of the Sunlight Foundation is "to catalyze greater government openness and transparency, and provide new tools and resources for media and citizens, alike." Sunlight is a non-profit and non-partisan organization. Like Govtrack, their bill tracking service only recently added state legislative info, but Scout allows for more search limiters. With Scout you can create a keyword billtracker and add a limiter for a particular state. For my shopping bag example, this tracker only returns the current bill in the Arkansas senate. Whenever there is activity related to the shopping bag bill in Arkansas, I'll receive an email.

The Arkansas General Assembly website does have a home-grown bill tracking service; however, their service only allows you to track specific bills by bill number. This would be fine with the shopping bag act HB1036, but if you are interested in tracking more comprehensive topics (there are currently three distinct pieces of energy legislation in the state legislature) then you will want a service like Govtrack or Scout.

What services--free or paid--have you used for tracking bills in your state legislature? Email me at [capollock@uark.edu](mailto:capollock@uark.edu)

# MALLCO MUSINGS

*Susan Goldner*

*Executive Director of Mid-America Law Library Consortium*



## Members

We recently lost a member and gained a new member. Chicago-Kent College of Law Library dropped their membership in MALLCO this year. Fortunately, we have a library to take their place – University of Tennessee Joel A. Katz Law Library. So MALLCO still has 24 academic law library members, now in 12 states. Please join me in welcoming the librarians and staff from Tennessee, including Scott Childs as the newest Board member.

## New Interest Group

Last October in St. Louis, MALLCO had a very well attended roundtable on institutional repositories. People were so engaged in the topic, they asked that we form an Institutional Repository Interest Group. Happily, Aris Woodham of Washington University agreed to be the chair. If you work in a MALLCO library and are interested in joining this IG, just send me an email at [sdgoldner@ualr.edu](mailto:sdgoldner@ualr.edu).

## Officers

The MALLCO Board has a new slate of officers as of the first of January this year. They are:

- President Lee Peoples, Oklahoma City University
- Vice President Joe Custer, Saint Louis University
- Secretary Rhonda Schwartz, University of North Dakota
- Treasurer Joyce McCray Pearson, University of Kansas

# AALL NEWS

## **May Webinar: Creating Eye-Catching and Media-Rich Annual Reports**

The library might be the jewel in your institution's crown, but are you documenting its importance?

Join AALL for the May webinar, Creating Eye-Catching and Media-Rich Annual Reports (<http://www.aallnet.org/Home-page-contents/Events/Creating-Eye-Catching-and-Media-Rich.html>) on Wednesday May 22 at 11 a.m. (Central) to explore ways to communicate the value of libraries and their contributions to patron success through an annual report. Participants will learn how to document patron needs and the library services that meet those needs. Librarians from the Oklahoma City University Law Library will share their 2011-2012 Annual Report and how they made the transition from print to digital format using basic coding skills and tools to make data interactive. The speakers will provide participants with ideas and tips on how academic, court, and firm librarians can use free or low-cost products to build an online annual report - and showcase the value their libraries bring to their institutions. Register by May 17 (<https://www.aallnet.org/assn/events/registration.aspx?event=web201305>)

## Early Bird Registration Ends June 7 for 2013 Annual Meeting and Conference

Register for the 2013 Annual Meeting and Conference (<http://www.aallnet.org/conference>) to learn from more than 70 educational programs and rethink the way that human behavior shapes information management with keynote David Weinberger, technologist and co-author of the bestselling book, *The Cluetrain Manifesto*. Connect with law librarians from across the nation, from all types of settings, who understand the issues you face every day. Register by June 7 and save \$100. (<http://www.aallnet.org/conference/get-there/registration>)



## AALL2go Pick of the Month: Personal Effectiveness

AALL's Continuing Professional Education Committee presents the AALL2go pick of the month: Personal Effectiveness (<http://aall.sclivelearningcenter.com/index.aspx?PID=6278&SID=163298>).

Personal Effectiveness is an area in which we can all strive for improvement, both in our professional and personal lives. In this engaging presentation, Michael Saint-Onge discusses social and personal skills, or “soft skills,” which allow us to use our technical abilities and knowledge effectively. When used well, these skills—such as communication, time management, and initiative—can help us to excel in all aspects of our lives.

The presentation addresses myths related to soft skills and the effect of personal choices. In addition to discussing personal and interpersonal skills, the speaker also addresses what he calls extrapersonal skills, which deal with branding and promoting yourself or your department.



Find this and more than 80 other free continuing education programs and webinars for AALL members at AALL2go (<http://www.softconference.com/aall/Redirect.asp>)!

## NEWS FROM OTHER CHAPTERS

Rebecca Lutkenhaus

*Reference Librarian & Assistant Professor of Law Librarianship, Drake University Law Library*

### Houston Area Law Librarians

HALL Newsletter <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/Newsletter/JanFeb13.pdf>

Volume 30, Number 1 January/February 2013

The article “Harris County Law Library Enters 21st Century” describes the library’s journey to its new location,

summarizes its great new services, and is accompanied by some before and after photos that really bring the project to life.

In “My Top 5 Media Tips for Lawyers,” Mary Flood provides pointers for making the most out of calls from journalists looking for comments on a story.

Saskia Mehlhorn’s “Some (Hopefully) Useful Tips for Preparing Business Reports” suggests content that should be included when you are asked to prepare a competitive intelligence or business report.

### **Law Librarians of Puget Sound**

LLOPS Newsletter Blog <http://llops.org/>

Check out the post (and photos) about the Perkins Coie Seattle Library Reference Desk at <http://llops.org/?p=5210>.

### **Association of Law Libraries of Upstate New York**

ALLUNY Newsletter <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/alluny/2012-03winter.pdf>

Volume 37, Issue 3 December 2012 – January 2013

In “Technical Tidbits: An Overview of QR Codes and Reflections of Presenting at the 2012 ALLUNY Spring Institute,” Mark Burns and Jane Verostek offer some practical uses for QR codes in a library setting and some practical tips on their use.

### **Law Library Association of Maryland**

LLAM eNews <http://llamonline.org/newsletter/llam-eneews-fall-2012/>

Volume 32, Number 2 Winter 2013

Stephanie Bowe’s “5 Tips for Success as a New Law Librarian” offers practical advice for acclimating to a new position.

In “Public Libraries and E-Government,” Catherine McGuire discusses the work of the University of Maryland’s Information Policy & Access Center (iPAC) and provides information about iPAC’s Libraries & E-Government website, LibEGov.org.

### **Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin**

LLAW Briefs <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/llaw/publications/newswinter13.pdf>

Volume 30, Number 3 Winter 2013

Cindy May recommends a slew of recent professional literature in the “Recommended Readings” column.

# POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

John Austin

*Director, Law Library, Northern Illinois University College of Law*

Below is a Position Announcement for Reference and Instructional Services Librarian, now available at Northern Illinois University College of Law. The law school is located on the main campus of NIU in DeKalb, IL, which is approximately 65 miles from downtown Chicago. If you know of someone who might be interested in the position, I would appreciate it if you would forward the Position Announcement to him or her. Many thanks!

POSITION: Reference and Instructional Services Librarian

ACADEMIC RANK: Assistant Professor, Law Library

DUTIES: Provide reference service to faculty, students and other library users. Plan and teach legal research to students in intensive, year-long required legal research course. Participate in outreach initiatives that facilitate faculty and student use of the library's resources. Offer instruction to faculty and students on emerging technologies that relate to legal research or teaching and on research technique in specific subject areas. Engage in professional development activities, scholarship, and service required for tenure-track faculty position. Work on occasional weekends or evenings.

QUALIFICATIONS: Master's degree in library science from an ALA-accredited library school and J.D. from an ABA-accredited law school (if in progress, degrees required by employment start date). Knowledge of legal research technique in all formats. Knowledge of instructional technologies. Ability to be an excellent classroom teacher and to engage in professional development activities and scholarship. Strong service orientation and excellent communication skills. Ability to work both independently and as part of a team.

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT: Regular, twelve-month, tenure-track faculty position. Available May/June (negotiable). Minimum salary: \$49,000.

BENEFITS: Health, dental, vision and life insurance. Participation in the State Universities Retirement System. 24 vacation, 12 cumulative and 20 non-cumulative sick leave days per year.

APPLICATIONS: Please address cover letter to John Austin, Director of the Law Library, and send it, resume and the names of three current professional references in .PDF format by email attachment to Cheryl Korth, Law Library Office Support Specialist, at [ckorth@niu.edu](mailto:ckorth@niu.edu). Preference will be given to complete applications received by March 29, 2013; however, applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

For information about Northern Illinois University College of Law, please visit <http://law.niu.edu>

AA/EEO statement

In compliance with the Illinois Campus Security Act, before an offer of employment is made, the university will conduct a pre-employment background investigation, which includes a criminal background check. In accordance with applicable statutes and regulations, NIU is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, religion, age, physical and mental disability, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, political affiliation, or any other factor unrelated to professional qualifications, and will comply with all applicable federal and state statutes, regulations and orders pertaining to nondiscrimination, equal opportunity and affirmative action.

# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

"What Ever Happened to Thinking?"

Brian Striman

*Editor-in-Chief, MAALL Markings & Head of Technical Services & Catalog Librarian, Schmid Law Library, University of Nebraska-Lincoln*



Sir Brian, Slayer of Dragons

What is the purpose of the "letter from the editor" in publications anyway? Sometimes it's to stir up readership to contribute. Sometimes it's to point out some really important things going on in the membership or association. Sometimes it's to help readers step back and re-examine and rethink for just a few moments about our work and its value to those we serve.

Letters from the editor may highlight special contributions from colleagues that allow for greater professional growth; to expand beyond our everyday work to see a larger picture crucial for how we see ourselves and how we are coping with a quickly changing world. I'm sure that many readers of publications just pass over "from the editor" columns. After all, what can they possibly write about that's worth reading?

And so let's turn our attention to the purpose of our quarterly publication? If I had to craft a mission statement for MAALL Markings I could turn to a google search and find examples of mission statements others have adopted. Many, if not most of these are mission statements have multiple sentences and with each new sentence the purpose and power of the mission statement becomes increasingly distant and dilutes rather than strengthens how mission statements get their influence.

For example we could look at this mission statement I made: "To Inform, record, entertain, and allow for authorship opportunities within the MAALL Chapter of AALL." What is missing? I will share with you what I think is missing in the next issue. You can share with me what you think is missing if you want to spend the time to think. We don't spend enough time thinking in our jobs. It's mostly each of us being in a reactive mode, rather than a proactive mode. The days' demands are snuffing out time to think about how we plan on dealing with those bigger dragons out there. We don't talk about that together.

Sometimes I think we need to spend an entire MAALL Annual Meeting of just a series of big roundtables with plenty of food and beverages to start dialoging about the dragons. It would be like an all-member "MALLCO." And where are all the non-member law librarians in our region? How do we find them? Should we try to find them?

<b>MAALL MARKINGS INFORMATION</b> MAALL Markings is published four times a year by the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries, a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries, and is a benefit of membership. The purpose of MAALL Markings is to publish news of the Chapter, selected news of AALL and other professional associations, MAALL members, as well as to solicit and publish articles to add to the body of literature in the profession of law librarianship. All articles are copyrighted and any republication or use of any portion of the content for any purpose must have written permission from the author/s.	<b>Expected Publish Dates &amp; Deadlines for submission of that issue:</b> Vol. 22: 3 June 2013 May 31, 2013 Vol. 22: 4 September 2013 August 30, 2013  The Mid-America Association of Law Libraries assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by the contributors of its publications. Editorial views do not necessarily represent the official position of the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries, or AALL.  Editor-in-Chief, Brian D. Striman <a href="mailto:bstriman@unl.edu">bstriman@unl.edu</a> 402-472-8286 University of Nebraska-Lincoln Schmid Law	<b>Library</b> Lincoln, NE 68583-0902 Associate Editor: Heather Buckwalter Layout Editor: Jennifer Watson Articles Editor: Neil Periera Member News Editor: Deborah Sulzbach Other Chapters News Editor: Troy Johnson & Rebecca Lutkenhaus Photography Editor: Jennifer Prilliman State Member News Liaisons: Melissa Serfass (AR), Julie Thomas (IA), Neil Pereira (IL), Pam Crawford (KS), Mary Stultz (NE), & Marsha Stacey (SD)
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Webmaster: Blake Wilson

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# PROGRAM PROPOSAL INFORMATION AND TOPIC IDEAS FOR MAALL 2013 ANNUAL MEETING

The Education Committee for the MAALL 2013 Annual Meeting is seeking proposals for the meeting to be held on October 17-19, 2013 in Omaha, Nebraska.

The theme for the 2013 Annual Meeting is Connecting Law Libraries for 40 Years: Mid-America Association of Law Libraries 40th Annual Meeting.

## Program Topic Ideas:

The Education Committee encourages proposals on any topic of interest to law librarians in any setting. Here's a list of possible topics for consideration:

- Legal Research
- Teaching/Instructional Design
- Management
- Leadership
- Professional Development
- Cataloging
- Technology
- Marketing

Format: Sessions may be in a variety of formats including panel discussion, single speaker, roundtable discussion, unconference style, or salon style, but we would like to encourage some kind of active learning in every program. Please indicate desired length of session (75 minutes, 60 minutes, 45 minutes, 30 minutes).

Submission: Please submit your proposal by Friday May 24th, 2013. Submissions received after May 24th may be considered, but primary consideration will be given to those proposals received prior to the submission deadline.

Proposals may be submitted directly to Jeri Kay Hopkins at [Jeri\\_Hopkins@ca8.uscourts.gov](mailto:Jeri_Hopkins@ca8.uscourts.gov). If you have questions about a program proposal or you would like to discuss a program idea, please contact an Education Committee member:

Jessie Burchfield:

[jwburchfield@ualr.edu](mailto:jwburchfield@ualr.edu)

501-324-9444

Kathy Fennell:

[kathie.fennell@kutakrock.com](mailto:kathie.fennell@kutakrock.com)

402-346-6000

Jeri Hopkins:

[Jeri\\_Hopkins@ca8.uscourts.gov](mailto:Jeri_Hopkins@ca8.uscourts.gov)

402-661-7590

Troy Johnson:

[troyj@creighton.edu](mailto:troyj@creighton.edu)

402-280-2832

Jennifer Prilliman:

[jsprilliman@okcu.edu](mailto:jsprilliman@okcu.edu)

405-208-5174

**Program Proposal for the 2013 MAALL Annual Meeting**

**Connecting Law Libraries for 40 Years: Mid-America Association of Law Libraries 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

**Omaha, Nebraska**

**October 17-19, 2013**

Title:

Names of Presenters, Affiliations, and Contact Information:

Program Description (100 words suitable to be included in the final program):

AV / Computer Needs:

Time Required (please circle): 30 45 60 75 minutes

Date and Time of Day Preference:

Connection to the Conference Theme (Connecting)

Possibilities for Interactive Learning?                      Yes                      No

Format: panel              roundtable              speaker              salon              other format:

Will you have Handouts?                      Yes                      No

Do you grant MAALL permission to record and possibly redistribute the program and any handouts?    Yes                      No

Will you consent to live streaming of your program?    Yes                      No