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**President’s Column**

**ELVIRA EMBSER-HERBERT**  
President

Well, it has been a busy year for MALL and a most fulfilling one for me. Thank you all for the opportunity to serve you as MALL’s president. I have learned so much and am so grateful to so many.

This is a time of transition, where I say goodbye and Hope Porter takes the gavel and column. Hope has many great ideas and is looking forward to carrying out the strategic plan. I for one am looking forward to reading her column.

We say goodbye to Mary Wells, who leaves the executive board after three years of service. Mary was elected as vice president/president elect in 2004 and has just ended her year as past president, which included chairing the Education Committee. Those of us who have chaired Education know that it is no small task, and Mary and her committee did a great job this year. Mary has done much for MALL and served as a wonderful advisor to me over the last year. Mary is a generous and calm person who knows how to listen and when and how to offer advice. I am very grateful to her personally and know, perhaps more than most, all that she has done for MALL over the course of the last three years. We have much to thank her for.

Donna Trimble has also ended her two-year term as member-at-large, but she is not going anywhere. As you would all know by now, Donna is the newly elected vice president/president elect. She now begins three more years on the executive board.

The executive board also welcomes Karla Gedell as the new member-at-large. Karla is a Research Librarian at the Minnesota Office of the Attorney General and has been a member of MALL since 1997. I am sure Karla will have much to offer MALL. Karla will serve in this position for two years.

Susan Catterall continues as secretary/treasurer, with next year being the second of her two-year term. Susan has done a great job this year at what is perhaps the most challenging job on the executive board.

MALL is in good hands with skilled leaders ready to take us into our next fifty years.

As I reflect on last year, one MALL member stands out for her service, and I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to embarrass and
thank her. Pauline Afuso has done a terrific job this year as the MALL Public Relations Chair and has continually amazed us with her knack for presentation. Pauline created wonderful displays and signs for the fiftieth anniversary and the exhibit table for last year’s AALL Annual Meeting. Pauline also assembled the materials for the AALL /Thomson West Excellence in Marketing Newsletter award. While we don’t know whether our MALL Newsletter won, Pauline created such a wonderful portfolio that we were asked by the AALL Public Relations committee to display and talk about the nomination materials at the AALL Annual Meeting in St. Louis. Pauline is also responsible for the colorful printed program for our spring conference, including some creative biographies. Pauline has volunteered and been drafted to help so many times I have lost count. To my knowledge, she has never said no to MALL. Pauline, I thank you for all you have done and continue to do for MALL.

There are many others to thank and as I attempt to do so I will forget someone. For that I apologize, but here is my list:

- The Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration planners: Polly Snider, Jane Hopeman, and Kathy Kelly, for a terrific job planning.
- The Strategic Planning Task Force: Sara Galligan, Anne Poulter, and Hope Porter, for another terrific job planning.
- All of those who participated in strategic planning: Pauline Afuso, Rebekah Anderson, Susan Catterall, Kelly Danburg, Nancy Evans, Rick Goheen, Barb Golden, Janice Leichter, Connie Lenz, Lindsay Hutchins Matts, Liz Robb, Donna Trimble, and Mary Wells.
- Tom Duggan, Lori Hedstrom, and all at Thomson West for the generous support of our Fiftieth and our spring conference.
- Priscilla Stultz, Cindy Spohr, and all at LexisNexis for their generous support of our Fiftieth and spring conference.
- The Education Committee, for three great programs, and every member of every other committee as well.
- Our MALL Newsletter Editors: Connie Lenz and Sarah Yates, for consistently putting together a great newsletter and patiently waiting for me to finish my column.
- Our elections team: Rick Goheen, Susan Catterall, and Lindsay Hutchins Matts. I understand Rick deserves extra pats on the back.
- Barb Golden for too many things.
- Suzanne Thorpe and the staff at the University of Minnesota Law Library, for putting
up with me this year and for all their help with the spring conference—special thanks to our events planner, Bonnie Johnson.

As I look back on the many bright moments, I realize that the impossible really did happen this year. If anyone had asked me last year at this time if I could be more impressed with MALL, I would have said, “No, it is not possible.” But I was very wrong. MALL is a great association—we all know that—but what is more difficult to see is just how pervasive, throughout our membership, the commitment to and enthusiasm for MALL is. So many members do so much to make MALL great, and I am grateful I had the opportunity to see that. I am more thrilled than ever to be a part of this association. You can trust that I will be singing MALL’s praises every chance I get.

Thanks, everyone, and have a great summer! I hope to see you in St. Louis.§

### Voting Begins on Newsletter Subtitle

In response to the Newsletter Committee’s request for suggested names for the MALL Newsletter, various MALL members sent the following eight suggested subtitles. Any one of them might make a fine name, but all catalogers know that it’s better to stick with one subtitle per publication. So now it’s up to you, distinguished MALL members, to determine which, if any, of the following suggestions will become the newsletter’s new nickname. **Pick your favorite and e-mail your choice to Sarah Yates at yates006@umn.edu by July 21.** We have not arranged for anonymous voting, but your vote will be kept confidential. The Newsletter Committee appreciates your input.

1. *MALL Newsletter: MALLContent*
2. *MALL Newsletter: MALL-Informed*
3. *MALL Newsletter: MALL Reports*
4. *MALL Newsletter: MegaMALL*
5. *MALL Newsletter: Not to Be Confused with the Mall of America*
6. *MALL Newsletter: Of America*
7. *MALL Newsletter: Subtitle? We Don’t Need No Stinkin’ Subtitle*
8. *MALL Newsletter: Things Great and MALL*
9. *MALL Newsletter* (no change/no subtitle)
Our final issue in this fiftieth anniversary year reflects just how vibrant a chapter MALL is. This May/June issue is packed to the brim with articles of national interest, reports on local activities, a final look at MALL history, and photos galore!

Vic Garces and the MALL Newsletter’s own Sarah Yates demonstrate MALL members’ interest in law library issues on the national level. Vic focuses on diversity in AALL. He previews his forthcoming book Celebrating Diversity: A Legacy of Minority Leadership in the American Association of Law Libraries (Hein, summer 2006), which he coauthored with Carol Nicholson (University of North Carolina Law Library) and Ruth Hill (Loyola Los Angeles Law Library). Vic also highlights the AALL Committee on Diversity’s upcoming symposium, “Pioneering Minority Law Librarians: Echoes of the Past, Directions for the Future,” which will be held at the annual meeting in St. Louis. Sarah addresses the recently announced Library of Congress decision to stop providing controlled access to series titles in its bibliographic records. Sarah discusses the rationale for and implications of the decision, as well as the controversy that has risen up around it.

The Minnesota Scene has been bustling. Deborah Hackerson reports on the spring conference—which included keynote speaker Colleen Coghlan, a day of top-notch educational programs, and perfect Minnesota sunshine—and Randi Madisen covers the first annual Club MALL program for newer MALL members. Check out MALL’s new strategic plan, distributed at the business meeting, and consider how you can get involved in its implementation! If you are interested in committee work, this issue includes annual reports as well as a call for volunteers from incoming MALL President Hope Porter.

In other Minnesota news, MALL’s Technical Services SIG hosted a demonstration of Serials Solutions’ Electronic Resources Management System, the Downtowners started a book club, and MALL libraries celebrated National Library Week and other spring events in style! Finally, Annette Borer gives an Insider’s View of her life as a solo librarian at Felhaber, Larson, Fenlon, and Vogt.

As MALL’s fiftieth anniversary year comes to a close, we are pleased to announce that Karla Gedell is the bimonthly winner of our Fiftieth Anniversary Photo Contest! Her prize-winning photo, Balloon Girl, shows the range of duties undertaken by Anita Anderson! This issue also includes the photo contest’s grand prize winner, but we won’t spoil the surprise. Turn to page 6 to see who walks away with the big prize! We also close out our Fiftieth Anniversary MALL History feature with a collection of MALL Memories from our members.

We know two months has been a long time to wait, but you will find the answers to last issue’s crossword puzzle inside. And this issue also includes nominations for a new MALL subtitle. Please take a moment to vote!

MALL’s fiftieth year has been a great one for the MALL Newsletter! Thanks to the many MALL members who have contributed!
Congratulations to Karla Gedell, May/June winner of the MALL Fiftieth Anniversary Photo Contest! Karla’s picture was one of a series of photos submitted by the Minnesota Attorney General Library, documenting their celebration of National Library Week. Additional National Library Week photos can be seen on pages 21-22. Why do we love this photo? While this year’s winning photos have alternated between the “fun” and the “serious,” Balloon Girl shows that the two are not mutually exclusive. The whimsy of the balloon is juxtaposed with the businesslike office setting. And marketing the library—even when making it seem like fun and games—is a serious business. (Besides, we like the shiny balloon.)

Will Karla take home the grand prize, or will that honor go to one of our other photo contest finalists? We received so many wonderful photos this year, and we had such an outstanding pool of finalists, that choosing an overall winner was the most difficult decision we’ve made all year. But choose one we did, and you can see which one on page 6! We enjoyed reviewing the bimonthly winning pictures so much that we have reprinted all of them. Taken together, they present a photographic “year in review” for MALL’s fiftieth year. A warm thank you to everyone who helped make the photo contest a tremendous success!
And the grand prize winner is … **Barb Golden**, for her photo, *MALL Brightens the Day at the MSLL Public Services Desk!* Barb’s winning photo brightened *our* day when it first appeared in the November/December *MALL Newsletter*. This picture appeared just in time—it gave readers a cheerful and colorful image to turn to just as the Minnesota winter was becoming dreary. Barb wins two beautiful travel photography books, which will help her (mentally) escape the Minnesota winter any time she wants.

The MALL Fiftieth Anniversary Year in Review: The Photo Contest Finalists

**David Zopfi-Jordan** rides a bull at AALL in San Antonio (July/August).

**LaVern Pritchard** studies MALL’s strategic plan at the winter business meeting (March/April).

**Deborah Hackerson** assists a patron at the reference desk (September/October).

**Polly Snider, Lori Hedstrom, and Jane Hopeman** at MALL’s Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration (January/February).

**Anita Anderson** prepares for the AG Library’s National Library Week celebration (May/June).
The AALL centennial celebration of “A Century of Leadership” is certainly a perfect time to remember the struggles and to celebrate the achievements and contributions of minority law librarians and the association’s progress in promoting diversity. It is also a good time to examine current efforts and to consider future action to promote law librarianship as a career choice for minorities and to encourage active participation in AALL by minority law librarians.

Minorities in law librarianship past, present, and future will be the focus of both a forthcoming book and a half-day symposium at the AALL Annual Meeting this summer. Celebrating Diversity: A Legacy of Minority Leadership in the American Association of Law Libraries is the title of the forthcoming book (Hein, summer 2006) authored by librarians Carol Nicholson (University of North Carolina Law Library), Ruth Hill (Loyola Los Angeles Law Library), and Vic Garces (University of Minnesota Law Library). The book chronicles the history of minority law librarianship and AALL’s efforts to increase minority participation in the association and the profession.

Chapter 1, “Introduction and Historical Overview,” traces in significant detail the various activities and events, from as early as the 1970s, that led to some of AALL’s more significant efforts to promote diversity, such as the George A. Strait Minority Scholarship Endowment, the evolution of the AALL Committee on Diversity, the annual Diversity Symposium, and the formation of minority law librarian groups (later officially recognized as caucuses).

Chapter 2, “A Legacy Leadership,” features profiles of nine minority librarians that have “set the standard” for many minority law librarians in terms of their leadership and contributions to the profession and their pioneering efforts in support of diversity. The librarians profiled range from the first African-American law librarian, Allen Mercer Daniel, to current leaders and advocates for diversity such as AALL’s first minority president, Carol Nicholson, and Minnesota’s own Marvin Anderson and Joan Howland.

In doing research for the first two chapters of this book, the authors visited the AALL Archives, a trip that proved to be one of the highlights of this project. The archives contained thousands of pages of documents, reports, correspondence, programs, photographs, and other items, many that proved useful in documenting the contributions of minority law librarians to AALL as well as the racism that some African-American members such as Allen Mercer Daniel had to endure.

Allen Mercer Daniel, for whom the law library at Howard University Law School is named, became the first African-American member of AALL and attended his first annual meeting in 1933. That meeting marked the beginning of an unbroken string of attendance at AALL annual meetings through 1975, despite racist barriers of the time that made it difficult for him to find lodging and limited his participation at meetings. The following excerpts from one of several letters between the AALL President and AALL Secretary at the time concerning Mercer Daniel’s attendance at the 1935 AALL Annual Meeting in Denver reveal some of the racism he endured:

The Brown Palace very seldom accepts a col-
ored man as a guest of the Hotel and then only under the most extraordinary circumstances. At such times the man is a guest under the most stringent restrictions. He is not permitted to use the dining room or lobby. The Brown will not accept Mr. Daniel as a guest if it is at all possible to avoid it. I sincerely regret that Mr. Daniel is planning on attending the Convention. He certainly will not be invited as a guest of the Denver Bar at the luncheon. For that reason I suppose we will not be able to issue a blanket invitation to the Law Librarians.

The AALL Archives also contain many valuable items that document the association’s commitment to recruit minorities to the profession, such as the first issue of the *Conference of Concerned Law Librarians Newsletter* in 1970, which indicated that the conference should involve black people in an active way and the text of a resolution passed at the 1971 annual meeting concerning education loans for minority library school applicants, the insertion of an antidiscrimination clause in the AALL Constitution, and coordination of efforts to recruit and place minority candidates.

As their titles indicate, Chapter 3, “Leaders of Today,” and Chapter 4, “New and Emerging Leaders,” focus on the careers and contributions of some of the more active minority law librarians in the profession and AALL. In Chapter 3, the career paths of a diverse group of distinguished minority law librarians are profiled. This group of established librarians is diverse not only in terms of their racial and ethnic backgrounds but also in terms of the types of libraries they work at and positions they hold. In addition to highlighting their career paths, professional activities, and accomplishments of ten talented minority law librarians who were selected by the authors as representative of the newer generation of law librarians. The variety of career tracks and professional development activities presented should prove useful to others considering careers in law librarianship. The profiles also include the responses of this newer generation of librarians to the same set of survey questions that were posed to the librarians profiled in Chapter 3. Their survey responses provide fresh perspectives and insight concerning the same variety of topics and issues.

The final two chapters present the results of a national survey of minority law librarians conducted over the Web late last year. The survey included fourteen questions covering a range of information including background information such as minority status, educational and employment background, and professional development activities, as well as questions concerning AALL recruitment methods and support of professional growth and development.

The book is dedicated the memory of George A. Strait and in recognition to all those who have contributed to the George A. Strait Minority Scholarship Endowment. All royalties from the book will be donated to the endowment.

“Pioneering Minority Law Librarians: Echoes of the Past, Directions for the Future” is the title of the AALL Committee on Diversity’s Symposium at the annual meeting in St. Louis. The symposium will feature a panel of minority law librarians who, “through presentations and discussions... honor the successes and contributions made by minority leaders in law librarianship while exploring the issues and challenges of increasing and maintaining diversity in the profession.” Several of the librarians profiled in the book, *Celebrating Diversity: A Legacy of Minority Leadership in the American Association of Law Libraries*, will be members of the symposium panel. The symposium will be held on Saturday, July 8 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.§
In a surprise announcement dated April 20, the Library of Congress revealed its plan to stop providing controlled access to series titles in its bibliographic records, effective May 1. The news has caused a great deal of controversy, in part because of the manner in which it was announced.

Unlike other recent cataloging policy changes by LC, this issue was not presented to the cataloging or wider library community for discussion. The news took librarians outside LC completely by surprise; it is unclear how widely known the decision was even within LC. The announcement, when it was made as a fait accompli, was not widely disseminated. Rather, it was first posted to the listserv of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging, a program in which many libraries do not participate. Word quickly spread, however, and the announcement was reposted to other lists, including that of AALL’s Technical Services SIS.

The extremely short amount of time between the announcement and the effective date fueled further speculation that LC’s intention was to push their plan through with as little discussion as possible. Faced with complaints from libraries that would need more than ten days to adjust their own practices regarding series treatment and accepting (or not) LC copy, the Library of Congress pushed the implementation date back to June 1. However, as of the writing of this article, LC shows no signs of reconsidering the plan itself.

The announcement, which is posted on the Library of Congress Web site at http://www.loc.gov/catdir/series.html, explains what LC catalogers will and will not do under the new policy. LC catalogers will no longer create or update series authority records. They will continue to record series statements in records; however, they will strictly transcribe the statements as they appear, without making any attempt to reconcile the title on the item with the authorized form of the title.

In many cases, perhaps even in the majority of cases, the authorized form is the form that appears on the title page. Exceptions include series titles that vary in how they are presented (Nutshell series vs. West nutshell series, for example) or that are generic and need to be qualified, usually by the name of the publisher, to make them unique (Report, Working paper, etc.).

However, LC catalogers will not even be checking series titles to determine if they are authorized. Therefore, cataloging rules require them to transcribe the series statements in a 490 field with a first indicator 0, which means “Series not traced.” (Traced series titles appear in 440 or 830 fields.) What this means is that series titles in LC-cataloged records will only be searchable by keyword in most OPACs—if at all.

Not only will catalogers at the Library of Congress not be putting series titles in traceable fields, they will be removing traced series statements when they do copy cataloging. This means that a cataloger who takes the time to verify series statements and provide access to them could have his or her work “upgraded” by an LC cataloger who strips the information out of the record. (The catalogers at LC are not to blame, of course. In fact, the Library of Congress Professional Guild has passed a resolution urging LC management to rescind its deci-
This is more than just an annoyance to the cataloger who created the record in the first place. Since LC records overlay existing records on OCLC and will presumably continue to do so, libraries that rely on OCLC for their copy cataloging will have to import some records that provide a lesser level of access than other existing records. In the near future, many more libraries may have to rely solely on OCLC than do now; a proposed merger has recently been announced between OCLC and RLIN. While RLIN users currently have the ability to view different libraries’ records for the same title to determine which has the best cataloging (or the cataloging most compatible with their own library’s needs), they will probably no longer have that option if the merger is approved.

The Library of Congress lists four components of its rationale in its announcement. The first, predictably, is cost savings. This is a savings strictly for LC and other libraries that follow its decision. Libraries that continue to provide controlled series access will likely see an increase in costs due to the additional time needed to edit copy. Libraries that can’t afford to upgrade LC copy will have no choice but to reduce the level of access in their records.

The fourth point of LC’s rationale is perhaps the most interesting: “Maintains current level of descriptive access other than series. Uncontrolled series access will remain available through keyword searches.” The first part of this argument seems to imply that LC originally considered even more extensive cutbacks to descriptive cataloging. Even if they didn’t, the implicit threat that things could be even worse is not a very persuasive argument.

Google is certainly appropriate for many kinds of research. For example, it can be used to find the “Calhoun report” (first hit!), Karen Calhoun’s report to the Library of Congress entitled “The Changing Nature of the Catalog and Its Integration with Other Discovery Tools” (http://www.loc.gov/catdir/calhoun-report-final.pdf).

Calhoun’s report is particularly relevant to any discussion of the Library of Congress’s series treatment decision. Indeed, the timing of the report—about a month before LC’s series announcement—strongly suggests a more than coincidental relationship between the two.

Calhoun writes: “Today, a large and growing number of students and scholars routinely bypass library catalogs in favor of other discovery tools, and the catalog represents a shrinking proportion of the universe of scholarly information. The catalog is in decline, its processes and structures are unsustainable, and change needs to be swift.” The first sentence would be difficult to argue with, and few would attempt to do so. The second sentence is the premise on which the remainder of the report is based. Whether it is a valid premise is a question beyond the scope of this article, but it bears serious consideration.

Several possible remedies and strategies are offered. Calhoun identifies innovation and cost-reduction strategies as the most practical in the next five years for most research libraries. She offers many specific cost-reduction strategies, including: “simplify cataloging practice to a set of basic elements” and “eliminate local practices and customized workflows in favor of best practices” (along with some other doozies like “eliminate LCSH [Library of Congress Subject Headings]).”

The second part of the argument touches on advances in technology. We have heard a lot lately about users’ preference for Google over the catalog (as if they were designed for the same types of research), along with suggestions for making the catalog more user-friendly, by which the critics mean more Google-like.
wondering out loud what will be next on the chopping block, and which “basic elements” will remain of the catalog record. There has also been some discussion about whether series titles are really the most dispensable pieces of information in records. Aren’t more patrons likely to search for a series title than for, say, a note that a book includes bibliographical references?

The strategy of eliminating local practices means cataloging strictly according to standardized rules so that any library can use any other library’s records for copy cataloging without having to edit them. Calhoun recommends accepting any available copy from other libraries without modification because—according to her vision—there will be no need to edit since all libraries will be following the same standards.

This is far from the case now. While most libraries catalog according to a common set of rules, they interpret the rules differently. The Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR), for example, contain many optional rules and provisions. Furthermore, many catalogers “break” certain rules, either because of confusion about or ignorance of the rules themselves, or to meet the special needs of their own libraries’ users.

The Library of Congress is one of the biggest offenders when it comes to breaking the rules. Many of its cataloging policies, even before the series decision, are in direct opposition to standards set forth in AACR and elsewhere. Since so many catalogers look to LC as a standard setter, we tend to forget that the Library of Congress Rule Interpretations, part of the canon of cataloging resources, actually contain detailed explanations of where and how LC’s cataloging practices diverge from the international rules.

The series authority decision is one more case in which the Library of Congress is forcing a move away from international standards, and therefore hindering libraries’ ability to rely on copy cataloging. Most libraries have already followed many of LC’s other nonstandard decisions (such as the decision to base the description for microform or electronic reproductions on the original rather than the item actually being cataloged), but fewer seem willing—at least now—to follow LC’s series decision.

The series decision, and the manner in which it was announced and will apparently be implemented, is in keeping with Calhoun’s assertion that “change needs to be swift.” LC seems to have interpreted swift as unilateral. While Calhoun emphasizes setting and following standards, the Library of Congress apparently decided that swift change is not compatible with building consensus.

It may be some time before the effects of LC’s series authority decision are fully felt. In libraries that follow the decision, it will be difficult to assess the impact on users, in part because most users will not be aware of the change. As long as OPACs still have a title search or series title search from which users get some results, they will likely not be aware that there are results they should be getting but are not.

The effects on cataloging departments will be more immediately noticeable to librarians and library administrators. Will libraries that are now vowing to continue providing controlled series access eventually find that they can’t keep up? If the Library of Congress continues to announce more and more cutbacks to cataloging, will other libraries just throw up their hands and give up? Or will libraries decide that their reliance on the Library of Congress as the authoritative source for quality cataloging is misplaced? Will some other organization take over the role that the Library of Congress has historically held in the cataloging community? At this point we have more questions than answers.

[Editors’ note: More news on this issue continues to develop right up until press time. The latest includes an e-mail to the OCLC Cataloging listserv from Beacher Wiggins, LC’s Director for Acquisitions & Bibliographic Access, that LC may not strip controlled series fields from copy after all. Wiggins also states that LC is working with OCLC to prevent LC records with uncontrolled series access from overlaying records with controlled series access.]
Hope Porter, our incoming President, put it wonderfully when she said that after celebrating the fiftieth anniversary last year, our focus this year will be to get “back to the future.” The programs and speakers at the spring meeting certainly started us out in that direction. It was a great day of seeing our colleagues, meeting new members, celebrating librarianship, great food, and educational sessions. We recognized Mary Wells as our past president and congratulated Donna Trimble and Karla Gedell on their newly elected positions. MALL awarded grants to Mary Freyberg and Kelly Danburg to attend the AALL meeting in St. Louis in July. Rick Goheen, much to my surprise, presented me with the MALL scholarship. I am very grateful to MALL for the scholarship as I enter my last year at St. Kate’s. Elvira Embser-Herbert, after a wonderful year as our fearless and tireless leader, passed the gavel to Hope Porter. It was a day to celebrate and look forward with excitement.

Our keynote speaker, Professor Colleen Coghlan, was entertaining and inspirational. It was fun to see how many of us are her former students, and I think she really had a chance to see the impact she has had on us. She spoke passionately about freedom of information. It only took a few examples from recent newspaper articles to demonstrate how important this issue is and that librarians need to continue to be in the forefront fighting this fight. She impressed on us that librarianship is a critical profession right now and that we all need to get back to critical thinking. The important issues that are facing librarians, and all citizens seeking information, include ever-increasing restrictions on access to information and control of content. As librarians, we are in a unique position to make a difference and have a special interest in what’s going on with access to information. She inspired us to keep ourselves informed and involved.

There were several interesting educational sessions offered throughout the afternoon. There was a Club MALL session for newer members that was well attended. (See page 14 for Club MALL coverage.) For those members not so new, a session for midcareer librarians was the choice. Panel members Mary Wells, Karen Westwood, Karla Gedell, and Kathy Kelly had great advice and examples of how to keep
your career fresh and avoid burnout. It was great to hear about their experiences and brainstorm ideas for keeping ourselves interested and challenged in our job and through MALL. One key point that came through, especially in the current work environment, is to be flexible and embrace change.

After a great lunch with time to be outside in the wonderful sunny weather (see photos on page 16), we had several educational sessions to choose from for the afternoon. Shane Nackerud from the University of Minnesota Libraries gave a very informative presentation on technologies including blogs, wikis, and RSS. If you were unable to attend this session but would like more information, you can find Shane’s presentation at http://www.lib.umn.edu/san/mallMay06.ppt. A session on distance training was presented by Tom Duggan and Mark Korf from West and Donna Trimble of Bowman and Brooke. They demonstrated tools and gave tips on setting up distance training programs. A session on the practical applications of blogs, wikis, and other technology was presented by Elvira Embser-Herbert, Lindsay Hutchins Matts, and Neal Axton.

Our members are using technology in creative and useful ways, and it is great to have MALL as an outlet to learn from each other. Finally, a session on marketing was presented by Andrea Hudson, business reference librarian at the University of St. Thomas. This session included sharing many creative ideas for marketing the library, including a great story about the minigolf tournament at the University of St. Thomas libraries during library week recently. (See photo page 22.)

The MALL spring meeting was a day of fun, friends, food, and getting “back to the future.” I hope everyone left with inspiration and some new energy and excitement. §
Club MALL or Sixty Minutes of Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About MALL

By Randi Madisen
Head of Public and Electronic Services
Minnesota State Law Library

A group of neophyte law librarians gathered on the morning of the May 17 MALL Spring Conference to attend the very first Club MALL, presented by Elvira Embser-Herbert and Hope Porter. Some of the librarians were new to librarianship and some were new to law, but all emerged with an appreciation of the value of the Minnesota chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries and the opportunities it provides.

Elvira encountered technical difficulties, so we were deprived of our opportunity to experience her PowerPoint artistry. But both she and Hope provided lively explanation and commentary. They highlighted MALL’s prominence within AALL, and how many MALL members serve on SIS boards and in other national offices.

Elvira discussed how the new strategic plan will change what committees do and will create new opportunities. Then she launched into a dialogue using the Socratic method. She asked what a state association should do for its members and what programs people would like to see. Among the answers were marketing, advocacy, and networking. Elvira pointed out that the strategic plan recommends new programs for shadowing and mentoring. New law librarians would also like to see programs on basic legal research, and the Legal Research Institute will be held in 2007.

Hope and Elvira talked about networking and learning opportunities with the Downtowners group and the Technical Services group. They pointed out that most years, the entire chapter holds business meetings combined with programs in the fall and in February, and then again at the spring conference. They mentioned opportunities to serve the chapter by serving on a committee or by organizing an event. With the new strategic plan, there should be many opportunities for short-term service to accomplish specific tasks.

The neophytes were sent forth into the world with the charge to read the strategic plan and comment to Hope on what looked interesting. Each attendee received a treat bag with vendor goodies and a bookmark listing the Web site address and information on the discussion list. And although we didn’t exit to a rousing chorus of “It’s a MALL World After All,” I have to admit it was tempting!
Waiting for Colleen. (Photo by P. Afuso.)

Karla Gedell wins the door (chair) prize.

The paparazzi.
At the Spring Business Meeting, Elvira Embser-Herbert officially introduced MALL’s new Strategic Plan:

Minnesota Association of Law Libraries
Strategic Plan

Introduction:

The Minnesota Association of Law Libraries (MALL), a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), is a nonprofit, member-driven association with a fifty-year history of supporting law librarianship in Minnesota. MALL is governed by a member-elected Executive Board consisting of a President, Past President, Vice President/President Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and Member-at-Large. MALL members work in a variety of settings, including law schools, law firms, state and county governments, and private companies. Of our nearly two hundred members, approximately 25% serve MALL by volunteering for committee work or assuming a leadership role. Our business meetings and education programs are well attended, with an average of 30% of our membership present at each meeting.

As impressive as MALL is, we do not rest on our laurels. To bring positive changes to our already excel- lent association we present this new strategic plan.

MALL Mission Statement:

The Minnesota Association of Law Libraries (MALL) supports and serves its members in their professional pursuits. MALL provides opportunities for educational growth, service to the community, and a platform for advocacy on issues and social concerns in the law library community. MALL cultivates a spirit of cooperation among its members and other entities by supporting interests in legal information, information policy, and access to legal information for all Minnesotans.

Performance Objectives:

I. Advance the understanding and appreciation of law librarianship.
II. Provide opportunities for educational growth and professional development for MALL members.
III. Encourage engagement of more MALL members in MALL leadership, committees, and events.
IV. Provide a platform for advocacy by supporting interests in legal information, information policy and access to legal information for all Minnesotans.

Charge to the Board:

The MALL Executive Board is charged with implementing this strategic plan. The President will lead the implementation and will assign members and/or appoint task forces to carry out these objectives. MALL’s resources and committee structure will be aligned to meet the objectives of this strategic plan effectively.
Performance Objectives and Strategies:

I. Advance the understanding and appreciation of law librarianship.

   Strategies:
   • Identify opportunities to increase visibility of MALL members in the work place, within the profession, and to the greater community.
   • Develop a recruitment strategy for MALL, including but not limited to a liaison program with law and library schools.
   • Partner with Minnesota Lawyer to provide a column along the lines of “Ask a Librarian.”
   • “Branding”: Ensure that MALL’s name is prominent in all that we do.

II. Provide opportunities for educational growth and professional development for MALL members.

   Strategies:
   • Create mentoring and job shadowing programs.
   • Refresh the Legal Research Institute.
   • Revise approach to education programming by providing more frequent, cost-effective programs of a greater variety at locations and times convenient to members.
   • Bring in speakers from outside MALL.
   • Collaborate with other organizations.

III. Encourage engagement of more MALL members in MALL leadership, committees, and events.

   Strategies:
   • Auto populate the listserv and use it as the official communication vehicle for MALL between issues of the MALL Newsletter.
   • Create short-term projects and one-shot volunteer opportunities that don’t require committee membership.
   • Use technology to facilitate committee meetings.
   • Develop new methods for inviting involvement in committees.
   • Focus more on interests of new members.

IV. Provide a platform for advocacy by supporting interests in legal information, information policy, and access to legal information for all Minnesotans.

   Strategies:
   • Develop a structure to quickly mobilize members when a need arises.
   • Inform and educate MALL members about issues that impact law libraries.
   • Improve communications in the legal community regarding the value of access to legal information.
   • Create opportunities for MALL members to learn more about advocacy strategies (e.g., an advocacy workshop).

MALL’s new Strategic Plan is now posted on the MALL website! You can view it, with all appendices, at: http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/mall/Strategic_Plan_2006.pdf§
Technical Services SIG
Meeting Report

By DeeDee Narum
Cataloging Librarian
Hamline University Law Library

Paddy Satzer hosted a Technical Services SIG event at St. Thomas Law School on April 11, 2006. The event was a demonstration of Serials Solutions’ Electronic Resources Management System given by Carolyn DeLuca and Dani Roach from St. Thomas O’Shaughnessy-Frey Library.

Carolyn discussed the evolution of their Serials Solution product purchases beginning with the A-Z list many of us are familiar with by now. Eventually Article Linker was added, which gave users the ability to click a button taking you directly to the article if it’s available. If it’s not available an interlibrary loan request can be generated with the article information already inserted. The A-Z list and the Article Linker have been great tools for patrons. The Electronic Resources Management System (ERMS) is going to make management of all this information much easier for staff and access will get even better for patrons. For St. Thomas, choosing Serials Solution ERMS made sense because they had already purchased component products, and they felt the customer service was excellent. These two factors allowed the implementation to go quite smoothly.

Carolyn demonstrated the four main sections of ERMS: General, Administrative, Licensing, and Statistics. In the General section, there are several levels of customization that can take place creating even better access for users. Administration allows for many streamlined ways for staff to gather and store information having to do with content, contacts, and other useful notes. In the Licensing section, it’s just as it states—all the information you need to track your licenses. This includes terms of use, authorization and lists of authorized users, loan rules, etc. Any notes about licensing can be kept here also. The Statistics section is also pretty self-explanatory—standards of compliance, delivery method, format, etc. In addition to the four major sections, there were several other sections available. One of them, Alert Manager, is a tickler file that allows staff to set up a reminder notification system that will e-mail you at a specified interval telling you when you need to renew. Overlap Analysis compares the overlap between your print and electronic journals, and there is also a useful Benchmark component that allows comparison of your electronic serials collection against that of other libraries of similar size.

Carolyn demonstrated some other sections and options, showing how useful the system would be for managing the many electronic resources that libraries are continually acquiring. She and Dani discussed how easy implementation was; though filling out all the licensing agreement information was time consuming, both agreed it was worth the work to have everything so easily accessible and streamlined for content management.

The MALL Technical Services SIG would like to thank Carolyn and Dani for an informative, helpful demonstration.

Downtowners Book Club

By Kathy Kelly

Downtowners gatherings are usually somewhat serious occasions with a few minutes to talk with colleagues and then forty-five to fifty minutes of a presentation or discussion on a work-related topic. Well, on May 11 the meeting took a turn to leisure. It was the first meeting of the Downtowners Book Club. Instead of having an assigned book to be read by everyone, each person brought their favorite book ever or a book they have read recently and really liked—a book they wanted to recommend to the group. Fifteen people showed up with nineteen books (some people just couldn’t limit it to one), which covered fiction, nonfiction, history, sports, and one children’s book. (Guess which one.) We went around the table, and each person introduced her book, telling a little of the story and why it was so impressive and memorable.

Everyone had a wonderful time and decided to repeat the book club next year, so start reading and thinking about what title you will recommend in 2007.

The Books

Population: 485 by Michael Perry

The Madonnas of Leningrad by Debra Dean

Garlic and Sapphires: The Secret Life of a Critic in Disguise by Ruth Reichl

A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson

Marley & Me: Life and Love with the World’s Worst Dog by John Grogan

Gilead by Marilynne Robinson

Post Secret by Frank Warren

The Endurance: Shackleton’s Legendary Antarctic Expedition by Caroline Alexander

Ex-Libris by Ross King

River Horse by William Least Heat-Moon

The Hello Goodbye Window by Norton Juster

October 1964 by David Halberstam

Dark Tort by Diane Mott Davidson

Fitzwilliam Darcy Gentleman by Pamela Aidan

Sandra Day O’Connor by Joan Biskupic

Becoming Justice Blackmun by Linda Greenhouse

Absolution by Murder by Peter Tremayne

Balls: A Novel by Gorman Bechard

Serenity: The Official Visual Companion by Joss Whedon
Minnesota Law Libraries Celebrate National Library Week

The Minnesota Attorney General Library celebrated National Library Week (April 2-8) with an open house, featuring some kind of game we’re not sure we understand. But perhaps it wasn’t all that complicated after all; Anita Anderson reports, “Our guests spun the wheel for seventy-four prizes. Some late-comers were disappointed that the prizes had run out, but enjoyed spinning the wheel anyway!”
Minnesota Law Libraries Celebrate National Library Week

As always Bowman and Brooke celebrated Library Week with gifts, contests, candy, and a book drive. Each year we order bookmarks about libraries or reading for distribution to all employees firm-wide. We also create a puzzle of some sort that is sent firm-wide and award prizes to everyone who responds. In Minneapolis we also conduct a book drive for St. Josephs Children’s Home. We put the candy right next to the book drive box so that people are reminded to contribute. We also send e-mail reminders, and I pay a few personal visits to the attorneys to help increase giving. This year we also had Westcome in on Monday to do a CLE for the associates.

Contact me if you would like a copy of the puzzle or a bookmark. I have some extras.

P.S. We go through fifteen to twenty pounds of candy during the week.

—Submitted by Donna Trimble

The Minnesota State Law Library celebrated National Library week, April 3-7. Visitors were invited to:

- Stop by for cookies any time during the week.
- Take a look at daily Staff Picks, favorite library resources highlighted by staff.
- Bring a laptop and check out the new public access wireless area.

On April 3 the library hosted a Library Showcase, during which Twin Cities author Thomas M. Daly discussed his book *For the Good of the Women*, a history of MCF-Shakopee from the dramatic death of its first supporter in 1915 through the 1990s.

MSLL also held a book drive for libraries damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Hardcover books for people of all ages were collected and sent to the New Orleans Public Library.

The Schoenecker Law Library at the University of St. Thomas celebrated National Library Week with a miniature golf tournament through its skyway. At right, Rick Goheen, Associate Director for Public Services, basks in the glory of acing a difficult hole. (Photo by M. Wells.)
Minnesota Law Librarians at Work (and at Play)

On May 9, the University of Minnesota Libraries presented the fourteenth annual “Enhancing Quality Staff in Changing Times,” a symposium for library paraprofessionals and support staff. MALL members were among the presenters. Karla Gedell and Anita Anderson (above) of the Minnesota Attorney General Library gave a presentation entitled “Public Information You Thought Was Private,” and Vic Garces (below) gave a presentation entitled “Popular Legal Websites.”

Library staff member Julie Mielke of Warren E. Burger Library, William Mitchell College of Law, is training Sarah Lawson, a new library staff member and a library school student on how to handle serials. Since 2003, the library has trained seven new professionals who moved onto new and bigger roles in the library world. (Photo by D. Zhou.)

Barb Minor of Faegre and Benson recently sailed the Atlantic aboard the Queen Mary 2. The QM2’s onboard library includes almost nine thousand volumes, with a concentration of maritime, travel, and fiction titles. Barb asked the librarian how she might get her job and was warned: “You’ll have to wait a very long time until I retire.”
University of Minnesota Law Library Spring Events

Treasured Vintages: Fine Wines and Rare Books

On March 29, the Riesenfeld Rare Books Research Center came alive with sparkling conversation, fine wines, and delicious chocolates. The Law Library hosted the editorial boards of Minnesota Law Review, Law and Inequality, Minnesota Journal of International Law, and Minnesota Journal of Law, Science & Technology, and a group of distinguished alumni and friends of the Law School for an evening of wine tasting and rare books. Guests sampled an intriguing selection of wines under the guidance of a sommelier and savored a few of the highlights of the library’s renowned rare books collection.§
TIME TO RENEW!!! A completed form and check (still a bargain at twenty dollars) is required for every renewal or new membership. Spread the word and keep our association strong. The direct link to the newly revised membership form is http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/mall/mbrform.pdf. Kudos to Dr. Mary Wagner, College of St. Catherine, who was the first to renew in 2006.

Notice: We hope to publish the 2006-2007 MALL Directory in late July. Your current password remains in effect until then.

Please welcome our first new members of 2006-2007:

Melissa Aho, Campus Librarian, Minnesota School of Business
Leslie Greenwood, student member
Colleen Komarek, Circulation Assistant, University of St. Thomas
Michael McReynolds, Librarian, Shook, Hardy, and Bacon (Overland Park, Kansas)
Mary Stade, Serials Assistant, University of St. Thomas

Correction: I apologize to new member Abby Bickford for inadvertently demoting her position. Abby is the Assistant Librarian at Maslon Law Firm.

Congratulations to our MALL authors:

Marvin Anderson, Life Member, for “Elegance, Style, and Grace: Memorial for Oscar E. (Skeets) Strothers,” 98 Law Library Journal 439 (No. 2, Spring 2006).


Milestones and Changes:

Best wishes to Timothy Baland, who has left the Minnesota State Law Library to begin his law career. He is currently clerking for Judge Kammeyer in Anoka County.

Congratulations to Kathleen Bedor on the twentieth anniversary of her company Law Library Consultants, Inc.

We bid a fond farewell to Ed Edmondson, who is leaving St. Thomas for his alma mater—Notre Dame—as Associate Dean and Director of the Kresge Law Library. Congratulations to Margie Axtmann on being appointed as Interim Director of the Schoenecker Law Library, University of St. Thomas, beginning on July 1, 2006.
Rebecca (Becky) Iserman, who worked for several years at the University of St. Thomas Law Library, has joined Rider Bennett as Information Resources Assistant.

We welcome Priscilla Stultz back into the field. Priscilla has left Lexis to become Head of Research Services at O’Melveny and Myers in Los Angeles.

Congratulations to Mary Ann Van Cura, who left the Minneapolis Public Library for the position of Library Development and Continuing Education Coordinator at the Department of Education’s State Library Services Division in May.

Have we overlooked someone or something? A discreet e-mail to barb.golden@courts.state.mn.us will put you in the news. Let us celebrate with you.

New Member Profile: Michael Hannon

By Sheri Huppert

Michael Hannon is no stranger to the University of Minnesota Law School Library. He received his JD from the U in 1998. Last June, he returned to Minnesota as the library’s Associate Director for Library and Educational Technology. Michael enjoys being involved in both the law library’s mission and technology issues. He feels the position gives him a better understanding of the mission of an academic law library as well as the mission of the law school.

Michael completed his BA in political science at the University of Missouri–St. Louis in 1993. After law school, he received his MLIS from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1999. Michael worked as a Reference Librarian at Duke University School of Law from 1999 to 2005. He also taught legal research and student computer orientation for incoming students.

Michael is interested in computer and networking technology, digital evidence, and computer forensics.

“MALL for one, and one for MALL”

Here’s your big chance to get connected to MALL in a meaningful way.

Go to the link on the MALL Web site where you can find a great description of the various MALL committees: http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/mall/committe.htm.

Committee work is a great way to get to know other MALL members better.

AND, you can have a voice in decisions that are made about the future of MALL.

We need creative people to help in any number of ways—planning meetings, writing articles, gathering information, helping to promote MALL—to name just a few!

If you haven’t yet decided to join a committee—there’s still time!

Please call me at 612-336-4666 or e-mail me at: hporter@merchant-gould.com.

Thanks in advance!

Hope Porter
For our last “MALL History” installment, we collected some favorite MALL Memories:

There are many favorite memories from the year 2001, as MALL members pulled together in so many ways in preparation for hosting the ninety-fourth Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries here in Minneapolis. For some of us, it began with the placing of the loons on the banquet tables at AALL in Philadelphia in July, 2000. One of my favorite memories was the sight of the welcoming blue and yellow banners provided by West Group lining Nicollet Mall from Fifth Street all the way to the Convention Center in July 2001. They were such a glorious sight, making the profession of law librarianship visible in a new and exciting way.

Susan Hayles
Research Systems Librarian
Leonard, Street, and Deinard

Besides catching the big fish, my favorite MALL memory comes from earlier this year at our strategic planning retreat. It happened at some point early in the second day. We’d spent most of the previous day together, including a fun evening playing pool, Boggle, and the Game of Life. On that note, unless you are really great at Boggle, I don’t advise you to play against Connie Lenz, Rick Goheen, and Pauline Afuso. Let’s just say that having grown up as the youngest child of four, the feeling was all too familiar. But I digress. The best moment, as I said, happened the second day. I think it is safe to say that we were all very comfortable with each other and had had time to digest much of the conversation from the day before. We were ready to get to work. About an hour into the session, when it seemed many of us had so much to offer, we were literally talking over each other trying to express our ideas. Admittedly, it was a bit difficult to follow the conversation with so many eager participants all trying to contribute at once. But, this was perfect evidence that MALL is alive and vibrant. The participants not only cared enough about their association to give up a weekend to work on strategic planning, but they were enthusiastic about it. We were willing to openly disagree and work toward compromise. There was respect for the past and excitement for the future. It was a great MALL moment—way better than catching any fish.

Elvira Embser-Herbert
Hamline University School of Law
Class of 2009
MALL is an ambitious association—to select one memory is impossible for me! So here are a few thoughts and one celebration that provide a sampling of how great MALL members make MALL: the many good friendships among individuals that generate positive communication and cooperation; the many great speakers who lead our educational programs; the many productive meetings where important decisions and strategic plans emerge; the worthy donations to such causes as the flood-torn libraries in the Dakotas, the new Minneapolis Public Library building, and the battered post-Katrina libraries in Louisiana; the fabulous high points including the forty-fifth and fiftieth anniversary events AND hosting the 2001 AALL Annual Meeting.

These thoughts come to mind, but one event also stands out for me. As past MALL president for 1999-2000, the theme that year was “Inspiring the Legal Community,” and it just so happened that my presidential year coincided with the 150th anniversary of the Minnesota State Law Library, where I was Head of Technical Services. Included in the program honoring the Minnesota State Law Library were MALL members Margie Axtmann (who also happened to be AALL President that same year) and Marvin Anderson, Minnesota State Law Librarian and also the recipient that year of the Spirit of Law Librarianship Award. The notable speaker for the event was Morris Cohen, Professor Emeritus, Yale University Law School, who also completed that year his Bibliography of Early American Law—a culmination of over thirty-five years of work. For this scholarly work, Mr. Cohen was the 1999 recipient of AALL’s Joseph L. Andrews Bibliographical Award. Following the State Law Library’s anniversary celebration, MALL sponsored a dinner for program speakers and MALL members at Forepaugh’s Restaurant in St. Paul. This is one of many memorable MALL events over the years. However, it represents MALL members engaged in celebration, leadership, scholarship, collegiality, and friendship—as well as fertile ground for more of the same.

Sara Galligan
Dakota County Law Library

The MALL Librarianship Award is bestowed in recognition of a librarian's outstanding continual contributions and service to MALL. Rather than being awarded annually, it is given only when an individual has been nominated by fellow MALL members. That the award represents recognition by one's peers—and librarians are known both for their high standards and for their generosity—places great value upon it.

As chair of the MALL Nominations, Grants, and Awards Committee, I was privileged to present this award for two consecutive years. With rare exception, the award is a well-guarded secret. Often a trusted colleague is charged with guaranteeing the presence of the recipient. It was my pleasure to present the award to Pat Cummings, for whom I worked at the time, and to Mary Ann Archer. The award came as a complete surprise to both women.

I didn't trust myself to make eye contact with Pat as I read her name and a list of many examples of her contributions to this association. When MALL presented this award to Mary Ann, I chose to read the list of her contributions before announcing her name. I still recall the stunned expression on her face as she listened and the dawning recognition that she was being honored.

Although I enjoyed awarding grants, nothing can compare to honoring individuals who have set examples for the rest of us.

Susan Catterall
Research Librarian
Fredrikson and Byron
MALL Male Bonding: Last year at the MALL meeting, I happened to talk to Vicente Garces. He is a member of AALLC, of which I was the listserv manager. He told me that he moved from Eugene, Oregon. I asked him why. He said that his wife just loved Minnesota. That made me feel so good because I almost moved to Eugene at one time in my career if not for my wife. She just loved Minnesota. Well, I guess I am not the only one who made career decisions based on the wife’s preferences.

Don Zhou  
Head of Technical Services  
William Mitchell

I joined MALL in 1976 and have been a satisfied member ever since. I was privileged to serve as president in 1983-1984. The major focus of my presidential year was long-range planning, so it’s been a lot of déjà vu this year. However, my most vivid memory of that year was that my presidency coincided with the MALL Newsletter’s first serial, A Paige From Life by former MALL member and romance novelist Jan Boies. My small role in this was to “approve” this unusual departure from normal newsletter fare. Thus, for twenty-six installments, MALL members were entertained with the adventures of Paige Turner, librarian at Blacks, Hornbook & Nutshell, Ltd. I have a special connection to Paige, but more people probably remember her successor, the hugely popular series featuring Conan the Librarian (partly online at http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/mall/conan/conanhp.htm). This is just one small example of an innovative idea that came out of one Newsletter Committee meeting. For me, MALL has always been about our members. We enjoy each other, we work well together, we have good ideas, and we get things done. What more can you ask of an association? Happy anniversary MALL—live long and prosper.

Barb Golden  
State Law Librarian  
Minnesota State Law Library

My favorite MALL Memory is playing the Game of Life with Barb Golden, Liz Robb, and Kelly Danburg at the MALL Strategic Planning retreat. Not surprisingly, Barb won!

Lindsay Hutchins Matts  
Circulation Librarian  
William Mitchell

Both Don Zhou and Vic Garces gave up Oregon to brave Minnesota winters and make their wives happy!
Most of my MALL memories reinforce the notion that the more things change, the more they stay the same. MALL is certainly very different now than it was in the mid-1970s when I became a member. MALL was much smaller then; meetings were often at the Campus Club on the fourth floor of the University of Minnesota’s Coffman Union. Those meetings almost always began with sherry and a brick of cheese. The *MALL Newsletter* has certainly changed too. In the early 1980s Anne Grande and I edited it, cut and pasted the layouts, and sent the final copy to Matthew Bender—still an independent publisher—for printing and distribution to our members. Photos were few, and currency of the news was not even a dream. MALL libraries were also fewer, entirely dependent on books and card catalogs. But MALL librarians then and now are the same: still committed to their libraries, their professional organization, and their library patrons. My first mentors, colleagues, and professional friends were MALL’s founders and early members: Caroline Brede, Arlette Soderberg, Vera Carlsson, Bob Stumm, and Joe Levstick. They were wonderful, caring, fun models for me and other new members of the 70s: Anne, Phyllis Marion, Gail Daly, Barbara Golden, Suzanne Thorpe, Marvin Anderson, Mila. Today, there is a whole new group, but the best of MALL members are still working for MALL, their libraries, their patrons, and each other. Some things never change.

Peggy Hall
Hennepin County Law Library
(Retired)

My favorite MALL memory is that of the “Rowdy MALLsters.” When MALL received AALL’s Chapter Professional Development Award in 2005 for MALL’s Comprehensive Program *Locating Legal Information on the Web*, MALL members were a strong presence at the awards ceremony—in numbers and volume! It was the first time I recognized the spirit, enthusiasm, and solidarity that pervades MALL. And I was exceptionally proud to be a member.

Connie Lenz
University of Minnesota Law Library

As a relatively new MALL member, my favorite memory comes from the recent spring conference where I had a chance to hear my favorite professor—Colleen Coughlan—speak.

Jason Gravnik, Circulation Assistant
Univ. of St. Thomas, Schoenecker Law Library
Going solo. That phrase is not as scary as it may seem. A solo librarian is responsible for everything in the library. To make it work, it helps to record everything and to have a trusting boss and attorneys who don’t need everything “this instant.”

Here are the facts. I began working at Felhaber, Larson, Fenlon, and Vogt last June, and this past year has gone by very quickly. Felhaber has two locations, a Minneapolis office with forty-two attorneys and staff, and a St. Paul office with sixteen attorneys and staff. Each location has a space set aside as a library, for which I am responsible for upkeep and research. I am based in the Minneapolis office and visit the St. Paul office about every other week.

My background includes working at Merchant and Gould with Hope Porter as Library Assistant. Then follows a six year hiatus, where I managed my own research company from a home office, and three years as an elementary school librarian, a job I loved, but which the school could no longer include in the budget.

I had always thought I would go back to a law librarian position, and I am happy to be working at Felhaber. Since I am the Librarian, I get to do it all. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Online research on Internet and Westlaw
- Research at HCLL
- Ordering books
- Filing supplements
- Reviewing online versions of library resources, which includes trying to drag the attorneys into the twenty-first century
- Evaluating library space, rearranging shelves, and weeding the collection
- Helping with research for the Marketing Department
- Marketing the library (more on this later)

With all these tasks, how does one prioritize and get it all done, you may ask. But that is not all; I work only three days a week—22.5 hours total.

It has not been that hard to do, truth be told. Research comes first, always, and the attorneys here are rarely in a rush for their research. It was something I had to get used to, assuming they always need the results ASAP. It has been refreshing to be given a research request, and told, “In the next few days is fine.” Of my own initiative, I usually finish it that day or the next. This goes back to library marketing.

In the past ten months I have completed 180 research requests. Of those searches, thirty-eight were charged back to clients, for a total of thirty-six billable hours. My billing rate is one hundred dollars per hour. That
is not very many, and at this time I do not have a billable goal. The Librarian in the position before me did not do very much searching, I was told, and the administration would like to have more research done by this position. It is a goal I have been working on since I started. This has become library marketing.

The most interesting and challenging task has been marketing the library. In the first few months I attended all the section meetings for a few minutes and introduced myself. I told them my education and background and invited them to bring research requests to me. I also handed out an information sheet listing the research services I provide, my experience, the days I am in the office, and a few reasons to call the library—reasons like saving time and money for your clients, utilizing free resources, etc. It even included my picture. I added a catch phrase at the end to tie it all together: “The Felhaber Library…Not just keeping up the books anymore!”

This all seemed to be well received, and I have gained a few “regulars” who ask for my help. And I am gaining more as time goes on. I always try to finish a request that day or the next, to help promote the idea of saving time. When I deliver the results, I include a cover sheet explaining the request again, what resources were used, what was found and is attached, and what amount of time was billed to the client if any. I hope this is helpful to the attorneys, that they can pick up the stack and know what it is, and in case I have to leave it on their chair if they are out of the office.

Filing supplements and ordering books are probably the next priorities. If not done every week, the filing can stack up. We have the BNA Portfolios, BNA Labor Relations Reporter, and a couple CCH sets, to name a few. These are never very long or hard to file, but they must be done. The book ordering seems to go in cycles. Sometimes I will not process a book request for a couple of weeks, then have one week where it seems all I do is order books.

One job you may have noticed I left out was overseeing a library budget. The firm’s Executive Director handles the budget and negotiates the Westlaw contract and other subscription contracts. I process library bills and keep track of what is paid from one of four different library budgets, but I do not know the amount allocated to the library for expenses. I can use my own discretion to order books when requested and have set my own parameters for those orders. If I have any questions, I may refer them to the Executive Director. I really prefer this arrangement. I do not want to be responsible for preparing and watching a department budget.

I have included pictures of the library “space.” There is one walk-through room with a conference table that has Minnesota reference materials, the Northwest Reporter, and a Westlaw work station and printer.
The rest of the collection is split up in two hallways, forming a ‘T’, with federal materials on the short side (where I am standing); and subject materials—labor, employment, estate planning, etc.—down the long hallway. My office is at the end of this hallway. It is a nice, quiet spot, where I try to encourage visitors with a bowl of chocolate candies. More library marketing.

After a year of “going solo” I find that I like the responsibility and freedom to work in my own time and my own way. When I get stuck, I rely on the reference librarians at HCLL and friends I have made through MALL. These personal resources are invaluable for us “solos.”

One librarian’s discards are another librarian’s treasure. Check out the current MALL Exchange listings:

http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/mall/exnotice.htm

Roving Reporters & Photographers Needed!

The MALL Newsletter needs you to cover events as they unfold this summer!

Send us your news from:
- AALL in St. Louis
- ALA in New Orleans
- SLA in Baltimore
Archives Committee

The Archives Committee processed a couple boxes of materials this year.

We were of assistance to various MALL members sometimes during the past year in their pursuit of questions concerning MALL. This information was sometimes helpful.

We look forward to opening more boxes and processing more documents this coming year.

MALL members, if you have collections of files or old pictures and need a place to dispose of them, please send them to the MALL Archives at the Minnesota State Law Library.

Dennis P. Skrade, Chair

Awards, Grants, & Scholarships Committee

The Awards, Grants, and Scholarships Committee (Rick Goheen, Robin Horowitz, Miki Scholl, and board liaison Donna Trimble) awarded two grants for a total of $995.00. Mary Freyberg (Scott County) received a grant for AALL in St. Louis, and Kelly Danburg (Lindquist and Vennum) received a similar grant for AALL and CONELL. Watch for their reports in upcoming newsletter issues.

We had multiple applicants for the MALL Scholarship again this year, and it was a difficult decision. The scholarship was awarded to Deborah Hackerson (William Mitchell) to assist her in completing her MLIS from Dominican University / College of St. Catherine.

Rick Goheen, Chair

Consulting & Community Outreach Committee

Summary

This is a quiet year regarding projects, which the committee welcomed after the busy activity as a result of the Gates Grant Award in the previous year. This year we decided to monitor potential grant opportunities for the future, while establishing a connection with Reforma, a Minnesota-based organization that aims to become a significant force in library services to Latinos and the Spanish-speaking who live in Minnesota.

Some of the goals posted on the Reforma Web site include: networking within Minnesota to advocate for library services to Latinos; developing a listserv to exchange information, ideas, and innovation; developing training programs for library staff; and developing better Spanish language collections.

Our committee decided to assist Reforma in reaching for these goals by developing a Web-based guide of Latino legal resources. This guide will be posted on the Reforma Web site along with a link on the MALL website.

Tasks and Responsibilities

For the upcoming year, the committee members may want to consider mak-
ing regular updates to the Latino Legal Resource Web Guide.

As far as other tasks and responsibilities of this committee, there really isn’t any set list, as each year the tasks vary dependant on the objective set by the committee—which responds to what the community needs are. But the overarching goal is continuous: to reach out to the community at large to increase awareness and understanding of legal resources and law library services. It becomes then that the main task each year is for the committee to determine how it can position MALL to reach out to the larger community, and then establish the necessary tasks and responsibilities to accomplish the objective. As recent experiences shows, some years the committee takes on a lot (LSTA and Gates), and other years the tasks are smaller, such as this year.

Similarly, the tasks and responsibilities of the “consulting” portion of the committee will vary depending on the demand for such services. The committee avails itself to individual consultations for organizations seeking to improve law library operations. However, this is a low demand service, and in the past year we did not have any such requests. This is an area that the association could certainly market and promote (think of all the knowledge we possess!). One idea that has been tossed about in recent years is to market ourselves to public libraries (much in the same vein as the Gates Grant) by having a select few members travel to out-of-state libraries, evaluate their collections, and provide them a model checklist of titles (this list already exists).

Aimée Blatz, Chair

**Education Committee**

The Education Committee’s task this year was to organize two evening meetings and the full-day annual spring meeting. Our work was made easier by the fact that we had two ready-made topics. Our October meeting featured our annual meeting V.I.P.s. Judge Edward Toussaint and Ms. Susan Ledray, Manager of Pro Se Services for Hennepin County, spoke about their experiences attending the AALL Annual Meeting and their revitalized appreciation for law librarians and their services. In February, President Elvira Embser-Herbert rolled out MALL’s new strategic plan for member input. Our annual meeting was held at the University of Minnesota and featured Colleen Coghlan, winner of the John Finnegan Freedom of Information Award, as our lively and thought-provoking keynote speaker. Other topics included a mini-CONEll session for new members, a session for mid-career librarians, sessions on the latest information technologies, distance training and library marketing. A good time was had by all.

Mary Wells, Chair

**Exchange Committee**

The Exchange Committee has been busy again this year playing matchmaker between those who have materials and those who are looking for materials. In addition to helping unite people and materials on a local level, MALL members were able to help the broader community as well. Items that were not needed locally were referred to NELLCO (New England Law Library Consortium http://www.nellco.org/), which is compiling a list of available resources for law libraries damaged in the last hurricane season. For those more globally minded individuals, Books for Africa (http://www.booksforafrica.org/) also accepts donations of law books and journals from the past fifteen years to end Africa’s book famine. Exchange also
maintains a list of used book dealers who purchase used legal materials.

There were two main transactions of note this year. First was a request from the Stearns County Jail Education Director to help locate a small collection of primary law materials for the inmates. Exchange was able to help locate relevant items being discarded by other libraries. On the other end of the spectrum, Exchange was able to spread the word that the Minnesota Law Review was donating its archived issues from volume 1 to 89 to clear room in their storage facility.

In total, Exchange processed thirty requests this year. There were six requests from people looking for items and seventeen with items being removed from collections. Additionally, seven people were looking for information either about used book dealers or about what Exchange does.

What does Exchange do:

- Coordinates material matchmaking by posting requests to the listserv.
- Provides information about what to do with unwanted materials.

Susan Trombley, Chair

Internet Applications Committee

The main tasks of the Internet Applications Committee are the development and maintenance of the MALL public Web site and management of the MALL-L listserv. The committee also monitors developments in Web technology that may be relevant to the mission of the association.

Co-Webmasters Rick Goheen and Barb Minor continued to serve the individual MALL committee chairs and the board by preparing items for posting. No major renovation of the look and feel of the site was undertaken, though some thought has been given to converting the existing code to a more easily maintained Cascading Style Sheet (CSS) structure. Also under consideration is housing all past electronic issues of the MALL Newsletter on the Web site.

Rick continued oversight of the MALL listserv, which saw moderate traffic over the course of the year. Postings averaged 17.5 items per month.

Balloting for MALL’s slate of officers for 2005-06 was done electronically via the Web site, with the assistance of the AALL host staff in Chicago.

Barb Minor, Chair

Membership Committee

MALL ended the 2005-2006 membership year with 189 members (one more than last year). Dues for 69 percent of our members are paid for by their employers. Nine full-time student members took advantage of a free membership year (one more than last year). Twenty-eight members joined for the first time this year (one more than last year). The MALL Grant Fund received 120 dollars during the membership drive.

The type of library employing MALL members were 38 percent law firm, 26 percent law school, 18 percent government/courts, and 18 percent other. Seventy percent of our MALL members belong to at least one other professional association; 58 percent belong to AALL (a 1 percent increase from last year).

The Membership Committee conducted the annual membership drive; compiled and produced the online Membership Directory for the members-only section of the Web site; and responded to requests for mailing labels, information, and application forms. The membership application was revised and redesigned this year; it is available through the MALL Web site at http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/mall/mbrform.pdf. The committee published profiles of new members and other member news in the MALL Newsletter.
Nine life members are listed in the 2005-2006 Directory; some without contact information. To help prevent this from happening in the future, amendments to the MALL bylaws were proposed, and these were approved by the membership on May 17, 2006. Essentially there is now only one membership category. All members are required to renew their membership annually. Those who have retired and have paid dues for at least five years may elect to waive the dues requirement during their retirement.

I thank my committee members, Karla Gedell, Sheri Huppert, and Shawn Swearingen for their invaluable assistance in writing the new member biographies for the newsletter.

Barbara Golden, Chair

Newsletter Committee

The Newsletter Committee produced six bi-monthly issues. All were created electronically and published to the MALL Web site. Each issue included: two feature articles, one focusing on technology and one focusing on national issues in law librarianship; Minnesota news; member news; a feature on MALL history in honor of MALL’s fiftieth anniversary; and an “Insider’s View” piece featuring a Minnesota library. The newsletter also ran the MALL Fiftieth Anniversary Photo Contest, with a winning photo in each issue. The photo contest allowed the committee to include many pictures in volume 32.

The committee is currently working on two newsletter-related items. First, the committee is considering a possible subtitle for the newsletter title. Members have been asked to submit possible subtitles and will be asked to vote on what subtitle to add—if any—in volume 32, number 6. Second, the committee has suggested that all issues of the MALL Newsletter, including those that were originally published in print format, be made available in full text on the MALL Web site.

Many MALL members have contributed to the newsletter this year, by writing articles, sharing news, and submitting photos. The committee gratefully acknowledges their active participation in the creation of the newsletter.

Connie Lenz and Sarah Yates, Co-Chairs

Nominations & Elections Committee

The Nominations and Elections Committee had a busy year. Armed with the outcomes from the Nominations and Elections Task Force, the Nominations and Elections Committee of Lindsay Hutchins Matts, Anita Anderson, and Janet Sheets was responsible for holding the first contested election. Finding two candidates for each position who represented MALL’s membership was not an easy task. But after much begging and pleading, four excellent candidates agreed to run in the election. The election in April was run with the help of Rick Goheen and Susan Catterall. Thanks to all who made it a great year!

Lindsay Hutchins Matts, Chair

Placement & Recruitment Committee

In 2005-2006, we posted at least nine employment opportunities on the MALL Web site. These were sent to the chair from law firm, government, corporate, and academic libraries. They included both temporary and permanent positions and internships.

Outside this function, the committee created a program to reach out to library school students about the career of law librarianship. The committee decided the best way to start would be to create a brochure describing our profession. We identified
four local programs to begin with:

- St. Kate’s [http://minerva.stkate.edu/graduate.nsf/pages/mlis](http://minerva.stkate.edu/graduate.nsf/pages/mlis)
- University of North Texas’s Distance Education MLIS Degree Program in Minnesota [http://www.unt.edu/slis/distance/minnesota/indexB.htm](http://www.unt.edu/slis/distance/minnesota/indexB.htm)
- University of Milwaukee’s Distance Education MLIS Degree Program. I know in the past this program has held classes on the UWRF campus. [http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SoIS/academics/DE/index.htm](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SoIS/academics/DE/index.htm)
- MCTC’s Information Studies A.S. Degree Program. A liaison to this program could both bring more people into the MLIS programs in general and possibly into the legal aspects of librarianship. [http://www.minneapolis.edu/academicAffairs/files_pdf/catalogs/2005-06/programs/25.pdf](http://www.minneapolis.edu/academicAffairs/files_pdf/catalogs/2005-06/programs/25.pdf)

For possible content:

- [http://www.aallnet.org/committee/tfedu/education.html](http://www.aallnet.org/committee/tfedu/education.html)
- [http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/llaw/aboutllaw/ liaison.htm](http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/llaw/aboutllaw/liaison.htm)

Once created, the brochure would be sent electronically to the schools with a message asking them to provide it to their students via appropriate Web pages and/or student e-mail lists. MALL members were polled about how best to “provide a platform for advocacy to further the understanding and appreciation of law librarianship as a career,” and 87 percent selected having a liaison to law and library schools. Therefore the committee recommends that a volunteer should be solicited for the new position of “Library School Liaison.”

**Lori Hedstrom, Chair**
Public Relations Committee

This year in Public Relations...

The Public Relations Committee consisted of Pauline Afuso, Vic Garces, and Liz Robb. Together, the Public Relations Committee accomplished the following this year:

- Submitted Chapter News items for nearly every issue of AALL Spectrum, publicizing member accomplishments, the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration, and the Fiftieth Anniversary Photo Contest, where every winning photograph was submitted and published in Spectrum.
- Created displays for the anniversary party and hired a professional photographer to document the event in pictures.
- Submitted materials to nominate the MALL Newsletter for the AALL Excellence in Marketing Award.

In addition, the committee will also be working on creating an interactive table display for the activities area at the 2006 AALL Annual Meeting.

The committee would like to thank the entire MALL membership for being an engaging and active group of professionals. We have enjoyed telling everyone else how wonderful you all are!

Pauline Afuso, Chair

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee had one project this year: to update the Internet Reference Guide on MALL’s Web page. The two goals of the project were to update the links and to shift the focus of the page from links for attorneys (the list originated as part of a presentation for the Hennepin County Bar Association Tech Show) to links for law librarians. Anyone who hasn’t used this resource in a while should give it a look. Ideas for improvement are always welcome.

Anna Cherry, Chair

Appendix to Annual Report


Each year the committee evaluates which publications need updating and examines whether new publications are needed. Input from the MALL membership is encouraged and always welcome. Actions on existing or new publications are taken depending on need and the availability of committee members willing to take on projects.

Technical Services Special Interest Group (SIG)

MALL’s TS SIG met once this year. In April, the group gathered at the University of St. Thomas, Schoenecker Law Library, where Dani Roach and Carolyn DeLuca from the St. Thomas O’Shaughnessy-Frey Library demonstrated Serials Solutions’ Electronic Resource Management System (ERMS).

Watch for future TS SIG meeting announcements on the MALL discussion list. The meetings are open to all those interested in the meeting’s topic.

Paddy Satzer, Chair
## 2005—2006 MALL OFFICERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Elvira Embser-Herbert</td>
<td>612.625.1547</td>
<td><a href="mailto:embs0001@umn.edu">embs0001@umn.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President/President Elect</td>
<td>Hope Porter</td>
<td>612.336.4666</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hporter@merchant-gould.com">hporter@merchant-gould.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary-Treasurer</td>
<td>Susan Catterall</td>
<td>612.492.7086</td>
<td><a href="mailto:scatterall@fredlaw.com">scatterall@fredlaw.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>Mary Wells</td>
<td>651.962.4906</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mlwells@stthomas.edu">mlwells@stthomas.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member at Large</td>
<td>Donna Trimble</td>
<td>612.672.3239</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dtrimble@bowman-brooke.com">dtrimble@bowman-brooke.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archives</td>
<td>Dennis Skrade</td>
<td>651.297.2090</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dennis.skrade@courts.state.mn.us">dennis.skrade@courts.state.mn.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards, Grants &amp; Scholarships</td>
<td>Rick Goheen</td>
<td>651.962.4907</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rgoheen@stthomas.edu">rgoheen@stthomas.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consulting &amp; Community Outreach</td>
<td>Aimée Blatz</td>
<td>651.687-4173</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ablatz@thomson.com">ablatz@thomson.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Mary Wells</td>
<td>651.962.4906</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mlwells@stthomas.edu">mlwells@stthomas.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange</td>
<td>Susan Trombley</td>
<td>651.297.7659</td>
<td><a href="mailto:susan.trombley@courts.state.mn.us">susan.trombley@courts.state.mn.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Relations</td>
<td>Anne Grande</td>
<td>612.348.7977</td>
<td><a href="mailto:anne.grande@co.hennepin.mn.us">anne.grande@co.hennepin.mn.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Applications</td>
<td>Barb Minor</td>
<td>612.766.8518</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bminor@faegre.com">bminor@faegre.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Barbara Golden</td>
<td>651.297.2084</td>
<td><a href="mailto:barb.golden@courts.state.mn.us">barb.golden@courts.state.mn.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>Connie Lenz</td>
<td>612.625.4301</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lenzx009@umn.edu">lenzx009@umn.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominations &amp; Elections</td>
<td>Lindsay Hutchins Matts</td>
<td>651.290.6337</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lmatts@wmitchell.edu">lmatts@wmitchell.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placement &amp; Recruitment</td>
<td>Lori Hedstrom</td>
<td>651.687.5891</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lori.hedstrom@thomson.com">lori.hedstrom@thomson.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations</td>
<td>Pauline Afuso</td>
<td>651.848.5941</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pauline.afuso@thomson.com">pauline.afuso@thomson.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>Anna Cherry</td>
<td>651.297.7658</td>
<td><a href="mailto:anna.cherry@courts.state.mn.us">anna.cherry@courts.state.mn.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Services SIG</td>
<td>Paddy Satzer</td>
<td>651.962.4903</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pasatzer@stthomas.edu">pasatzer@stthomas.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webmasters</td>
<td>Rick Goheen</td>
<td>651.962.4907</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rgoheen@stthomas.edu">rgoheen@stthomas.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barb Minor</td>
<td>612.766.8518</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bminor@faegre.com">bminor@faegre.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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