

VALL Newsletter

Virginia Association of Law Libraries

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Summer 2004

2004 – 2005 VALL Officers

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President's Message



I had an experience recently that made me realize why this is such a rewarding profession. And no, it didn't involve solving a difficult reference question or revising the library's strategic plan (!). It had to do with plain old customer service and the recognition that librarians always seem to be reliable and able to see something through to the end.

It was after 5 p.m. and a journalist from Louisiana, attending a law school conference, frantically approached me in the entrance of the library. She had gone to her car, only to find that it wasn't there, and asked me who could have towed it. She explained that she had parked illegally due to a shortage of spaces, but was assured by the conference planners that she would only receive a warning and would most definitely not be towed. Adding to her stress was the fact she was late picking up her 6-year-old, who was spending his first day at a day care in a new city.

I began by calling UVA's Parking & Transportation, but alas, at 5:20 they were already long gone. I then contacted the University Police, who receive a daily fax by 5 p.m. from P&T, listing all cars towed that day. But guess what.....no fax arrived

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this particular day. So the police proceed to give me numbers for the four towing services they use, to see if and where they towed the car. At this point, the irate journalist begs me to give her the phone, and I, of course, oblige.

While she talked about irresponsibility and lawsuits to the police, I started calling the towing services on a cell phone....determined to find this car if it killed me. Two of the numbers had voice-mail, one claimed that the list of cars towed that day was in another building and she'd rather not go after it, and the last number said it wasn't on the list. I interrupted the woman, now asking to speak to a supervisor, to tell her that I could drive her to her son, or could arrange for a cab. She liked the cab idea, so I jotted down several numbers, but at this point she demanded that the police send a squad car to fetch her and her child. They agreed to send someone right away, so I walked her to the parking lot and waited the 15 minutes for the car to arrive. Somewhere in there I even managed to convince her that not everyone at UVA was an imbecile, and that Charlottesville was really a charming town. She thanked me several times, which was even more comforting, considering she had already told the policewoman and her supervisor they would be sued.

I returned to my office at 6:30, feeling drained. And even though it wasn't exactly related to what I do each day as a librarian, I had the same satisfied feeling as I do when I've given a patron the information they were after, or gone that extra mile to get a professor her case ten minutes before class. It was a service and that's what we do best.

Oh, there is an interesting end to this story. The police supervisor called me about 20 minutes later to tell me they located her car --- it was in the law school parking lot. Apparently our journalist was a little disoriented.....

And for a bit of business...VALL's new year got kicked off in Lexington on May 14 at Washington & Lee. Law School Professor Brian Murchison engaged the audience in an engrossing discussion about invasion of privacy, looking back at the Sidas and New Yorker case and ahead to the Supreme Court's direction in deciding such cases. Sally Wiant and her staff deserve a huge thank you for organizing the entire day and not missing a detail. We won't wait so long before we return to Lexington.

And finally, Bobbie Denny's role as President during 2003-2004 is greatly appreciated. Her responsiveness, hard work, and sense of humor are clearly contagious to all VALL members, and motivate us to contribute to this organization.

This is our first electronic newsletter, and I encourage you to provide feedback about it to our new editor, Micheal Klepper, his committee of one, Taylor Fitchett, or to anyone on the VALL board.

Looking forward to seeing you in Boston in July !

Cathy



VALL Committee Chairs

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Newsletter - Micheal Klepper	Nominating - As needed

IN AND AROUND VALL



Welcome New Member



Ben Doherty became the newest member of the University of Virginia Law Library's reference team in March 2004. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1999 and then spent a year as a law clerk in the Wisconsin Court of Appeals. He moved to Charlottesville in 2000 when his wife, Lisa Woolfork, became a professor in the University of Virginia's English Department. Before coming to the Law Library, Ben was the Office Administrator for the Virginia Capital Representation Resource Center, a non-profit legal group in Charlottesville that represents people on Virginia's death row.

In addition to his regular reference duties at the library, Ben focuses on assisting law faculty with in-depth research projects. He is working with Kent Olson, the head reference librarian, on developing the law faculty's use of the library staff for more expansive research questions. Ben is excited to have joined the Law Library and to help with the library's mission of providing professional research assistance to law faculty, students and other patrons.

News from the George Mason University Law Library

The end of our fiscal year is just about here, so now is a good time for us to look back on the year 2003-04 and review the changes and improvements that have occurred at the George Mason University Law Library.

We started the year with the first increase in our acquisitions budget in over five years. We used the extra funding to purchase the "Core-Plus" package of databases from BNA. A number of faculty members immediately signed up to receive BNA weekly highlights through email, and students on our journals were especially glad to have access to these databases. This year also was the first time in five years that we have not had to make

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large cuts in our subscriptions.

At the beginning of the fall semester, one of our students made an anonymous donation to the library of the complete set of West's *Sum & Substance* audio tapes and CDs and *Gilbert's Law School Legends* audio tapes. The library usually doesn't purchase study aids, but this student, who is known as our "Secret Santa," wanted to make sure that every student has access to these expensive tapes and CDs. The tapes are on reserve for one week check-out and have been heavily used. Our Secret Santa continues to give us extra copies of the most popular titles.

This was also the year that we decided to cancel almost all of the library's print Shepard's. We purchased two subscriptions to public access KeyCite from West and obtained a go-ahead from the director of the LRWA program to teach online Shepard's and KeyCite to first year students during the fall semester. In addition to the class on electronic citators, the librarians also taught two other, more traditional classes on print resources during the fall and then taught classes on Lexis, Westlaw and Advanced Internet Research during the spring.

The library made a number of advances in technology this year including adding a wireless network to the library and law school. Students have found the service simple to set-up and have been most enthusiastic about their newfound ability to use the web in places like the cafeteria and atrium. In addition, the university provided 25 new computers with flat-screen LCD monitors for the library's training lab. Finally, the library secured funding to purchase new listserv software for the university that is much more dependable than the previous software and provides a searchable archives of the law school's student lists <<http://www.law.gmu.edu/students/listservs.html>>.

The law library's technology librarians were very busy during the spring semester completely redesigning the web sites for the law school and law library. The sites went live in early April 2004 and are designed to work with all web browsers and to be accessible to persons with disabilities <<http://www.law.gmu.edu>>. One well-received service that we started last year and continue to update is a collection of Virginia Bar Exam essay questions from February 1995 through February 2004 <<http://www.law.gmu.edu/academics/bar-va.html>>.

There have been changes in personnel during the year. Meghan McGee Fatouros, who had been a reference librarian at the law library since 1998, has left. In May 2004, she received her J.D. from George Mason School of Law. In June 2004, Paul Haas, who has his law degree from the University of Michigan and a M.S. in Library Science from Catholic University, joined our staff as evening reference librarian.

All in all, this has been a good year. Our annual student survey, which was conducted in April 2004, indicates that a large majority of students are happy with library services and agree that staff members are responsive to their needs <<http://www.law.gmu.edu/libtech/studentsurvey2004.html>>. We're hoping to have another good year for acquisitions and to continue to make technology improvements to the library and building. We have a very strong and dedicated staff and a supportive administration. We have every reason to expect another good year in 2004-05.

Law Day 2004 with VBBA at Wahab Public Law Library

by Pat Jones

"The real purpose of Law Day is not to just celebrate 'the rule of law,' but rather the presence of law and the opportunity to settle our disputes in a peaceful manner," Carrollyn Cox (Chair of Law Day for the Virginia Beach Bar Association) was quoted when interviewed for a recent *Virginian-Pilot Beacon* article. Over two hundred people attended the library's Law Day celebration on Monday, May 3. They were offered the opportunity to learn about these city, state, and federal laws – both in print and myriad electronic formats. The VBBA graciously supported our community outreach efforts that morning; they scheduled several of their members to volunteer pro bono sessions to library customers with questions about legal matters.



Carrollyn Cox explained, "Lawyers are problem solvers, and in a brief and rapid manner, that's what we'll try to do on Law Day." And that is exactly what happened. In three hours, a total of twenty-seven library customers benefited from the expertise offered by seven guest members of the VBBA who worked various shifts that morning: Mike Bowerman, Kathryn Byler-Clark, Carrollyn Cox, Sarah Cox, Jeanne Lauer, Greg Pugh, and Ed Stolle. The questions for the lawyers ranged from domestic and neighbor issues to immigration and criminal concerns.

In addition to pro se litigants in attendance at Law Day, more than 35 Virginia Beach high school students enrolled in the Legal Studies Academy received tours of the law library and viewed the video "Your Day in Court." Because they may choose the legal profession as their future career, the students appreciated the chance to speak with an attorney about that topic. We extend our thanks to all of the VBBA participants for sharing their knowledge of law with our library customers and their Executive Director, Jean Keary, for relinquishing her office for the hours it was used as a conference room.



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Gifts for our drawing were donated by: Virginia Marine Science Museum, Mary Stewart Darden, Kelly Trautman, Red Mill Commons (Bath & Body Works, Coastal Edge, Inspirations Unique Gift Gallery, Pier 1, Wal*Mart), Pembroke Mall (Hungate's Creative Toys and Hobbies, Sweet Tooth Candies & Gifts, Things Remembered Personalized Gifts).

We first celebrated Law Day in 2002 and about a hundred people walked through our doors that day. Two attorneys provided answers to the ques-

tions presented by four pro se litigants. This year we increased our publicity efforts, doubled the number of visitors, and greatly increased both the number of attorneys providing "Lawyer in the Library" services and the number of pro se litigants taking advantage of that opportunity.

Law Day 2004 at Wahab was an exciting and informative day, with tasty food treats for all. The staff and volunteers hope to continue to grow in 2005!

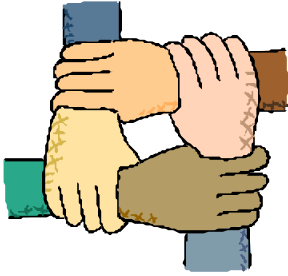
(Based on submission to Virginia Beach Bar Association newsletter.)

**All pictures taken by Wahab Public Law Library Staff
Photographer:
Kelly Trautman**



Diversity in Libraries- “Making it Real”

By Allen Moye



In early May, I attended the National Diversity in Libraries Conference. It is a biennial conference and this was the first time it was held in Atlanta, Georgia. The event was co-hosted by SOLINET (Southeastern Library Network); ASERL (Association of Southeastern Research Libraries) and the recently formed HBCULA (Historically Black Colleges & Universities Library Alliance). A number of universities, libraries and library associations contributed as sponsors, which included one paid registration. I was fortunate enough to attend due to VALL's sponsorship.

The purpose of the conference is to provide a forum where representatives from libraries of all sizes and affiliation can explore and exchange ideas on issues of diversity. This year's theme, *“Making it Real”* was selected to focus on identifying and implementing practical strategies for building staff and creating programs relevant to an increasingly diverse population.

There were a number of very interesting presentations and round table discussions over the course of the two day conference. Some examples include; (1) *Collection Development: Real Steps to include a Forgotten Group*; (2) *Developing Approaches for Working with a Diverse User Population*; and (3) *Moving Diversity from being a Goal to Being a Necessity in Your Strategic Plan*. Since many of the sessions were concurrent, I was only able to attend a few. Each of which I found to be informative and inspiring.

Denise Adkins and Lisa Hussey from the University of Missouri presented “Unintentional” Recruiting for Diversity. They identified certain unconscious actions that can influence someone to ultimately choose a career in librarianship. The presentation was based on a joint research project, which took place over a year, and included a series of qualitative interviews of Latino librarians, Latino undergraduate students and Latina and Native American LIS students. They pointed out that LIS literature says, and their research supported the fact that most people choose librarianship as a result of knowing a librarian; being comfortable in and familiar with libraries; feeling that librarianship is a service profession and feeling that librarianship is a respectable profession. They concluded by offering some suggestions for being cognizant of these sentiments

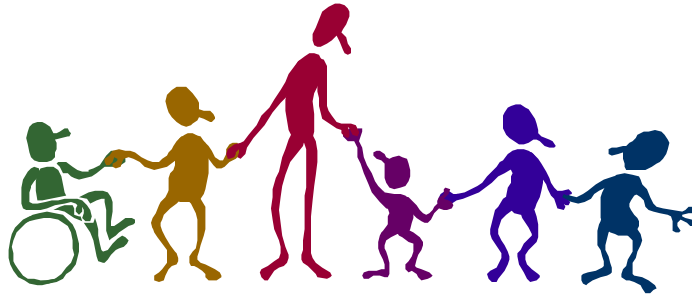
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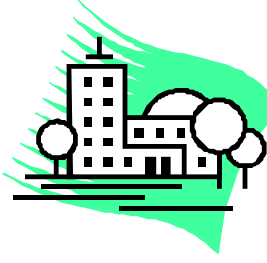
when formulating a recruitment strategy that would appeal to a broad spectrum of the population.

Another very interesting presentation was on the “Open Doors Project” from the University of Mississippi. Jennifer Ford, Interim Head of Special Collections and Jennifer Aronson, Curator of Visual Collections, described their respective roles in helping to produce a campus-wide commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the integration of the University of Mississippi, by James Meredith in 1962. Along with other library staff they participated in conducting outreach efforts to former students, soldiers, reporters and citizens in identifying and collecting items relating to the events (including federal court intervention; a two day siege of the campus; and the calling up of the National Guard) which culminated in Mr. Meredith being the first African American to attend and graduate from the University of Mississippi.

What they presented was a riveting historical account punctuated with archival audiotape and videotaped interviews of some of the still living participants from this moment in history. This project spawned several others relating to the civil rights era, and both women described collections and exhibits that they had developed through cooperative efforts with other departments from the university and the surrounding community.

Overall, this was a very well organized and informative conference that I am pleased to have had the opportunity to attend. I recommend VALL continue its sponsorship and consider sending a representative to the next conference as well.





Find Company Information

by Evelyn M. Campbell

Law firms may not be willing to use the “Sales” word yet, preferring to call their focus “business development” or “marketing” but that new focus means that more and more librarians are called upon to do corporation or company research to help their firms solicit new business. Some have been doing this for years, others are just beginning, but the resources available to them are immense. Where would one start?

Like anything else it begins with basic reference questions -- what kind of information is needed and what is it going to be used for? Are the companies public or private? It is much easier to find information on public companies than it is on a private company. If it is just basic incorporation and registered agent information that is needed, the secretaries of state websites are the best place to start. Almost all have searchable databases and the information is usually free.

In the handful of states where a fee is charged, most will still allow you to search the database for free and will provide some basic information but require payment when you want to view imaged documents and annual filings. New Jersey and Texas are the only two states which do not allow any searching of their databases unless you are a subscriber.

The databases, with the exception of those of Virginia and Connecticut, are all very user friendly and are easy to search. After flying through searches in the states' corporations databases, to encounter Virginia's and Connecticut's databases was particularly painful and for a second I thought that I gone back to a different era. Who has the time any more to try to figure out what F1 or F2 or F4 means?

Searches were performed in every states' databases, except those of Delaware and Texas and the chart is designed to help you decide where to go if you need to find basic incorporation information in any of these states.

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STATE	WEB ADDRESS	SEARCHABLE DATABASE	FEE/FREE
Alabama	http://www.sos.state.al.us/business/corporations.cfm	Yes	Free
Alaska	http://www.dced.state.ak.us/bsc/corps.htm	Yes	Free
Arizona	http://www.cc.state.az.us/corp/filings/index.htm	Yes	Free
Arkansas	http://www.sosweb.state.ar.us/corps/search_all.php	Yes	Free
California	http://www.ss.ca.gov/business/business.htm	Yes	Free
Colorado	http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/business/main.htm	Yes	Free
Connecticut	http://www.concord.state.ct.us/	Yes: difficult	Free
Delaware	https://sos-res.state.de.us/tin/GINameSearch.jsp	Yes	Free & Fee
Dist. of Columbia	http://www.brc.dc.gov/whattodo/start/cklst/corpdef.asp#	Yes	Free
Florida	http://www.sunbiz.org/index.html	Yes	Free
Georgia	http://www.sos.state.ga.us/corporations/	Yes	Free
Hawaii	http://www.businessregistrations.com/	Yes	Free
Idaho	http://www.idsos.state.id.us/corp/corindex.htm	Yes	Free
Illinois	http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/business_services/home.html	Yes	Free

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Indiana	http://www.state.in.us/sos/business/corps/general.html	Yes	Free
Iowa	http://www.sos.state.ia.us/business/	Yes	Free
Kansas	http://www.kssos.org/main.html	Yes	Free
Kentucky	http://www.kysos.com/	Yes	Free
Louisiana	http://www.sec.state.la.us/comm/comm-index.htm	Yes	Free
Maine	http://www.state.me.us/sos/cec/corp/corp.htm	Yes	Free & Fee
Maryland	http://www.dat.state.md.us/	Yes	Free
Massachusetts	http://www.state.ma.us/sec/cor/coridx.htm	Yes	Free
Michigan	http://www.michigan.gov/cis	Yes	Free
Minnesota	http://www.sos.state.mn.us/business/index.html	Yes	Free & Fee
Mississippi	http://www.sos.state.ms.us/busserv/corp/soskb/csearch.asp	Yes	Free
Missouri	http://www.sos.mo.gov/business/corporations/	Yes	Free
Montana	http://www.sos.state.mt.us/css/BSB/Contents.asp	Yes	Free
Nebraska	http://www.sos.state.ne.us/html/corpmenu.htm	Yes	Free & Fee
Nevada	http://www.sos.state.nv.us/comm_rec/	Yes	Free
New Hampshire	http://www.sos.nh.gov/corporate/	Yes	Free
New Jersey	http://www.state.nj.us/Business.shtml	Yes	Fee
New Mexico	http://www.nmprc.state.nm.us/corporations/corpshome.htm	Yes	Free
New York	http://www.dos.state.ny.us/corp/corpwww.html	Yes	Free
North Carolina	http://www.secretary.state.nc.us/corporations/	Yes	Free

(Continued on page 13)

North Dakota	http://www.state.nd.us/sec/	Yes	Free
Ohio	http://www.sos.state.oh.us/sos/busiserv/index.html	Yes	Free
Oklahoma	http://www.sos.state.ok.us/	Yes	Free & Fee
Oregon	http://www.filinginoregon.com/	Yes	Free
Pennsylvania	http://www.dos.state.pa.us/corps/site/default.asp	Yes	Free
Rhode Island	http://www2.corps.state.ri.us/corporations/	Yes	Free
South Carolina	http://www.scsos.com/corporations.htm	Yes	Free
South Dakota	http://www.sdsos.gov/Corporations/	Yes	Free
Tennessee	http://www.state.tn.us/sos/service.htm	Yes	Free
Texas	http://www.sos.state.tx.us/corp/index.shtml	No	Fee
Utah	http://www.commerce.utah.gov/cor/corpforms.htm	Yes	Free & Fee
Vermont	http://www.sec.state.vt.us/corps/corpindex.htm	Yes	Free
Virginia	http://www.state.va.us/sec/division.htm	Yes: difficult	Free
Washington	http://www.secstate.wa.gov/corps/	Yes	Free
West Virginia	http://www.wvsos.com/common/startbusiness.htm	Yes	Free
Wisconsin	http://www.wdfi.org/corporations/	Yes	Free
Wyoming	http://soswy.state.wy.us/corporat/corporat.htm	Yes	Free

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If basic information is needed and states' websites do not provide it, and in the case of Virginia and Connecticut, even though the information is free, but because the system is clunky and frustrating, I'd much rather use a service like **Accurint** (<http://www.accurint.com/>) and pay the dollar or two needed to get the same information. Accurint is still one of the best resources for getting corporation filings information at a very low cost. Information is available for all states except Georgia, District of Columbia and Maine, which will be added soon according to Accurint's website. This is one of those services where no subscription fee is charged -- you only pay for what you use and you get to choose what information you want in your report.

Then there's the **Security and Exchange Commission's EDGAR** database (<http://sec.gov/edgar/searchedgar/webusers.htm>) for filings for all public domestic corporations. There is quite a bit of flexibility in using this system and the **Quick EDGAR Tutorial** on the website is a must read. Printing is still not very "pretty" but if it is information rather than looks that is required, this free service is what you need. There are other free websites that provide similar EDGAR information and a simple search using Google will find those.

Use **Global Securities Information's Livedgar** (<http://www.gsionline.com/>) if appearances and information are important. This is a good resource to keep an eye on as things are constantly being added to the various databases in the system. It also has something that is fairly new called **Company Round Up** which is a very nice looking report and great for a business development handout which includes basic company information, registrations, stock chart and data, subsidiary, mergers and acquisitions and income statement. This is rather a good deal for the money. The amount you pay is dependant on your contract with the company.

We must not overlook the traditional sources of company information like **Dun and Bradstreet** (<http://www.dnb.com/us/>) and **Hoovers** (<http://www.hoovers.com/free/>). **Dun and Bradstreet** is a highly trusted source of company information which includes the history of the company, subsidiary information, UCC filings and financials. What you pay depends on your contract with the company. While information on US companies is not cheap, it is not nearly as expensive as D&B's report on foreign companies which can run into hundreds of dollars. The cost will vary, depending on the country in which the company is located. **Hoovers** is certainly worth checking out and has some free information that it is broken down into the following categories -- Fact sheet (basic information on the company) and News. The people and advanced financial information are only for subscribers.

The two information "giants" -- **Lexis** and **Westlaw** also have some very well developed sources of company information, too numerous to be listed in the entirety. A particular favorite on Lexis is the company Disclosure report. This is a large, comprehensive report, and worth every penny if you are looking for detailed information on a company. If you want "bang for your buck" this is the report to get. What you end up paying will vary depending on your contract with Lexis. There are also other databases to look at -- if you are just looking for the hierarchy of a company the Directory of Corporate Affiliations database is the place to look.

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Similar to Lexis, **Westlaw** has all kinds of useful company information and one worth highlighting, is the SDC Worldwide Acquisitions & Mergers database, which provides information on all announced, completed, or pending mergers and acquisitions worldwide that involve a change in ownership of at least five percent. Coverage starts in 1981 for U.S. data and 1985 for non-U.S. data. Always check the two vendors, they are bound to have something you can use.

Oftentimes we are called upon to also provide information on the litigation profiles of companies -- where they have been sued, what is the nature of suit and which law firm represented them. There are several ways to get to this information and of course, getting information on federal cases is much, much, easier than finding the same information on state cases. Probably the cheapest way to do this is to run the company's name through **Pacer's** U.S. Party/Case name index (<http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov/>) which gives several options -- you can restrict by type of court; nature of suit, etc. If you have a company that has not been involved in too many suits, this is the cheapest way to go and you can look at the dockets to get the law firm representation information for a very minimum fee.

You can do the same searches in **Courtlink** (www.lexisnexis.com/courtlink/online/) and in **CourtExpress** (<http://www.courtexpress.com/>) for a higher fee. But if you have a company that has been involved in a lot of litigation and you are looking in horror at a long list of cases and need to know the nature of suit and which law firms represented the company in the many lawsuits, there is something on **Courtlink** called **Strategic Profiles** which is quite a gem.

The Litigant Profile is the one that is particularly useful to business development folks. The profiles are basically the litigation profile of a company -- you search for the company name; define the timeframe and run the profile and the results are categorized in Nature of Suit Analysis, Jurisdictional Analysis, Federal District Court Analysis, Law Firm Analysis and also provides a listing of the cases involving the company. The profiles make for a good visual presentation with colorful pie charts and aesthetic arrangements of information. At \$150 per profile, this is rather steep but if all the work is done for you in one search and if it is a particularly important business pitch with the potential of untold revenue, it will be worth every penny. Courtlink also provides profiles for Attorney/Law Firm; Judicial; Court; and Nature of Suit -- at a lower cost of \$75 per profile. A feature that was just recently added to the profiles is that the user has the ability to access (for free) the Directory of Corporate Affiliations from the profile search screen and this directory is a great source for subsidiary information.

Courtlink and CourtExpress also provide email alerts to prompt you when action takes place in particular courts for whatever boundaries you have set up -- whether you've asked to be notified when a particular company files suit or has a suit filed against it or whether you just need to know when there is activity in a particular case you are monitoring for a client.

It is also good to stay on top of what is happening in particular business areas or with particular companies through the news sources on Lexis and Westlaw. Both provide email alerts.

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Submissions needed for the VALL Newsletter! We need contributions from VALL members in order to have full and interesting issues. Please submit according to the following schedule:

Issue:	Submit by:
Summer 2005	June 15
Fall 2004	September 15
Winter 2005	December 15
Spring 2005	March 15

The *VALL Newsletter* is published quarterly by the Virginia Association of Law Libraries, a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries. Contributions, comments, and news items, should be directed to the editor, Micheal Klepper, at University of Virginia Law Library, 580 Massie Road, Charlottesville, Va. 22903. Electronic submissions should be sent to mtk@virginia.edu. Subscriptions are included in the cost of membership.

For membership information, please call or write Robert Davis, Prince William County Circuit Court Library, 9311 Lee Avenue, JU-170, Manassas, Virginia 20110-5555, (703) 792-6262 or rdavis@pwegov.org

The opinions expressed in the Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Virginia Association of Law Libraries.

Editor:

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VALL WANTS YOU!

Here's your opportunity to be actively involved in one of the most dynamic chapters of AALL. Sign up to serve on one or more of the following committees and you'll not only grow professionally, but also have a chance to get interact with law library colleagues from across the Commonwealth!

- *Grants*
- *Legal Information Outreach*
- *Legislative Awareness*
- *Membership*
- *Newsletter*
- *Placement*
- *Publications*
- *Public Relations*
- *Preservation*
- *Program*
- *Recruitment*
- *VLA Liaison*

For more information, contact Cathy Palombi at 434-924-3519 or via email at ccp7m@virginia.edu



2004 VALL SUMMER LUNCHEON MEETING

*Tuesday, July 13
Noon – 2 p.m.*

Skipjack's Restaurant (approximately ½ mile from the Convention Center —head East on Boylston and make a right on Clarendon)
199 Clarendon St.
Boston, MA



Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

We will order from a limited lunch menu. The cost is \$20 per person.

Please make checks payable to VALL and send, along with registration, by June 25 to:

Cathy Palombi
UVA Law Library
580 Massie Rd.
Charlottesville, VA 22903

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Win with Westlaw® Contest

Sponsored by West Librarian Relations

Do you enjoy the sense of fulfillment after a job well done, knowing you can now rest easy? We thought so. West Librarian Relations would like to support your resting easy with a small research contest. The winner will receive a pair of captain's chairs, so you and a friend can tailgate, lie out in the sun (with SPF of course) or just kick back and relax, content with your stellar research skills.



We will hold this contest each issue by offering a new research question. Participating librarians should submit the research steps they would take to answer the question using Westlaw®. Submissions should be emailed to wendy.brown@thomson.com.

The first submission with the appropriate research process will win* ! We will print the intended research steps and the winner in the following month's newsletter. Good luck and happy researching!

*Librarians excel in knowing alternate ways to obtain accurate information. Thus, *any* Westlaw® research process resulting in the correct answer can be a winner.

Here is a sample research question and answer:

Q: It is June 14, 2004: Flag Day. Appropriately, on this day the Supreme Court has issued an opinion on the controversial matter of the pledge of allegiance and whether the phrase "under God" violates the Establishment and Free Exercise clauses of the Constitution. Where can I find the opinion as well as the merit and amicus briefs for the case?

A: The SCT database contains Supreme Court opinions within twenty minutes of the announcement of a decision. A query as simple as "pledge of allegiance" & DA(6/14/2004) would work. Embedded at the top of case documents are links to [Briefs and Other Related Documents](#). This link will take you to the bottom of your case where all the related briefs are listed and linked. Many briefs are also available in .pdf format. Briefs are placed online at an average of five business days after their release. For more information on brief content, both federal and state, go to <http://directory.westlaw.com> and access the Scope screen for our Briefs Multibase (BRIEFS).

Now, here is the real thing. I look forward to hearing from you with your savvy research expertise.

Q: How can I quickly see if any pending legislation exists that, should it pass, would affect 50 U.S.C. §1861 (the 'library' provision of the USA PATRIOT Act)?



SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!

Have you: Attended a seminar? Published an article? Received an award? Been elected or appointed to an office or committee? Traveled out of the state or country?

TELL US ABOUT IT! WE WANT TO HEAR WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING!

WHO? _____

WHAT? _____

WHERE? _____

WHEN? _____

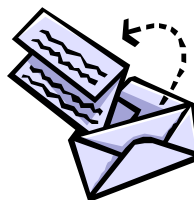
WHY? _____

HOW? _____

Submitted by _____

Library _____

Phone _____



Send your news to:

Micheal Klepper

? Email Address:

mtk@virginia.edu

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If business rankings are of interest, check out this website -- www.rileyguide.com/busrank.html, which provides a nice compilation of various business rankings. Be aware of local publications too which may provide similar information. For instance the **Virginia Business Magazine** provides an annual survey which comes out in July which gives information on the performance of businesses in Virginia. The **Washington Post** also puts out the Post 200 which lists the 125 largest public companies with headquarters in the District of Columbia, the 20 largest financial institutions with headquarters in Maryland, Virginia or the District, the 15 largest private companies in the metro area and the 20 largest public companies in Maryland and Virginia. To view the Post 200 registration is required but it's free.

For law firm surveys, turn to the American Lawyer Media which has collected all its law related surveys in one spot: www.law.com/career_center/lists_rankings.shtml.

Company or business research covers such a large area and the resources are so vast that it is always a good idea to look for entities which have done half the work for you and made a compilation of some of these sources and made them available on the web. Libraries are always a good place to look for this and I have listed a few of my favorite websites:

University of Virginia's Darden Library:
<http://intranet.darden.virginia.edu/library/home.htm>

Rutgers University Libraries:
http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/rr_gateway/research_guides/busi/company.shtml

Duke University Libraries:
<http://www.lib.duke.edu/reference/subjects/business/>

Columbia University Libraries:
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/business/ir/cmpr.html>

University of California (Berkeley) Libraries:
<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/BUSI/bbg18.html#compa>

Just looking through the compilations of these different libraries will show you the many, many, different resources available -- there are some that are cited on list after list and while there are others that are only mentioned once or twice but are equally as important. You will develop your own favorite resources and websites as you go through your research.



VALL

Virginia Association of Law Libraries Financial Statement



GENERAL SUMMARY: May 2003 — April 2004

RECEIPTS

Membership Dues:	\$3,025.00
Meetings:	\$6,073.00
Newsletter:	\$187.50
Donations:	\$145.00

EXPENDITURES

Membership:	\$ —
Meetings :	\$1,483.39
Newsletter:	\$2,208.52
Grants:	\$1,795.00
Supplies:	\$ —
Post Office Box:	\$ —
Postage:	\$44.66
VALL Donations:	\$450.00
VALL Memberships:	\$110.00
Educational Sponsorships:	\$ —
Miscellaneous:	\$270.50

TOTAL: \$9,430.50

TOTAL: \$6,362.07



BEGINNING BALANCE:	\$8,546.59
RECEIPTS:	+\$9,430.50
EXPENDITURES:	<u>-\$6,362.07</u>
ENDING BALANCE:	\$11,615.02



For the full report, contact Bill Katz at bill.katz@troutmansanders.com



Murder in the Stacks and Other Summer Tomfoolery

By Taylor Fitchett



*Find me a sane man and I will cure
him for you-Carl Jung*

Several summers ago while at the lake house of a librarian friend I discovered an empty hammock with my name on it next to a glass of Long Island tea and a small red paperback with the intriguing drawing of library bookstacks on its cover. Its title was *Murder in the Stacks*. Of course, being a librarian myself, I believed when I flopped into the hammock that I was about to fall asleep reading a book about broken spines and other preservation-type horrors. It was a pleasant surprise to find that *Murder in the Stacks* was actually a library whodunit written by Marion Boyd Havighurst about a murder in a small college library in Ohio during the 1930s. Sipping my tea and nodding through the story it occurred to me how often the library stacks are the setting for mysteries in novels and film. In Hollywood style, secrets unfold there, lovers meet, and sometimes a body is found.

I have lived among the stacks for over thirty years, and while I have found some lovers scattered here and there, I have never found a dead body. This does not disappoint me, however, because what I have found has engrossed me more. At this point you, no doubt, are expecting a well-preserved library director like myself, to say something profound about the words of legal scholars that rest between the pages of the books that line the shelves. Glance again at the title of this column. What has been most entertaining over the years that I have roamed the stacks is not dead bodies but naked bodies. It has never been clear to me why people choose libraries to expose their physical properties-or lack thereof, but it is not unusual to find a live nude in the gallery. You, who also work in libraries, probably have as many stories about the phenomenon as I. In fact, if we compile all of our stories I'll bet we could publish a bestseller, especially if we include a few incidents where the exhibitionist ended up dead, say frozen stiff between the stacks in a remote, overly-chilled area of special collections.

My own first glimpse of naked bodies in a library came on a summer evening in 1972. I was at the circulation desk shortly before closing, trying to get the McBee cards filed before I left for the night. (If you do not know what McBee cards are, be happy. You are young). Through the reading room I heard a shriek that could have only come from a pig being slaughtered or a young co-ed who had just spotted five streakers. The scream, together with the thunderous noise of running feet echoing through the stacks, led me to investigate. I was, after all, the responsible person on duty. I arrived at the scene to witness a couple of bare behinds leave through a fire exit and escape to a waiting car. Suddenly the elevator doors behind me opened and two Barney Fife-like security guards, pistols drawn, flew out yelling, "Which way did they go!" Fortunately for all, the frat boys were long gone and the guards could holster their guns.

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A few years later, another state and another library, a colleague, Sue, and I were on an evening reference shift when the ordinary raincoat flasher dropped by the reference desk. This was Sue's first flasher experience. After Mr. Pervert ran from the building she could not stop shaking until I slapped her and brought her back to reality. But to my everlasting shame, I could not stop laughing until she started crying and said I was mean. Perhaps I was, but in my defense, when I was in library school the curriculum did not include the bare essentials of librarianship. By today's standards we are to feel sorry for the clothing-challenged among us, but I was young, not so politically correct, and I thought the guest performance was slightly more exciting than unjamming the IBM Copier II, the high point of most evening reference shifts.

My most interesting *naked-among-the-stacks* occurrence happened at yet another institution and over a period of months. Students and library staff members complained to me that a naked man wandered the stacks at odd hours of the evening. Local police and campus security had been alerted, but we never even came up with a composite drawing. It's strange, but I guess when you cannot identify a guy by the clothes he was wearing, describing elbows, knees, and other parts gets a bit ticklish. We could not even agree on a hair color, height or age of this stack stud. His M.O. was to appear out of nowhere stark naked, casually stroll among the stacks, pick up a book, and begin reading. Just as suddenly he would disappear. In time, every male from the janitor to the Dean would be under suspicion for being "*The Reader*."

One Sunday afternoon I answered my home phone to hear the voice of Herbie, a panicked member of my staff, exclaim that *The Reader* had been spotted in the KFs. Now we have him, I thought! "Herbie," I said, "Where is he? What's he doing?" The next sound I heard was a thud as Herbie stuttered that he would go see and dropped the phone. "Come back, Herbie," I cried. "Don't scare him off!" But it was too late. When he finally picked up the receiver again he reported that *The Reader* was browsing a volume of the Southern Reporter but had reshelved it before he made his exit. It certainly made me wonder if the guy could have been a librarian. We never learned *The Reader's* identity, but when the new academic year began he seemed to be among the graduates.

If the stacks could only talk, a new genre of bibliomysteries would emerge to produce revenue that would pump up sagging collection budgets for all times. For among the dusty shelves and dark recesses in our libraries are many stories and many secrets, some of which reveal the naked truth about humanity and other which simply reveal the naked. I wonder where Ms. Havighurst's mystery would have gone had she spent more time among the stacks. Well, I'll ponder this from the hammock, between the rainstorms, with a glass of tea.....

Have a wonderful summer!

Taylor

Minutes of the VALL Business Meeting Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA May 14, 2004

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by VALL President Bobbie Denny.

Bobbie thanked West for providing the lunch bags and LexisNexis for providing the lunch at today's meeting.

Minutes (Tisha Zelner, Secretary)

The minutes of the February 27, 2004 business meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report (Bill Katz, Treasurer)

Bill Katz distributed copies of the VALL financial statement for the period May 2003-April 2004. Bill highlighted a few items, such as proceeds of \$2138 from the joint VLA/VALL conference in November 2003 and a contribution of \$505 from Lexis to sponsor a VALL grant to attend the AALL conference in July 2004.

Committee Reports

Bylaws (Joyce Janto, Chair)

Joyce was not present, but Bobbie called for volunteers to serve on this committee in 2004/05. One of the issues the committee will explore in the upcoming year is the use of electronic voting.

Grants (Rae Best, Chair)

Three grants have been awarded.

Allen Moye was awarded the VALL grant to attend the Fourth National Diversity in Libraries Conference (NDLC) held in Atlanta, Georgia on May 4-5, 2004.

Jane Baugh was awarded the LexisNexis Librarian Relations-sponsored VALL grant to attend the 97th AALL Annual Meeting and Conference in Boston on July 10-14, 2004.

Carolynn Osborne was awarded VALL AALL Chapter Grant to attend the 97th AALL Annual Meeting and Conference in Boston on July 10-14, 2004.

Handbook (Marie Hamm, Chair)

Marie reported that the new VALL Leadership Handbook is being prepared for posting to the VALL website. The handbook is about 45-50 pages in length, so Paul Birch is working to break it down into smaller documents for easier downloading from the website.

Legal Information Outreach (Leanne Battle, Chair)

No report.

Legislative Awareness (Isabel Paul, Chair)

No report.

Membership (Robert Davis, Chair)

Robert Davis was not present, but Cathy Palombi gave a brief report. VALL has three new members for a total of 157 members. The newest members are: Wendy R. Brown, Melanie Lugo and Gale Smith.

Cathy thanked Leanne Battle and LexisNexis for support of the printed membership directory.

Newsletter (Margaret Christiansen and Marie Hamm, Co-chairs)

Margaret was unable to attend this meeting. Marie thanked everyone who contributed to the *VALL Newsletter* during the past two years that she and Margaret served as co-editors.

Placement (Barbara Cumming, Chair)

No report.

Program (Cathy Palombi, Chair)

The summer meeting will be held at Skipjack's Seafood Emporium in Boston from noon to 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 13, 2004. Registration will be \$20.00 per person with lunch selected from a limited version of the restaurant's menu. The registration form is available on the VALL website. To register, send a check payable to VALL, along with a completed registration form, by June 25, 2004, to Cathy. The mailing address is on the form.

Preservation (John Barden, Chair)

The Preservation Junction column will continue to appear in the *VALL Newsletter*.

Public Relations (Jill Burr, Chair)

Jill Burr is no longer able to be active in VALL since leaving the Wahab Public Law Library for a position with the Pungo-Blackwater Area Library. Bobbie called for volunteers to serve on this committee during the upcoming year.

Publications (Gail Zwirner, Chair)

Gail Zwirner was not present. Anyone interested in writing an article for the February 2005 "all librarian" issue of *Virginia Lawyer* should contact Gail.

Recruitment (Taylor Fitchett, Chair)

There was no report from the committee, but Taylor did make a pitch to encourage everyone to contribute to the *VALL Newsletter*.

Vendor Relations (Nancy Loewenberg, Chair)

No report.

VLA Liaison (Barbie Selby, Chair)

Barbie is no longer able to be active in VALL. Bobbie called for volunteers to serve as VLA Liaison.

New Business

There was no new business raised from the floor.

VLA Legislative Support

Bobbie raised the issue of VALL's contribution to support the activities of the VLA Legislative Liaison. Bill received a statement from VLA suggesting a donation of \$200, the amount contributed by VALL last year.

There was a suggestion from the floor to increase the donation to \$250. After further discussion, a motion was made and passed to support the VLA legislative activities in the amount of \$300.

Chapter Liability Insurance

Bobbie raised the issue of VALL's chapter liability insurance and explained the need to streamline the payment process and avoid late payments. A motion was made and passed to authorize the Treasurer to automatically renew the chapter liability insurance when the bill is received from AALL without waiting for a vote of approval by the executive board.

SEAALL 2004 Annual Meeting

Tim Coggins and Hazel Johnson were not present, but Bobbie congratulated them on having done a good job as co-chairs of the local arrangements committee for the meeting held in Richmond, Virginia on March 25-27, 2004.

SEAALL 2004 Service Award

Jim Heller was not present, but Bobbie congratulated him on receiving the 2004 Service to SEAALL Award.

AALL 2004 Annual Meeting

Gail Warren is program chair for the 97th AALL Annual Meeting and Conference in Boston on July 10-14, 2004 and she encouraged everyone to attend. The program committee received 265 program proposals for 66 program slots.

VALL 2004 Summer Meeting

The VALL summer meeting will be held during the AALL Annual Meeting in Boston in July. Bobbie reminded everyone of the date, time, and location of the VALL luncheon in Boston--Tuesday, July 13, 2004, noon, Skipjack's Restaurant.

VALL VIP to AALL Annual Meeting

Terry Long and Gail Warren will serve as hosts to Kathy Mays, VALL's Chapter VIP at the AALL conference in Boston. Kathy is the Director of Judicial Planning for the Supreme Court of Virginia. Gail told those present a little bit about what Kathy does in her position and what she has done for law librarians, especially librarians in the court environment. Everyone who attends the meeting in Boston is encouraged to make Kathy feel welcome.

Outgoing Board Members

Bobbie acknowledged the outgoing board members: Charles Oates (Immediate Past President), Tisha Zelner (Secretary), and Allen Moye (Director).

Election Results

Tisha Zelner announced the results of the 2004 election. The incoming board members are: Marie Hamm, Vice President/President-elect; Leanne Battle, Secretary; and Therese Schmid, Director.

Presidential "Hand-off"

With the election results announced, Bobbie turned over control of the meeting to new President Cathy Palombi.

2004/05 Committee Chairs

Cathy announced the committee chairs for 2004-05.

Bylaws - Joyce Janto
Grants - Rae Best
Handbook - Gail Warren
Legal Information Outreach - Bill Magee
Legislative Awareness - Chris Byrne
Membership - Robert Davis
Newsletter Editor - Michael Klepper
Nominations - Appointed as needed
Placement - Barbara Cummings
Preservation - Isabel Paul
Programs - Marie Hamm
Public Relations - Eric Welsh
Publications - Gail Zwirner
Recruitment - Marty Rush
Vendor Relations - Nancy Lowenberg
VLA Liaison - Terry Long

AALL Meeting and Roundtables in Boston

The AALL Chapter Leadership Roundtable: Treasurer Training will be held on July 12, 2004. Bill Katz is unable to attend, so Cathy asked that anyone who would like to attend in his place please let her know.

Michael Klepper and Gail Zwirner will attend the Council of Newsletter Editors (CONE) meeting on July 13, 2004.

The AALL Chapter Leadership Roundtable: Public Relations will be held on July 13, 2004. Cathy invited anyone on the public relations committee, or anyone who plans to volunteer to serve on the committee, to attend this roundtable.

Presidential Thank You

New president Cathy presented outgoing president Bobbie with a gift thanking her for her service.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.