

# The Southern California Association of Law Libraries, 1952-1955

CHARLES W. ARMSTRONG

The Southern California Association of Law Libraries is now three years old and has approximately 35 members. The majority of the members live and work in the metropolitan area of Los Angeles, but some are located as far as 200 miles from the city. All types of institutions in southern California having law libraries as a part of their organization are represented. These institutions include colleges, universities, federal agencies, county law libraries, law firms and private industry.

The present group has expanded from an original membership of 15 who met at the University of Southern California in December, 1952.

At that first meeting the organizational structure was begun which resulted in recognition as a local chapter by the American Association of Law Libraries at its 1953 annual meeting in Los Angeles. The officers of the chapter have been:

1952-1953

President: Charles W. Armstrong  
Vice-President: (Mrs.) Frances K. Holbrook  
Secretary-Treasurer: (Mrs.) Priscilla Rider

Mr. Charles W. Armstrong is at Los Angeles County Law Library, 310 West First Street, Los Angeles 12, California.

1953-1954

President: (Mrs.) Frances K. Holbrook  
Vice-President: Robert W. Lewis  
Secretary-Treasurer: James H. Tibbetts

1954-1955

President: Riley Paul Burton  
Vice-President: (Mrs.) Else E. Richards  
Secretary-Treasurer: J. D. Stephenson

For the first two years the chapter meeting place was rotated between the law libraries of the University of Southern California, the University of California at Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Law Library and the firm of O'Melveny and Meyers. After this experimental period a policy has been adopted of having the Los Angeles County Law Library as headquarters. Meetings are still held at the other libraries from time to time as occasion warrants. The central location of the County Law Library and its proximity to available places for dinner has made it the most convenient meeting place.

The chapter has been fortunate in holding the interest of the original group and attracting new members by a variety of programs and a wise selection of times and places for meetings.

Friday nights give out-of-towners an opportunity to attend a majority of the time. The willingness of all members to participate in chapter activities contributes in great measure to stimulating and holding interest in meetings.

Group activities cover a variety of subjects from a demonstration of new equipment to reviews of new books. Questions asked, discussed and answered include: how about readers for micro-cards and film, that new electric eraser, photo-copying equipment, time and work saving gadgets, methods of ordering, keeping abreast of new publications and claiming continuations, book selection, etc.

The chapter uses talents of all members to maintain program interest and

to promote librarianship. Talent outside the membership is often used. Leading attorneys, university faculty members and others are frequent guests and they give their views on what they expect and want from the law library. Guest appearances are usually followed by a round table discussion with questions and comment from all.

The chapter is currently engaged in a survey of the law library collections and facilities of the southern California area.

It is expected that this project will result in a compilation of information about the participating libraries that will be useful for the legal profession and for law librarians of southern California.