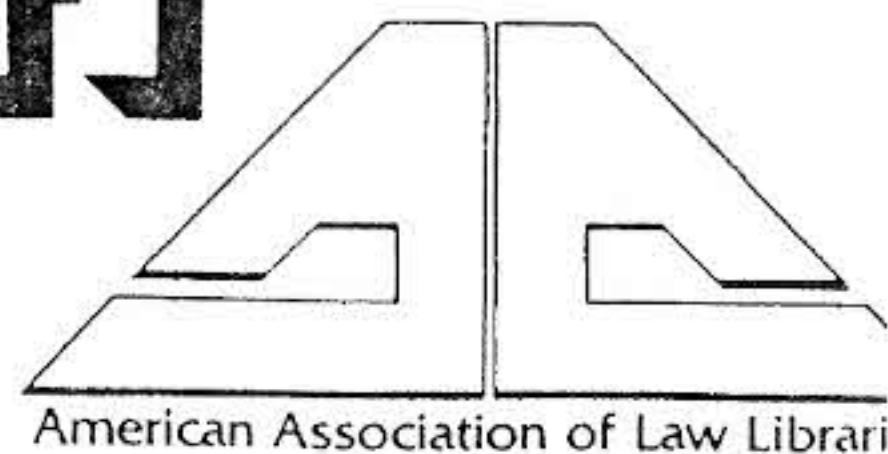


NEWSLETTER

State, Court, and County Law Libraries Section

Volume 14, No. 4

May 1988



American Association of Law Librarians

SCCLL ANNUAL MEETING - SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 26, 1988

Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel

7:00 - 7:30 Registration (See form inside.)

7:30 - 8:45 Continental Breakfast and Business Meeting

8:45 - 11:00 PROGRAM

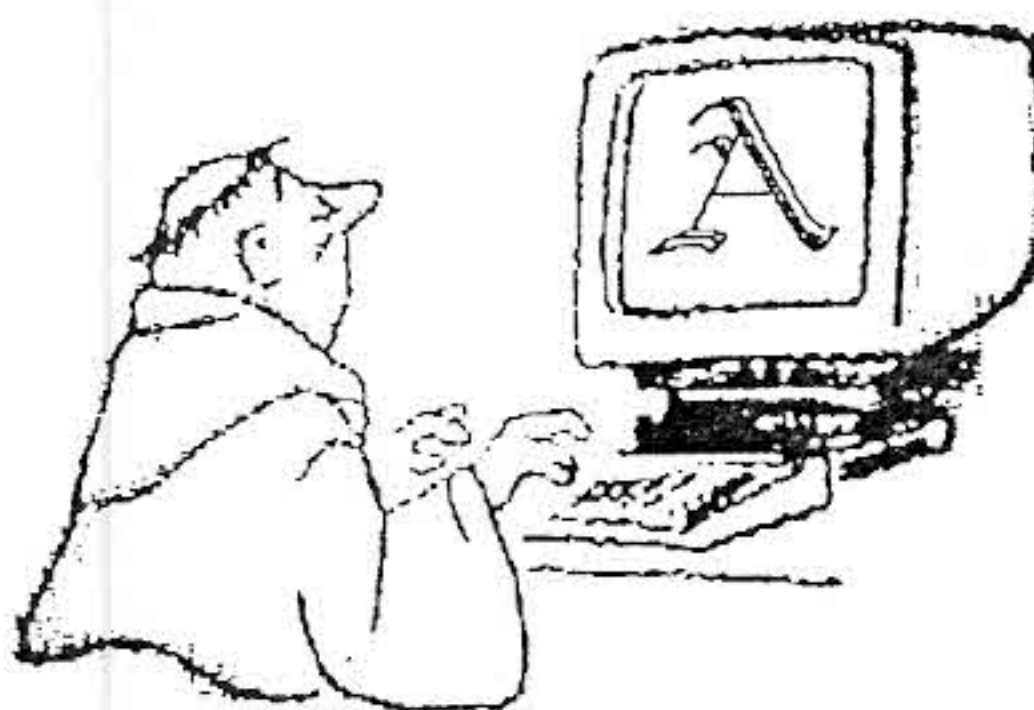
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LIBRARY AUTOMATION: IS THERE TIME TO CATCH UP ?

Richard Boss, President, Information Systems Consultants, Inc.
Noted consultant in the field of library automation and technology

BUILDING YOUR OWN COMPUTER

Mark Wilson, Featured instructor in the only videotape on "How to
Build a Generic Computer"



SERIALS

MAY 23 1988

Univ. of Washington
Gallagher Law Library

* * * * *

11:00 - 12:30 SETTING THE AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE OF SCCLL:
A Goals-setting Discussion led by the
Special Committee on the Future of SCCLL

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As you are all aware, this is the "forms" issue. Pages 21--23 contain registration forms for the Sunday annual meeting, committee sign-up for 1988-89, and membership/subscription lunch registration.

Please take note of other important items also requiring your attention BEFORE the Atlanta meeting: Fred Baum needs a check if you wish to enter the computer raffle (p.6); let Marcia Koslov know your individual preferences for Future Forum involvement (p.14); David Badertscher would like your input on the options he presents relating to library director qualifications (p.16).

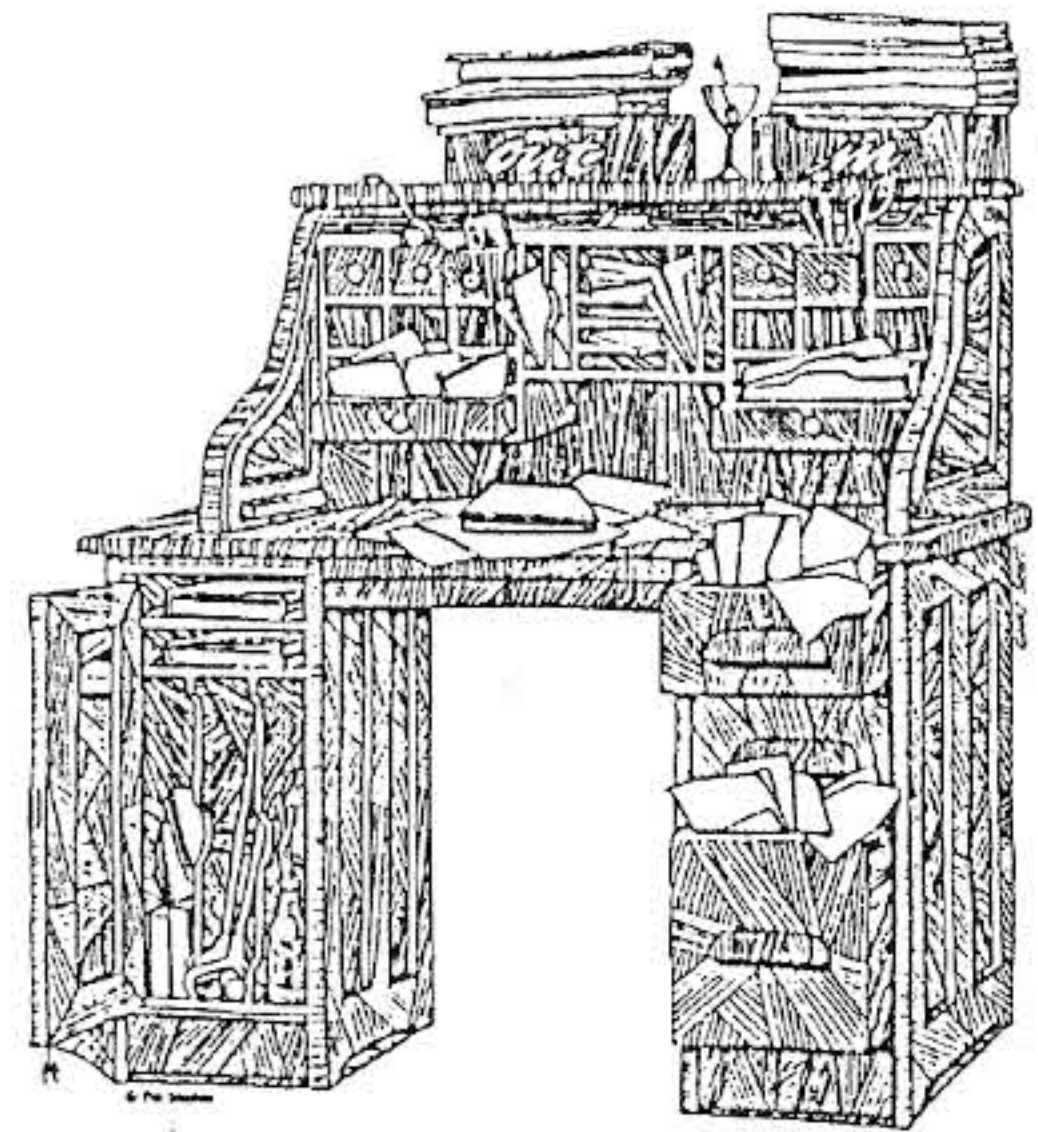
Desirable as it would be, all forms and requests for input & information will not fit on the inside back cover page!

.....Ed.

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!

Now that my term as chairman of SCCLL is on the wane, and my last chance to be long-winded has arrived, I suppose that my feelings must be similar to those of my predecessors--a little regret for not having accomplished all I would have wished, a little pride for having brought off a few new things, a great deal of appreciation for the dedication and hard work of many admired colleagues, boundless gratitude for the friendships I've been fortunate enough to enjoy, and hope for even better times for our libraries and our profession.



Certainly one of the highlights of the year for me professionally was the opportunity to attend the National Conference on Court Technology in Denver a few weeks ago. Assisted by grants from AALL and SCCLL, officers Fred Baum, Beth Schneider, Terry Hemming and I were delighted to meet up with SCCLL colleagues David Badertscher, who was on the conference faculty, Frances Campbell, Marcia Koslov, Erick Lowe and Karen Toren. The nine of us held our own among 1,450 judges and court administrators, each attending about a dozen sessions--the maximum possible out of an offering of 58. The sessions ran the gamut from simplistic to futuristic, and the audience ranged from wide-eyed novices to jargon-spouting techies. We law librarians observed with pride that many of our colleagues are way ahead of the judges and administrators in their knowledge of computer applications. We also noted that the quality of AALL educational programs is frequently superior to what we witnessed in Denver.

As the one librarian of the program, Dave Badertscher did an excellent job of informing the judicial audience about the state of the art in law library technology. He explained that judges' research needs can best be served by relying upon the professional skills of law librarians. Dave's detailed syllabus and bibliography were extraordinarily useful "take home assignments," which we shall ask him to share in a future publication.

Conversely, a number of the conference sessions alarmed us. Two speakers represented computer-assisted legal research, even in complicated databanks such as Dialog and BRS, as a simple procedure that every judge should know how to do for himself. The word "librarian" never passed the lips of these faculty members, who seemed unwilling to concede that trained, experienced researchers who use online systems regularly might produce better, more cost-effective results for busy judges. Listening to these speakers, the audience could have been expected to assume that a paper library was unnecessary and that virtually any question could be answered easily by the computer.

Disturbed at the prospect of uninformed judicial personnel attempting
(continued)

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR . . . *continued*

to recreate "de novo" information systems that law librarians have long since been perfecting, we vowed to find better ways to educate our employers about how we can help them to manage courts more efficiently. To quote Fred Baum: "We can't afford to let another conference on automation be planned for a lawyer audience without substantial law librarian involvement." Daunting though this challenge may be, we have already begun to investigate the possibilities, and you can be assured that we shall have plenty more to say and do about this subject. Please be ready to get involved.

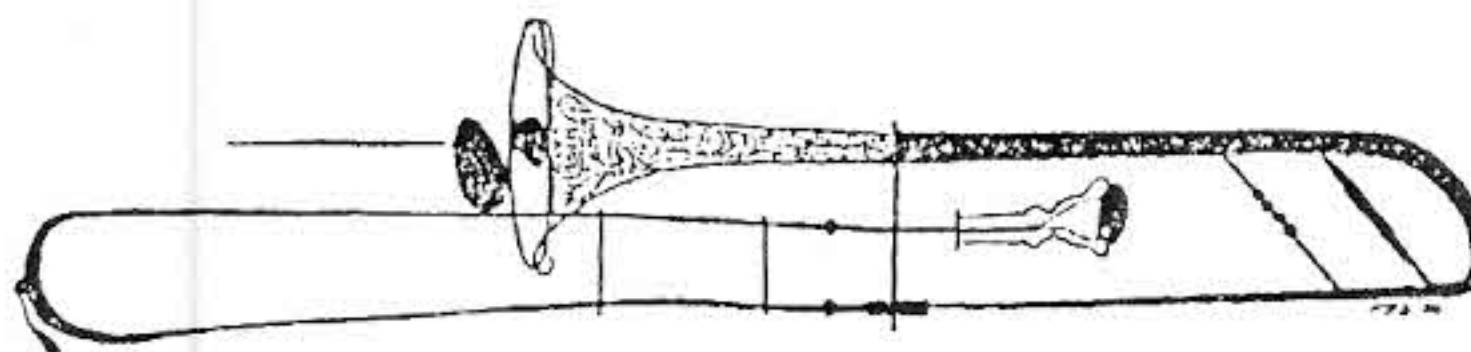
As I read the statements of all of the candidates for AALL offices in the April Newsletter, I was particularly struck and heartened by a common thread that runs through them all. The call is clear for cooperation among members from all types of law libraries, so that we may realize our rightful place as the best providers of legal information services. SCCLL has an important part to play in accomplishing this mission.

The five hours that we will spend together on Sunday morning, June 26, in Atlanta represent the culmination of months of planning and decision-making by many of our SCCLL colleagues. If you have not already mailed your registration form to Fred Baum, please fill it out this minute. As I have struggled to squeeze all of the items that require our section's attention into one morning, I have appreciated more clearly how varied our needs and obligations really are. Because all of us will be affected by information that will be conveyed and decisions that will be reached while we are together, I urge you to arrive early so that we can begin breakfast promptly at 7:30. We have a great deal of important business to cover between 7:45 and 8:45: election and installation of officers, presentation of the Appellate Court Library Standards for approval, consideration of bylaw amendments, and reports and proposals concerning several significant SCCLL undertakings.

Fred Baum and his committee have put together an educational program that's bound to enlighten both the new initiate and the old hand at library automation. And the final third of our annual meeting will give every member present a chance to contribute to the future effectiveness of SCCLL. At last year's meeting Joel Fishman moved that a special committee be appointed to study the section's goals and objectives. That committee, chaired by Marcia Koslov, has identified issues for us to debate in small groups, and will lead us in determining how to accomplish our mission.

I sincerely hope that our Sunday together will be an occasion for greeting and making friends and for being stimulated professionally--just as this year has been for me. Thanks for everything!

Carol



State, Court, and County Law Libraries Section
American Association of Law Libraries

Program, Annual Meeting

June 26, 1988

As Carol wrote in the April Newsletter, "The Atlanta meeting looks like a winner". We will be doing something different on the program this year and will need your support. More about it later.

First, those of you who wonder whether time is running out or whether the high costs of automation have priced your library out of the competition will have a marvelous chance to ask the expert. And an expert he is.

Richard Boss has completed more than 500 consulting assignments and has written extensively on all facets of library automation. He will be our featured speaker and will inform us about the state of the art in technology as well as future trends in library automation. You will be able to ask him about needs assessments, evaluating vendor bids, negotiating contracts for automated systems, the use of facsimile, or about any other automation or technology question you may have. He will reserve time for questions from the floor. So bring your problems to Atlanta. You will go home with good advice.

The second part of the program is special as well. How many of us have delayed in purchasing our first computer because of the news that faster machines, with more memory, were just around the corner - or that prices were sure to drop? Now, there is no excuse for waiting longer and remaining computer poor. Mark Wilson will show us how to build a generic IBM-XT compatible on a shoestring. He will actually construct one at the meeting and explain how the components work. Though his purpose is well short of turning us into technicians, he believes that knowing about component parts and how they work will help take the mystery out of computing. He will also tell us how and where to order parts for those of us who may wish to build one ourselves. And the best part of all is that one of you may go home with the computer Mark assembles at the meeting. How will it be done? By raffle.

