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# STATE, COURT



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# COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

Volume 17, Number 3/4

June, 1991

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SERIALS

JUL 31 1991

UNIV. OF WASHINGTON  
CAL. BERKELEY LIBRARY

## Chair's Message

Tuesday, May 28, 1991, 11:59 p.m.

I am home typing this message to my fellow law librarians following a hectic day of completing a \$60,000 grant proposal for a CD-ROM Remote Access Database to be used by 19 libraries within Allegheny County, Pennsylvania and mailing it just before 5:00 p.m. by Federal Express for tomorrow's deadline. One task completed! For a summary of the grant, see elsewhere in the newsletter.

In a past issue of *Legal Reference Services Quarterly*, there was an article on how one librarian spent his week providing diary entries day by day. I enjoyed the article and so I submit my own short version of what I have to do tomorrow at work in my unairconditioned library office:

- meet with the court administrator to discuss the strategic plan for the library which is due next week
- coordinate three books of county court opinions in various stages of organization that the library publishes as part of its publications program
- process invoices for the 41 judges of the county court and four mini-libraries that were handed over to me by the court administrator four months ago
- write a law firm library evaluation which is due Thursday
- evaluate a library for an estate of a local attorney
- review a desk piled high with correspondence and publication advertisements
- make a few phone calls
- finish one book which is 90% completed

So, if you are having a busy or bad day, think of me!

Please fill out Larry Hood's computer survey that appeared in the last issue so it can be reported in the next issue. Finally, Judy Meadows suggests that we have a short business meeting in New Orleans and publish the committee reports in the next newsletter. The majority of the meeting will then deal with the speaker on strategic planning and development of our own plan.

Thanks to all of the members of the SIS and the Committee Chairs for their support this past year.

Hope to see all of you in New Orleans!

*Joel Fishman, SCCLL Chair  
Allegheny County Law Library*

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## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

We promised we would publish four issues of the newsletter this year. You may have noticed that this is issue 3/4. Our incoming chair, Judy Meadows has requested that we combine the last two issues as a cost saving measure.

We have enjoyed doing the newsletter and will continue as editors next year. We plan to get the first issue out in September and it will recap the New Orleans meeting and contain the SIS's agenda for the upcoming year. We appreciate the input we received from you this year. However, we would like to hear from more of you.

Your editors,

Kathy Coon  
Regina Smith



## NOMINATIONS FOR 1991-1992 OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee announces the following nominees for office in the State, Court and County Law Library Special Interest Section during the year from July 1991 through June 1992:

**For Vice Chairperson - Chairperson Elect:**  
*Pamela Gregory, Circuit Court Library for  
Prince George's County, MD*

**For Member-at-Large:**  
*Regina A. Smith, Jenkins Memorial Law Library*

[Note: This member's term will be  
July 1991 through June 1994.]

Nominations were submitted by Carol Meyer, Chair, Nominating Committee

## STATE COURT COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES OFFICERS, 1991

### CHAIR

*Joel Fishman,  
Allegheny County Law Library*

### VICE-CHAIR, CHAIR ELECT

*Judy Meadows,  
Montana State Law Library*

### SECRETARY, TREASURER

*Frank Herch, (1989-1992)  
Clark County Law Library*

### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

*Charles Dyer, (1990-1993)  
San Diego Law Library*

*Brenda Woodruff-Kelley, (1989-1992)  
Toledo Law Association Law Library*

*Ann Fessenden, (1988-1991)  
U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals,  
8th Circuit Library*

### IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

*David Badertscher,  
NY State Supreme Court Library*

## 1990-91 SCCLL COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Newsletter Co-editors:

*Kathy Coon, Jenkins Memorial Law Library  
Maria Sekula, Social Law Library  
Regina Smith, Jenkins Memorial Law Library*

### Committee on Alternative Sources of Funding:

*Edgar J. Bellefontaine, Esq., Social Law Library*

### Committee on Automation:

*Larry Hood, Dallas County Law Library*

### Committee on Nominations:

*Carol Meyer, Cincinnati Law Library Association*

### Committee on Statistics:

*Pamela Gregory, Circuit Court Library for  
Prince George's County, MD*

### Committee on Standards:

*Sandy Marz, Washoe County Law Library*

### Committee on Strategic Planning:

*Marcia Koslov, Wisconsin State Law Library*

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## MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION LAW LIBRARIES ROUNDTABLE

by Charles R. Dyer

Director, San Diego County Law Library

The Membership/Subscription Law Libraries RoundTable met in San Diego April 17 - 21, 1991. The RoundTable is a group of directors and administrators from libraries which serve a paying or supporting membership, such as bar association libraries, although the term has been loosely applied in recent years. Founded by such East Coast libraries as the Library Company of the Baltimore Bar, the Social Law Library (Boston), the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, and the Jenkins Memorial Law Library (Philadelphia), the group has expanded westward until finally it hit the shores of the Pacific in San Diego.

While the San Diego County Law Library's "membership group" consists of anyone who puts down a deposit in order to check out books, it does have some similarities with the others: We all serve a large number of patrons (in the thousands). We all have considerable control of our budgets. We all have to worry about such things as which fringe benefits to offer, how to handle a payroll, how to insure the library, and so on. In short, we all have education needs that are not met by the usual programs found at library association meetings, especially law library association meetings. We come to learn together from each other.

Thus, the "RoundTable." More than half our program is made up of "Library Reports," wherein each attendee stands up and tells about what's happening at his or her library. Show and tell is very important, as we share budgets, brochures, press releases, fund raising materials, library guides, procedures, annual reports, and much more. It's a knockdown, drag out session for a day and a half, with each library getting about twenty-five minutes to present its good ideas and concerns and solicit opinions.

The remainder of the program is usually devoted to one or two specific issues in depth. This time, we examined our various insurance needs through a session conducted by Regina Smith (renowned newsletter editor from Jenkins), who had surveyed the group and found a variety of coverages and concerns. Most of us came away with notes about things we had to consider when we returned home.

Another topic taken up this time was stress management. Jackson County (MO) Law Librarian Ellen Bull's husband Dennis, a stress management specialist psychologist, led the group through an examination of techniques to relieve stress in our workplaces. He knows libraries better than most psychologists, so the session was very helpful.

Another feature of the RoundTable is the tour of the hosting library. The San Diego County Law Library staff, which prides itself on its service to the patron, gave a very good account of itself during a two and one-half hour tour of the Main Library. Attenders were interested in seeing the heavy use of computers in each department, including the SDCLL Systems Group LAWS library automation software. Staff also learned from the comments of the attenders, who included librarians from all the libraries mentioned so far, plus the Norfolk (VA) Law Library, the Hennepin County (MN) Law Library, the County of York Law Association (Toronto), the Law Society of Upper Canada (Ontario), the Law Library Association of St. Louis, the Cincinnati Law Library Association, and the New York Supreme Court Library at Syracuse.

Finally, there was the enjoyment of visiting beautiful San Diego. Several corporate sponsors helped make it even more enjoyable: West Legal Directory, Lexis Membership Group Programs, and the William S. Hein Company sponsored dinners. The Rothman Company, Bancroft-Whitney, Carswell, and the Law Library Justice Foundation (an affiliate of the San Diego County Law Library) provided support for other meals, coffee and meeting rooms. During the Library Reports and the Library Tour, we lived at the Kingston Hotel, a downtown executive hotel. The latter part of the meeting was held at the Bahia Resort Hotel on Mission Bay, three blocks from the Pacific. Yours truly hosted the hospitality suite there. Stress was managed well.

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Frank Alan Herch, Director of the Clark County Law Library, participated in a panel discussion of "Ethical Dilemmas Facing Law Librarians" at the Westpac Conference in Monterey, California on November 9, 1990. Frank delivered a 1-unit CLE lecture entitled "Recent Developments in Nevada Legal Research" and sponsored by the Clark County Bar Association on March 19, 1991. Frank is co-author with Larry Strate of an article entitled "Encouraging the Charitable and Humane Care of Patients on Life Support Systems: The Fifth State Interest in the Kenneth Bergstedt Case", published in *Inter Alia: Journal of the State Bar of Nevada*, April 1991. Frank was also recently elected Vice Chair/Chair Elect of WESTPAC.

Joel Fishman, Director of the Allegheny County Law Library was recently elected to a three year term to the Board of Trustees of the Pittsburgh Regional Library Center.

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## 1990/91 VIDEO SURVEY

SCC Interlibrary Communications Committee

by Maryruth Storer, Director, Orange County Law Library

Thirty-seven law libraries, located in 20 different states and 1 province, responded to the 1990/91 Video Survey. A variety of types of libraries were represented: 21 county, 1 membership subscription, 3 state law, 8 state court, 1 federal court, 2 government, and 1 academic. Eleven libraries reported that they did not yet have any videos.

The number of video titles held ranges from 1 to 175, with 57 being the average and 25 the median. Nineteen libraries reported that all their video titles were legal ones while 4 libraries reported they have several titles (up to 20 at one library) that were law related. The earliest year reported for beginning to collect videos was 1977, with the majority of the libraries starting their collections in 1986 (5 libraries), 1988 (7 libraries) or 1989 (4 libraries). The amount spent on videos in the last fiscal year ranged from \$150 to \$7,184, with the average being \$1,543.

The following circulation loan periods were reported: 2 hours, 1 day, overnight (2 libraries), 3 days, 4 business days, 1 week (13 libraries) and 2 weeks (4 libraries). Three libraries reported that tapes did not circulate and could be used only in the library. Only 4 libraries have a rental/lending checkout fee, which were \$3, \$5 per day, \$10 per CLE credit hour, or \$20 per week. Only 2 libraries require a deposit from a video borrower, either a \$50 or \$100 cash deposit, which is refundable. Fourteen libraries do not charge overdue fines for videos, while those libraries charging fines reported the rates as \$1 per tape per day (3 libraries), \$3 per day, \$5 per day, \$5 per tape per day, or \$10 per day. No libraries charge a rewinding fee and only 2 libraries routinely check tapes for damage after each circulation. Eleven libraries do limit circulation to a particular type of patron, generally the primary clientele of that type of library. Only members of the bar could borrow from 5 libraries, and 4 libraries required borrowers to be members of the library.

Twelve libraries would lend videos through interlibrary loan, and only 1 of those charges an ILL borrowing fee. Only 1 library sponsors group public educational viewing of videos. There is no charge to patrons for these sessions. Fourteen libraries have all their videos cataloged and 3 more libraries have some of them cataloged. Twelve libraries use Library of Congress classification, 1 library uses "LC" modified", and 1 library uses Los Angeles County classification. Six libraries use accession numbers instead of classification.

Libraries keep their video collections in a wide assortment of locations: open shelves (4 libraries), closed stacks (1 library), librarian's office (2 libraries), circulation desk (2 libraries),

information desk (3 libraries), reserve (2 libraries), Reference Only shelf near librarian's desk (1 library), video room (1 library), next to VCR (1 library), filing cabinet (1 library), cupboard (1 library), locked cabinets in conference room (1 library), workroom (1 library), rare books room (1 library). One library keeps the video cassettes in locked drawers behind the circulation desk while the empty cases are kept in one row of stacks.

Fourteen libraries have their own equipment for viewing tapes in the library. Only 1 library charges an equipment usage fee, which is \$25 and is charged for individual viewing at times other than scheduled showings (this library is the one that sponsors group public educational viewings).

Most libraries with equipment have no set maintenance procedure. One library has a total of 8 pieces of equipment and it is in the process of bidding for a service contract for on-site servicing by a contractor. One library reported that VCR heads are cleaned at the dealer every other year and another library reported "periodic" VCR cleaning.

The preferred monitor size is 19" (6 libraries). Other sizes used by more than 1 library were 25" (2 libraries) and 12" (2 libraries). Other sizes used by single libraries were 27", 20", 13" and 9". Sony and Panasonic equipment received positive comments, while 1 library reported "poor picture quality" from an RCA VCR and monitor.

Only 1 library reported a problem with a vendor, saying that Practicing Law Institute will not allow library lending or group showing of selective videotapes.

Libraries use a variety of methods to promote use of their video collections. Ten libraries put occasional articles in the local bar newsletter, 3 libraries publish bibliographies, and 2 libraries include them in their published Acquisitions Lists. Other methods to promote use were a tape list sent to other libraries, a notebook kept on the public counter with printed descriptions of videos, a handout at the circulation desk, a listing in the library's newsletter, and notices to legislators and staff (the primary patrons of that library).

The Interlibrary Communications Committee (Carmen Brigandi, Kathy Coon and Maryruth Storer) wish to thank the librarians who responded to this survey. We hope the information is useful to you as all of us adapt to having this new format in our collections. If you have specific questions about any of the survey responses, please contact Maryruth Storer.

