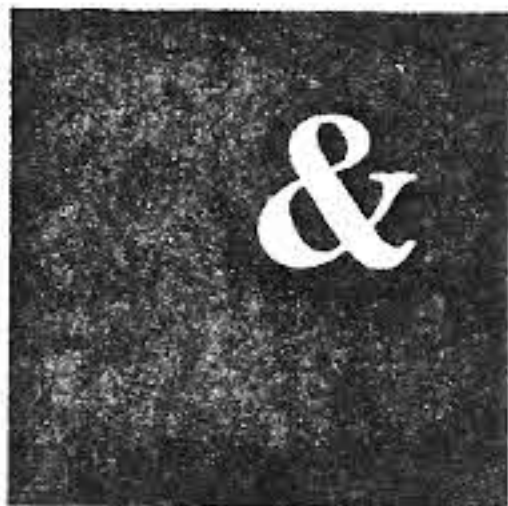


STATE, COURT & COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES



Volume 19, Number 1 Fall, 1992

A Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries

Chair's Message

Summer's gone and winter's comin' on, and the life of our section seems to be well underway. The Boston program proposal blitz produced 20 program proposals either section sponsored, member sponsored from within the section, or section brokered in tandem with other SISs. The process resembled a marathon, and enjoyed the great assistance of past Education Chair Jean Holcomb, and present Chair Anne Matthewman. The ideas are conceptually all splendid, and our ability within the association has been enhanced. I was particularly pleased with some innovative workshop ideas, and member suggestions of a program on literacy, using volunteers in our type of library, and space planning for public law libraries. If we even get a third of those 20 through the selection process, it will have been worth it. The next issue of the newsletter will contain the full analytical results of our section response to the association's research agenda. I've included the high points just to whet your appetite. Those of you in more than one SIS may receive this survey more than once and may be confused about the origin and purpose of the survey. It is all part of the whole AALL "Research Agenda." I hope that if any of you have further questions or comments about our particular focus and perceptions that you will send your thoughts to Catherine Lemann, Law Library of Louisiana. I did the tabulation and analysis for this newsletter but am depending on Catherine to develop our input toward an overall research agenda for the association. While we are similar in many respects to our peers, we are also quite different in our public service aspects. I am absolutely fascinated by the notion of studying how lawyers do research. If we really understood how they approach the process perhaps we could better assist with the results. I'm also especially interested in our keen desire to share resources and to network with others. In that regard please compare our results with the academics as presented in the summer, 1992 *Law Library Journal*.

Some thoughts on networking. For the Membership/Subscription Group, there will be a spring meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio in the second week of April. Many of us will be representing court libraries in Columbus, November 12-13, 1992, at the invitational conference on the crisis in our state and local lives since the great recession of the 1990's. That conference is being organized by Erick Low and Paul Fu.

Before the next issue of the newsletter comes around, I want everyone to be thinking of candidates for our awards committee chaired by Fred Baum, Association of the Bar of the City of New York. Fred chairs the first committee and will be drafting final criteria for the awards which will be given annually to distinguished members of our section. These awards are the Bethany Ochal Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession; the Connie Bolden Award for Distinguished Publication; and the O. Jim Werner Award for Service to the Disadvantaged. Our purpose in granting these awards is not only to honor our section's many accomplished members, but to increase awareness in AALL of our unique accomplishments.

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Message from the Editors

Former editors Regina Smith and Kathy Coon did such an outstanding job that we are approaching this year with fear and trembling. This issue may look a little crude but be patient -- we are still learning. The next issue will be better.

We believe, however, that content is more important than form. The content of this newsletter depends on you. Please send us your articles, letters, suggestions for articles that you may not want to write yourself, news items, notices of meetings, job changes, promotions and anything else that you want to share with the group. We would also be interested in reading your comments on what is interesting and unique about working in your library.

Deadline for the next issue is December 15, 1992.

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IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

Judy Meadows
State Law Library of Montana

JOB CHANGES

Jean Holcomb has moved to Seattle, Washington to assume the directorship of the King County Law Library. Jean began her new duties October 1, 1992, after serving as Law Librarian at the Norfolk Law Library for five years. Jean has just been elected to a three-year term on the Executive Board of the State, Court and County Special Interest Section.

Taking Jean's place at the Norfolk Law Library will be Donna Bausch, who served most recently as public services librarian at Regent University Law Library, Virginia Beach, Virginia.



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Minutes of Annual Meeting

The 22nd Annual Meeting of the AALL State, Court and County Law Libraries SIS was called to order at 9:00 A.M., Sunday, July 18, 1992 by Chairperson Judith Meadows. She introduced the officers of the section. The minutes of the July 21, 1991 meeting were approved.

Treasurer Frank Herch reported that the balance as of May 31, 1992 was \$6,282. Subsequent transactions, including postage expenses for a newsletter and the receipt of a \$1,000 grant from Mead Data Central, left the balance as of June 30, 1992 at \$7,004.

Frank Herch reported that the following officers had been elected:

Anita Shew, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect
Kathy Carlson, Secretary/Treasurer
Jean Holcomb, Executive Board

Judith Meadows expressed the appreciation of the Executive Board for the efforts of Ann Fessenden in chairing the Nominations Committee. A motion to destroy the ballots was unanimously passed.

Jean Holcomb announced that the Education Committee had reviewed responses to its survey and that there was a good collection of program proposals to be further polished for presentation at the 1993 Annual Meeting in Boston. Jean also distributed the Continuing Education Needs Assessment and indicated that responses to that survey would facilitate long range planning for the AALL and SIS. It was publicly acknowledged that Jean would be relocating from Norfolk Law Library to become the director of the King County Law Library in Washington.

Regina Smith, Jenkins Memorial Library, announced that four quality newsletters were produced on schedule as planned. She announced that Beverly Rubenstein, Maryland Attorney General's Office, has volunteered to act as editor.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee, chaired by Thaddeus Bejner, New Mexico State Law Library, had reviewed and approved changes in the bylaws relating to the newsletter and

election of officers. That amended language had been published in the spring newsletter. Charles Dyer, San Diego County Law Library, proposed an amendment as follows: to decrease the number of newsletters and set dates of publication to accommodate the election process. The amended motion was passed.

Judy Meadows has succeeded with her request that AALL fund a representative to the ABA. Marcia Koslov has been appointed for two years and will be attending the ABA meeting in San Francisco set for August, 1992. Marcia's charge is to determine and recommend to the SCCLL Board how we can work with ABA. Paul Fu made the recommendation that the AALL booth be sent to the ABA meeting. Judy further elaborated that we were actively facilitating the role of law librarians in communication with court administrators, law office administrators, attorneys and law firm staff.

Bob Willard from LEXIS/Mead Data Central was thanked for the \$1,000 grant to the SIS. This was the second year that such a grant of \$1,000 was made.

Charles Dyer, San Diego County Law Library, described the process to date of the production of a *Manual for Governing Boards and Trustees*. A \$2,700 loan was received in November, 1991 from the AALL Executive Board in order to cover costs prior to publication of a manual to discuss issues faced by trustees and provide samples of documents used by trustees. A committee of Shirley David, Marjorie Price, Ann Peters, Mary Dean Martin, Erick Low, Anita Shew and Charles Dyer has authored and edited the text. Presently, 60 pages have been written. The final text is expected to consist of 100 pages of text and 200 pages of appendices.

Erick B. Low, National Center for State Courts, announced that on November 12-14, 1992, in Columbus, Ohio, the State Justice Institute, the Supreme Court of Ohio and the National Center for State Courts would convene a National Conference on State Court Libraries. The purpose of the meeting is to bring court administrators, judges and law librarians together to discuss library concerns. Chief Justice Thomas Mayer of Ohio will deliver a keynote address. Robert Stephens, Chief Justice of Kentucky, will moderate a round table discussion, featuring David Badertscher, New York State Supreme Court Library, Samuel D. Conti, New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts, Marcia J. Koslov, Wisconsin State Law Library, and

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Deborah Norwood, Washington State Law Library. Paul S. Fu, Ohio Supreme Court Library, and Erick B. Low, National Center for State Courts will address the "Adoption of a National Agenda to Improve State and Court Libraries."

Pam Gregory, Chair-Elect, announced that Judy Meadows' presidency constituted a "hard act to follow" and a "watershed year" in which a lot had been done to develop respect for and the presence of the SCCLL SIS within AALL. As a means to further commemorating that presence, three new awards had been established by the Executive Board for inaugural presentation in 1993. The awards include the Connie Bolden Award for an Outstanding Publication, the Bethany Ochal Award for Distinguished Service and the O. James Werner Award for Service to the Disadvantaged. Fred Baum will chair the Awards Committee.

Pam Gregory introduced the participants in a panel discussion regarding the relationships between the courts, law libraries and trustees. [See facing column.] Following the panel discussion, the assembled audience separated into ten round tables to discuss the following topics with the leaders/facilitators named below:

- Disaster Planning and Insurance (Cossette Sun)
- Standards for Appellate Court and County Law Libraries (Sandra Marz)
- Developing an SIS Networking Strategy (Kathy Carlson)
- In-House Publications (Regina Smith)
- Automating the Smaller Library (Gail Warren)
- Using Volunteers (Jackie Wright)
- Security Issues and Problem Patrons (Charles Dyer)
- Strategic Planning (Karen Moss)
- ADA (Maria Sekula)
- Marketing and Public Relations (Judy Meadows)
- Grants as an Alternative Funding Source (Charlie Colokathis)
- Friends' Groups (Frank Herch)

The round table discussions were organized by Education Committee Chair Jean Holcomb.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Alan Herch

Annual Meeting

Following the business meeting was a program entitled "Our Libraries - Our Stakeholders," which addressed the relationship between libraries and those who use and oversee them -- library committees, trustees, judges and attorneys. A panel consisting of two librarians, Kay Schlueter, Texas State Law Library, and Gail Fruchtman, Los Angeles County Law Library; two judges, Hon. Larnzell Martin, Jr., Prince George's County (MD) Circuit Court, and Hon. George Nicholson, California Court of Appeals; and a trustee, Mary Dean Martin, Clark County (NV) Law Library, answered questions relating to automation, budget and finance, the image of the librarian and the future of law libraries.

In the area of automation, the big question always is "will online searching someday replace hard copy?" The members of the panel all agreed that, for reasons of money and access, this scenario is not likely to come about soon. The patrons of a public law library, like Los Angeles County, cannot afford to pay for online searches and there is not enough staff to train them to do searching for them. The judges agreed that the cost of computer research is horrendous and ongoing, while the books, once paid for, are available forever. There is also a problem of facility of access: will patrons have to line up to use the computers?

Someone from the audience asked if there is a judicial responsibility to encourage the distribution of opinions through electronic means. Justice Nicholson answered that access to the law should not be denied to anyone because of monetary considerations. However, there is a cost attached to everything and we must work together to figure out the best way of paying for what we need. He also made the point that we must see beyond budget constraints. If we focus only on the budget constraints of the moment, we will never see progress.

Someone asked about the potential of malpractice if an attorney fails to do a computer search. Justice Nicholson said that no in-depth article had yet been written on the subject but that attorneys and judges face the danger of inadequate preparation. The San Diego County Law Library was able to get a new pricing schedule from LEXIS to enable their pro se patrons to do computer research. Justice Nicholson, to great applause, said that libraries must address the broader issue of restoring public access to public data and that we must not subordinate ourselves

