

Don't Miss:

- Profiles of the 2006 Bethany J. Ochal Award winners
- Information about SCCLL events at the Annual Meeting
- News about a new advocacy website: ohiolawlibrary.org

Inside this issue:

Charley's Corner	4
Travel Grants to St. Louis Awarded	8
2006 Ochal Award for Distinguished Service	9
2006 SCCLL Silent Auction	11
Join the SCCLL Book Club!	11
SCCLL Trustees Luncheon - a Visionary Opportunity	12
SCCLL Reception at the 8th Circuit Library	12
The Network on Self Represented Litigation	13
A Collaborative Experiment - ohiolawlibrary.org	14
Court & Spark	16
A Long Journey .. Home? Part II	20
The Back Page	24

View from the Chair

Barbara Golden, SCCLL Chair



"The lessening of foot traffic in SCCLL libraries is a concern, particularly when it comes to making a case for funding, etc."
SCCLL Election Survey Response

"Wait ...you **WENT** to a library??"
Jeremy to his mother in 2006 *Zits* comic strip

The SCCLL Executive Board used the recent online election of officers as an opportunity to poll our members about issues facing our libraries and the role of SCCLL. Credit goes to Marcus Hochstetler for this wonderful idea. Over one hundred members responded to the brief five-question survey, 37% of the members who voted for officers. The people who answered the survey worked in ten different kinds of libraries (including "other"); 57% represented county and state law libraries. 70% of the survey responders had their dues paid by their employers. Given a list of five priorities (including "other"), advocacy was the top choice for 48% of the responders. The survey then asked for the most helpful SCCLL resource of nine listed (including "other"). Responses to this question were more spread out but 32% selected the website. Finally we asked people what trend or issue impacting SCCLL libraries is most important; sixty two members commented, some extensively. Clearly funding is an overarching concern for our membership; it was specifically mentioned in 58% of the comments. Funding is also implied when our members talk about marketing the value of our libraries and getting more people to come through our doors, while at the same time struggling to serve the "powerless" such as self-represented litigants. Another oft mentioned concern, with a definite funding impact, is the rising cost of legal materials and how to combine print and electronic resources to best serve our constituency.

In May, the rising cost of legal materials was the subject of a lively lawlib and SCCLL listserv discussion. Ken Svengalis, author of *Legal Information Buyer's Guide & Reference Manual*, started the conversation with a report on Thomson West pricing practices including "two-pronged price increases" between 2005 and 2006. Ken asked "Are the monetary contributions which West makes to our association (exhibit fees, scholarship contributions, etc.) which help keep our dues low, worth the millions of dollars in excessive costs our libraries collectively pay year after year for West publications and which are dramatically changing the size and scope of our collections?"

Since rising collection costs were a concern for many of the SCCLL members who answered the online election survey, your Executive Board decided to call for comments on the issue of corporate sponsorship. Unsurprisingly, the responses were mixed. Two typical excerpts are shown in the sidebar on page two but most statements were much more complex. The Board will be looking at all your comments and sending out a survey to determine what steps SCCLL should take in regard to corporate sponsorship and other issues raised by our members. One thing is certain. The concerns raised by SCCLL members are not limited to our SIS or even to law libraries as my comic strip quote above indicates. Solutions may be found in unusual places. Look, listen, and when you come across a good idea, please share.

Although much more needs to be done, SCCLL has moved ahead in some areas. The AALL
(View from the Chair continued on page 2)

(View from the Chair continued from page 1)

Washington Office is available to our members and, for the past several years, they have offered advocacy training with a focus on SCCLL issues at the annual conference. I urge you to attend this year's Saturday morning program. There is also an afternoon program for newer members including a breakout session on public law library funding. Both programs are free but you do need to register by June 15 with Mary Alice Baish at baish@law.georgetown.edu. The "Toolbox" on the SCCLL website has grown to include materials on advocacy, best practices, collection development, etc. Visit often and contribute or suggest other topics for posting.

I am truly excited about the AALL Annual Meeting in St. Louis and hope to see most of you there. If you can attend, I can promise you great food at the Sunday breakfast/business meeting. Other events are described in this issue. Whenever possible, greet our Valued Invited Participants (VIPs):

The Honorable Catherine D. Perry, United States District Court, Eastern District of Missouri, will be our guest and speaker at the SCCLL Librarians and Trustees Luncheon on Sunday.

The Honorable David D. Noce is a U.S. Magistrate Judge in our host city, St. Louis. He uses the U.S. Courts Library 8th Circuit. If you can attend the SCCLL Tuesday night Reception, you will be able to visit this beautiful new library. Judge Noce will be at the Sunday night opening reception and events during the week.

Boyd Burnison, a prominent lawyer in California, is the President of the Alameda County Law Library Board of Trustees. He will be attending the entire convention along with his wife Mari.

Kathleen Gaylord is Chair of both the Dakota County (MN) Board of Commissioners and the Dakota County Law Library Board of Trustees. She will be attending events on Sunday and Monday before she must return for a Commissioners meeting on Tuesday.

Justice Donald Lemons, Supreme Court of Virginia, will be attending the conference as a VIP from the SEAALL Chapter.

The Hon. Federico Hernández Denton, Chief Justice of the Puerto Rico Supreme Court, will be attending the conference as a special AALL VIP. He will briefly address SCCLL at our breakfast meeting and attend other events.

Please let me know if I have missed any other VIPs who will be attending SCCLL events so that we may acknowledge them.

This is my last column as SCCLL Chair. Whatever successes we have had this year have been due to the contributions and support of our members, especially my fabulous Executive Board colleagues and hard-working committees. Thank you one and all. ■

"I don't believe that Thomson/West prices will be reduced because SCCLL or AALL refuse to accept their annual meeting, local chapter, or SIS support/largess ... 'creative' responses to drastic price increases that are shared among law librarians, either at meetings or on the listservs, would be a more constructive way to 'fight back.' "

"I think AALL and its subsidiaries (chapters, SIS's, etc.) need to wear themselves from the extensive corporate sponsorship that now exists."

(Responses from the SCCLL discussion group about the issue of corporate sponsorship)

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The State Court & County Law Libraries SIS does not assume any responsibility for the statements advanced by the contributors in this newsletter. The opinions expressed in SCCLL News are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SCCLL SIS.

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Charley's Corner: Some Cognitive Science for the Reference Staff

Charles R. Dyer, Retired Director of Libraries, San Diego County Public Law Library

All views expressed in this article are entirely my own.

I have contended in previous columns that it is the business of public law librarians to help self-represented litigants learn to navigate their way through the courts and to “think like a lawyer.” Here is a quote from a recent speech of mine to a group of attorneys and judges:

Most citizens have a developed sense of law and morality, which comes from their cultural roots, their parents and education, their religion, and their own life experience. That knowledge base, or “vocabulary”, using the postmodern term, will give meaning to words that are different from the meaning that the legal community generally gives them and that judges ruling in specific situations would use. A lawyer’s job, being well versed in the proper vocabulary, is to represent the client and get the best deal he can, employing the proper vocabulary. A law librarian’s job, working with a *pro per* [California term for self-represented] litigant, is to help that person learn enough on his own to develop a sufficient sense of the proper vocabulary so that he can get closer to getting his own best deal. While a lawyer’s job for any individual client would take longer and be harder on the lawyer, the librarian’s job is psychologically more difficult for the litigant. And the fact that the time is shorter makes it even more so, as indeed many lawyers often try to help their clients understand what they are doing for them, but at a slower pace. The courts need to know that printed forms and computer kiosks will work only for those who already possess the knowledge and intelligence to make the shift in vocabulary easily. Ultimately, the least served will need human help. Unless and until every person can have his own lawyer, there will be a huge need for public law libraries. And if every person had his own lawyer, we’d still need public law libraries.

“Unless and until every person can have his own lawyer, there will be a huge need for public law libraries. And if every person had his own lawyer, we’d still need public law libraries.”

Subsequent to that speech, I began to study Professor Steven Winter’s book *A Clearing in the Forest: Law, Life, and Mind*. Winter’s book, and much of his recent work, has been a part of his mission to try to bring cognitive science into the study of law. The particular type of cognitive science that Winter uses is that promulgated by George Lakoff, a linguist at UC Berkeley, and Mark Johnson, a philosopher at the University of Oregon. Their view is one of a number of competing ones within cognitive science. They have been developing it for over twenty years and have conducted substantial empirical research, but it is noteworthy that a lot of other recent scientific evidence about neural pathways within the brain has supported their view. I believe their work, as elaborated by Winter, would be useful for public law libraries in fulfilling the mission that I noted above.

To contrast his thinking from the traditional, Winter begins with an argument from a 1988 article by Professor Frederick Schauer, in which Schauer asked us to consider a rule prohibiting “live animals on the bus.” Does it bar a live goldfish in a sealed plastic bag? Schauer indicates that because the fish is literally an “animal,” that prohibition should apply. A decision maker interpreting the rule in light of its purpose, on the other hand, would allow the fish because it does not threaten the kind of mischief (e.g., disturbing the passengers) contemplated by the rule. For Schauer, the split between the rule and its underlying purpose is a consequence of the rule’s formulation in language:

The language in which a rule is written and the purpose behind that rule can diverge precisely because that purpose is plastic in a way that language is not.... It is because purpose is not reduced to a concrete set of words

(Charley’s Corner continued on page 5)

(Charley's Corner continued from page 4)

that it retains its sensitivity to novel cases, to bizarre applications, and to the complex unfolding of human experience.

Winter takes on Schauer's view. Schauer is trying to eliminate the problems of decision making by requiring the decision maker to follow the strict dictates of the rule. Winter points out that, by strict definition, the rule would then apply to a slide for a microscope containing live paramecia. Indeed, strictly, it would apply to the humans on the bus.

Winter uses this example to show that rules are really applied using analogy to a prototypical case, and that the actual sense of the word "animal" is based in part on the context of using it in conjunction with the situation of riding on a bus. The prototypical case is the rambunctious dog who disturbs passengers. Cases that are not close to the prototype are not even considered as problematic, e.g., the slide with the paramecia. A case close to the prototype, such as a seeing-eye dog, requires more consideration. In his book, Winter does not go so far in his analysis to consider the additional problem that keeping a seeing-eye dog off the bus would violate a superior rule, the Americans with Disabilities Act.

At the San Diego County Public Law Library, we had an instance when a rather nervous patron insisted on bringing her small dog into the library because it had a calming effect on her and therefore was medically needed. The supervisor at the time made a pragmatic decision to let the dog remain because the dog was not creating any disturbance and the patron without her dog may well create more disturbance or at least waste everyone's time. For us, the legal problem was whether the patron's condition would legally constitute a "disability" under the ADA, but the operative problem was really the essence of the library's rule prohibiting animals in the library. (Would that we could prevent the occasional roach or mouse just by passing a rule.)

For the limited purposes of this column I will attempt a quick summary of the Lakoff and Johnson cognitive theory. Human intelligence uses mental maps (sets of neurons with specific dendrite connections to other neurons) to create prototypical memories of sensory experience so that they can be used later without having to be relearned. Your idea of an "animal," for instance, would normally use a prototype of a common animal with whom you regularly interact, e.g., your dog. When using the word "animal," your brain re-uses the mental map as a starting point, so you think of a particular animal as being either similar to a prototypical one or further removed. Winter uses the example of the word "bird" and notes that we are more likely to think of a robin when hearing or reading the word than to think of a penguin. This method of thinking enables the human brain to ingest considerably more meaning with minimal brain use. Think of it as somewhat like using a vector-created computer design, rather than a bit map, and being able to re-use the vector in subsequent similar instances.

According to Lakoff and Johnson, abstract thought uses these same mental maps for parts of our mental processing. We come to understand abstract ideas through analogy to sensory experience. There are certain common uses, such as patterns like "More is up." So we speak of the "upper class" or "higher in the organization" as patterns for describing abstract relationships. In this manner, metaphor becomes a vital component of abstract thought. Similarly, prototypes become a component and give meaning to terms used in abstract thought (and rules). Context and the intention of the user (thinker, speaker, etc.) when employing abstract ideas affect which metaphors get used, and by that, which mental maps get used.

Another conclusion of their research is that, as a particular mental map is used over and over, it is reinforced. Its connections between neurons become stronger, and its ability to be remembered (and thus reused) over a longer period of time are increased. That conclusion

(Charley's Corner continued on page 6)

"Think of it as somewhat like using a vector-created computer design, rather than a bit map, and being able to re-use the vector in subsequent similar instances."

(Charley's Corner continued from page 5)

obviously matches with our common sense notion that repetition improves memory. Recent scientific evidence has also supported that claim.

An interesting aside comes from the book *Animals in Translation*, wherein Temple Grandin, an autistic person who earned a Ph.D. in animal behavior, notes that animals (other than human) and autistic people share a trait in that they both have difficulty making the translation from sensory experience to abstract thought. What actually scares the cat about trips to the vet is not the fear of the rabies vaccination, but the fear created by the unfamiliar surroundings and smells. That is why the cat stays quieter while it remains in its carrier and fights coming out. Grandin gives an example of a lion who was caged in order to move it. The trainer threw in a pillow, thinking that it would provide the lion comfort, like a cat would have had from its experience of sitting on pillows. Instead, the lion ate the pillow and died. Grandin notes that grass or straw in the cage would have served the purpose better because that was what the lion was familiar with.

Public law librarians often find themselves explaining to a self-represented litigant that his or her case is not nearly as unique as that person thinks it is. In part, the problem is that the patron throws in all sorts of legally irrelevant facts. In part, since the patron has not handled such a case before, or perhaps any legal matter before, the patron has not yet learned, not to mention reinforced, the abstract concepts that are very obvious to those trained in law. Typically, procedural matters which are routine to litigating attorneys take longer to learn than the substantive law of the case, just because there is more there to learn.

On the other hand, occasionally, a public law librarian must tell a self-represented litigant that it appears that his case is indeed more unique than he realizes. The patron was hoping to get away with filling out a simple pre-made form for his case and not have to learn a lot of law or do a lot of study. At the San Diego County Public Law Library, we have even had patrons parking in the three-minute passenger zone and running into the library to get the "form" the court clerk sent them over to get. But we also get many referrals from the Small Claims Advisor's Office and the Family Court Facilitator's Office for matters too complicated for their pre-made packets of materials.

At many public law libraries, librarians are teaching classes to self-represented litigants. I have seen some marvelous teachers among us who are very capable of making the class very interesting to their students. The usual rule for such teachers is to respect the innate intelligence of the students, while avoiding jargon as much as possible. And a little humor usually helps. I now believe much of the skill displayed in such settings is the ability of these librarian-teachers to use the everyday metaphorical patterns most all members of American society possess to get their points across, rather than to fall back on the more obtuse concepts of the professions of law or library science.

As a public law librarian who began in academic law libraries and a continuing reader of scholarly journals, I would sometimes cringe at the inexact words librarian-teachers would use when teaching. I now see that I was at times too concerned for the edges of meaning, the places where the concepts would be misapplied, and not enough concerned for getting across the primary sense of the concept, the prototypical sense. We have always known that, in our short classes for library patrons, we cannot get into the depth of explanation and nuance of meaning that law students get in law school or that clients get when given the full story by their attorney. But how do we get the essence across in such a short time? There now appear to be ways that this can be done.

Or, rather, what I should be saying is that there now appear to be some theories as to how it gets done. It doesn't hurt to have a little theory to support your practice. Some of us, myself included, can improve our techniques when we know the underlying concepts. (There I go

(Charley's Corner continued on page 7)

"Public law librarians often find themselves explaining to a self-represented litigant that his or her case is not nearly as unique as that person thinks it is."

(*Charley's Corner* continued from page 6)

again, using one of those metaphorical terms to present an abstract idea.) If we are going to help people think like a lawyer, then first we need to understand how people think. We need to learn the metaphors and prototypes that most people use. We then need to learn the metaphors and prototypes that lawyers use. Or more accurately, we need to learn to see the metaphors and prototypes that we instinctively know they use.

Grandin would want to know how Schauer's proverbial "live animal on a bus" might think. The bus driver might want to know how the bus company's lawyer might think. The lawyer would want to know how the judge in the case would think. The litigant is going to come ask us, "How am I supposed to think?" Note that I said, "How am I supposed to think?" not "What am I supposed to do?" That would be legal advice. We advise how a self-represented litigant can find out and create his own legal advice. Or, to use a metaphor familiar to us, on the information highway, as navigators, we must also be tour guides who can speak different languages, and there are a lot of different kinds of "animals" on the bus. ■

I wrote this column back in January, but submitted a different one because Kim (SCCLL News editor) wanted something pertaining to that issue's theme. Subsequently, I submitted a paper on this same topic to the AALL Lexis-Nexis Call for Papers. I am pleased to report that my paper, "The Queen of Chula Vista: Stories of Self-Represented Litigants and a Call for Using the Cognitive Theory of Metaphor to Work With Them," was a winner in the Open Division. I will be making a ten-minute presentation at the AALL Meeting program on the Lexis-Nexis Call for Papers, Monday, July 10, at 2 p.m. Hopefully, you will see the full version in the Law Library Journal.

From the Editor

Kim Ositis, SCCLL News Editor

Welcome to the Spring 2006 SCCLL News! Highlights of this issue include articles about several exciting new projects, including the newly launched ohiolawlibrary.org advocacy website and information about the newly formed Self Represented Litigation Network. The recipients of the 2006 Bethany J. Ochal Award For Distinguished Service are also recognized.

The next issue will be Fall 2006. Look for committee reports, articles from grant recipients and highlights from the 2006 Annual Meeting in St. Louis.

A correction from the Winter 2006 issue. I incorrectly listed Katie Jones as the Chair of the Technology Committee—it should be Karla Gedell. My apologies to Katie and Karla. ■

"If we are going to help people think like a lawyer, then first we need to understand how people think."

Travel Grants to St. Louis Awarded

Barbara Fritschel, Chair, Grants Committee

Five \$850 travel grants have been awarded to help people attend the national gathering in St. Louis. Many people waited until the last minute so that by the deadline, 14 very well qualified applications had been received. The selection process for the committee was very difficult as there were so many deserving people doing so many great things in their libraries. As one committee member noted "It's great to see what great people we have in this profession."

The original recipients were:

Karla Gedell, MN Attorney General's Office
Maria Sosnowski, Clark County Law Library, Vancouver WA
Claudia Jalowka, Ct. Judicial Branch, Hartfield, CT
Brian Haley, New Hampshire Law Library
Connie Von Der Heide, Wisconsin State Law Library

Linda Falken, Lane County Law Library, Eugene OR was chosen as an alternate.

After selection, Connie Von Der Heide notified the committee that she had received a second grant from a different organization. She graciously returned the SCCLL grant since we had so many applicants. Therefore the fifth grant went to Linda Falken.

I would like to thank everyone who supported the silent auction in San Antonio and the matching grant challenge. The next silent auction will be starting in early June and I hope you will continue to support it. Remember you don't need to attend in order to bid on an item. I would also like to thank Connie for returning her grant so that someone else could attend. To me that is just another great example of how people in SCCLL help each other.

I also would like to thank my committee for all of their hard work. The committee is:

Karen M. Lutke, San Mateo County Law Library
Sharon E. Borbon, Fresno County Law Library
Marguerite K. Martin, Wyoming State Law Library
Katrina Piechnik, Jenkins Law Library

"The selection process for the committee was very difficult as there were so many deserving people doing so many great things in their libraries."

Rise to the Challenge: Volunteer!

Catherine Lehman, Vice-Chair/Chair Elect

You've heard it before: SCCLL needs volunteers to serve on committees of our SIS. Perhaps you have volunteered and know the rewards of making a difference in law librarianship and particularly the lives of SCCLL members and libraries. If you have not volunteered before, maybe you think it's too much work or you don't have much to offer.

When you volunteer, you have the chance to network with other SCCLL librarians, to meet new people, to learn new skills, have fun, and to influence the future of the SIS. It can be as little or as much work as you have time for. We particularly need newer members to bring fresh eyes to our work. How can you resist the opportunity?

Rita Kaiser and Kim Ositis have collaborated to create an online signup page. It can't be much easier to sign up. Go to: http://www.aallnet.org/sis/sccll/about/committee_form.htm and send me your preferences by June 15, 2006.

2006 Bethany J. Ochal Award For Distinguished Service

Fran Jones, Chair, Awards Committee

The SCCLL Awards Committee is delighted to announce the 2006 recipients of the Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service:

- Carol D. Billings, Director, Law Library of Louisiana.
- Jean M. Holcomb, Director (retired), King County (WA) Law Library.

The Ochal Award honors Bethany J. Ochal's service as Director of the Orange County (CA) Law Library and her local and national professional accomplishments. The Award is presented triennially to recognize our colleague(s) for: achievement in a state, court or county law library; contributions to AALL and SCCLL; recognition by the legal community; contributions to professional literature, legal research, teaching and outreach; and service to the profession of law librarianship, including mentoring of newer members.

All of the 2006 nominees were highly praised for their accomplishments and service to law libraries and law librarianship. Committee members felt privileged to review each and every nomination. It was evident again this year that SCCLL is blessed with generous, diligent, and creative law librarians, whose service is a gift to law librarianship and whose unique leadership serves the cause of justice throughout our nation. From these leaders, Ms. Billings and Ms. Holcomb have emerged to receive this year's Ochal Awards.

Carol D. Billings

Carol Billings has served as the Law Library of Louisiana's Director since 1981. She joined the staff in 1976, serving as both cataloger and reference librarian during her first five years there. She was a member of the staffs of the University of New Orleans Library, as both cataloger and microforms librarian, from 1969 until 1972; of the Northern Illinois University Library, as circulation and assistant serials librarian, from 1965 until 1968; and the University of Pittsburgh, as a trainee, 1963-1964.

Among the leadership positions Carol has held are the presidencies of: AALL (1994-1995); the Louisiana Library Association (1997-1998); the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (1986-1987); and the New Orleans Association of Law Librarians (1983-1984). Her service to AALL also includes: Chair, Centennial Celebration Committee, 2003-2006; Local Arrangements Committee (1991 Annual Meeting, New Orleans); Long-Range Planning Committee (1989-1994); Chair, Social Responsibilities Special Interest Section (2001-2002); Chair, Special Interest Section Council (1988-1989); Chair, State, Court and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section (1987-1988); and Chair, Council of Chapter Presidents (1984-1985). Carol is an honorary life member of the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians.

Her record of publication is also continuous, beginning in 1982 with "The Law Library of Louisiana – an important resource," published in the *Louisiana Bar Journal*, and continuing through her 2005 article in the July issue of *AALL Spectrum*, "Why bother to celebrate our centennial? AALL's 100th birthday a chance to learn, bond and show our stuff." Another 2005 publication, *Prestatehood Legal Materials: A Fifty-State Research Guide*, includes her chapter, "A Bibliographic Survey of Sources for a Study of the Law of Colonial and Territorial Louisiana." Her writings have also encouraged membership in state library associations, equal access to information, and hospitality, as well as studying sources of satisfaction and dissatisfaction among library paraprofessionals.

Especially noteworthy is Carol's work in raising the profile of the Law Library of Louisiana in the Louisiana courts and legal community, as well as nationally. In further support of the

(Ochal Award continued on page 10)

"[Carol's] writings have also encouraged membership in state library associations, equal access to information, and hospitality, as well as studying sources of satisfaction and dissatisfaction among library paraprofessionals."

(Ochal Award continued from page 9)

library, she convened the Friends of the Law Library in 1982, and the library's newsletter, *De Novo*, is also an award winner.

In nominations received by the committee, Carol was especially noted for her mentoring of newer members and her recognition of ability and talent in others. Her support, it was noted, always included encouragement of their participation in professional groups and activities.

SCCLL congratulates Carol, and thanks her for outstanding leadership and service.

Jean M. Holcomb

Jean Holcomb served as the Director, King County (WA) Law Library (KCLL) from 1992 until 2005. Her prior positions included service as Director, Norfolk County (VA) Law Library and as reference librarian/assistant director at the University of Alabama School of Law Library.

She has served AALL continuously through her membership on the Recruitment to Law Librarianship, Professional Development, Annual Meeting Local Advisory, Economic Status of Law Librarians and Nominations Committees. As past Chair of the State Court and County Law Libraries SIS, she also served on the Council of Special Interest Section Chairs.

She has been a regular monthly contributor to the *King County Bar Bulletin*, informing the legal community about KCLL services. She has contributed to the *Washington State Bar News*, *Full Court Press*, *Computers in Libraries*, and *LLOPS* Cited, as well as the *SCCLL Newsletter*, *AALL Spectrum* and *Law Library Journal*, where her column, "Managing By The Book," appears regularly.

Her nomination especially notes her management and leadership. During her tenure as Director, KCLL journeyed from a library that the local bar association reviewed unfavorably to one recognized as one of the premiere public law libraries in the Pacific Northwest. Her leadership resulted in structural and operational changes in the library's Board of Trustees, acquisition of technology and the construction of a new branch library.

Also noted was Jean's belief in collaboration with and mentoring of law librarians, especially her support of continuing education. Her belief in fostering positive working relationships with other justice system organizations and her concern for reduction of the technology barriers that inhibit access to justice were observed in her membership in the Puget Sound Alliance for Community Technology and the Washington State Bar Association's Access to Justice Technology Bill of Rights committee. KCLL's motto, "Without Information, There Is No Justice," mirrors her concerns and her leadership.

Under her direction, KCLL received a Gates Foundation grant to initiate and install a training room, used for law and legal research training. Other major fundraising efforts resulted in new furnishings and additional information technology equipment. The arts were not neglected during Jean's tenure as Director, and she used public art to enhance the library environment.

SCCLL congratulates Jean, and thanks her for outstanding leadership and service.

For the committee:

Anna Djirdjirian

Rita Dermody

Fran Jones, Chair

"[Jean's] leadership resulted in structural and operational changes in the library's Board of Trustees, acquisition of technology and the construction of a new branch library."



2006 SCCLL Silent Auction

Judy Meadows, SCCLL Auction Coordinator

This year's SCCLL online auction will go live on June 6th, and run for one month. We are still soliciting donations of items that law librarians either would love to have or would be able to give as gifts. It is my hope that this year we will have more members participate in both the donations and the bidding. Over the past several years I have noticed that about 3 dozen law librarians are responsible for 75% of both.

The money that is raised during the auction is used to support our members' attendance at the AALL Annual Meeting. The grants committee attempts to award travel grants to newer members of the profession and those who have been unable to go previously. Surely you have experienced the challenge of wanting to go to AALL's signature event but have not had the funding available. The auction is a way that each of you can assist these law librarians, and also buy something fun.

The auction site has specific information – descriptions and digital photos – of the donated items, as well as instructions for participating. The online auction will close on July 5th. The silent auction will be held on Sunday morning, July 9th at our meeting in St. Louis. If you want to ensure that you will be able buy a particular item and won't be going to St. Louis, you can authorize someone else who will be there to bid for you and pay for the item. Successful bidders are responsible for getting the items back home. Again, if you won't be there, please make arrangements for someone else to retrieve and take home to you your item.

Please send descriptions and photos to either me, at jmeadows@mt.gov, or Kevin Cook, at kcook@mt.gov. Your bids also should be sent to either me or Kevin. The auction website is <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/sccll/auction/index.html>. ■



Screenshot of auction website

Join the SCCLL Book Club!

Anita Anderson, Chair, Special Committee on Centennial Celebration

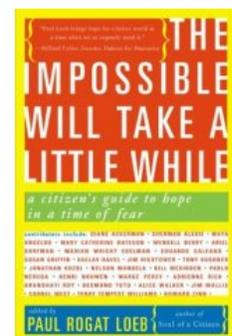
Read the book/Share your thoughts

The SCCLL Centennial Committee encourages you to join the SCCLL Book Club in reading *The Impossible Will Take A Little While* by Paul Loeb (Basic Books, 2004, ISBN: 0-465-04166-3). At his Web site, Mr. Loeb has included a thoughtful list of questions about specific parts of the book. See <http://www.paulloeb.org/newimp/impreading.htm>.

In St. Louis on Monday, July 10th from 2-3 pm, we will be presenting an alternative program to discuss the book. A panel of SCCLL librarians will discuss portions of the book that most impressed them. They will each share personal experiences that mirror themes from the book.

However, book clubs are all about the members discussing and sharing various viewpoints. So we encourage you to join in! There will be time to share your personal viewpoints and stories at the program. Even if you are unable to attend the program you can still participate. Share your comments, questions, and personal stories in an e-mail to me at anita.anderson@state.mn.us. I will incorporate your contributions into the program.

Hope to see you at the first meeting of the SCCLL Book Club. ■



SCCLL Trustees Luncheon - a Visionary Opportunity

Sara Galligan, Dakota County Law Library

The State Court and County Law Libraries annual trustees luncheon will take place on Sunday, July 9 from 11:45 AM – 1:15PM at the Renaissance Grand Hotel in St. Louis. The Honorable Catherine D. Perry, United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri is our invited speaker. She will describe the developing Judicial Learning Center for the St. Louis federal courthouse, which is a joint project of the federal district courts, a non-profit corporation, and has involved bar leaders, educators, and judges. This exciting new venture will feature displays and interactive exhibits to inform visitors about the judiciary.

The luncheon will also include a special welcome from our new AALL incoming president, Sally Holterhoff. We will also have the chance to congratulate incoming AALL vice-president, Ann Fessenden (and fellow court librarian) upon her successful election.

Other luncheon attendees will include, from around the states, trustees, VIPS, and panel speakers who will also attend the luncheon. Of course, many SCCLL-SIS members make this event a tradition and won't miss the chance to visit with important colleagues. New this year—the opportunity to enjoy some world-renowned St. Louis ribs!

SCCLL Reception at the 8th Circuit Library

Ann Fessenden, 8th Circuit Library

The U.S. Courts 8th Circuit Library welcomes you to St. Louis and is pleased to host the SCCLL Reception on Tuesday, July 11, from 6:30-8:30 in the Thomas F. Eagleton United States Courthouse.

The high-rise Eagleton building is the largest federal courthouse in the United States. Named after a St. Louisian, former Senator Thomas F. Eagleton, it was completed in 2000 and houses the headquarters of the United States Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit, the Eastern District of Missouri Courts, and other federal offices. <http://www.moed.uscourts.gov/Locations/StLouis.asp>

The reception will be held outside the 8th Circuit's en banc courtroom on the top (28th) floor. The courtroom, which will be open for viewing, includes a semicircular stone bench which can seat all of the 8th Circuit's 11 active judges. Tours will be available to the library (22nd floor) and to permanent exhibits on the 27th floor. The exhibits, developed under the direction of library staff, depict the lives and careers of Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun, who served as an 8th Circuit judge before his elevation to the Supreme Court, and Judge Theodore McMillian, the first African American judge in the 8th Circuit.

The U.S. Courts Library occupies nearly 20,000 square feet on the 22nd floor and features panoramic views of the St. Louis skyline in all directions, including a birds-eye look into the new Busch Stadium. The library is the headquarters of the 8th Circuit Library System which includes 10 libraries serving over 140 federal Circuit, District, Bankruptcy and Magistrate Judges and their staff in locations throughout the 7 states of the 8th Circuit.

Come join us to meet and greet your colleagues, tour the building, enjoy the food, and delight in the views. Directions and building access details will be announced later. Watch for invitations from Thomson West which is generously sponsoring this event. See you in St. Louis!



Now Launched: The Network on Self Represented Litigation

Fulfilling the Promise of Access to Justice for the Self-Represented

The Self Represented Litigation Network is an open and growing grouping of organizations and working groups dedicated to fulfilling the promise of a justice system that works for all, including those who can not afford lawyers and are therefore forced to go to court on their own. The Network brings together courts and access to justice organizations in support of innovations in services for the self represented.

The Network's participants already range from the Conference of State Court Administrators and the National Association for Court Management to the State Justice Institute, from the American Judicature Society to the Harvard Law School Bellow Sacks Project on Access to Civil Justice, and from the National Association of IOLTA programs to state court administrative offices such as those of California and Maryland.

The participants are cooperating in a wide variety of collaborative efforts and working groups. These efforts include providing information about innovations for the self represented, promoting best practices in such areas as the setting up of self help offices, the use of forms, and e-filing, discrete task representation, and judicial practices and education programs, establishing a research agenda, and working for integration with the system as a whole and for long term funding to support access to justice for the self-represented.

Initial concrete projects include the www.selfhelpsupport.org website, cooperation in the planning of a series of three regional conferences on self-represented litigation, and the distribution of a national directory of court-based programs for the self represented.

The Network welcomes additional organizational members, seeks volunteers from member and non-member organizations to join its working groups and is fully open to suggestions for new projects and partnerships. Neither membership nor participation requires a contribution or fee.

The Network operates under a Memorandum of Understanding, and is hosted by the National Center for State Courts. Funding is provided by the State Justice Institute, the National Center for State Courts and various state courts. ■

The above press release was submitted by Charles Dyer, who is serving on the network's Information, Marketing and Outreach Group, which plans to create a sub-group of law librarians and other librarians. Also, a new AALL Special Committee on Pro Bono Partnerships has been created for 2006-07 by incoming President Sally Holterhoff, to be chaired by Sara Galligan. One of the charges for this special committee is to recommend to the AALL Executive Board how AALL can become involved with the Self-Represented Litigation Network of the National Center for State Courts. Watch for more information about this committee to be announced soon.

"The Self Represented Litigation Network is an open and growing grouping of organizations and working groups dedicated to fulfilling the promise of a justice system that works for all..."

A Collaborative Experiment: ohiolawlibrary.org

David Whelan, Cincinnati Law Library Association

Common peril creates common goals. That is the premise behind a new experiment in Ohio by some county law libraries. Recent legislation increased county law library financial obligations for space and salary. These additional expenses are a burden to many county law libraries that have seen a decrease in their revenue. As we come to grips with the new law library world in Ohio, it is apparent that a greater degree of collaboration may be necessary.

Ohio's county law libraries are already quite well connected, meeting regularly each year. We are represented at the Ohio State Bar Association's legal research committee, and have a special interest group in the Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries. As with any group, newcomers are not necessarily connected and are missing some institutional knowledge. Our more experienced peers may leave with that knowledge, or we may not know to tap them for it. These are challenges familiar to anyone in any organization.

The legislative attack on the county law libraries, though, has spurred some additional efforts. A Task Force on Law Libraries was created by the Ohio General Assembly. County law librarians have started to talk about their own consortium. We have also begun to look at how we might make technology work for us, and help us increase our collaboration.

Consortium & E-mail

While there are many library consortia in Ohio, none includes county law libraries among its members. The legislative battle in 2005 highlighted the lack of politically connected friends and pressure we could bring to bear. As an amalgamation of friendly peers, we were only able to rely on third party assistance, lacking the organization that could provide that help.

The idea of a consortium has been driven by Kathy Sasala and Angela Baldree, each the head of their county law library in Cuyahoga and Lake Counties. Interlibrary loan (ILL) was a threshold benefit that provided glue for a consortium discussion. Who has all the materials they will ever need, without borrowing? Kathy and Angela have been leading this discussion, looking beyond ILL to other ways we can all collaborate.

One concept the potential consortium is testing is using a universal domain name and e-mail system to enable better ILL. An initial investment of \$70 enabled the first libraries – Cuyahoga/Cleveland, Lake County, and Hamilton/Cincinnati – to create e-mail addresses ending with @ohiolawlibrary.org. This domain name may become the basis for more collaborative efforts but immediately provided an identifiable handle for the group.

The idea behind the e-mail is to create county addresses (Cuyahoga@, Wyandot@, and so on) so that there is easy shorthand in order to communicate with a county law library for ILL. It eliminates having to have a directory, which may not reflect staffing changes. This is especially true when the recent legislative changes may create personnel changes that ripple across the state. Law librarians can set up their county address as an alias, to forward to their current e-mail account. If that changes, they can update the alias but the county address @ohiolawlibrary.org stays the same.

The e-mail function is not just an e-mail alias, though. Each account is a full e-mail address, with inbox and other capabilities. This may be an important option to have if efforts by county leadership to offload the county law libraries continue. Law libraries may opt, or be forced, to go to an alternative e-mail system. This would be a low-cost – currently free – option.

“We have also begun to look at how we might make technology work for us, and help us increase our collaboration.”

(*ohiolawlibrary.org* continued from page 14)

Online Interaction

While the e-mail is an important technology to leverage, online communication can provide longer term benefits. Often, e-mail goes into someone's inbox and stays there; even a discussion list may not have a long term archive accessible to others. We are testing out a collaborative Web site that will create a storehouse for institutional knowledge as well as a point for current collaboration.

Using the same hosting service that is providing the e-mail, we activated a content management system (CMS) called Joomla. The goal was to get a quick head start on a collaborative site, and I installed and tested a number of CMS applications before selecting Joomla. The benefit of a CMS was that it allowed many people to add content to a site. It can also be expanded, and I immediately added an online poll module, calendar/event module, and a document management module.

Joomla, like the other CMS applications I reviewed, is open source, so there is no ongoing cost for it or the modules I selected. It can be "skinned" to make it look less like an "out of the box" Web site. Most importantly, it took little technical expertise to get the main functions active. The main focus on the site so far is the document storage and current news.

News & Documents

Any registered member can submit news for the site. The CMS has a "What You See is What You Get" (WYSIWYG) editor so that there is no need to know HTML to add content. I have seeded the site with current news articles about county law libraries, pulled from my daily Google News watch. As the site grows, contributors will hopefully add more items like the one by a librarian at Akron's Law Library, Corliss Davis, about an updated ILL contact list.

A contributor can place a new item on the front page of the site or leave it in its topical category, and can opt to add additional metadata information about the entry. Like a blog, the home page can be syndicated as a "really simple syndication" (RSS) news feed.

One of the reasons for selecting Joomla was that a document management application named reMOSitory was available for it. Many CMS offer a news-oriented site but have little ability for document storage and management. This is not your full-fledged document management application, but it allows us to upload surveys, contact documents, minutes of meetings, and other useful information. This institutional knowledge will remain out there for others to use when they need it, even if they did not get the initial e-mail with the information in it. Another effort we are trying to kick start is to connect up those county law libraries in Ohio that have Z39.50 support in their library systems. The document management module now has the configuration data for the participating libraries so that it does not need to be gathered over again if a bus runs over a certain law librarian.

Will the consortium take root and flourish? Will Ohio's county law librarians use these technologies? Will Alexis return the library book that Dakota checked out before he was eaten by crocodiles? These are all unanswerable. But the threat to the county law libraries has created the need for additional collaboration. These are all first steps, experiments, and time will tell how successful we are in continuing the momentum. ■

"We are testing out a collaborative Web site that will create a storehouse for institutional knowledge as well as a point for current collaboration."

Court and Spark: Report on Access to Justice Conference

Jacqueline Cantwell, Brooklyn Supreme Court Law Library

"Access to Justice for the Self-Represented: Court and Community-Based Strategies and Solutions" was the title of a three-day conference held in White Plains, May 10-12, 2006. Sponsored by the New York State Unified Court System, the Delaware Judiciary, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Maryland Judiciary, The Legal Services Corporation, The American Judicature Society and the Self Represented Litigation Network, this was a major event that allowed court personnel from twenty-two states and Canada to exchange ideas on their common problem: how to assist the over-whelming numbers of self-represented litigants (SRL) while upholding their courts' values of neutrality, justice, and access.

I was fortunate to attend this event, along with several other librarians from the New York State Unified Court System. Our inclusion in this program demonstrated the Office of Court Administration's (OCA) support for the public access law libraries across New York State.

The conference's theme was introduced in the opening plenary: "And Access to Justice for All: The Potential of Community Connection, Volunteerism and Technology." The issues implicit in this goal were discussed in more detail during the day's workshops. Its theme was expanded in the day's two later plenaries on local models and cultural differences amongst litigants, both native born and immigrant. Friday's two plenaries were "The Ethics of Providing Assistance: The Difference Between Legal Information and Legal Advice," and "Unbundled Legal Services and the Self-Represented."

The topics discussed were familiar to us librarians, but what was different was the sense of trying to solve problems through institutional policies. The notes that follow were some of the most striking statements in the workshops I attended. In the rush to listen and take notes, I was not able to attribute remarks. None of the statements below should be taken as policy of the New York Court System.

Richard Zorza opened the plenary stating that the courts have an obligation to run their operations efficiently and to resolve issues as quickly as possible; litigants who do not understand or follow court orders create problems for all the parties involved. Zorza emphasized that the courts must be neutral, but that they must also protect the rights of people who have come to the courts to protect and assert rights. In spite of the courts' efforts, many litigants are not getting the help they need. In a separate workshop, Zorza described his vision for SRL websites: sufficiently informative in the most frequently areas of self-represented litigation so that a novice could successfully complete either a court provided form, or a document assembly program available through a commercial service. (The problems implicit in this assumption were brought out in more in depth in the accompanying material and the Friday plenary on the difference between legal advice and legal information.)

A member of the audience commented that the courts are creating self-represented programs because they are overwhelmed by litigants whose idea of court procedure has been formed by television. According to a judge in a different plenary, cases involving unequal power were not appropriate for ADR or self-represented litigation; domestic violence and property division in divorce were the two most frequently cited examples.

Librarians do not always think of the politics involved with the courts so it was interesting to hear a judge state that the courts needed to educate legislatures on the SRL problem and to overcome the distrust between legislatures and judiciaries. She argued that judges must educate legislatures on the services provided by the courts and make the case for funding during the budgeting process.

"The topics discussed were familiar to us librarians, but what was different was the sense of trying to solve problems through institutional policies."

(Court & Spark continued from page 16)

How to apply technology to support institutional policy was a theme throughout all the presentations. Surprisingly, large numbers of self-represented litigants had access to the Internet; the public libraries had done wonderful work here. Legal Services Corporation (LSC) recognizing the need "to change from supporting the represented to supporting the unrepresented" had begun to invest in the technology to support Internet legal assistance web sites. Speakers urged us to explore <http://www.lawhelp.org/> authored by Pro Bono Net. The www.lawhelp.org/ny site was the first central listing of all legal and social services agencies within New York.

The plenary on the difference between legal information and legal advice was excellent. It addressed why so many of our library SRL exchanges so frequently failed to satisfy our patrons. This situation happened because people wanted what we librarians could not give: people wanted guidance appropriate to their specific facts; they wanted legal advice. They wanted insight into the choices available. We could not do that. Court personnel were required to be neutral and could only provide legal information, not guidance or interpretation based upon judgment. Court personnel were prohibited from unauthorized practice of law (UPL). Judges, interestingly, were not prohibited from UPL; they had an obligation not only to be fair and neutral, but also to assist the self-represented litigants. Successful pro se litigants got help from judges. Proposed Rule 2.06 of the Judicial Code of Ethics will guide judges on this issue.

Will Hornsby, staff counsel at the ABA, emphasized that attorneys ask questions; they established an attorney-client relationship with obligations to the client. Their duty to be competent required reasonable inquiry into circumstances and diligent and zealous advocacy. Brief advice was not zealous advocacy. The ABA was involved in these questions and had issued a white paper. The courts had ruled that an attorney client relationship may be formed based upon the understanding of a party. The technology issue was brought up as part of this plenary. It was the first real questioning of how a web site was created and maintained and when did it become legal advice instead of legal information. Mr. Hornsby criticized the California Bankruptcy Appellate Panel decision "In Re Reynoso," 315 BR 544 (2004).

The topic of evaluation was particularly valuable for librarians. We need to look at our statistics and see how they can be integrated into these court programs. This is an old problem for libraries and courts. Like the courts, we emphasize outputs, but measuring how well we contributed to knowledge and decision making is very hard to measure.

Among the points mentioned in the conference on which I would have welcomed greater discussion:

The document assembly sites for the public were praised, but document assembly programs for attorneys (really expert systems) had not been considered successful. The document assembly program websites that I checked out using a Google search did not seem as helpful as the form sets in our libraries. Web sites that used the term "intuitive process" struck me as duplicitous; especially when the forms could not be examined before purchase. Why did anonymous advice over the Internet have more authority than the checklists and forms available in our libraries' collections? Did the court libraries need better marketing by the courts?

The materials and handouts included were invaluable resources. It was unfortunate that we only had two days together and did not have time to discuss the documents with the attending authors. It would have been interesting to discuss in depth with such experienced people the question of how evidence and issues should be presented to a court. Judges repeated that SRLs did not know how to state their issues. Those same problems occurred

(Court & Speak continued on page 18)

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(Court & Spark continued from page 17)

with our SRL reference questions. The question of analysis and interpretation of legal materials needed more discussion.

Amongst some of the presenters there was an assumption that the good-will of volunteers was more important than expertise. I would have liked to have seen that challenged. Relying upon volunteers to successfully direct needy people to social services and legal resources struck me as over-optimistic. Asking the right kind of questions required knowledge, not just compassion. The question of compassion fatigue for volunteers was not discussed either.

I was grateful to be included in this conference. It brought up the challenges that we librarians face in participating in this conversation of access to justice. We are a small part of the court system, but our values are the same as the courts: neutrality, informed decision making, and service. What we can bring to the conversation is our unique body of knowledge and how it contributes to the legal system: we are experts at access to content, the knowledge required to make a decision.. We need to accept the challenge posed by Tom Bruce, Director of Legal Information Institute, Cornell University, when he spoke at the Second International Symposium on Official Law Reporting (p. 83-87). He asked the courts to improve "intellectual access." That is our task and purpose.

Non-representative list of useful websites and resources mentioned at the conference:

ABA Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services <http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/delivery> I have to read the document on Telephone Hotlines Standards; I wonder if any of its points apply to telephone reference or the virtual reference services.

----- An Analysis of Rules that Enable Lawyers to Serve Pro Se Litigants: A White Paper. <http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/downloads/delivery/prosewhitepaperfeb2005.pdf> Best explanation of the difference between an attorney and a librarian that I have read so far.

American Judicature Society Pro Se Forum <http://www.ajs.org/prose/home.asp>. Essential starting point.

Center for Children, Family, and the Courts. <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc>. A good example of how California provides family court information over the Internet.

Center for Families, Children and the Courts. University of Baltimore School of Law. <http://law.ubalt.edu/cfcc/index.html>. Another interesting website demonstrating how law schools and the courts can coordinate programs.

The Future of Self-Represented Litigation: Report From the March 2005 Summit. National Center for State Courts and State Justice Institute. <http://www.statejustice.org/pdf/Combined%20Final%20Summit%20Report.pdf>

The Hotline Outcomes Assessment Study: Final Report - Phase III: Full-Scale Telephone Survey. Jessica Pearson, and Lanae Davis. Center for Policy Research : Denver, CO, November 2002. <http://www.nlada.org/DMS/Documents/1037903536.22/finalhlreport.pdf> A very valuable article that librarians could apply to their activities.. Interestingly, the success rate for the telephone hotline was the same as the reference interview, 50%.

Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts. Model Self-Help Center Pilot Programs: A. Report to the Legislature, March 2005. <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/equalaccess/modelsh.htm> . Chapter 9, "Lessons Learned From Evaluation and Directions for Future Research" was excellent. It could be an entire article for our newsletter.

(Court & Spark continued on page 19)

“Relying upon volunteers to successfully direct needy people to social services and legal resources struck me as over-optimistic.”

(Court & Spark continued from page 18)

Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc. <http://www.lawny.org/lawny/index.php> In New York State, fifty percent of the population lives on five percent of the land centered around New York City. This website attempts to assist the population spread across the rest of the state.

Legal Services Technology Sandbox <http://www.lstech.org/projects>. Another view point on technology.

-----, http://www.lstech.org/TIG/eval/legal_workstation_tools.html. This page provides standards and evaluation tools for legal work stations. Librarians could use these to evaluate public access catalogs.

LSC Resource Library. <http://www.lri.lsc.gov>. The materials under the Technology-Evaluation links look interesting and could apply to how we evaluate library services.

New York Courts. <http://www.nycourts.gov>

New York Unified Court System. Office of the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives. Self-Represented Litigants in the New York City Family Court and New York City Housing Court. November 2005. http://www.courts.state.ny.us/reports/AJJI_SelfRep06.pdf Recommendations include: "Publicize the Unified Court System's extensive network of public access law libraries; improve courthouse signage, conduct library tours that include tutorials to help self-represented litigants use the libraries; develop additional strategies to increase usage."

Selfhelpsupport. www.selfhelpsupport.org "is an SJI funded, award winning membership site that serves as a Network for Practitioners of Self-Help Programs as well as an online Clearinghouse of information relating to self-representation." Registration is required. Valuable source of documents, many distributed at conference, i.e. Opening Help Centers for the Self-Represented in Courts and Communities, April 2006.

Trial Court Research Improvement Consortium (TCRIC). This organization does not have a website, but they are too important to ignore. They are doing valuable work. See <http://www.jmijustice.org/Home/PublicWeb/TCRIC>. Googling their name turns up documents. A number of documents are available on <http://www.selfhelpsupport.org/>. If any librarians are working with this group, it would be interesting to get reports on their activities. ■

Editor's Note: Court and Spark is the brainchild of Newsletter Committee member Mareth Wilson and is a place where "our court and county librarians are motivated to contribute musings on, experiences with, or real life accomplishments in, strengthening the recognition of their library as a full and honored partner in the process of self representation, where the Court staff, the librarians and the library user overlap, and where expectations are met or exceeded."

A Long Journey...Home? Part II

Amy Hale-Janeke, 5th Circuit Court of Appeals Library

As I mentioned in the last installment of this article, I took a job in New Orleans right before Hurricane Katrina hit the area. After a brief three month detour in Texas, I headed to my new life and new apartment on New Year's Day, 2006. My semi-retired father offered to come down from Lubbock to Houston to help me move. He had just purchased a new truck and was itching for a road trip.

He showed up with his truck, which I promptly christened "Clifford the Big Red Truck," and we started loading it up. While we loaded, Dad grouched about girls having too many clothes, but I told him I didn't take fashion advice from a man who had not purchased new shirts since the Carter administration.

Dad is a gadget lover and he brought with him two short range walkie-talkies so that we could keep in touch. Since Dad had retired from the police force, he thought it would be best if we used some police codes to keep in touch on the road. "Remember, it's 10-4 when you understand and 10-12 if you need to go to the bathroom and 10-8 if you want to stop for a meal..." he explained. "Stop," I said, holding up my hand. "I won't be able to remember any of that except maybe 10-4. So let's keep this simple, OK?" Dad reluctantly agreed, muttering about the mental capacity of my generation.

We put the rest of my stuff in my car, got some iced tea, and headed out towards the Pelican State.

Once we crossed into Louisiana, Dad and I figured it would only be a couple of hours until we reached New Orleans. After all, it didn't look that far on the map. I called my new boss Kay at work to announce that we'd be there in a few hours. "Where are you now?" she inquired. "We just crossed the Texas/Louisiana border and are heading towards Lafayette," I said. "We should be there in couple of hours!" I said brightly.

"Um...I hate to tell you this but you are more than a few hours from New Orleans," Kay said. "Try about six to seven."

"Oh," I said. We had already been driving about three hours and I knew that another six wouldn't sit well with me or Dad. "We will just find a place to stop and get some sleep and we'll head into the city tomorrow," I told Kay.

That was a fine idea, except that every hotel west of New Orleans was sold out. Packed. Stuffed. Overflowing.. Displaced people were living in them and that meant that those of us crazy enough to go towards New Orleans were looking at sleeping in our car.

Luckily, my sister is a computer whiz and never far from her CrackBerry (whoops I mean BlackBerry). I called her and asked her to find us a room anywhere west of New Orleans. She did some searching and announced that she found exactly one hotel room, a non-smoking double at a Best Western on the west side of Lafayette. I told her to snap it up and that we'd be pulling into their parking lot in about 30 minutes.

About half an hour later, we pulled in and our reservation was confirmed and waiting for us. We parked the truck and my car in front of the office and hoped that no one wanted to steal eight containers full of clothes and books. Dad and I were both so exhausted that we went to bed about 8 p.m. I remember thinking right before I fell asleep that if anyone stole my containers, I hoped they were tall so the clothes wouldn't go to waste.

The next day as we continued our eastward journey, we started seeing firsthand the hallmarks of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. Trees were blown over, billboard signs were

(Long Journey Part II continued on page 21)

"Once we crossed into Louisiana, Dad and I figured it would only be a couple of hours until we reached New Orleans."

(Long Journey Part II continued from page 20)

twisted or in splinters, and houses and businesses were boarded up or had collapsed. It was a sobering sight to see as I headed toward my new home.

We pulled into New Orleans around noon the next day and really got an up close view of the new New Orleans. From the Interstate, we saw an ocean of blue FEMA tarps on roofs. Some houses looked relatively undamaged while others were barely standing. And some places just had slabs where houses had been before Katrina.

As we exited the Interstate, we saw thousands of abandoned cars under the overpasses. The cars had been left by those fleeing the flooding after the storm. Most of the cars we saw were dirty and smelled awful as they had marinated in canal water and chemicals for a couple of weeks. You could almost feel the desperation of these people as they struggled to get to higher ground and safety.

As we approached the French Quarter, Dad called on the radio. "Girl, this place looks like it took a whupping," he said. I looked around at the crumbling buildings, plywood-covered windows, and piles of debris lining the street and replied "10-4."

Turning onto Esplanade, the street that forms the eastern border of the French Quarter, we saw another Katrina leftover - indecipherable numbers and symbols spray painted on the houses by rescue teams. Some of them had phrases like "dog OK" or "none found" but some of them had more ominous sayings like "1 body."

We turned onto the street leading to my new home and Dad slowed to a crawl. There wasn't much traffic out on the street even though it was the middle of a work day. Dad leaned out of Clifford the Big Red Truck and drawled, "Honey, them streets look too narrow for me to park my truck." I looked down the street and noted that he was correct. Due to its historical nature, the streets in the French Quarter are unusually narrow. However, it seemed that most current residents got over that problem by simply parking on the sidewalk.

"Just pull up on the sidewalk and we'll unload. It shouldn't take long," I replied. We pulled up on the sidewalk to my new apartment and looked at the unimpressive front gate. As we entered the gate, though, we walked down through a side passage that opened onto a beautiful courtyard complete with a sparkling clean pool.

"Cool!" I said, thinking of future afternoons lying by the pool or swimming. Of course, since it was January, it was only 50 degrees outside so I wasn't inclined to take a dip right away. But looking back, that entrance was a metaphor for what I was seeing in New Orleans.

Most of the houses and businesses looked damaged or run-down, but sometimes when you turned a corner, you would find a beautiful courtyard. Other times, you'd find the debris of someone's life in a huge trash pile.

After we unloaded the truck, Dad and I climbed the rickety wooden steps to my apartment and opened the door. It was just as advertised. However, up close I could see the fine details that the photo on the Web didn't show. Like the fact that the apartment was decorated circa 1970s garage sale. The carpet was a hideous gold shag and the pictures on the walls were a bizarre hodgepodge of paintings of ladies in ball gowns, old maps, sketches of houses, and poor quality reproductions of some Van Gogh pieces. The sofa pattern inspired vertigo and the kitchen table was barely holding together.

However, it was clean, had a bed and a sofa and a kitchen, and most important of all, the Holy Grail of apartments- a washer/dryer unit. Granted, it was a small unit, capable of washing perhaps one pair of pants and some socks, but it meant that I wouldn't have to haul

(Long Journey Part II continued on page 22)

*"We pulled into
New Orleans
around noon the
next day and really
got an up close view
of the new New
Orleans."*

(Long Journey Part II continued from page 21)

my laundry up and down my shaky and probably-soon-to-collapse steps.

Dad came in and gave it the parental once over, making sure that all the windows and doors had locks and other such things that dads look for when they know they are going to leave their firstborn child in a city that has one of the highest murder rates in the country. Not to mention the looting that went on after Katrina. As Dad said, "It's enough to give your poor old Dad heartburn."

After we unloaded, we went for a walk around my neighborhood. We saw some people on the street and in the bar. Dad used his powers of observation to lean down and say, "Amy, where are all the women?" At that moment, we spied a window display featuring several Ken dolls in prom dresses. "Does that answer your question?" I said to Dad as I pointed.

It seems that unbeknownst to me, my apartment was across the "Lavender Line" in the Quarter and I was deep in rainbow territory. That was fine with me as I have always enjoyed shopping at gay-friendly businesses and socializing in mixed gay/straight clubs. So I was glad to know that I had an apartment in the cool part of the French Quarter.

Dad was relieved for a different reason. "Well, I guess I don't have to worry about you getting raped in this part of town," he said slowly. "But you might want to watch out for people who might mug you for your purse or shoes," he said in all seriousness. Good 'ole Dad, always watching out for me.

Once we figured out where the neighborhood grocery store and post office were located, we headed back towards Clifford. The diesel V-8 engine growled to life and we headed out towards my new job site so I could get my passcard for the parking garage and employee entrance.

We parked on a side street and went into the courthouse. My new bosses and colleagues greeted both of us as long lost friends. We got the grand tour and I was shown to my new office. Yes, a real office! With a door! At that moment, I knew I was going to love this job.

We left Clifford at the court parking garage and Dad and I headed home. I had no trouble finding parking in the French Quarter, which I now realize was another effect of Katrina.

That night, Dad and I walked down to Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville to test the local food and libations. We were not disappointed and it was a good thing we walked to the restaurant from my apartment as the margaritas at Margaritaville are strong enough to strip paint.

After a couple of these paint strippers, I overcame my natural shyness and started chatting with our food server, Doug. Dad and I were the only people in Margaritaville so I guess he didn't feel pressured to zip off to check on another table. Doug sat down with us at our table and filled me in on the role of alcohol in New Orleanian society. Doug said that he evacuated to Austin during Katrina and was told by three people that he had a drinking problem. Doug was not concerned. "They just didn't grow up in New Orleans," he said with a wink. "Besides, after Katrina it's a good idea to drink to kill off any bad bacteria in the drinking water." The man had a point.

So that was my introduction to New Orleans. I was living in a 1970s era apartment in the gay part of town on a street where the sidewalks were fair game for parking and people killed the bacteria in the water by ingesting large quantities of alcohol.

On the other hand, my workplace was great! I now had a job in a beautiful building with very nice colleagues and bosses doing work that I loved. So it all balanced out.

(Long Journey Part II continued on page 23)

*"My new bosses
and colleagues
greeted both of us
as long lost
friends."*

(Long Journey Part II continued from page 22)

However, getting to New Orleans was just half the battle. The other half came in learning the local customs.

For example, the Friday before Martin Luther King day I was at the reference desk. Some of my colleagues stopped by to chat and got into a discussion over who was going to bring the King cake. "Oh, that is so nice that you have a birthday cake for Martin Luther King!" I said. "But aren't we off next Monday for the holiday? Wouldn't it be better to wait and have the cake on Tuesday?"

My office mates looked at me like I was smoking crack. "Uh, what are you talking about?" they said. "The King cake," I replied. "Isn't that what you are talking about?" I asked. "Yes. But it has nothing to do with Martin Luther King," they said.

Turns out that "king cake" is an iced, bread-like cake that is sold in the weeks leading up to and through Mardi Gras day (known as "carnival"). Most cakes feature a plastic baby Jesus or other small token that is inserted somewhere in the cake. Whoever gets that item in their slice of cake has to buy the next king cake. And since there are about six weeks in the carnival season, there is usually at least one king cake purchased per week.

"Do people ever accidentally swallow the token?" I asked. "Only if they are too cheap to buy the next cake," was the answer. As I was pondering this new custom and looking it up on the web to make sure they weren't trying to play a joke on me, my associates wheeled out a small plastic Christmas tree.

"What are you doing? Christmas is already over," I asked cautiously, now aware that things are done differently in this part of the world. "It's the Mardi Gras tree," said one colleague placidly as he started winding Mardi Gras beads around the tree and placing porcelain masks on it. "Oh is that what that is. Wow, it looked like a Christmas tree to me," I replied. "That's because you are not from here," was the gentle reply. How true.

And don't even get me started on the foreign words I have had to learn, such as lagniappe. It is a word frequently used by people here in Louisiana and I had to have it spelled for me and then explained to me as well. It's "a little something extra," like a thirteenth donut thrown in free when you buy a dozen.

Needless to say, I have had some culture shock as I adjust to life in New Orleans, but I am grateful for my patient coworkers and bosses who are coaching me through the finer points of life in my new home state.

My husband recently arrived to live here with me after finishing his teaching contract in California. We are now living in a town home far away from the Quarter which allows us to have our two dogs with us. I am looking forward to explaining the new customs to Erik, just as soon as I have figured them all out myself. ■

"However, getting to New Orleans was just half the battle. The other half came in learning the local customs."

The Back Page



Member News

Do you have member news? Have you recently moved, started a new job, or gone back to school? Is your library starting a new campaign, launching a new website or moving to a new building? Send in your news items now!

Paula Seeger of the **Dane County Legal Resource Center** reports that their grand opening with a ribbon cutting and governor's proclamation was held on Monday, April 3. DCLRC is now located in the new Dane County (Wis.) courthouse in Madison, Wisconsin. You can view photos from the grand opening, as well as from the different stages of construction on their website under "News." <http://wsll.state.wi.us/branch/dclrc/index.html>

Katie Jones of the **Wyoming State Law Library** notes that the email addresses for the Wyoming State Law Library and staff have changed. Please update your favorites, address books and directories.

Wyoming State Law Library: library@courts.state.wy.us

Kathy Carlson: kcarlson@courts.state.wy.us

Meg Martin: mmartin@courts.state.wy.us

Katie Jones: kjones@courts.state.wy.us

Amber Bell: abell@courts.state.wy.us



View from Your Library

An SCCLL Librarian sends the following story:

We received a question via e-mail that we could not answer electronically. In our response saying the requester would need to actually come to the library we provided our hours, including the information that we have extended hours for Bench and Bar. Here is the response we got back:

NOT TRYING TO BE STUPID. WHY DOES THE LAW LIBRARY HAVE A BAR I THOUGHT THAT WAS ILLEGAL?

We did provide a serious response to the question but the image of us as bartenders was kind of humorous. I guess we do pull a variety of "ingredients" from the shelves to try to give our users a legal cocktail that if done correctly will provide an attitude adjustment.

From the Editor: I have noticed that sometimes as librarians, we are entirely too serious. Humor is often a vitally needed ingredient in getting through challenging times. I would like to dedicate this column of SCCLL News to bringing a smile to our collective faces. As such, I'm asking members to send in funny stories, anecdotes, etc. about working in our type of library. Entries should be short enough to fit in this space and you're welcome to remain anonymous. If you're a fan of the Red Green Show on PBS, you'll understand when I say 'We're all in this together.'