

# SCCLL News

A Newsletter of the State, Court and County Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries

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## View from the Chair

Catherine Lemann, SCCLL Chair



As many of you know, I recently left my job of 15 years at the Law Library of Louisiana to become the Alaska State Law Librarian, replacing retiring Cynthia Fellows. As I told people about this change, there were many people who were incredulous that I willingly chose to leave the south for the frozen north. Some people were surprised that at this stage in my life, I'd shake things up so much. Others told me that they will be watching how I survive and expect to take inspiration from my adventure.

At the time I write this column, I've been in Alaska for less than a week. Of course, I have had to drive around town to purchase supplies and admit to having gotten lost a time or two. I even had trouble getting back to my apartment once, though there was roadwork that I can partially use as an excuse. Generally people have been so welcoming to me. (Maybe I just look bewildered.) I've had excellent suggestions of what part of town to live in, places to eat and shop, and some warnings of things to avoid.

My reasons for taking this position are varied. Of course, following Cynthia will be difficult because she is so well respected in the legal community. While I wasn't feeling stale, I think there was a bit of a feeling of complacency. I'm thrilled to be taking on new challenges in a new environment.

So, what does this have to do with SCCLL? It's easy to push SIS work to the bottom of your to-do list. But I believe there is an extra, energizing opportunity when you spend a few moments on professional activities. You might get a new idea to help solve a problem or be able to supply someone else with a solution. Just learning who might help with a question can be a real timesaver.

I realize that SCCLL members get less support than other AALL members to participate in professional activities. It was particularly heartening when the grants committee reported that one grant for annual meeting expenses was returned. The recipient's supervisors realized that there would be a benefit to the entire organization and decided to fund her attendance.

As Luis Acosta's survey results indicate, there continues to be an increase in self-represented litigants. SCCLL libraries are on the forefront of working with these individuals. Sara Galligan, SCCLL vice-chair, is chairing a special committee on pro bono partnerships. Charley Dyer is also working with the Self-Represented Litigation Network. If you haven't checked out [www.selfhelpsupport.org](http://www.selfhelpsupport.org) and [www.lawhelp.org](http://www.lawhelp.org), I urge you to do so.

I also encourage you to take a look at the draft of our Strategic Directions at <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/sccll/pdfs/2006directions.pdf>. The draft is based on comments received in connection with online balloting as well as data collected in 2005 for the AALL Strategic Directions. Please send me any comments you have by October 15, 2006.

A section of the Strategic Directions identifies Performance Objectives. SCCLL committees will use these objectives as background or a blueprint for their work over the next five years. There are still spots remaining on our committees. If you can spare a small amount of time,

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please let me know where you would be willing to help. Attendance at the annual meeting is not required now that most committee work is done by email.

This year's meeting in St. Louis featured many opportunities for SCCLL members to network. I hope many of you had the opportunity to meet our VIPs and are already thinking of who we might invite to New Orleans. The reception at the 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit Library was outstanding. Barb Golden's business meeting was one of the best I've ever attended with a great blend of humor and substance.

I look forward to working with you this year. Please let me know if you have concerns or suggestions. Mail and email does reach Alaska! ■

## From the Editor

**Kim Ositis, SCCLL News Editor**

Welcome to the Fall 2006 SCCLL News! Highlights of this issue include articles from the SCCLL grant recipients and a number of other articles highlighting events at the annual meeting. Liz Rush from Travis County Law Library shares a number of exciting projects in *Court & Spark* and Jacqueline Cantwell contributes a thought provoking article on the topic of authority.

With the Fall 2006 issue, I have been the editor for a full year's cycle of newsletters. I think I've sorted out most of the growing pains, but I've noticed a couple things that I would like to share with the reading (and hopefully writing) audience.

1. On several occasions, our email system has not delivered emails with submissions for SCCLL News. This is very frustrating for editor and author alike (see graphic at right). Here is a good rule of thumb for authors who are sending in articles: I ALWAYS send an acknowledgment email within 1-2 days when I receive submissions, even if I haven't had time to read the article. If you don't receive a reply from me, assume that I did not get the message and send it again. You can also set up your email system to send you a message when a message has been opened by the recipient.
2. When sending articles as an attachment, please include the title of the article and your name and institution within the Word document so I can be sure that I make correct attributions. And it has to be Word, not WordPerfect. If you only have WordPerfect, send the text in the body of your email but be sure to make it obvious where the paragraph breaks are.

Thank you for helping to make my job a little bit easier. This issue of SCCLL News is 32 pages long - a record for my term as editor. Thank you to everyone for contributing so many wonderful articles! ■



Simulated graphical representation of SCCLL News Editor Kim Ositis discovering that the email system has "eaten" yet another message.

SCCLL News is published three times a year (Fall, Winter, and Spring) by the State, Court and County Law Libraries SIS. **The deadline for the next issue is January 15, 2007.** Articles and forms should be submitted via electronic mail to: Kim Ositis, SCCLL News Editor, King County Law Library, kim.ositis@metrokc.gov.

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## Charley's Corner: Rules versus Relationships at the Reference Desk

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

All views expressed in this article are entirely my own.

"It takes real courage to change your clichés." – Tom Robbins

*Discourse* has become a term of art for postmodern scholars. They refer to French philosopher Michel Foucault's use of the term to describe the combination of language, jargon, and special meanings given to speech and writing within a field of study or a profession. Sometimes "discourse" means just a passage, and sometimes it means the general domain of all such statements for that field of study or profession. To Foucault, the term referred in part to the institutional force of the words. The term has now been broadened to apply to any group, including social sub-groups within a culture. Most scholars are still quite good about making a distinction as to which way they are using the term.

John Conley and William O'Barr, a law professor and a cultural anthropologist, respectively, refer to the two types of discourses as macrodiscourse (the general domain of a profession, including the specific passages it uses) and microdiscourse (the discourse employed within a social group). When first-year law students hear their professors tell them they are learning to "think like a lawyer," the professors are really saying that the students must learn legal discourse: not just the terms, but the preferred type of logical analysis and the forms of presenting an argument. The renowned legal positivist H.L.A. Hart remarked that people outside the profession of law cannot understand the issues as well as those within it, so he might well judge legal discourse to be a good thing. To Foucault, this socialization process that fosters legal discourse both helps one learn to work within that professional environment and excludes consideration of certain types of arguments for which the profession has no jargon and concepts. Thus, we see such developments as critical legal studies, critical race studies, and feminist studies, as scholars examine the types of arguments that are left out of legal discourse.

In their book, *Rules versus Relationships: The Ethnography of Legal Discourse* (1990), Conley and O'Barr note that lay citizens, those not versed in legal discourse, seem to cluster in two groups when speaking in court or interacting with members of the legal community. Many discuss their legal issues in terms of relationships. In telling his story about his legal dispute with his neighbor, the plaintiff will include many facts that are not relevant to the issue at hand, but are seriously important to him, for instance, other events which helped cause his loss of trust in his neighbor. Others will discuss their issues in terms of rules, demanding with great adamancy that his neighbor did not behave properly. They noted that, as litigants become more acquainted with the legal system, they tend to change their conversations from that of a relationship orientation to that of a rules orientation. The rules orientation comports more with the type of argumentation that is successful within legal discourse, so the more practiced lay litigants begin to see what is necessary to succeed and alter their own speech and writing.

At the public law library reference desk, we librarians use the words that come out of the mouths of self-represented litigants to determine how familiar the litigants are with legal discourse. Those that give elaborate life stories have to be forced to cut down on their speech to get to the specific legal matter so that we can tell them what steps to take to proceed, e.g., find a book, use a prepared package of forms, be referred to an agency, and so on. We say things like, "What is the specific event that caused you to come to the library?" To our minds, we are asking the litigant to focus on the relevant facts, but we cannot use terms like "relevant facts" because they are terms of legal discourse. To the

(Charley's Corner continued on page 5)

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*"[L]ay citizens ... seem to cluster in two groups when speaking in court or interacting with members of the legal community."*

(Charley's Corner continued from page 4)

litigants, we are saying that they must look at only one event at a time, that the court will address only that one event, and that the court will not consider all the other slights caused by the other party or other people when ruling on that event. To the litigants, by pointing to the steps in the process, we are telling them to focus on the rules. We also (obviously to us, but not to them) are telling them that half or more of the information needs they are facing has to do with court procedure, not with their substantive complaints.

Conley and O'Barr noticed that lay litigants who interact with the justice system more often become more skilled in presenting their speech in a rules-oriented way. Landlords, insurance adjusters, sales executives, and so on will be much better litigants and witnesses because they have some inkling of the legal discourse required by the court.

We public law librarians have also seen such skills developed in vexatious litigants, even the schizophrenic obsessives, but we also see that, while they often dress their ramblings in terms of legal discourse, they don't really understand the terms. Ultimately, and this is especially true for the schizophrenic obsessives, their main complaints are still about relationships. They want someone to notice them, even if in a bad way.

So we librarians must become skilled at dealing with legal discourse, and translating as much as we can to self-represented litigants, who themselves often speak in the microdiscourses of their social groups. (Perhaps those alternative realities maintained by our schizophrenic patrons are really simply microdiscourses known only to one person.) All this can be very wearing on us.

Charles R. Figley, Director of the Institute of Traumatology at the Florida State University College of Social Work, was the speaker on a program entitled, "What do YOU Want? The Hidden Problem of Compassion Fatigue," at the 2006 AALL Annual Meeting in St. Louis. Amy Hale-Janeke was the coordinator and moderator for the program. Compassion fatigue is a real syndrome, suffered by professionals who deal with a demanding clientele. Trying to meet their expectations is stressful and emotionally exhausting. It can change your physical health, so it needs to be recognized and dealt with. Dr. Figley distinguished compassion fatigue from burnout. Burnout is the loss of meaningfulness for one's job that can develop over a long term. Compassion fatigue can come on more quickly and wear you down. The "cure" for burnout is a change of job or of occupation. The cure for compassion fatigue is to learn one or more useful techniques that will relieve your mind of the problems of the office at the end of the day. Meditation exercises, yoga, and similar activities that are specifically meant to put your mind in a different place were highly recommended, but even reading entertaining books, doing physical exercise that you enjoy, playing music, dancing, or painting will help.

Dr. Figley did not talk in terms of translating discourses. Rather, his concern was that the natural altruistic concerns and efforts of librarians and other caring professionals will cause one to empathize with his clients to the point of stress. Eventually, one develops a shell so as to avoid empathizing with them. In other words, his concern was about the relational component of our interface with our patrons. Patrons who speak in relationship-oriented terms exacerbate the problem, and we tend to tune them out. In doing so, we are actually avoiding the work we were meant to do. We have to discuss their relationships with them to the extent necessary so that we can point them in the proper direction and begin to give them some rule-oriented understanding.

If we are navigators on the information highway, then our first question at the reference desk is some version of "Where do you want to go?" Some of our self-represented litigants will start off with some statement that translates to, "You know, if he hadn't been so mean about that other event, I would have let this matter go, but he's got me so riled up that I

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(*Charley's Corner* continued from page 5)

can't." In other words, half his claim is about an issue he can't do anything about, so he really wants to go to two places at the same time, or maybe three or four.

I don't really have a pithy closer for this column. What I am wondering is whether any of this resonates with you. I realize that I had to simplify a lot in order to get the concepts across. Obviously, self-represented litigants coming in for divorce have relationship issues, some of which are germane and some of which will not be relevant in court. Sometimes their shock is finding out that the system wants them to deal with their relationship when they want to stop that and get on to the rules. "What do you mean that I have to go to mediation to get a divorce. I want to stick it to him (or her)." (See Sally Engle Merry, *Getting Justice and Getting Even: Legal Consciousness Among Working-Class Americans* (1990).)

I researched the two books I mentioned while doing a re-write of my article, "The Queen of Chula Vista: Stories of Self-Represented Litigants and a Call for Using the Cognitive Theory of Metaphor to Work With Them." The article was a winner in the 2006 AALL Lexis-Nexis Call for Papers, and I recently submitted a revised version to the *Law Library Journal*. I would be very much interested in any pat phrases or expressions that you use when, during a reference transaction with a relationship-oriented litigant, you are trying to get the litigant to focus on the specific matter at hand so that you can give the litigant some direction. I would also like to know, if you can put it into words, how you determine when it is appropriate to use the pat phrases and how well they work. If I can collect enough of these examples from different sources to see a pattern, we will have learned something, possibly something I can use to help justify grants for research on this. My email is [charlesrdyer@clearwire.net](mailto:charlesrdyer@clearwire.net). Also, check out my new website at [www.charlesrdyer.com](http://www.charlesrdyer.com). ■

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In a way, this column is a continuation of my previous column in the May 2006 issue. If you plan to send me a comment, that column might also help.

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Trivia quiz: Who can tell me where the quote at the beginning of the article came from and the rest of the quote? Send your replies to my email address. Winners will be announced next time, and I'll explain how the quote is relevant to the column.

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Lastly, be sure to vote this November. I had planned to write a column on the upcoming elections, but decided not to, as I know you are wise enough to check out the candidates and the issues yourself and vote as you should. After all, you were smart enough to read this far.

## Blame it on Barnes & Noble and Borders

John Cannan, Montgomery County Circuit Court Law Library

Ever since the big book retailers put cafes in their stores, coffee has become indelibly linked with books. Libraries have been complicit in this trend, instituting food and drink service ranging from a humble coffee pot to help quell their patrons' caffeine fixes to art house espresso bars with entertainment. Not even law libraries are immune. The Baltimore Bar Library has offered hot drinks for the past year-and-a-half, and the Montgomery County Circuit Court Law Library is now providing free coffee and pastries every Friday. Is serving coffee destined to become an indelible feature of the courthouse librarian's duties?



To answer this question, it is first necessary to understand the rationale for library coffee service. "Plural funding" gurus have touted selling coffee as a means to increase library income, but informal research has shown that the revenue generated from such sales is hardly worth it. The more convincing basis for library coffee service is that it provides a patron amenity that makes the library a more pleasant place to read and conduct research. Librarians who have instituted some form of coffee service argue that offering such beverages makes the library experience much more gratifying: patrons with a sudden urge for a quick cup of java do not have to interrupt work and lose time seeking out a Starbucks. That kind of convenience gets people into a library, insures they stay, and leads to repeat customers.

Many public and academic libraries have coffee carts or coffee bars to serve their patrons, but county law libraries need not go to such lengths if they wish to provide such a service. The Baltimore Bar Library offers packets of coffee, tea, and cocoa with hot water coming from a Deer Park water dispenser. The Montgomery County Circuit Court Library purchased a "Mr. Coffee" machine to make its coffee and staff buys donuts from Dunkin' Donuts.

Coffee service does raise the attendant concerns about allowing drinks in a library. There is always the possibility of spillage damaging books. Worse still, there is a chance that food and drink will attract vermin from roaches to mice to rats. Proponents of coffee service contend that these matters are of concern whether or not food and drink is allowed since patrons will more than likely sneak something in to eat or drink anyway. More importantly, some small surveys of public libraries offering food and drink have shown that concerns of a significant influx of varmints remained just that, concerns, which have rarely materialized into reality.

Still, coffee service may not be desirable for every law library. Whether or not it should be instituted depends on the mission of the library and a cost benefit analysis. Does the library want to increase patron traffic? Will staff be unduly inconvenienced by making pots of coffee and keeping the service area clean? Again the effort need not be great for patron appreciation. When one of our patrons learned our library was offering free coffee, he exclaimed, "What a great library!"

■

## Marketing by Accident

**Maria Sosnowski, Clark County Law Library**

We've all heard that expression "making lemonade out of lemons". Well, I ended up making lemonade by accident. I knew I had the lemons, all right, but I just couldn't see the potential.

It all started in the early spring when our superior court administrator came to me begging. He had told me for months about the problems he was having with the judges' West bills – the duplicate charges, the items not ordered, the flood of multiple copies. It all started with an order with a rep that, shall we say, did not go well. I had always listened and sympathized and told him I knew how frustrating that could be. This time was different. He sent me an email that only contained one word – "HELP." Then he came in person, and told me he could really use my help with the West billing situation. As a county law librarian I'm not considered a county employee and told him I would be happy to look into it for him, but his department would have to pay for my time. He instantly agreed (which, in retrospect, ought to have given me pause) and said he would bring the paperwork down.

Later he appeared, carrying a jumble of papers about 8 inches tall. It took me an hour just to sort it by account number, and try to get a sense of what was going on. Turns out there were 13 account numbers, and only one of them did not have a past due balance. One judge had his account terminated, one was about to, and the rest were between 4-6 months past due. The paperwork contained various invoices, letters to West, letters from West, termination warnings, return labels, packing slips, and notes.

I dug in. Over the next two months I spent about 40 hours on this project. I visited every judge and talked with them about their subscription list and what they didn't need and what they wanted. I checked to see if various titles had arrived. I canceled duplications. I spent a lot of time talking with customer service. And through it all, I had great customer service from Allan Milloy, the regional sales manager, Katherine Winston, in inside sales, and Jean Wolske, in accounts receivable. Allan got the terminated judge reinstated and delayed termination of the other one. He also helped with resolving some billing issues. Katherine helped get all of the subscriptions straightened out. Jean worked miracles in getting duplicate invoices canceled, and figuring out where we stood.

All in all, I ended up seeing each judge several times. I brought them books, I asked questions, I checked the bookshelves. I met the JA's, many of whom I recognized from seeing them in the building but most of whom I had never met. My library is tucked away in a corner of the courthouse and as I like to joke, I don't get out much. It was nice to get out. In the process I was able to get missing reporters for one of the judges (thanks to the Washington State Law Library) as well as get an offer to trade worn books I had for the ones in his office that were in better condition.

After a couple of months, I have correct subscription lists for all 13 accounts, all of the past due issues have been either paid or credited, I've told each judge when their account reached zero, and all is well. One judge told me I was an "unsung hero" when I brought him a book that he needed but never received. Another pitched in with the court administrator and bought a nice gift certificate for an excellent seafood restaurant in town. And I got many thanks from the judges and staff as well, all of whom were not happy seeing past due notices each month with their name on them.

I didn't realize it at the time, but taking on that project was a great marketing program for the library. I was meeting staff (networking), I was doing the judges favors (increasing my visibility in the courthouse), I was finding books that were thought to be impossible to find (showing my worth), and inadvertently doing all of the things I've read about to help your

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library. Now, I've got people I can say hi to when I see them in the courthouse. I know who is approachable if I need something. And I've built up good will that's almost as good as money in the bank.

Last week I used some of that good will. It was Friday afternoon (of course) and I was helping an aunt who had filed a third party custody petition and had the court sign an ex parte restraining order. She was telling me that she needed to get the kids medical help, and needed some kind of paperwork that would allow her to do that. Unfortunately, she didn't think to include that in the restraining order paperwork. I gave her paperwork to fill out for an amended order, told her to include language about medical care, and called up to one of the judges I met during the billing issues. I told him the situation, that one of the kids had an urgent medical situation, and I wasn't even through the story when he interrupted and said, "Send her up. I was leaving at 4:00 but I won't leave until I see her." When I followed up with an email thanking him for seeing her (and passing out suckers to the kids) he thanked me for caring. Now that's building good will, value to the organization, and increasing visibility!

## **Why Do You Belong to AALL? Write it Down and Win!**

### **AALL Essay Contest**

Our profession and its Association have changed greatly in the last 100 years, but have the reasons for joining and retaining our memberships in AALL changed all that much?

The AALL Membership and Retention Committee is sponsoring a 500-word writing contest to find out why membership in AALL is important to you. We want to know what you've gained and what you value from your membership, including illustrative examples or anecdotes. As an added incentive, three winners will receive free full registrations to the New Orleans Meeting next summer. Judging criteria will be based on originality, creativity, and quality and clarity of writing.

So, rise to the challenge! As we embark on AALL's second 100 years, we invite you to tell us the reasons why you belong to AALL. This is also your opportunity for fame (winning entries will be published in Spectrum) and fortune (winners will receive free full registrations for the 2007 Annual Meeting). Read on for more details.

Contest Guidelines:

- Contest participants must be current AALL members.
- Entries will be divided into three groups based on years as a law librarian: 1-5 years, 5-10 years, and 10+ years.
- One winner will be selected from each group. Be sure to indicate your group on your entry.
- The three winning entries (500-words) will be published in the June 2007 issue of AALL Spectrum, and each winner will receive a free full registration to AALL's 2007 Annual Meeting in New Orleans.
- Deadline for receipt of entries is Friday, December 15, 2006. Entries should be sent to: Claudia Jalowka, Law Librarian, Connecticut Judicial Branch Law Libraries, 90 Washington Street, Hartford, CT 06106; e-mail Claudia.beth.jalowka@jud.ct.gov; fax 860/706-5086; or phone 860/706-5151.
- Submitted entries become property of AALL.

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*"Deadline for receipt of entries is Friday, December 15, 2006."*

## Court and Spark

### Travis County Law Library: Two New Partnership and One Big Project

Lisa Rush, Travis County Law Library

For most of its 25-year existence the Travis County Law Library was a bit of an island unto itself: It served its patrons quietly and competently, but did not stretch its boundaries.

This has changed. Big Time.

The summer of 2006 saw the law library, located in Austin, Texas, form two new partnerships, and complete a project that can benefit every library in Texas.

#### Two Partnerships

##### 1. The Legal Aid Clinic Comes to the Library

Until this summer, the library's only connection with the legal aid providers for Central Texas was to refer around 25 patrons a day to its legal aid clinics. As of August 1, an attorney from Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid has an office in the courthouse branch of the Travis County Law Library. (The courthouse branch is now formally known as the 'Self-Help Center.)

Librarians refer patrons to the legal aid attorney as they normally would to the legal clinic, only the legal aid attorney is 10 feet away. The legal aid attorney gives 20 minutes of free legal advice in contested civil matters and provides intake to locate a volunteer attorney for patrons meeting legal aid's income guidelines.

##### 2. Serving the 'Almost-Agreeds'

Litigation of a civil case costs the Travis County courts \$5,000 a day. It is no wonder, then, that Travis County judges have supported and encouraged mediation for years. The problem was, though, that few pro se family law litigants knew about using mediation to reduce or eliminate their contested issues.

The local Dispute Resolution Center (DRC) offered low-cost mediation services, but located away from the courthouse complex, and it was not very visible to pro se litigants.

Travis County Law Library (TCLL) provides the free service of a reference attorney to review family law court forms in uncontested case. Daily, TCLL would have to turned patrons away from the service if both parties did not agree on all of the issues of the divorce or modification. These "almost-agreeds" could not qualify for the help of the reference attorney until they reached agreement on all of their contested issues.

In August, TCLL and the DRC partnered to offer free mediation services to the family law patrons in a library office and conference room. The non-profit Dispute Resolution Center gets a free office close to courthouse, and direct referrals from the library. The library improves its services to its almost-agreed and contested family law patrons by offering a new service.

The librarians give patrons a voucher for free mediation services. The patrons schedule and attend mediation. If an agreement is reached, then the patron will qualify for the free help of the library reference attorney. If, after mediation, the parties still do not agree on all the issues, they will still have the benefit of having aired or resolved some of their issues before proceeding to litigation.

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*"The summer of 2006 saw the law library...form two new partnerships and complete a project that can benefit every library in Texas."*

(Court and Spark from page 10)

## The Big Project

TCLL just completed an 18-month grant to develop family law forms for the statewide website [www.TexasLawHelp.org](http://www.TexasLawHelp.org) and to teach public reference librarians how to use the site.

The \$362,114 grant allowed the law library to pay an attorney/tech writer to create 120 family law forms and brochures that can be used throughout Texas.

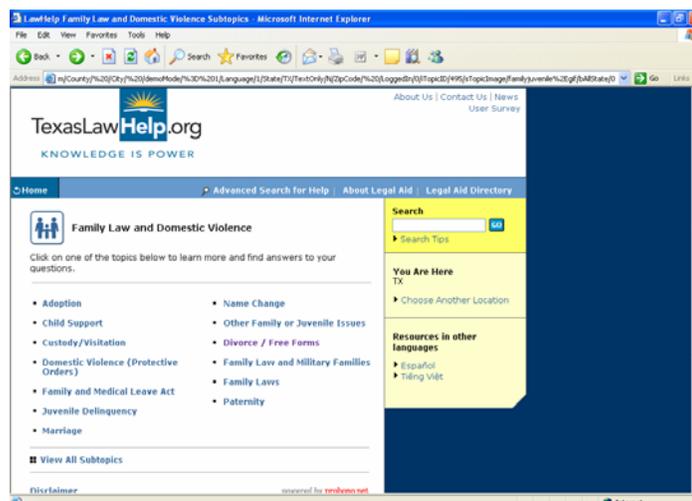
The topics range from unsealing adoption records to contested Suits Affecting Parent Child Relationships. The forms were then sent to a vendor to be translated into Spanish. The bilingual forms will be posted by the end of September 2006.

The grant also paid for the salary and equipment of a web librarian to maintain the site and updated it with over 400 resources, including non-family legal information and videos.

The library used much of the grant money to contract with the Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation (TEAJF) to launch an outreach campaign to publicize the site. In addition to promoting the site in the media, TEAJF taught reference librarians in 21 Texas cities to use the site, do basic online legal research, and to connect their patrons with their local legal aid providers.

In the first month of the outreach campaign, 5,431 users visited the site. By the end of the grant, over 23,000 visitors a month used [www.TexasLawHelp.org](http://www.TexasLawHelp.org).

*Editor's Note: Court and Spark Wilson 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."*



Screenshot from the Family Law page of the [www.TexasLawHelp.org](http://www.TexasLawHelp.org) website.

## Meet Me in St. Louis, Louis

### Meet Me at the AALL Centennial Celebration

**Boyd E. Burnison, President, Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library**

I had the privilege of attending the 2006 AALL Annual Meeting and Conference in St. Louis. It was my first trip to the Gateway City in 50 years. The Great River was not as wide as it had appeared 50 years before – or so it seemed. Perhaps that was due in part to the gigantic Gateway Arch that now soars above its western bank – a fitting symbol of the westward exploration that began there a couple of centuries ago.

Downtown St Louis appeared smaller and less grand than it had 50 years earlier, although many of the buildings quite clearly had to have been there during my previous visit. My subsequent research substantiated this. The population of St. Louis 50 years ago exceeded 800,000. The city's present population approximates 350,000 – an enormous decline. Nonetheless, old Sportsman's Park (where the Cardinals played 50 years ago) has been replaced – twice in that span of time. A gleaming new federal courthouse overlooking the new Busch Stadium now graces the St. Louis skyline.

My previous visit was occasioned by fraternity activities during my college days. On this visit, however, I was honored to be one of SCCLL's VIP grant recipients at the Conference. And what a conference it was!

The first thing that struck me about it was the exceptional amount of planning and attention to detail that was spent in putting the conference together. It started with Safety Tips For Travel, which consisted of seven headers instructing us of what to do and not to do before leaving home, at the airport, taking a cab, at the hotel, in the hotel room and elevator, and on the streets. Altogether there were forty-eight bullet points – many containing multiple tips. They ranged from having a neighbor park his/her car in your driveway while you are gone, to dressing casually while traveling, to keeping one's hotel room door open while hotel staff are present in the room.

The second thing that struck me was the sheer number and variety of meetings and events scheduled for the conference and the incredible amount of coordination that must have been required. The meetings and events schedule listed three hundred seventy five, not counting the Exhibit Hall (a day's activity in and of itself).

The meetings covered such diverse topics as legislative advocacy training, transitioning from librarians to analysts, Dred Scott in St. Louis, forensic science techniques, the impact of technology on the practice of law, podcasting for the law library, compassion fatigue, library disaster plans, knowledge management for law firms and blogging. In addition there were various breakfasts, luncheons, awards ceremonies, receptions, dinners, dessert tastings, tours and the first ever variety show. All-in-all there was enough activity to keep one busy 24/7 for at least a month.

The main focus of my interest was the legislative advocacy leadership training. In fact I scheduled my arrival in St. Louis a day earlier than originally planned just so I could attend this program and the training luncheon that followed. It was well worth it!

I arrived at the meeting place shortly before the program was scheduled to begin and found that it was already in session. "These folks mean business," I thought. But not to worry, it was only the welcome, introduction and goals portion of the meeting that Tim Coggins was eager to conclude in order to move quickly on to the program's substance.

The program participants did an excellent and informative job: Mary Alice Baish, Kennie Gill, Marcus Hochstetler, Judy Meadows, and Angela Baldree.

*(Meet Me in St. Louis continued on page 13)*

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*"The first thing that struck me about it was the exceptional amount of planning and attention to detail which was spent in putting the conference together."*

(Meet Me in St. Louis from page 12)

The breakout groups followed these presentations. I attended the discussion on public law library funding, as did Cossette Sun, the Director of the Alameda County (CA) Law Library where I serve as President/Trustee. The other breakout groups discussed the Federal Depository Library Program, and the AALL resolution on no-fee FDLP access to Pacer.

The breakout summations were followed by the legislative advocacy training luncheon where Cossette kindly introduced me to such dignitaries as AALL President Clair Germain, AALL President-Elect Sally Holterhoff and SCCLL-SIS Chair Barbara Golden, among others.

Following an afternoon devoted to musings about diversity and attending to a couple of client issues, I attended the AALL VIP Recognition Dinner with my wife Mari, in the beautiful Crystal Ballroom atop the Renaissance Grand Hotel. The ballroom is aptly named. It displays three enormous crystal chandeliers. It also provides unparalleled views of St. Louis in every direction.

That evening we hooked-up with Barbara Golden who took us under her wing and made sure that we met still more dignitaries. The food was excellent, as was the company. Claire Germaine presented the keynote address with wit, charm, and grace. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening. It was not without a serious misstep on my part, however. When Barbara asked if I planned to attend the SCCLL-SIS breakfast the next morning, I replied that, "At this stage of my career I don't do breakfasts anymore." I was told by several witnesses that Barbara announced this to the assembled throng at that breakfast, thus establishing forever my reputation in national law library circles as an early morning curmudgeon.

Nonetheless, that second day (Sunday) was filled to the brim with activities. I visited the Exhibit Hall as it opened at 9:00 a.m., and returned several times throughout the conference. Next on my agenda was a program ably presented by Sara Galligin, Ayn Crawley, Pamela Gregory, and Susan Ledray: "Pioneers in Self-help." This was followed by the SCCLL-SIS Librarians and Trustees luncheon (I still do luncheons) where I met even more dignitaries and listened to a federal judge speak about the Judicial Learning Center at the Thomas F. Eagleton United States Courthouse.

After lunch I joined the rush of conventioners to the America's Center to attend the first plenary session: "Writing Justice Blackman." New York Times Supreme Court Correspondent, Linda Greenhouse, told her enthralling story of researching the late Justice Blackman's voluminous papers, writing her series on Blackman for the New York Times and eventually publishing his biography: "Becoming Justice Blackman." This program alone was worth our trip from California.

The program entitled "From Railroads to the Internet: The Impact of Technology on the Practice of Law" interested me so I headed for it following the Blackman program. The speaker looked vaguely familiar as he chatted with well-wishers before the program began. I hastily thumbed through my program schedule and discovered that the speaker was Harvard Law School Professor Arthur Miller. I had watched Professor Miller's TV series on various legal issues several years earlier and knew the audience was in for a treat. He did not disappoint. He traced the impact of technology on the law historically, identified issues presented by the development of the Internet, and offered his predictions as to their likely resolutions.

Moving from the sublime to the ridiculous, Sydney Plus International user group meeting was my next stop because the Alameda County Law Library is about to install this system. Cossette Sun and Mari accompanied me. This program convinced all three of us that we

(Meet Me in St. Louis on page 14)

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*"The food was excellent, as was the company."*

*(Meet Me in St. Louis from page 13)*

knew less about Sydney Plus than was desirable. Our eyes were glazed even before we got to the various receptions that evening.

After attending the Pacific Chapters Joint Reception and the Georgetown University Law Library Reunion (a former colleague of Cossette's is at Georgetown) we ventured on to the Lexis Nexis "Opening Event" where we (I) overdosed on desserts primarily of the chocolate variety. Thank goodness I had skipped the SCCLL-SIS breakfast meeting. I felt vindicated.

The SCCLL-SIS reception at the Thomas F. Eagleton United States Courthouse, however, was another matter. First of all it was an evening event. Secondly, it is the most elegant courthouse I have seen during my lengthy legal career. Thirdly, it houses an excellent law library which, incidentally, offers a spectacular view of the new Busch Stadium (everything but the home plate area). One can actually watch a game from the library. And finally, Cossette introduced me to more dignitaries.

The last day of the conference was highlighted by the second plenary session: "Pioneering Change by Remembering Pioneers." It was presented by Robert Berring, a Professor of Law at Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California at Berkeley. Professor Berring arrived in Berkeley a couple of decades after I graduated from Boalt Hall. He enjoys the respect and affection of the student body there and he demonstrated why with this presentation. His brilliance is tempered by his self-deprecating humor, e.g., "My wife accuses me of making this stuff up as I go along." His very presence fills the room, and he made me very proud of my connection with Boalt.

Finally, it was time for the coup de grace – the closing reception, banquet, and dance. The turnout was huge. The introductions were many. The food was good, and the band was loud-an altogether fitting sendoff from the Centennial Celebration. Are we glad we attended and would we do it over again? Absolutely, and with special thanks to Cossette Sun, my mentor, and Barbara Golden, breakfasts notwithstanding. Both were exceptionally helpful and gracious.

Meet me in New Orleans, Louis (Armstrong, that is)...



Excerpt from the Annual Meeting VIP Nominator's Statement for Mr. Burnison:

Mr. Burnison was the founding partner of the labor and employment practice at Crosby, Heafey, Roach & May (CHRM), the East Bay's largest general service law firm. He recently left CHRM after 25 years to open his own office in Walnut Creek. He has been a member of the Alameda County Bar Association since 1966, Board of Director 1981-1985, Vice President, 1983 and President, 1984. In March 2001, the Alameda County Law Library Board of Trustees unanimously voted to elect him as a board member. Mr. Burnison is dedicated to the legal profession and has done pro-bono and community services. He is a graduate of Boalt Hall School of Law. The Alameda County Law Library would benefit from his attendance at the Annual Meeting. He will meet, and network with other trustees, AALL leadership, and law librarians and visit exhibits. Information gained at the annual conference would foster and enhance his appreciation of law librarianship and management of the law library as well as book publishing industry including electronic information.

## A Sincere “Thank You” to SCCLL

Carol Billings, Law Library of Louisiana

I very much appreciate having the opportunity to tell all of my friends in SCCLL and especially my dear colleagues at the Law Library of Louisiana how grateful and touched I am to have been honored with the Bethany J. Ochal Award along with my good friend Jean Holcomb.

Some of you may know that I plan to retire in July, but I confess that the idea hasn't fully sunk in with me yet. When my fellow staff members Georgia Chadwick, Miriam Childs, Marie Erickson, and new Alaska State Law Librarian Cathy Lemann entered my office one day last spring looking very sly, I had no idea what they were up to. I was truly flabbergasted when they revealed that they had nominated me for the Ochal Award and that Jean and I were to receive it at the Annual Meeting. Just knowing that they had nominated me was extremely gratifying.

The award bearing Bethany's name is particularly meaningful to me because she was one of the very first “big names” that I met in AALL. In the summer of 1979 I was privileged to attend my first AALL event—the Micrographics Institute at Malibu preceding the San Francisco Annual Meeting. I had never met a real live law librarian outside of New Orleans, and suddenly I was in the midst of more than a hundred of them in the land of movie stars. Bethany was a member of our institute faculty, and two past Ochal Award recipients, Ed Bellefontaine and Marie Sekula, were my classmates. The AALL veterans made all of us new kids feel completely welcome in “the club.” They lounged with us on the sand like beach bums and gathered with us in the evening to swap stories. It was a wonderful introduction to the profession, and I made many life-long friends there. When I traveled up to San Francisco for the convention, my director, the late Harriet Lemann, took me to the State, Court, and County SIS meeting, and the rest is history.

I fell into law librarianship in 1976 almost by accident because an academic librarian friend of mine was Harriet Lemann's neighbor. Until then I didn't know that our state law library existed. Now, of course, I can't imagine not having become a law librarian. Many of my dearest friends are law librarians, and I have benefited immeasurably from their wisdom, support, and generosity. Law librarians have welcomed my husband, Warren, into our circle and mentored my now-grown-up daughter Liz, serving as great role models for her in her career as a university administrator.

I'm especially honored to be considered in the same league with Jean, whose enthusiasm for our profession is infectious. We both remain proud of the 1991 Winter Institute that we put on with Ken Svengalis and Jim Heller in Williamsburg specifically for SCCLL members. Congratulations to you, Jean. I'm so glad that you've returned to the land of SEAALL.

My forthcoming retirement from the Law Library of Louisiana will not mean retirement from AALL. Warren and I couldn't bear not getting together with our good friends every July. So, like Jean, I'll look forward to seeing all the SCCLL gang at our annual meetings. ■

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*“The award bearing Bethany's name is particularly meaningful to me because she was one of the very first ‘big names’ that I met in AALL.”*

## Thank you...

### Jean Holcomb, Retired, King County Law Library

Thank you for this honor.

Storytelling and libraries share a long history. For many of us, our first memories of a visit to the library began with the sound of the librarian's voice telling us about Peter Rabbit, the Grouchy Ladybug, or some other classic character. As we grew older, the library became a tool that helped expand horizons and empower our dreams.

For over twenty years, I've been privileged to be a law librarian-storyteller. The many diverse characters I've met working in a public law library and in a profession that focuses on providing access to legal information have enriched and inspired my life. Their story lines have challenged me to learn new skills, reach out to build partnerships, and turn ideas into programs and services to support the mission of my library and my profession.

In the process of sharing the story of my library and its users and listening while others shared stories about their own library community, I have made lifetime friends and become a part of a network of extraordinary librarians. Thank you all for your generosity of spirit, your willingness to listen when I began a conversation with ..."I have an idea," and the examples you provide everyday of the value of living a purpose driven life.

I look forward to continuing my role as law librarian-storyteller as I enter a new chapter of my life.

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*"I look forward to continuing my role as law librarian-storyteller as I enter a new chapter of my life."*



Jean Holcomb (left) and Carol Billings (right) accept the Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession at the 2006 AALL Annual Meeting.

## Haley Grant Article

**Brian Haley, New Hampshire Law Library**

For years I have heard stories from colleagues about their experiences attending the AALL Annual Meeting. Prior to this year, my only experiences with the meeting had been to interview for jobs or to catch up with former colleagues whenever the meeting was held in a city near me. In July, I was able to attend my first AALL Annual Meeting in St. Louis, courtesy of the travel grant I received from SCCLL.

So what does a first time attendee look forward to? What new skills was I looking to learn? What did I want to get out of my experience? Put simply, I wanted to reinvigorate my passion as a librarian.

While it may have been my first annual meeting, I was by no means a stranger to libraries. I have worked in academic, firm, court, and public library settings in several states as well as in legal publishing. I recently took a job as the Reference Librarian at the New Hampshire Law Library. Prior to taking my current position, I was in technical services at an academic library, but dealing with patrons on a daily basis was nothing new. However, I quickly learned I was not prepared for the challenges I would face as a reference resource in a public law library. It only took a couple of weeks before my greatest fear was hearing a patron start their question with “Can you tell me the law...?”.

The position has provided me with both opportunities and challenges, and on some days, my desire to stay in the profession has been tested. I’m still not sure what I want to be when I grow up. Is librarianship, specifically law librarianship, in my long-term plans? I needed guidance, a boost, a shot in the arm. Four days of meetings, workshops, lunches, and galas (and yes, a few drinks) provided that much needed shot, especially one workshop entitled, *What Do YOU Want? The Hidden Problem of Compassion Fatigue*.

The presenter, Dr. Charles Figley, discussed the results of his research on doctors, disaster relief workers, and animal control volunteers. Their dedication and experiences with compassion fatigue are unmatched, but on any given day, our jobs as librarians – as public servants – are both exhilarating and exhausting at the same time, just like relief workers’.

One day a disgruntled father comes into your library looking for child support regulations in effect ten years ago. The next day, a local conspiracy theorist tells you he is convinced all the books from 1978 have been destroyed. At the end of the week, the judge calls you into her office to tell you that your budget has been cut in half. These are the situations that bring us to the brink and back again. Dr. Figley advised that recognizing these triggers and creating distance from the job—whether by gardening, reading, traveling, or spending time with friends—are helpful in ensuring you arrive back on Monday morning refreshed and ready to take on new challenges.

Outside of the workshops, formal and informal networking opportunities presented themselves throughout the week. I had the opportunity to meet Penny Hazelton and her colleagues at the University of Washington Law Librarianship Alumni dinner. At the beginning of the dinner, the people at my table were strangers. By the end, it was as if I had been coming to the party every year.

One roundtable discussion about the state of law librarianship, past and present, called *Beer and Pretzels: Eavesdropping on AALL History at the Centennial Brewery*, brought together not only Penny, but Roy Mersky, Carol Billings, and Frank Houdek just to name a few. It was nice to see respected librarians with years of experience still attending the meeting, perhaps to reinvigorate their passion for what they do every day. To see new faces like mine that bring new life to the meeting. To share experiences with one another and to

*(Haley Grant Article continued on page 18)*

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*“While it may have been my first annual meeting, I was by no means a stranger to libraries.”*

(Haley Grant Article from page 17)

continue the process of lifelong learning.

One of my favorite t-shirts (from unshelved.com) says, "What happens in the library, stays in the library." The slogan has special meaning to many librarians, but it might have more relevance to AALL if slightly modified: "What happens in the law library is discussed by law librarians." If we do not gather together as a community and talk about how to improve our day-to-day operations, how can we move forward for another 100 years?

Next year's meeting will be in New Orleans, and it will be an opportunity for all law librarians, regardless of age or experience, to become rejuvenated in a city that will be doing the same. I hope to see you there. ■

## **2006 Annual Business Meeting Minutes (draft)**

**Marcus Hochstetler, Secretary**

*Actions of the Executive Board between July 16, 2005 and July 8, 2006:*

1. Executive Board Minutes of July 8, 2006
2. VIP Program Expansion
3. Corporate Sponsorship
4. Committee Structure
5. Shorter conference for 2007
6. AALL/SCCLL reps

*Report on the SCCLL Business Meeting, St. Louis on July 9, 2006*

Barbara Golden called the meeting to order. Barbara reviewed Executive Board actions. Marcus Hochstetler gave the Treasurer's report. Committee reports were presented by Fran Jones for the Awards committee, Anne Matthewman for the Bylaws Committee, Barbara Fritschel for the Grants Committee, Judy Meadows for the Silent Auction, Barbara Zaruba for the Membership/Mentoring Committee, Jane Colwin for the Nominations Committee, Joel Fishman for the Publicity/Public Relations Committee, Regina Smith for the Sourcebook Committee, Catherine Lemann for the Strategic Planning Committee, Karla Gedell for the Technology Committee, and Sara Galligan for the Trustees Development Committee. Reports from all committees are posted on the SCCLL website.

Marcus Hochstetler reported a high participation rate of members in the online survey which followed the 2<sup>nd</sup> online election of SCCLL-SIS officers in April 2006. Overall 53% or 275 of our 521 members voted this year and 38% or 104 of those answered our short 5-question feedback survey. This is a 92% increase over our participation level in 2005.

The Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession was presented to Carol Billings and Jean Holcomb. Barbara Golden recognized Rita Kaiser for filling in as temporary SCCLL Webmaster, and agreeing to continue in the position for the coming year.

The Honorable David De Alba, Superior Court of California, Sacramento County, swore in new and continuing officers.

The items up for the Silent Auction were placed on the SCCLL website a couple weeks before the SCCLL Business Meeting, followed by vigorous bidding process both online and in person, resulted in another great showing of support for our annual travel grants. Judy Meadows, Chair of the Silent Auction Committee, reported that she expected the Silent Auction to match the \$3400 raised in 2005. These funds will be deposited into the SCCLL Treasury. Thanks to one and all who participated. ■

## Sosnowski Grant Article

**Maria Sosnowski, Clark County Law Library**

This AALL conference offered me an opportunity to get new ideas and talk with people who are facing similar situations as my library is. I am the only employee of the Clark County Law Library in Vancouver, Washington, so new ideas and meeting with similar people is always welcome. All during the conference, I was jotting notes to myself about ideas to try, websites to look up, people to contact, and things I wanted to do.

The event that was most inspirational to me was the Joint Roundtable on Library Service to Pro Se Patrons and Prisoners, sponsored by three SIS's: LISP, RIPS, and Social Responsibility. Amy Hale-Janeke did a fantastic job of coordinating this discussion and making sure everyone speaking could be heard. The attendees first introduced themselves and shared a summary of pro se services available in their state and library. From this discussion I learned that Washington, while not on the cutting edge as far as pro se services, was well ahead of many states, some of which lack even county law libraries. Then Amy invited people to share strategies about how to handle the pro se patrons that we see, such as the people who are angry, frustrated that we cannot provide legal advice, etc. (*Note to self: great idea was never letting a patron leave "empty-handed" - always try to provide patrons with another source of help to contact.*) People also shared information about programs that were in their library or available in the community. This whole process got me thinking about other things I can do in my own library. For example, some people talked about pro bono legal clinics that are run in their library, and grants that may be available. (*note to self: look into grants to get a clinic up and running.*) Barbara Golden talked about how the Minnesota State Law Library provides services to inmates. I was recently put in charge of our jail law library, so it was helpful to hear what someone else is doing.

I also attended the Pioneers in Self Help program. Susan Ledray and Pamela Gregory both shared ideas about getting more partnerships going for the benefit of our patrons. They also talked about pro bono services that can be offered in the library. We got a list of websites, as well as a list of concrete benefits that the lawyers who participate in these programs receive, which will be helpful to me in trying to put together a program of my own. They also talked a lot about networking, being seen, and cultivating relationships with others who can help the library. (*Note to self: when I get back I need to contact my county bar director - we haven't had breakfast for a while.*) The benefits of a partnership were also mentioned, leading me to think about offering some kind of presentation to the local public librarians about good pro se internet sites, or to the public about basic legal research. (*Note to self: see if the local library would like me to attend one of their staff meetings to discuss ways for them to help pro se patrons.*)

Beyond Google: Hot New and Specialty Search Engines was another great program. I admit, I'm a Google junkie. It's the first (and often the only) website I use. Susan Boland encouraged us to break our addiction and try some of the other websites she discussed. She told us about Trovando and Jux2, both metacrawlers. We also heard about Sphere, which is a blog search engine. It also allows searching of photos, books, and news. Red Light Green was offered as an alternative to OCLC (which I don't have access to) and is run by a nonprofit group of research libraries. (*Another note to self: check out some of these websites when I get back - if I get familiar with them, who knows what I might discover!*) Susan covered many other search engines, and her handouts with screen shots were great.

I also attended the SCCLL business meeting and breakfast. It was nice to put some faces to names I have heard. And it was a special moment to see Carol Billings and Jean Holcomb receive the Bethany Ochal Award for Distinguished Service. I met Jean when I started my job nearly seven years ago, and she has been an inspiration to me as far as public service, positive attitude, and getting things done. I submitted a nomination for her, and it was such

(*Sosnowski Grant Article continued on page 20*)

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*"This AALL conference offered me an opportunity to get new ideas and talk with people who are facing similar situations as my library is."*

(Sosnowski Grant Article from page 19)

a treat to see her accept the award.

Thank you for the grant to help me attend – it was a great source of ideas and inspiration for me. I've brought that energy back to the library with me, and the public will benefit. ■

## There and Back Again\*: Or An Aging Librarian Does AALL's Centennial Celebration in St. Louis!

Linda Falken, Lane County Law Library

\* apologies to Bilbo Baggins and J.R.R Tolkien

While I haven't quite lived the eleventy-one of that elder hobbit character (111 hobbit years, for those who are not familiar with Tolkien's writings), I DO claim white hair, wrinkles, stiff joints and a score of other indicators that this body has been around the track a few times already. However, I was delighted when my age (and hopefully experience?), coupled with a continuing enthusiasm for public law librarianship, earned a travel grant for attending the AALL Annual Meeting, July 8-12, in St. Louis. Not only did I have an opportunity to connect with colleagues, old and new, but it also proved to be a refreshing personal renewal for my enthusiasm for this profession. So please indulge me in this opening paragraph, while I express a sincere "thank you" to the SCCLL Grants Committee, and all other members of SCCLL who have contributed to funding for these grants.

One event that was particularly useful was the ½ day LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY Workshop, which was conducted on Saturday before the Conference began. Besides hearing about past and current work by AALL's Legislative Affairs office, there was also a presentation by Ms. Kennie L. Gill, the Democratic Staff Director and Chief Counsel for the U.S. Senate's Committee on Rules and Administration. She offered very practical and basic tips on how to get on the radar screen of local, state, or federal government representatives. It was also refreshing to hear her enthusiasm and trust regarding the quality and veracity of information provided by AALL's Washington office on issues affecting the public's access to government information and services. The workshop included a panel on public law library funding issues, (a matter near and dear to many of us), featuring Marcus Hochstetler, King County Law Library, Judy Meadows, State Law Library of Montana, and Angela Baldree, Lake County Law Library in Ohio. I really felt both enervated and also somewhat apprehensive about tackling legislative issues in my own state, after hearing about the experiences of others.

On the first day of the conference, I attended the program (on Sunday) coordinated by Sara Galligan of the Dakota County Law Library, which provided information about and web links to information sources on establishing self-help centers in law libraries. Her panel also spoke about efforts to set up in public law libraries pro-bono arrangements with local bar organizations and volunteer lawyers. Several speakers, including Ayn Crawley from the Maryland Legal Assistance Network, offered very practical advice and information to help libraries develop these types of programs. (I'm certain she won't mind my promoting MLAN's web site, which offers advice on ways to partner with legal services staff in your area, and for creating Pro-Bono partnership arrangements. [www.peoples-law.org/library.htm](http://www.peoples-law.org/library.htm))

Both Keynote Speakers, Linda Greenhouse and Robert Berring, Jr., were equally interesting, but in different ways. On Sunday, Linda Greenhouse (author of **Writing Justice Blackmun**) spoke about her experiences as the Supreme Court correspondent for the New York Times, which earned her an invitation from Justice Blackmun's family to have exclusive access to manuscripts and papers maintained by the Library of Congress Manuscript Division since his

(There and Back Again on page 21)

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*"...[The Annual Meeting] proved to be a refreshing personal renewal for my enthusiasm for this profession."*

(*There and Back Again* continued from page 20)

death. Bob Berring, as a contrast, addressed the theme of the conference, "Pioneering Change..." by drawing upon the history of law librarianship and how that relates to our profession's future. His stories about the impact of technology on his teaching style brought one of several room-sized chuckles from the audience (i.e., a student "googled" his past remarks during a roundtable discussion, and then showed the rest of the class what he had found, in the middle of Prof. Berring's lecture.) Moral: No remark, no matter how long ago or pithy, is ever forgotten!

On Monday, a program on "Legal Publishing and Business Practices" covered the current activities of various AALL committees interacting with vendors, including CRIV, the CRIV Task Force, Fair Business Practices Guide Implementation Task Force, and Licensing Principles for Electronic Resources. I was excited to learn that both the FBPG and the LPER are being revised, and a 2006 edition of the Fair Business Practices Guide is imminent.

The Hot Topic issue this year lured me away from another program originally on my schedule. This year, the issue was disaster planning, and covered practical aspects about putting together simple disaster and recovery plans for your library, regardless of its size. Jeanne Drewes from the Library of Congress ([jdrc@loc.gov](mailto:jdrc@loc.gov)) gave a very lively discussion (the audiotape would probably be worth purchasing!) and provided very useful handouts on sources for disaster planning and for sample plan templates. (The Northeast Document Conservation Center has a template for building a disaster plan at [www.dplan.org/](http://www.dplan.org/) which she shared with participants). Her main advice was to think about what types of events could possibly affect your library, and set up simple response and recovery plans for the most likely. Even those of us who do not work or live in the path of Katrina/Rita scale disasters can be affected by tornadoes, storms, floods, earthquakes, and fires in our communities.

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*"Her main advice was to think about what types of events could possibly affect your library, and set up simple response and recovery plans for the most likely."*

However, I was particularly interested in a program offered on Wednesday, which discussed the findings and implications of AALL's Authentication Survey. This was presented by Richard Matthews from Wichita State University and Judy Meadows from the State Law Library of Montana. Both speakers outlined the issues affecting permanent public access (PPA) to electronic statutes and regulations, and emphasized that this will be an on-going advocacy issue with AALL. They indicated that AALL needs to promote awareness and understanding about "official" and "authentic" versions of legal documents, and to raise questions about whether the effort in converting government documents from paper to electronic versions will actually be recognized by courts as being authoritative. This is particularly vital to those of us who work with patrons who cannot directly access the "official" publications in our own collection, but must rely on on-line versions offered on websites maintained by state and local governments. Many state legislatures have not yet addressed the question of whether these electronic versions are "authentic" and even accurate as a permanent legal record. Plus more effort and education is needed to "protect" electronic versions of past laws and regulations, and to ensure that these cannot be altered or changed.

As for events that allowed us all to connect with each other, there were several that allowed me some social opportunities, in between the educational programs. Besides an excellent reception and tour at the 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals library in St. Louis (thanks to Ann Fessenden and her staff, who have an unsurpassed view of the Mississippi River and the St. Louis Cardinals new baseball stadium!), I was able to attend the SCCLL Business meeting and Breakfast (allowing me an opportunity to finally get the last word in on my choices in the Silent Auction, and to contribute to next year's Grant recipients' travel plans!).

So there you have it, my journey to far lands and new faces, plus a surprising number of familiar ones (some **almost** as long in the tooth as yours truly!). Now if I can just find my notes so that I begin applying all of the great new ideas that I brought back!

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## In the Winner's Circle at AALL: A First-timer's Experience

Paula Waddle, 5th Circuit Libraries – Brownsville Satellite Library

Growing up in Texas, I know all about big space. And that's what greeted me as I walked from my hotel to the meeting area of the 2006 AALL Annual meeting. At the America's Center in St. Louis, MS, the entry hall to the convention center was a long, wide, nondescript, and seemingly unending entrance with dull walls and ceiling.

On this the first morning of the conference, I noticed only a few folks sauntering along in the same direction as me. Could this hall lead to the Law Librarians' premier national conference, I wondered? As a first time AALL conventioner I was pretty skeptical. Are many people even going to this event?

The questions was resoundingly answered when I entered the meeting area. Around me was a vibrant and busy place with lots of official activities and plenty of informal greetings and chatting. Immediately I saw that librarians were doing what they do best. They were networking and exchanging ideas. I watched local law librarians at the hospitality desk directing inquirers to the best restaurants and entertainment in the area. The message board was already full of librarians trying to meet up and I watched more messages go up with each passing minute. Everyone was busy and moving. Registration was a breeze.

After I registered, I looked around and saw no one I that I knew. I decided to explore the Exhibit Area, and wondered to myself, "Will there be 5 days of isolation?" Several attendees were sipping coffee around some tables at the BNA coffee café. Grabbing some coffee and a pastry, I approached another person sitting alone. We exchanged information, and I quickly got to know my first new friend at the conference. Her name was Yvette Brown, and she is a Reference Librarian at the Catholic University of America. We found we had many traits in common. Not only are we both Texans, we both love our job! Yvette described some of the general activity I could expect in the exhibit hall and in the sessions. As she explained how things worked, I thought to myself, "Maybe this will be okay." We finished our coffee and headed off to our first informational sessions. Suddenly, I realized why attending AALL is so important. It is not just the information, it is an opportunity to meet other librarians from all over the nation and the world employed in a variety of careers!

The routine- session, break, session, eat, session, session, reception, eat-was established. My head was swimming in information. Days passed in a blur. Would I learn anything I could take home and really use? My question was resoundingly answered over and over in the affirmative.

Let me share just one such experience. As a solo librarian at a court law library that is also the largest law library in south Texas, I have a strong interest in internship programs. I attended a session in hopes of finding out what methods others use for attracting and screening interns. Since there are no library schools in the southern tip of Texas, I was not optimistic. But to my surprise, the seminar provided many excellent suggestions and specific contact numbers. This was concrete information I could take home!

That session didn't just yield answers to my questions. I met other professionals wrestling with the same issues. Barbara Traub of St. John's University School of Law found me after the program and invited me to a breakfast roundtable for Law Library Educators offered the next day. That group continued talking about internships and shared ideas. Now I could hardly wait to return to my library and to develop a plan.

Another event, "Federal Law Librarians Discussion Group" was a mystery. It was a one line item in the program. Would that be a good use of time? As I strolled toward that meeting, one of my colleagues from the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Library system, Barbara Fritschel, the librarian of

*(In the Winner's Circle continued on page 23)*

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*"Around me was a vibrant and busy place with lots of official activities and plenty of informal greetings and chatting."*

(In the Winner's Circle continued from page 22)

the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit branch in Beaumont, Texas, walked past. Barbara encouraged attendance so we went into the meeting together and met other federal law librarians working from coast to coast in positions with the U.S. Supreme Court to the White House and many federal agencies. They gathered for the first time to discuss mutual concerns. Now, thanks to an organizer of the meeting, Adriana Younskevicius, we are linked by email and plan a follow up at the next AALL. AALL served as a superb organizing tool.

As I marveled at the valuable and helpful seminars I was attending and new acquaintances made, I received one final prize. I won a drawing for a gift basket from the SWALL chapter! My colleague Jennifer Laws of the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit branch in San Antonio, Texas, had filled bags of goodies for a daily drawing and she drew my business card on the last day. I would take these tangible winnings home with me.

Now preparing to leave, I thought to myself that while it was great to win the gift basket, the real trophies were the business cards of my new friends, handouts from the sessions I attended, and the new understanding gained of the role of the law librarian as the "ultimate search engine". AALL winnings now serve as daily reminders of an excellent conference, and I am full of anticipation for AALL next year in New Orleans. ■

(The writer of this article is indebted to Amy Hale-Janeke, who has not an iota of "Compassion Fatigue" –the topic of *her* winning seminar at AALL- for her encouragement and editing assistance.)

## My St. Louis Adventure

**Karla Gedell, Minnesota Attorney General Library**

The Centennial AALL Annual Meeting was only my third annual meeting in nine years, so I was determined to make the most of this opportunity. My annual meeting experience consisted of SIS meetings, programs and roundtables, and plenty of "fun time."

The SIS meetings were first on the agenda, with a committee chairs' meeting on Saturday and the SIS breakfast early Sunday morning. Highlights included reunions with "e-mail colleagues," and receiving the coveted "Radical Militant Librarian" button for serving as a committee chair.

I attended programs on Sunday through Tuesday covering a variety of topics:

**A-4 Preservation of Digital Information.** This session had four speakers, two from France and two from the U.S. I was wondering why I would want to know what the preservation trends were in Europe, when I discovered that their preservation rules are much more strict than those of the U.S. The Legifrance web site provides access to legal materials ([www.legifrance.gouv.fr](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr)). The U.S. speakers stressed the importance of preserving materials in both electronic and analog format to ensure future access. At issue are 1) print materials and 2) "born digital" materials. Speakers recommend writing analog copy to silver halide microfilm, certified for 500 years. The Law Library Microform Consortium (LLMC) is creating a database of "preserved copies." For example, there will be a certain number of institutions across the U.S. who will commit to preserving the full set of a state's S.Ct. Reports. They will note in the database if their copies of certain volumes are in poor condition, so others could check this resource before disposing of print sets. The LIPA (Legal Information Preservation Alliance) is focusing on "born digital" materials but has not arrived at a solution at this time. More info can be found at: [www.llmc.com/AboutLIPA.asp](http://www.llmc.com/AboutLIPA.asp).

**B-1: Give Me One Box to Access Our Electronic Collections: The Pioneering Google Search Appliance Beta Test.** A small New Hampshire law school contacted Google to become a beta

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*"My annual meeting experience consisted of SIS meetings, programs and roundtables, and plenty of 'fun time.'"*

(My *St. Louis Adventure* continued from page 23)

tester for the “Google Search Appliance (GSA).” To get Google’s interest, they enlisted the help of their regional consortium, North East Law Librarians Consortium (NELLCo). The GSA indexed content locally using a Linux box which resided in their server rack. Spiders gathered content and fed the box, plus other methods. Google granted only a 90-day test license, which wasn’t enough time. Their pricing model was too expensive, even using the consortium model. Google priced “by the document” but then refused to define what a “document” entailed. Negotiations are still underway, but one speaker called it “doing the dance” with Google. A second product, Thunderstone, is under investigation.

*D-6: Measuring Impact: Cost Justification for Information Services.* This was an excellent session, with tips on how to connect the cost of information with value gained by users. We should always be collecting data; a couple weeks’ worth of anecdotes before a review isn’t enough. We have to *show the impact*. For example, tell a story of a user who “looked for 20 minutes before I called” and how you, the information professional, located the requested results in a fraction of that time. A second speaker, a firm librarian, related techniques used in her large law firm. One tip: respond to people ASAP, even if it’s to say “I’m having trouble finding what you want; talk to me.” The user now knows you are working on their project.

*F-2: Copyright Implications of Digital Archives.* This session addressed three areas of copyright, when creating, preserving, and “exploiting” (using) digital archives. If you didn’t attend this session, the handouts are quite good. They include a chart for published (US and foreign) and unpublished works and copyright terms for each. The notes to the chart are extensive and reference several articles and guides.

*G-3: Pioneering Toward a New Cataloging Code: RDA–Resource Description and Access.* RDA, for non-catalogers, is the “new” AACR3, being developed by the Joint Steering Committee (JSC). RDA claims to offer better organization of cataloging description rules, simplifications, and support for FRBR tasks (find, identify, select, and obtain). New terminology examples: “heading” changes to “access point” and “main entry” changes to “primary access point.” Notable fireworks in this session: AALL representatives to the JSC recommended that the primary access point for reports of a single court should be the court, not the publisher, and also recommended that rules governing treaties address the difference between bilateral and multilateral treaties. Neither recommendation was adopted and comments about the JSC by attendees at this session were far from favorable.

I tried sampling roundtable discussions this year with mixed success. I attended *Services to Pro Se Patrons & Prisoners* and the *TS-SIS Cataloging & Classification Issues* roundtable discussions. The first session was an eye-opener to public law library life, and the cataloging session was overwhelmingly attended by academic catalogers. Both provided insight to law libraries that are quite different from our small government library.

I also attended the SCCLL-SIS Centennial Committee Program, a discussion of the book *The Impossible Will Take a Little Longer* (Paul Loeb, editor). I can recommend it for some thought-provoking reading.

Evening excursions, the SCCLL reception, vendor events, exhibits, the association luncheon, the excellent plenary session by Linda Greenhouse, trips to the beautiful Arch and Botanical Gardens, and just hanging out at the AALL Annex (Starbuck’s) rounded out my St. Louis experience.

I found attending the Annual Meeting to be kind of an *art*. Selecting programs that would be most applicable for our government library was a challenge. Making the most of limited free time without a car called for creative thinking. Yet, I can’t wait to go again. I am grateful for the generous grant from SCCLL and I look forward to many future Silent Auction purchases so others may receive such helpful assistance!

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*“Both  
[roundtables]  
provided insight to  
law libraries which  
are quite different  
from our small  
government  
library.”*



## Back Thoughts to “Information Realities - Working Draft”

Jacqueline Cantwell, Brooklyn Supreme Court Law Library

Why do patrons love Google? I suspect Google's appeal is more than its lauded technology. The true reason is probably darker; Google does not threaten a user's authority.

Google's homepage is more user friendly than a library's web page or a print index. Its home page looks so amateur with its colors and query box floating on the page. White space in a graphic display usually conveys elegance and restraint; instead, Google's pages squander white space. The white space around the results relieves the apparent disorganization of the results. Compare Google's screen display to Lexis, Westlaw, and database services available through library web sites. Google's poorly designed pages reinforce the skimming and unreflective reading experience of the web. The commercial services' screen displays provide opportunities for the user to refine results and, browse subject headings – all opportunities to become deeply involved in a thought and to question authority, one's own and others. Google's most frequently used interface does not provide opportunities for refinement and self-questioning. Thus begins a strange relationship that empowers the uncertain and unsure.

Google gains an authority because it does not assume authority. It "empowers" a user by not contradicting the user. Every search gives a result. Google's technology requires Phd's and capital investment, but it does not appear elitist by appearing expert. Google cleverly manipulates a design and image sensitive public that distrusts authority and expertise by concealing its amazing technology behind an awkward graphic display. Google could have designed an elegant page and appeared authoritative like [www.thomas.gov](http://www.thomas.gov). Graphic designers cost less than computer scientists, but it chose instead to be ill-made and to rely upon the computer-geek connotations of amateur: approachable, passionate, and out of the box.

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*“Google gains an authority because it does not assume authority.”*

I love Google. Its technology provides wonderful things: book search, earth search, and the newspaper archives. I use it all the time, but Google encourages an anxious and fretful mind instead of a purposeful mind. Google does not structure results or make clear connections. Libraries do provide subject headings and classification. These are structures to aid thought. Google's disorganization mimics the disorienting quality of modern life. In a strange way, it confirms patrons' unease and fear of the world's threats. Google hardens patrons' confusion. It is the rare patron who will accept a printed book (like the New York State Code) that contradicts a web page retrieved through Google.

Somewhere I read, "There is nothing more mysterious than a fact." That sentence stays with me and explains part of my problem with Google and the web. For me, unlike many patrons, Google just does not result in facts. Web pages, even when printed out, fail to become facts. They persist in feeling unreal and unstable. The screen display is not as satisfying as a printed page. The flickering pixels, even though not obvious, mimic the instability of the web. Perhaps this is my age, or that I need a fact to be independent of my perception. Turning off the monitor and cpu is too much like making a fact disappear. The technology, while better than the amber monitor and paper tape days, is still clunky. The current technology just has too many perceptual interruptions to fully involve me. When I remember books, I can see the page in my imagination; I can't do that for a web page. The scrolling screen and the delay while a page loads interrupt concentration and prevent the sensation of being sunk in a thought. Since web design has to accommodate to the demands of browsers varying displays, line length and type size can change depending upon the browser's capabilities. Somehow, this instability influences the contained thought. PDF pages do seem to be more like facts and I can remember a pdf page in my imagination; I cannot do that for web pages.

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Web writing guides emphasize writing brief paragraphs and listed summaries to accommodate the reader's skimming technique. The screens don't hold as much information as a printed page. Attention is not expected of the user. That denies the chance for true involvement and transformation of the reader. Long sentences and involved paragraphs require close attention and move the imagination. Language has been called the first mind-altering substance. Language is a tool; when we use words, we are handling artifacts and also extending ourselves into a future. When we write and speak intimately, we inhabit a space that draws upon words' connotations (past usage) and we are trying to influence the future. Language connects us to the thought of others. In Samuel Delany's "Stars in My Pocket Like Grains of Sand," a character learns to read. He sees the landscape not only through his eyes and immediate perceptions, but recalls the impressions of authors. The landscape becomes resonant. Web pages do not have that capacity for richness yet.

Maybe, in the future, when I get to hold a compact reader whose screen are as information dense as printed page, I won't have this problem. For now, reading off a monitor display does not engage me as fully as reading a book. Something about the experience is distancing. Having to read off a monitor, something I cannot hold changes my perception of reading. The web experience is not intimate for me. It would be interesting to compare people like me with people who play computer games and do find web environments immersive. What kind of interfaces successfully draw people into tasks and experiences?

We all know that web pages and computers are technologies, but we forget that books are a technology and that it has been as disruptive technology as computers and the internet. Printing has both challenged authority and consolidated authority. Printing was a trade with a tension connected to its skill level. Printers were highly skilled men (very few women worked in the trade) who were able to control production and job conditions because their skills took so long to acquire. They lost that control when the trade was automated. It is interesting that computerization automated the most highly skilled and best paid jobs first, including printing. There have been benefits to the change in production. Lexis and Westlaw would not be available if typesetting had not been computerized. On-line services are good for law: Shepardizing and table of authorities are so easy on line. We won't need bound reporters and codes anymore. It does make sense to rely on on-line sources, but bound books have a quality, a substance, that quality of fact. Books and printed document record wrongs – wrongs that were facts. Books have a permanence that on-line sources lack.

I was browsing in our collection of Georgia codes some time ago and playing with my test index term for old codes: slavery. I went through all the Georgia code editions and found entries for slavery repeated until the 1869 code, after the Civil War and Reconstruction. I had all the editions open on my desk to the pages defining slavery. Those paragraphs repeated throughout each edition of the Georgia code brought out the fact of slavery. Those books were artifacts. As valuable as a digital image would be, the reality of those books made real a historical fact. Those printed pages had a power.

Earlier I mentioned that libraries are valuable because we create networks to structure thought. Libraries are also useful because we are a place where ideas can be housed after they have been forgotten. Ideas, like elements, have an active life. Ideas can decay by being forgotten (until discovered in a wandering through the stacks), or by becoming part of common knowledge. That is more satisfying and intriguing than link rot. I like the idea that paper crumbles – a metaphor for the content becoming absorbed into common knowledge.

Decay is an interesting concept. I call it "messy beauty." I appropriated the term "messy beauty" from David Garland's June 13, 2003 episode of "Spinning on Air" ([www.wnyc.org](http://www.wnyc.org)). That evening he played music he described as "gritty and marred ... Sometimes beauty requires rough edges." He identified an aesthetic that moves me; the process by which

(Back Thoughts continued on page 27)

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*"We all know that web pages and computers are technologies, but we forget that books are a technology and that it has been as disruptive technology as computers and the internet."*

(Back Thoughts continued from page 26)

discards are transformed into something intriguing and powerful, edgy and exciting. A book on marine life said life existed on borders; and so do ideas and art. Old books sometimes have that quality of messy beauty, the tension of being on a border between decay and permanence. Such objects develop a different type of authority. Wandering through the stacks one day, I pulled off the shelf a volume of the Maryland session laws for 1801-1808. Some of the pages were actually hand-written. I wondered why that was and wondered how many other pages were like that in the set. The handwritten pages were so legible. They felt more immediate and modern than the letterpress pages with the long s and foxed pages. The antique type fonts were so unfamiliar that they impeded my reading. I was too aware of the letterforms. The form overcame the content. The laws no longer had authority on me, but the intriguing play of the type forms absorbed my attention. It was another play on the sense of authority conveyed by presentation.

I experienced the change in authority from typescript to printed book years ago when my life was like a chapter in Ed Sander's "Tales of Beatnik Glory." A friend was working as a typesetter for the West Coast Print Center, a print shop that produced small press poetry books. She was assigned the job of typesetting Anselm Hollo's poetry manuscript. Since she was a friend, she brought over the manuscript for us to read. I read the poems and wasn't intimidated by them at all. Anselm Hollo poems didn't seem any better than anyone else's work in the house. The next week the friend brought us copies of the galleys. The poems were now set in a typeface with leading and kerning – all the aids of printing to enhance legibility. The poem began to become distant from my world of bond paper and carbon ribbons.

Finally, all the production work was done. The imposition of pages calculated, the images burned onto plates, the sheets of print folded and bound. The cover image was a very beautiful watercolor. Now the poems that had once seemed so approachable, so easy to criticize, had become harder and resistant to my amateur appreciation. There were now poems by Anselm Hollo, a personage worthy of a photograph on the back cover. The printed book gave the poems an authority independent of their quality.

That was one of many incidents of changes in how I perceived authority. The first time, I didn't realize what was happening, but I look back on it now wondering if it led to my love for popular culture and transformational events. For my ninth birthday treat, I asked to be taken to the Albright-Knox Art Gallery. I don't know why I got that idea, because my family did not go to museums. My father did take me and I remember us wandering through the galleries. We were both confused by the place; in those days, museums were less crowded and less user-friendly. My father wasn't familiar with art, but he was a good man and read the labels that were too high for me to see. He suddenly stopped in front of what I now know was a collage, "Jackie," he said, "It's made out of London bus tickets. I know those lines." I have a memory of my father looking at scraps of his childhood and a world lost to him by war and immigration. My father at that moment was as distant from me as was the museum as he recalled a world I could not imagine. I think it was my first sense of a world beyond my immediate sight and understanding. Whether my father was looking at the collage with an understanding closer to the artist's intent is something I cannot find out. The collage was an artifact, but whether it was truly understood by anyone in the museum: the curator, my father, other visitors, was unlikely. The time that had made it was impossible to imagine.

We have to remember as librarians that we do take works out of context. That inevitable neutralizing quality became evident to me when I went to a series of exhibits and films on the Vietnam War. Like all people my age, the Vietnam War is the major event that has shaped my understanding of the world. Everyone has tried to forget the violence and intensity of that time.

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*"It was another play on the sense of authority conveyed by presentation."*

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(Back Thoughts continued from page 27)

The first exhibit I saw on the Vietnam War was the International Center of Photography's exhibit, "Another Vietnam: Pictures of the War from the Other Side." The pictures of young girls on mine detail, the same age as I was during the war, upset me. Many of them died while I protested the war in a comfortable place. The photographs were out of my experience of US soldiers suffering in combat. I was overwhelmed by the photographs and the story behind them. The photographers had processed the film using water from streams. The film had to be run back to the cities. Because I had known the war only through photographs by the press corps, these pictures from the other side had a power over me. Three years later, the Drawing Center had an exhibit, "Persistent Vestiges: Drawings from the American-Vietnam War." The show included drawings of the war time by North Vietnamese press correspondents. Their drawings did not emphasize combat, but instead village life. According to a seminar speaker, drawings were more popular than the photographs. The drawings were easier to produce and people living in the war didn't want to be reminded it. Because my viewpoint of the war had been formed by "Life" magazine photographs, the 6 o'clock news, and "Dispatches," I had seen the combat photographs as more true and authentic.

The Drawing Center's exhibit included Martha Rosler's anti-war collages. I was excited to see them; I knew about her work, but I hadn't been able to see it during the war days. When I saw the over-sized collages in the Drawing Center, I was shocked at how they had lost their power. Nicely hung in a clean white room, the original anger and outrage didn't come through. The yellowed anti-war pamphlets gave some suggestion of that period, but they felt mute. They didn't work anymore as propaganda. They were scraps from a distant time. The movies "Winter Soldier" and "Sir, No Sir" were more successful at getting across the outrage of that time. Because the movies included testimony, spoken words, they were more immersive than the art gallery. Another way to put it: the movies by overwhelming me because I was sitting in a dark theater, gained an authority over me because they better controlled time and space. They could more carefully manipulate my impressions and emotions than could the art gallery where I had freedom to move in a pleasant place.

Authority is something we law librarians only think of as precedent. We need to expand our understanding of authority and power. How a fact is presented affects how it is believed. ■

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*"We need to  
expand our  
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power."*

## Scholarship for Court Administration Established

Barbara Fritschel, Chair, Grants Committee

At the 2000 AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Marcia J. Koslov, then Director of Knowledge Management for the National Center for State Courts and the American Association of Law Libraries, announced the establishment of a scholarship program for education in court administration. Specifically directed at members of the State, Court, and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section, this scholarship funds the tuition, travel and per diem for courses presented by the Institute for Court Management of the National Center for State Courts (ICM).

Impetus for the establishment for the scholarship came when Marcia, formerly State Law Librarian for the Wisconsin State Law Library, left that position after 26 years to accept her new position with the National Center. It was one of those "aha!" moments, said Marcia. Combining the two professional areas - law librarianship and ICM - that had the most significant impact on her life seemed like a perfect match for the use of funds that she had set aside from winning the 1994 West Publishing Excellence in Government Law Librarianship Award. Marcia attended the Court Executive Development Program from 1989 to 1993. Upon successful completion of the courses, she was designated a Fellow of the Institute for Court Management in June, 1993. Her court evaluation research paper, "Wisconsin County Law Libraries," (LLJ, v.86, 1994), in fulfillment of Phase III of the CEDP, won the Award of Merit as the outstanding independent study that year.

**Institute for Court Management (ICM)** [http://www.ncsconline.org/D\\_ICM/icmindex.html](http://www.ncsconline.org/D_ICM/icmindex.html)

ICM is the premier provider of educational programs in court administration. Its mission is to educate, inform, and support the management and leadership of the state courts. Whether individuals are pursuing one of ICM certification programs or taking individual courses, students who seek to enhance their management and leadership skills in the court system will be enriched by the educational experience. Course offerings include managing human resources, managing technology projects and technology resources, and court performance standards, among others.

In Marcia's view, law librarians are to be counted among the managers and leaders in the courts. Her positive experience attending ICM programs developed a more fundamental understanding of the work of the courts and provided a stronger base for her day-to-day interactions with court administrative staff at all levels. From her first class to her current position as Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Law Library, Marcia has retained the feeling that law librarians are viewed as a welcome addition to the courses and within the court administration arena. Greater law librarian attendance at ICM programs will sustain an essential two-way communication benefit. It will help law librarians understand the responsibilities and tasks of court managers. It will also help court managers understand that law librarians provide both a unique and central role as part of the court administration team in providing access to legal information and delivering a multitude of information related services.

### Scholarship Details

Multiple scholarships will be awarded annually. Recipients must be a current member of AALL and also a current member of the State, Court, and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section. In order to qualify for consideration for the scholarship, an applicant must:

- Submit a statement that includes the following information:
  - Identifies the applicant's major duties, responsibilities, and career goals.
  - Explains why the applicant wants to pursue continuing education with the Institute for Court Management and specifically what the applicant hopes to receive from the course(s) they wish to attend.
- Submit a resume providing evidence of work experience and academic achievement.

(Scholarship continued on page 30)

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*"...librarians are to be counted among the managers and leaders in the courts."*

(Scholarship continued from page 29)

- Submit two (2) letters of support of the applicant's attendance.

The recipient will be awarded sufficient dollars to cover tuition, travel, and per diem for attendance at an ICM seminar. Request may be made during the application process to apply scholarship monies to other ICM course offerings (such as ICM's on-line courses and webinars) that may be a better fit for the applicant's educational objectives.

Applications should be sent to the grants committee six weeks before the ICM registration deadline. Send application materials to Barbara Fritschel, SCCLL grants chair, US Courts Library, 300 Willow Street Room 201, Beaumont, TX. More information on the grants process will be available shortly on the SCCLL website.

## Law Librarians Attend Midwest Conference on Pro Se Litigation

Sara Galligan, Dakota County Law Library

On September 7-9, court teams from 11 different states traveled to Des Moines to participate in an innovative conference on pro se litigation. Presented by the American Judicature Society, the program took place at the Drake University Law School. The chief justices of the 11 states were invited to send teams to represent their states and to develop action plans to help relieve the burden on courts and more effectively serve pro se litigants.

Barb Golden and Sara Galligan attended from Minnesota. Other law librarians in attendance were Jane Colwin (Wisconsin), Linda Robertson (Iowa), Terri Ross (Indiana), Jessica Van Buren (Utah), and Marie Weichman (Nebraska). It was heartening to note that the chief justices of these states considered the importance of adding law librarians to their teams.

The conference included plenary sessions, breakout sessions, and time for each state team to come up with an action plan. Outside speakers came from all over the United States to lead the breakout sessions, which covered such topics as triage, role of attorneys in pro se litigation, key steps in planning and support, the role of court staff, evaluation, challenging litigants, court forms, technology, case management, and ADR. The team action plans emphasized thinking outside of the box to, for example, reassign staff, shift resources, partner with others in the legal community, and seek grants. At the end of the conference, each team was asked to give a five-minute summary of its action plan.

During various conference events and discussions, law libraries and public libraries were mentioned repeatedly (and not just by the law librarians in attendance) as vehicles for delivering resources and services to pro se litigants. Technology was also viewed as a means to bring resources to remote areas. Baseline access and educational programs for judges were also mentioned. ADR and unbundled legal services were discussed, and suggestions ranged from the theoretical to the very practical. In the final action plan summarizations, five of the eleven states specifically mentioned the use of libraries to help in the delivery of their team's plan.

One presenter at the conference was Richard Zorza, who coordinates the Self Represented Litigants Network and is a consultant to the Harvard Law School Bellow-Sacks Project on the Future of Access to Civil Justice. He facilitated the concluding portions of the program. In summarizing where pro se support is moving, he referred to the transformative state of law libraries as they develop pro se services and resources. It was very encouraging to note how, increasingly, law librarians are partnering with others in efforts that are intended to provide direction and leadership for pro se litigants.

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*"...law libraries and public libraries were mentioned repeatedly . . . as vehicles for delivering resources and services to pro se litigants."*

## Member News

### Preservation, Conservation, Rare Books and Special Collections at the Maryland State Law Library

The completely redesigned and newly rebuilt Rare Books Room (recently renamed the Special Collections Room) at the Maryland State Law Library will be re-opening to the public at the end of September 2006. After being stored in 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century conditions for 175 years, the Rare Books at the MSLL will now have a tailor-made environment. Ferdinando Pulton (1579), Sir Edward Coke (1602), John Herne (1657), John Reynolds (1663) and many others, will be basking in low light and thriving in 62°F (17°C) and 50% humidity.

Our new Special Collections Room has been provided with all the creature comforts. Books will find rugs, shelves, and paint and wallpaper all designed to eliminate the out gassing of offensive chemicals. There is very little natural light and what artificial light there is, is all UV filtered. Fire, flood, theft and vandalism are all being monitored for. Those books that have seen better days will be receiving made-to-order acid-free storage boxes.

Moving into the new room with the Rare Books are a few noteworthy special collection items. Chief among those are 430+ original, and newly restored, Audubon Birds-of-America prints. There are also the sword of a Confederate Civil War naval raider along with photographs, maps and drawings that will all benefit from the new optimum conditions.

This has been a preservation project two years in the making. If you would like to see how the room looks or are curious about project details, please come by and visit us here in Annapolis. If you cannot come here, check our web site at [www.lawlib.state.md.us](http://www.lawlib.state.md.us) where we will be posting images of the new room. Submitted by Rudolph B. Lamy



Screenshot from the Special Collections page of the Maryland State Law Library website.

### Montana Legislative Library Hosts International Visitors

The Montana Legislative Library in Helena, MT went international on June 20 with a visit from a group of librarians from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. They work in regional, public, and youth libraries in their respective countries. The librarians were hosted in Montana by the Montana Center for International Visitors (MCIV), which is headquartered in Bozeman, MT. Legislative Librarian Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson gave the visitors a brief tour, and through their Russian interpreter told them a bit about the functions and clientele of the legislative library. And of course they met (and posed for a photo) with Elvis! The purpose of their visit was to promote a better understanding of the role and functions of libraries and information specialists in the United States, the variety of services provided by libraries, and the contributions of professional library associations and networks. The foreign librarians also visited the State Law Library in Helena. Submitted by Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson.

### New Pro Se Services at Travis County Law Library

The Travis County Law Library (Austin, TX) converted its courthouse branch into a family law pro se services center on August 1, 2006.

The Courthouse Self-Help Center offers forms, public access computers, and help from a library reference attorney and a legal aid attorney.

The reference attorney helps family law litigants complete their paperwork in uncontested cases and attends uncontested dockets to facilitate the pro se litigant's interaction with the court. The legal aid attorney assists any patron meeting the legal aid subject and income guidelines to get legal advice or to be connected to a volunteer attorney. Submitted by Lisa Rush.

## The Back Page



### Even More Member News!

#### The Alaska State Court Law Library has a new State Law Librarian!

Cynthia Fellows has retired from the court and Catherine Lemann, formerly Associate Director of the Law Library of Louisiana, has been hired as Alaska State Law Librarian. Cathy has an active and distinguished career in law librarianship. She is a graduate of Carleton College (B.A.), Tulane University (J.D.), and Louisiana State University (M.L.S.).

Cathy has taken on many leadership roles in AALL. In 2001, she received the prestigious Spirit of Law Librarianship Award. There many exciting challenges ahead for Cathy in Alaska! She becomes the eighth law librarian since the inception of the Alaska Court System in 1960.

Cynthia began her career with the Alaska State Court Law Library in 1978. She left the court in 1983 and started her own legal research and publishing business, Pleiades Research. She then returned to the court as State Law Librarian in 1987, succeeding Aimee Ruzicka. Cynthia now lives in Oxford, England, and is an Associate Research Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London. Submitted by Cynthia Fellows.



Catherine Lemann



Cynthia Fellows

#### Connecticut Judicial Branch Law Libraries Website Receives "Top 10 Award"

The Connecticut Judicial Branch Law Libraries website, [www.jud.ct.gov/](http://www.jud.ct.gov/), has won the Justice Served Top-10 Court Website award for 2006, [justiceserved.com/top10sites.cfm](http://justiceserved.com/top10sites.cfm). The Judicial Branch website was a previous winner, however, Justice Served determined that "this law library site is worthy of separate honor as best in its class." They elaborated on their reasons for giving the award by saying, "it offers the usual access to statutes and regulations, but also allows 'ask a librarian,' search of the catalogue and a link to court cases through the court portal." The Justice Served website indicates that this site is the first law library to make the list. All Judicial librarians contribute to the Libraries' web site. Submitted by Claudia Jalowka.



### View from *Your* Library

At the King County Law Library, we have staff training once a month on the fourth Friday. Have you ever noticed that when you try to have a staff training that suddenly the entire world descends on your library? It could have been dead quiet the whole day but the instant you try to pull staff away for training, the phone starts ringing incessantly, document delivery requests spew from the fax machine and suddenly all the patrons need help doing legislative histories! Whenever this happens, we like to say that someone has turned on the 'FREE BEER' sign. We don't know the location of this sign in the courthouse, but it always seem to be lit when we are doing staff training, when we're short-staffed or when you're trying to edit a newsletter! - Kim Ositis, SCCLL News Editor

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*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."*