

SCCLL News

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

View from the Chair

Barbara Fritschel, Chair

While it is not my favorite comic, sometimes I identify with Beetle Bailey. This isn't just because I spent five years in the service. One of the running gags is when Sergeant Snorkel finds himself hanging on to a lone branch growing out of the side of a cliff that he has gone over. Help seems far away (usually an unhelpful Beetle Bailey) and yet, somehow, Sgt. Snorkel always gets down to safety.

I suspect many of us have had that over-the-cliff-and-hanging-on experience. So many things affect how we provide services to our patrons that we have little or no control over. Budget cuts, space and staff reductions are nothing new to state, court, and county law libraries. Materials change formats, going from print to electronic, without regard to how our patrons want to use them. Titles change from one legal research provider to another, leaving us to scramble to find alternatives under the contracts we do have. It can feel lonely hanging on to that tree branch, especially if you are a solo librarian, or work with only one or two other colleagues.

Yet Beetle Bailey and Sgt. Snorkel are part of a larger group, those serving at Camp Swampy. While Beetle Bailey spends most of his time trying to avoid work, when the squad is on exercises, he has the best camouflage of the group. For those of you who have been in the military, you know the emphasis is on being part of the team, working together so you can count on those next to you. Individual skills will be different, but together the team will be able to get it done.

SCCLL is one team we belong to. In the next few months, several committees will be conducting surveys to identify skills and needs that we have. But I am also hoping you will "blow your own bugle" (to continue with the military imagery). Step forward and nominate someone to serve in one of the leadership positions. Received an AALL award for a marketing/publicity piece? Put it on the website/wiki. Are you willing to mentor someone new to management or going through a situation you have gone through? Let me



"Even knowing what doesn't work can help us save time and energy to find solutions that do. Don't be afraid to blow your own bugle."

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View from the Chair, continued

Barbara Fritschel, Chair

know. Develop a webinar to share your knowledge and experience with others. If you have an idea that you would like to see implemented, contact me and I will put you in touch with the appropriate person.

I am constantly amazed at the talented people we have on this team. I know it can be difficult to think of doing professional organization work when you are over the cliff and hanging on. But that is precisely when we need our teammates to help us find new solutions and ways to get things done. Even knowing what doesn't work can help us save time and energy to find solutions that do. Don't be afraid to blow your own bugle.



From The Editor's Desk

Holly Gerber, Washington County Law Library (OR)

You may notice something missing from this issue - the candidate bios and statements. This year, we will have a special elections issue in March with the candidate information and the proposed bylaws changes. Don't despair, though, this issue is packed full of news and information from our members. In SCCLL news, we have [announcements of the award nominations](#), the upcoming [silent auction at AALL](#), and the above-mentioned [bylaws changes](#). In member libraries news, our continuing "What We're Doing in..." series focuses on [social media efforts](#), the Maricopa County Superior Court Law Library seeks your input on an [LSTA planning grant](#), the Utah State Law Library shares how they [provide assistance with forms](#), Claudia Jalowka shares what she learned at the [e-courts conference](#), and Cathy Lemann has a tribute to [Marie Erickson's career](#). Be sure to check out the [back page](#) for an ode to the law library.

SCCLL News is published three times a year (Fall, Winter/Spring, and Summer) by the State, Court and County Law Libraries SIS. **The deadline for the next issue is June 21, 2013.** Please contact the Editor, Holly Gerber, at holly_gerber@co.washington.or.us with questions, comments, suggestions and submissions.

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

AALL Announcements

Registration is open for SharePoint: A Look Inside One Law Firm

SharePoint can improve work processes and streamline team-related tasks, adding value to your firm/organization. Please join **Catherine Monte**, chief knowledge officer at Fox Rothschild LLP, and **Misti Conway**, director of library services at Fox Rothschild, for a [webinar](#) on **February 28 at 11 a.m. (CST)**. Learn how to harness this technology for creating custom pages without coding experience. Panelists will share examples of how they are directly involved with intranet development, not only in creating research pages, but also in creating team sites to increase efficiency for collection development, competitive intelligence, general project/task management, and reporting/ROI. Find out how you can do the same - [register by February 21](#).



Submit Your Photos for the 2013 Day in the Life Photo Contest

The [AALL Day in the Life of the Law Library Community Photo Contest](#) is now accepting submissions! Through February 28, AALL members are invited to take a wide range of photographs of law librarians working, meeting, teaching, and doing all that law librarians do in a given day.

Entries will be judged online through membership voting in April. Winners will be recognized on AALLNET, in the July issue of AALL Spectrum, and during the AALL Annual Meeting in Seattle.

As in past years, the contest is being conducted on [Flickr](#), so you can see submissions as they are posted by other members. Visit the site for complete contest rules.

AALL2go Pick of the Month

AALL's Continuing Professional Education Committee presents the AALL2go pick of the month: [Glass Half Full? Explore Techniques for Putting Optimism to Work as a Management Tool in Difficult Times](#).

Law librarians have been dealing with some difficult times at work, in the profession, and on the homefront for the past several years. These economic times have prompted us to have more management discussions than ever before. This presentation by **Gail Warren** and **Jean Holcomb** helps prepare the library director/manager to deal with pessimistic focus.

AALL Announcements, continued

The program helps identify three elements of the "explanatory style" after completing a model assessment tool. Learn some techniques for challenging pessimistic thinking and building a positive operating framework. You will discover strategies for strengthening your personal resilience and decision-making skills, leading to a happier and more productive life in the office and at home.

Find this and more than 80 other **free** continuing education programs and webinars for AALL members at [AALL2go!](#)



2013 Call for Nominations

SCCLL Awards Committee

The State, Court & County Law Libraries Special Interest Section Awards Committee is soliciting nominations for three awards to be presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting.

The Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession is named after one of our profession's most dedicated members, Orange County Public Law Library director from 1972 until 1988 who chaired several AALL committees, feasibility studies, and special interest sections; actively participated in chapter governance; frequent contributor to LLJ; and member of the LLMC Board and Advisory Council. This award is given to an SCCLL-SIS member(s) who has made a significant contribution to law librarianship and who is nearing the end of a vibrant career, or who has recently retired. Think of a deserving colleague at the end of his or her career – and nominate them!

2013 Call for Nominations, continued

SCCLL Awards Committee

The Law Library Advocate Award is presented to a Law Library Supporter in recognition of his or her substantial contribution towards the advancement and improvement of a State, Court or County law library's service or visibility and who is not a member of the law library staff. Has someone stepped up to advocate on behalf of your library in a way that deserves recognition? Think of an active volunteer, a judge, trustee, or legislator – and let them know how much they matter. Nominate them!

The O. James Werner Award for Distinguished Service to Persons with Disabilities is presented to an SCCLL-SIS member who has made a significant contribution to either serving directly or arranging for services to be provided to persons with disabilities or for distinctive service by a person with a disability. Named after the director of the San Diego Law Library from 1972 until 1987, a co-founder of the Council of California Law Libraries and champion of the rights of the underserved (e.g., Werner's manual for prison law libraries). Nominate a deserving colleague today!

Nominations for these awards will be accepted until March 1, 2013. Information about the awards and nomination forms are available on the [SCCLL Awards Committee website](#) and from any of the members of the Awards Committee. Nomination forms may be submitted to any member of the Awards Committee.

Many thanks for your interest in honoring our stellar colleagues and friends.

For the SCCLL Awards Committee,
Paula Doty, Chair
John W. Adkins
Diane Forge Bauersfeld
Emily Carr
Jean-Paul Vivian
Amy Hale Janeke (SCCLL Board Liaison)



Proposed Bylaws Changes

Maryruth Storer, SCCLL Bylaws Committee

SCCLL Chair Barbara Fritschel charged this year's Bylaws Committee (Venita Hoover and Maryruth Storer, Chair) to review the existing Bylaws and compare them to the Model SIS Bylaws developed by AALL's Bylaws & Resolutions Committee. We were also requested to solicit suggestions for Bylaws changes from SCCLL Committee Chairs and SCCLL's membership, particularly how the Bylaws might be revised to better reflect the SCCLL Strategic Directions.



The SCCLL Bylaws were last amended in July 2007 at the Annual Meeting in New Orleans. We compared them to the Model SIS Bylaws and noted several areas for revision:

- The existing provision regarding dues should be omitted (all aspects of that topic are controlled by AALL, so it does not need to be included)
- Establishing consistency in language, particularly in referring to Officers
- Changing the election procedure in the event of a tie (since the 1990s, AALL has required that SIS elections must be completed no later than 2 months prior to the AALL Annual Meeting)

Late last fall, we posted to the SCCLL list asking for suggestions for Bylaws changes connected to aligning them with the SCCLL Strategic Directions, and we received no responses. We then proceeded to draft proposed revisions to align the SCCLL Bylaws with the Model SIS Bylaws. Those revisions also resulted in re-numbering many of the articles. The draft Bylaws have been submitted, as required by AALL, to the AALL Bylaws and Resolutions Committee for its approval.

The SCCLL Executive Committee plans to submit the proposed amendments to the section membership as part of the spring election process. Amendments to the Bylaws require a thirty (30) day notice to the membership by publication in the Section's newsletter, so this article constitutes that notice.

[Editor's note: We will have a special elections issue in March with the candidate bios and statements and the proposed bylaws changes.]

■

2013 Silent Auction

Gail Warren, Virginia State Law Library

“Rethink Your Value?”

AALLNET provides direction regarding the 2013 AALL Annual Meeting theme– it “challenge[s] all of us to embrace the changes occurring every day both in our institutions and in our roles and responsibilities as legal information professionals.”

Maybe it’s all you can do to keep up with the daily demands of your library, much less embrace the changes. Maybe concerns about financing this educational opportunity keep you from considering attendance at any AALL meeting, not just the 2013 meeting in Seattle. If so, take a minute to think about the benefit of traveling to the host city, of attending focused educational programming, and, perhaps most importantly, connecting with colleagues in person. The State Court and County Law Libraries SIS offers generous travel grants, made possible by the donations of our members – so take advantage of this opportunity and apply for a grant this spring!

Lest you’ve forgotten, our grants program is funded through the revenues from our annual SILENT AUCTION! As we’ve done in the past, the 2013 SCCLL Silent Auction will include both online and in person components. Paula Doty, Assistant Law Librarian at the Nevada Supreme Court Library, will again run our online auction blog. Each year, the blog features a tempting array of items, items that are generously donated by members. Even though we are months away from opening the auction blog, my appeals for donations begins now.

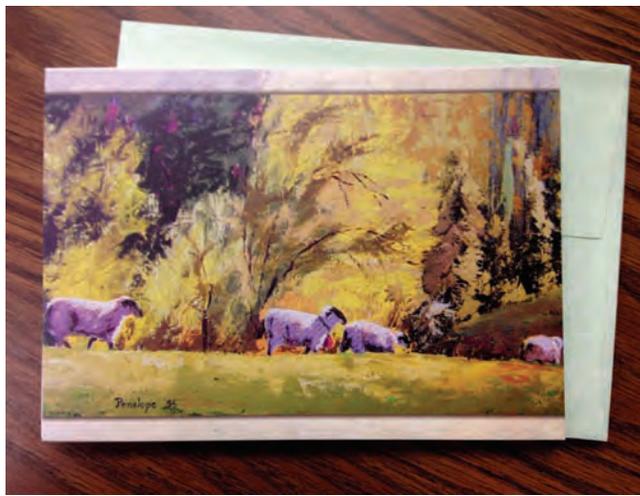
Are you crafty? Perhaps you or someone you know likes to knit, crochet, cross stitch, throw pots or do bead work? Hand crafted items, small items and gift certificates are always welcome. Jewelry, scarves, books, cards, and food (chocolate!!!) are always popular items, as well as other small and/or light weight items easily transported by airplane.



2013 Silent Auction, continued

Gail Warren, Virginia State Law Library

I've started my quest for "Virginia" items and have managed to collect three items to date – a signed copy of the ever popular *Food to Die For* cookbook, a small dogwood etched pewter tray and "Sunshine on My Shoulders" stationary by Penelope Moseley, a multi-media artist in Southwest Virginia:



If you have any questions or are interested in donating items, please contact Gail Warren at gail.warren.56@comcast.net.

Watch the SCCLL Community listserv for more details in late May! ■

What We Are Doing...in Social Media

John Barden, SCCLL Newsletter Committee

Is your library using social media? You probably have been for decades. Remember that bulletin board where patrons could pin up anything from the agenda for the next local bar meeting to "For Sale" notices for old law reports to "Rent My Vacation Getaway in St. Kitts!"? Only in recent years has the term "media" come to be identified primarily with the electronic world.

What We Are Doing in..., continued

John Barden, SCCLL Newsletter Committee

The constant factor in this concept is the social nature of it all—a place, either physical or virtual, where people can come together to share ideas and information.

Online versions of social media have exploded in popularity in recent years, sometimes with unintended consequences (“Gee, I really shouldn’t have posted that comment on Facebook!”). Tools such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter allow one person to reach an almost unlimited audience with news and opinions. Some law libraries have seen the potential in reaching out to their patrons in these new ways. We asked you what you are doing . . . and here is what we heard.

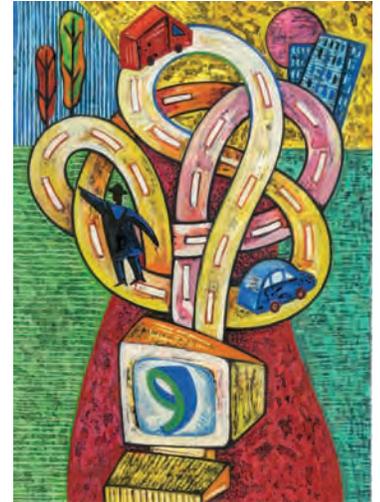
Utah State Law Library

Reported by Joanne Vandestreek

The Utah State Law Library is actively participating in social media to reach patrons where they are, and increasingly that's in an online environment. The term social media is most commonly used to talk about social networking—sites where people make new friends and connect with long lost ones. We not only consider these social networking sites to be an important part of social media, but also any website where organizations can share news and promote resources online.

To advertise our library's resources, we have a blog (www.utcourts.gov/lawlibrary/blog), which we created using Movable Type, a free program. On the blog we post information about court, legal, and government news and resources we think would be interesting to Utah citizens. We monitor who visits our page using Google Analytics, which is a free statistics gathering feature. This helps us know what blog topics are most popular with readers.

We also have a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/UtahStateLawLibrary) that automatically posts our blog's entries using a free Facebook app called RSS Graffiti. It's another free way to disseminate the same information on a popular social networking site. Organization Facebook pages also have a free



What We Are Doing in..., continued

John Barden, SCCLL Newsletter Committee

feature called Insights, where you can see which are your most popular Facebook posts.

Before we created our blog and Facebook page, we cleared the idea with the Utah State Courts' Information Technology department and the Courts' Public Information Officer. The most time consuming part of creating these was selecting the appearance of each. The blog and Facebook page take a minimal amount of time to maintain, and these are sites that all library staff can contribute to. Because the programs we chose to use are web-based, no computer language knowledge was required.

In addition to participating in social media, we also monitor other Utah government agencies and libraries' social media sites. This allows us to keep up with the latest trends and news. We especially like when government agencies or libraries share our posts on their sites! It's another way of promoting our resources to potential library users, and it takes no effort from us.

"The blog and Facebook page take a minimal amount of time to maintain, and these are sites that all library staff can contribute to."

San Diego Law Library

Reported by John W. Adkins

Here at the San Diego Law Library (formerly the San Diego County Public Law Library - we just shortened it for convenience & rebranding purposes), we have completely revamped our web page to make it more "product competitive", meaning it has built-in applications for selling web space to local attorney speakers, law firms, businesses, etc. for targeted advertisements and promotions. The web site goes live Feb 15th but we have already sold about \$60,000 worth of ad and promotional space (spread out along a three year period).

The program has three offerings: a marketing package, a digital package, and a facilities package. The first two rely very much on social media tools to get the advertiser's message across. Many of the mechanics behind this venture are using social media to assist in the marketing/outreach. An "onboarding" document package welcomes a new partner and explains the

What We Are Doing in..., continued

John Barden, SCCLL Newsletter Committee

benefits that they get from our social media marketing tools, as well as our brick and mortar facilities, library signage, etc. The Partner Program captures real "value for your money" for businesses/individual speakers who have been getting free marketing services and client outreach for years. We figured it was time to recoup at least a little bit of what they are getting from our social media and in-house presentations.

You can see SDLL's social media developments in action on their website, <http://www.sdcll.org/>.

Maricopa Co. Court Law Library Receives LSTA Grant

Myndi Clive, Maricopa Co. Superior Court Law Library

The Maricopa County Superior Court Law Library received an LSTA planning grant for an Integrative Legal Learning Center through the Arizona State Library with funding from IMLS.

This final project is to establish an Integrative Legal Learning Center (ILLC) within the Maricopa County Superior Court Law Library (MCSCLL). The goal of this grant project is to plan the ILLC: create a space for library users to explore resources alongside technologies for teaching, learning, and researching. Funds will be spent on planning resources, technology/library advisors, printing, and travel.

The project seeks to close gaps that exist when maintaining access to justice for all. It targets Self Represented Litigants (SRL), those citizens that MCSCLL librarians assist most often. Almost 90% of the Law Library's reference contact (in person, email and telephone) is with the general public.

This multi-year end project will benefit the community by having access to a well planned professionally maintained environment that incorporates new technology and ensures free or low cost access to legal resources in a variety of formats.

The grant planning committee's charge is to plan the design of an innovative space that integrates resources with learning, a user friendly space that will take the Law Library into the next decade.

"Answer one simple question: if you could develop an integrative online learning center for your customers what is the ONE thing you would want it to have?"

Maricopa LSTA Grant, continued

Myndi Clive, Maricopa Co. Superior Court Law Library

In the final stage of project implementation, it is anticipated that the Maricopa County Superior Court Law Library ILLC will be a best practice model for other libraries across the nation.

What MCSCLL needs from you? Answer one simple question: if you could develop an integrative online learning center for your customers, what is the ONE thing you would want it to have? Please email your answers to Susan Armstrong at sarmstrong@sccll.maricopa.gov ASAP. ■

Forms Help at the Utah State Law Library

Jessica Van Buren, Utah State Law Library

The Utah State Courts' website (www.utcourts.gov/howto) has a fairly robust collection of forms and explanations of legal process for those trying to navigate the legal system without the help of an attorney. Utah State Law Library staff are intimately familiar with these resources, and we spend much of our reference time helping public patrons navigate to available resources.

Even when we can provide patrons with forms that will help them move forward with their case, some people need additional help. We have patrons who are uncomfortable with computers or who struggle with literacy issues. Other patrons feel overwhelmed and paralyzed when confronted with a stack of blank forms to complete. The law is complex, and even the simplest form can be daunting to the average person.

In response to this need, we have created a service to help people complete forms online and in print. Under the supervision of law library staff, student volunteers provide one-on-one guidance with forms in person and over the phone. The basic task of the student is to transcribe a person's information and responses onto the form. They may not provide legal advice. Utah has a court rule that states that providing free "clerical assistance" with forms is not the practice of law (See Utah Supreme Court Rules of Practice Rule 14-802 (c)(2)). The student also provides general information about court procedures such as how a case proceeds through the system, ways to serve someone, and how to answer a complaint. The student is a friendly face of the court who helps the patron remain calm and focused.



Forms Help at the Utah State Law Library, continued

Jessica Van Buren, Utah State Law Library

We have had both undergraduate and law student volunteers. Some do it for school credit, others volunteer because they enjoy helping people and are thinking about law as a career. The biggest challenges with any volunteer program are training and retention. We invest a lot of time training our new recruits so they understand basic court processes and understand their role. Unfortunately, students live by an academic calendar, which means that our well-trained intern leaves us after a few months and we start all over again with a new recruit. We are fortunate to have had a few former interns return as volunteers because they enjoy the work, but we are exploring ways to address the turnover issue.

Another challenge we face is matching available resources with demand. We want to maximize our volunteers' time, but it's a tricky balance. We have experimented with a combination of drop-in times and appointments and are now moving exclusively toward appointments because it's hard to predict when we'll have patrons needing on-the-spot forms help, meaning volunteers sit idle.

When we make an appointment, we do our best to make sure the patron understands what the service is – and isn't. We reinforce the message that the student will walk through the forms with them, but cannot tell them what they should say. We want to manage our patrons' expectations so that they are not disappointed or frustrated, and so that we don't waste anybody's time. Most patrons understand our parameters.

We provide those who make appointments a courtesy reminder phone call the day before the appointment, but the no-show rate is still discouragingly high. We would welcome hearing from others who may have similar programs about the ways they handle these challenges.

We publicize our service on the courts' website and through flyers in our courthouse. The courts' Self-Help Center staff also reliably refer people to us, agreeing that forms help is an ever-increasing need. This provides a fairly steady demand for appointments.

Despite its challenges, our program succeeds on many levels: patrons get help with a challenging part of the process, court staff and judges get paperwork that is more complete and it's great PR for the law library and the courts. Students get real-world experience with the court system and practical experience with the realities of self-represented parties. We hope that we are inspiring the next generation of public interest lawyers.

“Despite its challenges, our program succeeds on many levels: patrons get help with a challenging part of the process, court staff and judges get paperwork that is more complete and it's great PR for the law library and the courts.”



e-courts 2012 Conference

Claudia Jalowka, Connecticut Judicial Branch Libraries

I had the pleasure of attending the e-courts 2012 conference as a representative of AALL. The conference was held December 10th through 12th at the conference center at the Red Rock Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada. The conference was well attended by more than 500 court administrators, judges, IT staff, and others.

The conference opened with an address by the NCSC Vice-President of Research and Technology, Thomas Clarke. Mr. Clarke set the two main themes of this conference, what is the future for e-filing and e-filing from the perspective of the judge. The current path to the future of e-filing is focused on systems that not only house images of paper documents, but that gather the data through form fields and store that data in a way that it can later be retrieved and used to populate other documents. The case file is dynamic, not static images, and data is used by the courts and parties when creating pleadings, orders/decisions and other relevant documents.

The Keynote address was by the Honorable Lee Haworth, Chief Judge of the 12th Judicial Circuit of Florida. Judge Haworth focused on the second theme of the conference. He discussed a judge's expectation of an e-file system and a case management system. The expectation is that, since judges do not generally embrace change, the system must meet or exceed the paper file model. He then discussed the model adopted by his court and spent time demonstrating the judge's dashboard.

R. B. Shore and Dr. Carole Pettijohn of the Manatee County (Fl.) Circuit Court, provided a presentation on Cost Displacement on Investment (CDI). CDI is taking ROI and adding in measurement of efficiency. By incorporating an aiIndex and an aiSmartbench, they are able to create a system where data is shared between the court management system (CMS) and the e-file system, along with indexing about 70% of the data from scanned documents. For dealing with redactions, and the volume of time it would take to redact all documents that need redaction, the court opted to provide documents on a View on Request (VOR) basis where a requested document is redacted and made available within 24 hours. Once it is redacted, it is added to the publicly viewable file. The court has found that only about 7 - 8 % of VOR documents are actually requested.



e-courts 2012 Conference, continued

Claudia Jalowka, Connecticut Judicial Branch Libraries

The Manatee system offers faster access, concurrent access, convenience and transparency to the public. Several other presenters, including those from the Missouri State Court, the Judicial Council of Georgia, and the Las Vegas Justice Court, demonstrated and discussed their innovations in their e-file and CMS services. Again, the theme of information being stored as usable data that could be drawn upon to populate forms and orders was the emphasis.

The E-Courts Maturity Model presentation emphasized the electronic exchange of data between the court and other entities (police, agencies, schools, etc.). Here it is the data that is seen as vital to the decision making process, not the properly formatted form. The authenticity and integrity of the stored data is important, not the paper document. This requires that people “get over” the form and paper paradigm and “trust” the authenticity of the data throughout the secured process.

Two judges, Justice Robert Torres, Supreme Court of Guam, and Judge Herbert Dixon, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, provided an interesting and amusing look at apps and services to which the tech-loving judges are partial. While Judge Anthony Capizzi, Ohio Juvenile Court, took on the issues of Privacy, Civil Rights & Civil Liberties 101. Judge Capizzi distinguished between civil liberties (individual freedoms or rights we have) and civil rights (rights and privileges we are granted). Most of his presentation focused on the need for courts to create a Privacy Policy. A Privacy Policy is your institution’s commitment to follow the law. It explains to all why you gather information, how you store it, share it, and destroy it. He also provided the basics steps for creating a policy and regularly reviewing it. Other programs looked at courts using the Cloud to run their IT services, integrated e-forms, and ways to improve your court’s website. The conference ended with an amusing presentation by Vallie Bowman-English, Toledo Municipal Court, with her experiences, both good and bad, in creating iphone and android phone court apps. Her talk was informative and a cautionary tale.

“[M]ost courts in the U.S. are at some stage of e-filing, either exploring the option or having it fully deployed. It is this next phase, the dynamic data storage and retrieval, where forward-looking courts are now turning their attention.”

e-courts 2012 Conference, continued

Claudia Jalowka, Connecticut Judicial Branch Libraries

On Tuesday morning several vendors provided overviews of their products. This was followed by the afternoon for visiting exhibitor booths that ended in an exhibit reception.

Overall, this was an extremely informative conference. As stated at the opening of the conference, most courts in the U.S. are at some stage of e-filing, either exploring the option or having it fully deployed. It is this next phase, the dynamic data storage and retrieval, where forward-looking courts are now turning their attention. And how this develops will be fascinating.

For more information on the e-courts conference, please visit the conference website at <http://www.e-courts.org/>.

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Marie Erickson's Retirement

Cathy Lemann, former AALL President

Marie Erickson is retiring from her position as the Head of Public Services at the Law Library of Louisiana. For almost 22 years, Marie has been the face of the library – greeting patrons who come in and assisting others via phone and email.

Marie grew up in Baton Rouge where her parents taught at LSU. After graduating from St. John's College in Annapolis, MD, she continued up the East Coast, spending a few years in Boston.

Following a year teaching seventh grade English, Marie concluded she needed to find a different career path. She drove a cab for a while, which must have been a challenge as Boston drivers are even worse than New Orleans drivers. Her first library job was working with serials in the technical services department at the MIT library. Librarianship was a better fit so Marie headed back to LSU where she obtained her MLIS.



Marie Erickson's Retirement, continued

Cathy Lemann, former AALL President

She continued in technical services as the serials/acquisitions librarian at Loyola Law School in New Orleans. She went to law school "because it was on sale," i.e. there was tuition remission.

Inasmuch as she was also working full time, Marie notes that she had to carefully manage her time. If she missed the slot to wash her hair, well, it had to wait until that slot rolled around again.

Another Loyola Law School enticed Marie to move to Los Angeles for over six years. But her love of all things New Orleans brought her back in 1991. She wasn't done with Loyola connections as the Law Library of Louisiana was then located on Loyola Avenue.

Over the years, Marie has seen many transitions and changes in librarianship and the practice of law. She attended law school before any sort of online legal research was available. As soon as it was available, the Law Library of Louisiana started doing Westlaw and Lexis searches for a fee. In the 1990s, when CALR was new, unfamiliar, and expensive for lawyers, Marie did dozens of searches a week for \$4.50/minute. Now that attorneys have more resources on their desktops, she does only a few searches per week.

But, the research skills that Marie learned early on, using books and resources that are not online are where law librarians are most important today. Legislative history research, old versions of Louisiana Codes and statutes, Planiol, and other early commentators are not online. Marie notes that the difficult research questions are where law librarians have a chance to shine and provide attorneys with hard to find answers.

Marie has been an urban pioneer. When we first met, we think in the late 1970s, we lived around the corner from each other in a light industrial area of the Lower Garden District. Our 2 ½ story brick townhouses, built in the 1830's needed a lot of work. The bricks were crumbling from rising damp. The wood was damaged by water or termites.

Marie persevered for many years with trucks rumbling past, but moved to Marigny to a large Greek Revival house and lots of neighbors. It had the added attraction of the so-called Crawfish Pavilion, the outside patio perfect for crawfish boils and pork barbecues. Marie, her husband, author/historian George Cholewczynski, and beloved animals enjoy the neighborhood and being part of the community.



Marie Erickson's Retirement, continued

Cathy Lemann, former AALL President

While teaching seventh graders didn't work out, Marie has taught Legal Research to hundreds of paralegal students in the now shuttered UNO Paralegal Program and currently in Tulane's Paralegal Studies program. Marie has been active in association work. She served as president of the New Orleans Association of Law Librarians in 1999 – 2000. She also chaired the Legal Information Services to the Public Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Librarians in 2004 – 2005.

One of Marie's passions has always been her pets. She drove a U-Haul with all her worldly possessions from California to New Orleans, towing her orange Honda, and a pregnant cat which fortunately waited to deliver until they arrived. At one point she had Ada, a Catahoula hound with vision problems. She faithfully took her to the LSU vet school for treatment. Currently Marie has Suzy, a pit bull, and Sweet Pea, a Belgian Malinois mix. She works to change the breed specific prejudice against pit bulls. She plans on fostering another pit bull after retirement. After caring for and loving the dog, she will place it for adoption.

In 2010, Marie sent a message to a law librarians' discussion list to ask if anyone was interested in meeting at the annual meeting of the American Association of Law Librarians to discuss animal law. Marie had given a CLE on the topic for the LSBA and knew there was interest among practitioners.

There was an enthusiastic response. As a result, there is now an Animal Law Caucus. It was formed to support the efforts of law librarians, academics and practitioners in the research, teaching, scholarship, and practice of animal law. Members of the caucus have a professional connection to animal law but most of them also volunteer for animal welfare causes. Marie is proud that her initial idea has grown into a thriving group of law librarian animal advocates who present programs at the AALL annual meeting.

Marie has been a member of the irreverent Krewe du Vieux for many years as one of the Pizza Sluts who are part of the Seeds of Decline. She enjoys marching in one of the few Carnival parades that still stumbles, er, parades through the French Quarter and Faubourg Marigny. On Mardi Gras day, the Societé de Saint Anne walks past her house. Marie and George are on the porch, toasting with mimosas.

Marie has always had a loyal following at the Law Library who will miss her. We all wish her well on retirement and whatever new adventures await!



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The Back Page

Member News & Announcements



Brian R. Huffman left Washington County law library (Stillwater, MN) to become the Law Library Manager for Dakota County, Minnesota In October 2012.

Ode to the Law Library

I cannot proffer legal advice. I cannot proffer legal assistance.

How many ways can I say this? Let me count the ways.

Numerous they are (although admittedly repetitive).

I feel thy pain; I feel thy confusion; I feel thy anger.

And yet - I cannot be thy advocate.

I cannot be thy counsel.

How many ways can I say this?

Tis a library, and oh what keys the information can unlock!

Bring your spectacles, bring your coinage for the meter,

Bring your time and effort and wondrous knowledge awaits.

How many ways can I say this?

How many ways can I say this?

By Nadine Beckel, Clark County Law Library (WA)