



Connecting...

The Newsletter of Computing Services SIS
American Association of Law Libraries



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CS-SIS Grant Opportunity

The Computing Services SIS is pleased to continue offering grant opportunities for interested AALL members. The CS-SIS anticipates providing funding to several grant awardees again in 2000/01. The Main focus of the CS-SIS grant is to underwrite some or all of the cost of registration for the annual AALL meeting. Those completing a grant application to attend the AALL annual meeting may also request additional financial support to cover related expenses, but information justifying specialized needs is required in these cases.

Grant requests for the annual AALL meeting are due by April 1 each year. Applications to attend other AALL workshops or seminars, including AALL chapter events, must be submitted prior to the time of that event. In most cases where funding is available, financial support will cover registration costs only. Individuals who have received a CS-SIS grant within the two previous years will not be considered for a grant.

Preference may be given to individuals

who have never attended an AALL workshop or annual conference; or who show financial need; or who are active members of the CS-SIS; or who are new or student members of the CS-SIS. As funding permits, however, all eligible AALL member requests will be considered, and all AALL members are encouraged to consider this grant opportunity as a means of supporting their continuing education needs. Four AALL members received full or partial funding to attend the AALL July, 2000 Conference in Philadelphia, PA.

Grant recipients are required to provide some type of service to the CS-SIS in the form of an article for the CS-SIS website or newsletter, active committee participation, etc. Contributions can be negotiated with the CS-SIS Board at the time of receiving the grant. The grant application form is available at: Questions concerning the grant may be directed to Jean Willis, Chair of the CS-SIS Grants Subcommittee, at either or (619) 531-444.

2000 Grant Recipients:

- ? Kim Deniker, Mercer County Law Library
- ? David Hanson, Drake Law Library
- ? Peter Murray, University of Connecticut School of Law Library
- ? Lisa Mecklenberg, State Law Library of Montana

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Welcome to the first issue of **Connecting...**

We hope you enjoy the articles and learn something along the way. Congratulations to Doreen Kopycinski (Law Library of Montgomery County, Pa.) for her winning entry in the Name the Newsletter Contest. The contest was run by Sandy Braber-Grove and the name was chosen by the publications committee. A check for \$50. is on the way. Thanks to all those who entered the contest.

Voyeurs in the Library

By Victoria Szymczak

The 21st Century CS Librarian often finds herself in the unexpected role of teacher. Whether formal or informal instruction is the rule of the day, our audience may range from an individual who hangs on your every click, to a group of *slightly* interested 3Ls. It is the student who falls into the latter category that scares me the most. Nothing is more frightening to me than facing a room full of people with that far-away look in their eyes. They make me wonder if they are connected to this planet -- or even to this Internet! However, it is to these students that I am indebted. They challenge me to create lesson plans that will interest them and this makes my job more fun.

One of the hardest classes I used to teach was "advanced searching" in the Internet. Let's face it: teaching online searching is tedious. No matter what color combination you use in those Venn diagrams to illustrate the properties of logical connectors, they are still a bunch of two-dimensional circles to your average lawyer/student. Add search math as an alternative advanced search technique and you have lost those less attentive students and probably some of your eager beavers as well. After experimenting with a few classes, I developed a lesson plan last year that engages my students and makes the class more enjoyable for me too. I now find Internet Search Tips to be one of my favorite classes to teach thanks to the voyeur sites discussed below.

The Plan

If Internet Searching Tips is the full lesson you are teaching, arrange to have one of the voyeur sites projected as the students enter the classroom. While the early arrivals are waiting, their eyes will be drawn to the projected screen. What they see will stoke their curiosity. People start whispering and chuckling because, as we well know, the general public is often searching for outrageous information. Begin the class by explaining what students are observing at. Hopefully, the screen will display a variety of searching styles such as +s and -s, use of quotations, simple strings of words, boolean logic, etc ... Ask your students how the different methods work, and, if no one knows, you can take the lead in the explanation. Point out that search strings can work differently depending on which search engine you are using. Dare your students to select a few of the searches displayed and come up with a more sophisticated search. If you are feeling really brave and untouchable, run the original and the reconstructed search strings on one or two search engines and compare the results. Ask a student to keep a record and another to do the typing. It helps to keep everyone interested and they love to correct each other's typing errors.

The Final?

If you have the time, a terrific final? challenges the class to create a search and find a document of relevance to someone in the legal profession. One example I have used successfully is to locate the text of an amicus brief to support a request for an independent medical examination of Augusto Pinochet filed by Amnesty International at a British court. If you go to the AI web site you cannot find too much information about the brief, but a well constructed basic search on a av.com leads you to a deep link on the Human Rights Watch web page. Human Rights Watch is a co-author of the brief. You will find relevant portions of the brief extracted at this web site. A little browsing at this site provides contact information to obtain more information. The brief is not available anywhere online in full. Unavailability of some documents online is another good lesson to teach them!

The Benefit(s)

This 45 minute lesson allows me to accomplish a few things. I can talk about why seemingly adequate search queries may not work well, which, in turn, allows me to explain how a search engine functions. It also provides a platform to emphasize that search language structures differ among search engines. I distinguish subject directories from search engines and illustrate why you would use one type of resource over another. If time permits, I discuss the benefits of those search engines and subject directories that are focused on a specific topical area.

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Coming Out of the Usability Closet

By Susan Boland,
Northern Illinois University College of Law Library

“Usability” is one of those dirty words in Web site development. After all, who wants to worry about things like Alt text when the site has got all that neat-gee-whiz-bleeding-edge technology? Try explaining usability to a person who has just seen “a truly amazing site” and now wants you to do the same thing with your library or law firm site. As difficult as it may be, standing your ground on usability concerns and educating those around you on usability concepts, is vitally important. As librarians who realize the importance of making information available to patrons, we need to be especially concerned with our library or law firm’s Web site usability. Furthermore, there may be legal implications in failing to make a Web site usable for certain segments of the population. Witness the threat of a class action suit over the Olympic site for its failure to use Alt text in order to make the site accessible to the visually impaired. See Live Results Will Not Be Changed: SOCOG,

available at <http://www.theage.com.au/frontpage/20000828/A32287-2000Aug28.html> (Aug. 28, 2000).

Usability is more than just Alt tags. It encompasses things like cross-platform design, writing style, navigation, architecture, graphic design, etc. Making your Web site usable can consume vast quantities of time and attention. However, the more you study usability, the more you will automatically incorporate those concerns into your every day Web site design.

If you are interested in learning more usability, try the following sites:

<http://www.useit.com/index.html>

- This is Jacob Nielsen’s Web site. Nielsen is considered an expert on usability.

<http://usableweb.com/>

- The Usable Web contains over 1,000 links about Web usability.

<http://argus-acia.com/>

- Argus Associates is a consulting company on information architecture. Many of their consultants possess library and information science degrees.

**For other interesting articles and full text of many of these articles, see our web site:
<http://www.usc.edu/dept/law/cs-sis.html>**

Voyeurs

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The Tools

Here are three the three voyeur sites that I like to use.

Meta-Spy at <http://www.metaspys.com>

There are two versions of Meta-Spy: filtered and unfiltered. You can make a selection at their home page. Both versions look at the search queries of MetaCrawler users and are updated automatically every 15 seconds with a new list of in-progress searches. This is important because if you are viewing a bad set of examples for searching, Meta-Spy will quickly replace the results. The draw back is that 15 seconds is a little too brief to point out the good and bad searches.

Voyeur Excite at <http://www.excite.com/search/voyeur>

I like this site because it refreshes every 30 seconds and gives you a little longer than the Meta-Spy site to talk about the displayed queries. It still refreshes quickly enough to eliminate dead time if you have to wait for a good set of searches to come up.

Savvy Snoop at <http://www.savvysearch.com/snoop>

SavvySnoop presents ten selected queries -- pre-filtered -- that the SavvySearch meta search engine has processed during the past few minutes. It does not refresh its screen automatically, but allows you to do so by using the provided button link. The fact that I have control over the refresh rate makes it an attractive tool for this class. Also, if you are uncomfortable with possibly offensive search queries displayed in class, SavvySnoop’s pre-filtered screen can be useful.

Happy surfing! Happy teaching!

Technology in the Courtroom

By Mark Folmsbee, Washburn University School of Law

Below is a heavily digested version of a "technology" courtroom **Request For Proposals (RFP)** that we crafted here at Washburn this past year. Please excuse the language below; I condensed it to fit in the SIS newsletter.

The RFP generated several bids. We have already identified a successful bidder. Feel free to contact me at: or (785) 231-1088 to discuss any details.

I am eternally grateful to our Courtroom Technology Committee for their hard work, RFP language, and vision. The committee consisted of Joyce Martin, Director of Development, Prof. Peter Cotorceanu, Prof. John Francis, Prof. Michael Kaye, and myself. Thanks guys!

Background Information

Today, the influence of computers and online communications in the practice of law is common place. A 1998 survey by the American Bar Association found that 97 percent of large law firms and 98 percent of small firms provide full Internet access for their attorneys. Public viewing of trials and oral arguments live online or via satellite is available in some courtrooms. Technological advances help open the courthouse doors to the public, by providing greater access to the judicial system. Additionally, the legal system has been affected by technology with the availability of electronic filing and case management software.

A common characteristic of all high technology courtrooms is the ability to present evidence electronically. At least thirty-four federal district courts are equipped for two-way testimony. At least twenty-nine states use or authorize video conferencing. Video conferencing for oral arguments is currently used in the United States Courts of Appeals for the Second, Tenth and District of Columbia Circuits.

Washburn University desires to equip the courtroom with the state of the art technology necessary to provide the students and faculty with the learning environment that will reflect the current trend in electronically enhanced trials. Students need to be comfortable with and knowledgeable about courtroom technology. Upon completion, trial advocacy classes will train students how to present evidence persuasively with modern computer technology and graphics. Modern videotaping equipment will record student performances of mock trial exercises so they may be critiqued effectively by Trial Advocacy instructors. Adding courtroom technology training to the Legal Skills curriculum through small group hands-on instruction is the key to increased technology comfort and use. The courtroom will provide an instructional space that is similar to a modern, well equipped courtroom that is user friendly from an instructional stand point. This courtroom will be teacher/Judge controlled. It is to be designed so that support staff are not needed to operate the equipment.

Technology changes will include video teleconferencing, Internet access with capabilities of remote broadcast, evidence presentation, digital court reporting, and electronic legal research. A voice-activated video system that can accommodate remote testimony from any ISDN or Internet site in the world will be added. The video system will support broadcasting of trials via the Internet. A digital evidence presentation system is to be centrally stored and operated from a podium. This system will include a document camera, videocassette, illustrator tablet, light pen, visual image printer, laptop connection and touch screen controls with a computer and a computer white board.

Images will be capable of being displayed immediately, thus aiding jury comprehension. The project will be designed to allow installation of portable monitors in the event of jury trials. There also will be PC docking stations, a computerized blackboard (a so-called "John Madden" board), VCRs and a touch screen monitor (SmartBoard). Six individual workstations will be installed in the jury area for display purposes. When an image needs to be shown to the jury again or put in the appellate record, the system may be connected to a video printer and appropriate images printed as the image is changed.

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General Room Configuration Specifications

The room will include the capability of conducting multipoint remote testimony by video conference and will be connected to a standard coax cable television scheme already in the building. All computers will be networked with either cable meeting tia/eia category 6 draft 5 specs or, with Cisco AirLan 11mb wireless technology. Proceedings will be capable of being recorded on audiotape, videotape, and digital media (CDROM). Text, graphics, computer display, multimedia animations, and video will be displayable to jurors. Raised microphones will be capable of both teleconferencing and recording. The project will include a built-in videoconferencing system.

Podium

The Podium will include the capability of rotating 360 degrees, accommodating a wheelchair beneath any side tables, connecting to and displaying a graphic-based trial notebook (laptop computer), controlling (preview, decide, and then display) all viewing and sound throughout the courtroom. Controlling will be accomplished with an integrated touch screen control system that links to a document and item camera, computer display, VCR, cable TV, a voice activated built-in videoconference/deposition system, a raised microphone sound system, a FM/AM radio, an audio cassette recorder, a point maker system, a DVD/compact disk player, a fax card, and printers.

Judge/Bench Area

The Bench area will include the capability to control (preview, decide, and then display) all viewing and sound throughout the courtroom, view documents with monitor, connect a laptop to the system for use (applications, access casefile) as a tool, see simulations and graphics on a monitor, see video on monitor, see computer display on monitor, see external depositions (video conference) on monitor, hear sound, be amplified and recorded, be video recorded, and print.

Jury Box Area

The Jury area will include the capability to view documents with monitor, see simulations and graphics on a monitor, see video on a monitor, see external depositions on a monitor, see computer display on monitor, hear amplified sound, be amplified and recorded., and be video recorded.

Attorney Areas

The Attorney area will include the capability to view documents with a monitor, present electronic (disk) documents with a monitor, connect a laptop to the system for use (applications, access casefiles) as a tool, present computer applications and casefiles, see computer display on a monitor, see simulations and graphics on a monitor, present simulations and graphics on monitor, see video on a monitor, play video on a display, see external depositions on a monitor, hear amplified sound, be amplified and recorded, be video recorded and print.

For the full version of this article see the CS-SIS webpage at: <http://www.usc.edu/dept/law/cs-sis.html>

You've Been on a Computer too Long When You:

1. Double click on a floor button in an elevator.
2. Try to push escape to leave a boring class.
3. Try to call up a different menu when your mom serves meatloaf.
4. Try to brighten up a moniter when the sun goes down.
5. Try to delete your little brother!

The Perfect Match

A bachelor asked the computer to find him the perfect mate: "I want a companion who is small and cute, loves the water sports and enjoys group activities." Back came the answer: "Marry a penguin."

Can't Argue With That Logic

A computer salesman, a hardware engineer, and a software engineer are driving in a car together. Suddenly the right rear tire blows out, and the car rolls to a stop. Our three heroes pile out to investigate.

The salesman tsk-tsks sadly. "Time to buy a new car!" he announces.

Says the hardware engineer, "Well, first let's try swapping the front and rear tires, and see if that fixes it."

Replies the software engineer, "Now, let's just try driving the car again, and maybe the problem will go away by itself."

Ask the GURU:

The GURU will answer almost any question...from the most basic to the most complex. Send questions to either of the co-editors: Liz Glankler, (glankler@slu.edu) or Sandra Braber-Grove (sandra.braber-grove@law.vanderbilt.edu)

**Hey Guru!**

My Word 97 users keep complaining that just because they number one thing, everything thereafter gets numbered. Likewise, once they bullet something, same thing. What's happening and how do I make it stop?

Signed: She Who Represents Annoyed Users

Dear She:

What your users are seeing is the AutoCorrect features of Word97. To deactivate the AutoCorrect features, follow these steps:

1. With a Word97 document open, click on the pull-down menu marked Tools;
2. Select (click) AutoCorrect;
3. Go through each tab of the AutoCorrect window removing the checkmarks of the things you don't want happening automatically in a document;
4. Click OK and you're all set!

Happy Computing!

For more Ask the Guru see our web page at:
www.usc.edu/dept/law/cs-sis.html

On the Front Lines

Ken Hirsh
 ken@law.duke.edu

This is what I intend to be the first of a regular column in the newsletter. In it I hope to review the past, look at the present and peer into the future. It seems appropriate to begin with the back story - what has changed in library and computing technology in the past eleven years. However, I am going to make you, the reader, do the hard work here. I'm going to list terms and phrases I've run across in the past eleven or so years - I've seen most of them in the law school computing environment, but some of them have been around since (or even disappeared) before 1989. See how many mean something to you.

Netware 2.1. Making a client with DOSGEN. DaVinci e-mail. Synoptics Lattisnet. Charon for Pegasus e-mail. MS-DOS 3.31 - 5. Windows 286. Windows 386. The (then) blazingly fast Compaq Deskpro 386-16. OS/2. WALT terminals. Red UBIQ terminals. Xmodem, Ymodem and Zmodem. Gopher. Tom Bruce's Cello browser - the first compelling argument for using Windows instead of DOS. Spyglass Mosaic - the purchase of which by Microsoft to create Internet Explorer was not the first, but one of many, instances when Microsoft bought what it could not create. And isn't that how DOS became MS-DOS?

Thinkjet printers. Tiara LAN cards. BNC connectors. Token-Ring. Artisoft Lantastic. LAN Manager in Microsoft and IBM flavors. ZEN and the Art of the Internet. Clarkson University packet drivers (thanks Joe Doupnik and Russ Nelson). ARCNet. CompuServe when it ruled online services. Will GIF be its best remembered contribution?

Hayes modem compatibility. MS-Kermit. KA9Q. FidoNet. RBBS. Aldus. Ashton-Tate. Borland. Central Point Software. WordPerfect Corporation, Micropro International. Datacalc. Lotus 1-2-3. Lanier, Systel and NBI.

NDIS. ODI. OSI. PKZip. 8" drives. 5 1/4" drives. The 17 pound IBM portable. The PS/1. Panasonic and Epson dot-matrix printers.

Reads like a word association session, doesn't it. My purpose, in addition to triggering a little nostalgia, is to show how much and how quickly technology changes in today's environment. Have I succeeded?

CS-SIS programs accepted for AALL 2001

The theme for next year's American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting in Minneapolis is "2001: New Realities, New Roles" and the Computing Services SIS will play an integral part in helping to define these "new" concepts for our profession. Four CS-SIS sponsored program proposals were accepted by the Annual Meeting Program Selection Committee at a meeting held in September. The programs accepted include:

"Using Metadata to Increase Visibility: The GPO ACCESS Search Engine Project" (Coordinator: Kristina Niedringhaus, University of Toledo Law Library)

"New Roles: Hitching Reference Librarians to the Web Rocket" (Coordinator: Jean Willis, San Diego County Public Law Library)

"We're Hiring: Designing Job Descriptions to Attract the Very Best" (Coordinator: Don Arndt, University of Toledo Law Library)

"Key Competencies for the Key Cogs in Your Value Network: Your Staff" (Coordinator: Lyonette Louis-Jacques, D'Angelo Law Library, University of Chicago)

The dates for next year's annual meeting in Minneapolis are July 14-19, 2001. If you have any questions about these programs, or anything else relating to the annual meeting, please feel free to contact Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson at (40) 444-9285 or lmecklenberg@state.mt.us.

Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, member of AMPSC 2001 and the CS-SIS Electronic Services Librarian, State Law Library of Montana

2002 Education Committee Needs Your Program Ideas

The 2000-2001 CS-SIS Education Committee seeks your ideas and program submissions for the 2002 AALL Annual Meeting. Although the deadline is August 2001, the committee is beginning its work now to ensure quality and timely program proposals. Please consider proposing a program, or suggesting a topic.

Submissions/ suggestions can be made to any CS-SIS Education Committee member (Hadi-Amjadi, damjadi@scu.edu; Susan Boland, sboland@niu.edu; Sandy Braber-Grove, Sandra.Braber-Grove@law.vanderbilt.edu; Kris Niedringhaus, kniedri@utnet.utoledo.edu; Jean Willis, jwillis@sdcll.org; and James Duggan, Chair, duggan@siu.edu).

Buddy, can you spare a croissant?

The Computing Services SIS has been pleased to hold a breakfast at the annual meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries for the past two years. This breakfast has been paid for by the section and offered free of charge to all CS-SIS members and their guests. During the most recent breakfast last July, we were privileged to have as a speaker, Genie Tyburski, publisher and creator of *The Virtual Chase*TM. We plan to again hold a breakfast during the 2001 meeting in Minneapolis. In order to plan this event, we need your input.

Do you plan to attend next year's CS-SIS breakfast? Would you attend if there is a reasonable fee for the breakfast? Would you be more interested in attending if there is a speaker? Do you have suggestions for possible speakers or topics?

Please send your responses, along with any other input, to Sheri Lewis <lewis_sh@mercer.edu>

And the Winner Is....

The Computing Services SIS is considering developing and sponsoring an award for some contribution to technology. Some suggestions include best new web site for law librarians, best listserv thread or summary of a thread, best use of design on a law-related web site, and so forth. We need your input on this.

Do you think that the CS-SIS should sponsor a technology-related award? What are your suggestions for type of award? What award should be given, e.g. money, plaque? Should the award be limited to CS-SIS members only?

Please send your responses, along with any other input, to Sheri Lewis <lewis_sh@mercer.edu>

Connecting...
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We're on the Web!
[http://www.usc.edu/
 dept/law/cs-sis.html](http://www.usc.edu/dept/law/cs-sis.html)



CS-SIS Executive Board 2000-2001

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Member-at-Large: Jean Willis <jwillis@sdcll.org>

Nominations Committee Invites Your Participation

Please consider nominating yourself or someone else as a potential candidate for CS-SIS office! During the spring of 2001 CS-SIS members will be electing a new vice-chair/chair elect; secretary/treasurer, and member of the Executive Board. To nominate someone, please send your nominations to a member of the CS-SIS Nominations Committee (James Duggan, Chair, duggan@siu.edu; Sandy Braber-Grove, Sandra. Braber-Grove@law.vanderbilt.edu; or Ken Hirsh, ken@law.duke.edu) **by December 15, 2000.**

For information regarding the committee chairs, please see our website at:
<http://www.usc.edu/dept/law/cs-sis.html>