



# Connecting...

The Newsletter of Computing Services SIS  
American Association of Law Libraries



Connecting...

## Web-based Lints

By Susan M. Boland, Northern Illinois University College of Law

As your Internet site or Intranet grows, finding broken links and other problems becomes extremely time consuming. If devoting large amounts of time to link checking is impractical and your budget is tight, you can take advantage of the free lints available on the Web. A lint will look at your links and HTML and report problems. You can also use a validator to look at your HTML. Validators only look at HTML (as opposed to links, load time, browser compatibility, etc.) and they strictly compare your HTML to Document Type Definition. In other words, their comparison is more rigorous. Lints often look at more than just HTML and they compare your HTML more loosely to the Document Type Definitions. Listed below are some of the better known lints and validators.

### NetMechanic

<http://www.netmechanic.com/maintain.htm>

Net Mechanic's HTML Toolbox offers a free sample of up to five Web pages. It offers a free monthly tune-up B it will automatically test the submitted pages and e-mail you a report. The service checks for broken links, checks your HTML and offers suggestions for resolving HTML problems, tests for Internet Explorer and Netscape browser compatibility, gives you approximate load time with various modem speeds, and performs a spell check. This service works nicely. You can also purchase the HTML Toolbox for \$60 per year per URL for sites of up to 100 pages or you can use their free version for checking up to five pages at a time.

### Dr. HTML

<http://www2.imagiware.com:80/RxHTML/>

Dr. HTML offers a free analysis of a single page. It will check for broken links, bad HTML code, font support, browser compatibility, frames analysis, tables analysis, form structure, spelling errors, meta tags, and cookies. This service also works nicely. The big disadvantage is only being able to check a single page at a time. The Site Doctor program, which will analyze an entire Web site is available for purchase. A single site license for an internal network is \$350.

### Web Site Garage

<http://websitegarage.netscape.com>

Web Site Garage offers a free Atune up@ of a single page. This service checks for broken links, bad HTML code, browser compatibility, loading time, meta tags, link popularity, and spelling errors. This service works nicely but you are only able to check one page.

Volume 3, Issue 2  
June, 2003

### In This Issue:

<i>Web-based Lints</i>	1
<i>Time to Say Goodbye</i>	3
<i>CS-SIS Bylaws—Proposed Changes</i>	4
<i>AALL Announcements</i>	5
<i>CatchtheWeb</i>	6
<i>KeyBoarding the Right Way</i>	7
<i>New Officers Grant Recipients</i>	10
<i>Special Section—Take Me to the Annual Meeting!</i>	11-14
<i>On the Front Lines</i>	15
<i>From the Chair</i>	16
<i>AALL Announcements</i>	16

## **SPECIAL SECTION !!!**

## **TAKE ME TO THE ANNUAL MEETING!**

**A GUIDE TO THE 2003 ANNUAL MEETING IN SEATTLE**  
**Pages 11-14**

(continued from Page 1)

### **AnyBrowser.com**

<http://www.anybrowser.com/>

This resource site for Web maintenance tools includes tools to check browser compatibility, screen size views, HTML, links, and search engine readiness. The disadvantage to this source is that the resources are scattered and there is no one place to perform all of the diagnostics.

### **Dr. Watson**

<http://watson.addy.com/>

Dr. Watson will offer a free analysis of a single page. It will check links, spelling, HTML, estimate download time with various modem speeds, search engine compatibility, link compatibility, and word count.

### **Link Valet**

<http://www.htmlhelp.com/tools/valet/>

Link Valet checks links and issues a report that includes a summary of all links, a brief description of the links, and highlights links where a link error was returned or the server redirected the link. The report is not intuitive. It does not spider the links in order but rather spiders them depth-wise. Thus, you get a report on the last link first. The report goes into the linked page and checks that. The service has a maximum recursion depth so a page connected to a large site will require additional reports to be run. In addition, the report uses codes so you must refer back to other documentation on the site to translate the codes.

### **W3C Link Checker**

<http://validator.w3.org/checklink>

This free service checks the links for a single page. It reports on anchors, broken links, and instructs on whether action is necessary or not. The report also links to the W3C CSS and HTML checkers.

### **W3C HTML MarkUp Validation Service**

<http://validator.w3.org>

This free service checks the code of a single page for conformity with W3C HTML and XHTML standards. You can validate by entering a URL or uploading a file with the HTML code. It is a strict validator so it will report HTML errors that do not conform even though the code may still work on your site. If you do not have a character encoding labeling the site may not be able to validate your code.

### **WDG HTML Validator**

<http://www.htmlhelp.com/tools/validator/>

Developed by a Canadian software engineer, this validator is similar to the W3C HTML MarkUp Validation Service. You can validate by entering a URL, uploading a file with HTML code, or directly inputting your HTML. Unlike the W3C HTML MarkUp Validation Service, this validator will check the site even if you do not have a character encoding labeling.

Now that you've found some free tools for link and html checking, all you need to do is find the time to correct the broken links and coding errors! Alas, easier said than done.

## Time to Say Goodbye

Call it a mid-life crisis ... at least that's what I called it. I would be sitting in my now former office and hear voices (don't say it!). I determined the source of the 'voices' was actually my law degree speaking to me from the wall. It was asking me what purpose it was serving and telling me to change course and take a different path in my life. Quite profound, I thought. Anyway, I heeded its advice and took the necessary steps to sit for the Tennessee Bar examination. I'll see what it's like to practice law. It was difficult, as it always is, to leave colleagues and friends. However, I could no longer ignore the 'voices' (they were, after all, quite disturbing).

I have happy thoughts as I reflect on my time in the law librarianship profession. I have made many friends in the CS-SIS, the larger AALL, and CALI. I'll always remember my time with Barbara Bintliff when I first joined AALL and attended CONELL; my time on the Indexing Periodical Literature Advisory Committee, culminating in Chair of the Committee; my work with the CS-SIS (work on many committees and co-chairing the newsletter); and the many, many friends I have made in the CS-SIS, AALL and CALI (you know who you are!).

Perhaps our paths will cross again someday, but for now I must say goodbye.

Sandy Braber-Grove  
Nashville, Tennessee



The Computing Services Special Interest Section recently formed an Awards Committee to investigate the possibility of our section creating an award. Several of AALL's Special Interest Groups have established recognition awards. ALL-SIS has the Frederick Charles Hicks award for outstanding contribution to academic law librarianship. SCCLL-SIS has the Connie E. Bolden Publications Award, the O. James Werner Award for Distinctive Service to Persons with Disabilities and the Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession. TS-SIS has the Renee D. Chapman Memorial Award for Outstanding Contributions in Technical Services Law Librarianship. As the CS-SIS Awards Committee proceeds with its work, it has compiled a brief survey to gather information from the CS-SIS membership. Thank you for your valuable input into this process by completing the survey at:  
<http://www.law.mercer.edu/cssis/awardsurvey.cfm>



### Connecting...

Liz Glankler, Editor and Layout Artist for Vol. 3, #2 (June, 2003)  
Saint Louis University Law Library  
3700 Lindell Blvd.  
St. Louis, Mo. 63108  
Phone: (314) 977-2759  
Fax: (314) 977-3966  
Email: [glankler@slu.edu](mailto:glankler@slu.edu)

## CS-SIS Bylaws - Proposed Changes

The Bylaws committee has recommended the section adopt the below revisions to our bylaws. The proposal has been approved by the AALL Bylaws Committee as being in conformance with AALL Bylaws. The proposal will be submitted for approval at the section's annual meeting in Seattle, beginning at 5:30 PM on Sunday, July 13, 2003.

The proposed revisions would do the following:

1. Authorize the use of electronic means of delivering official notice to members.
2. Authorize electronic balloting for elections and bylaws revision. The details of implementing an electronic election are left to the executive committee.
3. Clarify that the Chair-Elect automatically succeeds to the office of Chair.
4. Expressly provide that the nominations committee is to recommend a slate of two candidates for each office.

The current bylaws provide that the proposal may be approved by a mail vote or by a vote held at the section's annual meeting, and require that notice be given 30 days before the election by mail or by publication in the section newsletter. This proposal will be submitted for approval at the section's annual meeting in Seattle and this publication in Connections meets the notice requirement.

(Several words below should have strike-outs but the editing program would not comply therefore, in the electronic and pdf version I have typed them in RED.)

**Article V is substantially reorganized and rewritten. See attached for current language.**

**Article V is amended to read as follows:**

### **Article V: ELECTED OFFICERS OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS**

#### Section 1. Officers and Term

The elected officers of the Section will include a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary/Treasurer, and two (2) Members-at-Large. The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson shall each serve for a term of one year; ~~however, the Vice-Chairperson shall assume the office of Chairperson at the end of their terms of office.~~ The Secretary/Treasurer and Members-at-Large shall serve for two-year terms, with the terms of the Members-at-Large being staggered so that one new Member-at-Large assumes office each year. During the even-numbered years there will be an election for Vice-Chairperson and one Member-at-Large. During the odd-numbered years there will be an election for Vice-Chairperson, Secretary/Treasurer, and one Member-at-Large.

#### Section 2. Election procedures.

- (a) The election of officers will be conducted every year by mail or electronic ballot, to be completed not later than two months prior to the annual meeting.
- (b) Nominations for office may be submitted in advance to a Nominating Committee appointed by the Chairperson as provided in Article VII. The nominating committee shall submit a slate of at least two candidates for each office and the slates shall appear on the ballot. Write-in votes will be permitted on the official ballot.
- (c) ~~In the event paper ballots are used,~~ the Secretary/Treasurer shall mail a copy of the ballot to each member of the Section. Marked ballots shall be returned to the Secretary/Treasurer by a specified deadline. The candidates for each office receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected.
- (d) In the event electronic ballots are used, the details of conducting the election shall first be approved by the Executive Committee. The Committee shall ensure that an election conducted by electronic balloting is fundamentally fair and preserves the right of secret ballot. The candidate for each office receiving the

highest number of votes shall be elected.

Section 3. If a Chairperson leaves his office, the Vice-Chairperson will assume his duties.

Section 4. If a Vice-Chairperson, Secretary/Treasurer, or a Member-at-Large leaves his office, the Chairperson will appoint a member of the Section to assume that office until the next annual convention of the Association, whereupon an election will be held to fill the office for the remainder of the term.

Section 5. If a majority of the members present at the Annual Business Meeting determine that the current Vice-Chairperson has demonstrated either an inability or an unwillingness to assume the duties of the Chairperson, the newly-elected Vice-Chairperson automatically becomes the Chairperson, and a new Vice-Chairperson is to be elected by a majority of those present at the Business Meeting.

Article VIII is amended to read as follows:

**Article VIII: AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS**

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended at the annual meeting of the Section by a majority of the members present and voting, or by a majority of the votes ~~case~~ cast by a mail or electronic ballot conducted by the Secretary/Treasurer. Any amendment must be presented to the AALL Committee on Constitution and Bylaws for review.

Section 2. Notice of proposed amendments shall be mailed to the Section's members, or be published in the Section's newsletter, or be sent by electronic mail to the members' electronic mail address of record with the association 30 days in advance of the meeting, or of the mailing of ballots, or of the conduct of an election by electronic ballot.

---

**Current Article V for reference purposes**

**Article V: ELECTED OFFICERS**

Section 1. The elected officers of the Section will include a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary/Treasurer, and two (2) Members-at-Large.

Section 2. The election of officers will be conducted every year by mail ballot, to be completed prior to the annual meeting. The Secretary/Treasurer shall mail a copy of the ballot to each member of the Section. Marked ballots shall be returned to the Secretary/Treasurer by a specified deadline. The candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected. The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson shall each serve for a term of one year. The Secretary/Treasurer and Members-at-Large shall serve for two-year terms, with the terms of the Members-at-Large being staggered so that one new Member-at-Large assumes office each year. During the even-numbered years there will be an election for Vice-Chairperson and one Member-at-Large. During the odd-numbered years there will be an election for Vice-Chairperson, Secretary/Treasurer, and one Member-at-Large. Nominations for office may be submitted in advance to a Nominating Committee appointed by the Chairperson. Write-in votes will be permitted on the official ballot. All of the above procedures must be scheduled and executed so that elections are completed at least two (2) months prior to the date of the AALL annual meeting.

Section 3. If a Chairperson leaves his office, the Vice-Chairperson will assume his duties.

Section 4. If a Vice-Chairperson, Secretary/Treasurer, or a Member-at-Large leaves his office, the Chairperson will appoint a member of the Section to assume that office until the next annual convention of the Association, whereupon an election will be held to fill the office for the remainder of the term.

Section 5. If a majority of the members present at the Annual Business Meeting determine that the Vice-Chairperson has demonstrated either an inability or an unwillingness to assume the duties of the Chairperson, the newly-elected Vice-Chairperson automatically becomes the Chairperson, and a new Vice-Chairperson is to be elected by a majority of those present at the Business Meeting.

## CatchTheWeb

By Michael Samson, WSU Law Library

### **Need to make presentations in places without an Internet connection?**

CatchTheWeb makes a wonderful presentation tool for instruction, teaching and presenting web content in places where an Internet connection is not available. All web content, including scripts and dynamic effects, can be caught and played as if LIVE on the web.

### **Need to travel light?**

Say 'good-bye' to your heavy laptop and travel light to your remote presentation locations and audiences. CatchTheWeb saves your files/database on portable media in several formats so you can take them on the road.

### **Need to share and collaborate on documents with your remote colleagues or peers?**

If your document can be displayed in a browser, it can be annotated, highlighted and shared via e-mail of 'exported' (several formats) files/databases created with CatchTheWeb.

### **Need to run kiosk presentations?**

Your CatchTheWeb files/database can be run in auto-play and theater mode (full screen) the same way one could run a PowerPoint slide show. The player is Free as a web download (the same way Acrobat Reader is for '.pdf' files).

### **Need to archive files?**

If the file can be displayed in a browser, it can be 'grabbed' so that it can be accessed years from now with the original URL, time and date stamps.

### **CatchTheWeb (CTW)**

One of a growing number of "Internet Agents", CatchTheWeb grabs single or multiple pages from a selected web site and stores them for offline browsing.

#### **CTW features:**

- capture complete or partial web pages including flash, pdf, database pages, email, etc. (any page or document that you can view in your browser)
- add yellow highlights and "sticky notes" to web pages before capture
- search document content and user-added notes (basic and advanced, with Boolean operators)
- manage files/database in Internet Explorer or Windows Explorer-like view (add, delete, rename, present, export, publish, etc.)
- share all or part of files/database by exporting (in several formats) and e-mailing files/database to anyone
- publish your files/database in '.mht' format (Internet Explorer web archive), and saved it to CD-R/RW, portable USB/FireWire hard drive or flash memory so that it can be taken 'on the road' and used on any computer platform equipped with Internet Explorer, CD-ROM, and/or USB/FireWire
- create archive databases for present web content
- present your database in CatchTheWeb player, included with the Solo software, available as a FREE download at <http://www.catchtheweb.com>

CatchTheWeb is extremely easy to use and set-up. Its help file provides, in graphical format, all the information needed to learn how to capture, highlight, annotate, save, manage, share and present captured web content.

The software can be used on the PC platform only (Win. 98 thru XP) with any of the popular web browsers: Internet Explorer, Netscape, and Opera.

## Keyboarding the Right Way

By June Liebert, University of Texas Law Library

What was one of the most valuable things I learned in high school? The answer is definitely typing (or touch typing as it was called). Touch typing refers to the ability to type without looking at the keys, and it is a skill I use almost every day. For one entire semester, I did nothing but bang on a simple Selectric typewriter one finger at a time until I could type without even thinking about it. Many years later, I'm able to type at a pretty fast clip (depending on how much coffee I've consumed).

If you wonder how fast you currently type, try an online typing test such as:

- <http://www.typingcertification.com/practice1.asp>
- TypingMaster
  - Online: <http://www.typingtest.com/index.asp?go=typetest>
  - Download software: <http://download.com.com/3000-2051-5799479.html>
- <http://www.typingweb.com/home.php>
- <http://www.mrkent.com/kb/kbtest.htm>



Whether you are a fast typist or a slow one, there are many ways to further improve your keyboarding skills.

### **1. Where did the QWERTY keyboard come from?**

The QWERTY keyboard that most of use today is so named because of the arrangement of the upper row keys. The first typewriter, invented in 1867 by Christopher Latham Sholes, was originally designed for two finger typing. In 1878, 10 finger typing was developed, and Sholes rearranged the keys to prevent the rods from jamming. The QWERTY layout was born.

Many other key arrangements have been proposed over the years, such as the Dvorak keyboard in 1936. The Dvorak keyboard placed most commonly used letters in the middle row, vowels on the left, and common consonants on the right. Although more efficient, the Dvorak (and all other keyboard designs) have been unable to overtake the QWERTY design.

### **2. "Hunt and peck" vs. keyboarding**

For those of you who already type using the "hunt and peck" or "two finger" method, why should you bother to relearn how to type? Aside from the obvious speed issue, ergonomics is an important issue. Touch typists do not look down at their keyboards nearly as often as those who hunt and peck, which reduces neck strain. Also, the wrists are better protected, because proper keyboarding requires less movement of the wrists.

As more and more people develop carpal tunnel syndrome and other repetitive strain injuries, it is increasingly important to be aware of how computer-use can affect your health. Although there is debate as to what actually causes carpal tunnel syndrome (some employers may not recognize carpal tunnel syndrome as a

*(Continued on page 8)*

(Continued from page 7)

compensable claim in worker's compensation cases), it is still in your best interest to minimize the risk. Along with analyzing your posture, desk and seating height, you should also look at your use of the keyboard and mouse.

### 3. Use an alternative keyboard

The goal of ergonomics is to reduce muscle strain by reducing the amount of movement needed to accomplish tasks. One common problem is placement of the mouse too far away from the keyboard, which requires you to twist or stretch your wrist (I recommend switching to a mouse with a trackball). The keyboard should be tilted down away from you or at least placed flat (do not prop it up with the little feet at the back of your keyboard). Split-key keyboards, such as Microsoft's Natural Keyboard, can also be helpful for people with broader shoulders, but generally require touch-typing skills. There are also keyboards created for specific tasks, such as Internet or MS Office use, which have additional shortcut keys available. For those who are really adventuresome, there are a plethora of really different and innovative keyboard designs available today, such as those that require the use of only one hand. More information is online at the Alternative Keyboard FAQ (<http://www.tifaq.com/keyboards>).

The drawback is that you will need to learn how to use a new keyboard. I personally was surprised at how difficult it was to switch to a split-key keyboard, simply because the keys were at a slightly different angle and size. Using an alternative keyboard will also make it harder for you to use someone else's computer unless you begin carrying around your own with you everywhere.

### 4. Learn proper keyboarding techniques

If you never learned how to touch type properly, it is not too late. You can certainly take a class with a live instructor, but there are a wide variety of software programs and Web-based tutorials available that cater to different learning styles. Whether you are a complete novice or an advanced typist, you can benefit from using one of these tutorials. Listed below are some of the options available. (Note: approx. retail prices are listed below - you can buy most titles for much less. Also, many have a freely downloadable demo available online.)

#### Software:

1. Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing, <http://www.broderbund.com>, \$19.99 (a best seller that has been around for a long time)
2. Typing Instructor Deluxe, <http://www.individualsoftware.com>, \$29.95
3. Typing Tutor, Simon & Schuster (<http://www.simonsays.com/subs/book.cfm?areaid=58&isbn=0743518535>), \$19.95
4. TypingMaster Pro Express, <http://www.typingmaster.com>, \$24.90 and ProTrainer (for advanced users) \$24.90. Download both at: <http://downloads-zdnet.com.com/3000-2051-10196302.html?tag=lst-4-1> for \$29.90
5. Ten Thumbs Typing Tutor, <http://www.runrev.com/tenthumbs>, \$26.00 (kid-friendly)
6. PC Talking Typing Tutor, <http://www.enablelink.com>, \$99 (for anyone with learning difficulties - uses speech and enhanced fonts)

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

7. Sega's Typing of the Dead, 2000 version can be purchased online for around \$10, but the 2003 version is only available in Japan.  
(arcade game and tutorial based on Sega's House of the Dead 2 video game)  
Free demo: <http://www.gamesdomain.com/demos/demo/1371.html>
8. All the Right Type, <http://www.ingenuityworks.com>, \$29.95
9. TurboTyping, <http://www.imsisoft.com>, \$19.95
10. Flash Typing, <http://www.flashtyping.com/>, \$19.95
11. Captain Keyboard Typing Tutor, <http://www.zoogma.com/>, \$19.95

#### Web-based:

1. Typing Pal, <http://www.typingpal.com>, \$19.95
2. EasyType, <http://easytype.com/default.asp>, Free
3. Learn 2 Type, <http://www.learn2type.com>, Free

#### 5. The future of keyboarding

There have been many attempts to change the traditional QWERTY keyboard, but now may be one of the best times for a change. In the past, keyboards required additional software or special plugs in order to use them, but with the USB (Unified Serial Bus) port and newer versions of Windows, "plug and play" is truly here. In addition, people are becoming more accepting of alternative methods of entering information. Just take a look at how many people have switched over to using Palm's Graffiti handwriting style or gotten used to the thumb keyboards found on Blackberry RIMs.

The one feature we have all been waiting for is, of course, voice recognition software. A well-trained user and software program can work at speeds up to 200 words per minute. This is three to four times faster than most people can type. Manufacturers claim that users can achieve up to 98% accuracy, although this is debatable. The price of voice recognition software has also come down tremendously over the last several years. The two leading brands, Dragon Naturally Speaking and IBM's ViaVoice, are now available for under \$30 each (for the personal versions). There are also a legal version of Naturally Speaking available (about \$900) and a legal vocabulary add-on for ViaVoice Professional versions and above (about \$150). Microsoft's Office XP software comes with built-in voice recognition capability.

The problem with such software has always been accuracy, which depends on consistency of articulation, usage of homonyms, amount of background noise, and the amount of patience the user has to train the software adequately. Although voice recognition software has improved tremendously, it is unlikely to replace the keyboard anytime soon.

**Coming Soon—CS-SIS Annual Survey**

**All survey respondents will be automatically entered into the CS-SIS drawing at AALL for a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA)!  
Check our website daily for information and the survey link!**



## CS-SIS Announcements

### NEW OFFICERS 2003-2004

The Computing Services Special Interest Section is pleased to announce the results of its 2003 election and welcomes these members to the Executive Board:

**Vice Chair/Chair Elect: Susan Boland**, Northern Illinois University College of Law Library

**Secretary/Treasurer: Victoria Szymczak**, Brooklyn Law School Library

**Member at Large: June Liebert**, The University of Texas School of Law

Susan, Vicki, and June join these other members of the CS-SIS Executive Board:

**Chair: Don Arndt**, University of Toledo Law Library

**Member at Large: Kris Niedringhaus**, Georgia State University College of Law Library

**Chair: Past Chair: Liz Glankler**, Saint Louis University Law Library

Congratulations to these CS-SIS members and best wishes in their new offices!

Special thanks to the CS-SIS Nominations Committee, **James Duggan** (Chair), **Sheri Lewis**, **Jim Milles**, **James Genert**, and **Eric Young** for their outstanding work in putting together such a fine slate of candidates. The Committee thanks all those who served as candidates.

### GRANT RECIPIENTS

For the fourth year in a row, the CS-SIS offered grants to attend the annual AALL Conference. The Grants Committee notified AALL and CS-SIS members through announcements in Spectrum and e-mails sent to AALL related discussion lists. The Committee received 17 applications, making this year's decision extremely difficult. All grant applicants were more than deserving and we wish we could have provided something for everyone.

Traditionally, three grants for program registration are awarded. As a condition of their grant, the recipients contribute back to the CS-SIS by writing an article or actively participating in CS-SIS committees. Unfortunately, two of our original grant recipients this year were unable to attend the AALL Conference and had to return their grants. This enabled two more deserving people to be awarded grants. **Deborah Ginsberg**, Electronic Services Librarian at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Downtown Campus; and **Akram Pari**, Cataloging Librarian at the Cincinnati Law Library Association, were awarded grants that cover the cost of the program registration fee for the upcoming AALL Annual Meeting and Conference in Seattle. **Cynthia Lewis**, Electronic Resources Librarian at the Hugh & Hazel Darling Law Library of UCLA School of Law was awarded a grant covering the cost of the workshop for Academic Library IT members and one day program registration.

Many thanks to CS-SIS for providing the funding for these grants. For all their hard work, special thanks also to the Grants Committee: **Susan Boland**, Chair, Northern Illinois University College of Law Library, **James Gernert**, Reference/Electronic Resources Librarian at University of Baltimore Law Library; **Brandi Ledford**, Technical Services Librarian, Preston Gates & Ellis LLP; and **Sue Welsh**, Head of Electronic Information at University of Pacific McGeorge School of Law.

## SPECIAL SECTION—TAKE ME TO THE ANNUAL MEETING!

### Breakfast, Business, Karaoke, Oh My!!!

#### Breakfast with Gail Warren

You are cordially invited to attend the 5th Annual CS-SIS breakfast at the upcoming AALL Meeting in Seattle this **July 15th**. This great program is underwritten by CS-SIS and only costs members \$10 to attend. Please be aware that you must sign up to attend when completing your AALL annual meeting registration form.

This year, the CS-SIS is pleased to have Gail Warren, State Law Librarian at the Virginia State Law Library. She was on the committee that authored the publication "Beyond the Boundaries--Law Libraries in a Digital Age". "Beyond the Boundaries" is the report of the American Association of Law Libraries' Special Committee on the Future of Law Libraries in the Digital Age. The report describes possible models of academic, private and government law libraries of the future, analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of each model.

The breakfast meeting provides an enjoyable forum for networking with your fellow CS-SIS members. Please join us and enjoy the food, along with a great educational and networking opportunity.

#### CS-SIS Creates Connections for the Annual Meeting

The Computing Services SIS invites all interested AALL members to attend our annual **Business Meeting on Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.** Newer AALL members curious about the CS-SIS will find this an informative way to learn more about us, as well as how easy it is to become involved. Don't miss out!

All interested members are also invited to attend the **Educational Program Planning Meeting on Tuesday, July 15th, from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.** New suggestions and ideas are always welcome, and this meeting, too, is a great way to network with your colleagues.

Join us for the CS/TS/RIPS/OBS  
joint reception on July 15th  
at 6:00 pm at the Annual Meeting.

The CS-SIS is once again holding a **Joint Reception** with the TS/OBS/RIPS SISs on Saturday evening, **July 12th, at 6:00 p.m.** Sponsored by Innovative Interfaces, this is a nice way to kick-off the conference, greet old friends and make new acquaintances in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. Hope to see you there!

#### Seattle Karaoke Venue Set

This year's Karaoke with Ken outing will be Tuesday, July 15, immediately following the Academic SIS reception. We'll ride the buses back from the Seattle University School of Law to the Sheraton Seattle Hotel and Towers, and travel from there to Ozzie's Roadhouse, 105 W. Mercer Street, less than 2 miles away.

And what is Karaoke with Ken? Rather than strike you with a major case of deja vu, simply read last June's Connections ([http://www.aallnet.org/sis/cssis/newsletter/jun2002/Connecting06\\_02.pdf](http://www.aallnet.org/sis/cssis/newsletter/jun2002/Connecting06_02.pdf)) at page 7 for a Karaoke primer and the history of our section's Karaoke outings. If you want in to check in that evening, call Ken at 919-971-4938.

Be there or be square.

—Submitted by Ken Hirsh



## TAKE ME TO THE ANNUAL MEETING!

### Road Map to Computing Services SIS Events

#### Saturday, July 12, 2003

If you are in Seattle this day, start your CS-SIS Road Trip by joining us at the Joint Reception with TS/OBS/RIPS. The reception begins at **6:00 p.m.** and promises to be a fun-filled event. Meet new friends, catch up with your 'old' friends, and have **FUN!**

#### Sunday, July 13, 2003

Support the CS-SIS members who are bringing us **C-1 Envision the Possibilities: Using Wireless & PDA's to Instruct.** The program is from **4:15—5:15 p.m.** and is brought to you by your incoming Chair, Don Arndt .

Save time — and energy — for the **Business Meeting** which begins at **5:30 p.m.** We will be taking a vote on amending the bylaws of the SIS so please come and lend your support. (Read the revisions elsewhere in this newsletter!)

#### Monday, July 14, 2003

While there are no CS-SIS sponsored events this day, continue your Road Trip by stopping by **E-4 Redesigning Your Web Site: Managing, Implementing & Testing the Changes.** Learn how to test the usability of your website and to see if a redesign is needed.

#### Tuesday, July 15, 2003

Start today's busy Road Trip by having **breakfast with Gail Warren** at **7:30 am.** Continue with one of the thought-provoking **Roundtables** at **12:15 pm** led by **Susan Boland.**

#### Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Support the CS-SIS member, Dominick Grillo, who is bringing us **J3 Is Someone Stealing Who You Are?** Attend the **Educational Program Committee Meeting** from **noon to 1:30 p.m.** Help us brainstorm new ideas for programs for the 2004 Annual Conference! Be sure to stop at the two afternoon sessions that we are sponsoring: **K2 When You Can't Wait Until tomorrow—How to "Borrow" Someone Else's Code (1:45),** and **M6, Using NetMeeting to Work More Effectively (3:15 p.m.).**

Throughout the Annual Meeting, be sure to stop by the CS-SIS table in the Activities Area.

**We are having a Raffle for a PDA!**

**See you in Seattle!**

#### **The CS-SIS Roundtable on Web Design and Maintenance returns!**

Join us for a discussion on technical and political Web design and maintenance issues. How are you making your sites ADA accessible? What information do you collect from your users, and how are you addressing privacy issues in our post 9/11 world? What training have you had or would like to have and how does your institution support these training needs? How have the current budget problems many institutions are experiencing affected you?

Be sure and bring your opinions and comments. Let's learn from each other!

**Tuesday, July 23, 2003, 12:15 p.m.**



## TAKE ME TO THE ANNUAL MEETING!

### THE LAST OF THE ANNUAL MEETING NOTES July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2002; Orlando FL

Meeting called to order approximately 5:35 p.m. with around 25 members present.

Introductions of the Current Executive Board. Meeting was opened, and the previous year's minutes were approved without discussion.

Dominick Grillo gave the financial report. While the final figures were not yet available from AALL, it was estimated the SIS would spend within a few hundred dollars of it's income. While still some deficit spending, intentionally, this has been reduced.

James Duggan gave the Annual Report. Some items highlights were: continuing changes to the Web site, increased recruitment efforts, a reborn newsletter, and roundtables at the AALL Conference.

#### Committee Reports:

Program 2003 - Liz Glankler gave a deadline of August 15<sup>th</sup> for ideas to her. Meeting at CALI in June produced only a few ideas. Follow-up meeting on Tuesday. New for 2003 will be the option of 30 minute sessions (in addition to the regular 60 and 90 minute ones).

Grants - Three conference grants were given out, as well as one additional grant to attend CONELL. (Names of the winners are in June's newsletter.)

Bylaws - Nothing to report. AALL recently changed their bylaws to allow electronic voting, so for the next year the plan is to modify the SIS's bylaws to allow for this.

Job Descriptions Database - Now over 400 job descriptions are included.

Recruitment and Involvement - A new brochure has been created and printed. They are available at the SIS table in the exhibit hall, along with flyers. Bubble Clocks were handed out at CONELL.

Publications - Sandra Braber-Grove mentioned that the newsletter went out twice in the past year, in December and June. They (the committee) were struggling with the decision as to whether they should go all electronic. A survey that Kris Niedringhaus did of the membership strongly suggested that the newsletter go to online publications. Hence, the committee proposed that the past issue (in June) be the last one in paper. PDF versions are already on the web, and it would save about \$700-1,000 in printing and mailing costs. A long discussion followed, with the end result being the following motion was made, discussed, and passed:

That the [SIS] membership accept the Publications Committee recommendation that the newsletter be published only electronically. Upon requests from members a laser-printed copy will be printed and mailed, as well as copies required by AALL headquarters, and as

*(Continued on page 14)*

## TAKE ME TO THE ANNUAL MEETING!

*(Continued from page 13)*

needed.

Nominations - Tough time choosing the candidates, since we were blessed with many excellent choices. Don Arndt and Darin Fox ran for Vice Chair/Chair Elect, while Kris Niedringhaus and Sandra Braber-Grove ran for Member at Large.

Technology Competencies - Not much to report, though there will be a roundtable on this topic later in the conference.

Roundtables - Two are being offered this year.

Newsletter - Please see above under Publications.

Webmaster - Darin is staying on as Webmaster. The Executive Board will create a committee to support him in maintaining the Web site. Over the past year the site was moved to the AALL servers.

Joint SIS (Innovative) Reception - Went well, and it looks like it came within budget.

Strategic Planning - Received 27 responses to the survey posted on the Web site, and will use the results to redo our Strategic Plan in the current year.

For new business, if anyone wishes to write for Perspectives (West Pub), they should contact Frank Houdek at Southern Illinois University School of Law Library.

Sheri Lewis brought up the idea of establishing a recognition award for the SIS to award, like the Academic and Technical Services SIS have. A discussion followed on the issue, concerning who would be eligible, for what would it be granted, what form would the award take, etc. It was received well, and James said the Executive Board would appoint an exploratory committee to report back to the Board with their recommendations.

Mention was given of all the talks the SIS was sponsoring at this year's conference.

Ken Hirsh reminded everyone about the Karaoke outing later on.

Liz reminded everyone again to come to the education/program planning meeting later in the conference.

Introductions of the new Executive Board. Thanks to the outgoing members.

Ken reminded people that CALI would be at Duke in 2003.

Meeting adjourned at about 6:30 p.m.

Minutes by Dominick Grillo, Secretary/Treasurer



## CS-SIS COLUMNS

### On The Front Lines by Ken Hirsh

On the Front Lines  
Ken Hirsh



Are we competent?@

By that question I do not mean are we of sufficient legal capacity to handle our affairs. Rather, are we working at the level that is expected of us? Do we possess the minimal skills required to do our professional work? I raise this question because for the past two years I have been chair of the section's Technology Competencies committee. Last year we had little to report and this year I expect we will again have little to say of our work. Why is this?

Members of the section have been discussing the issue of librarian technology competencies for at least 4 years. Whether lamenting a colleague's perceived lack of technological acumen or ruminating on the rapid pace of technological change, competencies are at the heart of many of our conversations. Two years ago the association adopted a statement of Competencies of Law Librarianship@ available on AALLNET at <http://www.aallnet.org/prodev/competencies.asp>.

In addition to core competencies, which are expected to be mastered by all law librarians, the statement speaks of specialized competencies: Specialized Competencies relate to specific areas of practice. Some law librarians may have multiple responsibilities and need to be proficient in more than one of the Specialized Competencies. Other law librarians may specialize in just one area or subset of one area.@

Information Technology comprises seven individual competencies, ranging from Understands the practical application of creating, accessing, and managing information including databases...and electronic information resources.@ (4.1) to Develops, creates, and maintains the library Web site.@ (4.7) Clearly the competencies consider Information Technology an important component of the specialized competencies. So what is our special interest section's role in helping librarians develop these IT competencies? Are we doing enough to fulfill that role? I can point out a few of our efforts, but I want you to think about these questions.

Our section and several of its hard-working members perennially organize and present programs at the annual meeting. These offer significant opportunities to develop IT competencies. Our members also participate in the CALI Annual Conference for Law School Computing, again presenting programs and networking with each other. Robert Linz and Don Arndt developed the job description database. This tool helps job applicants assess their own abilities and supervisors seeking to fill positions refine the skills librarians need to perform competently. And if a librarian posts a tough question to the LAW-LIB or TEKNOWIDS listserv, you can bet one or more CS-SIS members will offer a friendly response within hours.

These are all noble and worthwhile projects. Is there more we can be doing? Does the association as a whole think of our section often enough when discussing IT issues? Let me know what you think.

Ken Hirsh, [ken@law.duke.edu](mailto:ken@law.duke.edu), is Director of Computing Services and Senior Lecturing Fellow at the Duke University School of Law.

## CS-SIS COLUMNS

### From the Chair

As we near the summer annual meeting, the frantic job of a SIS chair is starting to ease. It is hard to believe that there are so many forms to fill out, decisions to make and meetings to attend. My job could not have been done without the support of the **Executive Board**. Their ideas, recommendations and support were invaluable. I want to thank the **Committee Chairs** and their members for the help and responses to questions I have posed throughout the year. I believe that our offerings of 5 quality programs at AALL show that we have wonderful members with ideas that are worth sharing and who are willing to do the work to make a quality presentation. Thanks to all who suggested ideas for **Programming** this past year. I hope to see plenty of new and interesting ideas offered at this year's program planning meeting on Wednesday at noon.

I want to also thank everyone for their confidence placed in me as editor of Connecting... I enjoy putting it together and the challenge of finding fillers when we don't have enough articles. All articles are welcome, as well as comments and suggestions.

For all their consistent participation and ideas I especially want to thank James Duggan, Don Arndt, Dominick Grillo, Susan Boland, Robert Linz, Sally Wise, June Liebert, Sheri Lewis, Mark Folmsbee, Vicki Szymczak, Kris Niedringhaus, Hadi Amjadi, and Eric Young.

I am looking forward to Seattle and hope to see everyone at the business meeting on Sunday, July 13, at 5:30 p.m.!

Liz Glankler

CS-SIS Chair, 2002-2003

Glankler@slu.edu

---

## AALL ANNOUNCEMENTS

#####

Attention Simmons GSLIS Alumnae/i! Come one, come all to the fourth annual Simmons GSLIS Alumnae/i Reception at AALL in Seattle, Sunday, July 13 at 5:30 p.m.. Watch the final conference program for exact location.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Stephanie Burke (sjburke@bu.edu; 617-353-8853) or Raquel Ortiz (rmortiz@bu.edu; 617-353-8855) . We look forward to seeing you there!

#####

### Seattle Library Tours

The Preliminary Program for AALL provides your only opportunity to sign up for library tours in Seattle. Take a moment to register for tours of private, public, and academic law libraries. See the public research opportunities at King County Law Library; be dazzled by the glass roof of the library at Davis Wright Tremaine; check out the new and nearly new libraries at Seattle University and the University of Washington; and more!