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CORRECTING THE PERCEPTIONS: SPONSORING A LAW LIBRARIANS' EXHIBIT AT A STATE BAR ASSOCIATION MEETING

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Librarians are very good about extolling our virtues and abilities to each other. We are more reticent about telling those outside our profession about our skills as information professionals. Yet this is exactly what we must do, according to Ben Cowgill, a Kentucky attorney who spoke to librarians attending the Southeastern Chapter of AALL 1998 Annual Meeting.¹

Exhibiting at a state bar association meeting is one way to promote the presence of law librarians in the legal community. North Carolina law librarians have sponsored exhibits twice at the North Carolina Bar Association's annual meeting. With a relatively small amount of money and time, we have gained much good will and recognition for law librarians in the state.

BENEFITS

What are the benefits of sponsoring and staffing an exhibit? First, just by showing up, we demonstrate our existence. The exhibit and its staff of librarians from firm, court and academic institutions clearly show that librarians, like attorneys, are professionals who are members of supportive local, regional, and national professional associations.

Second, the exhibit staff may correct misconceptions about the relevancy of our skills in today's research environment. Some attorneys wonder whether, in this age of legal CD-ROMs and access to the Internet, firm librarians are still needed. An exhibit provides the perfect opportunity to discuss our multi-media collections, management skills, and research capabilities.

Third, exhibit staff have contact with the other vendors. Watching how our traditional book and online product representatives market directly to attorneys is fascinating. In addition, librarians can meet vendors of

products and services not usually represented at law librarian meetings. Because of contacts made at the North Carolina Bar Association meeting, opportunities have become available for librarians to participate in a local legal web site and to write articles for NCBA Practice Section publications.

Finally, exhibiting provides an opportunity to talk with representatives of other professional associations, such as legal assistants. In North Carolina where firm librarians are an unknown quantity or a rarity, many paralegals have contact only with librarians teaching courses in paralegal certificate programs. Librarians staffing an exhibit booth can take advantage of the opportunity to point out the many ways in which we work with attorneys and paralegals in the law firm setting.

What is involved in sponsoring an exhibit at a state bar association meeting? Costs include the exhibitor's fee, preparation of the display and handout materials, and purchase of items to give away, plus hotel, food and travel expenses. The time involved may span a year. The remainder of this article will discuss timelines and procedures for planning and preparing an exhibit.

PLAN WELL IN ADVANCE

During the fall preceding the meeting, contact your state bar association's convention coordinator about exhibit requirements. Ask about fees for special categories of exhibitors. For example, in North Carolina, non-profit professional groups serving attorneys in their practice, such as paralegals, legal secretaries, and now, librarians, are charged one-tenth the standard exhibitor's fee. Other states do not differentiate between types of exhibitors. If your organization will be exhibiting, find out how the exhibit booth area is set up. Usually, each booth has one standard eight-foot long table and two chairs. The table

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FROM THE CHAIR

By Glen Gustafson

Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP, Los Angeles, CA

FROM STONE TOOLS TO MINDSHARE

When helping my sixth grade daughter begin her homework assignment on stone tools, I used the most far reaching research tool at hand, the Internet. While I searched for appropriate sites to explain the concepts of chipping and forming stone tools, I considered how far we had come in the last three years.

To begin with, and here I mean in the Lower Paleolithic period, you have a rock. If the rock is solid, you can pound other rocks into useful shapes. To really get work accomplished you have to find the right kind of stone. Metamorphic stone is okay for some activities, but a good igneous stone will carry the day. From pebble tools to the Acheulean Handaxe of about 1.5 million years ago to the Middle Paleolithic period (130,000–140,000 years ago), stone tool production progressed from fashioning blunt objects to crafting more useful tools. Many techniques had to be developed. Working stone into a point was not a skill that transmigrated quickly to all the guys in the region. Then, once the technology was well established, look how long it took to get some of the neighbors into the Iron Age.

OK, FAST FORWARD

Now we have a tool called the Internet. A researcher can sometimes use a search engine or index to pound out some useful information, but there is a difference between things pounded out of a database and appropriate information easily extracted from a knowledge base. I recently read an article about a service called Ask Jeeves (<http://aj.com>). The idea for this site is that researchers ought to get beyond surfing the net for information—to a place where real questions are answered with useful information. Stringing search terms into a search engine and eliminating chaff sites one by one is not a very useful way for a researcher to spend his time. A while ago, there was an article in *Wired* Magazine that held up sites like Yahoo and Excite that index and catalog the Internet. In the article the author scoffed at the fact that libraries still use Dewey's attempt to gather the entire universe into a systematic structure. The slant taken was that librarians are old technology. It was good to see that the Ask Jeeves manager was looking for librarians to help organize the database and conduct efficient research. The way librarians ask questions and then attempt to organize a body of knowledge around a subject is still something to be desired, dare I say, even in the electronic age.

Whether information technologists think of themselves as librarians is not so important as the manner in which librarians organize information and make it available to those who need mediation in special subject areas. I was asked recently whether it was appropriate for librarians to assume the role of Director of Information Services/CIO. My first thought was that I would have to deal with such things as Time/Billing software for attorneys. I would have to train secretaries in WordPerfect. I would have to load and map all of our CD-ROM updates. Why would I want to do these things when I can concentrate on providing information content to attorneys and staff? My second thought was that I would have to engineer a coup; because at my firm of 260 attorneys, the Information Services Director ranks at a higher level of management. It may very well be that librarians need to be at the Central Services level rather than at the Support Services level of administration. However, while responding to whether a secretary needs a high-speed printer, librarians would be taken away from managing information flow and permanently reside in the bean counter mode. Librarians need to be able to provide leadership in the development of knowledge systems and information management policy. We also need to have our attention directed to the daily mining of information from all of its various sources. Some administrators seem to have lost sight of the fact that even as our hard copy collections are being reduced, the mission of research professionals in the library remains that of facilitating information transfer. Information systems need to be flexible enough to provide information from a myriad of sources. Lexis/Nexis, Westlaw, Dialog, and Matthew Bender do not an information universe make. Hundreds of smaller publishers with their secondary resources frequently do a better job of connecting the dots in a subject specialization than do gigabytes of primary data.

Librarians in private settings are being besieged by the concept of the paperless library. Even though the reality of the "paperless office" has not been wildly successful, administrators still seem bent on forcing research attorneys and librarians to a solely electronic format. A few firms are experimenting with closing down paper libraries in their smaller offices. Attorneys who still require their secretaries to print their e-mail are expected to become cost-efficient, resourceful Internet, Lexis/Nexis, and Westlaw researchers.

In one way, closing down the paper library would be helpful to private law librarians because we would not have to deal with providing maid services in our libraries. In another way, by reducing the size of the

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Sponsoring a Law Librarians' Exhibit, continued from page 1

should already be covered with cloth and have a skirt. You need to provide only the actual display and any containers for handouts.

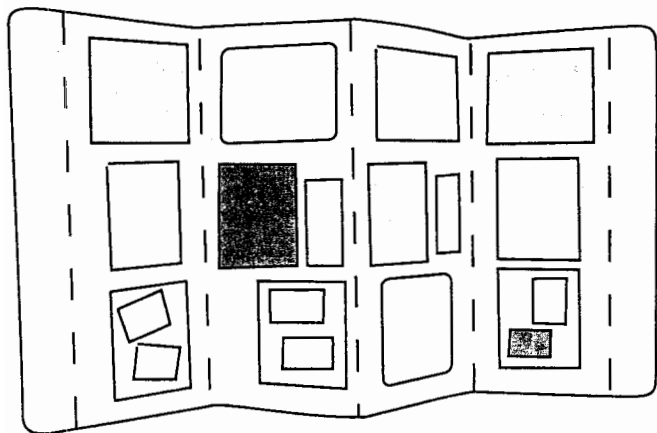
During the year preceding the meeting, prepare a budget for the project and determine how the expenses are to be paid. Consider soliciting donations to underwrite some expenses. Law firms whose librarians are helping to prepare the exhibit might make a donation to cover all or part of the exhibitor's fee. Area law school libraries might donate funds for purchasing giveaway items, such as the AALL tip cards, or for the printing of brochures.

During the year preceding the meeting, start collecting display materials and items to be given away. The display should have a professional and uncluttered look.

- AALL has a professional display booth that members can use.

Reserve it by contacting AALL headquarters as soon as you think you will be an exhibitor. The main part of the display unit consists of four connected gray flannel covered panels to be set up on a table. (See illustration.) Two additional panels can be shaped into columns to finish the ends of the display panel section. Each panel is approximately 15 inches wide and 41 inches high. Display materials also include Plexiglas R stands and display holders backed with Velcro that can be attached to the flannel and used to display printed items. The booth is shipped in a case about 4 feet by 1.5 feet by .5 feet, with wheels on one end for ease in moving it. AALL will pay for both shipping the booth and returning it. Ask that the booth be sent to your office a few days in advance of the meeting to allow time to practice laying out the display.

- The AALL tip cards are inexpensive and much appreciated giveaways. Because they are useful, they are a nice change from the items given out by many other vendors. Even spouses enjoy having a guide to tipping! These can be purchased directly from AALL headquarters or from the AALL store during the Annual Meeting.
- The display should include pictures mounted among the printed materials and signs. Pictures serve as conversation starters. Attorneys enjoy seeing their librarian on film, and may not be aware of her participation in professional activities. Have pictures of local librarians participating in a variety of activities. Include a mix of librarians socializing, participating in skits, attending continuing education presentations and professional association business meetings and lecturing in law librarianship, paralegal, or similar courses.
- Collect several issues of professional journals and newsletters such as *AALL Spectrum*, *PLL Perspectives*, those prepared by AALL chapters in your area, and any prepared locally. These illustrate our professional contacts and activities from the local to the national level.



AALL display booth

- Prepare brochures about law librarianship as handouts. Ideas for information to include in a brochure may be found in the AALL Toolkit: "Law Librarians Making Information Work," and AALL's new Resource Guides. The first two Resource Guides cover "How to Hire a Law Librarian" and "Expanding Roles for Law Librarians." In addition, brochures prepared by AALL chapters, such as SEAALL's "What Is a Law Librarian?" provide inspiration. Those who attend AALL's Annual Meeting will see chapter brochures on display.
- Have several copies of membership applications for your AALL regional chapter and local law library chapter or group available for distribution. A firm may have recently hired a librarian, and the attorney might want to have him join your group. This will be made easier when the attorney has a membership application in hand to take back to the office.
- Prepare information about your local AALL chapter or law librarians' group to be put on display. Post the officers' names and employers, the group's mission statement, and a list of recent activities. Attorneys like to know about their librarian's professional activities.
- Prepare a small poster listing every organization that has contributed to the exhibit, including those providing donations and the employers of the exhibit staff.

AS THE MEETING NEARS

During the months preceding the exhibit, arrange for a mix of firm, court, and academic librarians from the area to staff the booth during exhibit hours. Having two people on duty provides plenty of coverage during the busy times. In addition, during the quieter periods, each has time to visit other vendors. Prepare a notebook for the staff which contains information about the convention schedule, meeting facility layout, and useful facts. For example, visitors to the NCBA exhibit are always impressed by the number of members in AALL and SEAALL. In the notebook, include any information that will help the exhibit booth staff confidently answer questions about professional activities and the attorney's local community of law librarians, such as the number of law librarians in the state and local community, and membership numbers for regional and national associations.

The final week, put together a box of supplies, such as scissors, two-sided tape, paper and pens. And remember to take a camera to record the event!

THE EXHIBIT

During the exhibit, relax, plan to have fun, and be prepared for a variety of people to stop at your exhibit. Some will be very familiar with what librarians do. Others have no idea that librarians are available to work even part-time in law firms, much less how they can be of service. The best come-on is the simple statement: "We are representing the state's law librarians to spotlight how law librarians and lawyers work together to serve clients." Then ask where the attorney works, and take the conversation from there. When the discussion is over, give out a tip card and any appropriate brochures.

The effort spent preparing for and staffing an exhibit is well rewarded when you enlighten just one attorney about the activities of law librarians in his community, when contacts are made with new vendors, and when contacts are made within the bar association that lead to more participation in section activities. We cannot remain reticent about educating the legal community about our talents and skills as information professionals.

REFERENCES

1. Cowgill, Ben, "Technology, the Library, and the MIS Department." Remarks presented at SEAALL@New Orleans, the Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries, March 13, 1998.



NETMEETING: SOLUTION FOR ELECTRONIC TRAINING AND COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

By Ann Long, University of West Virginia, College of Law
(formerly with Hunton & Williams, Richmond, VA)

Have you ever tried to coordinate online training between offices or locations? Or tried to give everyone in your firm a fair chance to evaluate a new product before it is loaded onto the network? Well, NetMeeting may provide the answer to promoting electronic collection development by solving many of the problems commonly associated with Internet and CD-ROM training. This article will discuss how Hunton & Williams has used NetMeeting as a training tool that has served also as a means to enhance participation between offices for electronic collection development.

WHAT IS NETMEETING?

Microsoft NetMeeting is software that enables trainers and users to collaborate via the Internet for training on applications, such as CD-ROM or Internet sources. Everything needed to conduct an online training session is incorporated into NetMeeting—video, audio, application sharing, etc. If you have attended a training session where you watch and listen to the trainer, your experience was very similar to attending a NetMeeting training session. The only difference is the physical setting—you don't need to be in the same room as the trainer to attend the session.

REAL LIFE TESTING

For librarians at Hunton & Williams, like many others, responsibilities have expanded to include user training for all those nifty Internet and CD-ROM resources. We are fortunate enough to have a training room in our library specifically for this purpose. However, the physical limitations of the room do not allow us to coordinate training sessions for potential users in a firm with eight offices in the southeast. My position allowed me the time to organize training sessions for Richmond, and with the help of NetMeeting, the outer offices as well.

All of the librarians at H&W are invited to evaluate new products and help determine which will be loaded on the network. The evaluation of new products is relatively easy for librarians and attorneys in the Richmond office. Training sessions are coordinated with our vendors and all interested users are encouraged to attend. Training for our outer office librarians and attorneys is not quite so easy. To evaluate new sources adequately, outer office librarians need to set aside time to review products, train potential users and then determine if the new source would be a valuable addition. As is common for many law firms, the main office receives wonderful vendor support for training, while the smaller, branch offices receive significantly less support, often in the form of

telephone training. The outer offices have less staff to devote to evaluating new products and training users on sources that may or may not wind up on the network. Typically, the evaluation process takes a back seat to research requests in all of the offices, leaving only those who have attended training responsible for making decisions on new products for the entire firm. NetMeeting provides a means to include outer office librarians and attorneys in training sessions, and ultimately, in the decision process.

H&W has been involved recently in evaluating environmental databases, both on CD-ROM and via the Internet. The firm evaluated BNA's Environment Library CD-ROM, West Group's Environmental Law Reporter (ELR®) via the Internet, and the Internet version of ENFLEX. Following the usual process for evaluating new sources, passwords and links to the Internet sources were added to our intranet

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and announced to the firm. The BNA Environment Library CD-ROM was already loaded on the network and was the only familiar source. A training session for ELR using NetMeeting was scheduled. For the first trial run of NetMeeting, we limited participation to librarians. The librarians were asked to evaluate NetMeeting as a training tool, as well as the content and functionality of ELR. Librarians in our DC, Atlanta, and Richmond offices "attended" the training session provided by our West Group representative, John DeBusk. In Richmond, we had four librarians in the training room and one librarian logged in at the reference desk. In all, seven librarians took part in the first NetMeeting training session.

To set up a NetMeeting session, we renamed the host PC to "ELRTRAIN," coordinated a conference call and asked everyone to install NetMeeting prior to the session. Information about the content of ELR and other promotional materials were distributed to all librarians prior to the training session. NetMeeting does include an audio feature; however, the training room PCs do not have sound cards installed, so we used a conference call for the audio portion of the training. The host PC initiates the meeting by selecting the applications that will be collaborating, in our case, Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser. Using NetMeeting, trainees call the host PC, ELRTRAIN, and ask to join the meeting. Once everyone

has joined the meeting and confirmed that the display on their browser mirrors the host PC, the training session begins. While the host will control the display of each trainee's browser, trainees still have complete access to e-mail, Word and any other applications they have open. Trainees can regain access to the browser by opening another browser or disconnecting from the meeting. The training session progresses as if all attendees are in the same room, the only difference being the occasional "wait, I'm not there yet" request from one of the librarians.

After the training session, the librarians completed an evaluation survey on NetMeeting and the responses were overwhelmingly positive. Most of the librarians commented on the ease of use. John, our West Group representative, who had had no prior training, felt that NetMeeting was an easy tool to use. In this case if we hadn't had access to NetMeeting, our outer office librarians might not have been able to receive adequate training.

PROS AND CONS

While my overall opinion is positive, there are some things to consider before switching all training over to NetMeeting. While NetMeeting allows people to collaborate without being in the same

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room, this format tends to isolate people and make the training sessions somewhat impersonal. The trainees need to feel comfortable enough communicating with the trainer to let him know if the image has not finished loading. The trainer should allow more time than usual for questions during the session to help encourage participation. Our biggest problem with NetMeeting was that not everyone was always on the same page at the same time. Sometimes there is a slight delay, due to the connection over the Internet. If John wasn't aware that one of the trainees was experiencing a delay, he would get one screen ahead; and the trainee would be lost until the image finished loading.

The most positive feature of NetMeeting is the possible elimination of telephone training. The visual cues that make Internet and CD-ROM databases so easy to use do not always lend themselves to an audio description. Trying to describe what a particular button or image looks like over the phone isn't always so easy as it seems. For example, one of our CD-ROMs has a button with the image of a man's profile. During telephone training, I've heard this button variously described by librarians as "the guy," "the face," or "the head," ultimately leaving the attorney wondering exactly what button the librarian is referring to. Inevitably, the somewhat exasperated librarian is forced to appear in person and define the button as "the third button from the left." Once users have installed NetMeeting, frustrating training sessions like the one described above would disappear. Training could take place without the librarian having to drop everything and run to a confused attorney's desk to explain what she meant by "the guy."

As with any training session, the more preparation, the better the results. Printed materials on the product should be distributed prior to the session to help trainees understand what the product will offer. Having printed materials may help reduce the potential for trainees to get lost during the session. NetMeeting does allow trainees to share applications, whereby the host does not control the application, but will see what the trainee is doing and vice versa. This would certainly take a lot longer, but may work in some situations.

Truly, the best feature of NetMeeting is the cost—it is free! If you are interested in trying NetMeeting, download a copy from <http://www.microsoft.com/netmeeting>. This site also has links to other reviews and more product information.

NETMEETING	Pros	Cons
Easy to use	Very little education required for trainer.	Trainees do not receive "hands-on training".
No physical limitations	Anyone with Internet access and NetMeeting software can attend a training session.	Trainees may be tempted to continue checking e-mail, answering reference questions, etc.
No limit to the number of attendees	Multiple offices can attend sessions; less scheduling of vendors required.	The more trainees, the more possibility for interruptions; trainees may be hesitant to ask questions during a conference call without knowing who is in the group.
Cost	Free.	
System Requirements	Windows/NT 32-bit.	Not accessible for Macintosh or 16-bit Windows environments.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Claire Engel, Nelson Mullins Riley &
Scarborough, Columbia, SC

AALL's fiscal year ends Sept. 30, and on that day dues income is transferred to the various SIS's. Preliminary pre-audit year-end figures are now available:

Balance 9/30/97	\$17,070.39
Revenues 97-98	\$25,565.00
Expenses 97-98	\$31,434.86
Net for fiscal year	(\$5,869.86)
Balance 9/30/97	\$11,200.53

Based on these preliminary figures, we begin our new fiscal year with a lower balance than we originally anticipated (\$13,800).

A LAW LIBRARIAN'S IMPRESSION OF THE ABA CONVENTION

By Tom Fleming, Piper & Marbury, Baltimore, MD

This past summer I spoke at the ABA convention in Toronto. I spoke at a program entitled "The Cost of Information: Are You Paying Too Much?" This program was based on a proposal made by Hazel Johnson, AALL's representative to the ABA, and stemmed from the institute that David Proctor, Mary Matuszak and I presented at SLA last year. The proposal was accepted, and Piper & Marbury agreed to pay my expenses saving AALL the cost.

After the initial thrill of having been asked to speak at the ABA, I thought I should reread the material to make sure I had everything right. There was no problem with the topic because I have done numerous programs and institutes on the subject; and the program was to be only an hour-and-a-half, and I could do that by myself without any problem. However, while rereading the letter, I realized that ABA policy required that there be a minority representative on each program. After mentally going through a long list of fellow law librarians, I realized that it would be better to have an attorney who could give the copyright and user's

perspective. Nora Garrote, a partner at Piper was an obvious choice, and she agreed to speak.

Because of CLE requirements, the handouts had to be submitted well before the meeting. The only problem was that the topic changes rapidly. As it turned out, almost all my statistics were updated after the deadline. I was able to overcome the problem with my PowerPoint presentation and an offer to e-mail an updated version of the handout. The advantage of this submission requirement was that all the handouts were bound and available for sale by each section during the program. Along with the video tapes, these were excellent sources of information for the participants.

The ABA programs dealt primarily with substantive areas of law and not with the information sources. The two programs on the Y2K problem provide a good example; while they were informative for the lawyers, they offered little about information resources. It struck me that there was a small number of attendees at such a topical program and that the programs were being professionally videotaped. The same thing happened at my program. I was relieved to find out that most programs had a small number of attendees, but the videotapes were the primary method of viewing the programs. While the viewers cannot experience the actual program, they can have a permanent record of it. To protect my own vanity, I have not asked how many copies of my program were purchased.

The ABA is like AALL or SLA in that there are way too many excellent programs to attend and the really interesting ones conflict with each other. The networking among the lawyers is the same as among the librarians. A marked difference was the high caliber and large number of guest speakers: Ken Starr, Elizabeth Dole, Dr. Maya Angelou and David Westin, President of ABC News. The marked difference was that there many more spouses and children at everything except the actual programs. There was even a well-organized committee that provided special programs, trips and babysitting.

I was looking forward to spending a long time going through the exhibits, but I was amazed at how few of the legal publishers were there. The big ones had large booths, and there were some smaller ones such as CaseStream. There were also booths offering financial services, travel and art. Surprisingly, there was a large area devoted to general books, which served as a fund raising activity for the ABA. It was a pleasure for a bibliophile to see so many people purchasing books.

From the Chair, continued from page 3

paper library, we could demonstrate to our employers how much information gathering librarians do for our attorneys and administration. Attorneys who are efficient researchers in the paper format do not require a great deal of intermediation by the library staff, yet we seem to be able to fill our dance card providing service to others who do need our help and direction. Just because we see our libraries moving toward electronic formats it does not follow that library users will instantly assimilate cost-effective techniques for dealing with all of the dark corners of the information universe.

In one of my elevator encounters with a member of the Executive Committee, the question came up about "... everything being available on the Internet." I explained that while the Internet was getting better at providing primary material, principally from government sources, finding sources on the web was like picking leaves from a large tree. When a researcher pulls a book from the shelf, reads it and finds another source which he pulls from the shelf and puts on top of the first book, the researcher is building a "knowledge tree." From the roots of a legal question, as each source leads to another source, the researcher is making a conscious decision to go left or right, following branches upward

until he gets to the correct leaf that serves as a reliable answer. In electronic formats all one has are roots and leaves. It is up to the researcher to review and discard each leaf until he is left with what must be the correct one.

Cost is the other half of the question of whether to migrate to the paperless library. There is no research session as inexpensive as using a book that you have already purchased. This year, when reviewing my renewal for Matthew Bender material, I had an option to renew the paper products for the year at a cost of about \$32,000 for the main office in Los Angeles. I also had the opportunity to buy into the Matthew Bender Internet site for about \$133,000.00, for all attorneys in all of the four SMR&H offices. That same week, one of my attorneys asked if the library had anything on Corporate Criminal Liability. I pulled the three-volume set from the shelf. The last update for the set was a 1996 pocket part, but the main thing is that I had a source that discussed the subject thoroughly. All the attorney had to do to answer his immediate questions was to find a chapter and some key cases that he could update. As far as I know, this title is not available in electronic format.

A legal assistant called me at about the same time. She gasped incredulously that she had spent almost \$1,200 in half an hour trying to track down company and officer information in the Public Records file of a research service. I showed her how to use a CD-ROM product that provided much of the same information at no charge to the client.

Even while embracing disintermediation, there will be a continuing need for people engaged in Knowledge Management to scout out and pound electronic services into useful and cost effective resources. By this time next year I would like to see articles written by librarians that review the process of going paperless and evaluate the results of having gone through the exercise. I suspect that many firms will find it essential to their bottom line. I expect that many firms will not be able to sustain an efficient research capability after having given away their library.

The Banner Remains: Better, Cheaper, Faster: choose two.

West Group is proud to support the AALL-PLL by laying out its quarterly newsletter, *PLL Perspectives*.



AALL SPECIAL INTEREST SECTIONS: CONTRIBUTING TO SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL MEETINGS

By Timothy L. Coggins, Chair

Annual Meeting Program Selection Committee,
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Richmond, VA

Most AALL members who attend the Annual Meeting each year think about the significant number of business meetings, task force meetings, special activities and receptions sponsored or hosted by the Special Interest Sections. But there is another portion of the annual meeting that simply would not succeed as well as it does without the active participation of the Special Interest Sections—the educational program component of the Annual Meeting. Each year the Special Interest Sections and their education or program committees develop, submit and present a considerable number of educational programs that address the needs of all AALL members.

The Washington, D.C. meeting, “At the Crossroads: Information Management, Technology, and Policy” (July 17 - 22, 1999), is no exception. The SIS education committees submitted more than 100 of the 170+ program proposals (each proposal was counted only once even if it was co-sponsored by more than one SIS) for the 1999 Annual Meeting. In addition, the SIS’s participated in the development of ten of the 17 workshop proposals submitted. The Annual Meeting Program Selection Committee very much appreciates all the hard work of the SIS’s in preparation for the 1999 Annual Meeting.

Following are some statistics that show the crucial role that the SIS’s will play in the 1999 Annual Meeting.* The Meeting will include 76 educational programs and six workshops. Five of the six accepted workshops are sponsored or co-sponsored by a SIS. The Private Law Libraries Special Interest Section (PLL) is sponsoring two workshops: “All Systems Are Not Created Equal: How to Navigate the World of Integrated Library Systems” and “Second Generation: the Advanced Intranet Web Site.” The Government Documents SIS also is sponsoring or co-sponsoring two workshops: “Law Librarians Meet the 106th Congress: AALL Legislative Day” and “Depository Library Workshop for Law Librarians at the Government Printing Office.” The other SIS-sponsored workshop is “Meet the Legal Specialists: Expert Advice on Research and Acquisitions of Foreign Law in the Vernacular,” developed and sponsored by the Foreign, Comparative, and International Law SIS.

Of the 76 programs that will be presented at the 1999 Annual Meeting, 46, approximately 60%, are sponsored or co-sponsored by the Special Interest Sections! All thirteen SIS’s are sponsors or co-sponsors of programs. Several SIS’s are sponsoring or co-sponsoring many programs. One SIS, for example, is sponsoring eight programs, while another SIS is sponsoring 7 programs. SIS-sponsored programs will deal with crucial issues facing all of us as law librarians and legal information specialists. Some topics covered by SIS programs are the impact of electronic publishing on law libraries; improving public trust in the justice system; getting clients to value legal research; the year 2000 millennium bug; information architecture for the World Wide Web; court information and access to it; official gazettes; encryption; privacy law in the Internet age; the Cuban legal system; antitrust review procedures; use of the Internet in Technical Services; collaborative knowledge sharing; and many, many, others!

The Annual Meeting Program Selection Committee is very grateful for the SIS efforts to develop, submit and present terrific educational programming for AALL members. The Committee absolutely could not put on the great show that the 1999 Annual Meeting will be (we hope!) without your help!

See you in Washington, D.C. in July, 1999.

(*This article is intended to illustrate the importance of the SIS’s to the educational program of AALL and is not intended to generate competition among the SIS’s for program slots. The Annual Meeting Program Selection Committee selects programs based on the quality and strength of the proposals and does not look at the sponsoring person or group.)

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE RECORDS MANAGEMENT GROUP

By Jeanne Reynolds

Kemp, Smith, Duncan & Hammond, El Paso, TX

Here are updates on some of the things going on. By now our listserv should be moved to its new home—AALLNET. Special thanks go to Jason Hinkle and Mark Folmsbee for their assistance with the project. If you have any questions about signing up with Legalrec-1, please contact me or Lauri Flynn at Bank of America in San Francisco.

Unfortunately, the program proposal submitted by Susan Lisi of Hunton and Williams was not accepted for a program for AALL 1999 in Washington, D.C. You may recall that the program was to be on electronic risk control systems. I think it is a topic worth reconsidering, and perhaps we can submit it for 2000 in Philadelphia. Thanks to Susan for her hard work in preparing the proposal and also to the PLL Education Committee, chaired by Connie Dickson, which has done a fantastic job. Nine program proposals have been accepted, as well as two workshops and two other proposals have been consolidated with other programs. The Washington, D.C. conference is shaping up to be a great one. I have scheduled a

business meeting for the Records Management Group (Yes, it's hard to believe, but we're already picking dates and times!) The meeting is planned for Tuesday, July 20, 1999, from 5pm to 6pm. If anyone has any suggestions for agenda items, please let me know.

Lee Nemchek and Beth Chiaiese, who were our speakers at the 1998 workshop in Anaheim, have signed the contracts to write a new book on legal records management. The book will be published by ARMA (Association of Records Managers and Administrators). What a tremendous contribution that will be.

I was unable to attend the ARMA Annual Conference, which was held in Houston in October. If one of our group attended and would like to write a synopsis of the meeting to be published in *PLL Perspectives*, please let me know.

As always, please contact me if you have any issues, questions, concerns or suggestions for the group.

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