

R I P S

Law Librarian

A Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries

From the Chair...

Pamela Melton, 2004-05 RIPS-SIS Chair

This has been an exciting, exhausting year. If I were a different person, I might have chronicled this year in a web log, or blog. I was looking at the AALLamo blog getting ready for the annual meeting when I was struck by the significance of blogs in my life. I have, like many people, become a regular reader of one or two blogs (OK, three or four) on subjects of interest to me. I find that I am in touch with a wider world, by virtue of the varied people who post and respond to the blogs. They point me to news and opinions that I wouldn't have seen if I just read the paper (I don't watch TV news). They challenge me. They comfort me. They make me laugh and cry. I often find material that I pass along to faculty members, if it is in their area of expertise, so blogs make me better at my job. At least that's what I say when I want to justify the time I spend. I could read more if I used the RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feature that most blogs have now, but I do have other things to do.

In the advanced legal research class I teach with my colleagues, we cover law related blogs, or "blawgs." The most recent issue of the *South Carolina Lawyer* contains an article about blogs. I was struck by this quote, "...though they have a reputation for being controversial, even subversive, they're fast becoming the format of choice for delivering the very latest opinion and news, an Internet equivalent of the town crier." Sarah Kellogg, *Do You Blog?*, 17 S.C. Law. 30 (July 2005). In the past year, bloggers have scooped the media and proven themselves to be better investigators and fact checkers than mainstream journalists more than once. Do blogs have the potential to supplant the mainstream media? I don't know, but there is an interesting short film that develops that idea. It's called "EPIC" and can be found at <http://www.robinsloan.com/epic/>. Fantasy? Probably. Thought provoking? No question. Maybe I'll think out loud, where everyone in the world can hear me, on my own blog. That would make next year a really exciting, exhausting year!

Thank you to my fantastic executive board and all RIPSters who have made this year so rewarding. I look forward to my continued involvement with RIPS in the runup to the AALL anniversary celebration next year in St. Louis.

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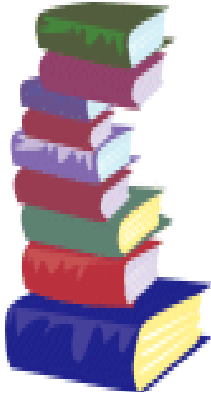
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RIPS Book Review Corner

Michael Gorman, *Our Own Selves: More Meditations for Librarians*
(American Library Association, 2005)

By Cynthia Burrell, Reference Librarian, Texas Wesleyan University Law Library



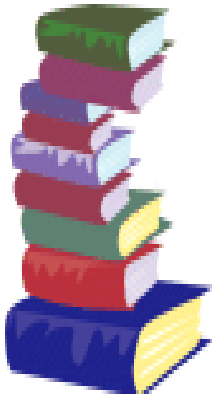
This deceptively slender book by Michael Gorman, ALA President and Dean of Library Services at California State University's Henry Madden Library, presents librarians with a collection of reflections on the nature and practice of librarianship. This volume is a sequel to Dean Gorman's 1997 book of meditations, *Our Singular Strengths*, and is intended to provide librarians with both a reminder of the importance of our profession and an opportunity to reflect on aspects of our work that are often underappreciated.

The book's approximately 200 pages hold 100 short essays. Each essay opens with an epigraph, continues with a one or two page reflection on an aspect of libraries and librarianship, and concludes with a short resolution. These meditations cover an impressive array of subjects, among them library history, technological advances and their effect on the profession, and the importance of the library as a community center. The tone of the essays also varies, ranging from lively anecdotes to more serious philosophical musings. Not everyone will agree with all of Dean Gorman's views on some of the subjects he discusses, but his writing is invariably thought-provoking.

While there are no essays here that address the specific field of law librarianship, instead focusing primarily on topics of importance to the library profession as a whole, this title is nevertheless more than capable of providing valuable insight to those of us in law libraries. I found myself reminded of my connection to a larger profession, something that is often all too easy to forget in the specialized environment of a law library. At under \$30 the cost is relatively modest. There are a few minor flaws – the epigraphs are not given full citations; there are scattered typographical errors – but these do not detract from this book's great strengths as a source of inspiration and contemplation.

continued

- Editor's Note:
This book review is the second of what I hope will be a regular series of reviews on topics of special interest to RIPS members. To suggest a book for review or volunteer to review a book, please contact Jennifer Murray at murrayj@gtlaw.com.



Ultimately Dean Gorman's writings impress upon the reader what it is to be a librarian, both the highs and the lows. The essays found in this book are at times bittersweet, other times funny, and always enjoyable. The author says in his introduction that he hoped to produce an uplifting work that did not fall into the trap of "smarminess and pomposity", and for the most part he has succeeded admirably. The result is a work that I recommend to any librarian looking for a quick, uplifting read.



Volunteers Needed !!!

Volunteers are needed to staff the RIPS table in the Activities area during the AALL annual meeting. At past conferences the table has been a wonderful recruiting tool. Please let Peggy McDermott know if you are able to sit at the RIPS table during one of the following time slots:

- Sunday, July 17 -- 9:00 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- Sunday, July 17 -- 10:00 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Monday, July 18 -- 9:00 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- Monday, July 18 -- 1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Monday, July 18 -- 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 19 -- 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, July 19 -- 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 19 -- 2:00 p.m. to 3 :00 p.m.

DO YOU HAVE
TIME TO
VOLUNTEER AT
THE ANNUAL
MEETING?

Peggy McDermott
Head of Reference and Faculty Services
Saint Louis University Law Library
3700 Lindell Boulevard
St. Louis , MO 63108
Voice: 314-977-2739
Email: mcderrmmh@slu.edu

Going to San Antonio? You Need the Local Advisory Committee Site

By Paula E. Howe

A visit to the Local Advisory Committee (LAC) web page can simplify and enliven your trip to San Antonio for this year's Conference. The page contains "Essential" information plus tips on how to "Enjoy San Antonio." Either [go directly to the LAC page](#) or click your way there from AALL's homepage (start at www.aallnet.org, click on Annual Meeting, General Information, Local Advisory Committee Page).

Under "Essentials" are photos of the Conference hotels, a guide to booking a room, and options for transportation from the airport to your hotel. "Enjoy San Antonio" contains guides written by LAC Committee members to help you pack the most fun into your visit. These guides include nightlife, shopping, live music, museums and galleries, bookstores, music stores, libraries, LGBT, fun for families and kids, internet access, excursions, outdoor activities, fitness centers and spas, and places of worship. The guides are available in printer friendly versions so that you can easily bring the ones you want with you.

The LAC page also contains volunteer forms so you can assist the various committees (don't forget that volunteers get perks), a link to the Dine Arounds, a list of the Local Advisory Committee members in case you need to contact one of them, and the Conference registration form.

Paula E. Howe
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Planning on attending this year's AALL Annual Meeting? Look no further for tips on where to go while you're in the Lone Star State!
YEE HA!!!



This year in San Antonio, many FCIL SIS interest group meetings will concentrate on substantive contributions. The AALL Handbook will not list these great presentations. So make a note on your schedule if you are interested in attending!

The Executive Committee Presents Monday, July 18, 2005 from 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM Introduction to Latin American Legal Systems

Speakers: Professor Stephen Zamora and Assistant Professor Antonio Gidi, both from Houston University.

Asian Law Interest Group Business Meeting Wednesday, July 20, 2005 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Looking Eastward: Researching Asian Trade Law

Speaker: Chenglin Liu, Adjunct Professor of Law, Foreign and International Law Librarian at the University of Houston Law Center, and the IG Chair.

CIS and Eastern European Law Interest Group

Sunday, July 17, 2005 12:15 PM - 1:15 PM

Featured speaker: Irma Aladashvili, Coordinator of the Law library and Information Centre for the Georgian Young Lawyer's Association in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Electronic Issues Interest Group Business Meeting

Saturday, July 16, 2005 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

New Portals to Foreign and International Law

Speakers: Marylin Raisch, International and Foreign Law Librarian at Georgetown University Law Libraries and the IG Chair, Mirela Roznovschi, Reference Librarian for International and Foreign Law at New York University Law Library, Emily Allbon, Law Librarian from the City University, London, England.

African Law Interest Group Business Meeting

Sunday, July 17, 2005 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

New Developments in African Legal Systems: Ghana

Speaker: Victor Essien, International Law Librarian & Adjunct Professor of Law at Fordham Law School, and African Law Interest Group Chair.

Publication Committee Business Meeting

Monday, July 18, 2005 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Selectors of Foreign Law in Foreign Languages

Anne Burnett, Reference/Foreign & International Law Librarian at the University of Georgia Law Library, Linda Tashbook, Foreign International Comparative Law Librarian at the University of Pittsburgh Barco Law Library, and Dan Wade, Associate Librarian for Foreign & International Law and Lecturer at the Yale Law Library will moderate a gathering of foreign law librarians and librarians in charge with acquisition of foreign law in the entire country. The meeting is being sponsored by the Northeast Foreign Law Librarians Cooperative Group.

Teaching Foreign and International Research Interest Group Tuesday, July 19, 2005 from 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM Panel on

FCIL librarianship This session moderated by Patricia A. Kasting, Reference Librarian at Hofstra University Law School Library and Mary Rumsey, Foreign, Comparative, & International Law Librarian at the University of Minnesota Law Library will be devoted to a question-and-answer gathering on FCIL librarianship, aimed at people interested in becoming FCIL librarians or learning more about FCIL librarianship.

Submitted by Mirela Roznovschi, Reference Librarian for International and Foreign Law, New York University Law Library

Announcing the 2005-2006 RIPS Committee Chairs!

Legal Research Teach In

Focus: Soliciting content, and administering the creation, marketing, and distribution, of Legal Research Teach In kits (compiled legal research instructional materials) annually.

Gail A. Partin

Law Librarian

Dickinson School of Law Library of the Pennsylvania State University

Listserv

Focus: Administering and moderating the RIPS email distribution list through the Discussion Forum utility on AALLnet.

Coral Henning

Director

Sacramento County Public Law Library

Newsletter

Focus: Creating the RIPS newsletter three times per year. Soliciting content, laying it out, submitting it to the RIPS webmaster for posting, and notifying members and the Council of Newsletter Editors of its availability.

Michelle Rigual

Head of Technical Services

University of New Mexico Law Library

Research Text Task Force

Focus: Creating an annotated bibliography of legal research texts for publication in the RIPS newsletter and on the RIPS web page.

Christopher A. Vallandingham

Faculty Services Librarian

University of Florida

College of Law Legal Information Center

&

Lynn E. Murray

Head of Research Services

Southern Methodist University

Underwood Law Library

Web Page

Focus: Maintaining and developing the RIPS web page. Soliciting suggestions and additions from the Board, Committees, and membership from time to time.

Eric Gilson

Librarian III/Assistant Professor

Rutgers University Law School Library

School of Law



Nominations

Focus: Soliciting potential candidates for the Executive Board. Selecting the slate of candidates and facilitating the presentation of their biographies and statements.

Kelly Browne

Assistant Director for Public Services
Sacramento County Public Law Library

Patron Services

Focus: Developing tools, publications, and programs of use to circulation and interlibrary loan librarians. Selecting topics and moderators for roundtables at the Annual Meeting.

Holly Lakatos

Director of Public Services
Chicago-Kent College of Law Library

Program

Focus: Assisting RIPS members with program and workshop proposals for Annual Meeting educational programs. Soliciting topics relevant to RIPS members, assisting in developing and refining proposals, and facilitating the proposal process in general.

Jessie Cranford

Circulation Librarian
University of Arkansas At Little Rock
William H. Bowen School of Law
UALR/Pulaski County Law Library

Public Relations and Recruitment

Focus: Publicizing the projects and activities of the SIS by sending periodic notices to the AALL Spectrum and other AALL-affiliated publications. Recruiting new members by coordinating representation at CONELL, and managing marketing displays and giveaways at our SIS table in the exhibit hall at the Annual Meeting.

Peggy McDermott

Head of Reference and Faculty Services
Saint Louis University
Omer Poos Law Library

Research Instruction

Focus: Developing tools, publications, and programs of use to librarians involved in research instruction. Selecting topics and moderators for roundtables at the Annual Meeting.

Marc Silverman

Associate Director for Public Services
University of Pittsburgh
Barco Law Library



Don't Miss Out on the RIPS Meetings, Roundtables, and Social Events at the 2005 AALL Annual Meeting!

Saturday, July 16, 2005

TS/OBS/RIPS/CS-SIS Joint Reception (Sponsored by Innovative Interfaces, Inc.)
6:00- 7:30 pm Marriott Rivercenter-Salon (J)

Sunday, July 17, 2005

RIPS-SIS Executive Board Meeting
11:45 - 1:15 pm Marriott Riverwalk-Valero

RIPS-SIS Business Meeting
6:30 - 7:30 pm Marriott Riverwalk-Travis

Monday, July 18, 2005

RIPS-SIS Web Page Committee Meeting
7:45 - 8:45 am Marriott Rivercenter-Conference 13

RIPS-SIS Roundtable on Internet Use Policies
9:00 - 10:00 am HBGCC-Room 213 (B)

RIPS-SIS Program Committee Meeting
10:15 - 11:30 am Marriott Rivercenter-Conference 13

LISP/RIPS/SR-SIS Joint Roundtable on Services to Pro Se Patrons and Prisoners
5:15 PM - 6:15 PM HBGCC-Room 210 (AB)

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

RIPS-SIS Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery Roundtable
7:30 - 8:15 am Marriott Rivercenter-Conference 13

RIPS-SIS Patron Services Committee Meeting
8:15 - 8:45 am Marriott Rivercenter-Conference 14

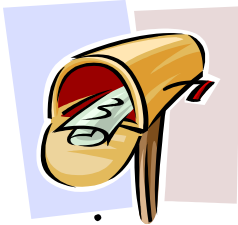
RIPS-SIS Research Instruction Committee Meeting
5:15 - 6:15 pm Marriott Rivercenter-Conference 13

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

RIPS-SIS Public Relations Committee Meeting
7:45 - 8:45 am Marriott Rivercenter-Conference 13



MEMBER NEWS



Got a new job?

Give a
presentation
recently?

Let RIPS know about
your news!

- Email the RIPS Newsletter Editor, Jennifer Murray, at murrayj@gtlaw.com to have your news included in the next newsletter.

Dr. **Joel Fishman**, Assistant Director for Lawyer Services, Duquesne University Center for Legal Information/Allegheny County Law Library, is the 2005 recipient of the triennial Connie E. Bolden Award from the State Court & County Special Interest Section for his scholarly contribution over 25 years of publishing books and articles in the area of Pennsylvania law. He has recently authored three articles:

"Model Rules of Professional Conduct Cited in "Ethics Forum: Questions and Answers on Professional Responsibility" By Samuel C. Stretton in the Pennsylvania Law Weekly (April 10, 1995 to December 31, 2004)," at <http://www.lawlib.duq.edu/publications/strettonindex.pdf> , 87p., 2/3/05 posted;
"The Establishment of the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners, 1895-1902," LXXVI *Pa. Bar Assn. Q.* 73-92 (2005);
"Justice Michael A. Musmanno and Constitutional Dissents, 1967-68" in 68 *Alb. L. Rev.* 349-71 (2005).

Kathryn Hensiak, Research and Instructional Services Librarian at Northwestern University's Pritzker Legal Research Center, was married last Fall and is now **Kathryn Hensiak Amato**. Congratulations Kathryn!

Laura Justiss, Electronic Services Reference Librarian at the Underwood Law Library at SMU wrote an article which was published in the May issue of the ABA Student Lawyer. The pertinent information is available at <http://library.law.smu.edu/JustissArticle.htm>.

Creighton Miller was promoted this Spring to Head of Reference Services at the University of Alabama Law Library. He was formerly a reference librarian at the library.

Gail Partin was recently named Interim Director of the Law Library at the Dickinson School of Law Library of the Pennsylvania State University.

Margaret Ross, Director of Information Services at McNees Wallace and Nurick LLC, presented a full day seminar for the National Business Institute "Finding it Free and Fast on the Net: Advanced Internet Strategies for the Pennsylvania Legal Professional". Her co-presenter was Betsy R. Roumm, Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicolson Graham.

RIPS Executive Board 2004 – 2005

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**2004-2005
RIPS-SIS
Executive Board**

**2004-2005
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Committee
Chairs**

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Publication deadlines for Volume 27 are:

Number 1	October 8, 2004
Number 2	February 4, 2005
Number 3	May 6, 2005

Submissions from RIPS members are highly encouraged. Please send submissions as an email or an email attachment to the editor:

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