

ALL - SIS NEWSLETTER

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ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARIES
SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION

SPRING 1990
V. 10, # 3

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Academic Law Libraries
Special Interest Section
Newsletter
Received on: 09-18-90
SIU Law Library

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Notes from the Chair

Dear Colleagues:

I hope by now you have made your travel plans and room reservations for the AALL Annual Meeting in Minneapolis. I look forward to seeing a number of you at our various SIS activities -- there are many. We begin with the second annual Director's Meeting from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 17. That will be followed from 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. by our business meeting (tentative agenda included in this issue), which will be followed immediately by our roundtables from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We are instituting a new roundtable on interlibrary loan.

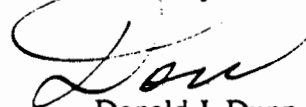
You will then get a rest (or an opportunity to begin attending many of our SIS programs put together by Ann Puckett) until 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 18. At that time, Ann Bateson and the William Mitchell School of Law will host our annual ALL-SIS reception (more details elsewhere in this newsletter.) Both Kathie Price at the University of Minnesota and Susan Kiefer at Hamline will be lending their assistance. Special thanks goes to EBSCO Subscription Services for their continuing support of this event, and to West Publishing Company for their assistance in providing the bus transportation. We should have a great time. Please join us.

By now you should have received the ballot for the position of Vice-Chair/Chair Elect of our SIS. The Nominations Committee developed a great slate; therefore, with Ann Puckett taking over after the Minneapolis meeting, and with whomever is elected to be her successor, our SIS is assured of strong leadership.

I hope you are enjoying the new look of our *ALL-SIS Newsletter*. Faye has done a wonderful job as the new editor. My special thanks to her for her fine work. She is always looking for people to contribute, so please do not be shy if you have information to share with the membership.

I look forward to seeing many of you soon.

Sincerely,



Donald J. Dunn
Chair

LATE BREAKING NEWS!

Congratulations to Bruce Johnson, Associate Professor and Head Law Librarian, Coleman Karesh Law Library, University of South Carolina, our new Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect of the Academic Law Libraries-SIS.

Academic Law Libraries - SIS

Business Meeting and Roundtable Discussions

Sunday, June 19, 1990
10:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Hyatt - Nicollet Ballroom
Donald J. Dunn, Chair

Tentative Agenda

10:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

- I. **Approval of 1989 Annual Meeting Minutes**
(Published in Vol. 10, No. 1, Fall 1989 *ALL-SIS Newsletter*)
- II. **Officers' Reports**
 - A. **Treasurer's Report - Merle Slyhoff**
 - B. **Secretary's Report: Election Results - Merle Slyhoff**
 - C. **Newsletter Report - Faye Jones**
 - D. **Chair's Report - Donald Dunn**
- III. **Announcements**
 - A. **SIS Programs and Workshops at 1990 Annual Meeting - Ann Puckett**
 - B. **SIS Reception at William Mitchell School of Law - Ann Bateson**
 - C. **AALS Program Planning**
- IV. **Old Business**
 - A. **Status Report on Proposed Revisions of AALS Rules - Donald Dunn**
 - B. **Other**
- V. **New Business**
 - A. **General Discussion of Role of SIS and Academic Law Librarians**
 - B. **Plans for 1990/91 - Chair-Elect Ann Puckett**
 - C. **Other**

11:15 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.

- VI. **Roundtable Discussions**
 - A. **Library Administration - Nancy Johnson**
 - B. **Middle Management - Charles Ten Brink**
 - C. **Collection Development - Ed Edmonds**
 - D. **Interlibrary Loan - Jan Goldsmith**
 - E. **Fees for Services - Merle Slyhoff**

12:05 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.

- VII. **Summing Up: Reports from Roundtables**

ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS

This year's business meeting will be followed by five roundtable discussion groups. The names of the discussion leaders appear on the agenda published on page 3 in this *Newsletter*. Since the roundtables are the backbone of our SIS, we hope you will give thought to which one you will attend and arrive with provocative issues to discuss.

We are instituting a new roundtable this year -- *Interlibrary Loan*. In addition to addressing general interlibrary loan policies, this roundtable will focus on fax services, whether to charge, and on the various ethical considerations surrounding ILL to South Africa.



YOUR INVITATION TO THE ALL-SIS RECEPTION IN MINNEAPOLIS!

Your colleagues at the three Twin Cities Law Schools -- the University of Minnesota Law School, Hamline Law School, and William Mitchell College of Law -- invite you to join them for this year's Academic SIS Reception at the new Warren E. Burger Library at William Mitchell College of Law.

Construction is now complete, the new shelving will be in place, and some of the new library furnishings will have arrived by the time of the reception. Be among the first to see this new facility. You will find a staff eager to show you around and to talk about the new library's design concepts and about its new Innovacq and Innopac systems.

**Mark your calendars now for Monday, June 18
from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

Ann Bateson

Summary of Law Library Directors' Professional Reading Survey

The idea for this survey came from Bill Lindberg and from my own frustration with an enormous pile of reading. I wanted to learn whether I was reading the best periodicals to keep up in law and librarianship and whether there might be new or different sources of information that I was not reading. I also wanted to share this information with other law librarians. Therefore, I sent out a survey to 167 law library directors listed in the AALS Directory of Law Teachers. I kept the survey form short to get a prompt response and 119 out of these 167 forms were returned. I want to thank my colleagues for their prompt and enthusiastic responses.

The 18 titles listed were ones that several other Directors and I considered a basic reading list. Respondents were asked to "mark the statement that most closely reflects your reading." The categories were: Must Read, Usually Read, Sometimes Read, Skim Table of Contents, Never Read. I was most interested in what other directors read to keep up with new trends, products and materials in law and librarianship. In addition, I asked if respondents "read legal periodicals regularly." I added several questions to attempt to determine if length of time spent as a director or if size of library had any effect on amount or type of reading. Moreover, I asked for recommendations for additional titles.

The response was overwhelming, with over 150 additional titles suggested. A list of additional titles cited by at least two people is included at the end of this summary. In order to analyze the results, I broke down the responses into six categories. First, I divided them into two categories by length of time as a director with five years as the break-off point. There were 32 respondents who had been directors for five years and under and there were 87 over five years. I further broke each of these two categories down by number of titles in the library into roughly three groups. From the ABA statistics, I determined that 59 libraries fall into the under 30,000 titles category, 59 into the 30,000-55,000, and 55 into the over 55,000. I called those libraries under 30,000 simple, those from 30,000-55,000 average, and those over 55,000 complex. I think that title count is a better measure of the complexity and depth of a collection than sheer numbers of volumes. However, the libraries with over 55,000 titles go all the way up to over 611,000 titles, therefore, the complex category includes colossal collections as well.

After a preliminary analysis of the results, my subjective conclusion is that law library directors' reading is so varied and idiosyncratic that a sample of 18 titles can only scratch the surface of essential professional reading. Several reading lists, one with 65 titles, were sent to me along with the questionnaire. However, I want to share many of the comments I received along with some of the preliminary statistics.

General Comment:

"I read voraciously during the years I was 'working my way up' - I am much more selective as my time becomes devoted to other tasks both within and without the library."

Question 1. Please mark the statement that most closely reflects your reading. I am most interested in knowing which titles you read in order to keep current with new trends, products and materials in law and librarianship.

For the category "Must Read" the results are as follows:

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>RANK</u>
AALL Chapter Newsletter	85	2
AALL Newsletter	98	1
ABA Journal	25	10
American Lawyer	11	16 (tie)
American Libraries	23	12
Bowker's Legal Publishing Review	16	14
Chronicle of Higher Education	48	4
Journal of Legal Education	24	11
Law Library Journal	61	3
Legal Information Alert	18	13
Legal Reference Services Quarterly	45	5
Library Journal	31	8
National Law Journal	34	6
New York Times	30	9
Publisher's Weekly	11	16 (tie)
Special Libraries	4	18
Trends in Law Library Management	33	7

Comments on Question 1.

"Must Read" does not mean that I read cover-to-cover; it means that I read parts and skim the rest of the material and that I look at each issue."

"Librarians on staff generally know titles that others are reading and this leads to division of labor somewhat. Thus, I tend to leave reading legal newspapers to others. All librarians instructed merely to read what interests them."

"Due to many law school committee assignments and other duties which directors have, I depend on my Associate Librarian to target interesting and relevant info for my attention. Additionally, faculty publishing/teaching duties require reading to keep up to date. Thus, too little time for all we should read."

Conclusion: Even if the law library director is not reading all of the above titles, someone else on the staff probably is.

Question 2: Do you read legal periodicals regularly? Yes 51; No 57

Yes. "I read all articles written by our faculty wherever published. Also, I scan our titles pages for interesting articles, usually associated with automation."

Yes. "Reflect my interests in substantive law."

Yes. "In subject areas taught."

Yes. "From time to time as I spot interesting articles."

Yes. "Book reviews mostly."

No. "I haven't figured out how to fit it into the work day."

No. "I regularly skim tables of contents and read select articles particular interest."

No. "I used to, but now I limit it to those titles in which I have a substantive interest."

Conclusion: There is a definite trend with 9 out of 12 newer directors with simpler collections answering yes to this question and with 20 out of 32 directors over five years with complex collections answering no. Both length of time as a director and complexity of collection affect whether or not a director reads legal periodicals.

My personal conclusion from these figures and comments is that I am reading the proper basics, but should rely more on a staff team approach to cover the library and legal literature. In addition, the supplementary list has given me several ideas for additional reading items. Thus, I am not reducing my reading, but rather reapportioning it.

Please let me know if there is any periodical that you would highly recommend that was omitted from these lists. Also, I will be happy to send the full statistics and the complete supplementary list to anyone who requests it.

Additional Titles (Recommended by Two or More Directors):

<u>Title</u>	<u>Number of Times Listed</u>
AALL SIS Newsletters	4
AALS Publications (News & Bulletin)	2
Advanced Technology Libraries	5
ALA Washington Newsletter	2
The Bottom Line	4
Byte	3
College and Research Libraries	7
(Small?) Computers in Libraries	4
Current Index to Legal Periodicals	5
Economist	5
Forbes	2
Information Bulletin (LC)	3
Information Today	6
Infoworld	6
International Legal Materials	2
International Journal of Legal Information	6
Journal of Academic Librarianship	4
Journal of Library Administration	2
Law Librarian (BIALL)	3
Lawyers PC	5
Library Currents	4
Library HiTech	3

<u>Title</u>	<u>Number of Times Listed</u>
Library Hotline	2
Library Resources and Technical Services	2
Library Systems Newsletter (ALA)	4
Library Technology Reports (ALA)	4
MacWorld	2
Microform Review	2
National Journal	2
New York Review of Books	3
OCLC Micro	2
OCLC Newsletter	2
Online	5
PC Magazine	3
PC Personal Computer	2
PC Week	3
PC World	3
Small Computers in Libraries	2
Times Literary Supplement	5
Wall Street Journal	10
Washington Post	3
What to Buy for Business	2
Legal Periodicals (Law reviews, bar journals, legal newspapers)	
American Journal of International Law	4
Harvard Law Review	6
Law and History Review	2
Own school's review	3

<u>Title</u>	<u>Number of Times Listed</u>
Stanford Law Review	2
Student Lawyer	3
Texas Bar Journal	3
Texas Lawyer	2
Yale Law Journal	4

Judith A. Gaskell, DePaul College of Law Library



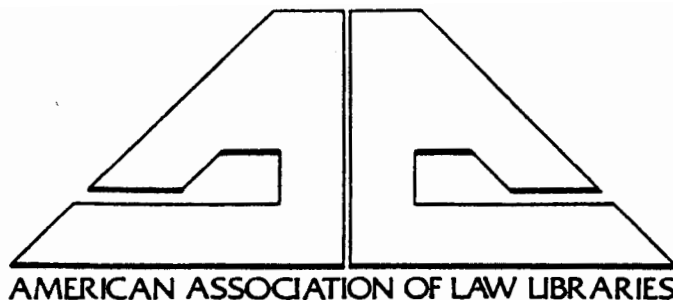
NEWS FROM AALL

UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Since continuing education opportunities are important to each of us, knowing what is being offered is crucial. Luckily, the information we all need can be found in the calendar of continuing education which is regularly issued by Martha Brown, AALL's Professional Development Officer. The newest calendar will be reproduced in the June issue of the *AALL Newsletter*.

AALL FLYER ON PREPARATION FOR LAW LIBRARIANSHIP & CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN LAW LIBRARIANSHIP

Copies of the flyer reproduced on the next page are available to SISs and Chapters for use in recruitment to our profession. Please call Martha Brown, AALL's Professional Development Officer at (312) 939-4764, or see Martha in Minneapolis for copies.



LAW LIBRARIANSHIP

Law librarians work in law firm, academic, government, and corporate libraries which serve lawyers, law school and other university research needs, bar associations, government agencies, corporations, and federal, state, and local courts. There is also a need for law library consultants and for part-time law librarians who will operate several law libraries simultaneously. Law Librarianship is a rapidly growing field and the employment outlook is excellent.

Law librarians provide specialized reference and research services, teach legal research, perform online searches, evaluate library materials, promote resource-sharing with other libraries, design and maintain circulation systems, preserve library materials, and prepare fiscal reports, budgets, and long-range plans.

Preparation for a career in law librarianship requires a four-year college or university degree and a Masters in Library Science (MLS) degree. Directors of academic law libraries are often faculty members and generally hold an MLS and a J.D. (Juris Doctor, i.e., law) degree. Many law firm librarians and court librarians also hold both library and law degrees.

A knowledge of computer science and electronic data processing is essential to law librarians and, in addition, a reading knowledge of one or more foreign languages is often desirable. Skills in personnel management, business administration, budgeting and public relations are often of critical importance to law librarians.

The American Association of Law Libraries is a 4700 member organization established in 1906, "...for educational and scientific purposes...to promote librarianship, to develop and increase the usefulness of law libraries, to cultivate the science of law librarianship and to foster a spirit of cooperation among members of the profession." The association is actively involved in publishing through its sponsored publications series; issues Law Library Journal, a quarterly; and a monthly newsletter. Placement services are provided for members and scholarships and travel grants are awarded. The association is committed to recruiting members of minority groups into the profession and each year designates scholarship support for one or more members of minority groups who are working toward advanced degrees which would further their law library careers.

During the summer months, the association holds its annual meeting to conduct business and to offer education programs, workshops and institutes to the membership. There are also 28 affiliated chapters throughout the United States which provide continuing professional education for their members.

For membership applications, and information about publications, educational programs, or chapters, contact: The American Association of Law Libraries, 53 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 940, Chicago, Illinois 60604; Telephone: (312) 939-4764.

CIES

Council for International Exchange of Scholars

1991-92 FULBRIGHT PROGRAM WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM

PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIAN AWARD

The Fulbright Commission in London has announced the availability of an award for a practicing librarian to pursue professional work in the United Kingdom at a degree-awarding institution or major research library. The competitive award is being made available under the Fulbright Scholar Program to provide an opportunity for librarians to broaden their professional perspective and enhance cross-cultural skills and insights. The purpose of the award is to promote the exchange of ideas between library staff in the U.S. and the U.K. and to enable participants to acquire knowledge and experience of library work in a different setting.

- Applications will be accepted from individuals working as librarians, library administrators, or archivists at four-year colleges and universities or major research libraries outside of higher education. Proposals from library science educators are not appropriate to this award, which is designed for full-time practitioners.
- Applicants must hold U.S. citizenship and a full-time library post at a university or major research library. A minimum of five years continuous professional experience is also required. A Master of Library Science degree is expected, though extensive professional service may in some cases be substituted for the degree. The program is designed for mid-career professionals who hold positions appropriate to implementing new ideas and insights gained from the exchange experience.
- Each applicant is responsible for arranging a work affiliation with a university library, major research library, or national library in the United Kingdom. A list of British institutions which are eligible for participation in the award is available through CIES. A letter of invitation must be submitted with the application.
- Projects may be single purpose or comparative in scope; they may be investigative or operational in focus. Professional work attachments should involve some consideration of relevant issues of a larger magnitude than basic employment abroad. Proposals which have a pragmatic bearing on issues of common concern to librarians in the U.S. and U.K. are particularly welcome.
- Awards are for a minimum duration of three months and candidates are expected to be on paid leave of absence from their home institution as a condition of the grant. The grantee will receive a fixed grant of approximately 2,500 British pounds, paid in pounds sterling, to cover travel and other expenses.

*** DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS AUGUST 1, 1990 ***

For more information and a list of libraries approved for affiliation, please call (202) 686-7878 or write CIES, 3400 International Drive, N.W., Suite M-500, Washington, DC 20008.

Visitor Entrance: 3007 Tilden Street, N.W.

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FALL ISSUE DEADLINE

In 1990/91, if all goes as planned, the ALL-SIS Newsletter will be published quarterly. It is hoped that increased frequency and more timely publication will encourage SIS members to contribute to our newsletter. (My sincere apologies to catalogers everywhere for the changes in name and frequency.)

The deadline for the FALL 1990 issue will be **JULY 31, 1990**. Please send articles, notes, comments, suggestions, etc. to me at the University of Puget Sound Law Library, 950 Broadway Plaza, Tacoma, WA. 98402-4470, or via FAX: 206-591-6313. Thanks!

Faye Jones

