

ALL - SIS NEWSLETTER

ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARIES
SUMMER 1990

SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION
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 ALL-SIS NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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 Academic Law Libraries
 Special Interest Section
 Newsletter
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 SIU Law Library

From the Chair

If you are not a member of the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section, you may be puzzled as to why you received this newsletter. The answer is simple: we want you to be a member!

Traditionally, ALL-SIS has concentrated its activities in areas that concern mainly higher management. The reason for that focus was the assumption that academic librarians in the early stages of their careers or in non-management positions would prefer to devote their professional efforts to area-of-expertise SISs such as Reader Services or Technical Services. Indeed, AALL scheduling policy often made it necessary to choose between the two kinds of SISs. Members who wanted to be active in both a type-of-library SIS and an area-of-expertise SIS were often frustrated to find the business meetings scheduled for the same time.

As AALL has grown, it has become increasingly evident that two of the three type-of-library SISs were assuming the role of representative or advocate for their constituencies within AALL. Academic librarians, perhaps because their constituency has historically dominated the profession completely, were evidently less concerned about representation within the Association. While 55% of government librarians join State, Court, and County Law Libraries SIS; and 65% of private librarians join Private Law Libraries SIS; only 33% of academic librarians join the Academic Law Libraries SIS.

The time has come to recognize that academic law librarians no longer occupy a dominant position, and AALL is no longer a small group that makes policy decisions informally. Association policy will reflect your interests only if you have a forum in which to make your interests known. Many of your interests are undoubtedly shared with colleagues in other types of libraries, but probably some are important only to academics.*

The natural forum for those unique interests is the Academic Law Libraries SIS.

The organizational structure of ALL-SIS encourages section members to bring up new interests. Any member who wants to introduce a new topic for consideration or action can start a roundtable. Just send a description of the proposed roundtable to the section newsletter and the section chair. No vote or approval is necessary. At the section's next annual business meeting, the chair will announce the new roundtable, and anyone who is interested may participate in it. Roundtables continue in existence so long as members are interested enough in the topic to continue meeting.

I want to make it clear that we are not urging academics to drop their activities in other SISs and join ALL-SIS instead. The value of area-of-expertise SISs is undisputed. Fortunately, such a choice is not necessary anymore. Scheduling conflicts are a thing of the past, because AALL now schedules type-of-library business meetings so that they never conflict with area-of-expertise business meetings. Money should not be an issue either. Annual dues are so inexpensive (\$5.00) that just about any library or individual can afford memberships in as many SISs as they want.

If you are a library director, make it a policy to enroll all of your library's professionals in ALL-SIS in addition to any other SIS they may select. Our Section will be better able to represent a wide range of academic interests if our membership is more of a cross-section of all academic librarians in AALL. Just as important, other constituencies within AALL will perceive academics as a stronger force if the Section membership more closely approximates the actual number of academics in the Association.

Ann Puckett, Chair
Academic Law Libraries SIS

* E.g., student workers in the library; meaning and importance of faculty status; whether and what librarians should teach in the law school.

MINUTES OF THE ALL-SIS BUSINESS MEETING, MINNEAPOLIS, JUNE 17, 1990

Chair Donald Dunn called the meeting to order. The minutes of the 1989 SIS meeting were approved as published in the "ALL Newsletter." Secretary/Treasurer Merle Slyhoff read the Treasurer's Report. The balance as of May 31, 1990, stands at \$2,011.90. The membership numbers 464. Newsletter costs for volume 10, numbers 1-3 total \$1,012.62.

Merle also announced the election results. Bruce Johnson was elected Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect. 237 ballots were returned by the deadline. 35 responses were received after the deadline, but would not have affected the outcome.

Faye Jones, "ALL Newsletter" editor, reported that she would like the newsletter to be published quarterly in order to be more responsive to the needs of the SIS.

Donald Dunn thanked Judy Gaskell for the work she did on the Law Library Directors' Professional Reading survey. A summary of her findings appears in the Spring 1990 issue of the SIS newsletter.

Don gave the Chair's Report for 1989-90. He discussed the AALS proposed membership guidelines. The resolution passed and was sent to the AALL and AALS Boards. AALS reconsidered the document following the recommendations made by AALL. Carl Monk, Deputy Director of AALS, commented that the AALS Executive Committee will discuss whether to promulgate the recommendations for the January meeting. The new language of the resolution will be published in its entirety and will be recirculated.

Don stated that an Interlibrary Loan Roundtable has been added to the SIS. Jan Goldsmith will lead the discussion.

Ann Puckett, Vice-Chair/Chair Elect 1989-90, noted the programs and workshops being sponsored or co-sponsored by the Section.

Ann then discussed the direction of the SIS. She stated that the SIS should be addressing the needs of all academic law librarians. The current membership is top heavy with administrators and she feels there are issues not being addressed. Ann said her goal as Chair for 1990-91 is to bring academic law librarians at all levels into the SIS membership.

Bruce Johnson asked for program ideas for 1991. The deadline for proposals to be sent to the Education Committee is August 1.

Robin Mills will convene the Directors' Meeting in New Orleans.

The annual SIS reception will be held Monday, June 18, at the William Mitchell College of Law Library in St. Paul. Don thanked Ann Bateson for all her work in organizing the event. Buses, co-sponsored by West Publishing Company, will be available.

Carl Monk urged all academic law library directors to join the Library Section of AALS, which was approved by the AALS Executive Committee at the May meeting.

Don noted that at the end of next year there will be no academic law librarians on the AALL Executive Board. He urged all academic law librarians to get involved in committee and SIS work.

Donald thanked everyone for their work during the past year and urged the membership to continue their work with Ann in the coming year. He also thanked Lynn Foster, immediate past chair, for her guidance, and asked everyone to help Bruce with next year's programs.

Don then called for the Roundtable breakout sessions. He commented on complaints that there is no group for associate directors. Charles Ten Brink, in the Middle Management Roundtable, will raise the issue, but Don said if the associates want a separate Roundtable, all they need to do is make a request to the SIS chair.

A question was raised from the floor regarding the LEXIS price increase. Don reported that Wayne Greenberg of LEXIS had offered to attend our SIS meeting if his attendance would be helpful. Don said he had indicated to Mr. Greenberg that he did not want the business meeting to turn into a discussion of vendor pricing policies, but that he would be glad to tell librarians to make their feelings known to Mr. Greenberg during the annual meeting.

Ed Edmonds said the issue came up in the "CRIV Sheet," and the Committee on Relations with Information Vendors will continue to monitor the situation. He asked that comments on the pricing issue be sent to him at Loyola, New Orleans.

Carol Roehrenbeck questioned whether the SIS should survey the membership as to what type of pricing structure they prefer. Barbara Greenspahn commented that when individuals talk to LEXIS they get no response or get a skewed view of the issues. The speaker supported Carol's suggestion of presenting organized, consensus information to LEXIS.

Another person from the audience suggested that an Academic Law Libraries SIS committee be appointed to meet with LEXIS representatives in an attempt to resolve these issues. Don asked that anyone interested in serving on such a committee should see him at the end of the business meeting.

The meeting broke into Roundtable discussions. Each discussion leader presented a summary.

Library Administration - Nancy Johnson: The group discussed receiving the library portion of the ABA questionnaire on disk to facilitate quicker compilation. They also discussed the need for law school deans to understand an automation budget as opposed to a book budget.

Middle Management - Charles Ten Brink: A meeting for associate directors will be held next year. A problem for the group is the varied definitions of middle managers.

Collection Development - Ed Edmonds: Discussion centered around looseleaf services. Discussed was the currency of looseleaves, buying decisions based on format, and more aggressive and systematic policies.

Interlibrary Loan - Jan Goldsmith: Regarding the question of ILL to South Africa, the group decided librarians need to be disseminators of information, even if it leads to civil disobedience. There appears to be no uniformity in fax policies.

Fees for Services - Merle Slyhoff: Merle Slyhoff and Adeen Postar will draft a survey on auxiliary revenue sources in academic law libraries. It will cover factors involved in the decision, financial information and staffing. A pre-test will be sent and the results discussed at next year's meeting. It will then be sent to all academic law libraries.

Don reported that several librarians had volunteered to serve on a committee relating to LEXIS pricing, and that a meeting with LEXIS representatives would be held at some point during the annual meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by Don.

Respectfully submitted,

Merle J. Slyhoff

ROUNDTABLE REPORTS

MIDDLE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP TO BE HELD IN 1991

What is a middle manager? The best definition yet heard describes a middle manager as anyone who feels squeezed from both above and below. With this fuzzy but all too realistic description in mind, we invite anyone who feels squeezed to attend the workshop for middle managers at the 1991 conference in New Orleans.

The Academic Law Libraries SIS meeting in Minneapolis featured, among other business, a brief roundtable discussion for middle managers. During that discussion, the participants decided to enlarge the scope of the roundtable and offer a more expansive program at the 1991 conference.

The focus of the Middle Management Workshop will be to provide us with an opportunity to share thoughts and experiences with our peers. We will begin with a short informal program defining middle managers and our many roles in our libraries and law schools, and serving as a springboard for the small group discussions to follow.

The workshop will be held on Sunday preceding the ALL-SIS meeting. You need not be a member of the SIS to attend. There will be a nominal registration fee to cover the cost of refreshments. Although there is no need for a formal commitment at this time, we would very much like to determine the level of interest; if you think you would like to attend, please contact Chuck Ten Brink at the University of Chicago or Marsha Baum at the University of Connecticut.

Chuck Ten Brink

INTERLIBRARY LOAN ROUNDTABLE UPDATE

The Interlibrary Loan Roundtable was initiated on June 17, 1990, at the annual Academic Law Libraries SIS business meeting in Minneapolis. As the liaison from AALL to the ALA Interlibrary Loan Committee, I hoped to assess law librarians' opinions on the issues facing the ALA Committee, in order to accurately represent them at the ALA meetings. The two most significant concerns discussed at the January ALA Committee meetings (and continued in June at their annual convention) were a draft telefacsimile (FAX) policy, and a statement proposed by the ALA Social Responsibilities Roundtable (SRRT) which would limit relations with the State Library of South Africa, since it represents an apartheid government.

At our meeting, we briefly discussed the idea of refusing interlibrary loans to South Africa's State Library as the SRRT proposal recommends. The general feeling was that since we see ourselves as disseminators of free information, this would be a form of censorship. (At the ALA meeting the following week, however, I heard much more about the controversy ALA faces on this subject, and in the future, will present more arguments on the issue, pro and con; it is definitely a concern in which law librarians may wish to become more involved.)

As for FAX, no uniform policy seems to exist among law libraries at present; some will supply FAX copies free of charge to anyone in the country who asks, while other institutions charge as much as \$2.00 per page to transmit FAX requests. Since everyone at the June 17 meeting was from an academic law library, we were all interested in cost recovery for interlibrary loans in the face of shrinking library budgets. I was concerned at the January ALA Committee meeting with a proposed recommendation that libraries charge no more for FAXs than for photocopies; since most law articles are far longer than those of other disciplines, both labor and telephone charges would be more costly. Everyone at the ALL-SIS ILL Roundtable meeting seemed to share this concern. At the annual meeting of the ALA ILL Committee, the FAX policy was approved, with the change that it is now simply *Recommended* that the charges be the same. When I receive the final version of the policy, it will be distributed for review by AALL members.

I look forward to hearing from any law librarians who have an interest in these topics.

Jan Goldsmith

STICK IT IN YOUR ALR

The Annotation History Table in the Index to ALR identifies those annotations which have been superseded or supplemented by later annotations. After identifying an older ALR annotation on point, the wise researcher will check this table first. Unfortunately, many users are lucky if they remember to check pocket parts. Why not photocopy the index onto adhesive-backed paper, find someone to cut out the slips, and stick them on the first page of each annotation affected? (Perhaps the person covering the circulation desk in slow hours.)

The use of stick-in labels with updating information used to be Shepard's mode of operation. It is still used by the Noter-Up, supplement to the All England Law Reports, but not, I think, for any American publication. This archaic method has a new convenience with the availability of adhesive-backed paper which can be used in photocopiers. Few sorts of information are as suitable for this stick-in label method of updating as are ALR annotations. Particularly, since very few annotations will have more than one or two supplements.

There is a difficulty. It is easy to update the bound volumes and the current pocket supplement, but what about the next quarterly supplement? It would be very convenient if Lawyer's Co-op would provide with each supplement, or at least annually, a separate sheet showing only the latest additions to the Annotation History Table. But why would they go to the trouble, unless a significant number of users desired such a service. Interested librarians should express their interest in this idea to John Perovich, Manager of Indexing, Lawyers' Cooperative Publishing Company, Aqueduct Building, Rochester, New York, 14694, or at 1-800-527-0430.

Mike Lynch

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Cary Valdes, Computer Lab Supervisor, St. Thomas University Law Library has had an article published in the American Association of Law Libraries Newsletter. The article entitled, "New Horizons at St. Thomas University Law Library," can be found in Vol. 22, No. 1. A follow-on article will be published in this Newsletter in spring. The article will focus on St. Thomas' plan to use laptops to provide for those students who do not have the equipment needed to use LEXIS or WESTLAW at home. The questions the future article will address are: Should the library purchase a laptop portable computer that could be checked-out for use at home? How would one check out a portable computer? How many laptops should be made available? Who is responsible if the laptop is damaged or broken? Should the student pay a deposit? What is the response to a student who does not return the laptop at the required time? Should a waiting list be kept of students to establish priority for check-out? Will the laptop be used exclusively for LEXIS or WESTLAW? Watch for this very interesting article!

Robert Genovese, Head of Technical Services, University of Arizona College of Law Library, has had an article accepted for publication by the Technical Services Quarterly. The article, entitled "The Use of Library School Students for Technical Services Projects," is scheduled for publication in Vol. 8, no. 4.

Carol Elliott, Head of Reference and Coordinator of Faculty Services, University of Arizona College of Law Library, delivered a paper at the 81st Annual Conference of the Special Library Association held in Pittsburg, June 9-14, 1990. The paper, entitled "Speech Fright and the Special Librarian," has been included in a compilation of 25 conference papers, published by the Association.

The Western Library Network will publish the WLN Interlibrary Loan Policy Directory in late summer.

UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

1990

September 18 - October 23: A legal research course designed to instruct new law librarians and non-law librarians, Connecticut State Library. Six weekly sessions sponsored by the Southern New England Law Librarians' Association. Contact: Dorothy McCaughtry of McCaughtry & Associates, 203-429-7637, or Marianne Griffin of the Connecticut State Library, 203-566-4601.

October 11-12: "Arbitration Case Preparation and Presentation," Albany, New York. Sponsored by the American Arbitration Association Department of Education & Training. CLE credits awarded. Contact: Department of Education & Training, AAA, 140 W. 51st St., New York, N.Y. 10020.

October 20: "Legal Institute 1990," sponsored by the Colorado Association of Law Libraries (COALL), University of Colorado Law School, Boulder, Colorado. Programs will highlight the following themes: Basic Legal Research, International Law Lecture & Research, Colorado Legislative History, Automation Topics - LEXIS, WESTLAW, UnCover & EPIC. For further information and registration materials contact: COALL, P.O. Box 13363, Denver, Colorado 80210 or telephone Richard Jost at 303-492-4544.

October 26: "Connecticut Legal Publications: Where Are We? Where Do We Want To Go? How Do We Get There?" a day-long conference at the Southern Connecticut State University School of Library Science & Instructional Technology in New Haven, Connecticut. Sponsored by the Southern New England Law Librarians' Association. Contact: Jonathan Stock, Stamford Law Library, 203-359-1114.

November 8-10: "Challenges of the Law Librarian." Sponsored by WESTPAC/NOCALL. Topics include Professional Ethics, Disaster Preparedness, Life & Career Balancing, and CD-ROM. Contact: Nora Skrukrud, 415-763-2000.

November 9-10: NOCALL/WESTPAC Meeting, Monterey, California. Contact Katherine Henderson, McGeorge School of Law, Sacramento, California. Telephone: 916-739-7074.

1991

April 14-21: National Library Week. Theme: "Read. Succeed."

July 15-18: AALL Summer Institute on Basic Legal Reference. The Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida. Detailed information will be available in late fall 1990.

July 15-19: AALL Summer Institute on Senior Management. Memphis State University, Memphis, Tennessee. Detailed information will be available in late fall 1990.

1992

January 25-30: American Library Association Midwinter Conference, San Antonio, Texas.

April 1-4: Association of College and Research Libraries 6th National Conference, Phoenix, Arizona.

June 6-11: Special Libraries Association 83rd Annual Conference, San Francisco, California.

June 27 - July 2: American Library Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, California.

A complete listing of other continuing education opportunities can be found in the *American Association of Law Libraries Newsletter*, Vol. 22, No. 1, August 1990.

ALL-SIS NEWSLETTER, VOL. 11, NO. 2 DEADLINE

The deadline for Vol. 11, # 2 is **NOVEMBER 15, 1990**. Articles, notes, comments, suggestions, etc. may be sent to me at the University of Puget Sound Law Library, 950 Broadway Plaza, Tacoma, WA. 98402-4470, or via FAX: 206-591-6313. Please indicate if you have submitted the article for publication in other newsletters. Thanks!

Faye Jones

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