

◆ ALL-SIS Newsletter ◆

Volume 14 Issue 2

Winter 1993

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MDC Objective: Librarians as Fully Informed Partners

Academic librarians from an estimated 100 law schools convened at last summer's Boston LEXIS® User's Forum to discuss topics ranging from student printing to training students about the economics of cost-efficient online research.

Mead Data Central, Inc., has been busy working to capitalize on the suggestions offered by those in attendance, according to Marsha A. Diamond and Hope A. Thackery, co-directors of MDC's legal education program.

Harvard Law School Professor Arthur Miller moderated the discussion at the MDC-sponsored forum at the American Association of Law Librarians annual meeting. Librarians made many helpful suggestions about how MDC can facilitate their administration of online research.

Diamond cited MDC's response to a request to enhance library staff's understanding of pricing of the LEXIS®/NEXIS® services in law firms, agencies or courts.

She noted that the past two issues of Update for Academic Law Librarians have included introductory information about pricing and announcement of the availability of an Economic Seminar.

The seminar covers various pricing options available to law firms, courts and other users. It also covers the LEXIS MVP products, which offer a very affordable flat rate subscription for state legal materials and specialty legal materials in 10 areas of law.

A librarian can request that a seminar be conducted for his or her library staff by contacting their LEXIS representative. LEXIS representatives also are available to facilitate this seminar for students or to provide materials to third year students who will be entering the solo practice of law.

With regard to suggestions to help students practice efficient printing, development of technology is underway to limit unnecessary printing. This, combined with the current ability to monitor the amount of printing attributed to all users in the school, will give library staff and LEXIS representatives the ability to identify students who may benefit from additional training. Training on efficient printing techniques will continue to be available.

(Continued on page 2)

Message from the Chair

We have greatly expanded the number of SIS committees. This was done primarily to get more members involved in the governance of our SIS. The new committees include: Coordinating Roundtables, Education, Membership, Public Relations, Publications, and Visions. There is still the possibility that two-to-three additional committees will be established. Additionally, we have one continuing Ad Hoc committee on Lexis/Westlaw Policies and one standing committee, Nominations. We also have three active roundtables: Newer Law Librarians, Middle Managers, and Directors. On behalf of the SIS, I would like to publicly thank all of you who have agreed to serve the SIS. The success of the SIS is not possible without the participation, effort, and work of our member volunteers. Thank you. If you have not done so, please consider taking an active role in the SIS.

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Academic Law Librarians and AALL: Kay Todd, AALL President, appointed 91 committee members this year, 64 were academic law librarians.

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Academic Law Libraries
Special Interest Section
Newsletter
Received on: 01-03-94
SIU Law Library

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Submission may be made by hardcopy, on computer disk, or by electronic mail. The opinions expressed in the columns are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of ALL-SIS. The editor reserves the right edit or reject for publication any submission or advertisement.

From the Editor

I hope that even before you reached this column, you realized that there was something different about the newsletter. This is my first issue as editor. When I expressed my trepidation about taking on such a task, most people tried to console me by telling me that no one reads newsletters anyway. I'd like this to be a newsletter people read (or at least skim). Let me know how I am doing. Suggest topics. I promise not to ask you to write the article if you have a suggestion. Call me. E-mail your ideas to me. The due date for submissions to the next ALL-SIS Newsletter is March 1, 1994.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue.

A special mention: Faye Jones has done a yeoman's service to the SIS by editing the newsletter for the past several years.

Publication Committee Notes

by Penny Schroeder

As many of you may know, producing a newsletter can be a pricey undertaking even when an organization is filled with generous volunteers contributing their time and groups, i.e., libraries willing to help underwrite mailing expenses, etc. Recently these costs have taken on an extra serious, if not crisis, dimension. The Publication Committee of the Academic Law Libraries SIS has embraced this issue and its resolution as one of its primary objectives this year. We want to investigate, explore and eventually solve the problem of production costs so that our newsletter pays for itself. Dreaming even further, we would like to build a financial basis for the newsletter that would permit a greater degree of creativity and flexibility in its production.

Given that worthy objective, we are initiating our funding explorations with an investigation into the use of advertisements. At present among SIS newsletters, only the Private Law Libraries SIS accepts ads. We are interested in your thoughts regarding this matter. Do you think this is a good idea? Is it the direction to take? Are there problems we need to be aware of before launching a major ad solicitation venture? We will be looking at various facets of this endeavor, including rates, editorial policies, format questions, etc. If you have suggestions, we urge you to share them with us.

MDC (Continued from page 1)

Increased communications with library staff are a major benefit to MDC representatives, Thackery said, and librarians' suggestions are particularly appreciated.

An important Mead Data Central objective is to have librarians as fully informed partners, Thackery said. Activities conducted to further that goal include the creation of Update for Academic Law Librarians, distribution of Update to firm librarians, involvement in regional training sessions, information booths at conferences such as AALL and more frequent mailings. "We encourage librarians to not hesitate to call their local manager or either myself or Marsha with additional suggestions or concerns," she said.

Law Schools of the Pacific Northwest: University of Puget Sound School of Law by Kelly Kunsch

(Editor's Note: As a prelude to the 1994 AALL Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington, the newsletter will be featuring articles about the law schools of the Pacific Northwest.)

The University of Puget Sound School of Law began in 1972 and will end in 1994 (in name, anyway). The law school was recently purchased by Seattle University and will officially change its name and sponsorship in September of next year. The chattels (staff and furnishings) will move from their current urban Tacoma location to a brand new building on the Seattle University Campus in 1999.

On the positive side, the changing of the school's name eliminates the need for the library's staff to constantly explain that they work for UPS--the University, not the Parcel Service.

On the negative side, the 1999 closing of the Tacoma campus will signify the end of the only law school with an escalator running through the middle of its entire library. The reason for the escalator is that the University got an excellent lease on a defunct department store building during the days of urban renewal. Moreso than Mount Rainier and the Space Needle, such a vanishing specie is a "must see" for any visiting law librarian. Before venturing on the "Stairway to Heaven," however, we would suggest you read the case of *Dabroe v. The Rhodes Company*, 64 Wash. 2d 431, 392 P.2d 317 (1964).

The University of Puget Sound School of Law is well known as a prolific feeder into the ranks of academic law librarianship. Luminaries such as Denny Haythorn, Lei Seeger, and Sally Wise all learned to think like lawyers at UPS. By the way, Ted Bundy also studied at the law school.

For you statistical types, the school has approximately 800 students, the library contains 300,000 volumes or volume equivalents, the library staff has eight full-time librarians and ten full-time staff members, and the *Gourman Report* is just plain wrong when it comes to ranking law schools and libraries so we won't even talk about it.

Actually, the law school's young faculty should be considered among the top in the nation. In the last two years, seven different members have had articles published in law reviews from Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Cal.-Berkeley, NYU, Pennsylvania, Texas, North Carolina, Hastings, and Boston University.

RIC Wants You! by Frank Houdek

Following on the heels of the hugely successful inaugural Teach-In during the 1993 National Library Week, AALL's Research Instruction Caucus (RIC) is already hard at work organizing what promises to be an even bigger and better *Legal Research Teach-In II* during National Library Week, April 17-23, 1994. Designed to improve the research skills of library patrons, it also offers a wonderful public relations opportunity for law librarians to demonstrate their skills as teachers.

RIC needs to add to the collection of "research instruction kits" compiled for the 1993 celebrations. These kits, focusing on various subject areas, are made available upon request to libraries participating in the Teach-In. Pathfinders, research guides, charts, poster, puzzles—any creative works you are willing to share are welcome. RIC organizers are especially interested in building new kits on tax, labor, environmental, intellectual property, and international law research.

You can participate in by making a commitment now that your library will conduct an event of some sort involving legal research during National Library Week. You can mine the following article for a wealth of suggestions: K. Brunner and K. McCarthy, *1993 Teach-In Events, 2 Perspectives: Teaching Legal Research & Writing* 13-17 (Fall, 1993). The *P.R. Potpourri* column in the December 1993 issue of the *AALL Newsletter* also focuses on the many ways in which the 1993 National Library Week was celebrated by law librarians.

For assistance from RIC, contact Karen Brunner at Riker, Danzig, Scherer, Hyland & Perretti in Morristown, NJ or for assistance from AALL on National Library Week generally, contact Frank Houdek, AALL Public Relations Coordinator, at the Southern Illinois Univ. School of Law.

University of Puget Sound School of Law School began in 1972 and will end in 1994 (in name anyway).

AALL Task Force on INTERNET

The AALL Executive Board recently created the AALL Task Force on Internet. The charges of this task force are to 1) identify the various options available to libraries and to individuals to access the Internet; 2) publicize through the AALL Newsletter and other appropriate methods, those options for access; 3) explore the financial impediments to access by all AALL members and identify and describe solutions.

The task force has asked each AALL Chapter President to appoint a chapter Internet coordinator. This chapter coordinator will solicit and coordinate chapter members who are experienced on the Internet to serve as mentors for newcomers to the system.

The task force would also like to hear from those who have already started using the Internet: How did you get started? What arguments worked to get funding? What training approaches were successful? Comments will be shared in the AALL Newsletter. Please contact any of the task force members with comments.

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Chapter members experienced with Internet will serve as mentors for newcomers to the system

Surviving the E-mail Explosion (Continued from page 8)

3. Save a copy of the message you get when you subscribe to a list. Generally it will include instructions on how to unsubscribe (if you decide the list is not for you) and how to "set nomail" (to take yourself off the distribution list while you are on vacation, for example). One option that my officemates recommend is the "digest" feature, which instructs a listserv to send you all the messages from a list in one big message each day. This is particularly useful for a list that you don't follow closely; you might find it easier to skim and delete one huge message than to wade through dozens of shorter messages.
4. Use the delete key liberally. For instance, I am on a legal history list, and when the scholars start exchanging messages parsing Latin phrases in medieval manuscripts, I delete as fast as I can. If writers have used meaningful subject headers, you can often delete from your mail index without even looking at the message (depending on what sort of e-mail system you use). Sometimes you might skim a little and then delete.
5. Before responding to a message, skim ahead in your inbox to see whether someone else has already answered the question.
6. When you post messages, do all you can to facilitate skimming and sorting for your readers:
 - a. Use meaningful subject headers -- not just "Help Needed" or "Source Sought" but, e.g., "Holmes' Civil War Record" or "Nat'l L.J. microfiche mix-up."
 - b. Use topic sentences. Break your messages up into paragraphs. Double space between paragraphs.
 - c. Send separate messages for separate topics. Don't slip in your fascinating question about Holmes at Antietam at the end of a message about compact shelving.
7. Don't think you have to save or download or print everything that might be of use someday. For instance, our school does not currently have anyone teaching EC law, so I skim and delete many int-law messages about the EC and make a mental note that they will be available in the archives should I need them.
8. Budget your e-mail time. You might pick certain times of the day for reading and responding to messages. If you subscribe to lists that are not work-related (there are lists for cat-lovers, mystery-readers, Star Trek viewers, etc.), save those messages for lunch breaks or Sunday afternoons.
9. Don't let the e-mail discussion list messages get in the way of your institution's messages. Fascinating as many of the lists are, I check for messages from people in my own library *first*. Anyone who has seen my desk can attest that I am not fully proficient at clutter management. The above strategies help me control my e-mail (sort of), while enjoying the richness and variety of several active discussion lists.

"WHERE TO START" FOR NEW INTERNET USERS by Jim Milles (Ver. 1.3 10/11/93)

1. E-mail systems vary widely. For help with most e-mail questions (signature files, quoting, and so on), contact your local computer support personnel or your Internet service provider.

2. Some recommended books for new users of the Internet:

LaQuey, Tracy. *The Internet Companion: A Beginner's Guide to Global Networking*. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, 1992. (Read this first; the best guide for the true beginner, useful even for the pre-beginner who has not yet signed on to the Internet.)

Krol, Ed. *The Whole Internet: User's Guide & Catalog*. Sebastapol, CA: O'Reilly & Associates, 1992. (Read this after LaQuey; much more in-depth and comprehensive, at this writing Krol is "the" essential guide to the Internet.)

Other useful books for new users:

Aboba, Bernard. *The Online User's Encyclopedia: Bulletin Boards and Beyond*. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, 1994 (forthcoming). (A remarkably useful and comprehensive work, covering everything from the basics of computer communications, to using local bulletin boards, to the intricacies of the Internet.)

Dern, Daniel P. *The Internet Guide for New Users*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1994. (Dern is the editor of *Internet World* magazine and author of numerous articles on the Internet in many other publications.)

Fraase, Michael. *The Mac Internet Tour Guide: Cruising the Internet the Easy Way*. Chapel Hill NC: Ventana Press, 1993. (The first Internet guide written for Macintosh users; includes a 800K disc containing useful software.)

Kehoe, Brendan. *Zen and the Art of the Internet: A Beginner's Guide*. 2nd ed. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1993. (One of the first and most popular guides to the Internet. The first edition was distributed for free on the Internet, and is still available at many anonymous ftp sites, e.g. nic.merit.edu, directory/introducing.the.internet, filename zen.txt.)

Kochmer, Jonathan and NorthWestNet. *The Internet Passport: NorthWestNet's Guide to Our World Online*. 4th ed. Bellevue, WA: NorthWestNet, 1993. (A comprehensive guide to Internet resources, comparable to Krol's *The Whole Internet* but even broader in scope. It covers a number of areas that other guides ignore.)

Marine, April; Kirkpatric, Susan; Neou, Vivian; and Ward, Carol. *Internet: Getting Started*. Menlo Park, California: SRI International, 1992. (Includes useful information on how to obtain Internet access, as well as other technical reference material.)

Quarterman, John S. *The Matrix: Computer Networks and Conferencing Systems Worldwide*. Bedford, MA: Digital Press, 1990. (A comprehensive guide to the history and present-- as of 1990--state of the Internet and its component and related networks. Recommended for those who want to learn the background and history of the Internet.)

Tennant, Roy, John Ober, & Anne G. Lipow. *Crossing the Internet Threshold: An Instructional Handbook*. Berkeley, CA: Library Solutions Press, 1993. (Includes helpful fact sheets on various Internet tools from ftp and telnet to archie, gopher, WAIS, and World-Wide Web.)

3. For those who know enough about using the Internet to be able to use "ftp," the following sources are very useful (note that they are regularly updated, so the version numbers and file names may change):

Martin, Jerry. "There's Gold in them thar Networks! or Searching for Treasure in all the Wrong Places." RFC 1402, January 1993.

Available via anonymous ftp from nic.merit.edu, directory /introducing.the.internet, filename network.gold.

"NYSERNet New User's Guide to Useful and Unique Resources on the Internet." Version 2.2, April 1992. Available via anonymous ftp from nysernet.org, directory /pub/guides, filename new.user.guide.V2.2.txt.

Polly, Jean Armour. "Surfing the INTERNET: An Introduction." Version 2.0.2, December 16, 1992. Available via anonymous ftp from nysernet.org, directory /pub/guides, file surfing.2.0.2.txt.

"SURANet Guide to Selected Internet Resources." January 1993. Available via anonymous ftp from ftp.sura.net, directory /pub/nic, file infoguide.1-93.txt.

Yanoff, Scott. "Special Internet Connections" (updated frequently). A list of interesting and useful selection showing the broad range of Internet resources, including a few Online Public Access Catalogs, chat lines, weather servers, Campus Wide Information Systems, and other reference resources. Available via anonymous ftp from csd4.csd.uwn.edu, directory /pub, filename inet.services.txt.

4. For information on how to get connected to the Internet:

Engle, Mary, Marilyn Lutz, William W. Jones, Jr., and Genevieve Engel. *Internet Connections: A Librarian's Guide to Dial-Up Access and Use*. Lita Monographs 3. Chicago: Library and Information Technology Association, 1993.

Estrada, Susan. *Connecting to the Internet: An O'Reilly Buyer's Guide*. Sebastapol, CA: O'Reilly & Associates, 1993.

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Roundtable for Newer Academic Librarians

by Pam Deemer

The ALL-SIS Roundtable for Newer Academic Librarians is just that: a roundtable discussion for academic law librarians new (less than five years experience) to law librarianship, who are possibly in non-supervisory positions.

The roundtable was founded by a group of librarians either experiencing the stress, confusion and insecurity resulting from being new in the field and to AALL or possessing vivid memories of being "new". It was felt CONELL helps a great deal, but those newer librarians who can barely afford the Annual Meeting, let alone CONELL, may need something else for information and reassurance. The first Roundtable met this summer in Boston, and overall, the Roundtable seems to have been a very successful event. Much to our surprise, the room was filled to overflowing, and to our gratification, the Roundtable received enthusiastic evaluations.

There is a lot of room for improvement, however. Because more time should be allowed for questions and group discussion, Jane Underwood and I plan to cut the number of speakers to two, Arturo Torres, the present ALL-SIS Chair, and Jane (following Rhea Ballard's example as Committee Chair!). We are in dire need of volunteers for the Committee, especially to facilitate the break-out groups and to help with some of the logistics. Newcomers, this is an easy way to get involved and help yourself at the same time! Please contact Pam Deemer at the Emory University Law Library or Jane Underwood at the Capital University Law Library.

Volunteer: It's an easy way to get involved and help yourself at the same time.

Membership Committee by Marilyn K. Nicely

The purpose of the Membership Committee is to recruit new members to the SIS. Currently serving on the committee are Marilyn K. Nicely, Chair, University of Oklahoma; Suzanne Thorpe, University of Minnesota; and Jay Shuman, New York University.

For this year, the Committee has adopted the strategy of sending letters to AALL members who might be interested in membership. We have broken this task into several projects. The first project, now underway, is to send a letter to attendees of CONELL in Boston who are employed in academic libraries. The letter will include the official AALL SIS membership form. The second project is to send a mailing to academic law librarians identified in the AALL directory who are not members currently. Finally, we plan to write new members as their names are published in the AALL newsletter.

Visions Committee by Dick Danner

The charge of the Visions Committee, as set forth by Section chair Arturo Torres, is to develop a vision statement for academic law libraries. Specifically, the committee has been asked "to identify and evaluate external and other factors that impact or will impact on the current and future nature of academic law libraries," and "to identify and outline relevant strategies, directions, and courses of action." To meet this goal (and its May 31, 1994 deadline) the committee has to date conducted an e-mail dialogue among its members to share ideas on trends in the environment of academic law libraries and the likely effects of those trends on academic libraries. As its work progresses, the committee may share drafts of its working documents with SIS members through appropriate e-mail conferences.

The members of the committee are: Adeen Postar of the Georgetown Law Center, Barbara Szalkowski of the South Texas College of Law, Rita Reusch of the University of Utah, and James Milles of St. Louis University. For further information about the committee's work, please contact the chair, Dick Danner, of the Duke Law School.

Dick Danner

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Call for Papers by Lisa Moske

The Call for Papers (CFP) program at the Boston Convention was a great success. Each of the three CFP winners attended the convention. Their presentations were enlightening, thought provoking, and entertaining; be sure to look for the winning papers in the Fall, 1993 issue of *LLJ* (Vol. 85 No. 4).

Sheilla Desert provides an analytical and comparative study on searching methods in her article, "Westlaw is Natural v. Boolean: Theory and Application, a Performance Study". Jill A. Farmer suggests that we re-examine the ALA's Library Bill of Rights in "Free to Be You and Me: Librarians and Freedom of Expression", and in "Death and Rebirth of a National Information Policy: What We Had and What We Need", Cheryl McLean discusses the WINDO/Gateway proposal, encouraging us to support the new legislation calling for electronic dissemination of government information. Each of these women have offered us their valuable scholarship. Read up and enjoy!

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The 1994 AALL Call for Papers Committee is soliciting original papers in the following divisions:

OPEN DIVISION: Papers may be submitted by current AALL members who have been members of AALL for five or more years.

NEW MEMBER DIVISION: Papers may be submitted by current AALL members who have been members of AALL for fewer than five years.

STUDENT DIVISION: Papers may be submitted by library school students. Students need not be members of AALL.

The deadline for submission of papers is April 29, 1994. For an application form and more information, see the September, 1993 issue of the *AALL Newsletter* or contact Arturo Torres, Gonzaga University School of Law Library, (509) 328-4420; e-mail: torres@gonzaga.edu.

*Look for
winning papers
by Sheilla
Desert, Jill
Farmer, and
Cheryl McLean
in the Law
Library Journal*

AALL Scholarship Information by Daniel Martin

The AALL Scholarship Committee would like to spread the news about the AALL scholarships which are available to help librarians complete their education. All scholarships require evidence of financial need. Applications are available from AALL Headquarters after December 1, 1993. Applications are due back at Headquarters on April 1, 1994, and awards will be made shortly thereafter. Headquarters requests that those interested write, indicating which types of scholarship application forms they want, and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. The Headquarters' address is: AALL, Suite 940, Scholarship, 53 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604.

Types of scholarships include:

Library Degree for Law School Graduates: Awarded to a graduate of an accredited law school who is a degree candidate in an accredited library school.

Library School Graduates attending Law School: Awarded to a library school graduate who is in the process of working toward a law degree in an accredited law school who has no more than 36 semester (54 quarter) credit hours of study remaining before qualifying for the law degree, and who has meaningful law library experience.

Library Degree for Non-Law School Graduates: Awarded to a college graduate with meaningful law library experience who is a degree candidate in an accredited library school.

Special Course in Law Librarianship: Awarded to law librarians for a course related to law librarianship.

The George A. Strait Minority Stipend: \$3500 awarded to a member of a minority group who is a college graduate working toward an advanced degree to further his/her interest in law librarianship.

Surviving the E-mail Explosion by Mary Whisner

In a few years our library has gone from having one e-mail account to having at least one for every staff member. We all use e-mail routinely to communicate with one another within our institution -- and we also use it to communicate cheaply and quickly with our colleagues across the country.

When we first got e-mail, our one account subscribed to law-lib. We took turns checking the account, printing out the messages, and routing the paper copy. That cumbersome routine seems like something from long, long ago. Now we not only have individual accounts, we also subscribe to many e-mail discussion lists besides law-lib. Subscribing to lists can be an effective way to keep up with new developments and to exchange information, either in librarianship or in some substantive area of law. But the discussion lists can also be an incredible drain of time (and disk space). The proliferation of lists can be rather daunting for librarians who want to learn more, yet feel overwhelmed by the flow of information they already need to monitor. So I thought I would share some tips for surviving and thriving in the e-mail explosion.

1. Limit the lists you subscribe to. You don't have to subscribe to every list that looks like it *might* be of interest. If you do subscribe for a while and you find the list is not very useful to you, you can unsubscribe.
2. Rely on your colleagues to monitor some lists. One of the great advantages of working in an academic library is having colleagues at hand to share information and ideas with -- it works with e-mail lists as well as with all other aspects of our work. In our library, I am on stumpers-list, one of my officemates is on libref-l and libadmin-l and another is on govdoc-l, and we all share messages we think the others would be interested in. I did not subscribe to the new list for legal writing instructors, because one of my colleagues did subscribe and offered to forward valuable postings to me.

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ALL-SIS Newsletter

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