

# AAL-SIS NEWSLETTER

Volume 15 Issue 1

Fall 1994

## ATTENTION OTDs: THIS SIS IS FOR YOU

Message from Our Chair, Barbara A. Bintliff

Somewhere or another along the line a really ugly rumor got started. Like most rumors there was an element of fact to it, but, as in most rumors, that little bit of fact got crowded out by the untrue portion. The rumor has almost taken on a life of its own, and people tend to believe it without spending the time to look into the situation.

What's the rumor, you ask? It is that the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section is for Directors Only; that Other-Than-Directors (OTDs) Need Not Apply. The kernel of truth is that the Academic SIS is for directors. But the ugly untruth is that there is no room for OTDs. On the contrary, the Academic SIS is for ALL academic law librarians. The group would be meaningless without the participation of a broad spectrum of academic law librarians, because the Academic SIS is supposed to represent all academic law librarians.

Those OTDs who have looked closer have been, I think, pleasantly surprised at the number of leadership opportunities open to them. Look at the SIS leadership: OTDs are there. Look at the list of committee chairs and members: OTDs there, too. In fact, every person who signed up for a

committee this year (and lots who didn't) received an assignment, and several committees have room for more members.

Most likely there will be another committee or two created this year. So let's put this rumor to rest. Sign up for a committee when volunteers are sought and prove to yourself that there's room for all academic law librarians in the Academic SIS. The Academic Law Libraries (ALL) Special Interest Section is for ALL academic law librarians. The name says it ALL.

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Submissions may be made by hard copy, on 3 1/2" computer disk, or by electronic mail. Electronic mail is preferred. 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 to edit or reject for publication any submission or advertisement.

## Notes from the Editor

I hope that all OTD's reading this newsletter, and you know who you are, will help make this SIS newsletter a newsletter of all the Academic Law Librarians. During the coming months, as this SIS's Newsletter Editor (and an OTD myself), I will be keeping my computer keyboard near at my fingers' touch ready to type information to the membership through the Newsletter.

Even as we near the age of 'virtual librarianship' I am not yet able to be in two places at once. California is my home base. Send me a fax or an email about the event so I can let other academic law librarians know through the Newsletter. Yes, that means your participation.

Finally, and equally important, I want to publicly thank Marilyn Harhai, University of Puget Sound, for all her spectacular efforts and achievements when successfully publishing the past volume of this Newsletter. While she will still be active in ALL-SIS this year, she will be more involved with projects closer to home. I, for one, want to thank her for her past Editorship and wish her continued success in the future.



**Rebecca Wendy Bass and The Future of LEXIS/NEXIS**  
**By Marlene Harmon**  
**Boalt Hall Law Library**

Rebecca Wendy Bass was hired as Vice President and General Manager of Legal Information Services for Mead Data Central in November 1993. She was in Seattle in July to attend her first AALL Annual Meeting, and, not surprisingly, she spent a lot of it talking to law librarians about a subject of vital interest to many of us: the future of LEXIS/NEXIS now that Mead has put it up on the auction block.

Rebecca has a JD from Rutgers University Law School, she also attended Harvard Business School and has worked as an attorney and as a corporate executive.

In interviews conducted with chapter newsletter editors and at a LEXIS/NEXIS breakfast for academic law librarians she made it a point to reassure us that the commitment LEXIS/NEXIS has to law librarians is stronger than ever.

Rebecca described the divestiture of LEXIS/NEXIS by Mead as a "great decision", good for Mead and "excellent" for LEXIS/NEXIS and its customer base. Usually this type of sale takes 4 to 6 months. Though she gave us no hint as to who it might be, Rebecca was confident that LEXIS/NEXIS will have a significant, "more strategically focused parent" by the end of the year. Morale is high at LEXIS/NEXIS, employees are enthusiastic and positive about the future.

Rebecca was also confident that LEXIS and NEXIS will be purchased as a unit, NEXIS will not be sold separately.

She assured academic law librarians that though LEXIS/NEXIS may be re-evaluating how the money for the law school program is spent, no changes significantly limiting access and services are anticipated.

LEXIS/NEXIS is forming a new support group for law librarians, the "Information Professionals Support" (IPSG). This group is composed entirely of librarians who have MLS degrees, they will focus on the needs of law librarians. Among other things they will serve as specialized consultants for law librarians. They will not replace customer service representatives who will continue with the responsibilities they already have.

LEXIS/NEXIS is also funding a new AALL scholarship in the memory of John R. Johnson, long time law librarian at LEXIS/NEXIS.

Legal research and the practice of law are changing. Rebecca is confident that LEXIS/NEXIS will keep up with these changes by offering a "family of product services" which, in addition to its online services, includes *LEXIS Counsel Connect*, Legal Views software built on the Folio VIEWS technology and Michie CD Rom products. She did not feel that LEXIS, with its powerful search engine, would be threatened by the increasing availability of legal material on the internet.

Rebecca Wendy Bass presented us with a picture of a LEXIS/NEXIS service dedicated to "total customer satisfaction", committed to law librarians and unaffected by the impending divestiture from Mead.

\* \* \* \* \*

(Editor's Note: Marlene Harrmon is the current Editor of NoCall's Newsletter [the local AALL chapter of Northern California]. She allowed her article to be included in our Newsletter as this interview would be of interest to us all. At the time this newsletter was being finished Mead Central sold the Lexis/Nexis entity to Reed Elsevier PLC.)

**MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARIES SPECIAL INTEREST  
SECTION BUSINESS MEETING, SEATTLE, JULY 10, 1994**

Arturo Torres, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:50 am. The minutes of the 1993 ALL-SIS Meeting were approved as published in the "ALL-SIS Newsletter." Secretary/Treasurer Faye Jones gave the Treasurer's Report. The balance as of June 20, 1994, stands at \$188.43. The total yearly income was \$3,263.00 and expenses were \$3,074.57.

Marilyn Harhai, "ALL Newsletter" Editor, thanked Grace Mills, members of the Publication Committee, volunteers, and her employer, the University of Puget Sound Law Library for their assistance during her tenure. She reported that Grace Mills will be the new editor.

The Chair's Report was given by Arturo Torres. After thanking all who volunteered on behalf of ALL-SIS during the year, he presented his goals for the SIS and reported on them. Arturo's goals were for ALL-SIS to be more inclusive, to establish an ALL-SIS "Visions Committee," and to improve the financial standing of ALL-SIS. These goals were met in the following ways: (1) Roundtables were established to allow for input from a variety of perspectives. The Membership Committee sent a mailing to prospective members asking them to join the SIS. (2) The Visions Committee, chaired by Dick Danner, drafted a visions statement which was published in the ALL Newsletter. (3) Membership increased from about 500 to over 700, making ALL-SIS the second largest SIS.

The Chair recognized the Nominating Committee, composed of Scott Pagel, Pauline Aranas and Caitlin Robinson, and thanked them for their work. He announced that the ALL-SIS election resulted in the choice of Jacqueline Orlando as the Vice-Chair/Chair Elect.

Dick Danner reported on the work of the Visions Committee and preparation of the ALL-SIS Visions statement. The Committee was a "virtual" committee that operated over email. The members were Jim Milles, Rita Reusch, Barbara Szalkowski, Adeen Postar, and Dick Danner. The Committee feels

that the vision statement places libraries in a pivotal role. They recommend that a new task force work further with the vision statement to put the ideas expressed in it into more specific terms.

The Education Committee, composed of Carol Alpert, Judy Wright, and Jacqueline Orlando was successful in establishing ALL-SIS as sponsor or co-sponsor of many programs at the 1994 Annual Meeting. Program proposals for the 1995 Annual Meeting were solicited.

The Membership Committee, composed of Marilyn Nicely, Suzanne Thorpe, and Jay Shuman, obtained print-outs from AALL to cross-check for ALL-SIS membership. Nine hundred letters were sent to non-members to solicit them to join ALL-SIS.

Rhea A-L Ballard presented several issues of concern to the Roundtables: (1) How can meetings/roundtables be better coordinated and what should they be called; (2) Associates should have their own roundtable because some members may feel inhibited from participating if their manager is present; and (3) A similar topic should be discussed at all roundtables. The first two issues will be discussed further at a roundtable. The third issue has been referred to the ALL-SIS Executive Board.

Sally Wise reported that the Directors' Meeting discussed the proposed ABA Standards for Law Schools.

Ajaye Bloomstone reported that over 80 people attended the Middle Managers' Meeting discussion on mediated dispute resolution.

Pam Deemer reported that Jane Underwood was the speaker at the newer Law Librarians Meeting. Designed to provide support for newer law librarians, the Meeting was open to those with less than five years of law library experience. Its theme was "Enjoying New Scenery Without Getting Eaten by Lions, Tigers and Bears." Break-out sessions followed Ms. Underwood's speech.

The discussion questions for the Roundtables, prepared by Michael Whipple, Glen Peter-Ahlers, Sr. and Margaret Maes Axtmann, were pre-published in the ALL-SIS Newsletter. Separate rooms were scheduled for use by each discussion group.

There was no unfinished business.

Barbara Bintliff, incoming Chair, opened the discussion of new business. She asked those who wish to volunteer to send a email message to her. She noted that next year's programs will be on both the NCLIS (National Conference on Legal Information Issues) and the conference theme of "Connected for

Justice." She encouraged members to participate by sending program ideas to Jacqueline Orlando.

Barbara Bintliff stated her goals as ALL-SIS Chair: (1) to create an ALL-SIS Procedures Manual, (2) to prepare an ALL-SIS Membership Directory, (3) to monitor Lexis' future and to keep the role of academic law libraries in the forefront with the new owner, (4) to prepare a public relations brochure -- James Duggan is chairing the PR Committee which will prepare the brochure, and (5) to encourage every academic law librarian to become a member of ALL-SIS. Barbara's philosophy is "the bigger ALL-SIS is, the better we will be able to represent our interests."

Vice-Chair/Chair Elect Jacqueline Orlando thanked volunteers and asked for continued input from members.

There was no other new business.

Wes Cochran announced that the NCLIS will be a conference within a conference, bringing together the judiciary, bar, legal administrators, and others who deal with legal information on a daily basis. Its goal is to convince these decision-makers that law librarians are central to legal information. He called for program submissions to be submitted to Jacqueline Orlando. She, Don Dunn, Dwight King, and Wes Cochran are working to make the NCLIS a success. Wes Cochran noted that this is our opportunity to get involved in this important effort.

Arturo Torres reiterated Barbara Bintliff's call for volunteers and asked them to contact her. He recognized the efforts of members of committees by awarding them outstanding service certificates.

The Roundtable discussion leaders were recognized. The Roundtables, which met immediately after the meeting was adjourned, included:

Academic Law Librarians: To Teach or Not to Teach? Joyce A. McCray-Pearson, Moderator/Facilitator.

Current Trends in Computer Assisted Legal Research. Camille M. Riley, Moderator/Facilitator.

Law Library Management from the Perspective of the Managed. Glen-Peter Ahlers, Sr., Moderator/Facilitator.

Staffing for Collection Development. Margaret Maes Axtmann, Moderator/Facilitator.

Arturo Torres announced that the ALL-SIS reception would be held on July 12, 1994, at the University of Washington Law Library. Barbara Bintliff mentioned that newer ALL-SIS members had a gold star on their name tags to identify them. She asked all members to welcome them.

The meeting was adjourned by Arturo Torres at 11:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Faye Jones

### ALL-SIS Roundtable Discussions in Seattle

The Academic SIS sponsored five roundtable discussions following its business meeting this past July at the AALL Annual Meeting in Seattle. (The questions discussed during the roundtables appear at pages 6-7 of the Summer 1994 ALL-SIS Newsletter.)

Roundtable for Newer Law Librarians -- Co-Moderators Pamela Deemer (Emory University) and Jane Underwood (Capital University).

Forty persons who attended heard Arturo Torres (Gonzaga University) describe SIS organization and volunteer opportunities, and Jane Underwood provide important tips and advice for newer professionals. The audience then broke up into smaller groups and discussed questions of interest to newer librarians. Deemer reports the participants enjoyed the informal atmosphere and that the advice was well received. This roundtable topic is sponsored by the SIS at each AALL annual meeting.

Academic Librarians: To Teach or Not to Teach? -- Moderator Joyce McCray-Pearson (University of Kansas).

A diverse group of about 20 persons -- with opinions from NO to YES, and all levels of professional experience -- met for a lively discussion of whether or not law librarians should teach, and if so how should they be compensated. Aspects of the topic of particular interest were: how does teaching affect other job duties; is a dual degree necessary to teach; and, if you do teach, does the law school get multiple "bangs" for the salary buck.

Current Trends in CALR -- Moderator Camille M. Riley (West Virginia University).

Librarians from directors to new professionals attended this roundtable. The group of 20 examined a wide range of issues: should librarians emphasize economical use of CALR (computer assisted legal research); policies on handling search requests from other campus departments; the student vendor representative program; and how access to online databases and the increasing amount of information available on CDs has and will affect collection development policies. Riley adds the participants



also felt that access and training issues, now focused on CALR, may soon be centered on Internet resources.

Law Library Management from the Perspective of the Managed --

Moderator Glen-Peter Ahlers, Sr (University of Arkansas-Fayetteville).

Sadly only three people came to this roundtable, and although they were quite enthusiastic, the moderator felt the discussion couldn't go forward. Ahlers reports he later heard at least a dozen other persons express interest in the topic; unfortunately they were either unable to attend or didn't learn of the program in time to attend.

Staffing for Collection Development -- Co-Moderators Margaret Maes

Axtmann and Robert Buckwalter.

About a dozen persons met for discussion of staffing organization in collection. Participants also expressed concern that collection development duties are only one of many job duties and that they often take a backseat.

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**Members' Corner**

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*(Ed. note: On the Newsletter's behalf I requested ALL-SIS members to share their impressions about Seattle Annual Meeting programs. This topic may be of interest to us.)*

**Your Name in Print! How to Start and Finish a Research Project**

Submitted by Shaun Esposito, Evening Public Services Librarian  
University of Toledo College of Law Library

Moderator: Nancy Carol Carter, Director of the Legal Research Center and Professor of Law at the University of San Diego.

Sponsors: Publications Review Committee, Publications Committee, and the Committee on Research.

Speakers: Scott Pagel, Law Library Director and Professor of Law at George Washington University; Stuart Sutton, Director and Professor of the San Jose State University School of Library and Information Science; and Debra Kaufman, Editorial Assistant and Indexer for the Law Library Journal.

In preparing to write and publish consider these recommendations of Scott Pagel:

- \* What is the objective of the work? Ultimately it should aid the user.
- \* Your credentials to compile a bibliography (or other work) on the topic.
- \* The scope of the topic - the title should be as clear and specific as possible.

Elements for making your work useful

1. convey selection criteria to the user
2. accuracy
3. consider what the user really needs

Precision concerning the date of items covered is very important. Also:

1. Whether student work is included
2. Whether cases and statutes are included, and, if so,  
Which courts and which states?
3. The work should explain the order of listing the items.

Physical Design is very important. The layout should be accessible to the reader and user.

Annotations are provided to help user know which items will be most valuable to consult.

Legal Bibliographies should include cases and statutes. Mention chapters of practice sets and sources from social science and related disciplines.

Stuart Sutton talked about using scientific research when writing articles about law librarianship. In deciding which mode of research to use:

1. Decide the goals of research
  - \* descriptive?
  - \* exploratory?
  - \* explanatory?

Descriptive research describes the phenomenon in a new way. Exploratory research is not intended to explain or describe the subject very completely. It involves making inferences and predictions concerning the future of the phenomenon.

2. What class of research will you do? What form of logic will you use?
  - \* the deductive style (using hypothesis and theory)
  - \* the inductive style (going from observations to generalizations)

Survey research, fitting into the deductive model, has as a strength its usefulness for dealing with the characteristics of a large population. It also is very strong on reliability (achieving the same results time after time). Its problem is that it is very weak on validity (measuring the item it is designed to measure). Field research, fitting into the inductive model, is strong on validity but weak on reliability.

Statistical analysis is useful at the beginning of one's research for it measures, using the inductive model, and is reliable to measure the results again and again, as tested using the deductive model.

The final speaker was Debra Kaufman who offered some practical advice on preparing manuscripts and getting them past initial hurdles and onto editors' desks.

- 1 Keep up with the literature
- 2 Examine AALL's research agenda when choosing a topic
- 3 Look at a list of AALL affiliated publications
- 4 Examine what topics are being discussed at conventions

Send a query letter to the editor instead of the complete manuscript. This is more professional moreover it will not waste the writer's time or the editor's time if the topic is not of interest to the publication.

Common reasons for manuscript rejection

- \* the topic has already been done
- \* the topic is superficially treated
- \* inaccurately gauges the intended audience of the journal
- \* poorly written
- \* inadequately researched

Manuscript problem areas

**Bibliographies:** A selected annotated bibliography is best and the author should personally examine all items.

**Survey research:** Explain the significance of any data reporter. Most frequently problems include confusing or erroneous use of data.

Three final pieces of wisdom from this speaker: watch out for using too many "ids" when documenting footnote sources; put the manuscript away for a period of time before attempting to redraft it; and honor all deadlines given by editors and keep all sources for future reference.



## "Design the ALL-SIS Logo" Contest

When you think of the Academic Law Libraries SIS, what comes to mind? A dedicated membership of law school librarians and staff? Sponsor of all those AALL educational programs that everyone attends? Preeminent special interest section of AALL? While all of these might come to mind, the ALL-SIS logo won't come to mind...because we don't have one. Here's your chance to both help the logo-challenged ALL-SIS and win a fabulous prize: design the ALL-SIS logo!

**The Contest:** The ALL-SIS Public Relations Committee (James E. Duggan and Ellen Platt), sponsor of the "Design the ALL-SIS Logo" Contest, invites you to submit a camera ready, black and white rendering of a suitable logo for the ALL-SIS, for possible inclusion in a SIS brochure currently in development. The logo can be your own design (or you can utilize clip art from commercial software), and may integrate the "ALL-SIS" lettering in the body of the logo. The submitted logo should be no larger than 2.5" X 3" (but could be in two parts and surround text). All entries must include your name, address, telephone number, and the camera-ready logo.

**The Prize:** A year's membership in the ALL-SIS (at least a \$12 value), plus the ALL-SIS's eternal gratitude. For those not challenged by monetary rewards, the satisfaction of seeing your creative efforts exploited for the common good of humanity.

**The Deadline:** All entries must be received by December 1, 1994.

**The Fine Print:** All entries become the property of the ALL-SIS Public Relations Committee. Relatives or close, personal friends of the ALL-SIS PR Committee or the ALL-SIS Chair are prohibited from entering the contest (*mainly because they would probably win*). Selection of the winning logo does not in any way guarantee publication or use of the logo in the ALL-SIS brochure and/or newsletter. The PR Committee reserves the right to design its own logo (*provided suitable logos were not received via the logo contest*) or use previously designed AALL graphics. Members of the ALL-SIS PR Committee (James Duggan and Ellen Platt) and Barbara Bintliff (ALL-SIS Chair-in Chief) will choose the winning design (*if any*) and award the prize (*if deserved*). The decision of the Judges is final (*unless we're sued*). All taxes are the responsibility of the contest winner.

**Contest Address:** Send your entry by **December 1, 1994**, to:

James E. Duggan  
Chair, Public Relations Committee  
Southern Illinois University  
School of Law Library  
Carbondale, Illinois 62901-6803

ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARIES SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION  
COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 1994-1995

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EDUCATION (1995-1996)

Marlene Alderman, Chair

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Sheryl Kramer

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Susanna Marlowe (Newer Members Meeting, Co-Chair)

Newer Members Meeting Sub-Committee:

Susan Chinoransky

Anette Klingman

Mike Whiple (Roundtables, Chair)

Roundtables Sub-Committee:

Marsha Baum

Carol Bredemeyer

Pam Deemer

Joyce Manna Janto

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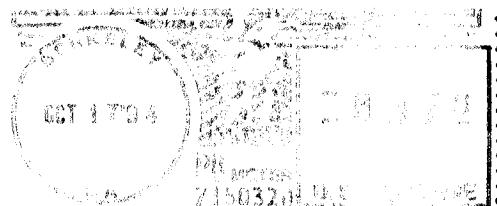
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