

ALL-SIS NEWSLETTER

Volume 15 Issue 2

Spring 1995

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

rites of Spring

It happens every year, quite predictably, like an annual rite of spring. Even though it doesn't involve nymphs dancing in the woods (did I get your attention there?), every time it happens the same question pops into your head: why should I renew my membership in the Academic SIS? I'd like to remind you about what the SIS has done this year in order to sway you towards membership renewal.

The Academic SIS has long been a leader in educational programming at the AALL annual meeting. The 1995 Annual Meeting will be no exception, where we are sponsoring or co-sponsoring a total of 13 meetings, including three at the National Conference on Legal Information Issues and one pre-conference workshop. Our directors', middle managers', and newer members' meetings will offer interesting and relevant programs. The roundtables following the business meeting will provide an opportunity for all types of academic law librarians to discuss topics of mutual interest.

But programming has not been our only activity this year. We are preparing to send out the first-ever Academic Law Libraries SIS Membership Directory in a few weeks. Our Public Relations Committee is working on the first SIS brochure for distribution to prospective members. We are finalizing implementations recommendations for the SIS Vision Statement, developed in 1993-1994, to help move academic law libraries into the next century. We are monitoring the modifications in the annual ABA questionnaire, considering development of a comprehensive survey of academic law libraries, preparing comments on the proposed ABA library standards revisions, and have opened channels with LEXIS

personnel to discuss changes following that company's purchase by Reed-Elsevier.

Despite this level of activity, and despite the fact that the SIS is looked at to represent and speak for all academic law librarians both within AALL and to other groups, many academic law librarians are not members of the SIS. If you are not a member you have no opportunity for input into these activities or the positions the SIS takes on your behalf. When the membership renewal form comes, fill it out and sent it in as your annual rite of spring. It should be automatic, like your AALL membership. If you're not a member of the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section, your voice in AALL and the law school world is diminished. You might as well be dancing in the woods.

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Academic Law Libraries
Special Interest Section
Newsletter
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Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries
1994-1995 Executive Committee

Chair

Barbara A. Bintliff
Law Librarian and Associate Professor
University of Colorado Law Library
Campus Box 402
Boulder, CO 80309
303/492-1233
Internet: bintliff-b@cubldr.colorado.edu

Vice-Chair/Chair Elect

Jacqueline M. Orlando
Associate Director for Public Services
Capital University Law Library
665 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614/445-4373
Internet: jorlando@mcs.capital.edu

Secretary/Treasurer

Faye E. Jones
Associate Librarian
University of California
Hastings College of the Law
Legal Information Center
200 McAllister Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
415/565-4759

Immediate Past Chair

Arturo L. Torres
Law Librarian and Associate Professor
Gonzaga University
School of Law Library
Box 3528
Spokane, WA 99220
509/328-4220, ext. 3782
Internet: torres@gonzaga.edu

The ALL-SIS Newsletter is published three times an academic year and distributed to all ALL-SIS members. Editorial comments or submissions should be sent to:

Grace M. Mills, University of California School of Law Library, Boalt Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720
Voice: 510/642-4046; Fax: 510/643-5039; Internet: gmills@library.Berkeley.edu

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.

Program Proposals for Indianapolis

ALL-SIS members proposed many exciting programs for the AALL annual meetings in Seattle and Pittsburgh. Planning for the Indianapolis meeting in 1996 is underway, and we hope ALL-SIS members will continue the tradition of initiating interesting program proposals.

Many exciting topics have been discussed during the last year at local, regional and national professional meetings; in the legal and library literature; and on various discussion groups. Please consider submitting a program proposal on a topic of interest to you.

Program proposal forms will appear in the upcoming issues of the AALL Newsletter. The ALL-SIS Education Committee would be happy to discuss proposals and ideas with you.

Committee members include:

Marlene Alderman Boston University	Phone: 617/353-3151 Email: alderman@acs.bu.edu
Gary Hill Brigham Young Univ.	Phone: 801/378-3596 Email: hillg@lawgate.byu.edu
Sheryl Kramer Thomas M. Cooley	Phone: 517/334-5740 Email: kramers@mlc.lib.mi.us
Rich Leiter Howard Univ.	Phone: 202/806-8045 Email: rleiter@cldc.howard.edu
Diane Murley Boston Univ.	Phone: 617/353-3151 Email: dmurley@acs.bu.edu

AWARDS COMMITTEE SEEKING NOMINATIONS – DEADLINES EXTENDED

The Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the Joseph L. Andrews Bibliographical Award, the Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award and the Law Library Publication Award. These awards are judged according to the criteria listed below. Any AALL member may make nominations, and library staffs are encouraged to submit their own libraries' publications. Send all nominations to Bettie Scott, 1994/95 Chair, AALL Awards Committee, CUNY Law School Library, 65-21 Main St., Flushing, NY 11367. **The deadlines for nominations for all awards have been changed for this year only and will be May 1, 1995.**

The **Joseph L. Andrews Bibliographical Award** recognizes a significant contribution to legal bibliographical literature. Bibliographies published in 1994 are eligible for consideration. The bibliography may be a book, a pamphlet, a periodical contribution or a publication in some other form. To nominate a bibliography, please provide as complete a description as possible. It is not necessary to submit a copy of the work, and the award is not limited to works by law librarians of AALL members. The deadline for nominations is May 1, 1995.

The **Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award** is presented to an individual for outstanding, extended and sustained service to law librarianship and to AALL. The award is presented to an AALL member nearing or following completion of an active professional career. Honorees may be recognized for achievement in a particular area of law librarianship, for service to the Association of for outstanding contributions to professional literature. The deadline for nominations for this award is May 1, 1995.

The Law Library Publication Award has been discontinued and a new award entitled the **Law Library Public Relations Award** has been established in its place. Nominations for this award should be forwarded to the Public Relations Advisory Committee, which will be responsible for publishing criteria for the award. The deadline for this award has also been extended to May 1, 1995.

Ballot Notice

Please note that the last page of this Newsletter contains the ballot for the 1995-1996 Vice Chair/Chair Elect of this SIS. As members of this SIS, please participate by completing your ballot and sending it in.

Editor's Note

This issue of the ALL SIS Newsletter has arrived in your hands delayed beyond many expectations, especially the Editor's. I regret any trouble that this delay has caused you, as a member of the Academic SIS. I hope that you will read, with interest, the interview that revisits Jim Milles, as 'virtual librarian,' and the ALL SIS Vision Statement (that took the efforts of many to format in this newsletter).

A VIRTUAL LIBRARIAN REVISITED

Last year our ALL SIS Newsletter conducted an interview with Jim Milles about his two professional hats at St. Louis University Law Library and Cornell University (14:4 "Twenty Questions to a 'Virtual Librarian'"). Now that he has had a year in these positions, Jim was kind enough to give us some of his updated impressions about technology and academic librarians.

1. Now that you've simultaneously worked in two positions nearly 2,000 miles apart, what were the professional joys in this past year?

Hi, Grace. It's good to hear from you again. I'd have to say that the greatest pleasure I've had in my Internet-related work over the past year has been the opportunity to meet and work with you and all my other friends in law libraries and law schools whom I otherwise would not have met. Almost every day I receive a question by e-mail from someone asking about something to do with the Internet, and I enjoy being able to help.

On a personal level, I've greatly enjoyed the opportunities to travel that I've been given. I've presented a number of Internet workshops at chapter meetings in Kansas City, Des Moines, and Indianapolis, and at law school conferences in Chicago, Washington, DC, and New Orleans. Some people might think that e-mail is replacing face-to-face communication among professional colleagues, but I think the opposite is true. The Internet is opening each of

us up to new groups of colleagues both within and without our professional associations, and giving us more to talk about when we do meet. And of course, there are now more professional conferences than ever; e-mail makes them easier to organize.

2. Were there any setbacks? Any occurrences unforeseen?

That's an interesting question. My work with the Legal Information Institute was originally intended to focus on promoting the development of legal information resources on the Internet and to help in the LII's efforts to catalog those resources. The biggest setback in that regard has been the amazing growth of those information sources--without the need for any encouragement from me!

A year ago the LII's "Topical Index" and Will Sadler's "WWW Virtual Library" page for law were the only attempts to bring together and categorize all the legal information sources available on the Internet. Now there are probably a dozen such efforts, all of them inadequate. Most of us who have been engaged in these projects--at Cornell, Indiana, Washburn, Chicago- Kent, Emory, and so on--soon realized what any cataloger could have told us: cataloging is a lot of work! Cataloging the often-ephemeral information on the Internet is certainly more than a dozen individuals working on a

dozen separate projects can keep up with.

3. Did you find that coordinating existing legal information was a successful collaborative effort involving, as you said last year, "legal academics, law librarians, and law school computer professionals in widely diverse locations"?

Well, "coordinating" is probably pushing it. Our Head of Technical Services, Richard Amelung, sometimes describes coordination efforts like this as "trying to herd cats." On the other hand, these things tend to work themselves out. I've seen a lot more interaction among law professors, law librarians, and computer professionals in the past year. People who are interested in Internet-related things seem to find each other despite traditional institutional barriers.

A year ago, some people were concerned about possible duplication of effort; for instance, a lot of law schools simultaneously focusing on producing health law resources while other topics are neglected. I don't think this has been a problem. What has happened instead is that someone who thinks she can do a better job of compiling and organizing health law materials than anyone else simply goes ahead and tries it; either she succeeds, in which case everybody else simply links to her Web page or Gopher menu, or she decides the other guy's attempt wasn't so bad after all, and puts in her own link to the other guy's Web page. In any case, the best conceived and executed projects prevail.

4. Have you seen Internet sources such as World Wide Web and Gopher grow within the past year?

Definitely. There are now dozens of law schools and law firms with their own Web home pages, and scores of federal, state, and local government bodies. The biggest issue now is how to organize all this stuff.

There are three basic approaches. The oldest approach consists of one or two people attempting to compile and keep updated a Gopher menu or Web page of law-related resources. As I've mentioned, though, this quickly becomes an overwhelming task; however, if the indexer doesn't bite off more than he can chew and selects a manageable subset of the legal information universe, these individual projects can be very helpful.

The second approach was the "infobot" or "webcrawler" system: some kind of software application (like Veronica in the Gopher world, or Lycos or WebCrawler in the Web) that explores links automatically and generates a searchable WAIS index. The advantage of this is that, once the programming is done, and if the authors of the Web pages write their documents clearly, it requires very little human intervention to keep up with the ever-growing new resources. The problems with this approach include the inconsistency of the indexing due to the lack of a controlled vocabulary, and the fact that these index servers can be very busy and are frequently impossible to reach.

I've had the best luck recently with Webcrawler at <http://webcrawler.cs.washington.edu/WebCrawler/WebQuery.html>.

The third approach is traditional library cataloging. RLIN, OCLC, and LC have all announced cooperative projects to catalog the Internet. The problem with this approach is that it's not comprehensive; entering MARC records for Internet resources is really a resource selection and collection development activity. The advantage is that it integrates Internet resources into the other library materials and therefore into the user's research activity.

Each of these approaches has its place, and it will be interesting to see how they influence each other in the future.

5. I've heard some talk that Gopher will not be as useful in the future as it is now. How do you feel about this statement?

Gopher isn't as useful now as many people seem to think. Virtually all the new information on the Internet is in World Wide Web HTML format, not on Gopher systems, and while the Web seamlessly incorporates Gopher servers, Gophers can't incorporate Web information. Relying on Gopher is like relying on a closed card catalog rather than the online library catalog that replaced it.

Even Veronica isn't as useful as it once was. Jean Armour Polly recently published a study of Veronica servers in which she found

that many servers use outdated index databases, some censor certain types of material, and of those that remain, most are so busy as to be almost inaccessible. Now, with the widespread popularity of graphical Web software like Netscape, Mosaic, and Cello, and the ready availability of the terminal-based Lynx software, I really see very little reason to use Gopher.

6. Do you see the governmental plans for the information superhighway affecting academia, and especially academic law librarians? If so, how, and if not, why not?

We're already seeing some of these effects with the growing number of federal agencies publishing information on the Internet.

The Internet will soon be an essential part of a law librarian's research arsenal, if it isn't already.

As far as how the Internet is going to change, that's anybody's guess. It's too much a matter of insider politics now for someone like me to predict what's going to happen. The industry insiders, of course, aren't talking about the Internet of discussion lists and computer-mediated communication that we know and love; they're concerned about 500 video channels and movies-on-demand. I don't know if that's going to come about or not; based on the tests projects that are underway, people don't seem to be beating down the cable companies' doors for this kind of service. Whatever happens, I don't think the

Internet as we know it is going to disappear. E-mail is too valuable to be eliminated. It may happen that universities will start charging departments for access, but by that time it will be such an accepted part of academia that there probably won't be much fuss about it. After all, everybody outside of academia has to pay for Internet access already.

7. What words of encouragement do you have for our readers when participating in this area?

The best thing I can say is to take some time to explore. I've had students asking me how to "get into the Internet" once they've become comfortable with e-mail; I just tell them to sit down in the computer lab, click on Netscape, and go wherever their interests take them. Unless you spend some non-productive time learning your way around the Internet, you're never going to be able to use it effectively when you need it for "real" work. So don't be afraid to play!

8. How can we work within our institutions?

One very useful project that librarians can get involved in is cataloging Internet resources. We at SLU will be participating in OCLC's project, and I expect that it will be an interesting experience in collaboration among the reference librarians and catalogers. Librarians can also get involved in publishing legal information on the Internet; start with a Web home page for your school, with some local information and some links to other sites, and

then take it from there. Law firm librarians can get involved in the same way with marketing the firm on the Internet through a Web home page.

9. Do you see 'virtual librarianship' in more and more of our individual futures?

I think we've been involved in "virtual librarianship" for a long time, and it's just going to increase in scope. To me, "virtual librarianship" is simply librarianship that's not constrained by the physical bounds of a building. We began to break out of this mold with the introduction of telephones that allowed us to answer questions from remote users, and photocopiers that allowed users to take away copies of library materials. The fax machine extended the reach of both these technologies. Microfilm and fiche extended our physical collections, and LEXIS/NEXIS and WESTLAW extended that scope even further beyond the physical. Of course, the Internet takes this expansion of library services to a new level, because we now have the capability to become information providers as well as consumers. Barriers among publishers, libraries, authors, and readers will continue to break down. I suspect that librarianship twenty years from now will bear little resemblance to what we learned in library school; exactly what it will look like I can't say.

10. Once again, Jim, thank you for taking your time to let us know about your collaborative efforts with St. Louis and Cornell

University. Those of us at the 1995 AALL Annual Meeting hope that we will have a chance to meet you in person after you have been so helpful and cordial in print.

Thank you, Grace. I'm looking forward to meeting you in Pittsburgh.

(Check out my home page at <http://lawlib.slu.edu/milles.htm> so you'll recognize me.)

Member's Corner

LAW LIBRARIES AND LEGAL INSTITUTIONS IN GHANA

by Jo Ann Humphreys, Associate Director University of Missouri-Columbia

Law librarians in the United States often feel, rightly so, that their budgets and staff are too small and their space is too cramped. However compared to libraries in many developing countries, our law libraries are in wonderful shape.

In October 1994, I went to Ghana, West Africa for three weeks on a project with the United States Information Agency. My assignment was to visit the legal institutions and law libraries in Accra, Ghana (the capital city); review their collections in depth; and make some recommendations on how access to legal information could be improved.

I saw the request for a law librarian to go to Ghana on the LAWLIB discussion list on the Internet. I applied never really thinking I would be selected. I have travelled extensively in Latin America, but Africa was a completely new experience. The University of Missouri-Columbia Law Library and Law School supported me in this endeavor by first encouraging me to go and by also being available as a resource while I was there. The Library faxed me information while I was in Ghana. I could not

anticipate everything that I would need in Ghana before I left.

The project I was on is part of the Rule of Law in Africa program administered by the Administrative Conference and the United States Information Agency. The United States is trying to encourage African countries who are attempting to have legal systems based on the rule of law by sending lawyers, law professors, judges, and librarians from the U.S. to provide support. I was one of the first two law librarians to go to Africa. A colleague of mine went to Tanzania.

Ghana, formerly known as the Gold Coast, was a British colony until it won its independence in 1957. Since that time, Ghana has had three republics, and is currently on its fourth. The present one is constitutionally based. Coups and military governments have caused instability in the government and the economy. The current President, Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, was elected in 1992 in a democratic election but prior to that had overthrown the government twice. Ghana is striving for stability but has not yet achieved it.

The needs in Ghana are great, and the resources from the

Ghanaian government are few. The economy is recovering from a major slump in the 1970s and 1980s. As a result, there is not much money for libraries and education. What money there is needs to go first for the more basic needs of food and health care. Current members of Parliament who have already been serving for two years have not yet received any pay. They are to be paid; the government just has not decided how much to pay Parliament.

The law libraries and legal institutions I visited in Ghana included the Supreme Court, the University of Ghana Faculty of Law, the Ghana Law School, the Council for Law Reporting, the Law Reform Commission, the Ghana Bar Association, FIDA (in English, this translates Federation of International Women Lawyers), the Attorney General's Department, the Parliament, a private practitioner, and a private firm who is putting the Ghanaian laws on a computer database. The fact that the legal institutions are able to render decisions, introduce and pass legislation, teach law students, and help the ordinary person with his/her legal problems is commendable in view of the conditions that were present in the law libraries I visited.

Law libraries in Ghana have faced many years of neglect. All have very small, out-of-date collections. The updating of collections stopped in the late 1970s with the decline of the economy. The largest library I visited was at the University of Ghana Faculty of Law. Its collection has only approximately 5,000

volumes. The physical facilities housing the libraries are in a state of decline. Rooms housing the library are dirty and dusty. As a result, many of the books are dirty and falling apart because of the heat. If there is air conditioning, it is not sufficient to cool the room. The room housing the collection of the Attorney General's Department has holes in the ceiling with wires hanging down. Computers are beginning to appear in some of the judges's chambers, but equipment such as computers and copiers is lacking in the libraries.

Of the seven law libraries I visited, only four have librarians, and three of these librarians have gone through the diploma program in library science at the University of Ghana. There is a great need for additional training for these librarians. While in Ghana, I was able to give some lectures to the librarians and other library staff members on various library science topics.

Ghana has two law schools; the University of Ghana and the Ghana Law School. Each of these schools provide a different approach to legal education. The University of Ghana which has approximately 200 students teaches the more academic law classes which lead to a LL.B degree. Student attending the University do not pay tuition. The Ghana Law School provides the more practical legal training, and in order to practice before the Bar in Ghana, a lawyer has to complete courses here. There are about 300 students that attend this program. These students pay a fee of

approximately 180,000 cedis (currently about \$180) per year. This is not a high fee according to U.S. standards but is prohibitive in Ghana where the average person only makes about \$400 a year. Professors at the University of Ghana are paid better but still only earn about \$150 per month.

In the United States, a law library is the "laboratory" for law students. Law students spend many hours in the library doing research and studying. In Ghana, law students do not have libraries that can meet their research needs. Their libraries either do not have the material, or the material is out-of-date. I gave a lecture to a class at the Ghana Law School on how to do legal research. My lecture was very theoretical since their library did not have sufficient sources for legal research. There is a definite desire by the law students and faculty for better resources.

The American Bar Association is trying to help fulfill some of the needs of the African law schools. The ABA has received a grant in which law schools in the U.S. will be matched with law schools in Africa. The law schools in the U.S. would help their African counterparts with equipment, training, and library material. The two Ghanaian law schools have been encouraged to take part in this program.

There tends to be a general distrust by the Ghanaian government towards lawyers. This is because it has been the lawyers in Ghana who have continued over the years to advocate for democratic rule in Ghana. The Ghana Bar Association is the only association of lawyers to which all lawyers admit-

ted to the Ghana Bar are members. It is recognized by the Constitution of Ghana and various other statutes of the Republic. The Bar Association and the Federation of International Women Lawyers (FIDA) are both working to put laws into language that the ordinary person can understand and also to help inform women of their legal rights. Men in Ghana can still have more than one wife, but there are now laws that will protect the rights of all the wives during probate proceedings.

Ghana has a strong tradition in the law. Because it was once a British colony, Ghana comes from a common law tradition but also has customary and Islamic law. There is a hierarchy of courts consisting of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal, High Court, and Regional Tribunals. However, the court system is using very antiquated methods of issuing decisions. The judges take the notes of the proceedings. There are no court stenographers. When judges hand down decisions, they literally read them from the bench. I was told that sometimes one opinion can take 3 to 4 hours to read. Needless to say there is a large backlog of cases to be heard. The Court is also having to rehear cases decided by the tribunals which existed during the previous military government.

The fact that Ghana was at one time a British colony is still evident in its legal system. Judges and lawyers wear wigs and robes during judicial proceedings. There are tables outside the courtroom where a lawyer can buy a wig or a white shirt if he/she does not have one. When I would ask librarians, judges, and lawyers what books they needed for

their libraries, many of the requests were for British legal materials. They are interested in sources on U.S. constitutional law since their government is based on a constitution. However for other topics, they told me that our law is too complex.

I found the Ghanaian people to be very friendly and very interested in the United States. I was well taken care of by them and by the U.S. foreign service personnel working in Ghana. My first view of Ghana was at the airport when I arrived. I arrived very late at night, and was met by the Cultural Affairs Officer for the United States Information Service (USIS) in Ghana and the librarian from USIS.

I was adventurous and ate typical Ghanaian food most of the time. Typical food includes spicy chicken and rice, bean stews, fufu (ground corn and cassava), and fried plantain.

While in Ghana I was also able to do some sightseeing. I visited two of the castles and forts which dot the coast of Ghana. These were built by Portugal, Spain, Denmark, Holland, Germany, and Britain. These date back to the 15th century and were built originally to provide protection for different countries who came seeking the gold that could be found in Ghana. However eventually, slaves replaced gold as the lucrative form of trade, and these castles and forts were used to house slaves before they were sent to the Americas.

On my last weekend, I attended a durbar, which is a festival held to remember past leaders, to ask for their help, and to purify the region so that the people can enter the new

season with confidence and hope. In these durbars, the "stool" (the symbol of power and authority) is purified with the pouring of libations, firing of guns, drumming, dancing, and parading of chiefs dressed in their ceremonial clothes. My memories of this durbar will be the fact that I was able to see the President of the country up close and the heat. The temperature that day was around 110.

Ghana is a country of contrasts. Regular phone service is not reliable and not available to most Ghanaians, but mobile phones are becoming very popular for those who can afford them. Email is also beginning to be introduced into a country where libraries do not have computers.

The law libraries are in very bad shape, but there is a private company who is putting the Ghanaian laws on a computer database and is attempting to sell it for \$4,500.

I am glad I had a chance to go to Ghana and visit their legal institutions and law libraries. Whenever I travel in developing countries, I always return home with a renewed sense of all we as U.S. citizens have to be thankful for and also how very much we take for granted.

Ed. note: Thanks to Jo Ann for providing the readers of this Newsletter, and her fellow ALL SIS members, her account of her time in Ghana!

ALL SIS members are invited to tell us all about places they have seen and events in which they have participated as law librarians.

**A VISION FOR THE ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARY
VISION STATEMENT**

Our vision is for the 21st century academic law library to play the leading role in supporting the research and instructional activities of the law school by ...

CONCEPT/IDEA	IMPLEMENTATION AND RESOURCES
...Creating the means of access to legal information for the law school community.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and share pathfinders with other law libraries through the AALL Public Relations Clearinghouse. 2. Consult the Research Instruction Caucus for ideas and sample instructional documents. 3. Use discussion lists (LawLib & others) to share ideas about access to legal information. 4. Advertise widely academic law libraries' ILL and document delivery services. 5. Integrate lectures about access to legal information into law school curriculum.
...Becoming more active developers and publishers of electronic and other legal information products for the benefit of our primary communities and others.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with AALL and its committees and SIS's to identify products needed by law librarians. 2. Work with publishers to guarantee that law librarians are considered as authors of new texts. 3. Share electronically and encourage the adapting of pathfinders and other legal research guides. 4. Set up author and prospective author-publisher meetings at AALL and AALS annual meetings.
...Developing information and communications systems linking the law school to local, national and international information sources.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage experienced law library staffs to share their plans, publish brochures and guides, and distribute information through an ALL clearinghouse or the AALL Public Relations Clearinghouse. 2. Propose AALL programs or incorporate idea into the ALL meetings. 3. Mentor law libraries that have not begun using the Internet and other electronic sources.
...Providing instruction for law students and others in the techniques of effective legal research and information retrieval.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage participation in the Research Instruction Caucus. 2. Share syllabi for courses, effective teaching techniques, etc., through various means. 3. Provide an ALL sponsored videotape of an effective teach and class session. 4. Consider an AALL Annual Meeting program concentrating on effective teaching methods. 5. Encourage effective teachers to share ideas that work (such as Rosmarin's article in LRSQ). 6. Share publications and ideas through the Public Relations Clearinghouse & the Research Instruction Caucus. 7. Develop and present guest lectures in law school classes about legal research and information retrieval.

The Law Library also will play a major role in partnership with law school computing professionals in the development of overall computing services within the law school, and an active role in fulfilling law school goals in diversification and internationalization.

IMPLEMENTATION AND RESOURCES:

1. Share development ideas from a school that has been successful with this partnership.
2. Publish networking plans that have worked at other law schools in the ALL Newsletter.
3. Participate in law school diversity programs and committees.
4. Function as advisers, team sponsors, research partners, judges, etc., for various student competitions.
5. Provide ALL libraries with pathfinders and guides about international and foreign materials in order to assist smaller law libraries with the development of their collections.
6. Compile, publish and distribute a directory of strong international collections and law librarians who are willing to assist with more complicated questions.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRENDS AFFECTING ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARIES

The recommendations noted below are actions that law libraries are encouraged to undertake based on their individual needs, such as size, available resources, staff, etc. Implementation of the actions listed depends largely on educating the law school administration and faculty, not only in persuading individual law libraries to undertake some of the recommendations. The roles of AALL and the Academic Law Libraries SIS are noted in some sections, but not in all areas.

I. CHANGES IN THE FORMS AND MEANS OF ACCESS TO LEGAL INFORMATION

TRENDS	ACTION: Academic law libraries are encouraged to ...
A. Increasing availability of legal information in digitized form.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop staff expertise in using electronic information sources. 2. Train faculty and students to use effectively digitized information. 3. Obtain funding to retrofit buildings and to purchase equipment and software to access electronic information.
B. Development of new approaches to searching for and locating information.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take full advantage of existing electronic tools (e.g., FTP, WWW, Veronica, Archie, Gopher, WAIS, etc.). 2. Participate in electronic discussions with colleagues to assist others in finding information. 3. Create new electronic resources and reference tools. 4. Convert existing print materials to digitized form and make them available through the Internet.
C. Greater reliance on providing access to information and document delivery services in place of ownership.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build cooperative relationships with other law libraries (e.g., RLG ShaRes Program) which facilitate efficient resource sharing and cooperative acquisitions. 2. Use document delivery for esoteric materials, which are not needed widely or frequently by patrons.
D. Breakdown of traditional legal publishing marketplace.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use collective purchasing power (e.g., via the AALL CRIV Sheet) to affect positive changes regarding cost, format, and content of materials produced. 2. Maintain effective communications with vendors by inviting them to participate in workshops and programs where issues can be raised and discussed.

II. TRENDS IN LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH

TRENDS	ACTION: Academic law libraries are encouraged to ...
A. Increased acceptance of and reliance on electronic forms of information by faculty and students.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Offer students, faculty and others Internet, CALR, CD-ROM, and other electronic formats instruction. 2. Incorporate GPO ACCESS program into operations and provide training on the system. 3. Purchase (when possible) duplicate copies of materials in electronic format rather than print. 4. Provide easy access in computer labs, faculty offices, administrative offices, etc., to electronic forms of information. 5. Become less confined to the resources within a library and convey to faculty, students and others the "virtual library" concept.
B. Greater emphasis on interdisciplinary studies.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Involve faculty and other law school personnel in collection development. 2. Use Westlaw and Lexis effectively as sources to assist in interdisciplinary studies. 3. Develop expertise among staff members in international and foreign legal research. 4. Use the AALL institutes on foreign and international law to provide training for librarians. 5. Evaluate carefully "non-law" materials, which might be required to support interdisciplinary studies. 6. Develop professional relationships with librarians in business, education, science and technology, other special and general University libraries. 7. Assist professional librarians with the opportunities to broaden their knowledge of reference services and materials.
C. Greater interest in international approaches.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participate in the INTLAW and other discussion lists. 2. Participate actively in law school programs abroad. 3. Develop and share collection guides to train staff, students, faculty and other law librarians. 4. Join international library associations and participate in their programs as appropriate.

III. CHANGES IN THE LAW SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

TRENDS	ACTION: Academic law libraries are encouraged to ...
A. Declining law school enrollments, and C. Increased competition for limited law school resources.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Educate deans and faculty in various areas of expertise. 2. Lobby for representation (at least ex officio) on faculty committees, such as curriculum, in order to contribute to policy development. 3. Improve documentation for all budgetary requests to guarantee that requests are supported fully. 4. Educate faculty about the cost of library materials to show how collection budget is spent.
B. Greater computer literacy among faculty and students.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve computer knowledge in order to accept and handle professionally new responsibilities. 2. Determine which services can be offered and which are beyond the capability of the library (rather than try to be all things to all people). 3. Guarantee that services provided are high quality services.
D. Greater demographic and cultural diversity.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Train staff to serve better diverse populations by capitalizing on existing University resources. 2. Persuade law school admissions committees to share information about students' cultural backgrounds. 3. Work with AALL to provide more training in diversity. 4. Recruit and hire more diverse staffs.
E. Growing reliance on new technology-based methods of instruction and individualized approaches to learning.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with faculty and administration to guarantee a greater role for librarians in legal research instruction for students. 2. Promote actively new technology when it becomes available in the law library.

IV. CHANGES IN THE EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

TRENDS	ACTION: Academic law libraries are encouraged to ...
A. More pressure for greater cooperation with general university library systems.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review operations to justify better cooperative projects undertaken and those rejected. 2. Initiate contacts with the university library to develop cooperative programs in areas that are most beneficial to the law library. 3. Publicize cost savings of cooperative ventures while emphasizing the unique features of each library.
B. Increasing need for higher levels of staff technological competencies at a time of library schools' closing.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine the skills needed by staff to perform tasks in the individual law library. 2. Develop in-house training programs for staff. 3. Share successful training program ideas with other law libraries. 4. Work actively with existing library schools to develop curricula that will provide graduates with the skills necessary for a successful career in law librarianship.



1995-96 Academic Law Libraries SIS Elections

As we ALL SIS members are not dancing in the woods (paraphrasing part of our Chair's message) we can elect our next Vice Chair/Chair Elect for July 1995/96. Jacqueline Orlando will become Chair at the business meeting in Pittsburgh this summer. Please read below and cast your vote.

Candidate for Vice Chair/Chair Elect: Sara Robbins

Sara E. Robbins is the Law Librarian, since 1986, and Professor of Law at Brooklyn Law School in Brooklyn, New York. She previously was employed at Pratt Institute, Yale Law School Library and Yeshiva University, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law Library. She holds a JD from Ohio State University and a MSLS from Pratt Institute of New York. Sara Robbins has served on the Academic SIS Executive Board as Secretary/Treasurer, as an Advisory Board Member of Law Library Microform Consortium and on the ABA Committee on Libraries.

Statement:

This semester I am on sabbatical and I have used this time to visit just a few of the excellent law school libraries in the country. I met so many talented individuals in my rounds and saw the really exciting results of the efforts of these people. I think that one of the goals of the Academic SIS should be to do some crowing and let everyone know who and what we are and what we are so good at doing. I found myself so very proud of this profession and I would like others to feel the same way.

I would hope to use this as my major focal point if elected to this position. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to do two things: 1) reach out to all individuals who work in academic law libraries and help each one find value and respect in their jobs, and 2) to share that value and respect with the outside world, most especially the academic institutions within which we work. It will take a lot of help to make this happen, so I expect to seek out advice, suggestions and assistance from all you members of the SIS.

Candidate for Vice Chair/Chair Elect: Michael Slinger

Michael J. Slinger is assuming in July the position of Director of the Law Library and Professor of Law at the Cleveland-Marshall Law School of Cleveland State University. Previously he spent the last five years as Law Library Director and Professor Law at Suffolk University School of Law in Boston. Michael Slinger holds a M LS from University of South Carolina and a JD from the Duquesne University School of Law. He has served as the President of ORALL, on the Executive Board of the AALS Section on Law Libraries and as the Treasurer of the New England Law Library Consortium.

Statement:

It is a great honor for me to stand for election as Vice President/President Elect of the Academic Law Libraries SIS. This is a very exciting time to be an academic law librarian. As a profession, we face significant and varied challenges. But with these challenges come opportunities to increase our contribution to our law school communities. Never have we been more prepared to meet these challenges because the ranks of academic law librarians are filled with incredibly talented and dedicated individuals. Our patrons have never needed us more, and I am confident we have the skill and the vision to succeed in meeting their needs. I also know that by doing so we will enhance our own roles.

In my opinion, the Academic SIS exists to serve our members. If I am elected, I will put the highest of priorities on ascertaining the interests and concerns of our members. I will then work with our members to develop programs and positions which are responsive to those interests and concerns. I will also work diligently to make sure that all of our members are fully included in this SIS. I truly believe the Academic SIS can make a very positive contribution to our professional lives. I would welcome the challenge of contributing and serving our members. Thank you.

After voting, send your ballot to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Faye E. Jones
Associate Librarian
Hastings College of the Law Library
200 McAllister Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

Ballots must be postmarked on or before June 9, 1995

(please send this entire page)

ALL SIS 1995/96 Election Ballot

Mark your ballot by placing an "X" on the appropriate line. Only members in good standing of the ALL SIS may vote.

Vice Chair/Chair Elect (vote for one candidate only)

_____ Sara E. Robbins

_____ Michael J. Slinger