

ALL-SIS NEWSLETTER



Volume 19, Issue 1
The Java Issue



Two Bits a Slug.

COFFEE CHAT... WITH OUR CHAIR

Today's meditation on a Yogi Berraturde is: "YOU'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING, BECAUSE YOU MIGHT NOT GET THERE." This is apropos of professional volunteer work generally, but particularly applicable to leading or contributing to the work of a Special Interest Section. We attend the Annual Meeting and arrive home full of enthusiasm generated from our convention experiences and full of good intentions and plans. Once we return to the challenges in our work environments, finding time for our professional

association projects becomes difficult. Suddenly it's Spring and time to prepare for another annual meeting is short. Raise your hand if you can relate to this scenario.

Your Academic Special Interest Section Executive Committee has been busily planning an ambitious agenda for the coming year. Part of the agenda was developed prior to the Washington DC meeting, but some projects were identified and adopted as a result of programming, networking, and great suggestions from our colleagues during the convention. To date, fifty-two energetic SIS colleagues have volunteered to play a part in the game plan and help us reach our goals for the section. You will be hearing about various projects as we progress during the year, but some of the new projects include:

CONNELL for Academics — Under the leadership of Barbara Bintliff (University of Colorado) and her committee, plans are being drawn to hold a CONELL program in Philadelphia that will focus on new academic colleagues.

MENTORING — Jim Milles (Case Western Reserve) had a creative brainstorm *during the ALL-SIS Business Meet-*



By Tory Trotta, 1999-2000 ALL-SIS Chair,
Director of Library Services,
Ross-Blakley Law Library
Arizona State University – Tempe

ing (!) and spontaneously volunteered to create an ongoing mentoring program for new academics. This proves that 7 a.m. meetings can have redeeming social value.

AWARDS — The Executive Committee is committed to instituting an awards program for our SIS. Sally Holterhoff (Valparaiso) and her committee have completed the details on the first of these awards. See details on p. 2 of this issue and on our website.

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- Hot Java: Member News
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TREASURER'S REPORT



The most recent financial statement for the ALL-SIS received from AALL was issued in mid-June. The statement shows an ending balance as of May 1999 of \$17,076.29. This balance does not reflect expenses associated with the annual meeting in July. The balance does not reflect several invoices connected with the newsletter and with the spring election.

Beginning Balance 10/1/98		\$14,008.27
REVENUES		
ADD INCOME		
Contributions from Lexis-Nexis	\$4,000.00	
Miscellaneous Sales	\$3,334.25	
Total revenues (1)		\$7,334.25
EXPENSES		
Food and Beverage	\$112.76	
Supplies	\$49.76	
Postage	\$1,174.62	
Printing	\$647.03	
Total expenses		\$4,266.23
ENDING BALANCE @ 5/31/99		\$17,076.29

Revenue is from Lexis in support of the lunch at the annual meeting and from sales for annual meeting breakfast and lunch: \$7,334.25. Outstanding invoices connected to printing of newsletter and postage for newsletter and ballot: \$1,164.08

Beginning balance 7/1/99		\$17,076.29
Expenses connected to annual meeting	\$7,334.25	
Outstanding invoices	\$1,164.08	
Ending balance @ 9/15/99		\$8,577.96

Note: There may be additional expenses from the annual meeting that were paid by AALL and are not reflected here.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marguerite Most, ALL-SIS Treasurer,
Director of the Law Library and Assistant Professor of Law,
Southern New England School of Law*

ALL-SIS ANNOUNCES NEW HONOR: THE FREDERICK CHARLES HICKS AWARD



By Sally Holterhoff,
Government Documents Librarian,
Valparaiso University School of Law Library

Heading into the year 2000 with all its new beginnings, the ALL-SIS has created a brand-new award. The Frederick Charles Hicks Award will recognize contributions made to academic law librarianship by an individual or group. The award is named in honor of the first great law librarian/scholar in the U.S., who was also the first aca-

demical law librarian to serve as AALL president.

The proposal for this award was written by the ALL-SIS 1999-2000 Awards Committee and was approved in September by the ALL-SIS Executive Board.

The ALL-SIS has established the Hicks Award to honor individuals whose continued efforts to improve academic law librarianship have "made a difference." Preference in judging will be given to nominees who are members of the ALL-SIS. While there is

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COFFEE CHAT CONTINUED...

(Continued from page 1)

EDUCATION — Vice Chair Ruth Hill (Loyola - Los Angeles) has appointed an Education Committee, chaired by Dwight King (Notre Dame). Her team will be responsible for developing and proposing educational offerings for the 2001 annual meeting, building on the work of last year's Education Committee. It's never too soon to start thinking of program topics and ideas you would like to see presented.

ROUNDTABLES — Interest in various subject oriented 'roundtables' was re-kindled as a result of the thought provoking programs offered in Washington D.C. Roundtables or working groups on legal research, collection development, statistics, Lexis and Westlaw vendor relations, and continuing status and tenure have been formed. These groups will advise the ALL-SIS Executive Committee on agendas, programs, and projects that might present leadership opportunities for our Section.

MEMBERSHIP — Many of us would like to see the ALL-SIS become a home SIS for more of our academic colleagues. We know from research conducted by



Ellen Platt (Santa Clara) and her staff who our existing members are. More questions still remain. Mary Ann Nelson (University of Iowa) and her committee will explore what services or programs would make section membership more attractive to other academics as well as ways we can entice more of our members to become involved in the Section.

STRATEGIC PLANNING — This important initiative continues. Three intrepid veterans of last year's work will continue to develop the specifics of an ALL-SIS strategic plan. You will be hearing

this year from Mark Bernstein (Duke), David Cowan (South Texas) and Ellen Platt (Santa Clara) about this project.

These are some of the projects that the Section has begun this year. We have tried to avoid the fate that Yogi Berra describes by thinking ahead, by getting member ideas, and by finding section members who are excited about these projects. We are all appreciative of the commitment many of our members have made to the Section this year, working on the special projects listed above or contributing to the ongoing work of the Section. Rest assured, the members of the ALL-SIS Executive Committee and the various committees would welcome your ideas and opinions about the projects we have started, or about other projects you think are appropriate for this Section to explore. A list of officers and committee chairs is included in this Newsletter; a complete roster of all committee volunteers is posted on our website.

— VKT

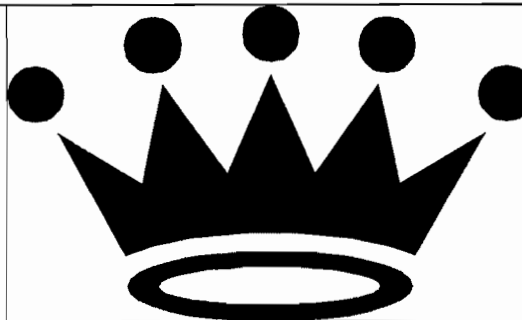
NOMINATIONS FOR ALL-SIS ELECTIVE POSITIONS

By Susan Lewis-Somers,
Senior Reference and Educational Services Librarian,
Washington College of Law Library,
American University

The ALL-SIS Nominations Committee is soliciting nominations for candidates to run for the following two elected positions:

*Vice Chair/Chair-Elect
Secretary/Treasurer*

Please contact Anna Teller <ateller@law.txwes.edu> or Susan Lewis-Somers <slewis@wcl.american.edu> by December 10, 1999 to volunteer yourself or to give us the names of colleagues whom you believe would make good candidates for these elected positions.



We are especially interested in nominees whose positions are below the level of a library director. We appreciate your help.

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THE ALL-SIS MEMBERSHIP ANALYSIS PROJECT: WHO ARE WE REALLY?

By Ellen J. Platt, 1998-1999 ALL-SIS Membership Committee Chair,
Director of Public Services,
Heafey Law Library,
Santa Clara University



WHY WE DID IT

In the past few years, this SIS – and many other segments of the AALL – have undertaken strategic planning initiatives. It seems fairly reasonable, as part of the process of deciding where and what you want to be in the future, to figure out where and who you are now. To achieve the latter goal, and in close consultation with Tory Trotta, I began the process of figuring out how to analyze the present membership of the ALL-SIS. The focus of the inquiry was to identify member characteristics that would be useful to the executive board for strategic planning, (based on the information available on the AALLnet in the member profile database), and to confirm or dispel some myths about the SIS.

WHAT WE EXAMINED

Within the constraints of time and the information available in the online member database, these were the characteristics of All-SIS members upon which we focused:

- ✓ Academic affiliation (did they work for an educational institution)
- ✓ Position type and level
- ✓ Geographic distribution (using the regional divisions employed by AALL headquarters)
- ✓ Additional SIS memberships
- ✓ Leadership activity: at the national (AALL), chapter and SIS level (both in the ALL-SIS and other SISs)
- ✓ Years of AALL membership
- ✓ Years as a professional librarian

WHAT WE EXPECTED

We expected to see several things about our members: They were more than likely administrators; they were more likely to be public services librarians; that other SIS memberships would be related to job duties; and that leadership activity, at all levels, would be limited. We didn't know what results to expect from the other questions.

HOW WE DID IT

Initially we approached AALL Headquarters to see if they would be able to extract the required information from the member database for us; they were not. This initially caused us consternation. Fortunately, Norman Davidson, Santa Clara University's Law School Webmaster saved the day by discovering an inexpensive survey package, (called *WebSurveyor*), which allowed us to create an electronic survey, with a variety of question formats (yes/no, one of several choices, more than one choice, or open-ended response boxes). [Stay tuned for the next newsletter issue, which will focus on surveys, and include a short article about this software and its potential for use in the law library and law school environments.]

One final question we asked ourselves was: Is it better for a committee to enter all the data from all the member profiles, thus getting 100% of member information into the survey data pool; or to ask each member to enter their own data? Despite the fact that the AALL member database was somewhat inaccurate (members don't always update their profiles) and not complete (the data included only went back to 1995), we decided on the former course of action.

After tinkering with the questions and their format, Norman put the final questionnaire up on the law school's server. The Membership Committee (comprised of Tory Trotta – Arizona State University – and Prano Amjadi, Marilyn Dreyer and me – all from Santa Clara University) was ready to begin its work. Using a list of ALL-SIS members from May 1999, pulled from the website, we began keying in the data. Member profiles were placed on one-half of the screen, and, with the survey on the other half of the screen, we entered data. The completed survey was then sent to the server. It took about two weeks for the 800+ member profiles to be keyed into the survey. (There was some inaccuracy – we analyzed 102% of our members! The most common error was data keyed twice when the committee member was interrupted while working at a service desk.)

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MEMBERSHIP ANALYSIS CONTINUED...

(Continued from page 4)

WHAT WE FOUND

After all the data was entered, the software tallied the results automatically. Norman and I looked at the data and chose graphics to represent the data from a variety of display formats. See the displays of data at the ALL-SIS website: <<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/index.htm>>. Choose ALL-SIS Member Survey from the list on the homepage. This is the narrative summary of the survey results:

- ✓ The majority of ALL-SIS members are affiliated with an academic institution (87.5% or 718 of 800)
- ✓ Over 50% of members are Directors, Associate Directors, or Department Heads. Of the remainder members, 17.3% are involved in reference or reader services. Another 13.9% of members (the "other" category) did not list a job title, worked outside academic institutions, or were student members. Positions held by members:

<i>Director/Associate Director</i>	263	32.07%
<i>Department or Division Head</i>	163	19.88%
<i>(public to technical services ratio 2:1)</i>		
<i>Reference/Reader Services</i>	142	17.32%
<i>Other or none given (see below)</i>	114	13.9%
<i>Computer/Electronic Services</i>	42	5.12%
<i>Acquisitions</i>	32	3.9%
<i>Cataloging</i>	30	3.66%
<i>Circulation Services</i>	15	1.83%
<i>Government Documents</i>	9	1.1%
<i>Special Collections</i>	7	.85%
<i>(archives/rare books/foreign/microforms)</i>		
<i>ILL/Documents Delivery</i>	3	.37%
 <i>Members with "other" position titles or none listed</i>	 [114]	
<i>No position title given</i>	41	
<i>(the majority were academic affiliates)</i>		
<i>Vendor representatives</i>	20	
<i>Student members</i>	10	
<i>Firm Librarians</i>	9	
<i>Other academics</i>	8	
<i>Dual status job titles</i>	7	
<i>Special/Access/Instructional Services</i>	6	
<i>State/Court/County Librarians</i>	4	
<i>Other governmental librarians</i>	4	
<i>Other law related associations</i>	3	
<i>Retired members</i>	1	
<i>Attorney members</i>	1	



- ✓ **Members were fairly evenly divided among the 4 regions of the US (see the graphic display for a listing of states in each region):**

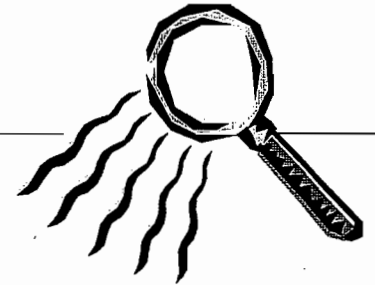
<i>Northeast</i>	28.5%
<i>Midwest</i>	25.3%
<i>West</i>	20.9%
<i>Southwest</i>	20.3%
<i>Outside the US</i>	4.7%

- ✓ **Members with multiple SIS memberships most often belonged to the following SISs:**

RIPS	16.5%
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MEMBERSHIP ANALYSIS CONTINUED...



(Continued from page 5)

CS	12.4%
TS	11.6%
GD, LH	7.4%
LISP	6.8%

- ✓ Members generally do not participate in leadership at the national, SIS, or chapter level.
 - ✓ Members who have served as officers was most common at the chapter level. Members not listing any past or present activity:

AALL-97.2%	ALL-SIS-98.5%	Other SIS - 95.6%	Chapter-90%
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 - ✓ Committee activity was most common at the national level; Members not listing any past or present activity:

AALL-67%	ALL-SIS-98.2%	SIS-98.5%	Chapter-90.2%
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- ✓ Most member profiles (98.12%) include the number of years of AALL membership; years of membership by group:

15+ years	28.41%
10+ years	22.29%
6-9 years	20.64%
3-5 years	13.63%
0-2 years	15.03%
- ✓ Members who listed their total number of years as professional librarians (53.25%) tended to be the more senior members of the profession:

15+ years	42.7%
10+ years	22.3%
6-9 years	14.5%
3-5 years	14.3%
0-2 years	6.15%

CONCLUSION

We are an SIS composed of many administrators, primarily from Public Services, and generally we have not and are not involved in leadership activities. The software that made compilation of the data so easy to crunch and display is reasonably priced and surprisingly flexible. I look forward to seeing how this year's executive board, under the able guidance of Tory Trotta, utilizes the information gathered by our survey.

FREDERICK CHARLES HICKS AWARD CONTINUED...

(Continued from page 2)

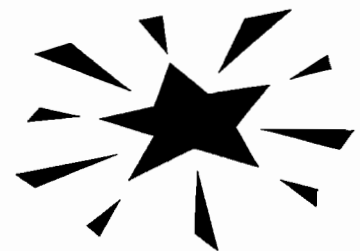
no shortage of potential award winners, it is up to ALL-SIS members to take the initiative by nominating candidates to be considered for the first award.

Nominations may be sent to ALL-SIS Awards Committee Chair Sally Holterhoff by the February 1 deadline. Further details about award procedures and criteria are available on the ALL-SIS website (<http://www/aallnet.org/sis/allsis/>).

To learn more about the namesake of this award, check the website for excerpts from several *Law Library Journal* articles from the 1940's and 1950's that feature Frederick C. Hicks.

Presentation of the award plaque to the winner for 2000 will take place at the Academic Reception during the AALL annual meeting in Philadelphia next July. With the support of members, the ALL-SIS hopes that

the Hicks award will be a source of pride among academic law librarians for years to come.



COMPARISON SHOPPING FOR HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE ON WESTLAW

By Brian Huddleston,
Evening / Weekend Reference Librarian,
Loyola University School of Law - New Orleans

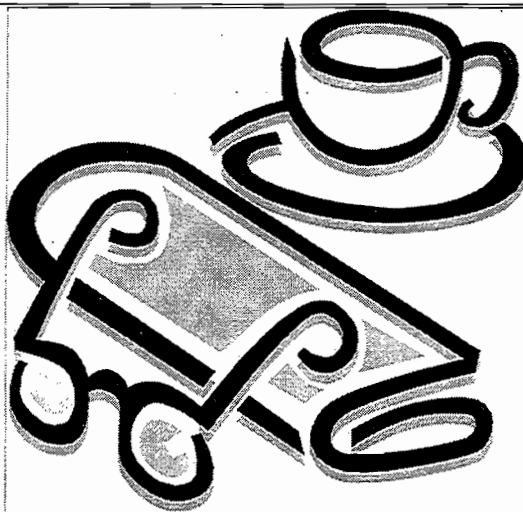
INTRODUCTION: DIALOG'S COMPUTER DATABASE ON WESTLAW

In academic law libraries, many of us regularly make decisions and recommendations to purchase computer hardware and software. When we're lucky, these purchases are planned well in advance, with plenty of time to shop. But sometimes it's a more urgent affair: an end-of-the-year budget surplus or a hurried request from higher powers forces you to make a decision in a matter of days.

In either of these situations, one underutilized resource for comparing brands of hardware and software products is the COMPUTER database on Westlaw. This Dialog database indexes articles from over a hundred computer trade journals and magazines. Full-text articles are available for select publications back to 1988 and abstracts are available back to 1983. A companion database, COMPUTER-C, contains articles from the "most recent full year to the present", but new articles are uploaded into both databases at the same time, so this brief how-to guide will only discuss COMPUTER, instead of naming both databases repeatedly.

Magazines indexed on COMPUTER include familiar titles such as *Family PC*, *Computerworld*, *MacUser*, *Computer Shopper*, and *PC Magazine*, as well as more obscure titles such as *Insurance and Technology* and *Federal Computer Week*. For a complete list of all magazines and journals covered by these databases, with an asterisk noting those available in full text, look at the scope note (the scope note for COMPUTER-C does not contain the publications list). Product reviews and comparisons are a staple of many of these magazines and cover the types of hardware and software most common to law libraries.

At my previous job I was once tasked with choosing a brand of digital scanner. A recent article I found in COMPUTER not only compared seven-



teen brands in three different price ranges, but offered detailed explanations about the relevant jargon: resolution dpi, 30-bit vs. 36-bit scanning, etc. On my recommendation, we bought the editor's choice for our price range and were completely satisfied.

NOTE: A footnote located in the 1999 Westlaw Database Directory indicates that COMPUTER is available through academic accounts only for law schools that subscribe separately to LegalTrac. Information Access Company (IAC), producer of LegalTrac, and Gale Research, the pre-merger version of the company that supplies COMPUTER to Dialog, are now both part of the Gale Group, which is owned by The Thomson Corporation, West's parent company. Customer service representatives at Westlaw confirmed this license bundling arrangement, but there was some indication that the requirement of a separate LegalTrac subscription either is no longer in force (and the footnotes in the directory are vestiges of this former policy), or is being phased out. If you can't access COMPUTER, check with your account representative. That's the best resolution of this question that I received.

HOW TO FIND PRODUCT REVIEWS ON COMPUTER

Anyone who has used *Dialog* with the traditional interface -

?s(searchterm1(s)searchterm2?) /ti,lp,de

- will appreciate the more familiar look that the Westlaw interface puts on the *Dialog* databases. Even with a loss of some functionality and a minor glitch in the database "translation", discussed below, the availability of numerous *Dialog* databases on *Westlaw* is a boon to us in academia. Additional charges for using these databases are not incurred under academic accounts, despite the proprietary software pop-up windows to that effect.

Dialog uses controlled indexing vocabulary called descriptors, which vary among the different databases. By using the appropriate descriptors on COMPUTER, you quickly can locate articles that compare specific types of computer products. For example, with the descriptors "hardware multiproduct review" and "laptop" in the descriptor field, you retrieve reviews comparing different models of laptop computers. Such a search would look like:

de("hardware multiproduct review" and laptop notebook)

"Notebook" and "laptop" are not actually single-word descriptors themselves. Rather, they are the two terms included in all relevant descriptors such as "Pentium-II Based Notebook", "PowerPC-Based Laptop/Portable Computer" and the basic "Laptop Computer". There is no master list of descriptors on COMPUTER to browse or search through (*Westlaw* does not support that "native" *Dialog* feature anyway). Instead, you have to use what *Dialog* calls the "pearl growing" search strategy - a technique we've all used but which I personally never knew had a

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TOWARD A UNIVERSAL CITATION SYSTEM...

By Jessica R. Alexander,
Reference & Circulation Librarian,
South Texas College of Law Library

Universal case citation is more than a passing fad; universal case citation is a growing legal phenomenon soon to be encountered by nearly all legal professionals. What is universal case citation and why is it becoming so important?

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) defines "medium neutral citation" (a.k.a. universal case citation, vendor neutral case citation, or public domain citation) as "...a system of citation that permits reference to legal or law-related information in any medium, print or electronic, without requiring reference to proprietary products of any particular publisher. Legal professionals and law students may find it difficult to imagine not using the familiar West's Reporter System citation format, or at least a citation to refer to another proprietor's publications. Universal case citation, however, eliminates these references as the primary citation and relegates them to parallel status.

Universal case citation sometimes is called "public domain citation," because the text of statutes, regulations, and case opinions belong to the public and are ostensibly free. The public, through lawyers, ironically pays private vendors for access to information it already owns. This practice endures despite the fact that many courts and legislatures issue their opinions, statutes, and regulations in print at the same time as for-profit publishers print the same material in special formatting and with proprietary information added. The availability of court opinions on the Internet has challenged the status quo. Many lawmakers surmise that the public good demands that authenticated court opinions on the Internet should be the preferred versions for legal argument. The biggest drawback to this proposal is the expense of retroactive conversion of documents dating back to the 1800's into the new electronic format. Courts man-



"The latest edition of *The Bluebook* has recognized universal citation format in Rule 10.3.1."

dating the new system bring the cost into account and currently still allow vendor and format specific citations.

The AALL and the American Bar Association (ABA) both have passed resolutions and have adopted guidelines on universal citations. The differences between the AALL and the ABA systems are small.

At the AALL 1999 Annual Convention, Bruce Kennedy explained the elements of the universal case citation system in a workshop entitled "The AALL Universal Case Citation Explained and Defended." Mr. Kennedy provided an example of a decision rendered by the Federal District Court for the Southern District of New York in 1996. The traditional *Bluebook* citation would be 922 F. Supp. 922 (S.D.N.Y. 1996). The AALL citation uses a case or opinion number to identify it uniquely and moves the proprietary reference to the position of a parallel citation; thus, the AALL citation is 1996 S.D.N.Y. 15, 922 F. Supp. 214. The elements of an AALL citation are the case name, year, court designator, opinion number, and op-

tion paragraph number. The AALL has issued a *User Guide to the AALL Universal Case Citation*.

The ABA Special Committee on Citation Issues, Report No. 107, proposed recommending a uniform citation form to the courts. The House of Delegates adopted this proposal on August 6, 1996. The ABA provides standards on its *Legal Technology Resource Center Uniform Citation Standards* website at <<http://www.abanet.org/citation/home.html>>. According to the website, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals is the only federal court considering universal citation. Some states have adopted or allow universal citation: Arizona, Colorado, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Some states are considering a change: Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, and Tennessee. Texas is one of the majority of states which have not implemented universal citation formats.

The latest edition of *The Bluebook* has recognized universal citation in Rule 10.3.1 and directs the writer to use the format where such citations are official. Given that some states mandate universal citation formats, law review editors should become familiar with these emerging systems.

With rapid Internet development, universal citation systems may be the wave of the future. We can be sure, however, that proprietary legal publishers will continue to upgrade their products in a manner pleasing to the legal community.

Notes

① AALL Citation Formats Committee, *The Universal Legal Citation Project: A Draft User Guide to the AALL Universal Case Citation*, 89 L. LIBR. J. 7 (1989), available at Citation Formats Committee

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COMPARISON SHOPPING CONTINUED...

(Continued from page 7)

name: locate a few articles first through basic key word searching, note the relevant descriptors, then use them in a second, comprehensive search similar to the one above. ("Pearl growing" may be more appropriate on the *Dialog* interface because you can use the "Expand" command to view a list of related descriptors after you find one; maybe "pearl diving" is a better metaphor for *Dialog* on *Westlaw*). For reference, here are some useful descriptors:

DESCRIPTORS: TYPES OF REVIEWS

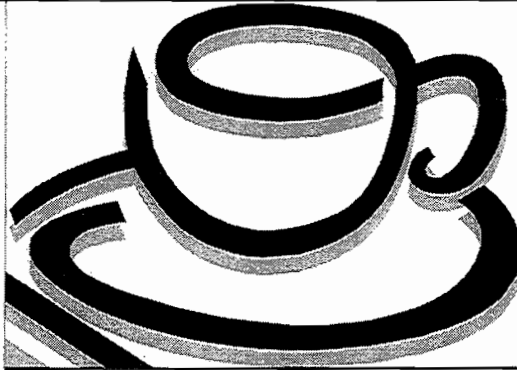
Software single product review
Software multiproduct review
Hardware single product review
Hardware multiproduct review

DESCRIPTORS: TYPES OF PRODUCTS

Word processing software
LCD projector/projection panel
Flatbed color scanner
OCR software
Pentium-II based system

[There is apparently no simple descriptor term like "laptop" available for desktop computers. Instead, the various "system" descriptors like the one above, that correspond to different processors, retrieves articles about non-laptop computers.]

The descriptor field is phrase indexed. The multi-word *Dialog* descriptors must have quotation marks around them, like phrases in any other *Westlaw* database. A slight glitch in how *Dialog*



is "translated" on *Westlaw* makes component words from descriptor phrases highlighted throughout both the text and the other fields of the retrieved documents. The documents retrieved will all contain a descriptor matching the specified phrase, so the search is working as it should: it's just a bit disconcerting to see your search terms highlighted in places besides the fields where you specified them.

Recall that *COMPUTER* contains both abstracts and full-text articles. To retrieve only full-text articles use the field for Record Type – RT – with the unhyphenated, compound word "fulltext". Also, a standard *Westlaw* date restriction can be used to limit a search to only articles from recent months. So an advanced version of the basic search above, limited to full text articles from only the past several months, would look like:

de("hardware multiproduct review" and laptop notebook) and rt(fulltext) and

date(after June 1, 1999)

If you already have one or two models or brand names that you're considering, you can use the Trade Name field – "TN" – to look for articles that specifically mention that brand or model. Combine this field with the appropriate descriptors to find recent reviews of just one brand of laptops:

tn(Dell) and de("hardware single product review" and laptop notebook) and rt(fulltext) and date(after June 1, 1999)

You can also use the Trade Name field to find out how one particular laptop model has stacked up against other competing brands and models:

tn("Dell Inspiron 7000") and de("hardware multiproduct review") and rt(fulltext) and date(after June 1, 1999)

Adding the descriptors "laptop" and "notebook" in this second example would be superfluous, as the trade name specified is itself a laptop computer model: all articles mentioning it will always contain one of the various descriptors for laptops or notebooks. With a little practice, finding relevant product reviews on *COMPUTER* will be second nature. Then you'll never make a bad purchasing decision ever again. Or, at least, you'll have supporting documentation for the purchasing decisions that you do make.

UNIVERSAL CITATION CONTINUED...

(Continued from page 8)

[visited August 10, 1999] <<http://www.aallnet.org/committee/citation/case.html>>

② Bruce Kennedy, presentation at the 1999 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries, *The AALL Universal Case Citation Explained and Defended*, at workshop entitled *AALL's Universal Citation Guide on Trial: The*

Drafters Present Their Case for the Adoption of New Standards, Part 1, (Oral Presentation with *PowerPoint* Outline) (July 18, 1999). Mr. Kennedy was the principal drafter for the AALL Citation Formats Committee.

③ Columbia Law Review, *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (16th ed. 1996).



EDUCATION COMMITTEE LOOKS AHEAD... TO MINNEAPOLIS 2001!



By Ruth J. Hill, ALL-SIS Vice Chair / Chair Elect 1999-2000,
Head of Reference Services,
Rains Law Library,
Loyola Law School - Los Angeles

The 1999-2000 Education Committee is beginning its work of identifying and developing educational programs for the 2001 Annual Meeting in Minneapolis. The Committee is soliciting your involvement in this process. Are there issues and topics that you would like to see presented in the Section sponsored programs? Do you have your own program proposal that could use co-sponsorship from ALL-SIS? Are you a member of another SIS which

jointly could sponsor programs of shared interest with ALL?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, please contact the Education Committee with your program ideas. The Committee eagerly awaits your cards, letters, e-mails, faxes, and phone calls with all of the wonderful ideas and program suggestions. Please let us hear from you.

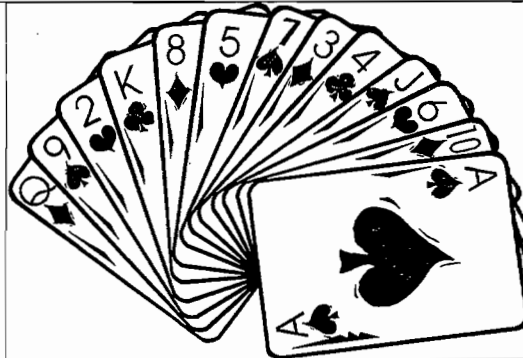
- ALL-SIS Education Committee

Dwight King, Chair
Tobe Liebert
Gordon Russell
Caroline Susta
Marjorie Crawford
Paul George [Emeritus]
Ruth J. Hill, Board Liaison

HOT JAVA: NEWS FROM THE COFFEE KLATCH

☛ Congratulations to ALL-SIS members nominated for next year's AALL slate: Barbara Bintliff (University of Colorado) running for AALL President, Pauline Aranas (Vanderbilt), Bobby Studwell (Thomas M. Cooley), and Sally Holterhoff (Valparaiso).

☛ Suzanne Thorpe, Assistant Director for Faculty and Public Services, University of Minnesota Law Library, has been named the inaugural Caroline Brede Scholar for 1999-2001. The Caroline Brede Scholar is funded through a generous endowment to the Law School from Caroline Brede, a 64-year employee of the School. The award supports the scholarly research efforts of a member of the University of Minnesota Law Library staff who exhibits dedication to advancing the service mission of the Law Library, and



who has produced significant scholarship in the fields of legal research and law librarianship. Congratulations to Suzanne.

☛ Beatrice S. Citron, Associate Law Librarian & Head of Public Services at St. Thomas University Law Library in Miami, Florida, retired on August 31, 1999. Beatrice previously worked at St. Mary's Law Library in San Antonio, Texas. She

has served as President of the South Florida Association of Law Libraries. In addition Beatrice has served on committees for SEALL, SWALL, and AALL.

☛ Jessica Hogan, University of Denver Law Library, contributed a column entitled "Teachable Moments" for the Spring 1999 issue of *Perspectives: Teaching Legal Research and Writing*.

☛ Georgia Briscoe, University of Denver Law Library has been elected Member-At-Large to the Online Bibliographic Systems SIS of AALL.

☛ Patty Wellinger, University of Denver Law Library, was appointed Chair of the AALL Placement Committee 1999-2000. In addition, she was appointed as a Committee News column editor for the *AALL Spectrum*.

Upcoming Deadlines for *The ALL-SIS Newsletter*...

📅 January 5, 2000

📅 April 1, 2000

📅 Contributions to *The ALL-SIS Newsletter* should be sent to James G. Durham, editor, at <jdurham@stcl.edu>.



AT YOUR SERVICE: THE 1999-2000 ALL-SIS LEADERSHIP

Contact information for ALL-SIS leaders of 1999-2000 is provided below. Consult the *ALL-SIS Web Pages* at <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/> for a complete listing of persons on a particular committee.

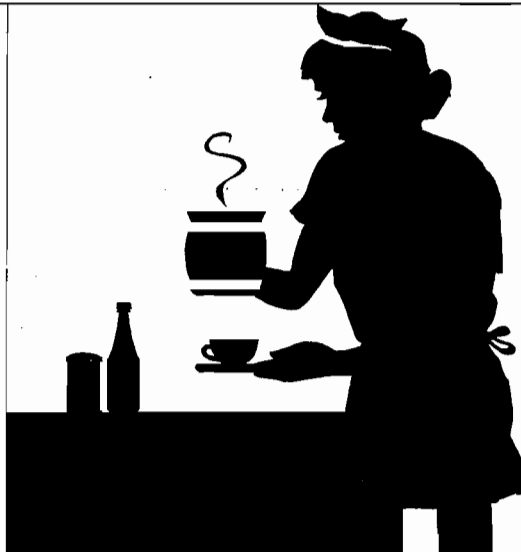
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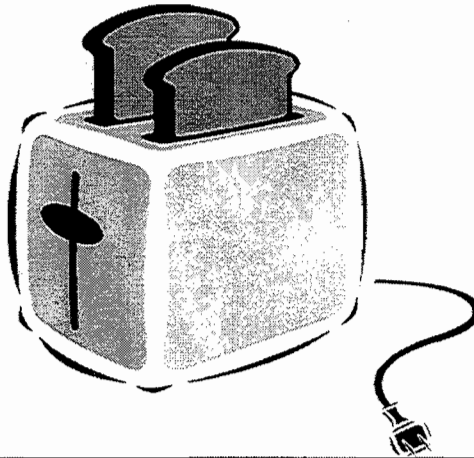
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(Continued from page 11)
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PERSPECTIVES: TEACHING LEGAL RESEARCH & WRITING

By Barbara Bintiff,
Director and Associate Professor of Law,
University of Colorado Law Library

Keeping current is an important element of professional development. The typical method is to read professional literature. The problem is narrowing the available reading material. There's much more available than we possibly ever could read.

A publication for every law librarian's short list is *Perspectives: Teaching Legal Research and Writing*. The publication, begun in 1992, is a forum for teachers of legal research and writing. "Teaching" is construed broadly, encompassing one-on-one instruction, such as reference assistance, as well as regular classes. By this broad definition, most of us are teachers.

Perspectives: Teaching Legal Research and Writing focuses on practical articles. It also addresses the theoretical foundations of legal research and writing. You'll find "how to" articles, "our question-your answers," teachable moments, writing tips, and bibliographies of recent resources. A new feature in future issues will be a "technology in teaching" column. The editorial board includes librarians from all types of law libraries as well as legal research and writing professors.

The journal is published three times a year, and is available at no cost. Subscriptions may be entered online at:

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Subscribe now! *Perspectives: Teaching Legal Research and Writing* belongs in every law librarian's "must-read" stack.

ALL-SIS BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES: SUNDAY, JULY 18, 1999 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Chair Ed Edmonds opened the meeting at 7:10 am with a welcome to all.

I. Officers' Reports

1. Secretary/Treasurer Marguerite Most

The minutes of the 1998 Business Meeting were approved as posted on the website. Marguerite Most gave the Treasurer's Report. The balance as of July, was \$8,578.

Lexis/Nexis, who contributed \$4,000 (about a third of the cost) will subsidize this year's lunch. The reception at Catholic University is sponsored in part by the West Group.

Election results: Ruth Johnson Hill was elected Vice-Chair / Chair Elect; thanks to Dwight King for running and to the nominations committee for their work. Ballots received – 335 (approximately 35% of those mailed); late/invalid ballots received – 1; blank ballots received – 1. A motion to destroy the ballots was made, seconded and passed. The Secretary/Treasurer will destroy the ballots.

2. Chair – Ed Edmonds

After thanking the many SIS volunteers for their work this year, Ed thanked the Columbus Law School of Catholic University for hosting and sponsoring this year's reception, and recognized Lexis/Nexis and the West Group for their financial support for meeting events.

Ed apologized for not having a completed Strategic Plan Initiative to bring before the members. He reviewed the work of the Strategic Planning Committee thus far and noted that the process is in capable hands with incoming chair Tory Trotta. Tory would be gathering additional input during her part of the business meeting.

Ed singled out James Durham



for revitalizing the newsletter and the education committee for their work developing programs for this year's annual meeting.

This year the SIS joins the Libraries and Technology Committee of AALL to co-sponsor: *At the Crossroads of the Age of Electronic Publishing*. The SIS is also sponsoring two round tables: *Advanced Legal Research* coordinated by Ruth Levor, and *Constructing Student Surveys* coordinated by Camille Broussard. In addition, the SIS joins the TS-SIS in co-sponsoring a Collection Development Roundtable and the RIPS-SIS in co-sponsoring the *Forum – Dialogue with Westlaw and Lexis*.

He noted that there would be breakfast meetings for directors and middle managers, as well as the SIS lunch open to all members.

II. Committee Reports

1. Education Committee

Paul George reported the results of the Committee's survey and asked for suggestions for programs for next year's annual meeting. The Committee is focusing on three categories in which members identify a need for additional education: personnel issues, the roles of librarians in education, and technology.

2. Newsletter

Ed thanked James Durham for three tremendous issues of the newsletter; James will continue as editor for another year. He is always looking for copy, so keep those articles and comments coming.

3. Website

Ed thanked Beth Smith for her work on the website. Beth reported that the site has a new address, and asked for suggestions or information to post to the site. One possibility is an archive of older articles, such as *Toward a Renaissance in Law Librarianship*, the AALL report edited by Dick Danner, on long term planning.

4. Membership

Ellen Platt reported on a survey of membership that was conducted to aid the Strategic Planning Committee, specifically in identifying how to encourage membership involvement in the SIS. WebSurvey software was used to compile the results, which Ellen plans to report in the fall newsletter. Highlights of the findings included: 87% of ALL-SIS members are academically affiliated; and 50% are at the director, associate, or department head levels; the most common correlations with other SISs were with RIPS, Computer Services and the TS-SIS.

III. Old Business

A report on the Strategic Plan was the only old business. Discussion was postponed until later in the meeting.

IV. Incoming Chair's Report

Tory Trotta opened her report with thanks to the many members who have called her to volunteer. Tory has set up a number of committees to

(Continued on page 14)

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED...

(Continued from page 13)

handle housekeeping issues and "core" issues facing the Section. After reviewing the charge to each committee, Tory urged members to volunteer. In order to share the work, she hopes to assign at least 5 members to each committee. Committees and members will be listed in the fall issue of the newsletter.

Tory enthusiastically reported on several new projects that are underway for the upcoming year: at the suggestion of Barbara Bintliff (and under her guidance), the SIS will sponsor an Academic CONELL at next year's annual meeting; Jim Milles is chairing an Academic Mentoring project; and Sally Holterhoff is chairing an Awards Committee charged with developing an annual award to be presented by the SIS to an academic law librarian.

Tory also mentioned several Special Working Groups she has charged to advise the Executive Board: Collection Development, Statistics, and Continuing Status/Tenure.

The ALL-SIS listserv is operational and Tory plans to use it to communicate with SIS members, who are automatically subscribed when they join the Section.

In-coming chair Ruth Hill is responsible for educational planning for the Minneapolis meeting in 2001. Please send her ideas for programs.

Tory expressed the concern of the Executive Board that the ALL-SIS is continually struggling to attract and involve academic law librarians, and urged members to volunteer themselves and to help her identify others willing to serve on committees and working groups.

V. New Business

Camille Broussard urged members to attend the Roundtables scheduled later in the week.



VI. New Business - Strategic Planning Dialog

Ed Edmonds recapped the work of the Strategic Planning Committee and thanked committee members. He noted that the mission statement has been published in volume 18, no. 2 of the newsletter and is posted on the website. He expressed concern that of the approximately 1,600 academics in AALL, only about half are ALL-SIS members. In particular there is a perception that the SIS is not meeting the needs of the "rank and file" academic, but is instead a section for upper managers.

Tory led a discussion focusing on ways the SIS could address members' needs and attract new members.

Numerous suggestions were made:

- * Consider programs that focus on "nuts and bolts", rather than on policy issues.

- * Use regional programs, or small, focused programs open to all such as the architecture program at Duke this spring.

- * Satellite programs and packets or training kits like those produced by the PLL-SIS.

- * A subject-focused institute followed by programs at the annual meeting (modeled after the Foreign and International Law Institute of several years ago).

- * Focus on year-round mentoring of newer members.

- * "How to" programs such as how to send email attachments.

- * Focus on "big" picture issues, most AALL annual meeting programs are not so designed.

- * Several specific program topics were suggested: dealing with a central university management; managing student workers; circulation policies; and online catalog issues. These topics may lend themselves to the round table format.

- * Bring in speakers from outside the law library field as is done at SLA.

- * A "project" with a year round focus that could serve to bring those involved together as a team at the annual meeting.

- * A "Transitions" program similar to that sponsored by LLAGNY in New York with academics working with firm librarians to prepare students for practice.

- * Library issues as opposed to law issues – maybe there are ALA programs which would be of interest to law librarians.

- * Authors talking about their books – again following the ALA model.

- * Short-term listservs with a focus on a particular issue.

- * Should the SIS have an "advocacy" role for its members?

- * ABA statistics (how does this suggestion tie in with work of the ABA committee?)

- * Mentoring lists of experienced academics to be posted on website; also a list of "experts".

- * How to handle CD-ROMs that come in books.

After thanking everyone and urging members to get involved, Tory adjourned the meeting.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marguerite Most,
ALL-SIS Secretary – Treasurer*

DON'T LET THE NEWS GET AS COLD AS YOUR YOUR COFFEE! SUBSCRIBE TO THE ALL-SIS LISTSERV

The ALL-SIS listserv is used for official ALL-SIS announcements, news from AALL, and discussion of topics of interest to our members. If you're a member of ALL-SIS, please subscribe!

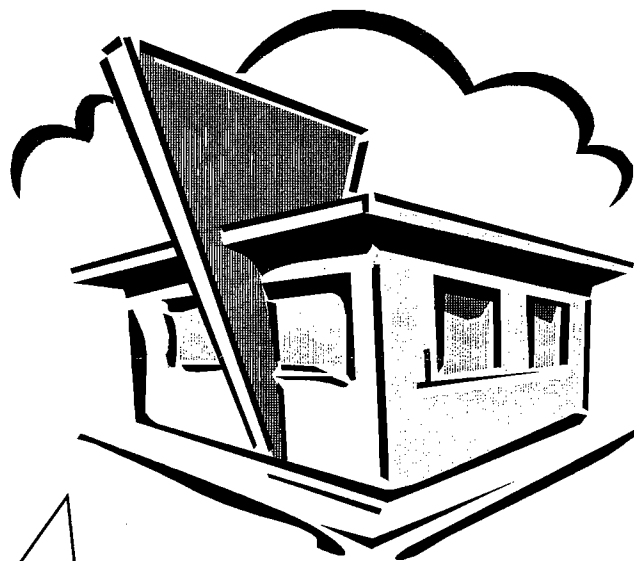
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To send a message to the list, address the message to: <all-sis@assocdir.wuacc.edu>.

Please direct any questions to the list owners Mark Folmsbee <zzfolm@acc.wuacc.edu> or James Duggan <duggan@siu.edu>.

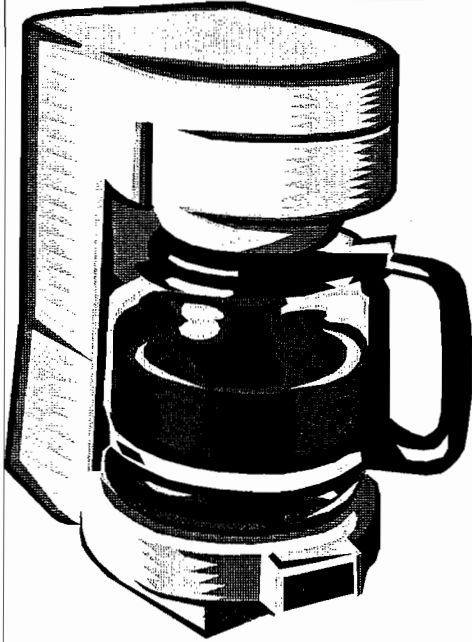
For the archives list: <<http://lawlibdns.wuacc.edu/allsis/>>.

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- ✧ AALLNET Home
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ALL-SIS on the Web:
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JAVA JIVE FROM THE HEP CAT...



Do you pine away in trendy coffee shops? Do you weep over skinny, unleaded latte because no one appreciates your literary artistry?

Look no further. Forego reciting your saccharine, self-indulgent poetry in smoke-filled caffeine dens. Write useful articles for *The ALL-SIS Newsletter* instead!

The Hep Cat newsletter editor is always seeking new copy... and he even sends thank you notes!

Have an idea? Is your passion for journalism burning like espresso on an empty stomach?

If so, contact James Durham at <sdurham@stcl.edu>. The deadline for the next issue of *The ALL-SIS Newsletter* is January 5, 2000.



James G. Durham, *The ALL-SIS Newsletter* Editor,
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"Good to the Last Drop!"

