



# The ALL-SIS Newsletter

Volume 27, Issue 3

Summer 2008

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Michelle Wu  
2007 - 2008 ALL-SIS Chair

As my term as ALL-SIS Chair comes to a close, I would like to take this time to reflect on recent events as well as highlight upcoming activities. As all of you have heard, we have lost another giant in the field this year, Roy Mersky, and his absence will be keenly felt throughout our community. ALL-SIS has made a donation to AALL's Centennial Fund in memory of Roy, and we know that his contributions to law librarianship will never be forgotten. We'll have an article about Roy in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Our election of new officers took place in April. Please join me in congratulating our

incoming Board members: Beth Adelman, Vice-Chair/Chair Elect, and Sara Sampson, Secretary/Treasurer. Thanks to everyone who voted! Congratulations also go to the recipients of this year's ALL-SIS awards and grants. For the **Frederick Charles Hicks Award for Outstanding Contributions to Academic Law Librarianship**, we have two equally deserving awardees: Roy M. Mersky and Robert L. Oakley. The winner of the **ALL-SIS Outstanding Article Award** is Carol Parker for her article, *Institutional Repositories and the Principle of Open Access: Changing the Way We Think About Legal Scholarship*, 37 *New Mexico L. Rev.* 431 (2007). For the **ALL-SIS Outstanding Service Award**, we have two recipients: Diane Murley (webmaster) and Leah Sandwell-Weiss

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## ALL-SIS Programs Accepted for the 2008 Annual Meeting

Darla Jackson, Head of Reference and Access Services  
Oklahoma City University Law Library

The ALL Program Committee received an exciting selection of program proposals. Along with the Program Committee Chair, Sara Sampson, the members of the committee, April Schwartz, Darla Jackson, Kathleen McLeod, Kira Zaporski, and Paddy Satzer, carefully reviewed each of the

proposals. The ALL Program Committee forwarded its recommendations to the AALL Annual Meeting Program Committee for Review. Ten programs, including one workshop, and three alternate programs, for a total of thirteen ALL-SIS sponsored programs were accepted for the 2008 AALL Annual Meeting. A schedule of programs

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## ALL-SIS Programs in Portland, Cont'd

arranged by date and time can be found here.

### **A-1: The Library's Role in Educating Lawyers: Considering the Carnegie Report**

**Audience:** All librarians interested in legal education

**Competency addressed:** Teaching

An author of the Carnegie Report will provide an overview of the observations and recommendations as well as the learning theories behind these recommendations. Library directors and legal educators will then discuss the roles that libraries can play in curriculum reform, and the services, programs and courses librarians can offer to make graduates more "practice ready."

### **A-6: From Books to Facebook: Can We Energize Privacy as Library 2.0 Services Evolve?**

**Audience:** public services, administrative, and IT librarians in academic, firm and government law libraries

**Competency addressed:** Reference, Research and Patron Services

Some warn that to stay relevant libraries must embrace participatory networks like Facebook or Del.icio.us as tools for effective learning, building Library 2.0 services - even at the expense of privacy. Others assert library privacy and anonymous reading are protected by librarians' professional ethics and the law and are essential to our democracy. How might libraries limit or prevent the collection and secondary uses of personally identifying information used in Library 2.0 services?

### **C-3: Explore the Real World in Real Time: Making Legal News on Jurist (with CS-SIS)**

**Audience:** Law librarians

**Competency addressed:** Information Technology

Explore how the real time legal research and ready reference techniques are applied every day

to legal news production on JURIST. JURIST Publisher & Editor-in-Chief Professor Bernard Hibbitts and a member of JURIST's law student staff will discuss the challenges of covering national and international legal developments as they happen. They will demonstrate how law librarians interested in working with Internet-based resources can provide quality real time research content online via blogware, RSS, and other delivery systems.

### **E-2: A Century in the Making: Researching Legal Ethics Today**

**Audience:** Reference and research librarians

**Competency addressed:** Reference, Research and Patron Services

In recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the ABA's adoption of the Canons of Professional Ethics, the presenters will analyze and contrast the essential print and electronic resources for researching issues in legal ethics and the law governing lawyers in today's research environment.

### **E-4: 30 Critical Technology Tools: Free and Inexpensive Software to Help your Daily Life**

**Audience:** Library staff who use computers frequently for reference, research or web maintenance

**Competency addressed:** Information Technology

This will be a fast-paced program to show thirty software programs or web-based services useful for managing and interacting with information on computers. Here are names of services likely to be covered in this session: Firebug, Web Developer Toolbar, Conduit.com, Meebo, Kuler, Zotero, AddThis.com, and the list goes on.

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## ALL-SIS Programs in Portland, Cont'd

### F-4: Energize Your Catalog! Get Electronic Titles Out of Their Silos and Into Your OPAC

**Audience:** All librarians interested in improving patron access by adding records for electronic titles to their online catalogs

**Competency addressed:** Collection Care and Management

Law libraries invest in an ever-growing number of electronic databases. Do our users have equal access to the content in these databases if we do not catalog the titles within them? Find out how some law libraries are integrating titles from bundled electronic databases into their catalogs. Panelists will discuss different options such as purchasing MARC records and title coverage lists, modifying OCLC and vendor-supplied records, and employing federated searching and open URL resolvers.

### G-1: Beyond Volume Count: Exploring the Evolving Tools for Evaluating Library Quality

**Audience:** Library administrators and public services librarians in academic, law firm, and government

**Competency addressed:** Library Management

The ABA and the AALS have evaluated a law library's quality primarily by measuring its physical collection. As more information becomes available electronically, physical measurement, like volume count, becomes just one of many ways to judge libraries' contribution to parent organizations. This session will consider different ways that libraries can use patron feedback to assess quality of a law library and to develop new services.

### H-6: Exploring Initiative and Referendum Law: Origins of the "Oregon System," Political Realities, and Research Tips

**Audience:** All librarians, particularly public services librarians in academic, public and private libraries

**Competency addressed:** Reference, Research and Patron Services

What do physician-assisted suicide, daylight

savings time, same-sex marriage, and eminent domain have in common? Laws on all these subjects were passed via the initiative or referendum process. This program will explore these unique political tools from a variety of perspectives, ranging from a description of the origins of the movement - a.k.a. the "Oregon System" - in the late 19th century, to a discussion about electronic publication and preservation of I&R related documents in the 21st century.

### I-6: Exploring Online Instructional Tools: A Showcase

**Audience:** All law librarians who provide instruction

**Competency addressed:** Teaching

In addition to traditional instructional methods, 21st Century learners demand "just in time" learning opportunities as a part of their legal education. Why should we hesitate to meet the demand when there are tools that are old and familiar or new and free or inexpensive that can be used to deliver instruction online? In this series of demonstrations, participants will learn how CALI Author, LibGuides, traditional audio, Microsoft products, and even still photographs, have been used to develop enhancements to legal instruction.

### W-5: Amazing Technical Services: The Director's Cut (with TS-SIS)

**Audience:** Law library directors and administrators

**Competency addressed:** Library Management

Law library directors constantly face the challenges of providing excellent services with limited resources, underscored by an unprecedented spectrum of electronic resources and tools. This workshop will update library administrators on 21st century technical services tools and solutions for a wide array of management issues including assessment, acquisitions, and information access functions.

## ALL-SIS Programs in Portland, Cont'd

### ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

#### Supporting New Faculty - Help them to Energize, Evolve and Explore their Teaching and Scholarship Responsibilities

**Audience:** Academic Librarians who work with faculty

**Competency addressed:** Reference, Research and Patron Services

This program is intended to show how and why to offer special services tailored to new faculty. New faculty includes those new to the profession as well as those who are new to your institution, and opportunities to support them in their research occur at every point from the recruitment process and throughout their first years of teaching. The program will demonstrate that formal programs and services for new faculty not only help them to be successful in teaching and scholarship, but also benefit the library by making these faculty members library supporters throughout their careers.

#### Evolving Research Instruction: Exploring Law Student Information Literacy to Energize Instructional Programming

**Audience:** Academic and firm law librarians involved in the education and training of law students and attorneys

**Competency addressed:** Teaching

Information Literacy (IL) has been commonly defined as the ability to find, navigate, and evaluate information and information sources. Although numerous articles have been written about IL (and related research or bibliographic instruction) in the literature of library science, only a handful of scholars have applied this concept to law students and to instructional programming in law libraries. The general consensus among these scholars is that Law Student Information Literacy (LSIL) is quite low,

and that law librarians can utilize the concept of IL to engage law students with the intellectual and practical contexts of legal research.

#### Evolving from Snoozing to Using: Increasing Student-Centered Learning Using Educational Technology

**Audience:** Teaching Librarians interested in using technology

**Competency addressed:** Teaching

Law librarians will demonstrate how they used educational technology both inside and outside the classroom to increase student engagement and create an environment of student-centered learning in their introductory, intermediate, and advanced legal research classes. They will discuss their strategies for moving to an environment where students are actively engaged in constructing knowledge and solving research problems in class.

For additional program and presenter information visit [www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/annualmeeting/2008/programs.htm](http://www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/annualmeeting/2008/programs.htm).



## Schedule of ALL-SIS Programs & Events

Program descriptions can be found here and on the ALL-SIS website at [www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/annualmeeting/2008/programs.htm](http://www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/annualmeeting/2008/programs.htm).

Day, Date	Time	Program/Event
<b>Saturday, July 12</b>	11:45 - 5:00	W-5: Amazing Technical Services: The Director's Cut (with TS-SIS)
	3:00 - 5:00	Middle Managers Meeting
<b>Sunday, July 13</b>	1:30 - 2:45	A-1: The Library's Role in Educating Lawyers: Considering the Carnegie Report
	1:30 - 2:45	A-6: From Books to Facebook: Can We Energize Privacy as Library 2.0 Services Evolve?
	1:30 - 2:45	Alternative Program: Supporting New Faculty - Help them to Energize, Evolve and Explore their Teaching and Scholarship Responsibilities
	3:00 - 4:00	Alternative Program: Evolving Research Instruction: Exploring Law Student Information Literacy to Energize Instructional Programming
	4:15 - 5:15	C-3: Explore the Real World in Real Time: Making Legal News on Jurist (with CS-SIS)
	5:30 - 6:30	New Academic Law Librarians Meeting (NALLM)
	6:30 - 10:00	ALL-SIS Business Meeting, Awards & Reception
	<b>Monday, July 14</b>	9:45 - 10:30
9:45 - 10:30		E-4: 30 Critical Technology Tools: Free and Inexpensive Software to Help your Daily Life
10:30 - 10:30		Alternative Program: Evolving from Snoozing to Using: Increasing Student-Centered Learning Using Educational Technology
10:45 - 11:45		F-4: Energize Your Catalog! Get Electronic Titles Out of Their Silos and Into Your OPAC
4:00 - 5:15		G-1: Beyond Volume Count: Exploring the Evolving Tools for Evaluating Library Quality
<b>Tuesday, July 15</b>	9:00 - 10:30	H-6: Exploring Initiative and Referendum Law: Origins of the "Oregon System," Political Realities, and Research Tips
	10:45 - 11:45	I-6: Exploring Online Instructional Tools: A Showcase

## Join Us for the 2008 Legislative Advocacy Leadership Training in Portland!

Please join the Washington Affairs Office and the Government Relations Committee in Portland for the 2008 AALL Legislative Advocacy Leadership Training! The training will be held this year from 8:30 a.m. until noon on Saturday, July 12th. Attendance is available on a first-come, first-served basis and there is no cost for AALL members.

This year, the Advocacy Training will focus on crucial state issues, including some of the challenges faced by county law libraries. Our panel discussion, titled "County Law Libraries: Facing Challenges, Finding Solutions," will feature a set of extremely knowledgeable speakers, including Jacquelyn Jurkins of the Multnomah Law Library, Joan M. Bellistri of the Anne Arundel County Public Law Library, and Larry Meyer of the Law Library for San Bernardino County. Angela Baldree of the Lake County Law Library will be moderating this event and will share some of her own experiences in Ohio.

After some words of wisdom for a local keynote speaker (details TBA), the second part of the training will feature breakout sessions where you will learn strategies and skills to get your message heard! The breakout sessions will focus on funding and outreach for county, court and government law libraries; updates on the AALL authentication report and summit and strategies for moving ahead; and a role playing activity to get you more comfortable speaking with your lawmakers.

We invite you to the Advocacy Training to learn more information about the Washington Affairs Office, make connections with new colleagues, learn better communications skills, and gain the confidence to talk to policy-makers and get your message heard. All you need to bring with you is energy, enthusiasm, and the willingness to

become active on the legislative front!

You can register simply by sending an email to Emily Feldman, AALL Advocacy Communications Assistant, at [ejf33@law.georgetown.edu](mailto:ejf33@law.georgetown.edu), and we'll add you to the list. We look forward to seeing you there!

Below is the draft agenda.

### **AALL Annual Meeting, Portland OR Legislative Advocacy Leadership Training: Navigating the Advocacy Wilderness: Tools and Tips to Become an Effective Advocate Saturday, July 12, 2008, 8:30 A.M. - Noon**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 8:30 - 9:00 a.m.   | Registration, Continental Breakfast and Networking   |
| 9:00 - 9:10 a.m.   | Welcome, Introductions, Goals  |
| 9:10 - 9:30 a.m.   | Hot Topics and Updates on AALL's Policy and Legislative Agenda<br>Mary Alice Baish, Associate Washington Affairs Representative  |
| 9:30 - 10:00 a.m.  | County Law Libraries: Facing Challenges, Finding Solutions<br>Moderator: Angela Baldree, Lake County Law Library<br>Speakers:<br>Jacquelyn Jurkins, Multnomah Law Library<br>Joan M. Bellistri, Anne Arundel County Public Law Library<br>Larry Meyer, Law Library for San Bernardino County |
| 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. | Key Note Speaker [TBA]   |

## Proposed Amendments to ALL-SIS Bylaws **Call for Papers Program in Portland**

Deborah Norwood, Chair  
ALL-SIS Bylaws Committee

The ALL-SIS Bylaws Committee is proposing the following changes to Art. V, sec. 3:

### Article V: OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES Section 3. Succession

~~In the event of the disability or withdrawal of the Chair, the title, duties, and obligations of the office shall be assumed by the Vice-Chair, who shall then serve until the end of his or her own term as Chair. If the vacancy occurs more than twenty weeks before the next election, a special election shall be held to fill the office of Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect upon the assumption of the office of Chair by the Vice-Chair.~~

**The occurrence of a vacancy in the position of chair shall be filled by the succession of the present vice chair/chair-elect to serve as chair until the next scheduled election of special interest section officers. The occurrence of a vacancy in the position of vice-chair/chair-elect or secretary-treasurer (either before or after the vice-chair or secretary-treasurer takes office) shall be filled by a special election conducted by the nominating committee. The person elected by special election shall serve in this position for the duration of the term of office.**

A pdf version of this proposed change is available at the ALL-SIS website for your review by visiting the ALL-SIS website ([www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/](http://www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/)) and clicking on the link to “Proposed Bylaws Change” or going directly to [www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/bylaws/proposedbylaws2008.pdf](http://www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/bylaws/proposedbylaws2008.pdf).

A vote on the amendment will be scheduled for the ALL-SIS business meeting at the annual meeting of AALL in Portland in July.

We are proposing the change because the ALL-SIS Bylaws dealing with succession due to a vacancy differ with the model AALL Bylaws for SIS’s. To view the model AALL Bylaws for SIS’s, visit [www.aallnet.org/committee/bylaws/bylaws.html](http://www.aallnet.org/committee/bylaws/bylaws.html).

Joseph Gerken, Chair  
AALL LexisNexis Call for Papers Committee

Each year, with the sponsorship of Lexis-Nexis, AALL conducts a “Call for Papers” competition to recognize librarians who author significant works of scholarship. The winners of the AALL Lexis-Nexis Call for Papers Award discuss their respective papers in a session at the AALL Annual Meeting. This year’s program - to which all conference attendees are invited to attend - will be held on Sunday, July 13, at 3:00 p.m.

In addition to presentations by the award winners, the program also includes a guest speaker. This year’s guest will be Michael Chiorazzi, Associate Dean for Information Services, Professor of Law and Information Resources & Library Science, at the Rogers College of Law, The University of Arizona. Mr. Chiorazzi is the editor of *Legal Reference Services Quarterly*, and co-editor of *Prestatehood Legal Materials: A Fifty-State Research Guide*, which won AALL’s 2007 Joseph L. Andrews Bibliographic Award.

The winners also have their articles published in *Law Library Journal*. The current issue of *Law Library Journal*, Volume 100, No.1, features two winning articles from the 2007 Call for Papers. Those articles are:

- Margaret A. Leary, *Discovering William Cook: Ten Sources for Reconstructing the Life of a Lawyer*, 100 Law Libr. J. 39 (2008), available at [www.aallnet.org/products/pub\\_llj\\_v100n01/2008-03.pdf](http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub_llj_v100n01/2008-03.pdf), and
- Connie Lenz & Helen Wohl, *Does Form Follow Function? Academic Law Libraries’ Organizational Structures for Collection Development*, 100 Law Libr. J. 59 (2008),

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## Call for Papers, Cont'd

available at [www.aallnet.org/products/pub\\_llj\\_v100n01/2008-04.pdf](http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub_llj_v100n01/2008-04.pdf).

These two articles shared the award for the Open Division competition.

The prior issue of *Law Library Journal*, Volume 99, No.4, featured the winner of the Student Division of the 2007 Call for Papers:

- Shawn G. Nevers, *Candy, Points and Highlighters: Why Librarians, Not Venders, Should Teach CALR to First-Year Students*, 99 *Law Libr. J.* 757 (2007), available at [www.aallnet.org/products/pub\\_llj\\_v99n04/2007-46.pdf](http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub_llj_v99n04/2007-46.pdf).

Congratulations to these outstanding librarian-authors. The Call for Papers Committee looks forward to seeing you in Portland at our program.

## The Role of Print Repositories in an Electronic Age

Carmen Brigandi, Assistant Director for Technical & Administrative Services  
California Western School of Law

This program at AALL, sponsored by TS-SIS, may be of interest to many members of ALL-SIS. Scheduled for Sunday, July 13, from 3:00 - 4:00 PM, the program will address the role of print repositories in an electronic age, as well as offer insights, concepts, and logistics of the program. The program will be presented by Kent McKeever and Jerry Dupont, both members of the Legal Information Preservation Alliance's (LIPA) Print Retention Program, and myself.

This program concept is to physically preserve 5 to 6 copies of selected core U.S. legal materials. Online resources have practically eliminated the need for print versions of legal materials, however often the print is the only

“official” version when an electronic version is questionable.

Participation in LIPA is open to anyone who has the selected materials and can offer access that is secure and climate controlled. This sharing of archival repositories would result in the preservation of print legal materials, possibly sharing access to jointly held materials, as well as providing the housing and proper treatment for last, best copies.

The Print Retention Program has been developing this concept, taking into account input from the community in general. This program explores crucial issues such as: Must the print repositories be for preservation but non-retrieval, or is retrieval from extremely low-use open storage acceptable? What are the tradeoffs between regional shared facilities vs. making separate arrangements for off-site storage? How can information about the status of specific titles be shared? What considerations for administration and coordination need to be taken into account?

LIPA has established a preliminary informal agreement with the Law Library Microform Consortium (LLMC) to set up a control website. The initial record from Columbia & Harvard can be seen at [www.llmc.com/AboutLIPA.asp](http://www.llmc.com/AboutLIPA.asp).

This program will inform participants of the materials covered, the technical steps, and the legal steps that have been initiated, and will explore the future steps needed. Please join Kent, Jerry, and me as we share our visions, and the future of print legal materials.

## ALL-SIS Student Services Committee

### First Annual Report

James G. Durham, Committee Chair

The ALL-SIS Student Services Committee was initiated by the 2007 - 2008 ALL-SIS Chair, Michelle Wu. She appointed James G. Durham as the first Committee Chair. The ALL-SIS Board Liaison was Filippa Marullo Anzalone. Initial members of the committee included Hays Butler, Gary Hill, Karen Storin Linitz, Paul Moorman, Tawnya Plumb, Michael Roffer, Etheldra Scoggin, and Monica Sharum.

The Committee web site was established by Diane Murley, ALL-SIS Web Administrator at [www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/committees/students/](http://www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/committees/students/). The first web site posting was the record of minutes for the first Committee meeting on Monday, July 16, in the Hilton New Orleans Riverside during the 2007 Annual Conference. The minutes included plans for the year and a tentative timeline for projects.

A new *ALL-SIS Student Services Committee Handbook* was created in the fall of 2008 and was added to the Committee's web site. The Handbook, which is intended to be expanded and updated annually, contains a history of the committee, charges and goals, an annual calendar, web page information, and a provision for handbook maintenance.

The major undertaking of the Committee was creation and dissemination of a "Student Services in Academic Law Libraries Survey." The initial draft was authored by James Durham, with subsequent critiques and additions from the Committee members and Board Liaison. These comments were incorporated into the final version of the survey, which was loaded on Zoomerang by Paul Moorman. After several test runs by members, the survey was distributed in

March on the LAW-LIB and ALL-SIS discussion lists, and also was posted on the Committee web site. The survey received 289 visits, ending in 178 completed responses. The detailed results of this survey are available on the Committee web site and in an *ALL-SIS Newsletter* article that accompanies this report.

In conjunction with the tallying of survey results, the Committee collected sample student services documents and publicity materials for an online bank, which will be loaded by Diane Murley on the Committee's web site by early June. This initial bank, which will be expanded annually, is intended to serve as a source of inspiration for academic law librarians.

In addition to any charges recommended by the ALL-SIS Board, the Committee recommends attention in the upcoming year to several issues and projects suggested by respondents to the "Student Services in Academic Law Libraries Survey." These projects include expanding the online bank of documents, drafting sample policies for librarian collaboration with law journals, and creating a survey of law student research habits and needs.

### Results of the "Student Services in Academic Law Libraries Survey"

James G. Durham, Committee Chair

The ALL-SIS Student Services Committee collaborated this spring to create a survey, intended to develop a snapshot of student services in academic law libraries during the 2007-2008 academic year. The "Student Services in Academic Law Libraries Survey" is a first step of this inaugural ALL-SIS committee to assess the state of student services, with an eye toward promoting and improving student services in upcoming years.

The Zoomerang survey was distributed in March of 2008, receiving 178 complete responses that could

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## Student Services Survey, Cont'd

be used to tally meaningful results. The survey consisted of 51 questions, most with multiple choice answers. Nine open-ended questions allowed respondents to submit personalized answers. The survey was distributed through the LAW-LIB and ALL-SIS discussion lists, and was posted on the web site of the ALL-SIS Student Services Committee.

This article presents the results of the survey, including some of the open-ended comments, and concludes with suggestions for future committee action related to the results. (Please note that percentages for some questions add to 99% or 101%, instead of 100%, because percentages have been rounded to whole numbers.) The current members hope that subsequent incarnations of the committee will use these results as the basis for surveys and for projects designed to improve student services in legal academia.

### STUDENT ORIENTATION

- Do the librarians at your school participate in school-wide new student orientation sessions? Yes - 84%; No - 16%
- Do the librarians provide a separate session during orientation that concerns library policies and/or research? Yes - 62%; No - 21%; Librarians present with others - 16%
- Do the librarians provide library tours as a part of new student orientation? Yes - 72%; No - 28%
- Do the librarians provide information (in paper or electronic form) that is included in the general orientation packet distributed by the school at first-year orientation? Yes - 69%; No - 31%
- Do the librarians provide separate library information packets or electronic files (such as flash drives) during orientation that are not

included in the general orientation packet distributed by the school? Yes - 44%; No - 56%

- *Open-ended question:* Comments about librarian participation in new student orientation.

A common theme of the 70 comments received for Question 6 was “not enough time.” Many librarians felt that the short period (generally ranging from 15-30 minutes) allotted to library services during orientation was insufficient to cover essential information. Several librarians said that the “spillover” was handled during the first few weeks of LRW classes, when librarians gave required introductory lectures and conducted library tours. Topics covered during orientation included passwords for Lexis and Westlaw, logging into campus networks, wireless access, TWEN, and library policies. One librarian commented, “Students are drinking from a firehose during orientation, and spill some. We must remind them later about the catalog, etc. ...” At least one library teaches the first session of their legal bibliography course during orientation week. Librarians had varied opinions about library tours during orientation. Some thought orientation tours were “of limited utility,” while others included them regularly. Many libraries use orientation as an opportunity to socialize with students, promoting services and being “among the first friendly faces that new students see.” In this vein, some libraries sponsor refreshment breaks during orientation, host an atrium information table, and hold welcome

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## Student Services Survey, Cont'd

receptions in the library. One librarian likes orientation because it “presents the librarians ... as full working partners within the law school environment.” Another librarian mentioned participating in orientation for L.L.M. students.

### JOURNALS/MOOT COURT

- Is a specific staff member assigned as the library’s liaison to law journals? Yes - 43%; Shared responsibility - 27%; No - 30%
- Do the librarians provide orientation sessions for new law journal staff members? Yes - 72%; No - 28%
- Do the librarians provide law journal staff members with a packet or electronic file (such as a flash drive) of materials about library services to journals? Yes - 35%; No - 65%
- Do the librarians provide orientation sessions for members of moot court teams? Yes - 20%; No - 80%
- Do the librarians provide moot court team members with a packet or electronic file (such as a flash drive) of materials about library assistance to teams? Yes - 10%; No - 90%
- Does the library have a web page (or section of a web page) devoted to services to law journals? Yes - 19%; No - 81%
- Does the library have a web page (or section of a web page) devoted to services to moot court teams? Yes - 2%; No - 98%
- *Open-ended question:* Comments about library services to law journals and moot court teams.

Question 14 garnered 49 comments. Some libraries appoint librarians as liaisons to specific journals, while others report sporadic interest of law review editors in training and interaction. Librarians who

regularly train journal staffs covered the following topics in sessions: Bluebook, cite-checking, interlibrary loan procedures, and establishing TWEN and Lexis Web Courses pages for individual journals. Some journals assign a particular editor to coordinate interlibrary loan for the journal staff. One respondent mentioned the importance of contacting journal editors early in the year to establish a relationship. One library extends hours to accommodate moot court competitions.

### STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

- Do any librarians serve as faculty/staff sponsors for student organizations? Yes - 14%; No - 86%
- *Open-ended question:* If so, how many librarians and which organizations?

23 respondents commented on Question 16. Librarians sometimes are assigned as formal liaisons to moot court boards, alternative dispute resolution groups, and law journals. On a volunteer basis, librarians have served as sponsors for the following student organizations: ACLU, Animal Law, Children’s Advocacy Law Society, Christian Legal Society, Gay-Straight Alliance, Health Law Society, International Law Society, Lambda Legal Society, Legal Democrats, National Lawyers Guild, Native American Law Students, Outlaw, South Asian Law Students Association, and Women’s Law Students Association. Someone also served as the sponsor for the student newspaper.

## Student Services Survey, Cont'd

- Do any librarians participate in the activities of student organizations? Yes - 28%; No - 72%
- *Open-ended question:* If so, how many librarians and which organizations?

Even when not serving as official sponsors of student organizations, many librarians attend meetings and assist with special events such as talent shows, food-eating contests, running races, and serving as judges in competitions. Some respondents mentioned multiple librarians participating in student groups such as American Constitution Society, Animal Defense, Black Law Students Association, International Law Society, Lesbian and Gay Law Students Association, Medical Law Society, Native American Law Students Association, Public Interest Law Foundation, Student Bar Association, and various moot court groups. Question 18 received 38 responses.

- *Open-ended question:* Comments about librarian participation in student organizations.

Most respondents had expressed their views in comments for Questions 16 and 18. Thus, only 22 brief comments were received for Question 19. Participation in student organizations seems to vary from year to year, depending on staff interest and student activism. One librarian commented, "Do it. Good visibility."

### STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

- Do any librarians teach or administrate in summer or semester study abroad programs? Yes - 13%; No - 87%

- Do librarians participate in orientation sessions for study abroad sessions? Yes - 10%; No - 90%
- *Open-ended question:* Comments about librarian participation in study abroad programs.

38 comments were submitted for Question 22. Several librarians conduct guest lectures for professors teaching foreign L.L.M. students. Some librarians teach "resource sessions on the law of the host nation prior to study abroad trips." One librarian collaborates with the IT Director to teach a joint session before each study abroad program. At one school, two librarians travel each year to teach the legal research component of two study abroad programs (one for each program). At another school, two librarians occasionally serve as program administrators. One person coordinates an annual study abroad program. Several librarians expressed an interest in participating in study abroad programs, but said that librarians currently are not doing so at their schools. One respondent (hopefully, a comedian) said, "We'd love to do this kind of thing, but as it is - well, it is a struggle not to do vodka shots in my office."

### REFERENCE SERVICES

- How many hours per week is your reference desk staffed?
  - 0 (on call only) - 5%
  - 1-25 - 3%
  - 26-50 - 12%
  - 51-75 - 53%

(Continued on page 13)

## Student Services Survey, Cont'd

- 76-100 - 23%
- 101 or more - 5%
- Please estimate what percentage of reference queries (phone, email, instant messaging, and in-person) at your library come from law students?
  - 1%-25% - 9%
  - 26%-50% - 31%
  - 51%-75% - 39%
  - 76%-100% - 22%
- What percentage of student reference queries are addressed by telephone?
  - 1%-25% - 93%
  - 26%-50% - 5%
  - 51%-75% - 1%
  - 76%-100% - 1%
- What percentage of student reference queries are addressed by email?
  - None - 5%
  - 1%-25% - 86%
  - 26%-50% - 7%
  - 51%-75% - 3%
  - 76%-100% - 0%
- What percentage of student reference queries are addressed by instant messaging?
  - None - 74%
  - 1%-25% - 25%
  - 26%-50% - 1%
  - 51%-75% - 0%
  - 76%-100% - 1%
- What percentage of student reference queries are addressed in-person?
  - 1%-25% - 4%
  - 26%-50% - 22%
  - 51%-75% - 37%
  - 76%-100% - 37%
- Are librarians available to assist students by individual appointments? Yes - 97%; No - 3%
- If so, approximately how many individual student appointments are scheduled each year?
  - 1-25 - 50%
  - 26-50 - 28%
  - 51-75 - 12%
  - 76-100 - 4%
  - More than 100 - 6%
- Does your library provide paper copies of research guides for students, written by the librarians? Yes - 74%; No - 26%
- Does your library provide online copies of research guides for students, written by the librarians? Yes - 88%; No - 12%
- Does your library maintain a bank of old exams (paper or online) for students to consult? Yes - 92%; No - 8%
- *Open-ended question:* Comments about library reference services.
 

Only 15 librarians submitted comments for Question 34. Respondents expressed an interest in exploring (or expanding) chat and instant messaging as a mode of reference services to students. One librarian mentioned the importance of personal contact with students and said the library held an annual Technology Fair where students attend training sessions and demos of electronic resources, conducted by company representatives and by librarians.

(Continued on page 23)

## PreCYdent: A New Search Engine Enters the Legal Research World

Steven Robert Miller, Ruth Lilly Law Library  
Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis

A new legal search engine named PreCYdent debuted earlier this year. PreCYdent.com was founded in April of 2006 to create new technologies for legal research. “PreCYdent” is an old English spelling of the word “precedent,” but the “cy” in the spelling is suggestive of “cybernetics.” PreCYdent.com was co-founded by Thomas A. Smith,<sup>1</sup> a law professor at the University of San Diego. PreCYdent.com is based upon the application of a proprietary search system to a database of over 923,000 federal and state cases,<sup>2</sup> over 51,000 statutes,<sup>3</sup> regulations and other legal documents.<sup>4</sup>



While working on a law review article in 2004, Professor Smith read a book unrelated to his research at the time entitled, *Linked: The New Science of Networks*<sup>5</sup>, by Albert-László Barabási. Barabási’s book influenced Smith to write a paper entitled “Web of Law,” which he posted to SSRN.<sup>6</sup> The reception to his SSRN paper was very positive from law librarians and law professors, but no academic law review saw the same importance in it as Smith did and those providing positive

feedback.

Professor Smith began cold-calling mathematicians who might be interested in his idea of writing a paper about legal citation networks. He found a graduate student of the internationally known computer scientist Piero Fraternali, Antonio Tomarchio,<sup>7</sup> who was visiting at Cornell. Tomarchio and Smith wrote about the mathematical properties of legal citation networks. In April of 2006, Smith and Tomarchio formed PreCYdent to build a legal search engine, and Smith found an angel investor in San Diego, who invested \$100,000 towards the development of PreCYdent. Smith and Tomarchio began to form a team to build the legal search engine we call PreCYdent today.

PreCYdent has all U.S. Supreme Court decisions, all U.S. Courts of Appeals decisions reported in the Federal Reporter from 1950 to 2006, and all published and unpublished Courts of Appeals decisions reported after 2006. PreCYdent has an incomplete U.S. District Court database of decisions since 2004. In addition to federal court decisions, PreCYdent also “crawls” state court sites for all available state cases. The back file of state decisions varies from state to state. For example, the Arizona Court of Appeals’ decisions go back to January of 2008, but the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals’ decisions go back to January of 1900. Most state case law on PreCYdent goes back about ten years. Archival data is much harder and more expensive to provide users. Licensing archival data will be expensive. Professor Smith recently received a quote for a licensing agreement from one of the three largest legal publishers of about 45 cents per 1,000 words. “When you have four million cases, such an agreement would cost about \$10 million.”<sup>8</sup>

(Continued on page 15)

## PreCYdent, Cont'd

Despite its popularity, there are no plans to charge anyone for using PreCYdent. Some have asked the question as to “why should PreCYdent be free.” Smith replies, “Well, looking at it from the other side, why shouldn’t it be free? This information is in the public domain.”<sup>9</sup> Professor Smith has given some thought to providing subscription services in the future if they develop PreCYdent in the area of non-public domain materials. As he explained, there is a crowded market with low-end providers. “We don’t want to be another entrant in already crowded space.”

PreCYdent’s algorithm offers another way to cut the material and to make sure nothing important is missed. Therefore, even lawyers with a flat-rate license on Westlaw or LexisNexis may use PreCYdent in the interest of being thorough.<sup>10</sup> Many use PreCYdent to do their homework before they even talk to a lawyer. For savvy legal researchers who have access to Westlaw or LexisNexis, or know their way around a law library, PreCYdent offers something that can supplement their research needs. Google Analytics<sup>11</sup> tells the PreCYdent team that they also have attorneys from large law firms that come to a free site like PreCYdent and then go to Westlaw and Lexis where the meter is running. It is free, so lawyers can use PreCYdent to clear the ground before they start running up research charges. They know that high school students and government agency workers use their services. “We provide a service to a wide audience. We see this as an opportunity in providing a service in law.”<sup>12</sup>

Carl Malamud, a longtime advocate of free government information,<sup>13</sup> recently said, “It’s about time legal information is free and open online to the public. Information on medicine on the Web has changed the doctor-patient relationship - but it’s still hard to do your homework before you go to see

a lawyer. Law is the last bastion.”<sup>14</sup> Because of Carl Malamud’s efforts to create free online access to government documents, Smith decided to add GPO documents to PreCYdent and donate copies of the state cases gathered by PreCYdent’s web crawling to Malamud’s organization. Although other sites also provide GPO documents, PreCYdent as with case law offers a different search algorithm to reach them.

### How similar is PreCYdent to Google?

PreCYdent uses a combination of algorithm and user response similar to Mahalo (Beta),<sup>15</sup> but focuses on legal cases and statutes.<sup>16</sup> PreCYdent uses various mathematical techniques. One in particular is eigenvector centrality.<sup>17</sup> Its unique algorithm was developed by Antonio Tomarchio. Professor Piero Fraternali and Professor Stefano Ceri, internationally known computer scientists at the Politecnico di Milano,<sup>18</sup> are the scientific advisors of PreCYdent.<sup>19</sup> The PreCYdent search engine developed from the same Kleinberg principles<sup>20</sup> used by Google’s PageRank<sup>21</sup> but branches off by integrating the uniqueness of the idiosyncrasies found within the body of two hundred years of American case law.

The question of similarity to Google must be asked and answered in context. According to Professor Smith, PreCYdent cannot disclose its algorithm and claims to have better search results in selected case research than either Westlaw or Google. Google’s PageRank algorithm models probable behavior of networks including eigenvector methods.<sup>22</sup> PreCYdent is different than PageRank and does not infringe upon Google’s patents<sup>23</sup> in any way, but the perception is that it is very similar to Google because of the web-based, natural language (simple search string) strategy versus the longtime, Boolean search strategies of Lexis and Westlaw. The

*(Continued on page 16)*

## PreCYdent, Cont'd

PreCYdent algorithm mines the information latent in the legal citation network to find the most authoritative and relevant legal authorities in response to the researcher's query.<sup>24</sup>

PreCYdent's network takes into account not only direct connections but also indirect links and temporal factors. This allows them to get around some of the obstacles of the earlier Kleinberg algorithm on legal cases. According to Smith, the Kleinberg algorithm appears biased towards very old cases, which tend to have many citations. PreCYdent's algorithm, on the contrary, is able to recognize important "very young" authorities. Even 2008 cases can rank among the first results when using the PreCYdent search engine.<sup>25</sup>

The PreCYdent algorithm is query-dependent. The network variables and the centrality scores are calculated spontaneously when needed on the set of documents textually related with the user query. Other successful eigenvector centrality algorithms such as PageRank calculate the authority scores offline on the whole network and they are not related with the domain of the document. The PreCYdent algorithm represents the first, large-scale application of query-dependent, eigenvector centrality methods for ranking.<sup>26</sup>

In a recent issue of the *Res Ipsa Blog*, Benson Varghese writes about a search he ran using PreCYdent, namely, "arrest warning," which yielded some interesting results. The landmark *Miranda* decision came up first in PreCYdent, but came up sixth in Westlaw and something higher in LexisNexis.<sup>27</sup> Varghese highlights a problem that many librarians face when counseling students, paralegals, and other legal researchers on the dangers of simple (natural language) search string strategies on any database. Librarians emphasize to students the need to know something about the

topic before they begin searching. But it is as if PreCYdent is providing *topical* elements in the search results ranking. PreCYdent also appears to be adding a layer of *authority context* in its relevance ranking system.

PreCYdent mines the law from law review articles and from the opinions of law professors. For example, their team sent out letters to law professors around the country about various topics. Data collected from the surveys were used to generate search strings and search responses (e.g., "private property takings") to arrive at the most qualitatively relevant matches to a particular search. Authority found in context was a key element to their search strategy. "Measuring authority is an art rather than a science" according to Professor Smith and PreCYdent.com is attempting to do it in a way that has not been done before.<sup>28</sup>

You do not need to log onto PreCYdent. And you will not need to log onto it in the future. The registration feature is used to find a connection among users in a social network environment in order to provide an advanced search engine to find people later on when PreCYdent is more developed. Collaborative filtering is what the registration process aims to achieve. Anonymity is presumed. They were sensitive to some of the news stories about privacy issues surrounding many online services that have surfaced over the past several years.<sup>29</sup>

The latest feature introduced on PreCYdent is the first release of a case citator that allows you to check for subsequent actions on cases, such as overruling, reversals, and affordances. PreCYdent now offers a citator page for each case that displays all this information. For your convenience, you can also access this information

*(Continued on page 17)*

## PreCYdent, Cont'd

in the text of a case by placing your mouse cursor over a citation. The citator will display a window visualizing the subsequent judicial history of the cited opinion.<sup>30</sup> Not as advanced as Shepard's or KeyCite, the first release of their citator does offer some authority checking of case law without charge.

PreCYdent pulls out cases as relevant even if the search term does not occur in them because it analyzes the citation links among cases. So there might be a case, which does not use the researcher's search term, but uses a synonym for it, or a related term. Cases that do contain your search term(s) are connected with that case by citations, however. So their algorithm follows the citations to that other case (the one without the exact terms you are searching for) and calculates that it is closely related enough by citation that it should be made part of the search results.<sup>31</sup>

In practice, Smith says this is usually not necessary. More commonly, you should see an important case in that your search term occurs, but only once or twice. A natural language-based algorithm such as Westlaw or Lexis apparently ranks according to term frequency, so an important case could be ranked low, where you may not see it, or might take a long time to get to it. But the PreCYdent team can figure out its level of importance even though the term occurs only once or twice.<sup>32</sup> As with other legal web sites, PreCYdent follows early informatics concepts in web retrieval of European legal information that Eric Schweighofer of the University of Vienna wrote about in 1999.<sup>33</sup> PreCYdent's algorithm, however, is fine-tuned for U.S. case law research.

PreCYdent features Web 2.0 tagging and ranking of cases.<sup>34</sup> PreCYdent appears to appeal to a younger generation of users. The full extent of current PreCYdent technology might not reach an

older generation of users that primarily uses a combination of print resources (e.g., digests, legal encyclopedias, etc.) and electronic resources (Lexis and Westlaw) and various secondary sources (print or electronic). PreCYdent however is primarily aimed at everyone using the Web for fundamental case law and statutory research needs.

In truth, PreCYdent is putting in state-of-the-art features based on brainstorming with their team, Smith acknowledges. As with a lot of web startups, they plan to evolve based on user responses and what seems to work for them. Since his information technology team is young, and he works with law students, there probably is a focus toward younger users according to Professor Smith. But they also are consciously trying to reach the general public interested in law (e.g., people he thinks of as "Law & Order," the TV show, fans.) "Our thought is that there is a lot of unsatisfied interest in law both in the U.S. and abroad that a free site with powerful search could reach."<sup>35</sup>

Asked whether PreCYdent will be for primary legal sources only, or will links to secondary legal sources follow, Professor Smith responded that this depends on how successful they are. "If we have the resources, we would love to bring in secondary materials. I think our algorithm would be very powerful indeed in heavily annotated materials, such as law review articles, treatises and digests."<sup>36</sup> PreCYdent's is not only a natural language search engine for federal and state case law and statutes. It also added Boolean searching and proximate searching capabilities as Westlaw and Lexis.<sup>37</sup>

In an issue of the *Law Librarian Blog*,<sup>38</sup> Joe Hodnicki of the University of Cincinnati credits Smith for indexing the law in an innovative way,

*(Continued on page 18)*

## PreCYdent, Cont'd

noting that legal citation indexing originated with a table of cases that Joseph Story began in 1743. At first blush, some might argue that Professor Smith might be doing the opposite with a search engine like PreCYdent because no traditional index is offered by PreCYdent. Note, this same kind of criticism was made about Westlaw, Lexis, Dialog, and other online resources when they first came out. Forms of indexing were added to their databases. Free search engines like Google have made finding information on the Web fairly easy for many by the use of simple, natural language searches.

Professor Smith argues that what his team is doing is better than indexing, or at least complementary to it. Smith explains that an index is an order imposed by one or a small team of humans on a mass of complex information, while a purely textual search engine does something that they view as pretty crude, namely pull out parts of that mass (such as documents) based on something fairly arbitrary, namely whether certain words occur in the document. What his team does is very different. “We start with the assumption that judges (in the case of judicial opinions) have made literally billions of decisions in deciding which cases to cite in their opinions. Each of these choices is an expert decision about what other case is most relevant to the opinion the judge is writing,” Smith explains.<sup>39</sup>

According to Smith, far more information is embedded in these decisions than anything a team of indexers can create. Out of these many citation decisions judges make to link one case to another, there spontaneously emerges an order. “We measure attributes of these patterns to figure out how closely cases are related to one another. So we see ourselves as measuring attributes of the legal system that really are there organically, just as an

ecologist goes out and figures out how various animals in some ecosystem are related to each other,” he adds. Smith is not just indexing; he is describing a natural order. “Thus, we view ourselves as being more true to the underlying organic structures of law than the indexers are, and certainly more true than (mere) textual searching is.”<sup>40</sup>

Professor Smith thinks that perhaps one day their technology, “especially as it gets better and more refined, may stand to law somewhat as calculators stand to arithmetic and trigonometry.” Because law is getting more complicated and massive in quantity all the time, Professor Smith says we need the more powerful tools just to stay in the same place. He also strongly feels that technology like PreCYdent’s can make complex bodies of law more transparent to the ordinary intelligent, but non-law trained citizen. “This transparency helps promote the rule of law. So without being grandiose about it, I do believe our project is connected with promoting the rule of law in an increasingly complex world.”<sup>41</sup>

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1. Thomas A. Smith, A.B. 1979, Cornell University; B.A. 1981, Oxford University; J.D. 1984, Yale University. Professor of Law, University of San Diego School of Law, 1992 - Present. <http://www.sandiego.edu/usdlaw/faculty/facprofiles/smithta.php> (last visited May 17, 2008).

2. 923,211 cases reported by PreCYdent.com as of May 18, 2008. See <http://precydent.com/> (last visited May 18, 2008).

3. 51,583 statutes reported by PreCYdent.com as of May 18, 2008. See <http://precydent.com/> (last visited May 18, 2008).

4. PreCYdent (Technical) Memo, March 28, 2008 (on file with author).

5. Albert-László Barabási, *Linked: The New Science of Networks*, Perseus, Cambridge, MA, 2002.

6 Thomas A. Smith, “Web of Law,” University of San Diego Law School, Spring 2005, *San Diego Legal Studies Research Paper No. 06-11* (abstract and SSRN electronic paper),

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available at [http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=642863](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=642863) (last visited May 18, 2008).

7. Antonio Tomarchio, CTO and co-founder of PreCYdent. Degree in Mathematical Engineering from Politecnico di Milano, Milan, Italy. Co-authored (with Frank B. Cross and Thomas A. Smith) "Determinants of Cohesion in the Supreme Court's Network of Precedents," *U. of Texas Law, Law and Econ. Research Paper No. 90, 2nd Annual Conference on Empirical Legal Studies Paper, San Diego Legal Studies Paper No. 07-67* (abstract and SSRN electronic paper), available at [http://search.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=924110](http://search.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=924110) (last visited May 17, 2008).

8. Telephone interview with Thomas A. Smith, CEO and co-founder of PreCYdent.com (April 28, 2008).

9. *Id.*

10. Email correspondence with Thomas A. Smith, CEO and co-founder of PreCYdent.com (May 5, 2008).

11. Google Analytics™, available at <http://www.google.com/analytics/> (last visited May 18, 2008).

12. Telephone interview with Thomas A. Smith, CEO and co-founder of PreCYdent.com (April 28, 2008).

13. John Markoff, "A Quest to Get More Court Rulings Online, and Free," *New York Times* (Technology Section), August 20, 2007, available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/20/technology/20westlaw.html> (last visited May 19, 2008).

14. Anne Eisenberg, "Lawyers Open Their File Cabinets for a Web Resource," *New York Times* (Technology Section), April 27, 2008, available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/27/technology/27novel.html> (last visited May 13, 2008).

15. Mahalo Beta, available at <http://mahalo.com/> (last visited May 18, 2008).

16. "PreCYdent Setting the Precedent," *Tech Coast Review*, March 6, 2008, available at <http://www.techcoastreview.com/2008/03/precedent-setting-precident.html> (last visited June 2, 2008).

17. PreCYdent Technical Memo 3, March 28, 2008 (on file with author).

18. *Id.*

19. *Id.*

20. Principles developed by Jon Kleinberg, Professor of computer science at Cornell University. A chronological list of his published papers can be found at <http://www.cs.cornell.edu/home/kleinber/chrono.html>.

21. PageRank is a system for ranking web pages developed by Google founders [Larry Page](#) and [Sergey Brin](#) at Stanford University. See <http://www.google.com/technology/> (last visited May 17, 2008). See also T.H. Haveliwala, "Topic-Sensitive PageRank: A Context-Sensitive Ranking Algorithm for Web Search," *IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering*, 15 (4):784–796 (August 2003).

22. See M. Burgess, G. Canright, and K. Engø, "A Graph Theoretical Model of Computer Security: From File Access to Social Engineering," *International Journal of Information Security*, 3(2):70–85 (November 2004); G. Canright and K. Engø-Monsen, "A Natural Definition of Clusters and Roles in Undirected Graphs," *Science of Computer Programming*, 53:195 (2004); and I. Bytyci, "Monitoring Changing in the Stability of Networks Using Eigenvector Centrality," Master Thesis, 26-29, Oslo University College, Department of Informatics, University of Oslo, Norway (2006), available at <http://research.iu.hio.no/theses/pdf/master2006/ilir.pdf> (last visited May 7, 2008).

23. Google patent for PageRank found at <http://www.pat2pdf.org/patents/pat6285999.pdf> (last visited May 13, 2008).

24. Telephone interview with Thomas A. Smith, CEO and co-founder of PreCYdent.com (April 28, 2008).

25. PreCYdent Technical Memo 3, March 28, 2008 (on file with author).

26. *Id.* at 3-4.

27. Benson Varghese, "PreCYdent - A New Tool for Lawyers," *Res Ipsa Blog* (posted in News, Tech Tips for Lawyers), April 20, 2008, available at <http://resipsablog.com/2008/04/20/precedent-a-new-tool-for-lawyers/> (last visited May 13, 2008).

28. Telephone interview with Thomas A. Smith, CEO and co-founder of PreCYdent.com (April 28, 2008).

29. See Maria Aspen, "How Sticky Is Facebook Membership? Just Try Breaking Free," *New York Times* (Technology Section), February 11, 2008, available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/11/technology/11facebook.html> (last visited May 18, 2008).

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32. *Id.*

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33. See Erich Schweighofer, "The Revolution in Legal Information Retrieval or: the Empire Strikes Back," *Journal of Information, Law & Technology*, 1999(1): (1999), available at [http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/law/elj/jilt/1999\\_1/schweighofer](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/law/elj/jilt/1999_1/schweighofer) (last visited May 18, 2008).

34. Robert J. Ambrogi, "Sophisticated Search for Public Domain Law," *Robert Ambrogi's Lawsites: Tracking New and Intriguing Web Sites for the Legal Profession*, available at <http://www.legaline.com/2008/01/sophisticated-search-for-public-domain.html> (last visited May 18, 2008).

35. Email correspondence with Thomas A. Smith, CEO and co-founder of PreCYdent.com (May 5, 2008).

36. *Id.*

37. See <http://www.precyident.com/opinionbasic.html?keywords=&more=Jurisdictions+%26+options#>

38. Joe Hodnicki, "Law Prof as Toolmaker: An Interview with PreCYdent's Thomas A. Smith (San Diego)," *Law Librarian Blog: A Member of the Law Professor Blogs Network* (January 29, 2008), available at <http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/law-librarian-blog/2008/01/law-prof-as-too.html> (last visited May 13, 2008).

39. Email correspondence with Thomas A. Smith, CEO and co-founder of PreCYdent.com (May 5, 2008).

40. *Id.*

41. *Id.*

## Chair, Cont'd

(Editor of the *ALL-SIS Newsletter*); without either of them, ALL-SIS's operations would be significantly less smooth than they currently are. Thanks to the Awards Committee (Patricia Harris O'Connor (Chair), Frances Brilliantine, Marlene Alderman, Terrance Manion, Sandy Sadow, and Victoria Williamson) for their excellent work in soliciting nominations and selecting recipients.

As this year's annual meeting approaches, I wanted to remind everyone again of the revised format for a number of our ALL-SIS events this summer. First, the Middle Managers' Breakfast will turn into a late afternoon substantive forum, to be held on Saturday, July 12th. Second, the Business meeting will be combined with the

Reception and Awards Ceremony, to be held at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 13th. Our VIP this year will be [Steve Johansen](#), Director of Legal Analysis and Writing at Lewis and Clark Law School and a past-president of the Legal Writing Institute. Through both formal and informal discussions, we hope to build stronger relations with this group in coming years.

Please check out all the exciting programs that we have lined up for you in Portland. You can find information about them in this [newsletter](#) and on the special annual meeting [page](#) on the ALL-SIS Web site. If you are a newer academic law librarian, please mark your calendar to attend the Newer Academic Law Librarians Meeting (NALLM). It takes place at the Hilton at 5:30 p.m. (right before the business meeting and reception) and is a wonderful opportunity to network and to ask questions of librarians experienced in all library operations. Details for all these events will be available at the ALL-SIS table in the activities area of the exhibit hall and on the ALL-SIS Web site, [www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/annualmeeting/2008/](http://www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/annualmeeting/2008/).

The last year has been a very busy, yet educational and rewarding time. Working with ALL-SIS Executive Board members Filippa Anzalone, Linda Ryan, Suzanne Thorpe, and Marianne Alcorn has been a pleasure and I thank them for their efforts this year, as well as for their wise contributions on ALL-SIS policy issues. I would also like to thank all of the dedicated individuals serving as committee chairs and committee members this past year, as their efforts are reflected in every aspect of ALL-SIS's operations from the publication of our newsletter to the designing of a new Student Services webpage to the release of the first draft of a new statistics measurement tool to assess outputs. Thank you for allowing me to serve as ALL-SIS Chair this year. I hope to see all of you in Portland.

Best wishes,  
Michelle

## Empirical Legal Studies

Amy Taylor, Reference Librarian, Duke Law Library

Empirical Legal Studies (ELS) has captured the attention of law librarians across the country, and for good reason. As our faculty begin to ask for our support and research assistance, we find ourselves hosting discussions using the AALL Forums, planning programs for the AALL Conference, expanding our reference staffs in order to provide more extensive support and coordination of our efforts, adding the Empirical Legal Studies blog to our blog readers, and ... wondering what all the fuss is about?

I've been interested in ELS for a few years, so if you were to ask me for a concise definition, I'd say that ELS uses data analysis to study the legal system. This creates another set of questions, however, that range from "what type of data analysis?" to "what aspects of the legal system?" to "why do this type of research at all?" My answers would only lead to another cycle of questions and answers, but more important, they would fail to capture the excitement of ELS, the thrill of discovering something new about the ways in which our legal system, with its attendant, and often abstract, rules and decisions, manifests itself in a concrete reality that can be studied and measured and discussed and even changed.

In the hopes of conveying some of my excitement about ELS, I want to talk about a couple of my favorite ELS articles. The first is the final report of an empirical study of habeas corpus cases, both capital and non-capital, filed under the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 (AEDPA). It can be found at [www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/219559.pdf](http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/219559.pdf). This study was the joint project of Nancy King, Professor of Law at Vanderbilt Law School, Fred Cheesman II, Ph.D., and Brian Ostrom, Ph.D., both of the National Center for State Courts - a perfect example of a law professor collaborating with those who have

in-depth empirical research experience. This project was funded in two parts: the data collection was underwritten by Vanderbilt Law School, and the completion of the project was funded by the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, United State Department of Justice - another great example of a law professor using outside sources, in this case funding, for the study.

In addition to providing insight into the ways a law professor can undertake research and have it funded, this report provides a step-by-step guide into the world of empirical research. The authors thanked not only the Vanderbilt law students who were trained in data collection and coding but also the law school's systems administrator who managed dozens of data files. The project also benefited from an Advisory Committee, made up of prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges, who helped the researchers determine what information would be most useful to collect and who assisted with the interpretation of the findings.

The report begins by describing the AEDPA and then lays out the research goals of the study. It provides a review of prior research and an explanation of the study's design and methodology. The bulk of the report lays out the project's descriptive findings, which can be used by others to further study and comment upon the AEDPA. There are also comparative findings using the prior research, explanatory findings of the current research, and appendices with statistical tables and a list of variables collected. In short, while the subject matter of the study may or may not strike your fancy, the report itself is a fascinating look into the design, implementation, and results of an empirical research study.

*(Continued on page 22)*

## Empirical Legal Research, Cont'd

Another of my favorite empirical research articles, *Past and Potential Uses of Empirical Research in Civil Rulemaking*, 77 Notre Dame L. Rev. 1121 (2002), was written by Thomas Willging, a Senior Research at the Federal Judicial Center and a participant in the majority of the research he discusses. In his article, Willging contemplates the validity of empirical research to inform civil rulemaking. He is not writing a report of an empirical research study, nor is he using the results of previous empirical research to advocate for particular rules changes. He is, instead, walking through the questions that must be answered before deciding whether to engage in empirical research and use its results.

Willging explores the types of studies that could be designed to garner useful information; he describes and analyzes 14 recent examples of empirical research into the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure; he then uses this research to determine what empirical research can and cannot do in the context of civil rulemaking. And if we were to think of the report of the habeas corpus empirical study as primary empirical research, and the use of empirical research to advocate for particular changes to policy, legislation, rules, or administrative functions as secondary empirical research, then Willging is engaging in tertiary empirical research.

All three forms of empirical research are exciting to me because of their substance, but also because they offer something for everyone - the experienced empirical researcher with the time and money can design, implement and analyze the results of a study, the advocate for change can use the results of empirical research to make her case, and the scholar can study the effects of empirical research in a particular area. And the cycle can begin anew.

## ALL-SIS NEEDS YOU!!

Filippa Marullo Anzalone  
ALL-SIS Chair-Elect

ALL-SIS members, please consider serving on an ALL-SIS committee during the coming year.

Serving on an ALL-SIS committee is a wonderful way to meet other academic law librarians and to contribute to your profession. It is also a great opportunity for veteran librarians and newer members of our profession to collaborate. Committee members typically serve on a committee for one year. Occasionally, committee members are appointed for a second year to work on long-term projects or to serve as committee chairs.

Committees usually meet during the AALL Annual Meeting to plan activities for the coming year. (Please consider volunteering, even if you are unable to attend the AALL meeting.) Their work during the year is conducted through emails and conference calls. As you will see on the [volunteer form](#), ALL-SIS has a wide range of standing committees. To learn more about the work of these committees, please see the ALL-SIS Web site at [www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis](http://www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis), where you will see evidence of the outstanding work done by the many ALL-SIS committees. Our committees are busy advancing the way we do legal research instruction, library marketing, collection development, and faculty services as well as organizing roundtable discussions and programs at the AALL Annual Meetings. We need you to contribute your knowledge and talent as we continue this vital work.

It is simple to volunteer. Just fill out the volunteer form or go online to [www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB227VBQH4E7H](http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB227VBQH4E7H) (it is a Zoomerang survey) by June 6. I will consult the results and get back to you by the week of June 16.

If you have any questions, please let me know. I certainly look forward to hearing from you. Thanks!

## Student Services Survey, Cont'd

### LEGAL RESEARCH INSTRUCTION

- Do librarians serve as co-teachers (with legal writing professors) in first year legal research and writing courses? Yes - 40%; No - 60%
- Do librarians teach legal research as a separate course to first year students? Yes - 22%; No - 78%
- Do librarians serve as guest lecturers in legal research and writing courses, at the request of individual professors? Yes - 75%; No - 25%
- Do librarians teach legal writing (as opposed to legal research)? Yes - 4%; No - 96%
- Do librarians teach a separate Advanced Legal Research course? Yes -76%; No - 24%
- Do librarians teach separate specialized legal research courses (such as foreign and international law, business law, or state-specific research)? Yes - 40%; No - 60%
- Do librarians teach LexisNexis and Westlaw research instead of company representatives? Yes - 20%; No - 43%; Responsibility is shared - 37%
- Do librarians offer special sessions (for example, brownbags) on legal research? Yes - 67%; No - 33%
- Do librarians offer special training sessions for new law clerks or summer associates? Yes - 47%; No - 53%
- Do librarians provide special training for faculty research assistants? Yes - 61%; No - 39%
- *Open-ended question:* Comments about librarian participation in legal research instruction.

Some of the 27 respondents to this question replied with, “Sore subject,” “No comment,”

or (more delicately) “This is an area where we see lots of opportunities for more involvement.” Another person commented, “This is an extremely heavy demand on the library staff time... because of the staffing levels of the library and the size of the student body ...” Other librarians reported successful collaboration with LRW professors or satisfaction teaching specialized legal research courses. Staffing levels were a repeated concern, as was occasional poor attendance at brown bag sessions.

### YOUR SCHOOL

- How many reference librarians do you have at your school?
  - 1-2 - 13%
  - 3-4 - 33%
  - 5-6 - 39%
  - 7-8 - 10%
  - 9 or more - 4%
- How many librarians (total) do you have at your school?
  - 1-3 - 2%
  - 4-6 - 27%
  - 7-9 - 34%
  - 10-12 - 24%
  - 13 or more - 14%
- How many students do you have at your school?
  - Up to 300 - 7%
  - 301-600 - 31%
  - 601-900 - 32%

*(Continued on page 24)*

## Student Services Survey, Cont'd

- 901-1200 - 16%
- 1201 or more - 14%
- Is a librarian at your school designated as a student services liaison or coordinator? Yes - 8%; Responsibility is shared - 21%; No - 71%
- *Open-ended question:* Do you have an innovative method of providing service to students in your library? If so, please share details.

Our comedian once again commented, “We don’t do anything innovative here. It isn’t allowed.” Nonetheless, nine librarians provided suggestions: blogs with new postings daily; a Second Life branch library; a digital sign in the library with information, news, and resources; and an “Academic Success” collection created in conjunction with the Assistant Dean for Academic Outcomes that is located strategically for heavy student use.

- *Open-ended question:* Do you have special projects or issues that you would like the ALL-SIS Student Services Committee to address? If so, please share.

In response to Question 51, seven librarians provided thoughtful suggested courses of action. One respondent proposed an in-depth law student survey about how law students conduct research, what sources they prefer, how librarians can teach electronic sources successfully, and how librarians best can prepare students for academic work, summer positions, and permanent jobs. Some respondents suggested marketing and outreach guidance for student services. Someone also requested that the Committee draft policies for dealing with law journals and interlibrary loans (particularly

regarding “extreme Bluebooking”). Finally, a librarian asks, “How can we best communicate with students ... what is the next new wave?”

At the end of the survey, the ALL-SIS membership was invited to contribute electronic versions of documents, as well as links to library web sites, that directly address the needs of law students. Numerous members responded to the call with new student orientation materials and publicity documents. As an extension of our survey effort, an online bank of materials is being assembled for posting by early June on the web site of the ALL-SIS Student Services Committee at [www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/committees/students/](http://www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/committees/students/). (Special thanks goes to Diane Murley, the ALL-SIS Web Administrator, for constructing the online bank.)

Survey respondents have provided an array of practical and innovative ideas for further action. In particular, the 2008 - 2009 ALL-SIS Student Services Committee may wish to explore the possibility of conducting a survey to assess the legal research habits and needs of law students. Also, members may wish to draft model policies and recommendations for handling services to law journals, paying special attention to citation needs and interlibrary loans. Finally, the Committee certainly should continue to develop the online bank of student services documents and publicity materials, to serve as templates and inspiration for other academic librarians.

In conclusion, thank you to all survey respondents who made this report possible. Here’s to increased awareness of student services needs for the upcoming academic year! Please contact James G. Durham, Committee Chair, at [Jdurham@tourolaw.edu](mailto:Jdurham@tourolaw.edu) with additional comments.

## On the Nightstand

I-Wei Wang, Reference Librarian

University of California, Berkeley, School of Law (Boalt Hall)

**Fierce Readers** - This column offers a peek at the nightstands of your fellow academic law librarians. What are we reading when we're not poring over the Federal Register?

Last issue, I asked for recommendations on the theme "books to movies." Karen Selden, Catalog Librarian at the University of Colorado Law School, was kind enough to send two recommendations. Here's just one of them, for *The Whistling Season*, by Ivan Doig:

[E]veryone in my group loved the characters (I could just see all of them perfectly in my mind's eye), and I especially loved the phrases. A trapper's son was always wearing a hat made from "a major animal"; an energetic 2nd grader is described as being "... on his magic carpet of innocent confusion" (having a degree in elementary education and having taught kids at that age, I confess that hits the nail on the head for most 2nd graders!). And those are just a couple that come to my mind right now. The main character is also studying Latin, so the passages about language development may be of interest to librarians and lawyers alike.

Karen, I picked up a copy at my local library and, like you, was struck with Doig's pithy, Twain-like wit - describing an enthusiastic response to the announcement of a spelling bee, "this was a student body that would rather have a contest than the right number of toes." In a movie version, I'd cast Renee Zellweger as tiny, tenacious Rose Llewellyn - one part steadfast, gritty Ruby Thewes (*Cold Mountain*), one part fragile, kooky Betty Sizemore (*Nurse Betty*). How about if we share the co-producer credit?

For this installment, here's a timely topic for those going to the AALL annual meeting: Short story collections for travel. Whether just on your daily commute, or for a longer journey, short fiction can whisk you away from the here and now - the crowded bus, the noisy airport lobby, the cramped airline seat - while transforming and revealing the ordinary details of everyday life in a new light. You have a book's worth of entertainment that won't be spoiled by the constant interruptions inherent in travel: once your flight is called or the drinks cart passes by, you can dive right into the next story.

A couple of weeks ago, I read *Human Resources*, by Josh Goldfaden, and loved its quirky, poignant humor and sudden calamities. My favorite was "The King of the Ferns," an odd little tale narrated in part by a houseplant. For my trip to AALL, I think I'll bring along *Unaccustomed Earth*, the new collection by Pulitzer winner Jhumpa Lahiri, whose limpid and incisive narratives capture the double edge of the immigrant success story.

So how about you - What short fiction collection would you recommend for journeys, short or long? Send your responses to [iwang@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:iwang@law.berkeley.edu) and stay tuned!



## New Member Spotlight

Mila Rush & Laurie Urquiaga  
Membership Committee



A Michigan native, Deborah Darin lives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin now. She received her bachelor's degree in History from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and her law degree from Wayne State University in Detroit. She practiced

public interest law in Detroit for a few years, representing clients in landlord/tenant, housing, consumer and employment cases. After moving to Milwaukee with her husband, also a lawyer, Deborah worked as an attorney for a nonprofit environmental law organization and as a commissioner on three Milwaukee administrative boards over the years.

Between Detroit and Milwaukee, she had years of law practice and enjoyed advocacy work. But she says she had always been just as interested in research and writing, and education, which had been a significant aspect of many of her professional endeavors, especially the environmental work. So after her son was born, Deborah went back to school to get her MLIS. She earned her degree at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in December, 2007.

Right now, she is co-authoring a book with the Director and the Associate Director of the Marquette University Law Library. This collaboration with fellow professionals provides a way for her to increase her proficiency as a beginning law librarian. The book is *Wisconsin Legal Research*, part of the Carolina Academic Press state law legal research series. Deborah says,

“The book is a great opportunity to write and think about Wisconsin law and legal sources, and produce a reference tool that law students and others can use. I appreciate how important it is for beginning lawyers to have solid research help as they learn the practice of law.”

She also taught a few class sessions of an advanced legal research course at the law school this past semester. She looks forward to more teaching, reference, and research opportunities as she moves forward in the profession. In addition to professional pursuits, Deborah enjoys novels, gardening, and watching her son play baseball.

Deborah joined ALL SIS to learn as much as she can and meet other librarians. She hopes to have a long career and many opportunities to participate in ALL SIS and other aspects of AALL. She doesn't think she will be attending the Annual Meeting this year, but hopes to be a regular in the future!

Barbara Scanlon has been the Electronic & Systems Services Librarian at the University of Michigan Law Library since November 2007. She began working at the U of M Law Library as a student and was later hired on full-time. On being a new librarian she said, “I'm new to the profession and ready to take on new challenges.”



Prior to becoming a law librarian, Ms. Scanlon enjoyed a career as a singer, dancer, and actress on Broadway. She also performed in national tours and regional theater. In her spare time, she continues to perform at a local church and at various theatre and choral events. She also pursues

*(Continued on page 27)*

## New Member Spotlight, Cont'd

her interest in photography by taking classes and capturing pictures for the library.

Ms. Scanlon obtained her undergraduate degree from Michigan State University in Music (Vocal Performance) with minors in Math and Piano. She earned her Masters of Science in Information (MSI) from the University of Michigan in December of 2005.

She was pleasantly surprised to find herself a member of ALL-SIS. She said, "I welcome the opportunity to become a part of a community of my fellow professionals." Please welcome Barbara Scanlon to the Academic Law Libraries SIS!



ALL-SIS members welcome Mitchell Silverman to the Special Interest Section. Mitch is originally from Brooklyn, NY, but he has spent most of his life in South

Florida. He lives in Hollywood, midway between Ft. Lauderdale and Miami. Currently he is a distance learning student in the library school of Florida State University (FSU). Mitch has an undergraduate degree from New College of Florida, in Sarasota, Florida, which is the honors college of the FSU System. He went to FSU for his J.D.

While Mitch is finishing his library education, he is working as a sole practitioner. He specializes in estate planning for small estates, business counseling, and contract drafting and review. Also he volunteers as a Senior Reference Administrator with the Internet Public Library's (IPL's) Ask-A-Question service, [www.ipl.org/div/askus/](http://www.ipl.org/div/askus/). He supervises three people who process, sort, and

sometimes answer the questions submitted and sometimes answers a question himself. He also has done extensive work on the IPL's patents, trademark, and copyright FAQs page.

Besides estate planning and small business law, Mitch is interested in dispute resolution. In fact, he is qualified as a mediator and arbitrator. Civil liberties law, especially First Amendment issues and intellectual freedom, is also of interest to him. In library school he was quite fascinated by his Information Policy course.

When asked about his mentors, Mitch first mentioned his boss at IPL, Cathay Crosby who is the Assistant Director, User Services for the IPL. Under Cathay's supervision, Mitch became comfortable with answering reference questions and able to do supervision himself. She has motivated him to anticipate a career in reference. Other mentors mentioned were his New College thesis sponsor Mac Miller, the *sine qua non* of his undergraduate education; his law property and legal ethics professor Rob Atkinson; his clinical professor Paolo Annino; his friend Susan Elliott who urged and helped him to go to library school; his library school advisor and professor Mellissa Gross; and his wonderful wife Becky.

Mitch enjoys spending time with his wife Becky, pursuing his studies, reading both for school and pleasure, practicing the law, and hanging out with friends. He would very much like an internship or a position that would allow him to combine his interest in the law, his desire to help people with their information needs, and his interest in technology - especially if it could be in South Florida!

Welcome, Mitch!!!

## Member News

### Deaths

**Dr. U.V. Jones**, former Head Law Librarian at **Emory University**, Atlanta, Georgia, and co-founder in 1968 of the (then) **Texas Technological College School of Law**, where he was Head Law Librarian, Professor of Legal Research and Writing, passed away on May 17, 2008, in Lubbock, Texas. Dr. Jones attended Oklahoma Military Academy, graduated from the School of Law at The University of Oklahoma, and pursued graduate studies at O.U. and The University of Washington; his post-graduate degrees included the J.D. and a Masters in Legal Law Library Sciences. His legal career included service as County Attorney for Kiowa County, Oklahoma, as a corporate attorney for Anderson Pritchard, as a private lawyer, and then Dr. Jones turned to an academic career for the last 30 years. In later years, Professor Emeritus of the *Texas Tech University School of Law*, with which he was connected from its beginning, and in whose successes he took great pride and satisfaction.

### Events & Awards

**Adeen Postar**, Deputy Director of the Pence Law Library, **American University's Washington College of Law** was recently granted tenure as an Associate Law Librarian.

**Nancy Babb**, Associate Librarian for Cataloging and Webmaster of the **University at Buffalo Law Library**, has been granted tenure. Congratulations, Nancy!

**George Washington University's** Jacob Burns Law Library's newsletter, *A Legal Miscellanea: A Newsletter for the Friends of the Jacob Burns Law Library*, is the 2008 recipient of the AALL/West-Thomson Excellence in Marketing Award, Best Newsletter category.

**Radu D. Popa**, Assistant Dean and Director of the Law Library at **NYU School of Law**, was recently distinguished in Romania with the prestigious Gib. I. Mihaescu Prize for all his writings in prose. He has also been included for the first time in *Who's Who in America*, 2008.

**Fred Shapiro**, Associate Librarian for Collections and Access and Lecturer in Legal Research at **Yale Law School**, has won the following awards for his book, *The Yale Book of Quotations* (Yale University Press):

- Named a Best Book of 2006 by amazon.com;
- Selected as a 2007 "Outstanding" book by AAUP University Press Books for Public and Secondary School Libraries;
- Finalist in the category of Nonfiction for the 2007 Connecticut Book Award, given by the Connecticut Center for the Book;

- Received Honorable Mention from the Professional and Scholarly Publishing Division of the Association of American Publishers (PSP/AAP) in the category of single-volume reference, humanities and social sciences;
- Winner of the Bronze ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year Award in Reference;
- Selected as an Outstanding Academic Title for 2007 by Choice magazine.

### New Positions and Promotions

**Mary Gallant** is the new Acquisitions & Serials Control Librarian at **California Western School of Law**. Mary comes to California Western from the **University of Florida** where she was the Operations Librarian in Latin American Special Collections.

**DR Jones** (currently the Deputy Director at **Case Western Reserve School of Law Ben C. Green Library**) will, as of August, be the Associate Dean for Information Resources and Director of the Law Library and Assistant Professor of Law at the **Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis**.

**Amy Taylor** moved from **Georgetown University** where she was a reference librarian, to **Duke University** in the same position.

**Pam Williams** will retire June 30 as Assistant Director of Public Services at the Levin College of Law, **University of Florida**. Her position is being reorganized: **Elizabeth Outler** will serve as Head of Public Services and **Edward Hart**, Head of Technical Services. **Christopher Vallandingham** has been recommended for tenure and promotion to Associate Librarian. Cataloger **Jean Bostwick** will retire on December 30, 2008. She will be replaced by **Susy Potter**, currently Documents Librarian. The Legal Information Center will begin a search for a reference librarian.

**Elana Olson** and **Megan Kendall O'Brien** will join the **Marquette Law Library** in June as Instructional Services/Reference Librarians. Elana is a graduate of William and Mary Law School and practiced law with Foley & Lardner in Milwaukee before earning her MLS degree. Megan is a graduate of John Marshall Law School and practiced law in Illinois before attending library school.

**Carole Hinchcliff** is the new Law Library Manager at Melbourne Law School Library at the **University of Melbourne** in Australia. Carole was formerly Associate Director of **The Ohio State University Moritz Law Library**.

*(Continued on page 29)*

## Member News, Cont'd

**Anna Blaine** is a new reference librarian who started her first position at **New York Law School** in January 2008.

**Carol Bredemeyer** has been promoted to Professor of Library Services at the **Salmon P. Chase College of Law, Northern Kentucky University**, effective July 1, 2008.

**Jim McMasters** has been named the Director of the Pritzker Legal Research Center, **Northwestern University School of Law**, and **Eloise Vondruska** is now the Associate Director of the Pritzker Legal Research Center.

In February 2008, **Karen Shephard** accepted a new position at the **University of Pittsburgh Barco Law Library**. Previously, she had spent nearly 10 years in the Technical Services Department as a Library Specialist, handling continuations and supervising approximately seven student staff members a year. In February, she became the Information Services Librarian, a new position in the library, encompassing some previous responsibilities (reference and liaison activities), while also fielding research requests from the dean's office and assisting with the promotion of faculty scholarship.

**Valerie Bowen** has accepted a Research Librarian position at the Schoenecker Law Library at the **University of St. Thomas**.

**Michael Slinger** will be moving from **Cleveland-Marshall** to assume the position of Associate Dean for Information Services, Law Library Director and Professor of Law at **Widener University School of Law** effective this July.

## Publications

**Tracie Hall**, **Chapman Law Library**, wrote an article in the May 2008 *AALL Spectrum* (Vol. 12:7) for the CRIV Sheet entitled *Library Maintenance Agreement, Period 2*, available at [www.aallnet.org/products/pub\\_sp0805/pub\\_sp0805\\_CRIV.pdf](http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub_sp0805/pub_sp0805_CRIV.pdf).

**James M. Donovan**, Faculty and Access Services Librarian, and **Carol A. Watson**, Associate Director for Information Technology, **University of Georgia Law Library**, have published *White Paper: Behind a Law School's Decision to Implement an Institutional Repository*. It can be found in the University of Georgia School of Law's institutional repository at [http://digitalcommons.law.uga.edu/law\\_lib\\_artchop/15/](http://digitalcommons.law.uga.edu/law_lib_artchop/15/) or at [http://works.bepress.com/ir\\_research/24/](http://works.bepress.com/ir_research/24/).

**Nathan Preuss** and **Katherine Marsh**, **University of Tennessee**, co-authored *Answering 'Now What?' How to Find and Interview for Your First Law Library Job*, 12 *AALL Spectrum* 18 (Apr. 2008), available at [www.aallnet.org/products/pub\\_sp0804/pub\\_sp0804\\_What.pdf](http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub_sp0804/pub_sp0804_What.pdf).

## 2008 - 2009 ALL-SIS Committee Volunteer Form

Filippa Marullo Anzalone  
ALL-SIS Chair-Elect

Please select 3 committees, ranking your preferences, and fax/email completed form to **Filippa Marullo Anzalone** at [Filippa.Anzalone@bc.edu](mailto:Filippa.Anzalone@bc.edu) before June 6. Thanks!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Preference (1= first choice, 2=second choice, 3=third choice)	ALL-SIS Committee (Committee charges and projects can be viewed at <a href="http://www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/committees/charges/">www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/committees/charges/.</a> )
	Awards
	Bylaws
	Collection Development
	Continuing Education
	Continuing Status/Tenure
	Faculty Services
	Legal Research & Sourcebook
	Membership
	NAALM/Mentoring
	Newsletter (please check if you have editing/writing experience _____)
	Nominations
	Program Committee (2009 Annual Meeting)
	Public Relations (please check if you have PR or graphic design experience _____)
	Statistics
	Student Services

## ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARIES--SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

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### ALL-SIS Officers

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Marianne Alcorn, Executive Board Member	<a href="mailto:marianne.alcorn@asu.edu">marianne.alcorn@asu.edu</a>

## General Information

ALL-SIS was established in 1979 to promote interest in and to address issues of common concern to those employed in academic law libraries. The SIS serves as the umbrella organization for all interests--administration, collection development, consortia, directors, fees for service, interlibrary loan, public services, technical services, middle management, etc.

ALL-SIS provides opportunities for all librarians to contribute to the overall betterment of the entire academic law community. ALL-SIS has grown to more than 800 members and is the second largest SIS in AALL. Our members come from all aspects of academic law librarianship. Because of the SIS's broad coverage and subtopic focus, all those working in academic law libraries can benefit from membership and are encouraged to join.

## The ALL-SIS Discussion Group

The ALL-SIS discussion group, aka mailing list, 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, you should be automatically subscribed! To send a message to the list, address the message to [all-sis@aallnet.org](mailto:all-sis@aallnet.org). Please direct any questions to the forum moderator at [owner-all-sis@aallnet.org](mailto:owner-all-sis@aallnet.org). For more information, see *ALL-SIS Discussion Group Instructions*, 23 ALL-SIS Newsletter 18 (Summer 2004), available at [www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/newsletter/23\\_3/](http://www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/newsletter/23_3/)

[Discussiongroup.htm](http://Discussiongroup.htm).

## ALL-SIS on the Web

ALL-SIS is on the web! Visit the ALL-SIS Home Page at [www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/](http://www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/). Electronic versions of *The ALL-SIS Newsletter* are available on our website, as well as other vital information.

## Newsletter Information & Deadlines for 2007 - 2008 Academic Year

Please submit all articles and announcements to the ALL-SIS Newsletter Editor. Are you working on any interesting special projects? Have you attended a meeting and learned something you want to share

with colleagues? Do you just want to rant and rave about some problems related to academic law librarianship? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, please send your thoughts. Any format, printed, faxed, or e-mailed will do, but it would be easiest for Newsletter production if the article is sent either as an attached text or word processing file or as the body of an e-mail. The deadlines for next year's issues will be set at the Annual Meeting. Thank you for your contributions and for your consideration.