

ALL NEWSLETTER

Academic Law Libraries

SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

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Dear Academic SIS Members:

LAW LIBRARY

JAN 31 1985

Duke University

Several academic law libraries contributed to this issue of the Newsletter by sending news of their libraries and other information of general interest. A letter was mailed in November to directors of academic libraries requesting such contributions in hopes that they would start the ball rolling. We thank those who did respond and would like to encourage others to send news items for our April issue.

Planning is well underway for the Academic SIS program at the 1985 Annual Meeting in New York. The title will be "Legal Education for the Practice of Law: Today's Challenges and Tomorrow's Needs," and it is scheduled for Monday, July 8th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The program will address the question of whether our resources and services will serve future needs of our users, and speakers will include Professor Robert B. McKay, New York University School of Law; Dean Charles R. Halpern, City University of New York Law School at Queens College; Kathleen Imholz, Partner, Conboy, Hewitt, O'Brien and Boardman, New York City; and Leona Vogt, Director, Program on the Legal Profession, Harvard Law School.

Following the program, the Academic SIS will sponsor a wine and cheese reception at the Fordham University School of Law from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Fordham is within walking distance of the convention hotel and there will be library tours available. The reception will not be limited to SIS members and will be open to all academic librarians. We are hoping for a large turnout at an event which should have broad appeal. Sandra Coleman, the

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Vice-Chair/Chair Elect, has been planning both the program and the reception.

Minutes of the San Diego business meeting are included in this Newsletter. Regrettably, the AALL Executive Board elected not to take action on the Proposed Statement on Faculty Status of Academic Law Librarians which was printed in the April 1984 issue of the newsletter. Board members decided that action was not timely and while they sympathized with the aspirations of academic librarians, they questioned the practical feasibility in view of the lengthy history of the clinician's job security standard before the ABA. Barbara Bintliff of the University of Denver and the members of her committee worked hard on this proposal and their efforts should be recognized as an initial step toward bringing this issue to a heightened level of consciousness.

Suggestions for projects to be undertaken by the SIS are welcome, especially if accompanied by names of volunteers to work on them!

Barbara Gontrum

ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARIES SIS
MINUTES OF BUSINESS MEETING
San Diego, California
July 1, 1984

The meeting was called to order by Kathleen Carrick, (Case Western Reserve University) at 1:40 p.m. She indicated that the past year has been a productive year for the SIS. She thanked Barbara Gontrum, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect for planning Sunday morning's program on accreditation which was well received. Kathy also expressed appreciation to Jan Goldsmith for all her work in editing the SIS newsletter.

The minutes of the 1983 business meeting, as published in the newsletter, were approved by acclamation.

Before asking for the treasurer's report, Kathy reminded those present of the importance of dues to the SIS. Since AALL does not pay expenses of speakers for SIS programs, participants in these programs are paid out of SIS dues.

The treasurer's report indicated that the section had dues income of \$627.50 during fiscal year 1983/84. Expenses included newsletter printing, postage and supplies. Expenses from the program on accreditation were not yet known. The balance as of May 1, 1984, was \$1,056.84.

Results of the mail ballot were reported by the Secretary/Treasurer. The new Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect is Sandra Coleman of Harvard Law School Library. Martha Byrnes of the University of Utah Law Library is the new Secretary/Treasurer. Appreciation was expressed to the Nominating Committee consisting of Dan Freehling (University of Maine), Mary Miller (SUNY Buffalo) and Elisabeth Jackson (Georgetown University.)

Kathy Carrick then asked Barbara Bintliff of the University of Colorado to report on her work with a proposed statement on faculty status of academic

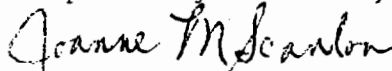
law librarians. Barbara has been working with a committee of 6-8 people concerned with the issue of faculty status for librarians (other than the director) in law school libraries. The group developed a statement based on similar documents drafted by the American Library Association and the Association of Research Libraries. Barbara read some changes to the document as it was originally published in the Academic Law Libraries SIS Newsletter. A discussion of the pros and cons of such a statement ensued. Following the discussion, a majority of those present voted to forward the statement to the Executive Board of AALL for comment and possible submission to the ABA and AALS. The Committee will also append to the statement information which led to its formulation.

Kathy Carrick next turned to the subject of SIS program topics for the 1985 annual meeting. Two suggestions she has received are (1) computer-assisted research and how to teach legal research, and (2) law school automation plans and the place of the library. A brief discussion of the viability of those topics followed. Sandra Coleman mentioned that Diana Vincent-Davis as program chair of the 1985 annual meeting is encouraging cooperative program planning among SIS's in light of budgets and available time slots. Diana has also suggested that program planners take advantage of the New York City location and the number of experts that may be available in that local area. Ideas from SIS's for one-day workshops are also being solicited.

Kathy Carrick mentioned the importance of the SIS newsletter as a source of information on activities in law school libraries. Some discussion of a separate journal for academic law library issues followed but it was agreed that the newsletter medium affords the publication of more current information.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joanne M. Scanlon
Secretary/Treasurer

Editor's note: In the following section, "Academic Law Library News," our intention is to print news items which do not appear in the AALL Newsletter; therefore, we will not include news of members or their publications.

Please send more news items! Send them by April 1, to:

Jan Goldsmith
Law Library
University of California, Los Angeles
405 Hilgard Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90024

ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARY NEWS

Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

In response to your request for news items for the Academic SIS Newsletter, I would like to let you know that we have recently occupied our new building, which was dedicated in August. About 70,000 net square feet of the new building is devoted to the Library, which is connected to 30,000 net square feet of Library space in our old building. The old building will contain largely foreign and international law. Both the old and the new buildings will have terminals for on-line catalogs of Northwestern's NOTIS system. The new building also contains classrooms, faculty and administrative offices, an 800-seat auditorium, and the headquarters of the American Bar Association and the American Bar Foundation. As the American Bar Association and the American Bar Foundation moved their headquarters to Northwestern's building, most of the contents of their Cromwell Law Library was donated to Northwestern. That collection will be combined with the Anglo-American collection of Northwestern in the new building, which, incidentally, overlooks Lake Michigan.

George Grossman, Director

Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

On Saturday, January 26, the new Law Library building of the Florida State University College of Law will be dedicated at a ceremony in which Associate Justice John Paul Stevens of the United States Supreme Court will be the principal speaker.

The College of Law Library is sponsoring two programs for librarians on January 25th as part of the library building dedication. The morning session will concern design, planning and implementation of a library building program as exemplified by our new building. For this program the Law Library Director Edwin M. Schroeder will be joined by Herschel Shepard, the building architect and adjunct professor at the University of Florida; George Grossman, Director, Northwestern University School of Law Library and the building consultant; and Emory Johnson, interior designer and President of the North Florida Chapter A.S.I.D.

The afternoon program concerns automation and is entitled "NOTIS/FOCUS: A Panel Discussion of the Proposed System of Automation in Florida Libraries." George Grossman will speak about NOTIS in a university and special library setting at Northwestern; Max Willocks, Acting Director of the Center for Florida Library Automation, and Nolan Pope, Head of Systems and Computer-Based Operations at the University of Florida Libraries, will discuss the FOCUS system as envisioned in Florida.

Edwin M. Schroeder, Director

Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The Marquette University Law Library is currently involved in a reclassification project to convert our 120,000 volume library (15,000 titles) from the Los Angeles County classification scheme to that of the Library of Congress. We would like to exchange information with any law library that has undertaken a reclassification or retrospective conversion project, either in-house or contracted out to a commercial dealer, whether to LC or not, regardless of number of titles. If you drop us a line, we would like to call you. Please contact Ms. Sue Khavari, Marquette University Law Library, 1103 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233, (414) 224-7031.

Sue Khavari, Head, Technical Serv.

Suffolk University Law Library, Boston, Massachusetts

The New England Law Librarians have produced two union lists: Union List of Loose Leaf Services, and Union List of Microforms. The former is stored in the university's mainframe and can be searched by key word or field. The latter is stored on an Apple III. Contact Joan Duckett at the Harvard Law School Library, the NELL coordinator, for additional information. NELL is now incorporated.

Has anyone inaugurated a bulletin board or any kind of network for groupings of libraries?

Suffolk Law School has three DecMate II word processors that are activated by coins. The charge is 25¢ for 15 minutes. The machines have been in place for a semester. The procedure used at Suffolk is that the student buys a packet for \$12.00 that includes a program and a storage disc plus a manual. The librarian and a law student get those students started who have had no previous experience in using the equipment. The weekly take is about \$40.00, which will probably cover the cost of maintenance, paper, ribbons, daisy wheels, etc. It also provides the law library staff additional word processors for library work when the machines are not being used by students, (by using the bypass key.)

Edward J. Bander, Director

Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio

The IBM Personal Computer network in the Case Western Reserve University Law Library will offer automated services ranging from database searching, interlibrary loan, and customized bibliographies for the use of faculty and students of the Law School, all provided by the Law Library's Public Services department, to generation of in-house publications such as the Law Library newsletter, in-house forms, letters, reports, annual statistics, and materials check-in for both Public and Technical Services departments. We plan to explore as many possible applications of PC hardware and software as is financially and physically feasible, from the traditional word processing

functions to budget projections, collection growth statistics, and electronic mail and bulletin boards.

The Law Library has ordered 19 IBM Personal Computers to be used in four areas of the Library. Public Services will have three IBM PC's at its disposal: at the Reference desk for database searching, at the Reserve-Circulation desk for circulation and interlibrary loan records, and in the office of the Associate Law Librarian for administrative use. The Director of the Law Library and her secretary will each have a personal computer. Technical Services will have five personal computers: one for the accounting clerk, one for the secretary/binding clerk, one for the Head of Technical Services, and two specifically configured IBM PC's, called M300's, to be used as OCLC terminals. In the area informally known as "The Computer Bank," the law students will have access to eight IBM PC's to use for word processing applications and for limited database searching. In addition, the Public Services department will have one ink-jet printer and one dot matrix printer, the Technical Services department will have two dot matrix printers, the Director's secretary will have a printer, and the law students will have access to a Diablo Printer and a letter-quality printer.

Since the PC's are not yet installed, and staff experience with them is limited to use of the lone faculty IBM PC, a widespread program of computer applications will not be implemented for four to six months.

Christine Corcos, Head, Technical Serv.

Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan (Arthur Neef Law Library)

In October, 1983, a representative group of librarians from Wayne State University library units was appointed by the Assistant Director for Library Operations, Louise Bugg. Our new director, Peter Spyers-Duran, had been given the funds to begin automation plans. This new Library Automation Planning Group was given the charge to:

1. Develop an overview of functions and technical specifications against which to evaluate automated systems;
2. Evaluate currently available automated library systems to identify suitable candidates for WSU;
3. Develop detailed functional and technical specifications; and
4. Develop an overall timetable for procurement, installation, implementation and maintenance of an integrated library system.

The original group (WSU) was expanded in November to include the Detroit Public Library, and in January to include the University of Detroit, Wayne County Community College, Beaumont Hospital, Harper Hospital, Henry Ford Hospital and South Macomb Hospital.

We are in the final stages of site visits and contract negotiations and hope to begin installation of a system in the summer of 1985. We have already begun inventory and retroconversion projects. We hope to begin installation with the online catalog followed closely by circulation, acquisitions, and finally serials.

Everyone is excited about the project - especially about which system we will be implementing beginning this summer!

Wayne State University, continued:

Approval Plan: Since March, 1984, we have been working with Blackwell North America with a fairly broad profile. During the period up through the end of September we have received 151 titles and rejected 5 of those.

Has anyone else used an approval plan and if so which one and are you satisfied? My impression is that few law libraries make use of such services. We will be happy to discuss our arrangement with its good and bad points. We entered into the arrangement hoping for good coverage of university press titles. It has helped us in that area of collection development.

Library Instruction: Over the past several years we have been providing law library instruction, including subject oriented legal research, to several departments on campus - Education, Criminal Justice, Social Work, Political Science, and Library Science. It has been a rewarding experience for the librarians involved as well as for the faculty and students.

Our efforts with Social Work have been especially successful. Three years ago we met with a class for an hour; this October we met for three hours for two sessions, a total of six hours - two hours in the classroom each session and one hour in the library working on an assignment developed by the librarian and a faculty member. Has anyone else had experience with such a program?

Georgia A. Clark, Head, Law Library

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

The USC Law Library staff presented a program of "Legal Research Brown Baggers" this past semester as a first test of interest in an advanced legal research course to be offered for credit. The sessions proved very popular on their own and also provided ample evidence that such a formal course is desired by our students. Since the "cost" in staff time is minimal, the "brownbagger" approach is recommended, either as a forerunner to a more complete course or as a separate library service for its own sake. (Excerpts from the report detailing the experience follow.)

A second item which law librarians might value is the Academic Law Librarians Convocation which was held at USC Law School last Spring. This day-long event was designed to bring together all the academic law librarians in the Los Angeles area to discuss common problems and learn more about the operations of our respective institutions. As the attached report (excerpts follow) indicates, the meeting did cover a variety of topics and was generally well-received by the attendees. While such a convocation may not be feasible in all settings, I would support the development of such a program in those areas where a gathering of law school librarians is possible.

Frank Houdek, Associate Director

(Note: Frank Houdek is now Director of the Law Library at Southern Illinois University. For full copies of these reports, contact Victoria Trotta at the University of Southern California.)

University of Southern California, continued:

Report on Advanced Legal Research Trial Sessions (excerpts)

The Library staff offered three advanced legal research sessions to interested students during the Fall 1984 semester. Each hour-long session centered on a separate topic and was designed either to provide a review of the basic first-year course curriculum or to introduce materials and techniques not so covered. Presented on Wednesdays at lunchtime (12:30 - 1:30 p.m.), these sessions were viewed as a trial to determine whether students are interested in the particular subject chosen and, more importantly, whether there was a "market" for a full course of this nature offered for credit. To achieve this purpose, students were requested to complete written questionnaires at the end of each session. Although returns were not complete, they did provide a fair amount of information, some of which was used as a basis for observations about the success of the program.

To insure a fair test, several means were used to promote each session. A full-page announcement was included in the Fall issue of the Library Newsletter. Reminder notices were placed in the boxes of all 2nd and 3rd year students prior to each session. Finally, a large sign announcing the session to be offered was placed in the Lobby of the building on the morning of each session.

The sessions offered were:

- (1) "Research Refresher"
- (2) "Computer-Assisted Legal Research-Tips and Techniques"
- (3) "Legislative History Research"

Students clearly felt that these sessions were beneficial. While the number attending was not overwhelming, the totals were respectable considering time conflicts and the already overburdened workloads of most students....

Convocation of Los Angeles Academic Law Librarians: Final Report (excerpts)

On May 18, 1984, law librarians from six law school libraries met at the University of Southern California Law Center for the first-ever "convocation" of Los Angeles Academic Law Librarians. This day-long meeting was the culmination of a lengthy planning process which began in January 1984 when the idea for such an event emerged from a meeting of the Long-Range Planning Committee of the Los Angeles law library community. It in turn was inspired by previous law library convocations held under the auspices of the Law Library Council of the University of California....

The twin objectives developed for the Convocation were to have the participating librarians meet their counterparts (in function) from the other libraries and to provide a forum to discuss major topical issues. To meet these objectives, the program included two types of sessions: "Departmental" and "Subject." The former ran concurrently in the morning, using moderators to facilitate an information exchange.

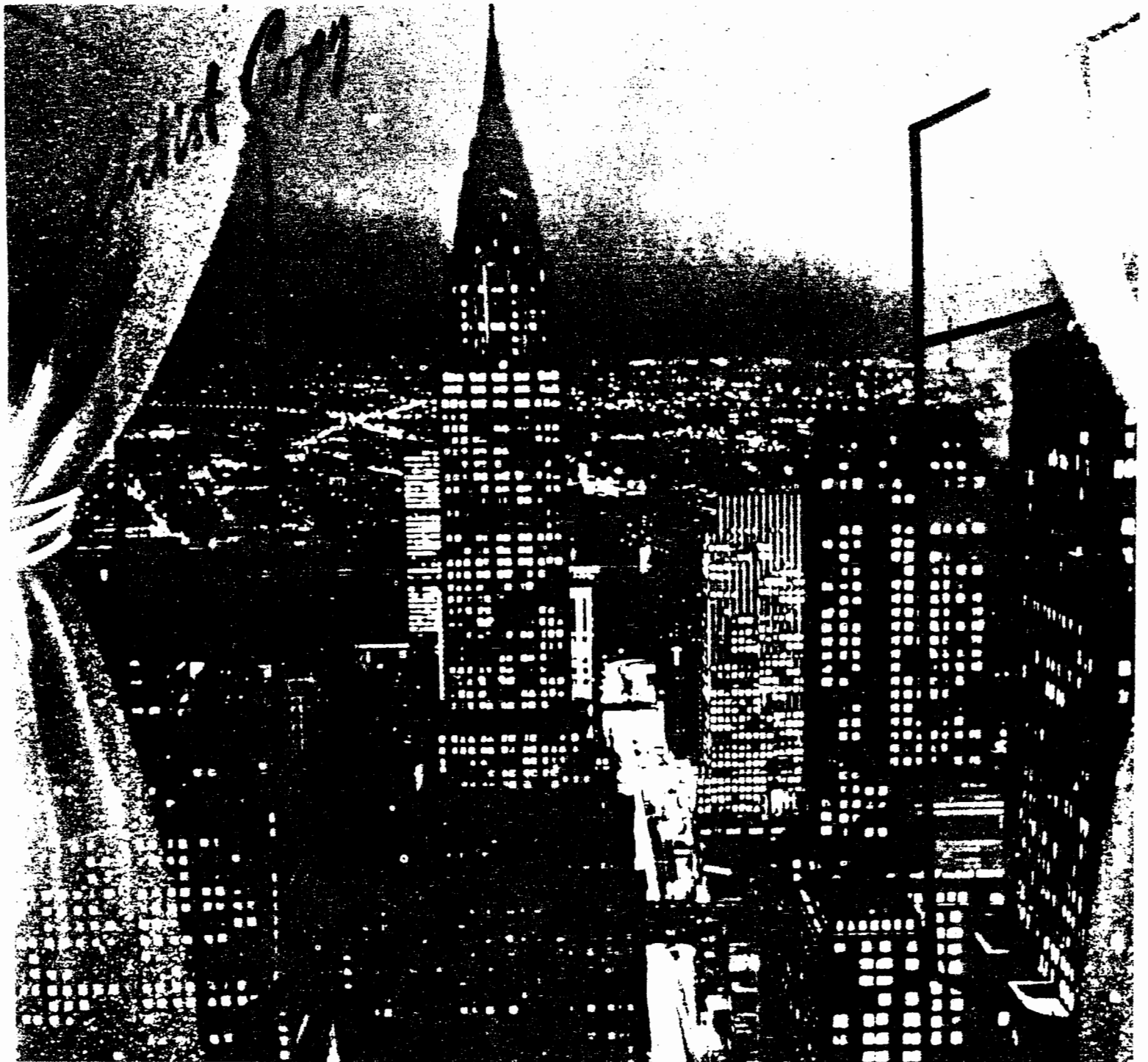
"Subject" sessions were offered in two groupings, each including 3 concurrent meetings, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The best attended sessions were "Microcomputers", "Teaching Legal Research", and "Working Together: Departmental Relationships and Interaction." These sessions also used moderators who had previously developed a tentative agenda for discussion from ideas previously suggested by participants through their committee representatives...

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