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ALL NEWSLETTER

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Pat Harris
Editor
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Academic Law Libraries
Special Interest Section *Newsletter*

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NEWSLETTER CHANGES

This issue marks a change in the editorship of the Academic SIS Newsletter. Thanks are in order to Jan Goldsmith of the law library of the University of California at Los Angeles for being the editor of volumes 5 and 6.

The general consensus of those attending the business meeting at the last AALL Convention was that the scope of the newsletter needs to be expanded to include more discussion of subjects of interest to its readership, of which nearly half are involved in the administration of a law library. It was also felt that the newsletter ought to include more news about what various academic libraries are doing--much like the information printed in the last newsletter. The goal of the newsletter will be to serve these two purposes as well as acting as the official reporter of the business news of the Academic SIS.

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Obviously, we need your input in order to achieve our objectives. If you have any information about current activities at your library that you would like to share with your colleagues, please send the information to me at the address below.

I would like to concentrate the next newsletter on the role that microcomputers are playing in your law library. Have you recently opened a computer lab? Are you using micros for office functions? Have any of you developed interesting library-oriented computer programs? Does your school teach any courses in Computers and the Law? What differences have the LEXIS and WESTLAW Temporary Learning Centers had on the quality of the training or on the impact on the staff?

Please send any items you would like to see in the newsletter to me at the following address. The deadline for the Spring issue is April 1st.

Pat Harris
Associate Director
Case Western University Law School Library
11075 East Blvd.
Cleveland, OH. 44106
216-368-2794

TENURE DOCUMENTS

Whatever happened to that project...?

Long time members of the Academic SIS may remember a project dating from 1979 of collecting copies of law school tenure documents. The original plan was that the SIS become a clearinghouse for such documents in order to aid any member trying to write their own policies. Mickey Byrnes, with the help of Sue Weinstein at the University of Denver, collected a total of 22 documents. The participating schools range from large to medium-sized, with both private and state schools represented. Photocopies of the entire set of tenure documents or individual documents can be requested from Mickey Byrnes. The cost is \$.03 per page and the average document length is 13 pages. If you are interested in obtaining photocopies of the tenure documents, contact Mickey Brynes at the Supreme Court of the United States Library, 1 First St., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20543.

MINUTES

1985/86 ACADEMIC SIS MEETING NEW YORK CITY, JULY 7, 1985

Chair Barbara Gontrum called the meeting to order, dispensing with the reading of the prior year's minutes. She thanked Jan Goldsmith for her work as editor of the SIS's newsletter and announced that the new editor would be Patricia Harris, Case Western Reserve Univ. Ms. Gontrum also thanked the nominations committee and announced the new officers. She then turned the meeting over to the 1985/86 Chair, Sandra Coleman, Harvard.

Ms. Coleman directed the discussion which revolved around the upcoming Academic SIS program, TODAY'S CHALLENGES AND TOMORROWS' NEEDS: LEGAL EDUCATION FOR THE PRACTICE OF LAW. The SIS also held a reception at Fordham Law School, sponsored by the F.W. Faxon Company. The reception was well attended and the new addition to the Library was toured by many.

General announcements included the mention of an AALL-sponsored SIS handbook for officers, the possibility of changing the by-laws to include past chairs on the SIS council (for the sake of continuity and an understanding of the SIS's history), the need for candidates for the 1986/87 Academic SIS ballot, and the approval of the prior year's proposal regarding faculty status for non-directors.

Some discussion of the political difficulties of getting the AALL Executive Board to approve the faculty status proposal was held, indicating a rift in the membership itself. Those who are interested in this issue should contact Barbara Gontrum or Sandra Coleman for further developments.

Potential projects for the coming year were discussed and are summarized below:

- 1) Should we continue our role as a clearinghouse for topics regarding academic law librarianship?
- 2) Should we collect Research and Writing exercises as well as teaching methodologies for an eventual model project?
- 3) Which libraries keep superseded pocket parts?
- 4) Should we collect and disseminate tenure documents? How can we update the collection we already have?
- 5) Should we serve as a clearinghouse for automation information for law school libraries?
- 6) What types of personnel exchanges are going on and are they workable?

7) Should we collect and disseminate policies on computers?

8) How can we expand the contributions base in the SIS newsletter? How can we model our newsletter after Juridocs?

9) What should the program for the next convention be?

After a discussion of potential program topics for the next convention, Chair Sandra Coleman appointed a special task force to examine the role of the Academic SIS over the long term future. Nancy Carol Carter, Golden Gate, was asked to chair this special sub-committee and to issue a report by the mid-winter meeting of the AALS in New Orleans.

Martha Byrnes
1984/85 Academic SIS
Secretary/Treasurer

AALS DIRECTOR'S WORKSHOP

Have you ever planted what you thought was a watermelon patch and harvested a crop of pumpkins? Both are nice fruits, but appeal to entirely different tastes and traditions. Watermelons are Fourth of July picnics, whereas pumpkins are Thanksgiving dinners. Like an innocent garden, the AALS Directors and Deans workshop has become a pumpkin patch, and we, as the harvesters, should rethink our crop.

The Directors/Deans workshop was originally created to provide a free and open dialog between these top legal education administrators. It was set in the midst of the AALS annual meeting, reminding all members of the important role that libraries play in legal education. To encourage honest and candid discussion, the programs were strictly limited to the head administrators of accredited law schools. This policy followed the tradition established at the mid-winter ABA Deans' workshop, which limits attendance to law school Deans with absolutely no exceptions.

But these early plans have been altered by reality, and I believe it is time for us to look frankly at the current and future direction of the AALS workshop. As the number of academic law library directors attending the annual meeting has increased, the program attendance has swelled. While interest in the program is obviously welcomed, the large group cannot realize the original goal of being a true debate among all attendees. The recent meetings have been necessarily structured as panel presentations and discussions, with very limited dialog from the audience.

Concurrently, as the numbers of Librarians attending the workshop has increased, the attendance of Deans has fallen. Currently, finding a Dean in attendance is almost as rare as a rose in December (a Cleveland perspective).

This is not to belittle the programs that have been presented. Like our pumpkin crop they have been welcomed and have provided substance, but we should honestly recognize the workshop for what it has become and adjust our expectations accordingly. I toast pumpkin seeds and spit watermelon seeds long distances, enjoy both activities, and have not confused the two for many years.

Since the meeting will continue to attract a large audience of concerned academic law librarians, we need to restructure our expectations of using it as an intimate dialog between Deans and Librarians. Most of the recent programs have been primarily geared toward the concerns of librarians; perhaps it is time for us to move toward recognizing it as a special interest panel, just as the various substantive law sections of AALS sponsor their own programs.

If we accept the value of the panels for librarians, how do we continue to justify the exclusion of non-director academic law librarians from the workshop? I would lobby to allow interested Law Librarians, who hold senior administrative posts in their academic institutions, to attend the meeting. The argument for confidentiality cannot be accepted - who among us would bare their soul in front of 150 fellow law librarians, or expect that any statement or gaffe at the meeting would not be repeated to all interested ears?

An argument about audience size would be more honest, but if attendance by secondary library administrators became popular, the situation could be settled by limiting the number of Associates "spots" for any one meeting. I do not think it is reasonable to deny library administrators and future Directors the opportunity to share in the workshop if they and/or their school are concerned enough about their professional development to have paid their way to the AALS meeting.

A more serious concern is the lack of Deans attending the workshops. Perhaps we have not addressed issues that attract their interest, or maybe we are too formidable as a group. Deans seldom understand what Librarians really do, so perhaps they view the workshop as a group plot to take over their institutions.

Given the lack of attendance by Deans, how do we strengthen the dialog that we all recognize must continue between Deans and Librarians? Maybe the AALS meeting is not the right forum, with too many other sirens vying for their attention. Is the commitment of an entire day too time consuming for the beleaguered Deans? Perhaps we should limit the part of the program aimed at them to "prime time" when few other conflicting meetings are being held, or a luncheon, featuring a "name" speaker on a controversial topic.

There are options available to us, if we are serious about them. There is always another year and another crop. I just hope we recognize what we are harvesting.

Kathleen Carrick
 Director, Case Western
 Reserve Law Library

ENROLLMENT

Curious about the impact on law libraries of the declining enrollment in law schools, the editor took an informal telephone poll of several directors across the country. All those interviewed declined to be identified due to the sensitive nature of the subject. However, once promised anonymity, some became quite candid.

None of those interviewed felt their library had suffered directly from declining enrollment in the law school. However, there was considerable apprehension about possible future effects. Some schools are already decreasing the number of teaching faculty. Most directors were worried about the fate of future budgets, due to the perception that it is "easier to cut books than people." Several believed that one long term result would be a cautious approach to any expansion or future development of the library. Thus, directors approaching deans for money might be successful with proposals involving a one-time expenditure of funds and unsuccessful if an ongoing commitment was involved.

A cautious budgetary approach also might require directors to justify to the law school administration and/or the central university administration retaining any personnel positions that come open through resignation, retirement, etc. Finally, many directors felt that the most likely scenario would be that their budgets would be "frozen," without increases to keep pace with the inflation in the cost of serials. This, inevitably, would result in the cancellation of serial titles or restrictions on the amount that could be spent on monographs.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS





Part of the report of the Task Force on Long Range Planning subcommittee (see Minutes, page 4) submitted to Sandra Coleman, Chair, at the recent AALS meeting, contains the results of a study of the composition of the Academic SIS membership. This study was undertaken to dispel the perception, held by many observers, that few directors are members of the SIS. The committee's study reveals that of the 305 individual and two undesignated memberships as of December 1985, ninety-three director members constitute 30% of the total section membership. Both medium and large libraries are well represented, with 80% of the total membership split fairly equally between these two types of libraries. The next two pages contain charts which show the distribution of the members by job responsibility, size of library represented, and the percentage of members of each sex. These are reprinted from the report of the special subcommittee.

ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARY SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION
JOB RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

NUMBER OF MEMBERS	JOB TITLE OR RESPONSIBILITY	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	
93	Director	30 %	
45	Administration	15 %	
22	Reference	7 %	
16	Acquisitions	5 %	
14	Cataloging	5 %	
12	Interlib. Loan	4 %	
3	Foreign/Intern'l	.09 %	
60	Academic law lib. job responsibility unknown	19 %	
24	Law librarian in non-academic law library	8 %	
19	No known law library affiliation	6 %	


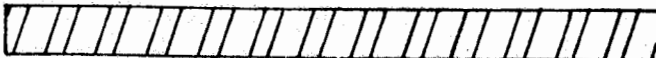
METHOD: The job code in the 1985 AALL Directory of Law Libraries was checked for each SIS member. Sixty SIS members employed in academic libraries do not have a job code in the Directory. Twenty-four SIS members are affiliated with non-academic law libraries. Nineteen members have no library affiliation noted in their address and are not listed in the Directory.

**ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARY SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION
SIZE OF LIBRARY REPRESENTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP**

LIBRARY SIZE	NUMBER OF MEMBERS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	
IA - UNDER 10,000 VOLS.	0	0	
IIA - 10,000- 99,000 VOLS.	19	6 %	
IIIA - 100,000- 249,000 VOLS.	125	41 %	
IVA - 250,000 OR MORE VOLS.	114	37 %	
NOT ACADEMICALLY AFFILIATED		16 %	

METHOD: The 1985 AALL Directory of Law Libraries was checked to determine the coded volume count of each section member's academic law library.

PERCENTAGE OF MEN AND WOMEN SECTION MEMBERS

MEN	31 %	
WOMEN	69 %	

ALL/SIS MENTOR PROJECT

Whether you are a new AALL member or a seasoned veteran, the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section's new Mentor Project has something to offer you. The Project will bring together teams composed of one member who is attending the Annual Meeting for the first time and one experienced law librarian who is willing to share the knowledge of AALL that s/he has gained. Participation is open to librarians from all types of law libraries. Teams will be matched as closely as possible by type of library and field of librarianship.

The purposes of the Project are to help new members gain maximum benefit from their first Annual Meeting by providing an informal, personal source of information; and to provide an avenue by which experienced members can become acquainted with promising new law librarians whom they may not otherwise meet.

There are no rules requiring a set time commitment or prescribing a particular agenda. Instead, each team will decide what they want to accomplish and how best to accomplish it. To become a charter participant in the Mentor Project, fill out and return the form below by June 1, 1986.

_____ I want to be a 1986 AALL Annual Meeting Mentor.

_____ I need a 1986 AALL Annual Meeting Mentor.

NAME _____

LIBRARY _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE () _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ (a.m/p.m.) DEPARTURE DATE _____

YOUR POSITION (Please describe duties if title is not self-explanatory)

COMMENTS (Please include any information that would help us assign the most appropriate team member to you)

RETURN TO: Ann Puckett
 Northwestern University Law Library
 357 E. Chicago Avenue
 Chicago, IL. 60611