

firsts in Academic Law Libraries

In observance of the centennial anniversary of the American Association of Law Libraries, the Centennial Committee of the Academic Law Libraries SIS is compiling a list of first occurrences/instances of notable events, activities, and other distinctions in the field of academic law librarianship.

Source publications:

AALL Directory – AALL Directory and Handbook

LLJ – Law Library Journal

LLHP - Law Librarianship: Historical Perspectives (Laura N. Gasaway & Michael G. Chiorazzi eds., 1996)

You are invited to contribute to the list. Please see the instructions at the end of the list.

Year	Distinction/Event/Activity	Who/Which/What	Sent By
1779	1 st American college to have a law school.	William & Mary In 1779, at the urging of Governor Thomas Jefferson, George Wythe was appointed Professor of Law and Police at the College of William & Mary. As for texts, Wythe relied heavily on Bacon's "New Abridgement of Law" and Blackstone's "Commentaries on the Laws of England." (His second class included, as one of his students, John Marshall).	Jim Heller
1849	1 st academic 24/7 library access	Washington and Lee University	Sally Wiant
1907	1st woman charter member of AALL	Margaret C. Klingelsmith, Biddle Law Library University of Pennsylvania	Gasaway article in LLHP p.514. /Rosalie Sanderson
1908	1st editor of new publication Index to Legal Periodicals and Law Library Journal	Frederick W. Schenk, University of Chicago	49 LLJ 158 (1956) /Rosalie Sanderson
1919-1921	1 st academic law librarian to serve as president of AALL	Frederick C. Hicks, Columbia University Law Library	Frank Houdek
1930	1st academic law librarian to propose expansion plan for AALL	William R. Roalfe, University of Southern California, moved to Duke in 1930 and later to Northwestern University	24 LLJ 60 (1931) /Rosalie Sanderson
1930-1932	1 st woman academic law librarian to serve as president	Rosamond Parma, University of California Law Library	Frank Houdek

	of AALL		
1933	1st African-American member of AALL	Allen Mercer Daniel, Howard University Law Library, 1923-1956, Howard Law Librarian, 1931-1956	Rhea Ballard-Thrower
1936	1 st publication of a regular current-awareness service, indexing and providing tables of contents to the latest law journals	In-house predecessors (with various titles) of Current Index to Legal Periodicals (CILP). In the 1940s, issues were typed by Marian Gould Gallagher herself. In 1949, CILP was first published (and continues today) by the University of Washington Law Library. By 1951, it was being distributed to 27 libraries and 13 law offices in the U.S. and abroad. Now subscribers may receive it electronically as well as in print and it is on Westlaw as well. A tailored product, SmartCILP lets subscribers get email updates with the subjects they select.	Mary Whisner
1937	1st academic law librarian to develop and teach a law library course in an accredited library school	Miles O. Price, at Columbia University	49 LLJ 111 (1956) /Rosalie Sanderson
1939	1st law librarianship program	University of Washington under the direction of Arthur Beardsley	82 LLJ 239 (1990) /Rosalie Sanderson
1940	1st editor of Reference Question Clearing House (forerunner of Questions and Answers column) in LLJ.	Margaret Hall, reference librarian, Columbia University Law School Library	Mary Whisner
1953 June	1st Law Librarians' Institute	Held at UCLA, with Miles O. Price as Director	62 LLJ 12 (1969) /Rosalie Sanderson
1953	1st academic law librarians to be awarded Matthew Bender scholarships	Mortimer Schwartz, then Librarian of Montana University Law School Library, & Francis B. Waters, then Legal Reference Librarian of New York University Law Library	46 LLJ 246 (1953) /Roy Mersky & Rosalie Sanderson
1954	1st law library to cooperate with the Library of Congress in supplying holdings for New Serial Titles.	Biddle Law Library	47 LLJ 37(1954) /Rosalie Sanderson
1954	1st regular newsletter for AALL	The President's Newsletter (monthly). Marian Gould Gallagher, University of Washington	Mary Whisner

1955	1st woman on University of North Carolina law faculty	Mary Oliver, librarian, Law Library, University of North Carolina	Gasaway article in LLHP p.526. /Rosalie Sanderson
1957	1st academic library in the US to become a European Economic Community (now EU) depository library	University of Michigan Law Library	Barbara Garavaglia
1959-1961	1st president of International Association of Law Libraries	William R. Roalfe, director at Northwestern University Law Library at that time	Rosalie Sanderson
1965	1st joint academic law library/county law library	University of Arkansas, Little Rock Division/ Pulaski County Law Library (now University of Arkansas at Little Rock/Pulaski County Law Library)	Susan Goldner
1966	1 st academic law library to publish a regular serial with selected new acquisitions	Tarleton Law Library, University of Texas with Notes from the Tarleton Library	Kumar Percy
1966	1 st academic law library to establish a "litigated literature" collection of banned books and subscriptions to journals charged for indecency	Tarleton Law Library, University of Texas	Kumar Percy
1966 Sept.	1st document delivery service for Law faculty, called "Phone Page"	University of Michigan Law Library	Barbara Garavaglia
1968 June	1 st law library to start using Class KF.	University of Houston It was in a draft edition only, with no index!	Lolly Gasaway
1968	1 st academic law library to issue an independent annual report	Tarleton Law Library, University of Texas	Kumar Percy
1970	1st director of CONELL (Conference of Newer Law Librarians)	Peyton R. Neal, American University	Rosalie Sanderson
1970	1st editor of the AALL Newsletter.	Mario P. Goderich, University of Miami Law School	Mary Whisner
1971	1 st academic law library to provide 24 hour staffed service	Tarleton Law Library, University of Texas	Kumar Percy
1971	1 st academic law library to capture a bat in its reading room	Tarleton Law Library, University of Texas	Kumar Percy
1971	1st law library institute funded by a federal grant (National	Co-directed by Roy Mersky, University of Texas and J. Myron Jacobstein, Stanford University	Kumar Percy

	Science Foundation)		
1971/ 72	1st law school to install and maintain a dedicated legal research terminal, a LEXIS terminal for regular use by professors and students	Case Western Reserve University. The terminal was installed at Gund Hall when it opened in 1971/1972. Beginning in 1969, MDC was offering the Ohio State Bar Association Automated Research Corporation (OBAR) Lexis system to a limited group of Ohio lawyers.	Kathy Carrick
1975	1 st academic law library to honor its director during Library Week with a costume party in the main reading	Tarleton Law Library, University of Texas The party featured a come-as-your-favorite-book-character theme and	Kumar Percy
1976	1 st academic law library to subscribe to Westlaw	University of Florida Law Library	Rick Donnelly
1976	1st African-American appointed Director of a non-minority academic law library	George A. Strait, Director of University of Iowa Law Library, 1976-1985	Ruth Hill
1977	1 st academic law library to subscribe to both Westlaw and Lexis	University of Florida Law Library	Rick Donnelly
1980	1 st academic law library to create a reading room for the blind	Tarleton Law Library, University of Texas	Kumar Percy
1981	1 st academic law library to install a computer lab for students.	University of Minnesota Lab was installed in conjunction with the Center for Computer Assisted Legal Instruction	Katherine Hedin
1984	1st law librarian to receive the AALL Distinguished Service Award.	Marian Gould Gallagher, University of Washington In 1990 the award was redesignated the Marian G. Gallagher Award for Distinguished Service in her honor.	Rosalie Sanderson
1984	1 st school to have permanent training centers for Lexis and Westlaw.	Drake University The vendors leased computer lab space to train attorneys. They also provided equipment and allowed law students to use the labs when they were free.	Jonathan Edwards
1984	1 st academic law librarian to be a member of American Law Institute	Roy Mersky, Tarleton Law Library, University of Texas	Kumar Percy
1984	1 st academic law librarian to hold a named professorship	Roy Mersky, Tarleton Law Library, University of Texas when he was named Elton M. Hyder, Jr. and Martha Rowan Hyder Centennial Professor of Law	Kumar Percy
1984	1st Law Libray Publication Award	Duke University School of Law Library's Research Guide Series, D.U.L.L. News, and Library Guide	Mary Whisner

1985	1st academic law libraries to receive fax machines	Philadelphia academic law libraries	Joel Fishman
1985	1st winners of the AALL Call for Papers competition	Dan Dabney, Fred R. Shapiro, and Arturo L. Torres	Mary Whisner
1986	1st AALL mentor project	ALL-SIS, under the leadership of Ann Puckett. The program is so successful it soon became an Association-wide program.	AALL Directory/ Mary Whisner
1986 Sept.	1st customized faculty research service for Law faculty	University of Michigan	Barbara Garavaglia
1986/ 87	1st library to have had 3 directors as president of AALL: Lucile Elliott in 1953-54; Mary Oliver in 1972-73; and Lolly Gasaway in 1986-87.	University of North Carolina	Lolly Gasaway
1987	1 st academic law library to begin cataloging Westlaw and Lexis sources	University of Minnesota cataloged individual files on Westlaw, and SUNY Buffalo provided the same service for LEXIS. These records were input on RLIN for cooperative use by other libraries	Katherine Hedin
1988	1 st academic law library to work with Dialog Information Services in pilot to integrate non-legal information resources with legal research instruction	University of Florida Legal Information Center	Rick Donnelly
1988	1st African-American elected to AALL Executive Board.	Judy Dimes-Smith, Director, Howard University Law Library, 1981-1990	Ruth Hill
1989	1 st academic law library to have its director ride a horse in the law library	Tarleton Law Library, University of Texas	Kumar Percy
1989	1st winner of the Law Library Journal Article of the Year Award.	Bruce Kennedy, then at Georgetown Law Library	Mary Whisner
1989/ 93	1st Asian-American elected to the AALL Board, serving as AALL secretary for four years.	Paul Fu, longtime director of the Supreme Court of Ohio Library	Frank Houdek
1991	1 st academic law library to collect law-related videos and novels	Tarleton Law Library, University of Texas with it's The Law in Popular Culture Collection	Kumar Percy
1991	1st law librarian on the cover of Library Journal (Sept. 15,	Roy Mersky	Kumar Percy
1994	1st law library to support a law school mandatory laptop	University of Richmond	Timothy Coggins

1995	1 st academic law library to scan table of contents from law journals and email them to patrons	Tarleton Law Library, University of Texas with its Tarleton Table of Contents	Kumar Percy
1997	1 st school to install a coffee bar in the library.	William & Mary	Jim Heller
1997	1 st wireless network in an academic law library, as well as throughout the Law Center building.	Shepard Broad Law Center, Law Library & Technology Center at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Lisa Smith-Butler
2000	1st law library to offer an official mirror website for the International Labour Organization (ILO).	Cornell Law Library This site also provides a research guide to the ILO, and a bibliography.	Patricia Jones
2001	1st recipient of Academic Law Libraries SIS Frederick C. Hicks Award	Penny A. Hazelton, University of Washington	Mary Whisner
2002/ 03	1 st African American and 1 st person of color to serve as president of AALL	Carol Avery Nicholson of the University of North Carolina	??
2001/ 02	1st African-American to serve as Chair of the ALL-SIS	Ruth J. Hill	Carol Nicholson
2001/ 02	1st African-American to serve as Chair of the Council of SIS Chairs	Ruth J. Hill	Carol Nicholson
2003	1 st academic law library to publish periodical on its rare books collection	University of Minnesota with publication of The Colophon, a biannual publication	Katherine Hedin
2003 Mar.	1st academic law library blog	University of Baltimore Law Library Weblog	Diane Murley

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Year	Distinction/Event/Activity	Who/Which/What	Sent By

Send your contribution/s to Mila Rush, m-rush@umn.edu .

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