

# The ALL-SIS Newsletter

Volume 23, Issue 1

Fall 2003

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

By Sally Wise, 2003-2004 ALL-SIS Chair

Dear members of the ALL-SIS:

### Committees, Task Forces and Projects:

It is hard to believe but the planning for the Boston meeting is well underway. We just finished setting up times for some of the committees, etc. to meet in Boston! Included in another part of the newsletter are the charges to the committees, etc., and a list of the members of each committee. Please take a few moments to see what the members of the section are working on this year. If you would like to join one of the groups, please let me know and if you have some thoughts and ideas for one of the groups, please contact the chair.

### Boston Meeting:

As I mentioned, members of the SIS are already hard at work preparing for the Boston meeting. You will need to mark your calendar (or pda) for a number of events, but please circle Tuesday evening, July 13th, which is the day and time for our SIS reception at Harvard Law Library. Terry Martin, Librarian and Professor of Law, and the Law Library staff will be hosting the event and BNA will be sponsoring it. I am sure that it will be one of the highlights of the convention.

### Communication:

I hope that you all are all members of the ALL-SIS listserv, because I will be updating you all through out the year using the list. If we find that there are a number of you not on the list, we will start a campaign to get everyone on to the list!

Also, please let me know if there is anything that I can do to further our programs and issues.  
(305) 284-2755 [swise@law.miami.edu](mailto:swise@law.miami.edu).

All for now  
Sally

P.S. I just am curious about one thing. How many law libraries are mentioned in mystery stories? I have not done any investigation. But the University of Miami Law Library is mentioned in Last to Die and I was curious about others!



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Current and prior issues of the ALL-SIS Newsletter are available on the ALL-SIS website:  
<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/NewsLetter.html> in html (V. 18 - ) (Holiday 1998 - ) and pdf (V. 23 -)(Fall 2002 -) format.

## The Call for Papers Has Begun



Have you been thinking of writing an article of interest to law librarians? Maybe you just need a push to get started? Whether for fame or for fortune, this is your chance to enter the AALL/LexisNexis™ Call for Papers Competition.

The AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Committee is soliciting articles in three categories:

- Open Division for AALL members and law librarians with five or more years of professional experience
- New Members Division for recent graduates and AALL members who have been in the profession for less than five years.
- Student Division for budding law librarians still in school. (Students need not be members of AALL.)

The winner in each division receives \$750 generously donated by LexisNexis, plus the opportunity to present his or her paper at a special program during the AALL Annual Meeting in Boston. Winners' papers will also be considered for publication in the Association's prestigious *Law Library Journal*.

For more information, a list of previous winners and an application, visit the AALL website at

[http://www.aallnet.org/about/award\\_call\\_for\\_papers.asp](http://www.aallnet.org/about/award_call_for_papers.asp).

**Submissions must be postmarked by March 1.**

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Committee, Kathryn Hensiak, [k-hensiak@law.northwestern.edu](mailto:k-hensiak@law.northwestern.edu) or Virginia Davis, [Davis@UH.edu](mailto:Davis@UH.edu)

## A Sense of Humor and a Pro Se Patron

By Pat Parker  
Legal Services Librarian  
Steelcase Library/DeVos Center  
Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, Michigan

It was August, 2000, when Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan opened the doors of its multi-million dollar branch campus. The Steelcase Library with its automated retrieval system and a Reading/Reference room with medieval stained glass windows, high beamed ceilings, wood paneling, and carpeting befitting a coronation, became a showpiece for the community. Factor in the donation of the law library collection from the Grand Rapids Bar Association and word spread via visitors that we were the Taj Mahal of legal resources and knowledge.

The Grand Rapids Public Library had moved to a warehouse facility some distance from the downtown area as a two year temporary move until renovations on the main library were completed. The uniqueness of the campus and the inconvenience of the public library's relocation resulted in a wave of pro se patrons seeking our services.

Nothing prepared us for the questions and personalities we encountered! In retrospect, it was fun and a great reality check. We were clear about our policy: "We are not lawyers. We cannot do legal research. We can show you sources. We cannot give opinions."

Inevitably, there was the "I know you aren't a lawyer and can't give us an opinion, but what do you think about this ....?" "I don't know the first thing about research. I never use a library. I just need you to make me smarter than my lawyer and I only have three days to do it in." "I already have a lawyer so I don't need your help. I'm suing him, I just need you to tell me how to sue him." And then there was the patron who came in, cigarette in hand, eight inch heels, with the scary eyes of the Wicked Witch of the West who blithely said, "Hey you, I want one of them there books that tells all the divorce settlements in the world. I wanna know how much they got so I can take my ole man to the cleaners." And then, there was the patron who came in, banged on the desk, and said, "do you know anything about multiple personalities?" I have to admit that one was a show stopper! Before I could inquire further, he looked at me and said, "I'm taking my kids to a hypnotist to get the multiple personalities they caught from their mother sneezed out of them". Jokingly, I said, "you

don't mean like they caught it like a cold" and he said, "You betcha! They caught it being in the same room. You're a pretty smart librarian!"

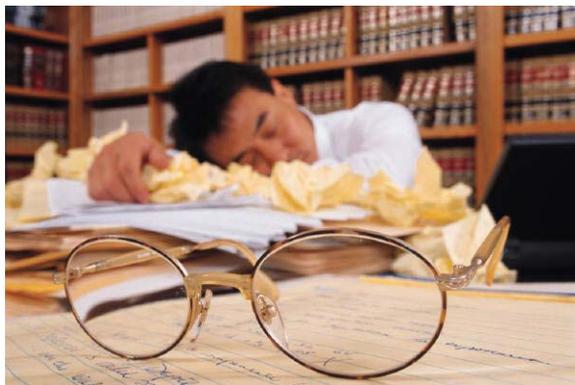
My favorite character was the chap who came in once a week, same day, same time to relentlessly pursue his theory that he was a citizen of the "Republic of the World" and not a citizen of the United States. He never registered his children for Social Security numbers and now he wanted assistance from the government who, in turn, wanted to know social security numbers on the applications. Unfortunately, I could find nothing to affirm that he did not have to comply with the laws of the United States and the state laws! The "postcard from the edge" was delivered when he politely informed me that he was never coming back to the library because he had decided that the librarians were all state employees and therefore part of the "Establishment!"

Trying to get the point across that we should not be privy to personal or potential legal information on their part never seemed to hit home. The law librarian as social worker and the law librarian as attorney seemed to be one and the same in many of the patron's mind's eye.

Our collection is geared toward the practitioner and the potential law school student. It was definitely intimidating to the average user. But, to the pro se patrons, the librarians were the Wizards who could sprinkle magic dust on law books and somehow find something they could understand!

When the public library re-opened downtown, the majority of pro se users returned to their public library roots. Many of us learned a lot from the experience. We learned how difficult it is to convey the fine line between legal reference and legal research. We learned that some of these patrons were, indeed, a reality check – how often we take our education and ability to find knowledge, search for answers, understand contexts, be able to read and analyze – for granted. We learned that academia can indeed be an ivory tower where the realities and conditions of the common man can often be forgotten.

More important, we learned that having a sense of humor or the ability to see humor in the reference interviews and assisting the pro se patrons in their quest was the key to a successful day. As a matter of fact, when answering the same student assignment questions all day long, we often missed that other slice of life!



### Member News

The University of Miami Law Library is pleased to announce that Lauren M. Collins has joined the library as Reference/Faculty Services Librarian. Lauren just received her Master of Science in Information (MSI) from the University of Michigan. She received her J.D. degree in 1994 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Lauren has worked as an attorney practicing civil litigation. She also was Associate Director of Administration for Central Michigan University. Also, Calmer Chattoo has recently joined the University of Miami School of Law Library as Electronic Resources and Special Formats cataloger. Calmer graduated from the School of Information and Library Science of the State University of New York at Buffalo, and also holds a master's degree in education. She is an active member of ALA and AALL, where she works with the AALL Committee on Diversity.

Laura Teske, Library Specialist in Technical Services, Oklahoma City University, Law Library, accepted the position of Technical Services Librarian and Visiting Instructor of Library Science at the Dulaney-Browne Library, the general university library, at Oklahoma City University.

Pamela Rogers Melton, Reference Librarian, Coleman Karesh Law Library, University of South Carolina has recently made the following presentations:

American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) 2003 Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, Program Coordinator and Speaker, "A Legal Research Survey: Maximize Legal Research Instruction Relevance," July 16, 2003.

International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, XV ICAES, Florence, Italy, Speaker, "Using the World Wide Web to Protect Children and Improve Judicial Decisionmaking," July 8, 2003.

2003 Conference on Law School Computing (CALI), Duke University School of Law, Durham, NC, Speaker, "Let Me Edutain You: Games Shows in the Classroom," June 20, 2003.

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**COMMITTEES, PROJECTS, TASK FORCES, LIAISONS TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND LISTSERV MANAGER CHARGES 2003-2004**

**COMMITTEES:**

ARCHIVES

- Begin the process of putting together an Archives policy for the SIS;
- Begin gathering archival materials;
- Work with the Anniversary Celebration Task Force to put together an Anniversary exhibit to be mounted in the glass case in the Exhibit Hall at the annual meeting in Boston;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

AWARDS

- Solicit nominations for Hicks Award and Publications Award; select recipients for 2004 awards.
- Investigate recommending to the Board the addition of new awards; one possibility might be an award directed at innovations of middle managers [defined as any academic law librarian not a director];
- Investigate establishing a scholarship to be awarded to a ALL-SIS member to attend AALL Annual Meeting, CALI Conference, or other relevant meetings;
- Investigate awarding of service pins to librarians in academic law librarianship for more than X number of years (20, for example);

- Work with Local Arrangements for Reception Chair to arrange award event at the reception;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

#### BYLAWS

- Review the SIS Bylaws and recommend any changes to the Executive Board;
- Review the SIS Bylaws to insure compliance with AALL's Constitution and Bylaws;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

#### CALI

- Serves as the Advisory Board for the CALI Legal Research Community Authoring Project;
- Publicize project;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

#### CONALL/MENTORING

- Set up event for 2004;
- Set up mentoring opportunities for 2004;
- Work with AALL Mentoring Committee on appropriate activities;
- Work with Membership Committee on appropriate activities;
- Work with Public Relations Committee to promote event and mentoring opportunities;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

#### COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

- Identify and evaluate commonly used tools for selections;
- Identify and evaluate tools for collection evaluation;
- Identify librarians who make the collection development decisions for their institution;
- Other projects that the Committee has identified as useful;
- Consider ways of bringing Collection Development issues to the community for discussion;
- Consider methods of making this information widely available to academic law librarians;
- Consider methods for maintaining and improving this information;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

#### CONTINUING STATUS/TENURE

- Update and publicize the webpage;
- Continue identifying existing policies and putting them up on the webpage;

- Consider adding links to the webpage to other useful materials such as articles on tenure and continuing status for law librarians or other academic librarians;
- Consider putting together a "White Paper" of why tenure or continuing status is of value for the librarian and for the institution;
- Other projects that the Committee had identified as useful;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

#### DIRECTORS' BREAKFAST

- Plan Directors' Breakfast working with hotel;
- Plan program;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

#### LEGAL RESEARCH

- Identify areas for development; work with Education Task Force;
- Identify and work on legal research projects;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

#### LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR RECEPTION

- Make arrangements for Tuesday evening ALL-SIS reception;
- Make transportation arrangements;
- Work with BNA (reception sponsor);
- Work with Awards Committee to arrange for their event at the reception;
- Work with the Anniversary Celebration Committee to arrange for their event at the reception;
- Work with Public Relations Committee to promote Tuesday evening reception;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

#### MEMBERSHIP

- Establish liaisons to TS-SIS, CDS-SIS and RIPS-SIS;
- Work with CONALL/Mentoring Committee on appropriate activities;
- Put together a Welcome Kit for new members to the SIS and work with AALL Headquarters to identify new members to the SIS;
- Investigate a way with Headquarters to welcome potential new members to the SIS;
- Other projects that the Committee has identified as useful;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

#### MIDDLE MANAGERS' BREAKFAST

- Plan Middle Managers' Breakfast working with sponsor and hotel;
- Plan Program;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

#### NEWSLETTER

- Identify areas to be covered in newsletter;
- Create electronic newsletter in pdf format;
- Appoint columnists;
- Create committee columns (all committee chairs are expected to submit at least one column during the year);
- Other projects that the Committee has identified as useful;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

#### NOMINATIONS

- Solicit candidates for 2004-2005 slate;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

#### PROGRAM 2004

- Solicit program proposals for 2004 Annual meeting;
- Work with program coordinators to meet AALL deadlines;
- Work with Public Relations Committee to promote programs to membership;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Set up ALL-SIS table in exhibit area and in CONELL Marketplace;
- Work with webmaster to have brochure put up on webpage;
- Work with CONALL/Mentoring Committee to promote their work;
- Work with Local Arrangements Reception Chair to promote Tuesday evening reception;
- Work with the Anniversary Celebration Committee to publicize our 25th anniversary;
- Promote business meeting/breakfast;
- Work with Program Committee to promote programs for 2004 Annual Meeting;
- Other projects that the Committee has identified as useful;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

#### RELATIONS WITH CALR VENDORS

- Monitor CALR vendor issues as they affect academic law libraries;

- Work with CRIV;
- Arrange for Roundtable at the Annual Meeting;
- Other projects that the Committee has identified as useful;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

#### STATISTICS

- Investigate ABA, ARL and local statistics;
- Report finding to appropriate organizations;
- Work on proposing definitions for statistics;
- Work with liaison to Committee on Law Libraries to the ABA Section on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar;
- Work with AALL ABA Standards for Academic Law Libraries Task Force;
- Other projects that the Committee has identified as useful;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter which discusses the statistic roles of the ALL-SIS Statistics Committee, the Committee on Law Libraries of the ABA Section on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar and the AALL Task Force on ABA Standards for Academic Law Libraries.

#### SUPPORT FOR LAW JOURNALS

- Continue working on website;
- Other projects that the Committee has identified as useful;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

#### WEBSITE

- Keep ALL-SIS website current;
- Check for dead links, etc. on a regular basis;
- Serve on the Web Content/Redesign Task Force;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

#### TASK FORCES:

##### ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

- Plan a celebration for the SIS' 25th Anniversary to be held at the Tuesday reception at Harvard;
- Work with Local Arrangements for Reception Chair to arrange for event at the Tuesday reception;

- Work with the Archives Committee to put together an Anniversary exhibit to be mounted in the glass case in the Exhibit Hall at the annual meeting in Boston;
- Work with Public Relations Committee to publicize our 25th Anniversary;
- Submit an article to Spectrum;
- Other projects that the Committee has identified as useful;
- Submit one column for the Newsletter.

#### EDUCATION

- Investigate alternative education resources other than attending AALL meetings;
- Work with other relevant committees, including the Legal research and Website Content/Redesign Committees;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

#### TOOLKIT

- Design a toolkit for academic law libraries;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

#### WEB CONTENT/REDESIGN

- Review other SIS websites;
- Redesign website to make it more dynamic;

- Work with relevant committees and board to determine new information that should be on website;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

#### PROJECT:

#### VISITING LIBRARIAN

- Work with all appropriate organizations including Private Law Libraries SIS to establish visiting librarianships;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

#### LIAISONS TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

- Report to Board and SIS on the relevant activities of the other organization;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

#### LISTSERV:

#### ALL-SIS LISTSERV

- Maintain the ALL-SIS listserv;
- Work to be sure that all SIS members are members of the list;
- Submit one column to the Newsletter.

### **AALL Professional Development Listserv on the ABA 2003 Annual Questionnaire**

Submitted by Darin Fox and Leonette Williams, Co-Chairs, ALL SIS Statistics Committee, USC Law Library

During the time period September 15 - September 26, 2003, AALL held a Professional Development Listserv on the ABA 2003 Annual Questionnaire. The listserv was sponsored by the Academic Law Libraries SIS Statistics Committee to serve as a forum for discussion on the new changes made to the ABA 2003 Annual Questionnaire. Darin Fox and Leonette Williams, both from the University of Southern California Law School and co-chairs of the ALL SIS Statistics Committee, served as moderators of the listserv. In their introduction to the listserv, the moderators offered the following categories to participants as issues for discussion: (1) the new changes to the questionnaire; (2) whether the instructions for filling-in the questionnaire are self-explanatory or need revision; and (3) whether the changes match the goals of the association. In other words, does the questionnaire gather information that is important and relevant to the process of setting standards for accreditation and comparing law libraries. During the two week life span of the listserv, approximately two dozen of the 174 participants who had signed up for the listserv actively engaged in the discussion.

The two most heavily discussed issues on the listserv concerned title counts and alternative measures of law library quality. There were also a number of issues mentioned ranging from the counting of wireless access to the lead time for new questions to the distribution of the compiled questionnaire data in Excel.

- I. **Title Counts** - there were two separate threads of discussion relating to title counts. First, one member asked whether web-based resources should be counted in Question 4 relating to a title count of non-book titles. Second, one member suggested that a count of "unique titles" provided by a law library is one important measure of library quality.

- A. *Counting Web-Based Resources* - One member asked whether web-based resources should be counted in Question 4 relating to a title count of non-book titles. One member responded that her school does not count individual titles in web-based resources in Question 4. One member responded that web-based serial titles can be counted in the serial subscription section if those titles are cataloged. One member added that the use of software, such as SFX, that automatically adds titles from aggregate databases may present a problem. Should multiple instances of an electronic title be counted if they appear in separate aggregate databases? One member responded that her school treats electronic titles which are cataloged as “multiple copies” where the title is already held in another format. In other words, her school only counts “unique” electronic titles. One member added that there are three different types of publications (databases, journals, and monographs), and each presents its own problems when trying to count them.
- B. *“Unique Titles”* - One member suggested that a count of “unique titles” provided by a law library is one important measure of library quality. It was suggested that “unique titles” include (1) Current Question 1 (book titles), (2) Current Question 2 (microform titles), (3) Current Question 4 (Other Non-Book Titles), plus (4) any electronic titles which are cataloged, which the library provides access to, and which are not already counted in 1-3. There were several responses. Two types of problems with this approach were suggested. Both revolve around web-based resources. First, it is difficult for some libraries to know which web-based resources to count. Some libraries may share a central university catalog, and they may be a member of a university consortium which subscribes to resources. If the law library did not pay for a specific title and did not catalog it, yet it appears in the shared university catalog, should the library count it? Second, it may be difficult and expensive for some libraries to catalog the titles of web-based resources, such as HeinOnline or JSTOR.
- II. **Alternative Measures of Library Quality** - The second major thread of discussion involved alternative measures of library quality. There were three separate threads of discussion. First, what can we learn from other questionnaires used by other library organizations? Second, what is the purpose and what are the uses of the Annual Questionnaire?
- A. *Questionnaires Used by Other Library Organizations* - One member suggested that we might look to other questionnaires, such as the ARL questionnaire or the LibQual+ process. Another member questioned the inclusion of these types of surveys in the ABA questionnaire, stating that service and quality are defined differently given our locations, goals, institutions, target patron groups, etc. One member commented that the ABA/AALS site inspections serve as a decent quality instrument to measure law schools. Further comments included that over time new questions added to the questionnaire sometimes become dated. What was seen as new, interesting, and a measure of quality has quickly become standard in all law libraries, for example integrated library systems. Another member questioned how one questionnaire could possibly provide a useful basis for comparison purposes when library services and materials provided through consortia or through affiliation with university libraries is vastly different. Specifically regarding electronic title counts, one member suggested that the ARL survey provides a better mechanism for comparison. She stated that it requires schools to count electronic titles purchased as part of an aggregated database, and it also requires that duplicate subscriptions should be counted so that the total count includes all means to access a title.
- B. *Purpose and Uses of the Annual Questionnaire* - One member asked “who wants to know these things?” Another member responded that the ABA Questionnaire is a reflection of the measurements that over many years law librarians have said were appropriate. Another member suggested that the ABA Questionnaire originated as a mechanism for the ABA to collect information to insure that law libraries are meeting ABA

standards. However, the Questionnaire has expanded to become a tool for law libraries to compare themselves for administrative purposes.

- C. *Staffing and Expenditures* - One member suggested emphasizing staffing and expenditures as ratios to the size of the faculty and student body, instead of emphasizing volume and title counts. It was further suggested that a ratio of total library expenditures to faculty and student body might be the best comparison since, for example, cost of living differences impact salary comparisons.

III. **Other Issues Discussed** - Many other questions were raised on the listserv. Below is a brief summary of each.

- A. *Technology Sections - Question 5* - One member suggested that it is difficult to count the total number of simultaneous wireless users because wireless vendors no longer provide the maximum number of users that can connect to their equipment. This school's wireless network can support thousands of simultaneous users, yet the school has only 650 students. It was suggested that this specific part of Question 5 be removed from the questionnaire or that the question ask for the percentage of the student body that is registered to use the wireless network. Another member suggested that it might be difficult for schools to determine the percentage of students registered and suggested that this question may be irrelevant in a few years since all schools will likely have a wireless network.
- B. *Time to Prepare* - One member suggested that the ABA give one full year's notice to libraries before a new question appears in the Annual Questionnaire. This would give libraries a chance to prepare and to begin gathering statistics that must be reported in future years. One member responded that it might be difficult for the ABA to pilot newly proposed questions, but the various listservs could be used to promote awareness of proposed questions.
- C. *Work Study Hours* - One member asked whether Question 25 should include the "work study" hours of student workers or just those hours paid by the Library. A member responded that the purpose of the question is to describe the total staffing level of the library. So, work study hours should be included.
- D. *Federal Depository Holdings and Title Counts* - One member asked whether government documents which are cataloged should be included in Question 6. There was no discussion of this issue.
- E. *Software Which Accompanies Books or Looseleafs* - One member asked whether software which accompanies other materials should be counted separately. If so, how? There was no discussion of this issue.
- F. *Distribution of Final Data Compilation Tables in Excel* - One member asked whether the final data compilation tables could be distributed in Excel format. This would allow libraries to sort data more easily and make comparisons among schools of similar size. There was no discussion of this issue.
- G. *Aggregate Resources* - Two members asked whether there should be a separate section of the Questionnaire on Aggregate Resources. Is Question 16 sufficient? Is Section 2, Information Access, the best place to include more information on this issue? There was no discussion of this issue.

## **Web Content and Redesign Task Force – An Update**

by Merle Slyhoff

In August 2002, Merle Slyhoff, then Chair of the ALL-SIS, created a Web Content and Redesign Task Force. Chaired by Dan Campbell, United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit (previously with Rutgers University, Newark), the Committee's charge was to - Redesign the ALL-SIS web page to make it more dynamic; -Work with relevant committees, especially the Education Task Force to determine new information that should be on the web page.

Although the ALL-SIS web page had proven to be a useful resource to the membership, it was felt that there were changes - both aesthetic and content – that would make it an even more powerful tool. At the same time the Chair had created an Education Task Force to examine alternative forms of education for the SIS. Since many of these alternative formats would no doubt be electronic, the two groups were charged with working together.

In its report to the Board, the Web Content Task Force addressed design and content. Based on the results of an e-mail survey to the SIS membership, the Task Force made the following observations:

- The Task Force commended David Burch, ALL-SIS webmaster, for his work on the web page (the ALL-SIS Board seconds that commendation!)

Design:

- Affiliation with AALL needs to be added to the site
- An index is needed to assist in locating content
- The site works well with both IE and Netscape and loads quickly
- Uniformity is needed for all pages on the site, including identifying the SIS on each page
- Site navigation needs improvement

Content:

- A general content redevelopment initiative needs to be pursued in order to attract users and to help meet member needs
- Comments on content should be solicited from the SIS's committees
- The quality of the information should be evaluated
- The current information is helpful and pertinent to the members

The Chair of the Task Force recommended that an in-depth review of the content be conducted with input from the SIS's committees. The report concludes "While the web site in its current iteration is helpful and is updated on a regular basis, evaluation based on the aforementioned criteria indicates that the ALL-SIS should consider modifying the design and content of the ALL-SIS web site and work more closely with the other ALL-SIS committees to solicit input regarding content."

The Task Force is continuing its work this year and will consult with the Education Task Force. Suggestions and comments for a redesigned web site – both design and content – are welcome. Comments should be sent to the Web Content and Design Task Force chair Gregory Laughlin, University of Memphis.

**Academic Law Libraries SIS--Business Meeting Minutes  
Sunday, July 13, 2003 in Seattle, Washington**

1. Call to Order/Welcome – Merle Slyhoff

Chair Merle Slyhoff called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. and introduced Paul Wojcik, President of BNA, Inc., the sponsor of our business meeting breakfast, for a brief word of welcome and introduction of other BNA staff in attendance.

The Chair then called upon the membership to join in recognizing the “big three” vendors who have continued to support the activities of the SIS, and offered framed certificates of recognition to Mr. Wojcik, Cindy Spohr of LexisNexis and Joni Marra from Thomson/West.

Next the Chair introduced the rest of the Executive Board. Outgoing Executive Board member Bonnie Koneski-White was not able to attend the meeting, but all of the incoming board were present: incoming Chair Sally Wise, Secretary/Treasurer Kit Kreilick, newly elected Vice-Chair Carole Hinchcliff and Executive Board member Suzanne Thorpe.

2. Approval of Minutes – Kit Kreilick

The Secretary/Treasurer called for approval of the minutes from the Orlando business meeting, noting that they had been posted on the SIS website and copies were available in the room. The minutes were approved.

3. Treasurer's Report – Kit Kreilick

The Secretary/Treasurer reported that copies of the SIS financial statement from the end of May, 2003 were also available in the room. The May statement shows a healthy balance of \$22,114.43, not including election expenses and the expenses related to the Seattle annual meeting.

4. Election Report – Kit Kreilick

Approximately one-third of the membership voted in this year's election. The Secretary/Treasurer requested and received approval from those present to destroy the ballots.

5. Chair's Report – Merle Slyhoff

The Chair then reported on SIS activities and accomplishments for the year, including the following items:

- a. The newsletter has become an exclusively electronic publication on the SIS website.
- b. The BNA Task Force met with BNA during the AALS meeting and their report is available on the website.
- c. The Board has agreed that the section will make another \$1000 donation to the George Strait Scholarship Fund in the coming year and will issue a challenge to the other SIS's to contribute as well.
- d. The Board has approved guidelines for section liaisons to the CS-SIS, RIS-SIS and TS-SIS.
- e. Some problems with getting prospective ALL-SIS member data from AALL for the CONALL/ Mentoring committee this year are being pursued at the AALL Board level.
- f. The ALL-SIS listserv was moved to AALLNet in less than half a day with the assistance of list manager Mark Folmsbee, to whom we owe many thanks.

g. The Board approved the Vendor Relations Committee's Statement of Principles, QUALITIES OF AN IDEAL CALR VENDOR-LIBRARY RELATIONSHIP--WITH BENCHMARK SIGNS OF SUCCESS, which now appears on the section website.

h. Both Directors and Middle Managers breakfasts received a record number of registrations this year and the number of attendees had to be limited due to room size, so regretfully, some members have been turned away.

i. The Chair appointed a Website Redesign Task Force this year and asked Dan Campbell to chair

j. In conjunction with the PLL-SIS, we now have a Visiting Librarian Task Force chaired by Rich Leiter working on visits between academic and private law librarians.

k. The Chair has asked Frank Houdek to chair an Anniversary Task Force, to plan a celebration of the SIS' 25th Anniversary next year. This group is expected to work with the new Archives Committee to provide a display for the Exhibit Hall display case in Boston. In addition, the Board has approved a SIS grant of \$500 for an academic librarian to attend next year's annual meeting, to be administered by the AALL Grants Program.

l. The Section is in substantial compliance with the AALL Strategic Plan. Barbara Bintliff has agreed to chair a Task Force to develop a marketing "Toolkit" for academic libraries. In addition the Legal Research Committee has added a number of items to the website in furtherance of our goals.

m. The Board just approved the Chair's motion that we begin a dialog with some of the smaller vendors to form partnerships when appropriate.

n. Since the Section's Strategic Plan has been approved, the Board has approved the disbanding of the Section's Strategic Planning Committee.

## 6. Committee Reports

### a. Archives – Nancy Strohmeier

The committee is just getting organized and expects to work with the Anniversary Task Force to provide materials to celebrate our 25th anniversary.

### b. Awards – James Duggan

The Hicks Award will be given to Bob Berring this year; Bob was unable to attend the conference and so his designee will receive the award.

### c. Bylaws – Pam Williams

Pam was not present so there was no report.

### d. CONALL/Mentoring – Ruth Levor

CONALL Program will take place at Seattle University prior to the SIS Reception there. Thanks to LEXIS for agreeing to fund buses for an additional two hours to accommodate those attending CONALL.

### e. Continuing Status/Tenure – Robert Hu

The survey to collect data on employment status for non-director librarians at member institutions is underway. Brian Huddleston has compiled the survey data received thus far and posted it on a website

at Loyola, which is linked from the ALL-SIS website. Data for 49 schools is included; others are encouraged to participate. The survey results are being published in Law Library Journal.

f. Directors Program – Penny Hazelton

The program this year will feature speaker Richard Alan Farr, who will offer tips for how to communicate well when time is short.

g. Legal Research – Beth DiFelice (& Kit Kreilick for CALI Subcommittee)

The Legal Research Committee is collecting materials from various “Bridge the Gap” programs and posting them on the section website. They are working on a “Legal Research Sourcebook” style collection of outlines, syllabi and problems for teaching legal research which will also be available via the web in the future.

The CALI Subcommittee considered applications for 5 ‘rounds’ of rolling deadlines and approved eleven new lesson proposals. Six new lessons are already available at the CALI website and on the new CALI CD-ROM for fall. Topics include: using ALR, case-finding using the digests, updating statutes, forms of federal statutory publication, federal executive orders, and rulemaking research using Federal Register & CFR. Kit will be doing a 30-minute program on Wednesday entitled “How to Write a CALI Legal Research Exercise” to spur more submissions.

h. Local Arrangements – Kristin Cheney

This year’s reception will be held at Seattle University Law School on Tuesday, July 15 starting at 6 p.m. It’s a walkable distance of 8 - 9 blocks, but uphill; buses will be available at the lower level of the Convention Center beginning at 4:30 for the CONALL participants.

i. Membership – Arturo Torres

Merle Slyhoff reported in Arturo’s absence that the following members served as ALL-SIS liaisons: Erika Wayne to CS-SIS, Sue Burch to RIPS-SIS and Marjorie Crawford to TS-SIS. Marjorie Crawford reported briefly on her role coordinating program proposals with TS-SIS. Guidelines for the role of the liaisons were proposed to the Board and have been approved; a major role will be to assist with coordinating program proposals for the annual meeting to avoid duplication.

j. Middle Managers – Joyce Manno Janto

The middle managers program at their breakfast on Tuesday will be focused on discussing assorted “How Do You Manage?” scenarios.

k. Newsletter – Shaun Esposito

Shaun noted that he is filming the meeting so as to put something in the next Newsletter. The schedule remains 3 issues per year and members are encouraged to submit articles and news items. Shaun expressed gratitude to Leah Sandwell-Weiss for doing the conversion of the newsletter to HTML.

l. Nominations – Mila Rush

Along with creating a slate for this year’s election, the group worked to develop a list of past chairs who might help identify good candidates.

m. Programs – Ajaye Bloomstone

Several ALL-SIS program proposals were accepted for this year's meeting. The deadline for next year's proposals is August 15; members are encouraged to send their ideas to the committee for review.

n. Public Relations – Amy Osborne

This year the ALL-SIS booth in the Exhibits area will include a drawing for a \$25.00 gift certificate from Amazon.com. The drawing will be held during Tuesday's reception.

o. Statistics – Leonette Williams

The committee is serving as a clearinghouse for reactions to the ABA's proposed changes to the Law School statistical questionnaire.

p. Strategic Planning – Mark Bernstein

Having completed their task, Mark thanked the Board for agreeing to dissolve the committee.

q. Vendor Relations – Nancy McMurrer

Nancy expressed the committee's gratitude to the Board for approval of their statement of principles for CALR Vendor-Library Relationships. She noted that the annual meeting of CALR vendor staff and interested academic librarians will be held on Monday July 14.

r. Website – David Burch

David noted that a redesign and reorganization is in the works and asked members to send him their suggestions for improving the site.

## 7. Task Forces/Working Groups Reports

a. BNA – Suzanne Thorpe

The Task Force met with BNA representatives and have published their report on the ALL-SIS website in the Spring 2003 Newsletter.

b. Collection Development – Margie Axtmann

Margie reported that this task force has developed a training outline for new selectors which will be posted on the website. Other tools in development include a bibliography on collection development workflow, as well as bibliographies on organizational structures for collection development and selection tools.

c. Education – Steve Hinckley

The group is focusing on models of educational content outside the annual meeting, and is currently looking at how other comparable organizations approach this.

d. Library Support for Law Journals – Paul George

Merle Slyhoff reported for Paul that the group has done a survey and the responses will be posted on the website; there will be a program on Wednesday in hopes of stimulating further dialog.

e. Toolkit – Barbara Bintliff

Using models such as the American Library Association's "@ Your Library" website, the group expects to develop a package of marketing materials for academic law libraries to be completed a year from now. The idea is to help academic librarians answer the question "why are all these books needed?" and "why are all these staff necessary?"

f. Visiting Librarian Project – Rich Leiter

The project is intended to further communication between academic and private law firm librarians by providing opportunities for librarians to visit the alternate library type as part of their professional development. This is a joint effort of PLL-SIS and ALL-SIS. The plan is to establish guidelines for visitorships and development SIS sponsorship, with the hope of eventual CLE credit.

8. Liaisons to Other Organizations

a. ABA Legal Education/Law Libraries – Pauline Aranas

The group met at the AALS meeting and their comments on the ABA Statistics changes have been forwarded to the ABA Committee on Legal Education. Pauline will participate in a short program on Wednesday afternoon to discuss issues related to the ABA Statistical Questionnaire.

b. AALS – Dick Danner/Billie Jo Kaufman

Billie Jo noted to applause from those present, that one of our own, Joyce Saltalamachia from New York Law School, is now the Deputy Director of AALS. The focus at the moment in AALS is the impact of globalization on our programs.

Dick currently serves on the Executive Committee for AALS and reported that they are reworking the association's by-laws and addressing other "core values". One proposal to be considered next January in Atlanta at the annual AALS meeting would move the by-laws into the 'regulations' category which would make them amendable by the Executive Committee without membership approval.

9. Passing the Gavel & Vice-Chair's Report – Merle Slyhoff & Sally Wise

Merle happily passed the gavel to Sally Wise.

Sally noted that the new Program Committee co-chairs would be Ajaye Bloomstone and Joanne Duggan. She reminded those present that the deadline for program proposals is mid-August and urged members to submit proposals to the co-chairs as soon as possible.

Sally will be considering ways we can continue to implement our strategic plan, and will formalize the responsibilities of the 25th Anniversary Task Force soon.

Committee appointments will be completed soon; members who wish to serve should contact Sally.

10. Adjournment – Sally Wise

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m. by new chair Sally Wise.

Respectfully submitted,

Kit Kreilick  
Secretary/Treasurer

## **Trials and Tribulations of a Law Librarian**

**By**

**Jennifer S. Murray, Reference Librarian  
Arizona State University Law Library**

*Note: This is the fifth in what is hoped will be a series of columns about the experiences of those in the academic law librarianship profession—ed.*

Our dedicated ALL-SIS Newsletter Editor, Shaun Esposito, informed me at the 2003 AALL Meeting that I could no longer title this column “Trials and Tribulations of a New Law Librarian.” His justification being that I am no longer a new law librarian. I am sure that he did not intend the comment to trigger my quarter-life crisis. But I had to wonder. If I’m not a new law librarian, what am I? I knew better than to think I was a seasoned pro. Alas, Shaun walked away and I was left on my own to ponder my next step in my career. Where do we go once we are no longer “new” law librarians?

This newfound career anxiety prompted me to research the phases of a career. And it turns out that I am not alone in my career palpitations. The literature on this topic is voluminous. After several Google searches, I finally selected a website on career tips by Deborah Arron, a well-known author of career self-help books for attorneys (available at <http://www.decisionbooks.com/arron1.html>). I figured that the information contained therein could easily be extrapolated to the academic law librarian.

According to Ms. Arron, every career has five phases. Upon closer inspection, I decided that the first and second career phases were the phases of a new law librarian. The first phase is orientation where you learn the basics of the profession. Yes, I remember that phase. It is similar to what I call my “first six months on the job” theory, i.e., it takes six months to become comfortable in a new job. The second phase is challenge where you face a “stimulating learning curve” and improve your skills. I wonder if, by “stimulating learning curve,” she means constantly feeling like you are in over your head and having your stomach tie up in knots upon hearing the words “legislative history” during a reference interview. If so, then, yes, I remember that phase too.

The third phase is where I believe the transition from new law librarian takes place. In this phase, called establishment, you attempt to achieve success. But, as Ms. Arron points out, there are risks in establishing your career. Your career drive can damage personal relationships. You can risk driving yourself so hard that you end up realizing you are on the wrong career path after it is too late. And, finally, you may not succeed and risk getting stuck on a lower rung of the career ladder (although some don’t want to go to the top of the ladder in the first place). I suppose this establishment phase is where I am now. No wonder I’ve been a little edgy lately. It sounds stressful.

Having never experienced the fourth and fifth phases, what I can say about them is only conjecture. Cruising is the fourth phase of a career, and, as the name implies, this seems like the most enjoyable of all the career phases. At this phase, you attain a mastery of your job and are comfortable in your position. The fifth phase is disengagement where you begin the transition away from your career and toward retirement or a new career. Now that I think about it, retirement could arguably be the most enjoyable of all the career phases.

As for my career anxiety, I have finally accepted that I’m not a new law librarian anymore. I have graduated to the establishment phase of my career. I suppose I should view this transition with some sense of relief. Yet, no matter what anyone says, when I look in the mirror, I am always going to see a new law librarian. And I know it is this little bit of insecurity that drives me to learn, grow and achieve.

If I were true to Ms. Arron’s career phases, I would change the title of this column to the Trials and Tribulations of an Established Law Librarian. However, it just doesn’t have the right ring to it. So I went for the more generic title. But I can’t wait until I can call this column “Trials and Tribulations of a Cruising Law Librarian!” Now there’s a catchy title.

## **ALL-SIS SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR HICKS AND OUTSTANDING ARTICLE AWARDS**

The ALL-SIS Awards Committee (Pam Deemer, James Duggan, and Sally Holterhoff) is now accepting nominations for the following two awards.

**The Frederick Charles Hicks Award for Outstanding Contributions to Academic Law Librarianship** recognizes an individual or group which has made outstanding contributions to academic law librarianship through continued efforts to improve law librarianship. The award, presented by the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section (ALL-SIS) of the American Association of Law Libraries, is named in honor of Frederick Charles Hicks, the first great American law librarian/scholar who was also the first academic law librarian to serve as president of AALL. Past recipients have included Penny Hazelton, Frank Houdek, Dick Danner, and Bob Berring.

### **Criteria:**

A nominee can be an individual or a group, and should exhibit extended and sustained contributions in one or more of the following areas:

- History of contributions to the field of law librarianship through research, publications and other activities displaying an active participation in the advancement of academic law librarianship;
- Achievement in a particular area of academic law librarianship;
- Service to AALL;
- Service to the ALL-SIS.

### **Submission Procedure:**

- Individuals may nominate themselves or others. Preference will be given to members of the ALL-SIS.

### **Nominations must include:**

- A letter of nomination, including the candidate's full name, title, and institution name and address. If the candidate is retired, include name, home address, and most recent former employer.
- A narrative supporting the nomination, to include a discussion of the candidate's contributions to academic law librarianship;
- The name and phone number of the nominating party.

The award will be presented annually at the discretion of the Awards Committee.

**Deadline:** All nominations must be received by March 1, 2004.

**The ALL-SIS Outstanding Article Award** honors section members for contributions to the enhancement of academic law librarianship through publishing. Articles published in any format in any publication other than *Law Library Journal* and *AALL Spectrum* during the year prior to the award qualify for consideration. Any aspect of academic law librarianship may be addressed. A plaque will be presented to the author or authors of the winning articles. The 2002 recipients of the award were Melissa M. Serfass and Jessie L. Cranford for their article, *Federal and State Court Rules Governing Publication and Citation of Opinions*, 3 *Journal of Appellate Practice and Process* 251 (Spring 2001).

### **Criteria:**

- Article must be authored by an ALL-SIS member. For co-authored articles, at least one author must be a member of ALL-SIS.
- Nominated articles for each year's award must have been published in the previous calendar

- year, i.e., 2003.
- Articles will be evaluated on:
    - Relevance of topic to some aspect of academic law librarianship, including but not limited to public services, technical services, legal research or teaching;
    - Quality of writing;
    - Effectiveness of communication technique.
  - Articles may have appeared in any publication (paper or electronic) including AALL publications, chapter newsletters, non-AALL publications, or in-house publications.
  - When appropriate, awards will be presented for excellence in writing in different areas of academic law librarianship, such as technical services, public services, or administration.
  - Awards will not be presented in a given year if the Committee does not feel submissions meet the award criteria.

**Submission Procedure:**

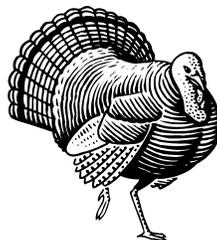
- Articles for consideration must be sent electronically or in paper (5 copies) to the ALL-SIS Awards Committee chair.
- Articles may be submitted for consideration by any AALL member, including the authors.

**Deadline:** All nominations/submissions must be received by March 1, 2004.

Nominations/submissions for both awards may be sent to the ALL-SIS Awards Committee Chair, James E. Duggan, Southern Illinois University School of Law Library, Lesar Law Building, MC6803, Carbondale, IL 62901-6803. Questions can be directed to the chair at 618-453-8791 or [duggan@siu.edu](mailto:duggan@siu.edu).



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 me 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 email message. - Shaun Esposito, ALL-SIS Newsletter Editor  
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#### The ALL-SIS Listserv

The ALL-SIS listserv is used for official ALL-SIS announcements, news from AALL, and discussion of topics of interest to our members. If you're a member of ALL-SIS, please subscribe! To subscribe, go to < <http://lists.washlaw.edu/mailman/listinfo/all-sis>>.

To send a message to the list, address the message to < [all-sis@lists.washlaw.edu](mailto:all-sis@lists.washlaw.edu)>. Please direct any questions to the list owners Mark Folmsbee (zzfolm@acc.wuacc.edu) or James Duggan ([duggan@siu.edu](mailto:duggan@siu.edu)). List archives are available at <<http://lists.washlaw.edu/mailman/private/all-sis>>.

#### ALL-SIS on the Web

ALL-SIS is on the web! Visit the ALL-SIS Home Page at <<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/>>. Electronic versions of *The ALL-SIS Newsletter* are available on our website, as well as other vital information. Contact David Burch, Website Manager ([david.burch@lls.edu](mailto:david.burch@lls.edu)).

#### Newsletter Deadlines for 2003-2004 Academic Year

Spring: January 30, 2004

Summer: April 23, 2004

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. Thank you for your contributions and for your consideration.



*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.*