

The ALL-SIS Newsletter

Volume 22, Issue 2

Spring 2003

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

By Merle Slyhoff, 2002-2003 ALL-SIS Chair

As I write this, the Membership Committee, chaired by Arturo Torres, is putting the finishing touches on an important document. Written by Victoria Williamson, with input from the Committee, a new membership brochure will appear (or may have already appeared) in the AALL Spectrum and on the ALL-SIS web page. Victoria did a great job highlighting the benefits of ALL-SIS membership for those AALL members who are not yet members of our SIS.

But it never hurts to remind our ALL-SIS members of these benefits. All too often we fall into habit, and merely check off ALL-SIS on the AALL membership renewal and include our \$12.00. Consider this a Cliff's Notes or a Sum & Substance on the ALL-SIS.

Benefits of Membership in ALL-SIS

1. Newsletter: Produced 3 times a year, the ALL-SIS Newsletter "serves as a viable tool to voice our concerns, share ideas, as well as recount experiences that benefit section members."
2. Listserv: If you're not signed on, consider subscribing. In addition to ALL-SIS news, the list serves as a tool for members to

communicate, raise issues, and have discussions.

3. Activities: The programs, workshops, meetings and opportunities for socializing are plentiful at the annual meeting. Whether you're a director, a cataloger, a reference librarian, a computer specialist, an acquisitions/serials librarian, an interlibrary loan librarian... ALL-SIS has something for everyone.

4. Awards: The ALL-SIS honors its members through the Frederick Charles Hicks Award for Outstanding Contributions to Academic Law Librarianship and the ALL-SIS Outstanding Article Award.

5. ALL-SIS website: www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/ The website provides a wealth of information about the SIS and academic law librarianship. If you haven't already bookmarked it, you should. The work of many of this year's committees and task forces will be appearing on the web page throughout the year.

6. Volunteering: The work of the committees is what pushes and motivates this SIS. Whether it's the Newsletter, Legal Research, or Statistics Committee, there's a place for everyone to volunteer.

7. Networking: I saved this benefit for last. To me it's one of the most powerful benefits. We all know the value of networking, and ALL-SIS offers many opportunities through committee work and meetings, programs, and receptions. At this year's AALL Annual Meeting, in addition to the SIS's programs, ALL-SIS will provide networking opportunities at the following events:

Sunday, July 13, 7:00 am – 9:00 am: ALL-SIS Breakfast and Business Meeting, sponsored by BNA

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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.

Tuesday, July 15, 7:00 am – 8:45 am: ALL-SIS Director's Breakfast & Program, Penny Hazelton; sponsored by West

Tuesday, July 15, 7:00 am – 8:45 am: ALL-SIS Middle Manager's Breakfast & Program, Joyce Manna Janto; sponsored by West

Tuesday, July 15, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm: ALL-SIS Reception and Awards, Seattle University, Hosted by Seattle University, Kristin Cheney; Sponsored by Lexis-Nexis.

So why am I writing about ALL-SIS benefits in the ALL-SIS Newsletter? If you're reading this, you're probably already a member. Because we can all play an important role in mentoring. Is there someone on your staff who isn't a member? Do you have a colleague at another school who hasn't joined ALL-SIS? Tell them about the benefits. Let them know that ALL-SIS is for all academic law librarians. You'll be seeing some exciting work from the Membership Committee in conjunction with the AALL Mentoring Committee and the ALL-SIS CONALL/Mentoring Committee. When they ask for mentors, sign up and spread the word about the rewarding experience it can be to be a member of the ALL-SIS.

Trials and Tribulations of a New Law Librarian

By

**Jennifer S. Murray, Senior Law Librarian-
Research and Instructional Services
Gabriel and Matilda Barnett Information
Technology Center and the Asa V. Call Law
Library, University of Southern California**

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

I am a strong believer in the thought that you get out of life what you put into it. So when I became a law librarian, I immediately joined a variety of professional organizations and committees. I wanted to invest in the profession in order to get the most out of being a law librarian. You name it and I joined it: national chapters, regional chapters, local chapters, and special interest sections. I am sure I am not alone in this action. Other new law librarians certainly do the same thing. And we really reap the benefits of our involvement. We create both wonderful relationships with colleagues and professional opportunities for ourselves.

But it has not been without cost. There were days when we wonder if we bit off more than we could chew. At times, it is difficult to do each task to the best of our ability. In the end, I survived all my committee involvement and am the better for it. This was due in part to my work place being very supportive of professional activities. But I do not think that this route is for everyone. Anything in excess is not a good thing. The same goes for involvement in organizations and committees.

So here is what I have learned from my committee experiences. Choose wisely. Speak to people to learn which committees would best suit your goals and personality. But remember that what is best for someone else may not be what is best for you. Just because someone else enjoyed a particular committee or organization does not mean you will. You are the best judge of what is the right fit for you. Finally, if you are starting a new job or were recently promoted, take time to become familiar with your position before you take on additional responsibilities. If you really just can't wait to join, then go ahead. But be sure that you have a supportive environment in which to take on your new endeavors.

Join Us In Seattle

The AALL Academic Libraries Special Interest Section has many fun and engaging activities planned during the upcoming AALL Annual Conference in Seattle. Attending one of these events is a sure way to meet new colleagues or catch up on the news with old friends. Be sure to join us during the following events:

Academic SIS Reception

Tuesday July 15, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

The ALL-SIS Reception, sponsored by Lexis/Nexis, will be held on Tuesday, July 15, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. The reception will be held at Sullivan Hall, Seattle University Law School. Built in 1999, the Law School is located on the Seattle University campus, which is only a short distance (8-9 blocks) from the Washington State Convention and Trade Center (convention location). This reception serves as a venue to honor our award recipients, as well as our newer academic law librarians who have attended CONALL (Conference of Newer Academic Law Librarians) and their mentors. Bus transportation will be provided.

During the reception, attendees will have the opportunity to view at their leisure the Sullivan Hall Art Collection, housed throughout the law school. This growing collection, described as "one of the most eclectic and exciting exhibitions of contemporary art in Seattle," includes paintings, mixed media, works on paper, woven tapestries and sculptures in marble, bronze, and glass.

There really will be something for just about everybody, whether it's exploring the library, touring the building or sitting on the law school's patio visiting with friends and listening to the melodic renditions of one of the northwest's preeminent jazz/blues artists.

Academic SIS Director's Breakfast

Tuesday July 15, 7:00 - 8:30 a.m.

The ALL-SIS Director's Breakfast, sponsored by West Publishing will be held on Tuesday, July 15 from 7:00 - 8:45 a.m. The breakfast will be held at the Sheraton-West Ballroom(A).

CONELL Marketplace

Saturday July 12, 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

The CONELL Marketplace is a chance for the AALL Special Interest Sections and Chapters to welcome new members and answer any questions about the many sections and chapters of AALL. The CONELL Marketplace provides an excellent opportunity for new law librarians to learn how they can become involved in AALL. The CONELL Marketplace will be held on Saturday July 12th from 11:15 a.m. to 12: 15 p.m. at the Washington State Convention Center.

Hope to see you in Seattle.

--submitted by Amy Osborne, University of Kentucky Law Library

From the Local Arrangements Committee--Seattle Library Tours

The Preliminary Program for AALL provides your only opportunity to sign up for library tours in Seattle. Take a moment to register for tours of private, public, and academic law libraries. See the public research opportunities at King County Law Library; be dazzled by the glass roof of the library at Davis Wright Tremaine; check out the new and nearly new libraries at Seattle University and the University of Washington; and more!

Danner honored with ALL-SIS Hicks Award

Richard A. Danner, Senior Associate Dean for Information Technology and Research Professor of Law at Duke University School of Law Library is the 2002 recipient of the coveted Frederick Charles Hicks Award for Outstanding Contributions to Academic Law Librarianship. The Hicks Award is presented annually by the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section. The award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to academic law librarianship through sustained efforts in research, publication and other activities that improve and advance law librarianship. The award 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.

Dick Danner's career exemplifies the very best in academic law librarianship. Over the past twenty years his leadership and activities related to academic law librarianship have been diverse and continuous, and in the forefront of the profession. He has been active as an author, speaker and participant in AALL activities, serving as president in 1989-90 and editor of the Law Library Journal from 1984 to 1994. He has been active in other organizations affecting academic libraries such as IALL, and he was recently elected to the Executive Board of AALS, only the second librarian to hold this position.

Prof. Danner has written extensively about the core issues of law librarianship in several books and more than thirty articles. He is also a highly respected speaker who has participated in countless programs and workshops during the past twenty years. He has an uncanny ability to see the vision of the future and at the same time, help librarians work effectively in the present. His *Strategic Planning: A Law Library Management Tool for the 90s and Beyond* has helped many librarians work solidly in the present to achieve future goals. In 1994 he served on the Special Committee on the Renaissance of Law Librarianship in the Information Age and edited the Final Report of that committee, *Toward a Renaissance of Law Librarianship*. Prof. Danner's contributions to academic law librarianship have been sustained throughout his career and critical to the advancement of the profession. The ALL-SIS is proud to honor Prof. Danner with this award. The award was presented July 23, 2002, during the ALL-SIS reception at Barry University in Orlando, Florida at the annual AALL convention.

Prof. Danner joins previous Hicks honorees Penny Hazelton of the University of Washington (2000) and Frank Houdek of Southern Illinois University (2001). Victoria Trotta of Arizona State University chaired the ALL-SIS Awards Committee, which also included James Duggan, Ed Edmonds, Sally Holterhoff and Diana Osbaldiston.

Serfass and Cranford Get Inaugural ALL-SIS Outstanding Article Award

Melissa M. Serfass and Jessie L. Cranford were the winners of the newly created ALL-SIS Outstanding Article Award. The ALL-SIS Outstanding Article Award was created to honor ALL-SIS members for publishing articles that enhance academic law librarianship. The articles may be published in any format, and they may be in any publication other than Law Library Journal and AALL Spectrum. The Law Library Journal and the AALL Spectrum are excluded because there already exist awards for articles in those publications only.

Ms. Serfass and Ms. Cranford won for their article "Federal and State Court Rules Governing Publication and Citation of Opinions," 3 *Journal of Appellate Practice and Process* 251 (Spring 2001). Ms. Serfass is the Electronic Resources/Reference Librarian, and Ms. Cranford is the Circulation Librarian at the William H. Bowen School of Law Library at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock.

Their article responds to the renewed interest in unpublished appellate court opinions and their precedential value following the recent *Anastoff* decision. The article includes information on guidelines for publishing opinions and for citing unpublished opinions in the federal courts of appeal and the appellate courts of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The award was presented to Ms. Serfass and Ms. Cranford on July 23, 2002, during the ALL-SIS reception at Barry University in Orlando, Florida at the annual AALL convention.

Victoria Trotta of Arizona State University chaired the ALL-SIS Awards Committee, which also included James Duggan, Ed Edmonds, Sally Holterhoff and Diana Osbaldiston.

ALL-SIS BNA Task Force Report

Last summer, ALL-SIS Chair, Merle Slyhoff, set up our task force to review the impact of BNA's Law School Campus-Wide Electronic Program on academic law libraries. She asked us to gather information and arrange a meeting with BNA representatives to discuss our findings. We began by examining the results of a survey of academic law library directors that was conducted by Dan Freehling in spring 2002. Before meeting with BNA representatives, we decided to update the findings of this survey. In December 2002, we posted the survey found at the end of this report on the law library directors' listserv (LAWLIBDIR) and the law collection development listserv (LAW-ACQ).

We received survey responses from fifty-nine law libraries. Of these, twenty-two libraries are currently subscribed as follows:

Number of libraries	Subscription
10	BNA Core Package
6	BNA Core Package Plus
2	BNA Core Package Plus TM
2	BNA All
2	A la carte titles only

Several libraries subscribed to a la carte titles in addition to their packages. Sixteen of the libraries plan to continue their current subscriptions although five libraries indicated they will cut back their subscription in the coming year and a few more are considering doing so.

The remaining thirty-seven libraries are non-subscribers. Of these, four are considering becoming subscribers. Non-subscribers were asked to indicate their reasons for not subscribing. (A few subscribers also filled out this part of the survey and their numbers are included.)

Number of libraries	Reason for not subscribing
39	High pricing
37	Bundling
7	Features
10	Lack of interest
9	Other

When libraries were asked if they would be likely to subscribe to the BNA Law School Program if all the electronic products were priced together at a flat rate, thirty-eight libraries said yes. When asked about an affordable price for a flat rate plan, they responded as follows:

Number of libraries	Affordable Price
18	\$0 – \$5,000
18	\$5- \$10,000
7	\$10,000 - \$15,000
3	\$15,000 - \$20,000
3	\$20,000 +

The survey captured input from approximately one third of all academic law libraries. Our results differ little from those gathered earlier by Dan Freehling. The majority of respondents subscribed only to the Core or Core Plus packages. High pricing and bundling of titles continued to be major concerns for the libraries. Most libraries expressed interest in a flat rate plan for all titles that would be priced under \$10,000.

In addition to these survey results, we also received informal comments from a few law librarians who did not return the survey. They mirrored the concerns about the bundling and pricing of the BNA products.

While attending the AALS meetings in Washington, D.C., we were able to meet with top BNA executives on 3 January 2003 at BNA headquarters. For more than two hours, we exchanged information and perspectives with the following individuals:

Paul Wojcik, President and Chief Executive Officer
 Gregory McCaffery, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief
 Pat Swords, Vice President, Subscriber Relations
 Richard Cornfield, Executive Director (Legal & Business Publishing Group)
 Charlotte Keunen, Director of Marketing (Legal & Business Publishing Group)
 Kammie Hedges, Director of Library Relations
 Michael Bernier, Law School Relations Manager, Library Relations Division

We conveyed the high level of dissatisfaction expressed by our colleagues about the marketing, pricing, and bundling of titles in the Law School Campus-Wide Electronic Program from its inception through the present. We noted that the complexity of the program with its package plans, FTE based pricing, discounts for paper subscribers, and varying platform options made it difficult to understand. We described how students and faculty make use of BNA products in their study, research, and teaching, noting that they have high value, but that they are not as widely used as a number of other library resources, and that with shrinking budgets and buying power, many libraries are unable to purchase BNA electronic products for law school-wide use at current prices. We explained that for some academic libraries the cost of the BNA All package, exclusive of credits for existing paper subscriptions, is as expensive as subscribing to LexisNexis and Westlaw, for less content. In summary, we recommended that BNA discontinue its package plans and simplify and reduce its pricing to academic law libraries. We suggested that they charge a reasonable flat rate for all titles.

BNA explained why the Law School Campus-Wide Electronic Program was instituted. BNA's business relationship with LexisNexis and Westlaw played a major role. In recent years, many academic law libraries have dropped their subscriptions to BNA's paper products and relied on LexisNexis and Westlaw to access electronic versions. Since BNA received no royalties from academic subscribers for use of its products on either system, such users were gaining free access to BNA products. With law school subscription revenues declining and contracts with

LexisNexis and Westlaw up for renewal, BNA decided to eliminate free access for the law school market to its titles on these two platforms. BNA developed its package plans because of technical limitations with LexisNexis and Westlaw. Under current arrangements, BNA has four menu slots on these platforms. BNA can authorize access to all the titles in a given menu slot, but cannot authorize access to individual titles. BNA developed its package plans to parallel LexisNexis and Westlaw access options. This is also the reason why libraries that subscribe to BNA titles on an a la carte basis are only given access to these titles on the BNA platform.

BNA representatives stated that as an employee-owned independent company, BNA has different profit margins than West and Lexis and cannot afford to treat law schools as loss leaders by further reducing prices. BNA priced its products in a way it felt was fair and equitable. BNA explained that it offers discounts to law schools compared to its commercial rates and has a general policy of not negotiating prices. In response to customer demands, BNA has unbundled the packages on its own platform and now offers email summaries to law school subscribers. BNA has established the Law School Relations Program to communicate better with law school subscribers. Mike Bernier heads this effort. Sean Kelly and Ivan Rahman also work exclusively with law school accounts.

Our task force thanks all of the law librarians who promptly provided us with information. We are pleased to have been able to meet with such knowledgeable, high-level BNA representatives to discuss the Law School Campus-Wide Electronic Program. The rationale for the program is now much clearer to us. BNA understands our inability to afford their products as currently priced, despite our high regard for them. We do not agree with BNA on all issues, but this was a constructive conversation. We strongly recommend a continuing dialog. Possibly an academic advisory board might prove useful. Other suggestions are welcome. Please share your ideas with Merle Slyholf, Kammie Hedges, Mike Bernier, or any of us.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Leiter
Suzanne Thorpe
Michael Whipple

BNA Law School Program Survey

1. If you are not a current subscriber to electronic products offered as part of the BNA Law School Program, does this result from (please check all that apply):

- High pricing? Bundling of the titles in package plans?
 Features (e.g., lack of user data) of the products (please explain)?
 Lack of interest by your patrons?
 Other reasons (please explain)?

2. If you are a subscriber to electronic products in the BNA Law School Program, which of the following do you currently have:

- BNA Core Package? BNA Core Package Plus?
 BNA Core Package Plus TM? BNA All?
 One or more titles (i.e., not a package plan)?

3. In the next year, will you be likely to (please check all that apply):

- Become a new subscriber to the BNA Law School Program?
 Keep the same package plan or individual titles?
 Change to a less expensive package plan?
 Change from a package plan to individual titles?
 Not subscribe to any of the electronic BNA Law School Program products?

4. Would you be likely to subscribe to the BNA Law School Program if all of the electronic products were priced together at a flat rate?

Yes No

5. If yes, which of the prices below would be affordable for your library (please check one):

- \$0 - \$5,000?
 \$5,000 - \$10,000?
 \$10,000 - \$15,000?
 \$15,000 - \$20,000?
 \$20,000 or more?

Other comments:

2003 AALL Annual Meeting/Workshop Grants

Deadline: April 1, 2003

The AALL Grants Committee is now accepting applications for grants for the 2003 AALL Annual Meeting/Workshops. The AALL Grants Program provides financial assistance to newer law librarians or graduate school students who hold promise of future involvement in AALL and the law library profession. Funds are provided by vendors, AALL and AALL individual members. Grants cover registration costs at either the Annual Meeting or Workshops.

Preference is given to newer members of AALL or its chapters who are active participants in the association or one of its chapters. For additional information, including the application form, see http://www.aallnet.org/services/grant_application.asp. The deadline for applications is April 1, 2003.

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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, send this message to <listserv@assocdir.wuacc.edu> subscribe all-sis yourfirstname yourlastname

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

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).

Newsletter Deadlines for 2002-2003 Academic Year

Fall Issue: October 18, 2002
Spring Issue: January 31, 2003
Summer Issue: April 25, 2003

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.