

The ALL-SIS Newsletter

Volume 23, Issue 2

Spring 2004

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

By Sally Wise, 2003-2004 ALL-SIS Chair

Dear Members of the Academic Law Libraries – SIS,

Our Survey - So, Tell Me, What Do You Really Think?

The ALL-SIS membership committee developed a web based survey. The purpose of the survey is to determine what you think of the SIS.

The survey is online at:

<http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?523TWHM5WAQG2F4HBMB6GXA6> and will be available until April 15th.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact anyone on the Membership Committee: Marjorie Crawford (mcrawford@kinoy.rutgers.edu), Mahnaz Moshfegh (mmoshfe@iupui.edu), Victoria Williamson (williamv@ulv.edu), or Chair, Erika Wayne (evwayne@leland.stanford.edu).

If, per chance, you were not able to fill out the survey and would like to do so or would simply like to give some feedback to the SIS, please contact Membership Chair, Erika Wayne.

Time to Plan for Boston.....

It is time to begin to think of hotels and plane reservations. Our Boston meeting is just around the corner. The Annual meeting Housing and Conference Registration is now open on AALL's website at <http://www.aallnet.org/events/>.

In this newsletter, you will also find information about the Boston programs that will be offered by the SIS. You can also find out about all the programs in the Preliminary Program available in PDF on the AALL's website at http://www.aallnet.org/events/04_preliminary_program.pdf.

Our business meeting will be held on Sunday morning, the Directors' and Middle Managers' Breakfasts will be on Tuesday morning, our Reception will be Tuesday evening at Harvard Law Library and our program for Newer Academic

Librarians will be on Tuesday afternoon at Harvard right before the Reception. More information on all of these and other events and on our sponsors will be forthcoming on our website and in the next issue of the Newsletter.

We are also in the planning stages of mounting a webpage which will have information on all the academic libraries (Boston University - Pappas Law Library, Boston College Law Library, New England School of Law Library, Northeastern University Law Library, Suffolk University Law Library, and Harvard Law School Library) in the area so that you can learn a bit about all the Libraries and plan your own visit, if you have time.

Volunteers.....

We are always looking for volunteers to work on the newsletter, the web site and on all of our various committees (<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/committeecharges.html>). Please contact me if you are interested.

All for now,
Sally

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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.

Subject Specialists—Are We Too Lean and Mean for Them Today?
By Rosalie Sanderson, Instruction Librarian
New York Law School

Is there a role for the subject specialist in today's academic law library? Have we become too "lean and mean" for them to survive and thrive in today's market? Are we so concerned with our "bottom line" and the high cost of staff that we cannot afford them? Whatever the budget process, it seems that, like politics, all management is local, and these decisions depend on each institution's particular and sometimes peculiar mix of faculty, programs, librarians, and custom.

We've long been accustomed to international and foreign law librarians as specialists. These librarian specialists have been among the most respected and productive law librarians. They have also been successful in establishing institutional support for their interests. Foreign, comparative and international librarians established an AALL Special Interest Section in 1985, but they were active as an organized entity in the AALL as early as 1947. Foreign, comparative and international law librarians are well established as specialists both within the AALL and in their own institutions in law schools throughout the country. But, what about the interests of other subject specialists? In today's market can law libraries afford to support specialists rather than generalists? Are our libraries fated to be organized along functional lines only? Is any serious organization of our services by subject specialty past? Perhaps at this point, there are more questions than answers.

Yes, there is a personal reason for this reflection. My responsibilities as instruction librarian at New York Law School have become focused on tax during the past two years. This focus began when I was assigned to be the librarian liaison for the tax faculty, who had previously been assigned to three different librarians. This change came during the planning stages of a new LLM program in Taxation. Later I was asked to co-teach the required Tax Research and Writing Seminar. Gradually I was assigned or simply assumed responsibility for a number of projects supporting the tax program including preparing guides to tax research resources at the library, guides to web resources, legislative history, collection development and collection management issues for the area. During this time I also developed a one hour introduction to tax research class for the J.D. students.

As I began to work in this area, I approached it as I have approached new responsibilities during the past three decades - I looked to my librarian colleagues for help. I looked to them in our organizations and its entities, in listservs, and in the library periodical literature. What I found was that some librarians had been very active in the tax area. These librarians had published some outstanding guides and articles, both in print and on the web. What I did not find was evidence of institutional support for "tax librarians" in our organizations. I also did not find a listserv or other means of communication. However, our sister organization, Special Libraries Association, does have an active tax roundtable which I will probably join.

I began to wonder how many librarians are "out there" working independently as tax law librarians who might be in a position to help each other if we could establish more formal and informal means of communication. Recently I sent out notices to listservs inquiring about others who worked in tax law. During the first day I received twenty responses from academic law librarians who support tax LLM programs or faculty either formally or informally. Many were quite enthusiastic about the possibility of setting up a listserv for informal communication among the group. Surely with this much interest we will find ways to communicate and share our various issues and solutions. Communication is a good beginning, and perhaps it will lead to more collaborative efforts.

Now, however, this exploration into tax specialization has provoked further questions about the role of the subject specialist in academic libraries. Time is ripe for a serious look at how our academic law libraries meet the need for specialized expertise in various legal fields. Many of our law schools beg, figuratively at least, for subject expertise. Our law schools often have recognized subject specialties and well-known scholars working in these areas. The schools may also have LLM programs in the same subject areas. Many of our libraries have developed subject collection strength over a long period of time. In these instances faculty and students undoubtedly look to the library for expertise. Are our libraries providing this subject expertise? Are our libraries supporting the professional

development required to acquire the expertise and to keep it current? Are the various entities in our professional associations supporting us as subject specialists in useful ways?

If you have duties as a subject specialist in your law library, please send me an email (rsanderson@nyls.edu), noting your area of subject specialty, and whether your duties as a subject specialist are a formal part of your position description or simply a result of informal custom. Please contact me so that we can develop an inventory of those institutions with librarian subject specialists and perhaps develop some new methods to share and develop this expertise.

Editor Wanted

Having served as ALL-SIS Newsletter Editor for the past few years, I have decided it is time for me to step aside at the end of this academic year and allow other interested SIS members a chance to take on that role. If you are interested in becoming the Editor, please contact me (shaun.esposito@law.arizona.edu) or Carole Hinchcliff, Vice-Chair/Chair Elect (hinchcliff.1@osu.edu)

--Shaun Esposito, ALL-SIS Newsletter Editor

Middle Managers Breakfast Tuesday, July 13, 7:00 - 8:45am

The Middle Managers Breakfast, sponsored by LexisNexis, will address the practical issue of how middle managers should position themselves now to move to the next job level. Even those not interested in a new position themselves will be interviewing others for jobs at their own libraries, and it will be helpful to know what is considered expected levels of expertise for various positions that may be outside of their own specialty.

Those attending will be encouraged to choose from a short list of current job categories and then sit at a table with others who have made the same selection. Three speakers, representing different areas of library management, will open the program with introductory comments. Following these remarks, each table will discuss practical applications and action strategies.

We hope this provocative topic will inspire middle managers from every time zone to attend the 7:00 am Tuesday morning breakfast.

--submitted by Anne Mvers

Member News

Caroline Osborne has joined the staff of the University of Richmond Law School Library as a Reference/Research Services Librarian. Caroline recently received her M.L.S. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She had previously received her law degree from the University of Richmond School of Law. Prior to becoming a librarian, Caroline practiced law in the field on commercial finance with the firm of Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft in Charlotte, N.C. and New York.

Kathleen Wilko is a recent graduate of the College of William and Mary School of Law. She is currently attending the Library and Information Studies program at the State University of New York at Buffalo where she also serves as Treasurer for the Department of Library and Information Studies-Graduate Student Association and as Student Representative to the LIS Council's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee. She is also employed as the Reference Graduate Assistant at the Multidisciplinary Center for Earthquake Engineering Research Information Service. Her work experience at the American University Library during her undergraduate years coupled with her love of legal research while serving as law clerk at Gibson, McAskill & Crosby, LLP led her to a perfect career choice of law librarianship.

Jenny Chang is currently pursuing her JD/MLS degree at the State University of New York at Buffalo. She earned a degree in English from the University of Florida. Prior to attending University at Buffalo Law School, she spent seven months in Taiwan where she taught English to 100 students with ages ranging from four to seventeen! Jenny knows exactly what she wants career wise. She says, "A career in law librarianship is exactly what I was looking for because it will allow me to develop my affinity for public interest by helping those who need research assistance and be able to pursue my love of teaching as a 'keeper of information'". Her work experience as an intern at the Erie County Supreme Court Law Library gave her a solid affirmation of what she aspires to become. She is very much looking forward to begin her library classes and to continue her journey into the law librarianship field.

Tiffany R. Martin is a graduate of Columbia University School of Law, and is admitted to the New York State Bar. Having previously studied Political Science and Spanish at the undergraduate level, she will graduate from the State University of New York at Buffalo with an MLS in June 2004. She is currently a Graduate Assistant in the Arts and Sciences Libraries of the University at Buffalo. Her professional interests include reference services in law librarianship and general academic librarianship.

Trials and Tribulations of a Law Librarian
By
Jennifer S. Murray, Reference Librarian
Arizona State University Law Library

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

Another AALL Annual Meeting is around the corner. And it seems like just yesterday I was walking through Pike's Market enjoying the beautiful Seattle weather (are you sure it rains there?). So, as I acknowledged the passage of time and began to prepare for the Mecca of law librarianship, I realized that I've finally got this conference thing down. When I attended my first conference in 2001, I tried to play it cool and act like I knew what I was doing. James Lipton would be proud because I'm sure I fooled you all. But, in reality, I didn't have a clue. Who were all these people? What was this strange language they spoke? Now, with a few annual meetings under my belt, I finally see rhyme and reason to attending the conference. Here are some of my observations.

Travel: Learning how to fill out those travel authorization forms is an art. It's a wonder any of us ever make it to the conference.

Hotels: There are two schools of thought here. The first is to book your hotel room early. The second is to book your hotel room late on Priceline and you'll get a great deal. I fall into the former category. My self-diagnosed OCD won't allow me to wait until the last minute on anything. But, regardless of which school of thought you follow, one thing is sure. The conference hotel will always sell out of the conference rate rooms.

Roommates: To room or not to room that is the question. And I've noticed three different answers. Some people have to room with someone for financial reasons. Others room with friends in the profession that they only get to see at the conference. The third and final option is to not have a roommate. While I could say more about roommates here, I would have to change names to protect the innocent. So it's best left as is.

Programs: I cannot attend every program all of the time, and that's all right. There are a variety of reasons to skip out on a program session. First and foremost, there is value

to networking. I have missed some programs because I have been engaged in a work-related conversation with someone outside of my library. Also, you can only have your game face on for just so long. After awhile, I get grouchy and irritable. I find the benefit of attending a program at such a time is far outweighed by the risk that I might offend someone.

Meetings: There are some meetings you have to register to attend, such as the Middle Managers Breakfast. And, not only do you need to register, you need to register as soon as humanly possible. Otherwise, you will find yourself lobbying for a ticket to the meeting (see below).

Tickets: If an event requires tickets, there will be numerous exchanges on the lawlib listserv with people negotiating for those tickets. I have accepted this fact. But others haven't. So every year, there's an instance of e-mail rage where someone attacks the ticket hunters for their ceaseless posting of queries for tickets to whatever the event may be. Then all the ticket hunters attack that person. It never fails to amuse me. So thanks to everyone who participates in this ritual.

Food: Yes. It is possible to get through the entire conference on free food. But I've decided it's really not worth it.

Volunteerism: I volunteered to assist with registration at my second AALL meeting. I will now do it every year I attend AALL. It is always a blast and goes by quickly. I meet someone new every year and am able to put names with faces. It's always good to know who the important people are or, in the alternative, learn whom you might want to avoid.

Exhibit Halls: Last year I finally had time to devote to the exhibit hall on Wednesday morning. Why didn't anyone tell me the exhibit hall is closed on Wednesdays? Doesn't anyone have my back? Needless to say, I'll allot some exhibit hall time earlier on in the conference this time around.

The Message Board: The message board is still alive and well. If you've never seen it, it's a quiet and unassuming board always placed outside the exhibit hall. I'm always amazed that, in the age of electronics, an idea as simple as the message board works. But it does. And, last year, I was thrilled to have my very own message left for me. It felt like I had finally been initiated into some secret club that no one will ever admit exists.

And, these are just my observations after three years. I can only imagine the vast amount of AALL Annual Meeting information contained in our collective minds. If only we could harness the information for good.

WE NEED YOU! Volunteer in Boston

The Annual Meeting Local Advisory Committee needs you! Join the wonderful group of dedicated people volunteering their time to help make the 2004 AALL Annual Meeting in Boston a success.

The Committee needs volunteers for a variety of activities at the Annual Meeting. Meet new people and re-connect with old friends while working at the Registration Desk. Scoop stories and write articles for *The Hub*, the daily conference newspaper. Collect tickets and seat people at the Association Luncheon and Closing Banquet. If you plan to be in Boston early, help stuff the conference tote bags on July 9 or set-up booths and visit with attendees' children at the Family Social Hour on July 10.

Volunteers make the conference run smoothly – and they have fun. Thanks in advance!

For more detailed descriptions of volunteer opportunities at the Boston AALL Annual Meeting, check the Volunteer Form available on the AALL Web site at http://www.aallnet.org/events/04_volunteers.asp. Please fax, mail, or e-mail the completed Volunteer Form available on the AALL Web site or in the Preliminary Program by **June 4** to:

Judy Gire, Volunteer Chair
Franklin Pierce Law Center Library
2 White Street
Concord, NH 03303
Phone: (603) 228-1541 ext. 1129
Fax: (603) 228-0388
Email: jgire@piercelaw.edu

Two Things Your Library Can Do to Support Faculty Teaching (and Increase Library Visibility)

by Sara Kelley
Research Librarian
Thurgood Marshall Law Library
University of Maryland School of Law

As anyone who's been to law school can tell you, just earning a J.D. doesn't prepare you to teach. Nevertheless, most law professors have only a J.D., or at best an LL.M., when they begin their teaching careers. Few of them have any formal training in teaching, and some of them will take all the help they can get. This neediness provides libraries and librarians with opportunities to demonstrate our usefulness.

Collect and Promote Materials on Teaching

Libraries can help new and experienced law professors hone their teaching skills by identifying, purchasing, and promoting teaching-related resources. Most, if not all, academic law libraries subscribe to publications such as the *Journal of Legal Education*, but many professors will need more in-depth materials than articles. Some examples of non-periodical materials for purchase include the Foundation for Critical Thinking's (<http://www.criticalthinking.org>) "Socratic Questioning" video series and books on college-level teaching such as the Jossey-Bass Higher and Adult Education series. You can also compile a list of free web-based sources. Newer faculty in particular may be unaware of such basic electronic resources as the Jurist (<http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/>), the Harvard Law School Annual Examination Archive (<http://www.law.harvard.edu/academics/registrar/exams.html>), Barbara Glessner Fines' Teaching and Learning the Law – Resources for Legal Education (<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/profiles/glessnerfines/bgf-edu.htm>), or the various law professor email lists.

Once you've compiled a list of both library and web materials, include it in your library's faculty handbook, put it on the law school intranet or library web page, hand it out at a regular faculty meeting, or have your library liaisons email it to their assigned faculty members. Providing this service not only helps faculty, but also increases faculty awareness of library resources in general.

Turn Faculty Liaisons into “Course” Liaisons

Many academic law libraries already assign liaisons to faculty members. A useful next step can be the designation of these liaisons as “course” liaisons. Naming a librarian as a liaison to his or her faculty members’ classes encourages faculty to think of librarians as sources of help with developing reading lists, archiving past exams for student access, and giving guest lectures on research topics. This is especially true if course liaisons take the time before the beginning of each semester to request syllabi from professors and explain the potential benefits of complying with the request: improved collection development, recommendations of relevant videos and CALI lessons, help gathering sources for course packs and web pages, and possibly even help getting copyright permissions.

If your law school uses a course management system such as Blackboard or WebCT, you may even be able to reduce the need for copyright permissions and increase use of costly library databases by linking directly from the online version of the syllabus to any reading materials that are available in your databases. Both Lexis (<http://web.lexis.com/intranet/>) and Westlaw (<http://integrationsolutions.westlaw.com/customize/wizards/USDefault.wl>) provide web-based utilities for linking to materials in their databases. Many other vendors will provide linking instructions upon request, or you can use link-building software such as the open-source application LinkMaker (<http://bb-opensource.org/download/linkmaker.html>).

This option for providing course reading materials is extremely popular with students, who like being able to access their reading materials from home without buying a coursepack.

A course liaison is a resource not only for the faculty member, but for the faculty member’s current students. With the cooperation of the faculty, course liaisons can be listed on syllabi and course web pages as contacts for all library-related questions, especially in seminar courses. Students who might otherwise never think of consulting a reference librarian, perhaps because they don’t know what we do, will now have a specific person to seek out for help. This relationship can provide opportunities for the promotion of lesser-known library resources such as non-legal databases and (gasp!) books.

For more information on course liaisons, see Barbara Gontrum, Librarians Bridge Information Gap in Law Courses, AALL SPECTRUM, Mar. 2004, at 22.

RESEARCH GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Research Committee of the American Association of Law Libraries is accepting applications through April 12, 2004 for grants from the AALL Research Fund. The Committee will award one or more grants totaling up to \$5,000 to library professionals who want to conduct research that affects librarianship.

Established with an endowment from LexisNexis in July 2000, the annual grants fund projects that create, disseminate or use legal and law-related information. The AALL Research Agenda offers suggestions for research projects that cover the profession of law librarianship, law library patrons, law library services, legal research and bibliography, legal information resources and law library facilities. However, projects are not limited to those described in the Agenda; the Committee will consider all applications and research projects. To review the AALL Research Agenda, please go to: www.aallnet.org/committee/research/agenda.asp.

To apply for the grants, all applicants must provide resumes and statements of their qualifications for carrying out their projects. The applications must demonstrate experience with research projects and an understanding of the dissemination and use of legal and law-related information. Priority will be given to practicing law librarians and AALL members, working individually or in partnership with other information professionals. The grant application and complete guidelines are available at: www.aallnet.org/about/grant_application.asp.

The submission deadline for applications is April 12. Grants will be awarded and announced by July 1. Allocation of the research grants will be at the sole discretion of the AALL Research Committee.

For more information, please contact Ellen McGrath, chair of the AALL Research Committee, at emcgrath@buffalo.edu.

The members of the AALL Research Committee are:
Ellen McGrath, chair, University at Buffalo
Scott Childs, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Edwin Greenlee, University of Pennsylvania
Michael Jeffrey Slinger, Cleveland State University
Trina Tinglum, University of St. Thomas
Susan Tulis, Southern Illinois University

So, Tell Me, What Do You Really Think?

Submitted by Erika Wayne

The ALL-SIS membership committee has just developed a web based survey for ALL-SIS members.

The purpose of the survey is to determine what you, the members, think of our SIS.

How it can do more? What SIS activities are most important to you? What volunteer activities are most appealing to you? and, much more...

The survey is online at:
<http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zqi?523TWHM5WAQG2F4HBMB6GXA6>
and will be available until March 25th.

So, don't wait another minute -- fill out our membership survey today!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact anyone on the Membership Committee:
Marjorie Crawford (mcrawford@kinoy.rutgers.edu),
Mahnaz Moshfegh (mmoshfe@iupui.edu), Victoria Williamson (williamv@ulv.edu), or Erika Wayne (evwayne@leland.stanford.edu).

Socializing in Boston

If you are heading to the Annual Meeting in Boston this July, please plan on joining your Academic Section colleagues at the ALL-SIS reception. The reception will be held on Tuesday, July 13, at the Harvard Law Library from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Transportation to Harvard will be provided. Details on times and the location of pick-up will be available at the ALL-SIS table in the v ndor hall.

Please join us for an evening of food, fun and awards with fellow academic law rarians.

ALL-SIS Educational Programs @ AALL Boston

A-1 Law Library Research Assistant Program: Institutional Jewel In The Crown (Sunday, 11 July 2004)

Description: A law library RA program can enhance the library's values and market librarian skills within the institution, while expanding the teaching role of librarians. Students learn effective resource selection and search techniques in a supported employment setting, and gain recommendations from faculty. A library RA program promotes faculty recruitment and retention by providing skilled and accountable research assistants to law faculty. A law librarian will explain how to start and administer a library RA program. A professor and former associate dean, and a practicing lawyer who worked as a law library research assistant, will discuss how the program benefits them.

D-5 ABA Statistics: Tackling Topical Questions -- 2004 Update (Monday, 12 July 2004)

Description: Annually, academic law libraries are required to complete and submit library statistics forms to the ABA. Issues addressed in professional listservs speak to the fact that there is some confusion when counting and compiling the information (interpretation of questions, counting aggregate databases, materials costs/formats, etc.). New items in the questionnaire concern web-based resources, it staff and wireless connectivity. Our speakers are among those responsible for compiling the information and competing the forms for their libraries, and we will discuss these and related issues. Questions and discussion from the audience is highly encouraged.

E-2 Create Powerful Web Presentations Without An Internet Connection (Tuesday, 13 July 2004)

Description: Using a live internet connection in a presentation can be risky. Connections can be lost and download time can be slow. Using an "internet agent" allows the presenter to grab single or multiple pages from the internet and stores them for off-line use. All links are maintained and presentations using an agent mimic a live connection perfectly. The agents also allow the presenter to add notes to web pages, further enhancing the presentation.

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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>. 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://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).

Newsletter Deadlines for 2003-2004 Academic Year

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.