

# JURISDOCS

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Government Documents  
Special Interest Section

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## FROM THE EDITOR:

Dear Fellow GD-SIS Members,

The AALL Annual Meeting flew past for this attendee. Too much to do in too little time. The choice of GPO for a venue for the SIS's business on Tuesday morning was great. Who knew Federal employees eat so well? Thanks to Andrew for making such great arrangements for our meeting, and for his two years of service leading the Section as Chair-elect and Chair.

In this issue of *Jurisdocs*, I am happy to share with you some substantive text looking at advocacy efforts and authentication of online sources. We also have reports from the Spring Depository meeting in Tampa as well as from our Officers and Committee Chairs.

The next issue of *Jurisdocs* will be late Fall. If you have any ideas for an article, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Edward T. Hart  
Your Editor

## Chair's Report

Rosemary LaSala

I can't believe the 2009 AALL meeting has come and gone. Once again it is time to propose workshops and programs for the 2010 annual meeting in Denver; I know I can count on everyone to come up with great proposals. This year the GD-SIS really out-did themselves. Our programs were well received and the enthusiasm generated from the presenters and participants was catching. I can honestly say that I had a hard time deciding what to attend, but in the end, what was really important was the feeling of accomplishment and pride I had in our SIS.

My involvement as the GD-SIS vice- chair enabled me to work with a lot of wonderful people who were always happy to assist, laugh, discuss and listen. This year during our business meeting we welcomed a new vice-chair/chair-elect, Dee Wood from the Alvin E. Evans Law Library in Kentucky and a new secretary/treasurer Janet Fischer from Golden Gate University Law Library. I am privileged to be working with these wonderful women, as well as those who are excited about all that we will be able to accomplish together this year.

There are so many people that I have to thank that I am afraid that I will miss someone. To those of you who took the time in some way to become involved with our SIS, you know who you are, thank you for all your hard work. I know that it is sometimes difficult to commit your time and energy to just one more endeavor but for those of you who set up the table in the Activities Area and at CONELL, handed out pencils and candy, helped arrange the breakfast, put all the information about our programs on our webpage, worked so hard

on our bibliographies, answered e-mails, volunteered to be committee members, attended our early morning business meeting, presented, coordinated, moderated or attended our programs, listened to the complaining, answered phone calls or just joined friends for lunch or dinner, I thank you.

When I began as vice-chair/chair-elect I wrote an article for the spring 2009 issue of JURISDOCS. In the article I wrote that "although the unknown is scary, it is still important to put ourselves out there and accept challenges. The results are most times better than we could ever have imagined." I am so happy to say that yes, during the past year there were challenges and deadlines, but in the end, the results were better than I could have imagined. Looking forward to working with all of you in 2009-2010.

### OFFICERS

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## Past Chair's Report

Andrew Evens

### The Beat Goes On!

Thank you to everyone for making 2008-2009 an exciting year. I was able to attend the fall Depository Library Council meeting in Washington D.C., the spring Depository Library Council meeting in Tampa, Florida, and the AALL Annual Meeting in D.C. At the 2008 fall Depository Library Council meeting, the Law Library for San Bernardino County was named the 2008 Federal Depository Library of the Year. Prior to the annual meeting, we finalized our historic agreement to make many AALL Government Documents SIS products such as our state government document bibliographies and JURISDOCS available through Hein. In addition to the wonderful exhibit table set up by Jennifer Morgan at CONELL and the exhibit hall at the AALL Annual Meeting, we had six programs presented. Rosemary LaSala did an excellent job as the chair of the program committee. This was more programs accepted than in previous years. Our annual business meeting and breakfast was held off-site at the Government Printing Office. How cool was that?!

So many people made last year great! Rosemary LaSala did an excellent job as vice chair (she's now the new chair) and Dee Wood was a great secretary/treasurer (she's now the new incoming chair). Edward T. Hart did an outstanding job as chair of the publications committee and editor of JURISDOCS, Eric Parker was a wonderful webmaster and chair of the grants committee. Another congratulations to our grant recipients: member grant to attend the spring Depository Library Council meeting was Camilla Tubbs, Reference Librarian and

Lecturer in Legal Research at the Yale University Lillian Goldman Library; the 2009 Veronica Maclay Grant recipient Karen Grushka of the St. John's University Division of Library and Information Science. Special thanks goes to Mary Alice Baish who kept us on the cutting edge of governmental affairs and relations, and Lance Cummins, Richard Davis, and Kathy Brazee of GPO were instrumental with help on programs and the breakfast meeting at GPO.

Past chairs Jennifer Morgan and Larry Meyer provided lots of leadership, and guidance. Jennifer helped tremendously with the program committee, public relations committee, and the Hein agreement. Larry Meyer has always been a great mentor to many and chaired the nominations committee. While he has many accomplishments, this year was special because his library was named the Federal Depository Library of the Year. To insure I don't miss thanking anyone, I want to thank all our members for making this a great year.

Once again, I want to encourage you to get more involved with the GD-SIS. Here's the obvious: being involved looks good on your resume! More importantly, you'll renew your appreciation of how the organization works. I never realized how many people are involved on so many different levels. Please consider taking an active part in this worthwhile organization.

Last but not least, I wish Rosemary and the other new officers a great 2009-2010!

## Members' News

**Camilla Tubbs** from Yale was appointed to the Depository Library Council.

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Washington University Law Library is pleased to announce that **Judy Stark** is our new Access Services/Government Documents Librarian and Lecturer in Law. Judy previously worked for several years as electronic services and research librarian, solo librarian, and office administrator at Jenkens & Gilchrist and at Mintz Levin in Chicago, Dallas, and Washington, D.C.

After serving for seven years as Access Services/Government Documents Librarian and Lecturer in Law, **Tove Kloving** is assuming new duties as she becomes our Foreign, Comparative and International Law Librarian and Lecturer in Law.

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Our very own **Bill Sleeman**, Assistant Director for Technical Services at the Thurgood Marshall Law Library of the University of Maryland School of Law appeared in a GPO video promoting depository libraries. He had this to say about the experience.

*In a few words ...it was fun. I appreciated the opportunity to speak about the importance of the Federal Depository program and was honored to be invited by GPO to be a part of the video. The actual filming was interesting. I was surprised by how nervous being in front of a camera made me although the people involved were quite helpful. As a professional librarian for almost 22 years I have spoken in a variety of situations about government information but as soon as the*

*camera went on everything seemed to fly right out of my mind – even though I had drafted out some general outlines of what I wanted to share. The GPO folks and the camera crew were very patient with me. You ask how I feel about getting “beamed out to loads of librarians and others” and again I have to come back to how fortunate I am to have a chance to talk about the FDLP and government information; open access to government information is critical to our ability as citizens to work effectively with our elected and appointed leaders (and to monitor their activities) and libraries, particularly law libraries, are an essential part of the network of libraries working to make this information available. I am really flattered to have been a part of the video and I hope that it has helped to inform the public about the vital role of the FDLP.*

### Upcoming Event

Fall 2009  
Federal Depository  
Library Council  
Meeting and  
Conference  
19-21 October 2009  
Doubletree Hotel  
Arlington, Virginia

## **Winner of the Maclay Grant: Karen Grushka**

*Karen is currently an MLS student at St. John's University, where she works part-time in the law library, and will be graduating in December, 2009. She also holds a Master's degree in French Studies from the University of Wisconsin and a JD from Michigan State University.*

As this year's recipient of the Veronica Maclay Grant, I had the opportunity to attend my first AALL Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Since starting the MLS program at St. John's University in Queens last September, I have studied the techniques and theory of librarianship. Placements at the Bar Association of the City of New York Library, and at the Rittenberg Law Library, gave me a taste of the daily tasks and challenges that occur within the walls of the library. However, it was not until attending the Annual Conference that I began to appreciate the vast network and collaboration of law libraries and librarianship that exist in the United States.

Though we learn in library school the more technical aspects of librarianship (e.g. research and reference), the culture and spirit of law librarianship cannot be taught in a classroom. I was most surprised, for example, by the number of law librarians at the Conference – more than 1500 traveled from across the country to trade ideas and enthusiasm, solve problems, brainstorm, network, and mentor others. From the moment I arrived, the D.C. Convention Center teemed with library professionals eager to share their love of librarianship, affect necessary change, and transfer this passion to newer generations of law librarians.

I listened to many lectures and attempted to keep my focus broad, attending talks about government documents, private versus academic law librarianship, and the future of print in libraries. Although much of what I learned was new to me, I was affected specifically by two underlying themes of the meeting: the long-term effect on law librarians of 1) the changing nature of information sharing and technology; and 2) the current economic downturn.

While there are no definitive answers to these issues, it is clear that the library community is taking an active stance in preserving and nurturing law librarianship. This crystallized for me while attending the GD-SIS Committee meeting Tuesday morning – in spite of the 7 a.m. meeting time, the conference room was filled with librarians excited to discuss government documents and provide ideas about their future care and dissemination. Following the business meeting was a tour of the Government Printing Office. The outside GPO, is an old and unremarkable structure, but which, from the inside, is a building filled with magic – a rare master book-marbler from England, a design office that creates passports and presidential menus, and stacks of printing plates designed to become legal codes and congressional records.

Standing among the tools of the trade, surrounded by others who felt as thrilled as I was, I remembered why I had decided to become a law librarian in the first place. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity, through the Veronica Maclay Grant, to attend the AALL Annual Conference. I gained a glimpse into the importance of professional collaboration and met many future colleagues (especially through CONELL and the mentorship program), with whom I will be excited to work.

## Legislation to Increase Funding For the Law Library of Congress Clears the House

Camilla Tubbs & Mary Alice Baish

*Camilla Tubbs is the Chair of the AALL Government Relations Committee and works as the Reference and Government Documents Librarian, Lillian Goldman Law Library, Yale University.*

*Mary Alice Baish is the Director of the Government Relations Office*

On July 30, 2009, the *William Orton Law Library Improvement and Modernization Act* (H.R. 2728) overwhelmingly passed the House 383 – 44. This legislation, as it cleared the House, included the following provisions:

Sec. 2 authorizes a one-time additional appropriation of \$3.5 million for the Law Library of Congress for maintenance and administration, including the cataloguing of the collections of the law library. With nearly one-third of the Law Library's volumes uncatalogued, one can only imagine the treasures that will be uncovered with this ambitious cataloging project.

Sec. 3 authorizes the Librarian of Congress to include a separate line item for all amounts attributable to the salaries and expenses of the Law Library in his annual

budget request, effective FY 2011.

Sec. 4 establishes the "William Orton Law Library Support Program" that will allow for the creation of a private-public foundation for the support of the Law Library of Congress. This will allow the American Bar Association (ABA), to move forward on their fundraising efforts under the current Library of Congress Trust Fund Board, and will allow other organizations, such as the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), to get involved.

Sec. 5 designates the Law Library of Congress as the 'National Law Library.'



This year's legislation is similar to last year's bill, the *Charles H. W. Meehan Law Library Improvement and Modernization Act* (H.R. 6589), which did not go far in the legislative process. Now, reintroduced in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress

by Representatives Zoe Lofgren (D-CA-16) and Daniel Lungren (R-CA-3), the *Modernization Act* remains strong in its purpose. Renamed to honor the late Representative William Orton, a champion of the Law Library as a member of the ABA's Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress, this Act will bring the Nation's Law Library to the people with enhanced services such as inter-library loan and electronic document delivery to law libraries throughout the country.

Having survived the first major hurdle of clearing the House, the *Modernization Act* was received by the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. AALL will continue to work closely with the ABA's Standing Committee on the Law Library of

Congress to advocate for this legislation. Its enactment would demonstrate the Law Library of Congress's vital role in providing the legal community and the public with access to authentic current and historic legal information in a first-class setting.

If you would like to get involved in AALL's advocacy efforts, you can subscribe to AALL's Advocacy Listserv (AALL-ADVOC) to receive informational updates and actions alerts from the Government Relations Office. The listserv functions as an important communications mechanism and helps librarians to mobilize at a grassroots level. To find out more, go to: <http://www.aallnet.org/aallwash/aalladvoctsubscribe.asp>

To learn more about the Law Library of Congress visit their site at <http://www.loc.gov/law/>

## **Tampa Depository Library Conference**

Kate Irwin-Smiler

*Kate Irwin-Smiler is Reference Librarian at the Professional Center Library, Wake Forest School of Law*

I was lucky to attend my first Depository Library Council meeting in Tampa from April 20-22. Documents librarians from all kinds of libraries across the country attended – law librarians were a small segment of the attendees. It was a small and manageable conference with just two or three options for any one time slot. Conference sessions provided a mix of practical application and policy conversations,

interspersed with scheduled networking breaks. The proceedings and transcripts are now available on the FDLP Desktop.

On Monday morning, a presentation from Bob Tapella, the Public Printer, outlined the current funding status of the GPO, highlighted issues such as the development of FDSys, and discussed his much-publicized open letter to President Obama ([http://www.gpo.gov/pdfs/news-media/letter\\_030909.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/pdfs/news-media/letter_030909.pdf)). Ric Davis, the Acting Superintendent of Documents discussed the budget and operations of the GPO in more detail.

The council sessions on Monday afternoon were somewhat unusual. Library directors had been specifically invited to attend and respond to 15 questions that were presented in advance. It seemed that many directors who had not previously attended the council meetings were present to take advantage of the opportunity. Their comments addressed challenges their libraries are facing in providing services to users or maintaining the depository collections, what support they needed from GPO or from their regional depository, and what suggestions they have to improve the program.

It was driven home to me during these public comment sessions that the Depository Library Council is a one-way exchange of information, existing to provide counsel to the Public Printer regarding depository issues. The Council helps these sessions to collect information from the depository community, and members commented very little during these sessions (although we did get to hear from them during the concluding session, during which they aired their recommendations). As a newcomer to the depository scene, a lot of the comments didn't make a whole lot of sense on their own – but a little back story goes a long way. I suggest sitting near someone knowledgeable & getting the lowdown!

Educational sessions were also good; some were not applicable to my library, but that's to be expected. I found some value in everything I attended. GPO staff provided good introductory – an

orientation to the program and tools at our disposal, as well as an orientation to the conference itself. In attendance were clearly several librarians who, like myself, had just recently taken on responsibility for the depository materials. (It was nice to see who the other newcomers were, so as not to feel adrift in a sea of Been-Doing-This-For-Twenty-Years!)

I attended sessions on authentication, also given by GPO staff, discussing the technology used behind authenticated materials available through the depository program; the FDLDP Desktop interface and community network; FDSys, the successor to GPO Access; and creating online tutorials using Adobe Captivate.

Perhaps most important was the chance to make connections with other depository librarians. As always, it was nice to see some familiar faces from law libraries. A group of about 20 law librarians went to dinner on Monday night, where good times (and great food!) were had by all. I had a chance to meet my regional coordinator; while we'd spoken on the phone, we hadn't had a chance to meet face-to-face. We were, by chance, the only two librarians from our state in attendance, although some states had sizeable delegations. Meeting the GPO staff was also useful – getting a face to put with a name makes it easier for me to initiate contact when an issue problem crops up. Making these connections broadens the network of people to call on when the going gets rough.

## **San Diego City Clerk Discontinues Print Version of Municipal Codes**

Tina D. Jagerson

*Tina is Chair – Government Relations Committee, San Diego Area Law Libraries (SANDALL) and works as the South Bay Branch Manager, San Diego County Public Law Library (SDCPLL).*

San Diego City Clerk, Elizabeth Maland, recently announced that, as of May 1, 2009, “hard copy versions of the supplemental updates to the City’s Municipal Code will be discontinued.” Ms. Maland stated several reasons for this, including budget cuts, desire for greater access and increased efficiency by using technological resources, reducing the City’s “carbon footprint,” and saving San Diego taxpayers money.

The City is providing the “most up-to-date version” on their website and will retain a current hard copy in the Office of the City Clerk for public use, as well as a secure, archived copy. To stay informed about regular updates, the City has established a public notification system where anyone can request to receive email alerts whenever a new update to the Codes is released. As such, information providers may guide inquirers to the City’s official online version, the printed copy in the City Clerk’s office, or print out the updates themselves to keep on file for public view. The City Clerk’s office is available to assist the public with research and answer questions by contacting their office at 619-533-4000.

Although the City’s efforts and reasoning are understandable, there are several issues of concern that the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) Government Relations Office (GRO), San Diego Area Law Libraries (SANDALL) and its Government Relations Committee (GRC), and the San Diego County Public Law Library (SDCPLL), among others, have with their decision. As information providers, we are naturally concerned with preservation, authentication and continued availability of strictly online resources.

Several organizations, including AALL, SANDALL and SDCPLL, wrote the City Clerk to express a number of significant obstacles we encountered. We outlined the importance of having free, unobstructed and complete public access to City documents in order to preserve the integrity of the institution. We conveyed the need to preserve digital archives of the Codes and make the Codes available to the public upon demand for historical research purposes. And, we addressed the importance of authenticating and certifying online documents and information.

We drew their attention to the inadequacy of the City’s basic online search function in obtaining accurate and relevant results. The City’s online search function is patterned after Google, but some of the described features, such as synonym searching, truncation and stemming aspects, do not appear to work as described. We also highlighted the fact that although the print index of subject terms had not been updated in ten (10) years, it was still often essential for laypersons doing legal research; the online version does not include a similar cross-referenced term index.

In response, the City Clerk and Deputy City Clerk in charge of uploading the Codes met with me, Janet Liggett and Gina Catalano from SDCPLL to further discuss our concerns and encourage a continuing dialog on the subject. We took advantage of our meeting with Ms. Maland to express our apprehension of the City's abilities for preserving online historical documents, so that those resources are and remain free and readily available to the public. We shared examples of search function difficulties and, upon their request, agreed to provide additional information regarding this feature.

We also pointed out that the Federal Government Printing Office (GPO) has begun authenticating their public online documents by applying digital signatures and certifying PDF files. Their process "allows GPO to secure the data integrity." A specific safeguard that the GPO includes is a visible "Seal of Authenticity" on all its PDF documents, assuring viewers "that the document has not been altered since it was authenticated and disseminated by GPO." Additionally, once the GPO signs and certifies any documents, a "Blue Ribbon" icon is visible next to the Seal, but this icon disappears when the document is printed. We provided this information and examples of these policies and practices for the City's review.

We acknowledged that municipalities may not have the same access to resources or funding that the federal government does. However, we emphasized that it was important for all government entities providing official online documents to understand the impact of online-only resources and to make efforts toward achieving the goal of authentication and certification.

Ms. Maland listened attentively and seemed to appreciate our interest and willingness to share our observations. She was very receptive to our suggestion of including links between the Codes and supporting Ordinances on their website. Her office also agreed to further look into their options of authenticating official online City documents, using the GPO as an example. Likewise, she welcomed additional instances of search-function difficulties that Janet, Gina and I are currently compiling for her review. We ended our meeting with optimism for future collaboration and the opportunity to meet with her again.

This trend of providing strictly electronic resources is growing as many organizations look for ways to save costs and provide instant access to information on demand. However, it is imperative that the consequences of doing this are fully understood. For example, according to AALL GRO's [State-by-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Resources](#), there are currently five states "[w]here the online source is the sole *official* statement of the law," but unfortunately, none of them may be considered "authentic." This is the very reason why AALL, SANDALL, SDCPLL and many others continually advocate for authentication of online legal resources, as well as certification, designations of "official" status, preservation, and free access of all public government resources.

For more information on AALL's advocacy efforts, including Mary Alice Baish and Emily Feldman's committed efforts to these issues, visit the [Government Relations Office](#) section of the AALL website. Visit the [GPO's website](#) for further details about their authentication and certification process, their policies and strong illustrations of how they are successfully implementing these objectives. If anyone would like to share strategies, recommendations, information, experiences, or thoughts with us on the subject that we could use and/or pass on to Ms. Maland, feel free to contact me ([tjageron@sdcppl.org](mailto:tjageron@sdcppl.org)) at the San Diego County Public Law Library at 619-498-2506, or Janet ([jliggett@sdcppl.org](mailto:jliggett@sdcppl.org)) and Gina ([gcatalano@sdcppl.org](mailto:gcatalano@sdcppl.org)) at 619-531-3900.



## **A Day that Will Live in Advocacy**

George P. Carter

George Carter is a Reference Librarian at the Law Library for San Bernardino County

The 2009 AALL annual conference kicked off with the Day on the Hill Legislative Advocacy Leadership Training hosted by the association's Government Relations Office. The training included sessions by Camilla Tubbs, Mary Alice Baish, Emily Feldman, and Advocacy Guru Stephanie Vance. With over 70 law librarians from around the country and Japan in attendance the advocacy training was informative, entertaining, and productive.

Throughout the course of the day we were instructed on how best to utilize the time we would have with our congressional representatives and senators or their staff therein. In accordance, Ms. Vance introduced us to the SPIT rule. This rule suggests that advocates be **S**pecific, **P**ersonal, **I**nformative, and **T**rustworthy. In being specific it is important to remember that advocates need to get to the point and not waste time. In making the issue personal an advocate should explain how the issue will affect the representative's constituents. In regards to being informative, an advocate should consider what arguments he or she can bring to bear on the issue for which he or she is advocating. As to being trustworthy an advocate should demonstrate to the staff that he or she can be relied on. For example, if the advocate does not know the answer to a question he or she should promise to get back to the person and actually follow through. In addition to the SPIT rule, Ms. Vance suggested that we be brief.

After the formal training, those in attendance descended on the senate offices and the capitol building to meet with our congressional representatives and senators. While most of us met only with staff members of various importance, some attendees were fortunate to meet with their senators and or congressional representatives. For example, Wyoming Law Librarian Kathy Carlson reported that she was able to speak briefly with Senator Barasso and extensively with Representative Lummis who both represent her state. Others like Larry Meyer and yours truly met with Majority Counsel for the Environment and Public Works Committee, Grant Cope of Senator Boxer's office and Ryan Maxson

from Congressmen Dreier's office. Mr. Maxson listened to our concerns about the PACER pilot program and offered to call the AOC to inquire about the program's status.

After the meetings, everyone reconvened back at the Renaissance Hotel and debriefed the Government Relations Office on successes and failures during the Hill meetings. From the feedback it was clear that the meetings were largely enjoyable and productive. Even those advocates who were unable to secure official meetings were able to drop into their congressional offices and drop off literature about AALL's important legislative issues. As your representatives and senators return home for recess you may want to exercise your inner advocate and pay them a visit on behalf of your American Association of Law Libraries.



## Official, Authentic, Permanent - Not Online in Wyoming

Katie Lynn

Katie Lynn is the Electronic Services Librarian at the Wyoming State Law Library.

Primary online legal resources in Wyoming are not official. Nor have they been authenticated. And which state agencies that provide the online legal information have addressed the issue of permanent public access (1)? So, what does this mean? Can we still use them? Are they reliable? What happens if you refer to a statute that was printed from the Legislative Service Office web site instead of providing a certified copy of that statute from LSO itself?

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) completed a survey that resulted in the State-by-State Report

on Authentication of Online Legal Resources (2) and answers, as of March 2007, the question, "How trustworthy are state-level primary legal resources on the Web?" AALL also held a national summit in April 2007. The summit, Authentic Legal Information in the Digital Age (<http://www.aallnet.org/summit/>), brought together national leaders to explore legal and technological solutions to ensure that state online legal information can be authenticated and will be preserved. In addition to members of the AALL Executive Board and leaders, outside delegates included representatives from the American Bar Association, National Conference of State Legislators, National Conference

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<sup>1</sup> Richard J. Matthews et al., *State-by-State Report on Permanent Public Access to Electronic Government Information 2* (Chicago, IL: American Association of Law Libraries, 2003). Also available online at: [http://www.aallnet.org/aallwash/State\\_report.pdf](http://www.aallnet.org/aallwash/State_report.pdf). Matthews et al., define permanent public access [PPA] as a "policy and practice that ensures applicable government information is preserved for current, continuous and future public access."

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<sup>2</sup> Richard J. Matthews and Mary Alice Baish, *State-by-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Resources* (Chicago, IL: American Association of Law Libraries, 2007). Also available online at: [http://www.aallnet.org/aallwash/authen\\_rprt/Aut henFinalReport.pdf](http://www.aallnet.org/aallwash/authen_rprt/Aut henFinalReport.pdf).

of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, and officials from state courts, state legislatures, state archives and the Federal government.

The Summit addressed the concepts of what is official (3) and authentic (4) legal information, especially as reported in the survey by each individual state's online legal information. The survey targeted six sources of law: state administrative codes and registers, state statutes and session laws, and state high and intermediate appellate court opinions. Survey results showed that a significant number of state online resources are official but none are authenticated or afford ready authentication by standard methods. State online primary legal resources are, therefore, not sufficiently trustworthy. These are the key findings supporting the need to address at the very least

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<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 8. Matthews and Baish define official as a “version of regulatory materials, statutes, session laws, or court opinions is one that has been governmentally mandated or approved by statute or rule. It might be produced by the government, but does not have to be. ... This definition is firmly rooted in the print world. ... The fixed nature of the print medium, coupled with the paper publication’s multiple copies and wide distribution, ensures that the print *official* legal resource, as “governmentally mandated or approved by statute or rule,” is an *authentic* resource. An online *official* legal resource offers no such automatic assurance.”

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 8. Matthews and Baish define authentic as a text “whose content has been verified by a government entity to be complete and unaltered when compared to the version approved or published by the content originator. Typically, an *authentic* text will bear a certificate or mark that conveys information as to its certification, the process associated with ensuring that the text is complete and unaltered when compared with that of the content originator.”

authentication and permanent access of our state online legal resources (5):

States have begun to discontinue print official legal resources and substitute online official legal sources. [Alaska, Indiana, Tennessee, Utah, District of Columbia]

Ten states & D.C. have deemed as official one or more of their online primary legal resources. [Alaska, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia]

One or more of the online primary legal sources of eight states have “official traits,” where evidence as to the actual status of the resources is conflicting. [Alaska, California, New Jersey, Ohio, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, District of Columbia]

States have not acknowledged important needs of citizens and law researchers seeking government information; they have not been sufficiently deliberate in their policies and practices.

No state’s online primary legal resources are authenticated or afford ready authentication by standard methods. Eight states have provided for permanent public access (PPA) to one or more of their online primary legal resources. [Alaska, California, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Utah]

Kathy Carlson, Wyoming State Law Library director, responded to the survey for Wyoming ([http://www.aallnet.org/aallwash/authen\\_rprt/StateReports.pdf](http://www.aallnet.org/aallwash/authen_rprt/StateReports.pdf)). Her report noted

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<sup>5</sup> *Id.* At 10-13.

that while the chain of custody for Wyoming's online legal resources is secure, the online versions are not deemed official and are not authenticated. When preparing for this article, I contacted several agencies to review the status of Wyoming's online agency rules, statutes, legislative session laws, and Supreme Court opinions.

Amber Green, in the Secretary of State's Compliance Division, verified that the online Wyoming Rules Database (<http://soswy.state.wy.us/AdminServices/RulesOverview.aspx>) is not considered official and they have not addressed or plan to address authentication procedures. Procedurally, rules are submitted to the legislature through the Legislative Service Office, then reviewed by the Attorney General, signed by the Governor and published by the Secretary of State. An official, certified print copy may be obtained from the Secretary of State. While the online rules may not be official, you can be certain that they will be permanently accessible, as per the Secretary of State Rules on Rules, Chapter 1, Section 8, Copies of Rules.

Wyoming's online legislative resources (session laws and statutes specifically) are also not considered official. Dan Pauli, Legislative Services Office Director, confirmed that LSO is the official custodian of the code database (W.S. 28-8-105(a)(v)) and authorized to contract with a publisher to provide a print version of the statutes (W.S. 28-8-105(c)). Pauli noted that he often provides a notarized affidavit with a copy of a statute from their official code database. There are currently no designs to implement authentication or make the online session laws

(<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/sessions/legsess.htm>) or statutes (<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/titles/statutes.htm>) official. And while a published print form is statutorily mandated where the online version is not, Pauli said that free online access is planned as long as enough server space is available. Beginning with the 2008 Budget Session, LSO has placed online the published version of the 2008 Session Laws.

There are two online options for Wyoming Supreme Court opinions, provided by the Supreme Court (<http://www.courts.state.wy.us/Opinions.aspx>) and the Law Library (<http://wyomcases.courts.state.wy.us/>). Again, these online versions are not considered official and are not authenticated. The Supreme Court has recently implemented an online docketing system, though, that places a watermark much like a date stamp on filings. Judy Pacheco, Clerk of the Supreme Court, and John Capron, Supreme Court Software Developer, both were intrigued by the possibility of authenticating Supreme Court opinions in the future. The Law Library cooperates with the Oklahoma State Court Network (OSCN) to provide online Wyoming Supreme Court opinions back to 1990. Authentication has not been discussed with OSCN as yet, though the I hope to work with them soon to discuss possible implementation. Permanent public access has also not been discussed or made policy for the Supreme Court online decisions. However, the intention is to continue making this legal resource freely accessible online.

One of the sessions during the AALL for amending state laws to include authentication. Tim Coggins, Associate Dean for Library & Information Services at University of Richmond School of Law, used the example of Washington State legislation, H.B. 1859, which requires that if the Washington State Register is published exclusively by electronic means, that electronic copy is the official copy. A proposed legal solution would be to add, “and shall be authenticated by a certificate or mark that conveys information as to its certification, and shall be preserved for permanent public access.” (6) Since the Summit, the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws has approved the creation of a new

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<sup>6</sup> Baish, Mary Alice, *AALL Reaches the Tipping Point in National Leadership on Digital Authentication*, AALL Spectrum, July 2007, at 7. Also available online at [http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub\\_sp0707/pub\\_sp0707\\_Wash.pdf](http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub_sp0707/pub_sp0707_Wash.pdf).

National Summit focused on suggestions Study Committee on Online Authentication of Legal Materials to investigate the issues and discuss the feasibility of a uniform law or model act on digital authentication.

With this background information, can we answer the questions at the beginning of this article? In reality, since Wyoming continues to rely on print legal information as official, should we be concerned that the online versions are not authenticated and may or may not be accessible in five, ten or fifty years? Has experience in Wyoming courts shown that most judges accept an online version of a legal resource? Aren't attorneys trusted as officers of the court to provide a correct copy of the statute, rule, or case? But then, how can you really know if it's correct? Can we expect to maintain the recognition that these resources are authoritative and reliable statements of law now and in the future without certainty that they are uncorrupted and complete?

To learn more about the Wyoming State Law Library at their site  
<http://www.courts.state.wy.us/LawLibrary/>

**Government Documents-SIS Treasurer's Report  
July 28, 2009**

Dee Wood  
Secretary/Treasurer

The financial situation of the GD-SIS continues to be solid. Financial statements through May 31, 2009 show an ending balance of \$30,320.86 with total revenues at \$6,415.00 and total expenses at \$2,316.98. Activity after May 31 through June 30 includes expenses from the 2008 Veronica Maclay Grant recipient, conference table expenses and State Bibliography publication expenses that came to a total of \$1,398.27 leaving an estimated ending balance of \$28,922.59. Sources of income and expenses were broken down into the following categories:

Estimate of revenues July 2007 through June 2008:

1. Dues (Allocated end fiscal yr)	0.00
2. Contributions (LexisNexis)	1,200.00
3. Sales of State Bibliographies	<u>5,215.00</u>

Total Revenues \$6,415.00

Estimate of expenses July 2007 through June 2008:

1. State Bibliographies	
Photocopying	\$1,100.00
Postage/Shipping	271.92
Supplies	<u>188.89</u>
	\$1,560.81
2. Grants	
2008 Maclay Grant(Sabrina Sondhi)	\$1,000.00
FDLC Grant(Camilla Tubbs)	<u>787.65</u>
	\$1,787.65
3. Conference Table Expenses	\$354.44

Total Expenses \$3,702.90

Three new bibliographies in 2008 were introduced: Washington, DC, Delaware, and Kentucky. Most of the 408 bibliography sales were attributed to the new ones introduced this year. Ed Hart did a tremendous job fulfilling and mailing orders to our loyal customers. Ivonne Torres from the AALL Office of Finance and Administration processed all checks and credit card information quickly and accurately. Many thanks to both Ed and Ivonne. Documentation for all transactions is on file with the Secretary/Treasurer.

**Minutes of the Business Meeting  
Tuesday, July 28, 2009  
Washington, D.C.**

Dee Wood  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Present:** Jada Aitchison, Pat Behles, Alicia Brillon, Ed Butler, Emily Carr, George Carter, Esther Cho, Suzanne B. Corriell, Astrid Emel, Cindi Ernst, Andrew Evans, Janet Fischer, Galen Fletcher, Jennifer Greig, Marlene Harmon, Edward Hart, David Hollander, Kate Irwin-Smiler, Rosemary LaSala, Susan Lyons, Mary Jane Mallonee, Scott Matheson, Kevin McClure, Larry Meyer, Jennifer Bryan Morgan, Eric C. Parker, Carla Downer Pritchett, Michael H. Roffer, Pat Roncevich, Mary T. Rooney, Ed Sonnenberg, Dee Wood. Special Guests: Beth DiFelice, Cindy Etkin, Laurie Hall, Robin Haun Mohamed, Sally Holterhoff, Robert Little, Shane Marmion, Ted Priebe, Dan Rosati, Dick Spinelli, Victoria K. Trotta.

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Andrew Evans, Chair of GD-SIS opened the breakfast meeting at 7:45 a.m. with a welcome to all. He announced that this year's VIP was Judge Keith D. Davis, San Bernardino County Law Library Board member. Judge Davis was unable to attend the business meeting.

**Reports:**

**Secretary/Treasurer's Report**

Minutes from the July 15, 2008 meeting in Portland were distributed to the membership in the Spring 2009 issue of *Jurisdocs* and at this meeting for approval. The minutes were accepted as written.

Dee Wood distributed the Treasurer's Report covering the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. Revenues, mostly attributed to state bibliography sales, came to a total of \$6,415.00. Expenses in the amount of \$3,702.90 were reported. These were from bibliography production costs, grants, and conference expenses. The total balance in the account at the end of the period was \$28,922.59. The treasurer's report was accepted as written.

**Grants Committee Report**

Eric Parker reported that the 2009 member grant (to attend the Spring Depository Library Council meeting in Tampa, FL) for \$800.00 was awarded to Camilla Tubbs, Reference Librarian and Lecturer in Legal Research at the Yale University Lillian Goldman Library. The committee received 3 applications for the member grant. The recipient of the \$1,000 2009 Veronica Maclay Grant to attend the July 2009 AALL Meeting & Conference and CONELL in Washington, D.C. was Karen Grushka of the St. John's University Division of Library and Information Science. A total of 14 applications were received by the committee. Eric thanked the Grants Committee members Nancy Cowden and Jill Sidford for their work selecting the grant recipients. The grants report was accepted as written.

A motion was made by Scott Matheson to give the Executive Committee more flexibility in the future to award more grants such as program grants or temporary grants since the treasury permits it. A second was from Kate Irwin-Smiler. The motion was carried.

### **Webmaster's Report**

Eric Parker, current webmaster reports that currently no major changes have been made to the web site. The site serves an important role for the Section, serving as the distribution vehicle for *JURISDOCS*, other news, and announcements. William S. Hein & Co. will soon take over the sales and distribution of the section's state bibliographies. It also serves as an archive for the Grants Committee. Suggestions for improvements include site redesign and production of a new electronic cumulative index to *JURISDOCS*. Eric agreed to continue in the role of the Section Webmaster until a replacement can be found. The Webmaster's report was accepted as written.

### **Publications Committee Report**

Ed Hart reported that the committee's primary tasks were coordinating the compilation and updating of state bibliographies and issuing the *JURISDOCS* newsletter. Three new bibliographies released last year accounted for the sales of 408 bibliographies. Volunteers are working on twenty-six bibliographies, five of which are available from our new distributor, William S. Hein & Co. They are North Dakota, Oklahoma, Utah, Alaska, and Wisconsin. One issue of *JURISDOCS* was released for the year. Another issue will come out at the end of August. Ed welcomed three new members to the committee: Esther Eastman, Michelle Cosby, and Emily Carr. The Publications report was accepted by consensus.

**Program Committee Chair**, Rosemary LaSala announced that GD-SIS had 7 programs accepted for the 2009 meeting.

### **GPO Update**

Cindy Etkin reported on GPO activities. FdSys beta is available to view. Fifteen authentic publications have been added to FdSys joining the congressional bills and laws and the Budget of the United States. The transition document to FdSys is available for you to pick up in Booth 830 in the exhibit hall. In fiscal year 2009 GPO received additional funding for data storage, educational, and outreach training. OPAL online training has increased. GPO is undergoing systems modernization from Didus and lighted bins and moving off mainframe. Cataloging and indexing projects and digitization of shelf list cards are moving forward. Digitization RFPs have been put out and GPO is waiting for approval from JCP to award the contract. FDLP Desktop has recently added community forums and Webtech Notes. There are newly revised substitution guidelines for selective depositories. The PACER security breach is still being evaluated. GPO hopes to get on the EPA agenda to continue the pilot project. New Depository Library Council members are Camilla Tubbs, James Jacobs, Jill Moriearty, Daniel O'Mahoney, and Ann Marie Sanders. The full GPO Update will be available on FDLP Desktop soon.

### **Denver 2010 Educational Programs**

Beth DiFelice, AMPC liaison to GD-SIS answered questions about program and workshop proposals for the Denver meeting. Program proposals should be sent to Dee Wood, Program Committee Chair, before the August 23 deadline. The top ranked program from GD-SIS will be automatically accepted. The program planner's handbook can be

accessed on AALLNet. It was announced that the words “Summit” and “Mount” should not be used in program proposals.

### **State Bibliographies**

Jennifer Morgan and Shane Marmion reported that William S. Hein & Co. will soon take over all printing of the state bibliographies and *JURISDOCS*. They will be digitized and searchable; links will be clickable; all older editions of the publications will be included. The partnership will go into effect in one more week.

### **Special Awards**

Andrew Evans presented special thanks to Larry Meyer, Jennifer Morgan, and Dee Wood for their work involving GD-SIS.

### **Member Questions/Comments**

Rosemary LaSala, incoming chair announced that members on various committees are still needed and to get in touch with her if you are interested.

### **Nominations Committee Report**

Larry Meyer announced that Janet Fischer is the new secretary/treasurer and Dee Wood is the new vice-chair/chair-elect. George Carter made the motion to accept the results of the election and to destroy the electronic ballots and Scott Matheson seconded. The motion was carried.

George Carter moved for adjournment of the meeting and Kate Irwin-Smiler seconded. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m. Following the meeting, members and guests were given a tour of GPO.

## **New State Series Bibliographies**

3-83: Guide to **New Mexico**  
State Publications, Third Edition  
/ Theresa Strike

3-82: **Tennessee** State  
Documents: A Bibliography of  
State Publications and Related  
Materials / Reba A. Best

3-81: State Documents  
Bibliography: **South Carolina** /  
Terrye Conroy, Stacy Etheredge,  
and David Lehmann

3-80: State Documents  
Bibliography: **Oregon** /  
Stephanie Midkiff and Wendy  
Schroeder Hitchcock

3-79: **North Dakota** State  
Documents: A Selective  
Bibliography of Legal and Law-  
Related Material / Rhonda R.  
Schwartz

3-78: State Documents  
Bibliography – **Oklahoma**: A  
Guide to Legal Research in  
Oklahoma / Darin Fox

3-77: **Utah** Legal Resources  
Bibliography / Mari Cheney

3-76: State Documents  
Bibliography: **Alaska** / Catherine  
Lemann

3-75: State Documents  
Bibliography: **Wisconsin** /  
Barbara Fritschel

## Grants Committee Report For 2008-2009

MEMBERS: Nancy Cowden, Jill Sidford, Eric Parker

The AALL GD-SIS Grants Committee offered the member grant in the spring of 2009, and awarded one (1) \$800 grant. The Committee also offered and awarded one (1) student grant in the spring of 2009 in the amount of \$1,000.

### PURPOSE OF GD-SIS GRANTS

The member grant is awarded to an SIS member or a government documents support staff person to attend the Depository Library Conference. The student grant, the Veronica Maclay Grant <[http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub\\_llj\\_v93n01/2001\\_09.pdf](http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub_llj_v93n01/2001_09.pdf)>, is given to assist a library and information science student in attending the AALL Annual Meeting & Conference.

### 2008-2009 GRANTS AWARDEES

The recipient of the member grant (to attend the April 20-22 Depository Library Council meeting in Tampa, Florida) was Camilla Tubbs, Reference Librarian and Lecturer in Legal Research at the Yale University Lillian Goldman Library. This year, the committee received a total of 3 applications, which is an improvement over the 1 application we received in each of 2007 and 2008.

The recipient of the 2009 Veronica Maclay Grant (to attend the July 2009 AALL Meeting & Conference and CONELL in Washington, DC) was

Karen Grushka of the St. John's University Division of Library and Information Science. At least in part because the Maclay Grant amount was again at the generous level of \$1,000, the Committee received a total of 14 applications. While down slightly over last year's 18 applications, this year's total is still quite respectable by historical standards.

### 2008-2009 GRANTS PROCEDURES

Both grants were posted and advertised on the AALL GD-SIS web site, <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/gd/>, and listserv, <<http://share.aallnet.org/read/?forum=gd-sis>>. Additionally, they were posted on national and regional email lists.

The application process is now done completely via the GD-SIS web site. The applicant fills out a web form, and (if applicable), his/her recommendation writer writes his/her recommendation on a different web form. Each form transmits the application (or recommendation) information to all members of the Grants Committee via email.

### THANK YOU

My thanks go to Nancy Cowden and Jill Sidford for their willingness to serve on the committee, and for their help in publicizing the grants available. Also, thank you to the Section leadership for agreeing to provide grants at a generous level.

Respectfully submitted by Eric Parker,  
2008-2009 Grants Committee Chair, on  
the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, 2009.

## Webmaster's Report For 2008-2009

WEBMASTER: Eric Parker

### CURRENT STATE OF SITE

The Section's web site continues to be available at <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/gd/>. During the past year, I have not made major changes to the Section's web site, though I have worked to keep the site current. The site continues to serve an important role for the Section, serving as the distribution vehicle for *JURISDOCS*, the Section newsletter, as well as other news and announcements about the Section. William S. Hein & Company will soon take over the sales and distribution of the Section's state bibliographies. When that happens, they will no longer be sold directly via our site. As of this writing, that transition is still under way.

In the past few years, the GD-SIS web site has assumed more of an archival function. It now houses a complete digitized run (PDF) of *JURISDOCS*. It also contains a Grants Committee archive (a non-public portion of the site), with documents relating to the activities of the Committee. This archive is meant to prevent Grants Committee Chairs from having to reinvent the wheel each year when drafting documents, announcements, etc.

### FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS?

It might make sense to carry out a number of improvements in the future. Some of these are not strictly web site things, but involve other Section

activities that would likely have an impact on the site.

Site redesign – Since assuming webmaster duties in 1999, I have never found time to redesign the Section website. While (as far as I'm aware) the site functions adequately, it could probably stand to be freshened up.

JURISDOCS – *JURISDOCS* was last indexed at the conclusion of volume 12 (1989/1990). It would be great if another index (cumulative?) could be done, especially if that index were electronic, and could be searched via the web site.

It has been a privilege to serve as the Section Webmaster since 1999. I would be happy to continue in this role until a replacement can be found.

Respectfully submitted by Eric Parker,  
2008-2009 Webmaster, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of  
July, 2009.

