

JURISDOCS

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Government Documents
Special Interest Section

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From the Editor

Dear Fellow GD-SIS Members,

Wow another AALL meeting come and gone, and now many of you are already plotting away program proposals for next year in Philly. Your editor had a good conference (besides hobbling around on a broken foot) and really enjoyed those filling breakfasts at the Hyatt. Oh, I did enjoy the excellent GD-SIS sponsored programs. Just wish I could be at more than one place at a time!

In this issue of *Jurisdocs*, we have reports from our Chair and Chair-elect, and past-Chair as well as the Secretary-Treasurer and the annual reports of the committees. We have some articles from grant winners, as well as others on their thoughts on AALL in Denver. Our two VIPs, Suzanne Sears and Christopher Brown, also wrote their thanks for the opportunity to attend our meeting.

The next issue of *Jurisdocs* will be out later this Fall after the Fall Depository Council and Conference. We welcome reports from attendees of the meeting, particularly from any members of the SIS who are giving programs at the meeting.

As I mentioned at the SIS business meeting, after two years of serving as your editor, I am looking to pass along this privilege. Several worthy volunteers have stepped forward, so further details of this transition will be announced during the course of this year's issues.

As always, please think about writing an article. Submissions are always welcomed from you the members of the SIS. Please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Edward T. Hart
Your Editor

NAME OUR MASCOT!

Mascot? We have a mascot? Yes, the GD-SIS has a mascot, or will have one soon. We have our own version of the Gov Docs Eagle, and before he makes his appearance, he needs a name. No one WANTS to be a nameless mascot. So GD-SIS folks, here's your chance. You know you secretly love these contests, and the nice thing about this one is that you can enter it as often as you're inspired to do so.

Here are the details:

- Email your entry(s), one or 10 at a time to:
- Astrid Emel at St. Johns University, Rittenberg Law Library - emela@stjohns.edu
- Entries must be received by October 31, 2010.
- Winner of the chosen name gets their very own Eagle T-Shirt.
- Thanks - And remember, vote early and vote often!

2010-2011 Officers



Left to right:
Dee Wood, Chair
Janet Fisher, Secretary-Treasurer
Eric Parker, Vice-chair/Chair-Elect



Chair's Report



Dee Wood
University of Kentucky Law Library

It was just yesterday that we were planning for the 2010 AALL meeting in Denver and already we find ourselves preparing for next year's meeting. Before we skip ahead to Philadelphia, I would like to thank the GD-SIS for making my year as Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect an exciting time that culminated in what I call "GD-SIS Tuesday" which started with a very well-attended breakfast meeting and was followed by a day full of successful educational programs sponsored by the Section.

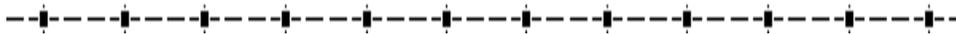
Our 2009/2010 Chair, Rosemary LaSala, skillfully laid out a timeline for AALL deadlines throughout the year. Rosemary's perpetual enthusiasm paved the way for a year of unimpeded event planning. Her positive attitude spread to our members, as evidenced by the many

volunteers who stepped forth to assist us at the conference in so many ways. They spent hours happily staffing the GD-SIS exhibit hall activities table and the CONELL Marketplace table. She made this a very refreshing experience for me and our volunteers.

One prevailing theme found in many chair's reports is "volunteer your services for your association." The theme is repeated for good reasons. The GD-SIS is always in need of volunteers. Any amount of free time you can spend helping the Section is welcome. You will be hearing from us throughout the year to assist us where you are needed, anywhere from writing an article for *JURISDOCS* to becoming a committee member. Take a few minutes to visit our committee page and find the person to contact when you are ready to become involved. Click on: <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/gd/committees.html> to find your particular niche.

A second theme found in chair's reports is "submit a program proposal for next year's AALL Conference." Now is the time for you to showcase your talent and expertise by sharing your knowledge with the AALL community. Your new vice-chair/chair-elect, Eric Parker is prepared to receive your program proposals. Stay tuned to the GD-SIS Listserv for his announcements and instructions for proposal submission.

I thank you for allowing me to serve as GD-SIS Chair. I have had a rewarding year and look forward to the challenges and rewards that will accompany the upcoming year. Whenever you have the opportunity, encourage your non-member colleagues to become a part of the GD-SIS family and remember – your membership makes this an outstanding Section of AALL.



Report from the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect



Eric Parker
Pritzker Legal Research Center
Northwestern University

I am honored (and humbled) to be the incoming Vice-Chair/Chair Elect of GD-SIS this year. I would like to tell you a little bit about myself. I have been an academic law librarian at Northwestern since 1995, having worked first as Catalog Librarian, then as Electronic Resources & Services Librarian, and now in my current role as Acquisitions Librarian. I became involved with GD-SIS in 1999, when the Section was looking for a webmaster, and I was looking for a

way to get more involved professionally in AALL. Since then, I've also served as the state bibliographies coordinator, and as chair of the GD-SIS Grants Committee.

GD-SIS exists in part to further the continuing education of law librarians. There are really 2 parts to the GD-SIS' educational mission: to produce programming that will allow members to continue learning and keep current, and to assist both up and coming librarians, as well as more experienced members, to take advantage of educational opportunities, particularly during challenging economic times. I look forward to working with many of you during the next couple of years on any number of issues and topics, but especially on continuing to make educational opportunities available for as many as we can.

The people I have met and worked with in the Section over the course of the past 11 years have definitely been one of the highlights of my professional career. I like to tell people that GD-SIS is one of the best-kept secrets in AALL. It's a small enough section that it is easy to participate in as meaningful a way as one wants. Plus, the people (that's all of you) really are terrific people to know and work on things with. So I want to encourage each of you to consider volunteering to help further the work of the Section. If you are interested, or just think you may be, please feel free to contact me at <ecp278@law.northwestern.edu>.



Report from Past Chair Elect



Rosemary LaSala
Reference /Government Collections Librarian
St. John's University, Rittenberg Law Library

The meeting of the 2010 American Association of Law Libraries is over, and the craziness begins once again. The planning, e-mails, deadlines, and informal conversation started as soon as all of us caught our breaths and returned to our respective jobs. The 2011 meeting in Philadelphia will have many changes, and with the absence of a theme, the programs can be as varied and colorful as our

imaginations. So if you have ideas, please put it down on paper and forward it to Eric Parker, our new vice/chair-chair/elect, or speak to one of the GD-SIS members. That is all it takes to begin the process of developing a great program idea.

For me, this year's meeting was jam-packed with getting to know new people and visiting with old friends. I attended a lot of

interesting programs and had the privilege of moderating and coordinating two of them. I need to say thank you to all the people who contributed to the success of the 2010 meeting. Once again the GD-SIS had great programs, and our speakers were exceptional. Without the continued support of the GD-SIS members and the unwavering support of the vice/chair and secretary/treasurer, as well as the committee heads and their members, there is no way we could have accomplished as much as we did.

There are definitely moments that I will remember when I think back to Denver. This year, CONELL was one of the highlights. I had the pleasure of meeting so many new librarians and was once again reminded why it is so important to feel connected to our profession. Being a part of the GD-SIS has given me the opportunity to foster and enrich that connection. The enthusiasm that was felt by all who attended the CONELL Market Place was clearly visible when you walked through the halls of the convention center or when you were having breakfast in the hotel. Talking and laughing with people from different types of libraries and from different cities and countries is a fascinating way to explore the vast possibilities that is librarianship.

As my year as chair comes to an end, I am grateful to everyone who I have met,

confided in, complained to and laughed with. When I reflect on the last two years, it is the friendships that I have made that will remain most dear. I know that my involvement in the GD-SIS will continue.

As outgoing chair, I would like to wish Dee a great year as chair and Eric, our new vice chair/chair elect, a year to get his bearings and feel comfortable with his new position. Janet, our secretary/treasurer can most certainly not be forgotten without her continued involvement. Bills would not be paid, the minutes from our breakfast meeting would not be recorded and our SIS would find it difficult to balance our debits and credits.

So once again, think of some great program ideas, volunteer for a committee, run for vice/chair-chair/elect, or secretary/treasurer. Become involved. Without all of you none of the great work we have accomplished so far can be continued.

Now, I know I didn't get this right at the breakfast meeting, but here goes!

All in favor say "aye"
"opposed"

The ayes have it.

Thanks for all the great memories.



Treasurer's Report

Janet Fischer
Collection Development/Government Documents Librarian
Golden Gate University

The financial situation of the GD-SIS continues to be solid. Financial statements through April 30, 2010 show an ending balance of \$30,175.09 as detailed below:

	Beginning Balance 5/31/2009	\$30,320.86
Revenues		
3140 Dues	\$30.00	
3140 Dues	\$2,295.00	
3030 Contributions	\$1,700.00	
		\$4,025.00
Expenses		
Awards, AALL 09 Grant	(\$1,000.00)	
Misc Expense (incl. Annl Mtg A/V) 2009	(\$354.44)	
Food & Beverage	(\$533.71)	
Awards	(\$1,057.54)	
Misc. expense	(\$60.37)	
Postage/Freight	(\$10.35)	
Printing	(\$33.48)	
Souvenirs/giveaways	(\$120.88)	
Honoraria - Travel grant Childs & Harmon	(\$1,000.00)	
		(\$4,170.77)
Year-to-Date 4-30-2010		\$30,175.09

This year the GD-SIS moved its state bibliographies to W.S. Hein for production and distribution. Royalties have not yet been posted to our account as of 6/28/2010, although a royalty of \$4,621 is expected. Ed Hart deserves many thanks for making this project a reality.

Documentation for all transactions is on file with the Secretary/Treasurer.

Update after AALL

Balance beginning 3-30-2010: \$30,175.09
 Expenses: \$971.07
 Income: \$4,703.50
 Balance as of 7-30-2010: **\$33,907.52**

2009-2010 Committee Reports

Grants Committee

Submitted by Eric Parker

MEMBERS: Eric Parker (chair), Nancy Cowden, Jill Sidford, Gail Whittemore

At the GD-SIS Business Meeting in Washington, D.C. last July, the Section leadership and membership favored increasing the number of grants available because of the poor economy. Consequently, the Grants Committee offered several grants during 2009/10. In the fall, we offered and awarded two (2) \$500 GD-SIS member grants to attend the Fall Federal Depository Library Conference and Council Meeting in Arlington, VA, from October 19-21. In the spring, we offered and awarded two (2) \$500 GD-SIS member grants to attend the Spring Depository Library Council Meeting in Buffalo, NY, on April 26-28. We offered and awarded the Veronica Maclay library school student grant in the spring of 2010 in the amount of \$1,000 for attendance at AALL in Denver, July 10-13. Finally, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, we were able to offer and award one (1) special member grant in the amount of \$500 to a GD-SIS member to assist in attending AALL in Denver, July 10-13.

2009-2010 GRANTS AWARDEES

The recipients of the two member grants in the fall (to attend the October 19-21 Fall Federal Depository Library Conference and Council Meeting) were: Marlene Harmon, Reference Librarian, University of California, Berkeley, and Miriam Childs, Head of Technical Services, Law Library of Louisiana. The Grants Committee received a total of 3 applications for these 2 grants.

The recipients of the two member grants in the spring (to attend the April 26-28 Spring Depository Library Council Meeting) were: Peggy Jarrett, Documents and Reference Librarian, University of Washington Gallagher Law Library, and Schuyler Cook, Head, Technical Services/Government Information Librarian, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Library. The Grants Committee received a total of 5 applications for these 2 grants.

The recipient of the 2010 Veronica Maclay Grant (to attend the July 2010 AALL Meeting & Conference and CONELL in Denver) was Kristina Lambright, of the University of North Texas Department of Library and Information Sciences. This year, the Grants Committee received a total of 6 applications for this grant.

The recipient of the 2010 Special Member Grant (to attend the July 2010 AALL Meeting & Conference in Denver) was Catherine Irwin-Smiler of the Professional Center Library, Wake Forest University. The Grants Committee received a total of 3 applications for this grant.

2009-2010 GRANTS PROCEDURES

The fall member grants, spring member grants, and special member grant were all 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>. In addition to a first announcement, either one or two follow-up announcements were sent to the list to remind people of availability and application deadlines.

The Veronica Maclay Grant was 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, each of the Grants Committee members posted messages about it on national and regional email lists that he/she belongs to.

The application process continues to be 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 YOUs

My thanks go to Nancy Cowden, Jill Sidford, and Gail Whittemore for their willingness to serve on the committee, for their help in publicizing the grants, and in giving thoughtful consideration to all applications received for the various grants. Also, thank you to Jenny Greig, the GD-SIS webmaster, for posting the grant announcements and application forms on the website in an expeditious manner. Finally, thank you to the Section leadership for agreeing to provide more grants during a difficult year, economically.

FOR NEXT YEAR

Someone suggested to me that GD-SIS consider offering (subject to the availability of money in its account) an annual grant to its members to assist in attending the AALL Annual Meeting. Perhaps the award could go to the individual who has demonstrated the greatest contributions toward government documents work and/or the GD-SIS. There could also be a need-based component to the award. I would like to encourage that this suggestion be taken up at the GD-SIS Business Meeting in Denver.

Nominations Committee Report

Submitted by Larry Meyer

This year, the nominations committee recruited for a single position, that of Vice Chair/Chair-Elect. The committee chair posted announcements on the list-serve, sought suggestions from section leadership and solicited potential candidates. Through these efforts, Eric Parker from Northwestern University emerged as a candidate for Vice Chair/Chair-Elect. Being no other

candidates on the ballot an on-line election was held with Eric garnering the majority of votes to be declared as next Vice Chair/Chair-Elect. The nominations committee would like to congratulate Eric on his victory and looks forward to his two-year term as an office of the Government Documents SIS.

Advocacy Committee

Submitted by Larry Meyer

The advocacy committee closely monitored government documents issues during the 2009-2010 year. The committee worked closely with the AALL Washington Office as issues developed during the year. As issues demanding action appeared, announcements were distributed via the listserv informing members of the issues and where appropriate encouraging members to contact legislators, staffers and other key parties. The committee looks forward to continuing to collaborate with the Washington Office and other key parties during the coming year.

Public Relations Committee

Submitted by Jennifer Bryan Morgan

The Public Relations Committee of the GD-SIS, 2009-2010, included members Jennifer Morgan, Astrid Emel, and Marlene Harmon. In order to promote the mission and activities of the GD-SIS, the committee members provided decorative and take-away materials for the GD-SIS tables in the CONELL Marketplace and in the Activities Area during the Annual Meeting. These materials included the following: a flyer describing the charge of the GD-SIS; a schedule of Annual Meeting programs sponsored by the GD-SIS; pencils embossed with "Government Documents SIS"; copies of the *Constitution* and *Our American Government* (published by GPO); and a blue table skirt embossed with "Government Documents SIS" (provided by Rosemary LaSala).

In addition, committee members staffed the tables at the CONELL Marketplace and in the Activities Area in order to meet with colleagues face-to-face to promote membership to the SIS, to answer questions, and to describe GD-SIS activities such as awarding grants, advocacy efforts, and publishing the state bibliography series.

The committee is currently working on developing a logo or mascot for the GD-SIS and is planning the design of a new brochure to be published in time for the Annual Meeting 2011.

Publications Committee

Submitted by Edward Hart

Members: Emily Carr, Michelle Cosby, Esther Eastman, Edward Hart (Chair), and Jennifer Wondracek (ex officio)

The Committee undertook its primary tasks of coordinating the compilation of state bibliographies and the publication of *Jurisdocs*, SIS's newsletter.

Bibliographies:

During this year, the sale and distribution of our state document bibliography series was turned over to William S. Hein & Co. Hein reports 935 bibliographies were sold earning the SIS a royalty of \$4,621. We had six bibliographies released this year and at least three ready for release during the Denver meeting. Volunteers are working on twenty-one bibliographies for future release.

The releases this year:

- | | | |
|------|---|------|
| 3-85 | State Documents Bibliography: North Carolina:
Guide to North Carolina legal and law-related materials /
Donna Nixon, Nichelle Perry, Jason Sowards | 2010 |
| 3-84 | State Documents Bibliography: Vermont -
An Updated Guide to the Vermont Legal System | 2010 |
| 3-83 | Guide to New Mexico State Publications, Third Edition /
Compiled by Theresa Strike | 2009 |
| 3-82 | Tennessee State Documents: A Bibliography of State
Publications and Related Materials / Compiled by Reba A. Best | 2009 |
| 3-81 | State Documents Bibliography: South Carolina /
Compiled by Terry Conroy, Stacy Etheredge, and
David Lehmann | 2009 |
| 3-80 | State Documents Bibliography: Oregon / Compiled
by Stephanie Midkiff and Wendy Schroeder Hitchcock | 2009 |

With heartfelt thanks, we should all say "Job well done" to the compilers working on behalf of the SIS to get these bibliographies put together.

Jurisdocus:

Proudly for the first time in over five years, all three issues of a volume of the SIS's newsletter was release. We are on track to continue this trend with the first issue of the next volume released. A search for a new editor is to take place with the goal to turn over the task in time for the final issue of this year.

Thanks to all those you submitted articles and news items for the issues.

As Chair, I offer thanks to Esther, Emily, and Michelle for their diligent work reviewing the bibliographies and the newsletters and to Jennifer for helping to post our newsletters and latest information on our bibliographies.

Webmaster

Submitted by Jennifer Wondracek (formerly Jennifer Greig)

Events of 2009-2010:

1. Eric Parker turned the webmaster duties over to me, Jennifer Wondracek.
2. The data from the former Fugitive Documents pages was harvested, including the annual reports. Future use of and access to this information has yet to be determined.
3. The website has been maintained and updated as needed.

Upcoming Events:

In Fall 2010, AALL plans to roll out a new version of AALLNET. While much of the website content will remain the same, layout and navigation system will change. The new content management system will also allow for more advanced technology to be utilized. New offerings will include social networking, blogs, wikis, forums, document hosting and shared calendars.

The GD-SIS, like all other SISs, is required to migrate to the new system. AALL will require the GD-SIS to conform to the AALL templates. Our content may remain the same, but our image will change. Webmaster training for the resign project has been scheduled during the annual meeting, which I will be attending.

Further information about the AALLNET Redesign Project may be found at <http://www.aallnet.org/redesign/>.

Completion of this project will depend upon the timeline provided by AALL.

Reports from the SIS's VIPs

Christopher C. Brown
Associate Professor
Reference Technology Integration Librarian / Government Documents Librarian
University of Denver



I very much appreciated the complimentary pass to AALL Denver. It was my first AALL conference and it was every bit what I expected. It was exciting to see fellow documents librarians from the law community who share the passion for public access to government information.

Allow me to share with you some of the things I enjoyed as I attended AALL as a local commuter.

- I enjoyed the several sessions I attended by the Task Group on Vendor-Supplied Bibliographic Records. This is such an important task.
- I enjoyed seeing my colleagues from my own university's law library. Even though it is just across the street, we don't get together often enough.
- I enjoyed seeing many of my students from the University of Denver's library school program. Several of these will be taking my fall Government Documents class. It was heartening to see so much student interest in law librarianship and government documents.
- I was pleasantly surprised by the initiatives law librarians have for digitization and online access. For years I have assisted law review students as they come to my library to get hard copy of journal content or primary sources. I am hoping for the day when law students no longer must have a print copy.

Suzanne Sears
Assistant Dean for Public Services
University of North Texas Libraries



I was extremely honored to be invited by the Government Documents Special Interest Section to attend my first AALL meeting as their VIP. Denver is one of my favorite cities and law librarians are some of my favorite colleagues. I crashed my first law librarian's dinner at the spring 2003 Depository Library Conference and have been continuing to do so ever since. Thanks to the generosity of the GD-SIS, I have now attended my first AALL conference and I am sure it will not be my last.

I have always felt that one of the most important parts of attending a conference is networking with the other attendees. The size of this conference made it so easy to mingle and meet new people. I thoroughly enjoyed the discussions I had with old and new acquaintances regarding the Federal Depository Library Program and government information in general. As the current Chair for the Depository Library Council I found it very valuable and often enlightening to be able to talk to so many new faces and to hear fresh perspectives on issues facing the depository community.

During his keynote speech, R. David Lankes talked about the commonality of librarians and that we sometimes forget that many issues facing one group face us all. This comment struck me as very apropos, since I am considered an academic librarian, yet I found many applicable sessions at a law librarian conference. Although I have never worked in a law library, I do have a large legal collection at the University of North Texas. I thought that I would find the sessions useful, but I had no idea just how relevant they would be. The breadth and depth of the programs were exceptional. The GD-SIS programs were extremely valuable. The programming committee should be commended.

One of my favorite sessions was a panel discussion, *The Changing Look of Government Information: Impact on Reference, Technical Services and Public Services*. The session was very thought provoking and covered all aspects of library services. The speakers were very knowledgeable and offered some good suggestions for integrating digital content into library collections. I also was able to attend sessions on authentication, FOIA, copyright, reference statistics, and supervisory tips.

It was very inspiring to see how dedicated and passionate law librarians are regarding government information. It was one of the best conference experiences I have ever had the opportunity to attend. I returned home with a renewed appreciation for the field of law librarianship and eyes on when I can attend my next AALL conference. Thank you again to GD-SIS for giving me this wonderful experience.

GS-SIS: 2010 Veronica Maclay Grant Recipient

Kristina Lambright
MLIS Student
University of North Texas

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Grants Committee for selecting me to receive the Veronica Maclay Grant for attendance at the 103rd American Association of Law Libraries Annual Conference. In preparation as a first-time attendee, I spoke with several AALL member librarians who were happy to offer suggestions relating to programming and events attendance. I arrived Friday, July 9th and thanked the weather gods above for double-digit temperatures, cool breezes, and below average humidity levels. When registration opened that afternoon, I checked-in and received my “goodie bag holder” for the conference, as this was my first trip to Denver, I also visited the local arrangements committee booth and received helpful information regarding local restaurants and attractions.

I attended the PLL-SIS Mariachi Reception that evening and met several veteran librarians who were eager to offer their viewpoints on the future of law librarianship in general and, more specifically, within the private law firm setting. CONELL dominated my second day itinerary, which allowed me to meet and interact with fellow MLIS students, newer law librarians, and seasoned professionals. I hesitate to compare this experience to a fraternity pledge class, but there seemed to be a genuine feeling of camaraderie among the CONELL attendees as we participated in the round-table discussions, marketplace, and “speed networking” activities. The first CONELL commemorative photograph was taken which I’m sure I will look back on in the coming years with fond memories of my “fab-five” contacts (and more) I met during that one-day whirlwind. After an informative and enjoyable bus tour of Denver and the surrounding areas, I attended a Westlaw Business dinner in LoDo (Lower Downtown Denver) prior to attending the Opening Event/Desert Smorgasbord. I was fortunate enough to meet and visit with Mary Alice Baish who highlighted some conference programming geared towards my interests in government documents and current awareness issues.

I found the programs and meetings I participated in to be highly beneficial. I attended presentations relative to online legal resources, government documents, and a mix of programming focusing on issues relative to both academic and private law libraries. A few of the programs stood out and were particularly rewarding. A detailed look at the ELIAC report and state trends in availability of online resources was addressed in *A Vision for the Future: Authenticated and Official Online Legal Resources*. The importance of state working groups in relation to promoting (and protecting) “official”, authentic, and verifiable legal resources was stressed in this presentation, the GD-SIS Meeting, and *FOIA Requests and Preservation: An Emerging Collection Development Model for the Virtual Library*. In *The Frugal Librarian: Pinching Pennies (Relatively) Painlessly in Your Law Firm Library*, I heard valuable advice and real-world solutions from the presenter and attendees regarding (to name a few) budgeting, legal

resources, management issues, and cost recovery. As a student, I found all presentations to be relevant in some way.

In addition to program attendance, I explored the exhibit hall and, following Cornell Winston's directive, got all the "stuff" that would logistically fit into my suitcase on the return flight home. The daily prize drawings drew the biggest crowds in the exhibit hall, and while I didn't win an IPAD or a Kindle, I did learn about many new and upcoming products and services. I continue to be amazed and encouraged by the evolving technology in relation to research products. Accessibility to legal information and research via handheld devices was undoubtedly the unofficial theme of the marketplace. The evenings were full of receptions and "Invitation Only" events, most of which were "thankfully" within walking distance of each other. The closing banquet was elegant and, I felt, a wonderful representation of the law librarian community and AALL as a whole. The speakers (board members and award winners) conveyed the continued commitment in promoting achievement and excellence in law librarianship.

Despite the full schedule, I was able to visit a few area attractions that were within walking distance of the convention center including the U.S. Mint and Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Pursuant to a request, I visited the well-known *Tattered Cover* and purchased several books (shocking!) and a t-shirt which I plan on wearing on days when I feel my cover has been tattered. I was also fortunate enough to tour Mile-High Stadium (as part of the West appreciation event) and ventured outside of Denver to the *Celestial Seasonings Factory* in Boulder – the mint room is unforgettable!

Overall the most rewarding part of the conference was the opportunity to meet and interact with educators, librarians from a variety of legal library settings, and legal vendors. I look forward to connecting with my new colleagues in the field and, like Christmas, am counting the days until the 2011 AALL Conference in Philadelphia. I am very grateful to the GD-SIS for affording me the ability to attend the AALL Annual Conference through its grant program and encourage others to apply in the coming years.



My First AALL Conference

Jamie Marie Keller
Reference Law Librarian
Florida Coastal School of Law

As a "baby" reference law librarian (I had worked all of 6 days before attending!) my first AALL Conference was like librarian boot camp! I met incredible people, saw some awesome presentations, explored Denver, and learned so much about my new career.

I started on Saturday, July 10, 2010, with CONELL. It was great to be able to meet other new attendees and learn more about AALL. It is also where I met Rosemary LaSala for the first time at the marketplace where attendees learned about the different special interest sections, chapters, committees, and caucuses. CONELL was a great way to meet a small group of people as well as we had lunch and a city tour together. I knew four others attending CONELL, and I met several more and I have been communicating with them since the conference.

CONELL was only the start of my AALL Conference adventure! The exhibit hall was a great place to meet the vendors and learn more about their products. I also managed to eat some great food including Indian , a taco truck, gelato, and burgers at My Brother's Bar. A friend and I rented bikes for a few hours and rode around the river and conference area before playing a short but intense game of Frisbee. I attended some of the socials as well as the Lexis dessert reception and the West party at Mile High Stadium. I found the conference was more than just learning, but meeting people and having fun!

I also attended a total of two roundtables and six programs. My favorite program was "The Changing Look of Government Information: Impact on Reference, Technical Services and Public Services." This 90-minute presentation was full of so much information, including the updates to FDSys. This program convinced me to become a member of the Government Documents SIS. And, as the only librarian from my school to attend this program, when I came back to work I was asked to present the information I learned in this program. What a great way to begin my law library career; I can hardly wait for next year!



Who Knew Anyone Knew That?

Kate Irwin-Smiler
Reference Librarian
Wake Forest University

I spent a surprising amount of my maternity leave this summer preparing for two things: the AALL annual conference in Denver, and the FDLP annual update cycle. (I had every intention of being fully prepared for both of these big events before the birth of my daughter, but that event failed to occur.) One of the things I was reminded of, as I reviewed item lists, is how much statistical information the federal government collects and publishes. The Decennial Census, of course, is a major source of these statistics. I was very conscious of the fact that my child, born in mid-May, was not counted in the 2010 census. I wonder if it is an artifact that will someday be historically unremembered that people born after April 1 in a census year are not counted? And I often wonder how many people who complain about “invasion of privacy” when the census rolls around also come looking for statistical data?

One piece of statistical interest was very much on my mind this summer: maternity leave and going back to work. One of the first questions I was asked when I announced my pregnancy was

when and whether I planned to return to work. For many people, not returning to work is simply not an option. I am fortunate enough to be employed by an institution that has paid parental leave, and allows me to take vacation time to extend that leave, and that my husband was able to stay home with us as well. I am jealously aware of other countries that mandate (and subsidize) much more extended parental leave, and in particular paternity leave.

Doing very little digging, I was able to find a 2005 report, based on Census Bureau data, of when women stopped working prior to a first birth, and when (if) they returned to work after. The data is broken down by age, educational attainment, race, and timing of the birth with respect to a first marriage; the report includes data from 1960-2000. Overall, women in the 1990s were far more likely to work up until shortly before their child was born than their mothers, however, there was little difference in that same statistic when only women who worked *full-time* is considered – an interesting point compared to many people’s Donna Reed inspired image of the 1960s.

The most recent data included (from 1996-2000) shows that younger, less educated first time mothers are less likely to work during their pregnancies; if they do work, they are less likely to have paid maternity leave. The younger the mother, the less likely she is to not work at all in the child’s first year of life. Perhaps not surprisingly, the sooner a woman stopped working, the later she tended to go back to work after the child’s birth.

Even as a documents librarian, I often marvel at the scope of information the government collects. I wonder how many of our libraries’ patrons have any idea this kind of information is available to them, provided by their own tax dollars? Sometimes a single document reminds me why publicizing government information is so important.

Maternity Leave and Employment Patterns of First Time Mothers, 1960-2000 (October 2005). Available at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2005pubs/p70-103.pdf>



Upcoming Event

Federal Depository
Library Council Meeting
and Conference

18-20 October 2010

Arlington, Virginia

Thanks to the volunteers who staffed the SIS's table in the Activities Area



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