

Addie the Eagle



Government Documents  
Special Interest Section  
American Association of Law Libraries

# JURISDOCS

Fall 2017 ISSN 0162-3079

Vol. 38, Iss. 1

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## From the Editors

Dear Readers,

As you know, the biggest news in the Depository Library community is that Congress' Committee on House Administration is looking into revising Title 44 of the US Code. As the Depository Library Council prepares to distribute a draft of its recommendations at its annual meeting in October, a common theme of many of the contributions in this issue of *Jurisdocs* has been to encourage GD-SIS members to stay engaged with the revision process, and to share their comments with Council members, the AALL Government Relations Office, the FDLP Advocacy Committee, and with each other.

Even as we look forward to the DLC meeting and FDLP conference, this issue also presents an opportunity to look back on the 2017 AALL Annual Meeting held in Austin. We hope you enjoy the reflections on the conference written by the winners of several GD-SIS grants.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Kunkel & Stacy Fowler



## Message from the Chair

**Cate Kellett**

**Catalog and Government Documents Librarian, Yale Law School  
GD-SIS Chair 2017-2018**

Dear GD-SISers,

I'm excited to start my term as Chair during a particularly exciting time for the government documents world. As you may have seen on our discussion board and other gov docs listservs, many of our community members are hard at work advocating for positive changes as the government mulls updating Title 44. Please don't hesitate to join the conversation. If you prefer to remain anonymous, you can always contact me or members of the FDLP Advocacy Committee (formerly the FDLP Task Force) and we'll be sure to pass on your comments. This year's members are Kate Irwin-Smiler (Chair), Peggy Jarrett, Scott Matheson, Charlotte Schneider, and Elliot Hibbler.

Title 44 will be a hot topic in the coming months, especially in October at the 2017 Depository Library Council Meeting and FDLP Conference. If you've never attended, please consider joining many of your fellow gov docs enthusiasts at this free conference. Law librarians always make a strong showing there, and enjoy a great dinner together. If funding is an issue, keep in mind that we offer grants to various meetings throughout the year. Plus you can attend certain DLC Meeting sessions online. To entice you further, Kate, Scott and I will be presenting this year a program entitled *To SuDoc or Not: Organizing Your Documents Collection to Meet Your Patrons' Needs*.

I want to thank everyone who volunteered this year to Chair or serve as members of our various committees. Everyone was placed in one of their top choices, and there's still room on Public Relations, Grants, and Nominations committees if you still want to join one. These particular groups are a great way to get involved and meet other GD-SISers without committing too many hours over the course of the year. Send me an email if you're interested!

## Message from the Vice-Chair



**Stacy A. Fowler**  
**Technical Services Librarian/Associate Professor**  
**St. Mary's University Law Library**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who nominated me for Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect. It's an honor to serve with such a great group of vibrant people who are as passionate about government information as I am.

Speaking of gov docs, summer is finally over (sorry – I do live in South Texas!), so we know DLC is right around the corner. I hope you're making plans to attend. If so, don't forget to apply for a GD-SIS grant to DLC, and when you're there, make sure you take notes so you can report back on the programming in the next issue of Jurisdocs. Those of us who cannot attend this year will be anxiously awaiting your reports!

Sincerely,

Stacy Fowler



## **Advocacy Committee Report**

**Peggy Jarrett**

**Head of Collection Development**

**Gallagher Law Library, University of Washington School of Law**

**GD-SIS Advocacy Committee Chair**

### **Advocacy News: Prepare for Title 44 Reform Legislation**

Interesting times, trying times. Events unfold at a dizzying pace. It can be hard to concentrate when we're overwhelmed with breaking news. But concentrate we must. Major legislation updating Title 44 of the U.S. Code is very likely to be introduced in October, and as you know, Chapter 19 of Title 44, concerning the Federal Depository Library Program, is our bread and butter. Free and equitable access to authenticated, permanently preserved government information is fundamental.

At this point (mid-September), there are things we know or can reasonably expect, and there are big things we don't know (what the draft bill actually contains). My goals for this column are to share what I've learned from conversations with Emily Feltren, AALL's Director of Government Relations, and to encourage you to be prepared. Coincidentally, September is National Emergency Preparedness Month, so I plan to get ready for a Seattle earthquake and for whatever is in the Title 44 reform legislation.

The reform effort is being led by the House Committee on House Administration (CHA). Action is expected this fall, and it might happen on a very fast timeline. CHA is expected to hold hearings over the next month on topics including the FDLP and GPO management, followed by a markup of a Title 44 bill possibly as early as mid-October. If that is indeed how things proceed, the bill needs to be drafted in a few weeks (and might be out before this issue of JURISDOCS or the Depository Library Council meeting). And if the bill is drafted and marked up quickly, we could see a floor vote in December.

What are the big concerns about reform of Title 44, Section 19? Quite simply, while many of us hope for modest changes to improve the FDLP, and that is indeed possible, there is a concern that in the current

## **Advocacy News: Prepare for Title 44 Reform Legislation (con'd)**

political environment, foundational ideas of free access, authentication, and preservation of federal government information will be swept away. The potential exists for a legislative effort to privatize GPO and its workforce. This is a pretty bleak scenario. Taking GPO out of the equation takes the federal government out of the business of making sure we, the people, have access to the information of our democracy – the information produced when laws are made, regulations promulgated, and government happens. GPO has had a mission to serve Congress and the people for over 150 years. It authenticates, preserves and provides permanent public access to Federal Government information at no charge through the FDLP and govinfo.gov. Yes, we all have ideas for how the system can be improved and many of us have worked over the years on to make things better. Law libraries are key partners in the mission to provide legal government information to the public. But if GPO is privatized, all bets are off. The private sector is driven by profit, not by mission.

Have I rattled – or inspired – you yet? Want to join me in advocating for the best while preparing for the worst case scenario? Start with the basics: join the [AALL Advocacy Team](#) and subscribe to the [advocacy listserv](#). Watch for news updates and action alerts. When an alert goes out, take action (meaning write your members of Congress) through the [Legislative Action Center](#). The Action Center connects your home address with your representatives, which is great, but do you know if your representative is on the House Committee on House Administration? (If so, please let [Emily Feltren](#) know ASAP!) What about the Senate Rules and Administration Committee?

Start thinking about your talking points. What does free access to reliable federal government information mean to you? To your patrons? How would you say what you want to say? It might help to review AALL's comments submitted to the Depository Library Council, posted [here](#) as well as the latest [Washington E-Bulletin](#).

Finally, keep the faith and keep in touch. It's hard to have a plan of action before we know what's in the bill. But we can prepare to act, get up to speed with the issues, and trust that when the bill drops, AALL will craft a response to whatever it contains (good, bad, or both). Then we – the Government Documents SIS – will get to work!

## AALL Travel Grant Report

Lacy Rakestraw

St. Louis County Law Library, Director

Due to the generous support from a Government Documents Special Interest Section travel grant, I was able to attend the recent AALL Annual Conference recently held in Austin. It was bright, sunny, humid, and hot in Texas, everything I envisioned Austin to be and more. I even put aside my semi-irrational fear of bats to attend, which I was told was a thing in Austin.

The conference itself opened with a fantastic session on Sunday, where Bryan Stevenson served as the keynote speaker. His passion for equality in the justice system and for life in general, really showed through in the message he delivered to the captivated audience. This is a man who went from a community where his race nearly prevented him from attending a public high school, to the halls of Harvard Law School. Many eyes glistened while Mr. Stevenson spoke, and hearts swelled with pride while he convinced us that we had the ability to make progress in making justice more accessible, and not dependent on gender, race, religion, age, etc. If you missed the speech, I stress how important his message is, and beg you to watch the video available on the AALLnet website.

One of the wonderful things about the annual conference is the diversity it offers in terms of new experiences. Many of us tend to do what we are already familiar with at these conferences, because it's what we are comfortable with. I decided that, motivated by Mr. Stevenson's speech, I wanted to get out of my own comfort zone a bit and attend programs that I didn't immediately gravitate toward. For this reason, one of the programs I attended turned out to be one of the most useful learning experiences for me, because it wasn't something I was already familiar with. This program, *Introverts as Leaders*, was useful for me in that it gave me a look at the world from the other side, from the perspective of an introvert. I walked into the room with my conference buddy and went right to the front table and took my seat, like the good extrovert that I am. I learned how intro-

## AALL Grant Report (con'd)

verts view things that come easily to me as an extrovert, like speaking up first, or engaging strangers in conversation. I also learned that we extroverts still have much in common with introverts; guess what, we don't like small talk any more than you do!

One last piece of awesome regarding the recent conference. If you walked around the conference arena, going into bathrooms and what not, you may have noticed a sign on the sink as you washed your hands. That sign was made from a letter AALL sent out to mayors of Texas cities and visitors bureaus, taking an unequivocal stance against the State legislature's recent actions discriminating against the LGBTQ population. The letter, available in full [here](#), was written by President Ronald Wheeler, and explains that we are a group that prides ourselves on our strong commitment to both diversity and inclusion. I read that letter as I was washing my hands in the women's restroom, the restroom that I've always used because I have always been a female. I wondered what it would be like to stand outside the restroom doors, looking first to the men's room, then to the women's room, not knowing which to use because I didn't know where I belonged and where it was safe for me to be who I was at heart. Something as simple as which room a person chooses to urinate in has been politicized by state legislatures, which reminded me of Mr. Stevenson's comments about access to equality. Drying my hands in that restroom, I ruminated over the letter and the decision to boycott the entire State of Texas in the future due to their mistreatment of a group of people that help make up the beautiful rainbow that is our association. I have never been prouder to be a member of AALL than I was at that very moment, and I personally choose to stand united with my fellow members in the promotion of diversity and inclusion.

## AALL Travel Grant Report

Gregory Wurzer

Associate Librarian, University of Saskatchewan Law Library

I was the recipient of a Government Documents Special Interest Section grant to attend the 2017 American Association of Law Libraries conference in Austin Texas. This was the first time that I had attended the conference and I've found it to be very educational, interesting and inspiring. I usually attend the annual Canadian Association of Law Libraries conference every spring. At that conference I often meet American counterparts so it was a wonderful experience for me to attend the AALL conference this year.

I attended the morning breakfast meeting (very early at 7:30 a.m.!). It was good to meet people whose names I had heard or read in person. The conversations we have are very thought-provoking with reference to digitization and access to government documents and pertinent sections of the Federal Code. From what I heard there are similar issues facing government documents in Canada. Access to these documents is an ongoing issue and ensuring that important government documents are indeed digitized and do not disappear is that I concern among Canadian Law libraries and governments libraries as well.

One of the highlights of the conference was a tour of the Texas State Law Library & the Legislative Reference Library of Texas. Ruth Harrison, Arturo Longoria, Amy Small and Leslie Prather-Forbis conducted the Texas State Law Library tour. I was very impressed by the services offered by the library and the State libraries around Texas which serve the population over vast distances. I was also very impressed by the facilities themselves; the library was housed both on the ground floor and below ground to provide a very comfortable large space that is inviting for users.

Catherine Wusterhausen conducted the main portion of the tour at Legislative Research Library. Melanie Harshmann at the Legislative Reference Library conducted the bill digitization portion of the



## AALL Grant Report (con'd)

LRL. I was very interested to learn how bills that date back many decades were folded and stuffed into drawers. In order to have these digitized they had still be unfolded. After consulting with the state archives procedures for digitizing these documents were developed. These folded, multi-paged bills were placed into a plastic milk crates on top of another milk crate which sat just above hot water within a large plastic garbage can. The bills were being steamed or, as Melanie explained, they were in the “spa”. Afterwards these bills were placed between boards and bricks to flatten them out. Melanie showed us a dish of different clips that had been used over the decades to keep pages together and how carefully they had to be removed. This is a huge digitization project which will link bills and other related documents together so that researchers can view these online.

During the tour Catherine showed us a huge room filled with filing cabinets that contain all of these old bills and legislation documents which dated back to the early days of Texas history in the early 1800s. It is a fascinating project and very similar to what is happening in Canada.

After the tour we were invited to a lovely reception in the beautiful library within the impressive State Capitol building. Walking out onto a balcony of this historic building we could see green, manicured grounds and downtown Austin.

Overall I enjoyed the AALL conference very much. The speakers and the content were thought-provoking, particularly the opening keynote speaker, Bryan Stevenson, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative. Another highlight of the conference for me was a visit to the Linden Baines Johnson Presidential Library.

This was my first visit to Texas and I liked the city of Austin very much – even the hot weather! On my last night I managed to see the bats fly out from under the Congress Street Bridge – in the middle of a downpour!

Most of all I enjoyed meeting and having conversations with Canadian, American & UK law librarians and publishers, as I do at annual CALL conferences in Canada. What strikes me is that while we

## AALL Grant Report (con'd)

live in different countries, we share a common profession and have similar interests and experiences that we can share with each other. Last spring there were many discussion across Canada about whether to attend conferences in the United States in light to the Trump administration's policies with regards to refugees and immigration to the U.S. from certain parts of the world. But I am glad that I attended the conference in Austin; I had several conversations about the state of the world and I am convinced, as is evidenced by this and other conferences that I attend, that what binds us together is stronger than what divides us.

I am grateful to the Government Documents Special Interest Section for the grant that enabled me to attend AALL this year, and I look forward to future conferences and continuing conversations with colleagues and friends.



## **Veronica Maclay Grant Report**

**Elizabeth Manriquez**

**Research Librarian**

**Wiener-Rogers Law Library William S. Boyd School of Law**

When I was young, I discovered the Eagles. Armed with the impudence of youth, I believed I had found an undiscovered talent that everyone needed to hear immediately! I extolled their virtues to anyone who would listen. Until a friend gently informed me this hot new band had actually been around since the early 70s, enjoying commercial success for decades, and was in fact one of the best-selling bands of all time. Following this discussion, the Baader-Meinhof phenomenon took full effect in my life. I began hearing and seeing the band everywhere. I discovered my new passion was a fully entrenched piece of American culture. Alas, my career as a talent scout ended before it even began.

I enjoyed a similar experience when I began library school at the University of Washington. Despite graduating from law school, my knowledge of government documents basically began and ended with statutes. Perhaps I read a regulation or two. Committee reports, what's that? Accessing the cafeteria menu at the Department of Energy headquarters? Not once did it cross my mind. Then came Professor Cass Hartnett and LIS 526: Government Publications. Suddenly, I was thrust into a world of census data, patents, NARA, and the serial set! Be still by librarian's heart for I have found passion anew. Government documents became my new Eagles. With the zeal of the newly converted, I spoke of the importance of digitization and discoverability to, again, anyone who would patiently listen. David H. Price strutted into my consciousness with all the swagger of Joe Walsh. At least this time, with the benefit of a couple decades experience, I realized I had not discovered government documents and I could actually build a livelihood with the foundation of experience I received at the UW.

However, this realization did nothing to prepare me for the frequency illusion I was to experience once again when I attended the AALL annual conference in Austin this July. I landed at Bergstrom International Airport on the prowl for any mention of government documents. I was privileged to receive the Veronica Maclay travel grant for attendance and knew I needed to maximize my educational opportunities at the conference to honor the librarians who chose me for the generous award. After reviewing the program, rife with networking opportunities and educational programs centered on technology, I wondered how I would find enough material for an article on government

## Maclay Grant Report (con'd)

documents. I soon learned I had nothing to fear as government documents are everywhere, including the Austin Convention Center.

Highlights from my conference experience included educational programs such as “Cuban Law and Legal Research: A Snapshot During the Deshiero” and “Tech Trends + Transparency: Enhancements in Government Legislative Websites.” These presentations provided information on the access of government documents in other countries. Some, such as Canada, are readily accessible, while others, such as Cuba, require a near herculean effort. I learned that while the United States is still far from complete transparency, I am thankful for the ease of access to basic statutes and regulations. The educational program “Hiding in Plain Sight: Tips and Tricks for finding Elusive Patent Information” reminded me that even when government documents are available to the public, locating them can still be a treasure hunt. I attended the GD-SIS Breakfast and Business Meeting, where I listened to many perspectives on the proposal to amend Title 44. I heard seasoned librarians speak of the importance of the FDLP and their impassioned pleas for advocacy. While these experiences were beneficial and interesting, I also found government documents in unlikely places. When I attended CONELL, I met government law librarians representing large and small counties. We spoke of the importance of access at all levels. Lunch conversations transitioned from small talk about children and spouses to the need for government resources to remain freely available to all citizens. I parlayed connections made at CONELL into budding friendships at the various social receptions. Aided by a drink ticket or two, conversations ultimately flowed into common interests in librarianship. In my case, all roads led to the inevitable conversation on the importance of government documents. In my fellow attendees, I met people not merely willing to indulge my interests, but who actually shared them and wanted to share ideas and experiences.

These conversations aided me in fulfilling the goals I set for myself in my grant application: begin to fulfill knowledge gaps and build connections with other librarians that share the same passions. Although the battle over Title 44 has just begun and the plague of fugitive documents wages on, I learned engagement is key and attendance at conferences like AALL is integral to any victory. As a wise man once said, “We may lose and we may win though, We will never be here again.”\* I am thankful and honored that the GD-SIS assisted me in being there and I look forward to many conferences to come.

\*EAGLES, Take It Easy, on EAGLES (Olympic Sound Studios 1972).

## Officers

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### REWARD

#### HAVE YOU SEEN ME?



We're missing the GD-SIS Chair's gavel! If you know where it may be, please contact [cate.kellett@yale.edu](mailto:cate.kellett@yale.edu). The tipster who leads us to its safe return will receive a limited edition Lillian Goldman Law Library stress-reducing gavel.