View from the Chair
All we need is ... time

Regina Smith, SCCLL Chair
Jenkins Memorial Law Library, Philadelphia, PA

Well, now it is my turn to sit in the chair and share with you what I see. First, the pieces of the puzzle that our past Chair, Shirley David, set out for us last year came together by the end of her term, thanks to the members of our SIS and her leadership. When you read through each committee’s report in this issue of the SCCLL newsletter, you will see how pretty the finished picture is. We completed our jigsaw puzzle by working together as a team. Thanks to everyone for taking the time and making the effort to work on our puzzle; you have laid a wonderful foundation to build on this year. I live near the Amish, and as they say, “many hands make light work.”

Since the past few SCCLL Chairs have selected themes for their Chair’s column, I will continue the tradition. I have selected the theme of “time.” It is a precious commodity these days. I am so very thankful to all of our members who signed up for committee work this year. I also understand that not everyone in our section is able to volunteer time to help out on a committee each year. But there are other ways that you will be able to assist our SIS during the year. You can do so by devoting a few moments to responding to a request for information, either via a telephone call from a colleague, or an e-mail. Perhaps you can reply to a survey. I know that the Model County Code Committee will be sending something out this year, as will the Standards Committee. Also, the Strategic Planning Committee will be looking for your input on a number of topics. Your input will take time, but in the long run, you will have made your views heard and that will benefit our SIS. Please, do your best to make time for SCCLL.

Funding will be a major issue for our SIS this year. Our treasury is not well endowed, and we are currently in a deficit mode. We will make a strong attempt to rectify this and I have asked a former SCCLL Chair, Jean Holcomb, to work on a budget with me for our SIS.

One of our major expenses is our newsletter. The cost of sending out our newsletter last year was $3,693.38. We were able to partially offset the cost by $500 in advertising revenue, but it was not enough to enable us to send it out first-class mail. In discussing the cost of the newsletter with our Executive Board and the Strategic Planning Committee, we came up with the idea of sending out the first issue (this one) via U.S. mail in print format and then posting future issues to our Website. When I returned from the annual meeting, I visited our Website and looked at our newsletter. It is the same as it is in print, and the pictures are even in color! I could print it off if I wanted, or read it online and...
# SCCLL Executive Board

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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Michele Finerty</td>
<td>Tim Lewis</td>
<td>Rita Dermody</td>
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<td>(714) 834-3004</td>
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## SCCLL Committees for 2000-2001

### AWARDS
- Anne Peters, Chair
- David Badertscher
- Pamela Gregory
- Karen Moss
- Jessica Rehbaum

### BYLAWS
- Georgiana Wellford, Chair
- Charles Dyer
- James Gernert

### EDUCATION
- Kathy Carlson, Chair
- Karen Anderson
- Susanne Pierce Dyer
- Nancee Halling
- Catherine Lemann
- Anne Morrison
- Karlye Pillai
- Hugh Treacy

### MEMBERSHIP/MENTORING
- Kathy Carlson, Co-Chair
- Tim Lewis, Co-Chair
- Isabel Paul
- Peggy Rogers
- Jonathan Stock
- Debra Womack

### NEWSLETTER
- Lisa Mecklenberg, Editor
- Rita Dermody
- Amy Hale Janeke
- Christina Rattiner
- Linda Smith

### NOMINATIONS
- Donna Bausch, Chair
- Marvin Anderson
- Cossette Sun

### STANDARDS
- Michael Miller, Chair
- Michele Finerty
- Mark Linneman
- Elizabeth Peterson
- Robert Shrick
- Maureen Well

### STATISTICS
- We do not have any volunteers.
- Please contact Regina Smith if interested.

### STRATEGIC PLANNING
- Shirley David, Chair
- Regina Smith
- Anita Anderson
- Kathy Joyce Welker
- Tim Lewis
- Rita Dermody
- Michele Finerty
- Lisa Mecklenberg

### WEBSITE/LISTSERV
- Anita Anderson, Chair
- David Badertscher
- Karla Gedell
- Barbara Golden
- Charlie Kalogeros-Chattan
- Kay McClain
- John Pickett

### MODEL COUNTY LAW LIBRARY WORKING GROUP
- Anne Grande
- Jane Colvin
- Kathy Coon
- Charles Dyer
- Kathleen Edie
- Brenda Kelley
- Jan Ryan Novak
- Marita Paparelli
- Jerry Stephens

### LAW LIBRARY

### Sourcebook

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### SCCLL News

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- Lisa Mecklenberg, Jackson, SCCLL News Editor
- State Law Library of Montana
- Justice Building, P.O. Box 203004
- Helena, MT 59620-3004

E-mail: lmecklenberg@state.mt.us / Phone: (406) 444-9285 / Fax: (406) 444-3603

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save a tree. The best part is that it is available a lot faster than waiting for third class mail to arrive, and it is a way that our SIS could save money. Also, if you misplace your copy, you can just view it on the Website.

Now, here is where we need your time...please let us know how you want to receive the next issue of SCCLL News by December 1, 2000. If you must have it in paper, OK; but if you prefer to receive it via our Website, then send us your name and we will remove your name from our newsletter mailing list. See page 31 of this issue for more information.

What are some of the things that we have to look forward to this year? Excellent programming at the next AALL Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, thanks to the efforts of Kathy Carlson and the members of the Education Committee. They submitted seven programs, one workshop, and SCCLL has co-sponsored four proposed programs with other SISs. By the time you receive this newsletter, we will know which ones have been accepted. Be sure to check out Editor’s Etchings on page 6 for an update on SCCLL 2001 program proposals, or check our Website on a regular basis for this information.

Marvin Anderson, Director of the Minnesota State Law Library, was awarded the Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service at this year’s SCCLL annual breakfast in Philly. Jacqueline Wright was also a recipient of the award.
The Model County Code Committee will continue the important work they began last year. You can read about this on page 27 of this issue.

It is time for an update of The Sourcebook for Law Library Governing Boards and Committees, as six years have passed since its publication. Alison Alifano and her Committee will be contacting you for contributions to the revised edition.

Our strategic plan will need to be refreshed this year, and you can read about how we plan to accomplish this on page 16 of this issue.

I look forward to working with you this year, and invite you to contact me with questions, comments, or suggestions on how our SIS can meet your needs and the needs of your library.

Charley’s Corner:
Defragging Old Brains

Charles R. Dyer, Director of Libraries,
San Diego County Public Law Library, San Diego, CA

Nothing in this column represents the view of my Library or its Board of Trustees. These are just my personal opinions. This particular column was pre-tested by several people of varying age, all of whom had different opinions about what should come first. Under an aura of hedonistic revelry, I have decided to go for the dramatic presentation, as opposed to the sensible. Young people, please be forewarned. This column does make sense to older folks. Hang in there.

My 84 year-old father has one of those Brother word processor typewriters with the small LCD screen that shows only a few lines at a time. He bought it four years ago for $400. When my brother and I have tried to talk him into getting a PC and getting on the Internet, he maintains that he can do it with his Brother typewriter and refuses to spend the money or let us buy it for him. Of course, there are arcane directions for hooking up his Brother, but even my brother’s partner, a computer programmer, could not connect it.

Last year, my truck driver brother-in-law set up my mother-in-law with Web TV, and she now regularly e-mails all her relatives. She is an 87 year-old country woman, living in Centralia, Missouri, a spot decidedly on the technological byway, if you will. Yet my father won’t do Web TV either.

What enables some people to manage a paradigm shift while others cannot? My father was a supervisor in the post office, and he knows how to type, having filled out interminable three-part governmental forms and written reports for years. My mother-in-law was a cook in a barbeque restaurant. Typing was a sometime thing. Like the forty-year-old theoretical physicist, who is past his prime because he cannot adapt to the evolving theories, we all latch onto the technology that we learned when we were still striving, career-oriented upward-moving professionals. Those who never had any technology are often more open to learning some later in life.

We also latch onto the music of our youth. I still like the pop music of the 60s. Fortunately, having learned guitar late in life, I have been able to develop an appreciation of both older and more modern music. However, except for my 13 year-old grandson. I’d be clueless as to what teenagers listen to. Bloodhound Gang (a notorious music group currently popular with teens) makes references to things that did not exist in the 60s. I find the following lyric fascinating: “You and me, baby, we ain’t nothing but mammals. Let’s do it like they do it on the Discovery Channel.” Not because of the meaning, but because watching the Discovery Channel is a common enough experience that even a hard-core counter-culture singer will employ this supposedly palbum experience (watching animal films) as a defining sentiment. (See http://www.statepress.com/fall99/spn990930/local01.html for an older review, containing the lyric).
As a gray-haired Baby Boomer, I am representative of the latest class to move into the age in life wherein we no longer strive for upward mobility. I know my job, and I am not planning to move to another one. (I have begun to look at what I might do when I retire, but that’s another column). But my present job requires me to plan for the future. We’re looking at a possible new building in seven to ten years. (We don’t just sit on the beach here in San Diego. We also sit in meetings). I’m hiring staff that may work here for twenty years or more. (More meetings). So I need to look at the latest technology, look at the latest management theory, look at the latest demographics. (It was just announced that non-Hispanic Caucasians now constitute less than half the residents in California. My most recently hired reference librarian is Polish-Japanese, but I don’t think of her as a minority because she is a native San Diegan with a Southern California accent).

All this leads me to my point for today: my thoughts about the AALL meeting. Our fearless incoming SIS leader, Regina Smith, did a little exercise at her meeting for SCLL SIS committee chairs and members. We all got to divide up into groups by age. Of the thirty odd people in the room, only three were under forty. Gadzooks!!! Our profession is aging.

The American Association of Law Libraries has a very elaborate system of receiving input for program development at its annual meetings. Special interest sections have their education committees submit suggested programs. AALL Committees suggest programs. Chapters suggest programs. Individuals suggest programs. Then the Annual Meeting Program Committee goes through an elaborate process to rank the programs, eventually choosing the 70 or so winners out of the 150 entries. What the AMPC wants is clarity on those applications. They want to know the learning outcomes, the intended audience, the costs—all reasonable requests, necessary to give the committee members something to latch on to while making their rankings.

Trouble is, in this day and age, things seem, at least to me, to be changing faster than the program planning process allows for. Programs are usually based on someone’s recent successful new project at his or her library. But the idea itself is two years old before we hear about it at an AALL meeting. It took a year to get it from idea to successful project at that library and another year to get it through the AALL program planning process. Maybe we should devote some AALL programs to those who make educated guesses, or just guesses.

As someone who does not need basic training, and, noting Regina’s exercise, there are a large number of us in AALL, I need programs that tell me what’s happening now. I like the new ideas. They keep me vital. But I don’t have the energy I had when I was younger and learning things for the first time. Now, I’m learning things over again, having to make paradigm shifts. My mind is no longer a tabula rasa. It’s cluttered with years of learning and experiences, some of which are useful, and some of which are not any longer. Yet, I have to find space for new information. Think of my brain as a hard drive. It needs a judicious weeding of old files, and then it needs a defragmentation program.

(Speaking of hard drives, I remember when a 10 Mb hard drive would last someone for several years. Now we just added a 42 Gb hard drive to my wife’s nine-month old computer, which had a 15 Mb drive and the Gateway salesman’s proclamation that 15 Mb should last for a while. Have you tried streaming video lately? It’s a shame that human brains cannot just evolve new storage space as fast as our computers).

Anyway, to end this rant: After all these years, I feel like I know less of what I need to know than I knew years ago. (Remember the lyric that went something like “I was much older then; I’m younger than that now.”)? Yet I know I know much more than those younger than me who are somehow confident that they know what they need to know. I believe their confidence comes from the knowledge that they still have time to learn what they will yet need to know. I don’t have that opportunity. I must make choices, and mistakes, now. Undoubtedly, my successor will proclaim that I did not know what I was doing when I planned that new law library building. And he or she will be right. My consolation is that so many of my colleagues at other law libraries are in the same boat.

So what have I learned from all this? I learned, very much to my surprise, that in some respects, it would be better to emulate my mother-in-law than my father. I may not know these new things, but I should try them out. I can learn
things from people younger than me.

I have also learned enough to get going again. Go ahead and make those choices. Do the best I can. I won’t be right. But I should not let the fact that I know I won’t be right stand in my way. And at least I know that I will have done as well as anyone else could have done.

Is my brain defragged? Perhaps not, but I have learned not to pause so much at each of the old fragments I come across when I think things out.

**Editor’s Etchings**

SCCLL programs accepted for AALL 2001!

*Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, SCCLL Editor
State Law Library of Montana, Helena, MT*

This year, it is my privilege to serve on the AALL Annual Meeting Program Committee (AMPC). This is the entity responsible for choosing the programs which will be offered at our profession’s annual meeting each year. This year’s meeting will be held in Minneapolis and the theme is “2001: New Realities, New Roles.” AMPC President Bob Oakley and the Committee selected this theme to illustrate the state of law librarianship and the new roles we librarians will play in both our organizations and our daily work. The programs proposed and accepted for AALL 2001 offer closer looks at these changes and new realities and offer suggestions for embracing and accepting the new definition of “librarian.” The programs selected fit into five “tracks”: Agents of Change, Globalization, Partnership, Practitioner’s Toolkit, and Reinventing Law Librarianship.

In September, the AMPC met in Chicago to complete the actual selection process for the 2001 programs. I am pleased to report that several SCCLL-sponsored programs were among those selected for presentation at the annual meeting in Minneapolis. They are:

“Unpublished Judicial Opinions, Secret Settlements and the Judicial System” (Catherine Lemann, Law Library of Louisiana)


“Facing a New Reality: The Law Librarian as Fund Raiser” (Susanne Pierce Dyer, Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library)

Three other programs, co-sponsored by SCCLL, were also accepted for AALL 2001. They are:

“Facing Reality: The Death of the Reference Desk?” (Kelly Browne, University of Connecticut School of Law Library)

“Capital Punishment: Is a Moratorium the New Reality?” (Timothy Coggins, University of Richmond School of Law Library)

“Pornography on the Internet: A New Reality” (Alison Alifano, New York County Lawyers’ Association Library)

Thanks to the program proposers and coordinators, as well as the SCCLL Education Committee for a wonderful slate of annual meeting programs particularly interesting to those of us in state, court, and county law libraries.

The Newsletter Committee is always looking for news regarding SCCLL members, so if you have written an article, spoken to a group, received an award/promotion, etc. please let us know! Also, what are you reading for fun and pleasure? Write a paragraph about what reading material is on your bedside table or in your backpack and we’ll share that with other SCCLL readers. Get to know your peers! And, if you have any ideas for future SCCLL News columns or articles, we’d love to hear from you!

**On the lighter side:** Mahatma Gandhi, as you may know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him

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**Famous People Who Were Once Lawyers**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>John Cleese</td>
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<td>Sports Commentator</td>
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<td>John Grisham</td>
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<td>Tony LaRussa</td>
<td>Baseball Player</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geraldo Rivera</td>
<td>TV Personality</td>
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rather frail and with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. This made him what?...A super callused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis!

Jessica Rehbaum, James Gernert, and Joan Allen-Hart (L-R) were all awarded SCCL grants to attend AALL 2000 in Philadelphia. A criteria for the award included an agreement to write an article concerning their AALL experience. The winners’ articles appear below.

An Overview of AALL 2000

“Widening the Gateway to Legal Information”

Joan Allen-Hart, Assistant Director for Branch Services
San Diego County Public Law Library, San Diego, CA

Attending the AALL Annual Conference helps recharge my professional “batteries,” particularly when a program inspires me to return to work eager to try something new or different. As a librarian who discovered the joys and challenges of serving the public in the county law library almost six years ago, this year’s program, “Widening the Gateway to Legal Information: Building Partnerships with Public Libraries” was the one that most motivated me at this year’s conference. Coordinator Kathy Carlson, Wyoming State Law Library, introduced the speakers. Leading off an excellent panel and representing the public librarian perspective, was Richard Lindberg, from the Chester County Library District Center, located near Philadelphia. Mr. Lindberg, who has been with the library for 16 years, began by citing some recent Chester County Public Library statistics: it has an annual circulation of 1,200,000, the reference staff uses its legal reference collection to answer approximately 600 legal reference questions each year, and in the most recent annual report, the library spent about $5,800 on legal reference materials.

Mr. Lindberg addressed some of the challenges public librarians face as they try to provide legal reference service to their patrons. They have no means to access case law (a frequently requested item), as there is no money or space to purchase items like case reporters. Even with Internet access, the reference librarians are very aware of their own lack of training in legal materials. There is also a general perception among the librarians that many legal materials are not well indexed and there is a lack of consistency in terms in indexes between publishers, so they have difficulty learning how to access the resources. By contrast, since the Internet has become such a force in society, there is a general perception among users of the public library that they will find all or most of the legal information they need at their local public library branches, and that the librarians will be able to help them find what they need. Since the librarians have difficulty in answering legal reference questions, they often feel overwhelmed by these queries.

However, as we law librarians are all too keenly aware, locating the exact piece of legal information an individual needs is often quite problematic. To meet the needs of their users, Chester County reference librarians have tried to become familiar with some of the larger legal web sites, such as Cornell’s Legal Information Institute and Villanova, as well as government sites like Thomas and GPO Access. To provide some assistance, the library has three legal pathfinders for staff and public use, and Mr. Lindberg teaches a one hour orientation on the library’s legal collection for staff. How successful are they? While the staff never feels truly comfortable in providing legal reference, they are at least able to do a lot of “quick and dirty” searches for patrons which will provide some information. His suggestions to law librarians who would like to assist public librarians: provide more links from law library Web pages to relevant legal information, not just governmental sites; and more importantly, initiate outreach efforts. Mr. Lindberg closed by stressing the need for local law librarians to invite their local public colleagues in for tours and to let them know when referrals are acceptable.

The next speaker was R. Lee Warthen, from the University of Utah’s S. J. Quinney Law Library, who is Chair of AALL’s Legal Information Services to the Public SIS. Mr. Warthen began by listing the assumptions law librarians can make
about our public library colleagues. First, they have a terrific service orientation, which means they want to get the answers their users are seeking. This is why they may find legal reference questions baffling, as there is so often no single “right answer” to legal questions. Not being able to find the right answer is simply contrary to their service orientation. Still, public librarians are great researchers and they specialize in being “generalists,” able to do reference in a variety of areas and resources. Their branches often have a better collection of Nolo and other self-help law books than some law libraries have, but the public librarians may be concerned about offering too much help with these materials which could be interpreted as offering legal advice. However, last, but most importantly, they are always eager to learn whatever we can offer to teach them.

Mr. Warthen got to the point of the program when he answered the question, “Why do we need to care about partnering with public libraries?” First, there is the professional commitment to continuing education that we all share: by teaching public librarians basic legal reference, they gain the confidence to assist their users with questions that they are going to keep asking. Second, when we partner with public librarians we are achieving one of our goals as law librarians: providing broader public access to legal information. And third, successful partnering with public libraries allows law libraries to save their resources in order to meet the needs of their own primary user groups.

When law librarians successfully partner with public librarians by providing legal reference training, our public colleagues can achieve a number of desired competencies which enable them to better meet their users’ needs. They can learn how to ask the “right” questions in a legal reference interview, as they develop the skills necessary to analyze legal reference requests, and learn how to break them down into discrete manageable elements. They can also learn the appropriate sources to consult for a specific type of legal question and how to determine when a referral to another organization, like a local law library, should be made. Further, they can develop an understanding of why maintaining currency of legal sources is so important, and learn how to update their sources. Finally, public librarians can develop an understanding of how to avoid the unauthorized practice of law and how to formulate their responses appropriately, as they respond to their users’ requests for legal information.

Mr. Warthen offered a number of specific suggestions to program attendees aspiring to work more closely with their local public libraries. To be successful, an outreach program needs administrative support and the commitment of all the law librarians in an institution. Additionally, “outreach” should be part of someone’s job description in the law library, otherwise the effort is not going to be sustained. We law librarians need to initiate outreach by visiting our local public libraries, introducing ourselves, and offering to do site evaluations of their legal reference collections. Continue the outreach effort by offering to host brown bags and teach-ins, including a “Visit your local law library day” for public librarians. Offer to share your legal referral list with the local public libraries and be sure to keep providing them with the list as it is updated. Continue to maintain contact on a regular basis after the first outreach effort ends, so that the public librarians will feel comfortable about contacting the law library when they need to. Finally, join or volunteer to speak at programs for the local and regional public library associations.

Mr. Warthen reviewed some of the valuable information available on LISP’s Website [www.aallnet.org/sis/lisp]: “The Public Library Toolkit” and “How to Research a Legal Problem: A Guide for Nonlawyers.” He reminded attendees that many of their own local chapters have committees which provide outreach services to local public libraries, such as SCALL’s Public Access to Legal Information Committee. Mr. Warthen concluded by providing an overview of a program he presented for the Utah Library Association on legal reference to illustrate how these resources can assist law librarians who are interested in doing outreach to their public library colleagues.

The third speaker was Mary Ann Archer, William Mitchell College of Law Library, who formerly served as the Dakota County (MN) Law Librarian. Ms. Archer’s presentation, “Why Just Taking Your Public Librarian to Lunch Won’t Cut It: Or, a COASE Analysis of Institutional Collaboration,” detailed the collaboration she achieved with
the Dakota Public Library during her tenure as County Law Librarian. Ms. Archer stressed the importance of building collaboration in phases in order to build trust and credibility: while we may be the experts in working with legal information, we still have an obligation to respect our colleagues’ professional expertise as they serve the public in their libraries, so we should ask how we can help them as a starting point.

Ms. Archer called Phase I the “Getting to Know You” phase which began in 1992, when she first became Dakota County Law Librarian. She visited the main branch of the public library, introduced herself, and talked about the ways she could be of assistance to their reference staff, such as deciphering citations, taking referrals, or faxing copies of cases. Ms. Archer also joined the Minnesota Library Association and attended MLA meetings, eventually becoming a program speaker.

Phase II, the “Working Together” phase, began in 1994, when Ms. Archer assisted the public library in replicating the “Self-Help” Center, which she had created at the county law library, at their branches. Items in the “Self-Help” Centers included give-away pamphlets, Nolo books, “Fact Sheets” from Legal Service Providers, and other relevant materials for pro se litigants. In addition, at the request of the public librarians, she assisted them in making some selections (collaborative collection development!) for their collections.

Ms. Archer also discussed how she was able to resolve a potentially serious problem for pro se litigants when she discovered that all of the branches of the public library had copies of a “do-it-yourself” divorce book holding samples of legal forms which were not valid in Minnesota. The Court Administrator had contacted her after a number of similar photocopied documents were submitted by pro ses to the local court. Because of her prior work with the public librarians, Ms. Archer had established such credibility with her colleagues by 1994, that when she contacted the Reference Coordinator about the problems being caused for lay litigants who tried to file forms copied from the book, the Coordinator offered to pull the books from the public library collection.

In 1996, the crowning achievement of several years of collabora-

ration occurred when Ms. Archer and the Reference Coordinator of the public library wrote a proposal, which was subsequently approved and funded by the Dakota County Administration, to create a “Virtual Branch Law Library” in the public library. Phase III, “Going Hi Tech,” was possible because, by this time, cooperation between the two libraries was such that they had the strong support of both boards of trustees, as well as the County Board of Commissioners. The “Vibble,” as it was known, consisting of a computer workstation, complete with a laser printer, was placed in one of the largest branches of the public library and connected via the county’s wide area network to the law library’s server. Users could access over 100 legal sources, on both CD-ROM and through the Internet, on the Vibble. An additional help was the “hot line” phone sitting next to the computer, which ran through to the County Law Librarian’s desk, allowing patrons at the public library to receive additional assistance during business hours.

Ms. Archer coordinated yet another project during Phase III. With the cooperation of the Dakota County Court Administration, as well as the public and law libraries, local family court forms became more widely available to citizens of the county. The courts covered the cost of materials at the start of the project by providing binders and master copies of family law forms sets, which were placed in all the branches of the public library. The law library assumed the responsibility for keeping the forms up-to-date when they were revised by statute or procedural rule changes.

Ms. Archer ended her presentation by applying the COASE, or “benefit/burden” analysis to her experience in Dakota County. Burdens to the public library included losing some space for items not normally found in their collection, as well as having to assume some new administrative duties, and having to acquire new skills to assist users with the legal information which
was now in their branches. Burdens to the law library included having to maintain a computer workstation at a remote location in the public library, paying for additional licensing for the online resources at the branch, and providing training and other support to the public librarians. However, the benefits for both libraries included adding new services for their users, which resulted in positive public relations and increased use of library resources.

I left “Building Partnerships With Public Libraries” inspired to work on a more structured outreach effort to the local public libraries in our area. The San Diego County Public Law Library have certainly not ignored our public library colleagues in the past. The law library is a member of the regional library network, SERRA, which includes public, academic, and special libraries. A number of our senior managers participate on SERRA committees, which meet regularly. The reference librarians at the law library have also occasionally made visits to the public libraries, dropping off law library brochures, and encouraging them to make referrals to us. Other library staff participate in programs and meetings where they often meet their public library counterparts.

To my knowledge, however, in recent years we have not attempted, in any sustained way, to reach out to our colleagues at the public libraries, although they are serving the very same citizens that we are. We do know that San Diego citizens are going to the public libraries for legal information, often before they come to us, because the public still so often assumes that the county law library is only for lawyers. However, the staff here at the San Diego County Public Law Library all share a commitment to broadening public access to legal information. While working on an outreach plan for the law library, we will take to heart Ms. Archer’s caution that true collaboration does not come overnight; it takes time to build trust and credibility with our public library colleagues. In this area, I think our institution has already planted the seeds for future collaborative efforts. We will remember Mr. Lindberg’s advice to find out what our local public librarians want and need from us, the legal information experts. And, finally, we will remember Mr. Warthen’s recommendation to make good use of the valuable resources that already exist within our national and regional law library organizations. Perhaps someday, we will have our own collaboration success story to tell at AALL!

Programs Provide Help on Dealing with Pro Se Patrons

“Know When to Walk Away and Know When to Run”

James Gernert, Associate Law Librarian
Baltimore County Circuit Court, Baltimore, MD

Every year when it gets close to the time for the AALL Annual Conference, the librarians at our library eagerly peruse the preliminary program to see what interesting programs are being offered. This year there were a number of great programs, but three especially stood out for me. Our library is serving an ever-increasing number of pro se patrons, and, as I have the primary responsibility for public services, it’s a matter of continuing concern for me. I was thus delighted to see that the conference was featuring three programs related to this subject. I was very curious to see how other libraries were meeting the challenges presented in working with this group of patrons.

The first of the three sessions that I was interested in was “Greeting our Lay Patrons at the Gateway: Who Are They and How Can We Help Them?” This session promised to be both interesting and amusing, and it did not disappoint. Along with speakers from academic and court libraries, the session featured skits with a variety of scenarios, all drawn from actual patron questions at the libraries. Each skit was introduced with an appropriate piece of music, such as “Jailhouse Rock,” and the theme from “Murder, She Wrote.” (My title, however, is borrowed from one of the librarian’s actual talks; she, of course, borrowed it from Kenny Rogers). In a somewhat more serious vein, the speakers discussed their guidelines for working with pro se patrons, how electronic resources had affected their services, and what use could be made of government documents to assist these patrons. Although most of the policies mentioned are already in effect in our library, I did glean some new information, and it was
reassuring to know that other libraries are handling these challenges in a manner similar to ours.

The second of my trio of pro se oriented programs was “Widening the Gateway to Legal Information: Building Partnerships with Public Libraries.” It is something of a mixed blessing that one of the main branches of the Baltimore County Public Library is only about three blocks from our library. While it is certainly nice to be able to refer our patrons there for materials that we don’t carry, things also work in the opposite direction. While, of course, we are the appropriate place to refer patrons with legal questions, unfortunately the librarians from the public library often send the patrons to us with the unrealistic notion that we will be able to give them a definite answer to their question when, in fact, most of the time all we can do is to refer them to appropriate sources and explain how to begin their searches. As one of the speaker’s more amusing slides pointed out, there’s quite a bit of difference between the typical public library question, such as “How many teeth does a Tyrannosaurus Rex have?” and the often very complicated questions that can arise in a legal setting. The speakers suggested a number of ideas for fostering better communication between the libraries, including regular meetings between the libraries’ staffs to discuss the resources of each library, and legal research training programs offered by the law libraries for the public library staff. All of these seemed like excellent ideas for bridging the gap between the public library and the law library.

The final program of the three was “Can I Help You: Legal Information vs. Legal Advice - A Customer Service Perspective.” The focus of this program was on trying to prevent the frustrations which can arise from the limitations on the information which the library staff can provide to the pro se patrons. The first part of the presentation focused on techniques the librarian can use to present themselves in a more positive manner to the patrons, including tips on both verbal and “unspoken” communication with the patrons. The second part focused on developing effective relationships within the courthouse (or other organizational structure), as well as finding reliable sources for referrals, in order to provide additional assistance to the patrons. The final speaker discussed the legal “Self-Service Centers” which have been developed through the Superior Court in Maricopa County. The centers provide basic information about the court system, as well as legal forms for family, probate, and juvenile proceedings. These would certainly be a welcome development in our community, although they would obviously require resources beyond those available from the library itself.

I found all of these programs to be very helpful, and they all highlighted different aspects of the sometimes troublesome issue of working with pro se patrons. It was very interesting to hear the different approaches taken in working with these patrons, the different resources which were used, and the innovative strategies that many libraries have developed. I came back from the conference with fresh enthusiasm and new ideas for working with our occasionally difficult clientele.

Annual Meeting 2000

Those Memorable Moments

Jessica Rehbaum, Computer/Technical Services Librarian
Wyoming State Law Library, Cheyenne, WY

SCCLL provided a grant that allowed me to attend this year’s AALL Annual Meeting. That week was a flurry of activity, so rather than comment on the entire meeting, I thought it would be best to highlight some of my more memorable experiences.

I was able to arrive in Philadelphia a day early to attend the Legislative Advocacy Workshop organized by Mary Alice Baish. This was a half-day workshop geared towards informing law librarians about the Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act (UCITA) and it taught us how to try to lobby against it. During this meeting, I had an opportunity to learn about the common myths of UCITA and received suggestions on how to dispel these myths when talking with a state representative or congressperson. I learned to keep the conversation focused on the issues, stress the main points, and leave handouts that go into greater detail. We received many wonderful handouts at this workshop and great suggestions. Mary Alice has also created a listserv on this topic, and I urge anyone who is interested to join the listserv or contact Mary Alice Baish if you have questions. Her e-mail is baish@law.georgetown.edu. The Listserv information is on the AALL Web site. This issue has not come up in Wyoming yet, but that just gives us more time to prepare. This topic is of crucial importance for librarians and we need to speak in a loud and common voice so we are heard.
Since my position at the Wyoming State Law Library is Computer/Technical Services Librarian, I tried to go to as many programs in the technological realm as possible. One program I attended was “Tech Tips: Browsers and Computer Networking.” This program contained a good review of terms, and some great tips. Some of these tips are familiar such as not typing in http://www. . . when entering a Web address. I have heard this tip before, but I have a hard time breaking my old habit of typing in the complete address. I also learned about an alternative browser to Internet Explorer and Netscape. It is called Opera; I have checked out the Web page and it looks interesting. There is a free 30-day trial and they are working on a Mac OS version, in case there are any Mac librarians out there. There is a Web page you can check out at http://www.opera.com. Oops! I guess I should say opera.com.

Another AALL program I found interesting was “Privacy Issues in Personal Data Records: Walking the Tightrope with the IRSG.” IRSG stands for Individual Reference Services Group. I went to this program out of a more personal interest. I enjoy reading about privacy issues, so this was something I wanted to hear. I was not disappointed. Judging from a lively but all too short question and answer period, I gathered this issue brings a double-edged sword. Librarians like to have access to records to perform their jobs, but like a lot of people, they do not want their personal information out where it is so easily accessible. I guess the trick is to somehow reach a balance so personal information is not abused. It looks like our society will be struggling with that issue for a while.

One of my favorite programs was “Can I Help You: Legal Information vs. Legal Advice—A Customer Service Perspective.” I hope many of you were able to attend this program which talked of providing quality reference service without giving legal advice. I found this program creative because of its use of skits that were reportedly based on actual reference questions. The coordinators and speakers stressed that these skits were not poking fun of the questions, but were used to illustrate reference techniques to use when faced with interesting situations. One of my first impressions in working in a law library setting was the frustration of thinking that lay patrons were not getting the exact information they wanted because of the nature of their questions or patrons had unrealistic expectations. I sometimes felt I was being evasive or that they might feel I was being uncooperative. It was comforting to know other law librarians feel that way too. I am just glad I have not been asked any questions remotely similar to those used in the skits. I also liked the advice of telling the community, government agencies, and other libraries exactly what the library has and how it can help. This will help keep patron expectation at a reasonable level.

This year’s annual meeting was a great experience; I am putting more faces together with names and gaining a greater perspective of our profession. I appreciate the blood, sweat, and maybe tears that goes into orchestrating this event every year, and I have tremendous respect.
Leadership Opportunities Abound
Contact Your Very Own SCCLL Nominations Committee!

Donna Bausch, Nominations Committee Chair
Norfolk Law Library, Norfolk, VA

The SCCLL Nominations Committee is soliciting names of SCCLL members who would make good Board members. All we ask are your good ideas, we won’t even ask you to confirm availability or interest on the part of the person you suggest – we’ll take care of the details – just tell us who you would like to see on the slate. Without input from a wide variety of our colleagues, it is difficult to reflect the will of the membership. So, tell us what you think! Our committee will be looking for able and willing candidates for the offices of Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer (2001-2004) and Executive Board member (2001-2004).

Of equal importance is submitting names to the AALL Nominations Committee of those from our SIS ranks that we would like to see on the AALL Executive Board. As a former AALL Nominations Committee Chair, I can attest to the importance of each and every name submitted to the committee. Let’s not miss our chance to put the spotlight on our able colleagues.

And, please don’t hesitate to express your own willingness to be considered! Your enthusiasm is an important qualification for all of these positions, and we’d love to hear from you!

So, drop any member of the committee a quick e-mail, note, or give us a call! We’d be delighted to hear your ideas and input about the future leadership team for SCCLL and the AALL Board:

Donna Bausch, Chair
Norfolk Law Library
plawlib@pilot.infi.net
(757) 622-2910

Marvin Anderson
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Trustee’s Tips
A Trustee Reports AALL is Worth the Trip

EDITOR’S NOTE: This is a new SCCLL News column, written by various trustees, reflecting the recent AALL policy change allowing trustees to become full-fledged members of AALL.

Honorable Michael B. Harris, Judge
San Diego County Superior Court, San Diego, CA
Board of Trustees, San Diego County Public Law Library

NOTE: The San Diego County Public Law Library Board voted to have two of its members become AALL members each year and to send one or two to the AALL Meeting every year. Judge Harris was one of two sent this year. Both were also designated as VIPs by the San Diego Area Law Librarians (SANDALL).

San Diego County Public Law Library Board Member/Attorney Phil Burkhartt and I arrived in Philadelphia in the late afternoon on July 15, 2000. The train ride from the airport to Center City Philadelphia was made more exciting when the electrical line that powers the train failed midway between the airport and the city. The power was restored in approximately 15 minutes and we were on our way. After arriving at the hotel and changing into appropriate evening dinner wear, Phil and I walked to the Jenkins Memorial Law Library, situated on one of the top floors of an older office building at 833 Chestnut East, Suite 1220. We were greeted by our hostess, Regina Smith, the Director of the Law Library, and we engaged in interesting conversation with a number of VIPs and patrons of that law library. The Jenkins Memorial Law Library is the oldest chartered public law library in the United States. It was recently renovated and is quite lovely. The law library has gone through several transformations in more recent times due to the fact that the original grant could no longer support the library and staff have had to seek outside funding.

We were up bright and early the next day for a 7 am business meeting and program (the SCCLL business meeting) at one of the host hotels, the Marriott Convention Hotel. Again we met a number of interesting attendees who were public librarians, public court librarians, and others. Following the breakfast and meeting, we went over to the main convention center to view the various vendors’ tables and to look at the workshops that were offered. There was a VIP Librarians and Trustees Luncheon that day, with the featured speaker being an attorney and long-time member of the Jenkins Memorial Law Library Board. I checked into a number of the workshops, including “Outsourcing Your Gateway to the Web: Your Website” and “Greeting the Lay Patrons at the Library, Identifying Them and Assisting Them,” and attended the last business meeting of the afternoon, the Trustees’ Roundtable. After that hour discussion, we recessed for the evening and attended the AALL Opening Reception sponsored by the Lexis Publishing Company.

Monday the 17th was a slightly slower pace in that we did not have to be on board until 9 am to attend the President’s Program. That was followed by additional workshops. I attended the Legislative Regulatory Update presented by Bob Oakley, the Law Librarian and Professor at Georgetown University Law School and the Head of the AALL Washington Affairs Office as well as incoming AALL President. A major topic was AALL’s interest in promoting open access to information for patrons, including Internet access, versus the authors’ or writers’ interests in maintaining royalties and fees for having produced the same. One of the law librarians who spoke out against legislation that would allow wider access for law libraries was a law librarian herself, whose first love was writing. She pointed out that she had to work as a law librarian in order to support her desire to be a professional writer, in that most professional writing paid very poorly. She argued that if a writer sells a work to a local publisher, anticipating that the work will only receive local distribution, to then have it picked up on the Worldwide Web and distributed around the world prevents her from receiving any further payment for her efforts. She opined that were this practice to continue, there would be even fewer writers in the future. She pointed out that most writers are paid very poorly for their efforts, and if there are no further rights of redistribution, other than some megacorp/Internet sending out her writing for free to others, that she probably could not continue as a writer. The AALL view was that there are vehicles which do allow for limited licensing and payment depending on how the resource is utilized. It is unrea-
sonable to charge the libraries user fees where they are only using small amounts of information for patrons covering a specific point. The issue will continue to be a hot topic.

Thereafter, we attended the Association luncheon in the grand ballroom. The grand ballroom is exactly that; it was a huge room that had been part of the Reading Railroad Station back in the days when the Reading and Pennsylvania Railroads brought passengers to downtown Philadelphia. Following lunch was another visit to the vendors at the exhibit hall. For the uninitiated, the vendor stations offer many wonderful things. There are a number of small technology firms that offer research materials limited in scope compared to firms such as LEXIS and WESTLAW. These companies, although offering fewer legal research options, charge far less than their competitors. The major vendor, LEXIS, offered some quite attractive “free gifts” if you would go through their various sales presentations of different software. WESTLAW also offered some nice gifts, for similar presentations. Being more of a book person, I stopped at one of the English publishing firms and bought a book entitled “Justice in the 21st Century,” authored by a retired Australian justice, and a book on European comparative law comparing English, French, and German legal systems.

Tuesday morning, July 18th, was set aside for the general business meeting of the American Associations of Law Libraries. As there were no controversial subjects before the members, the business meeting was quickly completed. Charles Dyer (the San Diego County Public Law Library Director) and I had an opportunity to spend approximately 45 minutes in reviewing personnel issues and policies and procedures. I found the time very well spent.

The morning workshop that I attended dealt with legal information versus legal advice from the perspective of different law librarians. The program provided a lot of helpful information, including handouts. More and more library users are pro se litigants, that is, people with little formal education in law, and often little formal education at all. A number of helpful tools were set out. It was remarked how helpful programs such as San Diego’s Family Law Facilitators and Small Claims Advisors have been to people seeing information on how to proceed in court on their own. These systems give people coming to court a clearer idea of what they’re looking for and their interactions with staff take far less time than in previous years.

In looking at the overall workshops, many were technically oriented and not helpful to me. The ones that I enjoyed most were those that addressed the provision of library services to the patrons. The program that was the most “fun” dealt with lay patrons. In addition to the usual handout and lecture format, skits were utilized to present some of the common difficulties facing a law library staff. Some of the stories were truly hilarious, and often heart-wrenching. One of the presenters, I was told later, was a gentleman who had majored in communications in college before going on for a degree in library science, and he was terrific. One of his vignettes was of a man coming in to obtain criminal law advice for a friend of his who had been wrongfully imprisoned. As it turned out, the gist of the request for advice was that the patron had talked a friend of his into going to court in his behalf. The friend had been mis-identified as the culprit, tried, convicted, and sentenced to hard time. Allegedly, all of these stories were true.

Our last official AALL attendance were two receptions. The first was sponsored by the Northern California, Southern California and San Diego Associations of Law Libraries. Next, we attended the SCCLL reception in the newly renovated downtown Court Library at the Philadelphia City Hall, sponsored by West Publishing. Philadelphia City Hall reminded me very much of the gothic era architecture of New York in the late 1870s through 1890s. In fact, the building was constructed from 1871 to 1901. In addition to city functions, it also housed an appellate court and a number of trial courts.

I did have one afternoon that I took for sightseeing in the central Philadelphia area. Philadelphia is one of the principal centers of our nation’s history, and a very rewarding place to visit. My only regret was that I did not stay longer in Philadelphia so that I could have really seen more of the city, including some of its parks in outlying areas. It was definitely humid, and the one afternoon that I did walk around to see the sights was rather uncomfortable. In the main, however, the weather was pleasant, and I encourage any of you to attend the American Association of Law Libraries Annual Conference.
Strategic Planning Timeline
2000-2001

Regina Smith, SCCLL Chair
Jenkins Law Library, Philadelphia, PA

SCCLL is fortunate to have a strategic plan already in place. The SCCLL Strategic Planning Committee met at the AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia to discuss future strategic planning, since the current plan is for 1999-2001. A former SCCLL Chair, Gail Warren, led the Committee through an excellent planning session. Gail reviewed the strategic planning process and gave the following tips: Strategic planning is a process that is ongoing, requires input from many sources, and it is a plan for action, not “planning.” The Committee determined that the present SCCLL Strategic Plan needs to be reviewed and refreshed. We will review the mission statement, performance objectives, initiatives, and strategies. We will refresh the environmental scan, the recommendations of 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 Committee Chairs, the S.W.O.T. (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) and “forecast,” and will incorporate “trustee caucus” input where appropriate.

With respect to drafting the plan for 2001-2003, we will start with the existing document, edit it, put it out for critique, and present it to the full committee in spring 2001, and then publish it in the SCCLL newsletter and on our Website. Plan approval will include SCCLL Board approval at the Minneapolis meeting in July 2001, and then presentation to the members of SCCLL the following day.

The immediate past chair of the SCCLL SIS is responsible for plan implementation and acts as the central coordinator. Shirley David is our coordinator this year. Following is the timeline for our strategic planning activities this year:

YEAR 2000
August-September
• Review mission statement and initiatives
• Review S.W.O.T. and forecast
• Begin Environmental Scan - prepare survey (Web & newsletter)

September-November
• Environmental scan - summarize
• Incorporate “trustee caucus”
• Incorporate recommendations of committees into strategies

YEAR 2001
February-March
• Write plan
April-May
• Edit plan
• Present to full committee for review
• To Website and newsletter “proposed plan”
July 2001
• Board approval
• Presentation to members

Institute on 21st Century Librarianship

Ruth Levor, Associate Director,
University of San Diego, San Diego, CA

The stately Stanford University campus was the setting for the First Annual Stanford/California State Library Institute on 21st Century Librarianship, and the mood was irrepressible high energy! Nearly 140 librarians from all types of libraries and from all across the U.S. as well as Canada, Australia, and Africa, gathered for a week in August to hash out the growing pains of our profession in the face of the changes that technology has wrought. Representing law libraries were Michele Finerty, Orange County Law Library, Ruth Levor, University of San Diego Legal Research Center, and Diane Reynolds, Los Angeles County Law Library. While a week in August in Palo Alto may not be everyone’s idea of paradise, the climate was certainly more temperate than the level of mind-bending activity!

Each day got off to a rousing start with two essential staples: a fare of excellent food along with outstanding, high energy speakers! The event began with a call to arms from California State Librarian Kevin Starr, exhorting the participants to sample fully from the cornucopia of opportunities to learn and develop that were planned for the week. And for the next six days, participants were alternately fed by some of Stanford’s top class chefs and worked by the Institute’s hard-driving Executive Director, Anne Marie Gold.

Nearly 140 librarians from all types of libraries and from all across the U.S. as well as Canada, Australia, and Africa, gathered for a week in August to hash out the growing pains of our profession in the face of the changes that technology has wrought.
Most galvanizing of all were the team of experts assembled to guide librarians in their quest for solutions to the questions of how to best optimize the integration of technology into our service programs. Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and Stanford Professor David Kennedy, focused our thinking about adaptive leadership with a brilliant analysis of Dwight David Eisenhower in his talk, “The Warrior and the President.” Senior Correspondent Andrew Leonard of the online magazine Salon.com and Ekaterina Walsh, Young Consumer Analyst for Forrester Technographics, sent us careening into the world, minds, and online habits and activities of Generation Y, the entering class of potential library patrons, and into the emerging class of “publishing” (already an anachronistic term?). Mike Keller, who serves as Stanford University Librarian, Director of Academic Information Resources, Publisher of HighWire Press, and Publisher of the Stanford University Press, serenaded the group with “This Magic Moment” as he charted in detail the many new courses for information professionals to travel and urged us to also consider the implications of preservation of digital information. And Amal Johnson of Weiss, Peck & Greer Venture Partners, a technology-focused venture capital firm, spoke from the vantage point of a successful businesswoman about new corporate and management structures for operating efficiently and effectively in the 21st century.

And those were just the appetizers! There were discussion groups led by the Institute Advisory Team and workshops led by dynamic experts such as Susan Kent, Los Angeles City Librarian, Eugenie Prime, Manager of Corporate Libraries at Hewlett-Packard in Palo Alto, Dan Greenstein, Director of the Digital Library Foundation, Joey Rodger, President of the Urban Library Council, and the list goes on and on. There were case study assignments for participants to solve and presentations for them to prepare. Many of these presentations, as well as many of the conference handouts, will eventually be available at http://institute21.stanford.edu. For librarians interested in not just remaining relevant but forging ahead in the quest to provide and to mediate free and open access to information in the 21st century, I heartily recommend that you visit the site and seriously consider attending a future institute.

Koslov, AALL Establish Scholarship in Court Administration

At the 2000 AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Marcia J. Koslov, Director of Knowledge Management for the National Center for State Courts, and the American Association of Law Libraries announced the establishment of a scholarship program for education in court administration. Specifically directed at members of the State, Court & County Law Libraries Special Interest Section, this scholarship funds the registration to courses presented by the Institute for Court Management of the National Center for State Courts (ICM).

Impetus for the establishment of the scholarship came when Marcia, formerly State Law Librarian for the Wisconsin State Law Library, left that position after 26 years to accept her new position with the National Center. “It was one of those ‘ahah’ moments,” said Marcia. Combining the two professional areas – law librarianship and ICM – that had the most significant impact on her life seemed like a perfect match for the use of funds that she had set aside from winning the 1994 Excellence in Government Award from West Publishing. Marcia attended the ICM Court Executive Development Program (CEDP) from 1989 to 1993. Upon successful completion of the courses, she was designated a Fellow of the Institute for Court Management in June, 1993. Her court evaluation/research paper, “Wisconsin County Law Libraries,” (LLJ, v.86, 1994), in fulfillment of Phase III of the CEDP, won the Award of Merit as the outstanding independent study that year.

ICM CEDP

ICM is the premier provider of educational programs in court administration. Its flagship program, CEDP, offers professional development to individuals who seek to develop their management and leadership skills in the court system. CEDP provides comprehensive instruction in the technical, interpersonal, and conceptual skills needed by court managers and leaders. CEDP is divided into four phases:

♦ Phase I – Management of Court Operations – participants take six courses in the following areas: court performance standards, research methods, caseflow management, fiscal management, human resources management, and technology management.

♦ Phase II – Leadership and Management in
the Courts and Justice Environment – a three-week course emphasizing the practical application of theory of court management.

- Phase III – Court Improvement Project – An independent study to enhance analytical and writing skills.
- Phase IV – Concluding Seminar/Summation and Review – presentation of the Phase III projects and discussion of leadership issues and future trends in court management.

In Marcia’s view, law librarians are to be counted among the managers and leaders in the courts. Her positive experience attending CEDP developed a more fundamental understanding of the work of the courts and provided a stronger base for her day-to-day interactions with court administrative staff at all levels. From her first class to her current position, Marcia has retained the feeling that law librarians are viewed as a welcome addition to the courses and within the court administration arena. Greater law librarian attendance at CEDP will sustain an essential two-way communication benefit. It will help law librarians understand the responsibilities and tasks of court managers, and it will help court managers understand that law librarians provide both a unique and central role as part of the court administration team in delivering information and services.

Since placing her $10,000 award with the Madison Community Foundation in 1994, those funds had grown to more than $20,000. Following several conversations with Roger Parent, Executive Director of AALL, Bob Oakley, President of AALL, and Margie Axtmann, Immediate Past President of AALL, an agreement was reached that a proposal would go to the AALL Executive Board requesting that AALL match the funds. The Board approved the request at their April, 2000 meeting. Between April and July, Marcia met with SCCLL Chair Shirley David, Karen Brunner, AALL Scholarships Committee Chair, and Mary Sammon, Director of ICM’s Court Executive Development Program, to develop the details of the new Scholarship for Education in Court Administration.

Scholarship Details
A single scholarship will be awarded annually. The recipient must be a current member of AALL and also a current member of the State, Court & County Law Libraries Special Interest Section.

In order to qualify for consideration for the scholarship, an applicant must:
- Submit a cover letter explaining why the applicant wants to pursue continuing education with the Institute for Court Management. The statement should summarize major duties, responsibilities and career goals. This statement will help to gauge the fit between what the ICM courses offer and what the applicant hopes to receive from attendance.
- Submit a resume providing evidence of work experience and academic achievement.
- Submit a letter of recommendation from a direct supervisor. In addition, the applicant must submit a letter of support from a Chief Justice or Chief Judge, or from a senior manager within the court administration office.
- Submit an essay of no more than five double-spaced, typed pages on a public policy issue. In the essay, the applicant should explain the issue clearly, describe the major contending views, state their own view and defend it with relevant evidence to back up their position. The essay, which is an important element in the overall assessment of the application, will be evaluated on the quality of its analysis and the coherence of its argument.

The recipient will be awarded sufficient dollars to cover tuition registration for the six required courses that comprise Phase I of the CEDP. This application process will also qualify a recipient for admission to the Court Executive Development Program. Should a recipient continue through the CEDP and successfully complete Phases II and III, the recipient may request and receive tuition funding for attendance at Phase IV, the final week-long summation and graduation.

Administrative Details:
The first set of applications are due December 15, 2000. The application should be submitted to the American Association of Law Libraries, Scholarship Committee, 53 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 940, Chicago, IL 60604. (Future applications will be due by the close of business on October 30 of each year.)

The application review team is composed of:
- A member of the Scholarship Committee, selected by the Scholarship Chair
- A member of SCCLL, selected by the SCCLL President
Announcement of Scholarship Winner
The announcement of the winner of the scholarship will be made in February, 2001. Thereafter, the announcement will be made no later than January 31 of each year. Recognition of the scholarship winner will also be made at the annual AALL Conference through SCCLL and the Scholarship Awards luncheon.

Additional information is available through AALL Headquarters or ICM, 300 Newport Ave., Williamsburg, VA 23185 (Mary Sammon 757-259-1581); or (Marcia Koslov 757-259-1579).

Our Website keeps getting better and better
Anita Anderson, Website/Listserv Committee Chair
Office of the Attorney General, St. Paul, MN

Improvements and additions are constantly being made to our SCCLL Website at http://www.aallnet.org/sis/sccll. Look for these recent additions:
1. Current officers, board members, and committees for 2000-2001 have been added. The listing for committees include names of chairs and members and the charges for the committee.
2. The reports of last year's officers and committee chairs (also see later in this newsletter).
3. A new area has been added: Announcements. Check this section often in the coming year for section news. Please send your news to Anita and she'll add it to this section.
4. Full text of the SCCLL Bylaws as amended on July 16 in Philadelphia.
5. Member libraries' Websites are continually added to the site.

The Website/Listserv Committee will be working on improvements for the site and the listserv in the coming year. If you have suggestions, please contact Anita Anderson.

1999-2000 Committee Reports
SCCLL Special Interest Section
ANNUAL REPORT

Shirley H. David, SCCLL Chair
Sacramento County Law Library, Sacramento, CA

During the 1999-2000 year the State, Court & County Law Libraries Special Interest Section implemented its first strategic plan. Committees achieved goals set out in the strategic plan initiatives as well as their other ongoing activities. A Model County Law Library Code Working Group was established, presented working papers, and made recommendations to the SIS Board. The treasury was supplemented with donations and newsletter advertising income that partially subsidized member travel grants to the annual meeting and the newsletter. The Bethany L. Ochel Outstanding Contribution to the Profession Award was presented to Marvin Anderson and Jacqueline Wright. An SCCLL SIS Webpage was established as well as an AALL Annual Meeting orientation for library trustees.

The SCCLL Executive Board being sworn in at the SCCLL Business Meeting in July.

A.G. Librarian’s Roundtable Committee
ANNUAL REPORT

Georgiana Wellford, Chair
Office of the Attorney General, Richmond, VA

The Attorney General Librarian’s Roundtable will meet on Sunday, July 16, 2000 for a luncheon/program meeting. Marie Kaddell, of LEXIS will present a program entitled, “Rebalancing the Collection: Just-In-Time Versus Just-In-Case.” Fifteen Attorney General Librarians registered for this luncheon.
We look forward to our meeting in Minneapolis and hope to tour the Minnesota Attorney General’s Library.

**Awards Committee ANNUAL REPORT**

Michele Finerty, Chair  
Orange County Law Library, Santa Ana, CA

The Bethany J. Ochal Award is presented triannually to SCCLL SIS members who have made significant contributions to law librarianship and who are nearing the end of their library career or who have retired recently. Richard Beer received the Award in 1994 and Edgar Bellefontaine and Marie Sekula were the 1997 recipients.

The Awards Committee placed a call for nominations on the SCCLL and law-lib listservs, the SCCLL Website and in the State, Court & County Law Libraries News and AALL Spectrum. Nominations were received for Jacqueline S. Wright, Arkansas Supreme Court Librarian (Retired), and Marvin Roger Anderson, Minnesota State Law Librarian. The committee unanimously agreed that these two individuals have made significant contributions to law librarianship and should both be presented the award.

The 1997 revised edition of the “Criteria and Procedures” for the Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession specified that “only one award may be given.” The Awards Committee Chair submitted a request to SCCLL Chair Shirley David to either suspend the requirement or remove this limitation from the criteria. Shirley David polled the SCCLL Executive Board and it was agreed that a limit of one recipient would be removed from the criteria. Consequently, the wording in the “Criteria and Procedures” has been revised to reflect this policy.

Serving on the 1999/2000 Awards Committee were Carol Billings, Anna Djirdjirian, Richard Iamele, Kendall Sengalis and Michele Finerty, Chair.

**Bylaws Committee ANNUAL REPORT**

John Eichstadt, Chair  
Harris County Law Library, Houston, TX

The 1999-2000 SCCLL Bylaws Committee included Lynn Randall of the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library and John Eichstadt of the Harris County Law Library. The main charge of the Committee was to ensure that changes in the bylaws recommended by the 1998-99 SCCLL Bylaws Committee and approved by that respective year’s SCCLL Executive Board and AALL Bylaws Committee were presented to the membership for a vote at this year’s AALL meeting in July, 2000. Lynn Randall, Chair of the 98-99 Committee, graciously agreed to remain on the Committee this year to assist in completing this task. The changes from 98-99 were primarily non-substantive changes intended to make those fine-tuning changes which become necessary over time and space for the sake of clarity and modernization. In the fall of 1999, the current Committee suggested two additional changes: one for housekeeping purposes and one to allow a vote by mail if ever necessary. In October 1999 these changes were approved by the SCCLL Executive Board and by the AALL Bylaws Committee. The combined set of changes from both years was published in the Winter 2000 SCCLL newsletter in order to give notice that a vote would be taken at the AALL meeting in July, 2000. Subsequently, this Committee realized that some old provisions allowing for possible suspension of the Bylaws were in conflict with the directives of both Robert’s and Strugis (the two leading Rules of Order). In order to resolve this conflict, in March, 2000 the Executive Board approved a further amendment to the Bylaws to remove the “suspend” language in Article IX of the Bylaws. The AALL Bylaws Committee also approved this change. A notice of this later proposed change was published in the Spring 2000 newsletter. A vote on these amendments at the July 2000 meeting should leave the Bylaws in good shape for the near future.

**Education Committee ANNUAL REPORT**

Anita Shew, Chair  
Butler County Law Library, Hamilton, OH

The Education Committee generated nine program proposals to submit to the AALL 2000 Annual Meeting Program Selection Committee. Suggestions were made by Committee members at the July 1999 meeting and topics and program proposals were then solicited from the general SCCLL membership via the SCCLL listserv, law-lib and letters to SCCLL leadership.
Of the nine program proposals submitted, five were accepted.

Accepted programs and their proposers are:
1. "Widening the Gateway to Legal Information: Building Partnerships with Public Libraries to Increase Availability of Legal Information to Non-lawyer Researchers" (Kathy Carlson)
2. "S.M.A.R.T. Meetings: A How-to Approach re specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-linked "(Jean Holcomb)
3. "Internet Filtering Software: Should it be Used to Manage Staff?" (Regina Smith)
4. -SCCLL Sunday afternoon "Leaders Show by Example—The Lost Art of Manners and Respect in the Electronic Workplace" (Regina Smith)
5. -SCCLL Sunday morning “Managing the Dynamics of Change” (Regina Smith)

Not accepted this year, but worthwhile topics that could be retooled for another year were:
- "Hiding Justice: Secret Settlements and Unpublished Opinions"
- "Opening the Gate to Public Support: How to Use the Media to Get the Message Out"
- "Are Your Customers Happy? Formulating Effective User Surveys"
- "Once They're Through the Gate: Maintaining Relationships with AALL VIP Partners"

Because of the short timeframe from annual meeting (mid-July) to program submission deadline (mid-August), it was suggested that in the future, Education Committee members be named and begin much earlier than the annual SIS meeting. Incoming SCCLL Chair, Regina Smith, designated Kathy Carlson to be the next Education Committee Chair. Kathy then solicited program proposal ideas from the SCCLL membership on our listserv and encouraged members to submit topics and proposals to her prior to the SIS meeting in Philadelphia on the general conference theme of “2001: New Realities, New Roles.”

My thanks to all SIS members who contributed program ideas and especially to the hard work of all the Committee members: Catherine Lemann, Kathy Carlson, Marcia Bell, Regina Smith, Sarah Andeen, Sue Roach, Brenda Larson, Karlye Pillai, AMPSC Board liaison, and SIS Chair, Shirley David.

Grants Committee
ANNUAL REPORT

Donna Bausch, Chair
Norfolk Law Library, Norfolk, VA

The Grants Committee received six applications for grants to attend the AALL Annual Meeting. A record amount of funding was available to the committee for distribution, due to the generosity of Anne Morrison, a committee member and previous grant recipient, who donated an honorarium she received for service on the LEXIS Advisory Committee, and the fundraising acumen of Nancy Joseph, who successfully solicited a $1000 contribution from Jim Ruocchio of Court Records Service.

Grants were awarded to: Joan Allen-Hart of the San Diego County Law Library, James Gernert of the Baltimore County Circuit Court Law Library, and Jessica Rehbaum of the Wyoming State Law Library. Each received a grant of $765.00.

In return for his or her grant, each recipient will contribute an article to the SCCLL newsletter (see earlier pages in this issue).

The committee was contacted by the Legal Information Services to the Public (LISP) SIS. Their SIS is considering starting a grant program and wanted advice on setting up an SIS grants program.
There is a continuing need for grant funding and next year’s committee should be encouraged to continue to seek additional sources of grant funding. As the costs of registration, travel and lodging continue to increase, SCCLL’s grants program is more important than ever.

Membership Committee
ANNUAL REPORT

Kathy Carlson, Tim Lewis, Co-Chairs
Wyoming State Law Library, Cheyenne, WY
Alabama Supreme Court Library, Montgomery, AL

When committee chair Mary Ann Archer switched jobs to an academic law library, Tim Lewis (Alabama Supreme Court Library) and Kathy Carlson (Wyoming State Law Library) took over as co-chairs and pushed forward with the membership campaign that Mary Ann began—"Each One, Reach One." The "Each One, Reach One" effort depends on the participation of every SCCLL member. Members who know of law librarians, or others, who are “interested in the objectives of the Association and in legal information” and who they feel should be a member of AALL and, more specifically, SCCLL, will contact and encourage them to join.

The “Each One, Reach One” campaign is particularly timely given the vote by the AALL membership to widen membership. A real push will be made at the annual meeting in Philadelphia to recruit law library trustees. A “mini-CONELL” is being planned for presentation at the Trustee’s Roundtable to encourage them to join.

Additionally, to aid in ongoing general recruitment efforts, the Committee is in the process of developing a recruitment packet which will be made available through regional committee liaisons (Membership Committee members charged with the job of coordinating efforts in their geographic areas) or at the SCCLL Web page. When completed, it is anticipated that the packet will include a recruitment checklist, sample letters, a SCCLL brochure—with a testimonial sheet, and a list of benefits of membership to work into presentations. An additional task that the Committee is working on is a recognition process for those who recruit members.

The Committee has also suggested to incoming chair Regina Smith that there be an ongoing mentoring program. To that end, we are suggesting that a pool of SCCLL mentors be established and that the minute a new member joins, a mentor is provided to those who desire one. We are also suggesting that the section include newer members on committees as soon as possible to get them involved and not necessarily wait until the next year’s committee volunteer cycle. The Committee is planning to develop a new member packet which will include a welcome letter from the Chair, a volunteer form, and a mentor request form. The success of these ideas will depend on the ability of headquarters to inform SCCLL of the addition of new members.

The Committee will also be recognizing our long-term members appropriately at the Philadelphia meeting. People who have been AALL members for 20 years and have spent at least 10 of those 20 years as a member of SCCLL will receive their SCCLL recognition pins.

A good foundation has been started for several ongoing projects. The Committee next year should try to continue to build upon the work that was commenced this year.

Newsletter Committee
ANNUAL REPORT

Lisa Mecklenberg, Chair
State Law Library of Montana, Helena, MT

Several predictions were made by the Newsletter Committee last year at this time, concerning proposed changes to the SCCLL newsletter, SCCLL News. Well, the committee was as good as its word. As predicted, the format changed from single, stapled sheets to an easier-to-read booklet. More graphics were added, as well as photos (a first for this newsletter, as far as we know). But perhaps the most significant change involving the newsletter in the last year was the implementation of an advertising policy and solicitation of advertisers. Anne Peters was instrumental in getting the word out to advertisers and thanks to her efforts, the Winter 2000 newsletter was the first issue which sported ads. Efforts to expand on that advertising groundwork will continue in future issues of SCCLL News.

Another exciting development regarding the SCCLL newsletter this year—it’s now online! Posted on the SCCLL Website, designed by Anita Anderson, the newsletter is there for all who care to see it electronically. The address is http://www.aallnet.org/sis/sccll/.
Three issues of SCCLL News were put out this year, all with different themes. The Fall 1999 issue focused on marketing, the Winter 2000 issue centered on leadership, and the latest issue, Spring 2000, addressed various aspects of technology. Each issue was filled with timely, interesting articles submitted by members of SCCLL. Many thanks to all who contributed. Each issue of SCCLL News typically runs between 30-40 pages and is mailed to approximately 550 law librarians throughout the U.S. and internationally.

Future ideas for SCCLL News include a trustee’s column and the addition of job postings. New columnists would always be welcome, as well as feature writers, and we encourage contributions from all state, court and county law librarians in these capacities. Members of the 1999-2000 Newsletter Committee are Lisa Mecklenberg, Editor, Anne Peters, and Karen Westwood.

Nominating Committee
ANNUAL REPORT

Judy Meadows, Chair
State Law Library of Montana, Helena, MT

The Nominating Committee for 1999-2000 selected a slate of one candidate for Vice Chair/Chair-Elect and two candidates for Executive Board member. After having difficulty finding more than one qualified member to run for the office of Vice-Chair, the Committee reviewed the SIS’s Bylaws, which stipulate only that one person be nominated for each office. Being very comfortable with the caliber of the candidates, the following slate was put before the membership:

For the office Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect: Anita Anderson, Minnesota Office of the Attorney General; for the office of Executive Board Member, 2000 - 2003: Alison Alfano, New York County Lawyers’ Association and Rita Dermody, King County Law Library. The successful candidates were Anita Anderson and Rita Dermody.

The Chair of the Committee prepared a spreadsheet with the names of all candidates for SCCLL office for the past 12 years. This should be helpful for future committees.

The Nominating Committee considered several ways of attracting and encouraging members both to run for office and volunteer for committee membership. A raffle is planned for the Philadelphia meeting and program, when those who have completed and turned in the volunteer forms placed at their tables will be eligible for prizes. Members of this year’s Committee are Judy Meadows, Chair, Jody Beal, and Martha Lappe.

Publicity/Public Relations Committee
ANNUAL REPORT

Gail Warren, Chair
Virginia State Law Library, Richmond, VA

Members of the SCCLL Publicity/Public Relations Committee met in Washington, DC on July 20, 1999 to discuss and prioritize the Committee’s charges. During the year, Committee members completed several tasks including preparation of a one-page informational sheet for use by the SCCLL Membership Committee, creation and publication of a new SCCLL brochure, and identification, and preparation of a list of judicial/bar publications contact information for “potential” SCCLL authors. In addition, the committee solicited names of SCCLL members whose articles, columns, etc. were published during the year and published an article in AALL Spectrum describing the SCCLL strategic planning experience. To promote the activities of SCCLL’s committees and sub-groups, the Publicity/Public Relations Committee is sponsoring a “Jigsaw Jumble Challenge” at the SCCLL table in the activities area of the 2000 AALL Annual Meeting. SCCLL committee members will be displaying their “talents” and expertise during a designated block of time, handing out the new SCCLL brochures and treats, and vying for the prize awarded to the most creative SCCLL committee/subgroup PR effort.

During 2000-2001, the Committee recommends focusing on the completion of the two remaining tasks under Strategic Initiative #1, Changing Perceptions. Those tasks include developing a media/public relations toolkit to assist members marketing to their governing boards/committees and developing a publication series to build relationships with SCCLL libraries.

Visit our SCCLL Website at www.aallnet.org/sis/sccll
Standards Committee
ANNUAL REPORT

Beth Peterson, Chair
Idaho State Law Library, Boise, ID

The charge of the Standards Committee of SCCLL was as follows: Establish standards or guidelines for electronic services; review current standards and make recommendations for improvements; investigate if we need standards for administrative agency law libraries; and work with the Statistics Committee to develop statistics necessary for determining standards.

Members of the Committee included Beth Peterson, chair (Idaho State Law Library); Maureen Shepard (Sacramento County Law Library); and Georgiana Wellford (Office of the Attorney General, Virginia). The work of the committee was primarily conducted via electronic mail.

The first order of business was to narrow the charge to one activity. The Chair suggested that the group tackle the topic of electronic resources, and begin to develop standards or criteria for libraries to use when converting print materials into electronic format. A bibliography of periodical articles on format selection/conversion was compiled and sent to all Committee members. This bibliography will be used as the starting point for Committee discussion at the annual meeting in July 2000.

Two standards-related activities also took place during the year. First, Anita Anderson, the SIS Web master, published the existing (1996) Appellate Court and County Law Library Standards on the SIS Webpage. Second, AALL sponsored a satellite videoconference on “Books and Bytes: Balancing Formats in Today’s Libraries.”

Finally, during the year the Chair received additional suggestions for areas of library work that could benefit from more clearly defined standards, or a description of “best practices” in the area. The requests included guidelines for budget proposals, development of a collection of evaluations on various office software packages (e.g. Access, Inmagic), and suggested thresholds for requesting materials from other law libraries. The suggestion was also made that the Standards Committee join forces with AALL’s Professional Development Committee to outline and publish Core Competencies of Law Librarianship. Unfortunately, the small membership of the Standards Committee precludes its members from tackling more than one area of standards at a time.

Strategic Planning Committee
ANNUAL REPORT

Jean Holcomb, Chair
King County Law Library, Seattle, WA

The members of the Strategic Planning Committee have taken giant steps toward realizing their individual and committee commitments to this exciting, first ever, project for SCCLL. The goal of this project is to create a climate of continued growth and success for our Section.

Many of us have participated in strategic planning or strategic envisioning exercises in our own libraries, in our larger parent organizations, or through our involvement as a volunteer in other professional organizations. From past experience we all remember the excitement generated during the development of the plan. Sustaining the initial level of excitement and institutionalizing a living, breathing implementation process, however, may be a feeling few who design plans ever experience.

The members of the SCCLL Strategic Planning Committee and the Chairs of our section’s committees whose 1999-2000 committee charges include strategic plan initiatives proudly report that the excitement generated during the plan development process continues to be generated during year one of the plan’s implementation.

The activities listed below illustrate the pace at which goals have been met.

Strategic Direction #1 Changing Perceptions:
We must provide our members with the tools and skills to educate their customers and the governing bodies who provide their financial support, so the contributions of member librarians are recognized and they receive necessary financial and political support.

Completed
• a new membership brochure
• an article for the SCCLL newsletter soliciting member authors for targeted publications
• a tracking program to recognize section members who have written articles or columns
Underway
- a media/public relations toolkit template for marketing to governing boards

Year two activities
- develop a publication series to build relationships

Strategic Direction #2 Strengthening Membership: We must identify and recruit law librarians who are not currently members of SCCLL and strengthen our relationship with existing members.

Completed
- the development and publication of information about a campaign entitled “Each One, Reach One” to encourage SIS members to actively reach out to solicit new members and to recognize SIS members who bring in new members

Underway
- in response to the revisions of the AALL Bylaws to include members of law library governing bodies as members of the Association and Section, the development of a “mini-CONELL” for trustees to be held for the first time at the Philadelphia meeting
- establishment of a network of liaisons to AALL chapters to distribute SIS news and to recruit new members
- distribution of the new SIS brochure at CONELL

Year two activities
- develop mentoring opportunities for members of law library governing bodies who become new members of the section

Strategic Direction #3 Enhancing Communications: We must develop a more diversified communication network for our members.

Completed
- the development and implementation of an active SCCLL Website
- the implementation of a plan to secure advertising for the SCCLL newsletter to help defray publication costs
- the publication and distribution of the SIS newsletter three times a year on a timely basis

Underway
- the development of activities to foster increased member usage of the

SCCLL listserv

Year two activities
- the development of activities to foster increased member usage of the SCCLL listserv and Website by members of law library governing bodies who become new members of the section

A successful strategic planning process doesn’t stop with one year’s activities. The section chair plays a key role in the implementation of the strategic plan by assigning initiatives from the plan to appropriate section committees. Inviting committee chairs who will have initiatives from the plan as a part of their charge for the year ahead to the organizing meeting of the strategic planning committee held during the AALL Annual Meeting ensures open communication between all with roles in the process. By not trying to do everything the first year, we’re creating a sustainable planning culture.

When incoming Chair Regina Smith prepares the charges for the 2000-2001 committees, those initiatives not included in this year’s plan will be folded into the work plan for next year’s committees. Projects currently underway will be reviewed. Because the drafters of our initial strategic plan envisioned that the plan could be completed in two years, the Strategic Planning Committee has developed an outline of how the next two-year plan will be created during the year ahead. The attention of the Strategic Planning Committee now will focus on preparations for institutionalizing the planning process.

The success we’ve witnessed during the first year of activity rests on the pride each section committee has taken to ensure that the initiatives that fall within their areas of responsibility are developed and implemented.

Trustee Development Committee

ANNUAL REPORT

Pam Gregory, Chair
Circuit Court for Prince George’s County Law Library, Upper Marlboro, MD

The Trustee Development Committee has planned two events for the annual meeting in Philadelphia. A luncheon will immediately follow the SCCLL program, scheduled for 11:45 - 1:00 pm. Speaker for the luncheon will be Harold Cramer, President of the Jenkins Board of Di
rectors. Mr. Cramer will give a brief talk at the trustee’s lunch regarding trustee development in law libraries. He has served a President of the Jenkins Board for 26 years, during which time the library moved to a larger facility, struggled financially, yet still met the information revolution head on. Later in the afternoon there will be a kind of mini-CONEll for the trustees. From 4-5 p.m. we will gather the group together again to hear from AALL’s leadership. Our own Shirley David will suggest fun activities at the conference. AALL President Bob Oakley will talk about the programs of AALL and offer other advice for getting the most out of the convention experience. Also, from Fresno County, Kathryn Hart, library trustee, and Sharon Borbon, librarian, will share their experiences and advise for visiting the conference exhibit hall.

**Website/Listserv Committee ANNUAL REPORT**

Anita Anderson, Chair  
Minnesota Office of the Attorney General, St. Paul, MN

The Website/Listserv Committee was a new committee this year. Although we had an enthusiastic committee, job changes during the year left two active members to bring the Website into action: Anita Anderson and Karla Gedell.

On December 30 a message went out to the SCCLL listserv announcing the availability of the Website at [http://www.aallnet.org/sis/sccll/](http://www.aallnet.org/sis/sccll/). A general description of the contents of the site was included as follows:

About SCCLL contains a brief history and description; Officers and Committees has a list of the volunteers and a description of the charge of each committee; Newsletter contains a link to the latest newsletter in PDF format; Strategic Plan links to the full document in PDF containing our mission statement, strategic directions, and implementation plan, plus results of a survey and demographics of the Section in the appendices; Bylaws contains the 1999 proposed changes; SCCLL Listserv Information has instructions for joining the listserv and how to post messages to the list.

Additional areas were activated in later months: Standards; Meetings and Programs; Grant Information; Awards; Links to Websites of member libraries; Membership list.

Announcements of additional Website features were given occasionally throughout the year using the listserv and short articles in the newsletter.

The number of subscribers to the listserv remained fairly constant through the year. It has been effectively used for SIS announcements for several years. However, there was a perceptible increase in queries for assistance to the list. Examples of these types of postings include requests for: examples of internal guidelines for evaluating copyright compliance for a document delivery system; methods for gathering reference statistics; rental fees charged for computer training room facilities; pros and cons of switching from WESTLAW to LEXIS and vice versa; anecdotal information regarding a “county law library” or its collection which is currently housed, serviced, and funded (partially or fully) by some other institution; experiences regarding joining a library consortia for the purpose of developing an automated library catalog; and software download policies. The committee strongly encourages the membership to use the listserv in this manner. It can be an effective tool for polling those in similar libraries and gaining from their past experiences.

There were a few technical difficulties during the year. For example, there was a dangerous e-mail loop that resulted during the brief time the chair was listowner of the SCCLL listserv on the AALL server. As Mark Folmsbee described it: “It was a massive loop—it just nailed the server—btw— I took drastic action.” The lesson learned was that a listowner should not be on an e-mail hub that uses aliases.

Suggestions for next year’s committee:
- Encourage all committees to submit information to the Website and use the listserv to communicate their committees’ actions to the membership.
- Create a Website handbook and procedures manual. Determine what types of information should be kept from year to year.
- Determine ways to increase the number of subscribers to the listserv to better reflect the membership size.
- Encourage all members to use the listserv to query the membership.
Working Group Model County Law Library Code
ANNUAL REPORT

Michael Miller, Chair
Maryland State Law Library, Annapolis, MD

The SCCLL Working Group on a Model County Law Library Code (Working Group) is pleased to submit this interim report on its current study into the issue of model county law library legislation. This report is titled an “interim report” because the efforts of the Working Group have not been completed. The Working Group has focused, to this date, on the single question of whether a model code should be drafted as an official product of the American Association of Law Libraries and be recommended to the states for legislative enactment.

This interim report makes six recommendations to the officers of the State, Court & County Law Libraries Special Interest Section (SCCLL-SIS); describes the recent activities of the Working Group; and describes the criteria on which the recommendations are grounded. In addition, the Working Group is submitting a collection of briefing papers describing the current state of county law libraries in several states; and the initial analyses of two surveys of county law library stakeholders which were designed to provide essential information for future decisions relating to county law libraries.

The Working Group is prepared, furthermore, to do any additional work necessary for appropriate consideration of the issues relating to a model county law library code. While the Working Group is recommending that a model county law library code be drafted, the Working Group has not addressed any of the related issues that would constitute the subject matter and contents of that recommended code.

1. Introduction

County law libraries in the United States are often the first and most convenient collection of legal information resources available to both members of the practicing bar and the general public. These law libraries are, furthermore, often the official libraries of the local judiciary.

Despite the wide acceptance of the institution in many states across the nation, these same law libraries often face a number of obstacles to their continued vitality. These include, but are not limited to, an often uncertain and dependable source of funding at a time of greatly increased costs of legal information resources; an often inadequate organizational structure and governing authority; and a frequently out-of-date legislative grant of statutory authority. In some cases, even where there is a legislative enactment governing these libraries, statutory provisions which may be in varying degrees at least essential, necessary, useful, or even relevant may be absent.

These concerns are not new. These are issues that have been previously addressed by professional groups including many within the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL). As only one example, in a major publication prepared by the Trustees Development Committee of the State, Court & County Law Libraries Special Interest Section, The Sourcebook for Law Library Governing Boards and Committees, county law libraries were described in terms of their funding, operating authority, and place within the confines of state and local government. This extensive publication has proven to be a valuable reference source for those involved in the governance of county law libraries. In addition, SCCLL has previously adopted standards for the operation of county law libraries.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Recommendation Number 1

The Working Group recommends the drafting of a model code for county law libraries as an officially endorsed project of the State, Court & County Law Libraries Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries.

2.2 Recommendation Number 2

The Working Group recommends that the State, Court & County Law Libraries Special Interest Section Board of Directors appoint a Working Group to draft a model county law library code. The Working Group further recommends that the Board of Directors, in appointing a Model County Law Library Code Drafting Committee, consider the appointment of SCCLL members who have appropriate experience in managing county law libraries or in researching and studying county law library legislation; and also open member-
ship on this drafting committee to representation by related organizations and associations such as the Conference of State Court Administrators, the American Bar Association, legislative groups, public library organizations, and citizen advocacy groups.

2.3 Recommendation Number 3

The Working Group recommends that any committee charged with drafting a model county law library code be directed to examine existing SCCLL Standards for County Law Libraries. As part of this study, the Working Group recommends that every effort should be made by the SCCLL Board of Directors to see that these standards are updated as necessary and as soon as possible to reflect current county law library needs and requirements.

2.4 Recommendation Number 4

The Working Group recommends that a proposed model county law library code be presented, as an interim draft document, to the State, Court & County Law Libraries Special Interest Section Board of Directors at the 2001 AALL Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

2.5 Recommendation Number 5

The Working Group recommends that the State, Court & County Law Libraries Special Interest Section set an appropriate period of study during which written analyses and comments pertaining to a proposed model county law library code will be received by the SCCLL Board of Directors. The Working Group further recommends that these written analyses and comments will be added to the record of the study and research activities of the committee charged with drafting a model county law library code.

2.6 Recommendation Number 6

The Working Group recommends that the State, Court & County Law Libraries Special Interest Section Board of Directors convene and sponsor a public hearing on a proposed model county law library code in the form of a “town hall” meeting at the 2002 AALL Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Note: The SCCLL Executive Board accepted these recommendations at its July 15th meeting. Anne Grande, Director of the Hennepin County Law Library, will chair the Committee this year. The full text of this Interim Report can be found on the SCCLL Website.

American Association of Law Libraries Call for Papers

Maria Protti, Deputy City Attorney Researcher
City & County of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA

Have you been thinking about writing an article about law librarianship? Or are you already writing an article and just need an incentive to finish? If yes, read on! The AALL/LEXIS Publishing Call for Papers Committee eagerly solicits your articles for its annual competition. The objectives of the contest are threefold: 1) to promote scholarship among practicing law librarians and in areas of interest to the profession; 2) to provide a creative outlet for law librarians and a forum for their scholarly activities; and 3) to recognize the scholarly efforts of established members, new members, and potential members of AALL.

Up to three winning authors will receive a prize of $750, generously donated by LEXIS Publishing. The recipients will be recognized during award ceremonies at the Association luncheon of the AALL Annual Meeting. Winners also will present their papers in a program at the annual meeting and the paper will be considered for publication in the Law Library Journal.

Visit AALLNET at http://www.aallnet.org/about/award_call_for_papers.asp for more information, including selection criteria and application procedures. Submissions must be postmarked by March 1, 2001. Good luck!

Questions? Contact a member of the Call for Papers Committee: Adeen Postar (Chair) at ajp@dejlaw.com, Karen Beck at beckka@bc.edu, or Maria Protti at Maria_Protti@ci.sf.ca.us.

SCCLL Member News

Lois Calvert, Supreme Court Librarian
Colorado Supreme Court Library, Denver, CO

Justice Gregory Hobbs of the Colorado Supreme Court attended the AALL Conference in Philadelphia as a VIP guest of CoALL (Colorado Association of Law Librarians). He attended several meetings, the opening reception, and the trustee’s and Association luncheons.
In addition to being impressed by the size and organization of AALL, he was interested in the issues public law libraries are currently concerned about, such as budget, technology, and how to best serve the pro se patron. He laughed heartily at the “Ready for the Reference Desk Players.” To quote from his letter to CoAALL when he returned to Colorado: “The program was very good and I especially enjoyed exchanging ideas and experiences with the Colorado members in attendance and many others from across the United States and other countries.”

Carol Billings, Director
Law Library of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded the Law Library of Louisiana a grant of $5,000 to fund the evaluation of its rare books and special collections by a preservation specialist. Serials/Preservation Librarian, Cathleen Richards, and Head of Technical Services, Janice Shull, prepared the successful grant application. Patricia Turpening, Head of Preservation and Archives at the Marx Law Library, University of Cincinnati, has agreed to spend a week in New Orleans providing the consultation services.

Law Library of Louisiana Director, Carol Billings, attended the September meeting of the International Association of Law Libraries in Dublin, Ireland with approximately 150 other participants from 25 countries. The conference, whose theme was “A Common Law for Europe: Legal Systems and Legal Information,” provided a wonderful opportunity to learn about recent developments in the convergence of European legal systems and the ways governments throughout the world are disseminating information electronically. A highlight was a reception in the famous Long Hall of the Trinity College Library and the Books of Kells Museum.

Welcome to New Members of SCCLL
(since June 1, 2000)

Kay Bard Paletz
21 Stella Drive
Churchville, PA 18966

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