



# State, Court & County Law Libraries *NEWS*

Volume 28, Number 1

Winter 2002

## View from the Chair

### *Continuing to "Lighten the Load"*

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

As I write this column, songs like "Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow" have been playing on radio stations and in department stores. However, another tune has been running through my head - that great Gershwin song with the last line that goes "But ho, ho, ho. Who's got the last laugh now?" This is because the morning's headline in the local paper was "Twin Cities area basks in record warm spell." This is our 45th straight day of above record temperatures. I know this is only temporary and that we'll probably have snow for the upcoming holidays and bitter cold in the early days of the new year. But the temperate weather has lightened the load for the time being - no shoveling, no sliding into ditches, no hunkering to keep warm. Instead we have green grass and volunteer violas are blooming.

The "Lighten the Load" theme also continues to manifest itself as our committees and other volunteers work on SCCLL projects for the year. Here is an update of some of the on-going work.

The Standards Committee has completed a final draft of its updated version of the County Law Library Standards. The standards have been reworked to reflect better the responsibilities of county law librarians and especially to address the challenges presented by electronic resources. This new draft version has been posted to our web site at <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/sccll/>. Please review it and send comments or suggestions to committee chair Maureen Well. The final version is scheduled to be approved by the Executive Board in Orlando and subsequently published for general consumption. I heartily thank the committee for this great product.

Our SIS has a wonderful opportunity to provide valuable resources for our administrators and our library customers. The Publicity/Public Relations Committee is working on the first in a series of publications supported by a generous grant from Lexis/Nexis. "How to Hire a State, Court or County Law Librarian" will be a guide for current and prospective library administrators. It will help them to better understand the value of a law librarian and how to evaluate the skills and training needed to be successful in that position. Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson is looking for authors who will each write a portion of this first publication. Because it will be broken into small parts, each volunteer will have a manageable part of the whole. Please read Lisa's article on page 8; then give her a call or send an e-mail to join the team that will produce a quality product. Help lighten Lisa's load!

Planning for the Orlando meeting is on-going. Our web site has information about the SCCLL meetings and events that have been scheduled. The reception, hosted by West Group, will be at the Orange County Regional

History Center with their restored Courtroom B as our setting. Once again SCCLL will have a silent auction during our business meeting on Sunday. (For more information about it, see Regina Smith's article on page 14.) SCCLL grants to attend the annual meeting will be available. You will find information about the grants program in this issue and an application form on the web site. The web listing will be updated as more information is available. This handy schedule will help you plan your personal timetable for the AALL meeting in July.

Our Nominations Committee has produced a terrific slate of candidates for next year's SCCLL Vice-Chair/Chair Elect and Board Member. Get to know our candidates: read all about them in this issue and be ready for the mail ballots that will be sent out in early April.

Finally, in this issue look for additional announcements from other SCCLL committees, an interview with AALL Presidential candidates, and feature articles from our members.

Best wishes for the new year.

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SCCLL News is published three times each year (fall, winter, and spring/summer)  
by the State, Court and County Law Libraries SIS

**The Deadline for the next issue is May 1, 2002**

Articles and forms should be submitted on IBM compatible disk or electronic mail to:

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## Editor's Etchings

### *A Vote of Appreciation*

Mary Ann Parker, Editor  
Department of Water Resources,  
Sacramento, CA



Happy New Year! My last column was all about where I worked and what my agency did. This time I'd like to express my appreciation for my Committee. First is Amanda Collins, new to SCCLL and already a volunteer to the SIS. Amanda is the satellite librarian for the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. Her one-person satellite is in the Federal Courthouse for the Southern District of Alabama located in historic downtown Mobile. Serving four US District judges, four US Magistrates, one Senior Circuit Judge, and their respective staffs, her library is also open as a courtesy to the local bar. Amanda compiles the member news and new members column.

Charles Dyer, Director of Libraries for the San Diego County Public Law Library, and author of *Charley's Corner*, has been in San Diego since 1987. Charley likens his county and library to Connecticut. San Diego County has approximately the same population as the state of Connecticut and the SDCPLL is about the same size as its State Law Library. The newsletter is fortunate to have Charley's column, always thoughtful, always well written. It gives us an air of distinction, much like Herb Caen and Jim Murray did to the *SF Chronicle* and the *LA Times* during their lifetimes.

Pris Streightoff has been an Assistant Attorney General and the Law Librarian at the Texas Attorney General's Office in Austin since June of 1999. She has worked as a librarian in Texas state agencies since 1993. I am grateful for her proofreading skills as I put this newsletter together.

Donna Williams, my long time NOCALL colleague, has been at the California Court of Appeal, 6<sup>th</sup> Appellate District in San Jose since 1989. The 6<sup>th</sup> DCA is the smallest appellate court in California with approximately 50 employees. Donna's library serves the justices, attorneys, judicial assistants and the Clerk's Office staff and is closed to the public. Donna, whose enthusiasm for her profession knows no bounds, is in charge of advertising.

I'd also like to thank Connie Von Der Heide, Joanne Beal and Sandy Lindheimer who responded to my "Starved for content" appeal in the last issue. I invite you budding authors to follow their example. Note the May 1 deadline for the Spring issue.

## SCCLL List



To subscribe, follow the instructions for subscribing at:

<http://aallnet.org/mailman/listinfo/sccll-sis>.

To send a message to everyone on the list, send e-mail to:

[sccll-sis@aallnet.org](mailto:sccll-sis@aallnet.org)

## The Candidates Speak

### *AALL Presidential Candidate Interviews*

Compiled by Margaret Maes Axtmann  
University of St. Thomas School of Law, Minneapolis, MN

AALL Vice President/President-Elect candidates Janis L. Johnston and Kathie J. Sullivan present some of their views about the profession in the following interview. We thank them for their participation.

**1. A Managing Partner, Faculty Member, Board Member or Chief Information Officer is standing at the doorway of your library and makes the following observation. "Now that everything is available on the Internet, we don't really need all this space for books any more, do we?" How would you respond?**

**Kathie Sullivan:** The web can be our best friend or our worst enemy. Much information is on the Internet but we can't always trust its accuracy, authority, or comprehensiveness. Each search engine works differently, sites disappear daily, agencies change their names and design of web pages: we can't put all of our trust in a media that is still developing and evolving. We have relied on the printed word and books for centuries; we don't need to discard them because they are no longer "new." I'd hate to rely completely on a media that is dependent on external power, the vagaries of progress, or obtuse web design when assisting our user groups. After all, we still use flashlights despite the invention of the light bulb! However, some information, as we all know, is best found on the web, but ALL information may not be there at any one time or ever. It's a situation similar to the educational principle of "least restrictive

*(AALL Candidates Continued on page 4)*

*(AALL Candidates Continued from page 3)*

environment;" in this case, the web may be the best place to put some documents and not the best for others. We have to think of the economics, the ease of access, the reliability, and the users when we talk about books vs. the Internet. The Internet is one of the tools we use to manage and navigate through information but it won't be the only tool we use.

**Janis Johnston:** You know, that's true, there is a lot of great information on the Internet, but not everything the legal researcher needs is there. There are some very good sites available but much needed information is still not in digital form. Many other sites aren't always accurate, current or permanent. As yet no one has figured out how to archive digital information for the long term. The virtual law library may be coming, but it hasn't arrived just yet. Law librarians are working on creating standards for digital libraries to insure necessary information, whatever its format, is never lost or made inaccessible by limitations or changes in technology. But as information experts, we struggle with the basic question of whether access to information controlled by others is a viable substitute for permanently owning information. You just never know if an important database or file will simply disappear from the web.

Even with the advantages of electronic sources, many users still prefer books for many types of research. There are real advantages to seeing the hierarchy and organization of information that books are better able to provide. Have you ever done extensive code research online? I'll take books for that task anytime!

**2. Others have been sounding the death knell of our profession for several years, and yet, with the advance of information technology, most of us see a need for librarians now more than ever.**

- a) How do we redefine ourselves?
- b) How do we continue to inspire and bring new people into the profession?
- c) How do we create diversity?

**JJ:** Librarians will always be around because ours is a necessary profession that adapts well to change. But occasionally we do need to redefine ourselves, and in my mind that is a process with two dimensions. First, let's analyze thoughtfully our core functions in a way that does not connect us to a particular information medium or a physical place. Then we can develop new terms and concepts to describe our expertise - not jargon or trendy phrases - but terminology that ties us more firmly to the future and reduces perceptions that we are pertinent only to the past. We know that whatever descriptors we use, our fundamental skills of

*(AALL Candidates Continued on page 5)*

*A Great Source for Finding State  
Legislative Materials!!*

*The 2000 Edition Is Now Available and  
Ready for Immediate Delivery!!*

**Guide to State Legislative and  
Administrative Materials  
2000 Edition**

By  
William H. Manz



*The Guide to State Legislative and Administrative Materials, 2000 Edition, brings together the major print and electronic sources of administrative and legislative information, including bills, codes, regulations, attorney general opinions, executive orders, ethics opinions, and administrative orders and decisions. It offers complete information on state legislative materials and is an excellent starting point in identifying the best websites to further one's research; factors which should make this publication a staple in all law libraries.*

1 volume (paper) ..... \$65.00  
Item #325010, xii, 553 pages  
ISBN 0-8377-0153-8, LC 00-062625  
Published: Buffalo; William S. Hein & Co., Inc.; 2000

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gathering, organizing and accessing information will still be in demand. But a new way of talking about what we do might change attitudes as well as energize us for the future.

Secondly, it is time to examine further our training. We have skills of continuing importance, but we need additional skills that will heighten our public profile. We can and should teach users more about the research process and the complexity of information sources. Our communication skills could improve to insure our voice is heard when decisions concerning libraries and legal information are made. Individually and collectively we need to better understand the economics of legal information and build our influence in the marketplace. Expanding skills is critical to claiming our place in the future.

On a practical level, three things are needed to attract others to our profession: we have to make better salaries, we have to promote law librarianship at every opportunity, and we have to increase scholarship dollars. But inspiring others to join us takes additional tactics. I believe the most inspiring aspect of our profession is our commitment to service and to affordable legal information. We didn't become law librarians for the big bucks, the high status or the glamour! We're here because of our dedication. To inspire let's expose others to our core values and to the importance of our profession to society.

We must seek diversity through aggressive activity. Our nation's demographic makeup is changing and we want law librarianship to reflect the society we serve. Let's begin working with career counselors in high schools, colleges, library schools and law schools. Increased scholarship funds, grants and awards will encourage diversity, but additionally, law librarianship should be presented as a great career option when young men and women first think about their futures. And for those of us already in the profession, we need to insure that our community is a welcoming environment for all.

**KS:** Information is a commodity and a business needs information to sell itself. If we're visible, supporting the business goals of our employer, marketing, communicating, and creating connections between library users, we become an integral part of the parent organization. It's no accident our job titles have started migrating to "Knowledge Manager," "Chief Information Officer," and "Vice-president" or "Executive Director." Librarians who have these job titles lead our profession by example and pass along their insights and best practices. Mentoring is

synonymous with diversity; networking, mentoring, and seeking out people with specific skills helps strengthen our roles in our jobs but also strengthens our profession in general. Mentoring a diverse population of librarians and information workers and encouraging the sharing of skill sets ensures our profession will continue to flourish and produce leaders in the business of information.

The health of our profession and our association is part of a huge cycle: we learn a skill, we share it, we pass it on, we learn from others, we share it, etc. We need to give back to our profession to help it grow and stay healthy. We do this by encouraging a wide population of people with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and interests. I'm not sure we can CREATE diversity but we can encourage the INVOLVEMENT of a diverse population, achieving the same end results.

**3. Librarians have been called gatekeepers of information, but many of our library users are receiving information directly from publishers and service providers. How can we demonstrate our value to our employers? How do we convince them that we are the information experts?**

**KS:** Being an information gatekeeper can have a negative connotation of "withholding information," but I rather think we are "information consolidators" who package and synthesize information from a wide variety of sources and media to help our decision makers be more effective. Moreover, by anticipating the information needs of our users and being proactive, we demonstrate our value as the "keeper" of the institutional history. We provide the continuity in the information stream.

We, as the inside information professionals, know the value and limitations of attorney time. As gatekeepers, we make informed decisions to filter information to save key business people time and money. Of course, it's difficult to quantify the synergistic relationship between the information professional and user, but knowing the needs of users before the questions are asked creates our value and sets us apart from the outside entities that don't know the business.

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## Charley's Corner: *Of Geniuses and Librarians*

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

**Nothing in this column represents the view of my Library or its Board of Trustees. These are just my personal opinions.**

As I write this column in December 2001, Hollywood, as it usually does, is releasing a number of films simultaneously that have a similar theme. Other than the fantasies based on children's books, the main theme this year seems to be the flawed genius—the schizophrenic mathematician, the family of genius losers. The Calendar section of the *Los Angeles Times* included an article on them, with the query why is it that Hollywood must depict geniuses as always flawed somehow. First, it postulates that Hollywood does that to make the film accessible, that the rest of us can only appreciate geniuses when they too suffer like the rest of us. After all, if the common person understood what the genius actually did in his genius, then it would not have been genius, would it. Then, it goes on to postulate that there is something about geniuses, the obsessions they have, which require them to give up other things, such as an adequate sense of social life. I believe it dangerous to generalize from the various examples of genius, real or imagined, that all geniuses must somehow have a tragic flaw.

I happen to know a few geniuses who do have flaws. But for every genius whose flaw has dealt him one of life's harsher existences, I know more who enjoy comfortable lives in the midst of academia or think tanks. Their social skills do leave a lot to be desired. Often, the proverbial absent-minded professor is so preoccupied with his own thoughts that he is discourteous, too. Or they just don't get it. The law professor who can expound at length on deconstructionist theories of law as politics often fails to recognize that law students living on loans cannot afford fancy drapes in their meager apartments. And there is the judge who can write at length of precedent and economic theory but never really feels the pain of an unemployed food service worker who is getting evicted.

How do librarians fit into this? Generally, we don't have geniuses among us librarians. Most of us, in order to survive both the need for social interaction in our workplaces and the constant interruption of others whose momentary informational needs are greater than our own, give up whatever obsessional patterns one must have in order to do enough in a narrow area of endeavor to reach the rank of acknowledged genius. Yes, we can read sentences like the previous one. We

can go further and understand geniuses when they ask questions at the reference desk. We often rate very high on I.Q. tests and win at Jeopardy. But librarians don't have the time to be geniuses.

We tolerate geniuses, but we do so differently from the toleration we show the mentally ill obsessive. Geniuses don't waste our time. Much to the genius's surprise, we are more concerned for him (or her) than for the hypothesis the genius is studying. Our service is service to the person, rather than the idea.

Personally, I have had the good, bad, and mixed fortune to work with a couple of geniuses. I have found such experiences both rewarding and humbling. A couple of times, I have been able to be the muse for some very good writing about some very good ideas. Through all that, I have learned that I personally am incapable of the amount of obsession needed for true genius. But I have helped those projects in two ways.

First, I have edited the writing so that the language is no longer the writer's personal style, but one capable of being read by others. Geniuses sometimes have the habit of leaping from one point to another without transition. The logic is there, but the genius tends to leave it out as obvious when it isn't obvious to the rest of us at all.

Second, I have helped the writer get through the labyrinth of social contacts needed to get the work published or the grant awarded. Most geniuses need the help of others in ways similar to these.

Librarians translate the world of knowledge to people who have less understanding of how the world of knowledge is organized. In fact, librarians are the organizers. And when we organize, we stay mindful of the fact that we don't want a product that takes a genius to understand. When computer companies began trying to organize their data so that it doesn't take a genius to search their databases, they called on librarians. Librarians suffer fools gladly, unlike most geniuses.

I know full well that some of you will automatically think of people among your colleagues you would call geniuses. (Certainly, some of the winners of the Joseph Andrews Bibliographic Award come to mind, if you are thinking of obsessive people.) Nevertheless, I present these revelations to you in order to postulate a thesis that I think would not be negated by the existence of librarian geniuses. The world at large does not recognize librarians as geniuses, so we never win those prizes reserved for the truly great. No Nobel Prize winners. No

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MacArthur Foundation Genius Grant winners. No best-selling biographies about our inspired leaders.

Most people have heard of Richard Feynman, the prototypical genius physicist, but few know of William Frederick Poole, the inventor of the periodical index, and he was actually pretty obsessive. Many people think John Dewey invented the Dewey Decimal Classification system. There are quite a few people who work in law libraries who have never heard of the Marian Gallagher Award, the highest award given to law librarians as law librarians.

Most people marvel at the work done by geniuses. They know they could never do that. Our trouble, boys and girls, is that most people think they can do what we do, that the work of a librarian is easy and obvious. Most people cannot distinguish between the experienced librarian and the kid we hired last week to shelve books. More than a few have said to me, even after I introduce myself as the *director* of the county law library, that it must be fun to be a librarian, because you can sit and read all the time.

But I believe that times are changing. As we have seen starting salaries for librarians rise at three times the average increase in salaries since about 1995, we now find librarian positions that are compensated closer to their worth in comparison to other professions. Most corporate leaders now know that librarians, far from being replaced by computers, are more in demand than ever.

Of course, there are those who think that artificial intelligence will make computers capable of thinking like humans and that they will still someday replace librarians. But they haven't thought it through yet. A computer that thinks like a human may still be somewhat short of what would be needed. Librarians serve others so well because we are able to place ourselves in the others' positions, momentarily to "walk in their shoes," to know what makes them tick, so that we can direct them to places in the literature that can solve their problems. Not all humans, not even geniuses, can do that.

We translate the reality that is common within our society to the more narrow and often skewed reality that the individuals in front of us believe. We make assessments of the needs of library users based on all sorts of cues, including their body language, their clothes, the tempo and pitch of the questions they ask, the peculiar words they use to describe their situation. If we get to the day when an artificial intelligence computer can do all that and accurately and quickly (without a thirty-page questionnaire) address the needs of the users they face, then those computers

would have to be trained by librarians. And as our society, our culture, moves along, we librarians would have to re-train these computers.

When you think about it, we're not the ones who should worry. Computers are very good at repetitive tasks. Computers can make those calculations that used to take years within a few minutes. Computers can do what only people with obsessive personalities can do. Perhaps it is the days of the genius that are numbered.

A few tangential thoughts on my little thesis: I realize that, as the library as a place begins to disappear as a paradigm, the term "librarian" is becoming outmoded for what we do. I still like it. I believe that chat room style "live reference" over the Internet will not replace standing before an actual live reference librarian at a reference desk until it is coupled with video conferencing, not so the researcher can see the librarian, but so the librarian (cybrarian, whatever) can see the researcher.

Finally, I have been reading some rather good books lately that attempt to add some aspects of "science" to the profession of library science. I recommend John Budd's *Knowledge and Knowing in Library and Information Science: A Philosophical Framework* (Scarecrow 2001) as a good one. It is heavy reading until you get well into it, when he starts bringing library science into the discussion. Professor Budd's aim is an epistemological study of library science. He ends with an examination of modern phenomenological studies, and he admits he has not finished his search. He complains about the inability of writings in library science to address the problems he sees. Most of the problem with those writings, in my opinion (IMHO, as they say), stem from addressing the concepts, such as "service", in terms of place, i.e., a library (and thus locked in time).

It ain't the library as a place that distinguishes a library from a bookstore; it's the librarian. The librarian—the non-obsessive knower, the person who approaches knowledge always as a process, rather than an objective, sensible (in the meaning of "senses") fact. The librarian—the one who deals always in the pragmatic, getting the answer you need, rather than the Answer of All Answers.

We, as law librarians, are not relativists. We know that the patron needs a specific answer because our society requires that he knows that answer, the one that is socially, politically, judicially acceptable in his time and place. Not just any answer will do. But that answer is today's answer. It'll be different tomorrow.

I don't have an end to this column. I think I'll pick up the theme again in a later issue. But I do have a closer, for the moment. If most people are fish, swimming in the sea of knowledge, and maybe geniuses are the whales, then we must be the swans (or pelicans perhaps). We know how to

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*(Charley's Corner Continued from page 7)*

dive in and grab and come up again. We see that the sea is huge, too big to see all at once, seemingly limitless, too much for any one person. The others, stuck in the water, don't have very much perspective at all. No wonder we are so misunderstood.



## Authors Needed

### *For SCCLL Resource Guides*

*Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson*  
*Chair, Publicity/Public Relations Committee*



Would you like a chance to make a difference in our profession? Now--and for future state, court, and county law librarians? Would you like to help inform law library governing bodies and decision makers as to the importance of US? If so, have I got a deal for you!

Last year, SCCLL was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Library Relations section of Lexis-Nexis to produce a series of resource guide publications aimed at building relationships with SCCLL library decision-makers (trustees, judges, attorneys, court administrators, etc.). We are hoping to develop publications similar to the AALL Resource Guide series prepared by the PLL-SIS, if you have seen those (they are very nice). Each of our guides will be 8-12 pages in length and will contain different articles written by SCCLL members such as yourself, all centered around the theme of that particular issue.

The topic for the first resource guide is "Hiring a State, Court, and County Law Librarian." This theme was chosen because of the importance of making sure our institutions know what experience and training is required in our libraries to ensure that law libraries will receive the highest priority in the distribution of resources.

The first thing we need are SCCLL authors who desire to impart their knowledge on this issue (yes, this is where YOU fit in):

Here are some subject areas that could be explored for articles:

- needs assessment checklist
- looking at the bottom line
- the value of having a law librarian (i.e. everything is not available on the Internet, and it takes a highly skilled and knowledgeable librarian to find it in the most efficient manner)
- training, skills, education, qualifications, experience a SCCLL librarian should have
- suggested duties/responsibilities/job description of such a person
- where to effectively advertise the position
- tips for interviewing
- salary information
- hiring issues specific to SCCLL libraries (i.e. assistance vs. the unauthorized practice of law; many different types of SCCLL libraries, including state, county, city, agency, etc.)
- maximizing your investment.

Please let me hear back from you as to your interest in writing (or being interviewed) for this publication. Without contributors, the resource guides will go nowhere. I would be looking for articles to arrive in January. Please contact me for more details.

I hope to hear from you soon! Thank you for your time (and contribution, I hope). :)



*(AALL Candidates Continued from page 5)*

**JJ:** No one knows better than we how to find and evaluate legal information - no one. Waiting for our users to come to us seeking assistance is part of a bygone era. We must create opportunities to demonstrate our expertise. For users who want to be direct consumers, offer training and techniques that show mastery of electronic resources. Develop high quality web pages as portals to the best sites. Impress users with your ability to wade quickly through the mass of available information. Anyone can find abundant information these days, but it is law librarians who have the expertise to order the chaos. I think the term "gatekeeping" is far too passive to describe all we do. We're more; we're the experts!

# Candidates for 2002 SCCLL Election

Anne Morrison, Prince George's County Law Library,  
Upper Marlboro, MD  
Chair, Nominations Committee



The SCCLL Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following slate of candidates for the 2002 Spring Election. Biographies of each candidate are included in this issue of the Newsletter. Copies of the candidate's biographies will also be included with the ballots that will be mailed to every SCCLL voting member.

Further nominations may be made upon written petition of ten (10) voting members in good standing. Such petition, accompanied by written acceptance of the nominees, must be filed with the Secretary/Treasurer no later than March 15, 2002. The Secretary/Treasurer shall prepare an official ballot, including nominations by petition. The ballot will be mailed to all SIS members after March 15, 2002.

For the office of **Vice Chair/Chair-Elect**:

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

For the office of **Executive Board Member, 2002-2005**:

- Joanne Beal, Law Librarian – Dayton Law Library Association, Dayton, OH;
- Sara Galligan, Manager – Dakota County Law Library, Hastings, MN;
- Isabel Paul, Municipal Librarian – Henrico County Municipal Law Library, Richmond, VA;

Continuing on the Board will be:

**Chair**, Michael S. Miller, Maryland State Law Library;

**Past Chair**, Anita Anderson, Minnesota Office of the Attorney General;

**Secretary/Treasurer**, Cynthia Fellows, Alaska State Court Law Library; and

**Board Members**, Rita Dermody, King County Law

Library and Catherine Lehman, Law Library of Louisiana.

The Nominating Committee (consisting of Barbara Golden, Gail Warren, and Anne Morrison) was extremely pleased by the willingness of a large number of SCCLL members to serve the SIS by agreeing to be considered as candidates. Thank You!

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## SCCLL Candidate Biographies

### *Vice Chair/Chair Elect*

Charles R. Dyer  
Director of Libraries and Secretary to the Board of Trustees  
San Diego County Public Law Library  
San Diego, California

#### **Education**

BA (1969, philosophy, mathematics), JD (1974), MLS (1975), University of Texas at Austin.  
MA (1971, philosophy), Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.

#### **Certifications**

Bar Admission, 1974, Texas  
Certified Law Librarian, 1977, American Association of Law Libraries

#### **Employment Positions**

Director of Libraries and Secretary to the Board, San Diego County Public Law Library, 1987-.  
Law Librarian, law professor, University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, 1977-87.  
Associate Law Librarian, law professor, St. Louis University School of Law, 1975-77.  
Readers Services Assistant, University of Texas Tarlton Law Library, 1974-75.

#### **Professional and Community Organization Officer Positions (selected)**

Secretary, Mid-America Association of Law Libraries, 1976-78.  
Executive Board Member, AALS Section on Legal Research and Writing, 1977-78.  
Editor, Law Library Journal, 1981-84.  
Vice President, 1981-82, President, 1982-83, Southwestern  
(**SCCLL Candidates** Continued on page 10)

(**SCCLL Candidates** Continued from page 9)

Association of Law Libraries (SWALL).

Corporate Secretary, Mid-America Consortium of Law School Libraries, 1984-86.

Editor, Council of California County Law Librarians (CCCLL) newsletter, 1988-98.

Executive Board Member, Southern California Association of Law Libraries (SCALL), 1991-93.

Executive Board Member, SCCLL/SIS of AALL 1991-93.

Chair, SCCLL/SIS Trustees Development Committee, 1991-93, and chief editor/compiler, *Sourcebook for Law Library Governing Boards and Committees* (AALL Publ. #45, 1994).

Member, AALL Special Task Force on the Renaissance of Law Librarianship in the Information Age, and Chair of its Subcommittee on Recommendations, 1994-96.

Local Arrangements Chair, 1995 AALL Winter Institute, "Teaching Legal Research," San Diego.

Faculty Member, 1996 AALL Winter Institute,

"Legislative Lobbying for Libraries," Sacramento.

Member, AALL Task Force on New Funding Opportunities for Public Law Libraries, and Chair of its Subcommittee on Permanent Funding, 1997-2000.

President, CCCLL, 1998-00, and Vice President, California Conference of County Law Library Trustees and Librarians, 1998-00.

Member, Serra Cooperative Library System, Administrative Council, 1999-.

Member, SCCLL/SIS Working Group on a Model Code for County Law Libraries, 1999-.

Member, Tierra del Sol Regional Library Network Board of Directors (Region VI, Library of California), 2000-.

Member, Project Area Committee, Centre City Development Corporation, City of San Diego Redevelopment Agency, San Diego, CA, 2000-.

Chair, Legislation Committee, CCCLL, 2000-.

Member, Centre City Advisory Committee, City of San Diego, San Diego, CA, 2001-.

Member, Relocation Appeal Board, City of San Diego, 2001-.

Member, West Group Scholarship Advisory Board, 2001-.

### **Awards and Honors**

Service Award, SWALL, 1983.

Appreciation Award, AALL, 1984.

Exceptional Service Award, San Diego County Bar Association, 1990.

Appreciation Award, SCCLL/SIS, 1994.

Connie Bolden Publication Award, SCCLL/SIS, 1996, for the *Sourcebook* (noted above).

William Rohan Chapter Service Award, SCALL, 1997.

### **Current Professional Memberships**

State Bar of Texas, 1974-.

AALL, 1974-.

SCALL, 1987-.

Council of California County Law Librarians, 1987-.

California Conference of County Law Library Trustees and Librarians, 1987-.

ALA, 1988-.

Library Information and Technology Association, 1988-.

San Diego County Bar Association (associate member), 1988-.

Membership-Subscription Law Libraries Round Table, 1989-.

Public Library Association, 1990-.

California Library Association, 1990-.

San Diego Area Law Librarians (SANDALL), since it started in 1998.

### **Publications and Presentations** (other than those mentioned above)

Local editor and compiler for Judge Robert C. Coates' book, *A Street Is Not a Home: Solving America's Homeless Dilemma* (Prometheus Books 1990).

Co-Author (with Shirley David, Janice Milliken, and Pat Pfremer), *CCCLL Trustees Manual* (Council of California County Law Librarians, 3d edition, 1992).

Author, "A Short Look at Twenty-Five Years of the *Law Library Journal*," 75 *Law Library Journal* 187-191 (1982).

Author, "Having Done It Before, What Makes Me Want To Do It Again," 93 *Law Library Journal* 556-558 (2001).

Other than the writing and editing mentioned above, most other writing has been short articles for local bar newsletters and legal newspapers, annual reports and library guides, and similar items in connection with my position. I also co-wrote (with Carol Boast) the first Author's Guide for the *Law Library Journal* (1982). Since September 1999, I have written an opinion column for the SCCLL SIS Newsletter called "Charley's Corner."

I make three or four presentations to local sections of the bar or community groups each year and appear regularly before several city councils, my county board of supervisors, and occasionally the California Legislature. While at St. Louis University and UMKC, I taught both large classes and seminars. I trained 1,700 lawyers in legal research and writing.

**Brief Statement:** Having served on several SCCLL SIS committees and having taken a turn on the Executive Board, I have been fortunate enough to observe several SIS Vice Chairs / Chairs at work. Frankly, most are better organized than me and were good at getting a large number of people leading in the same direction. Each also had a personal touch that has certainly added value to our section. I will have to work hard to be sure that the SIS stays in top form during my tenure, but I have had good teachers.

According to the Winter 2001 survey, most members are

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(SCCLL Candidates Continued from page 10)

quite pleased with the SIS itself. They want help in explaining what they do to the courts, the bar, and the public, i.e., some good public relations ideas. The Strategic Planning Committee (our Executive Board) plans to help SIS members do more writing for bar association newsletters. The Committee also wants us to recruit more members, especially younger ones to replace our "graying population." Given my background and continued work in editing, writing, recruiting, and mentoring, it is apparent that the Nominations Committee looked at the Strategic Plan and decided to call me. So we shall work together on this. We are going to have some good programs. I also hope that from this initiative we will develop more aggressive plans for reaching and helping small county law libraries.

As for my own ideas, many know that I am greatly concerned with the methods of finance under which many county law libraries and some state law libraries suffer. Income based on fees does not automatically adjust for inflation. Our public law libraries need stable income. The Model County Law Library Working Group is a good start, but we will need strong advocacy to get these ideas sold to legislators, governors and judges. Access to legal information should be seen as a basic right in a free democratic society. We need to start by winning over the rest of AALL membership.

I am also concerned that our own governments often fall down on getting their materials out to everyone. When there are successes, it is often law librarians from within our SIS that have pulled it off. From the Social Law Library's Massachusetts Administrative Decisions to the Montana State Law Library's appellate briefs website, we have good examples. We can and should make a difference.

Lastly, we need to include more programming and effort for the members of our SIS from governmental agency law libraries and bar association libraries.

One part of the Strategic Plan calls for the chair to appoint new members to committees. Expect a call.

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## Executive Board

**Name:** Joanne (Jody) Beal

**Title:** Director of the Dayton Law Library Association

**Education:** M.S.L.S., Case Western Reserve University – 1971. B.A., Butler University – 1970.

## Professional Affiliations & Activities:

**State, Court & County SIS** – 1977 to present; recent activities include - Model County Law Library Working Group, 2001-2002; Publicity/PR Committee, 2000-2001; Nominations Committee, 1999-2000.

**AALL** – 1975 to present; recent activities include – Annual Meeting Program Selection Committee, 1996 - 1997; Chapter Relations Task Force, 1996-1997.

**ORALL** – 1972 to present; recent activities include – Nominations Committee, 2002; Outstanding Service Award Recipient, 2000; President, 1996 – 1997; Vice President, 1995-1996; Fiftieth Anniversary Committee, 1996-1999. Program Coordinator, Northeast Regional Conference, Toronto, 1996.

**Supreme Court of Ohio Criminal Justice Commission** – Subcommittee Member on Fine Distributions, 1997-1999.

## Recent Presentations:

"How Local Can You Go? SCCLL Web Sites" Table Display AALL Annual Meeting, Minneapolis (2001).  
"Looking Down the Business End of a County Law Library" ORALL Annual Meeting, Lexington (2000).  
"CDs, Science or Sorcery?" Acquisitions Roundtable, ORALL Annual Meeting, Maumee Bay, 1995.  
"Law Librarian's Quality of Life," AALL Annual Meeting, Minneapolis 1990.

## Recent Publications:

"Proud of Our Packaging" SCCLL Newsletter, Winter 2002  
"SCCLL, Pronounced *Skill*" AALL Spectrum, July, 2001  
*The First Fifty Years of the Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries*, 1999  
"President's Column" ORALL Newsletter, 1996-1997;

## Brief Statement:

It would be very difficult to improve upon the professional quality of the endeavors undertaken by individual SCCLL Members or the organization as a whole. The recently released "Final County Law Library Standards Draft" is indicative of such a superior level of commitment, training, and integrity. Between the work of the Model County Law Library Working Group and the published Standards, it is apparent that SCCLL is an organization that can effectively assess and impact the institutions and governing authorities of many of its members.

Although a primary mission of SCCLL has been to support public access to the law, I believe that, at this time, our SCCLL institutions are poised to improve the delivery of our quality services to those in AALL whose law libraries are shrinking and suffering due to limited funds and space. SCCLL could develop programs and initiatives that emphasize the benefits of our institutions to law firms and governmental entities with faltering collections. I recommend that a joint program be planned combining the talents of law librarians in private firms with librarians who serve a local bar in order to identify what needs of private

(SCCLL Candidates Continued on page 13)

## SCCLL Announcements

# Maryland State Law Library Heightens Access to Its Services for the Deaf, Hearing and Speech Dis- abled

Mike Miller  
Maryland State Law Library



What does it mean for a library to be truly accessible? Realizing that open access to information is a lot more than just throwing open the door to the courthouse law library and saying, "Come on down", the State Law Library in Annapolis, MD. has gone the extra mile and now uses assistive technology to open its information and reference services to the deaf and hearing and speech disabled populations.

A review of recent statistics compiled on MDTAP's (Md. Technology Assistance Program/Governor's Office for Individuals with Disabilities) tells us that there are over 28 million Americans considered deaf or hearing disabled and that there are roughly 242,000 Marylanders with a serious hearing disability and 52,000 afflicted with speech disorders.

Accessibility to the courts in our State is one of the major tenets of Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals. Public law libraries are stakeholders in this vital mission, and now the State Law Library has taken a major step forward in providing more meaningful and direct access for this special population of citizens who also have a need to find more information about the law and their government

Breaking down barriers to access by employing technology is making our jobs increasingly more productive and relevant. The system in place at the library as of November 15, 2001 is the TeleSonic Communication System, an interactive system allowing callers with a TTY (tele-typewriter), TTD(text telephone), or a computer, to talk directly to law library reference/research staff and communicate directly in a "conversation" on the PC. This system, similar to instant messaging on a computer, gives customers privacy by eliminating the intermediary used by traditional relay systems. Callers

can access the service by entering a toll-free in-State number 1-877-233-3871, or at (410) 260-1571. Hearing disabled visitors to the library can also use two public access workstations to communicate directly with Information Desk staff .

The library's biggest job initially will be getting the word out that this new service is available. Inquiries about the service should be forwarded to Shirley Aronson or Mike Miller at the library at (410) 260-1430, or e-mail [mike.miller@courts.state.md.us](mailto:mike.miller@courts.state.md.us)

## \$\$\$ MONEY \$\$\$

Ana Hinman, Washoe County Law Library, Reno, NV  
Chair, Grants Committee

Now that I have your attention, I thought you might be interested in knowing that the SCCLL Grants Committee has money to help members go to the 2002 AALL Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida! Grants will be made on the basis of financial need, proven potential ability, and promise of future usefulness and permanence in the law library profession.

Applications and recommendations must be sent by first class mail within two weeks of the annual meeting registration packet mailing to members, or April 15<sup>th</sup>, whichever is latest. The grant rules and application form are on the web at <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/sccll/grants.htm>.

If you have questions about the grant application process, please contact Ana Hinman ([ahinman@mail.co.washoe.nv.us](mailto:ahinman@mail.co.washoe.nv.us) or 775-328-3095).

(See Connie Von Der Heide's article about being a recipient of an SCCLL grant for the 2001 meeting on page 16. ED)

Marnie Warner reports that the Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries strategic plan is available on their web site (<http://www.lawlib.state.ma.us>)

# SCCLL Awards Committee

## *A Call for Nominations:*

### *The Connie E. Bolden Publications Award*

Donna Bausch, Norfolk Law Library

Deadline: March 30, 2002

The Awards Committee welcomes nominations for the Connie E. Bolden Publications Award from SCCLL members. To make a nomination, please include the following information:

- Full name and current address of the nominee
- Current and past employment of the nominee
- Short narrative explaining why the nominee should receive this award
- Your contact information, should the Awards Committee require additional information.

About the Award: Given triennially at the SCCLL Annual Meeting, the Connie E. Bolden Publications Award is presented to a State, Court and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section member to recognize scholarly publication.

The deadline for submitting nominations is March 30, 2002. Send or e-mail copies of nominations to:

Donna K. Bausch, Law Librarian  
Norfolk Law Library  
999 Waterside Dr. #1300  
Norfolk, VA 23510

Nominations may also be submitted via email to:  
[nlawlib@infi.net](mailto:nlawlib@infi.net)

## Past Recipients

- 1999 Kendall F. Svengalis for *Legal Information Buyer's Guide & Reference Manual*
- 1996 Charles R. Dyer for *Sourcebook for Law Library Governing Boards and Committees*
- 1993 Kendall F. Svengalis for his work on *The CRIV Sheet*.

### Awards Committee members:

Donna Bausch, Norfolk Law Library  
Judy Meadows, State Law Library of Montana  
Peggy Rogers, Chair, National Center for State Courts  
Ted Smith, North Dakota Supreme Court Law Library

*(SCCLL Candidates Continued from page 11)*

firms are left unanswered and how they can best be met. A survey prepared by SCCLL for the members of the PLL-SIS might net some interesting results as well.

As we continue to reach outward to the general public, the efforts of SCCLL to also work within AALL and to collaborate with PLL members would certainly showcase the well-rounded professional capabilities of our organizations.

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**Name:** Sara Galligan  
**Job Title:** Law Library Manager  
**Library Name:** Dakota County Law Library, Hastings, Minnesota.

**Education:** J.D. William Mitchell College of Law; M.P.A. University of Michigan--Dearborn; M.S.L.S. Wayne State University; B.A Michigan State University.

**Professional Affiliations:** AALL, 1986-; Minnesota Association of Law Libraries (MALL) 1986-; Minnesota Library Association; American Bar Association; Minnesota State Bar Association

**Publications:** Book reviewer, Legal Information Alert, 1993-;  
Book Review: Law v. Life: What Lawyers are Afraid to Say about the Legal Profession, 75 Michigan Bar Journal 177 (Feb. 1996);  
Books of Definition (editor), Minnesota State Law Library, 1998  
County Law Library Cataloging by the Minnesota State Law Library: a Ten Year Review, 86 Law Library Journal 529-540 (Summer 1994)  
The Information Resources Specialist as Group Facilitator in an Organization Setting; 76 Special Libraries 246-252 (Fall 1985)

**Presentations:** *New Opportunities Through Collaboration: The Minnesota Model*, 2001 AALL Annual Meeting  
MLA Fall 2001 Lecturer, *Basic Legal Research*  
MELSA Spring 2001 Lecturer, *Basic Legal Research*  
MALL Legal Research Institute, Fall 1999 Lecturer

**Brief Statement:** After quite a few years working in law library technical services at the Minnesota State Law Library, I moved into county law library management in May 2000. SCCLL's leadership has been very helpful to me, especially with regard to trustee development, strategic planning, law library standards

*(SCCLL Candidates Continued on page 19)*

# IFLA Program at the Middlesex Law Library

Sandy Lindheimer, Head Law Librarian  
Middlesex Law Library, Cambridge, MA

The Middlesex Law Library (Trial Court of Massachusetts Law Libraries) sponsored a program by the IFLA Section on Government Libraries on Aug. 23, 2001 as part of the 67<sup>th</sup> General Conference of IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions). The program was titled: Strategies for Recognition: How to Promote Government Library Services. Government libraries are often struggling to get appropriate recognition. IT, cooperation with other units/libraries, new means for customer relations are some ways to change the image and status.

This was truly an international program. Speakers came from London, Helsinki, Kenya, Stockholm, Denver and Boston. Attendees represented the following countries: Canada, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Slovenia, Sweden, UK and US.

As the program unfolded, it became clear that librarians the world over dealt with similar issues and were working on novel approaches to solve some of these issues. After the program, the attendees toured the Middlesex Law Library. In general, they were very impressed by the freedom of access for the public to our collection and various legal databases.

I have been a librarian for 25 years, and I would have to say that this program was one of the most exciting events I have personally been involved with.

## Silent Auction in Orlando

*Regina Smith*  
*Silent Auction Coordinator 2001-2002*

It may be early to begin thinking about the AALL Annual Meeting in Orlando in July 2002, but SCCLL held a very successful "Silent Auction" at its Sunday morning business meeting in Minneapolis. We raised more than \$1,500 and people went away with some spectacular gifts, including getaways to a beach house in California and to a guesthouse in the mountains of Montana.

We plan to do it again this year and perhaps you can start rummaging through what is around in your home or possibly "regift" that holiday present that you don't know what to do with. Maybe you could even use that Border's gift certificate to purchase something to donate, whatever\*.

### **New Members**

*Compiled by Amanda Collins, 11th Circuit Court Library, Mobile, AL*

Laura Harris  
Colorado Supreme Court Library  
B-112 State Judicial Building  
2 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Antonio Bucci  
Arizona Department of Library Archives  
and Public Records  
Research Division-Collection  
Development  
1501 Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

### **Member News**

Marcia J. Koslov is now Deputy Law Librarian for the Tarlton Law Library at the University of Texas at Austin School of Law. Formerly Director of Knowledge Management at the National Center for State Courts, Marcia assumed her new position January 2, 2002.

Jerry Stephens, of the US Courts Library in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma has been elected Director-at-large for the Oklahoma Chapter of the Special Libraries Association. This is a two-year appointment to the board of directors serving from 2001 until 2003.

I will post a form on the listserv this spring requesting donations and prepare an online version of the catalog prior to the annual meeting. You can do your part by thinking about what you might wish to donate. We will also need volunteers to help with the auction and that request will also go out this spring.

Thanks.



# AALL Committee Announcements

## Call For Papers

Karen Beck  
AALL Call for Papers Committee

Have you been thinking about writing an article about law librarianship? Are you already writing an article and just need a little incentive to finish? If you answered yes to either, 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. Participating in the Call for Papers competition is a great way to get noticed by your colleagues, win some money, and contribute to our profession.

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.

The papers may address any subject relevant to law librarianship. The papers may be scholarly or practical in substance and tone; the subject should be explored in depth with appropriate reference to sources and documentation. Past winners have written about a wide range of topics, including foreign law, technology, research instruction and reference services, legal history and bibliography, copyright, and trends in law librarianship.

Authors may enter in one of three divisions:

- *Open Division*: Current AALL members who have been members for five or more years.
- *New Members Division*: Current AALL members who have been members of AALL for fewer than five years.
- *Student Division*: Currently enrolled in library school or a law school. Students need not be members of AALL.

No paper that has been published or accepted for publication before March 1, 2002 will be eligible for consideration.

Visit AALLNET at [http://www.aallnet.org/about/award\\_call\\_for\\_papers.asp](http://www.aallnet.org/about/award_call_for_papers.asp) for more information, including substantive and form requirements, application procedures, judgment criteria. Submissions must be postmarked by March 1, 2002. Good luck!

Questions? Contact a member of the Call for Papers Committee: Maria Protti (chair) at [maria\\_protti@ci.sf.ca.us](mailto:maria_protti@ci.sf.ca.us), Karen Beck at [beckka@bc.edu](mailto:beckka@bc.edu), or Marie-Louise Bernal at [mber@loc.gov](mailto:mber@loc.gov).

## 2002 AALL Annual Meeting/Workshop Grants

*Deadline: April 1, 2002*

Michelle Pearse  
AALL Grants Committee

The AALL Grants Committee is now accepting applications for grants for the 2002 AALL Annual Meeting/Workshops. The AALL Grants Program provides financial assistance to law librarians or library school students who hold promise of future involvement in AALL and the law library profession. Funds are provided by vendors, AALL and individual members. Grants cover registration costs at either the Annual Meeting or Workshops. Preference is given to newer, active members of AALL or of its chapters. For additional information, including the application form, see [http://www.aallnet.org/services/grant\\_application.asp](http://www.aallnet.org/services/grant_application.asp). The deadline for applications is April 1, 2002.

## Just Write It!

Ana Hinman, AALL Publications Committee Liaison to Conference of Newsletter Editors  
Washoe County Law Library, Reno, NV

Are you frustrated because mainstream law library publications don't discuss key issues for your law library? Do you have a great idea that you want to share with other librarians? Or, maybe you've already written a short article for a newsletter that you know deserves a more lengthy discussion.

The AALL Publication Committee (<http://www.aallnet.org/committee/publications/>) is looking for publication proposals and wants to help law librarians get their terrific ideas into print. The publication proposal form is conveniently located on the web at <http://www.aallnet.org/committee/publications/proposal.htm>. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at 775-328-3095 or [ahinman@mail.co.washoe.nv.us](mailto:ahinman@mail.co.washoe.nv.us).

# My Minneapolis Experience

Connie Von Der Heide  
Wisconsin State Law Library  
Recipient of the SCCLL Grant to attend AALL '01



I'm one of those people who tries to experience a little of everything, so I was very busy at this year's AALL annual conference at the Minneapolis Convention Center and Hilton hotel, which is just the way I like it! The opportunities for learning, sharing, leading, participating, meeting new people, seeing old friends and celebrating were all there for the taking.

This year's theme was New Realities, New Roles, and offered over seventy educational programs describing and illustrating the changes happening in our profession and how we're trying to deal with them. I attended programs that described cutting edge technology for virtual and live reference 24/7; demonstrated top-notch government web sites; explained how to integrate technology into legal research teaching; described cutting edge knowledge management applications; explained the CLE accreditation process and suggested ways to develop training programs that are well attended. One of my favorite sessions was called "Facing Reality: The Death of the Reference Desk?" Three panelists, each representing an academic, a firm and a public law library discussed whether a traditional reference desk setting is still needed to provide effective reference service. Christine Ryan at Vermont Law School Library and Susan Siebers at Katten Muchin Zavis both work in libraries without reference desks and said that works well for them. Christine said their users often go directly to librarian offices, and librarians also do "roaming reference" out on the floor. Susan's library has a staff work room with windows looking out into the library. Staff can watch for customers while working at their desks,

(Minneapolis Continued on page 17)

# Proud Of Our Packaging

Joanne Beal  
Dayton Law Library Association, Dayton, OH

Have you ever received a gift that was packaged inside an exquisite box? Perhaps it was a gift that was received a long time ago and the box was simply too nice to discard. Attics, basements, and the top shelves of

closets are filled with such treasures. Others are put into immediate use, generally following the phrase; "this is the perfect box for...". Maybe it is a hinged, wooden box with a clasp; or stiff cardboard covered with attractive paper and tied with ribbon. For whatever reason, the box is deemed too pretty to discard or sturdy enough to be reused in another manner.

How much like these useful containers are libraries? Sturdy, functional, versatile, and exquisite; libraries are highly prized institutions whose services eclipse the value of their contents. Libraries are not collections; they possess collections. Like a gift box that is reused, the contents might change yet a library continues to serve as the receptacle of an unconditional present.

Libraries offer understanding, not just information. More today than ever, the hallmark of a library is not what is within its walls or within the reach of its telecommunications system, but its helpful assistance. All the present day descriptive phrases certainly ring true, *libraries without walls, click and mortar not brick and mortar, surf with your cybrarian*. However, more often than not, the people who count the most sell themselves short by not emphasizing what they do and how they think, but instead promote what they have or where they can get it.

Today's library is not a list of web sites and electronic products any more than yesterday's library was a card catalog and ranges filled with books. Now, as then, many patrons prefer to browse alone whether in the stacks or on the web; but just as many will ask for guidance or assistance. And most assuredly, what made the difference then, makes the difference now. The people. Librarians are intuitive and they think. They assess and they remember. The information specialists and the supporting organization is the real library.

Thirty years ago a well seasoned reference librarian responded to a question from a library school student. "If I could have only three items on my desk to use on a busy day, I'd choose a copy of *The World of Learning*, a telephone, and a bawdy novel to read between questions." Certainly not to diminish the importance of the nearly half million books in her collection, she tried to make the point that what goes on inside the head of a librarian is extremely valuable. A trained specialist develops the ability to divine the crux of a question, determine what type of information is needed to satisfy the request, and decide where that type of information is most likely to be found. It's this human effort that makes obtaining the information so much easier.

The means through which information is channeled continues to evolve. From Guttenberg till now the

(Proud Continued on page 17)

*(Proud Continued from page 16)*

methods of information retrieval have progressed at an alarming rate. In recent times, librarians themselves have pushed the capabilities of information providers. Unchanged; however, are those three needs of the patron that must be met. They need someone to divine, to determine and to help them decide.

On a larger scale, equally important is the purpose and the activities of the organizations that support libraries. The foresight of so many of history's finest minds has been the cornerstone of the growth and development of mercantile libraries, public libraries, university libraries, and private libraries. Buildings and reading rooms and collections are named for these people because others have recognized the value of their efforts in providing for an organization that will serve as a fount of knowledge and a repository for information as well as minister to the needs of its patrons.

A warehouse of books is not a library. A bookstore is not a library. A library is a web of books and media and telecommunications and the specialists who understand what is beyond a title page or a URL. Above that, a library is the institution that puts it all together and the trustees who cautiously administer its goals and preserve its existence.

Like a beautiful gift box that has been passed down, a library is a versatile and timeless treasure that can hold either ancient tomes or downloaded MP3s or information in yet unknown formats. Without a doubt, the exquisite qualities of a true "library" and its future as a mainstay of society are both secure and unshakable.

## *Thinking Out Loud*

*Joanne Beal*

*Dayton Law Library Association, Dayton, OH*

What if the word *library* was also a verb?

What if the purpose of information specialists was *to library*?

**Li-brar-y** (lī' brer' ē), *n., pl.* –brar-ies. 1. a place set apart to contain books and other materials along with access to remote information sources for the purpose of examination, study, or enjoyment. –*v.*, 2. **to** organize and manage a collection of books, publications and information sources in various formats for the use of others in performing research or for recreation. 3. **to** examine, review, evaluate and assess information for the purpose of dissemination to others engaged in research, study, or critique. 4. **to** minister to those who seek information, books, or other materials for the purpose of study or enjoyment.

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and some customers will go directly there for assistance. Judith Meadows, State Law Library of Montana, said that in her experience a public law library needs a reference or information desk. Many of their library users would not be comfortable approaching a librarian working in an office. And, without a reference desk, the circulation desk would become a triage reference desk. All three panelists agreed that reference work must be proactive; librarians need to be approachable, must anticipate user needs, and must market their services to make users better aware of what reference service is.

The annual meeting is also where much of the business of the Association takes place. I attended the business meetings of both SCCLL SIS and LISP SIS, where I learned more about the activities and projects of these groups, participated in development of some program proposals for AALL 2002, and put faces with many of the names I'd read in the SIS newsletters and the AALL Spectrum.

As the vice-president of my local AALL chapter, I took advantage of chapter leadership sessions on effective

program planning and public relations, where I met others in leadership roles and took away great ideas to try back here in Wisconsin. 2001-2002 AALL President Barbara Bintliff spoke at the Chapter/SIS Leadership Luncheon. She told us to be responsive to our chapter and SIS members; find out what they want and need from our organizations. And, have a plan; this will help retain, satisfy, and attract members. She said chapter and SIS leaders must also be good delegators, to get more people involved and give a sense of ownership.

I also visited some local libraries. The SCCLL SIS reception was held at the Minneapolis branch of the Eighth Circuit Court Library, located on the eleventh floor of the U. S. Courthouse building downtown. Attendees were treated to great jazz music and fabulous views of the downtown area. The Minnesota State Law Library in St. Paul gave a wonderful tour of their facility and the new Minnesota Supreme Court hearing room. I also took a tour of the printing operation at West Group in Eagan. The size of 56 football fields, it was quite impressive.

The exhibit hall was filled with opportunities for learning  
*(Minneapolis Continued on page 18)*

*(Minneapolis Continued from page 17)*

about new products and services, and about the activities of the special interest sections and chapters of AALL.

And of course, it wouldn't be an AALL conference without some great parties! LexisNexis hosted the Opening Reception where Charlie Brown, Laura Ingalls and other famous characters with Minnesota ties greeted us. West Group continued the Minnesota theme with an evening with Garrison Keillor followed by dancing to the sounds of Tower of Power. The Association Luncheon was a special occasion for me this year. The Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin received an AALL Excellence in Marketing Award for Best Use of Technology, for a series of hands-on Internet legal research CLE courses we developed and taught in partnership with the State Bar of Wisconsin.

I want to thank the SCCLL SIS for awarding me their grant for AALL 2001. Without it, I would not have been able to attend. It was a fantastic experience, and I came home with lots of inspiration and ideas, and many new friends and connections in the profession. If you're considering attending a future AALL annual meeting and could use some financial assistance, I encourage you to apply for this grant. The benefits you reap will be more than just monetary!



## For Library Trustees, Library Committee Members and Their Librarians

### *Sound Bites*

*Shirley H. David, Director, Sacramento County Public Law Library Trustees Development Committee Co-chair*

When asked at the 2001 Trustees Caucus Roundtable discussion how law librarians can keep trustees up-to-date on library trends and developments, one trustee said, "give them sound bites they can use." He went on to suggest memos patterned after Eisenhower reports. I had to do some research about what he meant by that. Apparently when President Eisenhower was a field officer he was known for his succinct yet excellent reports. Librarians were also cautioned to keep in mind Perry's quote "Speeches cannot be made long enough for the speakers, nor short enough for the hearers."

So, in order to entice library board and committee members to attend the 2002 Annual meeting in Orlando, Florida, July 20, 2001 – July 24, 2001, I begin by using

some sound bites from those who reported to their local library associations their experiences.

**Sound bites from 2001 Annual Meeting.** "I am a research hound from way back, however, and I am a fierce believer in everyone's right to access the law, wherever it is set forth. The AALL Conference reinforced my belief that it is the community of law librarians of this country that is upholding this right, despite many technical, budgetary, and ideological impediments." -Carly Hegle, Sacramento County Bar Association Law Library Committee Chair, NOCALL VIP, November/December 2001 NOCALL News

"The present is the past. The present is the future.' Those inspiring words from Judge Edward Toussaint at the trustees' luncheon became the theme for my first attendance at an AALL national convention. ... I learned from Gary Price ...the quality of the Internet is still an issue. ...Troy Johnson and Terry Dick... informed me of the bright future of the Electronic Book Readers. ... Richard Jost, Georgia Briscoe, and Susan Golner explored for me the difference between the past when libraries were first automated, and the present, when many libraries need to migrate to new systems to handle the increasing complexity of the future. Finally, Beth Langton and Kate Kennedy taught me the pain of downsizing the large library in the present to fit budget and space constraints -- while at the same time trying to maintain a good mix of print and electronic resources for the future. Edward, as Judge Toussaint prefers to be called, told us that we build our house one nail at a time. If our workmanship is shoddy, we will have to live with it the rest of our lives. The present is the past. The present is the future." Susanne Grossman, Dakota County Law Library MALL Newsletter, September/October 2001.

... "Obviously, my focus was on the (State, Court and) County Law Library Special Interest Section, and I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet county law librarians from so many areas, and learned that the problems – and solutions – are universal. As I stated in my application for a grant to the CCCLL, I focused on finances and fund-raising. (A sub-focus was acronyms. I can now say things like "CCCLL" and know what I am talking about.) I attended several presentations on fund-raising and financial matters, in addition to raising the issue with other representative of County Law Libraries attending the convention. Because of these programs and discussion, I

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(Trustees Continued from page 18)

have changed some of my views. I had thought that the county public law libraries were as much of a public resource as the streets, parks and fire stations; they are a necessary service to the taxpayers and should be paid for solely out of public funds. I no longer hold that view. It was clear to me that none of the county law libraries are able to sustain themselves solely on the basis of public funds, whatever their source. I was a little surprised that the reliance on filing fees to pay for county law libraries is nearly universal throughout the United States and that all of them are underfunded. ... In short, we all have the same problems." David B. Oberholtzer, Board of Trustees, San Diego County Public Law Library. *Report to Conference of California County Law Trustees and Librarians*, September 2001.

**2002 Annual Meeting Events for Trustees.** Mark your calendars.:

- **Saturday, July 20, 2002, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Trustees Caucus Roundtable** – In order to become a special interest section of AALL a group must first caucus for at least three years. A group of library trustees and their librarians have been meeting at the conference for five years to discuss issues of mutual interests, learn more about the AALL, and to share tips on making the annual meeting a positive experience. The roundtable orientation session of the Caucus has been dubbed a mini-CONNELL for trustees. CONELL is an all day orientation session. Our orientation session is only two hours but will give us some time to share our challenges and successes at our local libraries. Last year we were able to add the roundtable orientation immediately after the Librarians and Trustees Luncheon on Sunday. This year, there is an excellent program "Value-added or Value-denied: John Q. Public and the Legal Information Marketplace" sponsored by the SCCLL SIS in the 1:15 p.m. Sunday time slot. One of the first things you learn when you attend an AALL annual meeting is that there are not enough time slots to fit in all that you would like to do.
- **Sunday, July 21, 2002, 11:45 – 1:00 p.m. – SCCLL – SIS Librarians and Trustees Luncheon** – This luncheon is the second activity of the trustees caucus. Also, the luncheon is a time to meet one other and discuss common areas of interest on an informal basis. Each year a trustee addresses the group. This luncheon is a ticketed event. You must pre-register for the luncheon and pre-pay for the event. Look for the registration deadline in the annual meeting preliminary program booklet. This year the luncheon charge is \$39. The main course will be penne pasta with grilled shrimp. There will also be a vegetarian option.

**Getting To Orlando.** From the sound bites of recent library trustee AALL annual meeting attendees, it is easy to conclude they agree that by attending the conference they broaden their understanding of how legal information is or can be delivered to their constituents. You may note that Carly Hegle, Susanne Grossman, and David Oberholtzer all received travel grants to attend the meeting in Minneapolis. Grants are available through AALL local chapters, and other local law library organizations.

(SCCLL Candidates Continued from page 13)

and emphasis upon public access to legal information. These efforts are critical measures of ongoing success for SCCLL members. I would be pleased to work with the SCCLL Board to contribute to the ongoing business of this productive group.

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**Name:** Isabel Paul

**Title:** Librarian

**Library Name:** Henrico Government & Law Library

**Education:** B.A. Temple University; M.S.L.S. Drexel University; M.A. (Political Science) Marshall University

**Professional Affiliations:** AALL, VALL

**Publications:** Editor & Reviser, "Administrative Law" in *A Guide to Legal Research in Virginia*, 2d ed. Charlottesville: Virginia Law Foundation, 1994 and 1997 supplement.

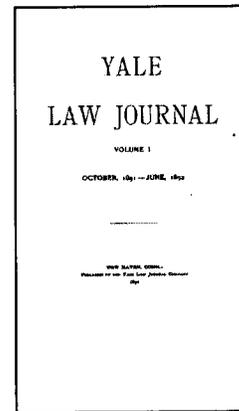
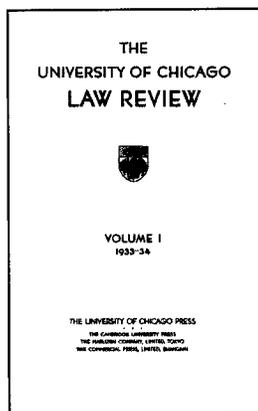
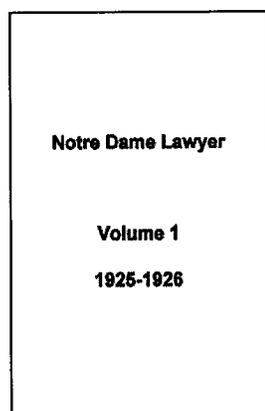
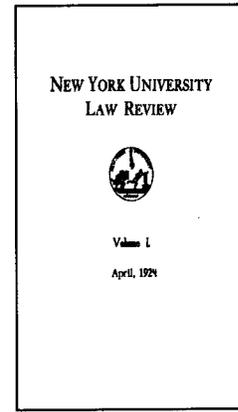
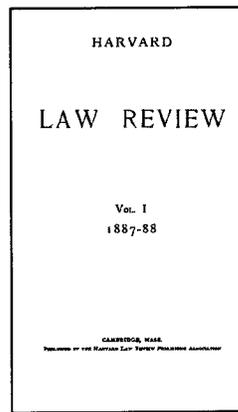
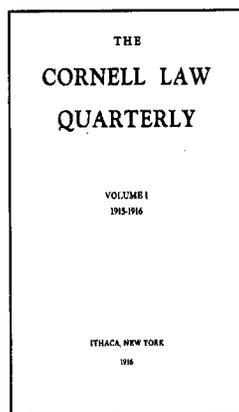
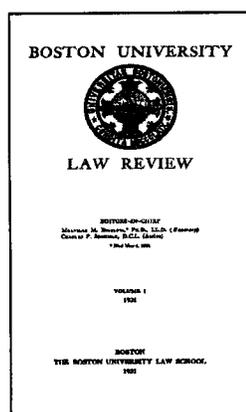
**Presentations:** VALL Annual Meeting, 1991: *Collection Development in the Small Law Library*  
AALL Annual Meeting, 1992, Post-Conference Workshop on Basic Acquisitions: *Selecting Government Documents*  
VALL Annual Meeting, 1996: *Local/Municipal Resources*  
VALL Annual Meeting, 1997: *Mergers and Acquisitions: How Publisher Mergers Have Affected Your Pocketbook* (panelist )  
VALL Annual Meeting, 2001: *A Little Law: A Dangerous Thing* (panelist)

**Brief Statement:** One of the most exciting changes for our SIS in the last few years has been the adoption and implementation of the Strategic Plan. I believe the Plan is a marvelous goal-setting mechanism for our organization, especially since it allows for a shift in priorities as goals are met. In other words, it is not a static document.

Having worked on various SCCLL committees over the years, I would love the challenge of taking a broader view of our SIS. This Board Member position would afford me the opportunity to take that view and to contribute to future strategic planning.

Winner of the 2001 American Association of Law Libraries  
Best New Product Award!

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