View from the Chair

Mid-winter Musings from Mike

Michael S. Miller, SCCLL Chair
Maryland State Law Library

Here it is, December 29th, that “no man’s land” between Christmas and New Year’s when most of us have fallen off that treadmill of workday routines. We now bow down to the gods of shopping mall sales, anticipate visits and partying with family and friends, root for our favorite collegiate or NFL football team who have found themselves in one of those endless post-season quests for gridiron immortality. Add to this fun mix the apocalyptic thundering hooves of government fiscal analysts screaming that the sky (revenue) is falling and that “big time” belt tightening is in the offing even for our libraries meager budgets. (does your collection development policy have a contingency clause addressing falling skies?) Thank the stars that my library’s (MSLL) recruitment for a head cataloger and a new outreach services librarian was completed one day before the Chief’s “Dear Mike” memo announcing a rigid hiring freeze made its way to my desk. Then there are those cost containment action memos for the remainder of FY 2003.

We can all learn from the current fiscal crisis being experienced by state and local governments (can the feds be far behind?) all across the U.S. It has happened before and it will happen again – most of us remember the early 1990’s. It forces us to look carefully at our operating budgets and rethink strategies, initiatives and priorities. It highlights the importance of having in place a set of realistic and up-to-date standards for resources and competencies we must offer our customers. It is a time that cries out for astute marketing practices promoting the value of law librarians and the services we can bring to our community of users. Although your SIS chair has never claimed to be a visionary, my theme this year, “uniting behind a clear vision”, is more critical today then just a few short months ago. To be a relevant SIS for all of our membership (529 as of 9/30/02) the Executive Board, SIS Committee chairs and their working stiffs are committed to implementing the charges and upcoming revitalized strategic plan that will address our goal of uniting behind that clear vision.

The recital of a status report on committee efforts this time of the year can be described as lean. There are, you see, procrastinators among us and as many of us can attest to, we do our best work at the last minute. We have our first Resource Guide (How to Hire…) in hand and three more in the mill (thanks to Anita Anderson, Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson, et al); the SIS web site has been re-designed and promises significant new and practical content (send your offerings to Joelle Grisham); we have great program offerings for Seattle compliments of the Education

(Continued on page 4)
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Articles and forms should be submitted via electronic mail to:
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The State, Court & County Law Libraries SIS does not assume any responsibility for the statements advanced by the contributors in this newsletter. The opinions expressed in SCCLL News are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SCCLL SIS.

SCCLL News
Editor’s Etchings
Nominations Sought for AALL Awards

Mary Ann Parker
Department of Water Resources
Sacramento, CA

This issue begins Volume 29. First or all, please note the new color scheme and a new SCCLL logo on the masthead, courtesy of Joelle Gresham, our new webmaster.

Secondly, I’m donning my other AALL hat; that is, Chair of the AALL Awards Committee. Most of the awards given by AALL at the Annual Meeting are decided from nominations made by other AALL committees. However, the two most venerable and beloved awards are made from nominations by AALL members. These are the Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award and the Joseph L. Andrews Bibliographical Award. Below are Deanna Barmakian’s and my call for nominations for these two wonderful awards. To be considered, nominations for both awards must be postmarked by February 1, 2003.

The Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award recognizes extended and sustained service to law librarianship, exemplary service to the Association or contributions to the professional literature. Nominees must have been members of AALL and are near or at the end of their careers. The award may be given posthumously. Nominations should include either additional supporting letters or the names of other people to contact for further information concerning the nominee. Send nominations with accompanying documentation to me - Mary Ann Parker, Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award Subcommittee Chair, California Department of Water Resources, Law Library, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. My e-mail address is mparker@water.ca.gov.

The Joseph L. Andrews Bibliographical Award is given each year in recognition of a significant contribution to legal bibliographical literature. The work may be a book, article, pamphlet, or publication in another form. It does not have to be written by a law librarian or a member of AALL.

To nominate a work, please provide its citation and a brief description. It is not necessary to submit a copy of the item. Only works published during the 2002 calendar year will be eligible for consideration. The award is presented at the AALL Annual Meeting Luncheon. For more information, and a list of previous winners, see http://www.aallnet.org/about/award_jla.asp.

SCCLL List

To subscribe, follow the instructions for subscribing at:

To send a message to everyone on the list, send e-mail to:
sccll-sis@aallnet.org

Please mail nominations to Deanna Barmakian, Chair, Andrews Bibliographical Award, Harvard Law School Library, 521 Areeda Hall, Cambridge, MA 02138 or email them to barm@law.harvard.edu.

And finally, I recommend Karen Westwood’s article about the Minnesota Library Parnership on page 16 and thank John Pickett for the photos on page 8.

Charley’s Corner:
Food for Thought

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.

Warning: This column, written at the end of 2002, is a hodge-podge of facts and thoughts which do not seem to have a unifying theme. I am actually referring back to the claim I have made in several previous columns that we, as a society, are becoming more graphically-oriented, with instant facts and visuals becoming more of our knowledge base, to the loss of much of our deductive, hierarchical and linear thought processes. If I were to elaborate on that theme throughout the wanderings below, the column would triple in size. So we’ll just look at this column as food-for-thought.

Part One:

Arriving to my desk at very nearly the same time were the most recent issue of the Law Library Journal and the special publication from AALL, Beyond the Boundaries: Report of the Special Committee on the Future of Law Libraries in the Digital Age. First, let me say that it is very pleasing to see both these fine publications, and the Spectrum and the announcement of the Seattle
meeting that arrived with the special publication as well. Our dues are used well.

Of particular interest to me was the LLJ article by anthropologist F. Allan Hanson, “From Key Numbers to Keywords: How Automation Has Transformed the Law.” While a bit lengthy for us non-academic types, I highly recommend it to you. Mr. Hanson discusses how the use of computer-assisted legal research has turned the practice of law from one built on hierarchical concepts to a much flatter fact-oriented one. The result, he suggests, is that attorneys now find cases with similar facts that use diverse legal reasoning, and they pick the cases that work best for their clients. Judges in response are simply telling their clerks what results they want and telling them to find the cases that support their result. In a sense, this modern style puts the proof to the theories of legal realism and critical legal studies that judges really do what they want, and precedent is simply their method of justifying themselves.

Mr. Hanson observes that, in addition to the lessening of the use of the old legal concepts, new concepts and reasoning are being brought in from non-law disciplines, and the “edges of law” are growing fuzzy. Automated research opens up such vistas of new data from other disciplines that lawyers (and our concept-givers, i.e., law professors) are now being required to venture beyond the strict confines of legal literature.

While I haven’t had time to absorb all of Beyond the Boundaries, it is apparent that the several authors therein are also aware of the changes in legal research, if not as mindful of the jurisprudential implications. One thing I did note is that, while the strategic plan style of discussion in that book may be useful in trying to map out the various difficulties that the different types of law libraries will face, the items listed are perforce meant to be representative of the findings of the committee. There is a notion that, in some locales, rather small county law libraries will be replaced by public access terminals. Some credence was given to the notion that chat room style reference, such as the 24-7 program, may also help fill the void.

Closing with a little home-spun humor from the Maryland State Law Library’s celebration of their 175 birthday party this past December 11th. One of the many gimmicks chosen to promote the anniversary of our opening in 1827 was one of those David Letterman like top ten lists. The Md. State Law Library Top Ten E-Mail Questions is a sort of tongue-in-cheek look at the growing population of remote users of our reference services. Please note the words in the list are spelled as received from our community of email customers.

9. Crime doesn’t pay – Please inform me how to get ahold of my criminal record convictions that I may have them expunged for the purpose of a gun permit.

8. Wedding bell blues – I need info on Maryland state laws on getting annulled. I was tricked into getting married last week.

7. Housekeeping hints – How can or if I can evict a tenant because of them being dirty.

6. New job description – I would like to know who has authority over the District Court Judges. Would this be the State’s Attorney? (In Md. The District Attorney is called the State’s Attorney – the chief judge of the District Court got a charge out of this one).

5. The position of Mister Meanor – Charge was position of marihuana in 1974. I need to know if it was a felony or mister meanor.

4. What’s past is past – I am a college student and I have to do a paper on nude dancing law past for Maryland at the end of March 2,000. I need the case law that was past. (Ref staff figured out he was talking about a U.S. Supreme Ct. decision dealing with an Erie, PA. ordinance).

3. What’s past is past – I am a college student and I have to do a paper on nude dancing law past for Maryland at the end of March 2,000. I need the case law that was past. (Ref staff figured out he was talking about a U.S. Supreme Ct. decision dealing with an Erie, PA. ordinance).
(View from the Chair Continued from page 4)

4. Young love – I am a 14 year old male whom would love to marry his 18 year old girlfriend in your state without parental consent. Do we need judicial consent or pregnancy to waive the consent. Send all information ASAP.

3. Law of the land – Hello, I have a man next to me with a tree that has fallen three time on my property, the last time it took out my house, the tree is hallow and it’s still over 30ft tall. Yet this man refuses to take the tree down, him and I don’t speak to each other and he just don’t care about my family and property. What is the law of the land that can help me with this problem.

2. A good man is hard to find – I would like to know if there are any lawyers in Montgomery County that are strong and clever to assisted me in winning a case, this would be a constringe. (after a while we figured the emailer meant contingency).

1. Sunblock advice – I was helping a friend of mine work on a house and he introduced me to some neighbors of his that were sunbathing. When we leaned over the fence I immediately noticed they were all in the nude and sunbathing outside in their yard; the entire family of five. We were invited to join them and I got a little nervous about doing this but I really enjoyed it. My question is this. What are the laws on sunbathing in the nude on private property? This house was in a very private area but still residential. While it’s still warm outside can I lay out in the nude in Prince George’s County?

Maybe we can begin a Can you top this one? column in the Newsletter??

(Charley’s Corner Continued from page 4)

Although the numbers of users (by gate count) may well be diminishing at most public law libraries, for many there has also been a change in the type of clientele. The percentage of users who are self-help litigants has increased, sometimes dramatically, sometimes so much that there has actually been a gain in the number of self-help litigants. I have heard a few anecdotal observations that, since self-help litigants usually stay at the library three to five times longer than regular members of the legal community, their hourly head counts have increased.

Most self-help litigants use very little case law. They ordinarily seek court forms or transactional materials and some information on how to use them. Few get into the intricacies of litigating actual points of law. In fact, most self-help litigants presume that the law is fixed and already determined for their case. At best, even when doing case law research, they just want to find out what the “black letter law” is.

Those determined few who research their case completely, even the paranoid obsessives, believe that the law in their case is settled already. Unfortunately, many of the “determined few” also believe that the law will come down on their side because, after all, the law is just and their position is the just one. (Most would be classed as natural law theorists who believe that law is produced by a higher being. Judges who rule against them must be personally biased or corrupt.)

Hanson suggests that people doing automated research will tend towards legal realist approaches. That reminds me of the old joke when Johnny asked his father how much is two plus two. (I’ve told the joke before and won’t repeat it here.). The punch line is that the father’s lawyer responds, “Just tell me how much you want, and I’ll see that you get it.” My thought here is that Hanson’s observation may well be correct for regular law researchers, members of the legal community, but not for self-help litigants. I am more inclined to believe that they will simply believe the first few cases that come up from their automated search, using simple facts or misconceived search terms. They would leave themselves open to arguments from opposing counsel who simply know better how to deploy the legal concepts involved. (Indeed, such opposing counsel may well have done enough research to uncover a good line of cases for the self-help litigant, but it never appears before the court because the self-help litigant never researched that far.)

At the San Diego County Public Law Library, our reference librarians have begun teaching self-help litigants. We teach classes in legal research, civil

Those determined few who research their case completely, even the paranoid obsessives, believe that the law in their case is settled already.
procedure before trial, appellate procedure, and Internet resources. Much of what we teach is the need to do deeper research than self-help litigants first believe they need to do. Most people have developed short attention spans, now that MTV style media have become so pervasive. Sending an unprepared self-help litigant to a public access terminal may be doomed him to failure. But the worst of it is that he doesn’t even know he is doomed. He thinks that first thing to pop up must be the answer. He is clueless as to the difference between legal research and a Google search. As my head of public services described it recently, “They park in the three-minute zone out front and come in and say they need to file a lawsuit.”

Here at San Diego CPLL, we were fortunate enough to get an LSTA grant to take our courses “on the road,” so to speak. We are now doing them at various public libraries throughout our county. (San Diego is nearly the size and population of the State of Connecticut, so we have a lot of outreach to do.) While we were applying for our extension grant for next fiscal, our LSTA coordinator at the California State Library suggested that we take our dog and pony show out to other county law libraries, so we are now working on that. In response to my email, one well-seasoned librarian at a much smaller county law library remarked that she could not teach our courses because she does not have a law degree. I know for certain that she could research the pants off most lawyers, and she undoubtedly teaches self-help litigants daily in one-on-one sessions much of what we discuss in our courses. So why the hesitancy?

It is a matter of staffing, and the perceptions we have of ourselves. This librarian does not see herself as a “teacher.” She has all those other things she does all day, technical chores, simple reference, working with her board of trustees. She probably thinks, “I get maybe one or two questions a week on procedure before our local courts. That’s not much, and I don’t know much.” But the truth is that, even as a new librarian after just three months, she would have accumulated a lot of information just from that work alone. After several years, and with repetition reinforcing the important questions, let’s admit it, she is a font of knowledge. I bet there are several attorneys who ask her for advice regularly.

But what happens when a resource like her retires? The board just looks for someone else who seems to have the with-its to get the bills paid on time, do the technical chores, and be nice to customers. The accumulated knowledge is lost, and the new librarian must learn it all again. This is standard, and it is unfortunate for a while for the new librarian’s customers. What is more unfortunate is that the old librarian was never given credit for that accumulated knowledge, and the new librarian will not either. So everybody discounts this person.

That is what I think was missed by Beyond the Boundaries. We assume the norm is that county law libraries simply do not have truly knowledgeable staff who make a significant difference for self-help litigants. Those “lucky ones” that have a long-term decent librarian are not the norm. By observing the norm, the committee missed observing a central feature of many public law libraries, the ability to teach self-help litigants how to get their work done. And there was little howl from us about this, because most of us who do this teaching are too reticent to admit that we are as good at it as we are.

Four small tangential observations to part one of this column:

The program announcement for the 2003 AALL Meeting in Seattle includes the program, “Law Made Public: Teaching Basic Legal Research to Pro Pers, Paralegals, New Associates, and All Others in Between.” That program (submitted by LISP SIS and endorsed by the SCCLL SIS) will be taught by Amy Hale-Janeke and Judith Lihosit, two of San Diego CPLL’s reference librarians who participate in our teaching program here. I encourage you to hear their presentation.

“Pro per” is the California term for a pro se or self-help litigant. They ran their proposal by me, and I missed that little parochialism. Sorry about that. Jean Willis on our staff used the term “self-represented litigant” for our LSTA grant applications, so now the public librarians in our county refer to them as “SRL’s.” (That in turn reminds me of “SRO’s,” the term often used for single-room occupancy hotels.) I chose to use the term “self-help litigant” mostly so that I would not have to wage war on word choice in the middle of my column. I like “self-help” as a term, not only because of its allusion to self-help books, but also because I have this image of them sitting at the dining table, helping themselves. Go ahead, have some potatoes.

In the sentence that starts “And there was little howl from us....” I originally wrote “who do do this teaching....” I used the double “do” because I wanted to be emphatic, but my spell checker naturally “howled” at me for that. I reread the sentence and decided that I did not lose too much by removing the second “do.” Is this a part of the modern age, that we take commands from our spell checkers as if they were real editors? Well, one certainly does not want to get into deep do-do with one’s spell checker, does he. (“Do-do” with a hyphen passed muster, by the way.)
When I commented earlier that “Sending an unprepared self-help litigant to a public access terminal may be dooming him to failure,” I realized that I am negating the very real growth for small county law libraries without staff that now have terminals. Certainly, such programs as those in Oklahoma are advances. Yet, I would always hope the users would have some access to reference help, whether via telephone or chat room reference. These concerns led me to part two of this issue’s column, below. (This is not adequate transition, but it will have to do.)

******

Second part of the column:

New Year’s Resolutions:

1. While looking at all the newfangled devices, I resolve to listen to the people who actually use them. Chat room reference is harder and more time-consuming than email reference or face-to-face reference. The customer does not have his question well prepared, and the process is slow. It consumes resources. Is this the way to go?

2. While looking at all the newfangled devices, I resolve to take into account the problem of competition for our customers. Librarians worry about those online services that respond to customers’ questions as if they were librarians. Librarians should also worry that our customers will expect such services as chat room reference, regardless of who provides it. Can we afford to fall behind?

3. While looking at all the newfangled devices, I resolve to think long-term. Chat room reference may be momentarily messy and consumptive of resources, but someday, probably very soon, nearly everyone will have audio-video chat online or video telephones, and the reference transactions will be faster and nearly as accurate as face-to-face reference. So we need to get ready for that kind of service. Do I want to see customers in their bathrobes? Are we going to have to pass procedures to avoid obscene video chatterers?

Isn’t there something that heightens the senses for a researcher when he actually walks into a library—the smell of books, the smile on the reference librarian, just the general layout of the entryway and the first floor of the building. Don’t we all, as library customers, appreciate that we are entering a place wherein we can use our minds and find answers?

I have this vision. I am at home, sitting a few feet away from a 50 inch flat screen in 9 by 16 format (i.e., wide screen). It is my computer monitor, or at least the one to which the video chat and telephone projections go. I am seeing and talking with a librarian who is sitting at the reference counter at my local public law library. But I also see several degrees of arc on either side of her and a lot behind her, as she occupies less than a fifth of the screen width. Seeing the books on shelves, her desk with appropriate items, the tone of lighting, the woodwork, I get something of that sense of place. It’s calming. It provides me a feeling of proportion. Yes, my reference question is important to me, and here are all these resources devoted to helping me out. Surely, I can expect that her answer is a good one, for I have come to the right place.

Would people who have never been to a library experience the same kind of excitement, mixed with reverence, that I would with video reference? My only analogy is that I have never been to many places I have seen on the Travel Channel, such as the Taj Mahal, yet I get some of that feeling. It’s still not the same as actually going there. I’ve been to the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, not to mention countless monuments and geological sites in the U.S. It isn’t the same; they are better when visited in person. But perhaps seeing them first on the Travel Channel makes many more want to visit these sites. So, too, maybe video reference will make people want to go to the library, to visit it in person. What a grand thought.

Like many a library director, I have given a lot of thought lately to looking at the library as place.

Like many a library director, I have given a lot of thought lately to looking at the library as place. In other words, with modern technology and easy distance communications, do we lose something when our customers do not actually come to a physical library?

SCCLL News
50th Anniversary Celebration in Kansas

John Pickett
Johnson County Law Library, Kansas

The staff of the Johnson County Law Library, located in metropolitan Kansas City, celebrated its 50th anniversary with an open house and live chamber music on November 21, 2002. The law library was organized in 1951 and opened its doors in 1952 in a then new county courthouse in downtown Olathe, Kansas. In 1999 the library was dedicated to its first librarian, Bill Breyfogle, who started work in 1973 and passed away in 1999 following a long battle with cancer.

This fall the law library completed a year long cataloging/spine labeling/bar coding project with the unveiling of its first OPAC using EOSI’s GLAS software. The catalog can be accessed at http://lawlibrarycatalog.jocoks.com. The project included a marathon 4 day shift of the collection into new LC call number groupings.
The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates for the 2003 election. In addition to their presentation within these pages, the biographies of the candidates will accompany the actual ballots that will be mailed to every SCCLL voting member this spring.

NOTE: The SIS By-laws (Article VII, Section 3) provides that 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, 2003. The Secretary/Treasurer shall prepare an official ballot, including nominations by petition. The ballot will be mailed after March 15, 2003.

For the office of Vice Chair/Chair-Elect:

Sandra Marz
Director, Washoe County Law Library

For the office of Executive Board Member, 2003-2006:

Joelle Gresham
State of Georgia Law Librarian

Anne Morrison
Assistant Law Librarian, Prince George’s County Circuit Court

Continuing on the Executive Board will be:

Chair – Charles R. Dyer,
San Diego County Public Law Library

Past Chair – Michael S. Miller
Maryland State Law Library

Secty/Treas. – Cynthia Fellows
Alaska State Court Law Library

Exec. Board – Catherine Lemann
Law Library of Louisiana
Sara Galligan
Dakota County Law Library

The Committee thanks the above individuals for their willingness to be considered as candidates for Section leadership and thanks the membership for their active interest and participation in the SCCLL elections.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne C. Peters (Chair) Christine H. Swan
Jean M. Holcomb

Biographies begin on the next page. ED.)
Candidate Biographies

Vice Chair/Chair Elect

Candidate: Sandra Marz

Employment
Director, Washoe County Law Library, 1981-present.

Education
M.B.A. University of Nevada, Reno, 1988
M.L.S. Brigham Young University, 1979
B.A. Brigham Young University, 1969

Professional Affiliations and Activities
SCCLL: Member since 1981
Sourcebook Co-Chair, 2002
Trustee Development Committee, 2000-01
Sourcebook Committee, 1994-96
Standards Committee Chair, 1991-93

AALL:
AALLNET Advisory Committee, 2001-04
Awards Committee Chair, 1999
Awards Committee, 1994-96, 1997-98
National Legal Resources Committee, 1992-94
Education Committee, 1990-92
Local Arrangements Chair, Reno Annual Meeting, 1989

Chapters:
WESTPAC
President, 1993-94
Education Committee, 1992-94
Placement Committee, 1981

Other:
NOCALL Member
NEVLL (Nevada Law Librarians) Member

Awards and Honors
Beta Phi Mu

Publications and Presentations
Monthly contributor to the following newsletters: WRIT (Washoe County Bar Association), Legal Eagle (Washoe County Legal Secretaries Association), Northern Nevada Women Lawyers Association Newsletter, SNAP Shot (Sierra Nevada Association of Paralegals).


Candidate’s Statement
I would be most honored to serve as Chair of the SCCLL SIS. SCCLL has had quality leadership and grown into a dynamic organization. At the AALL annual meeting, we have good programs to offer and events where we can talk to one another and share ideas. Those who are able to come to the annual meetings are well

/Candidate (Continued on page 11)
served. As a group we have worked hard to increase our membership. However, nationwide, government is being forced to make budget cuts. Travel is often the first thing to be cut. In the next few years, I think fewer members will be able to attend the annual meeting. I would like to make sure we serve those members as well. I would like SCCLL to expand its educational efforts to do more with distance learning and work to keep those members involved who cannot come to annual meetings every year. I will be asking many of you to assist in making SCCLL useful to all members.

Executive Board Member, 2003-2006

Candidate: Joelle Gresham

Employment
State of Georgia Law Librarian, 2000-present.
Fulton County Law Library, Computer Services Librarian, 1998-2000
Law Engineering & Environmental Services, Inc., Information Specialist/Information Center Manager, 1997-1998

Education
M.L.S. Clark Atlanta University, 1997
B.A. Clark Atlanta University, 1994

Professional Affiliations and Activities
AALL, 2000-present
SCCLL Webmaster, 2002-2003
Atlanta Law Libraries Association, 2000-present
Special Libraries Association, 1979

Publications and Presentations

Candidate's Statement
Fortune has shone her gracious light on me! Every step of my career path has been shaped by various members of this SIS. Although I have not had a formal mentor, so many SCCLLer's have reached out to share from their wealth of knowledge. This SIS has a rich resource within the skilled ranks of its membership. I am still a “newbie” AALL member, and proud to be in what I consider to be the “family.” Our group culture is one of service, professionalism, and excellence. I am excited and honored about the opportunity to be involved in the expansion and growth ahead. If elected to the Board, I would like to throw my technology skills into the SCCLL bag for others to benefit from!

Candidate: Anne Morrison

Employment
Prince George’s County Circuit Court, Assistant Law Librarian, 1997-present.
State of Maryland, Office of Administrative Hearings, Librarian, 1995-96
Semmes, Bowen & Semmes Law Firm, Baltimore, Reference Librarian 1994-95
Piper & Marbury Law Firm, Baltimore, Assistant Librarian 1984-93
(Candidate Continued from page 11)

Education
M.A. University of Baltimore, 1994
B.S. Towson State University, 1984

Professional Affiliations and Activities
Law Library Association of Maryland, Inc.
Past President, Board Member, Newsletter Editor, Public Relations Chair, and Membership Chair.

AALL
Council of Chapter Presidents and Council of Newsletter Editors
Access to Legal Information Committee Law Librarian Volunteer

SCCLL
Public Relations Committee, 1998-00
Grants Committee, 1999-00
Education Committee, 2000-02
Nominations Committee, Chair, 2001-02
Model County Law Library, Working Group, 2001-02
Standards Committee, 2002-03

Special Libraries Association
Awarded 2nd Place in Library Marketing Competition, 2000

Girl Scouts of Central Maryland
Shipley’s Choice Cluster Coordinator, Community 39

Publications and Presentations
Editor, LLAM Newsletter, 1998-2000 Law Library Association of Maryland, Inc.
Author, Legal Information Alert, June 2000, “Comparison of Web-Based Caselaw Search Engines for State Research.”
Author, Numerous reviews for Research Advisor and Legal Information Alert
Author, AALL Spectrum, April, 1997 “A Baltimore Sampler: Charm City at a Glance.”
Faculty: LLAM Legal Research Seminar, January 2002.
Speaker: Maryland Circuit Court Library Conference, 2000 “Internet Based Resources for Librarians.”
Faculty: HalfMoon Seminars, LLC – Seminar 2000 “Basics of Legal Assisting in Maryland.”
Speaker: Maryland Circuit Court Library Conference, 1999 “The Web as an Invaluable Research Tool.”
Faculty: National Business Institute – Seminar, 1999 – “Internet Basics for the Maryland Attorney.”
Speaker: MD Assn. of Paralegals Seminar, 1999 “Internet Research and Resources for Paralegals.”

Candidate’s Statement
Libraries of all types are currently facing many challenges because of budgetary and economic instability. State, Court and County law libraries are feeling especially “pinched” as budget dollars shrink and we are asked to do “more” with “less.” In tough times, the citizenry turns to their courts and state and county agencies for assistance. Our libraries will see yet more self-represented litigants seeking legal information in the years to come. How will we serve their needs while struggling to keep our services current and useful?

Now, more than ever, our professional organizations serve a vital role in our survival. Individually, we are knowledgeable information professionals. Together, we can share our knowledge and experiences with colleagues in similar circumstances, face the challenges that are before us, and plan for the future. This can continue to be done not only at the AALL Annual Meeting, but year-round, through electronic mail discussions and distance learning opportunities.

If elected to the Board, I hope to assist the SCCLL-SIS in furthering SIS and AALL goals that will help shape the future of State, Court and County Law Libraries.

SCCLL News
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Psst! Yes, you! Want to save an easy $500 (minimum) from next year’s library budget?

The total nonmember registration fee for AALL in Seattle in 2003 will be $440.00, if postmarked by June 1st or $540.00 thereafter. How can you pass up a chance to send a library trustee to the AALL Annual Meeting, when they will receive free program registration, which includes a ticket to the Opening Reception, admission to the Exhibit Hall, handout materials and admission to all programs, as well as a specialized SCCLL orientation session to get them ready for what they will experience?

Have someone on your library governance attend AALL as a Chapter VIP. It’s not too late to work with your local chapter toward this goal. See if your chapter intends to send a VIP to AALL. Each chapter is authorized by AALL to send up to 2 VIPs at no cost to the chapter. If they do, and they have not selected their VIPs, your course is clear. It is easy to demonstrate the positive influence library trustees can have in your state or locality after they have seen AALL in action at the annual meeting.

If the chapter has no plans or budget for VIPs, ask whether the chapter would be willing to designate one or two trustees from your library as VIPs at no cost to the chapter. Offer the chapter that, in return for the VIP designation, the trustee will contribute an article on their experiences to the chapter newsletter.

Your budget may be able to accommodate the cost of trustee travel and hotel, if you save the registration cost. You may be able to get a grant for your trustee from the AALL grants program, if the trustee is an AALL member, or from your chapter. Another strategy would be for you or other library staff planning to attend AALL to seek grants for your travel in order to make the trip possible for the trustee.

In summary, be creative and don’t forgo any opportunities for “found money” in this time of fiscal austerity. AALL makes this great value available and it is often underutilized. We need enthusiastic and committed trustees and friends more than ever for our law libraries and the profession as a whole. A great way to develop and enhance those relationships is to bring a trustee to the AALL Annual Meeting, and it’s a cinch with the Chapter VIP program!

Respectfully submitted,
Trustee Development Committee

Donna Bausch, Chair
Shirley David
Claudia Jalowka
The Honorable Loren McMaster

This just in... On January 17, Susan Southwick retires as Law Librarian of the Nevada Supreme Court after 22 years with the library. The court has selected Kathleen Harrington, former Assistant Law Librarian, as her successor.
California County Law Librarians Participate in Community Outreach Efforts

Presentation at California Library Association Conference Well-Received

Jean Willis
San Diego County Public Law Library

In November, 2002, Coral Henning (Training Coordinator, Sacramento County Public Law Library, SCPLL), and Jean Willis provided a very well-received program at the California Library Association’s (CLA) annual meeting in Sacramento. Entitled Building Essential Legal Research Skills and Law Library Basics, the course was geared to general public and academic librarians. We estimate that over 70 attendees created a standing-room only situation. The post seminar evaluations were overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

The class covered the basics of legal research. Coral, who gives training classes for a wide range of students (i.e., legal secretaries, attorneys, self-represented litigants, public librarians) as part of her job, is well-versed in the needs of the non-legally trained audience. She focused on the basic legal materials that might be found in non-law libraries, along with pertinent web sites.

Both Jean and Coral focused on the types of legal reference questions a general public or academic librarian could expect to answer and how to go about finding the information. We encouraged all attendees to refer their patrons to a local public law library, such as a county law library, whenever possible. We encouraged access to both the SCPLL (http://www.saclaw.lib.ca.us/) and SDCPLL (http://www.sdcplll.org) websites, where anyone can access the virtual reference service staffed by 11 California county law libraries and the Bernard E. Witkin California State Law Library. Law Librarians answer e-mail questions in real time through the MCLS* and Q&A Café 24/7 reference programs. Law librarians are available primarily during the business day. When law librarians are not available live, there is an e-mail option and joint email software. The participating law libraries also answer questions sent to the email box. CACounty Law Library 24x7 chat reference website, which is sponsored by the MCLS 24x7 project.

This is actually the second time that this program was offered at a CLA conference; previously a similar class was provided at the 2000 CLA conference in Palm Springs, CA. Response to that class was similarly enthusiastic, and attendees requested that the program be offered on a regular and ongoing basis. CLA alternates holding its annual conference in Northern and Southern California, so we decided to try to give the program on a three year rotation. Due to the reception of this year’s class, we are considering having the program more often.

Many thanks go to NOCALL who provided a generous grant to support Jean Willis’ travel and conference fees. We let the class participants know that NOCALL had helped to sponsor the program, and several attendees requested more information about joining NOCALL.

The following day, Karen Lutke (Director, San Mateo County Law Library) and Annette Heath (Director, Kern County Law Library) joined Jean and Coral in presenting a poster session entitled How to Locate the Resources of California’s County Law Libraries. Various informational brochures, pathfinders and bookmarks from many of the county law libraries were on display. Karen had also created a tri-fold pamphlet that lists all of the county law libraries with addresses, phone numbers, URLs, etc. We had 150 copies, and all were gone by the end of the session.

The poster session was another excellent opportunity to “advertise” the County Law Library 24x7 project. Librarians from remote areas of the state were especially happy to hear that an online resource exists where they can get legal reference help themselves, or direct their patrons to do so. Shirley David has been instrumental in leading this project and keeping participants on track. On a tangential note, the CA Judicial Council self-help website was revised on January 1, 2003, and has a link to the County Law Library 24x7 site (http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/). More questions are being asked via the chat-ref website, and the project is proving to be a viable way to extend our community outreach efforts.

Thanks again to NOCALL for assisting in sponsoring Jean’s attendance at the conference. We were able to extend our outreach to the public, as well as informing many librarians about California’s valuable County Law Library program.

*Metropolitan Cooperative Library System. ED.
2003 Scholarship Opportunity
Institute for Court Management Scholarship

The Institute for Court Management Scholarship Fund created by Marcia J. Koslov, with matching funds from the AALL, provides SCCLL members with an opportunity to participate in the Court Executive Development Program (CEDP) of the Institute for Court Management of the National Center for State Courts (ICM).

Specifically directed at members of the State, Court and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section, this scholarship program offers assistance to individuals who seek to develop their management and leadership skills in the court system. The scholarship funds registration to Phase I of CEDP, ICM’s flagship program. The Court Executive Development Program provides comprehensive instruction in the technical, interpersonal, and conceptual skills needed by court managers and leaders.

For full details about the program and the application process, please go to: http://www.aallnet.org/services/court_management.asp

2003 Scholarship applications are due April 1. Applicants should submit five (5) copies of the materials to:

Rachel Shaevel
Membership Coordinator
American Association of Law Libraries
53 W. Jackson Blvd. , Suite 940
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 939-4764 x10
(312) 431-1097 (fax)
rshaevel@aall.org

Additional information is also available through Mary Sammon, CEDP Director, 300 Newport Ave., Williamsburg, VA 23185, msammon@ncsc.dni.us, (757-259-1581) or Marcia Koslov, Deputy Director, Tarlton Law Library, University of Texas School of Law, Austin, TX 78705 mkoslov@mail.law.utexas.edu, (512-471-7240).

2003 AALL Annual Meeting/Workshop Grants

Deadline: April 1, 2003

Michelle Pearse
Northeastern School of Law Library, Boston

The AALL Grants Committee is now accepting applications for grants for the 2003 AALL Annual Meeting/Workshops. The AALL Grants Program provides financial assistance to newer law librarians or graduate school students who hold promise of future involvement in AALL and the law library profession. Funds are provided by vendors, AALL and AALL individual members. Grants cover registration costs at either the Annual Meeting or Workshops.

Preference is given to newer members of AALL or its chapters who are active participants in the association or one of its chapters. For additional information, including the application form, see http://www.aallnet.org/services/grant_application.asp. The deadline for applications is April 1, 2003.
Orlando was hot. Orlando was sticky. Orlando was cooking with new ideas and opportunities to learn. With the assistance of a generous SCCLL-SIS Grant, I attended the Orlando meeting and learned an enormous amount about law libraries, SIS business meetings, new products, and a Cuban drink called a “mojito”. While there I had a chance to describe an innovative project here in Minnesota that partners 15 county law libraries in one judicial district with the public libraries in each of those counties. The project is still developing, but I thought SCCLL-SIS members might be interested in what has transpired so far in Southwestern Minnesota.

The Grant

In July of 2000, the Minnesota Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation approved a grant request for $99,500 to provide start-up costs of providing fully integrated electronic links between 15 county law libraries, the public libraries in each county seat and Southwest State University. The grant application noted that each of the 15 county law libraries was investing in CD technology and buying towers, etc. that were nearly the same from county to county. The grant application maintained that this duplication could be eliminated by subscribing to one shared CD product and networking all the county law libraries and the 15 public libraries in each county seat. The resulting savings could be used to pay for a halftime librarian to travel to the courthouses and public libraries to make sure that everything would run smoothly. The grant money would pay for start-up costs, including the purchase of computers for each location, master server, creation of telephone linkages, software and website creation.

The Contracts

The Federated Library System

A primary challenge in implementing the grant, was obtaining approval from all of the participants. Minnesota has 15 regional public library systems and 10 judicial districts. Thus, the 15th Judicial District included some, but not all, of the libraries in two different regional public library systems (Traverse Des Sioux Library System and Plum Creek Library System). In addition, Traverse Des Sioux and Plum Creek Library Systems are both “federated” library systems, meaning that each participating library maintains local financial and administrative autonomy, while working with the regional system to develop cooperative services with other participating libraries. As a result, while the contract describing the project was only eleven pages long, 34 signature pages followed it – one for each public library, each county law library, the two regional public library systems and Southwest State University. The agreement recognized that public libraries have few if any legal materials, but have staff and longer hours. County law libraries tend to be open only when the courthouse is open (typically 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) and are nearly always without staff. By acting in concert, the public libraries and county law libraries could increase access to legal materials for the benefit of the bar and public by doubling the number of library locations with legal material available, making legal materials available during evening and weekend hours at the public libraries and increasing trained librarian assistance.

By acting in concert, the public libraries and county law libraries could increase access to legal materials for the benefit of the bar and public by doubling the number of library locations with legal material available, making legal materials available during evening and weekend hours at the public libraries and increasing trained librarian assistance.

The Contract

Legal Publishers

By the time the grant was approved and the contracting process began, it became apparent that a CD network was no longer an appropriate way to proceed and negotiations began to obtain Internet subscriptions to legal databases.
Once all the contracts were signed, the project librarian was ready to get started in October of 2001.

Both Lexis-Nexis and West Group provided flat-rate proposals. They both offered full coverage of primary law (both federal and all states) and citator services. The court administrator who negotiated the contract believed that judges felt more comfortable with searching WESTLAW and that made the West Group offer more attractive. Most of the county law libraries had already invested heavily in West CD-ROM products and it was much clearer to them how they could save money by dropping CD products title-for-title to be replaced by searching westlaw.com.

The Beginnings

As mentioned earlier, the early days of the project were spent “pitching” the plan to the various boards involved. The public libraries were eager to sign up as their out-of-pocket expenses to participate in the program were zero, and they had firsthand experience with public patrons needing legal materials. The county law library boards rightfully took a more measured approach to the plan. Not only would they be paying the subscription costs to westlaw.com, they would also be funding the half-time project librarian’s salary. Some small public libraries did not have monthly meetings and some county law library boards also met very infrequently – in all, it took nearly two years to make the initial meetings and the follow-up meetings for final approval. Because the counties are different sizes and have different income levels (the county law libraries are funded by court filing fees) it was necessary to devise an equitable system of payment. Each county law library pays the same cost for westlaw.com subscriptions (they each pay for two passwords – one for the county law library and one for the public library location), but it was decided to use a “weighted caseload” measure to determine the percentage of the librarian’s salary each would pay. That is, counties with a higher weighted caseload score (indicating that more time is spent on complex cases in that county) will pay proportionately more than those with a lower weighted caseload score. While this might not have been the tool most librarians would have chosen, the court administrator and the judges all understood what weighted caseload meant and believed it reflected the population and activity at the courthouse.

Some Training

Once all the contracts were signed, the project librarian was ready to get started in October of 2001. Unfortunately, as is so often the case, the first several months were consumed by technical difficulties. There were some initial problems in getting passwords assigned, and then ongoing problems with getting the passwords embedded properly. The project librarian found herself traveling from county to county troubleshooting connection problems, primarily dealing with internet connections, but also with database access. Once westlaw.com was successfully installed and the passwords were functioning properly, the project librarian turned to the Minnesota State Law Library’s County Law Library Program for help with training. In May of 2002 Susan Larson and I traveled to Mankato, Minnesota where the court system’s ITV technology was used to link librarians and court employees together for a basic introduction to legal reference course. We offered the course in the morning and repeated it in the afternoon training nearly 50 attendees at 13 locations. Many of the librarians and court personnel had been receiving training on westlaw.com by West Group representatives. They were all very pleased with that training, but needed a way to put it into context. Over the course of a couple of hours, we taught the basics of the legal reference interview and emphasized the State Law Library’s role as a backup to assist librarians and patrons throughout the state. In July of 2002 publicity was put out to the general public.

Preliminary Findings

At this point, the findings are all anecdotal. The project librarian has heard from several patrons who appreciate the new services offered. One attorney in a small town offered to provide an introduction to westlaw searching for library staff and interested patrons. Another attorney has been supplying printer paper as his way of saying “thank you” for the service. One county law library has dropped more of its CD-ROM subscriptions and has freed up enough money to add another subscriber to its Westlaw.com contract and place a terminal at a branch public library.

Applicability Elsewhere

Could this program succeed in other parts of the state? The Minnesota State Law Library is watching the Fifth Judicial District project with great interest and hopes to draw lessons from its experience. A Minnesota Library Foundation Grant has been obtained to allow people from the Fifth Judicial District to travel around the state and report their findings to judges and librarians in other judicial districts. These

(Minnesota Continued on page 18)
informational meeting will probably begin in early spring of 2003.

At the time the contracts for this program were being developed, flat-rate contracts for public westlaw.com or lexis.com were quite unusual. Based on a recent flurry of e-mails to the SCCLL-SIS listserv (within three days seven county law libraries described their public access to Westlaw.com or Lexis-Nexis.com in response to a query 12/23-12/26/2002) it would seem that negotiating such a contract will not be as difficult in the future.

One great contributor to the success of the project in the Fifth Judicial District was the grant that provided for the purchase of computers for all locations, software and other start-up costs. Without this grant, the libraries will have to shoulder those costs. It will be interesting to see if other counties and judicial districts will be able to understand the value both to the patrons and the courts that a cooperative venture like this can offer and fund it accordingly.

More information about the project is available at the Fifth Judicial District County Law Library Project website: http://www.countylawlibraryproject.southweststate.edu/

West Group Reception for SCCLL
At the American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting
Tuesday, July 15, 2003
7:00pm – 9:00pm

Enjoy getting together with old friends and associates at a West Group-sponsored cocktail reception on July 15, 2003. This year’s event will be held at Town Hall Seattle. Just minutes away from the Seattle Convention Center, Town Hall is a unique venue with a fascinating history. See the website at www.townhallseattle.org. Built as a Roman revival-style church in 1922 in the historic First Hill neighborhood, Town Hall showcases the community’s cultural energy with diverse music, arts, humanities and world culture programming. This event will provide a relaxed atmosphere to re-connect with your colleagues in government libraries and your West Group Government Segment hosts.

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for July 15th at 7:00pm!