Chair’s Last Words

Michael S. Miller, SCCLL Chair
Maryland State Law Library

Procrastinate, says who? I work best under pressure! I thrive putting the pedal to the metal the white flag lap. April 30th here in Annapolis, the sky is crystal blue, the temperature is 78 degrees and the pollen count is 10 trillion. The Spring Newsletter issue deadline is May 1st - I’m a whole day ahead of schedule. The Chair’s last column is easy - a review of accomplishments, thank yous, good luck to Charley, and out the door! As our editor Mary Ann knows too well, some of us have a problem quickly getting to the bottom line - this offering is no exception - my apologies - but you voted for me.

The SIS year, with a few short days left, has been an eye opening and humbling experience, even for this senior law librarian who has recently been overwhelmed by jargon talk - have served on too many committees, both here at work and for outside organizations. You know you’ve been at it too long when -

- you ask the waiter what the restaurant’s core competencies are;
- you refer to dating (my kids, not me) as pilot testing;
- you can spell paradigm and actually know what it is;
- you write executive summaries on your email memos;
- you celebrate your wedding anniversary by conducting a performance review (after 34 years my wife loved that);
- you refer to your vacation plan as a “vision” statement;
- you look forward to your next faux pas as a “learning opportunity”;
- you give constructive feedback to your dog;
- your trip to the grocery store becomes a goals and objectives trip complete with power point.

(This partially edited list is compliments of one of those endless web sites trying to catch us in a smile).

A handful of thoughts I would like to bequeath to our 552 SCCLLers (may be an all time high):

1. Speaking with one voice, and having a single, focused vision as

We are “content kings”, web searchers extraordinaire, open and accessible to the public, becoming more proficient at outreach, teaching research, collaboration and partnering.

(Continued on page 4)
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Editor’s Etchings

Ave Atque Vale

Mary Ann Parker
Department of Water Resources
Sacramento, CA

This is my last issue as Editor of the State, Court & County Law Libraries Newsletter. I have a couple observations to make about the experience:

• I learned how to use Microsoft Publisher, my first experience with desktop publishing and a useful skill for my work here at the Department of Water Resources. I use it to format my quarterly bibliography, which I convert to pdf and put on our Intranet. It’s easy to read and the colorful masthead (like this one) gets noticed.

• That brings me to Adobe Acrobat, another program that I learned how to use while preparing the newsletter for publication, and, caused me to become the office guru. Once I learned how to convert documents to the pdf format, the attorneys were eager to use Acrobat to send documents that were not capable of being edited by the recipient. Once again, my position in the office as research and computer whiz was confirmed and enhanced.

• I really read the articles submitted. By that I mean that I read them with more attention and comprehension that I had done before I was the Editor. I enjoyed reading what was going on elsewhere in the SIS and at the libraries of our colleagues. Charley’s Corner was a delight and worth passing around to the attorneys in the office (which I frequently did). I have so much professional reading to do: LLJ, Spectrum, Legal Reference Services Quarterly, NOCALL News, Library Journal - you get the picture - that I was glad to have my attention focused on the contents of this newsletter. I consider this to be one of the chief benefits of the job.

• Writing for this very column was good discipline and a good opportunity to express myself in print. I just read the text of an interview with Paul Theroux, one of my favorite authors, who said that a writer must write every day; that after one year, a writer has written quite a lot, and some of it is bound to be good. I haven’t written every day, but this column did keep me returning to the word processor.

Thank you everyone who contributed announcements and articles for publication in the newsletter. The listserv is great, but I think the newsletter provides a better archival history of the activities of SCCLL libraries. And thanks especially go to Anita Anderson and Mike Miller, who faithfully submitted interesting and thought provoking columns for The View from the Chair on page 1.

Charley’s Corner:

Two hundred channels and nothing worth watching—It could be worse!

by 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.

Call me a “Flat-Worlder,” if you must. But when I see a media mogul like Barry Diller questioning the proposed de-regulation of television station ownership, it gives me pause. Diller, you may recall, ran Paramount, then Fox, then QVC and Vivendi, and now heads USA Interactive.

Diller’s problem, as he argues it, is that he would not like to see television go the way of radio, which is now composed of Clear Channel all over the dial and a few public radio stations at the lower FM end. (Clear Channel owns 1,225 radio stations, at last count, some 970 more than anyone else.) Everyone is griped at the placid, play-for-the-middle radio we get from Clear Channel. Musicians are griped because only the favored few get air time, and most of that is through the “middle man

(Continued on page 5)
(View From the Chair Continued from page 1)

an SIS was a theme put forward in the charges to the various standing and special committees a short nine months ago. The jury is still out weighing the overall success of our 2002-03 goals. There were disappointments and tangible ACCOMPLISHMENTS and a sense that the leadership position (Chair) may be more productive with a two year term of office - food for thought! (Glad I am not the guinea pig).

(2.) A special note of APPRECIATION goes out to the following volunteer staffed committees and their chairs for finding the time and energy to keep our SIS a responsive and membership-oriented organization: Awards (Pam Gregory), Education (Marcus Hochstetler), Newsletter (Mary Ann Parker), Publicity/PR (Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson), Strategic Planning (Anita Anderson), Web Site/listserv (Karla Gedell & Joelle Gresham), Grants (Judy Beal & Mary Fuller), Standards (Joanie Bellistri), Nominations (Anne Peters), Trustees Development (Donna Bausch), Marketing (Maureen Well & Marnie Warner). For details of work and accomplishment of these Committees and others -see their Reports published in this Newsletter, the SIS web site and recapped at our Annual Business Meeting in Seattle.

ADVICE - gently “preaching to the choir”:

(3.) ACTIVELY ADVERTISING and MARKETING ourselves and our libraries is taking on more critical significance daily as competition for funding meets headlong with the competition from commercial information vendors and the Internet for recognition as “the place to go” for informational assistance. The place to go - according to a recent UCLA Internet Report: Surveying the Digital Future - Year Three, more than 70% of Americans went online in 2002 and spent an average of 11.1 hours per week on the Net - home use accounted for 59.3% and 51.2% of those employed use the Internet at work. The stats go on and on. The point - our law libraries and librarians must establish an active presence on this worldwide communication medium to remain competitive in this rapidly changing information marketplace.

(4.) Our job security is inextricably tied to how valuable we are to our CUSTOMERS - the better you serve them the better our careers and libraries are received. We are hopeful that the soon to be published second in a series of four SCCLL Resource Guides, “The Value of a Law Public Librarian” will help us focus on who we are valuable to - both inside and outside our organizations. We must get close - intimately close - to our customers. Seek regular, direct contact with them. Build a strong relationship by delivering the highest quality service possible, anticipate their needs and develop a reputation for responsiveness, because, in the final analysis, supportive customers are our only source of job security.

You probably are asking yourself about now how can a “solo librarian”, a staff of one or even two begin to find the time to advertise, market, publish a web site, get up close and personal with customers and work on outreach activities? Your SIS is “stepping up to the plate” with the publication of a new guide series, an expanded web site, a totally revised strategic plan, a two year marketing study designed for our membership, an increasingly active and relevant listserv, annual meeting programming covering meat and potato issues, scholarship opportunities to help a few (would that it could be a hundred) get to the annual conference, a thoroughly revised Trustee’s Sourcebook, it’s really coming; the ever valuable revised standards for county and appellate court libraries. Our own AALL Rep to the NCSC (Gail Warren) continues to beat the bushes on our behalf giving us opportunities to “make hay while the sun shines” (see her email posting on our listserv 5/2/03) and article on page in this issue. About the only support we have yet to get a handle on is that pot of gold at rainbow’s end, though there is active brainstorming underway among our ranks to search out and claim new avenues of financial assistance for public law libraries.

(5.) Closing with an OPPORTUNITY we as an organization or as individual libraries should not dismiss lightly. For the past two years the Legal Services Corporation in D.C. has been funding Technology Initiative Grants (TIG’s) for various legal aid programs throughout the U.S. These grants have been earmarked to build or improve upon existing statewide legal services web sites designed to provide self-help information, community education and important contact and court information for low and moderate income pro se litigants. If these goals are familiar that’s because many of us have been investing tons of energy, within our own local jurisdictions, in efforts addressing similar outreach services.

Today, all across the U.S., law librarians have a golden opportunity to become stakeholders and partners in helping legal aid organizations achieve success in building and maintaining relevant web sites, and educating both legal services agencies and information seekers as to the value of our own public courthouse law libraries and services (talk about a marketing opportunity!). We are “content kings”, web searchers extraordinaire, open and accessible to the public, becoming more proficient at outreach, teaching research, collaboration and partnering. Let the legal service organizations in your state in on these best kept secrets by offering your expertise in the development

(View From the Chair Continued on page 5)
and marketing of this technology project. Two law librarians in Maryland, yours truly and Pamela Gregory, have had a successful two year partnering and outreach relationship with our People’s Law Library program http://www.peoples-law.org spearheaded by a remarkable advocate, Ayn Crawley, for improved access to legal information in our State. Others, among them Jean Holcomb and the King County Law Library, have taken proactive stances in involving their libraries with legal service agencies. See Shirley David’s article about California libraries participating in the 24/7 Reference Service on page 18.

In your own State:

(1.) Identify the appropriate Legal Services agency spearheading this web site technology initiative. For starters take a look at this web site: http://lstech.org/ntap/workgroups/web_development/state_websites

(2.) For a comprehensive list of LSC funded programs with hotlinked web sites see: http://www.lsc.gov/links.htm

(3.) For ideas on how your library fits in and can become a stakeholder/partner see various articles at: http://lstech.org/news/journal/news/journal/03Apr

Signing off for now - catch the spirit and don’t let it go and get behind and support our new incoming Chair, Charley Dyer!

payola process now in vogue. Advertisers are griped by the monopolistic pricing the practice creates. (Clear Channel deals only with certain advertising sellers, who pay the company exorbitant rates. Only major record labels can compete in such a market.) Talk radio is not only dominated by right-wing views, but the same right-wing views across the country. Small radio stations testify openly about the anti-competitive practices of their Clear Channel competitors, who badger local advertisers into exclusivity arrangements. This is all perfectly legal in the current regime. (Surprise, surprise. The DOJ is actually looking into the anti-competitive practices. One mustn’t be so obvious. Tsk. Tsk.)

Personally, I suspect Diller’s gripe is that, if television ownership is completely free of regulation, Clear Channel itself might just invade that market as well. It already owns 36 TV stations. His complaint (to Bill Moyers on April 25, 2003) was that, in such a market, a single individual, such as himself or Ted Turner, could not make it. There would be too much capital required even to get into the game.

What scares me is that I have observed the book industry, where now six conglomerates publish 85 percent of the books in the world, and just two of them dominate the American law book market. We have suffered through double-digit inflation for law books for over a decade while the Consumer Price Index has averaged less than a third such increase.

What scares me is that talk show hosts from Savage to Leno all say the same thing and crack the same jokes. I swear if it weren’t for Jon Stewart’s few delightful opening minutes of satire on Comedy Central’s Daily Show, I’d think that the opinion media was totally ignorant of what few facts we do get in the American press.

What scares me is that Michael Powell, the conservative chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, is painted as something of a maverick in that he espouses de-regulation so that developers of new technologies will not be unduly harassed.
According to this theory, which he himself pushes, he has faith in new technologies to provide competition against older very large and entrenched companies. In other words, he may well be fooling himself.

Pardon me, but I lived through the California electricity deregulation debacle. My own state senator, Democrat Steve Peace, who I voted for, known as something of a maverick, thought that one up. The problem was that he envisioned a bright future down the line, with lots of competition keeping prices low, but he and the rest of the Legislature forgot that electricity production is a very expensive, long-term capital investment. The competitors did not show up before the monopolists began taking their profits.

Diller’s concern should be noted.


By now you ask why I am bombarding you with political viewpoint when I am definitely aware that my readers represent a wide spectrum of political opinion. I do have a point, one that I hope would appeal to Republican and Democrat, conservative and liberal, alike. The point is that there is a place for “regulated competitiveness.” The deregulation of a marketplace, such as TV stations, is not the same as the break-up of a regulated monopoly, such as the old AT&T. If it is indeed both opportunity and creativity that the government should be fostering, then the government needs to create a relatively stable and even playing field. Everyone should have a fairly equal advantage. The advantage of size and volume that exists with conglomeration needs to be curtailed, just as anti-competitive practices do.

The essential ingredient in justice as found in a democracy is that each individual should have some level of ability to obtain and use legal rights, i.e., a basic level playing field. Of course, wealth and position will give one an advantage, as will more intelligence. But everyone should at least have a basic level. Public law libraries, for example, provide a lot of that minimum amount. They are an essential part of that contract between a government and the people it governs.

As the information industry consolidates, we are observing, right before our eyes, the creation of an oligarchy. As scary as that seems, consider the fact that the FCC is also studying “Broadband through Power Lines.” Yes, boys and girls, we are near the age when we can receive broadcasts through our electrical wires. Think of the convenience. You will no longer have to get the cable guy out to wire up a new TV. Just plug it in and it’s already wired into the media outlet. (I was going to say “the media outlet of your choice,” but choice presumes competition. How many local TV channels, should they exist, can own power companies and run on the same wires.) So, now, in addition to the vertical integration of entertainment, news, and broadcast media, we may see power companies become integrated with them as well. Distribution lines are the key. How far will the reigns of power (in several senses of that term) go?

I wrote this column in part because I was growing tired of the constant battle of the budget. We all find ourselves trying to prove the “value of the law library,” so as to keep our funding. We spend days on the steps of the legislatures and county budget offices, pleading our case, along with other valuable governmental services.

I suggest a new line of argumentation: Law libraries, public, governmental, associational, need to exist precisely because we are public and governmental and associational. What are the alternatives? Do we want our legal information presented to us by Clear Channel?

[The FCC will make its decision on TV deregulation in June 2003. For those seeking more on this story and other issues that get buried by the regular media, I recommend http://www.alternet.org.]
Volunteer in Seattle
Help is Needed
Ann Hemmens
University of Washington Gallagher Law Library

We need you! Join the group of interesting and dedicated people volunteering their time to help make the 2003 Annual Meeting a great success!

How can you help? There are a variety of activities available - - pick the ones that interest you most. For example:

• meet new people and see old friends while working at the Registration Desk
• write articles for the daily newspaper, "Coffee Talk"
• help "stuff" conference tote bags (Friday July 11)
• take tickets and seat individuals at the Association luncheon and closing banquet
• work with children at the Family Social Hour (Saturday July 12).

Volunteers really help the conference run smoothly, and it's a lot of fun! Thanks in advance!

Please complete the Volunteer Opportunities Form available on the AALL website (http://www.aallnet.org/committee/local03/) and in the Preliminary Program by June 1, 2003, and fax/send/email it to:
Ann Hemmens hemmens@u.washington.edu
University of Washington
Gallagher Law Library
1100 NE Campus Pkwy.
Seattle, WA 98105
FAX: (206) 685-2165
PHONE (206) 543-7672

What is Your Library Doing About SRLs?
Informal Discussion Proposed in Seattle
Amy Hale-Janeke
San Diego County Public Law Library

State, Court, and County law libraries and librarians are facing a flood of self-represented litigants (SRLs) and different facilities are dealing with them in different ways. While most us will attend the SCCLL annual business meeting at AALL on Sunday July 21st from 7:00 - 9:00 am, there probably will not be enough time to have an in-depth discussion about what programs your library is using to help SRLs deal with the legal system or how to start a program for SRLs.

Therefore, I suggest that interested persons meet outside the vendor's exhibit hall on Monday, July 14th at noon to go to lunch and discuss potential programs and exchange information. No other programs are scheduled until 4:15 p.m. on that day and we would have plenty of time to eat and talk.

Please let me know by e-mailing me at ahale@sdcll.org if you would like to attend this informal information exchange. I am also extending this invitation to members of the LISP SIS who are interested in helping SRLs and those who will attend my presentation at AALL on Monday from 9-10 a.m. called "Law Made Public: Teaching Basic Legal Research to Pro Pers, Paralegals, New Associates and All Others in Between." (Program D-2). Hope to see you there!

Attention Simmons GSLIS Alumnae/i!

Come one, come all to the fourth annual Simmons GSLIS Alumnae/i Reception at AALL in Seattle, Sunday, July 13 at 5:30 PM. Watch the final conference program for exact location.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Stephanie Burke (sjburke@bu.edu; 617-353-8853) or Raquel Ortiz (rmortiz@bu.edu; 617-353-8855) . We look forward to seeing you there!

Seattle Library Tours
Fred Hanson
Seattle Local Arrangement Publicity Chair

The Preliminary Program for AALL provides your only opportunity to sign up for library tours in Seattle. Take a moment to register for tours of private, public and academic law libraries. See the public research opportunities at King County Law Library; be dazzled by the glass roof of the library at Davis, Wright & Tremaine; check out the new and nearly new libraries at Seattle University and the University of Washington; and more!
Silent Auction 2003  
Third Annual Event Gets Underway

Regina Smith  
SCCLL Silent Auction  
Chair 2002-2003

Last year, SCCLL held its 2nd Annual Silent Auction during the Sunday morning business meeting at AALL, and raised more than $1,600 for our SIS. Items ranged from a handmade Amish quilt that sold for $325 to Hein Fun Run T-shirts from previous years that were going for $5. We had several donations that had a “city” theme, such as a Seattle basket, a poster and cookbook from San Francisco, and a basket of goodies from New Orleans. We also had jewelry, pottery, several books – legal and fiction, wine, and fun type tchotchkes. We had some serious bidding wars and the money raised was used to implement a strategic direction set forth in our section’s Strategic Plan – funding educational opportunities in the form of scholarships for our members.

We are going to do it again this year. Now that we have two years of experience, many of you donors and purchasers will know what to expect, so let the fun begin. Go through your closets and cabinets and “regift” an item to our auction. We have also had many new items on the block, just be sure to donate something. Bring cash or your checkbook, as we don’t take VISA or MasterCard!

Complete the form on page 9 if you plan to bring something to the auction. The auction is easier to administer if we know in advance how many items are going to be offered. The week prior to the Annual Meeting, we will post a description of the auction items on our list serve so that you will have an idea of what will be available. Also, we need volunteers to help set up and to assist with collecting funds at the end of the auction. If you wish to volunteer, please let me know, rsmith@jenkinslaw.org and I will get back to you with instructions. It would be wonderful if someone else took a turn running the auction next year, so perhaps someone can work on the preliminaries with me this year in preparation for handling next year’s event.

Last year we allowed bids via e-mail from those who were unable to attend the meeting. I thought it was a great idea. While we had a few items sold this way, it was cumbersome for the donors to take large items back to their libraries until payment was received. The gift that I packed and sent was damaged in shipping, and although we resolved the situation, I guess my idea was not so great after all. This year we will accept onsite bids only. If you really have a yen to purchase something that is for sale, please ask a friend or colleague to make bids on your behalf and if successful, they should pick up the gift, pay for it, and bring it back to you.

Thanks in advance for your help.

SCCLL Trustee Luncheon in Seattle

Donna Bausch  
Chair, Trustee Development Committee

A truly sumptuous Law Librarian and Trustee Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, July 13, 2003 at 11:45 AM at the Sheraton in Seattle. All SCCLL (and AALL) members are welcome to attend this annual event, where we will relax over a lovely meal and gain insights from a public law library leader in our host locale.

This year, we are fortunate to welcome The Honorable Terry Lukens, President of the King County Law Library Board of Trustees and King County Superior Court Judge as our speaker. Judge Lukens will address the importance of collaboration as a strategic tool to advance a library’s goals and objectives. Collaboration is something King County Law Library uses both internally as a board and staff and externally with other agencies, departments of the county and with the broader community. Specific examples of successful collaborations include the library’s new training center, their LSTA grant with Seattle Public Library and University of Washington Health Sciences Libraries, and their legislative efforts. We are hoping for a great turnout to hear this stimulating speaker discuss some exciting and groundbreaking projects. To get a hint of the type of project you will hear about from Judge Lukens, check out a wonderful article by Jean Holcomb, King County Law Librarian in Computers in Libraries Magazine, available free and full-text on the web at: http://www.infotoday.com/climag/feb03/holcomb.htm. It discusses the law library’s successful quest for funding for their training center, using The Little Engine That Could as a metaphor for the process. You’ll enjoy the article and the opportunity to ask Jean, her talented library staff colleagues and Judge (Trustee Luncheon Continued on page 10)
Contribution Form for the 2003 SCCLL SIS Silent Auction

Yes! I have something to contribute to the SCCLL SIS 2003 Silent Auction.

Name________________________________ Title________________________________
Organization______________________________________________________________
Address__________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Telephone__________________ Fax__________________ E-mail____________________

Item Description:

Minimum Bid: $________________________________________________
Increments for Additional Bids (e.g., $1.00, $3.00…) $_________________

Please bring the gift/s with you to the Breakfast/Business Meeting on Sunday, July 13 at 7 a.m.

Please submit this form via e-mail to rsmith@jenkinslaw.org

Questions? Contact Regina

And THANKS!

Deadline for accepting forms is July 3, 2003

We will post a description of all auction items the week before the AALL Annual Meeting, watch the SCCLL List for the announcement.
Maximize Your Annual Meeting Experience

Ruth J. Hill
2003 AMPC Chair

In just a few weeks AALL members from across the country will meet in the Emerald City to attend the 96th AALL Annual Meeting and Conference July 12-16 at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center. This year’s theme, “Maximize Today—Envision Tomorrow!,” emphasizes our role as information professionals working in an environment that constantly changes and challenges us with new opportunities to provide excellent services to the legal information community. The Annual Meeting provides AALL members with opportunities to hone current skills, learn new skills as well as the time to renew their enthusiasm for the profession.

The 2003 Annual Meeting Program Committee, the Annual Meeting Local Advisory Committee, AALL President Carol Avery Nicholson and AALL Headquarters staff have worked diligently to plan an outstanding conference! Using the meeting theme in conjunction with the recently adopted AALL Competencies of Law Librarianship as a guide, more than 75 programs and workshops are on tap for the Seattle Meeting. Although the scheduled educational opportunities cover all the competencies, the following competencies provide the focus of the 2003 Annual Meeting: teaching, collection care and management, and information technology. This year’s conference will introduce new 30-minute programs. These “mini-sessions” are designed to provide more flexibility in programming by AALL entities (i.e., SISs, Committees and Chapters). The 30-minute programs are well suited for alternative or creative presentation formats or technology presentations. So don’t forget to include some of the 30-minute programs as you plan your Annual Meeting schedule.

The featured plenary speakers are Peter R. Young, director of the National Agricultural Library and Eugenie Prime, manager of Hewlett-Packard Corporate Libraries. Their presentations will focus on the cutting-edge role of information professionals in today’s fast-paced, ever-changing world and how law librarians can maximize their informational skills today as they envision the challenges of tomorrow’s libraries.

As always, one of the highlights of the conference is the Association Luncheon. At this year’s luncheon, AALL President Carol Avery Nicholson will recognize the achievements of the 2003 AALL Award recipients. Make it a point to attend the luncheon and applaud the accomplishment of your colleagues. Other social events include the Family Social Hour; the Opening Reception sponsored by LexisNexis; the West Customer Appreciation Event; and the Closing Reception, Banquet and Dance.

Besides offering outstanding programs and workshops, the Annual Meeting gives members opportunities to meet in small groups to share ideas, tour Seattle firm and academic libraries as well as time to visit Seattle’s cultural and historical sites. The Exhibit Hall and the Activities Area provide additional access to information and products designed to enhance our services to employers and patrons.

So you are invited to maximize your conference experience by exploring the wide array of the educational programs, workshops, meetings, networking opportunities and social events scheduled for the 2003 AALL Annual Meeting and Conference. With all there is to do and learn, you will be “sleepless in Seattle!”

Marvin Anderson Slated to Receive Gallagher Award in Seattle

SCCLL Awards Committee Submitted Nomination

Marvin Anderson, retired Minnesota State Law Librarian and former SCCLL Chair, has been selected to receive the Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award at the Association Luncheon on July 14. The other honorees are Leah Chanin and Bob Doyle. Congratulations to Marvin for a career of exemplary service and to the SCCLL Awards Committee, led by Pam Gregory, for submitting a winning package!

See the AALL Annual Meeting registration form for registration details. You must register for this luncheon when you register for the annual meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!
2001-2002 SCCLL Secretary’s Annual Report

Actions of the Executive Board between July 14, 2001 and July 20, 2002:

1. Approved:
   - Executive Board Minutes of July 14, 2001
   - 2001-2002 budget
   - Slate of candidates from Nominating Committee
   - Resolution on Electronic Balloting
   - County Public Law Library Standards
   - The AALL Executive Board approved the standards on November 2, 2002 and they were subsequently published in Law Library Journal, Vol. 95, No. 1 (Winter 2003).

2. Allocated $3,000 for four travel grants, $2850 of which was distributed to grantees.


Anita Anderson called the meeting to order. Kay Newman, Spokane County Law Library, recipient of the first Marcia J. Koslov Scholarship, reported on her experience at the Court Executive Development program and the Institute for Court Management. Committee reports were presented by: Ana Hinman for the Grants Committee, Anne Grande for the Model County Law Library Code Working Group, Anne Morrison for the Nominations Committee, Shirley David and Susan Szymula for the Trustees Development Committee, and Barb Golden on behalf of Karla Gedell for the Web Site/Listserv Committee. Anita Anderson reported on the first in the LexisNexis sponsored series of SCCLL SIS Resource Guides, “How to Hire a State, Court or County Law Librarian.” Reports from all committees and the SIS Resource Guide are posted on the SCCLL website.

Anita Anderson reviewed executive board actions. Mike Miller directed our attention to the fact that while Marcia Koslov served so effectively for quite some time as the AALL liaison with the ABA Judicial Division, we might want to now propose to the AALL Board that a representative be appointed liaison with an organizational entity other than the ABA Judicial Division, suggesting perhaps COSCA or NACM. The AALL Board subsequently approved the appointment of a representative to NACM. Judy Meadows presented the Connie E. Bolden Publications Award to Gail Warren. Kathy Carlson handed out twenty-year pins. Georgiana Wellford and Ken Svengalis received Chair’s Awards for Exceptional Service to SCCLL – Georgiana for organizing and leading the Attorney General Librarians Roundtable, 1994 – present, and Ken for his long-standing commitment to SCCLL members. For many years, Ken has provided insightful and invaluable guidance to all of us on collection development and budget management issues. The Honorable Loren McMaster, Superior Court of California, Sacramento County, swore in new and continuing officer.

Once again, a silent auction was held as the meeting progressed. Thanks to the organizing efforts of Regina Smith, to members who donated auction items, and to eager bidders, our SIS raised $1,623 that was deposited into the SCCLL treasury.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia S. Fellows
SCCLL Secretary/Treasurer
### 2001-2002 SCCLL Treasurer’s Report

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*See encumbrance schedule (next page)
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Respectfully Submitted,
Cynthia S. Fellows
SCCLL News

Assembly of Court Associations Meeting in DC

A Seat at the Table

Gail Warren
Virginia State Law Library, Richmond

Friday, April 25th, 6:30 a.m. and I’m just passing Fredericksburg. Me and the hundreds of other drivers heading north on I-95, one headlight right after another. It’s light now and scanning the morning sky I can tell it likely will remain a gray, overcast day. I really don’t like driving – I would rather be the passenger any day of the week. And, after reviewing the agenda for this meeting, why I am spending precious early morning time driving to Washington, DC? Mary Alice calls, sounding like a refugee from a SARS recovery unit. In light of the agenda and her illness, I suggest she stay home and get well.

Saturday, April 26th, 12:40 p.m. and I’m stuck in the middle of a traffic jam in Washington, DC. A large crane blocks two of the three lanes on 14th Street, so I patiently wait my turn in the line of traffic easing across the intersection. Isn’t it interesting how things turn out when you arrive at a meeting with low expectations, yet leave with so much information you’re not sure who to share it with first?

As AALL’s Representative to the National Center for State Courts, I recently attended the annual “Assembly of Court Associations” meeting sponsored by the Government Relations Office of the NCSC. To be perfectly honest, the meeting agenda didn’t look promising – a day of listening to presentations by representatives of four federal agencies: the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; the Office of Child Support Enforcement (Department of Health and Human Services); the Office of Domestic Preparedness; and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Despite this initial assessment, I knew the opportunity to meet and network with the other participants would be well worth my time. Participants included representatives from 19 court and court-related associations, including the Conference of Chief Justices, the Conference of State Court Administrators, the American Judges Association and the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks.

Even though much of the information shared by the representatives of the above federal agencies is tangential to AALL as an organization, as a librarian working in a law library serving state courts, I found it valuable to be present as the judges and court administrators asked lots of questions and shared their concerns about state courts. One of the major points they attempted to share with the federal folks present is the often systematic way federal funds are distributed to a state’s executive branch of government without any consideration of how these funds and the corresponding mandates impact state courts. Often heard was the expression, “we need a seat at the table.” (Does this sound familiar?) And, at least one speaker responded with a direct promise to insure that state courts have a voice in the administration of funds from the OJJDP by drafting regulations that will require the signature of the chief justice/chief judge in order for a state to be eligible for the millions of dollars distributed through the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program (JABG). Many of the speakers referred to documents and studies at their respective agency web sites – I used that as an opportunity to tell individual participants they should contact their law librarian if they needed assistance locating and/or obtaining copies of these documents. [By now, many of you will have read more about this on the SCCLL listserv... if you have questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.]

On the second and final day of the meeting, we reviewed the previous days events and discussed ways to move forward with some very specific recommendations to ensure state courts and their related entities would continue to be included as “participants at the table.” As the time approached noon we each had a very brief opportunity to tell a little about our association and share a couple of our association’s primary issues/concerns with the group. Prior to the meeting Mary Alice Baish and I had submitted two issues for further discussion: privacy and E-court records (including the CCJ/COSCA guidelines for public access to court records), and permanent public access and preservation of court records.

(Assembly Continued on page 16)
Good News...and Getting Better

The good news--the first SCCLL Resource Guide, “How to Hire a State, Court or County Law Librarian” was a big success. (You can find the Guide at http://aallnet.org/sis/sccll/pdfs/SCLLResGuide1.pdf.) Even better news—the second SCCLL Resource Guide, The Value of a Public Law Library is now in the works! In it, look for articles, pointers, and real-life examples from such SCCLL luminaries as Amy Hale Janeke, Jean Holcomb, Sara Galligan, Donna Bausch, Carol Billings, and more. With the aid of this Guide, your administrators and trustees will never again have cause to wonder as to your libraries’ worth. Not that they should anyway…

The second SCCLL Resource will be heading your way in early summer 2003. If you have any questions or comments, please contact SCCLL Publicity Committee Chair, Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, at Ljackson@state.mt.us.

Strategic Planning Update

Sara Galligan
Dakota County Law Library, Hastings, MN

This year’s Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Anita Anderson, launched a balanced, operational review of where our SIS wants to go. Early in the year, the Strategic Planning Committee reviewed and revised the SIS Mission Statement, its SWOT analysis, and its performance objectives, and completed an environmental scan. The environmental scan relied on member input to determine what members want from the SIS and included events, trends, and developments that are shaping state, court, and county law librarians now and in the future. Many members contributed to the environmental scan through a survey and listserv discussion.

While a new strategic plan is coming soon, a sneak preview seems warranted since so many members entrusted the committee with wonderful thoughts and insights about the health of our profession. Judy Meadows collected member input and wrote the following excellent report. Please read on to “check the pulse” of state, court, and county law librarianship and our SIS.

SCCLL – SIS 2003 ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

Technology, patrons, morphing collections, funding and marketing are the dominant management challenges members of SCCLL have said they have in 2003.

As it has for several years, technology continues to be one of the overriding pressures on our libraries; it influences what our collections look like, how we train our staffs, how we provide services, and how we allocate our budgets. “Embracing technology isn’t an option – it’s an imperative” appears to be the theme of our members. E-mail reference, web sites, and 24/7 reference projects all have helped us to extend our service. We recognize that our staff members must receive adequate and continuing training, so that they can utilize new resources effectively and teach others. They then must be provided post-training time to practice and experiment with new resources before they can train others. We know that a hidden cost of online services is the additional help that is required of us by the user.

Another challenge brought to us by technology is the necessity to negotiate contracts, particularly flat-rate contracts, and licensing agreements. Our members have seen changes in their relationships with vendors -- driven by mergers, changes in management, and our perception that there is less emphasis on customer service than we saw a decade ago. Our collections now are true hybrids, with mixes of print and electronic resources. We find that most of our clients need materials that support state-oriented, procedural research. However, it appears to us that legal publishers only publish where they can realize a profit - - in large states -- resulting in a dearth of necessary materials in the less populated states. Consequently the Internet is sought for answers, with mixed results. Unfortunately, once an item is no longer in print format, but only available electronically, its use drops sharply.

Our patrons differ from those of academic and private law libraries. Our customers have more immediate needs. We see more diversity within our client group as far as education level and ability to understand the nature of the materials sought. Consequently we need to be creative and pro-active on a daily basis. It has
Technology, patrons, morphing collections, funding and marketing are the dominant management challenges members of SCCLL have said they have in 2003.

and online catalogs enhance visibility, which historically has been a special problem for the county law libraries buried inside larger courthouse structures. We find that we should employ niche marketing.

Methods include electronic newsletters and annual reports posted on web sites, columns for bar journals, hosting social gatherings and Law Day programs, offering training, with MCLE available, and networking with other organizations.

Members see a growing need to align with parent organizations. This not only helps to influence funders, but also leads to members being appointed to statewide taskforces. We also work with local and state bar associations, Legal Services offices, and public libraries. We see our libraries as being part of the foundation for democracy. It has been suggested that by partnering with public service librarians in public and academic libraries, we could increase advocacy efforts for county law library services and promote the Model Code for County Law Libraries.

Members of SCCLL rely on and value certain Section services more than others. They use the SCCLL listserv for seeking immediate answers to questions and for sharing best practices with each other. The Newsletter and Website are also highly valued. It has been suggested that SCCLL could act as a clearinghouse, whereby members would share their methods, programs, materials, etc. This would be a continuation of the concept of sharing best practices. On our website we could provide a section that lists and describes the classes and training our members offer.

The Standards that have been developed, approved, and promulgated for both appellate court and county law libraries are felt to be important. Our new *How to Hire a State, Court or County Law Librarian* brochure is both familiar and important to the members, although it is not seen yet as being as effective as they would like. The *Sourcebook* is another tool that could be improved to better meet our members’ needs.

The Section’s educational programs at the AALL Annual Meeting, as well as separate workshops, are felt to be very important and effective, and our members highly value the grants we make available to attend these meetings. The mentoring program is appreciated. It is interesting that although we know our members feel that collaborating with other organizations is very important for their own libraries, they indicate that collaboration for SCCLL as an entity is less important than other activities. Our members are not familiar with advocacy efforts by the Section, either to AALL or to outside organizations.

The initiative that would be most highly valued by our members is one that would supply them with ways to inform decision makers or funding authorities about the value of library services. Improving the legal profession’s understanding of what law librarians do is a similar project, and is the close second in preference expressed by our members. Providing examples of “best practices” is also something our members want the Section to undertake. Finally, the challenge of recruitment and retention of new members has been indicated to have high interest. There could be a misinterpretation here, however, in that the crisis in the library profession as a whole may be what our members are addressing.

*Judy Meadows, Director*

*State Law Library of Montana*
California Residents Find Their Other Public Libraries 24/7 Reference and Q&A Café Programs Catch On

Shirley H. David  
Sacramento County Public Law Library  

"This was a lot of help. I had a simple question no one seemed to be able to answer." "I'm a business owner and this site helped me resolve an important question." These are compliments public law librarians love to hear. Of course they also know that simple questions don't always have simple answers when one must look to the law for the answers. And therein lies the dilemma for the 61 librarians from 17 California public law libraries and one academic law library who are using their expertise to answer questions posed over the Internet. How to effectively answer the "simple question" for a growing number of people who are not going to lawyers and who are expecting that all they need to know can be found somewhere for free on the Internet.

Reference librarians throughout California are collaborating to escort researchers to free Internet sites and other resources that may answer their legal reference questions. The service uses software that combines chat and the ability to collaboratively view and search sites. The real time service is available 43 hours per week primarily during standard business hours. The questions are received via "Ask the Librarian" icons on library websites and California's Judicial Council self-help website.

Each public law library has agreed to staff the reference service at least two hours per week. Law Librarians are currently answering live chat calls 45 hours per week from Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Live chat law librarians are also available on Monday from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Participants are fielding legal questions transferred from generalist librarians received from participating libraries of the 24/7 Reference Service of the Metropolitan Cooperative Library System in Southern California and the Q & A Café in Northern California. Several public law libraries have direct links from their own websites to the service. From the law librarians' 24/7 reference portal page, questioners also have the choice of leaving an e-mail request if there is no live chat law librarian available, or link to the Council of California County Law Librarians' website. The CCCLL website includes a directory of the public law libraries throughout the state with links to their libraries websites.

The project began in September 2001 when the CCCLL voted to participate as law reference experts for the 24/7 Reference program of MCLS. By December 2002, the law librarians were answering 100 questions per month, live and e-mailed. The questions were coming mainly from live sessions transferred in by the public library staff and from website portals on individual law library websites. Then on January 2, 2003 the service exploded with questions. In one month the law librarians fielded 921 live questions, and received 1124 e-mail questions.

Customer survey results reflect that law librarians are providing a valued service by facilitating web searches for legal information and guiding callers to information available only in books. To accommodate the increased workload, we are inviting other California law libraries to join the collaborative.

Participating law libraries include the Bernard E. Witkin California State Law Library, Santa Clara University Law Library and 14 county law libraries throughout the state. Law librarians have written scripts to answer frequently asked questions and are working with the staff at the Judicial Council to facilitate adding information on the self-help site.

Shirley David, Sacramento County Public Law Library Director, coordinates the project for the CCCLL. Susan McGlamery of MCLS is the innovator and coordinator of the 24/7 Reference program. The 24/7 Reference software is adapted for MCLS from Egain® live chat software and joint e-mailbox software called QRC. Federal LSTA grants and licensing of the 24/7 Reference program to non California libraries and consortia pay for the system hardware, software, coordination, training, and technical assistance. Experts such as the medical and law librarians contribute reference staff time.

For more information contact: Shirley H. David, Sacramento County Public Law Library mailto: sdavid@saclaw.lib.ca.us, 916-874-6013.
SCCLL Grants Awarded

The Grants Committee is pleased to announce that four grants of $750 each have been awarded to SCCLL members for the 2003 AALL Annual Meeting in Seattle.

The recipients are:

Jeannie L. Bess
State Law Librarian
West Virginia Supreme Court

Jeffrey J. Dowd
Law Librarian
State of Connecticut Judicial Branch Law Library at Middletown

Ana M. Hinman
Reference Librarian and Legal Research Trainer
Washoe (NV) County Law Library

Akram Sadeghi Pari
Catalog Librarian
Cincinnati (OH) Law Library Association

Jody Bell and Mary Fuller, Co-chairs
Marcia Bell
Rita Dermody
Connie Von Der Heide
Karen Westwood.

Law Day Festivities

Cossette Sun, Director
Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library

The Alameda County Law Library, Bar Association, Superior Court, and School District participated in activities to commemorate Law Day 2003 throughout the week of April 28th. Law Day events were promoted by posters at the Law Library and various county libraries. The theme for this year was “Celebrate Your Freedom: Independent Courts Protect Our Liberties.”

The keynote speaker at the Law Day Luncheon was California Attorney General Bill Lockyer. Another highlight of this year’s Law Day celebration was the presentation of the Liberty Bell Award to the Tri-Valley Heaven Restraining Order Clinic Volunteer Team from Livermore, California. This team is made up of 12 dedicated volunteers who work with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their families. On April 29, the County Board of Supervisors and the Bar Association celebrated Law Day with the Judges and court personnel. Throughout the week tours of the courts were conducted for the benefit of local middle school students. The Law Library and the South County Branch in Hayward also celebrated the installation of the Court computers linked directly to the Alameda County Superior Court Domain System.

The Alameda County Law Library publicized the Sixth Annual Bernard E. Witkin Memorial Symposium, co-sponsored by the Witkin Institute, the Alameda County Bar Association (ACBA), and the Law Library.

Nevll Is 3

Ana M. Hinman
Washoe County (NV) Law Library

Randy Snyder, Law Librarian of the National Judicial College, hosted the 3rd annual Nevada Law Librarians meeting at the Reno college. The event was well attended and speakers included Nevada Supreme Court Chief Justice Deborah Agosti, National Judicial College President Bill Dressel, Nevada Library Association lobbyist Karen Kavanau and Nevada Attorney General Brian Sandoval.

Nevada Legal Assistance Web Directory Launches in June

The brand new Nevada Legal Resources Directory (http://www.nvlawdirectory.org) is the product of the Legal Electronic Assistance for Nevada project. It has been spearheaded by the Washoe County Law Library, and funded in large part by a federal Library Services and Technology Act grant.

This new web directory provides an index of free Nevada law and law-related assistance agencies. In addition, the site has web links to explanations of the law and legal research help for the non-attorney. Please direct any questions and/or feedback to Ana Hinman, ahinman@mail.co.washoe.nv.us or 775-328-3095.
Member News

Sara Galligan, Dakota County (MN) Law Librarian and SCCLL member, has been picked as one of Minnesota’s “Up and Coming attorneys of 2003.” These individuals—all of whom have been admitted to the bar for six years or less—have already demonstrated great promise, success and achievement in leadership positions, public service work and complex or difficult cases.” The recognition celebration for the winners was May 21, 2003.

The Colorado Association of Law Libraries congratulates Kathy Carlson, Wyoming State Law Librarian, on her election to a three-year term on the AALL Executive Board.

Los Angeles County Law Library is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year.

Mary Ann Parker received the NOCALL Professional Achievement Award at the NOCALL Annual Meeting in Sacramento on May 22.

Greetings from Oxford

City of Dreaming Spires

Cynthia S. Fellows
Alaska State Law Library

Greetings from Oxford, U.K.! I have been here on a leave of absence from the Alaska Court System since October, and am enjoying it immensely. After spending most of the last 32 years in Alaska, I welcome the culture shock of a mild climate, a constantly stimulating intellectual and cultural environment, over eight centuries of magnificent architecture, narrow streets with minimal vehicle traffic - inviting to pedestrians and bicyclists, lively bistros and pubs on every block, and libraries everywhere you turn - libraries where most readers are not tethered to computers.

I live in a flat on the Oxford Canal and from my window observe a daily parade of people, dogs, ducks, swans and barges. The canal, built in the latter half of the eighteenth century to transport coal, runs from Coventry to Oxford where it connects to the Thames. Now the canal is home to barge owners and a waterway for tourists who hire barges for pleasure trips. In Jericho, my neighborhood, the houses were originally built for families of workers on the wharves, the railways, and in the iron foundries. They have since been converted into apartments and Jericho is now an upscale enclave of shops, bistro, art galleries, and boasts a very fine cinema. Jericho has been home to the Oxford University Press since 1826. The closest neighborhood pub, forty-five paces from my door, is appropriately named Bookbinder’s. Also close by is my favorite food shop, Glutton’s.

Central Oxford is a short walk from Jericho. Here, in addition to the Bodleian Library and the colleges with their picturesque quads, are other delights: the Sheldonian Theatre, designed by Christopher Wren and a venue for ceremonies and concerts; the Covered Market, on the same site since 1773, offering the very best local produce, poultry, meat and wild game; Blackwell’s Bookshop - well over 10,000 square feet, much of it underground; the Bridge of Sighs at Hertford College, a familiar landmark in Brideshead Revisited; and the seventeenth century pub The Eagle and the Child, fondly called “The Bird and the Baby”. The Inklings, a literary group led by CS Lewis, met here regularly during the 1930s and 1940s.

One of my first missions on arrival was to secure a Bodleian Library Reader’s Card. The central Bodleian Library is actually three separate buildings – the Old Library, the Radcliffe Camera, and the New Library. The Radcliffe Camera, built between 1737 and 1749 is one of the most distinctive buildings in Oxford - a circular structure with a lofty dome and a lovely place to read, with light entering the reading room through the outer windows and from above. Nine other libraries are part of the Bodleian with specialized collections that include the sciences, philosophy, law, Oriental studies, and African studies.

On my first visit to the Law Library I was graciously received by Barbara Tearle, Bodleian Law Librarian since 1988. The law library has a large central reading (Oxford Continued on page 21)
room with row upon row of tables well populated by the young students. Law is taught as a bachelor’s degree in the UK. Books do not circulate, and students must use print sources for most of their reading assignments. The library collection has extensive holdings of law for all the jurisdictions of the British Isles. It also has substantial holdings for Commonwealth, common law and European countries, and materials on the European Union, comparative law, conflict of laws, criminology, jurisprudence, public international law and Roman law. The law library catalog is online, along with the rest of the Bodleian collections, and the law library web page has a well organized and informative guide to electronic resources which I have found extremely useful.

There are 39 colleges within the University of Oxford. The University handles matters of academic administration; the colleges, which have been in existence longer than the University, are in charge of everything else. Colleges differ in wealth and in size and each has its own idiosyncratic library. One of the most spectacular is the Codrington Library at All Souls College. The Codrington, with its specialized collection of law and history, predates the Bodleian by over 150 years. The library has a Gothic exterior and a splendid classical interior. Most impressive is the reading room 200 feet long, 30 feet wide and 40 feet high, presided over at the far end by a marvelous marble statue of the seated figure of William Blackstone, who was a Fellow at All Souls.

My association is with Exeter College - one of the oldest colleges - which has a stunning Victorian chapel, elegant dining hall, and a secluded garden adjoining the Old Bodleian. Tapestries of Exeter College alumni William Morris hang in the chapel, and many other buildings in Oxford, including the library at the Oxford Union, are ornamented with Morris paintings and textiles. Other Exeter College alumni include Richard Burton and J.R.R. Tolkien. When dining “in Hall” at Exeter, students must wear gowns. The college fellows and dons sit at high table, candles are lit, wine is poured. During the Oxford Literary Festival, I went to a dinner served in the spectacular Hall at Christ Church College, where the Harry Potter movies were filmed. I have taken advantage of frequent opportunities to attend lectures in the colleges and debates at the Oxford Union. The speakers are truly brilliant and entertaining – Michael Moore, John Mortimer and various members of Parliament to name a few. Most events in Oxford are made all the more pleasurable by that proper pint or ubiquitous glass of sherry.

My favorite destination just outside Oxford is The Trout, the historic pub that sits on the banks of the River Isis – the very riverbank where Charles Dodgson told the stories of “Alice in Wonderland” to the Liddell sisters. In more recent times, The Trout was a favorite of Inspector Morse – it was his “thinking pub”. Other adventures have included forays to nearby Blenheim Palace - the birthplace of Winston Churchill - and tours through Shakespeare country and the Cotswold villages. Trains run every 15 minutes from Oxford to London – an hour’s ride. I have gone down to London not only for theatre and museums, but to attend proceedings at the Royal Courts and the Old Bailey, to tour and dine at the Inns of Court, and to visit with Jules Winterton, Librarian at the Advanced Institute for Legal Studies. Destinations further afield – reached by air in a Beechcraft Baron flown over from the
States via Greenland and Iceland - have included northern Scotland, Ireland, Wales, France and Austria.

I am writing this while seated on the terrace of Schloss Leopoldskron, an eighteenth century rococo palace in Salzburg, facing a serene landscape – swans on a lake in the foreground, impressive Alpine peaks at a distance. The palace was once owned by King Ludwig I of Bavaria and subsequently (1918) purchased by Max Reinhardt. Many would recognize the setting – in 1965 the lake, terrace and grounds were featured in The Sound of Music. Lovely as it is now, knowing that the palace was seized and occupied by the Nazis is a grim reminder of human rights abuses of a not so distant past.

The palace and the adjoining property have been home to the Salzburg Seminar, a forum for promoting global dialogue on issues of pressing international concern since 1947. In addition to a modern library facility and computer lab, there is a lovely library in the palace itself, complete with spiral staircase hidden behind a moveable faux bookshelf, and the entire collection is cataloged - Dewey Decimal - and online.

It has been enlightening and refreshing to reside in the U.K. during this post-September 11 era. I am fascinated and delighted by the British capacity for articulate and historically informed debate, imbued not only with passion but a tempering sense of humor to boot. In the U.K., there is no pervasive climate of fear. The European perspective on world events, particularly the activities of the U.S. on the international scene, is vastly different from that portrayed in the U.S. media. I have attended several international law conferences focusing on the impact of recent U.S. and U.K. legislation on human rights and other issues of concern to the international law community. It is sobering and thought provoking to listen to well informed discussion among lawyers from Europe and Asia as well as North America. It is an experience that reinforces my sense of the serious consequences – some already apparent, several foreseeable, and even more as yet unknown – of the restrictions on personal freedom and commerce emanating from the United States.

In addition to the marvelous opportunity to experience Oxford and to travel, I have a final reward that I would like to share with you all: whenever I am introduced as a law librarian, the response is one of respect and appreciation for our profession, often accompanied by an enthusiastic anecdote about a particular law librarian’s acumen. If I hear a suggestion that we are “a dying breed” because legal resources are available online and therefore we are no longer needed, I take the opportunity to explain some of the challenges facing the profession and how the new age law librarian responds, with an assurance that we are “virtually” here to stay!

So . . . I can make some assurances that we are not underappreciated or misapprehended by those we have been serving all these years, and I am confident that as the profession evolves, respect and appreciation will continue to accompany our efforts.
Exeter College Chapel

Door Leading to Old Bodleian Library

Radcliffe Camera