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View from the Chair

Catherine Lemann, SCCLL Chair

The end of my term as Chair is a time to reflect on challenges and successes over the past year.

Trite, but true, I greatly enjoyed working with so many members during this year. There are so many members who volunteered and worked behind the scenes. Sara Galligan coordinated our online discussion in March. I learned more about what our members think and hope you did, too. Marcus Hochstetler has been invaluable as secretary/treasurer. His institutional memory will surely enable him to be a terrific chair. The at-large board members, Terry Long, Lisa Rush, and Barbara Fritschel, worked hard on a couple of special projects.

The committee chairs capably carried out their charges. I thank the chairs and committee members for their willingness to take on their assignments. Chairs included Rita Dermody, Connie Von Der Heide, Georgia Chadwick, Larry Meyer, Laureen Adams, Anne McDonald, Kristina Piechnik, Kim Ositis, Joel Fishman, Regina Smith, and Katie Jones. Special thanks to Betsy Vipperman for stepping in late in the year.

I’ve said it before, but I’m going to repeat myself: Volunteer! Ask any of the chairs or committee members. There might be a flurry of work at some time of the year but it’s not a huge time commitment. Try it and see what you think.

As SCCLL chair, I attended the AALL Summit on the Authentication of Digital Legal Information in April. Other SCCLL members attending included Larry Meyer and Barb Golden. Sara Galligan, Barb Golden, Terri Ross, Linda Robertson, and Marie Weichman, Jessica Van Buren, and Jane Colwin attended the Midwest Pro Se Conference in the fall sponsored by the American Judicature Society. Sara participated on a panel at the Equal Justice Conference in March titled “Self Represented Litigation: Attorney, Court and Legal Aid Leadership Responses to the Access Revolution.” Sara Galligan and Lisa Rush collaborated on a program at the SWALL annual meeting on services to pro se litigants. Charley Dyer continues to be active with the Self-Represented Litigants network. Marie Erickson and Lisa Rush attended the AJS South Central Pro Se Conference in the spring.

I’m sure that other members were involved in similar activities. These events benefit all of us and I thank everyone who took the time to attend. As a result of our members being involved with these conferences, leaders in other parts of the legal profession are more likely to think of law librarians as part of the system and a valuable resource. We have been trying to get the word out and I hope that these efforts are just the start of further collaboration.

Thanks to everyone who helped me this year. As I mentioned last fall, I was not anticipating relocating to Alaska when I agreed to run for Chair. I’ve learned a lot from my work with SCCLL, but also from moving to a beautiful but distant spot. I have

(View from the Chair continued on page 2)
(View from the Chair continued from page 1)

definitely learned that there can be bumps along the way, but the scenery is beautiful and that it’s worth challenging yourself to try a new direction. The remoteness of Alaska has certainly been mitigated by my connections with SCCLL members.

Finally, be sure to come to New Orleans to mingle and learn with your SCCLL and AALL friends. The Breakfast, Business Meeting, and silent auction will start us off on Sunday morning. The SCCLL reception on Sunday night at the Louisiana Supreme Court is sure to be a highlight. Laissez les bons temps rouler!

From the Editor

Kim Ositis, SCCLL News Editor

Welcome to the Spring and Summer issue of SCCLL News! I am excited to have a full issue of articles and reports. Our SCCLL members have been very active in attending a number of conferences and workshops including the 2007 Equal Justice Conference (Sara Galligan), Authentic Legal Information in the Digital Age: A National Summit (Catherine Lemann), and two visits by AALL representatives to conferences in Baltimore and Las Vegas (Joan Bellistri and Sandy Marz).

Judy Meadows presents an excellent summary of the recent SCCLL listserv discussion about strategic directions. Jacqueline Cantwell reflects on whether libraries are best described as gatekeepers or intermediaries and Georgia Chadwick tells of the eventful life of Joachim Bermudez, one of New Orleans’ first judges. Rita Dermody writes about the new Legal Eagle DVD collection at the King County Law Library. (You can find out more about how KCLL is marketing the Legal Eagle project by reading my shameless plug in the next paragraph.)

Connie Von Der Heidi is keeping everyone informed about SCCLL programs at the Annual Meeting. <shameless plug> I hope to see some SCCLLers at the program I’m presenting at on Tuesday morning at 9:00 with Bret Christensen and Liz Robb, “Marketing Your Public Library”. </shameless plug>

I will be staying on as SCCLL News editor for the next year and I look forward to getting many more great articles for the Fall 2007 issue, by the deadline of September 17. I’ll be looking for reviews of Annual Meeting programs and events and all those SCCLL committee reports!

SCCLL News is published three times a year (Fall, Winter, and Spring) by the State, Court and County Law Libraries SIS. The deadline for the next issue is September 17, 2007. Articles and forms should be submitted via electronic mail to: Kim Ositis, SCCLL News Editor, King County Law Library, kim.ositis@metrokc.gov.

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 SCCL SIS.
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Charley’s Corner
Prototypes and Categories: Making Zoning Laws that Work
Charles R. Dyer, Consultant and Retired Director of the San Diego County Public Law Library

All views expressed in this column are my own alone.

Sometimes, the different pieces of my life come together in interesting ways. Those of you who have read previous columns know that I have been researching cognitive linguistics in order to understand how we law librarians might be able to communicate better with self-represented litigants, and in particular how to help them overcome the difficulties of understanding legal discourse. In my “spare” time, I serve on the Sehome Neighborhood Association Board in Bellingham, Washington. Sehome is a neighborhood designated by the City of Bellingham, as allowed under its code and in conjunction with the Washington State Growth Management Act. Our association is drafting a new neighborhood plan that will eventually be incorporated into the Bellingham City Code and will affect zoning in our neighborhood. Now these two activities have become connected, much to my surprise.

One aspect of cognitive linguistics is the theory of prototypicality. As we use language naturally, our concepts are based on prototypes. I explained prototypes in my last column, so I hope you don’t mind if I simply refer to my previous discussion, rather than repeat myself.

A second component of prototypical thinking is that the categories created by these concepts do not necessarily have very strict boundaries. Indeed, it is the extending of these boundaries through analogy and metaphor that is at the root of much of our creative process. So the boundaries are somewhat loose, or “fuzzy,” as in “fuzzy sets.” This aspect of categorization is in sharp contrast to the traditional Aristotelian notion that categories have strict essences that create definite boundaries. This traditional notion of categories has been used by philosophers and most other disciplines for better than twenty-five hundred years.

The presumed need for strict boundaries for our categories is obvious. How can a society make laws about a particular class of things or events if the class itself is not strictly definable? If the edges are fuzzy? Of course, much of what is decided in appellate opinions is whether the particular thing or event falls within the class of things or events that are ruled on by the statute or common law principle under discussion. As I had mentioned several columns ago, the traditionalist Professor Frederick Schauer believes that the strict adherence to the classification of things and events must be maintained, even to the extent of making what is obviously a bad ruling, in order to preserve it. If the ultimate decision is bad, then the rule-making body should subsequently change the law to perfect it. Professor Steven Winter, versed in cognitive linguistics, sees it otherwise. (Recall the “No animals on the bus case” in my column in the Spring 2006 issue.) Professor Winter believes a sensible notion of what the rule-making body meant can be had by examining the obviously intended prototype and making a rational judgment as to the limits of the class beyond that which is stated in formal words in the rule under discussion.

So now you may sense where I am going. Sehome is an older neighborhood, with most of the housing and multi-family units built prior to 1930. One large section of it is designated as the Sehome Historic District, with many houses over one hundred years old. (My own house will be 100 in 2008.) The home-owning residents in the

(Charley’s Corner continued on page 5)
neighborhood are generally in consensus that they would like the neighborhood to stay much as it is, with any newer development made to match in style, size, and view corridors the existing housing. However, a large percentage of the properties in Sehome are rental homes, as there is a significant population of college students in Sehome who attend Western Washington University. Some landlords and property managers have let some properties run down, sometimes with the intent to make a case with the city that the house should be replaced with a small fourplex apartment building. That would supposedly help with Bellingham’s burgeoning population and, of course, make the landlord more money. But such developments do not please the homeowners.

The residents of Sehome are not interested in making Sehome so restrictive in zoning that nothing new can be built. They also don’t want rules so restrictive that Sehome becomes like Monterrey, California, or Santa Fe, New Mexico, communities where the zoning codes are so strict as to add considerable cost and loss of functionality to new developments. But they don’t want a code with no teeth either. How do you strike a proper balance?

One method being examined comes from Olympia, Washington, and some other communities. Olympia’s Urban Design Vision and Strategy has photographs of various buildings and houses, which are rated on a system showing approval or disapproval. Design review there now alludes to this graphic presentation. A new development is accorded points for or against, depending on how well the planned development matches the preferred buildings shown in the photographs. In effect, the preferred structures are now being used as a prototype for good construction, and not-so-preferred structures are used as examples from outside the set of acceptable structures, i.e., are examples outside the class. (Those not-so-preferred structures that are actually within the zoned area are grandfathered in, but not emulated.)

Contrast this with an apartment building recently approved for construction in Sehome, wherein the developer continually brought back plans, making small adjustments until the city’s attorney and the planner said, “We know the development is not at all like the others in Sehome, but the developer met the letter of the law for each of the expected features, so we have no choice but to approve the development.” Sehome is predominately Victorian, Western Craftsman, and Prairie Style Four-Square houses. So features such as hipped roofs are called for. The developer presented something that looks like a three-story glass pagoda (a completely different type of hipped roof), copying enough of the individual architectural features, and borrowing stylistics from older unacceptable buildings nearby, to barely pass muster. It is evident that words do not accomplish what pictures could.

Another standard we are looking to include are the LEED-ND (ND refers to “New Development,” i.e., multi-use and multi-family developments) and LEED-Housing standards. (http://www.usgbc.org/) These standards were created by the U.S. Green Building Council to create buildings that are environmentally sensitive, conservation-friendly, possibly employing alternative fuels, and use a smaller carbon footprint. They also have aesthetic elements, such as putting parking lots behind buildings and sharing parking between day and night uses. The standards use a point system and award construction with enough positive points over negative points as Silver, Gold, or Platinum levels. Quite a number of cities are adopting these standards. Although these standards do not depend as much on graphical presentations, they still create soft lines as to what is acceptable and what is not. For instance, a large house would get deducted points for being too big, but might still qualify if it had enough other points from other factors, e.g., has solar heating, high insulation, and so on. The
standards are quite extensive, so there is considerable room for variance. So, acceptability is not a hard and fast rule. A house that met the Platinum level (90-128 out of a possible 129 points, plus the required features) would be very close to the prototype.

During one of our meetings, I was able to ask a developer who is following our progress what he thought of the LEED standards and the use of photos for prototypes. His main concern was that the group in charge of applying the standards, which in our case would be a design review board appointed by the city council, include some architects so that he would not be held to impossible construction standards that would hugely inflate costs for a very small gain. Otherwise, this relatively forward-thinking developer said he appreciated this type of input because it simply made more sense than hard and fast rules that usually don't accomplish what the city wants and just create barriers for developers. He noted, for instance, that some building codes, stuck in old technology, would not allow for the newer types of construction materials that LEED standards would prefer.

What struck me about all this is that forward-thinking communities are now using these prototype methodologies, as opposed to simple yes-or-no hard-and-fast rules. These new methods represent the way people actually think about such processes. As the Supreme Court justice used to say about pornography, “I can't define it, but I know it when I see it,” so people who live in a community know what sorts of houses belong in that community. It is a visual, even visceral, understanding, not easily spelled out in words. Our concepts are built from our sensory experiences.

It will be interesting to see how the courts treat these new kinds of rules. While they may seem vague to those who don't have the appreciative understanding of the sense of the community, they would seem altogether clearer than narrowly written rules to those who do employ them. Will judges be ready for this? Are we ready for this?

Long-time Members to be Honored
Kathy Carlson, Wyoming State Law Library

The following SCCLL members will be recognized at the SCCLL Breakfast and Meeting in New Orleans for 20 Years of Membership in AALL with 10 Years of Membership in SCCLL:

Georgia Chadwick
Law Library of Louisiana

Jane Colwin
Wisconsin State Law Library

Anna Djirdjirian
U.S. Court of International Trade Library

Nanna K. Frye
California Court of Appeals, 4th District Law Library

Judith L. Gill
Wood County Law Library

Anne C. Matthewman
Toronto Lawyers Association

Marcia L. Oakes
Rhode Island State Law Library

Kristie Randall
U.S. Court of Appeals, 1st Circuit Law Library
SCCLL Programs at AALL New Orleans
Connie Von Der Heidi, Chair, Education Committee

As you’re compiling your itinerary for the New Orleans annual meeting, remember to add the programs outlined below to your “must attend” list. Because they’ve been developed by SCCLL members, the topics are of particular interest to us. Please especially note the Monday afternoon program, which has recently changed!

A huge Thank You to everyone involved in making these programs happen: coordinators, moderators, and speakers. Your willingness to invest your time and talent and share your expertise is greatly appreciated by all, and it’s what makes the annual meeting so well worth attending.

All SCCLL members are also invited to attend the meeting of the SCCLL Education Committee on Tuesday, July 17, 12-1 p.m. It so happens that the AMPC Open Forum on programming for the 2008 annual meeting is scheduled at the same time, so we’ll meet there. Check the final program booklet for the Open Forum room location, and join us to learn more about developing 2008 annual meeting programs, discuss the successes and challenges of this year’s SCCLL programming efforts, and brainstorm ideas for SCCLL educational programming at places and times other than the annual meeting. To best serve SCCLL members’ educational needs and desires, the Education Committee needs your input. I hope to see you there.

For your convenience, the following information is also available on the SCCLL website, http://www.aallnet.org/sis/sccll/. Look for Annual Meeting in the left sidebar and click Programs. When you arrive at the conference, check the final program booklet for room locations.

Sunday, July 15

Program C-2, 4:15-4:15 p.m. Access to Online Court Records and the Challenge to Privacy. Coordinator: Gretchen Van Dam, Circuit Librarian, Library of the U.S. Courts, 7th Circuit Court of Appeals, Chicago.

With the advent of electronic case filing in the state and federal courts, court records are becoming publicly accessible as never before. Internet access to federal and state court records provides wide dissemination of information and transparency of the judicial process for the public. However, such access to court records raises the issue of access to sensitive individual information and its possible misuse. And what are the challenges and opportunities for law librarians in assuring public access to legal information in an era of evolving court technologies? Judy Meadows, Montana State Law Librarian and chair of the Montana Task Force on Privacy and Public Access to Court Records; and Mary Stickney, Chief of the Electronic Public Access Program Office, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, will discuss issues surrounding internet access to state and federal court records and the development of access policies. Loretta Mince, a partner in the New Orleans law firm of Correro Fishman Haygood Phelps Walmsley & Casteix, L.L.P., has experience in representing the media and will discuss the media’s interest in preserving the public’s right to know.

Monday, July 16

Program D-2, 8:45-10:15 a.m. Networking to Serve Self-Represented Litigants. Coordinator: Charles Dyer, Consultant and Retired Public Law Library Director, Charles R Dyer Consulting, Bellingham, WA. (Co-sponsored with the Legal Information Services to the Public SIS)
The Self-Represented Litigation Network (SRLN), maintained by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), is conducting research and collecting best practices from across the nation on serving self-represented litigants. Richard Zorza, consultant to NCSC and SRLN Network Coordinator, will explain the network and demonstrate access to its resources. Some sample self-help programs, including partnerships between different agencies, will be demonstrated. Sara Galligan, Manager of the Dakota County (MN) Law Library and chair of the AALL Pro Bono Partnerships Special Committee, will discuss the committee’s recommendations for AALL cooperation with the SRLN and other recommendations regarding partnering at the local level.

Program D-3, 8:45-10:15 a.m. Electronic Preservation: Does Losing the Past Challenge the Future? Coordinator: Jon Stock, Supervising Law Librarian, Connecticut Judicial Branch Law Library at Stamford. (Co-sponsored with the Micrographics & Audiovisual SIS)

Digital preservation presents the ultimate challenge. Law depends upon precedent as its compass. If precedent perishes, then the law loses its compass. This program will offer a debate between two authorities who advocate conflicting theories about electronic preservation. The first speaker will outline a purely digital approach that places its reliance upon open systems and mass storage devices. The second speaker will present a hybrid approach including analog systems as archival insurance. Both options will be explored for their opportunities and risks. Hybrid preservation is safe; but it is redundant. We can save data securely but, given limited resources, we can save less. Purely digital preservation allows us to save more; but its underlying assumptions are unproven. We risk awakening one morning to find that our computer screens are blank and that we have saved nothing at all. This discussion will help our profession rise to its most important challenge: preserving the human experience.


This program describes a successful grassroots project to collectively reduce costs through a cooperative resource sharing program between county law libraries and the public libraries in rural Minnesota. This partnership has provided public librarians with the tools and confidence to provide legal research assistance. Librarians are now partnering with self-help providers to increase services to the pro se litigant. Based upon the success of the initial project, Minnesota is now exploring possible statewide application. The panel presentation will feature Mara Wiggins, Project Librarian for the Minnesota 5th Judicial District Law Library Project; Hon. John R. Rodenberg, 5th Judicial District Court Judge, and Barbara Golden, Minnesota State Law Librarian. These key players in this ongoing partnership will offer firsthand insight into the political process and continuing developments.

NEW SCCLL Directly-Sponsored Program, 2:00-3:15 p.m.: Stepping Into Big Shoes: Strategies to Ensure Smooth Transitions for First Time Directors and Managers and the Libraries They Serve. Coordinator, Moderator & Speaker: Jean Holcomb, Retired Law Librarian and Director, King County (WA) Law Library.

As members of the baby boomer generation reach the milestone of their sixtieth birthdays, law libraries face the challenge of preparing to meet this leadership drain. What can individual libraries do now under the umbrella concept of succession planning to prepare for institutional leadership transitions in the future? How can law librarians
reframe their skills to fit the responsibilities required as they accept new workplace leadership positions? This program will identify a variety of methods first time managers and directors may utilize to reframe their skills to fit new responsibilities. Attention will focus on designing strategies for implementing a succession planning program for your library regardless of the size of the institution and its staff.

Tuesday, July 17

SCCLL Directly-Sponsored Program, 9:00-10:30 a.m. *Marketing Your Public Library - Rising to the Challenge of Reaching the Public and Local Attorneys*. Coordinator: Liz Robb, Law Librarian, Washington County (MN) Law Library, Stillwater.

Public law libraries face unique challenges in marketing their services to their patrons. Unlike law firm and academic law libraries, many public law libraries do not have "inside" patrons. Public law libraries, such as state and county law libraries, are often used by members of the general public and local attorneys. The challenge is how to reach the members of the public and local bar who are not currently aware of the services the local law library can provide for them. Getting support from the community is crucial when many public law libraries face cuts in their budgets, downsizing or closure. Bret Christensen, Riverside County (CA) Law Library; Kim Ositis, King County (WA) Law Library; and Liz Robb, Washington County (MN) Law Library will share strategies they've used to successfully market their libraries to the public and local bar.


Joelle Gresham is a former Georgia State Law Librarian who left state employment to start her own consulting company, Info-2Go. In her first year in business, Joelle contracted to create county law libraries in Georgia where none existed, served as a consultant to the Law Library of Guam, and performed contract research for an assortment of clients. Join us while we interview Joelle in an informal, interactive format. We'll ask about her first year in business, including setting up her company, finding clients, and experiences as an independent researcher. Librarians who are looking for an alternative career or who would like ideas for part-time employment or volunteer work after retirement are encouraged to attend and benefit from Joelle’s experience.
AALL 2008: Energize, Explore, and Evolve a Program!

Connie Von Der Heide, SCCLL Education Committee Chair
Barbara Golden, SCCLL Liason to 2008 AMPC

The 2007 Annual Meeting in New Orleans is still a few weeks away, but planning has already begun for the 2008 Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon. Ann Fessenden, AALL Vice-President/President-Elect, has just announced the theme: Energize, Explore, and Evolve. So it’s time to get energized, explore ideas for SCCLL annual meeting programs, and see what evolves!

For 2008, there will be a greater variety of time slots available for programs. In addition to the existing 30-, 60-, 75- and 90-minute slots, 45-minute program slots will also be available. All program and workshop proposals will be submitted online through the 2008 Program and Workshop Collection site, where you can develop your proposals in your own virtual workspace, save your work as you go, and even share it with colleagues.

The Program Planner’s Handbook http://www.aallnet.org/events/ProgramPlannersHandbook.pdf provides the resources you will need to turn ideas into program proposals. For SIS sponsorship, proposals should be submitted to the SCCLL Education Committee by August 3; the final deadline for submission to the Annual Meeting Program Committee (AMPC) is August 15.

There will be an Open Forum in New Orleans on Tuesday, July 17, 12 – 1 p.m. where you can get answers to any questions may have about developing annual meeting programs. Because the SCCLL Education Committee meeting happened to be scheduled for the same time, it will take place at the Open Forum. (Check the final program booklet for the Open Forum room location.) But don't wait till then to begin thinking and formulating your proposals. By that time, the August submission deadlines will be just weeks away.

Watch for more information on the SCCLL e-list, and contact Connie or Barbara with questions. Connie.VonDerHeide@wicourts.gov or Barb.Golden@courts.state.mn.us. Let’s make 2008 another year of excellent SCCLL annual meeting programming!

Judge McKay to Speak at Librarians and Trustees’ Luncheon
Laureen Adams, Dougherty County Law Library

Judge Jim McKay, of the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, will speak at the SCCLL Librarians and Trustees' Luncheon. He's going to do an illustrated talk about how the Katrina experience affected the legal community, and how the legal system continued to function despite the disaster. Both Carol Billings and Catherine Lemman say that he is a very entertaining speaker with a warm personality. Judge McKay lost his home due to Katrina.

The luncheon will be on Sunday, July 15 from 12:00 noon to 1:15 p.m. The meeting location is tentatively set for the Hilton-Magnolia Room but the room assignment may change. The final location will be listed in the final program, and it will also be posted at www.aallnet.org. You can click on “Annual Meeting,” then “General Information,” and “Meetings and Events Schedule.”
2007 Silent Auction Blog is Launched!
Tammy A. Hinderman, Silent Auction Chair

As you all know, the Silent Auction is the primary fundraiser for grants for SCCLL members to attend the AALL Annual Meeting. Items are donated by SCCLL'ers and bid on by SCCLL'ers for the benefit of SCCLL'ers. As Katrina reported elsewhere in this newsletter, the Grants Committee was able to award 5 grants of $850 each to attend this year’s conference in New Orleans. As a member of the Grants Committee, I can tell you that we received 16 applications for those 5 grants, all of them from worthy candidates. So, let’s try to not only match last year’s performance but beat it into a frothy pulp!

For the past few years, members have had the ability to view donated items and to bid on them online through the Silent Auction web site, thanks to a lot of hard work by Judy Meadows and Kevin Cook. In an effort to streamline things a bit, Kevin and I have decided to move the Silent Auction web site to a blog format this year. The new blog is already up and running, just waiting for your donations and bids, at http://sccll.wordpress.com/. Here’s how the new blog works:

If you want to donate an item: Send a brief description and digital picture of the item (preferably a “small email” sized version) as well as a suggested starting bid via email to the auction administrator, Tammy Hinderman, at thinderman at mt dot gov. We will upload the information into a new blog post and “tag” it with a category for you. This may take a day or two to complete, but we will send an email confirmation as soon as it is done. Donated items will be posted to the blog as the descriptions are received throughout the months of May and June. Please do not send the items themselves to us! Unfortunately, we cannot carry everyone’s donations on the plane from Helena! If you are not attending the Annual Meeting, please make arrangements with a colleague or friend to deliver your items to New Orleans.

If you want to bid on an item: Check the comments/responses on the post to see if someone has already bid on your item. To read the comments, open the blog post (or click on the link that says “No Responses” or “1 Response,” etc.) and scroll down below the text of the description of the auction item. The most recent comment will be at the bottom. If you want to outbid the most recent commenter, then post your own bid by typing the amount in the box provided and clicking on the “Submit Comment” link. You will have to provide your name and email address, but only your name will be visible to the public. The email address will help us to insure that you are, indeed, legit. All comments on this site will be moderated — once your comment has been approved by the auction administrator, it will appear on the blog for all to see (and, hopefully, for others to outbid!). Online bids will be accepted until 8:00 a.m. M.S.T. on Monday, July 9th. At that time, comments on the blog will be turned off and the highest bids will be recorded for the remaining live portion of the auction. Please remember that payment for your items will be required in full at the end of the live auction during the SCCLL-SIS breakfast and business meeting on Sunday, July 15th, during the AALL Annual Meeting. If you cannot attend the business meeting, please arrange for a colleague or friend to pay for your item and to pick it up for you. Please do not expect us to pick up your items for you! Unfortunately, we cannot bring everyone’s items back to Helena and then ship them out to you!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the auction administrator, Tammy Hinderman, at thinderman at mt dot gov. Happy Bidding!
Joachim Bermudez: Early New Orleans Jurist

Georgia Chadwick, Law Library of Louisiana

Joachim Bermudez’s name was mentioned in the New York Times recently, and he does have an interesting name, as Matt Gross noted in his November 26, 2006, Frugal Traveler piece entitled “Back To New Orleans, Gently”. Mr. Gross spent some time on a Sunday morning wandering through St. Louis Cemetery No. 1, the city’s oldest existing cemetery, during his October 2006 visit to New Orleans. Mr. Gross happened upon the old above-ground tomb where Joachim Bermudez was interred in 1866. Joachim Bermudez not only had an interesting name, but he was also an early member of the Louisiana bar and a well-respected city judge. During his life he saw New Orleans grow from a strategically-located city on the Mississippi River in the Spanish colony of Louisiana to become by 1840 the third largest city in the United States.

Joachim was born in New Orleans on May 29, 1796, the son of Juan Baptist Bermudez and Mary Emelia Soniat Dufossat. Juan Baptist was born in Spain and emigrated at the time of the Revolutionary War to Louisiana by way of Cuba to serve as a judicial functionary under the Spanish government in New Orleans. He married Mary Emelia Soniat Dufossat, a native of New Orleans and a member of one of the oldest and most respected families of French origin in the city. An 1805 city directory shows the Bermudez family living at Rue de Bourbon North which is certainly not the Bourbon Street we know today. It is possible that dwelling is still standing as there were two great fires in New Orleans: in 1788 and in 1794. After the second fire, Governor Carondelet ordered that future buildings be built of brick. The 1805 directory also indicates that in the Bermudez family there were three children and eleven slaves.

New Orleans was founded by the French in 1718, as a part of Louisiana which was ruled by the French until the province was ceded to Spain by a treaty in 1762. Joachim was born during Spanish rule, but while he was still a young child, the Spanish regime was terminated under the Treaty of St. Ildefonso, and Louisiana was ceded back to France. French rule lasted for only twenty days, starting on November 30, 1803. Pierre Clement de Laussat, who had been sent from France as Colonial Prefect to govern Louisiana, was disappointed when he learned that Louisiana had been sold to the United States. Seven year old Joachim must have been aware of the historic ceremony which took place on December 20, 1803, when William C. C. Claiborne and General James Wilkinson took possession of the Louisiana territory for the United States according to the terms of the Louisiana Purchase. During the period when Louisiana was a territory of the United States, Governor Claiborne endeavored to create a workable government to prepare the unique inhabitants of Louisiana to become citizens of the United States.

What is now the present-day state of Louisiana was formed as the first subdivision of the Louisiana Purchase and was called the Territory of Orleans. The remaining land was named the Territory of Louisiana and later the Missouri Territory. In 1811 the United States Congress authorized the people of the Territory of Orleans to write a Constitution preparatory to admission as a state, and a convention was assembled in New Orleans. The members of the convention used the Constitution of Kentucky as a model. In April 1812, Congress passed an act admitting Louisiana into the Union as the eighteenth state.

Very likely Joachim received his primary education at home as there were almost no schools at that time. The only institution of higher learning in New Orleans was Orleans College, which opened in 1811 and where Joachim enrolled as a student. The College closed in 1826 and not until 1834 when a group of local physicians founded the Medical (Joachim Bermudez continued on page 13)
College of Louisiana, was there another attempt at maintaining an institution of higher learning in the city.

Joachim left college before receiving his diploma to defend the city against the invading British during the War of 1812. He was among a group of students from the college who formed an independent company of sharpshooters, joining the Louisiana Militia as a private. General Andrew Jackson led combined forces consisting of a few regular troops and a hastily mobilized force of bedraggled, untrained, and unorganized frontiersman, Creoles, pirates, Indians, and free men of color, to defeat the British on the fields of Chalmette Plantation on January 8, 1815. This military action did not conclude the war because peace had been declared by the Treaty of Ghent, and this news had not reached New Orleans before the battle. However, it saved New Orleans from conquest by the British, something always important to France and Spain when they owned the territory. The victory at New Orleans gave Americans confidence in their military prowess and confirmed the Mississippi as an American river, opening the way for increased westward expansion.

Joachim was almost sixteen when the first steamboat ever to be seen on the Mississippi River arrived in New Orleans from Pittsburgh. Before the invention of steamboats made transportation down and, more importantly, up the river possible, most goods were brought down the river on various types of flatboats. After the goods were sold, the owner of the boat would dismantle the boat and sell the lumber before returning by foot to the upper Mississippi Valley. A number of homes in New Orleans were built using these barge boards. Joachim lived to see the golden age of the steamboat, from 1830-1860, which transformed the port of New Orleans.

Growing commerce on the Mississippi River brought not only money to New Orleans but also increased population. More people coming and going through the port brought yellow fever and cholera epidemics to the city. The filthy condition of the streets caused by the lack of underground sewers and poor drainage provided pools of stagnant water and optimum conditions for mosquitoes to breed. Periodic flooding from the Mississippi River, Lake Pontchartrain, and heavy rains provided a temporary flushing of the city streets but never enough to alleviate the smell of garbage. Because of severe outbreaks of yellow fever, New Orleans by the middle of the 19th century had the reputation of being the graveyard of the country. After 1900 the last outbreak of Yellow Fever occurred when the true cause of the disease was learned, and when changes were finally made to improve the city’s sanitation and drainage system.

For three years after the Battle of New Orleans, Joachim tried to make a living as a merchant, but not finding success, he decided to become a lawyer. As was the custom at the time, he served an apprenticeship in the office of a local practitioner. Joachim “read law” with Mr. Dominique Seghers, who had become a member of the bar in 1813. Joachim was fluent in French, Spanish, and English which was absolutely necessary to any man who wished to become a member of the bar in the early days of Louisiana’s statehood. Article VI of the Constitution of 1812 established English as the language of the government, although until 1868 Louisiana session laws were published in English and in French. Legislation also allowed for interpreters to be used in some courts because some judges spoke only English, and the long-time inhabitants of New Orleans spoke only French and were reluctant to adapt to the official language of the state. Some courts were also allowed by statute to adjourn during the months of August, September, and October, in case of “epidemical disorders”. However, the Louisiana Supreme Court was clear in its rule on the issue that lawyers seeking to pass the oral examination before the Court must do so in the legal language of the state.
other requirements were that gentlemen seeking admission to the bar must give the Court assurances that they had received a good classical education, whether or not they had received a degree, and that they had studied two years under an attorney who was admitted to practice in the state.

Joachim was appointed a Justice of the Peace in the First Ward of New Orleans while he was studying with Mr. Seghers. After successfully passing the oral examination before the justices of the Louisiana Supreme Court, Joachim was admitted to the bar on February 2, 1825, and was soon after made Assistant Judge of the City Court. When a vacancy occurred, he was chosen Presiding Judge of the City Court. In 1836 legislation passed creating a new judgeship, that of Judge of the Court of Probate, and Joachim was appointed to fill this post. The salary was $3500 a year, and Joachim remained the only Probate judge until the position was abolished by the Constitution of 1845.

1836 was the year the city of New Orleans was divided into three municipalities. Leaders of the American sector of the city were frustrated when changes they wanted in the city, which would foster growth and prosperity, were held back by the voting block of the old inhabitants. A new city charter gave each municipality an autonomous board of elected alderman. Ill feeling between the old inhabitants called Creoles and the Americans came to a climax in September 1836 when two young men in the city had a falling out over a debt of money. One young man was a merchant and lived in the old quarter of the city, and his friend was an American and a member of the Washington Guards. The disagreement between the American and the Creole led to a duel in the street near the Creole’s shop and the American was killed in the altercation. Some accounts say the death happened during a duel, but the Creole had refused a duel and had tried to avoid a fight. The Creole was promptly arrested and was held in prison on charges of murder. The Americans supported this action, and when the Creole’s attorney asserted his right to a writ of habeas corpus, the deceased American’s friends threatened death to any judge who would grant the accused bail.

As the other judges who could have presided in this case were sick, or absent, it fell to Judge Joachim Bermudez to sit on this case. Despite the threats against him, Judge Bermudez remained calm and dignified. He allowed the accused to furnish a bond of $15,000. The friends of the deceased vowed to visit the judge at his home that night to lynch him for his actions. Friends of Judge Bermudez offered to protect him and his home that evening, but he thanked them and said he would endanger no one’s life but his own.

Later that night armed men went to the Bermudez home, knocked on the door, and ordered the judge to come with them. The details of this story vary but Judge Bermudez turned to get his weapon, some accounts say a gun and some say a sword, and the armed men followed him into his house. Between the judge and his wife, several of the lynchers were killed. Neighbors came to their aid and the rest were run off. The captain of the Washington Guards took steps to prevent any further trouble, but it was not needed as everyone in the city was on Judge Bermudez’s side. Judge Bermudez surrendered himself to the proper authorities, but as it was a case of lawful self-defense, he was discharged.

After his judgeship was abolished, Judge Bermudez settled down to practice law with his son Edouard, and they had a very successful commercial practice. Edouard Bermudez would later serve as Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court from 1880-1892. The census of 1850 shows that Joachim Bermudez owned twenty-seven slaves ranging in age from fifty years to nine months old.
(Joachim Bermudez continued from page 14)
elected a delegate to the convention which adopted the Ordinance of Secession on January 26, 1861. In April of 1862, the city of New Orleans surrendered to the Federal forces of Admiral David Farragut, and later the Constitution of 1864 abolished slavery in Louisiana. Not until the Constitution of 1868 were voting rights extended to black males.

Judge Bermudez died on September 11, 1866; so he did not live to see the state he had seen born in 1812 readmitted to the Union in 1868. He saw great changes in Louisiana throughout his life and played an important part in the development of Louisiana as a state. He was highly regarded as a judge and a lawyer in a time of transition of the old New Orleans to the new.

Travel Grants to New Orleans Awarded

Katrina Piechnik, Grants Committee Chair

Five $850 travel grants have been awarded to help our members attend the AALL meeting in New Orleans.

It seems that every year our members procrastinate about applying for grants, but due to the appeal of our President, Catherine Lemann, we received an overwhelming 16 applications and even gained one new SIS member (welcome Crystal Sherman!)

The Grants Committee selection process was very difficult as there were so many enthusiastic, dedicated, and deserving people to choose from.

Our original recipients were:

Betty Agin, Middlesex County Law Library, NJ
Gina Catalano, San Diego County Public Library
Meg Martin, Wyoming State Law Library
Mary Pinard, Sacramento County Public Law Library
Jean-Paul Vivian, Elmira Supreme Court Law Library, NY

After selection, Meg Martin notified the committee that she received a grant from a different organization. She graciously returned the SCLL grant and the fifth grant went to Anne McDonald, Rhode Island Department of Attorney General, Providence, RI.

I would like to thank everyone who supported the silent auction in St. Louis and the matching grant challenge. The next silent auction will be starting in early June and I hope you will continue to support this great initiative. Remember you don’t need to attend the Annual Meeting in order to bid on an item.

I also would like to thank my committee members for their hard work and words of wisdom. I had the pleasure of working with an excellent team:

Sharon E. Borbon, Fresno County Law Library
Jane Colwin, Wisconsin State Law Library
Karen M. Lutke, San Mateo County Law Library
Tammy A. Hinderman, State Law Library of Montana

Consider volunteering for this Committee that gives. Also, do not miss, on page 11 of this issue, Tammy Hinderman’s article regarding this year’s silent auction and your opportunities to give.
SCCLL, the AALL's Representatives Program, Baltimore & Las Vegas Visits

Introduction
Sara Galligan, Dakota County Law Library

Historically, SCCLL has participated in the AALL representatives program by sending members to programs convened by court- or legal-related organizations. The AALL representatives program recognizes that our members’ professional interests extend beyond AALL. Also referred to as liaisons, a small group of AALL representatives (who are usually associated with other AALL committees and SIS sections) usually attend annually the programs of other related legal or library associations.

In AALL, formal recognition for AALL’s interest in a representatives role was established in 1967 (see online AALL’s Representative’s Handbook” and guide at WWW.aallnet.org/chapter/reps_to_org.asp). In 1989, a Report of the Special Committee provided for a complete restructuring of the association’s representatives’ procedures. The current guide states that a representative to another association “has the opportunity, in a friendly but unfamiliar forum, to enhance AALL’s stature and to speak, observe, evaluate, and interpret on behalf of thousands of law librarians. It is an opportunity for personal and professional growth, but also an assignment of significant accountability to the membership of AALL.”

More recently and more specifically for SCCLL, the annual report in the Spring 2003 SCCLL Newsletter reported on a proposal to the AALL Board that “a representative be appointed liaison with an organizational entity other than the ABA Judicial Division, suggesting perhaps COSCA [Conference of State Court Administrators] or NACM [National Association for Court Management]. The AALL Board subsequently approved the appointment of a representative to NACM.”

Despite this proposal to send a member to NACM, in 2005 SCCLL sent a liaison/representative to a National Center for State Courts (NCSC) national summit on court safety and security. In the Spring 2005 SCCLL Newsletter, Terry Long reported on her attendance at the summit that was convened in April 2005 in Washington, D.C. In June 2006, Steve Anderson also attended a NCSC Conference on judicial independence. Steve’s report is published at the SCCLL website: http://www.aallnet.org/sis/sccll/docs/Report_Asembly_Court_Associations_Meeting-AALL.doc

In 2006, Barb Golden, as SCCLL Chair, invited Sara Galligan, as incoming chair for 2007-08, to consider continuing our “official” liaison connection with NCSC. She agreed and requested approval to invite other SCCLL members in close geographic proximity to NCSC programs to participate in two remaining NCSC programs for 2006. The two programs of interest included Court Business Solutions (held in Baltimore in September) and E-Filing (held in Las Vegas in December). Joan Bellistri, Anne Arundel County Law Library in Annapolis, Maryland attended the September program on Court Business Solutions. Sandy Marz, Washoe County Law Library in Reno, attended the program in Las Vegas in December. Both Joan and Sandy graciously agreed to provide a report describing the programs they attended. Joan’s and Sandy’s reports follow this introduction. Their reports serve to update state, court, and county law librarians regarding current issues that concern the courts.

(AALL Representative continued on page 17)
The National Center for State Courts held the first Court Solutions Conference: Solving Court Business Problems in Baltimore, Maryland last September. I attended the program as a representative of SCCLL to the NCSC. This is a part of AALL’s representative program creating liaisons with other law and library related organizations.

There were close to 250 participants, consisting mainly of court administrators and administration staff, court clerks, and judges. There were also staff attorneys, research analysts, IT staff and, maybe, just one law librarian. However, during the opening plenary remarks law librarians, in the plural, were listed in the description of participants.

Attendance at this conference provided an opportunity for court law librarians to be seen as involved members of the court organization and for court law librarians to learn about the issues of importance to the courts.

The conference offered three program topics: “Surviving Successfully: Disaster and Business Continuity Planning,” “High Performance Courts: Integrating Knowledge about Workload, Culture and Performance” and “Preserving Judicial Independence: Tactics and Strategies that Work.” Each program consisted of three sessions that were offered concurrently. They were all offered again beginning on the second day so that participants could take advantage of two complete programs or choose between sessions of the various topics.

The Opening Plenary given by Shirley Abrahamson, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin, provided an overview of the topics to be covered by the conference. A review of past disasters and the effects of courts accompanied by video and Power Point slides illustrated the importance of planning for a disaster in “Surviving Successfully.” The problems of courts with multiple objectives and the inevitable conflicts was addressed by “High Performance Courts.” It took the focus away from the day-to-day operations and discussed tools to measure performance, identify culture of the court, and the implications including public impression, as well as the means for the efficient allocation of funds and staff. The topic of “Judicial Independence” was introduced with a video, “Justice at Stake,” that illustrated the threats to an impartial judiciary by showing many of the partisan campaign ads seen during the last election season. Judges are being exposed to an increasing number of personal attacks. This topic strived to identify the problems threatening judicial independence and the importance of educating the public as to the role of the judge. This was an interactive conference; thus the expectation was that the speakers and the participants would provide information as well.

I was initially drawn to the topic of disaster planning, but then chose a topic that I was less familiar with: “High Performance Courts.” I decided to sample a bit of each of the remaining topics. This report is a brief description of the sessions I attended.

“High Performance Courts” exist through an understanding and knowledge of the court’s culture and its impact on workload and performance. Unless a court understands its culture and the reasons for current practices and procedures, it is difficult to bring about any changes that would improve performance.
This topic’s concentration on case management and case disposition rates may seem of little relevance to the law library but included in this discussion was the importance of access and fairness in the courts and good customer satisfaction. Understanding the goals and procedures of the parent organization will help the library in its function of serving those information needs.

Courts of similar size will have different rates of processing cases. The difference lies in the “local legal culture” or expectations. Knowledge of the culture and the resulting reasons for current practices can lead to successful change and improvement. The cultural types described were communal, networked, autonomous, and hierarchical.

Measurement of performance is necessary for the implementation of change. Without some measurement it is difficult to compare the court’s performance with other courts or to measure progress. The NCSC has developed CourTools which “is a set of ten trial court performance measures that offers court managers a balanced perspective on court operations.” These tools are some of the many publications to be found on their website, http://www.ncsc.org.

The topic, “Preserving Judicial Independence,” detailed how courts are increasingly under attack. The calls for the impeachment of judges, introduction of legislation to limit judicial powers, and the malicious election campaigns against sitting judges were cited as examples. Such attacks can be seen as the result of a lack of knowledge as to what the courts and judges actually do. Solutions suggested to these problems were the institution of campaign conduct committees, the use of judicial election questionnaires, good public relations, and the dissemination of information to the public about the courts. This is certainly an area where the expertise of librarians could be utilized.

“Surviving Successfully” dealt with the issues of disaster preparedness and continuity planning. Courts are faced with the concerns for the safety of court employees and the goal of keeping the courts open in the instance of a disaster. Part of the plan must include how to respond when the court must operate offsite in the case where the court building becomes inoperable or operate with greatly reduced staff due to an event such as a pandemic. Stressed throughout the court disaster planning discussion was the importance that court employees have a family disaster plan as well. Hand-outs for this topic, all of which were available on the website before the conference, were quite detailed and included disaster planning templates and actual plans, inventory checklist templates, and first person accounts of disaster experiences. Presentations included more than one example of disaster plan implementation in Florida, making the point that a disaster plan for them is not just an exercise but also a tool that is used.

Librarians should make sure that libraries are included in their court’s disaster and COOP (Continuity of Operations Plan) planning and that the library has a plan for providing service to the court in the event of a disaster.

J. Clark Kelso, Director of the Capital Center for Government Law and Policy, the Concluding Plenary speaker, identified conference themes: serving those who use the courts; the organization, environment, and change within courts; and improving courts. Kelso cited leadership principles of value to anyone providing solutions to problems facing courts. They are the ability to identify the challenge, inspire shared vision, model the way, enable action by removing barriers, mobilize others, and encourage the heart.

This was the first of the Court Solutions conferences which will be offered every other year by the National Center for State Courts. By having a representative of SCCLL attend, we will be aware of the issues facing and of importance to our courts.

Sandy Marz, Washoe County Law Library

I attended the E-courts filing conference in Las Vegas in December 2006 as a representative of SCCLL to the NCSC. I was interested in the program because the trial courts in Washoe County will start E-filing in 2007. Our Law Library will have two PCs for E-filing and access to the case management system. The E-file conference provided me with an opportunity to listen to and meet judges and court managers who currently use E-file systems from state and federal courts as well as vendors and NCSC staff. In the process, I learned more about the system being installed here and alternatives available throughout the country. The judges and court speakers talked about their experiences with the systems, and vendors and NCSC staff provided technical information. Attendees had all sorts of backgrounds ranging from those who are considering but have not yet started E-file systems to court technology personnel who had specific technical questions for the speakers about their systems.

At a recent Board of Trustees meeting, we were talking about installing E-filing equipment in the library. One of my board members, who works mostly in bankruptcy, said he has been using it in the federal bankruptcy courts and really likes it. Another attorney, who works mostly in domestic relations, is fearful of it for confidentiality reasons. Each represents subject matter discussed at the conference.

Investment
The opinion of the attorney who works in the bankruptcy field and is very happy with E-filing was typical of experienced users who spoke. For both attorneys and the courts, there is an initial investment of money and time. For attorneys, there is an investment at first, to buy either software that converts files to PDF or scanners that change documents to PDF, time for training, and longer time needed to load large documents into the system in batches (some courts have limits of 30-50 pages at a time dependent on their equipment). For courts to implement E-filing, rules need to be changed. Case management systems may need to be purchased or upgraded. Vendor contracts may be needed to implement the system, as well as procedural changes in a number of areas. These areas include the filing office, courts (transcripts), chambers (who has access to which files), staff to train users and answer questions after E-filing starts, and implementation of new payment system possibly using credit cards. There is the expectation of downtime to upgrade the system, ongoing training, and the creation of procedures for confidentiality. For many courts, an E-filed case becomes the official court record.

Results
After an initial learning period there is general satisfaction among users and court personnel. Attorneys like it because they can file 24 hours a day, and it saves a trip to court to file documents. The notification system is particularly useful and works much better than relying on manually mailed notices. Positives were also expressed by judges whose spoke at the conference who took laptops and worked on their E-file systems while away from the office. They really liked the ability of being able to keep the workflow going while away from home. The automatic notification system was very popular with the courts and users. Logs indicate if notices are getting through. Electronic service saves time and money for all by only having to use regular mail for manual users. Courts like the fact that there is less need for staff at the check-in counter. Most courts have retrained personnel, displaced by E-filing, to do other functions.

Confidentiality
The attorney who works mostly in domestic relations and is fearful of E-filing for

“For many courts, an E-filed case becomes the official court record.”
confidentiality reasons expresses the fear of many regarding access to court records. Some of this is solved by technology like PDF files, firewalls, and logon/password procedures. Some of the confidentiality issues are resolved by court rules. For example, the e-file depends on the court instituting the process but is often similar to the paper file. You can still request to seal a record. It is up to the courts to decide if only registered e-filers have access to e-files from their own computer. Court rules can define confidentiality, sealed records, signatures, and protection of personal information.

In the E-file environment, law librarians can help attorneys and public users, both, by having court rules available, going to training along with attorneys if possible, and as in our situation, having PCs available in the library so they can access the case management system and e-file their own documents. We can help attorneys and other patrons by being able to explain how court records can be accessed. In our case, anybody can go to the court clerk's office as in the past with a name or file and access the court record, but only registered users have distance access from their PCs to court records.

New Tutorial on Connecticut’s Legislative Process
Steve Mirsky, Connecticut State Library

Ever try acquiring a full understanding of the legislative process in your State or at the Federal level? Up until recently here in Connecticut, if you wanted to learn more about what your elected officials had to go through to pass legislation, studying the “How a Bill Becomes a Law” diagram on the Connecticut General Assembly website was the main option: http://www.cga.ct.gov/html/bill.pdf. While this basic outline gives you a general overview of all major steps a bill takes on its hypothetical journey from introduction to passage, it doesn’t cover many of the pitfalls or rules and procedures that determine its fate along the way. Furthermore, it’s difficult for a linear diagram to capture this multi-dimensional and highly organic process. Now there is a more comprehensive way to learn what happens when Connecticut’s elected officials convene under the gold dome each year.

Here in the Connecticut State Library’s Bill Room, legislative aide, Meghan Quinn and I have developed an interactive tutorial designed to expand your knowledge of what is often described as “sausage making”. http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/snella/Legislative%20Tutorial/index.htm This analogy reflects the perception that a bill's intent often gets contorted into a completely different result as it progresses through the legislature. While this may be an accurate summary of what happens during lawmaking, our tutorial aims to foster an understanding of the process that all bills must follow toward passage. Each lesson dissects what can at first appear to be a highly mechanized process into a step-by-step journey mapped out through rules created by citizens much like ourselves for over 300 years. Distilling historical precedent and decorum, lessons illustrate through text and video clips how and why our legislature continually evolves to address society’s changing needs.

Designed to teach the nuts and bolts behind legislating change, the tutorial aims to vaporize any sense of disenfranchisement people may have when thinking of their elected officials. Beginning with the first chapter, a simple desire for making change is coupled with a detailed step-by-step roadmap of the legislative process covering the finer points in a conversational tone. Quizzes test knowledge retention after each lesson and the navigation bar allows users to return to any page at any time to brush up on areas needing review. Upon completion, we think you’ll find that rather than a sausage factory, the legislative process reflects the essence of human nature governed by rules ensuring fairness rather than an entrenched bureaucracy.
Coming Attractions: The Legal Eagle Collection
Rita Dermody, King County Law Library

One day while waiting for patrons to approach the reference desk, I reflected on a couple of articles that I recently read. The first is an article on Library 2.0 that states that libraries can be (read “must be”) creative in bringing the library patron into the library either in person or electronically. Library Journal, “Library 2.0: Service for the Next-Generation Library” (Sept. 1, 2006, p. 40). This article points out several ways to accomplish this. It says: “Library 2.0 will be a meeting place, online or in the physical world, where [library users’] needs will be fulfilled through entertainment, information, and the ability to create [their] own stuff to contribute to the ocean of content out there.” In the same Library Journal issue, a letter to the editor mused: “DVDs are a great lure to get young people and their families into the library. Having a good DVD collection has proven to increase library patronage and encourage the collateral reading of more books by patrons who were first attracted by DVDs.”

What does this have to do with King County Law Library? We are always trying to find new services. So, I started talking out loud, somewhat facetiously, about having a video collection. The more I talked, the more plausible it seemed. It morphed into a plan that included a small membership fee that would allow anyone over 18 to check up to three videos a week for one week (similar to our book circulation policy). Unlike our primary subscriber service, only individuals would subscribe, not entire law firms. We put the idea before the Board of Trustees and they approved the plan.

We call it “Legal Eagle”. The video collection is a combination of movies, television shows, and documentaries written by lawyers, about lawyers, the law, or the legal community. This includes classics, such as To Kill a Mockingbird, as well as contemporary movies or television shows such as Angel. We’ve included actors that are old favorites such as Cary Grant and Joan Fontaine and contemporary actors like Johnny Depp and Reese Witherspoon. And we are constantly looking for newly released movies.

How did we choose which videos to purchase? As any good librarian, I started with a literature search. There is a significant body of literature on the law and popular culture. Many law schools have held symposiums on this topic. Several law school libraries, such as the University of Texas, have developed special collections in this area as well. We formed a workgroup that created and reviewed the policies for selection and circulation. I have the good fortune to work with several people who are avid and knowledgeable movie and television fans who agreed to be a part of the workgroup. From the literature survey, I created a spreadsheet of the movies discussed and the characterization of the portrayal of attorneys and/or the law. These crackerjack team members reviewed the list, added additional titles, either from their memory or from searching movie ranking websites, and ranked each movie’s relevancy to our stated purpose.

After their fine work, I selected those movies that were available for purchase. This is a very effective selection tool. It eliminated a significant number of movies that have not been converted to the DVD format. Amazon.com was our first choice for purchasing because we have a corporate account with them. We also consulted Bestbuy.com, Deepdiscount.com, Dvdempire.com and Half.com.

On June 1, 2007 we will debut our new “Legal Eagle” video service with a collection of about 170 videos, adding new films as they become available.
Equal Justice and Partnerships
Sara Galligan, Dakota County Law Library

In March, I attended the 2007 Equal Justice Conference (EJC) in Denver. As chair of AALL’s Special Committee on Pro Bono Partnerships, I was primarily attracted to the EJC’s emphasis on leveraging partnerships to increase access to justice. The conference is co-sponsored by the ABA and the NLADA (National Legal Aid and Defender Association) and focuses on legal services to the disadvantaged in civil litigation. In addition to pro bono support programs, the conference featured new resources and technologies to assist pro se litigants.

The attendees included legal professionals who are seeking productive collaboration opportunities. More specifically, they came from legal aid organizations, courts, court self-help centers, law schools (faculty and students), private law firms, state bar associations, and pro bono organizations. I was the only law librarian among the 900 plus attendees; but on the last day of the conference, Larry Meyer, Director for the San Bernardino County Law Library, arrived as a panelist on a program entitled “Technology in Self-Represented Litigation Innovation.”

Program content dovetailed with areas of interest to law librarians and included pro bono development, partners, delivery innovations programming, and technology. Many of the attendees I spoke with were genuinely interested in exploring partnership opportunities with law librarians. However, many attendees were uninformed about our services to pro se litigants. With our shared interest in access to justice, the connection and potential partnerships became obvious as I explained how law librarians around the country are serving pro se clientele.

Some new self-help technologies I learned about in Denver included legal advice lines, hotlines, A2J (Access to Justice projects using HotDocs by Lexis/Nexis) - some with audio capability, document assembly and development services, web casting, video streaming for training videos, AT&T language line, and LEP (Limited English Proficiency) resources. Although some law librarians already partner with legal organizations and courts by supporting and promoting website resources, we can learn more about how to integrate these newer resources into our programs. We can also engage in testing and training opportunities associated with these information technologies.

The Equal Justice Conference next year takes place in Minneapolis (May 7-9, 2008). It would be wonderful (and strategic) if we could encourage our SIS members to attend - and possibly arrange for a pre or post conference just for our group. Further, we should consider submitting program proposals and/or hosting a booth to inform EJC legal professionals about our services. A productive exchange would likely result in new and stronger partnerships.

Please share your thoughts with me about this potential conference, either when we meet in July or by sending me an email (sara.galligan@co.dakota.mn.us). I believe this conference is a worthy event for our members. More importantly and most assuredly, the folks who attend the EJC should explore ways to work with law librarians around the country and in remote rural areas to support pro se litigants.
The Library: Information Gatekeeper or Intermediary?
Jacqueline Cantwell, Brooklyn Supreme Court Law Library

Information gatekeeper never has been an inspiring phrase to me. I picture a dour old man denying admission. I prefer the word intermediary, "a person who acts between people or things." Instead of a grump sitting beside a locked door, I imagine a translator between cultures, a skilled and insightful person able to succeed within uncertainty. There are many roles that require such courage and knowledge: agent, diplomat, go-between, and negotiator. These roles create links between ideas, intellectual tasks that are slighted now that Google's search algorithms connect the world's servers so quickly. In another way, this is a continuation of my themes of authority, competency, and representation, but now expanded to the public sphere. Who helps us learn that the world is bigger than our immediate experience? How can public spaces encourage expressions of difference?

Many libraries do try to participate in this discussion, even during this period of anti-government feeling, but an easy insult is that the inner nature of librarians limits their effectiveness. A recent furor on the blogs recast this problem under the issue of librarians being too nice to debate. The argument actually was a variation on the image of librarians' authority and competency. Links to Steven Bell’s article that started all the talk can be found at http://outofthejungle.blogspot.com/2007/04/discourse-in-librarianship.html. What was interesting in some of the responding posts (through the LibraryBoy link) was the confusion of pleasant with wishy-washy and un-intellectual. A good argument does not rely on insults, but it does require sufficient self-knowledge and expertise to challenge without bullying. Nice is not a characteristic that I attribute to expertise, unlike graciousness which suggests the composure and skill of an experienced person. Nice implies an unformed person eager to please. Nice doesn’t win respect. The non-threatening CCNY librarians, relying on talk of the goodness of their services, spent 26 years trying to get academic standing¹. They needed to prove not that they were nice, but how they contributed to the organization. Bell started an interesting flame war with a demeaning term that implied immaturity and incompetence. Another female-dominated profession with a nice image that has difficulty promoting its expertise is nursing. Three articles² discuss nurses' expertise and niceness. Librarians would do well to read them. Nurses, as these articles point out, “have specialized knowledge that saves lives.” The nursing profession, instead of representing itself as a field requiring a specialized skill set, portrays itself as relying upon empathy and intuition. Like nurses, librarians are trying to promote their competencies, but I feel we over-emphasize our pleasant and approachable natures. We need to prove what is lost if our services are not used. The recent efforts of librarians to measure how libraries contribute to local economies are an interesting development.

How to measure the contributions of intermediaries like librarians in this Wal-Mart, Google dominated economy is difficult. Algorithms are poor substitutes. Intermediaries help create an audience. They provide feedback. They create situations that encourage questions. Recently, I had several such moments that brought out the importance of intermediaries. They all started because of the library.

The Brooklyn Public Library supports my reading and art habits. Its art displays help me feel that I live in an interesting place. Art doesn’t just occur in high-rent Chelsea; it’s part of the hallway to New Books. One Sunday, I went to the New Books section and saw a book with a good layout, a Central American styled truck on a bright yellow cover. I like trucks and I like yellow so I read the blurb on the jacket for The Fugitive by Massimo Carlotto, “The reigning king of Mediterranean noir,” “from the author of The Good Kiss

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I was hooked and I had not even started reading the memoir. I finished the book and really liked it, so much that I went on the web to check out the publisher, Europa Editions. The site announced that PEN was sponsoring a Festival of International Literature that upcoming weekend and Europa’s authors would be reading.

Of course, I went to every event for Mediterranean Noir. One Med Noir event was held in a bookstore I had never visited. It was pleasant place, low-key, calm. I felt able to browse and to think in it before the reading. A representative of the publisher introduced the authors. He said that he had been told to not try distributing translations of foreign fiction in the United States because Americans had no interest in reading non-Americans. He found that this was not true and that Americans were relying on independent bookstores (intermediaries) to find his authors.

The whole economics of publishing was summarized there. How can publishers, writers, and readers communicate? This reading was an opportunity to form such associations and create an audience. Worldcat’s social networking potential could help out here.

Another event that brought up intermediaries was a lecture at the Drawing Center for “Gego, Between Transparency and the Invisible” The show was curated by Mari Carmen Ramírez, Wortham Curator of Latin American Art and organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Gego’s art work just overwhelmed me. The intelligence and ambition of this woman came across so strongly in her work. The curator’s lecture helped me to better understand my feelings. What was already a good evening became magical when another attendee revealed that he had known the artist and worked with her husband, also an artist. He gave an impromptu lecture that just opened up the evening. It was sheer luck that we got the benefit of his insights. Without the gallery space and the lecture sponsored by the Drawing Center it would not have happened.

I treasure encounters such as the conversations I had at the PEN Conference and the Drawing Center. I learn that what I read in solitude and feels so intimate is important to other people. My world gets bigger. It’s a relief to not feel so isolated. The city becomes a potential unity of shared intentions.

The courthouse is not a place I associate with such artistic experiences, but it is a place where aspects of the city intersect. I often wonder what I could do in my library’s space to overcome the misery of the court docket. I want something welcoming in my library, something that inspires, like the art displays in the Brooklyn Public Library.

A recent judicial conference (May 2-5) reminded me that the courthouse has more potential than I have given it credit. The conference was sponsored by the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts and the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission on Minorities. Its theme was “Saving Our Children: Justice and Fair Treatment of Youth in the Courts.” Judges, social workers, and other personnel working with juveniles and justice spoke eloquently on their frustrations with the current system and how punitive sentencing laws and overzealous policing limited their options. The sentencing laws arose from a justified fear of crime, but the effect on minority communities was destructive. Hearing the concerns of people too overburdened to come and chat in the library made me feel that I needed to do more to help them in their jobs.

During the conference’s opening remarks, I had a nice moment reminding me of the library’s intermediary role.

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Our administrative judge, Judge Ariel Belen, called down to the library the week before the conference for background material to help him prepare his speech on the history of New York’s juvenile courts. I followed footnotes in practice guides on juvenile court practice and found two law review articles for the judge. Because I am interested in this topic, I scanned the articles and noticed that a 1909 Harvard Law Review, “The Juvenile Court” by Julien Mack article was cited as a critical writing. At that point, I should have copied the 1909 article for the Judge, but I didn’t.

Judge Belen is a gracious man and called to thank me for e-mailing the articles to him. Because he made me so comfortable on the phone, I told him that the library could send him the 1909 article by Julien Mack. He was amazed that we had such resources available and asked me to please e-mail it to him.

Judge Belen closed his speech with a quote from Mack’s article:

“... Why is it not just and proper to treat these juvenile offenders, as we deal with the neglected children, as a wise and merciful father handles his own child whose errors are not discovered by the authorities? Why is it not the duty of the state, instead of asking merely whether a boy or a girl has committed a specific offense, to find out what he is, physically, mentally, morally, and then if it learns that he is treading the path to criminality, to take him in charge, not so much to punish as to reform, not to degrade but to uplift, not to crush but to develop, not to make him a criminal but a worthy citizen.

And it this thought – the thought that the child who has begun to go wrong, who is incorrigible, who has broken a law or an ordinance, is to be taken in hand by the state, not as an enemy but as a protector, as the ultimate guardian, because either the unwillingness or inability of the natural parents to guide it toward good citizenship has compelled the intervention of the public authorities; it is this principle, which, to some extent theretofore applied in Australia and a few American states, was first fully and clearly declared, in the Act under which the Juvenile Court of Cook County, Illinois, was opened in Chicago, on July 1, 1899, the Hon. R. S. Tuthill presiding.6

This was a moving and inspiring quote. As Judge Belen read it, the mood of the conference hall changed from anticipation for the next speaker to reflective. I heard those words and realized that this was a perfect example of how the library contributes to civic life. Unobtrusively, like a well-designed print page, the library had preserved the seminal article on juvenile courts, even though it was almost one hundred years old, and made it accessible. When Judge Belen read those eloquent and heartfelt words, he was able to organize his thoughts and gain inspiration. When Judge Belen quoted Mack, not only did he share his own hopes for improving the world, he linked the conference’s events to the originating actions for juvenile courts. The conference’s participants got a chance to move into a world larger than their immediate concerns and frustrations. The library had retained not only institutional memory, it had protected the passion of an author moved to fight wrong.

That moment proved to me that cities and libraries have an inter-relationship. Cities are where people go to know new things and to learn about the past. Libraries are a part of that. Joel Kotkin in The City: A Global History wrote that for cities to be successful they must be “sacred, safe and busy.” Libraries must also be “sacred, safe, and busy.” Libraries should be sacred not to a deity, but sacred to the belief that thought and knowledge are valuable and worthy of support and encouragement in a dedicated space with good light and good proportions. Libraries must be safe. People must feel

“The library had retained not only institutional memory, it had protected the passion of an author moved to fight wrong.”
Gatekeeper is not the right word for what the library can do. To me, the library is more like a border or a port, a place where differences are potential. The library is not a closed off place, open only to the few. The library is where mastery balances ambiguity and uncertainty with grace to create the possibility for a better city.


3http://www.europaeditions.com/

4http://www.pen.org/ “An association of writers working to advance literature, defend free expression, and foster international literary fellowship.”


**All the Best at the SCCLL Reception**

**Sara Galligan, SCCLL Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect**

Be sure to include our SIS reception in your plans for the New Orleans meeting. Featuring a superb combination of history, cuisine, and music, the event will take place at the Louisiana Supreme Court Building on Royal Street. The date is Sunday, July 15 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

Located at 400 Royal Street, the Supreme Court Building also houses the Louisiana Supreme Court Law Library. This historic building originally opened in 1910 and is in the heart of the French Quarter's antique district. For our reception, the Dark Water Jazz Band will perform, and fabulous New Orleans cuisine will be served. For those of you attending the annual meeting, help make this event a fun social gathering with your SCCLL colleagues. Watch for future announcements on the SIS listserv for further details about the SCCLL Reception.

While at the reception, members will have a chance to see the new Louisiana Supreme Court Museum. Portraits of all the chief justices hang on the walls of the museum. Several exhibit cases contain materials about the Plessy v. Ferguson case which established the doctrine of "separate but equal". At the opening reception for the museum descendants of both Homer Plessy and Judge Ferguson were in attendance. And one last item to mention is a scale model of the French Quarter circa 1915 made by two Parisian engineers who were aficionados of New Orleans jazz.
Authentic Legal Information in the Digital Age: A National Summit
Catherine Lemann, SCCLL Chair

Are you and your patrons relying on government information viewed on the Internet? Do you know if the information is official? Is it authentic? In 2006, the American Association of Law Libraries Access to Electronic Information Committee undertook a 50 state survey that investigated whether government-hosted legal resources on the Web are official and capable of being considered authentic. The trustworthiness of online legal resources is fundamental to permanent public access and is inherently a matter of great concern to the legal community.

The State-by-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Resources was published in April 2007. I hope you take the time to read at least the Executive Summary and the information for your particular state.

The survey investigated six sources of law: statutes and session laws, administrative codes and registers, and high and intermediate court opinions. The answer to the question of official and authentic is:

A significant number of the state online legal resources are official but none are authenticated or afford ready authentication by standard methods. State online primary legal resources are therefore not sufficiently trustworthy. Citizens and law researchers may reasonably doubt their authority and should approach such resources critically.

Information is defined as official if it is governmentally mandated by state statute or rule. There are ten states which deem one or more online primary legal resources as official. There are no states which provide authentic online legal resources. Authentic legal resources are those whose content has been verified by a government entity to be complete and unaltered when compared to the version approved or published by the content originator. Authentic information will bear a certificate or mark that conveys information relating to the certification.

In order to discuss the issue of official and authentic online legal information, AALL convened Authentic Legal Information in the Digital Age: A National Summit. This day and a half discussion brought together delegates from the ABA, the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, the National Conference of State Legislators, the Government Printing Office, Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, state supreme court justices, revisors of statutes, law librarians, and more.

I attended this conference as SCCLL chair. As President Sally Holterhoff stated, AALL has traditionally been very good at gathering information and publishing reports. We have not been taking the next steps to follow up and find solutions to problems identified in the reports. We have also relied on vendor contributions to fund events such as this. In this case AALL paid all expenses. No legal information vendors contributed or attended the event.

It was extremely valuable for law librarians to convey to these other groups that we recognize the authentication problem and would like to help resolve it. Conversely, we heard from other constituencies who deal with the issue and were able to hear their thoughts. I wish I could convey to you the energy that I felt at the conference. It was stimulating to share ideas with others, and not feel as if it were merely law librarians who thought about these issues.

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At the end of the conference, there were break-out groups to discuss possible next steps. There are a variety of technological approaches to the authentication issue: PKI, a watermark, a timestamp, hashing. Each state is at a different place with their technology so no particular technology solution was recommended.

Another consideration is how to bring this to the attention of legislators and convince them that it is a critical issue. One suggestion is to gather stories where individuals relied on seemingly official and/or authentic online information to their detriment. If you have such stories, please share them with me.

Finally, we discussed who else should be invited to participate in this discussion and came up with some ideas. We decided that the conference had been valuable and hope that there can be a follow up. In the meantime, you will hopefully see more about this issue in Bar Journals, as conference programs, and as a study topic for NCCUSL. The authentication issue will not be settled quickly and easily but it will be exciting to watch what happens. Remember, AALL started the discussion.

Summary of Listserv Discussion on Strategic Directions
Judy Meadows, Montana State Law Library

Editor’s Note: Judy Meadows graciously accepted Sara Galligan’s invitation to summarize the SCCLL’s March 2007 listserv discussion; her synthesis ties together some thoughtful and very important commentary from our members.

In March SCCLL conducted a listserv discussion for our members based on the SCCLL Strategic Directions for 2006-2011. Our two Strategic Directions, which align with AALL’s, are:

- Advocate the value of law libraries in a democratic society and of law librarians as the foremost leaders and experts in legal information, research, and technology.
- Provide the education and training needed to meet and leverage the challenges of the changing information environment.

Thirty law librarians from the full array of our membership participated in the online conversation, sharing their opinions and concerns for our profession and our institutions. (I have no doubt, however, that hundreds were lurking in the background, nodding heads and muttering agreement or dissent to their computer screens!) I have been asked to summarize their comments for the full readership of our newsletter.

ADVOCACY
On the first day Marcus Hochstetler from King County Law Library led us in an extensive discussion of Advocacy. He asked members to focus on the active or proactive ways in which they demonstrate to others the value of the law library.

In the area of making connections, John Pickett from Johnson County Law Library said that he has worked with the Kansas Bar Association on the funding that flows from the offices of the clerks of court. Without that connection the opportunity for input in the legislative process would not have happened. Many of us work with our state library associations on advocacy efforts. Cathy Lemann meets with judges and magistrates when traveling around the state, and networks with Native Corporation family services, Legal Services, and other organizations. Barbara Golden mentioned the importance of

(Listserv Discussion continued on page 29)
the AALL VIP program in involving potential allies with our causes. Others mentioned how important it is to build connections before a crisis exists in funding or governance. We were reminded of the program to be presented on July 16th in New Orleans: “Partnerships, Public Libraries, & the Pro-Se Litigant: Expanding County Law Library Services”.

Marcus asked members if they have conveyed the value of the library to decision makers in ways which have helped funding. Several people discussed providing testimony before legislative bodies in the effort to increase court fees or appropriations. Reminding decision makers of the law library’s essential role in the delivery of justice and service to the self-represented litigant is a recurring message that is successfully given. It is vital to educate those in court administration about the roles of the law library, especially those without a legal education. We also were reminded to think creatively in formulating responses to decision makers who might think that law libraries are passé in the age of the Internet and Google searching.

LEADERSHIP
The second day’s topic on Leadership was led by Larry Myer from San Bernardino County Law Library. He asked members to reflect on:

- What is leadership?
- How does one become a leader, and do you consider yourself to be one?
- Who do you recognize as leaders in our field and why? Why do they stand out?
- What can be done to foster leadership?
- Have any of us encouraged others to be leaders?

Larry led off the discussion by detailing how important mentorship is for those who have recently joined the profession. Encouraging others to get involved by gentle nudging is sometimes all that is needed. Showing others the confidence we have in their potential can lead to new law librarians’ early volunteerism. The 2007 book True North: Discover Your Authentic Leadership by Bill George, Peter Sims, and David Gergen was brought to our attention. Judy Siess, Editor of The One-Person Library, said that she would be happy to email to us a collection of articles on the topic of leadership from her newsletter.

Cathy Lemann described the attributes of a leader as including the willingness to listen to various points of view, the ability to negotiate and persuade, the courage to speak up and speak plainly, and having a well-developed sense of humor. It was agreed that leaders are almost always risk takers, have high energy levels, have the ability to communicate their vision, and to install trust in others.

Linda Wallihan equated the qualities of leadership with those of authenticity: passion, self-knowledge, desire to make a difference, understanding one’s values and motives, respect and appreciation for others, and a sense of balance. It was said that being a manager does not necessarily make one a leader unless the individual also possesses the traits listed above.

We were reminded that there are many opportunities to volunteer in both AALL and SCCLL that require little work and time. Early, meaningful experience on committees can give the confidence to take on more responsibility later, as well as develop a willingness to chair committees and run for office. Writing for newsletters and journals
outside of our profession and advocating in areas such as the authenticity of digital documents are good examples of demonstrating our leadership to others.

EDUCATION

Cathy Lemann from the Alaska State Law Library led the third day’s topic of education and communication. She encouraged members to consider what constitutes a great educational opportunity. Specifically,

- How can SCCLL best deliver education to our members?
- What tools are needed for coping with the changing legal information environment?
- When and for how long can we take advantage of an opportunity?
- Where do we find the occasion for educational advancement?
- What topics do we need, and how can SCCLL help make these possible?

Sara Galligan said we should encourage members to attend events outside of the law library world. These not only lead to new ideas but also create the connections that are so important to us. Marie Erickson finds that work experience is several libraries can provide great educational experience. This is especially valuable before the attainment of the graduate library degree. She suggested that volunteering for other libraries after library school can also give us an understanding of other ways of managing library programs and resources. Cross-training between public services and technical services is helpful in knowing what both sides are doing, and how and why they do what they do.

Specific topics that were mentioned as being sought were indexing and cataloging, legal history, knowledge distribution networks, the affects of changing technology on publishing, and short courses on the specific genres of legal publishing. Both in-person and online classes are acceptable, as well as self-study.

TRAINING/MENTORING

The final day’s topic of Training & Mentoring was led by Barbara Fritschel from the US Courts Library in Milwaukee. She asked us to consider if our library training adequately prepared us for the real world of law librarianship. Do we have enough time for professional development? What is the best way for attaining it? What are the characteristics of a good mentor? Must mentor/mentee relationships be assigned, or are they best left to develop naturally? Have members’ mentoring experiences been positive? Does a mentor necessarily have to have more experience than someone new to the profession?

Both AALL and our local chapters provide opportunities for in-person training. Those who live in metropolitan areas are indeed fortunate to be able to take advantage of local programming. We who live in rural areas, however, can benefit from classes offered by state libraries, state library associations, and local and state bar associations. As Katy Gill said, online programs are particularly valuable for all of us. Joseph Novak suggested that library internships before graduation are critical to early success.

The benefits of natural mentoring include the sharing of a work environment and ample time for the relationship. It also was mentioned that informal professional connections can accommodate the “dumb question”, as well as facilitating the teachable moment.

(Listserv Discussion continued from page 29)

“...we should encourage members to attend events outside of the law library world. These not only lead to new ideas but also create the connections that are so important to us.”

(Listserv Discussion continued on page 31)
CLOSING THOUGHTS
The week's online discussion provided the opportunity for all of SCCLL's members to express their views on the issues that are paramount for most of us. We agree that the chance to talk about these matters while at our desktops is valuable for all. The topics tended to merge into each other, such as education and training, and leadership and mentoring. There was a heavier flow of comments at the beginning of the week, and activity decreased by Thursday. But, I don’t think that everything that could have been said was said!

Thanks go to the discussion leaders – Marcus Hochstetler, Larry Myer, Cathy Lemann, and Barbara Fritschel – for sparking our reactions, and to Sara Galligan for getting the discussion organized. She told me, "The leadership topic drew many more opinions than I expected--but they were very thought provoking--it's heartening to see so many SCCLL members come forward with important ideas regarding leadership." To me personally this is very important, as I will be chairing an AALL Special Committee on Leadership for our incoming President Ann Fessenden.

We all look forward to more online discussions such as this one. I challenge all of you to think of topics that could be used, and to try out your leadership abilities by volunteering to lead a discussion!

2007 SCCLL Election Results
Georgia Chadwick, Nominations Chair

For the third year SCCLL has held its elections by electronic ballot. Secretary/Treasurer Marcus Hochstetler sent out notices to members notifying them that elections would take place from March 30 to April 20, and 48% of our members voted. Thank you to all who were candidates for an office and to all who voted. The results of the election are as follows:

Vice Chair/Chair Elect: Marcus Hochstetler of the King County Law Library
Secretary/Treasurer: Amy Hale-Janeke of the U.S. Court of Appeals 5th Circuit Library
Member-at-Large: Karen Quinn of the Rhode Island State Law Library

Continuing are:

Chair: Sara Galligan of the Dakota County Law Library
Board Member: Lisa Rush of the Travis County Law Library
Board Member: Barbara Fritschel of the U.S. Court of Appeals 7th Circuit Library

The members of the Nominations Committee are:

Georgia Chadwick
Anita Anderson
Anne Matthewman
An SCCLL Librarian sends along the following humorous anecdote:

We recently began transitioning from chairs to stools for use by our patrons while viewing our OPACs. The first feedback we received regarding this change follows: "I feel that it is disrespectful to slowly steal the comfortable chairs in the law library and replace them with bar stools. Some people come here to find information on defending themselves in a DUI case. These stools may cause a relapse. The person who authorized the chair switch is seeking his own gain and is unwilling to wait his turn for budget approval to get his own stools. I want to know where the comfortable stools went so I can contact that person(s) and explain how the chairs they now have were stolen from other people by an unscrupulous person. Thank you for your information."