View From The Chair
Marcus Hochstetler, SCCLL Chair

The state of the economy is a constant source of conversation no matter where you are today. It was evident at the most recent ABA/NLADA Equal Justice Conference held in Orlando this past May. Several attendees who received travel grants to attend were Larry Meyer and Melissa Barr from fundraising during the Silent Auction in Portland. We have had SCCLL members attend this conference for the past three years. As part of the post conference wrap-up, Richard Zorza, of the Self Represented Litigation Network, spoke to how the impact of discussions could be carried forth with the participants at hand. One suggestion was to reach out to public librarians in each state and train them how to access the legal information which is available for the public.

As many of our members work in public law library settings and are already training public librarians about the legal research available in their states, we are uniquely qualified to aid in this endeavor. With the help of several law librarians present at the conference and other folks from legal aid services, we can reach out to train public librarians through creation of a task force. If you are interested in helping out this Task Force to Train Public Librarians, let me know and we can move forward with this initiative. The Legal Information Services to the Public-SIS (LISP) website http://www.aallnet.org/sis/lisp/ already has research guides for Public Librarians for 27 states and D.C. These can be the blueprint for outreach of our members.

Another critical area affecting our libraries is the decrease in the size of budgets impacting collections and services. Libraries which seem to be in the most danger are court and county law libraries. Within the past two weeks, county and court law libraries in Connecticut and New Jersey experienced attacks on their future funding through legislative action. In these cases, the notice for response was only weeks or even days. The question which must be addressed is how much of a trend are these decisions?

If you come across an innovative way of dealing with your budget crisis, let us know. We can put something in the SCCLL toolkit on our website. Ask your-
self if someone else may benefit from seeing your way of tackling a project. For examples visit the toolkit and see what is already there.

Congratulations are in order for Kathy Carlson for her election to Vice-Chair, Chair-Elect and Joan Bellistri for Member-at-Large. We are grateful for those who ran for the SCCLL Board this year and all who voted. Inevitably the work of our members is never done and it is very true of this year in particular. Kelly Browne and the Education committee helped to shepherd some great programs along which will be presented in D.C. Hopefully, we will get a good turnout this year. A full listing of the programs is on our website. The Grants committee and Michele Finerty had a difficult task of sorting through 10 applications to award 5 travel grants. The work of each committee is appreciated and keeps us moving toward providing better service for the public and legal community we serve. Many thanks also go to Jennifer Dalglish for taking over the Newsletter and doing an awesome job.

From the Editor
Jennifer Dalglish, SCCLL News Editor

It’s hard to believe summer is already here and the 102nd Annual AALL Meeting & Conference will be held at the end of this month! It seems like just yesterday so many of us were hanging out here together in Portland. For those of you headed to D.C., we have a couple of articles in this issue that may be of interest. Everyone, however, should be interested in our Silent Auction article. The Silent Auction, by the way, is already up and running online and will continue (with new items being added) until the business meeting. For a fascinating read on the New Jersey situation and Mr. Dyer’s take on internal budget advocacy, turn to Charley’s Corner. Once again, Jacqueline Cantwell has provided us with a great book review. So, what do you think of when you hear the words “pro se”? Melissa Barr takes us on a journey with her through the Equal Justice Conference held recently in Orlando and it is enlightening! And did you know that there’s a bona fide “book babe” in our midst? Take a look at our Members News section on The Last Page to find out who it is!
Grant/Program for Interactive Legal Forms
Sara Galligan, Ramsey County Law Library

The Ramsey County Law Library received notification in May that it was awarded LSTA grant funds to develop interactive legal forms for pro se parties. The Ramsey County Law Library proposal includes outsourcing the development of the forms to the MN Legal Services Coalition Statewide Support Center. The forms will include the health care directive and power of attorney forms. They will also develop forms with audio enhanced instruction and Spanish text. Other forms included in the grant for development include a security deposit return letter, stop contact letter to creditors, and the MN delegation of parentage form.

More information will be available about interactive legal forms during AALL’s annual meeting in D.C. On Sunday, July 26, a program sponsored by LISP-SIS will include speaker Kate Bladow from Pro Bono Net. The program will take place on Sunday afternoon from 1:30-2:45 PM and is entitled “Online Interactive Court Forms for Self-Represented Litigants: the Library’s Role.” Kate assists with work on the National Document Assembly Project (NPADO) which encompasses software (using LexisNexis’s HotDocs and the Access to Justice and Technology’s A2J Author) to create forms. Over thirty states are now using this software to create document-assembly content from their existing forms. Judy Meadows, Montana State Law Librarian, is a co-panelist on the program and will speak about the role law librarians can play in promoting these forms.

The SCCLL Silent Auction—A Capitol Event
Barbara Fritschel, Silent Auction Coordinator

Please join us for this year’s SCCLL Silent Auction - already underway online. Last year, between the silent auction and challenge grants, we raised over $6,000 for travel grants to conferences. As the economic situation continues to affect many of our members, the silent auction is a fun way to help out our colleagues. If we each contribute a little, either through a donation, a bid or a challenge grant, we will be able to continue to help our colleagues.

Specifcics about this year’s silent auction.

1. Once again the silent auction will start online and finish at the SCCLL Breakfast in Washington D.C. The online auction runs from June 22 to July 22.
2. If you have items you wish to donate, please take a picture, provide a brief description and a starting bid amount. Send this information to either Kevin Cook at kcook@mt.gov or Barbara Fritschel at Barbara_Fritschel@ca7.uscourts.gov. If you are donating multiple items, please send only one or two per email. (Our email systems do not take kindly to large files). Please put SCCLL Auction in the re: line of the email.


4. The auction continues at the SCCLL breakfast meeting. Bidding closes at 8:15. If you are not attending the breakfast, you can still come to the business portion of the meeting and participate in the bidding.

5. Items will be accepted the day of the auction so come to the meeting and check out the new items.

6. PROXIES: If you would like to donate an item and will not be coming to the meeting, please check locally to see if someone can bring the item. If you would like to make sure you are the winning bidder but will not be at the meeting, you can a) bid outrageously high during the online bidding to scare everyone else off (preferred method—after all it is a fundraiser) or b) appoint someone to bid for you. If you are not going to be at the meeting and are submitting online bids, please contact me so we can discuss payment. If you have any questions please contact me.

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**Name This Newsletter Contest**

Sandra Phillips, SCCLL Newsletter Committee

What’s in a name? Plenty, especially if you don’t have one! Our newsletter lacks an identity. *SCCLL News* is an accurate and descriptive title, but a catchier name with some pizzazz would be better!

Do you have an idea of what to name our newsletter? Enter the “Name our Newsletter” contest. You could win an SCCLL mug, notoriety, and bragging rights. Email your contest entries by September 15, 2009 to: SCCLL Newsletter Committee “Name our Newsletter” contest at: Sandra_Phillips@ca2.uscourts.gov or jenniferdal@co.clackamas.or.us.

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“Enter the ’Name our Newsletter’ contest. You could win an SCCLL mug, notoriety, and bragging rights.”
Charley’s Corner
Internal Budget Advocacy
Charles R. Dyer, Consultant and Retired Director of the San Diego County Public Law Library
All views expressed in this column belong solely to the author.

On May 28, 2009, on the LISP SIS List Serve, I wrote a response to a plea from Luis Acosta for suggestions for the New Jersey county law librarians, who were facing the possible closing of their libraries and the judicial chamber libraries across the state as a cost cutting measure. The proposed cuts were suggested by a committee from the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts, which asked for comments with a very short turnaround. For this column, I decided to expand on the remarks I made there.

A very large percentage of public law libraries across the country are administered as part of a larger governmental entity, usually as part of the county government or as a part of a statewide judicial branch, as in New Jersey. Others are actually independent entities, such as special district governments, like the county law libraries in California, or not-for-profit corporations. In both situations, there is always the potential for significant loss of income from legislative budget changes, and the AALL and its government relations committees have done a very good job of focusing our attention on how to prepare for and hopefully avoid those types of disasters. (I will be moderating a program on the Ohio experience at the upcoming AALL Meeting in DC, Program J-4, "Building a Coalition of County Law Libraries: A Place to Begin," Tuesday, July 28, 2009, at 2:30 p.m.)

The New Jersey problem is different, as it represents the problem of having one’s own parent organization doing the budget cutting. In the case of those law libraries run by county governments, this would be at the level of the internal staff budgeting that goes on before the budget is brought before the county legislature (usually called a county council or a board of supervisors). In most jurisdictions, it is very difficult to argue at the legislative level against a decision made internally by one’s own bosses. If it gets to the level of legislative advocacy, the law library must usually depend almost entirely on outside advocates to carry the ball. (Some law libraries have advisory boards, composed of judges or attorneys, who can carry some of the ball, but sometimes even they are silenced.)

In those situations, the game can be lost well before it ever gets to the legislative level. Internal advocacy is a different animal, or perhaps I would better use the
metaphor “a different kettle of fish” (piranhas, as opposed to sharks, which leads further to the Arab curse of a “death by a thousand cuts”).

For the public relations aspects of internal advocacy, I highly recommend the significant literature created by our fellow law librarians in the Private Law Librarians SIS. In addition, their approach at budget time, especially in an era of budget cuts, is to show that it saves their organizations more to continue their library services than to cut them. Private law librarians have become experts at showing the cost per unit of their services so that they can be compared, for instance, to the cost of having an associate attorney perform the service when they are gone. A large number of private law librarians are now billing many of their costs directly to clients, who appreciate the billing detail that shows how the law firm divides up the work along a cost-effective model.

Unfortunately, per unit costs are much harder to calculate in a public law library if one is trying to do it with the same specificity as required for billing purposes in a law firm. But that amount of specificity may not be required. One could, for instance, get an overall average cost simply by dividing up the total expenses by the number of people served. The “number of people served” would have to be inclusive of all the services, ranging from gate counts, telephone calls, online exchanges, interlibrary loans, direct outside services such as mailed photocopy, website views, tours, those attending classes and outside presentations, and so on.

The costs on the other end, i.e., what it would cost if the library services disappeared, are not always as hard to calculate as one might suspect.

In the email on the New Jersey situation, I recommended that the best option is to ask for more time for study. The rationale would be that elimination of ancillary services budget lines often have impacts on other costs to the courts, and they should be properly studied first.

I noted, for instance, the Self Represented Litigation Network is in the process of developing a set of protocols for court self-assessment, including many provisions that show that certain services directed toward self represented litigants can actually save money. Better prepared self represented litigants make better filings and also understand the orders of the court better. Thus, it has been shown that, for instance, the elimination of a self help center in a mid-sized county in California actually caused increased costs due to greater numbers of continuances and returned filings, so much that the program actually saved more money for the courts than it cost. The program was re-instituted. The primary contact for the protocols is Richard Zorza, Coordinator for the Self Represented Litiga-
I also noted that John Greacen, john@greacen.net, has recently run a series of studies in California in the San Joaquin Valley—very simple studies that showed significant savings made by several programs for self-represented litigants. These will soon be reported publicly.

Lastly, I noted that, while these studies all deal with costs associated with self-represented litigants, and thus would apply mostly to the public law libraries, I would think that similar easy studies could be devised to see if the judicial chambers libraries also might actually be cost-savings devices, or perhaps certain services they perform are worth saving. (Just as a possibility, I am thinking of a scenario wherein a judge finds himself forced to travel to find an adequate law library. Surely, such travel costs and time loss would be significant. How often that would happen? Would judges (or their law clerks, if any are left after the budget cuts) simply stop doing legal research?

For public law libraries, one issue is getting a “before” and “after” look. We would hope to avoid having a law library closed before we showed that it would have been wiser to keep it open. Law libraries are not nearly as easy to open and close and open again as self-help centers. But there are some possibilities. For instance, there may be limited public law library access for those who need to use the courts in a rural county, as compared to the access found in a metropolitan area. It would be interesting to see if the rural county court suffers more badly prepared filings or requires more continuances, as a percentage of total filings, or, better, as a percentage of filings by self-represented litigants.

Another statistic that I would like to see tested is the percentage of cases filed by self-represented litigants that are dismissed just after the demurrer. Compare the numbers from the county that has a functioning public law library to the county that does not. My own supposition is that a self-represented litigant who reads up on the law is less likely to file a losing case, especially where he has no remedy or right. Of course, I could be wrong, and we’d find that some self-represented litigants are spurred on by their own erroneous interpretation of what they read at the law library. (There may need to be an exclusion factor for vexatious litigants, as just one would undoubtedly skew the statistics in a small county. Perhaps the number of recent lawsuits filed could be the determining factor to eliminate them.)
The other issue is getting the stakeholder in charge of the relevant statistics to care about its own costs enough to do the study. Libraries look like a costly item until you don’t have them. (Remember the Baker McKenzie law firm library fiasco.) Those protocols from the SRLN will be a very useful device for getting this kind of thinking into the budget-making process.

There are also smaller situations that can make a case. For instance, I recently did a consulting gig to a county law library in a state where they have interactive court forms available at a statewide court website. While the county law library provided online access to Westlaw and Lexis, it did not provide online access to the statewide court website because the librarian refused to allow wide-open web access on public terminals. She supplied the forms in a book, from which patrons could photocopy what they needed. The rationale, appropriate in that situation, was that the librarian was too hard-pressed to police the terminals to prevent abuse, e.g., accessing porn sites. (And she didn’t like the idea of policing anyway, which I can understand. Who hired us for that?) I suggested that there was software that could be placed on the terminals to prevent abuse, even to narrow the use to just a few websites, and to provide time limits, etc. However, that would require work by the court’s IT department beyond what it desired to provide, including an outside communications line. The library had neither budget nor authority to provide that solution.

The court clerk accepts photocopied forms, filled in with pen. But the writing is not always so good, and of course, the space for filling in is often inadequate. So many patrons are forced to re-type the forms completely, and more mistakes result from that. There is the prospect that soon the forms can be filed online, but self represented litigants who do not have personal computers must go to the public library or rent time at an internet café to file that way. Many patrons already go to the public library to complete their forms now. While most of the time lost here is that of the litigant, there is undoubtedly some time lost in the clerk’s office, and when the forms can be filed electronically, there will be a considerable amount of time lost. If one were concerned about the impression the court gives to its public, this cost item would be easily approved. But even for very tight bean counters, this item is beginning to sound essential. The problem is “Who is in charge?” A case for an overall viewpoint needs to be made.
Lastly, the librarian should always include some commentary on budget memos about court costs that are avoided by those who don’t become litigants. For instance, the property owner who reads his own building code at the public law library may plan that addition to his house so that it meets the standard required. He then applies for all the permits, or builds so that he can avoid them. (Most building codes do not require a permit for a deck that is never more than 18 inches off the ground.) Then the city decides not to sue, even if the neighbor complains. You can discuss tax materials as well, but it may be best to keep your example to local taxes, since the parental organization usually does not care about the costs of avoiding federal litigation.

I would suspect that my words are only the tip of the iceberg with regard to making a case during internal budget advocacy. Undoubtedly, all those great programs for self represented litigants set up in the library can provide great specific examples of cost effectiveness. Perhaps some of you may wish to share some good examples of internal advocacy with us, either on the SCCLL SIS List, or by writing me at charlesrdyer@clearwire.net.

Possible Threat to Oakland County (Michigan) Law Library
Sara Galligan, Ramsey County Law Library

Laura Mancini is the Director of Library Services for Oakland County and the Law Library falls under her supervision. She responded to questions sent by Sara Galligan about the status of the Oakland County Law Library. Sara had received information that county administration was considering closing the law library which is located about 45 minutes north of Detroit and serves the larger metropolitan area.

The Adams-Pratt Law Library is governed by the Oakland County Library Board. The law library is funded through county general funds. The current budget is $1,341,086.55. The number of staff is 3.5 and the library provides services to the public, the legal community of Southeast Michigan and the Oakland County Circuit Court 56.5 hours per week.

Laura provided the following summary of events impacting the law library at the end of May:
Thomas Cooley Law School has proposed to the Oakland County Executive and the Oakland County Board of Commissioners merging or combining the Adams-Pratt Law Library with the library on their Auburn Hills, Michigan campus. Both the Oakland County Executive and the Board of Commissioners are interested in pursuing talks with Cooley on this proposal.

The Oakland County Library Board is greatly concerned about this proposal. It is in consultation with the Oakland County Bar Association and Foundation on this subject as well as the County Executive and the Board of Commissioners. Right now, there is not a formal proposal for the Library Board to respond to or review.

As for ramifications to public/private entities if the executive’s proposal succeeds, other county governments may choose to transfer their public law libraries to private entities. Will the same level of service to the public be provided under such a scenario?

Regarding ramifications for the patrons of the Oakland County Law Library if the resources are no longer available at that location, Laura replied that it’s still unknown at this time. Apparently, some form of a law library will remain at the Courthouse, the scope of which is unknown. The Cooley law school campus at Auburn Hills is 6 miles away from the county complex.

Regarding any assistance Laura and her board might consider from law librarian colleagues, she is not asking for any at this time. They still need more information on what the proposed arrangement might be. Once the Library Board knows that, it can analyze its potential ramifications and determine its course of response.

Report Assesses Law Libraries’ First Foray Into Digital Preservation:
More Than 4,300 Digital Objects Archived Over Two Years, Approximately 1 in 7 Preserved Web Publications’ Original URL’s Are Already Inactive
Submitted by Sarah Rhodes, Georgetown University Law Library

The Chesapeake Project Legal Information Archive has released a comprehensive report evaluating its digital preservation efforts over the past two years. A joint effort of the Georgetown University Law Library and the State Law Libraries of Maryland and Virginia, the project was created as a two-year pilot to investigate the feasibility of establishing a collaborative digital archive, shared
by multiple institutions in the law library community, for the preservation of
Web-published legal materials. The aim of the project is to ensure long-term ac-
cess to these born-digital publications, which can be easily lost as Web site con-
tent is rearranged or deleted over time.

The project evaluation reveals that nearly 14 percent, or approximately one in
seven, of the online publications archived between March 2007 and March 2009
have already disappeared from their original locations on the Web but, due to the
project’s efforts, remain accessible via permanent archive URLs. A similar
analysis in 2008 showed that slightly more than 8 percent of archived titles had
disappeared from their original URLs, demonstrating a dramatic increase in “link
rot,” or inactive URLs, among archived Web content over the past year.

The evaluation also reports that the libraries participating in the project have ar-
chived more than 4,300 digital objects and tracked more than 177,000 visits to
www.legalinfoarchive.org, the open-access home of The Chesapeake Project’s
digital archive collections. Users of the project’s Web site visited from U.S. edu-
cational, government, and military institutions, as well as from countries abroad
throughout the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Australia, and
the Pacific Islands.

The full project evaluation is available at www.legalinfoarchive.org.

Having successfully completed its initial two-year pilot phase, The Chesapeake
Project Legal Information Archive is currently expanding. Law libraries nation-
wide are encouraged to join this collaborative digital archive or establish similar
preservation initiatives under the auspices of the Legal Information Preservation
Alliance (LIPA).

For more information, visit the LIPA Web site at www.aallnet.org/committee/
liap or The Chesapeake Project at www.legalinfoarchive.org.

Find us on Facebook!
Mari Cheney, Utah State Law Library

In an effort to reach a broader audience, the Utah State Law Library has joined
Facebook. We used Facebook's "Pages" option to create an account that allows
Facebook users to become fans of our library.
Why Facebook? It appeals to a group of people we may not have been reaching before, and we're curious to see how its viral marketing works. We use Facebook to announce upcoming classes, and have added our blog's RSS feed so that any time we update our blog that content appears on our Facebook page. All page updates appear on our fans' pages.

We view Facebook as one of the many online marketing tools available to reach potential users. Our law library is physically located in Salt Lake City but serves everyone in the state. Unfortunately, few people outside of Salt Lake City are aware of our existence, let alone our services.

We are careful about the content we provide on our Facebook and our blog to ensure that we do not reflect badly on the Utah State Courts. We discussed our plan to join Facebook with the court's Public Information Office to be sure she was comfortable with the concept and received her approval.

"Pages" aren't as flexible as personal Facebook profiles, so we have had some frustration adding simple features like a class calendar. We have a temporary workaround, but are hoping that this type of page will become more flexible and user friendly over time. Luckily many public libraries have done troubleshooting for late(r) adopters, and numerous blog posts are devoted to how to integrate a library catalog, RSS feeds, and other library-related tools into a Facebook Page. We are grateful for the work they have done.

We have a small fan base so far, but are looking forward to watching that grow. Become a fan!

If you have any questions about creating a Facebook page for your law library, contact Mari Cheney at maric@email.utcourts.gov.

Is it Twitter Time?
Heidi Yelk
Reprinted with permission from WSLL@Your Service, July 2009 Issue

It seems that everyone - from your neighborhood dog to the White House - has a Twitter account. Is it time for you to have one, too? What is Twitter, and how can law firms and lawyers use it successfully? Here’s information that might answer some of your questions.
What is Twitter? There are many wonderful, succinct definitions for Twitter. Most people simply call it a “microblog.” It can also be thought of as “public instant messaging.” Users send out (tweet) short messages, limited to 140 characters, which can be anything: comments, questions, announcements, referrals, etc.

Is Twitter searchable? Yes, at http://search.twitter.com/. You do not need to have a Twitter account to search Twitter.

How are lawyers using Twitter? Twitter can be used for marketing, to inform clients of new developments at your firm or new content on your webpage, and to network with other attorneys (For an example, see Foley & Lardner). Twitter can also be used to measure public chatter on a subject of interest, such as the Wisconsin State Budget, the GM Janesville plant, or e. coli outbreaks.

How do I know if a Twitter account is genuine? Twitter is experimenting with Verified Account for certain users.

How can I customize my Twitter account to protect certain information? See this helpful article from PC World, “Avoid Twitter Disasters”.

For more information, check out this excellent post and presentation by Chris Winfield, “How can Lawyers use Twitter?” See also the Twitter section of Lawyercasting.com.

Too Wet for Ducks at the 2009 Equal Justice Conference
Melissa Barr, Cuyahoga County Public Library
The opinions expressed herein are mine and not that of my library system.

There is an old adage that the attorney who represents himself has a fool for a client – an adage applied not only to attorneys, but the ordinary citizen who ventures into the court system as a self-represented litigant. For far too long courts and attorneys have treated SRLs as foolish outsiders imposing on the system with incorrect and incomplete documents, poor presentation skills, inadequate preparation, and lack of knowledge about how the court system works. Non-attorneys trying to help SRLs could end up in trouble for practicing law without a license – the vaguely-worded, I-know-it-when-I-see-it unauthorized practice of law statutes invoked to prevent outsiders from stepping over the threshold into the sanctity of the courtroom. And then some judges, court administrators, attor-
neys, and law librarians, perhaps frustrated by the number of SRLs taking up precious court time, more often out of concern for these unrepresented souls, decided that, rather than kicking these audacious citizens to the curb, perhaps it was time to open the courthouse doors and let them in – on their own terms, with assistance from librarians, court staff or volunteers who might (or might not) have law degrees. With backing from the American Bar Association, more and more attorneys and law firms were urged to participate in pro bono clinics and projects to help those in dire need of professional guidance. Ten minutes with an attorney can save hours in the courtroom. Confident, well-informed litigants take up less of the court’s time and resources, reducing the court’s workload, resulting in less stress for court personnel. Access to legal aid or self-help centers – priceless. Time to retire that old adage about foolish clients.

At the Equal Justice Conference in Orlando, interested parties from Maine to Hawaii as well as Canada, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Australia, and Ghana gathered to share information about programs in their courts, self-help centers, Legal Aid offices, pro bono clinics, law firms, law schools, corporations, libraries, and communities. I attended the conference not only as a member of AALL and SCCLL, but also as a member of the Self-Represented Litigation Network’s Librarian Subgroup (part of the Information, Marketing, and Outreach Working Group). Charles Dyer writes regularly in this newsletter about the SRL Network, so I won’t go into more detail on that topic except to say that there’s a whole lot going on out there in the SRL world, as Charley will tell you at the AALL Annual Meeting (see shameless plug below). The Obama Administration has increased monetary support for legal aid programs and volunteer programs, just in time to save some programs and projects, and provide for expansion or development of others. I was happy to find AALL members not directly affiliated with the SRL Network attending the conference, a demonstration that law librarians “get” the access to justice concept and are eager to learn more about the process.

Creative people are designing new paths to justice in so many ways: by channeling the energy of college students in the AmeriCorps/Equal Justice Works programs and fellowships; developing the Justice Corps in California to serve rural and urban communities with specific needs; recruiting volunteers to staff self-help centers in courthouses; writing and refining intake interviews using A2J software that can direct clients to appropriate agencies for their legal or other needs; designing court procedural “forms” using HotDocs and other software; and other programs designed so that access to justice can be only a mouse click away.
The digital divide still exists, and access to justice certainly happens faster and easier with access to computers. Access to computers for many people means the local public library. In no small measure the Gates Foundation, by providing computer and internet access to public libraries, also opened the courthouse doors to many people who had been locked out of the system. Court administrators, legal aid groups, pro bono organizations, law librarians, bar associations, and others are recognizing that public libraries can be the first step in the path to the courtroom. As a public librarian, I was delighted to hear about programs that involved public libraries in the process, programs that offered training on legal reference to public librarians, and partnerships (formal and informal) between public libraries and legal organizations. Montana State Law Librarian Judy Meadows has developed training programs for public librarians in her state, and would like to take the programs nationwide. I immediately volunteered to participate since I have been doing legal reference training on a smaller scale with librarians in my library system as well as other library systems in Ohio. Several other Network members also volunteered to help with the project, with suggestions for funding via LSC’s Technology Initiative Grants and/or a Gates grant. Fingers crossed!

Shameless plug alert! Find out more about interactive court forms at the AALL meeting on Sunday, July 26th from 1:30 pm to 2:45 pm at the LISP-SIS program entitled “Online Interactive Court Forms for Self-Represented Litigants: The Library’s Role.” The speakers are Kate Bladow, NPADO Project Coordinator at ProBonoNet, and the aforementioned Judy Meadows. For more about how law libraries can participate in this groundswell of activity, catch Charley Dyer doing his thing with Richard Zorza of the SRL Network at program C-4, “Law Libraries and the Access to Justice Revolution,” also on Sunday, from 4:15 pm to 5:15 pm. Yes, a shameless plug for the SRL Network (www.srln.org). New members are always welcome. {Conflict of interest alert – I’m the Membership Chair for the Librarian subgroup – call me (216-475-5000) or send an email (mbarr@cuyahogalibrary.org)! Charley’s on my case about not recruiting fast enough! Wait, was that another shameless plug?}

Random thoughts: I was delighted to hear attorney M. Sue Talia still crusading for limited representation (aka discrete task representation, unbundled legal services, etc.) as I’ve been promoting limited representation to patrons for several years, and a few have actually gotten attorneys involved in their cases on a limited basis. In reviewing the directory of participants, I especially enjoyed the ironic address of Legal Services of the Virgin Islands, Inc., located at The Boardwalk at Gallows Bay in St. Croix – definitely sounds like a place where legal assistance would be appreciated! Congratulations to Larry Meyer, Director
of San Bernardino County Law Library, for winning the drawing for free registration to next year’s conference in Phoenix. As he was picking up his prize certificate, they called his name again – he had won three free nights at the Orlando hotel to be applied to his stay during the conference. Larry graciously declined the second prize so someone else could share the wealth.

Here’s shameless plug number three for the AALL Annual Meeting – Marcus Hochstetler, who also attended the Equal Justice Conference, will be coordinating program J-4, “Building a Coalition of County Law Libraries: A Place to Begin” on Tuesday, July 28th from 2:30 pm to 3:15 pm. Before moving to Seattle, Marcus worked at a county law library in Ohio and was involved in the fight to preserve Ohio’s county law libraries. Marcus is currently Chair of SCCLL, so I had to make sure he got a shameless plug.

Still more random thoughts and a shameless plug for my own library: One distraction during the conference was excited emails from co-workers in Ohio who had just received word that The Today Show was going to film a segment at our library building. The camera crew arrived on my first day back at work. They spent the day interviewing patrons and filming our Career Center Counselors working with clients, a Job Club meeting, and several children and teen programs. Most notably, they did NOT find our staff workroom, where my co-workers had hurriedly hidden the large stacks of unfiled papers that were usually scattered across my desk! I think we found everything after the cameras left. The segment, scheduled to air June 1st, was about the increased usage of public libraries because of the economy. Adds more impact to that whole public librarian training concept, I think. Access to Justice @ your local library!

Many thanks to the SCCLL Grants Committee for providing me with part of the wherewithal to attend the meeting – Michele Finerty (Chair), Anna Djirdjirian, Jane Colwin, Carol Suhre, Donna Williams, Barbara Fritschel (Silent Auction Chair) and Executive Board Liaison Amy Hale-Janek. Also many thanks to the SCCLL and AALL Members who bought stuff in the Silent Auction – my Dad treasures the bald eagle feather painting I managed to score at an Auction several years ago. The artist had permission to use the feather so Dad won’t spend his retirement years in the federal pen!

The title for this article has its own little story. I drove from Cleveland to Orlando and as I turned off I-95 onto I-4, the darkened skies let loose with thunder, lightning, and rain. Lots and lots of rain. Mother Nature decided to end a months-long drought in Florida. The rain continued off and on for most of the time I was there. One afternoon, as I was exiting a meeting room, I glanced out-
side to a covered sidewalk. A small duck was solemnly observing the downpour from the shelter of the sidewalk. Yes, folks, that afternoon in not-so-sunny Florida was too wet for ducks!

Please contact me at mbarr@cuyahogalibrary.org if you have questions about the Equal Justice Conference (or anything else, for that matter – hello, reference librarian!), or ask me if you are in D.C. You should be able to flag me down as I’m racing about in my rented Scootaround to save wear and tear on my bum knee and bad back. Hmmm – shameless plug number five? Those battery-powered mobility scooters are a great way to trek around the Exhibit Hall and conference centers. Especially since AALL almost always gets assigned the meeting rooms furthest from the entrance. Although things did get a little tricky when I was zooming around New Orleans in the French Quarter, especially when it started to rain. The company provides delivery and pick-up of the scooter to your hotel, and the bellboys (bell staff?) will store the scooter somewhere out of sight where they can play around with it – I caught the bell captain zooming around the hotel lobby in St. Louis. While you’re in D.C., I highly recommend a tour of the International Spy Museum. Preferably without the scooter since the aisles and hallways can get pretty crowded. When I did the tour several years ago I just knocked people out of my way with my cane – an ordinary cane, not a sword cane, so there was no dueling to the death. Set aside at least 3 to 4 hours for the full treatment. There actually is a test at the end. So, memorize your spy profile when you enter or the border guards won’t let you leave! Was that shameless plug number six? Stop counting now, I’m done!


Jacqueline Cantwell, Brooklyn Supreme Court Law Library

All law librarians should read *Sweet Land of Liberty*, but for court librarians working in the Northeast, there is no better text to explain the racial tensions underlying reference desk interactions between black patrons and white librarians.

Much is asked of us court law librarians, beginning with the job interview when The Question is spoken: Can we work with a diverse public? – code for poor, angry black people. Who is going to say no and chance losing the job? After the
hire, on break or during get-togethers, when no blacks can overhear, I have listened, and complained, too, as white librarians vent their exhaustion from the repetitious questions that come to the reference desk: young women researching cases for incarcerated boyfriends, grandmothers trying to win custody of grandchildren from drug addicted mothers, men contesting child support garnishments to multiple women. There are no simple answers to these problems; a handout to supplement a five-minute reference interview cannot help. Access to justice too often feels like directing people to books they are unable to read. Contained within these questions is a single question: how did things get so bad after all the hope of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement? What went wrong? How did the ranks of marchers become men hanging out on street corners?

Sweet Land of Liberty helps explain what happened. The author, Thomas J. Sugrue, is the Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Professor of History and Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. Sugrue’s scholarly writings, teaching and civil engagements have brought him many awards, including the Bancroft Prize in American history for his first book, The Origins of the Urban Crisis (Princeton University Press, 1996). Origins was republished as a Princeton Classic in 2005 after the Princeton University Press selected it as one of the 100 most influential books of the past 100 years.

In Sweet Land of Liberty, Sugrue’s ambition is to write a political history of the civil rights movement from the 1920s to the present. Instead of focusing upon a few major names and big demonstrations, he explores the motivations and circumstances of activist blacks, many of whom had moved to the major cities of the Northeast during the 1920s Great Migration. The pre-World War II anti-racist efforts by blacks were supported by few white groups. Among the most supportive were left wing groups who were considered as peripheral as blacks; integration was not a mainstream interest. Sugrue makes explicit the differing interests and goals of political actors at both grassroots and government levels. The black community contained many anti-racist groups and the groups often disagreed with one another.

Sugrue organizes this complex history into two opposing anti-racist trains of thought. The first, the minority and ultimately defeated view, held that whites would never give up power willingly and that only a labor-based coalition of white and black workers could challenge racism. The 50s red scare ostracized these rank-and-file militants as trade unions and advocacy groups expelled suspected Communists or those sympathetic to Communism. The second, ultimately successful train of thought, held that by appealing to whites’ better natures, fairness and justice would occur gradually. Appealing to both well-minded
religious groups who truly believed human nature could be redeemed and self-
protective business groups who did not want government oversight in hiring and
promotion practices, this belief was known as “social engineering.” From it de-
veloped the current idea of diversity. Sugrue also places into perspective black
nationalism and the black power movements, which were peripheral in American
thought, but effective as political theater.

This history of six hundred pages with over one hundred pages of notes moved
me tremendously, not just for the knowledge so effortlessly displayed by Sugrue,
but because he brings to light the past efforts of black and leftist (and some were
both, C.L.R. James, for example) activists to create alliances. These activists
taught organizing skills. They taught parliamentary skills. They were dedicated
and they passed their skills and knowledge on to recruits. They were resources at
the grass roots. They got purged during the Red Scare, disheartened and ex-
hausted during the 70s recession. Now, instead of political parties enacting a na-
tional anti-racist program, urban advocacy groups pressure financially ailing city
administrations for aid. “Those with the least are trying to do the most.”

These purged activists provided a vocabulary into which frustration could be
funneled purposefully. A quote from a Detroit activist is just one of the moving
passages, “What I am talking about is living a very narrow life in a large dy-
namic city with a host of opportunities but for ‘whites only’.” (p. 131)
This man’s frustration, voiced in the 1940s, identifies my unease in New York
City. I have wanted the library to be a transformative public space, but I know
that the non-attorney patrons consider the law library another official office that
makes their lives hard: no real help and unintelligible books. I have tried to rec-
oncile my knowledge of the justice system’s coerciveness with the aspirations of
dedicated judges. There is a terrible contradiction between the well-meaning ef-
forts of individuals and the oppressiveness of the system. After reading Sugrue, I
now know my unease is not self-indulgent angst, but instead is an awareness of
how government policies have distorted public life by supporting whites with-
drawing from cities into safe, private spaces reached by highways and protec-
tively zoned. There are no shared public spaces. There is no shared political lan-
guage.

Sugrue’s closing chapter lists what activists used to successfully challenge ra-
cism. Reading that list, I thought we do not live in the future imagined by those
activists. We have accepted small lives and a blighted present. We need to regain
our sense of influence in the world and that our actions have power. We need to
regain a community directed toward a shared future.
SCCLL Reminders

Saturday, July 25
SCCLL-SIS Executive Board Meeting
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Washington Convention Center - Room 157

Sunday, July 26
SCCLL-SIS Breakfast and Silent Auction
7:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.
Renaissance - Renaissance Ballroom East
The SCCLL-SIS Breakfast, Silent Auction & Business Meeting (sponsored by LexisNexis).

If you plan to purchase items at the silent auction, please do both of us a favor and bring a personal check. It makes accounting much easier and I don't have to carry cash. Speaking of cash, I'm not going to have change for bills, so when you bid, please keep that in mind.

We can't and don't take plastic or paypal. Sorry Gen Xers and Yers! I too don't usually carry cash, but this is one time when your debit cards aren't going to be accepted. Visit an ATM and then a Starbucks and get those $20s broken.

Amy Hale Janeke
SCCLL Treasurer/Secretary

SCCLL-SIS Librarians and Trustees Luncheon
12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.
Washington Convention Center - Room 144 B

SCCLL-SIS Reception
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
RFD - Regional Food and Drink.
All SCCLL SIS members are invited to attend and to join the SCCLL Board for an evening of conviviality, good food and fine company at RFD, 810 7th St.
N.W., Washington, D.C. (1.5 blocks south of the Washington Convention Centre, on Metro Red Line- Gallery Place/Chinatown stop). RFD is known for its regional specialties and its selection of local craft brews. The reception will feature hor d’oeuvres and a cash bar. SCCLL is grateful to Wolters Kluwer Law and Business for its generous contribution to this event.

This year as in past years, the SCCLL-SIS will have a table in the AALL Activities Area. Although it isn’t necessary to have someone sit at the table throughout the AALL Annual Meeting, it would be great if we could staff the table during most Exhibit Hall hours, particularly those that fall during the Exhibit Hall breaks. Send Gail Warren an email if you have some time to staff the table: gail.warren.56@comcast.net.

On behalf of Jennifer Murray: While we may naturally commiser-8 about the economic downturn that affects us all, why not collabor-8 and cogit-8 on some solutions to the challenges we face. As we congreg-8 in DC for the AALL Annual Meeting, join the RIPS-SIS for our C8 Town Hall Forum. Celebr-8-ed law librarians Jean Wenger (state, court and county), Linda Will (private) and Tory Trotta (academic), will comment-8 on their experiences and views, but we invite you to cooper-8 first-hand in what is sure to be a freewheeling discussion. Commu-8 nic-8 your questions and thoughts as we cre-8 synergy and contempl-8 how to turn a crisis into an opportunity.

RIPS C8 Forum
Sunday, July 26th at 1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
WCC-Room 156

Discover how new document assembly programs help self represented litigants. You will also learn how law librarians can partner with providers to expand access to interactive forms.

“Online Interactive Court Forms for Self-Represented Litigants: The Library’s Role” will take place on Sunday, July 26 from 1:30 PM- 2:45 PM in the Washington Convention Center (Room 154B). Please note that this Legal Information Services to the Public (LISP)-SIS sponsored program has special interest for law librarians who serve self represented litigants. Speakers are Kate Bladow from ProBonoNet and Judy Meadows, Montana State Law Librarian.
Serving Those Who Serve: 
Services Available to Active Duty Military Personnel, Their Families and Veterans.
Monday, July 27, 8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
Washington Convention Center - Room 156
This program aims to provide civilian law librarians with some basic information about the services and legal information that are available to active duty military personnel, their families and veterans. Three speakers will address different aspects of the military experience and the legal issues which may arise in each context.

LISP/SR/SCCLL-SIS Joint Roundtable on Library Services to Pro Se Patrons and Prisoners
Monday, July 27, 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.
Renaissance - Congressional Hall A

SCCLL-SIS Education Committee Meeting
Monday, July 27, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Washington Convention Center - Room 153

Tuesday, July 28
SCCLL-SIS State Law Librarians Roundtable (Breakfast)
Tuesday, July 28, 7:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.
Washington Convention Center - Room 143 B

For more conference information, go to the SCCLL website (www.aallnet.org/ sis/sccll)

AALL Announcements

Help Review the AALL Competencies of Law Librarianship

The AALL Continuing Professional Education Committee is conducting online discussions about the AALL Competencies of Law Librarianship, approved by the AALL Executive Board in March 2001, to discover if the competencies are
still relevant or whether modifications are needed. The CPE Committee offers AALL members the opportunity to comment and share their thoughts on the competencies through the Tools for Success in Today’s Economy wiki.

The core competencies and specialized competencies are listed on the wiki, which includes questions that will help you get started on thinking about the competencies. Please join in the discussions online!

New Edition of the AALL Price Index Now Available

The AALL Price Index for Legal Publications, 6d., is now available in the Members Only Section of AALLNET. This year's Price Index includes 2008 pricing information for more than 500 titles. The table-based report also includes details for the mean cost of titles and percentage increases over previous years for serial publications, legal periodicals, loose-leaf services, commercially published court reporters, and supplemented treatises.

AALL Dues Help for Unemployed Members

To help in these tough times, AALL is offering a discounted membership rate for AALL members who are recently unemployed. The discounted membership appears online and in all public records simply as an “Active” membership, but is billed at the student/retired rate ($55 instead of $218). The discounted rate is good through May 31, 2010.

Unemployed AALL members should fill out the online form or contact AALL Membership Services Coordinator Hannah Phelps (hphelps@aall.org or 312-205-8022) to sign up.

Archived Webinars Available on AALLNET

AALL members now have the chance to view six popular Webinars presented October 2008-February 2009 in the Members Only Section of AALLNET:

- Twenty Essentials for the Effective Speaker
- How to Train Without Showing Up
• Law Firm Library Budgeting for Hard Economic Times
• Take the Lead: Journey to Authentic Leadership (free for AALL members)
• C-ing is Believing- Next Steps for Library Success
• Guided Tour of your AALL Membership (free for everyone)

The links above are available for AALL members only. Non-members can access the 2008 Webinars and 2009 Webinars for a higher fee.

AALL2go Coming to a Computer Near You in August 2009

AALL is proud to announce it is adopting a new, powerful, state-of-the-art learning technology, which will provide a new learning gateway to all AALL members. AALL2go will offer you specialized continuing education programs designed specifically for law librarians, available online 24/7.

The online learning center will be available this August with audio recordings from the 2009 AALL Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., as well as archived webinars, video recordings, virtual programs, and accompanying handouts. Log on to AALL2go to expand your knowledge base and gain new skills to grow your career—whenever and wherever you need it.

Follow AALL on Twitter

Get up-to-the-minute AALL news by joining the AALLNET Twitter Feed. A separate 2009 Annual Meeting Twitter Feed is dedicated to updates on this summer’s Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Sign up and stay connected!
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She's a babe. A book babe that is. SCCLL member **Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson**, of Helena, was recently awarded the 2009 Montana Library Association Media Award for her project: "Montana's Book Babes: Librarians Under the Big Sky" 2008 calendar.

As chair of the Montana Library Association PR & Marketing Committee, Jackson was instrumental in putting the calendar together: from coming up with the idea, to finding a photographer and a photo shoot location, to rounding up and cheering on the brave librarian models who posed for the calendar, to designing the calendar itself. Each calendar month features a different librarian from around the state. School, college, public, and special librarians were photographed in a slightly risqué pose doing one of their favorite non-librarian activities. Each librarian's biography and favorite book-related quote were also featured on their page.

The calendar, a fundraiser for the library association, raised over $3,000 and generated a great deal of positive publicity for the brave librarians featured. The Media award is conferred to honor a production for broadcast or a work for publication which best underscores the value of libraries to community and society. Jackson, also known as "Ms. July", was given the Media award at the 2009 Montana Library Association Conference, held in Kalispell, MT, April 22-25, 2009.

**Meg Martin** and **Katie Jones** of the Wyoming State Law Library persuaded 4 of the Wyoming Supreme Court Justices to pose for READ posters. They framed them for display at the library. The pictures were unveiled at the Open House held in recognition of the renovated Supreme Court building on May 1st. They also made the photos available to public libraries across the state. Most people would not recognize their Justices without assistance and this gave the law librarians a chance to talk about them and make them more accessible.