View From The Chair
Anne Matthewman, SCCLL Chair

Let me begin my final column as SCCLL Chair by thanking Jennifer Dalglish for putting together the first two issues this year and Kim Ositis for assisting Jennifer with this issue. Jennifer has done stellar work on the newsletter and Kim very readily stepped in to assist when Jennifer needed to step back a bit. Along with the Listserv and the website, the newsletter is a primary mode of communication for SCCLL and a vehicle for sharing ideas.

Times are tough for our libraries, as indeed they are for all types of law libraries, and over the past year communication and sharing of ideas have been important in sustaining and supporting our group. For example, members worked together with AALL and the Government Relations Committee in getting the word out about threatened closures of county law libraries in Connecticut. As a result, four out of six libraries were saved. Additionally, we worked with Mary Alice Baish of the Government Relations Office on a report to the board regarding Section IIIB of the Executive Board’s Action Plan of advocacy for our types of libraries. Advocacy for libraries remains as part of the Strategic Actions for the Association and I know there will be more opportunities for SCCLL to work with AALL to strengthen our voice.

Communication and sharing of ideas has resulted in an assessment of the Trustee Development Program and I charged Coral Henning, Chair of that committee, to begin a discussion on how this program could be more effective. That discussion was the focus of the Trustees’ Luncheon in Denver and will continue over the next year. We need our Trustees to continue to be educated, invested and aware of the importance of our libraries.

I want to mention the two awards we presented at the Business Meeting in Denver. The Law Library Advocate award went to the Honorable Keith D. Davis, President of the Board of Trustees of the Law Library of San Bernardino County. Judge Davis is certainly invested and aware of the importance of law libraries and he has demonstrated this with his support of state legislation and his advocacy for county law libraries both nationally and in California.
The second award went to our long time colleague Anne McDonald. She was awarded the O. James Werner Award for Distinguished Service to Persons with Disabilities. Anne is the Law Library Coordinator at the Rhode Island Department of the Attorney General. In both her personal and professional life she has made significant contributions to serving persons with disabilities. Anne is also an accomplished poet.

The accomplishments and hard work of both of these grant recipients certainly support and sustain all SCCLL members.

In closing, I thank all committee chairs and members of the 2009-2010 year and the SIS Executive Board. Welcome to incoming Chair, Kathy Carlson, and the new Board.

From the Editor(s)

As some of you may know, I’m anticipating a new arrival in October (baby boy, name to be determined). In preparation for this event, Kim Ositis has very graciously volunteered to be our Guest Editor for both this issue and the Fall 2010 issue of the SCCLL News. You might remember that Kim is the immediate past Editor and, as such, I’m very confident she will do an outstanding job with our very first themed issue in the Fall of 2010. Thank you so much for taking it on, Kim!

Jennifer

Hello everyone! I am happy to be helping out Jennifer and I’m looking forward to our first themed issue in Fall 2010. The theme will be “Perspectives on the Profession.” We would like to have articles from a newer librarian, an older librarian and on related topics, such as Emotional Intelligence. The deadline for the next issue is September 15. Remember to send your article to me (not Jennifer) at kim.ositis@kingcounty.gov.

Kim
**Grants Committee News**

Jane Colwin, Chair

The Committee awarded two grants this year. Melanie Solon, Law Librarian at the Berks County Law Library in Reading, MA received a $1000 grant to attend the Equal Justice Conference which was held in Phoenix in May, 2010. The second grant, also for $1000, was awarded to Roseann Canny, Law Librarian for the Connecticut Judicial Branch in Rockville, CT to help with the costs of attending the AALL Annual Meeting in Denver.

While our committee congratulates these two recipients, we wish there had been many more qualified applicants to choose from – especially as we could have funded additional grants. 2010 may just be a fluke year – in addition to general budget woes, many state courts have put a ban on out-of-state travel, which affects a good number of our SIS members.

Please don’t hesitate to apply next year if you are at all tempted – our committee would welcome the additional workload!

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**SCCLL-SIS Breakfast, Silent Auction and Business Meeting**

Thank you to Wolters Kluwer Law and Business for sponsoring the SCCLL-SIS Breakfast on Sunday, July 10. Look in the next issue of SCCLL News for recaps of the Breakfast, Silent Auction and Business Meeting.

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**Technology Benefits New York Courts**

Amy Hale-Janeke

Learn about recent technological advancements at the New York Courts in this [blog post](http://law.com) from law.com:

“eTrack is just one of the many new tools that the New York state judiciary is using to manage its ever-growing caseload and to provide the bar and the public with the type of access to information that, in the age of Google and Twitter, they are coming to expect.”
Charley’s Corner - Transitions
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.

Starting in the fall of 2010, SCCLL News will begin having each issue devoted to a specific theme. As such, newsletter authors will be encouraged to develop good in-depth articles, rather than just reporting news items. As part of this transition, this is the last Charley’s Corner column. This issue completes the eleventh year for the column, and it is time to move on. The editors (Jennifer and Kim, who is coming back to replace Jennifer for the next two issues while she is on maternity leave) have suggested that I do a retrospective for this column, and so I shall. (One should never miss an open invitation to indulge in himself.)

The Charley’s Corner column began in 1999 as part of an effort by the SCCLL Newsletter Committee and the Editor to add “think pieces” to the newsletter. Also begun at that time was Jean Holcomb’s column on management, which she eventually moved to the Law Library Journal as one of its regular features. My column was originally envisioned as a kind of Andy Rooney curmudgeon column, meant to be placed at the back of the issue. Since we were a hard copy print medium in those days, it was also shorter. (If you have an interest in seeing any of these columns, I have them collected on my website. All except the first one are also available on the SCCLL SIS website within the newsletters.)

My first column, however, was more of a political advocacy piece, as I openly wrote about needing to have AALL expand its rules for regular membership, so that law library trustees (and presumably law school deans, if so inclined) could become regular, voting members, as they are in the American Library Association. Happily, that came to pass.

Subsequently, I began to pick up steam as a curmudgeon, writing several columns on the oddities we face in our lives as law librarians. I still occasionally wrote a piece with a political theme when I felt the need. I had some interesting period pieces, such as my complaint about how hard it was to get a DSL line put into my home. Another was a complaint that we had too many cases going to arbitration in certain fields, such as employment law and medical malpractice, so that our jurisprudence in these areas suffered from lack of presentation to appellate courts.

Most of my columns back then brought emails from readers who said they enjoyed them or were pleased to spend some time thinking about something other than the usual. A couple, however, brought complaints. I once wrote an article that said that law librarians were too busy to be geniuses, but also that, having our broad perspective, we did not concentrate narrowly enough to get the depth to gain acknowledgment as geniuses. Several geniuses
among us found objection to that one, including one who proclaimed that he was quite properly “narrowly focused” enough to do genius work.

In 2005, I retired from my position as the Director of the San Diego County Public Law Library, but I kept the column going. I became a scholarly researcher and a consultant. My focus was, and remains, to try to see if we can improve on how we help self represented litigants learn the law. My tactic was, and remains, to take a broad theoretical perspective. I am interested in the problems of language, jurisprudential logic, and cultural perspective, as they affect self represented litigants, and indeed all of us. I felt that my educational background in philosophy, as well as law and library and information science, would aid me, and I now had time.

Fortunately for me, in late 2005 Pam Gregory introduced me to Richard Zorza, the coordinator of the brand new Self Represented Litigation Network. He invited me to join its Research Working Group, which has given me considerable insight into the kinds of research conducted on behalf of the courts themselves, as opposed to academically-inspired research on the courts and self represented litigants that is represented in the published studies and law review articles.

Actually working with the courts and in the courthouse environment is considerably messier with respect to statistical validity, verifiable hypotheses, and information gathering in general than you would be led to believe if you read only the academic works. But there are several themes that run though much of these efforts, mostly built from the anecdotal knowledge of those who actually work with the public.

Perhaps the most important theme is that, when a person understands what is going on, he will usually make choices that are most beneficial to him. This statement is far from being as seemingly obvious as it appears. In this age, when the rational choice theory in economics is being rightly challenged, it is actually quite a step to take to note that, in the limited situation of the stress of working within the legal system, a litigant does not make knee-jerk responses, but employs all his conscious understanding and makes choices that are truly useful. The problem for the courts is the clause “when a person understands what is going on.”

As a law librarian, I too was one of those who had from-the-ground anecdotal evidence of this theme. Obviously, most of you have the same experiences. And, of course, that is what we do, provide information, so naturally, we find ourselves immersed in these matters more than most courthouse personnel.

So I continued to write my column, but my focus changed over time. The problems of language became central to my research, and that was reflected in my columns. As I brought more and more of my research into my articles, they also became somewhat longer, a privilege enabled by the switch to the PDF format, as indeed the newsletter itself got much larger after the
transition.

My new columns also generated mostly praise, thankfully. I was especially delighted when Bonnie Hough, the primary senior counsel dealing with self represented litigation issues for the California Administrative Office for the Courts said that she had read them (from my website) and found them insightful. (She serves as co-chair of the SRLN Research Working Group.)

One contrarian felt, however, that my theoretical discussions were too obtuse and recommended an evidence-based approach. “Evidence-based librarianship” is a management technique that achieved some notoriety among academic library directors and others some years ago. It is a term borrowed from “evidence-based medicine”. Personally, while I find the evidence-based approach useful in some management settings, I find it too bereft of theoretical content. Often, the evidence employed is based on studies that are mostly common sense, rather than well-defined hypotheses with in-depth theory behind them. The classic evidence-based medicine procedure, the one that sells the technique, is the fact that, when doctors wash their hands before seeing new patients, they transmit less disease. Of course, the theory is simply the transmission of germs, which dates back 150 years to the research in childbed fever. But the evidence is that, guess what, it actually works.

There is something to be said that, if we can make procedural changes that are obvious, we can improve our work. As a director, I was always an advocate for doing so. Research guides are better than over-the-counter discussions about library sources for a patron’s problems. Classes for self represented litigants can work just as well as classes for law students. But finding the evidence requires determining what outcome is the appropriate one. “Justice” is both a societal and an individual concept. It is dependent on lots of other cultural concepts, including those concepts embedded in our various languages, dialects, and discourses.

With all of that said, however, the appropriateness of the column as a part of SCCLL News is waning, as distinct from the discussions themselves. We now have many other avenues for these types of discussions—blogs, wikis, Facebook pages, etc. And my life is such that I no longer have material for a curmudgeon column about life as a law librarian.

The other component of my columns, that of political advocacy, has also passed on to other media. Since AALL has adopted a much stronger stance toward the financial health of our public law libraries, and the local committees doing advocacy have been strengthened and better organized, those columns are no longer needed either. The Legislative Affairs Office and the various government relations committees are good at getting the word out and taking the stands that need to be taken. And it is done in a much more fitting and nuanced way. I am proud to have been a part of that process at its beginning, but that was in my role as chair of the SIS and my
work with the Council of California County Law Librarians, not as a newsletter columnist.

Independently, but appropriately simultaneously, I am also transitioning out of my role as the chair of the SRLN Law Librarians Working Group. Larry Meyer will be taking over that role for the coming year, starting in July, and Sara Galligan has agreed to act as vice chair and to become chair in July 2011. They intend to make the chair a rotating chair, now that the Group has a good history and an established presence. I had asked them to step forward, and am glad they are willing to take on those obligations. My own aim is to continue my research work, to publish more, and to remain active in the SRLN Research Working Group. (I will remain in the Law Librarians Group as a resource person.)

Many, if not most, librarians take up volunteer work upon retirement. Some become part-time reference librarians at public libraries (and often their only legal specialists). Others do wonderful charity work of various sorts. We are a giving group. That I have found my own little niche and have learned so much in the process has been most rewarding. I wish to thank you, the readers of my column, for giving me a forum for my thoughts. Having to learn to take complicated subjects, be concise, and tie them into the work of law librarians has been a good challenge for me. I am glad to have had the opportunity.

So, in closing, I suggest to all of you that writing for SCCLL News can be a very rewarding thing. Try to add more to your articles than just reporting the news. The new theme orientation that the editors have developed will give you a place to start. You don’t have to write for every issue, so pick the ones that your stuff belongs. Spend some time telling the reader where your work fits into the larger scheme of the work that they do and why it is important. You all have a lot more theoretical understanding behind you than most of you display, so I challenge you to put some of that out there. The rest of us can learn from you. A few of you might be extremely successful at it, like Jean Holcomb. But for most of you, I simply recommend it because the pleasure of writing, of giving to others your hard-earned thoughts and opinions, is a joy unto itself.

“I suggest to all of you that writing for SCCLL News can be a very rewarding thing.”
At Tarrant Law Library, Most Clients are Regular People
Steve Campbell
Reprinted with permission from the Star-Telegram, July 4, 2010

Tarrant County Law Library Director Sharon Wayland has answered countless questions in her 28 years at the research center, but some really stick out:

“Are you a government suppository?”
“Where can I find a statue of eliminations?”
“The police said we smoked crack cocaine and that's true, but where does it say in the Bible ‘thou shalt not get high’?”
“I can't find the Kansas statutes. They jump from Louisiana to Maine.”
An inmate request: “Please send me the form to fill out for adultery.”
“Do you have a description of the crimes you can commit?”
Question: “If I tear up my marriage license will I be divorced?”
Librarian's answer: “If you tear up your birth certificate, will you be dead?”
“Can the police get a search warrant just because your house is dirty?”
“I need to get a temporary restraining order against my grandparents. I live with them but they are constantly bothering me about some money I owe them.”
"I am traveling from California to Tennessee. I have been committing adultery in California and I plan to commit adultery in Tennessee. I want to know if adultery is a crime in Texas in case I decide to commit adultery there."

Tight times and the do-it-yourself generation are teaming up to produce a new twist on law and order: amateur hour.

From filing pauper’s affidavits to preparing complex bankruptcy cases, about 15,000 people a year lean heavily on staffers at the Tarrant County Law Library as they try to navigate the legal system without a paid guide.

Whether they can't afford a lawyer or just want to do it themselves, these budding legal beagles "have high expectations when they come in the door. And then they get shot down. It's not easy," Director Sharon Wayland said.

"But if people are willing to read and do the research, they can get things done, especially if it's a simple procedure like a name change," Wayland said.

The library was established in 1945 as a resource for lawyers, but its primary patrons now are people like Ashley and Ernie Shuemake of Fort Worth, who are dealing with family law issues.
The young couple with five kids is trying to correct a wrong name on their 3-year-old son's birth certificate.

"Hopefully, this will do it," Ashley said with a nod toward a handful of legal forms that the couple had just filled out. "I'm hoping and praying this is our break. We wish we had known about this a long time ago. It was easier than I thought it would be."

People also routinely work on divorce and child support/custody cases, marriage annulments, probate issues and common-law-marriage questions, Assistant Director Peggy Martindale said.

Crackdowns on drinking and driving have led to more people seeking occupational driver's licenses that will allow them to drive to work while their license is suspended, she said.

Outside the entry to the library, on the fourth floor of the Tarrant County Courthouse, a small sign sums up what is likely to be the first roadblock for many patrons: "Library does not have fill-in-the-blank forms."

As Torey Holmes discovered, it's rarely simple.

Holmes, 29, of Fort Worth, who works for an air-conditioning supply company, said he couldn't afford a lawyer in his effort to win rights to visit his 3-year-old daughter.

Martindale patiently walked Holmes through his first steps into the legal maze.

"I'm paying child support every month, but I haven't seen my girl in a year. I don't even know where my ex-girlfriend is so she can be served a notice," Holmes told Martindale.

She logged onto a people search website and found a possible new address for the woman.

A grateful Holmes said he would pursue that lead and then be back to continue his quest.

"I see how attorneys make their money," he said.

**Pauper's affidavits**

The burgeoning trend of pro se (Latin for "for oneself") defendants has caught the attention of District Clerk Tom Wilder.

In a confluence of tight economic times, anti-government sentiments and the "DIY mindset," more and more people are filing pauper's affidavits to avoid court filing fees, Wilder said.
Since September, 1,595 "affidavits on indigency" have been filed in county courts, he said.

"That puts it on track for 2,000 cases in a year, and that would represent about $614,000 in lost fees," Wilder said.

The trend emerged five years ago and has picked up steam, he said.

"Something has caused these to go up. I think it's a rise in people selling tapes on how to save money by not paying government fees," he said.

In response, the courts are challenging more of the affidavits, he said.

"In one court, we had hearings on 17 cases and we prevailed in 15 of them," Wilder said.

Among the criteria on the affidavit are income, assets, employment and public assistance, he said.

"Some are going to be legitimate. But some people come in dripping diamonds and you know something is up," he said.

'We get cursed'

By the time many people get to the law library, they're already simmering on a short fuse.

"People don't come to the courthouse unless they have a problem," Wayland said. "They get very frustrated. We get cursed every week. They want us to be their lawyer -- they don't understand that we can't give them legal advice."

Divorces draw the most traffic and emotions.

"Uncontested divorces are something that most people can do if they are willing to put in the time," Wayland said. "But when it involves children or property, we don't recommend it."

Some couples on the outs even come in together to work on their case, she said.

"Some are nice, but we get some loud arguments," Wayland said. "And then there's the ones where the new boyfriends or girlfriends come in to help."

Next stop: law school

But among the family dramas and legal frustrations are lay lawyers willing to bore deep into the library's 45,000 books and databases.

Aram Azadpour, 48, of Grapevine doggedly spent nearly four years researching a complex employment and discrimination case that he filed in a California federal court. He lost his first trial but won a partial victory on appeal, he said.

A judge was so impressed with the electrical engineer's legal work that he recommended that Azadpour
go to law school, Martindale said.

"For a newbie like me, the library had everything I needed, and the librarians were eager to help. I think everybody who lives here is blessed to have it," Azadpour said. "It is a great, great resource for both the public and lawyers."

He has applied to several law schools.

"The books and online databases are expensive resources that I could not have afforded. It saved me hundreds of thousands of dollars," Azadpour said.

"But you have to spend the time if you want to succeed."

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**Law Librarians on YouTube!**

The Federal Court has released a [Youtube video](https://www.youtube.com) “Federal Judiciary Careers: Librarian” explaining the valuable contributions librarians make to the courts. The video stars:

- **Amy Hale-Janeke**
  Head of Reference Services
  US Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit Library

- **Valerie Railey**
  Branch Librarian
  US Courts Library

- **Mark Schwartz**
  US Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit Library

- **Carolyn Tanen**
  Serials Librarian
  US Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit Library

- **Michael R. Smith**
  Deputy Circuit Librarian
  US Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit Library

- **Claude Hayes**
  Librarian Technician
  US Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit Library
AALL Announcements

A New AALL Membership Year is Underway—Don’t Miss Out!

AALL’s new membership year just began on June 1. If you haven’t renewed already, be sure you do ASAP so you don’t miss out on valuable member benefits.

AALL2go, our new online learning center, brings continuing education programming to your desktop, available 24/7. There are already more than 60 free programs for AALL members, with new content added monthly. Look for the 2010 Annual Meeting and Conference programming to be available on August 5.

AALL’s new online Career Center provides advanced resume and job search features, whether you’re looking to find or fill a law library position.

Learn How to Provide Excellent Reference Services

Achieving reference services excellence in a rapidly changing environment requires adding new skills to your current arsenal. Join AALL for the August 3 webinar, Pushing the Boundaries: Excellence in Reference Services, at 12 p.m. EST, as Marie L. Radford, Ph.D., teaches you how to push the boundaries in providing reference services. Radford is an associate professor in the School of Communication and Information at Rutgers and a library consultant with expertise in reference services, management, retrieving and evaluating electronic resources, online searching, and school media.

Register by July 26.

AALL’s new online Career Center provides advanced resume and job search features, whether you’re looking to find or fill a law library position.

The new and improved AALLNET will debut this fall. The new site will be easy to navigate, feature a fresh new look, and include improved search functionality. New social media tools will allow you to form your own member groups and create group discussion forums, websites, blogs, wikis, and more.

AALL is offering a discounted membership rate for AALL members who are recently unemployed ($56 instead of $222). Unemployed AALL members should fill out the online form.

For more information or to renew your membership online, view the application form on AALLNET. If you have any questions about your membership renewal, contact AALL Headquarters at membership@aall.org or 312/205-8022.
AALL Announcements (continued)

AALL2go Pick of the Month

AALL’s Continuing Professional Education Committee presents the AALL2go pick of the month: Competitive Intelligence on a Shoestring.

This hour-long MP3 recording begins with speaker Susan Armstrong of Business Financial Services. She provides a definition of competitive intelligence (CI), i.e., what is going on that can affect your company or industry?

No competitor is going to lay out its entire plan to make things easy for you. You must look for indicators. Armstrong’s examples include, what does it mean if you find that a supermarket is advertising to hire bankers? For Armstrong's industry, it presaged banks opening in supermarkets. Or, if your research indicates that new personnel are being hired in a specific division of a competitor’s company, then it might mean the company is going to branch out in a new direction that you, as its competitor, want to know about. Armstrong then outlines how to package and disseminate the information you gather to give it your stamp.

Next, speaker Sabrina Pacifici, author of the well-known LLRX and Bespecific, describes how to use her respected and frequently updated Competitive Intelligence: A Selective Research Guide for gathering free and/or inexpensive data about competitors. To begin, she closely examines the Microsoft and Bayer corporate websites for the many types of useful CI information they contain. She goes on to review a large number of sites from her CI list that accumulate and aggregate company data.

Find this and more than 60 other free continuing education programs and webinars for AALL members on AALL2go!
AALL Presentation - WorldCat.org

Jacqueline Cantwell

Thanks to Jasmine De Gaia for the opportunity to give my thoughts to my fellow law librarians enjoying AALL. Thanks to Center for Book Arts in New York for their lecture series that has given me so many ideas about reading and the role of books in thought.

Thanks to NYLINK’s staff that helped me work on this project, especially Lynne Graziadei. NYLINK’s service has proven how useful intermediaries are for vendors. Without NYLINK’s customer service, I would not have taken advantage of OCLC’s services. With NYLINK disbanding, my library is evaluating our OCLC subscription. We are not sure if OCLC’s direction supports our mission and without NYLINK’s educational services, OCLC’s value to our mission has diminished. An 800 number is not enough to make me feel connected to a vendor and their services. I need an intermediary, a librarian service, to help me learn.

After two years of working with WorldCat.org and wanting social media to be more than gossip, but a way to promote the library as an authoritative source of legal information, I have mixed feelings about Worldcat.org. I am disappointed. WorldCat.org does not distinguish how libraries differ from book stores and instead tries to compete with book stores. I feel that WorldCat.org both underestimates and under-serves users. Unfortunately, WorldCat.org has not taken full advantage of bibliographic records and does not provide enough help for searchers constructing queries and evaluating results. WorldCat.org continues to emphasize the book as an isolated object instead of an intellectual expression. Its criteria for search result rankings are unclear. It may be that our law libraries and the needs of our users do not fit within WorldCat.org’s current capabilities of single item searching and its emphasis on social media applications like Twitter and Facebook.

In 2007, when I started this project, I had two goals: library promotion and staff training. I wanted to promote the library to patrons. Our users, sophisticated like judges and attorneys, or unfamiliar with legal materials like the self-represented, do not come to me asking for a book; they come with questions. Reference requires me to draw upon a broad variety of materials that cannot be fully described by LC subject headings. I have to use indexes, table of contents, and my brain’s ability to retain details. I also wanted to make the research process obvious so that librarians could develop reference skills more systematically. Librarians with colleagues who have worked in courthouses with a wide variety of litigation will have a different level of experience that someone who works as a solo librarian in a court house with a heavy load of personal injury cases. I wanted social media to capture our knowledge and make it accessible.

Drawing upon a database of frequently asked questions, which became a separate project, I got a better sense of who was using the library and the
different needs of our user groups. I created a number of lists that dealt with frequently used questions. Making up the lists was valuable for me and has helped in staff training, but the number of views in WorldCat.org, even though WorldCat.org lists can be listed in Google, is not high. Below are the most frequently viewed lists over the past two years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List</th>
<th>Number of views</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreclosure</td>
<td>453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Misconduct</td>
<td>475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Abuse and Neglect</td>
<td>516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landlord-tenant</td>
<td>673</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compare these numbers to the court website’s half a million hits a month. A better developed library page on the court website would be more useful to people seeking legal information.

My other hope for WorldCat.org was its potential to place the book within a social and intellectual context. I thought reviews would do this. Again, I gave myself an interesting project identifying post-WWII New York practice titles, but WorldCat.org does not promote reviews well. For example, Criminal Interrogations and Confession when displayed by all editions does not display which edition has been reviewed. The record has to be opened to find the review.

**My Problems with WorldCat.org**

**Clunky searching for titles** - Relevancy ranking not obvious

- *Wigmore on Evidence* – I did a simple search and got 334 results listed by relevancy. Relevancy is not defined. The treatise is number ten in this list. Why do supplements and articles precede the major work? The book which generates the discussion should be first. I had to refine the search by format, book, and John Henry Wigmore for the treatise to become the first entry. Three steps were required to rank the intellectual parent of this discussion first in the list.

**Clunky searching for subjects**  
[See addendum for handouts—Ed.]

- Popular legal search: divorce in New York. A keyword search for “divorce” and “New York” and then limited to law finds 600+ results. Relevancy cannot be altered. What decides relevancy? There is no explanation for relevancy. Before number ten, 2006 Uncontested divorce booklet, we have Peaches and Daddy and older popular divorce manuals. Under topics, we cannot select a subject heading for Law New York. (Handout #1)

- A search by subject for “divorce” and “New York” returns the same list as the keyword search. (Handout #2)

- A search by subject for “divorce” and “New York (State)”, gives us ten
different titles. The uncontested divorce booklet moves up to number nine, but *Peaches and Daddy*, even with the restriction to law, stays at the top. The left-hand bar lists five hits under “Formats” and then “Continually Updated Resources”. These are better materials for patrons, but there is nothing explaining what formats they are and which kinds of libraries use them. (Handout #3)

**Subject searching** – no browsing capability

- WorldCat.org provides no lists of subject headings. I guess it assumes users will link to subject headings from found items. It is not fair to provide subject heading queries without an entry to verify if a subject heading exists.

**No call number searching**

- Items cannot be searched by call number. If users were given an explanation of call numbers, information that libraries keep secret and should not, the library would be seen as more than a warehouse. Classifying books puts them into an intellectual structure. We should be promoting that activity. It is how we add value; it is our work.

For too long the catalog has not helped reference. I want the catalog to be more than an inventory of holdings. We need to better show relationships between books and how a book supports a whole realm of discussion. Google Scholar does this, so do bibliographic essays. It would be wonderful to lead users into our resources. We need sidebars to include links to research guides and descriptions of materials. Instead of emphasizing items, we should be emphasizing how searching can be a process of clarifying a thought and placing it within a shared understanding. We are not promoting the usefulness of classification in searching.

WorldCat.org does not provide online glossaries or thesauri, much less subject headings. Why can’t WorldCat.org develop a user profile that the user could adjust for relevancy for each search? If a user wants a book on divorce in New York, why can’t the user search by call number after reading an explanation of how New York law books are classed in KFN and then specify in the search that only results for libraries within five miles be returned? That way *Peaches and Daddy* will be dropped as well as libraries in Germany.

When I look at WorldCat.org now, I can only think of the search engines for Barnes and Noble and Amazon. Libraries cannot compete with those businesses; not when a book can be bought on-line for less than taxi fare to the library. Those businesses do not have the databases, resources, and organized materials we have and that our catalogs fail to represent. WorldCat.org seems to be retreating from the idea of a book representing an idea and is neglecting the library’s potential for self-directed research.
Program Proposals for 2011 Annual Meeting

Jean-Paul Vivian

Recently you may have seen announcements regarding the 2011 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. Now is the time for you to prepare proposals for programming for next year’s meeting. Part of the mission of the SCCLL Education Committee is to assist members with submission of their proposals. Steven Anderson and I are Co-Chairing this year’s committee. We are hoping that with early collaboration and coordination the committee will be able to sponsor a strong slate of proposals. Some possible topics of interest to SCCLL members include:

- Exploring the inherent power of the judicial branch to insist on adequate court facilities: implications for libraries
- Cooperative collection development strategies
- Best practices in marketing and current awareness
- Cultivating networks with bench and bar stakeholders
- Using interdisciplinary and cooperative approaches to meet the needs of self-represented litigants, inside and outside the library
- Working cooperatively with public libraries: meeting common needs without stepping on toes
- Honing chat and e-mail reference skills
- Legal research triage—where to reach first to answer questions
- Shared catalogs and "open source" OPACs for smaller libraries
- Digital repositories: new roles for court libraries
- Action plans for preserving library funding, space and staff

Of course, we welcome proposals on other topics as well. In a recent message from Joyce Manna, AALL Vice-President/President-Elect, she remarked that members have stated that they would like to see:

- Advanced programming
- Practical knowledge
- Programs on substantive law, technical services, and library management and administration

You have until **September 15, 2010** to submit a proposal using the online **Program and Workshop Proposal Collection** site. All proposals must be submitted to this site by you. You must submit a draft proposal to the Education Committee first before final submission in order to qualify for SCCLL sponsorship.

If you have any question please feel free to contact Steve or myself.

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Member News & Announcements

Joel Fishman, Asst. Director for Lawyer Services, Duquesne University Center for Legal Information/Allegheny County Law Library, is the new President of the Western Pennsylvania Law Library Association for 2010-2011. He has also been appointed a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Constitutional Review Commission.