As I write this message, Southern California is enjoying a comfortable and unseasonably warm and dry winter. Many of you in other parts of the country are not as fortunate and are experiencing weather that is colder, wetter and snowier than normal. For each of you, my wish is that you and yours may stay warm and comfortable until Spring arrives. Sooner than you think, your winter weather will seem a distant memory as many of you will travel to San Antonio to enjoy their warm temperatures and the hospitality of the region.

As you begin your preparations for San Antonio, please remember to put on your schedule both the SCCLL Sunday morning breakfast and the SCCLL reception to be held Monday late afternoon/early evening. Both events are a great time to catch up with friends and meet new colleagues. These two events will also be an opportunity for us to continue celebrating 40 years of SCCLL. More information on both events will be forthcoming on the SCCLL listserv and in the next issue of the newsletter.

While the visit to San Antonio will in many ways be a respite from our day to day endeavors, it will also be a time for many of us to have serious conversations with each other and with vendors as to the future. Our membership, as a whole, is deeply concerned about the twin pressures of decreasing budgets and increasing costs. Many of us have spent much time and energy looking at how to balance these two opposing forces in order to continue to provide the best possible service to our respective user communities. Recent conversations with members of SCCLL and vendors have reinforced, in my mind, that this is a crucial time for many of us and our respective institutions.

Dan Cordova’s recent article in The CRIV Sheet (“Unbundling Online Legal Materials,” February 2014) is but one example of ideas that each of us should be mulling over in our minds. Ideas, including those “outside the box,”
View from the Chair, continued

Larry Meyer, Chair

should help us to lay the groundwork for discussions with vendors and our respective institution’s stake-holders.

Many of you have begun those conversations with our vendor partners. Through your efforts, many vendors are keenly aware of our concerns (as well as those of our friends in the other two major “type” SIS). These conversations are not always easy, but now more than ever, they are necessary. Both sides, the law librarians and the vendors, may well need to continue to think outside the box in order to come up with solutions. Will one solution fit everyone’s needs? Probably not, but without the conversations, I would venture to guess, the win-win solutions will evade us.

The bottom line is this: we are all in this together, we all must think outside of the box, and we must continue to talk and work with each other. When all is said and done, I sincerely believe we will be a stronger group and will do a better job to serve our respective user communities. And is that not the goal each of us should be striving to achieve?

From The Editor’s Desk

Holly Gerber, Tarrant County Law Library (TX)

If you like arts and crafts, going to conferences, and helping pro-se patrons, then this issue is for you. Anyone looking for financial assistance to attend the Equal Justice Conference and/or the next AALL Annual Meeting should read the grants announcements on page 5. Those seeking to help others attend the conferences should look to the silent auction information on page 6. Information on the upcoming LLAM access to justice legal research institute can be found on page 8. If you love art, books, and art made from books, check out the articles on pages 9-11. Finally, beginning on page 12, SCCLL members share what they’ve been doing to help self-represented litigants in their libraries.
AALL Announcements

AALL Announces Legal Research Competency Principles and Standards

AALL has launched an online information center dedicated to promoting the Principles and Standards for Legal Research Competency within the legal profession. The information center provides access to the principles and standards, implementation and best practice ideas, and information about upcoming programs on using the standards. All AALL members are encouraged to learn about this effort and get involved to help promote the principles and standards. A press release was issued on December 6 to external audiences. Please contact the Promoting the AALL Principles and Standards for Legal Research Competency Task Force for more information.

2014 Day in the Life Photo Contest Opened January 1

It's that time again - the AALL Day in the Life Photo Contest will begin accepting submissions starting January 1. The Day in the Life Contest invites AALL members to take and submit a wide range of photographs and videos of law librarians working, meeting, teaching, and doing everything else that law librarians do in a given day.

We are pleased to announce a new category this year, Best Video, and a special category, Student Services. We are also pleased to announce an expanded timeframe for taking photos and videos. Entries must be submitted between January 1 and February 28, 2014, but your photos and videos can be from any time between March 1, 2013 and February 28, 2014.

Entries will be judged online through membership voting in April. Winners will be recognized on AALLNET, in the July issue of AALL Spectrum, and during the 2014 Annual Meeting in San Antonio.

Please visit the AALL Day in the Life homepage for complete contest details: community.aallnet.org/DayintheLifeContest/Home.
40 years and counting...Highlights from the 1980s

Barbara Fritschel

Words of wisdom from the past.

In November 1981, Robert Taylor, first chair of the group that would later be known as SCCLL-SIS, offered a special article entitled “A Mistake of the Courts: Bypassing Their Greatest Asset.” In it, he notes how stereotypes of librarians may contribute to the idea that they are not current with technology. From the article:

“Perhaps there was a day when courts tried to decide which of the two major law encyclopedias they should buy, but they eventually realized that they wanted both. The debate now rages as to which computer service a court should get. The real question is which will be acquired first, because every major law library ultimately will have access to the contents of them all. The courts should not agonize over it. Rather, they should recognize that their law librarian is the person who should know the most, both now and in the future, about the costs and capabilities of all materials and facilities for law research, including computer-assisted research systems.”

In May 1985, we read, “the information explosion has caused library budgets to be strained to the point of outright discomfort....[m]ost of us have read articles, and have attended workshops on budgeting techniques for lean times.” In the article “Entrepreneurship in the Law Library,” Judy Meadows challenges us to think of ways of expanding our budgets, rather than responding by decreasing services. For one of the articles on budgeting techniques in lean times, see Ken Svengalis’ article “Cost Effective Acquisitions” in the Volume 12, No. 1 Part 1 issue.
40 years and counting... Highlights from the 1980s, cont.

Barbara Fritschel

In the late 1980s, there was a “Special Committee on the Future of SCCLL,” chaired by Marcia Koslov. Three major discussion topics were identified:
1. Interaction of the members of SCCLL.
2. SCCLL’s relationship to AALL and other SISs.
3. Identify the organizations outside AALL upon which we would like to have an impact.

See Volume 14, No. 1 for more information.

My candidate for the “quirky” article of the decade is “Comparison of Telefacsimile Machines” (Vol. 13, No. 2). If you peruse the old newsletters, I would be interested in hearing your candidates for that category.

Travel Grants Now Available!

SCCLL Grants Committee

Are you hoping to attend the Equal Justice Conference in May 2014 and participate in discussions about “equal justice issues as they relate to the delivery of legal services to the poor and low-income individuals in need of legal assistance?” Do concerns about financing professional and educational opportunities keep you from considering attendance at any AALL meeting, not just the 2014 meeting in San Antonio? Those of us who attend these meetings regularly understand and appreciate the benefit of traveling to the host city, of attending focused educational programming, and, perhaps most importantly, connecting with colleagues in person. The State Court and County Law Libraries SIS offers generous travel grants, made possible by the donations of our members.

This year, the SCCLL Grants Committee is seeking applications for 2 grants:

  Application Deadline: March 6, 2014
  Application Deadline: April 14, 2014
Travel Grants Now Available, continued.

SCCLL Grants Committee

The SCCLL grants and scholarships page is at:

http://www.aallnet.org/sections/sccl/meetings/Scholarships-and-Grants

The application is at:


Information for the Equal Justice Conference is at:


Information on the AALL Annual Conference is at:

http://www.aallnet.org/conference

SCCLL Grants: Helping members move “Beyond Boundaries”
to attend the Equal Justice Conference and AALL Annual Meeting

Gail Warren, Grants Committee

Lest you’ve forgotten, the SCCLL grants program is funded through the revenues from our annual SILENT AUCTION! As we’ve done in the past, the 2014 SCCLL Silent Auction will include both online and in person components. Even though we are months away from opening the auction blog, my appeals for donations begins now.
SCCLL Grants: Helping members move “Beyond Boundaries”

to attend the Equal Justice Conference and AALL Annual Meeting, continued.

Gail Warren, Grants Committee

Are you crafty? Perhaps you or someone you know likes to knit, crochet, cross stitch, throw pots or do bead work? Hand crafted items, small items and gift certificates are always welcome. Jewelry, scarves, books, cards, and food (chocolate!!!) are always popular items, as well as other small and/or light weight items easily transported by airplane. I’ve started my quest for “Virginia” items and have managed to collect a couple of items to date – signed copies of the ever popular Food to Die For cookbook and its newly released companion cookbook titled Food to Live For: We’re Alive and Cooking.

In addition to appealing for donations, we are also seeking members to assist with the Silent Auction at the AALL Annual Meeting in San Antonio. If you plan to attend the AALL Annual Meeting, please consider volunteering to assist with the auction setup and collection of payments at the end of the auction. If you have any questions about volunteering or are interested in donating items, please contact Gail Warren at gail.warren.56@comcast.net.

Watch the SCCLL Community listserv for more details in the coming months!
LLAM Access to Justice Legal Research Institute
Dave Pantzer, Maryland State Law Library

We'd like to invite you and your members to our national access to justice legal research institute in Baltimore this March! Would you be willing to share this with your membership?

Registration is open for ALL ACCESS, the Law Library Association of Maryland's spring legal research institute in Baltimore. We have a great program planned, now all we need is:

- Spring weather, and
- For you to register!

See the information to the right, check out the event page, and spread the word!

ALL ACCESS: Access to Justice
A national legal research Institute brought to you from the Law Library Association of Maryland

- Hear nationally-recognized speakers
- Discuss cutting-edge issues
- Learn practical how-to strategies
- Network with expert practitioners

Date: March 21st, 2014
Location: University of Baltimore School of Law
1401 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201
Time: 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Highlights:
- Beyond Legal Help with Tamara Moore
- Civil Guide with Pam Ortiz
- Civil Justice, Inc. with Kate Hyland
- Just Advice® and Academic Legal Clinics with Leigh Maddox
- Special Presentations: Prisoners with Glennor Shirley
- And programs featuring Joanie Bellisteri, Judy Meadows, Sarah Maudlin, and other wonderful speakers!

Registration
There's limited space, so sign up early!

- Library association members: $65
- Non-members: $80

Sponsors
- The Law Library Association of Maryland
- University of Baltimore School of Law
- AALL/Bloombergs Continuing Education Grants Program
- Greater Philadelphia Law Library Association
- Law Libraries' Society of Washington, D.C.
- Bloomberg BNA
- Galile Cengage
- Innovative Interspace, Inc.
- LexisNexis
- Thomson Reuters
A Time of Giving

Benita Ghura, San Diego Law Library

To capture the spirit of giving during the holiday season, the San Diego Law Library launched the Celebrate Books! campaign, a new fundraising effort to build a special book collection representing the year’s most important legal issues.

To raise funds for this campaign, we introduced the Bookmas Tree. The idea of a Bookmas Tree is to create a holiday tree out of books (see photo). Using chicken wire, rebar and zip ties, we built a teepee to form the structure of the tree. We then invited the community to participate by donating $5, $10 or even $50 to help grow our tree, one layer at a time. We placed a book around the teepee-like frame for every $5 donated.

Thanks to the generous donation of many individuals, our Bookmas Tree grew steadily throughout November and the first part of December. CEB generously matched every $5 donated, up to $250. Upon completion, the Bookmas Tree stood over 9 feet tall with over 800 bound periodicals and superseded statutes, weighing approximately 3,000 pounds. Building the tree was an amazing community effort and was the highlight of our Open House event on December 13, 2013.

During the Open House, we held a vote to select the 2013 Book of the Year, the first book in our special collection. The big winner was: Chasing Gideon: The Elusive Quest for Poor People’s Justice.

The Bookmas Tree was an instant hit with San Diego County residents. Many individuals stopped by to admire and take pictures in front of the Bookmas Tree during and after our Open House event. People walking by our library would stop and stare up in delight at the Tree through our large picture windows. Our Celebrate Books! campaign will be an annual fundraising event to continue to build our special collection. In addition, we will happily dazzle and amaze the children and adults of San Diego County with our beautiful Bookmas Tree every year.
Art Program in the Law Library

Barbara Pasqua, Fayette County Law Library

We started the Art Program when we hosted the Southwestern Pennsylvania Law Librarian’s Meeting in September 2007. I posted a notice on the courthouse bulletin board asking if anyone was interested in displaying their artwork for this meeting. I had several pieces on display, and in April of 2008, I began showing just one artist per month so that the artist could receive the proper attention from the viewers. The Tribune Review/Daily Courier (Trib Total Media) does an article and photograph on each artist and still continues to this day. The Art Program is currently booking July of 2018. I show all forms of artwork. I try to give the budding artists a chance to say "my work has been on display" and seasoned artists an opportunity for publicity. We had a story in the American Association of Law Libraries’ (AALL) Spectrum magazine, a national publication, last June. We also got a Certificate of Recognition from our Fayette County Commissioners.

All artists must sign a waiver stating the library is not responsible for any damage to artwork. The artist is able to sell their work, from a few dollars on up, and because we are county government workers, we never touch any money.

The foot traffic has improved since the art program started. We have two chrome pedestal board signs at the courthouse entrance and the law library, noting the current artist’s name.

Last year, a local television show, "Fayette Today Show" on Armstrong Communications, featured my artists and their artworks to their cable audience.

The attorneys and judges enjoy the break from the courtroom drama and we are always a law library first and art program second.

If I can answer any other questions, please feel free to contact me.

[Ed note: see artwork from three of the participating artists on page 10]
Art Program in the Law Library, continued
Barbara Pasqua, Fayette County Law Library

Artist: Laura Koposko

Artist: Robert “Bob” Dulik

Artist: Jessica Lotman
What We Are Doing...To Assist Self-Represented Patrons

John Barden, Newsletter Committee

The majority of litigants in family law cases across the country do not have legal representation, according to Professor Barbara Babb of the Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts at the University of Baltimore School of Law. These patrons frequently turn to law libraries for information that will enable them to operate within the court system. The legal issues that these patrons bring to librarians generally fall within certain patterns, but sorting out the issues from the underlying story can be challenging for both patron and librarian. How do you help self-represented patrons find a resolution to their problem—file for divorce, settle a custody question, administer a small estate? Many of us have developed techniques, publications, or programs to assist self-represented patrons in reaching a solution. We asked for your input, and here’s what you said:

Maricopa County Superior Court Law Library
Phoenix, AZ
Reported by Jennifer Murray

For the Maricopa County Superior Court Law Library, we have a couple of approaches to these questions. For frequently asked questions, the Court departments, e.g. Family Court, have FAQs on their webpages. We also incorporate FAQs into our blog so they will turn up in a Google search through another avenue too. If the questions are frequently asked but too specific to put on a website, we keep the information in our wiki for easy retrieval. An example of that would be the current civil court procedure for scheduling a default hearing. That type of information we keep with the date the information was last verified. Things always change in the court. So we want to make sure we store the information but don't use information that has become obsolete. Lastly, we capture many FAQs in our Self-Service Center forms and accompanying instructions. For example, we have a form for small estate transfer.
What We Are Doing...To Assist Self-Represented Patrons, cont.

John Barden, Newsletter Committee

Ramsey County Law Library  
St. Paul, MN  
Reported by Sara Galligan

I just wanted to let you know that there are others gathering information on programs to service SRLs.

The law library subgroup of the SRLN (Self Represented Litigant’s Network) conducted a survey last spring/summer asking about law library support for pro se litigants—specifically related to self help centers. Over 150 surveys were received—from mostly SCCLL type libraries, but some academics also responded. We are still analyzing the results—and hope to report some findings later this year. Joan Bellistri, Marnie Warner, Charley Dyer, and I are all working on this.

I’m also chairing the AALL Access to Justice Special Committee—again looking at ATJ among all types of law libraries—we will be publishing a White Paper with our findings—this will appear in July 2014.

As for our individual law library, we coordinate a self help clinic with volunteer attorneys for people seeking help in housing and conciliation court. It meets in the law library every Tuesday afternoon.

We also assist litigants in family court who need help with their online divorce forms. A court run criminal expungement clinic is held in the law library two afternoons per month.

LA Law Library  
Los Angeles, CA  
Reported by Malinda Muller and Janine Liebert

Over the past year, the LA Law Library, in partnership with legal aid providers, has established ongoing workshops and clinics for the public. Representative workshops currently offered include clearing criminal records, a divorce trial readiness clinic, and an eviction defense clinic which takes place in a community public library. Currently in development is a divorce options seminar where attendees will learn about the differences between self-representation, mediation, collaborative and litigated divorce.
During the 2013 annual Pro Bono Week, LA Law Library designed and hosted a public legal services fair, similar in concept to a traditional health services fair model, where multiple legal aid, non-profit and social service agencies staffed on site booths offering a full day of information and referrals to the public.

Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
Augusta, ME
Reported by John Barden

On Law Day 2013, the Law and Legislative Reference Library participated in Lawyers in Libraries Day. This program, coordinated by Maine’s Justice Action Group, put attorneys in public libraries around the state for a day to meet with self-represented patrons who wanted a quick consultation about specific legal problems. Some of the attorneys also made short presentations on topics such as estate planning, elder law issues, how to file for divorce, etc. Patrons who came in to meet with attorneys also discovered what legal resources public libraries (not just law libraries) could make available to them. Response across the state was enthusiastic, and plans are being made to repeat the program in 2014.

Hamilton County Law Library
Cincinnati, OH
Reported by Mary Jenkins

Hamilton County Law Library is just beginning to develop LibGuides to help patrons (both public and legal community) with popular legal research topics. See http://libguides.hamilton-co.org/. We also do programming for the public in a series called “You and the Legal System,” offered in collaboration with the Cincinnati Bar Association's Lawyer Referral Service.
What We Are Doing...To Assist Self-Represented Patrons, cont.

John Barden, Newsletter Committee

Fresno County Public Law Library
Fresno, CA
Reported by Sharon Borbon

I have attached a pamphlet we created at the Fresno County Public Law Library [Ed note: see below and on page 15]. We also have a detailed “how to” pamphlet but it is still undergoing a bit of editing. Our reference librarian is currently working on several topics. I noticed he has one in the works entitled “An Introduction to Legal Motions.”

What they cannot do

- Remove the conviction from your criminal history. California and FBI criminal history records will still show the conviction and the subsequent dismissal.
- Seal the court case file from public inspection. The court file remains public record.
- Reinstat the right to possess firearms. In some cases, reduction of a non-violent felony to a misdemeanor may accomplish this.
- Remove you of your duty to register as a sex offender. In some cases, this may be accomplished by a different motion to the court.
- Allow you to omit the conviction from applications for government-issued licenses. You must disclose your conviction and expungement in your license application.
- Allow you to omit the conviction from application for government employment. If you are applying for a government job, a job that requires security clearance, or a job that requires a government-issued license, certificate, or permit, you must disclose the conviction and expungement.
- Allow you to hold public office, if the conviction prevented you from doing so.
- Prevent the conviction from being used to refuse or revoke a government license or permit, such as real estate license, teaching credential, security guard certificate, etc.
- Prevent the conviction from being used as a “prior.” The dismissed conviction can be used for determining sentencing enhancements in subsequent convictions.
- Prevent the conviction from being used by the DMV. Expunged convictions may be used to suspend or revoke driving privileges.
- Prevent the conviction from being used by US Citizenship and Immigration Services. In many situations, an expunged conviction may be considered for removal or exclusion purposes.

Expungements:
What are they, who can get them, what can they do?

Fresno County Public Law Library
www.fresnolawlibrary.org
Located on the 6th floor of the County Courthouse
1100 Van Ness Ave., Rm. 600
Fresno, CA 93721
Phone: (559) 600-2227
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Monday-Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
What We Are Doing...To Assist Self-Represented Patrons, cont.

John Barden, Newsletter Committee

General Concepts

- An expungement is a procedure to reopen a criminal case, dismiss the conviction, and re-close the case. The case record will still exist and the expungement will continue to appear on your record.
- For an expungement you will need to obtain, complete and serve the following: Judicial Council and Attorney General forms on the Court and the District Attorney’s Office of the County you are seeking the expungement from:
  - CR-180
  - CR-181
  - MC-030
  - BCIT-8270 (Sealing of Arrest Records)
- These forms are available at the following websites:
  - [http://www.courts.ca.gov/forms](http://www.courts.ca.gov/forms)
  - [http://ag.ca.gov/idtheft/forms/4cii_8270.pdf](http://ag.ca.gov/idtheft/forms/4cii_8270.pdf)

Who is Eligible?

- Expungement is only available for people sentenced to the following:
  - County jail time;
  - Probation;
  - A fine;
  - Or a combination of all three.
- And who have fulfilled ALL the conditions of their probation for the ENTIRE period of probation. For example, a single positive drug test or not fully paying all court-ordered restitution can disqualify someone from an expungement.
- Expungements are NOT available for people sentenced to state prison or convicted of the following crimes:
  - Any misdemeanor under Vehicle Code §42002.1;
  - Any infraction under Vehicle Code §42001;
  - Any violation of Vehicle Code §12810(a) to (e);
  - Any misdemeanor violation of Penal Code §§ 288(c);
  - Any violation of Penal Code §§ 261.5(d), 286(c), 288, 288a, 288.5, 289(j), 311.1, 311.2, 311.3, 311.11

What they can do

- Assist with applying for a job or attending school;
  - You may answer “No” to questions asking if you have ever been convicted of a crime except when applying for a government job.
  - Once a conviction is expunged, it becomes an arrest that did not end in conviction.
- Non-government employers cannot ask about arrests that did not end in a conviction, or about any diversion programs. If the employer is aware of any such arrests or programs, they cannot use this information in hiring, promotion, or hiring decisions. California Labor Code § 432.7.

Governning Law

- Penal Code § 1203.4- cases with probation;
- Penal Code §1203.4a- cases without probation as part of the sentence
- Penal Code § 17 – reduce a felony conviction to a misdemeanor
# SCCLL Officers & Board Members 2013-2014

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<td>Maryruth Storer</td>
<td>Barbara Fritschel</td>
<td>Jennifer Murray</td>
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<td>(414) 297-1698</td>
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<td>Betsy Vipperman</td>
<td>Coral Henning</td>
<td>James Durham</td>
<td>Holly Gerber</td>
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<tr>
<td>(585) 530-3263</td>
<td>(916) 874-6013</td>
<td>(410) 260-1436</td>
<td>(817) 212-7228</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:hlgerber@tarrantcounty.com">hlgerber@tarrantcounty.com</a></td>
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### Advocacy
- **Chair**: Pauline Afuso
- **Board Member**: Betsy Vipperman

### Awards
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- **Liaison**: Larry Meyer

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