View from the Chair

Miriam Childs, Law Library of Louisiana, mchilds@lasc.org

Greetings from your new Chair!

I’m honored to be serving as the 2021-2022 Chair of GLL. I’m still mentally recovering from the effects of Hurricane Ida, which struck the coast of Louisiana on August 29, exactly 16 years after Hurricane Katrina wreaked its havoc on the New Orleans area. I didn’t have any property damage, and I was able to evacuate with my husband, two cats, and a dog to Houston when the metro area was basically unlivable. So many of my neighbors in southern Louisiana are still struggling mightily, and I’m afraid some communities won’t return. Though I didn’t experience direct loss, the stress of dislocation and a feeling of being let down by those who call themselves leaders made me feel somewhat adrift. I’m not alone in wondering what kind of extreme weather climate change will bring to this region in the coming years.

One bright spot during all of the turmoil is the support I received from my colleagues. Several of you reached out to me to check in. You may not think it was much, but your efforts meant a lot to me. I must admit I did wonder about having to start over in a new place. At least I have colleagues all around the country, so I’d know at least one person wherever I landed! That is worth its weight in gold.

The AALL conference may be in-person in 2022, after two years as a virtual conference. It will be wonderful to see all of you and have a chance to learn and...
View from the Chair (continued)

Miriam Childs, Law Library of Louisiana, mchilds@lasc.org

socialize together. Soon the AMPC will make a formal call for program proposals. I want to see as many of you as possible propose excellent programs that will be useful and relevant for GLL members! Sarah Larsen, Chair of the GLL Education Committee, will be waiting to hear from you. The Education Committee is ready to help you develop your program ideas. You will hear more about AALL in the coming months, but in the meantime, start coming up with program ideas! I’m talking to you!

From the Editor’s Desk

Sara Pic, Law Library of Louisiana, svpic@lasc.org

It’s officially fall, I think? I’m not totally sure because I seem to have lost the month of September. Like Miriam, I was also impacted by the hurricane that hit Louisiana in August—disaster on top of disaster! But we are resilient in Southeast Louisiana—much like government law librarians. We learn to do make do with less, we get creative, and we partner up to make sure we maximize resources.

I was happy to have this newsletter to work on as a distraction during our evacuation—and my gratitude to all of our contributors who suffered through my misplacing of articles and generally not being as together as I normally strive to be. I am so appreciative of everyone’s grace and support!

In this issue, learn about a digitization effort in Maine, trauma-informed librarianship, “upstander” anti-Asian harassment and violence education workshop, the history of GLL-SIS’s strategic planning, and a new book on introduction to law librarianship. We also have articles from Sara McMahon, Gail Wechsler, and Angela Reaux, GLL-SIS grant recipients to the AALL annual conference, along with GLL-SIS conference highlights and the GLL-SIS fundraising campaign results. As always, find the GLL-SIS Executive Board minutes, AALL announcements, and GLL-SIS Member News, as well as the annual GLL-SIS financial report.

It’s never too early to think about the next issue of the newsletter, so don’t hesitate to reach out if you have ideas for an article! You can reach me at svpic@lasc.org.
AALL Announcements

AALL’S 2021 EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION / VOTING OPEN UNTIL OCTOBER 31

Online voting for the AALL vice president/president-elect, treasurer, and Executive Board members opened on Friday, October 1 and runs through 11:59 p.m. (EDT) on Sunday, October 31. Voting instructions were emailed to all eligible voters the morning of October 1.

Members are encouraged to listen to the recordings from the vice president/president-elect, treasurer, and Executive Board member candidates’ forums.

Several GLL members are running for the AALL Executive Board: Miriam Childs and Andrew Winston are running for Treasurer and Avery Le is running for Executive Board Member.

APPLY FOR AALL’S 2022 LEADERSHIP ACADEMY / DUE OCTOBER 29

Apply to be a fellow of the 2022 AALL Leadership Academy, to take place March 31-April 1, 2022, in Chicago. The Academy fosters the professional growth of legal information professionals in the early stages of their careers. Participants will have the opportunity to develop, enhance, and hone their leadership skills and competencies.

Cost: $699; if accepted

All selected fellows are expected to attend in person

Application deadline: Friday, October 29, 2021

ATTENDEE BENEFITS

Participants will be subscribed to a private online community, be matched with a mentor (an AALL member) for one year to support continued growth, and receive ongoing leadership development opportunities. The application process is now open to current AALL members only.

AALL 2021 STATE OF THE PROFESSION REPORT / PURCHASE YOUR COPY

The 2021 AALL State of the Profession report provides a data-rich overview of law libraries and the legal information profession. It is designed to be used as a tool for organizational benchmarking, advocacy, and strategic planning—as well as your own personal professional development. Topics include the impact of COVID-19, diversity, budgets, user services, operations, collections, preservation, partnerships, technology, and an inventory of skills, expertise, professional planning, and job satisfaction. The complimentary AALL State of the Profession 2021 Executive Summary provides an introduction to the full report. The report is 280 pages and includes full-color graphics and data tables, and is available in digital, print, and a digital + print bundle. Pricing starts at $149 for AALL members.
Member News

- Two GLL members were honored as recipients of the 2021 Fastcase 50 award recipients: **Miriam Childs and Holly Riccio**. Congrats Miriam and Holly!

- Three GLL members were elected to serve on the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Law Libraries Section Standing Committee: **Holly Riccio, Marcelo Rodriguez, and Pushyamitra Veeramachaneni**. They will serve from August 2021 to August 2025. Congrats Holly, Marcelo, and Pushyamitra!

- GLL Member Victoria Levy asks: “Is your collection missing any National Reporter System state reports? If so, let me know! The Virginia State Law Library is preparing for a move (years from now) and would like to relocate these early Reporters. Our collection also includes other states’ 1950s and prior codes and statutes. Alabama and Maryland have already benefitted from this effort. We are shipping with our UPS account, so there’s no cost to your library. Please contact Victoria Levy at [vlevy@vacourts.gov](mailto:vlevy@vacourts.gov) if you are interested in receiving a list for your state.”

- Sabrina Davis reports: “The Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library is pleased to announce we’ve added two Assistant Law Librarians to our team, **Sophie Pham and Amanda Hildebrand**.” Welcome to GLL, Sophie and Amanda!

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Executive Board Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, June 16, 2021**

**Government Law Libraries – Special Interest Section**

**Executive Board – Minutes**

**Date and Time:** **Wednesday, June 16, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m. HST / 3:00 p.m. EDT**

**Invited:** J. Durham, J. Silbiger, M. Childs, K. Westwood, J. Lawson, L. Reppe, A. Small, S. Pic, H. Riccio, P. Petroccione

**Meeting Leader:** J. Durham

**Scribe:** K. Westwood

**Date of Next Meeting:** **Thursday, July 15, 2021 @ 8:00 a.m. HST / 2:00 p.m. EDT**

**Minutes**

**Preliminary Items / Action Items from Previous Meeting:**
Meeting was called to order by James Durham at 3:03 p.m. (EDT)
James Durham moved to approve agenda, Jenny Silbiger seconded. Passed.
James Durham moved to approve minutes, Amy Small seconded. Passed.
Karen Westwood presented the Secretary / Treasurer’s report. Very little to report financially. Some dues have come in, but the most recent statement from AALL was 3/31/21 so we anticipate more dues income reflected in the next quarter. We also provided the reimbursement for the grant to Sabrina Davis to attend the Equal Justice Institute ($395).

Other Business:

Committee updates by GLL Board liaisons. Many committees are sending in their annual reports. The Advocacy committee has requested board approval to adopt their priorities for the coming year. Amy Small moved to approve the priorities of 1) Government Law Library Funding/Budget Issues, 2) Government Law Library Access to Information/Access to Justice Issues, 3) Government Law Library Technology. James Durham seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Annual Reports – status and procedure – July 1 deadline. James asked board liaisons to remind committee chairs to get their reports in by July 1st to allow time for posting to the website before this year’s business meeting.

GLL-SIS Annual Report – status – June 30 deadline. James Durham will handle this, but welcomes ideas for content.

GLL-SIS Annual Business Meeting – “Summer in Cleveland” – AALL GoToMeeting on Tues., July 13, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. EDT

Invitees to GLL-SIS Annual Business Meeting – We are inviting family, friends and colleagues of award winners. Contact James Durham directly if you have additional people you would like to have invited to the meeting.

GLL-SIS Happy Hour – Sat., July 24, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. EDT – Jenny Silbiger will provide the Zoom link.

GLL-SIS Executive Board Meeting – Thurs., July 15, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. EDT – Miriam Childs will host as the new board chair.

“Above and Beyond” Award – James Durham consulted Jean Willis (Chair of Awards Committee) about this idea and she was in favor of it as a one-time special honor. She was reluctant to add this as another award conferred by the committee and suggests keeping it as an irregular award given by the board at the instigation of the board or board chair. James Durham has contacted the awardee and asked Jenny Silbiger to make the award presentation at the annual Business Meeting.
Executive Board Meeting Minutes (continued)

Wednesday, June 16, 2021 (continued)

- GLL-SIS Strategic Directions 2021 – 2024 – discussion and approval – Amy Small & Holly Riccio presented information summarizing the strategic directions report developed by the committee over the past year. Amy Small moved that the report be accepted with a few friendly edits as proposed during the meeting. James Durham seconded. Motion passed.

- Other business – James Durham conveyed a request from the AAPI Caucus. They have received a $2000 Bloomberg grant to use to present Bystander Training and have requested GLL and RIPS SIS’s to each contribute $250 to reach the $2500 cost of the training. James Durham moved to approve the expenditure, Jenny Silbiger seconded. Motion passed. Karen Westwood will make the proper transfer.

- Adjournment – James Durham adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

- Other business – M. Childs has been in touch with John Stock who has posted on Law-lib his desire to get some sort of union catalog started. M. Childs will refer him to AALL headquarters.

- Upcoming Events: M. Childs will be on AMPC in 2022; Joe Lawson is chairing AMPC in 2022


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<td>James Durham and Joe Lawson will find a date and time for a practice GoToMeeting session for the board to attend.</td>
<td>James and Joe</td>
<td>As soon as practical</td>
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Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 15, 2021

Government Law Libraries – Special Interest Section

Executive Board – Minutes

Date and Time: Thursday, July 15, 2021 @ 11:00 a.m. PDT / 2:00 p.m. EDT

In Attendance: M. Childs, H. Riccio, K. Westwood, S. Pic, A. Small, J. Durham

Absent: P. Petroccione, L. Reppe

Meeting Leader: M. Childs

Scribe: K. Westwood
Executive Board Meeting Minutes (continued)

Thursday, July 15, 2021 (continued)

Date of Next Meeting: TBD

Agenda

Preliminary Items / Action Items from Previous Meeting:

- Meeting was called to order by M. Childs at 1:04 p.m.
- Approve agenda – A. Small moved, J. Durham seconded. Agenda approved.

Other Business:

- Committee Annual Reports & GLL-SIS Annual Report now online: https://www.aallnet.org/gllsis/about-us/annual-reports/
  
https://www.aallnet.org/gllsis/about-us/committees/

Miriam directed board members to the GLL website to review the annual reports that have been posted there. Some reports are completed, but not yet posted (once the AALL annual meeting is over they will likely be posted online).

- GLL-SIS Happy Hour – Sat., July 24, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. EDT J. Silbiger is hosting this event again this year, Miriam will ask her to send a reminder to the membership

- Looking Ahead to 2022: GLL conference programs; breakfast & reception planning. M. Childs encourages GLL folks to participate in Ideascale, and she will work with Vani (AALL Exec. Director) on the breakfast and reception (can the SIS get vendor sponsorship for a reception?). H. Riccio floated an idea around storytelling and leadership – several board members expressed support for her idea.

- 2021/2022 GLL committees – M. Childs will be reaching out before the next Exec. Board meeting to populate these committees. Exec. Bd. Members should encourage colleagues to volunteer or suggest names to M. Childs.

- Other business – 1) H. Riccio suggests a committee chair meeting to discuss the strategic plan. First the Exec. Bd. will meet to set the agenda for such a meeting (and this, of course, will happen after the committee chair roster is set). 2) Bystander Training coming up in August. GLL is co-sponsoring with the AAPI committee and RIPS-SIS.

3) K. Westwood will reach out to AALL headquarters after the annual meeting to discuss ways GLL-SIS members can make contributions without having to write a check.

- Adjournment – J. Durham moved, A. Small seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

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<tr>
<td>Request list of GLL-SIS members and provide to M. Childs</td>
<td>K. Westwood</td>
<td>As soon as practical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inquire of AALL Finance Dept. whether GLL-SIS members can make non-check contributions</td>
<td>K. Westwood</td>
<td>As soon as practical</td>
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2020-2021 GLL-SIS Financial Report¹
(Fiscal Year October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021)

Beginning Balance (October 1, 2020)
Restricted Funds (Resource Guides) $11,360.58
Unrestricted Funds $32,989.09
Total Fund Balance (@ 10/01/2020) $44,349.67

Income (October 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021)
Contributions (Grants Fund) $1,975.00
Dues $830.00
Total Income (@3/01/2021) $2,805.00

Expected Income (March 2021 – September 2021)
Dues TBD
GLL Online Fundraiser 2021 TBD

Expenditures (October 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021) $0.00

Expected Expenses (March 2021 – September 2021)
Misc. Expense (in support of Asian American Law Librarians Caucus “Bystander Intervention Training”) $250.00
Equal Justice Institute Grant $395.00
AALL Management Institute Grant $500.00
AALL Annual Meeting Grants (3) $297.00
Awards Committee Expenses (estimate) $300.00
Speaker Honoraria “Systemic Racism, Implicit Bias, & Privilege: Cultivating Change in Our Workspaces and Communities” $1500.00

Balance (March 31, 2021)
Restricted Funds (Resource Guides) $11,360.58
Unrestricted Funds $35,794.09
Total Fund Balance (@ 3/31/2021) $47,154.67

Respectfully submitted,
Karen E. Westwood, Secretary/Treasurer

¹ One award recipient requested that in lieu of a physical award, the money that would have been used for the award be transferred to the grants fund. $100 will be transferred from the “Award” expense line to the “Contributions” revenue line. This internal transfer is not otherwise reflected in this financial report.
GLL-SIS Fundraising Campaign Results

Gail Warren, Virginia State Law Library, gwarren@vacourts.gov

For twenty years, our section has conducted an activity to provide funds for travel and professional development grants for members, and this activity is usually a silent auction. The very first SCCLL (now GLL) Silent Auction was held in Minneapolis, MN in 2001 during our section’s business meeting. Since then we have awarded close to $91,000 in grants to 93 individual members.

Last year, due to the pandemic, the format of our fund-raising activity needed to change, and we conducted a virtual fundraising challenge. A group of "sustaining" members of the GLL-SIS graciously responded to our call for action and matched all contributions we received by July 30, 2020. Thanks to many of you, we raised $5,455 for travel/professional development grants!

Although we hoped we would be able to meet in-person this year, once it became clear our business meeting would be a virtual meeting, the Grants Committee decided to conduct another fundraising challenge. Our goal was to not only meet but top the total amount of funds raised – since these funds would provide grants for members to attend meetings and events in 2022. As they did last year, a group of "sustaining members" pledged $3,000 and, with the Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association’s donation to our grants fund in honor of Donna Bausch, we were well on our way to meeting our goal.

I am very pleased to report that 29 GLL-SIS members enthusiastically accepted the challenge, and a total of $6,310 was raised for the GLL-SIS 2021-2022 Grants Fund. This total is $855 more than that raised during last year’s virtual fundraising campaign and broke the record for all-time high!

Please join the Grants Committee in acknowledging and expressing our appreciation to the following members for their generous monetary contributions this year:

- Donna Bausch
- Janet Camillo
- Kathleen Carlson
- Georgia Chadwick
- Miriam Childs
- Linda Corbelli
- Luci Curci-Gonzalez
- James Durham
- Susan Falk
- Ann Fessenden
- Sarah Galligan
- Mary Jenkins
- Catherine Lemann
- Victoria Levy
- Terry Long
- Sandra Marz
- Mary Matuszak
- Christine Morton
- Sara Pic
- Patricia Petroccioine
- Liz Reppe
- Jenny Silbiger
- Amy Small
- Maryruth Storer
- Jessica Van Buren
- Gail Warren
- Karen Westwood
- Jean Willis
- Cornell Winston
Finding Connection: Celebrating a Bicentennial in 2020

Kate McBrien, Maine State Archives, katherine.mcbrien@maine.gov with John Melendez-Barden, Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library, John.Melendez-Barden@legislature.maine.gov

In 2020, the State of Maine recognized its bicentennial of statehood with a variety of programs and initiatives. The Maine State Archives (MSA) and the Maine Law and Legislative Reference Library (LLRL) contributed to the bicentennial by highlighting collection items important to Maine’s founding and development. MSA holdings include many of the State’s founding documents and those of early statehood. A special highlight of the collection is the first journals of the Maine State Legislature, from 1820 to 1845. Previously unpublished, these journals document the legislative process and debates of early statehood. To make the journal more easily accessible, MSA and LLRL staff committed ourselves to digitize and jointly transcribe and share these important records.

Just as commemoration of the 200th Anniversary started, the COVID-19 pandemic put the State of Maine into lockdown. In fact, March 15, 2020, also known as Statehood Day for Maine, was the day when Maine’s Governor announced the first stay-at-home orders.

With all in-person bicentennial events indefinitely postponed, the MSA and LLRL shifted our focus to projects that would make items accessible online. The Journal digitization project met that need perfectly. With the additional step of transcribing the journals, we also made them searchable and accessible to people who use screen readers.

But providing access alone, though a big step, was not enough. Researchers also needed to be able to find the journals and to understand their context. This pushed MSA to not only post the journals in our digital repository, but also drove us to get our catalog online and accessible to the public for the first time. MSA also resumed adding catalog records to the University of Maine System union catalog, allowing all of our holdings to be more discoverable.

The legislative journals serve as a rich resource for the events and issues they document. Maine’s statehood in 1820 and status as a free state was contingent on allowing Missouri into the Union as a slave state, known as the Missouri Compromise. The early legislative history of the state documents how the new state dealt with these circumstances.
Finding Connection: Celebrating a Bicentennial in 2020 (continued)

Kate McBrien, Maine State Archivist, katherine.mcbrien@maine.gov with
John Melendez-Barden, Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library, John.Melendez-Barden@legislature.maine.gov

and how the state’s official position toward slavery developed until the Civil War. The project allowed MSA to provide access to these journals during a time when much of the nation grappled with the many difficult questions around the history of slavery. Access to the contents of the journals allowed for our materials to add information and context.

The journals also continue to add to the ongoing discussions of Maine’s relationship with the Indigenous peoples who live within the place now called Maine. Early legislative journals are the official document of that relationship’s development and decisions that were made, many of which have ripples that are still felt today. Providing wide-ranging access to the journals online allowed all people affected by these past decisions to have access to the official record. The journals had only been available previously by coming to the MSA in person or having access to the microfilm copies available in a handful of libraries in the state.

The pivot to online access through the COVID-19 pandemic impacted everyone in the archives field. MSA worked with the LLRL to bring the bicentennial celebrations online, while also trying to meet the moment surrounding the summer 2020 protests. The MSA was able to use the Archives’ collection to add background and context to larger conversations, as well as provide access to people wherever they were. Our legislative journal digitization project greatly enhances how the public interacts with the Archives and its collection now and into the future.
A Glimpse Into Trauma-Informed Librarianship

Cecelia Contreras, UCLA MLIS, L.A. Law Library Intern, cvcontreras@g.ucla.edu

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As someone looking to enter into librarianship, I am often astounded by the plethora of information there is to absorb about the profession. From the reference services and programs to the systems and technology that help process, organize, and store massive collections, there always seems to be something new to learn and discover. It was, however, during my first year in the Library and Information Studies program at UCLA that I became acquainted with the concept of trauma-informed care. I was, from the very beginning, drawn to its defined purpose and use, and, even more so, by its ability to be implemented in many lines of work, even librarianship. I suppose my instant connection has much to do with the fact that I, myself, am a trauma survivor with the desire to be of service to others like me. So I write this short piece in the hopes that you, the reader, will take something from the next few paragraphs that will inspire a need for further exploration into trauma-informed librarianship. Please note that throughout the course of this article trauma survivors will be identified as patrons and/or librarians.

Trauma-informed practice, which is traditionally utilized by social workers and health care professionals, has become a relatively new concept in the LIS field. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), in a trauma-informed approach the primary objectives are to avoid the re-traumatization of involved parties, in this case patrons and library staff, and to help facilitate the creation of a safe environment.1 The framework of such an approach consists of six principles: Safety; Trustworthiness and Transparency; Peer Support; Collaboration and Mutuality; Empowerment, Voice and Choice; and Cultural, Historical, and Gender Issues.2

Safety

The principle of Safety centers on the physical and emotional well-being of the individual(s) within a setting or situation. It is important for librarians to note that when engaging with a patron the definition of safety is contingent upon how said individual defines it. As such, communication is key during every interaction.3

Trustworthiness and Transparency

In regards to the principle of Trustworthiness and Transparency, a crucial element to a trauma-informed approach is the forging of a relationship between an institution and staff

2. “SAMHSA’s Concept of Trauma.”
A Glimpse Into Trauma-Informed Librarianship (continued)

Cecelia Contreras, UCLA MLIS, L.A. Law Library Intern, cvcontreras@ucla.edu

and its community members. In other words, it is important that patrons are able to establish confidence in the institution in question.4

**Peer Support**

With Peer Support, the basis of the principle is to afford patrons with an inclusive space that provides proper representation and opportunities for them to connect, share, and/or attain access to proper support systems.5

**Collaboration and Mutuality**

For the principle of Collaboration and Mutuality, libraries should seek to give patrons a role in decision-making processes concerning things such as programming and services, for example, and make it a point to receive feedback. The central idea of this principle is to, more or less, share power and further strengthen the bond and trust of the library-patron relationship.6

**Empowerment, Voice and Choice**

For Empowerment, Voice and Choice, the intent is to assure patrons that their experiences are being acknowledged, their input or concerns are taken seriously and respected, and that their needs are in some way being accommodated. This can take form in what and how certain subject matter is displayed and made accessible.7

**Cultural, Historical, and Gender Issues**

Cultural, Historical, and Gender Issues is centered on the idea that librarians should be informed about systems of social, economic, and political inequality as a means to create spaces that are inclusive, safe, and effective centers of information and knowledge. That is to say, by understanding the frameworks of race, gender, and sexuality historically and within contemporary society, librarians can better understand the field and the role it plays in either how it operates as an agent of the oppressive systems or how it is impacted by them. Moreover, by informing themselves and confronting the issues of racialization and gendering, librarians can seek to ameliorate these problems within their own institutions.8

4. Hagelin, “Introduction to Trauma-Informed Librarianship.”
5. Hagelin, “Introduction to Trauma-Informed Librarianship.”
6. Hagelin, “Introduction to Trauma-Informed Librarianship.”
8. Hagelin, “Introduction to Trauma-Informed Librarianship.”
In regard to librarians, another reason proper training is of considerable significance is when dealing with sensitive topics, said professionals can experience what is known as vicarious trauma. Vicarious trauma is, more or less, the countertransference of emotional stress or damage that is a result of engaging with particularly distressing subject matter or exposure to individuals with traumatic histories. Therefore, by having proper training librarians will be able to identify the possible triggers and symptoms of vicarious trauma, how to go about recovery, and familiarize themselves with available resources that may be of help.9

Understandably, within each library the manner by which a trauma-informed framework is implemented may differ from institution to institution. The generalized summary I have provided skims only the surface of a very complex, yet considerably valuable, concept. By becoming better informed about such a topic, not only will librarians be able to serve their communities to the best of their abilities, but they will be able to care for themselves appropriately.

For more information see the following resources:


Author’s bio:

Cecilia Contreras, a 2021 participant of the LA Law Library’s virtual internship program, is a graduate student in the Master of Library and Information Science program at UCLA with specializations in archival and library studies. She has received a Bachelor of Arts in History from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Her interests, which stem

9. “SAMHSA’s Concept of Trauma.”
A Glimpse Into Trauma-Informed Librarianship (continued)

Cecelia Contreras, UCLA MLIS, L.A. Law Library Intern, cvcontreras@g.ucla.edu

from her time at the Library of Congress, consist of special libraries and collections, archives, and rare books. Please know all feedback and/or comments are welcome and greatly appreciated. Contact: cvcontreras@g.ucla.edu.

The LA Law Library’s internship program is coordinated by Malinda Muller, Director, Patron Services at LA Law Library and GLL-SIS Chair, Membership and Mentoring Committee. The Membership and Mentoring Committee work includes the recently updated and revised peer-to-peer Mentorship program. Visit and connect with a volunteer at: https://www.aallnet.org/gllsis/resources-publications/mentorship-program/.

Review of CAE’s The Right to Be Safe: Upstander & Self Defense Response to Anti-Asian Harassment & Violence Workshop

Jenny Silbiger, Hawaiʻi Supreme Court Law Library, Jenny.R.Silbiger@courts.hawaii.gov

Reprinted with permission from Notes Between Us

A lifetime ago or so, the words “chink” and “gook” ringed in my ears, leveled at me by kids in my Midwestern grade school classroom. At the same time, they held the corners of their eyes back to make them “slanted” and shoved their faces into mine, apparently in a sense of teasing, good fun (for them), as elementary kids might do. And while such incidents sprinkled my childhood and adolescence, they intermixed into my wide baking bowl batter of wonderful and challenging experiences in growing up, becoming long forgotten ingredients overwhelmed with flavors of successes and hardships and love and joy that developing into adulthood brings.

But with the rise of cases and deaths worldwide due to COVID-19, and a former national leadership that coined the terms “Chinese Virus” and “Kung-flu,” I am hearing about similar as well as much more escalated anti-Asian harassment, including physical beatings and targeted murders, so I’ve been keeping an eye out for my friends and family across the sea, as well as for my daughters here in my island home.

In Hawaii, we live in a different cultural and racial environment than the US mainland, and I am sharing my interview about the nuances of living in a majority multi-racial and Asian & Pacific Islander community. At the same time, the challenges and damage wrought by racial targeting can be felt regardless of which shore you happen to come across, so I’ve had the great fortune of attending educational opportunities around bystander and now
Review of CAE’s *The Right to Be Safe: Upstander & Self Defense Response to Anti-Asian Harassment & Violence Workshop* (continued)

Jenny Silbiger, Hawai‘i Supreme Court Law Library, Jenny.R.Silbiger@courts.hawaii.gov

upstander intervention training in response to anti-Asian harassment, including: *The Right to be Safe: An Upstander & Self Defense Response to Anti-Asian Harassment & Violence*, an interactive workshop presented by the Center for Anti-Violence Education (CAE).

The Center for Anti-Violence Education works to prevent, disrupt, and heal from hate violence in its communities through educational programs that center the experiences of people most marginalized. This program was brought to us by our AALL Asian American Law Librarians Caucus colleagues, who received the Bloomberg Education grant, and was co-sponsored by RIPS-SIS and GLL-SIS.

The workshop presents a brief history of anti-Asian and xenophobic discrimination in the United States, followed by strategies to fight back against anti-Asian violence. Discussion included barriers to intervening, de-escalation strategies, as well as CAE’s Upstander approach, and strategies that can be deployed before, during, and after a harassment encounter, and also included physical self-defense techniques.

One of the key takeaways that stuck with me out of this August training is this phrase: “support not savior.” If and when we think to intervene on behalf of a person experiencing harassment unfolding in front of us, the focus is and always is supporting that person. It is not about pushing ourselves into a central narrative of protagonist savior role. It is about acting on what we can do to assist and support someone to help them escape safely from a harassment scenario, and the choice of action taken is centered on respect, dignity, and needs of that person.

Before diving into intervention techniques, CAE asked us to think about different zones of threat levels involved, which they described in a color-coded system:

Green: meaning you are in a safe zone.

Yellow: where there may need to be a verbal and/or non-verbal response, i.e., can include unwanted attention or physical contact.

Orange: active aggression, which could lead to a verbal and/or physical technique response.

Red: life threatening, where physical technique responses are necessary.

We had an open discussion on where and when someone would feel more comfortable stepping in, and what barriers there are to prevent assisting. Some of the main barriers that bubbled up were: safety, fear of making things worse, feeling frozen—generally as applied to orange and red zone levels. However, harassment happens on a continuum, and there were many folks who shared they felt more empowered in the yellow zone, and
discussed verbally intervening and/or enlisting authorities (i.e., if someone was being harassed in their law library, or further, if there was an orange/red level threat).

CAE discussed intervening as “Upstander” intervention, and they broke down strategies of how to approach and think about taking action before directly intervening, during an event, and after an event has occurred.

CAE describes the before Upstander intervention strategies as BAPP:

Breathe: take a moment to get some air into our brains before making any rash decisions. Breathing can help calm ourselves down and slow our heart rate, and give us the time to think carefully on how to move forward.

Aware of your triggers: what is it that makes you react strongly—what makes you sad, angry, fearful? This is useful to think about before taking action, to help ourselves take a step back and focus on the safety of the person you are supporting (vs personal triggers).

Positionality: think about how you are perceived by the world (race, gender, ability, age, etc.) and how that can inform the tactics that are available to you. Be aware of our own privileges and how they may impact the equation (i.e., white, able-bodied, cis-gender, male, etc.).

Position yourself for safety: be aware of exits; be aware of your surroundings; stand firmly on two feet; and keep your posture confident, hands free.

In sum, BAPP is helpful to think about before actively engaging, to not only help the person you are hoping to help, but also to keep yourself safe.

Next, here are some key takeaways about Upstander approaches during an intervention (no acronym provided; great ideas all the same):

Be an active witness: record by watching, writing, or video documentation. Also, this is helpful if someone is already taking active steps to intervene, as we can provide records of what is happening.

Involve others: if possible, if there are other folks witnessing or involved, you can ask them to help, support, or delegate tasks (someone, call 911!)

Support, not savior: if possible, we can use our voice to help the person being harassed and help by getting them out of the situation. Then, be supportive by checking in with the person after the harassment event is over to see if there is anything we can do for them. All of these actions are rooted in support and about helping the person, not inserting ourselves into a narrative as the savior of the moment.
Note: One of the discussion points brought up is that as an active witness, we may offer ourselves up to be a witness to authorities or help with reporting the incident for the person experiencing the harassment. However, if that person does not want to make a report, for whatever reason—sometimes the reporting process itself can be a re-traumatizing event—then we as upstander interveners, must respect and be supportive of that choice. We can offer our support and help, but forcing someone to make a report if they do not want to make one transforms the narrative from active supporter into insertion of ourselves as a savior. It is crucial that we respect the agency of the person experiencing harassment.

Distract: we can distract attention away from the harasser, the targeted person, or the situation itself. The point is getting the harassment to stop and to get out of the situation.

Address the harasser: in certain situations, and only if you feel comfortable, we can intervene by addressing the harasser directly, we can distract by asking random questions altogether, to get the harasser off topic and away, or if we personally know the harasser, rely on our personal connection by assuming they mean well and steering the conversation to a place of understanding. (This is obviously not easy, and this is based on our best judgment. Note: if it was easy, we would no longer have harassment problems based on race/gender/ability/age/sexual orientation/religion, etc.!) The point of all of these strategies is to do everything we can in our power to help someone out of a harassment situation, while keeping their safety (and ours) in mind.

At this point in the program, CAE provided some physical self-defense tips. While I am not much of a fighter, one detail in particular stuck to me—about holding ourselves at a 45-degree angle from the harasser, because we become less of a target than when standing face-front. They went into other tips such as keeping our hands free, using whatever we might have in our pockets, a pen, or mini hairspray, but none of these small objects would be helpful without an element of surprise. For example, we might be walking down the road and if we think we’re being followed, opening up our water bottle and suddenly turning and throwing water in their face. That moment of surprise could be all that we need to run away.

The biggest takeaway from the self defense portion was CAE stating this: we do 100% whatever we can to keep ourselves safe.

Finally, CAE closed the program with Upstander Intervention strategies for after an event, which they acronymed with CARE:

C: Care practices vs. coping —there are certain things that can help us in the moment, but...
Review of CAE’s *The Right to Be Safe: Upstander & Self Defense Response to Anti-Asian Harassment & Violence Workshop* (continued)

Jenny Silbiger, Hawai‘i Supreme Court Law Library, Jenny.R.Silbiger@courts.hawaii.gov

investing in long-term care and healing is important.

A: Allow whatever you feel to rise—allow ourselves to address any feelings that come up with witnessing or participating in an intervention.

R: Return to breath (breathing, meditation).

E: Engage in community organizing—being conscious of the bigger systems within which harassment exists. Whether we see microagression or outright harassment in our spaces, we can think about what we can do within our communities to end these toxic behaviors and create a safer environment (i.e. work and align ourselves with like minded individuals, such as CAE)?

Upstander intervention is about holding each other up and creating a safe place for one another. And I loved that CAE closed the workshop with this thoughtful action to think about:

What is the one thing that you will do to care for yourself or your loved ones this week?

My answer: to check in on my family members and make sure they know they are loved. As for me, to take it easy as I just fractured my foot (long story), and I am on the healing journey.

Wishing you love, safety, and health in this crazy pandemic world!

Mahalo,

Jenny
GLL-SIS Strategic Planning—Then and Now

Gail Warren, Virginia State Law Library, gwarren@vacourts.gov

Serving on the GLL-SIS Strategic Planning Committee this year was a terrific experience – Holly Riccio filled the role of fearless leader, keeping us organized and on track. All the committee members actively participated, and we (Holly, Steve, Lisa, Patty, Brendan, and Gail) quickly fell into an “easy” dialog each time we met. Speaking of meeting, if someone had spied on our Microsoft Teams virtual meetings, they would have noticed how much we grew to enjoying each other’s company. So much so that, after we completed our task and submitted the strategic directions, we scheduled one more meeting just to “celebrate our success” together.

While the Government Law Libraries SIS has engaged in strategic planning for decades, we weren’t always so strategic about our goals and how best to achieve them. Strategic planning, although it wasn’t identified that way, appears to have first surfaced during the SCCLL 1987 Business Meeting when member Joel Fishman moved that a special committee be appointed to study the section’s goals and objectives. (A newsletter issue from that time reports “Virtually everyone in SCCLL applauded Joel Fishman’s proposal ...”)

The Committee on the Future of SCCLL was created. At the annual meeting the following year, the committee, chaired by Marcia Koslov, conducted three concurrent roundtable sessions, each focusing on a particular topic, and members were invited to attend one of the three sessions. By 1990, the list of section committees included a Committee on Strategic Planning.

In July of 1991, the SCCLL-SIS further developed our strategic planning experience by way of a group brainstorming session conducted during the annual business meeting and facilitated by guest speaker John Hudzik. The session resulted in a list of strategies relevant to AALL’s Strategic Plan and the roles and objectives of SCCLL members as they related to the AALL Plan. Members were later surveyed to determine the priority of the strategies appearing in the planning document.

While this early planning may have been limited to the focus of the AALL Plan, SCCLL had formerly embraced the importance of regular and ongoing strategic planning. The specific tasks for the strategic planning committee in the early 1990s included meeting the goals of that year’s section Chair and ensuring our “alignment” with the AALL Strategic Plan. Here’s the text of the 1995/1996 Committee description for the Strategic Planning Committee:

1. Develops, updates, publicizes, and assists Section’s Chair in responding to SIS’s members wishes for activities and programs

2. Assists Section’s Chair in complying with AALL Strategic Plan

With responsibility for the National Conference on Legal Information Issues, a Northeast Regional Conference, an AALL Winter Institute, and revising the SCCLL Appellate and County Law Library Standards, members’ interest in and attention to strategic planning...
GLL-SIS Strategic Planning—Then and Now

Gail Warren, Virginia State Law Library, gwarren@vacourts.gov

waned for several years.

In July 1998, however, a newly charged SCCLL “Strategic Quality Management Planning Committee” met in Anaheim. Brian Richards, a professional strategic planning facilitator, guided the committee through a five-hour workshop and outlined our strategic planning objectives. (A tip of the hat to Shirley David who convinced Mr. Richards to work with us.) At this point, the committee wasn’t actually engaged in strategic planning for the section but learning about various strategic planning models and how best to maintain a “balanced orientation.” Over the course of the following year, the committee drafted a mission statement and performance objectives, completed an environmental scan, a “SWOT” analysis and surveyed the membership via mailed surveys and telephone calls (this was 1998 – the Fall newsletter issue featured an article outlining ways SCCLL librarians could justify why they needed access to the Internet).

The draft 1999-2001 Strategic Plan was shared with the membership in the Spring 1999 issue of the SCCLL News and approved by the Executive Board. It included three strategic directions: Changing Perceptions, Strengthening Membership, and Enhancing Communications, and the strategies for achieving each. But, more importantly, the SCCLL plan now focused on the goals and objectives of the section and how these would benefit our members, as opposed to complying with AALL’s Strategic Plan.

This was my first serious “adventure” in strategic planning – that is, a full-scale, year-long strategic planning process. That introduction to strategic planning has served me well in the years since as I have worked with various entities and law library organizations to undertake an organized and thoughtful strategic planning process.

Twenty-three years later, the work of the 2020-2021 GLL Strategic Planning Committee was a powerful reminder of what can be accomplished when a group of volunteers commit their time and energy to an active strategic planning process. Using the 2015-2018 Strategic Directions as a template, and the timeline and content in the 2019-2020 Strategic Planning Committee’s Annual Report as a road map, this committee began its work in earnest in August of 2020. Holly hosted no less than twelve Microsoft Teams meetings from August 2020 to June 2021. We communicated regularly via email. During this time, we engaged in activities much like those the Strategic Planning Committee tackled in 1998:

- Reviewing the current GLL Strategic Directions and examples from other AALL entities
- Completing a SWOT analysis and environmental scan to inform the strategic planning process
- Beginning a draft strategic directions document
- Developing a survey to solicit member input and launching the survey to membership
GLL-SIS Strategic Planning—Then and Now

Gail Warren, Virginia State Law Library, gwarren@vacourts.gov

- Closely examining and discussing the survey responses submitted by 69 members (this was a significant factor in our planning process – a big “Thank you” to all the members who took the time to respond!)

- Revising the proposed strategic directions to better reflect the priorities identified by members

- Finalizing the plan and submitting to the GLL Executive Board for approval

Interestingly, this strategic plan brings us back full circle to one of the intended outcomes of the 1999-2001 Strategic Plan, which was moving away from a one-to-one alignment with AALL’s Strategic Directions and focusing on the unique circumstances and needs of government law libraries and librarians.

Final thought: Using the language from Holly's final report for the 2020-2021 Strategic Planning Committee, “any good strategic planning document is fluid and always a work in progress. That said, our committee believes that we have created a solid roadmap for success for the GLL Special Interest Section and look forward to seeing what the next three years bring as a result.”
New Title Spotlight: Why You Should Read *Introduction to Law Librarianship*

Ryan Metheny, LA Law Library, RMetheny@lalawlibrary.org

It may be hard to believe, but until 2021, the field of law librarianship lacked a textbook devoted exclusively to the profession. Law librarians have, of course, written a great amount of scholarship over the years, yet never a book solely about law librarianship itself, geared specifically to students. *Introduction to Law Librarianship* – conceived of, edited by, and expertly shepherded through the upheaval of a pandemic by Zanada Joyner of North Carolina Central University School of Law and Cas Laskowski of the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law – fills this gap in the literature, and along the way presents a varied, accessible, and often inspiring view of a rapidly evolving field. (Free access to the e-book here: [https://lawlibrarianship.pressbooks.com/](https://lawlibrarianship.pressbooks.com/).

Although intended for students, newer librarians and even those with considerable experience will find much of interest and practical benefit in *Introduction to Law Librarianship*’s twenty-eight succinct, well-written chapters. The book’s authors take an optimistic and forward-looking view of the important work that law librarians do and the changing ways we do it, with writing that manages to be detailed and specific without getting bogged down in minutiae or jargon. Special focus is given to the day’s pressing issues like access to justice, diversity, inclusion, and mental health, with each chapter unpacking complex challenges and explaining the many remarkable ways law librarians innovate and adapt.

For example, Chapter 7, “Access to Justice,” by Brian R. Huffman of University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law, provides a robust explanation of how law librarians help to make the law and the legal system accessible to self-represented litigants (SRLs). Huffman’s prose remains straightforward and clear throughout, and a “concept in action” cut-out provides a real-life exemplar of how one librarian put into practice what the chapter preaches. This “concept in action” tells the story of Gabriela, a law librarian struggling to meet the needs of SRLs. She taps the institutional knowledge of the profession by consulting a 50-state toolkit created by AALL LISP-SIS. Using this knowledge, she develops research guides to refer SRL patrons to reliable online sources for legal information, catalogs self-help materials and packets from other law libraries and legal aid organizations, and adds valuable (and affordable) print self-help materials to her library’s collection.

Other “Universal Topics” (Part I) addressed by the book include “Accessibility” (Chapter 3), “Advocating for the Law Librarian Profession” (Chapter 5) and “Policy Development & Strategic Planning” (Chapter 6). *Introduction to Law Librarianship* then addresses topics germane to the profession’s three main branches of academic, government, and private law librarianship in Parts II - IV. These chapters provide students and newer librarians an excellent entre into the specifics of particular fields; although, again, many of the ideas
New Title Spotlight: Why You Should Read *Introduction to Law Librarianship* (continued)

Ryan Metheny, LA Law Library, RMetheny@lalawlibrary.org

contained will be helpful to experienced librarians, as well. Finally, Part V provides helpful guidance on “Navigating a Career in Law Librarianship,” addressing topics like negotiating salary, professional development, and “Balance, Burn-out, & Mental Health” (a timely one for many of us these days!).

GLL members will be glad to hear that government law libraries are well-represented in the book, with a chapter from Alexander B. Burnett and Jessica Lundgren of the Maine State Legislature Law Library on “Working with the Legislature,” which highlights the challenging, fast-paced work legislative librarians do for lawmakers. I also contributed a chapter, “Public Education, Programs, & Access to Justice at the Law Library,” which explains how public law libraries can serve as an ideal venue for educational programs, workshops, and clinics designed to help the burgeoning number of SRLs in the nation’s court systems, as well as others with legal information needs. I also provide some tips and best practices for developing, sustaining, and assessing such programs over time to maximize their impact.

With any luck, *Introduction to Law Librarianship* will help inform and nurture the next generation of law librarians, and contribute to keeping all members of the profession informed and empowered as we look to the future of our ever more vital profession. Check it out, and help spread the word.
When it’s Your First Time, Virtually!
Sara Monalea McMahon, Hampshire Law Library, sara.mcmahon@jud.state.ma.us

I want to start off by thanking everyone on the GLL Grants Committee for awarding me the grant to attend my first Annual Meeting.

I started my conference off with a phone call from my former co-worker and fellow law librarian, who I admire more than I can say. It was exciting to catch up with her, but really would have been better to be able to see her in person, especially because she is an annual meeting guru!

For programming, I started off by attending “The Bluebook Confronts Slavery.” I found this program to be so thought provoking about a topic I had not ever taken the time to consider. I found listening to Justin Simard discuss his research and how courts across the nation have played a role in the law of slavery to be incredible. Justin discussed the harms done but also how we might go about fixing those harms today. After Justin finished his portion, Alexander Harper discussed the way that Rule 10.7.1 was changed in the Bluebook. I was not aware of this change before the program, nor did I know the way that changes are implemented. I came out of that program so excited to share it with all of my coworkers since our organization just purchased new Bluebooks for each library. I talked to a colleague about this topic and wrote a post for all our librarians to read so they were aware of the changes that had been made.

On Wednesday, I started my day off with attending “The Future of Library Collections,” which is a topic I had been thinking about in my new role as the head of a government law library. The two questions that the speakers challenged us to keep in mind as we worked with our collections were:

1. Who do you collect for?
2. Why do you collect these resources?

While listening to Dawn speak about understanding who your stakeholders are and what their value and impact of their work is on your organization, it really made me sit back and think about my library and my organization. Dawn really emphasized that communication is KEY – how could we prioritize communication in our organization that includes 15 library locations across our state? As I listened to other speakers talk about digital collections and shifting to electronic resources, I struggled with whether that would be something my organization could do. As a public law library, a good number of my patrons do not have access to a computer nor do they have internet at home. Navigating the shutdowns due to the pandemic has been hard for them and most are not tech savvy. How do I work on balancing a print collection with these trends towards digital materials? – something to think about and bring up to my colleagues. The last part of this presentation was all about the elephant in the room… the budget! Waning budgets likely mean reducing the amount of print materials, but when deciding to cancel print resources, it is incredibly important to
When it’s Your First Time, Virtually! (continued)

Sara Monalea McMahon, Hampshire Law Library,
sara.mcmahon@jud.state.ma.us

reach out to your patrons to find out what materials are most important to them, and collaborating with other libraries. I look forward to further discussions on these topics in the future as we continue to navigate the shift between print and electronic resources.

I ended my Wednesday with “The Power of Preservation: Enhancing Access to Library Collections Through Copyright Act Section 108.” Copyright is one area of the law that I lack confidence in and I am always impressed with those who know it well. Listening to these speakers talk about Section 108 was mind blowing – really. Kyle Courtney is the king of copyright, and I think we should require him to wear a crown at future meetings. I am in awe of his knowledge. The speakers really broke down section 108 for attendees to understand the different requirements that have to be met, and also the exceptions that are in the section as well. The presentation really reinforced that I still have a lot to learn about copyright. After the presentation, I decided it was time to relax and allow my brain to digest everything I had heard.

I was really excited to attend “Legal Deserts in America: What is Meaningful A2J For All?” Access to justice has been a mission that is really close to my heart, and one of the reasons I pursued my current position. There are 1.3 million lawyers in the United States that are not evenly distributed across the nation. There are 54 counties with zero lawyers, and 182 counties with only one or two lawyers. Those numbers may seem low, but if you sit back and think about it, those are actually quite high – how many people do not have access to legal advice? The presenters discussed the lack of access, the reasons for the lack of access, and how to respond to the lawyer shortages. Reaching law students or students before they hit law school, and working with them to come out to rural areas of the country could be one way of bringing legal advice to areas that need it. There are certainly a lot of obstacles when trying to get legal professionals into rural areas of the country, but they are something that needs to be discussed more within the legal community. Another way of reaching these rural areas is by educating our public librarians in how to answer legal questions and showing them what legal resources are available to them and their patrons. I hope that the conversations continue between us all about how to help those gain access to justice in our rural communities.

After listening to the access to justice presentation, I attended “Preparing Now for the Legal Tech Landscape in the Decades Ahead.” I listened to most of this presentation, but missed the ending because of technology issues. Listening to presenter, Joseph Raczyński, about where technology is headed over the next three decades was honestly... horrifying. I say that as someone who sees a lot of regulatory issues surrounding this technology. I was so worked up after this program that I talked about it for days on end to anyone who would listen and debate it with me. It feels like the makings of a scary sci-fi movie that we will all be involved in law and policymaking.
When it’s Your First Time, Virtually! (continued)

Sara Monalea McMahon, Hampshire Law Library, sara.mcmahon@jud.state.ma.us

I am so grateful to have been able to attend the Annual Conference this year. Since it was my first ever Annual Conference, attending virtually was very different than attending in person. I do think that attending virtually was great for me to focus on the programming and not get overwhelmed with all the other things that an in-person meeting would bring. I look forward to attending the Annual Meeting next year and seeing everyone in person!

A Wealth of Information at the 2021 AALL Virtual Conference

Gail Wechsler, Law Library Association of St. Louis, gwechsler@liastl.org

I had the privilege of attending the 2021 AALL Annual Conference this past July. While on the one hand it was sad not to be able to meet in person yet again, the virtual conference still offered many words of wisdom and the benefit of being able to participate without the hassles or costs of travel.

One benefit of having an all-virtual conference was being able to watch programs that had been pre-recorded at my convenience. One pre-recorded program that was very valuable to me was “Mountains to Molehills: How Generational Differences Can Actually Bring Us Together.” This panel discussion, with a range of law librarians of different generations, was insightful and engaging. I learned the importance of having upfront communications with other staff members about things such as how they like to communicate and finding commonality. As a library director, I also appreciated the adage that “the workplace requires respect, not friendship.” This was a session with news I could use.

Although this session was marketed as focused on private law firm libraries, I also learned a lot from the program “I Didn’t Know You Did that! Marketing the Modern Private Law Library.” Just as members of a law firm may not be aware of everything their in-house law library has to offer, so too may solo and small firm attorneys not realize the services offered by the public and membership law library I run. A few tips picked up included that it helps to ask third parties to advertise your programs and services and that offering programs virtually is a sure way to increase turnout (even without the snacks).

Enjoyed might not be the right word, but I also gained a lot of knowledge from the session “By the Numbers, For the Numbers: Justifying Your Library Budget.” I appreciated tips such as asking equivalent libraries for their recommendations on which legal resources to keep and which to toss. The panelists were right on point when they emphasized that, while data can help you justify keeping items in your budget, you also can’t ignore qualitative stories.
A Wealth of Information at the 2021 AALL Virtual Conference (continued)

Gail Wechsler, Law Library Association of St. Louis, gwechsler@llastl.org

Sometimes it’s worth keeping an expense in your budget if it has had a real-life impact on just a few users. Metrics are not everything!

Finally, I want to give a shout out to the session on “Diversifying Your Library Collection.” Some great ideas offered at this session included: look at independent (minority) publishers for some of your materials; ask for word-of-mouth suggestions from faculty/staff/court personnel (as the case may be); attend alternative book and publishing conferences; and consider having a popular titles collection, particularly with books connected to events or exhibits at your library.

I look forward every year to learning a lot and connecting with experts at the AALL conference. Even in a virtual environment, the 2021 conference did not disappoint.

GLL Conference Attendee: AALL 2021 Conference

Angela Reaux, Law Library of Louisiana, areaux@lasc.org

This year’s AALL conference was my second time attending an AALL conference. This year’s conference was a great success and it was very insightful. More so, I think that the online conference made it very convenient to attend. The recorded sessions that appeared on the conference site made it a cinch to attend a session that I missed. There were many great sessions and gatherings, especially the fun happy hour events. Additionally, the sponsors’ events and individualized chats were also informative. I enjoyed each of the sessions that I attended and learned a lot. I look forward to attending the Colorado 2022 AALL conference.

Here are the 2021 AALL Conference sessions that I attended:

- Empowering Law Firms of the Future with Advance Research and Analytics Capabilities with S & P Global Market Intelligence
- Global Equity and Social Justice
- Opening Program with Keynote Speaker Tina Tchen. – To hear Tina’s story and her work as an advocate of gender equality was very empowering.
- The Bluebook Confronts Slavery
- Legal Deserts
- Next-Level Know How: Using Practical Law to Jumpstart Your Work like Never Before
- Legal Research in the Era of Black Lives Matter
GLL Highlights at the AALL Annual Conference

2021 GLL-SIS Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession recipient Cathy Lemann virtually swears in the 2021-2022 GLL-SIS Executive Board.

GLL-ers celebrated at a virtual happy hour, hosted by GLL-SIS past chair Jenny Silbiger.
GLL-SIS Mentorship Program: Build Your Skills

GLL-SIS Membership and Mentoring Committee

Welcome to the GLL Hosted Mentorship Program Community

The GLL Mentorship Program is available for peer to peer assistance and input on more than 75 diverse and specialized areas of expertise and experience including:

- Change Management
- Handling Press / Journalist Inquiries
- Library Space Planning
- Strategic Plans
- Adjunct Teaching & Instruction
- Social Media
- Publishing, Authorship
- Summer Associate Programs
- Curriculum Design
- One Person Libraries
- Community Partnerships
- Inter Library Loan
- Library Systems Administration
- Emerging Technologies
- Collecting & Reporting Statistics
- Law Library Policies
- Project Management
- Vendor Relationships
- Internship Programs
- Job Searches, Interviewing, Resumes
- Serving as a Reference
- Collection Downsizing
- Legal Information Literacy
- Circulation Management
- Digital Reference Services
- Website Design and Development
- Digitization, Digital Repositories
- Bibliographic Management Software

GLL is on-board with support - Visit the GLL Mentorship Program, identify a topic and reach out to a participating volunteer:

https://www.aallnet.org/gllsis/resources-publications/mentorship-program/

A colleague is looking forward to connecting with you.
### GLL Officers & Board Members 2020-2021

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<td>(612) 348-7977</td>
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