

SCCLL News

A Newsletter of the State, Court and County Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries

View from the Chair

Maryruth Storer, SCCLL Chair

What a productive year our Special Interest Section has had!

- We changed our name to the Government Law Libraries Special Interest Section, voting this winter to make this change after having an online discussion on the topic last fall. The AALL Executive Board approved the change effective June 10, 2015, although it will take some time for changes to occur on AALLNET, our own webpage, our newsletter, etc.
- We amended our Bylaws to incorporate the name change as well as update other sections.
- We had the 2015 AALL County Public Law Library Standards adopted by the AALL Executive Board, and the 2015-2018 GLL-SIS Strategic Directions were adopted by our own Executive Committee. Both documents were developed with substantial opportunity for comment from our members.
- We co-sponsored two webinars with the Self-Represented Litigants Network (SRLN). The first, *A2J: Who's Your Partner & Where Are You Going?*, was held February 18, and the second, *A2J: Best Practices for Court, County, and Government Law Libraries*, took place on March 24. The Education Committee has posted links to these webinars on the [GLLwebpage](#).
- We had our proposed webinar, *Security Issues in Law Libraries*, accepted by AALL. The webinar took place on Thursday, April 23, and a recording of the webinar is available for viewing on the [AALL website](#).
- With 3 other SISs (LISP, RIPS and SR), we sponsored an online discussion project, *Five Topics in Five Days: Mental Health Issues in Law Libraries*, which took place the week of March 9, 2015.
- We awarded multiple grants for our members to participate in professional development opportunities.



Inside this issue:

AALL Announcement	3
SCCLL Grants	4
Call for Volunteers	5
Longevity Awards	6
Member Retirements	6
GLL Reception at Annual Meeting	7
SCCLL Awards	8
SCCLL-Sponsored Program at Annual Meeting	10
AALL Management Institute Report	12
The Little Scanner that Could	15
Equal Justice Conference Grant Essay	22

View from the Chair, continued

Maryruth Storer, Chair

These specific activities and much more are accomplished through member participation. My deepest thanks to this year's Executive Committee members, Committee chairs, and Committee members! I encourage everyone to contact our incoming Chair, Kelly Browne, to volunteer for a 2015-16 Committee.

Very soon we'll be gathering in Philadelphia for the AALL Annual Meeting and a very special meeting of our SIS, as it will be the first meeting of the GLL-SIS following 41 years as SCCLL. Please come to our Sunday morning, July 19 Breakfast/Business Meeting & Silent Auction, where you'll meet this year's SIS Valuable Invited Participants: Greg Lucas, California State Librarian; and Judge Lawrence Winthrop, Chair of Arizona's Access to Justice Commission. Our sponsored program is *Building Sustainable Public Library Partnerships*, Sunday, July 19, 2015, from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Along with the LISP-SIS and the SR-SIS, we are holding a Joint Roundtable, *Service to Pro Se Patrons and Prisoners*, on Monday, July 20, from 4:00 - 5:15 p.m. Our Section's Reception is set for Monday evening, July 20 (see Kelly's article [elsewhere in this issue.](#))

If any of our members are speakers at any Annual Meeting program, please let me know, as I plan to publicize how involved our SIS members are throughout AALL!

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Chair this year. I am grateful to have had this opportunity to work with all of you.



SCCLL News is published three times a year (Fall, Winter/Spring, and Summer) by the State, Court and County Law Libraries SIS. **The deadline for the next issue is September 18, 2015.** Please contact the Editor, Holly Gerber, at h1gerber@tarrantcounty.com with questions, comments, suggestions and submissions.

The State Court & County Law Libraries SIS does not assume any responsibility for the statements advanced by the contributors in this newsletter. The opinions expressed in SCCLL News are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SCCLL SIS.

From The Editor's Desk

Holly Gerber, Tarrant County Law Library (TX)

Readers may note that although our section's name has changed, the name and logo of the newsletter have not. As we are in the middle of a volume, the newsletter's name will change with Volume 42, the Fall 2015 issue.

References to SCCLL abound in this issue as well, as many submissions refer to occurrences from before the name change. As is customary for the issue preceding the Annual Meeting, this issue includes information for those planning on attending the meeting in Philadelphia, as well as information on awards, grants, and members who retired this year. We also have reports from the AALL Management Institute and the Equal Justice Conference. Finally, we have an article on one library's digitization project that comes complete with morals. ■

AALL Announcement

Save the Date: AALL Business Skills Clinic to be Held October 16-17



Save the date for the [AALL Business Skills Clinic](#), a two-day intensive experience designed to give you skills in strategic planning, managerial finance, human resources, negotiations, and marketing/communications. The program will be held October 16-17 at the Hyatt Chicago Magnificent Mile Hotel in Chicago. Contact [Katie Brown](#), Chair of the Business Skills Education Task Force or [Celeste Smith](#), AALL's director of education, for more information. ■

SCCLL Grants

Regina Smith, Grants Committee

We are pleased to announce that the SCCLL Grants Committee selected Janine Liebert, Librarian, Programs & Partnerships at the LA Law Library as the recipient of a \$1,500 grant to attend the Equal Justice Conference in Austin, TX held May 7-9, 2015.

Suzanne B. Corriell, Associate Circuit Librarian, U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit Library is the recipient of the 2015 AALL Annual Meeting Registration Grant sponsored by Thomson Reuters. SCCLL is appreciative of the support from Thomson Reuters for this grant.

The Committee awarded a \$1,500 grant to attend the 2015 AALL Annual Meeting to be held in Philadelphia, PA, July 18-21, 2015 to each of the following individuals:

- Emily Bergfeld, Reference Librarian at the Alameda County Law Library
- Alice A. Davidson, Librarian at the Office of the Indiana Attorney General

The SCCLL Grant Program is made possible through donations that we receive through our annual Silent Auction which is online as well as onsite at the AALL Annual Meeting.

Something New – Request for Monetary Donations

While we want our Silent Auction to be successful, some of our members are getting older and we are divesting ourselves of “stuff”. For the last few years I have not purchased something from the auction (I have too much stuff) but I have written a check as a contribution after the auction. Some of our members have posted matching campaigns after the auction to raise funds. Also, some people up the amount spent at the Auction – they might purchase something for \$40 and write a check for \$50. So, please consider making a tax deductible contribution to our SIS so that our colleagues will have an opportunity to apply for grants in the future. You can mail it to our Treasurer, James Durham, or give the check or cash to one of our auction collectors at the Annual Meeting.



SCCLL Grants, continued

Regina Smith, Grants Committee

2014/2015 SCCLL Grants Committee:

- Regina Smith, Chair
- Sandra Marz
- Leslie McGuire
- Carol Suhre
- Gail Warren
- Jennifer Murray, Board Liaison

Call for Volunteers

Kelly Browne, 2015-2016 SCCLL Chair

Our Section's work is accomplished throughout the year by its fabulous committees. To function effectively, committees must have members, and I personally would like for you to volunteer for the coming year as soon as possible. There is no deadline for volunteering, of course (and believe me, I will send you many reminders ;-)), but the sooner we can put our committees together, the sooner we can get to work! Your contributions ARE needed! Please let me know if you'd like to participate on any of our committees: Advocacy, Awards, Best A2J Practices, Bylaws, Education, Grants, Membership & Mentoring, Newsletter, Nominations, Pro Bono Partnership, Publicity & Public Relations, Standards, Strategic Planning, or Technology.



A list of all the committee charges and committee annual reports are at <http://www.aallnet.org/sections/sccll/leadership>, so you can find the committee that best suits your particular talents and time commitment. This year, every committee developed a timeline/procedure, so next year's responsibilities should be easy to fulfill.

Contact me at kbrowne@saclaw.org. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

SCCLL Longevity Awards

SCCLL Membership Committee

The SCCLL Membership Committee would like to recognize the following members who will be receiving their longevity awards this year. The award is presented to members who have been members of AALL for 20 years with 10 years as a member of SCCLL. Each recipient will receive a certificate and a pin and be honored at the annual business meeting. This year we honor:

Mr. Stephen P. Anderson

Mr. Bruce Bosso

Ms. Janet Camillo

Ms. Crata Castleberry

Ms. Sue A. Creech

Ms. Barbara E. Karpel

Ms. Valerie Lerma

Mr. Fred Mauss

Ms. Kay E. Newman

Ms. Mary Rankin

Ms. Joan Rataic-Lang

Ms. Marie Wiechman

SCCLL Member Retirements

The following SCCLL members retired since the last Annual Meeting:

Ann Fessenden, 8th Circuit US Court of Appeals Library,

James Murray, 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals Branch Library, Spokane WA

Isabel Paul, Henrico Government & Law Library in Henrico, VA

Karen Quinn, Rhode Island State Law Library

Tim Sheehy, 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals Branch Library, Seattle WA



GLL Reception at Annual Meeting

Kelly Browne, 2015-2016 SCCLL Chair

Please plan to join your GLL-SIS colleagues on Monday, July 20 for our Annual Reception during the AALL Meeting. It is from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., which will leave you plenty of time to get to the Thomson Reuters and AALL Member Appreciation Event.

Our Reception, which is also generously sponsored by Thomson Reuters, will be in the Upstairs Loft room at The Field House, at 1150 Filbert Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107. The Field House is connected to the Philadelphia Marriot (HQ Hotel) and the Convention Center by a sky bridge, and also conveniently located to Thomson Reuters and AALL Member Appreciation Event at the Reading Terminal Market!

We are planning to serve a variety of gluten-free, vegan, vegetarian, and “regular” appetizers; so there should be something yummy for everybody. Please be sure to find me at the door when you come in to get your two free drink tickets, each of which will entitle you to one of their famous craft beers, wine, or a mixed drink.

For planning purposes, please register on Eventbrite at <http://sccllreception.eventbrite.com> to let me know that you plan to attend. It is super-easy; just click on the “Register” button, fill in your name, email address, and workplace, click on “Complete Registration,” and you’re done. You’ll get an email confirmation (and so will I); you can add to one of several supported calendars; share that you’re going via several social media outlets (please do in order to spread the word!); and you can even contact me with questions. Hope to see you there!



SCCLL Awards

SCCLL Awards Committee

The 2014-2015 Awards Committee (Catherine Lemann, Chair, Tonya Baroudi, Dan Cordova, Susan Falk, Holly Gale, and Board Liaison – Jennifer Murray), congratulates the recipients of awards from SCCLL.

Steven P. Anderson, Director of the Maryland State Law Library, is the 2015 recipient of the O.James Werner Award for Distinguished Service to Persons with Disabilities which honors a member who has made a significant contribution to either serving directly or arranging for services to be provided to persons with disabilities or for distinctive service by a person with a disability. Steve works to increase access to justice for persons facing financial difficulties and various disabilities. He has been a presenter for the Maryland Association for Parkinson's Support, the Columbia Early Onset and Newly Diagnosed Support Group, and the Johns Hopkins Health System. The People's Law Library of Maryland, maintained by the Maryland State Law Library, is a national model for the provision of easily accessible and understandable legal information to Maryland citizens. Steve is a past-president of AALL where one of his initiatives was to improve access to justice.

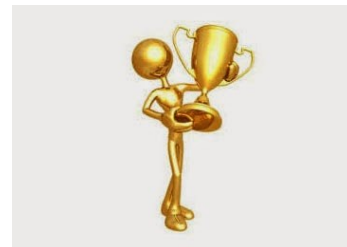
Four recipients were selected for the Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession which is awarded to a State, Court and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section member(s) who has made a significant contribution to law librarianship and who is nearing the end of his or her library career or who has recently retired. Criteria for receiving this award include service to the profession of law librarianship, contributions to legal research, teaching and outreach efforts and recognition by members of the legal or government community



SCCLL Awards, continued

SCCLL Awards Committee

Georgia Chadwick, Director, Law Library of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA, has been active in local, regional, and national law library associations. Georgia is an expert on historical Louisiana legal research. She has coordinated many free CLE's, very popular with attorneys and court staff, on topics ranging from civil law history, the future of law libraries, and use of legal databases. Georgia tirelessly works to promote the library to all patrons, from self-represented litigants to judges.



Ann Fessenden, Circuit Librarian, (retired) U.S. Court of Appeals 8th Circuit Library, St. Louis, MO served as President of the American Association of Law Libraries, a rare opportunity for a Circuit Librarian. The nomination highlighted her work as a court librarian, advocating for Internet access and library web sites, implementing strategic planning, and working on planning libraries in new facilities. Ann contributed to the ABA's *Judicial Opinion Writing Manual* and chaired the ABA's Citation Subcommittee of the Appellate Judges Conference, Judicial Opinion Writing Committee.

Sandy Marz, Director, (retired) Washoe County Law Library, Reno, NV, joined AALL in 1981. She chaired Local Arrangements for the 1989 Annual Meeting in Reno. She chaired SCCLL 2004-2005, was President of WESTPAC 1993-1994 and served on, as well as chaired, various AALL, chapter and SIS committees. She led efforts to update the Nevada Administrative Code to define minimum legal resources in public libraries and has served on the Nevada State Council on Libraries and Literacy. Sandy has continued to be active following her retirement, testifying before the Nevada Assembly and Senate Judiciary committees in favor of UELMA, which subsequently passed. In 2014, Sandy received AALL's Volunteer Service Award.

SCCLL Awards, continued

SCCLL Awards Committee

Laura Orr, Law Librarian, Washington County Law Library, Hillsboro, OR, has been a member of AALL since 1996. Her accomplishments include membership in the Law Librarians Working Group of the Self-Represented Litigants Network, work with the Oregon Council of County Law Libraries, and maintenance of the Oregon Electronic Legal Research Databases grid, an essential resource guide. Laura has worked to inform stakeholders in Oregon of the value of public law libraries in an effort to increase support for the law libraries. She also contributed to the 2013 book, *Public Law Librarianship: Objectives, Challenges, and Solutions* (Selwyn and Eldridge), whose editors received the 2014 Connie E. Bolden Publications Award.

The Awards will be presented at the GLL Business meeting in Philadelphia. ■

Building Sustainable Public Library Partnerships, 2015 SCCLL-Sponsored Conference Program

Emily Bergfeld, Alameda County Law Library (CA)

With shrinking budgets and rising costs, county law libraries are challenged to successfully meet the legal information needs of the regions they serve. Typically operating from a populous county seat, many county law libraries are unable to maintain a physical presence in outlying areas of their communities. To address this problem, county law libraries can extend their reach by partnering with existing public libraries located in these underserved regions.

To help educate county law librarians and others about the opportunities and challenges presented by public library partnerships, SCCLL-SIS is sponsoring a program at AALL titled “Building Sustainable Public Library Partnerships.” In this program, librarians from three California county law libraries will discuss their experiences developing and maintaining successful partnerships with public libraries in their communities.



Building Sustainable Public Library Partnerships, 2015 SCCLL-Sponsored Conference Program, continued

Emily Bergfeld, Alameda County Law Library (CA)

The speakers are Emily Bergfeld, from the Alameda County Law Library, Malinda Muller, from the Los Angeles County Law Library, and Victoria Williamson, from the Riverside County Law Library.

To improve access to legal information in rural and suburban communities in eastern Alameda County, in 2013 the Alameda County Law Library partnered with the local public library system to establish a satellite collection of print and electronic legal materials at the Dublin Library, a branch of the Alameda County Public Library system. Materials for the collection were purchased using federal funds obtained from an LSTA Pitch an Idea Grant. Ms. Bergfeld will share her experiences writing a successful grant proposal, training public library staff in basic legal reference practices, developing a user-friendly electronic interface for the collection, and marketing the collection to the local community.

In 2012, the Riverside County Law Library partnered with the Temecula Public Library to open the Temecula Public Library Law Resource Center. Temecula is located nearly 50 miles from downtown Riverside, and this partnership extends access to the law library's collection, programs and services to communities in the Southwestern region of Riverside County. The collection includes a core print collection of 350 practice-oriented California titles and on-site access to legal databases, including Lexis Advance and WestlawNext. Riverside County Law Library Director Victoria Williamson will discuss the challenges and solutions related to collection-building, staffing, public outreach, and programming.

To facilitate access to legal information in a vast county that spans over 4,000 square miles, the Los Angeles County Law Library has developed partnerships with numerous City and County public libraries across Los Angeles. Current public library partners are located in diverse urban and suburban areas of the Los Angeles area, and include the Compton Public Library, Lancaster Regional Library, Pasadena Public Library, and the Van Nuys Library.

“With shrinking budgets and rising costs, county law libraries are challenged to successfully meet the legal information needs of the regions they serve. Typically operating from a populous county seat, many county law libraries are unable to maintain a physical presence in outlying areas of their communities.”

Building Sustainable Public Library Partnerships, 2015 SCCLL-Sponsored Conference Program, continued

Emily Bergfeld, Alameda County Law Library (CA)

Malinda Muller, Director of Programs and Partnerships at Los Angeles County Law Library, will offer insights into site selection, the administrative aspects of partnership agreements, using law librarian “office hours” and chat services to assist patrons, training resistant public library staff, and successfully promoting programs and partnerships to the local community.

We hope you can join us to learn more about this exciting service model, which can greatly increase access to legal information in your community, and improve access to justice. ■

Government Law Libraries Well Represented at 2015 AALL Management Institute

Joseph D. Lawson, Harris County Law Library (TX)

Braving the cold temperatures and brisk winds, I traveled to Chicago for the 2015 AALL Management Institute. My trip was made possible with a grant from the State, Court, and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section, for which I am most grateful. The opportunities to learn management techniques from expert consultant and former ALA president, Maureen Sullivan, and to engage with upcoming leaders in the law library community were invaluable. Additionally, the opportunity to connect with government and special law librarians, who were well represented at the institute, enhanced the value of the experience. Ultimately, attending the institute was certainly worthwhile and I thank SCCLL for making it possible.



Management Training

Over the course of three days, Maureen Sullivan expertly led 50 leaders from law libraries across the country through topics covering all aspects of modern management. With a combination of lecture, small-group discussion, and individual-reflection activities, participants considered aspects of management from adaptive leadership to having difficult conversation with staff and supervisors.

Government Law Libraries Well Represented at 2015 AALL Management Institute, continued

Joseph D. Lawson, Harris County Law Library (TX)

External considerations, such as representing the library to various stakeholders, also played a prominent role in discussions during the institute. Ms. Sullivan encouraged participants, many of whom are department heads and assistant directors, to continually build connections with other leaders as a means of support in their current and future managerial roles. With a foundation of practical and scholarly literature for all topics discussed, the institute will help each manager who attended better serve our libraries and AALL throughout our careers.

“With a combination of lecture, small-group discussion, and individual-reflection activities, participants considered aspects of management from adaptive leadership to having difficult conversation with staff and supervisors.”

Government and Special Law Librarians

During one group discussion, we divided ourselves according to three categories - academic, law firm, and special law librarians. As I looked around the table, I was encouraged to see many talented leaders from state, county, and federal law libraries.

In addition to government law librarians, we were also joined by library managers from Navigant - a business consulting firm - and The Law Society of Upper Canada. During the exercise, we were encouraged to find common strengths - a topic often overlooked in favor of discussing common problems. The exercise was both uplifting and enlightening. We discovered that despite the differences in our settings, we shared many strengths, including the acquired ability to provide expert services to a wide variety of attorney and non-attorney patrons.

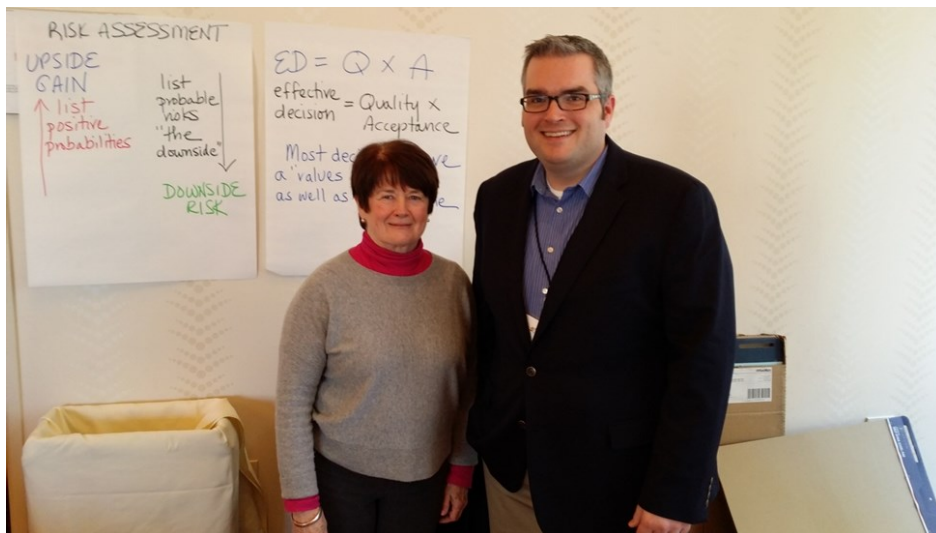
Networking Over Deep Dish

Of course, with the institute being held in downtown Chicago - mere blocks to the West of Lake Michigan and a short ride down the Red Line from Wrigley Field - the world-famous deep dish pizza was sure to factor into the networking. After a full day of management training, I found myself enjoying the company of law librarians from Boston to Berkeley over a hot pie at Pizzeria Due. The good food and lively conversation helped us all unwind and connect outside of the formal classroom setting.

Government Law Libraries Well Represented at 2015 AALL Management Institute, continued

Joseph D. Lawson, Harris County Law Library (TX)

I am happy to say I made many connections that will likely last throughout my career. I am very grateful to SCCLL for making all of these opportunities possible.



Left to right: Maureen Sullivan, Management Institute Facilitator
Joseph D. Lawson, Deputy Director, Harris County Law Library



The Little Scanner that Could: A Tale with Nine Morals

John R. Barden, Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library

"I think I (s)can, I think I (s)can!"

When we talk about digitization projects, the first idea that comes to many of us is large-scale cooperative or commercial ventures like HathiTrust or Google Books. This is a tale of how one relatively small library, with no significant influx of resources, built a 2-million page digital library in five years and continues to add to that collection daily. Following the tale are nine morals that I hope will provide encouragement for anyone who wants to repeat this small-scale success in their own library.

"This is a tale of how one relatively small library, with no significant influx of resources, built a 2-million page digital library in five years and continues to add to that collection daily."

The Tale

The Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library is a nonpartisan office of the Maine State Legislature. As you might expect, the Library holds a rich collection of unique or rare materials relating to Maine laws and the legislative process.

In recent years, the Library has embraced the delivery of resources through online technology. Part of this included conversion of some paper lists and bibliographies for our website (<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlibrary/>). The other new prong was the scanning of laws, bills, testimony, etc. for delivery to our patrons as email attachments. This was done on an ad hoc basis, with scans being discarded as soon as the email was sent out. As a result, the same content was being scanned over and over, in many cases with considerable wear and tear on the print originals.

Around 2005 the Director at that time, Lynn Randall, and her staff decided to use digitization to preserve and manage the Library's burgeoning collection of news clippings related to legislation and legislators. Many of the clippings, some of which dated back to the 1950s or earlier, were folded into small rectangles for storage behind 3x5 dividers, or collected in file folders on open shelves (no more room for file cabinets). The Library purchased a Fujitsu 5750C large-flatbed scanner and the Alchemy document management system with the idea of scanning new articles immediately, as well as working through older articles retrospectively.

The Little Scanner that Could: A Tale with Nine Morals

John R. Barden, Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library

Although the Alchemy software has not solved all our management problems, the Fujitsu scanner proved an excellent investment and is still in service with only minor maintenance issues. One staff member was assigned to be in charge of the news clipping scanning, although several other staff participated in the review of newspapers for relevant articles.

This was a small move in the right direction, but it barely touched the amount of repetitive scanning going on in the library. Our next development emerged from an “Aha!” moment late in 2009, when we realized that output from our large office copier/scanner, which was already on our office network, could easily be saved offline and stored for future use. After minor reconfiguration and the addition of two small-capacity external drives (they were certainly small-capacity by today’s standards), we began capturing scans of committee files containing testimony on each bill, analysis, proposed amendments and fiscal notes, etc. Our initial plan was to capture files requested by patrons, on the premise that this would soon cover our “greatest hits” of committee files. However, when we received the next batch of new files, we decided to be more proactive and scan the lot of them before they went to offsite storage. In 2010 we began to work backwards through the older files on a comprehensive basis; we have just completed the files for 1999-2000 and are working on ones for 1997-1998. Since the collection only goes back to 1983, we are approximately halfway through the old files, and the overwhelming majority of file requests are now satisfied almost instantaneously from the digitized collection.

What next? We expanded our scanning to include other materials that we normally draw on for legislative histories: laws, bills, amendments, debate. We moved debate (the “Legislative Record”) to the top of the list, because we had only a single copy of some of the earliest volumes. As a result, this portion of the scanned collection was the first to get its own web portal. Once this happened, we started to publicize our efforts more regularly with our patrons and were extremely pleased with the positive response.

As of December 2014, we had completed scanning of the Laws of Maine back to 1820, bills and amendments back to 1963, debate back to 1897,

“Our initial plan was to capture files requested by patrons, on the premise that this would soon cover our “greatest hits” of committee files. However, when we received the next batch of new files, we decided to be more proactive and scan the lot of them before they went to offsite storage.”

The Little Scanner that Could: A Tale with Nine Morals, continued

John R. Barden, Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library

and committee files back to 1999. With these components in place, we then began compiling legislative histories for each bill with links to the relevant documents. News clippings and committee files, which often contain copyrighted material, are not available on the web, but citations in the histories let patrons know what is available and give them instructions on how to request it under normal fair use provisions. The compilation of these legislative histories has also prompted us to fill in missing documents or information gaps wherever we can and resolve ambiguities and errors in previously-published information.

“The compilation of these legislative histories has also prompted us to fill in missing documents or information gaps wherever we can and resolve ambiguities and errors in previously-published information.”

Sometimes we have made special efforts in response to particular needs. For example, our sets of early Massachusetts laws (mostly 19th-century reprints) were crumbling and the bindings were falling apart. Since pre-1820 Massachusetts law is the foundation for many municipalities and institutions in present-day Maine, it was imperative that we preserve access to this information. We sacrificed our only sets (they weren't going to last much longer anyway) to get loose pages that we could gently process on our flatbed copier/scanner. We then produced a printed set of the scans that we bound up so that we have a sturdy reference copy in addition to the digital collection.

The Law and Legislative Digital Library now encompasses more than 2 million pages of materials, and we continue to add about 400,000-600,000 pages per year. The collection has its own portal (<http://www.maine.gov/legis/lawlib/lldl/lldlhome.htm>), but not everything is visible there yet, so we also allow patrons to browse through our entire web-based collection through an open folder (<http://lldc.mainelegislature.org/Open/>). Since most of our files have content-descriptive naming, patrons can often find what they need.

The structure of our library is nothing more than a collection of folders and files. Our metadata is built in spreadsheets and then published to the web

The Little Scanner that Could: A Tale with Nine Morals, continued

John R. Barden, Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library

through HTML or in PDF format. In an ideal world, we might have built this through an SQL database or a digital repository, but we didn't have those resources when we started to set this in place. Other libraries have inquired about linking some of our content through their own digital repositories, so we expect to see access to our collection spread.

Patron support for our efforts has been extremely strong. In particular, law firm and state agency users are impressed with our ability to respond so quickly. Even more significant has been the effect of the project on our staff, nearly all of whom have had some role in the production of this digital collection. We added no new staff for this project, so you might expect that the increased workload to be perceived as burdensome. On the contrary, all of the participants are proud of their contributions and eagerly await the publication of the latest developments and statistics. Tasks that were once seen as a rote effort are now viewed as contributing toward a lasting resource. Reference librarians are thrilled to have so much material now at their fingertips, and everyone's job has been made easier.

"Tasks that were once seen as a rote effort are now viewed as contributing toward a lasting resource. Reference librarians are thrilled to have so much material now at their fingertips, and everyone's job has been made easier."

So that is our digitization tale. I shouldn't say it has a happy ending, because it hasn't ended yet and isn't likely to end for some years to come. However, I would like to finish with some morals from what we have learned so far:

1. Aim for a unique contribution . . . usually. Don't rely on someone else's product if it's not going to meet your needs. If you're not happy with it, you won't use it effectively.
2. Let your patrons guide you as to what should be digitized. The temptation may be to begin with that esoteric special collection, but examine your patron requests to see where you'll get the most bang for the buck.
3. If you don't start, you'll never finish. If you are a consummate planner, by all means, put together a plan to go by. However, there can also be success in just starting and letting the project expand organically as your ideas and experience grow.

The Little Scanner that Could: A Tale with Nine Morals, continued

John R. Barden, Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library

4. If you wait until it's perfect, you'll never finish. The beauty of online collections is that if you find something wrong or incomplete, you can generally fix it in a hurry.
5. If you wait on someone else to get the ball rolling, you'll probably be waiting a long time. Yes, it might be nice to collaborate with another library or office. But they may have other priorities, so be prepared to move ahead on your own.
6. You may well have the resources at hand to do a lot of the work. Look around your library to see if there's a scanner that's not being used all day and staff members with a little extra time on their hands.
7. Scanning is the easy part. After five years of doing this, I estimate that digitization is 20 percent scanning and 80 percent metadata development.
8. Don't hide your light under a bushel. As soon as you have something to show, let people know about it on your website, in your newsletter, signs in the library, wherever.
9. Keep your pace measured and your eye on the finish line. After you've started your project and gotten a sense of the pace, you'll be better able to set short and long-term goals. Tackle the portions of your project in manageable pieces, and be sure to let your staff know when their efforts have paid off in the form of another goal achieved.

"I knew I could, I knew I could!"

[Ed. Note: The Main State Law and Reference Library's Law and Legislative Digital Library project was awarded the 2015 AALL Innovations in Technology Award (<http://www.aallnet.org/mm/Member-Resources/AALLawards/award-ii.html>)].



The Little Scanner that Could: A Tale with Nine Morals, continued

John R. Barden, Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
Legislative Record

**123rd Legislature
2006 - 2008**

Consolidated Index *(About the index)*

LD 1-500	LD 501-1000	LD 1001-1500	LD 1501-2000	LD 2001-2324
House Papers	Documents By Title		Senate Papers	

House, Legislative Index
 House, Roll Call Number Index
 House, Roll Call Subject Index
 House, LD Number Index
 House, LD Subject Index

Senate, Index

Daily Edition

First Regular Session
(December 6, 2006 - June 21, 2007)

HOUSE, December 6, 2006 (H1-23)	SENATE, December 6, 2006 (S1-14)
HOUSE, January 3, 2007 (H24-36)	SENATE, January 3, 2007 (S15-28)
HOUSE, January 4, 2007 (H37-39)	SENATE, January 4, 2007 (S29-33)
HOUSE, January 9, 2007 (H40-51)	SENATE, January 9, 2007 (S34-58)
HOUSE, January 16, 2007 (H52-62)	SENATE, January 16, 2007 (S59-74)
HOUSE, January 23, 2007 (H63-72)	SENATE, January 23, 2007 (S75-92)
HOUSE, January 25, 2007 (H73-81)	SENATE, January 25, 2007 (S93-108)
HOUSE, January 30, 2007 (H82-94)	SENATE, January 30, 2007 (S109-121)
HOUSE, February 1, 2007 (H95-103)	SENATE, February 1, 2007 (S122-128)
HOUSE, February 6, 2007 (H104-111)	SENATE, February 6, 2007 (S129-134)
HOUSE, February 8, 2007 (H112-121)	SENATE, February 8, 2007 (S135-151)
HOUSE, February 13, 2007 (H122-135)	SENATE, February 13, 2007 (S152-167)
HOUSE, February 15, 2007 (H136-148)	SENATE, February 15, 2007 (S168-178)
HOUSE, February 27, 2007 (H149-162)	SENATE, February 27, 2007 (S179-193)
HOUSE, March 1, 2007 (H163-172)	SENATE, March 1, 2007 (S194-205)
HOUSE, March 6, 2007 (H173-183)	SENATE, March 6, 2007 (S206-229)

Legislative Record Home

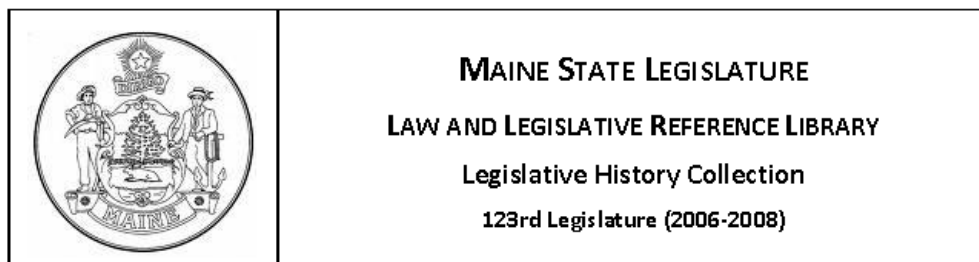
- Law Library Home
- Legislature Home
- FAQs
- Search Tips
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The Little Scanner that Could: A Tale with Nine Morals, continued

John R. Barden, Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library



History and Final Disposition

LD 89 / SP0033

An Act To Repeal the Automatic Increase in the Gasoline Tax. Presented by Senator COURTNEY of York; Cosponsored by Representative MCKANE of Newcastle and Senators: DOW of Lincoln, SNOWE-MELLO of Androscoggin, Representatives: CAMPBELL of Newfield, CEBRA of Naples, DUPREY of Hampden, JACOBSEN of Waterboro, LANSLEY of Sabattus, MAREAN of Hollis. Referred to Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. Public Hearing 04/27/07. Final Disposition: Majority (ONTP) Accepted 06/13/07.

Original Bill

[LD 89 \(123rd Legis. 2007\)](#)

Committee Materials

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

- (Available on request—please include the following citation: cf123-LD-0089.pdf)

New Drafts and Amendments

[Amendment CA \(S-293\) \(LD 89 2007\) \(Minority\)](#)

Floor Proceedings and Debate

[HOUSE, January 9, 2007 \(H40-51\)](#)

- p. H-49

[SENATE, January 9, 2007 \(S34-58\)](#)

- p. S-36

[SENATE, June 12, 2007 \(S966-1011\)](#)

- p. S-1006

[HOUSE, June 13, 2007 \(H761-782\)](#)

- p. H-766 (Remarks 767) (Roll Call(s) 767)

News Articles

Mainers can expect gas tax increase (Leary, Mal) (Bangor Daily News, 5/16/2007) •

(Available on request—please include the following citation: 123/LD00xx/nc123-ld-0089/SB1231601.pdf)

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[Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library](#)

An example from our legislative history collection, showing how the documents we have been digitizing come together in a final product.

Equal Justice Conference Grant Essay

Janine Liebert, LA Law Library (CA)

I recently attended ABA's Equal Justice Conference as a SCCLL grant recipient, presenter, and program coordinator. During the conference I was able to attend many panels and workshops focusing on pro bono, innovations in technology to advance access to justice, and developing collaborative partnerships. Highlights from this year included a pro bono "Jeopardy" game, a session on how to recognize and avoid compassion fatigue, and an update from Voices for Civil Justice on some recent, national media stories that mention legal aid, along with insight on how to engage media about the work of the access to justice community. This seemed especially relevant at this point in time because of the precipitous decline in funding for county law libraries.

"While there were many thought-provoking discussions over the four days, an underlying focus on user-generated experience caught my attention with talk of user survey and data collection, storytelling and evaluative design."

While there were many thought-provoking discussions over the four days, an underlying focus on user-generated experience caught my attention with talk of user survey and data collection, storytelling and evaluative design. Many of the service delivery models and technology innovations I learned about were focused on leveraging the experience of users. This includes the user surveys that are built into the Family Court DIY (Do-It-Yourself) forms used by Bronx Family Court. Another example is the SRLN National Self-Help Services Inventory, which provides an analysis of SRL services and language on state and county court website around the country. The analysis was conducted from the consumer point of view. In the words of Katherine Alteneder, SRLN Coordinator: "If we couldn't find it, it didn't exist." The initial findings from the inventory suggest opportunities for further collaboration between the courts and law libraries:

- Many courts are building bridges to legal advice
- The question is changing from how many self-help centers there are, to what tier of service do people have access to
- Technology driven opportunities include Web Re-Design and LSC-funded TIG Grants
- Partnerships are good but beware of patchwork providers where responsibility is not clearly delineated

Equal Justice Conference Grant Essay, continued

Janine Liebert, LA Law Library (CA)

This final point was also reinforced by DOJ Access to Justice Initiatives Director Lisa Foster in her keynote session:

We need to assess our community's strengths and weaknesses and then coordinate and integrate services. We can't afford to be duplicative or competitive.



The full text of the keynote session can be found at <http://accesstojustice.net/2015/05/08/doj-atj-initiative-director-lisa-foster-keynote-at-equal-justice-conference/> with a great recap by Richard Zorza.

Another conference highlight was a program on the right to counsel. The panel which included our GLL colleagues, Joan Bellistri (Anne Arundel County Public Law Library) and Sara Galligan (Director, Ramsey County Law Library) made a great case for the role of civil right to counsel in ensuring a continuum of services.

There was much discussion on incubators, and they are popping up everywhere. As the incubator movement takes off, I look forward to continuing the conversation at the 2015 AALL Annual Meeting where I will be moderating a panel discussion on new incubator models that include law schools, law libraries, legal aid and the bar.

And, of course, Pro Bono Net presented 50 new technology tips! This fast-paced session is always a favorite.

Law librarians were very well represented at EJC and the SRLN Preconference, which was held the day before the Equal Justice Conference. The SRLN Preconference focused on SRLN developments and innovations, including the SRLN National Self-Help Services Inventory, forms projects from around the country and judicial education.

Equal Justice Conference Grant Essay, continued

Janine Liebert, LA Law Library (CA)

It was heartening to see such a record turnout! Partnerships are always critical, and the afternoon session that I coordinated and moderated led to a broader conversation on how to develop access to justice innovations that involve law libraries, the courts, legal aid, the bar and other community and access to justice partners. We heard inspiring words from the Hon. Lora Livingston (Travis County Courts, Travis County, TX), Sandi Levin (Executive Director, LA Law Library, Los Angeles, CA), Bonnie Hough (Center for Families, Children and the Courts, San Francisco, CA), and Dan Rutherford (Senior Content Specialist, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Washington DC) which provided the context for break-out sessions addressing such questions as: What can be done to help self-represented litigants locate the most effective provider more directly? How can we encourage A2J partners to collaborate together? How can A2J partners better integrate with non-legal support services?

The preconference featured an early evening reception at the Travis County Law Library self-help center. This was not only a wonderful opportunity to learn more about one of the nation's leading self-help centers but also an opportunity for Lisa Rush (Director, Travis County Law Library & Self-Help Center, Austin, TX) to be formally recognized by the SRLN for all her innovative work with court forms.

These are just a few of the many highlights at EJC and the SRLN Preconference. As always, it was a great four days of exchanging thought-provoking ideas and discussing new ways to look at our work. I hope many GLL-SIS members will be able to attend in Chicago in 2016.

“Partnerships are always critical, and the afternoon session that I coordinated and moderated led to a broader conversation on how to develop access to justice innovations that involve law libraries, the courts, legal aid, the bar and other community and access to justice partners.”



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