View from the Chair

Holly Gerber, GLL Chair

It seems fitting that my year as Chair began in the capital of my home state, at the AALL Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas. If you weren’t at the meeting and haven’t had a chance to watch Bryan Stevenson’s keynote speech, I highly encourage you watch it (http://community.aallnet.org/viewdocument/opening-general-session-with-keynot). Stevenson is the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative and speaks profoundly on how we can create more fairness, more justice, and more equality. Stevenson’s book Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption was recommended during last year’s program Mass Incarceration and its Impact on Public and Pro Bono Legal Reference (another great program to watch on AALL2Go, https://www.aallnet.org/mm/Education/aall2go/amrecordings/aall2016/aall16h8.html).

So it seems very timely that Stevenson was the keynote speaker at this year’s meeting. During the keynote, he recommends four things we can do to improve and create justice: 1. Get proximate, get closer to those suffering from injustice; 2. Change the narratives that sustain inequality; 3. Stay hopeful that we can play a role in ending injustice; 4. Do inconvenient and uncomfortable things. Stevenson’s points on creating more justice are supported by GLL’s values, including “the necessity of effective access to justice for everyone.” Moving forward, we can consider Stevenson’s recommendations and how they tie into GLL’s values and how we can create more justice.

In addition to looking towards the future and how we can impact the inequalities in the justice system, I am also looking at the past. Many thanks go out to those who served on the GLL Executive Committee and GLL Committees this past year. Thanks go out to Jenn Dalglish and the excellent job she completed as Chair last year. All of the Executive Committee members deserve numerous thanks for providing strong leadership for the SIS. Thanks go out to everyone who served on a Committee, and especially those who served as committee Chairs, particularly John Barden who bravely took up the Newsletter Editor duties when I was elected Vice-Chair. Finally, our silent auction was an enormous success; so thank you to everyone who participated and to those who donated to our grants fund.

I look forward to the year ahead and seeing what our SIS will accomplish.
From the Editor’s Desk

John Barden, Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library

I recently finished Armistead Maupin’s memoir, *Logical Family*. As the title implies, the author distinguishes between biological family and logical family, “the one that actually makes sense for us.” GLL is in some ways one of our logical families. Many of us see each other just once or twice a year, but there’s an instant, almost family-like connection when we meet. Three of us, Dolly Knight, Marcia Hannon, and David Holt, bring forward recent reflections and knowledge gleaned from the Austin meeting. Jennifer Dalglish shares some of the photographs that help us remember that meeting. And Stephen Parks notes a meeting of a different sort, a reminder that government law libraries have a role to play in the larger library community.

AALL Announcements

VOTE FOR AALL’S FUTURE LEADERS / ELECTION IS NOW OPEN

The 2017 Executive Board Election is open--online voting for the next AALL vice president/president-elect, secretary, and Executive Board members runs through 11:59 p.m. (EDT) on Tuesday, October 31.

AALL elected members of the board represent you and your interests as law librarians. It’s important to make an educated decision, and we encourage you to learn more about the candidates before voting by reading their biographies and statements, as well as the Q&As with the candidates featured in the July/August issue of AALL Spectrum. You can also listen to the recordings from the president-elect candidates forum and the executive board members candidates forum.

Vote today and help shape the future of AALL!
AALL Announcements (continued)

OCTOBER WEBINAR / REGISTER NOW

MAKING THE MOST OF IT: TIPS AND TRICKS FOR EFFICIENT IR MANAGEMENT

- Wednesday, October 25 / 11:00 a.m. (CDT)
- Register by Friday, October 20
- Members - Free / Nonmembers - $60

Managing an institutional repository (IR) can be an exciting and rewarding responsibility. In this webinar, colleagues experienced in IR management will discuss several challenges and present tips and tools they've used to successfully tackle them. Experts will discuss efficiency and output geared toward results, along with methods to get the most use out of information collected for IR--structuring it for multi-use purposes and approaches for getting crucial information from faculty authors. In addition, participants are encouraged to share instruments and methods they use to enhance the efficiency of their IR management.

*Webinar programming is made possible through a partnership with Wolters Kluwer Legal & Regulatory US.*

AALL ARCHIVES POLICY REVISED

The Executive Board revised the AALL Archive Policy this past summer at the July 2017 Executive Board Meeting.

Material for the archives should be sent directly to the AALL Archive Contact at Headquarters accompanied by a letter that briefly identifies the material and describes the activity to which it relates. Questions should be sent directly to archive@aall.org.

Member News

Taryn Rucinski is now Supervisory Librarian at the U.S. Court of International Trade in New York.

Alex Burnett is Senior Law Librarian at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library in Augusta, Maine.
Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

Government Law Libraries – Special Interest Section

Executive Board – Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: Wednesday, June 21, 2017, 3:05 – 4:00 p.m. Eastern


Meeting Leader: J. Dalglish

Scribe: J. Durham

Date of Next Meeting: Monday, July 17, 2017, 1:15 p.m. – impromptu meeting room (TBA) at the 2017 AALL Annual Meeting & Conference in Austin

Meeting Minutes and Agenda

Preliminary Items / Action Items from Previous Meeting:

- Agenda was approved.

- No pre-meeting announcements.

- Jenn reported that 109 GLL members are registered for the Annual Breakfast & Business Meeting. Gail Warren currently is procuring silent auction items, some of which will be placed online to build interest prior to the meeting.

- Holly reported that the annual reception space is booked, as is a tentative menu. The reception will be held at Uncle Julio's in Austin. Holly will post an announcement on My Communities regarding the reception and raffle details.

- Holly reported that the Education Committee is excited to present the second program (funded entirely by GLL) for the annual meeting, as are the three panelists. The program is a roundtable entitled “Pro Se Appellants – the Most Underserved SRL? How Libraries Can Provide Assistance with Appeals” and the panelists are Liz Reppe, AnnMarie O’Neill (MN Clerk of Appellate Courts), and Liz Kramer (MN State Bar Association).

- Jenn has notified Dr. Joel Fishman that the Professional Publications Award will be named after him, beginning with 2017 – 2018.

- Jenn encouraged the GLL Board members to participate in the virtual training sessions provided by AALL for SIS Boards.

- James confirmed that Elizabeth Caulfield, Chair of the GLL Awards Committee, is making a certificate for Dr. Fishman, as well as for Judge Lora Livingston, our GLL VIP.
Executive Board Meeting Minutes, continued

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

Kelly reported that GLL has enough table reps for the CONELL Marketplace. The new GLL flyer will be introduced at the GLL table during this event.

Other Business:

- James provided the Treasurer’s Report. AALL headquarters recently forwarded a financial statement ending 3/31/2017. As of that date, the total ending balance was $45,155.73. The Restricted Funds account held $11,360.58, and the Unrestricted Funds account held $34,775.15. James reported that, since that date, GLL had paid proceeds to the recipient of the GLL travel grant for the Equal Justice Conference (EJC), Marrette Pearsall, in the amount of $1,684.06. We are reimbursing Gail Warren in the amount of $315.89 for purchase of an iPad Mini 4, which will serve as a raffle item for the breakfast meeting (in tandem with the silent auction). James also reported that $1,925.00 already had been donated by members as part of the annual donation drive that serves to collect funds to sponsor travel grants (along with the silent auction). James reminded the Board that Hein will be providing $3,000.00 to sponsor our annual breakfast, and that LexisNexis will be providing $5,000.00 to sponsor our annual reception.

- As Secretary, James mentioned that he is forwarding selected Board communications to 2017 – 2018 incoming Board members, Joan Bellistri and Robert Mead, to prepare them for joining the Board in July.

- John reported that the GLL Newsletter will be posted online by June 30, 2017.

- James noted that Elizabeth Caulfield had posted the names of all GLL award winners in a congratulatory announcement on My Communities.

- Jenn reminded all GLL Board Committee Liaisons that committee annual reports should be forwarded in PDF format to Mary Jo Lazun at mary.jo.lazun@mdcourts.gov for posting on the GLL website.

- Kelly encouraged members to participate in the Skills Inventory Survey.

- Jenn stated that she is creating the agenda for the annual business meeting, and will forward the draft to the GLL Board soon for comments.

- Jenn stated that the next GLL Board meeting will be held on Monday, July 17, 2017, at 1:15 p.m. in one of the impromptu meeting rooms provided by AALL.

- The new GLL promotional flyer was approved with edits by the Board, with a motion from Carol, seconded by Kelly.

- A $700 budget for the GLL Publicity & Public Relations Committee was approved by the Board, with a motion from Carol, seconded by Kelly.
Executive Board Meeting Minutes, continued

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

- Jenn shared feedback that Stacey Etheredge had received from a GLL member, who suggested that the annual breakfast meeting should have an educational component. Holly contacted the member by e-mail and said that the Board is open to suggestions for implementation next year. Holly said that her first meeting as Chair will address this topic.

- Jenn said that Stacey Etheredge had requested a one-sentence statement from GLL for the SIS Leadership Training Handbook. Jenn will provide a copy of the statement to the Board.

- Jenn shared that the San Mateo County Law Library was experiencing major staff and budget cuts, but that the stakeholders were attempting to raise funds to support the library. Details are available at http://www.smdailyjournal.com/articles/lifestyle/2017-05-26/before-the-courts/1776425180822.html.

Jonathan Stock contacted Jenn by e-mail asking for GLL to support a database study. Jenn will contact him and will send a summary to the Board.

GLL Board members who will not be attending the Austin conference are Kelly and Nancy.

Approval of Minutes:

The meeting minutes from Wednesday, April 19, 2017, were approved unanimously, with an initial motion from Nancy, seconded by Kelly.

Action Items From This Meeting:

- Forward draft agenda for the GLL Annual Business Meeting to GLL Board for comments. (Assigned To: Jenn; Date Due: ASAP.)

- Forward room number of impromptu meeting room for next GLL Board meeting. (Assigned To: Jenn; Date Due: ASAP.)

- Forward PDFs of committee annual reports to Mary Jo Lazun at mary.jo.lazun@mdcourts.gov (Assigned To: GLL Board Liaisons to GLL Committees; Date Due: ASAP.)

- Forward one-sentence GLL statement for SIS Leadership Training Handbook to the GLL Board. (Assigned To: Jenn; Date Due: When completed.)

- Provide summary to GLL Board regarding Jonathan Stock’s database survey. (Assigned To: Jenn; Date Due: After consulting with Mr. Stock.)
Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Sunday, July 16, 2017

Government Law Libraries – Special Interest Section
Executive Board – Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: **Sunday, July 16, 2017, 1:30 – 2:00 p.m. Central (Austin Convention Center)**

In Attendance: H. Gerber, C. Ebbinghouse (by phone), D. Cordova, J. Bellistri, R. Mead, J. Barden, J. Durham

Meeting Leader: H. Gerber

Scribe: J. Durham

Date of Next Meeting: TBA

Meeting Minutes and Agenda

Preliminary Items / Action Items from Previous Meeting:

- No formal agenda – brief meeting.
- No pre-meeting announcements.

Holly will contact the GLL Board regarding a schedule for upcoming meetings.

Other Business:

- James provided the Treasurer’s Report with a reiteration of details shared at the annual breakfast meeting. As of 5/31/2017, GLL-SIS had a total balance of $45,245.73, which included $11,360.58 in Restricted Funds (Resource Guides) and $33,885.15 in Unrestricted Funds (General Account). A final figure for the silent auction and donation drive will be provided to the GLL Board in late summer, after post-conference payments and donations are processed.

- Holly requested that Board members send her suggestions for GLL members to serve as committee chairs and members for 2017 – 2018.

- Holly announced that she will need assistance from a couple of Board members to sell raffle tickets at the upcoming GLL reception. All proceeds will go toward the grants fund.

Holly mentioned that John Stock is holding a flash meeting on Sunday afternoon about a proposed project regarding a database study. Dan plans to attend the meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

The meeting minutes from the previous conference call on June 21 were approved unanimously, with a motion from Carol, seconded by Dan.

Action Items From This Meeting:

- Holly will contact the Board about scheduling regular conference call meetings for 2017 – 2018. *(Assigned To: Holly; Date Due: August / September)*
# GLL Financial Report

## 2016—2017

### Beginning Balance (January 1, 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Funds (Resource Guides)</td>
<td>$11,360.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Funds</td>
<td>$34,775.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fund Balance (@ 1/01/2017)</strong></td>
<td><strong>$46,135.73</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Income (October 1, 2016 – May 31, 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dues</td>
<td>$90.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expected Income (May 2017 – September 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donation from Hein for 2017 Breakfast and Business Meeting</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation from LexisNexis for 2017 Reception</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dues (estimate based on 2016)</td>
<td>$4,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLL Business Meeting Registrations 2017 (no registration fee)</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLL Online &amp; Silent Auction 2017 (and related donations)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raffle Income</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenditures (October 1, 2016 – May 31, 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TS-SIS Contribution (co-sponsorship of ALA mtg reps)</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expected Expenses (May 2017 – September 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AALL Annual Meeting – Two $2,000.00 Grants</td>
<td>$4,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards Committee Expenses (estimate)</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Committee - Annual Conference Programs (estimate)</td>
<td>$2,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equal Justice Conference – One Grant</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLL Breakfast and Business Meeting 2017 (estimate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GLL Reception 2017</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publicity &amp; PR Committee Expenses (estimate)</td>
<td>$700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raffle Items for Breakfast Meeting &amp; Reception</td>
<td>$515.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey Monkey Subscription (skills inventory project)</td>
<td>$288.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIP Sponsorship for Annual Meeting (estimate)</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Balance (May 31, 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Funds (Resource Guides)</td>
<td>$11,360.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Funds</td>
<td>$33,885.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fund Balance (@ 5/31/2017)</strong></td>
<td><strong>$45,245.73</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Respectfully submitted,

James G. Durham, Secretary/Treasurer
2017-2018 GLL-SIS Grants

Christine E. Morton, 2017-2018 GLL-SIS Grants Committee Chair

The GLL-SIS Executive Committee has approved the following grants for 2017-2018:

- One $1,500 grant to attend the AALL Leadership Academy to be held in Oak Brook, IL, April 13-14, 2018.
- One $1,500 grant to attend the Equal Justice Conference to be held in San Diego, CA, May 10-12, 2018.
- Two $1,500 grants to attend the AALL Annual Meeting to be held in Baltimore, MD, July 14-17, 2018. One grant is designated for a new librarian with less than 5 years’ experience and one grant is designated for an experienced librarian with more than 5 years’ experience.

The monetary amount of the grants may be increased at the discretion of the GLL-SIS Executive Committee. Any increase in award amounts will be reported in the GLL-SIS Newsletter, website, and listserv.

GLL-SIS Annual Silent Auction and Fundraising Campaign Results

Christine E. Morton, 2017-2018 GLL-SIS Grants Committee Chair

The 2017 Silent Auction featured 36 items that were donated by 13 members of the GLL-SIS and one special “friend” of the GLL-SIS. Members bid on items ranging from chocolates to clothing to books and jewelry, and raised $656.00 for the GLL-SIS Travel Grants fund. The Fundraising Campaign raised an additional $3,722 in cash contributions from 27 GLL-SIS members. The grand total for both events is $4,378, which is almost $350 greater than last year’s total. 2017 has proven to be another successful year for the GLL-SIS fundraising efforts!

Many thanks to those members who donated items, bid on items, and assisted at the Silent Auction. The Grants Committee would also like to acknowledge the following members for their cash contributions this year:

- Steven Anderson
- John Barden
- Donna K. Bausch
- Joan Bellistri
- Miriam Childs
- James G. Durham
- Julie Eum
- Barbara L. Fritschel
- Marcia Hannon
- Mary Jenkins
- Catherine Lemann
- Elizabeth Terry Long
- Susan R. Ludington
- Sandra Marz
- Christine E. Morton
- Melinda Muller
- Patricia Petroccione
- Elizabeth K. Reppe
- Mariann Sears
- Regina L. Smith
- Maria Sosnowski
- W. Clinton “Buck” Sterling
- Maryruth Storer
- Carol Suhre
- Betsy Vipperman
- Gail Warren
- Jean L. Willis
Highlights from Austin

Dolly M. Knight, Ventura County Law Library

Thanks to the generosity of the GLL-SIS Grants Committee, I received a grant to attend the 2017 AALL Annual Conference in Austin, Texas. It was not only my first AALL, but also my first trip to Austin.

I set myself up for success by attending the Conference of Newer Law Librarians on Friday. I knew that CONELL was for newer law librarians and AALL attendees, so I added it to my registration automatically without looking into the specific program of activities. Signing in, I was handed a piece of paper, “For the bus tour.” Bus tour? I was already unsure of what I was in for.

The AALL Executive Committee and then-AALL President Ron Wheeler and incoming president Greg Lambert gave us warm welcomes and advice on how to make the conference useful for us. We also got to walk around and talk with representatives of the different divisions within AALL. When I first joined AALL in 2014, I immediately joined what was then the State, Court, and County Law Libraries SIS, but I was excited to learn more about other groups, including the Legal Information Services to the Public SIS (LISP-SIS) and the Social Responsibilities SIS (SR-SIS). I highly advise all members to look into the SISs, the Caucuses, and the Chapters available to join within AALL, even if they’ve been members for years. Then we met other CONELL participants in a “speed dating” format, which gave us a nice built in network of other newbies to talk to throughout the conference.

And the bus tour! As you can imagine, Austin in July is hot and humid. The bus tour made it easier to see the sights (the Texas State Capitol, the HOPE outdoor gallery, the University of Texas at Austin campus, Lady Bird Lake, etc.) without turning into a sentient puddle of sweat. Also, there were cupcakes. Win-win.

On Sunday, I got to hear Judge Lora Livingston of the Travis County, TX court, speak at the GLL Breakfast. Judge Livingston is an excellent speaker dedicated to improving the experience of self-represented litigants in the courts, and she discussed the ways in which technology was creating “new models for lawyering.” I saw Judge Livingston again in another GLL-sponsored session on Monday, “The Court’s Perspective: What the Judge Can Tell Librarians About Self-Represented Litigants (SRLs),” and was deeply impressed by Judge Livingston’s perspective on
Highlights from Austin (continued)

Dolly M. Knight, Ventura County Law Library

the issues affecting SRLs. I also appreciated hearing from Lisa Rush of the Travis County Law Library as she discussed how her library worked to respond to the needs of SRLs.

I may have been new to AALL Annual, but I have been to several ALA Annual Conferences and for the past several years I have been an active member of the conference planning committee for the California Library Association’s Annual Meeting, so believe me when I say I’ve heard a lot of keynotes, but none as impressive as the one delivered by Bryan Stevenson of the Equal Justice Initiative. Sometimes library conference keynote speakers, especially if they are not librarians, struggle to connect with their audience. Stevenson doesn’t have that problem. As an attorney and a fierce advocate for justice, he advised us all to get proximate to others, change the narratives that sustain inequality, stay hopeful, and choose to do uncomfortable things. His book, *Just Mercy*, is extraordinary. His speech is available on the AALL site for all members to watch, and I highly recommend it.

The sessions at AALL were engaging and informative. I was really impressed by “Meeting the Legal Information Needs of Transgender Library Patrons: Research Findings, Legal Issues, and Cataloging Challenges,” which featured a researcher, a cataloger, and an advocate. The many things transgender library users might be facing - everything from legal issues to outdated cataloging practices that reinforce inequality - gave me a lot to think of in terms of how to implement best practices for transgender users.

There were also chances to learn about things outside my Government Law Libraries experience. I attended another session called “Moneyball for Lawyers: How Legal Analytics Is Transforming the Business and Practice of Law,” that probably had more immediate relevance to firm attorneys, but seeing where legal technology is headed in terms of using data to predict future outcomes was fascinating. Additionally, it made me curious to see how legal analytics would fold into the databases we currently use.

The exhibit hall held many interesting vendors, and periodically there were therapy dogs. In the mad rush of conference, getting to pet an adorable dog helped a lot. After official conference hours, Austin had a lot to offer in the areas of food and entertainment.

Receiving this grant made it possible for me to attend this incredible conference, and again I thank the grant committee for selecting me and GLL for offering this grant in the first place.

*Photographs courtesy of Dolly M. Knight*
Reflections from AALL

Marcia L. Hannon, Kansas Supreme Court Law Library

First and foremost a huge thank you to the GLL-SIS Grants committee for the grant they provided, so I could attend this year's AALL 2017 annual conference in Austin, Texas. I had an awesome time; between the meetings that were very informative, and the added bonus of networking with lots of other librarians and legal information professionals from a variety of organizations. I was really nervous that I would not have much to contribute, since I am new to government law librarianship and a new member to both AALL and the GLL-SIS.

I started my weekend off with CONNELL, what a perfect way to meet other newer law librarians. We started at 8:00 with a continental breakfast and the conference meeting right after, where we listened to and met with the AALL Executive Board. I know most of us think the thought of a board meeting sounds really boring, well boring it was not! The board kept us engaged in conversation, they encouraged us to get involved by submitting program proposals, writing articles for *Law Library Journal* or *AALL Spectrum*, mentoring and leadership opportunities. After the board meeting we split up; and half went to speed networking where we shared our library experience and exchanged business cards with each other, while the other half attended the AALL marketplace. The marketplace gave us our first opportunity to meet with as many of the special interest sections as we could make it through in our allotted time and learn more about who they are and what they do. It was in the marketplace, I picked up an extra volunteer opportunity for manning the MAALL booth at the convention center. After the busy morning, we had a delicious lunch where we continued to network and share our library experiences. Then it was off to tour the city of Austin with Austin Detours. They took us through downtown, to the Capitol building and to the HOPE outdoor gallery. And to top off a great day they treated us to cupcakes from Hey Cupcake shop on the Southside. It was a long but very informative and fun day!

Every day started with a business meeting breakfast. Sunday was the GLL-SIS business meeting and silent auction. Monday was the Government Librarian Leaders breakfast, and Tuesday was the State Law Librarians breakfast held at the historic Driskill Hotel in downtown Austin. Attending all of the breakfast meetings made for some really early mornings; but well worth the effort for all of the information I collected from other law librarians from court, state, and county libraries. I took something of value away from each breakfast meeting to bring back to my own organization. In addition, I attended several educational programs and an SRL focus group meeting. The program ideas from “Linked Data, Your Library, and You, and the Linchpin Librarian: Becoming an Indispensable and Integrated Resource in Your Organization,” will be very useful in the coming months at our library. Monday was another busy ‘on the go’ type of day, but well worth the effort to hurry from one presentation to the other. One of my favorite programs that day was The Court's Perspective. I was drawn to the way Judge Livingston and Travis County Law Library manager Lisa Rush presented their program, highlighting partnerships and new services in an effort
Reflections from AALL (continued)

Marcia L. Hannon, Kansas Supreme Court Law Library

to help the SRLs, as we are also looking for ways to reach out and help our SRLs in Kansas. In addition to the program, I took part in the tour of the Travis County Law Library. I came home with lots of handouts to sort through, to see if we can customize some for our own needs.

The keynote speaker Bryan Stevenson was absolutely awesome. His message hit home on so many levels, and his book *Just Mercy* is an absolute must read. Bryan takes you through his journey helping people in our criminal justice system who have been wrongly convicted; the poor, and women and children. His book is full of real life experiences of those that were in dire need of help; those people that had nowhere else to turn. I will stop there on the book review because if you have not read it yet, you should. It will inspire you to do things to help others, even if doing so makes you feel uncomfortable. While you may feel uncomfortable, you know you are doing it because you have the ability to make a difference in someone else's life. In today's society we need more people like Bryan Stevenson to push us beyond our comfort level, to encourage us to help those that are in need. Between Bryan's keynote address and the program “The Court's Perspective,” I came home energized to see how we can reach out to and better serve our SRLs here in Kansas, and share that knowledge and information across the U.S.

Last but not least, I want to talk about volunteering. As I stated before, I am new to government law librarianship, AALL and the GLL-SIS. I was already a little nervous about attending the conference; let alone volunteering to help with the GLL-SIS, MAALL poster sessions and the AALL association luncheon, all of which I did and I am so glad that I stepped out of my comfort zone and volunteered. I was intrigued by the people who shared their library stories with me, and I was honored to be able to sit at one of the Hall of Fame inductee tables after my volunteer job at the luncheon was finished. As I look forward to next year's AALL annual meeting in Baltimore, I also look forward to more volunteer opportunities.

As I reflect on this year's annual meeting programs, educational meetings, focus groups, networking and sightseeing tours; I am extremely glad I have chosen to be a law librarian. I am reminded what an awesome group law librarians and legal information professionals are, and how we go out of our way to help others inside and outside of our organizations. I am proud to be a participating member of AALL, GLL-SIS, GD-SIS, MAALL, SWALL, and KLA; and look forward to being actively involved for many years to come. Thank you again GLL-SIS Grants committee for this awesome opportunity you have given me.
How Your Library Can Easily Create a Technology Sandbox

David Brian Holt, Reference Librarian, University of California at Davis Law Library*

Government law libraries are faced with a dilemma when providing information services rooted in modern technology. We are simultaneously struggling with budgetary constraints while also facing pressure to provide relevant services to increasingly tech-savvy patrons. Many of us may find our institutions lack the appropriate infrastructure funding or contend with IT departments that neglect to give libraries the attention they deserve. We may feel that there is little we can do ourselves to modernize our services. The reality, however, is that all libraries – both large and small – can do more with less by working with open-source software tools and utilizing cloud storage and computing systems. This article discusses how libraries can create a technology sandbox on a shoestring budget.

The first step in any technology project is to determine the information needs that are being served. What are the mission goals for your library? Do you intend to modernize your discovery services to make materials easier to locate? Are you hoping to meet preservation goals for archival or special collection materials? Do you simply want to improve how you maintain usage statistics? All of these can be met using open-source tools and cloud computing.

Why Cloud Computing?
Most of us are already using cloud storage systems such as Google Drive, Dropbox, or Box.net. Cloud computing is a similar technology in that it provides off-site computing resources rather than storage. The current predominant vendor for cloud computing is Amazon's EC2 service. You can easily start an EC2 instance on Amazon and install the latest Linux distribution such as Ubuntu or Centos. I recommend starting with the latest stable version of Ubuntu (as of time of writing this is 17.04). Ubuntu is perhaps the easiest Linux distribution to use and utilizes the most recent technologies. For help on how to launch an EC2 instance, take a look at Amazon's documentation or watch a Lynda.com tutorial.

The big advantage with Amazon's EC2 is that a "micro-instance" is free of charge. Although this is a very small server it should be enough to do quite a lot. For instance, you can install Libstats for your reference desk to monitor usage statistics or even create a Wordpress or Drupal website.

Creating a website
The Amazon EC2 micro-instance should be enough to run a small website using either Wordpress or Drupal. This might be a great way for your library to take control over your web presence or to create a website for a special collection, event, or special program. Wordpress and Drupal are both content management systems (CMS) that make it easy to create content for the web. If you've never done this before, I recommend starting with Wordpress as it is both considerably easier to use and has a large library of attractive themes to utilize.
How Your Library Can Easily Create a Technology Sandbox (continued)

David Brian Holt, Reference Librarian, University of California at Davis Law Library*

Improving discovery
Have you wished that you could improve your OPAC but don't know where to begin? After setting up a technology sandbox, you can easily install an open-source discovery platform that may significantly improve your users' experience. There are two major open-source discovery platforms – VuFind (developed at Villanova University) and Blacklight (originally developed at Stanford). VuFind runs a simple LAMP stack (Linux/Apache/MySQL/PHP). Once you have your EC2 instance up and running with Ubuntu it is very easy to set up a LAMP stack. In contrast, Blacklight runs on Ruby-on-Rails which requires considerably more technical expertise.

VuFind has an attractive user interface out of the box and has built-in compatibility with most major ILS systems – Evergreen, Horizon, Koha, Primo, Sierra, Summon, etc. It even includes built-in ability to locate Google or Hathi Trust books and integrate them into your search results. You can even add user-generated book reviews from Amazon or GoodReads and cover art from LibraryThing or Syndetics.

Archives and/or institutional repositories
Another great usage of a library technology sandbox is to create an online archive and/or institutional repository. This is going to require some technical skill but most of these tools provide ample documentation and technical assistance. One of the big advantages of open-source software projects is that there are online communities who are more than willing to provide assistance when you need it. The most common open source repository platform is Dspace. It has been around for a number of years and is widely used in academia, government, and private industry.

Does this sound scary? It's not! As with any project, start small and improve your skill set. Be reasonable with your goals and give yourself ample time. Perhaps set aside an hour every Friday afternoon to work on your sandbox and learn a new skill. It's a great way to contribute to your professional development and can help your library make more informed decisions about technology purchasing or strategic planning.

Want to get started? Here is a list of resources that may be helpful:

Lynda.com - http://lynda.com
Treehouse – http://teamtreehouse

*David Brian Holt was formerly Branch Librarian, Ninth Circuit Library and Research Services, San Jose, California.
The State Law Library of Mississippi hosted Dr. Carla Hayden, the Librarian of Congress, on Friday, August 18, 2017, to begin the Library’s celebrations of its upcoming Bicentennial in January 2018. In January 1818, the Mississippi Legislature passed a Resolution for the purchase of books and maps which led to the organization of the State Library, now commonly known as the State Law Library. Dr. Hayden was our special guest as appellate judges and law librarians from throughout the state gathered to socialize and view the original 1818 Resolution which was on display.

Dr. Hayden was sworn in as the nation’s 14th Librarian of Congress in September 2016 after being nominated by President Obama and confirmed by the United States Senate. She is the first female and first African-American Librarian of Congress. She is also only the third Librarian of Congress to actually have training as a librarian. Her visit to Jackson, Mississippi involved a whirlwind of activity as she not only visited the State Law Library but also served as the opening speaker of the Mississippi Book Festival.

In her remarks to the group at the State Law Library, Hayden spoke about the Library of Congress’s origins as a Law Library. When the nation’s capital moved to Washington, D.C., it was recognized that Congress would need a special collection of legal materials. This collection of legal materials was what formed the Library of Congress in 1800. As the Library became a fashionable meeting place for tourists and locals, it was deemed necessary that the legal collection be pulled and separated from the main collection, and, in 1832, the Law Library of Congress was created as a separate department within the Library of Congress.

“Over time, it has grown to be what is arguably one of the biggest legal collections in the world,” Hayden remarked.

Hayden spoke highly of law librarians and commended those who push forward in obtaining both the law degree and library science degree. Hayden envisions law librarians as being on the front lines of legal knowledge, and she was pleased that she could start...
State Law Library of Mississippi Hosts Librarian of Congress (continued)

Stephen Parks, State Librarian, State Law Library of Mississippi

out her trip to Mississippi with a stop by the State Law Library to visit with those law librarians in attendance.

The State Law Library will continue its bicentennial celebrations in January 2018 when it will host CLE presentations on the Library’s history and resources and will provide presentations on legal research for non-law librarians.

Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress, with the Staff of the State Law Library of Mississippi
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