Cataloging as Value-Added Library Service

Melissa M. Powell, MLIS, Independent Librarian, library trainer and consultant, and proprietor of BiblioEase.com


I have been working on automating a library at a private school in the mountains. They are SO excited that their students can not only find everything in the library now, they can get items from other libraries as well. The major portion of this project is the cataloging. The non-library folks helping out are amazed at the process of creating metadata for each item and coding it so that it is searchable and therefore findable.

I have always understood and preached the gospel of cataloging however this reminded me how truly important GOOD cataloging is!

The first thing people often see of a library is its webpage. One of the major portions of that webpage is the catalog of books, DVDs, ebooks, etc. The coding in each record is used to make virtual displays, bestseller lists, and promotions. Without proper cataloging the web interface would be like a library with locked doors. You know there are things inside you just can’t get to them.

Everyone on staff uses the results of cataloging, and even cataloging itself, to assist customers. Every piece of descriptive metadata added about the informational item is one more lock opened in searching for that item. The more you understand subjects, authors, editors, form, and titles the better you are at finding and “selling” your product (information).

In this age of budget cuts we often think of the frontline as the most important and last cut. That’s what the public sees. We can outsource the rest. True. I am an advocate of outsourcing cataloging, especially for smaller libraries that lack the expertise and staff. However, someone must always understand how cataloging works at your library. Someone must determine how they are to be classified for YOUR library. Someone must understand cataloging so they catch the errors and communicate with the catalogers you are working with.

Continued on page 32
2015-2016 Officers, Committee Chairs, and Representatives

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Duke University

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**ALAC Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA)**
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**ALA Subject Analysis Committee (SAC)**
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Send Us a Message
Thinking about 2016

Most of this Fall, I have been thinking about 2016 and all the great things to come with the New Year. A big (surprise to me) focus on my time has been 2016 American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) Annual Meeting planning. I came into this position hoping to spend my time focusing on all those things that have to be done outside of the annual meeting, yet, October and November were filled with Special Interest Section (SIS) Matrix planning. My article this issue will focus on introducing you all to things to come in 2016.

2016 AALL Annual Meeting

At this event, for a few days in July, we get to spend face-to-face time talking about truly important aspects of our profession. Here are some highlights from our preliminary schedule (please note that, as of yet, we have not finalized plans with headquarters, so some of this may change):

Roundtables and Working Groups: Based off of feedback from last year’s task force, roundtables and working groups are key to our SIS for getting work done, so half of our allowed meetings have been reserved for these groups. None of the meetings will happen on Saturday. We will also be trying to have online components to many of our meetings, so that people not at the conference can still participate in the discussions.

Technical Services (TS) Hot Topic Forum: We reserved a spot in the TS meeting schedule for an educational program that we will decide on closer to next summer. Because I am writing this prior to the Annual Meeting Programming Committee (AMPC) accepted programming announcement, I cannot elaborate more on what type of specific programs there will be on the schedule. Please be on the lookout for more information about TS-related and sponsored programs in the next few weeks. Also, please think about what you want to talk or learn more about during this TS-powered forum.

Marla Schwartz Fundraising and Social Event: This year, TS will host a new event to honor Marla Schwartz. This will be a ticketed event, in which part of the ticket cost goes directly to supporting the Marla Schwartz grant. At this event, we will also recognize all 2016 grant winners, plus encourage new members and more-experienced members to meet and socialize. As you may recall, there will not be activities tables in 2016, so we are trying new approaches to help our members gather and raise money for our named grant. We are also exploring ways to move the Marla Schwartz Auction online, so that all our members can participate.

Outside of the Annual Meeting

About 40% of TS members attend the annual meeting, which means that our meeting in Chicago cannot and will not be “IT” this year. Here are the other great things to look forward to in the New Year, sans the annual meeting.

Eforums and Webinars: The new Professional Development Committee has already conducted a handful of eforums on various TS-related topics. They will offer more in the New Year, some in conjunction with standing committee work, such as Acquisitions! This committee has also been working hard to propose AALL webinars. Because the deadline is rolling, you can be sure to find some TS-specific webinars in the next months.

Task Force on Committees: The task force is continuing to work on investigating how the membership and past committee chairs view the role of committees. I think the results of this work will be just as insightful as last year’s task force on Roundtables.

Bi-annual TS Membership Survey: 2016 will mark another survey year. This survey helps with committee work, meeting planning, and educational opportunities, so please take the time this Spring to fill it out and let the TS Executive Board know more about the things that are important to you as a member.
Online Bibliographic Services
Special Interest Section

The members of the Online Bibliographic Services (OBS) and Technical Services (TS) Special Interest Sections (SIS) are embracing a quantum shift in the history of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL). AALL is discussing a name change to the Association for Legal Information. This discussion coincides perfectly with an opportunity for technical services librarians to articulate and demonstrate our value within the profession. To this end, I applaud the efforts of the members of the 2016 OBS Education Committee for proposing programs for the 2016 AALL Annual Meeting in Chicago, which will empower law libraries to explore new ways to meet the needs of the legal community.

As we reinvent and re-imagine the vision of the legal information network from a local to a global one, there are enormous opportunities for technical services librarians. The volume of this network is growing and becoming more reliant upon automated processes. As law libraries expand their digital footprint, there is a need for the expertise of technical librarians in this transformational process as advisors, planners, trainers, educators, and collaborators.

In navigating an ocean of data sources, the leadership of the OBS looks forward to identifying, sharing, and moderating innovative change that will make technical services librarians more diverse in our work experiences and skills. Ultimately, I hope that the forthcoming holiday season will be an enjoyable one for each of you!

Marjorie E. Crawford
Rutgers University

From the Chair

From the Editor

Welcome to the final issue of the Technical Services Law Librarian (TSLL) for 2015! This issue has our usual eclectic mix of columns and issues—as the editor-in-chief, it is always satisfying to see how a group of individuals with no pre-coordination can be so diverse while at the same time so cohesive. This issue has two new columnists: Sara Campbell (State of Oregon Law Library) is now writing the Acquisitions Column, and Adrienne DeWitt (North Carolina Central University) is now writing the Collection Development Column. I would call your specific attention to Aaron Kuperman’s Classification Column—Aaron has the specific task of updating the KF schedules in three areas of law, and he is seeking help from the law library community. Dan Blackaby’s Internet Column on the case law digitization project at Harvard Law (which has been in the news) is very timely; and Beth Farrell’s Management Column on the digitization of trial material related to the Sam Sheppard murder case (i.e., “The Fugitive”) is fascinating.

I would also like to remind you that the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) Executive Board has voted to change the name of AALL to the Association for Legal Information (ALI). Membership will vote on this change in January. I urge you to listen to the town hall sessions and view the discussion list available on the AALL website and cast your vote in January. This is such a significant change, and I believe that all members of AALL have a responsibility to express their opinion by voting on this proposal.

Michael Maben
Indiana University, Bloomington
The Lines Are a Blur

Sara E. Campbell
State of Oregon Law Library

A little over three months ago, I transitioned from serving the people of Lubbock, Texas, as Briefing Clerk for Court Administration, where I occasionally did part-time research while mostly assisting our County Law Librarian with her daily tasks as a solo librarian. I became the Electronic Services Librarian for the State of Oregon Law Library on September 8, 2015, joining a wonderful staff of eight (including myself). My prior experience in school or while job hunting taught me to value being a jack-of-all-trades in the library realm. I knew what to do with both microfilm and microfiche. Neither public, academic, or bar card carrying patrons scared me. I knew the difference between Metadata Object Description Schema (MODS), Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard (METS), Dublin Core (DC), and Qualified Dublin Core (QDC) metadata schemas and the appropriate encoding structures for each. I file SuDoc numbers in the correct order without really even thinking about it. I’m familiar with Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) collection regulations. I can create electronic databases or small repositories from scratch. I have laminated graphic novels. Yet, on my first day, I still had a coworker ask me if I had ever worked a day in a library. I replied that I had a J.D. from the University of Missouri—Columbia, an M.L.I.S. from the University of North Texas—Denton, a Certificate of the Completion of Program of Study in Legal Informatics with my M.L.I.S., and a Certificate of Digital Content Management from the University of North Texas—Denton, all accompanied by library experience. The one part I did not tell my colleague is the one insight I have gained over the past few years. I knew when clerking for the Missouri Office of the Attorney General—Division of Agricultural and Environmental Law that I wanted to be a law librarian because I fell in love with doing research in the Missouri Supreme Court Law Library. I knew I wanted to know as much about the books and databases confined in those walls that I could possibly find out. I was also doing faculty research at the time and was being pushed to consider an alternate career. I haven’t been in Missouri in many years, but I still remember how the Missouri Supreme Court Law Library smelled or having to turn over my cell phone, upon entry, to a State Trooper with a basket. The one thing that has changed has been the blurring of the lines between public services, circulation, technical services, publications, interlibrary loans, and all of the other departments in a library you can imagine. On a daily basis as an Electronic Services Librarian, I do work with LibGuides and do some coding, but I also recommend titles (electronic and print), work a shift at the Reference Desk, perform circulation duties at the desk, re-shelve items at the end of the day, answer the phone, and perform other tasks regularly. I simply cannot hide in the West Mezzanine and pretend that if it isn’t digital, then I don’t touch it. I am a dual-degree law librarian, and I will do whatever my employer needs me to do. I think we will see more metadata topics and more electronic services topics creep into technical services in the next few years. I am happy to write articles on such topics if the Technical Services Law Librarian (TSLL) would like to print such subject matter. Libraries are starting to emphasize training beyond public services. If you are more interested in other topics, please let me know, and I will find material that is more appealing.

I recently attended the three-day Springy Camp for LibGuides Users. I learned that one can use LibGuides and Canvas to create stylized textbooks, like Nicole Dettmar is doing for the Health Sciences Library at the University of Washington. I strongly urge you to watch her presentation on creating ebooks like she does for the medical school, which is available at http://buzz.springshare.com/springycamp/Nov-2015/Dettmar.

Changes in Library of Congress Classification (LCC)

Once upon a time, jurisdictions universally defined marriage as involving one man and one woman, with some countries having an option to include multiple women. Once upon a time, computers were large critters that took up entire rooms and were “talked to” by means of stacks of 80-hole punch cards, and “computer law” was an obscure sub-discipline of
interest only to a bunch of professors with time on their hands and nothing serious or pressing to write about. And in the
United States, bankruptcy was governed by the Bankruptcy Act of 1938 and involved liquidation of the bankrupt’s assets
through closing down the business and selling off the assets, sending individuals to the poor house, etc., though there were
unrelated non-bankruptcy options for debtor relief as well. The KF schedule, first published almost 50 years ago, reflected
all of these scenarios. And while it was reasonable then, the world has changed and, by not changing our schedules, we look
foolish and dated. In practical cataloging terms, we end up with a large number of books on very specific topics dumped
into general numbers, which defeats the purpose of having a classification system.

For these three matters, I will be making changes to the schedules (but I need help). Unlike the usual procedure requiring
“literary warrant” (i.e., you need a book on the subject to make a proposal), I have permission from the Policy and Standards
Division’s (PSD) specialists to make the changes without a book. In addition, for the changes involving same-sex marriage
and computer laws, I have permission to make the changes for all schedules and tables; usually, we make changes to one
schedule or table at a time and only when a cataloged work classes in that schedule or table. Please note that these changes
will largely involve adjusting caption and indentations and adding notes and references – avoiding the massive displacement
resulting from the introduction of the KIA-KIE and KZ schedules. I vetted these changes with the Library of Congress (LC)
Law Section Head, the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) Technical Services Special Interest Section (TS-
SIS) Subject and Classification Advisory group, and everyone in LC’s PSD that routinely has a say on law classification.

**Same-sex marriage in LCC**

Same-sex couples should have a number indented under marriage law, captioned so that works on same-sex domestic
partnership, quasi-marriage, and marriage stay together (if it ever becomes necessary, we could separate the topics with
decimals), and the treatment (at least in countries in which same-sex marriage is valid) parallels traditional marriages. This
requires changes of indentation and notes, but otherwise reflects current practice. In the future, numbers for “unmarried
couples” will indicate works on unmarried heterosexual couples or unmarried couples in general, and the notes will clarify
matters, especially for future users who will perceive prohibition of same-sex marriage as historical. For the multi-country
tables, we will have to account for the fact that many countries continue to prohibit same-sex marriage and, in many cases,
criminalize homosexual behavior.

In addition, we should explicitly say that aspects of domestic relations as applied to same-sex couples (e.g. Parent and child,
Marital property, Estate planning, etc.), should class with the topic rather in the “same sex” number, using a not-first subject
heading such as “Same-sex marriage—L&L” or “Gay couples—Handbooks, manuals, etc.” to bring out that the work is
aimed for or about same-sex couples. This means the numbers for “Same-sex marriage” will only be for general works on
the subject, which is similar to how the numbers for “Marriage law” are treated. This appears to reflect current practice.

For example, in KF we can add a note to the general marriage number (KF506-537) saying to class works here on marriage
in general, including heterosexual marriage, but to class works limited to same-sex marriage in KF539. In addition, we will
adjust indentations to reflect that at least some countries’ legal systems consider “same-sex” marriage normal.

Same-sex divorces should class with divorces, because they pose no special issues due to the gender of the divorcees. Note
that we do not need to change Custody of children, which is routinely an issue in heterosexual divorces, because it never
classed with divorce but instead has its own number indented under “Parent and child.” However, perhaps a note under divorce
that custody classes elsewhere would help users. Because most aspects of marriage don’t class directly under marriage, but
as separate topics indented under Domestic relations, using them for same-sex marriage shouldn’t be a problem.

**Bankruptcy in KF**

LC never revised the KF schedules (published in 1968) to reflect the adoption of the current Bankruptcy Code in 1978.
Among the major changes introduced in 1978 were: (1) ways for individuals to declare bankruptcy without having to liquidate
their assets; (2) a much easier way for businesses to “reorganize”; and (3) a new system of bankruptcy courts. Whereas
“bankruptcy” once involved liquidation (e.g., the sale of a business’s assets at auction or the person goes off to the poor
house with not much more than the clothes on his/her back), today the forms of relief governed by the Federal Bankruptcy
Code are part of a graduated range of types of debtor’s relief. We will reflect this in the caption and indentation, without
changing numbers. It will probably involve changing the caption for this entire section to indicate that “bankruptcy” and
“debtors’ relief” are no longer as distinct as they were in the past.

Business bankruptcy today has changed radically since 40 years ago, in that previously, attempts to reorganize were attempts
to find an alternative to bankruptcy, whereas today, reorganization is done pursuant to the Bankruptcy Code. This suggests
that we should no longer use the number in KF1535 for business bankruptcy, and that the Chapter 11 reorganizations should
go only to KF1544-KF1546, which we should make part of bankruptcy through indentation. Cross-references should
emphasize the distinction between reorganization of a failing company as opposed to the reorganization done to maximize profits and shareholders’ value, such as through mergers or spinoffs. The subject headings also need changes, but that’s more of a problem because changes to the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) require retroactive application to the bibliographic file.

We need separate numbers to distinguish “Chapter 13” (debtor repayment) as opposed to “Chapter 7” (debt wiped out) personal bankruptcies. In addition, we should include the names of the chapters in the LCC, probably as “Class here” notes because this reflects the terminology used by writers and researchers (just check the titles of the books). Also, the need to update terminology so that the correct place to class the United States Trustee and the Bankruptcy Courts is obvious; the captions reflect the meaning, rather than having to deduce it from checking the catalog to determine current practice.

Computers and law in LCC

Every schedule has what is by now an “infamous” dump number with the caption “Works on diverse legal aspects of a particular subject and falling within several branches of the law,” such as KF390.5.C6, in which hundreds of records are in the same cutter. While that number will remain “open,” a note will follow it, begging users to use other numbers and listing more specific places to class “computer” law.

For topics where the internet (computerized, online, whatever) manifestation has evolved, such as where the “digital” topic is simply the modern version of the “analog” topic, we will use the existing heading and add an “including” note for the digital. This reflects current practice. Thus, instead of merely implying it, we will expressly state that “digital signatures” class in the same place as the old-fashioned way of signing documents (with a pen, as they did back in the 20th century – and don’t be shocked if some not-especially-old users start asking how a signature can be legally binding unless validated with a PIN or a retina verification or whatever they come up with next). Similarly, we will add a note to the captions for “Commercial law” telling users that the caption is “Including electronic commerce,” rather than letting users figure it out for themselves using common sense and the correlation feature of Classweb (and taking into account that, in the future, people consulting the schedules will be asking what sort of commercial activity can possibly be non-electronic).

For Telecommunications (e.g. KF2761-2765), we will add an “including” note saying that general works on the internet class here, because it now appears that almost everything in the “telecommunications” area (telegraph, broadcasting, telephone, etc.) are now done via the internet. It is not so much that the internet has replaced “telecommunications,” but that people now conduct all telecommunications via the internet. A note will make clear that specific applications of the internet class with the application.

For subjects where the internet is similar but different, we will set up numbers near the equivalent, such as a number for “email” near post or telephone, and “social media” near mass media.

“Streaming” is a good example of how to apply this criterion. When we get a book on the law of streaming, it should get its own number in the same area as broadcasting. Streaming is similar (distributing content to an unlimited number of users) but different (companies can charge each individual separately). However, for a work on the intellectual property aspects of streaming, one number should cover both streaming and broadcasting, because, from a copyright perspective, the issues are identical (distributing someone’s content to a large number of people); one jurisdiction has already adopted this pattern (KJE2665.73).

Help needed

While the legal system is rooted in history, it is constantly changing. If we fail to keep our classification (not to mention our other metadata/cataloging tools) up-to-date, we risk rendering ourselves obsolete. New topics need new numbers or at least a decision to use a previous number based on a determination that the old concept and the new concept are not really different enough to justify separate numbers, but we then need a note or caption change. At the very least, catalogers should be attentive to whether a section of the schedules varies from the legal literature it classifies, so we can keep our tools up-to-date.
Greetings. My name is Adrienne DeWitt, and I will be authoring the next few Collection Development columns. For my first column, I thought I’d present you with a hypothetical.

During a large and comprehensive weeding project, a library makes the decision to get rid of its print regional reporters. They based the decision on the following reasons: (1) in 2010, budget cuts forced the cancellation of updating all print reporters; (2) there was no discernable patron usage; and (3) the law school uses Westlaw/Lexis/Bloomberg Law for all case law research. Moreover, the library is in the midst of “freshening up” its interior with the intent to move away from the more traditional library environment and towards the academic learning commons found in undergraduate institutions. Weeding out the print reporter volumes would free up a significant amount of space for a student commons area in the library.

Despite the obvious benefits for deselection of the print reporters, the library first made sure to advertise the upcoming deselection to all faculty members. This was done through email, posters, and personal communication through the library liaison program. The library received no comments from faculty via email communication, and personal discussion through the liaison program was overwhelmingly supportive of deselection. Thus, the library proceeded with the deselection and all print reporters were discarded.

Several weeks after weeding the collection, a faculty member drafted an assignment requiring students to look up cases in the print volumes of the regional reporter. Soon after, another faculty member asked for print volumes of the regional reporter for some case law research. Upon learning that the library discarded the reporters, several faculty members stepped forward to express both surprise and dismay. Although the reasoning for the decision was articulated and clearly well-reasoned, there is now a sense of ill-will towards the library. Some faculty members have even asked if it’s possible to have a law library without having a set of print regional reporters.

Should the library have kept its print reporters?

It’s a tough one. As collection development librarians, we must walk the line between collecting and maintaining material that fits within our collection development criteria, meets our patron’s academic and scholarly needs, and remains within our budget. This balancing test is burdensome enough; however, now collection development librarians must also factor in a generation gap between faculty who may still be fond of print resources (even if they never use them) and the new 1L, educated in undergraduate academic commons and unfamiliar with traditional library research. Because the trend in library science is towards the academic commons approach, law libraries find themselves on the crossroads. In these austere times, the question now becomes whose academic and scholarly needs must we meet?

Throughout the next year, I plan to look more closely at the some of the issues facing today’s collection development librarian, including the issue of the collecting generation gap, ebooks and ebook platforms, and large scale weeding projects, to name a few. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or have a recommendation for a topic.

Transcribing statements of responsibility (SoR) was simpler in AACR2. Following AACR2 1.1F7, we (aside from a few exceptions) ignored titles, forms of address, and additional information associated with entities recorded in the SoR. “By Prof. Dr. J.O. Pritchard, LL.M., Professor of Law at the Massanutten Institute of Technology” became simply “by J.O. Pritchard.” If there were more than three entities doing the same function, the “rule of three” at AACR2 1.1F5 told us to record only
the first one followed by “… [et al.].” Resource Description and Access (RDA) brought us options for transcribing SoR, but the Library of Congress/Program for Cooperative Cataloging (LC/PCC) practices are “generally” to take these options away. RDA 2.4.1.4 gives us the option to abridge a SoR “only if this can be done without loss of essential information.” RDA 2.4.1.5 gives the option of deploying the “rule of three” using language like “by So-and-so [and six others].” The LCC/PCC practice for RDA 2.4.1.4 states “Generally do not abridge a statement of responsibility,” and 2.4.1.5 states “Generally do not omit names in a statement of responsibility.” How are we to interpret these enigmatic little sentences? They seem to say that we should usually not abridge any data nor omit any names when we are transcribing a SoR, but “generally” seems to leave some room for judgment for exceptional cases.

I doubt that many catalogers mourn the loss of the “rule of three,” but what about the provision that we “generally” should not omit any words when transcribing the SoR? How does this work in practice with certain categories of legal publications with copious data on their title pages?

Real life example: “by Richard O. Lempert, Eric Stein Distinguished University Professor of Law and Sociology, emeritus, University of Michigan, Samuel R. Gross, Thomas and Mabel Long Professor of Law, University of Michigan, James S. Liebman, Simon H. Rifkind Professor of Law, Columbia Law School, John H. Blume, professor of law, Cornell University, Stephan Landsman, Robert A. Clifford Professor of Tort Law and Social Policy, DePaul University College of Law, Fredric I. Lederer, Chancellor Professor of Law, William & Mary School of Law.”

That looks... terrible. On a title page with line breaks and changes in typography, the human eye easily reads all of this information. In a SoR in a MARC record, it is a jumbled mess. It would be nice to be able to apply the option at RDA 2.4.1.4 for cases of overly long parenthetical information, but since PCC practice has “generally” disallowed that, we have to see if we can do anything to improve the situation. RDA 1.7.3 is part of the general section on transcription and it allows us to “Add punctuation, as necessary, for clarity.” Can we add punctuation to that SoR to help make it more understandable— even marginally so?

Real life example, take two: by Richard O. Lempert (Eric Stein Distinguished University Professor of Law and Sociology, emeritus, University of Michigan), Samuel R. Gross (Thomas and Mabel Long Professor of Law, University of Michigan), James S. Liebman (Simon H. Rifkind Professor of Law, Columbia Law School), John H. Blume (professor of law, Cornell University), Stephan Landsman (Robert A. Clifford Professor of Tort Law and Social Policy, DePaul University College of Law), Fredric I. Lederer (Chancellor Professor of Law, William & Mary School of Law).

While still a lot of verbiage, the parentheses go a long way in making this SoR more comprehensible. I doubt the PCC practice will change any time soon, so using parentheses to enclose lengthy parenthetical information associated with names in SoR may be our best solution for the time being. Email discussions on the PCC list were supportive of this approach, and I am seeing it more in practice.

The Harvard Ravel Law Project in a (Perfect) World

Dan Blackaby
Cornell University Law Library

A few weeks ago, law libraries were in the news because of the big case law digitization project underway by Harvard and Ravel Law. It was heralded as a great thing, and while what will distinguish it from other case law collections such as Justia’s or even Law Library Microform Consortium’s (LLMC) may come out in the wash (would it just be the pretty PDFs?), it got me wondering what it was I myself would like to see in my “optimal” case law database. So, below I’ve listed what I would want – feel free to disagree, to add or subtract – your mileage may vary.

- Metadata/Taxonomy
  For this database truly to be effective, it needs a good metadata scheme. Full-text searching is all good and wonderful, but without the conceptual scaffolding of a good metadata scheme, it won’t be any more useful than a zip file full of PDFs. I would also want it to have multiple conceptual layers, allowing the user to track things not only by jurisdiction and thematics, such as constitutional law, white-collar crime, eminent domain, etc., but, if possible, by authoring judge. There’s really not a good case law metadata scheme out there, although they’ve tried to apply legal metadata schemes to legislation in Europe. One might argue that the Westlaws of the world
apply a scheme in a way with the KeyNumber systems, but that at heart is an overlay. I want it in the metadata of the document itself, ready to interact with the semantic web and linked-data functions. So, time data is vitally important as well. Treat the procedural history as part of the metadata. Let researchers be able to follow the flow and paths of not just the cases, but at the concept and issue levels as well.

- Platform Neutral
  I don’t want to be stuck using it only in the Ravel Law interface. Outside of the needs of a good user interface, be it responsive, A.D.A.-compliant, etc., it needs to be flexible. If this were truly open source, they could release the case law as data sets, even as multiple, discrete data sets based on different criteria.

- Durable
  I want digital object identifiers (DOIs). This would go a long way toward the goal of perma.cc, if instead of random registrations we had actual permanent, durable Uniform Resource Identifiers (URIs) from a recognized standard source. Eventually, why not make the DOI into THE citation. Published would mean “does it have a DOI?”

- Annotations
  Now this is something I can see working three ways, if there must be a standard platform. You could have editorial annotations, crowdsourced annotations, and personal annotations. Of course, I’d also like the option to just turn off the annotations. Letting researchers contain their own notes within the system is, however, vital to maximizing utility. Research folder capability is a must.

- Parsible/Flexible
  This ties back into the use of it as a data set. I want to be able to integrate into aggregators such as Ozmosys, but I also want to be able to use application program interfaces (APIs) to dig around in it and to allow developers to use the data however they find possible. It also needs to work with things like Westlaw’s QuoteRight or have an integration function with flexible lookup operators like a Wikipedia, a Black’s Law Dictionary, or an Oxford English Dictionary lookup.

- Citation Friendly
  Take this in conjunction with the Durable section above, discussing the DOIs. I often cheat using the BestLaw extension on Westlaw, but why not actually put The Bluebook citation in as part of the document itself? The easiest way to make sure people cite things properly is to give them the citation.

- For all audiences
  This shouldn’t be a resource used only by academics or as a public silo. It needs to be available for integration and use by all audiences, including the commercial. Sure, Ravel Law is ponying up the dough, so they’ll likely determine this question. If this is going to be any different than any of the other case law databases out there, it needs to BE different.

Those are my thoughts, for right now. I’m sure I’ll have some more later as the project develops. Does anyone else have any thoughts? Disagree with me? Let’s hear your thoughts. No one’s going to know what we want unless we tell them.

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Learn to Show Your Value to Leadership: A Guided Tour through the Wonderful World of Metrics, Part One

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At the 2015 American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) Annual Meeting, I had the privilege of joining forces with three firm librarians to help our colleagues learn more about communicating their value to leadership. This presentation was well-received by attendees, and my work preparing for it reinforced the importance of an oft-overlooked facet of using metrics to communicate value. In order to communicate value to a group, you need to match your reported metrics to your audience, and that means understanding what your audience values.
With increasingly tight budgets and smaller staffs who are searching for ways to do more with less, the time we have available to collect and analyze data and prepare reports is drastically shrinking as well. Efficiency and effectiveness are a necessity, so it is imperative to have a clear view of (1) how to utilize tools you already have at your disposal and (2) what measures your leadership will find valuable.

It’s easy to fall into a trap of reporting the same basic measures to leadership time and time again and expecting those numbers to prove our value. However, these numbers rarely do more than track our inputs and outputs. Instead, we need to keep our mindset open and recognize that basic reporting on staff, supplies, equipment, money, resources, and services provided by the library are just part of the equation. Yes, these measures can be very valuable to your leadership when making operational decisions, but rarely do they demonstrate value from the points of view of your patrons, your stakeholders, and your leadership.

In order to paint a true picture of value, libraries need to focus on outcomes and impacts, tracking what we can manage, and using anecdotal and qualitative data to fill in the blanks where we don’t have the time, staff, or ability to track measures. As a result, it is imperative to gather and record these more elusive anecdotal and qualitative pieces in the same way as you collect measures – consistently and with purpose.

When you are deciding on measures to present to a particular audience, whether quantitative or qualitative, remember to stop and ask yourself three questions. First, is the measure meaningful? Second, does it show value from investment? Third, does it tell the right story? Taking the time to answer these questions will push you into the mindset of your audience – in this case, leadership. This brings me to another fact that I found reinforced during my preparation for the program. Particularly in academia, determining what your leadership values is a challenge in itself.

As I said at the AALL Annual Meeting, academic librarians have the “privilege” of participating in this interconnected web of ever-changing priorities and pressures and a bizarre hierarchical structure where many individuals in the hierarchy think they themselves are the top of the pyramid. Students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, stakeholders, attorney members, and public patrons are all strings on the web, meaning that even a word like leadership can cover quite a few genres, and many of these genre values overlap. While it is a tangled mess, librarians are lucky enough to move back and forth, plugging into every sticky string in the web. As a result, we have an opportunity to create and prove value at every stop.

So how do you know what’s valuable to these groups? For stakeholders and administrators, you’ll need to look closely at your school’s mission statement and strategies. For students, you’ll need to reach into the values of your current student population, which changes year to year in dynamic and sometimes unexpected ways. For faculty and staff, you’ll want to take the time to learn about their own missions and goals. And for groups such as alumni, the public, and attorney members, you need to understand their own needs and desires.

Once you understand what your audience values, work to match both your metric collection and reporting to the audience’s specific languages and perspectives. Don’t forget that helping others gain insight into their own audience’s wants and needs, or helping others more effectively justify and prove their own value, are ways of making your own services valuable as well.

I know what you’re thinking – perspective is great. But how can you do this on a shoestring? Here are just a few strategies we employ at Charlotte Law, using tools you probably already have at your disposal or free tools that take little time or effort to implement.

Let’s start with statistics you can automatically collect and reports you can generate using your integrated library system (ILS). These statistics are built-in, so while they may require a little front- and back-end work, the collection of the measures is effortless. In order to make this automatic collection as useful as possible, your first step is to go in and exploit your fixed-field options in every module. All records in the system should have fixed fields that you can define locally – if you are not using these fields, think about what information you can add to them to make operations and reporting more efficient. For instance, check-in records could feature a field that holds what month the subscription is up for renewal.

At a loss for what fields could be useful in reporting? Find the time to sit down with your leadership or someone familiar with what your leadership values and review reporting options. Talk to them about what measures they’d like to see, what reports they would be interested in, and explain the ins and outs of reporting. Help them understand what data you do and don’t have access to. Explaining the data they already have access to and the breadth of reporting options can help you match custom reports to the current pressures, regardless of what regular reports you may run. For the data they’d like to see that you don’t have, try to come up with ways to begin tracking these measures, even if it’s in an informal way, or find another way to gain an equivalent insight.
A final tip related to your ILS (which you may already do) is to review all of the required reporting you have to complete year-to-year and match your ILS data collection, reporting, and fixed fields to include these measures, turning these requests into something quick and painless instead of a treasure hunt of epic proportions.

Another great platform to leverage for quick and easy ways to create and prove value is Springshare—we have used their products over the last five years to embed ourselves in almost every aspect of the law school. It’s a fantastic tool of value creation and value demonstration, both for us and for the various groups throughout the school we support with Springshare.

For instance, we all know that LibGuides built-in basic reporting demonstrates value of specific resources to your patrons and allows you to tailor future efforts in an effective manner. Creating custom LibGuides for school-wide programs and initiatives adds instant value through a dynamic marketing tool and a repository of resources for their participants. The metrics LibGuides collects on the use of these provided resources creates long-term value, giving leadership direct feedback on what resources and content users most often access and thus see as important.

We use LibCal exclusively for our study room bookings, and our study rooms span over half of our twelve floors. LibCal’s automatically-collected room booking statistics give administrators and stakeholders insight into the value patrons place on the building and spaces scattered throughout the school on specific date and time ranges, giving them tools to help them make informed decisions about closing particular floors over summers and holidays.

Originally just for room bookings, now we also use LibCal in an outside-the-box manner as a counselor scheduler for academic success, bar passage, and writing center counselors. People inundated our information technology (IT) department with requests for a scheduler that they were unable to fill due to monetary and time constraints; with collaboration and communication lines open between IT and the library, we were able to gather these departments’ individual wants and needs and use the functionality LibCal provides to create varied approaches to meet these needs. We also tailor their student sign-up forms to match the metrics administrators require them to report. Collaboration in problem-solving and creatively using a product the school already owns as the solution increases the value of the library to leadership as well as to the IT department. Giving these counselor groups an opportunity to not only connect effectively and efficiently with our students, but also the ability to create custom reports to support their value in terms that leadership understand, increases the value of the library to the counselors as well as leadership in the school.

We also began rolling out individual MyScheduler accounts to faculty who were requesting sign-up sheets on their distance education class pages. Working closely together with our Learning Technologies team, we now have a simple and easy process for setting up new accounts and have extensive detailed documentation walking them through every aspect of the process, from LibCal set-up to D2L integration. Again, assisting outside departments in solving a problem for our faculty, for no cost and little additional effort, is always valuable to leadership’s bottom line.

We even used our free instance of LibAnalytics to create an annually-updated databank of professor information for Academics, including information such as courses taught and evaluation scores. Professors fill out the survey once a year and submit it to the databank, which users can search in a variety of ways using the LibCal interface. This venture increased our value to administrators, stakeholders, and faculty members by helping them easily identify quality professors to teach new classes.

We can also add any social media efforts throughout the library to value equations, as most leadership groups value the concept of engagement. Creating and maintaining even a simple blog that promotes activities, the collection, resources, scholarly works, introduces librarians and student workers, and keeps up with alumni is a great way of consistently fostering audience engagement through fairly minimal effort. You can even link the blog with other social media accounts so posts automatically roll over to Facebook, Twitter, Google+, LinkedIn and more.

Our own library blog, started many years ago after an AALL Annual Meeting, grew to such proportions through our dedicated efforts as a staff that leadership approached us when the school was charged with increasing their social media presence and asked to partner with us. Now, Charlotte Law Library News has expanded into the official Charlotte Law blog, rolling over to all the official Charlotte Law social media channels as well, and the library provides full support for sharing not only library information, but all of the amazing things our students, staff, faculty, and school do every day.

Student engagement is a buzzword in academia, so it’s inevitable that leadership will be receptive to ways you’ve increased student engagement and helped keep their social media channels flowing with positively branded content, marketing, and outreach. A challenge of academia is that your student base changes every year and faculty and initiatives come and go; it’s difficult to keep your finger on the “current” pulse of your population. However, through even just the metrics automatically
In Fall 2012, the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Library received 60 boxes of materials from the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s Office related to the Dr. Sam Sheppard trials. In order to acquire this collection, we participated in a competitive bidding process with several other libraries, as well as the Smithsonian Institution, so we were thrilled when we won the right to be the caretaker of this important piece of local – and legal – history. Even if you aren’t from Cleveland, you probably know a bit about the Sheppard case as it may have been the basis for the 1960s TV show “The Fugitive” and the 1993 feature film of the same name, starring Harrison Ford.

At about 6 a.m. on July 4, 1954, Sheppard called his neighbor and friend, Bay Village Mayor Spencer Houk and said, “My God, Spen, get over here quick, I think they’ve killed Marilyn.” Someone had brutally murdered Marilyn Sheppard, thirty-years-old and four-months pregnant, in her bed. Sheppard reported that a bushy-haired intruder had killed Marilyn and that he fought with one or more people in the house and on the Lake Erie beachfront by their property. Someone had burglarized the house – or staged it to look burglarized. Amidst a media storm, Sheppard stood trial and a jury convicted him on December 22, 1954, for the second-degree murder of his wife. The media frenzy so tainted his 1954 trial that the United States Supreme Court released him in the landmark decision Sheppard v. Maxwell. At his 1966 retrial, a young F. Lee Bailey represented Sheppard, and the jury acquitted him, but he died just four years later.

In 1999, Sam and Marilyn’s son, Sam Reese Sheppard, unsuccessfully sued the state of Ohio for the wrongful imprisonment of his father. The documents the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s Office collected and used for this civil trial are the basis of the collection given to Cleveland-Marshall. The collection consists mostly of legal-sized and 8.5 by 11 paper documents such as trial transcripts and other court documents, police reports, and work product of the prosecution team. Other formats include DVD and VHS video recordings, audiocassette recordings, newspaper articles, microfilm, photos, and slides. Since 2012, we’ve scanned over 11,000 unique documents (over 80,000 individual pages) with flatbed and document feeder scanners. We also created a website (http://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/sheppard/) on the bepress platform, which we also use for our institutional repository. Since the website was launched in May 2014, we’ve had almost 200,000 downloads by people from all 50 states and 105 countries.

Our contract with the Prosecutor’s Office included a few different charges: to digitize everything and give these digitized copies back to the Prosecutor’s Office; to make everything available to the public, digitally and in print, as per Ohio public record law; and to create a website featuring some of the materials. Most of the paper documents are in good condition and we were able to run many through a document feeder scanner. The 60-year-old newspaper articles, many stapled or glued into scrapbooks, were the most fragile items in the collection.

We have no dedicated special collections staff at Cleveland-Marshall, so my colleagues and I quickly learned a lot about managing a very large digitization project. If you have a dedicated archivist or special collections staff, or have lots of time to plan, you will undoubtedly be much more prepared than we were . . . but I’ll share some quick, hopefully practical, tips, in case your library finds itself in a similar situation someday!

Just pick one! If you are picking a digital asset management system (DAMS) from scratch, know that each one – from expensive proprietary software packages to open source systems – will have advantages and disadvantages. Review the recent literature, ask trusted librarian colleagues, but then just go with your instincts and choose what you can afford and like best. Knowing there isn’t a “perfect” system out there for you to identify can take a lot of stress (and time!) out of the selection process. (For a great, current snapshot of the varied DAMS market, see Ayla Stein and Santi Thompson’s: Taking

Share! Have a shared document for your controlled vocabulary – even if you have one team member responsible for creating and maintaining the vocabulary. Having real-time access to this document is a great timesaver if you have a big project team. Also, even if you have a dedicated metadata librarian, the rest of the team can suggest vocabulary terms simply by adding to the shared document in a different font color. We also have our detailed inventory on a shared spreadsheet, and this spreadsheet became the basis for the collection’s online finding aid (we linked the digital files to the individual file names in the spreadsheet.)

Respect! Respect that each person will have different preferences for scanning workflow. For instance, some on our team could happily sit and scan photos all day long, while others felt driven mad by this monotonous activity. Allow whatever individual preferences you can, while still maintaining an overall efficient workflow.

Store! Have plenty of flash drives with lots of storage space on hand, as well as some external hard drives. We moved files from computer to computer very often, so having the right tools on hand saved time.

Measure twice, cut once! The Sheppard collection includes hundreds of documents with social security numbers, phone numbers, and other personal information. If you have a collection which may require redactions, either have your inventory person scrutinize and carefully mark the documents before handing them over to the scanners or, if you don’t have an inventory person in your workflow, tell your scanners to look over each page carefully. While this takes time, in the long run it’s much more efficient than redacting the print and digital versions after you have already scanned them. Please learn from our biggest mistake!

Duplicates are ok! We often had the same document in different boxes. Weigh the amount of time it takes to identify possible duplicates against the time it would take to just scan the document (as well as the physical and digital space to store it). In a 2015 Charleston Conference session entitled “Avoiding Pitfalls of Special Collection Digitization,” several panelists reported that they had just gone ahead and scanned books or documents because they calculated that would have taken more time to determine if digital copies already existed in the same, or better, condition.

Don’t forget! Don’t forget your regular office copiers/printers. We found that we could program one of the machines we use for everyday office printing to output TIFF documents. Adding another scanner into the mix greatly increased our productivity.

And, finally, play! Scanning for eight straight hours can be mind-numbing. I encouraged those scanning to play music, audiobooks, sports talk radio - whatever kept their energy up!

Announcements from OCLC

OCLC Webinar on Metadata Globalization
OCLC has announced a webinar to be held on August 25 at 9:00AM EDT to discuss the importance of aggregating metadata on a global scale. This webinar is meant to expand a discussion from the April 2015 meeting of the OCLC Global Council to the entire OCLC membership.

More information, and the link to register for the webinar, can be found at http://registration.oclc.org/reg/?pc=Global_Council_webinar_150825.

OCLC Announces August Enhancements to WorldCat Discovery Services
OCLC has announced new features and content that have been added to WorldCat Discovery Services in August. Availability has been added to the brief results for libraries that have added the availability option, and brief results will now also include a prominent link to “Other editions and formats” when appropriate without requiring users first go into the detailed title record for such information.

OCLC has installed changes reported in Tech Bulletin 265

The changes related to Library of Congress (LC) MARC21 Updates 19 and 20 first reported last month have been installed by OCLC. These changes are detailed in Technical Bulletin 265 and include:

- Defining code “q” in the Holdings 008/07 (Lease as method of acquisition)
- Removing “university presses” from the definition of Government Publications
- Implementing first indicator, subfield $3, and subfield $5 in bibliographic field 037

More details can be found at https://www.oclc.org/support/services/worldcat/documentation/tb/265.en.html.

OCLC Announces September Enhancements to WorldCat Discovery Services

OCLC announced new features and content that have been added to WorldCat Discovery Services in September 2015. New features reported are Personal Lists that allow users with staff accounts to save items from search results, and Local Information Display, which can show localized information based on a library’s Local Holdings Record (LHR).

New content includes research for African politics, Chinese social sciences, and many of the world’s religions and languages from providers including Brill, Korean Institute of Science and Technology Information, and Sabinet.


OCLC Announces October 2015 Enhancements to WorldCat Discovery Services

OCLC announced new features and content that have been added to WorldCat Discovery Services in October 2015. New features include direct linking to databases, while new content includes academic journals on education and social welfare and articles to help understand the causes and consequences of genocide.

A reminder is also included in the release notes that WorldCat Discovery will replace FirstSearch on December 31, 2015 for per-search access and in late 2016 for unlimited searching.


Library of Congress

A lot has changed since the last column; for starters, I parted ways with Georgetown Law Library. This was no easy task; everyone there is a true professional. It made my time there very rewarding.

Well, as they say, onward and upward, right? I am now at the Library of Congress, serving as Section Head for Collections Retrieval and On-Site Constituent Support Services in the Collections Access, Loan & Management Division (CALM).

Colleagues have asked what intrigued me the most as I walked the beautiful halls of the Library of Congress. As a librarian who is passionate about collections, access, and preservation, my “tour” of choice was the stacks and not the halls. I was surprised to see books on the floor and double-stacking. I had to blink several times and pinch myself. Were my eyes deceiving me? I soon came to terms—every library has space issues, including the Library of Congress. In a matter of weeks, the issue was resolved; teams worked feverishly to remove and relocate books.
Outgoing and Incoming, Chair, Preservation Committee

Effective September 2015, I am no longer serving as Chair of the Technical Services Special Interest Section (TS-SIS) Preservation Committee. With added responsibilities in my new role, it was best to pass the torch. Therefore, Hollie White, TS Chair, arranged for Sharon Bradley, Special Collections Librarian at the University of Georgia, to assume this role.

Below are a few questions I asked Sharon:

*Describe the path that led you to become the Chair of the Preservation Committee.*
Twisted and convoluted come to mind. I was initially a reference/faculty services/technology-instruction type librarian. But Georgia Law had a rare book room and a number of old collections, so I just found myself jumping in. It was fun mucking about in dark corners, and you get a real sense of accomplishment when you re-discover, catalog, and return materials to the collection for potential use.

*What are you most excited about as you step into your new role?*
Re-engaging with the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL); I had not been able to attend the annual meeting for several years and felt rather cut off. Truthfully, I was very surprised when my co-worker asked me if I’d be interested in the position. I wasn’t even a member of TS-SIS. But then I thought why not, jumping in is becoming my modus operandi.

*How do you plan to increase awareness about this committee and preservation as a whole?*
My theme: Preservation is Sexy. I hope everyone likes my theme. I really do believe that librarians working in special collections, which usually includes preservation and archives, will become increasingly important. Every law library will have the same databases and offer similar services, but it’s the special collections that will distinguish one library from another.

*What resources do you frequently use to help navigate the world of preservation?*
We’re members of LYRASIS. They have a Preservation Services department. I’ve taken a number of their classes and refer to their collection of resources and publications. See [http://www.lyrasis.org/Pages/Main.aspx](http://www.lyrasis.org/Pages/Main.aspx).

*Are there any questions you would like to pose to Technical Services Law Librarian (TSLL) readers?*
How do we bring sexy back? With apologies to Justin Timberlake, how do we make preservation a hot topic? It’s a topic that’s relevant to any library that’s been around for a few years. I also think shared collection development and increased lending of our special materials are two areas that deserve more attention. There’s not much point in having special or rare materials if you have to tell the one person in the world that wants an item they have to travel to your library. How do we make that one person happy, sing our praises, and acknowledge us in their publication?

Guest Columnist

For the past year, TS-SIS Preservation Committee members served as guest columnists for the TSLL Preservation Column. This new initiative was well-received; it gave members an opportunity to choose their own area of preservation to write about. I am happy to report this will continue for another year. If you have any downtime during the winter break, be sure to catch up on past issues. And while you are at it, don’t forget to browse past Preservation Tips of the Month, too, available at [http://www.aallnet.org/sections/ts/Resources/Preservation-Tips](http://www.aallnet.org/sections/ts/Resources/Preservation-Tips).

Archivists Directory

Between January and July 2015, TS-SIS Preservation Committee members gathered 70 names for an Archivists Directory for AALL members. The committee experienced a little hiccup when three members left between July and September. However, now that we have a new chair, more information is forthcoming. Stay tuned.

Goodbye, 2015

I hope your collection had a good year; cheers to 2016.
One of the biggest changes we have made to our collections this year is the addition of ebooks, a change that has had a significant impact on the technical services department. We launched two separate platforms in the first half of 2015, the LexisNexis Overdrive eBook platform and PLI DiscoverPlus. While the PLI site contains access to all of their publications, for Lexis we had to review our current print subscriptions and the list of ebook offerings to come up with a final title list and contract. We also do not have unlimited access to Lexis ebooks and had to determine an appropriate number of copies for each.

There are many advantages to ebooks from the perspective of technical services staff. The platforms automatically install updates to the ebooks and there is less filing time, thus saving us money on filers. This also eliminates the possibility of filing errors or removed/lost pages. The addition of ebooks also involved a reduction of our print collection. In working on the Lexis Overdrive contract, we reviewed all of our Lexis print content and decided how many copies we needed to continue to maintain in print and in which offices. Less print updates also means less time needed for serials check-in. As we start to reduce our print collections, we will also reduce the time needed for shelving.

One advantage for our reference staff is they no longer have to spend time tracking down a Lexis volume that is off the shelf; instead, they can immediately see who has it checked out. Overdrive also allows us to recall books, such as if there is an attorney with an immediate need for access. With PLI, we have unlimited access, so attorneys and staff can always access the content that they need, regardless of whether someone else is using it at the time. With both platforms, they can also provide the content to attorneys in all of our offices, with instant access.

The ebook platforms also provide us with valuable statistics and information about the use of the collections. In many of our offices, we do not have electronic checkout and therefore do not have usage statistics for our print collection. With these new ebook offerings, we are able to see how often people are checking out a title. In the future, this will allow us to make changes to our Lexis contract to add copies of more popular titles and reduce the number of those that people check out infrequently. We could also swap in new titles in frequently-used practice areas.

Of course, as with any change or new technology, there are some challenges and downsides as well. Both platforms required extensive preparation and training of library staff, so that everyone was prepared to assist patrons after the rollout. We also had to train library staff on Overdrive Marketplace, the Overdrive administrative module. I worked with a colleague from the reference team to prepare a number of “how to” handouts and created a detailed page on our Intranet site. We wanted to make the learning process as easy as possible for our attorneys and staff, and to be able to quickly point them to instructions for using the site and answers to common questions.

Once the ebook sites were live, we scheduled vendor representatives to come in and hold trainings for attorneys and staff. For Overdrive/LexisNexis, we had incentives to encourage attorneys to both attend a training session and to check out ebooks. Our reference librarians did outreach in all of our office locations. They have also worked to encourage attorneys to use the ebook offerings when answering requests and assisting individuals with research. It will take some time, but we hope that eventually ebooks will become a default resource for many attorneys.

One challenge that may become a bigger issue down the road is that each vendor seems to be using a separate platform for ebooks, unlike the publishers of “popular” literature who all seem to work with Overdrive. This means that our attorneys and staff will have to remember where to go to access different publishers’ titles and have an idea of which publishers’ ebooks are available to them. They will have to learn how each platform works and remember an additional ID and password for each system. However, in many ways, this is no different than how attorneys and staff are used to conducting legal research in legal databases. They have to go to different sites to do research on WestlawNext, Lexis Advance, or Bloomberg Law. Hopefully, this experience this will make the process a bit easier, and it will be interesting to see if individuals develop preferences for a certain ebook site, as they seem to do for the research sites.

For technical services staff, there has not been a significant increase in our overall workload, but we have had to make some adjustments. The ebook providers send basic MARC records, and we edit them to meet our internal catalog standards. The
invoicing process is slightly different for ebook titles than print titles, so our Acquisitions Librarian has had to make a few changes to make sure we track and organize everything efficiently. We do have a few additional administrative tasks to do for LexisNexis Overdrive, such as weeding older editions when we add new editions to the collection and setting up new library card accounts for new hires.

In 2016, we look forward to further outreach to encourage ebook use and possibly additional reductions in our print collections. I would be interested to hear if others have any feedback on how the implementation of ebooks has gone in their firms or if they have any tips to share.

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**The Power of the Write-In**

In previous articles, I encouraged people to treat writing like exercise—schedule it daily and make it part of a routine. I have also mentioned my experience with Duke’s library writing group. This past summer our writing group conducted a new member campaign and changed how we ran our meetings. One key component of this was using write-ins in place of discussion-based group meetings.

**What is a write-in?**

A write-in takes a different approach to the solitary way of working on a writing assignment. A write-in is when two or more people schedule a time to write separate pieces, while writing at the same time. Write-ins can be held either virtually or in person. Some write-ins have prompts (either specific or vague), while others allow individuals to continue to work on a larger piece of writing.

**How to hold a write-in?**

1. Find people interested in writing.
2. Schedule a time to gather together (either virtually or in person).
3. At the scheduled time, take five minutes (or an email) to review the purpose of that day’s write-in.
4. Once everyone knows the “goals” of the session, start writing.
5. At the end of the scheduled time, take five minutes (or an email) to review what people accomplished or how they felt about the experience.

**Personal reflections on write-ins**

Since this summer, my writing group has held two sets of write-ins. We held the first ones in June as physical write-ins. Because July is librarian conference season/vacation time, write-ins were scheduled at the beginning and end of the month. A few people (actually different people in each group) met for each session. Each lasted for an hour. We had a prompt about brainstorming, but in my group each person worked on her own material. The following month someone actually presented to the group about the piece she started writing during that first write-in.

We held the second set of write-ins in August. Because this was the beginning of the school year, we set up four dates for hour-long virtual write-ins, and the optional topic was abstracts. We sent emails at the beginning and end of each scheduled writing session. People were encouraged to post what they had written on the group’s online Sakai site. While members of the group initially seemed more enthusiastic about the virtual write-in, participation in this event was not substantial. We plan to review this virtual write-in experience at our next meeting.

**Conclusion:**

I believe a write-in is not only a helpful tool for publication and scholarship, but also an excellent team-building exercise. For example, how about using a write-in for the next round of local annual reports? Treating writing like a conference or training day could help boost morale and make the process a shared experience instead of a solitary commitment.

Making time to write can be a continuing challenge for busy professionals, so an occasional write-in may be just the thing to help someone finish that article or brainstorm ideas for the next big project.
Sometimes you have to hunt around for good serials-related library content. Remember that there are many organizations and conferences that focus on serials throughout the year that you can tap into for information and ideas. Here are a few that I recommend:

**NASIG**: NASIG began as an organization dedicated to serials, but in the past year it has refocused its vision and mission statement to include the management of information resources in all of their forms. NASIG’s vision statement states: “NASIG is an independent organization working to advance and transform the management of information resources. Our ultimate goal is to facilitate and improve the distribution, acquisition, and long-term accessibility of information resources in all formats and business models.” NASIG holds an annual meeting every year in the late Spring/early Summer. NASIG will hold their 31st Annual Conference, “Embracing New Horizons,” June 9-12, 2016, in Albuquerque, NM. More information is available at [http://www.nasig.org/](http://www.nasig.org/).

**Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS)**: ALCTS is a division of the American Library Association (ALA). This group focuses on the acquisition, identification, cataloging, classification, and preservation of all kinds of library materials. Besides providing programming at ALA annual and midwinter meetings, ALCTS is a leader in webinars, web courses, and eforums. Look under “Online Learning” on their website to see upcoming educational offerings, available at [http://www.ala.org/alcts/](http://www.ala.org/alcts/).

**Electronic Resources & Libraries (ER&L)**: The goal of the annual Electronic Resources & Libraries Conference is “to bring together information professionals from libraries and related industries to improve the way we collect, manage, maintain, and make accessible electronic resources in an ever-changing online environment.” The annual conference topics are crowd-sourced and ER&L makes sessions available in an online conference format in addition to the in-person conference. In addition to regular sessions and exhibits, there are many four-hour workshops offered as pre- and post-conference sessions that allow for a deeper dive into specific topics, such as copyright, EZProxy, and social media. The next ER&L Conference will be held April 3-6, 2016, in Austin, TX. For more information about ER&L, including purchasing online archives of previous conferences, go to [http://electroniclibrarian.org/](http://electroniclibrarian.org/).

**Charleston Conference**: Held in Charleston, SC, each year in early November, the Charleston Conference draws librarians, publishers, and vendors from around the globe to focus on issues arising in the acquisition and dissemination of library materials in all formats. The Charleston Conference does not have exhibits and is not attached to any professional organization. It instead focuses on having frank conversations while seeking solutions that work for everyone in the information resources chain. For more information, go to [http://www.charlestonlibraryconference.com/](http://www.charlestonlibraryconference.com/). The journal *Against the Grain* (available at [http://www.against-the-grain.com/](http://www.against-the-grain.com/)) developed out of the Charleston Conference as a way to keep the conversations going all-year long. *The Charleston Advisor*, which provides reviews of online library resources, and *The Charleston Report*, focusing on business insights to the library marketplace, both also developed out of this annual conference.

**Acquisitions Institute at Timberline Lodge**: Originally a sort of West Coast version of the Charleston Conference, the Acquisitions Institute at Timberline Lodge in the mountains of Oregon has stayed small in size (enrollment limited to 85 attendees) to offer librarians, vendors, and publishers a relaxed forum to discuss issues of concern. The next conference, focusing on the methods and innovation of building and managing library collections, will be May 14-17, 2016. Find out more at [http://www.acquisitionsinstitute.org/](http://www.acquisitionsinstitute.org/).

**Internet Librarian conference**: Held every Fall, usually in Monterey, CA, Internet Librarian is a conference organized and produced by Information Today, Inc. Similar to Information Today, Inc.’s Computers in Libraries conference held in Washington, D.C., each Spring, the Internet Librarian conference and exhibits focus on new technology and the new roles and directions that information professionals are taking within the “info service biz.” This is an interesting experience if you really want to seek ideas outside of the law libraries. The most recent conference information is available at [http://internet-librarian.infotoday.com/2015/](http://internet-librarian.infotoday.com/2015/).

**Ohio Valley Group of Technical Services Librarians (OVGTSI)**: Founded in 1924, OVGTSI draws its members from the states of Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio; however, membership is open to anyone interested in library technical services.

North Carolina Serials Conference: You can experience the entire 2015 North Carolina Serials Conference in the pages of Serials Review, Volume 41, no. 3 (2015). The special issue features invited articles as well as substantial conference reports. Highlights relevant to law libraries include:


Remember, you don’t have to live in North Carolina to attend! The 25th Annual North Carolina Serials Conference will be Monday, March 21, 2016, in Chapel Hill, NC. It is all the serials discussion you can handle, packed into a one-day conference format with a low registration fee. Find out more information at the conference website at http://web.lib.ecu.edu/ncserialsconference/.

This “Serials Issues” column is my final contribution to Technical Services Law Librarian (TSLL) (for now!). I have enjoyed focusing on serials-related topics and digesting them into this column to share with you. Thanks for reading!

The acquisitions and cataloging staff of the University of California, Berkeley Law Library recently identified the following serial title changes:

ICC International Court of Arbitration bulletin
Vol. 1, no. 1 (June 1990)-v. 25 (2014)
(OCoLC 24102276)

** Changed to: 
ICC dispute resolution bulletin
2015, issue 1-
(OCoLC 914168750)

The University of California, Berkeley Law Library serials and acquisitions staff identified the following serial cessations:

Asian yearbook of international law
** Ceased in print with: ** vol. 15 (2009)
(OCoLC 27607314)
Available via DILA (open access) from v. 16 (2010) onwards
http://www.dilafoundation.org

Berkeley business law journal
** Ceased in print with: ** Vol. 10, no. 1 (2013)
(OCoLC 54441942)
Available free of charge online: http://scholarship.law.berkeley.edu/bblj

California lawyer
** Ceased with: ** v. 35, no. 10 (Oct. 2015)
(OCoLC 7810967)

John Marshall journal of information technology & privacy law
** Ceased in print with: ** Vol. 30 (2013/2014)
(OCoLC 869382068)
Print issues of v. 31, no. 1 - will only be available through “print-on-demand”: http://repository.jmls.edu/jitpl

Koinodikion
** Ceased with: ** Vol. 9 (2003)
(OCoLC 34771249)

Law & policy
** Ceased in print with: ** Vol. 37, no. 4 (Oct. 2015)
(OCoLC 10761514)
Issues available via Print on Demand

Osgoode Hall law journal
** Ceased in print with: ** Vol. 51 (2013/2014)
(OCoLC 2349900)
Starting with v.52 title will be published online (open access). Print on demand available: http://www.ohlj.ca

Recht in Japan
** Ceased with: ** Heft 14 (2006)
(OCoLC 4747867)
Comparative law continues to puzzle me. Not the discipline of foreign and comparative law, but rather the Library of Congress Subject Heading (LCSH) for it. It includes the following scope note: “Here are entered works on the comparison of various systems of law as a method of legal study and research. Comparative studies of individual legal topics or branches of the law are entered under the respective headings applying to these subjects.” Does this mean that we may use the heading for works discussing whether judges may use foreign law in deciding domestic questions? It does, apparently. After all, it has a “used for” term named “Comparative jurisprudence,” and a recent book titled *Courts and Comparative Law* uses that heading. However, the note seems to imply that the subject heading may be restricted to discussions in academia about the discipline of comparative law. Might it help to expand the first sentence of the scope note to “Here are entered works on the comparison of various systems of law as a method of legal study, research, and legal and jurisprudential reasoning?” Perhaps not; after all, “legal reasoning” is “Law—Methodology” in LCSH, and perhaps this proposed addition to the scope note is vague. Nevertheless, something to indicate that the heading can apply to more than academic discussions of the subject itself might be in order.

It has been a while since we last considered recent subject headings of interest. There have been many; hopefully a mere listing will suffice here. In the realm of civil rights we have “Right to be forgotten,” “Identification numbers, Personal – Law and legislation,” and “Journalism – Law and legislation.” In the area of criminal law, “Malicious prosecution” no longer takes the subdivision “Law and legislation”; “Mass shootings” has been approved (note “has been” and not “have been,” at least not by the Library of Congress); and we can now use “Drug use and traffic accidents,” “Parolees” and its narrower term “Women parolees,” and “Suicide – Law and legislation.” In the area of international law, we may now use “Track two diplomacy” (non-governmental organizations or individuals negotiating, and not governments, see the scope note); “No-fly zones (International law)” and “Reciprocity (International law).” In the area of education, “Bullying – Law and legislation” is available, as is “Bullying in universities and colleges.” We may now use the headings “Bisexual teachers” and “Transgender teachers,” and the more general heading “Gender-neutral toilet facilities” can apply to education on all levels, as well as to a recent election in Houston, Texas. The subject of microaggression has been in education news recently and now has its own subject heading, “Microaggressions.” In the area of intellectual property, “Copyright—Newspaper articles” is now “Copyright—News articles.” The subject “Augmented reality” refers to videogames which use 3D and other virtual reality methods; it now takes “Law and legislation.” In the area of religious law, “Banking (Jewish law)” and “Credit (Islamic law)” have appeared, as well as “Jewish law teachers.” LC also established the term “Honor killings—Religious aspects.”
Other headings of interest include the change of “Environmental law—Criminal provisions” to “Offenses against the environment—Law and legislation.” “Integrated coastal zone management” now takes “Law and legislation.” In the area of business, “Business networks” and “Related party transactions” both now take “Law and legislation.” “Health insurance—Self-insurance” now takes “Law and legislation.” The heading “Moral damages (Civil law)” is recent. While it sounds like “Exemplary damages,” civil law systems may have more than one class of non-pecuniary damages, so use caution before simply equating them.

There is, of course, no substitute for going over the monthly lists and taking note of new legal subject headings and new headings of interest to law catalogers.

Contributing authors: Marlene Brubrick, Sean Chen, Elyssa Gould, Jackie Magagnosc, Ashley Moyer, Emily Nimsakont, Jean Pajerek, Lauren Seney

Acquisitions

Law Libraries, Loose-leaves, and Print - Oh My!

Few law librarians these days are sheltered from the battles of print vs. electronic waging war across our lands. A common site for skirmishes is the “Land of Loose-leaves” – do we get an adequate return on the investment we make in these materials? Take a look at what our neighbors north of the border at Slaw (http://www.slaw.ca/) have to say about the pains and gains of loose-leaf publications in a world that’s becoming increasingly digital:

- Louis Mirando (http://www.slaw.ca/author/mirando/) starts out the conversation with his keen observation that, although the keynote speakers at the Canadian Association of Law Libraries in May all had their own unique vision about “The Future of Legal Publishing,” they all converged at one particular place: “there is no future for loose-leaf publications, a publishing format on life support that should have died a natural death years ago” (http://www.slaw.ca/2015/07/22/the-curse-of-loose%2Ad-leaf-law-books/). He details the curse of loose-leaves through history, succinctly summarizing the imbalance of perks for publishers and drawbacks for librarians and their patrons.

- Gary P. Rodrigues (http://www.slaw.ca/author/rodrigues/) chimes in next and builds on this framework from his perspective as a publishing industry consultant. He clarifies the message and appeals to his colleagues: “The time . . . has come for Canadian legal publishers to listen to their customers and act on what they hear” (http://www.slaw.ca/2015/07/24/loose-leaf-pain-no-ones-gain/).

- David Collier-Brown (https://www.linkedin.com/in/davidcollierbrown), a guest blogger from the computer science industry, paints a crystal-clear picture of what end-users really want from their “continually up-to-date” professional publications, as well as what they’ll pay for. “In effect, I need looseleafs, except I really don’t need them on paper in three-ring binders” (http://www.slaw.ca/2015/07/28/the-only-thing-wrong-with-looseleafs-is-theyre-printed-on-paper/).

- Susan Munro (http://www.slaw.ca/author/munro/), Director of Publications of Continuing Legal Education British Columbia, revisits these earlier posts and weaves them together into a usable premise for legal publishers to hold on to as they plan their future steps: “The print version doesn’t need to be up to the minute, but the online version does” (http://www.slaw.ca/2015/09/03/loose-leaf-redux/).


Incidentally, the sample sets of statistics provided in their press release caused one DePaul law librarian, Mark Giangrande, to make an interesting observation: “We in the academic business try to prepare students for the tools that they can expect to use in practice. If law firms are buying less print . . . why are academic libraries still buying at a much higher percentage?” (http://llb2.com/2015/08/31/study-examines-the-shrinking-print-collection-in-law-libraries/). Why indeed, Mark? Why indeed?
Cataloging

Library Workflow Exchange

I recently became aware of a new website designed to let librarians learn from each other by sharing their workflows. At Library Workflow Exchange (http://www.libraryworkflowexchange.org/), you can check out what other librarians are doing in a variety of workflow situations. The website launched in June, and it already includes workflows for processes relating to cataloging, authority control, archives, and a variety of metadata standards, among many other topics. If you are inspired to share your library’s workflow to help populate this resource, instructions to help you do so are available at http://www.libraryworkflowexchange.org/submit-your-workflows/.

You can also keep up with Library Workflow Exchange through their Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/libraryworkflowexchange/) and their Twitter account (https://twitter.com/LibWorkflowEx).

Library of Congress makes BIBFRAME training materials available

In preparation for its much-anticipated BIBFRAME cataloging pilot project, the Library of Congress (LC) has developed training materials for staff involved in the pilot and made the first of three modules available online at http://www.loc.gov/catworkshop/bibframe/. They divided module one into two sets of slides, plus supplementary reading/viewing assignments and brief quizzes. The training materials are designed for experienced catalogers and do not assume prior knowledge of linked data concepts.

The first set of slides provides a brief introduction to the concepts behind the Semantic Web and linked data, as well as the evolution of the World Wide Web from a web of documents to a web of data. It explains the need to move bibliographic data out of its MARC silo and onto the Semantic Web.

The second set of slides delves into the principles underlying Resource Description Framework (RDF), the “language of the Web.” Detailed, clearly-presented examples of RDF triples provide a concrete visualization of what bibliographic data structured in RDF looks like.

Although I found a number of typos in the slides (I AM a cataloger, after all!), I found the training materials very helpful in confirming and deepening my knowledge of linked data and the Semantic Web.

Conversations about Resource Description & Access (RDA)

Library Journal’s INFOdocket reports (http://www.infodocket.com/2015/07/22/new-video-training-series-from-lc-conversations-about-rda/) that the Library of Congress has released a new series of training videos, “Conversations about RDA.” Topics include:

• Compare and contrast: AACR2 and RDA in the bibliographic record
• Undifferentiated personal name headings
• Cataloger judgment and statement of responsibility
• Capitalization, abbreviations, & numbers
• Exercising judgment in the statement of responsibility

The videos average 20 minutes and provide focused looks at a topical areas. The videos are available from the Library of Congress Webcast page within the Science and Technology category (http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/results.php?cat=8).

Preaching to the choir

As catalogers, we are under constant pressure to do more, faster, with less. We can base institutional workflows on the assumption that we can add bibliographic records created by the Library of Congress and/or Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) libraries to our local catalogs with minimal or no review. “Good enough” is the operating standard. What is the importance of wrong, right, or right-er metadata in our catalog records? We have all seen examples of records with egregious errors, such as biology subject headings and an “SB” call number in a record for a legal treatise. Consider that metadata for electronic materials are frequently of lower quality than metadata for print.

Using examples in the areas of theology and religious studies, the author argues that inconsistent application of subject metadata and call numbers impairs our user’s access to materials. The issue is not easily quantifiable, but without quantifiable data, it is difficult to argue the administrative decision to forgo careful review of catalog copy for accuracy and integration with records already present in a library’s catalog.

Government Documents

Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) Coordinator Certificate Program
The Federal Depository Library Program conducted a successful pilot of their FDLP Coordinator Certificate Program during the spring of 2015. This FDLP Academy virtual program is designed to educate FDLP coordinators on managing depository collections in compliance with the program requirements of the FDLP.


FDLP announced sign-ups for two initial training cohorts ([http://www.fdlp.gov/news-and-events/2297-sign-up-to-participate-in-the-fdlp-coordinator-certificate-program](http://www.fdlp.gov/news-and-events/2297-sign-up-to-participate-in-the-fdlp-coordinator-certificate-program)). The Fall 2015 FDLP Coordinator Certificate Program ran from October through December, with weekly sessions scheduled for either Wednesdays or Thursdays. Participants must have been available to attend all sessions of their cohort and complete all assignments and assessments to earn a certificate.

FDLP plans to make recordings of the training materials presented available as webcasts via the FDLP Academy webcast site for depository personnel interested in selected topics and those not able to attend the full training sequence.

Information technology

Re-Envisioning the M.L.S.

On August 1, 2015, the University of Maryland iSchool released “Re-Envisioning the MLS: Findings, Issues, and Considerations,” an attempt to predict the future of the Master of Library Science (M.L.S.) Reading through the document, it is hard to see where those of us working with traditional metadata—MARC catalogers—fit into this vision of the future. The report is a product of the iSchool’s “Re-Envisioning the MLS” initiative, launched in August 2014, and it is intended to answer questions such as: what is the value of an M.L.S. degree; what should the future M.L.S. degree look like; and what are the competencies, attitudes, and abilities that future library and information professionals need?
Key findings listed in the executive summary include:

- The shift in focus to people and communities
- Core values remain essential
- Competencies for future information professionals
- The M.L.S. may not be relevant/necessary in all cases
- Access for all
- Social innovation and change
- Working with data and engaging in assessment
- Knowing and leveraging the community
- Learning/learning sciences, education, and youth
- Digital assets and archival thinking

The “core competencies” for future information professionals include: “the ability to lead and manage projects and people; to facilitate learning and education[;] . . . marketing and advocacy skills; strong public speaking and written communication skills; a strong desire to work with the public; problem-solving and the ability to think and adapt instantaneously; knowledge of the principles and applications of fundraising, budgeting, and policymaking; and relationship building among staff, patrons, community partners, and fundraisers.”

Perhaps the report describes our work at a deeper level. Reading through the detail under “core values remain essential,” one finds, among others, the concept of “Preservation and Heritage,” described as “providing current and future access to records, both analog and digital.” Another piece of our work seems to be categorized under “Working with Data and Engaging in Assessment,” with a stated need for professionals who can “manage data assets and understand digital curation techniques.” The section “Digital Assets and Archival Thinking” mentions the importance of information professionals who can help communities manage, curate, and preserve their digital assets.

Finally, in a table intended to summarize key topical areas of a future M.L.S. curriculum, one of nine suggested content areas is “Digital Asset Management,” described as the “ability to create, store, and access digital assets.” Skills listed in this area are metadata, information organization, data storage, and access/retrieval systems. It is interesting to note the report links the skills we think of as “cataloging” only to digital resources. Although this document is focused on the future, one feels a need to say “I’m not dead yet!” on behalf of more traditional metadata and resources.

**Orphan works and the lost web**


The article reminds us of the fragility of the web and some of the efforts that the Internet Archive and the Library of Congress have been making in the areas of digital preservation, and maybe surprisingly bibliographic control. See [https://medium.com/@adriennelaf/what-will-yesterdays-news-look-like-tomorrow-7f82290ab8d0](https://medium.com/@adriennelaf/what-will-yesterdays-news-look-like-tomorrow-7f82290ab8d0).

Additional relevant commentary includes:

- David Rosenthal, the designer of the Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe (LOCKSS) protocol writes about the story from the perspective of an [orphan font problem](http://blog.dshr.org/2015/10/a-pulitzer-is-no-guarantee.html) where the underlying platform is under copyright, in addition to the content (available at [http://blog.dshr.org/2015/10/a-pulitzer-is-no-guarantee.html](http://blog.dshr.org/2015/10/a-pulitzer-is-no-guarantee.html)). In the case of “The Crossing,” Adobe Flash, which to many observers is headed to obsolescence, is integral to delivery of the series.
- Paul Jones, professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Director of ibiblio.org, wrote on some of the efforts in digital preservation to virtualizing and preserving entire websites (available at [http://ibiblio.org/pjones/blog/the-web-going-dark-preserving-and-serving-aging-websites/](http://ibiblio.org/pjones/blog/the-web-going-dark-preserving-and-serving-aging-websites/)).
- Jill Lepore wrote in the *New Yorker* earlier this year on some of the efforts going on at the Internet Archive in trying to preserve the web (available at [http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/01/26/cobweb](http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/01/26/cobweb)).

**Google Analytics in Digital Libraries**

Google Analytics ([http://www.google.com/analytics/](http://www.google.com/analytics/)) is a powerful tool for collecting data about your websites and digital
collections. However, it is also easy for the data available to overwhelm a person and for the interface to frustrate someone trying to manipulate it to pull out the information they desire.

The Digital Library Federation (DLF) Assessment Interest Group (http://www.diglib.org/groups/assessment/) Analytics Working Group (http://wiki.diglib.org/Assessment:Analytics) has recently produced a whitepaper on potential “Best Practices for Google Analytics in Digital Libraries” (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QmiLJEZXGAY-s7BGnyF6EUAgqyH0nhQ7j2VPlpxCQ/edit?pli=1). The authors strongly recommend that you familiarize yourself with Google Analytics and your local digital library infrastructure before customizing your Analytics interface. If/when you’re comfortable with both of those, the authors go on to recommend 14 metrics as the baseline for gathering data for the purpose of decision-making in your digital library. This data may help you determine what types of metadata or collections are the most accessed, as well as to determine ways to increase access to lesser-used materials. Depending on your institution’s goals, you may also find additional metrics as well as customized views and reports, beneficial in planning or expanding your digital content.

**Working smarter: useful tools round-up**

I’ve noticed a lot of recent talk about “working smarter, not harder.” As a result, I’ve been thinking of what technology I can use to help me accomplish my work more efficiently. Here’s what I’ve been using so far:

- **Boomerang** (http://www.boomeranggmail.com): If you use Google for Education, you can install an extension on your browser to make it easy to schedule an email to send later or have an email “boomerang” to the top of your inbox at a later date. I often use these to schedule sending reminder emails to look at trials for electronic resources.

- **Canned responses:** This is one of my favorite tricks! Do you have similar emails that you send regularly? If you use Google for Education or Microsoft Outlook, you can create template emails to save as “canned responses” and insert into a new email when it’s time to send that boilerplate message. I’ve found canned responses invaluable as I order electronic resources, communicate with our campus procurement office about licenses, and more. Check out this tutorial (https://www.jenaly.com/blog-news-a-resources/blog/entry/5-gmail-and-outlook-tricks-to-cut-corners-on-your-email-time.html) for implementation tips.

- **Email filtering:** Sick of looking at dozens of listserv emails per day? I filter most of mine into designated folders and set aside time to read and clean out those folders a few times a week. Batching this work keeps me focused on work-related emails instead of distracting, disjointed conversations.

- **Genius Scan App** (https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/genius-scan-pdf-scanner/id377672876?mt=8): This app is great if you need to scan an awkwardly-sized document (or even receipts for expense reports) and get it onto your computer.

- **Google Translate App** (https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/google-translate/id414706506?mt=8): Is foreign language material stumping your cataloging work? With the Google Translate App, you can take a picture of the material with your phone and the app will translate it for you! Not having to type new-to-you characters into the website is an easy bonus.

- **Trello** (https://trello.com): Move away from that spreadsheet you use to track where you are in a process, and instead use a visual board to organize your projects. You can even create public boards to let others know how your project is going, or use it as a collaboration tool for committee work.

What technology do you use to work smarter? What else belongs on this list?

**Open Source & Feelings**

I recently became aware of the Open Source & Feelings (http://osfeels.com/) event that took place on October 2-3, 2015, in Seattle. The videos of the presentations from this event are now available at http://www.confreaks.tv/events/osfeels2015.

Even though this event comes from the open-source software community and does not directly relate to technical services, or even libraries, I think it is a valuable interdisciplinary learning opportunity for technical services law librarians. A quote on their home page states, “Open Source & Feelings is about the intersection between software and the humanities, and how we engage with the communities we’re a part of. It is about deliberative crafting of its culture into what we want it to be, about developing strategies, skills, and solutions in order work as a community.” These are worthy goals to keep in mind while working with library technology as well.

Presentations from the event include topics such as including empathy in user-experience design, creating family-inclusive work communities, and creating a work environment where people are comfortable sharing their frustrations. In my opinion, these are all worthy topics for technical services librarians to consider.
In a Tech-Saturated World, Don’t Forget the Importance of the Human Element . . .

It seems like every time I turn around, there’s a new task that we can now automate or outsource or a new program that can do what I do, accurately and in half the time. Sometimes it’s easy, as a technical services librarian, to get a little concerned about my job security. What place DO we have and what role CAN we serve when computers and technology keep on finding ways to do our jobs better and faster?

This concern isn’t limited to technical services librarians, of course. I think we can all find similar feelings within ourselves, regardless of our positions or our industries. We may even feel it in our personal lives.

So 3 Geeks and a Law Blog hit the nail on the head with their recent post, “What Are Humans Good for . . . in Legal Services?” ([http://www.geeklawblog.com/2015/09/what-are-humans-good-for-in-legal.html](http://www.geeklawblog.com/2015/09/what-are-humans-good-for-in-legal.html)), and I was reminded that there’s no need to fear. I can do something a computer can’t do - and that’s be a human. I can relate to other humans in a way technology never can, meaning I can more effectively generate ideas, solve problems, strategize, persuade, argue, tell stories, and most importantly, collaborate with others.

Other recent posts have backed up this idea:

Robert Oaks, Chief Library and Records Officer for Latham & Watkins LLP, states “It’s not about the library. It’s about the relationship the librarian has with those who do or could benefit from the library.” ([https://ccmchase.com/how-to-enhance-the-value-of-law-library-services-2/](https://ccmchase.com/how-to-enhance-the-value-of-law-library-services-2/)) View the library as a service, not a location, and shift your perspective and role to be more proactive and prescriptive. You know who finds it challenging to be proactive and prescriptive? That’s right. Computers.

A recent survey of faculty and academic librarians by the Library Journal and Gale shows that there’s a disconnect between faculty and librarians ([https://campustechnology.com/articles/2015/09/15/survey-librarians-and-faculty-a-mile-apart-on-need-for-better-communication.aspx](https://campustechnology.com/articles/2015/09/15/survey-librarians-and-faculty-a-mile-apart-on-need-for-better-communication.aspx)), and it suggests that you need to ingrain the library in campus culture, actively participate in student education, and seek out opportunities for engagement with teaching faculty. You know what doesn’t oftentimes seek out opportunities to further engagement with others? Technology.

The library sector is changing under our feet, and this blog post by Rebecca Jones offers four ideas to “rewire” our thinking ([http://dysartjones.com/2015/10/libraries-rewiring-our-thinking/](http://dysartjones.com/2015/10/libraries-rewiring-our-thinking/)). My favorite one is “The Intelligent Organization of People is Key to Success.” Again—it is not the power of our technology and our “stuff” that defines our success as librarians. It’s the ways in which the human dimension works that defines a library’s success.

Want ways to help the human component, even while leveraging the best parts of connecting through increased technology? Check out these tips to improve collaboration among remote teams, by Mike Gilronan, where he lists five clear cut to-dos ([http://www.bizjournals.com/boston/feature/5-things/2015/08/five-ways-to-improve-collaboration-among-remote.html](http://www.bizjournals.com/boston/feature/5-things/2015/08/five-ways-to-improve-collaboration-among-remote.html)).

And have you realized that technology alone will not make us more efficient and can, at times, make us less focused and therefore less efficient? (See [http://www.slaw.ca/2015/10/02/everyone-is-talking-collaboration/](http://www.slaw.ca/2015/10/02/everyone-is-talking-collaboration/).) Technology can actually make us *less* useful. Collaboration is what leads to efficiency, and this post by Mark Hunter reminds us that fostering collaboration requires both a shift in culture and in the way we do things.

And finally, here’s an interesting combination of out-sourcing and in-sourcing that gave a future-proof strategy to one law firm. “People get the answers they need, better and faster” ([http://vislegal.com/2015/10/outourcing-information-services-a-future-proof-strategy-for-law-firms/](http://vislegal.com/2015/10/outourcing-information-services-a-future-proof-strategy-for-law-firms/)). It’s not outsourcing to machines, but outsourcing to expert PEOPLE. Again, people are the key to successfully serving others, not just the technology.

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Metadata

Examining FRBR
Many of us (actually, hopefully all of us) have been paying attention over the past decade or two as Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Description (FRBR) has become increasingly prominent in cataloging theory. In fact, the FRBR conceptual model underlies much of Resource Description & Access (RDA) and is the reason for many discussions about Jane Austen’s various works, expressions, manifestations, and items during RDA training. However, I know I am not the only one disappointed in the fact that RDA isn’t fully realized in our current online catalog environment, where the catalogs have yet to be “FRBR-ized” and therefore remain unable to demonstrate some of the touted benefits of RDA.

Karen Coyle’s forthcoming book, FRBR, Before and After: A Look at Our Bibliographic Models, (http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=11524) promises to examine this exact topic: the promises and pitfalls of the (current) leading conceptual model. Personally, I am excited to see a detailed discussion of where we’ve been, where we are now, and where we are heading in regards to bibliographic models. Also of note is the book’s inclusion of a discussion of technology and its effect on library data and data modeling.

Also of interest is that while the book is available in print as of November 2015, the publisher will release it in early 2016 as open access. It will be interesting to watch this publishing model and see if it is viable, not just for the publisher, but for the book’s audience. For more details on the book, check out Coyle’s announcement (http://kcoyle.blogspot.com/2015/09/models-of-our-world.html) and the book’s afterword (http://kcoyle.blogspot.com/2015/09/frbr-before-and-after-afterword.html).

Thinking Inside the (Pizza) Box with Semantic Web Concepts
If you work in technical services, you probably have at least heard the phrases “Linked Data” and “Semantic Web” among the things that we librarians are supposed to be concerned about when we think about the future of bibliographic data. If you’re like me, you may find that it is hard to get a sense of what a practical application of these concepts would look like.

In a recent blog post on VoxPopuLII (https://blog.law.cornell.edu/voxpop/2015/08/20/legal-research-ontology-part-ii/), Amy Taylor of American University Washington discussed her efforts to start thinking about a legal research ontology. This blog post offers several things that can be helpful in getting a more practical understanding of Semantic Web concepts.

First, Amy mentions the book Semantic Web for Dummies (http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0470396792.html) as being a useful starting place for her own learning. Also, she describes the software Protege (http://webprotege.stanford.edu/) as a tool for developing ontologies. Specifically, she mentions a tutorial called “Pizzas in 10 Minutes” (http://protegewiki.stanford.edu/wiki/Protege4Pizzas10Minutes), where you can use Protege to develop an ontology for pizzas. This looks like just the kind of hands-on practice I’ve been looking for.

Finally, Amy’s rough sketch of her own legal research ontology is extremely useful in mapping out how Semantic Web ontologies might be useful in the world of law librarianship. Amy packs this blog post with useful information about applying Semantic Web concepts to the library world.
Preservation

Harvard Law Library “Frees the Law” with Their New Digitization Project

Has anyone not heard at least a whisper about Harvard’s new “Free the Law” (http://librarylab.law.harvard.edu/projects/free-the-law) initiative at this point? It’s been making its way through the blogosphere since it hit the news in late October.

For those who may not know, the project is devoted to making all U.S. case law freely accessible online, and it involves some serious heavy lifting on the digitization end, as well as additional steps behind the scenes that will make the data truly accessible via search. Harvard Law School Library and Ravel Law, a legal research and analytics company, are joining forces on this project, and certain laws should be online as early as November.

Here’s a round-up of recent articles so you can learn more at your leisure:

On October 28th, the New York Times led the pack both in print and online, announcing that “in a digital-age sacrifice intended to serve grand intentions, the Harvard librarians are slicing off the spines of all but the rarest volumes and feeding some 40 million pages through a high-speed scanner. They are taking this once unthinkable step to create a complete, searchable database of American case law that will be offered free on the Internet, allowing instant retrieval of vital records that usually must be paid for” (http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/29/us/harvard-law-library-sacrifices-a-trove-for-the-sake-of-a-free-database.html?_r=2).

And librarians throughout the nation found themselves simultaneously gasping at the deliberate destruction and applauding the sincere motivations behind the madness.

Harvard Law Today also announced the initiative online (http://today.law.harvard.edu/harvard-law-school-launches-free-the-law-project-with-ravel-law-to-digitize-us-case-law-provide-free-access/) – this posting includes Harvard Law School’s video “Announcing Free the Law” (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kwIN_vhai84). Their video documents the process and features interviews with Daniel Lewis, founder of Ravel Law, and Jonathan Zittrain, Harvard Law Library Director and Law Professor.

Next up, the inimitable Jean P. O’Grady at Dewey B. Strategic had an opportunity to speak with Daniel Lewis, founder of Ravel Law, and fleshed out the basics with additional details which are definitely of interest to librarians, such as how this project differs from the case law available on Google Scholar (http://deweybstrategic.blogspot.com/2015/10/ravel-and-harvard-free-law-youve-read.html).

Want to hear from Jonathan Zittrain of the Harvard Law Library? Robert Ambrogi at Law Sites spoke to him, and after their conversation, Ambrogi added some additional notes to his initial posting, such as the fact that “Ravel will create an application programming interface (API) so that nonprofits can write apps and plug into the ecosystem of these cases, to create their own portal into the database” (http://www.lawsitesblog.com/2015/10/huge-news-harvard-law-and-ravel-law-team-up-to-digitize-all-u-s-case-law.html).

Ambrogi then spoke to Daniel Lewis and wrote a follow-up post with more exclusive tidbits about the project, including that the conversations between Lewis and Zittrain that sparked “Free the Law” started two years ago over frozen yogurt (http://www.lawsitesblog.com/2015/10/ravel-founder-daniel-lewis-discusses-todays-news-of-partnership-with-harvard-to-digitize-all-case-law.html).

Within 48 hours of the announcement, a range of other outlets had begun picking up the buzz, with the Christian Science Monitor speculating on how this project may change legal practices by leveling the field and allowing improved access to justice (http://www.csmonitor.com/Books/2015/1029/How-Harvard-s-Free-the-Law-project-could-change-legal-practices). And even straight techie sites like Techdirt were praising this as a useful and worthwhile project (https://www.techdirt.com/articles/20151029/17074832672/harvard-law-launches-project-to-put-every-court-decision-online-free.shtml).

Where will this project lead, and what lasting impacts will it have? Only time will tell. Until then, I’ve got nothing but applause for Ravel and the Harvard Law librarians’ dedication, bravery, and initiative.

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BitCurator
From 2011-2014, a team at the School of Information and Library Science at UNC-Chapel Hill and the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities worked to develop a structure of incorporated digital forensics tools that was accessible to librarians, archivists, and their peers. What they developed was an environment that collected free and open-source tools into a suite of resources for anyone working with a digital curation workflow. Known as BitCurator (http://www.bitcurator.net/bitcurator/), the environment is available for local download, running in a Linux environment, and is accessible via a virtual machine. As we look to preserve a progressively digital environment, the tools in the BitCurator suite will prove to be increasingly more valuable to ensure the authenticity and preservation of materials, in addition to addressing the privacy concerns of the item creators.

The creation of BitCurator was just the beginning, and an additional grant has extended the project, now known as BitCurator Access (http://www.bitcurator.net/bitcurator-access/), for an additional two years. This project seeks to expand upon the foundation set up in the initial project and to develop tools to help in streamlining the process for information professionals. To support the future of BitCurator, the developers have set up the BitCurator Consortium (https://www.bitcuratorconsortium.org/). The mission of the consortium is to support digital forensics practices in libraries, archives, and museums and to help preserve and provide authentic access to our digital records through the sharing of resources and the improvement of the BitCurator environment.

Updates to LC’s Recommended Formats Statement
During the summer of 2014, the Library of Congress published the Recommended Format Specifications (http://www.loc.gov/preservation/resources/rfs/index.html?locrl=blogsig) to identify characteristics of creative formats in both analog and digital formats. One of the goals of these specifications was to maximize the chance of survival of a given item by providing insight into formats that currently have the potential for a long shelf life. While geared for internal use within the Library of Congress, LC publicly published the statement to help the creative and library communities address the need for best practices for the sake of preservation and long term of content.
These formats address a very complex issue in trying to manage the complex changes occurring in materials formats. Formats are in a constant state of fluctuation, and thus, LC must update the standards on a continual basis. Recently, LC updated the Recommended Formats Statement to reflect feedback the Library had received in the past year (http://www.loc.gov/preservation/resources/rfs/RFS%202015-2016.pdf). The article “Keeping Up With the Joneses: The New Recommended Formats Statement” from The Signal provides a brief synopsis of the changes (http://blogs.loc.gov/digitalpreservation/2015/07/keeping-up-with-the-joneses-the-new-recommended-formats-statement/). And to address the continued need for updates, a period for comments for next year’s revisions will open in the near future.

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**TS-SIS Business and Awards Meeting**  
**2015 Annual Business Meeting**  
**Monday, July 20, 2015, Philadelphia, PA**

**Roll Call:** Quorum met

Call to order, roll & thank you’s—Suzanne Graham  
Call to order at 7:20 a.m. Have quorum. Approved minutes from last year’s meeting in San Antonio. Thanks to Mike Bernier, BNA, Thomson Reuters, Wolters Kluwer Law & Business, LexisNexis for their generosity and support.

Introduction of officers—Suzanne Graham  
Most reports have already been posted on TS web site; Suzanne’s report due to AALL in August.

There were no questions for current officers.

Thanks to Katherine Marshall for posting exec board meeting minutes online expeditiously.

Introduction of Standing Committee Chairs, functional areas: Acquisitions, Cataloging & Classification, Preservation, and Serials.

Introduction of Non-Standing Committee Chairs, administration: Bylaws & Handbooks, Education, Membership, Nominations, and Professional Development.

Two groups that work with OBS introduced: TSLL Committee, Joint Research Grant Committee.

**Updates**

Silent Auction—Ashley Moye  
The silent auction going well, Ashley will be outside exhibit hall later on Monday afternoon. Can give your winning bid to her then, or else can send them to her, and she’ll forward on to Katherine.

FROG Grants—Kerry Skinner  
No deadline for applications. Even if you have a smaller idea, you can still apply.

Roundtables & Committees—Ashley and Suzanne  
Got a lot of feedback on survey and via email. Don’t need to diminish round tables, probably need to increase them.

Report came out in May about roundtables; pretty detailed; will probably take a look at committees, similarly, next year. Statement of what round tables should be: more year-round things. Need more input from membership: what worked, what didn’t work.

Suzanne, Brian Striman did work on professional development. We need to do more education and training outside of annual meeting. We now have a large committee, with 3 working groups underneath it. Education Committee (annual meeting), Webinars and E-Learning, E-Forums (more informal gatherings).

Professional Development Committee—Ajaye Bloomstone and Chris Tarr  
Want ideas from the membership! They are meeting Tuesday morning at 7:15 am in the Marriott Hotel. The committee is still in a very developmental stage at this point.

Update from Pat Sayre-McCoy notes that AMPC has a new format, many more members (about 50), centered on areas of interest. Meeting on Monday afternoon (4:45). Pat’s on content track, Sarah is on Career/Leadership track. Pat and Sarah gave updates about AMPC process for the upcoming months.
Awards and Recognition—Jennifer Noga
Known retirees from 2014/15: Reba Best, Jack Bissett, Susan Goldner, Marilyn Nicely, Lorna Tang, and Brian Striman.

We have several new grants and some changes to existing grants. Many suggestions came from an ad-hoc committee chaired by Suzanne previous year. A key change has been the standardization of grant language.

Now we have six different grants, targeted at different populations:

- Marla Schwartz – for new members or library school students
- New Member Grant – 5 or fewer years with TS-SIS
- Experienced – 6 or more years with TS-SIS
- Active Member Grants
- Management Institute Grant
- Leadership Academy Grant

Information about all of the above are on the TS site. Leadership & Management Grants are still being finalized, so they are not on there yet.

This year’s winner were:

- Marla Schwartz: Samantha Cabo (University of Pittsburgh)
- New Member: Kevin Carey (Ohio State University)
- Experienced: Ajaye Bloomstone (Louisiana State University)
- Active: Sarah Lin (Reed Smith)
- Renee D. Chapman Award: Brian Striman

Suzanne turned over gavel over to Hollie.

Reiterated that it’s OK to disagree on things, as long as we keep discussing them.

Looking Forward—Hollie White
We will be focusing on “2 Cs” this coming year: committees and communication.

People welcome to join the task force on committees.

Our goal is to have active, vibrant committees that are doing things year-round.

We’re looking to increase communication among all the different areas in TS.

Need to develop a strategy to communicate our value to the rest of the association.

Shout out to Martin Wisneski and Alan Keely on My Communities.

Motion to adjourn:
Motion made by Wendy Moore, Seconded by Julie Stauffer
Adjourned at 8:20 am.

Continued from page 1

Someone must understand cataloging to catalog donations and correct problems in the ILS. You MUST have a cataloger on staff to ensure you are getting what you are paying for either from a vendor or from the items you purchase. They are key to a successful and “open” library.

I haven’t even mentioned all the work happening with linked data, the semantic web, and bibliographic framework. Things are changing fast in the cataloging tech world. Don’t get left behind.

Without GOOD cataloging you can offer all the wonderful information you like and be open numerous hours but it will all be trapped behind locked doors. Don’t frustrate staff and customers.

Cataloging is customer service.
Jacqueline Magagnosc, OBS-SIS table in Philadelphia. Photo by Corinne Jacox.

Brian Striman receiving the Renee D. Chapman Award from Jennifer Noga at the TS-SIS Business Meeting, Philadelphia. Photo by Bess Reynolds.
TSLL EDITORIAL POLICY

Technical Services Law Librarian (ISSN 0195-4857) is an official publication of the Technical Services Special Interest Section and the Online Bibliographic Services Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries. It carries reports or summaries of AALL annual meeting events and other programs of OBS-SIS and TS-SIS, acts as the vehicle of communication for SIS committee activities, awards, and announcements, as well as current awareness and short implementation reports. It also publishes regular columns and special articles on a variety of topics related to technical services law librarianship.

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Publication Schedule
Issues are published quarterly in March, June, September, and December.

Deadlines (each vol/year):
no. 1 (September)............. August 21st
no. 2 (December) .......... November 21st
no. 3 (March) ............... February 21st
no. 4 (June).................. May 21st