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Joyce Manna Janto

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from the editor

O n an early afternoon, traffic on the four-lane highway was heavier than normal because the vice president had been in town,” said Mac, a good motorcycling friend. “Scanning the road ahead, I saw brake lights flash angrily as the traffic slowed unexpectedly. I, too, slowed down quickly to less than five miles per hour. The next thing I remember was looking at the odd angle of my ankle, and asking the med techs not to cut off my brand new motorcycle pants.”

Mac wore a bright yellow motorcycle jacket and he rode a BMW R1150GS that looks remarkably like a pregnant cow from the rear in both shape and size. A Ford Focus slammed into Mac’s motorcycle hard enough to activate the Focus’ airbags. With the airbags covering the inside of the windshield, the driver heard—but did not see—Mac bounce head first off the windshield. The driver later told the investigating police officer that she “did not see a motorcycle until she got out of her car after the crash.”

Perceptual blindness explains why motorists “don’t see” motorcycles. To reduce information overload, the brain applies a kind of spam filter, eliminating distractions that pose no threat. Because a relatively small motorcycle poses no threat to the driver, one can easily fail to perceive the motorcycle in front of oneself. In a similar manner, decision makers in law schools, law firms, government, and courts must deal with many complex and challenging issues. With so much information overload, they can easily fail to appreciate the value and importance of basic necessities, like plumbing—or law libraries.

To break through such perceptual blindness, motorcyclists wear bright clothing to stand out in the blur of the highway. Likewise, law libraries market their services to decision makers and users. But sometimes collisions occur and library budgets are slashed. This should not mean that we stop trying—rather, it means we must continue our efforts to be seen.

Participating in AALL increases your professional visibility and gives you a chance to practice job-related skills. Some participation opportunities include:

Committee work: Volunteer for an AALL committee or special interest section (SIS) or chapter committee. If you’ve never served on an AALL committee, you can increase your chances of getting appointed by indicating your willingness to serve on any committee, not just your first or second choice. If you don’t get appointed to an AALL committee, volunteer for an SIS or chapter committee.

Writing an article for Spectrum: I want to publish articles in Spectrum on almost any topic related to law librarianship. If you have an idea for an article, you can send me 15 to 50 words sketching out your idea, an outline of the article, or even a first draft. The Spectrum editorial calendar is available at www.aallnet.org/products/pub_spectrum_deadlines.asp. Please note issues fill well before the copy deadline. So the sooner you contact me, the earlier I can calendar the article for publication and make some suggestions about your idea.

Write a book review for the Spectrum blog (aallspectrum.wordpress.com): While the blog covers mostly new titles from law librarians, consider the possibilities of sharing the analysis of whether or not your library decided to keep a set of pocket parts or a new edition. This saves the time of other librarians and may even persuade publishers to change their updating practices.

Add something to the law library lectionary on the Spectrum blog.

Answer a member-to-member question. And if you don’t like the question we ask, suggest a question you’d like to see answered.

Have an idea to improve AALL? Write a letter to the Spectrum editor or send an e-mail to the president or executive director. Create your own professional high-visibility yellow jacket by participating in AALL—be sure to watch for motorcycles and bicycles when you’re on the road.

By Mark Estes
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This view of a 4,500-acre county mountain park is located along law librarians David and Karen Selden’s Colorado running route. One of the snowy peaks in the background is 14,000-foot Longs Peak in Rocky Mountain National Park. For more stories of running law librarians, turn to page 20.
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Volunteering: A Two-Way Street

Even though you’re reading this in October and the Annual Meeting is but a distant memory, I’m writing this article a mere two weeks after returning from Denver and the exhilaration of another successful conference. Those of us who were fortunate enough to attend will agree that the setting and programming were excellent. The myriad of programs proffered—from the Private Law Libraries Summit to the Annual Meeting Program Committee-selected programs and the special interest section offerings—tempted attendees to set up camp in the convention center instead of the Rockies. But the best part of the Annual Meeting, for me at least, was the energy generated by having so many law librarians under one roof.

That energy creates some amazing instances of synchronicity that can only occur at the Annual Meeting. One of my favorite examples is a story from my colleague Gail Zwirner. At the time, Gail worked at a law firm and was doing research for a case involving the recovery of a treasure ship. Lacking experts in that area, the opposing party had listed a witness who was supposedly an expert in the allied area of “gold rushing.” His CV included several publications dealing with that subject but Gail was unable to locate any of these publications anywhere.

So off Gail went to the Annual Meeting held that year in Reno, Nevada. In between sessions, she took advantage of a side trip—a tour of Virginia City. She couldn’t resist the lure of exploring the Virginia City Library. Imagine her surprise when she found a table full of brochures in the lobby, all devoted to the subject of gold-rushing and all authored by the expert witness.

Now that may be an extreme case of synchronicity but I’m sure all of us know of a colleague who “just happened” into a program, a committee meeting, or casual conversation that provided information that was invaluable in his or her work life. Maybe you’ve even experienced it yourself.

The best part of the Annual Meeting, for me at least, was the energy generated by having so many law librarians under one roof.

My instance of synchronicity at the Denver meeting was not nearly as dramatic as my friend’s but it was interesting, at least to me. Part of the Conference of Newer Law Librarians (CONELL) program involves members of the Executive Board meeting with small groups of CONELL participants. I was surprised to discover that I had traveled over 1,500 miles to meet Ben Keele, a young man who was about to begin work as a reference librarian at William and Mary—an institution located less than 50 miles down the road from me. After our group had chatted for 20 minutes or so about AALL, career goals, and volunteer work, it was Ben who asked me a thought-provoking question: Did I plan—or in other words, was it my goal—to become president of AALL? And if so, how did I achieve that goal?

I had a hard time answering that question. I could honestly say that no, I had never envisioned myself as president of AALL. So, how did I end up here?

Part of the reason is that I’m something like Ado Annie, the girl who can’t say no. I was part of a group of law librarians in Richmond who semi-regularly lunched together. Someone suggested that we should become a formal group and institute bylaws. “Yeah,” I said. “I can help with that.” The next thing I know, I’m at a meeting introducing the newly elected president of the Richmond Association of Law Libraries.

Sometime later, I received a phone call asking if I would be willing to lead a discussion forum at the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (SEAALL) annual meeting. “Yeah,” I said. “I can do that.” The next thing I know, I’m researching online serial control systems.

While reading the Technical Services Law Librarian, I came across a call for volunteers to write articles. “Yeah,” I said. “I can do that.” The next thing I know, I’m the acquisitions columnist.

I attended the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section Middle Managers Breakfast one year. At the conclusion of the meeting, the organizers said they needed a volunteer to organize next year’s breakfast. “Yeah,” I said. “I can do that.” The next thing I know...as you can imagine, the list goes on and on—all because I was willing to volunteer when someone asked for help.

My experience within AALL shows the importance of volunteer work on all levels, not just national. Being involved with my chapters, build local and regional, and my special interest sections along with AALL allowed me to build a record of volunteer service. Volunteerism is at the heart of all of our professional organizations. Starting at the chapter or special interest section level allows you to hone your skills and prove that you are a reliable volunteer. Showing you are a reliable volunteer locally guarantees that you will have opportunities to serve nationally. Volunteerism will also help you expand your network of colleagues—colleagues who will be able to speak confidently about your abilities and who will be more than willing to help you as you have helped them and the profession.

Volunteerism is a two-way street. As much as it benefits the profession, it also benefits you as a person and as an employee. It allows you to build your skill set—to stretch my wings, so to speak, by working on projects outside my area of day-to-day responsibility. It made me a more valuable employee to my organization and a more capable volunteer. The friends I have made along the way have made me a better person.

“Yeah,” I said. “I can do that.”

Over the past few months, the chairs of the various special interest sections and the presidents of many chapters have been putting out calls for volunteers. Many of them are still looking for help. This month, vice president Darcy Kirk will call for volunteers for AALL committees. When she does, fill out the form. Say, “Yeah, I can do that.” The next thing you know, you may be running for president of AALL...
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By Mary Alice Baish

2010 Advocacy Training Prepares Members to “Raise the Bar” in their States

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 5, 2010—On Saturday, July 10, 75 very energized AALL members joined us in Denver for this year’s Advocacy Training, “Raising the Bar in Your State.” Participants from 27 states learned about AALL’s top policy priorities from the Government Relations Office (GRO) staff; heard from guest speaker Keith Ann Stiverson about the status of the draft Authentication and Preservation of State Electronic Legal Materials Act; and attended our breakout sessions on developing tools to support public law libraries and the progress of AALL’s State Working Groups.

Government Relations Committee (GRC) Chair Camilla Tubbs kicked off the day with a warm welcome and introductions of all the participants. Following these introductions, I provided an update on AALL’s current policy priorities, including our work with the Law Library of Congress, Government Printing Office, and National Archives and Records Administration. I also highlighted our collaboration with the White House in support of President Obama’s commitment to open government. Advocacy Communications Assistant Emily Feldman then reviewed the advocacy tools available on AALLNET, including our online advocacy discussion list, Washington Blawg, and the monthly Washington E-Bulletin.

Following our overview of the GRO’s work, guest speaker Keith Ann Stiverson, AALL observer to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) Drafting Committee, gave an update on the status of the draft act and the key issues being addressed by the Drafting Committee. We were very pleased when AALL President Joyce Janto announced in her July e-newsletter that, just days after our Annual Meeting, the Committee of the Whole of NCCUSL adopted the draft act after its first reading on July 15. We will continue to participate in discussions with the Drafting Committee during the coming year as they work to further refine its provisions. Advocacy Training participants then split up into the two breakout sessions. The first breakout focused on developing ways to support public law libraries, with a panel discussion moderated by State, Court, and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section board member Joan Bellistri. Speakers included Grace Holloway, director of the Gwinnett County Law Library; Laura Orr, law librarian at the Washington County Law Library; Larry Meyer, director of the Library for San Bernardino County; and Jonathan Stock, retired Connecticut courthouse law librarian. Many new strategies were discussed, including sharing usage statistics, gathering testimonials from library users, building new allies, and making county law libraries the community’s access point for information about the complex regulatory process related to the new federal health care legislation.

The second breakout session focused on the progress of AALL’s State Working Groups. Our wonderful volunteers have been working hard over the last several months to populate their state inventories of primary legal resources. This breakout featured a panel discussion moderated by Catherine Dunn, GRC vice chair and co-coordinator of the Washington, D.C., Working Group. Janet Camillo, a member of the Maryland State Working Group, discussed how the Maryland working group formed quickly late last year to successfully oppose the elimination of the print Maryland Register. Emily Janoski-Haeichen, Electronic Legal Information Access and Citation Committee (ELIACC) chair and coordinator of the Kentucky State Working Group, summarized the findings of the 2009-2010 updates to AALL’s 2007 State-by-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Information and also shared her experience as coordinator of the Kentucky inventory.

Thanks to our excellent speakers and the wonderful participation by our members, this year’s Advocacy Training was one of our most successful yet.

We were very fortunate to have guest speakers Paul Lomio and Erika Wayne of the Stanford University Robert Crown Law Library talk about how they developed the California model template for the national inventory that we have adopted for use in all the states. After Lomio and Wayne offered very helpful tips to assist our working group members get started, participants had an opportunity to begin populating their own state’s inventory.

Thanks to our excellent speakers and the wonderful participation by our members, this year’s Advocacy Training was one of our most successful yet. The resources from the session are now available in our Advocacy Toolkit at www.aallnet.org/aallwash/toolkit/contents.asp.

Public Policy Update in Denver Provides Opportunity to Celebrate Accomplishments and Discuss Challenges Ahead

On Monday, July 12, GRC Chair Camilla Tubbs, Copyright Committee Vice Chair Roger Skalbeck, ELIACC Chair Emily Janoski-Haeichen, and I were speakers at Program G-3, “AALL Public Policy Update.” This exciting program, formerly called the “Annual Legislative and Regulatory Update,” reviews the accomplishments of AALL’s three policy committees and the Government Relations Office and also discusses plans for the coming year. The program began with the presentation of AALL’s two prestigious advocacy awards. The Legal Information Institute (LII) at Cornell Law School received the 2010 Public Access to Government Information Award for its long-standing commitment to providing free online access to public legal information. The Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries’ County Law Libraries Special Interest Group received this year’s Robert L. Oakley Advocacy Award in recognition of its successful efforts to ensure the enactment of legislation to protect the funding of Ohio’s county law libraries.

Tubbs then gave a summary of the GRC’s work over the past year. The Obama administration’s second year in office provided the GRC with several opportunities to track the White House’s open government initiatives. For example, the GRC was instrumental in contributing to an audit of the Department of Justice’s Open Government Plan. The committee also produced several timely issue briefs (available on AALLNET) on topics ranging from the state secrets privilege (continued on page 13)
International Law Reports
An essential holding for every library. These reports offer access to the whole range of international case law in one publication, in a manner which is both efficient and economical.

Dispute Settlement Reports 2008
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
The only authorized paginated reports in English of the WTO, these are an essential addition to the library of every practicing and academic trade lawyer, and will be widely consulted by students taking courses in international economic or trade law.

History of the Supreme Court of the United States
A comprehensive survey of the development of the Court from the beginning of the nation to the Warren Court.
The majestic Rocky Mountains provided a scenic backdrop for the 103rd Annual Meeting and Conference in the Mile-High City of Denver, Colorado, July 10-13. With programs, roundtables, vendor demonstrations, receptions, and networking opportunities galore, Association members were truly able to "map our future at the summit." I now report to you on the July Board Meetings held on Thursday, July 8, and Friday, July 9, and the Business Meeting held on Monday, July 12.

July Board Meeting
Prior to the start of the Board Meeting, incoming members participated in an orientation session. Vice President/President-Elect Joyce Manna Janto conducted this session to bring new board members up to speed with information on Executive Board governance, roles, and responsibilities of board members, Association finances, and the current Strategic Plan.

President Catherine Lemann presided over the Executive Board Meeting and welcomed Vice President/President-Elect Joyce Manna Janto; Immediate Past President James E. Duggan; Secretary Ruth J. Hill; Treasurer David Mao; and board members Carol Bredeyemeyer, Christine Graesser, Janet McKinney, Jean Wenger, Donna Williams, and Sally Wise. Newly elected board members in attendance were Vice President/President-Elect Darcy Kirk; Treasurer Susan Lewis-Somers; and board members Lucy Curci-Gonzalez and Ron Wheeler. Also in attendance were Council of Chapter Presidents Chairs Sarah Mauldin (2009-2010) and Diane Rodriguez (2010-2011) and Special Interest Section Council Chairs Dennis Sears (2009-2010) and Anne Matthewman (2010-2011). Headquarters staff members in attendance were Kate Hagan, executive director; Paula Davidson, director of finance and administration; Mary Alice Baish, director of the Government Relations Office; Pam Reisinger, director of meetings; and Kim Rundle, executive assistant to the executive director.

Action Items
Action items are agenda items for which a vote of the board is required. Among the action items approved and adopted by the board were the following:

- The proposed operating budget for FY 2010-2011
- The 2010-2013 Financial Directions as amended
- The report of the Strategic Directions Committee
- Recommendations from the Annual Meeting Review Special Committee:
  - AALL committee meetings be held on Saturday from 3-5 p.m.
  - The Diversity Symposium and reception be held on Sunday from 4:15-6:45 p.m.
  - The Annual Closing Banquet be eliminated
  - The annual special interest section dues be increased to $20
  - (Numerous other recommendations from the committee were postponed for further study and will be considered at the November board meeting.)

The Final Report and Recommendations of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee included:

- Approval of a separate page on AALLNET devoted to the Hall of Fame with a brief vitae
- Short, narrative biography and photograph for each inductee be provided
- Investigation of the feasibility of an AALL oral history project
- Posting of the Hall of Fame selection process
- The extension of the term of the committee until December 31, 2010

Consent Items
On the consent agenda were two items: approval of the appointments to the Nominations Committee for 2010-2011 and a resolution in support of the 75th anniversary of the Federal Register. Consent items are considered agreed to by the board simply by their submission and presence on the agenda.

Reports
The board agenda also included reports by the president, vice president, treasurer, executive director, director of the government relations office, Special Interest Section Council chair, and Chapter Council chair discussing their various activities during the past year. The minutes of the Executive Board meetings are available on AALLNET.

Business Meeting
President Catherine Lemann called the 2010 AALL Business Meeting to order on Monday, July 12. A quorum was observed, and the Business Meeting rules of conduct and agenda were adopted. The president announced that 1,570 attendees were registered for the 2010 Annual Meeting.

In Memoriam
During this past year, AALL was informed of the deaths of several members and supporters of the Association. A moment of silence was observed in memory of the following:

- Nancy Arnold
- Edgar J. Ballefontaine
- Cheryl Anne Jacobson Blare
- Edwin Clinton Butler
- Kai-Yun Chia
- Wyman Colona
- Dorene Devos
- Fannie Fishlyn
- John Hagemann
- Kevin M. Hale
- Dan Henke
- Nancy K. Holden
- Susan Nissen Lerdal
- Susan J. Martin
- Sophia Martins
- John M. O’Quinn
- Stanley Pearce
- Michael J. Petit
- Arlette Soderberg
- Majorie C. Wilcox

Secretary’s Report
Ruth Hill, board secretary, submitted for approval the 2009 Business Meeting minutes as published in Law Library Journal, vol. 101, no. 4 (Fall 2009). The minutes were approved. Additionally, the secretary reported on the election of officers and board members for 2010-2011. A total of 1,562 ballots were returned electronically with none being invalidated. The successful candidates were: Darcy Kirk, vice president/president-elect; Susan Lewis-Somers, treasurer; Lucy Curci-Gonzalez and Ron Wheeler, members of the Executive Board.

President’s Report
Catherine Lemann reported on her activities, travels, and representation of AALL during her presidential year. A comprehensive review of the structure of the Annual Meeting was her presidential initiative for this year. Some of the
changes and improvements recommended by the committee will be initiated for next year’s Annual Meeting. Among Lemann’s destinations of note were the International Association of Law Librarians conference in Istanbul, Turkey, and the Joint Study Institute in Montreal, Canada.

**Vice President’s Report**
Joyce Manna Janto presented plans for her presidential year. She reported on the preparation for the “no theme” 104th Annual Meeting to be held in Philadelphia, July 23-26, 2011, and a Colloquium of Law Librarians and Legal Publishers planned for February 2011.

**Treasurer’s Report**
David Mao gave his final report as treasurer. Despite the current economic climate, Mao reported the overall positive financial condition of the Association. Under his leadership, the Finance and Budget Committee took a cautious approach to current spending and allocation of new expenditures to ensure the continued stability of the Association finances.

**Strategic Plan 2010-2013**
Jean Wenger, chair of the Strategic Directions Committee, reported to the membership on the 2010-2013 AALL Strategic Directions, which became effective at the conclusion of the 2010 Annual Meeting. Wenger briefly described the process of drafting the new Strategic Directions and addressed how they will advance the work of AALL for the next three years.

**Certificates of Appreciation**
Each year the president presents certificates of appreciation to people or organizations who have contributed to the Association or the profession in exceptional ways. This year’s recipients are:

- Barbara A. Binfliff: For her work as the reporter for the National Conference of Commissioners of Uniform State Laws Drafting Committee on Authentication and Preservation of State Electronic Legal Materials and her many contributions to the profession.
- Mary D. Hood: For her leadership as chair of the 2009-2010 AALL Indexing of Periodical Literature Committee, securing the future of this valuable program, and for her many contributions to the profession.
- Diana C. Jaque: For her leadership as chair of the 2009-2010 AALL Price Index Committee, working to ensure its future as a valuable member service, and for her many contributions to the profession.
- Dick Spinelli: For his more than 40 years of exemplary service to law librarians and law librarianship, his support of AALL and its chapters, and his steadfast friendship to all law librarians.
- Jean M. Wenger: For her leadership as chair of the 2008-2010 AALL Executive Board Strategic Directions Committee, which drafted the 2010–2013 Strategic Directions presented to the membership in July 2010, and for her many contributions to the profession.
- Social Responsibilities Special Interest Section: For its leadership in sponsoring the Annual Children’s Book Drive, which has provided books and cash to libraries and schools in Annual Meeting cities since 1999. AALL made a donation to this year’s book drive.
- Mary Alice Baish: For her 15 years of dedicated service to AALL and its members.

**Special Recognition**
Long-time AALL member Thomas Reynolds received special recognition for his service and dedication to the Association as the general editor of the *Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals* for the past 26 years. President Lemann stated, “Since 1984, Tom has worked tirelessly to increase the visibility and status of the *Index* as a highly respected research tool that is used all over the world.”

**Special Guests**
Special guests from international law library associations were also recognized. Each of the following visitors gave brief remarks: Leanne Cummings, national president of the Australian Law Librarians’ Association (ALLA); Rosalie Fox, president of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries (CALL); David Willis, British and Irish Association of Law Librarians (BIALL); and Jules Winterton, president of the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL). A transcript of the proceedings of the Business Meetings will be printed in a forthcoming issue of *Law Library Journal*. This transcript will contain full reports of the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, executive director, and director of the Government Relations Office.

Immediately following the conclusion of the Business Meeting, the Members’ Open Forum was held with Julie Pabarja as moderator. If you have questions about the July 2010 Executive Board Meeting or the Business Meetings, please contact me or any Executive Board member.

Ruth J. Hill (rhill@sulc.edu) is director of library services and associate professor of law at the Southern University Law Center Oliver B. Spellman Law Library in Baton Rouge.

*Washington Brief* continued from page 10

to the USA PATRIOT Act reauthorization.

Skalbeck provided an update on his May 2009 testimony before the Copyright Office for a new exemption to Section 1201 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). While there hasn’t been much movement on copyright legislation, the committee stayed very busy by tracking the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (which AALL opposes), developing new issue briefs on the DMCA and the Google Book Settlement, and regularly updating its active Twitter feed.

Janoski-Haehlen summarized the 2009-2010 updates to AALL’s State-by-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Information, the committee’s major accomplishment this year. The committee found that a growing number of states are eliminating their print legal publications in favor of online only without ensuring digital authentication, permanent public access, or preservation. The committee is also developing a white paper on AALL’s Uniform Citation Guide.

After such a busy and successful Annual Meeting, Emily and I are already looking forward to seeing you in Philadelphia next year.

Mary Alice Baish, director of the AALL Government Relations Office, 25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20001 • 202/942-4237 • Fax: 202/737-0480 • E-mail: mbaish@aall.org • www.aallnet.org/aallwaib.
the sustainable law librarian

The Triple Bottom Line and Why We Care about Sustainability

Welcome to the new column in Spectrum dealing with environmental sustainability. I hope to start a conversation on sustainability that will include practical ideas and advice on how law librarians can have a positive impact on our environment, economic well-being, and social conditions. To facilitate the conversation, please join me on the Spectrum blog (aallspectrum.wordpress.com) to discuss and share additional information on topics presented in this column.

This column will explore many aspects of sustainability but will focus on impacts relating to our most challenging environmental situation—human-caused or “anthropogenic” climate change. The benefits of focusing efforts on mitigating climate change are broad-reaching and impact much more than greenhouse gases and rising global temperatures. Benefits of a sustainable future include things we all value such as: protection of species, food and water resources, and property; reduction in predicted natural disasters such as hurricanes, droughts, and severe storm; and a more livable planet with fewer wildfires, mass migrations due to sea level rise, energy security, and better health for future generations.

What is Sustainability?
My two favorite definitions of sustainability are:

1. Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (from the Brundtland Commission of the United Nations), or this more holistic definition:

2. Imagining and striving toward the deepest happiness, highest potential, and optimal health possible for all beings, for all time (from Jennifer of the White Green Heart Institute).

Another way to think about sustainability is to consider this: We would need four Earths if each person on the planet consumed as much natural capital as is consumed per capita in the United States. We just don’t have enough resources to meet the needs of the growing world population at our rate of consumption. (To learn about your personal ecological footprint, use the calculator at: www.myfootprint.org/en to compare your rate of consumption to other individuals worldwide.)

What is the “Triple Bottom Line”?
When businesses and organizations aim to operate in a sustainable way, they often evaluate their operations based on the triple bottom line. This term relates to a business or organization’s desire to monitor and measure its environmental and social impacts, in addition to its profit or economic success, instead of an almost exclusive focus on profit.

Your library or institution may wish to develop a sustainability plan around the triple bottom line concept, also referred to as “people, planet, profit.” Since many libraries are not profit-oriented, “fiscal health” could be substituted for “profit.” A library’s focus on the environment could include impacts such as climate, forests, and toxins; and social impacts could include the health and well-being of your employees and local community as well as peoples worldwide.

While this column focuses on environmental and social impacts, doing the right thing for the environment often has direct and indirect economic benefits too. For example, I work at the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) where we retrofitted our lighting by replacing incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents and swapped out our T12 fluorescent lighting for T8 lighting. The return on our investment was less than four years in energy savings. We reduced our energy use for lighting by about 40 percent and significantly lowered our carbon footprint or greenhouse gas pollution in addition to saving hundreds of dollars each year. (An indirect benefit of doing the right thing for the environment could include attracting the best students to your law school. See the July 8 USA Today article, “More colleges using green as a selling tool,” http://tinyurl.com/greencollege.)

Why Do We Care about Sustainability?
We have all seen and read the news relating to problems we are and will encounter worldwide as a result of human-caused climate change. Scientific consensus says we need to aggressively reduce greenhouse gas emissions (by 80 percent by 2050 worldwide) to avoid catastrophic climate change. (See the Spectrum blog for current sources of scientific data and assessments.)

I have personal connections to outcomes related to climate change. One of them relates to the American pika, one of my favorite animals, which I occasionally hear or see in the mountains near my Colorado home. The shy pika lives mostly in high, rocky areas in the mountains, usually above 11,000 feet. One might think that a warmer climate would be welcome in such a cold place but the pika has adapted well to its environment. Recent research shows, however, that pika populations are falling rapidly as they are unable to migrate to more suitable habitats and could be headed for extinction as a result of climate change.

Another reason I care is related to environmental justice. I have lived with indigenous peoples in Africa and work for indigenous peoples at NARF. Most indigenous peoples worldwide carry out a subsistence way of life and are closely connected to the natural world. I find it unjust that these people are most affected by climate change while they contribute least to its cause.

The Good News
Unlike many environmental and social problems (the Gulf oil spill and conflicts in the Middle East, for example), organizations and individuals can directly reduce their impact on climate change and the related environmental and social risks.

In the future, this column will focus on how to assess your library or organization’s current impacts and implement positive changes that will help you reach your sustainable goals and save money. Next month, I’ll cover how to create a green team and develop an environmental statement for your library or organization.

Share your thoughts with David and read more about sustainability on the Spectrum blog at aallspectrum.wordpress.com.
**the reference desk**

By Susan Catterall

This issue marks the debut of “The Reference Desk,” a new professional advice column that will appear monthly in Spectrum. Are you in a sticky situation with a colleague? Looking for ways to discuss advancement with your supervisor? Send your questions to columnist Susan Catterall at scatterall@charlottelaw.edu.

**Q:** How do I handle questions about my former boss? He sexually harassed me, and that’s why I quit. The official story was “I am looking for new challenges.” But the person asking me is thinking of applying for the job I just left, and she is very young and pretty. Should I warn her?

**A:** I commend you for wanting to prevent another individual from having the same experience as you, but to paraphrase the instructions given by flight attendants, “Make sure your own mask is secure before assisting others.” Don’t do or say anything that would leave you vulnerable to some legal action, especially if you signed any document when you left your employer in which you agreed not to disparage that employer.

Even if someone is “very young [naive?]” and pretty,” that person might not necessarily receive the same treatment that you did and you would be putting yourself—and your career—at risk if others heard you badmouth your former boss.

If she already has an interview scheduled, you might want to remind her that she is interviewing the employer at the same time she is being interviewed. She should pay attention to how she is greeted, how employees interact with each other, how the physical space is arranged (i.e., Are there offices with doors shut or cubicles? Are employees permitted to bring personal items from home?) and whether the employees seem to enjoy working there. If you think you may be skewing her thinking, refer her to the public library for resources. If you have access to friends who are trained in human resource management, you may wish to contact them for advice.

You didn’t explain, however, who the potential employee is. If you have a very close relationship with this individual (e.g., a niece, a daughter’s friend, or a best friend’s daughter), I would be inclined to be a little more candid. While this isn’t a time to name-call, you could certainly say—based only on first-hand experiences—that there were reasons you left and reasons that you wouldn’t return, or that you wouldn’t encourage her to seek employment there at this time. I would expect her to push you for more details, so be cautious in what you choose to say.

Susan Catterall (scatterall@charlottelaw.edu) is reference librarian at the Charlotte School of Law in North Carolina.

**Spectrum Turns Over a New Leaf**

David Selden’s new column “The Sustainable Law Librarian” (page 14) isn’t the only “green” addition to Volume 15 of Spectrum. You may have noticed the new logo at the bottom of our masthead (page 1), or maybe even that the cover looks different. So what’s going on?

As part of AALL’s efforts to promote social and environmental responsibility, we’ve made several changes in the printing of Spectrum. The logo on page 1 indicates that our paper is now sourced from responsible suppliers certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). SFI is an independent, charitable organization that works with conservation groups, local communities, resource professionals, landowners, and countless other organizations and individuals to promote sustainable forest management, and protection of water resources and biological diversity. In order to carry an SFI logo, our paper sources must meet a number of stringent standards. You can learn more about these standards at www.sfiprogram.org.

In addition, we’ve changed Spectrum’s cover coating from oil-based to a more environmentally friendly—and affordable—water-based aqueous coating. And finally, the paper used in this magazine is composed of 10 percent post-consumer waste (PCW). For an idea of the environmental savings of using this recycled paper, take a look at the chart to the right.

**Environmental Impact Estimates per Year**

(Savings versus 0 percent PCW)

- **PCW Body Wood Use:** 28 tons, equal to 196 trees
- **Total Energy:** 394 million BTUs, equal to heating about four homes per year
- **Greenhouse Gases:** 87,477 pounds CO₂, equal to the emissions from 8 cars for a year
- **Wastewater:** 210,787 gallons, nearly enough to fill an Olympic-sized swimming pool
- **Solid Waste:** 31,338 pounds, enough to fill one garbage truck

Estimates were made using the Environmental Defense Paper Calculator at www.papercalculator.org.
The working and teaching tool by librarians for librarians

Library Literature & Information Science Full Text

Library Literature & Information Science Full Text encompasses more than library studies – it is also a practical tool for research in history, sociology, economics, politics and law and a complement to your library’s other research tools.

The database covers:

- English and foreign-language periodicals, selected state journals, conference proceedings, pamphlets, books, and library school theses
- Over 300 books per year
- Full-text articles from over 155 publications

WilsonWeb features make the most of rich source material:

- Graphical content adds a key dimension to research—PDF page images accompany full text articles, offering graphical content
- Up-to-date subject headings keep pace with the latest trends
- Search by keyword, subject, personal names, title words, publication, year, type of article or any combination
- Exclusive WilsonWeb features—Content Discovery Keys, Language Translations, extensive customization via My WilsonWeb and ReadSpeaker text-to-speech—provide an unparalleled search experience

Search more than a century of literature – combine with:

Library Literature & Information Science Retrospective: 1905-1983

Nearly 80 years of citations document all the innovations, controversies, and people instrumental in the making of modern librarianship.
Each year, the Association recognizes outstanding achievement in public relations through the AALL Excellence in Marketing Awards. Awards are given in the following categories: Best Brochure, Best Newsletter, Best Campaign, Best PR Toolkit, and Best Use of Technology.

Hopefully the descriptions and photos of winning entries in this article will give you new ideas to market your library, staff, and services. As David Lankes said during his keynote address in Denver, law librarians must show we are essential to our organizations—“our communities.” Public relations efforts are the key to accomplishing this goal. The Public Relations Committee looks forward to receiving many submissions next year to build on our efforts to be more visible and to demonstrate the value of our libraries.
Best Brochure
Yale Law School
Lillian Goldman Law Library

In the introductory “Message from the Director,” S. Blair Kauffman states, “Our library has played a central role at the Yale Law School from the time of its founding and this continues to be the case now.” Throughout this well-written report, the library demonstrates that despite budgetary constraints, all functions of the library have been carried out to the highest standard. The impression conveyed by the wonderful photos, attractive graphic images, and interesting narrative effectively reflects the image of an institution as prestigious as the Yale Law School.

Staff widely distributed the report in both print and electronic formats and received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the target audience. In fact, it was so popular that it disappeared from the Public Relations Committee display in the Annual Meeting Exhibit Hall in Denver.

Best Newsletter
K&L Gates Library and Research Services
AsktheLibrary: News from K&L Gates Library and Research Services

K&L Gates created this quarterly e-mail newsletter to market the united library serving a global law firm created through a merger. In addition to making the library more visible, the goal was to provide readers with useful information and reinforce the library’s new e-mail address by making it the title of the newsletter. The emphasis is on high-quality content presented in a well-designed format consisting of seven categories. All members of the library staff are involved in producing the newsletter with major roles played by the editor, an editorial board, and two publishers (the library directors).

The value of the newsletter is confirmed by the overwhelmingly positive responses and many compliments it has received. One outstanding example is described by the editor, Ellen Bowman: “During the Copenhagen meetings, our firm’s climate change blog team posted our ‘Hot Topic’ almost exactly as we had published it. The blog posting…credits the library.”

Best Campaign
Riverside County Law Library
“Legal Research 102: For Those Who Have Been There and Done That but Forgot How”

The Riverside County Law Library created the Legal Research 102 course to better serve its constituents, the citizens of the County of Riverside—especially lawyers. Factors that contributed to the course’s creation included a noted lack of legal research skills among practicing lawyers and requests by other agencies including the County Counsel. The three-part course provides mandatory continuing legal education credits, which is another benefit to the legal community. The course has been positively received, and there are plans to offer it every quarter to reach a larger audience, including paralegals.
Best Use of Technology
Arizona State University Ross-Blakely Law Library
Indian Law Portal

The staff of the Ross-Blakely Law Library, following up on last year’s winning entry in the Best Use of Technology category, has created an Indian Law Portal to support the curriculum of the Arizona State University (ASU) College of Law Indian Legal Program. The portal, completely designed and implemented by ASU law library staff, also benefits the Indian legal community by providing links to comprehensive and authoritative free materials. It brings together many legal and interdisciplinary resources, including databases, indices, full-text electronic journals, authoritative websites, and print resources.

The staff promoted the portal in a variety of ways. A one-credit Indian legal research class was created for the law school, and a continuing legal education (CLE) program on Indian legal research was developed. Promotions for these events featured the portal, which was also introduced in both classes. Staff also created a guide to using the portal for the library’s website. The portal has been very well received by both the law school community and the national community.

Best PR Toolkit
Thomas M. Cooley Law Libraries
Food for Fines

To qualify for this category, at least three promotional items are required. This year’s winner, Thomas M. Cooley Law Libraries, exceeded this requirement while focusing on a larger goal: community outreach. Their effort to collect food for local food banks is truly inspiring. The Food for Fines method of payment was made available to three categories of library patrons: students, attorneys, and alumni. Each campus location created a list of acceptable food items tailored to the needs of the local community. Fines were reduced for those who preferred to pay cash, which was also contributed to the food banks.

Window displays, a brochure, and posters helped to publicize the campaign. The participating food banks were very grateful for the efforts of the library. In addition, the positive response of the students, faculty, and staff has convinced the library to conduct a Food for Fines initiative every fall. This campaign, which was designed to serve others while addressing the issue of unpaid fines, resulted in promoting the library, the school, and the profession.

Karen B. Brunner (kbrunner@riker.com) is director of library services at Riker, Danzig, Scherer, Hyland & Perretti LLP in Morristown, New Jersey.
Christopher McDougall may have popularized the idea of an instinctual drive to run in his best-seller, *Born to Run*, but many law librarians have known this for quite a while. Jogging distances long or small is as natural to the running law librarian as "doing" reference or cataloging legal treatises. It is a passion that made the Hein Fun Run a fixture of AALL's Annual Meeting—and when that race went on hiatus this year in Denver, law librarians put together a race of their own. Law librarians just love to run.

How It Begins
Law librarians take up running at different times and for diverse reasons. Some have been running for decades. Al Dong, reference/government documents librarian at the University of Pennsylvania’s Biddle Law Library recalls, “I began running in 1970 when I was in the ninth grade. I enjoyed it and it came naturally.” An aerobics class movie back in 1972 inspired Steve Thorpe, head of access services/research and instructional services librarian at the Earle Mack School of Law at Drexel University, to run. “On the first day of class they showed us a film about a man who was depressed and wanted to commit suicide by running,” says Thorpe. “He thought that if he ran hard enough it would induce a heart attack. After a few runs he started to feel better and soon was able to work out his problems during his runs.”

Others started just recently. Jon Beaumont, library and information manager at Harvey Ingram LLP in the United Kingdom, and a group from his firm started running after a tragic event. “A colleague’s wife died of cystic fibrosis in 2006 and thus we just decided to run the London Marathon in 2007 to raise money for that charity. Only one member of the group had run a marathon before, and I in particular had never run at all. I did play a lot of football [soccer], but had to quit because I broke both my ankles—one in 2000 and then the other in 2006. We have since ran marathons in Dublin (2009), New York (2008), and will be running in Berlin in September 2010.”

Meg Kribble, research librarian and outreach coordinator at the Harvard Law School Library, started running in 2009. “I did not like to run and was convinced it wasn’t for me. Last summer I randomly decided to try running and was able to easily run a mile without stopping for the first time ever. It took off from there.”

Why They Run
What attracts law librarians to running? Staying healthy is one reason. According to Dong, “It sure helps me accumulate an impressive number of sick leave days.” Keeping off weight is another. Frank Houdek, associate dean for academic affairs and professor of law at Southern Illinois University School of Law remarks, “Though over the years I was ‘accused’ of being one of ‘those people’ who can eat whatever they want and never gain an ounce, that is actually far from true. In fact, I started running because of the weight I had put on during my three years in law school and the time spent studying for the bar exam—my goal was...”
Go \nding the Distance
The amount of running law librarians do varies. Some run a dozen miles a week, while others go huge distances. David Selden says, “I run between 35-70 miles per week depending on my training goals and running conditions.” And even though Houdek says he has slowed down, he still runs an impressive weekly mileage. “Currently I run six days a week, strictly in the mornings, for a total of about 30 miles a week,” says Houdek. “In my ‘golden’ days, I averaged about 60 miles a week (and 3,000 miles a year), so you can see the toll that age takes on even the committed runner.”

Michael Chiorazzi, director and professor of law at the University of Arizona College of Law Library, measures his running by time. “I go by clock rather than distance. I run as little as four hours a week and as much as 15,” Karen Selden says. “I try to run daily, almost exclusively early in the morning, although at certain points in the fall and winter darkness hampers me more than the cold, ice, or snow. We have mountain lions in our neighborhood and as the joke goes, you only have to be faster than the slowest runner to survive. Since David is the faster (and braver) runner of the two of us, I know when I should stay home and use the elliptical and Bowflex.” She adds, “I run about 30 to 40 minutes on weekday mornings and anywhere from one to three and a half hours on weekend mornings.”

Parks—and Parking Lots
As to where they run, running law librarians will run anywhere they can. As Houdek notes, “I am pretty determined (did I hear obsessive?) about my running, so I will run in just about any conditions (even a big box store parking lot if that’s my only alternative).” Most seek out a place nearby that has the best scenery, and often this is a nearby park.

David Mao, deputy law librarian of Congress, has a lot of options in the Washington, D.C., area. “If I’m running at home, then I have a loop of our town that I like to do. It gets me out and around the neighborhoods—around streets that I normally don’t drive,” says Mao. “Running in D.C. is always terrific, I really enjoy doing the ‘Bridges,’ which includes part of the Mall, the 14th Street Bridge, the George Washington Parkway, and the Memorial Bridge. Another good run is the ‘Buckeye’ because it includes Ohio Drive (and the Tidal Basin).”

Joy Shoemaker, research law librarian and head of research services at the University of California-Irvine Law Library, has a course that takes her over an ocean pier. “It’s fun to dodge people strolling on the pier and see my finish line over the ocean.”

Will Meredith, former preservation librarian at the Harvard Law School Library, and Frank Houdek, associate dean for academic affairs and professor of law at Southern Illinois University School of Law, pose before the 2003 Hein Fun Run in Seattle.

Turkey and Foxes and Snakes—Oh My!
Karen and David Selden have a spectacular trail near their home in Lyons, Colorado. Karen says, “It’s called the Picture Rock trail because Indian petroglyphs have been found on some of the rocks in the area. It’s got great footing and climbs up a valley through prairie grasses into rolling hills with Ponderosa pines and juniper trees. My turnaround point—about three and half miles up the trail—is an old silo, which is the only structure left from a long-abandoned farmstead. The views are great in every direction, whether you are running up or down the trail. We often see turkey, deer, foxes, coyotes, rabbits—and the occasional snake (bull snakes and rattlesnakes).

Western law librarians have spectacular wildlife encounters while running. Georgia Briscoe, interim director and head of technical services at Colorado’s Wise Law Library, says, “I have lots of stories of running into herds of deer and elk, scaring myself when a cougar crossed the trail in front of me, almost running into a porcupine, and having to jump over a mother rattlesnake and her babies, not to
Road to the top of a more than 14,000-foot mountain in Colorado.” You’ll find Briscoe running at high altitudes too. “I love to run trails in the Colorado Rockies—the higher the better. We have two races to the top of ‘fourteener’ that are especially fun and challenging: Pikes Peak Ascent (13.3 miles and 7,815 feet of vertical ascent) and Mt. Evans Ascent (14.5 miles and 4,000 feet of gain).”

Chiorazzi’s favorite competition is the Across the Years footrace around New Year’s, which is composed of 24-hour, 48-hour, and 72-hour races held on a 500 meter track. According to Chiorazzi, “Yes, you run in circles for 24, 48, or 72 hours. It sounds awful to most people but it is really a wonderful social event and moveable feast. I prefer the 48-hour race.”

Great Stories: Running gives runners a decent share of anecdotes, such as meeting running legends. Al Dong was praised by 1983 Boston Marathon winner Greg Meyer, “I acquired a Shetland Sheepdog when I lived in Minnesota. I would take him running with me some of the time. He loved to run and never understood why he couldn’t go on every run. He always wanted to run a little faster than I wanted to for the first several miles. As a result, he pushed me (or, in this case, pulled me) to run faster and made me a better runner than I would have been without him.”

A painful spill can make a good running story. Cathy Palombi, a spry five-feet-and-one inch tall, recalled one running mishap. “One morning before work I fell hard on concrete, hitting my knees and sliding on my hands, scraping the skin off both palms. I came to work an hour late in excruciating pain and ran into my director, Taylor Fitchett, who was fairly new to the University of Virginia. Her compassionate comment to me after hearing my story was, ‘It couldn’t have been that bad—you didn’t have very far to fall.’”

Every runner has at least one race memory that stands out. One of Mullan’s involved a rebounding runner in a 10k. “I passed someone at the 9k marker who, mind you—after all, I was still being beaten by a walker.”

Thorpe remembers inspiring a fellow runner during one race. “To keep my pace, I typically talk to my legs during the last few miles of a marathon. During the Delaware marathon, a woman who crossed the finish line shortly after I did told me that hearing me motivated her running.”
but also because I use my time on the road to focus inward. It’s my time alone—no phones ringing, no meetings, no interruptions—and I value the opportunity it gives me for reflection and unfettered thinking. And frequently the subject of my internal ‘conversation’ has been a law library issue that I needed to face. More often than not, the solution has come to me while running.

David Selden agrees. “It opens my mind to unlimited possibilities and connects me to nature and what is ‘real’ and ‘significant.’ Running also helps with mental health—I am able to focus and deal with pressures and controversy in a good way.” Karen Selden also finds mental strength by running. “One learns a lot of life lessons through running. After running through 60 mph winds (Mt. Washington Road race in the late 1980s/early 1990s), 39-degree moderate rain and wind in my first marathon (Vermont City in 1992), a sudden 6-inch mid-June snowstorm on a Colorado ‘fourteener’ (Mt. Evans Ascent in the early 2000s), and battling dehydration that made my eyesight waver (Bay State Marathon in 1995), you learn that you can tackle almost any challenge that life throws at you. Training for races (especially marathons) helps one to set goals and create a plan to meet them. In addition, my morning running time is when I can brainstorm and problem solve. My assistant is often amazed (in a good way) at the ideas I come up with on my morning runs. And finally, I know running is good for my health—it keeps my weight down and counteracts the effects of my very sedentary cataloging job. Running truly is a sport for the mind, body, and soul.”

Should you take up running? Maybe. Recent research suggests that moderate exercise significantly improves health. And innovations have made running more enjoyable, such as Vibram FiveFingers footwear, which look like foot gloves (www.vibramfivefingers.com). Meg Kribble swears by them, noting, “Running in them is like running barefoot as a kid—super fun.”

So if the Hein Fun Run does not make a comeback for the 2011 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, you can bet that law librarians will band together some morning for a race somewhere in town. For them, it is the natural thing to do.

John Cannan is a research and instructional services librarian at the Earle Mack School of Law at Drexel University’s Legal Research Center in Philadelphia.
In the spring of 2010, the University of Minnesota Duluth discovered the downside to social networking the hard way. Two students using a campus study lounge logged on to a social networking site and made racist comments about a third student in the room using the school’s network. Knowledge of the conversation spread and reached the university’s administration. Despite the school’s zero-tolerance racism policy, the situation was complicated by a lack of any policy addressing students using social networking over the school’s computer network. These events combined to create the very kind of cautionary tale that no university wants to be the subject of.

The New Social Policy

By Theresa Strike

© 2010 Theresa Strike • image © iStockphoto.com/Tom Nulens
What placed the University of Minnesota Duluth in this position was a lack of anticipation of the problems that could accompany a new technology such as social networking—and it is certainly always better to be proactive than reactive. In the case of social networking, librarians are a natural party to be involved in shaping institutional policy. After all, in its most basic form, social networking is about the exchange of information, and librarians are in the business of information. As a profession, librarians are comfortable with considering the implications of a new technology and information sources before they are in use.

Jumping In

The University of New Mexico (UNM) School of Law’s entrance into the realm of social networking was an informal one. Using Facebook, students had set up fan groups for some professors, and some student organizations used Facebook to communicate with their members. The law school was aware of these uses but took no stance for or against them. Within the law school itself, the law library had set up a Facebook page as a means of making announcements, but this use was not part of any overarching law school social networking strategy.

In the summer of 2009, the law school decided to organize efforts to use social networking as a tool for outreach—both to prospective students and the law school community. As a legally-minded community, the school’s first concern was to determine what current rules and policies the university had for social networking. The results were surprising.

While UNM was making extensive use of social networking, it had no policy outlining either the use or misuse of it. Many of the people contacted on the university’s main campus, including the webmaster and the legal department, were not even sure whom they should contact about the existence of a policy. The school representative to the university’s information technology committee finally confirmed that, while the university committee had determined the need for a policy related to social networking, it had not yet begun work to create one.

Assessing the Situation

At the dean’s request, the library director organized an informal law school group to work on social networking policy. The members agreed they were uncomfortable with allowing departments to develop social networking sites without any guidance as to how to address potential problems. Additionally, there was a desire for a structure that would provide a consistent approach across all departments. There was also a concern that waiting for an all-campus policy to be developed would result in an indefinite delay. The group decided, therefore, that the first step the law school needed to take was to create a policy.

Three groups within the law school had staff involved in the process of developing a policy: the information technology department; the library, as the only department using Facebook at that time; and any departments interested in making use of social networking, such as admissions. The policy group decided that the main goal of the policy was to encourage use of social networking while minimizing the risk of inflammatory or defamatory comments and communications by third-party users that could be attributed to the law school.

At the time the policy group started its work, the advice generally given to law students by professors, law schools, and lawyers alike was that students should not make use of social networking. In some cases, it was even recommended that students delete any existing accounts they might have.

The UNM law school entered into the discussion just as these ideas about law students and social networking were shifting. With an increasing number of professional organizations and legal businesses making use of social networking, the mindset shifted from one in which social networking was all risk and no professional benefit to one in which the risks simply needed to be managed and the benefits outweighed the risks.

Making a Plan

While there was growing awareness of the need for resources to assist in creating social networking policies, the number of actual resources was limited. Sources of discussion had begun to spring up across the internet in the forms of blogs but had not yet advanced to action in many places. Examples of existing policies for law schools were few but there were some available, primarily through the “Social Media Best Practices for Law Schools” website (http://smbp.laurabergus.com) maintained by Laura Bergus.

The committee started with the University of Kansas’ Facebook policy for faculty and staff. It provided basic structure and addressed some, but not all, of the committee’s concerns. The most obvious gap was that the policy did not address student use. According to existing policies in the UNM law school student handbook, the student honor (continued on page 27)
Based on these developments, the PLL-SIS “Change as Opportunity Summit” was hatched, a two-year initiative to provide a platform for exploring the trends, models, and best practices of the 21st century private law library. The summit could give private law librarians the tools and information they need to take control of their situation: to act strategically and develop new skills and new ways of thinking.

A core group of librarians—Carolyn Ahearn, Joan Axelroth, Abigail Ross, Karen Silber, and myself—came up with five major themes that we would develop into webinars and topics for a summit: the business of law firms, staffing for success, space planning for the future, collection development, and embracing change.

The five webinars scheduled throughout 2009-10 were lead by master librarians Carolyn Ahearn, Joan Axelroth, Scott Bailey, Lucy Curci-Gonzalez, Julie Hughes, Monice Kaczorowski, Laura LaRose, Steve Lastres, Sarah Mauldin, Beth Reynolds, and Sarah Stephens. These sessions created a buzz for the PLL Summit, held on Friday and Saturday prior to the Annual Meeting. During the Summit, we divided into the five webinar topic groups to give attendees a chance to continue the webinar discussions.

Summit programming was coordinated by Joan Axelroth, Caren Biberman, and Karen Silber. We had 15 speakers, 97 attendees, and a day and a half of non-stop lively, thought-provoking, PLL-focused dialog. We consciously planned to go outside of law librarianship and engage speakers to give different perspectives.

Law firm consultant Peter Zeughauser spoke on what keeps managing partners up at night; business library director Susan Klopper told us what she learned when her library was closed down; and Law Librarian of Congress Roberta Shaffer inspired us with a vision of what the future might look like.

In the strategic skills section, Pat Wagner warned us to stop the whining, Barry Strauss advised us on managing our bosses, Greg Lambert pushed us to the C-Level, Nina Platt gave us the basics of developing a business case, and Steven Cohen let us know how to keep up with the latest trends, while Michael Saint-Onge gave tips on time management.

A final element of the initiative is to gather all the information together and then do something with it—develop toolkits on best practices, create forums for discussion, and publish articles in library and legal journals on our findings. Already we have commitments for several articles and are working to get a program in place at the Association of Legal Administrators’ and other related conferences.

We are developing Summit II for next year’s AALL Meeting in Philadelphia and we’ll be working throughout the year to have even more intriguing webinars, a web forum, and greater discourse on topics of interest, such as power metrics, successful negotiation tactics, project management, best technologies, and new reference models.

Thanks go to LexisNexis and Cindy Spohr, who helped subsidize outside speakers, and BNA, which sponsored a margarita and mariachi party for greater networking opportunities.

If you would like to contribute to the PLL Summit initiative, let me know. You can reach me at 202/496-7752 or kmartin@mckennalong.com. As the Beatles said in 1969, “We all want to change the world”—or at least our little piece of it.

Kate Martin (kmartin@mckennalong.com) is director of library services at McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP in Washington, D.C.

The times they are a-changin’. A year ago at the 2009 Washington, D.C., Annual Meeting, Private Law Libraries Special Interest Section (PLL-SIS) attendance was down, the economy was tanking, and every aspect of our libraries seemed to be spinning in a new direction. Private law libraries were going through fundamental changes in the way they operate. No wonder private law library morale was low. Something had to be done.

T
The new social policy continued from page 25

code applies to all behavior both within the law school community and without. The committee therefore decided that it was simplest to clarify the issue for students by explicitly stating that the current policies and procedures as described in the student handbook covered online behavior.

This decision led the committee to the issue of student organizations. Members agreed that student organizations should be allowed—even encouraged—to make use of social networking. This was balanced against a concern that the opinions of student organizations might be interpreted as representative of the law school. The final decision was to set up a process by which social networking pages could be designated as "authorized" by the law school and then limit this designation to pages run by law school departments. Student organizations were not eligible for "authorized" status and were required to make that clear on their pages.

The last step in developing the policy was to determine what pages were authorized and the authority and reporting structure associated with them. Each department had a slightly different focus with regard to its interests in social networking. The admissions department, for example, had a two-fold interest: Twitter was a way for recruiters to let interested individuals find out when and where they would be available, while Facebook could be used to encourage incoming students to connect with each other before the start of classes. The library, on the other hand, was primarily making use of Facebook as a way to deliver announcements. It was therefore important that any structure created be flexible enough to work with these various needs as well as the different structures of the departments.

The committee agreed that any department making use of social networking needed at least one person designated to maintain and monitor the department's site. However, in order to accommodate the different department structures, it allowed each department individually to determine who would be designated and to whom that person would report.

Once each department decided on its internal structure, the committee addressed the issues that could not be handled within a department. For example, there was no need to create a procedure solely for social networking issues, so the committee considered the existing structures within the law school.

Since department heads report to either one of the associate or assistant deans (or the law school dean, if they are not deans themselves), the committee decided that the dean's management team, consisting of the law school dean and the associate and assistant deans, would deal with any issues.

Navigating the Gray Areas

UNM created this policy in the fall of 2009, at a time when social networking issues were just starting to make their way through the court systems. It is an area of law that is still developing. Potential problems often reside in these legal gray areas but having a policy helps to provide a consistent approach when navigating those gray areas. While this approach will emerge eventually based on experience and learning from others' best practices, it will take years to reach that point. In the meantime, a carefully constructed policy, revisited on a regular basis, can fill the gaps.

Theresa Strike (strike@law.unm.edu) is law librarian at the University of New Mexico Law Library in Albuquerque.

next month in spectrum

November is right around the corner. Here's just a taste of what you can look forward to in next month's issue of Spectrum:

- No budget? No time? No problem! What virtual reference can do for your library
- One library's experiment with an international visiting law librarian program
- How to deal effectively with change—even when it's not your own idea
- Profile: AALL's Publishing Initiatives Caucus
- The University of Utah law library finds out what patrons really think during Library Snapshot Day 2010
early 1,600 information professionals gathered in downtown Denver July 10-13 for AALL’s 103rd Annual Meeting and Conference. Attendees learned from close to 90 educational programs and workshops packed into four days, and the Exhibit Hall showcased products from 93 information vendors.

In his keynote address, “Take a Right at the Obelisk,” keynote speaker R. David Lankes, director of the Information Institute of Syracuse, encouraged members to expand the focus of law libraries to the goals and accomplishments of our communities.

Against a beautiful mountain backdrop, members also took advantage of Denver’s metropolitan offerings, from restaurants and shops along the 16th street mall to the Rockies stadium. Outside of programs, attendees connected at such events as the Conference of Newer Law Librarians (CONELL) and the Opening Reception.

Even after four days of meeting, learning, and socializing, members still had energy to pack the dance floor at the Closing Banquet. With suitcases full of ideas and inspiration, they said their goodbyes to friends and colleagues—until next year’s 2011 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.
With 22 new information vendors and 181 exhibit spaces, attendees took advantage of the opportunity to learn about new products and services in the Exhibit Hall.

Members celebrate the close of a great Annual Meeting at the Closing Banquet.

CONELL participants Christine Taylor (left), systems/technical services librarian at Quinnipiac University School of Law Library, and Sara Lynch, administrative secretary at Arizona State University's Ross-Bakely Law Library, get to know each other during the Speed Networking session.

(From left to right) Laura Ray, educational programming librarian at Cleveland State University; Mark Podvia, associate law librarian and archivist at the Dickinson School of Law Library of the Pennsylvania State University; and Stacy Etheredge, chair of the Legal History and Rare Books Special Interest Section, welcome new law librarians at the CONELL Marketplace.

CONELL participants Christine Taylor (left), systems/technical services librarian at Quinnipiac University School of Law Library, and Sara Lynch, administrative secretary at Arizona State University's Ross-Bakely Law Library, get to know each other during the Speed Networking session.

Marilyn Raisch, associate law librarian for International and Foreign Law at Georgetown University Law Libraries, sets up the Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Special Interest Section’s table in the Activities Area on July 12.

Tina Dumas (left), reference librarian at Nixon Peabody LLP in San Francisco, and Ellen Platt, senior reference librarian at Santa Clara University, staff the Northern California Association of Law Libraries table in the Activities Area.

Amy Osborne, head of public services at the University of Kentucky Law Library, and David Brennan, dean of the University of Kentucky College of Law, chat during the Opening Reception on July 10.
The s’mores station proved to be a popular destination during the Opening Reception.

2011 Annual Meeting Local Arrangements Committee co-chairs Mark Bernstein, director of the Drexel University Earle Mack School of Law Legal Research Center, and Merle Slyhoff, collection development and resource sharing librarian at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, generate enthusiasm for next year’s meeting in Philadelphia.

Meg Butler (left), associate director for public services at Georgia State University College of Law Library, and Courtney Selby, collection development/instructional services law librarian at the University of Tulsa College of Law, collect donations for the annual Social Responsibilities Special Interest Section book drive.

Attendees weave their way through the Opening Reception’s western-themed entrance.
The Annual Meeting @AALLNET.org

Relive the Meeting through photos, look up handout materials, or check blog postings on AALLNET.

AALL Summit News
www.aallnet.org/events/summit_news.asp

Awards and Acknowledgments
www.aallnet.org/about/awards.asp

Audio Recordings and Handout Materials on AALL2go
www.softconference.com/aall/slist.asp?C=3146

Photos from the Meeting
www.aallnet.org/events/photo_album.asp?id=6

Kelly Browne (left), assistant director for public services at Sacramento County Public Law Library, and Julie Horst, headquarters branch librarian at the U.S. Court of Appeals Library for the Ninth Circuit, roll out some new dance moves at the Closing Banquet.

President Catherine Lemann and the Executive Board welcome attendees to the Exhibit Hall with a ribbon cutting on July 11.

Cornell Winston, law librarian at the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Los Angeles, busts a move on the dance floor at the Closing Reception.

(From left to right) Northern California Association of Law Libraries members Tina Dumas, reference librarian at Nixon Peabody LLP in San Francisco; Kelly Browne, assistant director for public services at Sacramento County Public Law Library; and Jean Willis, assistant director for support services at Sacramento County Public Law Library, liven things up at the Members Open Forum with their rendition of “The Age of Librarians.”
So Much Information, So Little Time
Annual Meeting program focuses on the changing face of government information

By George Taoultsides


The world of government information is changing. With the advent of the internet, the world of government information has changed so quickly that constant updating has become necessary, often by following countless listservs and blogs and by attending the occasional meeting with government agencies, such as the Government Printing Office (GPO),...

Since I’m the new liaison for the Harvard Law School Library to the Federal Depository Library Program, I was looking forward to attending “The Changing Look of Government Information: Impact on Reference, Technical Services, and Public Services” at this year’s AALL Conference in Denver to learn as much about this topic as quickly as possible.

Straigt from the GPO

The purpose of this program was to “discuss the impact of new federal and state government distribution technologies, new methods of processing and resource sharing in depository publications, and how research methods in the new digital government resources have changed.” Ted Priebe started the discussion by asking the roughly 90 attendees to stand up if they were familiar with the GPO, GPOAccess, and Federal Digital System (FDsys). Virtually all attendees stood up for all three questions, which reinforced the audience’s belief that conversations at this program could be elevated to an intermediate/advanced level.

Priebe’s discussion touched on four themes: (1) GPO’s FDsys; (2) authentication; (3) partnerships; and (4) digitization. FDsys is still in beta; all 40 collections from GPOAccess should be transferred to FDsys by the end of the month, and GPOAccess will be sunsetted by the end of the year. Priebe also discussed the authentication of documents and how important it is to establish trust among the user, the author, and the publisher. Another theme that garnered enthusiasm from the attendees was the idea of partnerships and how GPO’s collaboration with libraries at institutions such as Cornell helps improve GPO’s collection. Finally, Priebe touched upon GPO’s desire to digitize legacy collections, such as the Statutes-at-Large from 1950 forward.

Other Perspectives

Janet Fisher spoke from the perspective of a public librarian. She focused mainly on the Arizona Memory Project, which “provides access to the wealth of primary sources in Arizona libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural institutions” (more information is available at http://azmemory.lib.az.us/cdm4/index.php). She spoke at length about the project including the selection of documents for the site, attributes of the project, long-term retention plans, and the costs.

Meg K. Martin discussed the issues faced by law libraries with large public user bases. She pointed to a poll conducted by Pew Research Center that found that 82 percent of people have searched for government resources in the past 12 months. The need for government forms, reports, and countless other documents are in constant demand by not just the legal community but also the population as a whole. She discussed what resources the public accesses, what kind of help they require, the impact on the reference interview, what communities feel the pinch, and how staff can support access.

By the time the panel reached Joseph Hinger, there was less than 30 minutes left for discussion so Hinger was forced to hurry through his topic. He discussed the ever-increasing demands on technical services with the impact being little money (especially in this economy) to accomplish grand ideas and too little dispensable time from ever-shrinking staffs.

The last speaker, Simon Canick, had to speed through his presentation, but what he lacked in time he made up for with enthusiasm. He focused on the pricing model put forth for the Making of Modern Law and how the expensive one-time fee was actually a misnomer since online access is vital to proper use of the collection. He was also bemused at Google Book’s argument as to why it does not include government documents in its collection, its reasoning being that some of the information within the government documents might be copyrighted.

Overall, this was a highly informative program, which hopefully was not missed by many librarians specializing in the realm of government information. The only problem with the program was the time constraint—five panelists, each with a lot to say, was a bit too much for 90 minutes. But that is the plight of keeping up with government information in 2010. Can a government documents/information librarian know everything there is to know about the topic? No, but we can try, and to that end this program is recommended.

An audio recording of this session is available for purchase at AALL2go: www.softconference.com/aall.

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A variety of voices converge at the 2010 Diversity Symposium

2010 Diversity Symposium: “Adaptation: How Technology is Changing and Being Changed by Diversity in the Law Library World”

Presenters: Anne Robbins, moderator, Jenner Law Library at the University of Illinois; Ryan Overdorf, University of Toledo College of Law Library; Gayle Lynn-Nelson, LexisNexis; Maribel Nash, Chicago-Kent College of Law Library; Joyce A. McCray Pearson, University of Kansas Wheat Law Library

The 2010 Diversity Symposium examined a wide range of diversities in law librarianship and the critical role that technology plays in this diversity. The primary focus of the symposium was to examine ways that libraries can build an equitable environment that serves all patrons. This is especially important as libraries serve increasingly diverse populations. Technology should be an enhancement rather than a barrier to library assistance. Anne Robbins, chair of the Diversity Committee, acted as moderator to a wide range of librarian speakers representing numerous groups: Ryan Overdorf spoke on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and compliance issues in electronic services; Gayle Lynn-Nelson discussed the impact of mentoring both internally and externally in a large corporation; Maribel Nash focused on the expanded role of the virtual AALL placement office and enhancements to the AALL online Career Center; and Joyce McCray Pearson added perspective on recruitment and the overall role of the Diversity Committee during her long-time membership in AALL.

Diverse Perspectives

Overdorf, a member of the Adaptive Technologies Committee of the Computer Services Special Interest Section (CS-SIS), began the discussion by highlighting the lack of standardization of both American Bar Association-accredited law school websites and law library websites under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998. Section 508 standards define the minimum level of web accessibility for the visually and hearing impaired. Overdorf stressed that by providing accessible electronic services, libraries can meet the needs of all users by creating a more inclusive environment. He touched on both voice recognition and text-to-speech navigation software as two vital components of providing accessible services.

Next, Lynn-Nelson talked about the role of mentoring in her workplace. LexisNexis provides both an internal mentoring program for its own employees and the opportunity to mentor young people in the community. The internal mentoring program, called Women Connected, provides support and networking in the company. Lynn-Nelson stressed that simply employing a diverse range of people is not enough to ensure a truly diverse atmosphere. Members of diverse groups must achieve success and move up in the ranks of the company. She also participates in an external mentoring program for young people and emphasized the importance of technology in communicating with mentees.

Nash proudly discussed the AALL Placement Office’s enormous step forward. The Placement Office is now completely electronic and is open to all
Association members. As a result, it will reach a much wider—and more diverse—group of job seekers because attendance at the Annual Meeting is no longer required. In addition, the AALL Career Center website (www.aallnet.org/careers) has been enhanced with new search and alerting capabilities.

McCray Pearson, a long-time member of the Association and former Diversity Committee member, focused on using technology to increase accessibility for all members of the community. As director of the University of Kansas law library, she must meet the needs not only of students and faculty but also public patrons. Providing access to the public may mean paying for public access terminals, providing multilingual staff, and making not just computers available but also a wide range of programs installed on the computers. McCray Pearson emphasized that training staff to create a welcoming environment is key.

Growing Complexity, New Challenges

As usual the symposium crowd was engaged and had many insightful questions and comments. One attendee asked about the role of social media in library employment and recruitment. A lively discussion about LinkedIn and the lack of diversity of its users ensued. McCray Pearson highlighted that while social networking can be useful, it is important to remember that not all groups use mainstream sites such as LinkedIn.

Near the end of the question and answer session, panel members discussed the misconception that the Diversity Committee has a fairly narrow definition of “diversity.” In fact, the committee has long been committed to reaching out to an expanded audience.

Conversations about mentoring, accessibility, and recruitment continued during the reception held immediately following the symposium. Numerous people commented on the wide scope of this year’s symposium. Robbins, chair of the Diversity Committee, notes that “even though the symposium covered a very broad array of issues, the panel was able to weave a number of different topics and perspectives into something cohesive.”

It is clear that as our Association grows and becomes more complex so does the diversity of its membership. As with most years, the symposium attracted only a tiny percentage of the number of attendees at the conference. After attending seven of the last 10 diversity symposiums, I’ve noticed that each year I see many of the same faces.

Despite this year’s attempt to expand the aim of the symposium, it did not seem to attract many new attendees.

Near the end of the symposium, panel members again emphasized the commitment of the Diversity Committee to reach a wide range of Association members. This year’s symposium clearly showed that commitment. However, it appears that too few members are aware that the Diversity Symposium is not just for the “diverse” members of the organization—it is for everyone. I expect next year’s symposium to be as enlightening as ever and hopefully it will draw many more attendees.

Kirstin Nelson (kirstin.nelson@morningstar.com) is a librarian relations specialist with Morningstar Document Research and adjunct instructor at University of Maryland School of Law in Baltimore.

(From left) Diversity Symposium panelists Joyce McCray Pearson, Maribel Nash, Ryan Overdorf, and Gayle Lynn-Nelson, along with moderator Anne Robbins (far left), discuss the role of technology in libraries serving increasingly diverse populations.
DIGITAL
Tips for developing a digital collection development policy

By Jennifer Adams
Photo by Brant Bender
Program A-3: “Mapping a Digital Collection Development Policy: New Sign Posts or a Whole New Road?”

Teresa Stanton began Program A-3, “Mapping a Digital Collection Development Policy: New Sign Posts or a Whole New Road,” with her thoughts on a question I believe all librarians have asked and are still asking: Is digital different when it comes to a collection development policy? While opinions may not be unanimous, Stanton proposes that digital is different and collection policies need to change to reflect the differences of digital objects. She spoke about her review of more than 100 collection policies published online and noted that with only a few exceptions, most policies are the same regardless of what format the resources are in.

Stanton advocates that librarians do need to update traditional collection development models to reflect electronic holdings and offered a very useful overview of the characteristics that make digital collections different: the ubiquity of electronic materials, user demand, new publisher models (including open access), and library budgets. Stanton also mentioned how the new formats affect staffing and traditional workflow. For any librarian thinking about updating a collection development policy (new sign posts) or even creating a new one (a whole new road), Stanton covered all of the issues that he or she would need to consider.

Licensing and Support

Steven Melamut continued the presentation with a very thorough analysis of licensing and access issues that librarians need to be aware of when acquiring electronic resources. He stressed the need to negotiate with vendors when dealing with licensing complications that could arise from non-traditional users of a university library, such as adjunct or cross-appointed faculty. Melamut also discussed the need to be careful with details of acquiring electronic resources and to be sure about what content may or not be included, such as images or graphics. He also recommends being aware of other aspects of negotiating purchase or perpetual access, including who is responsible for troubleshooting problems, whether materials are accessible to all users, and how the users’ confidentiality is protected. This portion of the presentation provided another highly useful list of all the differences a policy must cover to provide for licenses, access, and archiving.

Ellen Meltzer of California Digital Library (CDL) spoke about the scholarly life cycle of data and the importance of establishing a “multi-dimensional framework for academic support.” She noted the need to consider preservation of data in all formats—whether it be a Twitter feed or blog post—and, in many instances, the need to repurpose the data for different user groups. Meltzer encouraged the audience to have a collection development policy driven by principles of greater access for users and recommended librarians consider some of CDL’s principles, which are available online at www.cdlib.org.

Meltzer also discussed the importance of having more digitized material available to serve our communities more efficiently. She correctly stressed that users expect discovery and delivery to coincide; we need to work towards a more fluid way of putting our digital holdings online. She introduced the Hathi Trust website (www.hathitrust.org) as a digital repository model for collaboration of libraries to ensure preservation of and access to data.

Delving Deeper into Digital

The final speaker, Hilary T. Seo, presented more of the functional requirements of digital preservation. She gave a synopsis of some of the definitions to be familiar with when considering the data lifecycle and some of the unique characteristics of data that need to be addressed when planning for data preservation. Such characteristics include: media degradation, media obsolescence, corruption, migration, and metadata.

Seo continued with an overview of the fundamental attributes required for building a digital repository, including: organizational viability, financial stability, systems security, technological and procedural suitability, and a number of other characteristics. One of Seo’s slides showed a visual representation of the submission information for a digital object into a digital repository. It demonstrated the lifecycle of digital content and demonstrated the complex nature of creating metadata for digital objects and the aspects of preservation.

Seo also discussed features that should be included in a digital preservation policy—a mandate, a purpose, and objectives—and also advised the audience to actively participate in the selection process for digital repositories to ensure that the selections are aligned with the priorities of the library’s existing collection development policies. She suggested that the audience look at the University of Illinois’ collection development policies, which describe why its library selects electronic. Seo also suggested a number of collaborative projects to consider, including LOCKSS, Ex Libris Rosetta, The Chesapeake Project, and the OCLC Digital Archive.

This was an educational presentation with substance and I felt the speakers clearly demonstrated their expertise. It had something for everyone interested in this topic and included both a general overview of digital collection policies as well as some of the finer details on the technical matters of working with digital objects. The enthusiasm of the speakers was evident and I enjoyed hearing about their experiences in their respective libraries and projects. I would recommend an audio recording of this presentation—all four speakers were very engaging, and the content was a good mix of both the theoretical and practical.

Jennifer Adams (Jennifer.adams@dal.ca) is reference and cataloging librarian at Dalhousie University Law Library in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

(Opposite page) Presenter Teresa Stanton maintains that the unique characteristics of electronic holdings—including the ubiquity of digital materials, user demand, new publishing models, and library budgets—require a new look at collection development policies.
The Data Game
Taking the pain out of statistics gathering

By Valerie A. Railey
Photo by Brant Bender
Collecting statistics to measure tasks performed in the library workplace is a chore that isn’t widely celebrated. Presenter Jennifer L. Behrens clearly articulated that many statistics drafters perform the task primarily because we must. She asked the audience this question: “Statistics gathering—why do we do it?”

The answer: Because we have to. We report to administrators that require the data collection. Another answer is because we ought to. The benefits of informing stakeholder administrators of the productivity of the library tasks far outweigh the dangers of not informing administrators. The data may be used to persuade administrators to extend resources, to reduce particular services, or to create specialized positions.

Library staffers gather statistics based on directives from those on higher levels of the human resource food chains in our affiliated organizations. Since we must gather statistics, it’s prudent to do so in an efficient and accurate procedural manner.

Breaking Free from “Prison”

My initial interest in attending this program was piqued by the catchy title and the fact that I’m no fan of statistics gathering in my library. I hoped to leave the program with one tip on how to make this mandatory chore a little less arduous. The good news is that I got a lot more than one savvy idea on gathering statistics. I had a few laughs and gained appreciation for the potential value that well-gathered statistics can provide to administrators in persuading particular points of view when quantifying quality or deficiencies.

The great news is that Behrens delivered the substance of the learning outcome in 30 minutes. In addition she held the attention of the audience throughout the entire session. I literally laughed out loud when she discussed the base model of gathering statistics as “the prison wall” method—indeed, most attendees clearly had some experience counting slash tally marks as a statistics-gathering mode. While this method is effective at counting how many questions one may get during a range of time, it doesn’t provide substantive narrative or distinguish the range of difficulty of the task performed. The “prison wall” is an analog statistics-gathering method in a digital world. (Richard Leiter introduced the concept of analog versus digital tasks in a presentation to federal court librarians in May 2010.)

Fortunately, more sophisticated methods of gathering statistics have evolved. Behrens mentioned various

(continued on page 53)
Japanese performance art adds new life to presentations

By Donna M. Fisher
Photos by Brant Bender

W hen presenters Carol Watson and Wendy Moore began this session by discussing the various ways to pronounce Pecha Kucha and then launching directly into a Pecha Kucha presentation, I confess I had no idea what they were talking about.

Session E-1: “Using Pecha Kucha to Enhance Your Presentations”

Presenters: Carol Watson, coordinator and speaker, University of Georgia Alexander Campbell King Law Library; Wendy E. Moore, University of Georgia Alexander Campbell King Law Library
But within 30 seconds I was absorbed in their topic and impressed by their enthusiasm, the immediate connection they made with their audience, and their preparation and obvious knowledge of their subject.

Pecha Kucha is a Japanese term that roughly translates into “chitchat.” It is a “Japanese presentation format developed to easily, efficiently, and informally show digital presentations.” It is a welcome alternative to long, boring PowerPoint presentations that consist of nothing more than someone reading word-for-word the bullet points on slides while you try to keep from nodding off.

The Basics
Pecha Kucha consists of 20 slides, each of which is automatically timed to last only 20 seconds. The slides frequently contain images but can also contain single words, animation, video clips, or brief bullet points. The presenter speaks over the slides instead of just reading the text on the slides to the audience (which is the surest and quickest way to put your audience to sleep). The audience has to pay close attention because they can’t tell from the slides what you are going to say, and they remain engaged and interested because the entire presentation lasts only six minutes and 40 seconds. In short, graphics plus speed equal an enraptured audience.

There is no right or wrong way to do Pecha Kucha but Watson and Moore suggested several helpful techniques. Large images work best. Try to keep a similar look to your slides so your presentation has a cohesive appearance. Also, Pecha Kucha is a performance and, as such, it requires rehearsing. Because each slide advances automatically after 20 seconds, you will need to learn the rhythm of speaking for 20 seconds at a time. When rehearsing, set a timer for 20 seconds to help you learn how to pace yourself. Expect to spend about six hours preparing for a Pecha Kucha presentation and be creative.

Uses for Pecha Kucha
How can Pecha Kucha be useful? It can be an alternative to a panel discussion or can add a lively segment to a longer program. It can be used in learning assessment, add variety to conferences, and help with teambuilding. It can also be good training for preparing a longer presentation. Since all of these uses were discussed only briefly during a six minute and 40 second Pecha Kucha session, if you want more details on any of them, you will need to download Watson and Moore’s handout on AALL2go at www.softconference.com/aall. Yes, that’s how fast Pecha Kucha happens—it leaves you wanting more information. And if you’re not particularly interested in a topic, at least you know it will only last six minutes and 40 seconds.

I especially liked Watson and Moore’s suggestion that Pecha Kucha be used at conferences to give attendees a preview of all conference sessions so they can make thoughtful choices about which sessions to attend. The format of this session was very well thought out. It began with a Pecha Kucha presentation, without any explanation of what we were seeing or what to expect. Then the presenters explained Pecha Kucha. This was followed by another Pecha Kucha presentation, allowing the attendees to see how the Pecha Kucha techniques were incorporated into the presentation.

Pecha Kucha obviously works. I’m amazed at how much I learned in this 30-minute program. This excellent and entertaining session was a highlight of my conference experience. It was immensely useful. From the reaction of the more than 100 audience members, I’m sure they would all agree with this assessment. The session preview stated that “the dullest topics can be enhanced using this method.” With a claim like that, who wouldn’t have wanted to attend?

Short and concise, yet entertaining, presentations that get your point across should be the goal of any presenter. I’m still not sure I know how to pronounce Pecha Kucha, but I know that using it will help make my life Hakuna Matata (no worries).

Donna M. Fisher (dfisher@senniger.com) is a solo law librarian at Senniger Powers LLP in St. Louis. An audio recording of this session is available for purchase at AALL2go: www.softconference.com/aall.
What do law libraries have to do with the recording and newspaper industries? The connection may not be immediately obvious because record companies and news organizations are primarily concerned with packaging and selling content, while libraries gather and organize content. However, there are considerable similarities, such as the way that all have had to manage the transition from analogue or print resources to digital and online formats, as well as the changing user expectations that have accompanied that shift. Moderator Tom Boone assembled a knowledgeable panel of law librarians and representatives from the recording and newspaper industries to discuss these commonalities and differences.
Program A-6: “I Read the News Today, Oh Boy!: 21st Century Lessons for Law Libraries from the Recording and Newspaper Industries”

Presenters: Thomas R. Boone, coordinator, moderator, and speaker, Loyola Law School; William M. Rains Library; Kenneth J. Hirsh, University of Cincinnati College of Law Robert S. Marx Law Library; David Holt, Santa Clara University Heafy Law Library; Steve Knopper, Rolling Stone; Vikki Migoya, Denver Post

Paradigm Shift in the Recording Industry

Steve Knopper, an editor at Rolling Stone magazine, began by giving a summary of his book Appetite for Self-Destruction: The Spectacular Crash of the Record Industry in the Digital Age, which recounts how the advent of the MP3 digital audio file format in the late 1990s led to a paradigm shift in the way music is bought and sold. The relatively small size of MP3 files makes it easy to share them online. As a result, file sharing services such as Napster became heavily used for illegally sharing music. A large part of the appeal for users was the access to “free” music, but they also enjoyed and came to expect the convenience of downloading music.

The recording industry was very slow to adapt to this new model and reacted with lawsuits and invasive digital rights management (DRM) technologies. While Knopper made it clear that he felt the record companies were justified in these actions and that he supports the enforcement of copyright law, he felt that as a strategy, this approach reflected a real lack of understanding of the depth of the transition that was occurring at that time.

The first company to adjust to the new digital paradigm was not one of the major record labels but the computer company Apple, which launched its iTunes store in 2003. Apple has been rewarded for its forward thinking by becoming the top music retailer in the world. Knopper summarized the shift away from albums and toward software and devices as follows: “There’s no Thriller anymore, there’s the iPhone and the iPod.” He added that the reduction in music sales has also led record companies to re-structure contracts with artists to be “360 deals,” which include revenue from touring and sales of merchandise.

Failure of the Traditional Model

The news industry has faced similar problems to the music business over the past decade. Vikki Migoya, an editor with the Denver Post, explained that newspapers have been using a business model that is more than 200 years old, in which 80 percent of their profits come from advertising. The rise of free websites like Craigslist largely killed off classified advertisements in newspapers, and their financial difficulties were compounded by the economic downturn, when many of the traditionally large advertisers, such as furniture stores and car dealerships, cut their advertising budgets. As with music, the content of news has not changed as significantly as the pricing structure the industry uses.

Most news sources have persisted in relying on advertising for their financial model, using “click throughs,” page views, and so on to generate revenue. Boone, noting that some web browsers such as Chrome or Firefox can be set up to block ads, asked if that was a potential reason for news sources to stop relying on advertising revenue and instead charge for content. Migoya reported that, with the prominent exception of the Wall Street Journal, newspapers have been reluctant to charge users for accessing their content online but some major newspapers, such as the New York Times, are currently planning to move to such a system. Time magazine has also experimented with posting an excerpt of a story online and requiring that readers be subscribers to read the whole article. Boone mentioned that Time and other magazines have also begun selling subscriptions that can be accessed via the iPad. Apple wins again.

Lessons for Libraries

The key difference between the music and news industries and libraries is that the former are primarily concerned with making a profit from selling their content while libraries are generally non-profit enterprises. Rather than create content, the central role of libraries is gathering content and providing the broadest access possible. Indeed, libraries have often been champions for free public access to information.

Kenneth Hirsh admitted that it is not a perfect analogy but noted that there are many areas of consonance between libraries and the music and news industries. One significant similarity is the way that all three groups have had to deal with the transition away from analogue and print media. In addition, Hirsh pointed out that the changes in the music and news industries have greatly affected user expectations, with many students now expecting everything to be available online.

The preference for free and convenient resources often leads students to use only those sources that are available online or that they perceive as easy to use. Librarians are faced with the challenge of guiding users to the most reliable and appropriate content rather than the most convenient. David Holt added that many users also want and expect information that is customized and targeted to their needs and interests. Migoya noted that news organizations have also been trying to find new ways to tailor content to their users.

Overall, the panel provided a thought-provoking discussion of how libraries could learn from other industries. However, too much time was spent on providing background information about the recording and news industries that many members of the audience likely already understood. The program would have benefited from more time devoted to analyzing the similarities and differences among the industries and identifying ways that libraries can improve going forward. Still, it was a valuable preliminary conversation, and those who were not able to attend could learn a lot from listening to the audio recording.

Todd Ito (tito@uchicago.edu) is a reference librarian at the University of Chicago D’Angelo Law Library.

An audio recording of this session is available for purchase at AALL2go: www.softconference.com/aall.
As I took my seat and looked over program C-1’s handout, I remarked to myself how wonderful it was that a number of retired law librarians were participating at this year’s Annual Meeting. This was also one of several programs that dealt with coping during these awful economic times and I felt that I could benefit from all of the information anyone was willing to give.

Optimists
Jean Holcomb began the presentation by speaking about “optimism.” Optimism is not happiness—it describes a perspective. Why should librarians care about a “glass half-full” world view? Because librarians need to have the strength to believe there will be sunny days ahead. Those who are optimistic see beyond the moment. They make hard decisions without all of the facts. They have empathy and emotion to influence others and see challenges as opportunities.

How do optimists respond to challenges? They do not personalize bad things. They are not “Pollyannas.” They take action and are energized and curious—they can make good things happen. (And they are in better health to do so.)

Explanatory Style
Gail Warren explained that the way an individual responds to and explains the causes of challenges and events that happen to him or her is that person’s “explanatory style.” There are three elements of explanatory style, which Martin Seligman, author of Learned Optimism: How to Change Your Mind and Your Life, organizes as follows:

- Permanence: An optimist believes the causes of bad events are temporary; the pessimist believes the causes of bad events are permanent.
- Pervasiveness: The optimist approaches challenges and failures as something only affecting a specific aspect of their life (limited impact). The pessimist feels failure or inability to tackle challenges is universal and affects all aspects of their life experience.

Changing Your Explanatory Style
Holcomb stated that one has to draft a strategy to change his or her explanatory style. Recognize the “automatic thoughts,” such as “I’m doomed,” etc. Get rid of anxiety. Dispute these thoughts: “I did do this.” Re-attribute these thoughts by providing a better explanation for an event. Distract yourself and don’t wait for a perfect solution—act now.

To implement the strategy, talk or write yourself out of negative thoughts. It can be as simple as changing the tense of a word. Visualize a “destination...
postcard,” such as a runner (yourself) finishing first. Set micro-milestones (one day or one week) and establish and grant rewards. Think in advance what these might be.

Measure success. Think about how to handle situations calmly and recognize that small setbacks are normal. Get support and help. While fighting a war, it’s important to seek out allies so that each battle will be easier. Finding a mentor is always a good thing to do when changing jobs or positions. Each day, focus on today only.

Building a Positive Operating Framework in Your Library

Warren continued by speaking about strategies for the individual in work and life situations. Adapting what we’ve learned into everyday life can be difficult for some and easy for others. You must remember that your mental and physical health comes first. Work toward an optimistic explanatory style by taking advantage of resources available on Martin Seligman’s website. Establish meaningful relationships in your personal life and at work. Seek a work-life balance. Warren challenges each of us to do one of the following for one week:

- Buy your boss coffee or tea
- Single out one coworker each week for praise
- Provide your boss with an itemized list of the tasks you love doing
- Schedule moments of relaxation during the day

Yes, I know some of us (or maybe most of us) see one or more of these as impossible to do in our work situations. But we can at least try one.

A library manager in particular should be a self-starter, pro-active, and persistent. Encourage and support active behavior, and promote a balance between varying perspectives of employees. Implement a formal/informal system of positive reinforcement, and monitor the emotional health of self and staff. Recognize initiative and creativity, and share information—a lack of communication promotes negativity. Everyone should commit to clear, consistent communication across the library operation.

Where Do We Go from Here?

Continue to identify negative thinking patterns. (Think of “Annie” and her positive attitude—after all, the sun will come out tomorrow.) Consider resilience training.

Although I heard some attendees describe this presentation as “touchy/feely,” I found it intriguing and positive, and felt that it gave everyone some new angles to think about and discuss—and implement—during the current economic setting.

I had attended program B-1, “Developing Leaders: Inside, Outside, and Together,” just before this program and feel that the two sessions complement each other nicely. I also liked how the focus shifted back and forth between Holcomb and Warren, as I felt it kept the audience’s attention and added to variety.

Handouts and a bibliography were provided by the speakers and are available on AALL2go at www.softconference.com/aall. I would recommend downloading the audio for this program from AALL2go as well.

Karen A. Nuckolls (kanuck2@uky.edu) is the interim director and head of technical services at the University of Kentucky Evans Law Library in Lexington.

An audio recording of this session is available for purchase at AALL2go: www.softconference.com/aall.
tales from the attic

Help for the accidental archivist

By Amanda Quist
Photo by Brant Bender
Here's a scenario that might be familiar to librarians working in small to mid-sized law libraries: you have a job—a full-time job, with full-time responsibilities—but someone in your organization teaches that you once took an archives class in library school, or that your undergraduate degree is in history, or that you love the smell of old books, or maybe you just walked into the lunchroom at the wrong time that day, and suddenly you are the archivist for your institution. With no time to spare, no budget, and no training, where do you even begin?

This premise is what led Kurt Metzmeier of the University of Louisville Law Library to coordinate the Annual Meeting program "Mapping Uncharted Terrains: Introducing Archival Best Practices to the Management of Law School, Court, and Law Firm Historical Collections." Metzmeier began the program by introducing the myriad of problems faced by those (himself included) who find themselves in this situation. The basic problem is that often there is a larger repository, either as part of a parent organization or outside of it, that collects the major historical records, and what the law library often has is a mishmash of oddities in a wide variety of formats.

Questions and More Questions

All of this leads to more questions than answers on the part of the new archivist—questions on collection and acquisition, preservation, and access. How do I stop "arctic syndrome?" What should I be collecting? How do I preserve my collection? How do I provide access and who do I provide access to? Is digitization the answer to all my problems?

These were just some of the questions Metzmeier asked as he introduced presenter Denise Anthony of the University of Denver’s Library and Information Science program. Anthony, with years of archival experience and education behind her, began by telling the audience that her presentation would give us some control over our situation but would also leave us with many new questions to think about. It will be a difficult job, she noted, because you are going to have to be able to explain to others what you are doing while you are learning it yourself.

According to Anthony, your first step when working with an archival collection should be to determine what you have. You have to know what’s in your inventory, what format types you have, and how much. You should also assess the condition of the items. Perhaps most importantly, you need to know how much support you have for the project. Do you have a budget? Buy-in from management? Obviously, these last questions will have an enormous impact on the success of your project, particularly buy-in from organizational stakeholders and leaders.

Anthony’s next step is “know where you are going.” Without a doubt, the most important thing you can do is have a mission statement for your archives. And, no, a mission statement does not include the words “to collect, describe, and provide access to materials.” The statement should be meaningful to your organization and it should help you convince others, including stakeholders, that what you are collecting is worthwhile. The mission statement will also be critical in helping you develop the other key piece of the archives puzzle: collecting policy. Your mission statement and collecting policy will guide you as you move forward and make decisions about what to keep and, more importantly, what not to keep.

Know Your Rights

With your mission statement and collecting policy in hand, you are ready for deeds of gift. Deeds of gift are those handy documents that donors sign, conveying their intellectual and property rights to your institution. They also spell out what you as an organization can do with the item once you accept it. (Hint: you want this part to be as broad as possible.) The key here is that the deed of gift only conveys those rights the donor has, so be very careful that you understand them. Anthony explained that if at all possible, you should get a deed of gift for all materials you currently have if you don’t have one already. This will allow you to feel free discarding items that don’t fit your collecting policy and mission statement.

Once you know what your collection will be—and what it won’t be—you can begin to address other issues, like your access and use policy, archival description, and whether or not to digitize. Anthony addressed digitization briefly, stating that it is a significant amount of work and, if you are going to do it, you need to take these factors into consideration: what you are going to digitize and why; what resources will be available to you for the project; and how you will maintain the new digital collection you have created.

The presentation was relatively short and, as promised, left the audience with a lot of questions to think about. Fortunately, there was plenty of time for us to ask them and get answers. It was this part of the program that really came alive, as the audience members had many questions related to their particular situations. Anthony and Metzmeier did a good job of fielding the questions and offering answers that added to the substance of the presentation.

Overall, I found this to be a good program for those facing an archival collection for the first time or even the first time in a long time. It’s more of a jumping off point than a how-to presentation, providing the basic building blocks necessary to get started. Anthony effectively broke what seems like an enormous task down into more manageable steps and provided the logical progression of those steps. The program handout also provides some great starting points and online resources. I know I came away with some new ideas about how to tackle my archives.

Amanda Quist (aquist@sdcpl.org) is acquisitions librarian, and accidental archivist at the San Diego County Public Law Library in California.
Three principles for great PowerPoint presentations

By Jennifer S. Stephens
Photo by Brant Bender


Presenters: Elizabeth Farrell, coordinator and speaker, Florida State University; Jennifer Duperon, Boston University Pappas Law Library

This session could have easily been paired with the session on Pecha Kucha by Carol Watson and Wendy Moore of the University of Georgia Law Library (see “Pecha Ku-What?” on page 40). Pecha Kucha presentations are short—20 slides at 20 seconds each. In this presentation style, each slide should be a relevant image and/or a few words to capture the audience’s attention and prompt a quick discussion of an idea.

The idea behind “Extreme Makeover: PowerPoint Edition” is very similar. Jennifer Duperon started the session by reminding the audience that PowerPoint is designed as a multimedia application, not just “an overhead projector.” Studies now show that reading the same text as a presenter is reading actually inhibits learning. So what are good presenters supposed to do?

When using PowerPoint for presentations, remember three principles:

• Less text per slide
• Visual interest
• Create takeaway documents

Less Text per Slide

Use the slides to show just a few words or a short list reminding you what you intend to say with each slide. Bullet points help you outline what you will say. You can always use the notes feature of PowerPoint to write out your script and to have as part of a takeaway document. For example, if you are discussing how to read a Federal Register citation, Duperon recommended showing an example of the citation on the slide and discussing how to read the citation and find the document using the citation.

Visual Interest

The strength of PowerPoint is the use of images and multimedia. Duperon and Farrell suggested using Creative Commons-licensed photos from Flikr or the images and photos included in the clip art selection of PowerPoint to illustrate your point. For example, use a picture of the Supreme Court as an image when discussing how to find and read case law.

Try using screenshots of programs or databases for canned demonstrations. For example, incorporate screenshots of an online resource home page with arrows pointing to the different sections you will discuss.

If you plan to do live demonstrations, however, you should have them already up in separate browser windows or tabs. If you are discussing multiple pages or websites, open them in the reverse order of how you will be presenting them for a smoother transition. Clicking on a link from the slide usually takes too long to load and presents the danger of losing the audience’s attention while you are waiting for the browser and site to come up.

Think design, not decoration. PowerPoint has many pre-existing templates, but most have distracting images, boxes, and other design elements. Try starting out with black text on a white background and lay out your text and images from there. You can always add colors or other design elements later.

Create Takeaway Documents

Audiences like to have something to take with them. Instead of handing out a copy of the presentation, compose a completely separate document with more detail or with an outline complete with sources, descriptions, and links. You might consider giving an outline or flowchart of your presentation with plenty of space for the audience to take notes. This allows the audience to follow the presentation and keeps them engaged during the presentation.

Wrap-Up

Both presenters stressed that while this approach will take longer to create the presentation, it will pay off with an engaged audience. PowerPoint is designed to be a visual and multimedia presentation program, not just a substitute for an overhead projector or whiteboard. Those who use Apple computers may follow these principles using KeyNote, Apple’s presentation software.

Last, but certainly not least, rehearse your presentation multiple times and be prepared for any technology breakdowns.

I enjoyed this session. The presentation was crisp and engaging and well worth staying through Tuesday afternoon to attend. It was also short—approximately 15 minutes of presentation with the next 15 minutes reserved for questions and answers. I would recommend downloading the MP3 file both to hear the presentation and as an example of a short, engaging presentation.

Jennifer S. Stephens (Jennifer.stephens@haynesboone.com) was a corporate librarian for 13 years before joining the library team at Haynes and Boone, LLP in 2002. Her duties include reference, research, electronic services, cataloging, and attorney orientations.

An audio recording of this session is available for purchase at AALL2go: www.softconference.com/aall.
When using PowerPoint, Elizabeth Farrell (left) and Jennifer Duperon encourage presenters to use less text per slide, keep visual interest high, and create takeaway documents.

PowerPoint is designed to be a visual and multimedia presentation program, not just a substitute for an overhead projector or whiteboard.
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AALL Says Thank You

AALL would like to thank the following contributors for their support of the Association and its activities. The following individuals and organizations contributed to the 2010 AALL Annual Meeting and/or any one or more of the following funds: Alan Holoch Memorial Grant, Centennial, FCIL Schaffer Grant, George A. Strait Minority Scholarship, Government Affairs, Grants, Marla Schwartz Grant, Morris Cohen Essay Competition, Research Endowment, or Scholarships.

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Plotin and Donovan Win AALL Article of the Year Awards

The AALL Awards Committee selected Stephanie L. Plotin, reference and Williams Institute librarian at University of California at Los Angeles Hugh and Hazel Darling Law Library, as the recipient of the 2010 Law Library Journal Article of the Year Award. Her article, “Legal Scholarship, Electronic Publishing, and Open Access: Transformation or Steadfast Stagnation” 101 Law Library Journal 31 (2009), studies the complex interactions between technology and the culture of a discipline to investigate the evolution of legal scholarship in the digital age.

The committee also selected James M. Donovan, faculty and access services librarian at the University of Georgia School of Law Library in Athens, to receive the 2010 AALL Spectrum Article of the Year Award. His article, “Back Away from the Survey Monkey: Optimize Research Results with an Honest Assessment of Methodology,” in the November 2009 issue of AALL Spectrum, explores how libraries can most effectively gather data through surveys.

Established in 1989, the Law Library Journal Article of the Year Award recognizes outstanding achievement in research and scholarship as represented by a published work in Law Library Journal.

The AALL Spectrum Article of the Year Award was established in 2000 to honor outstanding achievement in writing that contributes to librarianship, law librarianship, and practical applications for library work; to an understanding of legal materials, legal systems, and legal information; or to professional and staff training and development.

Both awards include a cash prize of $500, donated by Wolters Kluwer Law and Business.

The awards were presented July 12 at the Law Library Journal and AALL Spectrum Authors Reception held during the 2010 AALL Annual Meeting and Conference in Denver.

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AALL Elections Coming Up

2010 AALL election schedule and candidates

November 1, 2010
Ballots distributed electronically to all voting members.

December 1, 2010
Deadline for receipt of electronic ballots at AALL. Ballots tabulated at AALL, and results of elections announced immediately.

For those members who do not have e-mail or who do not wish to participate in an online election, please contact Hannah Phelps, membership services coordinator, at AALL by October 15, and Headquarters will provide paper ballots. Phelps can be reached at hphelps@aall.org or 312/205-8022.

2010 Candidates
The AALL Nominations Committee nominated the following individuals for office in AALL.

Vice President/President-Elect
Jean M. Wenger, Government Documents/Foreign and International Law Librarian, Cook County Law Library, Chicago

Cornell H. Winston, Law Librarian, United States Attorney’s Office, Los Angeles

Secretary
Deborah L. Rusin, Research Librarian, Latham & Watkins LLP, Chicago

Dennis S. Sears, Associate Director for Legal Research Instruction, Brigham Young University, Howard W. Hunter Law Library, Provo

Executive Board Member
Kathleen Brown, Assistant Director for Public and Faculty Services, Oklahoma City University Law Library, Oklahoma

Madeline Cohen, Circuit Librarian, U.S. Courts 10th Circuit Library, Denver

Gregory R. Lambert, Library and Records Manager, King & Spalding LLP, Houston

Sarah Mauldin, Head Librarian, Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP, Atlanta
AALLNET.org

Current Events
Connect with colleagues at these select AALL events. Visit www.aallnet.org/calendar for more information and offerings.

October 8
Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin Educational Institute: The Strength of Change Milwaukee, Wisconsin

October 14
Western Pacific Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting San Francisco, California

October 20
Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting Canton, Ohio

June 12
102nd Special Libraries Association Conference and INFO Expo Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

July 23
104th AALL Annual Meeting Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

@Spectrum
AALL’s members are all a-Twitter about Spectrum and the 2010 Annual Meeting. Here’s what we overheard in the cloud.

@benjamin7423: @clsellers enjoyed your recent AALL Spectrum article—used it as a source for my history of libs proj on Law Lib of Cong. [June 2010 Spectrum]


@jenellen1214: Back at work after a wonderful #AALL2010 conference — I have a lot of new friends now. :-)

@mdaniels3000: Had a great time at #aall2010. Met lots of great people and learned a ton. Looking forward to #aall2011. See you all in Philly!

@richards1000: RT @jasnwilsn: Ditto @tomboone: Great mobile tools program by @mak506 and @jeiseman #aall2010

@vicki_uclawlib: To all at #aall2010, thanks for making my first librarian conference so enjoyable! I am so thankful to be a part of this community!

@aallcopyright: Good work George & Jim: RT @juice_lee: Great presentation! Thanks. at Ten Things Every Law Librarian ... http://bit.ly/a41dS #aall2010

@sharon_athens: Watching the copyright program in my office. The streaming program works well. I can see the panel and the slides. #aall2010

@mak506: @elizabethf and Jennifer are rocking the house in PowerPoint Extreme Makeover! #aall2010

@LyoLouisJacques: Missing #aall2010. It’s really a thrill seeing everyone in person and new folks. A highlight was the Rights of Indigenous Peoples program

@stephdavidson: Good bye, #aall2010 and @aallbluebear !! Hope you all had as great a time as I did! See you next year!
statistic data collection approaches, including one method that involves working with forms developed in-house in a library. For example, you can create statistics forms using Google docs, which then provide a basic format for easily creating a simple digital statistics-gathering model.

If the statistics gatherer has evolved beyond the “prison wall” method, he or she may migrate toward a hybrid approach. This could be a combination of tallies of questions combined with the amount of time and narratives on the type of question, e.g., directional versus ready reference or research. The hybrid approach could also be used to distinguish and define the type of requester, e.g., faculty, student, judge, federal defender, or pro per patrons. Recurring types of queries from a single patron base could generate the decision to create pathfinders or library guides on a topic.

A hybrid approach to stat gathering is more knowledge-based and clearly sets a solid foundation for generating more extensive data about library work and tasks performed within the library setting. The knowledge-based hybrid approaches can also be archived for cross training initiatives, and data can be used in annual reports or marketing documents to demonstrate the library’s value to stakeholders.

Behrens explained that when statistics gatherers migrate away from the simpler analog tally models of stat gathering, they can migrate toward netting more substantive knowledge in their statistics. When one has substantive data, it can be used as a yardstick to gauge or measure time, task diversity, and specific particulars of a myriad of other library worker responsibilities.

Tools for Statistics Hunters
One excellent tip that Behrens shared with the audience is the option to utilize the “Reference Service Statistics and Assessment” (Association of Research Libraries SPEC Kit No. 262, available at www.arl.org/bm~doc/spec286web.pdf). The kit, a collection of forms and procedural documents gathered from general academic libraries, is a handy guide that can be used in spring boarding to more savvy data collection procedures.

Desk Tracker (www.desktracker.com) is a digital statistics gathering option suggested by Behrens. According to its website, “Desk Tracker lets library staff record activity and events simply and reliably. The friendly interface allows for fast, one-click entries with the flexibility to collect detailed data and follow-up information.”

My absolute favorite stat data collection tool is Gimlet (www.gimlet.us). I got a look at Gimlet at the State, Court, and County Special Interest Section “Cool Tools” Café and was delighted to hear Behrens discuss it. Gimlet is a hosted solution for detailed reference desk statistics gathering. A single account is free; additional charges (currently $10 per month) apply for multiple service points or advanced report generation. The open source version of Gimlet is LibStats, which is available for download and customization at http://code.google.co/p/libstats.

Behrens showcased many online options for statistics gathering. Learning about these digital tools took away some of the negative connotations often associated with statistics gathering. Kudos to Behrens for her honesty about the angst involved in gathering statistics and for offering high-quality, less painful methods and resources to undertake this ugly, yet necessary, task. I do recommend purchasing the audio of the program because it was delightful to listen to the audience’s responses to Behrens’s speaking style and humor.

Valerie A. Railey (valerie_railey@lb9.uscourts.gov) is branch librarian at the U.S. Courts Library in San Diego.

An audio recording of this session is available for purchase at AALL2go:
www.softconference.com/aall.
“Last summer my husband and I, along with some friends and family, hiked the Grand Canyon rim to rim. It was a hot walk down into the canyon from the north rim and the first vacation outside of the holidays that I have shared with a sister since childhood. I learned that you get very close to people who you share brutal physical conditions with. We made it to Phantom Ranch in time for dinner, which tasted like the best food ever.

“We booked a bedroom compartment, which included all meals and non-alcoholic drinks. The stateroom with in-suite bathroom (including a shower) was more spacious than I expected, though not nearly as large as a cruise ship cabin. Without internet or TV for three days and two nights, I was looking forward to reading but instead mostly looked out the windows at the country passing by. The route took us through the Rockies and Sierras during the day, and the snow in the mountains was still amazing.”

—Denny Haythorn, associate dean of library/information resources and professor of law at the Whittier Law School Library in Costa Mesa, California

“I took a bus from Kathmandu to 40 kilometers from the Tibetan border— heavy rains had washed away the road. I fell into line with the sherpas who carried large bundles on their backs. We walked for two days to get to the Tibetan border. Once I crossed the border, I ended up walking through an encampment of Chinese soldiers and then had to cross another washed-out road to catch a public bus to Lhasa.

“I ended up spending over three weeks in Tibet. I toured Potala Palace and walked with Buddhist pilgrims—making merit on their way to the next monastery. I visited monasteries in Xigatse and hiked to Everest Base camp. All in all, it was an amazing vacation and one that I will always remember.”

—Faye Hadley, Native American resources/reference law librarian at the University of Tulsa College of Law Mabee Legal Information Center in Oklahoma

“Last March, my wife Lori and I took the California Zephyr from Chicago to San Francisco. The Zephyrs ran behind our house in suburban Chicago when I was growing up and I had wanted to take this trip for quite a while.

“We booked a bedroom compartment, which included all meals and non-alcoholic drinks. The stateroom was satisfied with downing a couple of cold beers in celebration.”

“Last March, my wife Lori and I took the California Zephyr from Chicago to San Francisco. The Zephyrs ran behind our house in suburban Chicago when I was growing up and I had wanted to take this trip for quite a while.

“The next day we cooled our toes in the Colorado river (frigid) and bathed in Roaring Springs Creek (divine). On Saturday, we had to encourage one another as we walked out to the South rim—all nine miles of it. When we hiked up into the parking lot at the end of the trail, we felt we could accomplish anything—but were satisfied with downing a couple of cold beers in celebration.”

—Sarah Lynch, reference librarian at Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP in Columbus

“My wife and I recently went to Spain to teach English to Spaniards. There are a couple of businesses in Spain that supply room and board in exchange for native English speakers to spend time talking to Spaniards (Pueblo Ingles and Vaughantown.com). The participants are only required to speak English. The chance to meet folks from all over Spain plus English speakers from around the world was an unforgettable treat, and the location was great.”

—Sid Kaskey, research and information services manager for the Florida and Latin American Offices of Squire, Sanders & Dempsey LLP in Miami

What was your favorite summer vacation?
memorials

AALL Spectrum has been advised of the deaths of Gloria Chao and Anne Grande.

Mrs. Chao was born in Liaoning, China. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree from Providence University in Taiwan, she moved to the United States and earned her MLS at Villanova University. She worked as a law librarian at the Rutgers-Camden School of Law for more than 30 years. During that time, she led the library’s conversion from cards to an online catalogue and earned a reputation as the “sunshine” of the library, her colleagues said. Mrs. Chao traveled all over the world for the annual conference of the International Association of Law Libraries, for which she served as treasurer for 12 years. She was a long-time member of AALL and was active in the Academic Law Libraries and Technical Services Special Interest Sections. She died on August 12.

Mrs. Grande earned her undergraduate degree in French from Iowa State University, her MLS from Simmons College, and an MBA from the University of Minnesota. She worked for the Hennepin County Law Library for 38 years, 35 years as director. Mrs. Grande loved working at the public service desk helping bewildered pro se patrons, confused summer law clerks, and older lawyers who had no idea how to use Westlaw. In honor of her service, the Hennipin County Board of Commissioners renamed the library the Anne W. Grande Law Library in 2009. Mrs. Grande was active with the Minnesota Association of Law Libraries as well as AALL and was an officer in both organizations. She was also active in the State, Court, and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section and several AALL committees. She died on August 17.

AALL Spectrum carries brief announcements of members’ deaths in the “Memorials” column. Traditional memorials should be submitted to Janet Sinder, Law Library Journal, University of Maryland At Baltimore, Thurgood Marshall Law Library, 501 W. Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD 21201-1768; jsinder@law.umaryland.edu.

“It was a fantastic opportunity to take six weeks and really savor the beauty and diversity of this vast land. With today’s higher gas prices and safety concerns, I’m not sure such a trip could be replicated.”

—Leslie McGuire, librarian at the U.S. Courts Library in Tulsa, Oklahoma

“My first trip to Washington, D.C., in the late 70s started my on-going love affair with the D-M-V (Delaware, Maryland, Virginia) region, and it was a true library geek extravaganza. I was a library school student working in the government documents department at Tarlton Law Library at the time. After seeing a notice for a ‘Get to Know the Government Printing Office (GPO)’ workshop, I signed up and recruited a friend to go to D.C. with me. It seemed a perfect opportunity to combine a little learning with a lot of fun.

“The icing hit the cake when Roy Mersky said he would give me the time off if I promised to visit just a ‘few’ law libraries while I was there. Ten law library visits later (thank you, Jim Hambleton, for all the arrangements), I was enthralled with D.C., GPO, and everything else connected to the trip. After meeting all these neat law librarians, I decided that if these were the kind of people I got to hang with, I was all in—one of the best decisions of my life!”

—Kay Schluefer, of Librarians on Demand in Austin

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Depending on the number of submissions received, we will publish one or two photos in each issue of Spectrum and post them on AALLNET at www.aallnet.org/view/view_month.asp. Photos will be published on a first-come, first-served basis. Publication of a submitted photo is not guaranteed.

To submit a photo, or if you have questions, please contact AALL Marketing and Communications Manager Hillary Baker at hbaker@aall.org.


View from the Missouri State Capitol Building from the Missouri Supreme Court Library in Jefferson City. Photo by Bryan Dunlap, assistant librarian.
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