Was Baltimore in '97 the best Annual Meeting ever? An arguable point, but it was certainly the biggest ever: surpassing the mighty Boston in '94, Charm City drew 2336 registrants. The weather was basically cooperative—no heat wave and just a touch of rain at the very end—and the city was as impressive as everyone had predicted and promised (fabulous food, friendly folks—fairly fantastic!).

The Opening Reception, held at the Maryland Science Center and sponsored by BNA (celebrating its 50th year of employee ownership), was a feast for all the senses. The Keynote Address was a far-ranging and engaging examination of the role integrity plays in our lives. The Business Meetings were well-attended and the proposed Bylaws amendment to open the membership was referred back to committee (the amendment on Chapters passed). The Closing Banquet was enlivened by a fascinating videotape of AALL history, and the Hubcaps rocked the house at the Dance! And somewhere in the midst of all the revelry, there were several days’ worth of challenging and informative educational programs. Special thanks to the Local Arrangements Committee and to the Program Selection Committee—the folks in Anaheim have a tough act to follow!
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Cover photos: Marc Silverman and Baltimore Area Convention & Visitors Association
Invitation to a Dedication

As president of the Consortium for the National Equal Justice Library, and on behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to report that the Library will be formally dedicated on Friday and Saturday, September 19 and 20, 1997, owing in large measure to the ongoing support of the American Association of Law Libraries. The Association has been a founding co-sponsor, along with the American Bar Association and the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, since work began to establish the Library in 1989.

The dedication will take place at the Library’s host institution, Washington College of Law of American University, which donated the space to house the Library’s collections in its new building.

We are proud and grateful that AALL has made a commitment to bring about justice by preserving and building on the legal profession’s more-than-120-year, yet little-known, history of providing counsel. We are specially thankful for having the opportunity to recognize at the dedication the enormous contributions of law librarians to the cause symbolized by the Library.

For more information, please contact the Library’s curator, Danna Bell-Russell, at 202/274-4320. We hope to see you at the dedication!

James R. Neuhard
President, Consortium for the National Equal Justice Library

Another Chorus of the Bluebook Blues

Writing about the new edition of the Bluebook in the June 1997 AALL Spectrum, Warren Rees claims that its editors prefer a “print paradigm.” If legal research doesn’t already undermine this preference, it will soon.

The “paradigm” metaphor suggests that there are two antipodal views of reality—in this case, bibliographic reality—and that progress occurs when one supplants the other. So it looks as if the Bluebook editors anachronistically prefer print sources to electronic sources. In fact, their rules of citation offer a balanced approach.

Rees finds fault with Rules 17.3.1 and 17.3.2 because they require citation to electronic formats only if the equivalents in print are hard to get or if there are no equivalents in print. The rules make good sense. The Bluebook editors identify the problem with “the transient nature of many Internet sources” (Rule 17.3.2). There are also the related problems of accuracy, currency, and completeness.

None of the database vendors has promised to maintain its databases indefinitely, for future historical uses. They will maintain the databases as long as they reap a sufficient profit margin, and not a minute longer. Furthermore, anyone who has checked the integrity of online materials knows that electronic conversion can corrupt the integrity of the content. The “information market” won’t necessarily pressure vendors to correct the mistakes. Their advertisements emphasize the availability of “information on demand.” Repeated like a mantra, such slogans have arguably had the effect of reducing concern about quality control. Finally, online vendors can and do change the ways in which we may retrieve online materials, making citations to them ephemeral.

One hopes that facilities will remain to serve as repositories of printed materials, just in case the electronic versions no longer exist, or citations to them have become outdated. Therefore, it is a future researcher who can’t afford the one-time, transactional fees. These facilities are familiar enough, despite the slogans and the paradigms. They’re called libraries.

Michael Ginsborg
Assistant Librarian
California Supreme Court Library
michael_ginsborg@sc.jud.state.ca.us

Sources of legal information are available in many formats. While printed materials will most certainly be a major source of legal information for the foreseeable future, other sources are equally important. Users of legal information will decide which format they want to access, based upon economics and other factors. The Bluebook should make it possible for the user to cite to whatever format the user chooses. The current edition of the Bluebook fails to accommodate users because it is still based primarily upon citing the printed page. I don’t want the rules to ignore the print sources but the rules should be changed to include other formats.

Warren Rees
Research Librarian
Notre Dame Law School
Notre Dame, Indiana
warren.d.rees.2@nd.edu

Getting the Facts Straight

I thoroughly enjoyed reading the July 1997 issue of AALL Spectrum, especially the “President’s Briefing.” However, I got a real chuckle when I read “U.S. Law Libraries Before AALL.” The essence of the third item is true, however, the names have been somewhat confused. To set the record straight, the Law Library Company of the City of Philadelphia (not to be confused with the Library Company of Philadelphia), now called the Jenkins Memorial Law Library, was founded in 1802 by 72 attorneys. It is the oldest law library in the country and its first quarters were the old State House, which is now called Independence Hall. One year later, the Social Law Library was founded in Boston.

Ed Bellefontaine, Director of the Social Law Library, and I are good friends and as he says, “Your law library may be a year older than mine, but we are still operating under the same name!” I must say, its name sounds so much friendlier compared to either of our names.

There are a lot of interesting and historical facts about the Philadelphia legal community, and I guess that we can make them known to the membership when AALL meets in Philadelphia in the year 2000.

Regina L. Smith
Director
Jenkins Memorial Law Library
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Credit Where Due

Although I no longer have the “Presidential Proclamation” in AALL Spectrum to use as my personal forum, I do have a bit of unfinished presidential business left to complete. I hope to do so with this letter.

Both during and after the recently conducted 90th Annual Meeting of our Association in Baltimore, I was on the receiving end of many very nice compliments about the exciting things that had happened during 1996–1997. Not being above accepting the occasional pat on the back, I was pleased to hear these things, but I wish to publicly state here what I said with all sincerity in response to each such bit of praise. It’s easy to “lead” when you have great people doing great things all around you and that was certainly the case for me. Committee chairs and members, SIS and Chapter leaders, convention planners, fellow Board members, headquarters staff—they deserve the credit, not me.

Another group essential to my presidential “success” was the staff of the School of Law Library at Southern Illinois University. I cannot name one without naming them all (and they all deserve mention), but suffice it to say that without their assistance [i.e., doing my job at SIU] whatever leadership I was able to provide would not have been possible. I owe them way beyond my means to reciprocate (although I am certainly trying).

It was an honor and a joy to serve as President. I will treasure the experience always.

Frank G. Houdek
Law Library Director and Professor of Law
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, Illinois
houdek@siu.edu

Oops...

We recently advertised our law journals in AALL Spectrum. On reviewing our ad in the June 1997 issue I was shocked to see that we had listed our World Wide Web address incorrectly. Would it be possible for you to place a correction notice somewhere in the next issue, informing your readers of our correct Web address: http://library.berkeley.edu:8080/ucalpress/journals.

Tom White
University of California Press
Berkeley, California

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Cosell Awards Grant

The Consortium of South Eastern Law Libraries awarded the Katherine Everett Law Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill a grant in the amount of $1412. The purpose of the grant is to provide initial support for a project to develop a CD-ROM database containing an inventory of the 4th Circuit Records and Briefs located at the UNC Law Library. Copies of the CD-ROM database will be provided to all Cosell libraries. Congratulations UNC-CH!
New Horizons: for AALL, for law librarianship, for me

Baltimore: celebrating her 200th birthday, revealing in both historical significance and her recent renaissance. Until 13 years ago I lived less than 50 miles from her attractions: the McCormick spice factory, my beloved Orioles [I sat in the owner's box during one of the World Series games in 1983, which they won], Italian ices and Little Italy. My daughter was born right up the coast. While in library school (where I met my husband), I frequented the University of Maryland School of Law's library in Baltimore for class assignments in several courses. California: my home right after college, my stint at Hastings, camping in the majestic Trinity Alps [my first exposure to *real* mountains], birthplace of both my son and my continuing love affair with wine. Can you imagine more appropriate places for the introduction and conclusion of my Presidential year?

From the eastern coast of Baltimore and environs, to the western slopes of sunny southern California—what a contrast.

New Horizons: a contrast in not just climate, but excursions, technology, and creative entrepreneurism. From Francis Scott Key to Walt Disney. From crabs to the Beach Boys. The theme for the Association this year, culminating in the Annual Meeting next July in Anaheim, seemed to Mike Saint-Ongé [Program Selection Committee Chair] and me to be a natural. We felt it was an ideal opportunity for AALL to try a different format for programming. In response to many comments and our own intuition, we opted for more time slots for SISs and committees to meet . . . programs beginning on Sunday morning . . . and keynote speakers leading off each day with remarks that would inspire (and thwart) attendees. Based on what we heard in Baltimore, we think we have touched a chord of excitement and anticipation with AALL members. Rather than the resistance we thought we might encounter, we learned that AALL's leadership, program planners, and interested members feel liberated about the adaptability of the meeting we are planning.

New Horizons for AALL. The educational program is no longer only the Annual Meeting. The Professional Development Committee has cooked up an ambitious menu of offerings that, within a couple of years, will allow members to select a program to attend, to listen to, or to capture via computer at least once a month. The Private Law Libraries SIG, with over 1600 members, is having its own renaissance. Its own long range plan is providing P.L.L leaders the tools to plan innovative scheduling and products for firm and corporate law librarians. Following on the success of last year's marketing tool kit, Making Information Work, it is now planning a series of eight Resource Guides for communicating critical issues with administrators and attorneys. Individual topics will include the hiring of qualified law librarians, and the pros and cons of the Internet as a legal research tool. I'm thinking that these Guides will be equally valuable to public and academic law librarians.

New Horizons with publisher relations. I am committed to moving AALL from a mood of distrust and alienation to one of cooperation, and providing mutual understanding and appreciation of our individual strengths and constraints. The recent upheaval in the legal information industry has been upsetting—for all of us. Processes and procedures were less than perfect. Law librarians could have been consulted for predictable responses to the changes. But we live in a market economy. And the market will prevail. The basic facts are: 1) we have the same customers—the users of legal information, and 2) we use the same information. Ultimately, the consumer will decide if he or she is willing to pay for the purchase, licensing, or continual upkeep of a product.

To assist with these decisions, the Committee on Relations with Information Vendors is re-dedicated to making a significant difference to members, who control nearly two-and-a-half billion dollars of legal information purchasing power. Next month's issue of AALL Spectrum will have a Presidential Briefing on publisher relations. This year AALL will produce a Publisher Relations Tool Kit that will provide further help for law librarians in effectively and quickly resolving problems with both products and communication. The CRIV will provide guidelines for publisher/librarian relations. The CRIV home page on AALLNET will grow as a powerful source of information and guidance. AALL leadership will be meeting with representatives of the vendor community to further discuss ways of cooperating and collaborating on programs and processes to assist law librarians in their professional lives.

What this sound like we have been co-opted by "the other side"? Hardly. Suspicious minds dream up ulterior motives that are stranger than fiction. What AALL has is an earnest, ethical, and intelligently planned effort to assist members with the information they need for their customers.

"What about the membership issue?" you might ask. It's not over yet. The AALL Executive Board has given further direction to our Bylaws Committee to clarify a few points that appeared unclear to some of our members. As to whether or not AALL will open its ranks to anyone interested in law libraries and the goals of AALL, you voting members will have the ultimate decision. The Bylaws amendment proposed in Baltimore was defeated by less than 6% of the membership. That hardly seems either fair or democratic. It may be that the Board will seek a mail ballot so that all members will be able to vote on this very important issue. Denying full membership rights to law librarians who provide consulting services to law libraries, paraprofessionals working in law libraries, technology gurus who work side-by-side with AALL members, law library trustees, and, yes, representatives of the legal information industry appears shortsighted and regressive to me and many others.

New Horizons could appear intimidating. A ship sailing toward new, unexplored vistas needs at its helm a strong captain and crew . . . a leadership with energy, courage, vision, and the ability to look as much to the future as to the past. I am convinced that AALL has that team. Executive Director Roger Parent has assembled a staff that, although small, has talent and creativity, and meeting the needs of AALL's members is its goal. I am excited about working with the stellar officers and Executive Board members you have elected. What other President has had the good fortune to sit between the likes of Frank Houdek and Jim Heller? We'll give you a continuity of spirit and exploration that will excite you, guide you, and, we hope, excellently represent your many and varied interests for quite a while.

Judy Meadows, AALL President, State Law Library of Montana, 215 N. Sanders, Helena, MT 59620-3004
• 406/444-3600 • fax: 406/444-3606 • jmeadows@mt.gov
Washington Brief

by Mary Alice Baish

Dateline: July 31, 1997

AALL Endorses Goals for the Revision of Title 44

AALL, along with other members of the Inter-Association Working Group on Government Information Policy (IAWG), recently endorsed the IAWG’s “Goals for Revising U.S.C. Title 44 to Enhance Public Access to Federal Government Information.” These goals were developed to assist our efforts in rewriting Chapter 19, which governs the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). The four goals below will also serve as a benchmark to measure the legislative proposal currently being redrafted by the Joint Committee on Printing (JCP).

- Broader, strengthen, and enhance public access to all forms of government information;
- Strengthen the role of the Superintendent of Documents (SuDocs) and the FDLP in providing public access;
- Establish the government’s affirmative responsibility to preserve and provide permanent public access, and to develop regulations and guidelines to ensure the authenticity of government information;
- Resolve the constitutional issues, establish accountability, and facilitate public access from all three branches of government.

Library Community’s “Federal Information Access Act of 1997”

Following the May hearings on the JCP’s first draft of a bill revising Title 44, we worked diligently to develop a new Chapter 19, assisted by ALA’s counsel, Tom Susman. Brief highlights of the library community’s bill include:

- Renaming the FDLP the Federal Information Access Program (FIAP), and defining a broader scope of information to be available through participating libraries, including government information in all current or future formats from branches of government;
- Elevating the SuDocs to a presidential appointee, adding responsibility for coordinating permanent public access, and developing with each branch of government standards for government information and ensuring authenticity;
- Providing continued strong congressional oversight for coordinating the dissemination of government information to the public;
- Establishing agency incentives and enforceable compliance mechanisms to guarantee public access to government information through the program;
- Providing flexibility for the SuDocs and FIAP librarians to respond to changing needs of libraries, users, and agencies;
- Establishing advisory councils to the SuDocs that include representatives from agencies, librarians, and users.

The transmittal letter to Sen. John Warner (R-VA) and other key legislators included the Goals document and our bill. These can be found at www.ll.georgetown.edu/aalwash/060997.

Virginia Librarians Meet Sen. Warner

I planned and coordinated an important meeting on July 10, 1997, between Sen. John Warner and ten Virginia librarians who serve in federal depository libraries. We urged support for the Chapter 19 revision and reminded Sen. Warner that the Title 44 revision must result in improved public access. Based on the talking points that I had prepared for the meeting, AALL President-Elect Jim Heller and ALA President Barbara Ford led a discussion on the value of FDLPs, the growing erosion of government information from the public domain, and the challenges and costs to libraries as more information becomes available only electronically.

Supreme Court Victory on the CDA

In a unanimous decision, Justice Stevens announced on June 24, 1997 that the Communications Decency Act of 1996 (CDA) prohibiting the “indecent transmission” and “patently offensive display” of material deemed to be “indecent” for minors is unconstitutionally broad and violates the First Amendment. Relying heavily on the findings of last year’s District Court decision, the Court ruled that the CDA (47 USC 223) suppressed a broad array of materials that adults have a constitutional right to receive and transmit. AALL participated in this challenge to the CDA as a member of the Citizens Internet Empowerment Coalition.

New Noteworthy Report

The final report on GILS by Professors Bill Moen and Charles McClure, “An Evaluation of the U.S. Government’s Implementation of the Government Information Locator Service (GILS),” is available at www.unt.edu/slis/research/gis/washington/docs.htm. Having participated in a focus group last November during the fact-gathering period for this study, I am pleased to note that the report includes many of our recommendations. GILS is at best a very difficult tool for users, and we can only hope that implementation of the recommendations in this report will lead to achieving the vision for which GILS was initially proposed.

Great to See You in Baltimore!

Members of the Government Relations Committee (GRC), Bob Oakley and I were energized by the wonderful attendance at this year’s Legislative and Regulatory Update. Guest speaker Eric Peterson, Staff Director of the JCP, discussed the revision of Title 44.

The Wednesday program on “A Sea Change in Access to Federal Government Information” attracted an even larger audience and provided a welcome opportunity for members to hear more about the impact of changes to Title 44 from key government officials. During the Q & A, AALL members made it very clear that public access to judicial branch information must be improved and included in any legislative change.

New GRC Chair Jackie Wright and I want to thank all of you who represented your Chapters at our Chapter Government Relations Meeting. Guest speaker Marvin Anderson’s enthusiasm for Minnesota’s North Star system captivated the audience, and David McFadden provided important advice on how to impact state legislative issues. Two members of this year’s GRC have volunteered to assist us in helping Chapters develop more active GRCs, and in achieving better communication between the Chapters and the Washington Affairs Office.

Mary Alice Baish, Assistant Washington Affairs Representative, Edward B. Williams Law Library, Georgetown University, 111 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001; 202/662-9202 • fax: 202/662-9209 • baish@law.georgetown.edu • Web site: http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/aalwash

AALL Spectrum September 1997
LISP-SIS Forms Committee to Examine the Relationship between Academic Law Library Access Programs and Federal Depository Library Status

The circumstances that law libraries find themselves in have changed profoundly since 1978, when most law libraries became Federal Depositories. Competing priorities, limited resources, and changing technology create new tensions between the obligations of Depository status and the obligation to serve primary patrons.

The Legal Information Service to the Public Special Interest Section has formed a committee and all are welcome to join the discussion. The convener of the committee is Greta Boeringer, a former GPO Inspector now working as a documents librarian at Pace University Law School Library, a library with a paid access program. She can be contacted by e-mail (gboering@lawlib.law.pace.edu), mail (18 North Broadway, White Plains, NY 10603), or by telephone (914/422-4357).

Academic law libraries are faced with many challenges today. Declining admissions, tightening budgets, increasing security concerns, spiraling serials costs, and changing technology are forcing libraries to re-examine many traditional services. Paid access policies bring many benefits to participating libraries, especially money, decreased reference workloads and the ability to focus on primary patrons. A paid access policy increases the status of a library and forces patrons to value it in a new way. The problem arises when a library is a depository and has agreed to provide public access to the Depository documents. Can this be done effectively in a closed environment?

The Committee hopes to produce talking points for evaluating whether Depository status is appropriate at a particular library, including various priorities to be weighed, and issues to consider. It will develop model access policies to address some of the more common problems. Information on withdrawing from the Federal Depository Library Program will be provided in addition to other products Committee members propose. To provide the basis for the work, the Government Documents SIS will be including questions about access policies in its planned survey of law library Depositories. An education program will be submitted for the Annual Meeting. A separate discussion listserv will be set up for this discussion. Please join it, contribute to it, or at least drop in occasionally.

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Out Of Bounds

Lewis v. Casey redefines rights previously found in Bounds v. Smith—seriously undermining prison law libraries and the ability of inmates to seek justice.

by Rebecca S. Trammell

Imagine, if you will, a law library whose contents are limited to a set of unannotated state statutes, uninitiated state and federal court rules, Black’s Law Dictionary, the U.S. Constitution [articles and amendments but no annotations], title 28 Section 2254 from the U.S. Code [without annotations], one state criminal procedure form book, some selected federal forms, and three legal self-help books. (See sidebar for details.) What sort of legal research could be done using these resources? How successful will litigants be who prepare their pleadings and answers using these materials? Beginning Friday, August 1, we had the opportunity to experience, first hand, the answers to these questions.

During its 1996 term, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a landmark decision, Lewis v. Casey, 116 S. Ct. 2174 (1996), redefining prisoners’ rights of access to the courts. Written by Justice Scalia, this decision essentially reverses more than 20 years of prisoner access to the court’s case law. As a direct result of this decision, which appealed a 9th Circuit Arizona case on prisoners’ access to the courts, the Arizona Department of Corrections will close state prison law libraries and provide only 16 items as legal resources to support prisoners’ access to the courts.

AALL Support for Prisoner Access

Prisoners’ access to the courts, and to prison law libraries, has been a concern to AALL members for many years. At our 64th Annual Meeting in 1971, a resolution was proposed to appoint a special committee to do a one-year study of existing law library services offered to prison inmates. The report was to include recommendations to the Association for a definite course of action to make adequate law library services available to a greater number of inmates. Julius J. Marke (New York University Law Library) spoke to this proposed resolution: “I think what we should attempt to determine is how we can help them obtain legal services, rather than making a survey for the purpose of determining how meager the resources are. We know they are meager. I do not think we have to make a study to determine how bad the situation is; it is horrible. We all know that, but how do you improve it?” (Law Library Journal 433 [1971]) For the last 25 years, AALL, its membership and its Special Interest Sections have been working to improve prisoners’ access to legal services and legal information. (SISs that have assisted prisoners include Private Law Libraries SIS, Social Responsibilities SIS, Academic Law Libraries SIS, Legal Information Services to the Public SIS, State, Court and County Law Libraries SIS, and the Research Instruction and Patron Services SIS, formerly the Readers Services SIS.) All of these efforts at improvement have been dealt a devastating blow by Lewis v. Casey and the resulting actions of the Arizona Department of Corrections.

Bounds v. Smith

Bounds v. Smith, 430 U.S. 817 (1977), is the 1977 case that established a definitive right of meaningful access to the courts for prison inmates. In Bounds, the Court held that access to the courts could be provided through prison law libraries. While not the only avenue identified in Bounds to furnish prisoners with access to the courts, the prison law library has become the most frequently employed means of supplying such access. In an effort to assist prisoners and corrections departments, AALL through the Social Responsibilities SIS has published the Recommended Collections for Prison Law Libraries since 1972. Most recently revised in 1996, this publication has furnished suggestions and guidelines for general, federal, and state-specific prison law library materials. Librarians from all 50 states and U.S. territories have regularly contributed updates and revisions for this publication. It has been a frequently cited resource for courts, prison administrators, and corrections departments. [Contact the author for a complete list of the 26+ state and federal court decisions that have referenced AALL’s Recommended Collections.] It has established AALL as a recognized authority on legal information resources for prisoners. Relying on Bounds, the Recommended Collections has attempted to provide a reasonable list of recommended titles that will furnish adequate legal information to allow prisoners to litigate their convictions, their conditions of confinement, prison grievance issues, civil rights claims, and basic civil issues including custody, divorce, visitation, and termination of parental rights issues. Family law issues are, in fact, the most frequent types of litigation filed by incarcerated women. (See Jim Thomas, Prisoner Litigation: the Paradox of the Jailhouse Lawyer, 1988, for a discussion of such litigation patterns.)

Lewis v. Casey

In Lewis v. Casey, an eight-to-one decision (Justice Stevens dissenting), the Court indicates that Bounds does not create “an abstract, free-standing right to a law library or legal assistance…” (Lewis at 2180) In fact, Lewis completely disclaims the Bounds requirement that prisoners be provided with opportunities to discover grievances and effectively litigate them. (Lewis at 2181) As Justice Scalia says, writing for the majority “To demand the conferment of such sophisticated legal capabilities upon a mostly uneducated and indeed largely illiterate prison population is effectively to demand permanent provision of counsel, which we do not believe the Constitution requires.” (Lewis at 2181)

This is a serious blow for all prison and corrections law libraries that attempt to provide legal information services to prisoners. But the Lewis decision goes even further, and dramatically narrows the definition of the types of proceedings to which prisoners’ access to the courts extends: “The tools it [Bounds] requires to be provided are those that the inmates need in order to attack their sentences, directly or collaterally, and in order to challenge the conditions of their confinement.” (Lewis at 2182) Under this language, an incarcerated woman no longer has the right to litigate visitation or custody issues involving her children. She no longer has the right to attempt to secure a divorce, or to have legal information resources available to assist her in a termination-of-parental-rights case.

Justice Scalia, writing for the Court, states that “Bounds does not guarantee inmates the wherewithal to transform themselves into litigating engines capable of filing everything from shareholder derivative actions to slip-and-fall claims.” (Lewis at 2182) Apparently a prisoner’s slip-and-fall action based on negligence by prison officials and grounded in state law could no longer be
raised by a prisoner. As the Court continues in Lewis at 2182, "Impairment of any other litigating capacity is simply one of the incidentally (and perfectly constitutional) consequences of conviction and incarceration."

Lewis also increases the level of actual injury that must be established to bring an action questioning the adequacy and availability of legal information resources. This "injury requirement is not satisfied by just any type of frustrated legal claim." (Lewis at 2181) It seems apparent from Lewis that only "non-frivolous" legal claims attacking an original sentence or conditions of confinement can form the basis for actual injury. The examples of actual injury given in Lewis indicate a prisoner must show that a complaint filing these guidelines was dismissed "for failure to satisfy some technical requirement which, because of deficiencies in the prison's legal assistance facilities," the prisoner could not have known about. (Lewis at 2180) Another example offered by Lewis indicates that an inmate may have an actionable injury if he wishes to bring an "arguably actionable harm" he has suffered before the courts, and he is "so stymied by inadequacies of the law library that he was unable even to file a complaint." (Lewis at 2180) One wonders how this inmate will be able to file a complaint alleging an inadequate law library if it must be grounded in the inability to file a complaint in the first place.

Shock Waves
The shock waves from the Lewis v. Casey decision are only now becoming apparent. One court has already characterized Lewis v. Casey as limiting the Bounds right of access to the courts to a "right of initial access to commence a lawsuit." (Benjamin v. Jacobson, 935 F. Supp. 332, 352 [S.D.N.D. 1996]) While the Arizona Department of Corrections' action of closing its prison law libraries and limiting inmates to only 16 items for legal assistance is not directly mandated by Lewis, there can be little doubt that these actions are a direct result of the Lewis v. Casey decision. It is too early to say how many other states may follow this lead, but Montana has indicated that it will also be closing its prison law libraries, and some California facilities are questioning prison law library contents.

What Role for AALL?
AALL history contains numerous examples of its commitment to provide legal information services to prisoners. O. Werner's Manual for Prison Law Libraries (1976) was referenced in a Bounds v. Smith footnote that included the statement that the American Association of Law Libraries members "offer assistance to prison law library personnel." (Bounds at 831) AALL publications aimed at supporting legal information services to prisoners have included the Directory: Law Libraries Offering Services to Prisoners first published in 1972, and updated regularly with 1993 as the most recent edition. What You Can Do To Help Prison Law Libraries was published in 1973, and in that same year a Directory of Law Library Consultants to Correctional Institutions was also issued. The goal for the consultants directory was to provide at least one librarian or library in each state to be available to consult with and assist prisoners and prison law library staff. These ongoing AALL efforts are imperiled by the Lewis v. Casey decision. Our strategic plan calls for AALL and its membership to "provide leadership to shape the legal information environment in a time of rapid technological and public policy changes." Certainly the Lewis v. Casey decision and the results that are flowing from this decision constitute a "public policy change" affecting the "legal information environment." This is a policy change that we must oppose. We have built a reputation as legal information providers and legal information resources. We must remain firm in supporting legal information access for prisoners. We must speak out in opposition to the closing of prison law libraries, and we must continue to advocate for adequate resources in these law libraries. This is our responsibility as law librarians and as members of the American Association of Law Libraries, and it is a duty and responsibility that we are uniquely qualified to fulfill. It is time to revitalize that 1971 AALL Resolution to make adequate law library services available to a greater number of inmates.

Rebecca S. Trammell (rtrammell@uo.edu) is Law Library Director and Associate Professor of Law at the Euliano Law Library at the University of Orlando School of Law in Orlando, Florida.

Legal Texts and Resource Material, Arizona Department of Corrections

The following legal texts and legal resource material may remain for use by inmates and shall be placed in the Reserve/Reference section of the General Library of each unit:

- A complete set of Arizona Revised Statutes (non-annotated)
- Arizona Rules of Court
- Federal District Court Rules
- A complete set of Department Orders (General Access Department Orders only)
- The Classification Manual
- The "Prisoner's Self-Help Litigation Manual" (Manville)
- The "Post-Conviction Remedies: A Self-Help Manual" (Manville)
- U.S. Code: 28 U.S.C. Section 2254
- Selected Federal District Court Forms
- Black's Law Dictionary
- U.S. Constitution (articles and amendments)
- Arizona Forms Book—Criminal Procedure
- Lewis v. Casey Post-Conviction Relief forms
- Prisoner's Handbook (Rule 32) (Petitions for Post-Conviction Relief)

Note: Any deletions or additions to the above list will be subject to the approval of the Director of the Department of Corrections.

This list is taken from the Arizona Department of Corrections Legal Access Policy, scheduled to become effective August 1, 1997. This information was provided by the ACLU National Prison Project.
The Law Library of Congress was established as a separate department of the Library of Congress in 1832. Housed on Capitol Hill, the Law Library's collection of legal materials is the largest and most comprehensive in the world. The Law Library originally contained 2011 volumes, 639 of which had been part of Thomas Jefferson's private library. By 1989, its holdings had surpassed two million volumes. This collection is available to members of the U.S. Congress and to anyone over the age of 18 who is able to visit the Law Library Reading Room at 101 Independence Avenue, S.E., in Washington, D.C.

In an age where knowledge is increasingly communicated and stored in electronic form, Congress has recognized the need to provide remote electronic access to key materials. In 1995, Congress endorsed the creation of a National Digital Library Program to provide remote access to increasing numbers of the Library's most interesting and educationally valuable documents of American history and culture. Through the National Digital Library Program, schools, libraries, and homes across America are able to access collections from the Library of Congress via the Internet. Documents selected from the Law Library collections will comprise a significant number of the materials to be made available in this new form.

The Law Library Historical Collections Project

As part of the National Digital Library Program (NDLP), the Law Library Historical Collections Project has two primary objectives:

- to increase accessibility of source materials that are not already widely available; and,
- to focus on the early years of American history as reflected by congressional documents.

To that end, the Law Library intends to make available digital versions of an historical collection that will focus on the first 42 Congresses as well as the Continental Congress and the records and debates of the Constitutional Convention. Items to be made available will cover 100 years of the new nation—from 1774 to 1873—and will include the Journal of the House of Representatives, Journal of the Senate, Annals of Congress, Register of Debates, Congressional Globe, U.S. Statutes at Large, American State Papers, the Journals of the Continental Congress, and selected other materials. These titles, enhanced by related primary sources and reference material, comprise a rich documentary history of the growth of the United States and the development of the federal government.

The collection will be known as "A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774–1873." When completed, the collection will be available on the Internet and will contain page images for some 440 volumes and 668,000 kilocharacters of associated machine-readable, encoded text.

Major Undertaking for the Law Library

A project of this magnitude requires detailed planning and a dedicated staff. Early in 1995, Robert Gee, Chief of Public Services for the Law Library, undertook the leadership of this ambitious task. A team of six professionals, including law library reference staff, was assembled to handle the tasks of project management and planning, selection and preparation of materials, digital conversion, development of access aids, and quality review.

Under Gee's leadership and in partnership with the National Digital Library Program team, an advisory committee was established to provide input to the selection and development process and to offer expertise in producing the final form of the online collection. This committee includes archivists, librarians, and historians from the staff of the House and Senate and the Library of Congress's Congressional Research Service. Representatives from sister organizations involved in researching and maintaining similar collections of material, such as the National Archives and Records Administration, also participate on the committee.

After nearly two years of planning, document selection, and preparation, digital conversion began in early 1997. The Law Library expects to offer historical documents from the first two U.S. Congresses in digital image and full text form by the end of this calendar year. Documents covering the period from 1774 to 1824 are expected to follow within 24 months, with the remaining materials through 1873 by the year 2000.

Challenges

The change from a collection of traditional bound volumes to a collection of digital images and text presented the Law Library conversion team with some serious challenges and far-reaching implications. What collections or documents should be selected for digitization? Can digital images be produced without damaging or compromising the original source document? What steps must be taken to ensure the accuracy and completeness of such a large volume of digital images and text? And finally, will researchers comfortable with traditional research methods find it easier or more difficult to navigate through a digital collection?
Annual Meeting Keynoter Addresses Integrity

A wide-ranging discussion of integrity—what it is and how to maintain it—in our daily lives (and even in libraries).

by Sue Burch

Stephen L. Carter, William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Law at Yale University, provided a riveting and lively keynote address at the 90th Annual Meeting AALL luncheon and awards ceremony.

The author of The Culture of Disbelief and Integrity, Professor Carter examined the role of integrity in one’s daily life, in law, and even in libraries. Admitting that his “record for overdue library books reveals he has no personal experience” with the topic, he explained he is someone who has tried to study it. In fast-paced anecdotal style, Carter used children, football, library wanderings, democracy, political campaigns, Shepard’s Citations, a pope and an emperor to illustrate the dilemma of maintaining integrity.

Moral Principles v. Daily Life

He first delved into how most Americans view integrity: moral principles on one side of the spectrum, and our daily lives on the other. How those two sides interact is what Carter finds most revealing about those who strive for integrity.

He also explained how he got interested in the subject. Using his passion for football, Carter explained his attempt to justify to his children that it was all right for a receiver to act as if he caught a pass when the replay showed he dropped the ball. “But Daddy, he’s cheating!” wailed one of his children. “You don’t know how the game is played,” he replied. “But Daddy, he’s lying. He’s pretending something is true that isn’t,” insisted his other child. “The player is just doing what he’s expected to do. He’s playing his role,” he attempted to explain. By sharing this typical parent/child exchange, Carter began his telling and frank observations on how easily principles and integrity can be set aside in our lives.

He also told us how difficult integrity is to maintain with any kind of consistency, at least for many of us. And yet it is viewed by Americans as the number one quality we want in our public officials, teachers and our children when they become adults. However, Carter feels that integrity will not be achieved unless we figure out “what it is and then follow that model in our lives.”

The Crux of the Problem

He then pinpointed the crux of the problem when facing integrity issues: when do we break “the rules” and when do we not? Carter admitted that “it would be nice” if our life decisions could be based on some well defined philosophical reflections. Unfortunately, these decisions are generally based on “personal convenience,” and that is the lesson we teach our children—namely, adults do not have to follow “the rules” if they don’t want to.

In turning to libraries, he shared an especially insightful remembrance that occurred during a clandestine New Year’s Eve visit to the Yale Law Library. He explained that he loves wandering in libraries and he really wasn’t there that evening to get a specific book, but was curious to find out “what books fate might present to [him].” He likes to “just look at them, feel their texture, and look inside them.” For Carter, this is a crucial aspect of what libraries are about. Their very fabric presents a place where people don’t just get what they want. They often get something entirely different, and this is the “essence of libraries.”

Reflection and Challenge

He then moved into a more philosophical examination of integrity. He recited the dictionary definition: “living life according to a set of principles.” True integrity, according to Carter, lets us both discover our principles and then stand up for them. He also outlined the steps in finding one’s integrity. First, we need to be “orally reflective,” and then we need to have our views challenged. This is important, he explained, because “we don’t know if we have integrity until we’re willing to sacrifice something for our principles.” Additionally, integrity is revealed in not just keeping commitments, but examining how we make our commitments. Using the failing marriage rate in America as an example, Carter pointed out that today many marry too quickly without understanding the work that goes into it. Instead of just walking away, the person of integrity and commitment in a troubled marriage would say, “My marriage is becoming extremely difficult. If there’s any way to work through this, I will.”

Carter v. Shepard’s

In a quick change of direction, Carter probed the “harm” of Shepard’s Citators to legal arguments and Shepard’s impact on the integrity of knowing the law. He explained that before Shepard’s existed, lawyers read cases and made their arguments based on understanding the reasoning in the case. Now lawyers merely say to their clerks, “Give me some language to support this—or find cases that say this...” Law clerks, using online services, can easily provide the cases. Integrity requires the realization that all these services—Shepard’s, LEXIS, WESTLAW—are just tools.

“The importance in the law,” he stressed, “is the argument, not the authorities we use.” Teachers with integrity demonstrate this to students by “being impressed with their reasoning, not words on a screen or the number of papers they write.”

He next gave an intriguing examination of public places and social interaction. If we are in front of our computers all day, we risk losing that “ordinary, yet unexpected contact with students and colleagues in libraries.” He feels libraries are “great equalizing institutions. Everyone is free to go, and we encounter...
integrity is central to those conversations.

Integrity in Politics
Carter went on to explain his love of democracy, the art of persuasion and the give and take of ideas. Integrity requires us “to tell the truth,” but there are three risks to exposing one’s truth: “ridicule; no one will listen; and the fear not that others won’t change their minds, but that we will change ours.”

In a segue into politics, Carter explored Americans’ belief that almost all politicians lie, and yet we pay attention to their campaign promises. And more intriguing, we still vote according to those promises we know will not be kept! Politicians, he explained, have a difficult time with integrity because if they do what “they believe in and it’s unpopular, the media prints that they are out of step with the consensus.” If politicians do what’s popular, they are accused of pandering. Also, despite Americans’ proclamation that they despise negative campaigning, they do not often exhibit integrity at the polls. We don’t “punish” politicians for running that kind of campaign by voting against them.

Pope v. Emperor
Carter ended his speech with a tale of a controversy from the 12th century, between Pope Gregory VII and Emperor Henry IV. They were feuding over who had the right to appoint bishops. The emperor’s people decided the problem could be solved by “constructing” some documents that revealed earlier popes had granted this power to emperors. There were “no feelings of lying because they believed the emperor was right,” and thus constructing those documents was also “right.” This kind of “the end justifies the means” thinking is very prevalent today: “If we know we’re right, don’t stand in our way.” However, Carter shared his belief that we might see a change in this reasoning—a change that will transform humans from ends to means.

A Challenge to Librarians
He concluded with kudos and a challenge to librarians. He first asked his audience to imagine “building libraries with no people in them, that people weren’t important, but the information was.” He told us he agreed that “information is important to libraries,” more important, “information is there for people.” And despite our attention to the technology, efficiency, and cost of some of the new library marvels, he urged us to remember that “libraries exist for people, and that libraries can maintain their integrity when others are losing theirs!”

Carter’s keynote address was an intriguing combination of philosophy, libraries, and the law. In a refreshing departure from our pragmatic library-speak programs, his discussion elevated our consciences to loftier thoughts of principles, commitment, and ethical strength. We were also treated to a different and stirring vision of libraries as entities of happenstance social encounters, of books that “choose” us, and most important, of integrity.

Sue Burch (sburch@pop.uky.edu) is Assistant Director and Coordinator of Public Services at the University of Kentucky Law Library in Lexington.
Baltimore!

Leadership Skills for the Law Library Manager
AALL Institute, July 17 & 18, 1997, Baltimore, Maryland
by Sheri Lewis

A deserted, pre-Annual Meeting Baltimore Convention Center was the scene for a two-day Institute on Leadership Skills for the Law Library Manager. With a background of AALL Executive Board members convening and AALL staff anxiously preparing for the arrival of several thousand Association members, 19 law librarians gathered for the Institute. While the participants came primarily from academic environments, law firm and court librarians also attended. They had come to assess their individual leadership skills and analyze and develop ways to be better managers at their institutions. Most found success.

Ground Rules
The two-day Institute was facilitated by Maureen Sullivan, a librarian and library consultant who is a frequent leader at seminars and workshops. She began the first morning by setting the ground rules for the next two days. These rules, or “norms for learning,” were designed to ease the participants’ comfort level by identifying differences in learning styles and expectations for group participation. We were each to contribute in whatever way was most appropriate for our individual learning styles. There should be no presumed pressure to participate in group discussion. There should be an expectation of sensitivity and patience for varying points of view. Differences in approach, opinion, and style were assumed for all institute participants.

This introduction to learning set the stage for Sullivan’s presentation for this Institute. Her approach was theoretical, with hints of practical application throughout. She identified various aspects of leadership styles and management approaches—sociological models that set the stage for discussion and group and individual exercises. Sullivan presented each topic with a model or models and a lecture presentation. The models, derived from experts in the field of management theory, were accompanied by a brief article or citations to further readings. The specific model or theory of management was then explored further through individual exercises, group discussion of the model, small group exercises, or some combination of the above.

Three Main Topics
The topics covered during this Institute can be categorized into three areas. The first morning was devoted to an exploration of the leadership model. Thursday afternoon and Friday morning focused on the various roles of a leader: as developer, communications facilitator, and decision maker. The final afternoon focused on two topics: building commitment in your institution and planning your personal development as a leader. Each topic was further subdivided into smaller ones. For instance, the “leader as developer” category included the topics of situational leadership, coaching, and empowerment.

Strong Points...
This Institute had many strengths. It was my sense that most of the attendees found it extremely useful. Perhaps the most effective part of the sessions was Sullivan’s ability to incorporate lecture/discussion portions with individual and group exercises. She accomplished this in an extremely well-planned manner—for example, handling the topic of “leader as communicator” progressively. First Sullivan presented a model illustrating the process of one-on-one or interpersonal communication. She then expanded the presentation and focused on various types of organizational communication. At this point, participants had an opportunity to explore various types of communication within their institutions (formal vs. informal, written vs. oral, internal vs. external) during group discussion centering upon personal experiences. Finally, participants paired off and engaged in exercises designed to analyze listening skills. Each of the other topics was presented in a similar manner, engaging the participants in various levels of group and individual interaction.

The Institute featured other extremely positive aspects. Sullivan’s resource packet and handouts provided a wealth of reading materials on the theory of leadership. The exercises and skills assessment routines provided valuable material to take back to attendees’ institutions for individual and group assessment. Her knowledge of the subject matter was apparent, as was her sensitivity to the limitations of group learning within a two-day program.

...and Shortcomings
Despite the many positive aspects of this Institute, there were two notable shortcomings. One disappointment was the failure to consistently and specifically address leadership and management skills in the law library setting. To the extent that such specific issues were raised, they were from personal experiences shared with the group and not as a deliberate part of the curriculum. Additionally, Sullivan’s emphasis on theory and models of leadership and management became tedious at times and seemed to beg for more practical application than was offered during the sessions.

This type of Institute or workshop should be an ongoing offering as part of AALL’s professional development efforts. However, it is likely to be more successful with a greater emphasis on the more practical and day-to-day management of law libraries.

Sheri Lewis (lewis_sh@mercer.edu) is Associate Law Librarian at Mercer University Law Library in Macon, Georgia.

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AALL Executive Board Members

Who's who?
Key to photo on page 35. This historic photograph was made possible by the generosity of BNA, Inc.

credit: Rebecca Hammel
The 1997 Annual Meeting presented a series of educational offerings devoted to teaching legal research: "Teaching Legal Research in the Digital Age: Are We Really Covering All the Waterfronts?," a half-day workshop, and a two-part program, "From Nutshells to Netscape." Part One looked at "Covering the Basics through Research Instruction Programs," while Part Two examined "Covering the Details in Advanced Legal Research Courses." Each educational offering sought to present more effective and creative approaches to teaching legal research, and for the most part, each succeeded in reaching its prospective goals.

Programs on teaching legal research often remind me of "Rocky" sequels. The plot doesn’t vary much: our hard-working and earnest protagonist (i.e., librarian) fighting the constant battle against ignorant and under-skilled researchers (i.e., hapless law students/clerks/associates). Each sequel will have a different spin on this basic plot. With legal research, earlier sequels, for example, have focused on the impact of electronic information formats and the development of Advanced Legal Research courses. Unlike "Rocky" sequels, however, legal research programs are not a dying or dead franchise. Instead, they are a viable and vital core of AALL educational offerings as evidenced by the perspective and approach offered by this year’s programs.

One critical difference with this year’s programs relates to perspective. In past years, programs focused on the failure of academic institutions to teach effective research skills and created an "us vs. them" approach. This year, the programs reflected a partnership perspective and fostered the recognition that we all educate, regardless of environment. This evolution, I suspect, probably stems from the work of the Research Instruction Caucus (now part of RIPS), which encouraged partnerships among librarians in all sectors to work collaboratively to improve legal research skills training.

The Workshop on “Teaching Legal Research in a Digital Age” examined the impact of digital information formats on teaching research in a concentrated format. The first half offered a debate on whether digital information resources had a positive or negative impact on teaching. Professor Maria Perez Crist (University of Dayton School of Law) argued on the positive side while Professor Molly Warner Lien (IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law) on the negative aspects. In actuality, both speakers supported rather than opposed each other’s views. Each emphasized the importance of process and critical analysis. Both identified ways in which the digital format has broadened the researcher’s knowledge base and expanded the potential for communication and discussion. It’s questionable whether this topic merits a “debate” per se. A debate format implies an either/or perspective. The speakers themselves did not really take sides. The real question, as addressed effectively by the speakers, is how to adopt methods of learning, teaching, and working with all information formats.

The Workshop’s second half offered panelist presentations. The speakers discussed their teaching philosophy and methodology and offered their perspectives on the integration of information formats. Professors Robert Volk (Boston University School of Law) and Virginia Thomas (University of Miami School of Law) discussed teaching research from an academic perspective; Nancy Tuohy (Clausen Miller, PC, Chicago) represented the law firm perspective; and Professor Yvonne Chandler (University of North Texas, School of Library and Information Sciences) offered the library professional school perspective. The panel approach worked well: by sharing teaching methodologies in their respective teaching environments, the speakers helped stimulate ideas for curriculum changes and offered insights to improve learning. Speaker highlights included Volk’s emphasis on issue spotting and analysis; Thomas’ focus on teaching research principles vs. teaching research tools; Tuohy’s legal research assignment form and analysis of research results; and Chandler’s utilization of technology in an information curriculum.

Originally, the Workshop scheduled time for small group sessions. However, the debate and panelist presentations used most of the allocated time. Generally, with workshop formats, most participants expect some interactive component. If time had permitted, small group sessions to exchange ideas or expand on the Workshop themes would have enhanced the program. The coordinators, however, did provide adequate time for audience questions. Overall, the Workshop was a worthwhile experience and effectively met its learning outcome goals.

The “From Nutshells to Netscape” program offered a two-part series examining both basic research skills offerings and advanced legal research courses. The program used a roundtable discussion format. Speakers gave very brief descriptions of the programs at their law schools, law firms, or county law libraries. More detailed program descriptions were located in the Educational Program Handout Materials booklet (distributed to all AALL registrants). Following their brief descriptions, the roundtable discussion began with panelists answering predetermined questions from the moderator.

Part One dealt with "Covering the Basics through Research Instruction Programs." With Nancy Armstrong (Northwestern University School of Law) moderating, Part One featured Pom Gregory (Circuit Court for Prince George’s County Law Library), Rachel Jones (Dickstein Shapiro Morin Oshinsky), Dwight King (Notre Dame Law School Kresge Library), Karen Summerhill (Georgetown University Law Center) and Mary Whisner (University of Washington Gallagher Law Library). It was a fascinating glimpse at the broad spectrum of instruction opportunities. As an academic librarian, I particularly valued learning about the teaching methodologies in the firm and county library settings. My course content very much depends on the research expectations held by law firm partners and judges. It was also informative to learn what types of learning opportunities different law schools provide—e.g., 1L courses, upper division electives, topical seminars, voluntary classes, etc.

Part Two examined "Covering the Details in Advanced Legal Research Courses." Armstrong again moderated, with Robert Berring (University of California School of Law), Penny Hazelton (University of Washington Gallagher Library), Chris Noble (Ohio State University College of Law), Roberta Shaffer (Covington & Burling), and Gretchen Van Dam (IIT Chicago–Kent College of Law Library) as panelists. As with Part One, the Advanced session discussed a wide range of classroom.
offerings, from seminars to large lecture-style courses. Again, I personally found the law firm perspective illuminating, particularly the discussion on cost-effective research.

Both program sessions featured interesting speakers and content. The speakers successfully combined humor (e.g., King’s poetic description of Notre Dame’s program and Berring’s “we wait for them to die” observation) with substance. The program format used its allocated time effectively. The brief descriptions of each instructional program provided a good framework for the general discussion. If audience members required more course specifics and details, they could locate such information in the handouts. The roundtable discussions generated thoughtful responses on a variety of important issues, such as constructive ways to integrate diverse information formats, cost-effective research and the impact of flat-fee pricing arrangements, the learning behaviors of current law students, advantages/disadvantages of different class formats, and the challenge of the ever-changing information universe.

As a veteran attendee of research curriculum programs, I found the perspective offered by both the “Digital Information” workshop and the “Nutshell/Netscape” program refreshing. Sharing information on different instructional programs from diverse environments focuses attention on effective teaching rather than who is an effective teacher. Both the Workshop and program successfully challenged experienced and novice educators to reconceptualize their theoretical basis for teaching legal research.

Pauline M. Aranas (aranas@library.vanderbilt.edu) is Director of the Alyne Queener Massey Law Library at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

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ANNUAL MEETING TAPES AND HANDOUTS

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Picture if you would a day, any day, in England in the year 1180. It's cold, dark, medieval. Mist hangs in the morning air. Hoofbeats—five men on horseback enter the city of Colchester. Four are soldiers, the two ahead more heavily armored. The others exchange gossip with the fifth member, a cleric. They shoulder their way through the crowd assembled in front of the Wool Merchant's Guild then seat themselves behind a trestle table. They hear a succession of crimes and accusations, quickly pronounce sentence, move to the next case. The elements of law in the United States spring from this first simple gathering of circuit court.


Marylin Raisch (Columbia University School of Law), discussed the continental antecedents of English common law. A century after the western half of the Roman Empire fell, Justinian, the Byzantine Emperor in Constantinople, set loose a commission of jurists to collect what law was around and, of highest significance, to add what Justinian felt appropriate. The result was what was later called the Corpus Juris Civilis, known more commonly as the Code of Justinian. It was composed of the Digest (statements of jurisprudence), the Code (imperial rulings), the Novellae (the new laws, i.e., Justinian's laws), and the Institutes (a textbook). The important aspect was this was a written, fixed, carved-in-stone transmission of law from the Emperor to the citizens.

In the west, the Germanic tribes, now Germanic states, blended Roman law with their own justice. Germanic law was based on the authority of the leader, was personal, and customary. This fusion of law was not necessarily for Germanic self-governance—they had their own laws—but to give something tangible to the conquered Romans, so they could be controlled. The Visigoths had their Leges Visigothorum (476); the Lombards, the Leges Langobardorum (643); the Franks, the Lex Salica (500?). The Burgundians, the Legum Gundobadi (500?). Raisch showed overheads of pages from a number of early printings of these and later laws. They are amazingly detailed works of art. Some of the collections had illustrations (in that primitive, often fanciful, Medieval style) clarifying some part of the commentary. I can't help but think this would be a good way to spice up say, the Restatements.

About those five guys who went to the Wool Merchant's Guild ... Distinguished legal scholar and historian Nicholas Cantor (who incidently had no projected visual aids, claiming: "I'm an old man. I want nothing to do with anything overhead.") told the story of those five gentlemen of the circuit court, and in the next half hour explained how they began common law. Circuit court existed in Britain until 1971. It was prevalent in the U.S. in the 19th century. It still exists in Canada. In 1180 justice at court was certainly weird, but it was rapid: civil cases (usually property) were heard in five minutes; criminal cases, in 15 minutes. Twenty percent of cases were decided by compurgation, better described as "organized lying." The defendant, after swearing an oath, brought friends to court in order to swear with him. Only certain groups were allowed this type of trial: the wealthy, young women, children, and the old (those 50 and above). The other 80% of cases were decided by an entirely logical process called the Ordeal. Litigants could fight it out, literally. Or the guilt-suspected party was tied securely and thrown into a pond. Water, being a holy element, would reject the guilty. The accused who sank for a specified amount of time without drowning was pronounced innocent. The judges knew this was silly but it was the law. In 1220, ordeals were replaced by something even more terrifying—juries.

Disagreement exists about the extent of influence of Roman law in the rise of English common law. Just about the time our buddies were dunking miscreants in Colchester, a revival in the study of Roman law occurred, mainly in the universities of Bologna and Ravenna. Harold Berman (in Law and Revolution, described by Cantor as a "masterpiece") theorizes the adaptation of Roman law occurred under the centralizing aegis of the Crown. A somewhat garbled transfer to England gave the law its distinctive form. Cantor disagrees with this "Romanist" conclusion. Roman law was a written scholastic enterprise. The intricacies of the Corpus Juris Civilis needed to be learned in the university, whereas common law is based on oral litigation. The law was not taught in a practical sense in England until the 13th century, with the founding of the four Inns of Court. Roman law in Britain was most clearly identified with ecclesiastics, not secular practice.

If one assumes an indigenous English development with small continental influence, what were the prevailing theses to explain this evolution? Blackstone's theory, in the Commentaries on the Law of England (1765), went something like this: Before 1066 and those blasted Normans, England was a liberal (what would now be described as a "democratic") country with free institutions.
The King didn't decree like Caesar; law resided in the community in, for instance, juries. This free society was then subverted by inexorable monarchic and aristocratic tendencies toward centralization. The result was Little Rome on the Thames, before the conflict was sorted out by the 15th century.

Frederic Maitland (1900s) advised us to forget about the Anglo-Saxons, that the origin of common law began with the Norman Conquest. Though they lacked real power against the nobles, the gentry (the middle class) needed law to protect their interests and property. The royal preoccupation was keeping down the aristocracy; therefore, sensing commonality, the crown and the gentry formed common law in the period 1160 to 1270.

A more modern theory comes from Baker and Milsom of Cambridge. Common law was formed from the legal profession serving the needs of the wealthy. After the disputed succession to the crown of the 1140s and 1150s, the aristocracy recruited the legal profession to settle title to land. On a similar line, Michael Clanchy (From Memory to Written Record) places the rise of common law on the dividing line between oral and written society of the 12th to 13th centuries. The need to show clear title to land pushed the need for literacy in England; literacy pushed the development of universities and the scholastic study of law. The discipline of common law developed out of this documentary study in combination with the pre-literate adversarial tradition. It seems the rise of English common law still has ample room for theory.

**Those five guys at Colchester...**

Occasionally, I'll give tours to foreign associates from other Baker McKenzie offices who are working for a few months here in the District of Columbia. Particularly, if they hail from civil law countries, they are often amazed, sometimes appalled, at the rows of cases, the Federal Reporters and Supplements that stretch seemingly into the next building. I blame it on the British, but even that doesn't assuage them. All they want is a nice tidy code. Five guys stopped at the Wool Merchant’s Guild in 1180 and presided at court. It was their fault.

John Hoffman is Director of Library Services at Baker & McKenzie in Washington, D.C.

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**Letter to the President**

Dear Frank:

Thank you and AALL for your friendship and support. All of you are very special. The honorary membership is also very special. It was a great surprise. Frankly, it was a marvelous surprise. Even so, it is I who should be grateful. It is reward enough just to have the opportunity to work with you and the members of AALL. Brenda and I enjoyed both the meeting and Baltimore. We hope to see you and AALL in Anaheim.

Most cordially,

Nick

George W. Nicholson
Associate Justice
California Court of Appeal
Third Appellate District
Sacramento, California

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At the Association Business Meeting on Monday, July 21, 1997, President Frank Houdek (left) presented to Justice George Nicholson a Certificate of Honorary Membership in AALL. The members of the Association recognized Justice Nicholson “for his writings, his ongoing advocacy of the special role played by law librarians in today’s legal information environment, and his role as a trustee of the Sacramento County Law Library. Justice Nicholson has demonstrated a lasting commitment to law libraries and law librarians.” [from the text of the Certificate] Justice Nicholson joins Judith Genesen and Agnes Reid as the Honorary Members of AALL.
"Do You Feel Lucky?"

I attended my tenth AALL Annual Meeting in Baltimore two months ago. Although buoyed from all the hoopla and excitement of the educational meeting, and enthused by the Committee, Chapter, and SIS meetings I attended, I still returned home saddened by the fact that, for the tenth year in a row, I did not win anything from the Exhibit Hall vendor prize drawings! Nada. Nothing.

How can this be? I dutifully visit the Exhibit Hall every year, wondering up and down the aisles, scouting the various prize possibilities. Armed with a stack of business cards (what else am I going to do with them?), I’d make surgical strikes into each vendor area, quickly eyeball the prize and then drop the card in the conveniently placed entry box before you could say “sasquatch.” Then, I’d return each day, either for the drawing, or for the placard at each exhibit announcing the previous day’s winner(s). Of course, unlike the kitchen duty roster at summer camp, I’d never see my name listed.

Although perhaps not so much this year (there were fewer exhibitors due to all the mergers), vendors (or “information providers,” as they’d now liked to be known) have historically been very generous with those great prize drawings ... a free book, a year’s subscription to the latest must-have newsletter, even cheesy gift baskets ... all were wonderful! Of course, West and LEXIS-NEXIS would heighten the excitement by offering trips to far-away places, expensive computer equipment, and automobiles, all attainable through the “luck of the draw.”

Who can forget the drama of the laptop computer prize drawings at this year’s Exhibit Hall! Thousands (at least it seemed like that to me) milled around the Monday afternoon event, eating rapidly melting ice cream bars and anxiously awaiting word of the “chosen” one. I wasn’t worried, because I knew that the “prize drawing gods” wouldn’t let me down this time, since: a) I don’t have a laptop; b) I need a laptop; c) these other people aren’t as deserving as I am; and d) did I mention I need a laptop? Alas, the first person’s name called wasn’t mine. Although despair quickly became the afternoon’s motto, my mood brightened momentarily when it was discovered that the original winner (who I’m sure is now kicking herself ... unless her friends kindly decided not to tell her) was not present, and a second name was called. Again, no luck. The lucky recipient ran forward to collect his prize, and was accompanied by enthusiastic applause from the crowd (you can bet I wasn’t clapping ...). Disappointed, I decided that my luck would change with the Tuesday drawing. Apparently, I was mistaken.

Many of you readers might be thinking at this point, “he’s just set his sights too high! Why doesn’t he try some of the drawings at the Activities area (the place in the back of the Exhibit Hall where Chapters, SISs and Committees set up tables with brochures, candy, and display items)?” I’m way ahead of you on this one. At every table, I dropped a card in every empty box I could find, whether it looked like a prize drawing or not. So far, no prizes, though I suspect that I may have inadvertently signed up for a bunch of committees. (I fervently hope I can feign ignorance when called ...).

I’ve even stooped to the completely humiliating level of trying to make my entry more “drawable.” Sadly, these efforts have been met with less than complete success (placing glue on the entry with the hope of it sticking to the prize drawer’s hand only results in it sticking to another entry, and in an attempt to better the “odds,” surreptitiously removing other people’s entries from the box typically invites disaster, usually in the form of those darn closed-circuit cameras conference people insist on installing around entry boxes).

Seriously, visiting the Exhibit Hall at the Annual Meeting is just as much an educational experience as the regular educational programs. In fact, many people interviewed as part of the Professional Development Committee’s focus groups indicated that the chance to see vendors and exhibits was the primary reason for attending the Annual Meeting. AALL works hard to ensure that the Exhibit Hall is filled with a variety of publishers, suppliers, and companies so that products of interest to law librarians are conveniently available for display, and so the Annual Meeting registration costs are kept at a reasonable level (exhibitors pay substantial exhibit hall fees, and frequently also sponsor other Annual Meeting events). While prize drawings are a way to entice people to the Exhibit Hall, we shouldn’t need a reason to seek out our partners in the information industry, look at their wares, and honestly discuss our libraries’ needs in an open and rewarding fashion.

I just hope someday to get over this prize “obsession” of mine, and, for once, be able to attend the Exhibit Hall without having to enter every drawing I see. Of course, our much maligned “Information Providers” can certainly help in this endeavor by sending me prizes—in fact, lots and lots of them!). Kindly direct them to me, in Carbondale, USA, 62901. Believing that I, too, can be a winner, means more than you’ll ever know!

James E. Duggan, Southern Illinois University School of Law Library, Mail Code 6803, Texas Law Building, Carbondale, IL 62901-6803 • 618/453-8791 • fax: 618/453-8728 • duggan@siu.edu
The New England Law Library Consortium (NELLCO), a 19-member non-profit corporation composed of libraries in academic, government and private settings within New England, announced today that it has developed an intranet for over 100,000 users.

NELLCO's mission is to provide efficient and effective access to legal resources by promoting a full range of sharing services that support the objectives of the individual law libraries. Not only will private databases be offered within the NELLCO intranet, but several public databases are also available, including library catalogs, public access, monitored legal links on the Internet, and links to each member's Web pages, to name a few. As the digital library impacts the legal community, NELLCO's intranet allows its members to offer alternatives to paper access of legal information to its faculty, students, attorneys, and judges.

The Website at www.nellco.org is one of the first law intranets in New England that is open to the public for viewing. Currently, NELLCO has licensed two electronic databases:

- **Law Office Information Systems, Inc. (LOIS)** in Van Buren, Arkansas, provides access to state and federal case law, statutes, regulations and other primary law through the LOIS Internet Law Library at http://www.pita.com.

- **Current Index to Legal Periodicals (CILP)** in Seattle, Washington, provides subject indexing and access to approximately 475 university legal publications reviewed weekly by over 2500 law professors, lawyers and law librarians.

The Consortium is also seeking to create an internal Networking Database that currently includes over 80 members, who have a wide array of expertise from sign language to C programming to specialties in the law. As NELLCO leads the way in the legal community through communication technology, it is examining the possibility of licenses from other commercial databases such as the Bureau of National Affairs, Congressional Information Service, Blackwell's Electronic Journal Navigator and others.

NELLCO membership includes the law libraries at Harvard, Yale, Boston University, Boston College, Social Law, Suffolk, Northeastern, New England School, Western New England, University of Maine, Albany, Franklin Pierce Law Center, Vermont, University of Connecticut, Quinnipiac College, Roger Williams, and the Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island Trial Court Law Libraries.

For more information, contact **Diane Klaiber** at 617/252-9636.

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Selecting the Materials

Several factors affected the choice of materials to be offered in the digital collection. In keeping with the focus of the NDLP, the Law Library selected primary source government documents that reflect the creation and evolution of the United States as documented by Congress. The Law Library also wished to select materials which complement other collections now being digitized by the NDLP, such as the papers and diaries of George Washington from the Manuscript Division. As a result, the final selection encompasses the period from the first Continental Congress to the last year of publication of the Congressional Globe.

Handling the Materials

After selection, the next challenge the joint Law Library/NDLP team faced was how to manage the physical material. The team made the decision that source documents would not be disbound or sacrificed as part of the digitization process. Many of the volumes selected were published in or before 1824. Some are in original bindings, while others have been rebound over the years. Many are fragile, reflecting the damage inflicted by continued use for more than 150 years. The Library's conservators feared that, even with great care and gentle handling, some of the volumes might not be robust enough to withstand the physical process of digitization.

With this in mind, the scanning equipment chosen places minimal stress on the books through the use of overhead scanners, digital cameras, and custom-built book cradles. The team worked closely with the conservators to ensure that the methods used to scan the books conformed to exacting Library of Congress standards for handling and care of source material. The team examined every volume to determine its condition, including how far it could safely be opened without damage to the text block or spine, and without cracking or damaging pages and foldouts. In cases where potential for damage was deemed to be too great, the team obtained permission to locate and use more robust volumes from the collections of other libraries, such as that of the U.S. Senate.

Accuracy of Data

When working with such a large quantity of material, ensuring the accuracy of the digitized product represents a significant challenge to the team. It is imperative that no pages are missing or duplicated in the digitized version. The final product must meet the demanding accuracy requirement of 99.95%.

The NDLP team determined that optical character recognition (OCR) software was inadequate at this stage of technology to interpret the widely varying fonts and typestyles often used in historical material and to produce the required level of accuracy. As a result, all of the text produced and encoded in SGML will be double- or triple-keyed by hand and compared by computer to produce the lowest possible error rate. In addition, the team has dedicated multiple full-time staff members to the task of quality review and control. The quality review staff will use a combination of automated diagnostic tools and time-honored proofreading techniques to ensure that the finished product meets the rigorous standards that the Library's users have come to expect.

Navigating in a Digital Collection

By far the most complex dilemma faced by the Law Library conversion team involved differentiating the digital collection from the bound source volumes. Should the digital collection be an exact duplication of the bound volumes, including duplicated or possibly inadequate indices? Or, should the digital collection offer advantages not found on the shelf?

With the aid of reference librarians in the Law Library, the team determined that one of the most effective ways of tracking a piece of legislation in these early documents is to use the Journal of the House and Journal of the Senate, which are organized by date and are fairly well indexed, to identify the dates during which the associated debates took place. The Journals will be fully machine-searchable and will provide the gateway to the Annals, Debates, Globe, and other collections. The team developed an architecture for the digital collection that gives the researcher the ability to link automatically from selected material in the Journals to dates, keywords, and searchable headings and subheadings in other collections.

To enhance the source material, the Library hopes to make available a set of electronic reference materials that will be linked to the collections. Reference materials currently under consideration include the full text of the Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, the Guide to Research Collections of Former United States Senators, and the Guide to Research Collections of Former Members of the House of Representatives.

A prototype of the collection architecture has proved successful. With the release of the first part of the collection later this year, the online community will be able to explore the records of the first two federal Congresses.

New Officers

WestPac (Western Pacific) announces its new and continuing officers:

- President: D.R. Jones
- Vice President/President-Elect: Dennis Sears
- Treasurer: Fred Hanson
- Secretary: Mary Unruh
- Past President: Kathy Carlson

Officers for 1997 for CoALL (Colorado) are:

- President: Ann Marie Wills
- Vice President/President-Elect: Mary Williams
- Secretary: Carol Minor
- Treasurer: Al Dong
- Members-at-Large: Camilla Walker, Caryl Shipley
- Past President: Tom Duggan

Chapter Annual Meeting

The Business of Management was the theme of the Minnesota Association of Law Libraries (MALL) annual meeting at William Mitchell College of Law. Joan Howland (University of Minnesota) delivered the keynote address, "The Business of Management: Principles, Trends and Directions." Concurrent sessions included "Revolution or Ritual: Strategic Planning and Budget Preparation" by Anne Grande (Hennepin County Law Library) and Ann Carter (Dorsey & Whitney); "Technology and Strategic Alliances" by Peter Sidney (Cargill, Inc.); "Technical Services: Skills and Competencies for the 'More, Better, Faster' Era" by Margaret Axtmann (University of Minnesota); and "Managing People: Administrative Challenges and Legal Consequences" by Joan Oyaas (Dorsey & Whitney) and Marshall Tanick (Mansfield & Tanick).

Information Center Help

CoALL (Colorado) joined with other Colorado library associations to staff and support an Information Center for the Summit of Eight held in Denver on June 20–22. Librarians staffing the Information Center provided onsite information services for journalists covering the Summit. Free online research was donated by vendors, including LEXIS and WESTLAW, and print reference sources were loaned by local libraries. The Summit of Eight was a meeting of the world's traditional economic powers to discuss tariffs, trade barriers, and other global economic issues. Countries participating were Canada, the United States, Great Britain, Italy, France, Germany, Japan, and Russia.

More Web Sites

ALLA (Atlanta) is pleased to announce its Web site at http://www.randomc.com/~allaw. The site offers ALLA's bylaws, history, list of officers, and a membership form. Thanks are extended to sponsorship and machine space from Random Access, Inc. and the good work of the ALLA Technology Committee.

ORALL (Ohio Regional) announces its presence on the Internet at http://www.uky.edu/Law/orall/index.htm. Currently available are copies of this year's ORALL Newsletter (in pdf format) and a list of links to member libraries with Web pages.

AALL Presidential Certificates of Merit

The first-ever AALL Presidential Certificates of Merit recognized the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Chapter Relations and its Chair, Sally Holterhoff (Valparaiso University School of Law Library), for exceptional achievement in creating a vision for a mutually supportive alliance between AALL and its Chapters and implementing this vision by launching a quarterly bulletin and annual training roundtables for Chapter leaders.

NOCALL (Northern California), SCALL (Southern California), Catherine Hardy (Venture Law Group), Chair, NOCALL Government Relations Committee, and David McFadden (Southwestern University School of Law Library), Chair, SCALL Government Relations Committee, were recognized for exceptional achievement in drafting and then helping secure passage of California Senate Bill 1507 to ensure that legislative records and agency rulemaking files would be retained, made publicly available, and preserved.

Reading the Newsletters

SNELLA (Southern New England) has included useful guides produced by the Chapter in Obiter Dicta, edited by Larry Cheeseman. The April issue features "Key Internet Sites for Connecticut Lawyers"; May's issue includes "Connecticut Legal CD-ROM Products." Each guide is ready for copying and distributing.

"Spinning the Web: Training Presentations for Legal Researchers," by Jean M. Wenger (Cornell Law Library). This article offers suggestions about how to structure Internet training sessions as well as how to deliver the training. 165 CALL Bulletin 13 (June 1997), edited by Anita Strautmanis.


"Classroom Use of the Internet Within MAALL Institutions: Summary of Survey Results," by Sally Kelley (University of Arkansas School of Law Library). MAALL (Mid-America) academic institutions were surveyed as to how they have incorporated the Internet into their classroom teaching, whether they consider it effective, and what role librarians play in these efforts. This article summarizes the survey results; the complete article is available at MAALL's Web site at http://www.siu.edu/lowlib/offices/MAALL/class.htm.

Compiled and edited by Susan L. Trask, College of William & Mary Marshall-Wythe Law Library, S. Henry Street, Williamsburg, VA 23187-3175 • 757/221-6351 • fax: 757/221-3175 • sltras@facstaff.wm.edu
I've been sitting here at the computer for a while now typing and deleting, typing and deleting, trying to come up with a catchy lead-in that recreates the exhausting, yet energizing experience of the Annual Meeting in Baltimore for you gentle readers who are out there somewhere in the seasonal shift of September, caught up in thoughts of a fresh crop of 1Ls, a new term of court, a peaceful off-season vacation, or a “George of the Jungle” lunch box. But as I write this, it's still July, it's hot and humid, I haven't completely unpacked from Baltimore, I haven't even activated my CyberPet (I'm afraid I'm afraid to commit). Highlights of Baltimore for me (besides the crab cakes, of course) were the chances to match names and faces of several faithful e-mail pals before my overactive imagination constructed its own version to confuse me. Wish more of you had been there, wish I had gotten to meet more of you, wish more of you would write me more (and more often)—I have a word limit for this column and I would be thrilled to have to worry about it. Do your part to help me live on the edge!

RIPS SIS

Congratulations to the Research Instruction and Patron Services SIS. In the last year, it has become accustomed to a new name and logo, and expanded its membership (one of only a couple of SISs to have had an increase this year). RIPS is sponsoring “Briefs in Law Librarianship” as well as the “Legal Research Competencies” study (completed by the Research Instruction Caucus, which is now part of RIPS). Newsletter Editor Gail Partin (717/240-5294) welcomes announcements, articles, or volunteers for future assignments. There are six committees at work on plans for the coming year: Patron Services, Research Instruction, Web Page, Public Relations/Recruitment, Programs, and Nominations. Contact new Chair Kory Staheli at Hunter Law Library, Brigham Young University (801/378-6657) if you're interested in being on a committee.

OBS SIS

The On-Line Bibliographic Services SIS, along with the Technical Services SIS, is supporting a proposal by Brian Striman (University of Nebraska at Lincoln) and Ellen McGrath (SUNY at Buffalo) to establish a committee to grant funds to support technical services research. Sue Welch (William and Mary) and Georgia Briscoe (Colorado) are the current OBS members of this committee. Sue Roach (Navy JAG Law Library) is the chair of the OBS SIS nominating committee; Carol Avery Nicholson (Chapel Hill) and Phyllis Post (Capitol U.) are the other committee members. They will be looking for candidates for Chair-elect and Member-at-large. Self-nominations are welcome.

OBS SIS is surveying its members to identify their major interests and concerns regarding technology and online systems; this information will be used to develop future projects and programs.

And as for the rest of you, the only acceptable excuse for being conspicuously absent from this issue is working on program proposals for Anaheim (or Washington). I expect a full report shortly!

Announcements Editor: Melinda D. Davis, University of Tennessee Law Library, 1505 W. Cumberland Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37996-1800 • 423/974-6552 • fax: 423/974-6571 • davis@libro.low.utk.edu

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Transnational Litigation: A Practitioner’s Guide
Richard H. Kienleider (General Editor)
To Be Published Fall 1997. 2 looseleaf vols. US$300.00

Protecting Foreign Investment Under International Law: Legal Aspect of Political Risk
Paul E. Comeaux and N. Stephon Kimseley
Published 1997. 1 cloth volume. 440 pages. US$105.00

The Role of Federal Courts in U.S. Customs and International Trade Law
Patrick C. Reed
Published 1997. 1 cloth volume. 453 pages. US$105.00

The Foreign Corrupt Practices Act: Coping with Corruption in Transitional Economies
Jeffrey P. Blalos, Esq. and Gregory Hussian, Esq.
Published 1997. 1 cloth volume. 249 pages. US$85.00

M. Cheiri Bassoumi
Published 1997. 1 cloth volume. 967 pages. US$150.00

Contemporary Practice of Public International Law
Ellen Schaffer and Randy Snyder
Published 1997. 1 cloth volume. 297 pgs. US$85.00

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Changing Places

Prano Amjadi, formerly Electronic Services Librarian at Hoagly Law Library, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, California, is now the Librarian at Gray Cary Ware and Freidenrich, Palo Alto, California.

A. Michael Beaird, Deputy Director, St. John's University Law Library, Jamaica, New York, has been named Acting Director of the Law Library.

Laura Cadra is the new Assistant Public Services Librarian at the Los Angeles County Law Library, Los Angeles, California, with primary responsibility for the management of the Reference Department. She was formerly Senior Reference Librarian at the University of Southern California Law Library, also in Los Angeles.

Amy Cameau, formerly Law Librarian at Haight Gardener Poor and Havens, New York, New York, is now the Manager of Legal Information Resources at the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, also in New York.

Katherine Hedin of the University of Minnesota Law Library has been assigned additional responsibilities and administrative authority in a new position as Curator for Rare Books and Special Collections. Although Katherine will continue to have some cataloging duties, her primary responsibility will be to maintain the Arthur C. Pulling Rare Books Collection, and expand its accessibility and visibility. Katherine will also take the lead in preparing all displays and publicity connected with the library's special collection.

Paul Mitchell is now a Business Researcher at Ernst and Young LLP Center for Business Knowledge, Cleveland, Ohio. He had been an Information Professional in the LEXIS-NEXIS Librarian Support Group in Cleveland.

Diane Murley, formerly Senior Reference Librarian, Poppas Law Library, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, is now Reference/Electronic Services Librarian at Northeastern University Law Library, also in Boston.

Bernard D. Reoms, Associate Dean, Professor of Law and Director of the Law Library at St. John's University School of Law, Jamaica, New York, has accepted the position of Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, at St. John's.

Karen Skiffington-Simpson, formerly Librarian for Appleby Spurling and Kempe, Hamilton, Bermuda, is now Librarian and Information Manager at Mello Hollis Jones and Martin, also in Hamilton.

Bill Taylor, formerly Government and Electronic Documents Librarian at Georgetown University Law Library, Washington, D.C., is now Reference/Electronic Services Librarian at Georgetown.

Debbie Wilson is the new Assistant Law Librarian at Norfolk Law Library, Norfolk, Virginia. She was formerly Special Projects Librarian at Covington and Burling, Washington, D.C.

Professional Activities

At the recent Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries' Association Canadienne des Bibliothèques de droit, a newly elected Executive Board was announced: Suzan A. Hebditich (Law Librarian, Justice Canada, Edmonton, Alberta) is the new President; Anne Crocker (Gerard Lo Forest Law Library, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton) is Past President; Ann Morrison (Bora Laskin Law Library, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario) is Vice-President; Marie de Young (Nova Scotia Department of Justice, Halifax) is Secretary; Teresa Gleave (Farris Management Inc., Vancouver, British Columbia) is Treasurer; and John Eaton (University of Western Ontario, London) and Janine Miller (Law Society of Upper Canada, Toronto, Ontario) are Members at Large. All members of the Board will serve two-year terms.

The Southern California Association of Law Libraries (SCALL) selected Larry Dershem, Reference Librarian and Computer Research Specialist, University of San Diego School of Law, San Diego, California, as this year's recipient of the William B. Rohon Chapter Service Award. He was honored for his professionalism, dedicated service, and ongoing contributions to SCALL and to the legal community that it serves.

Kevin P. Gray, Assistant Professor and Head of Research and Instruction at Gonzaga University School of Law Library, Spokane, Washington, spoke on "Central and East European Law and Business Documents on the Internet" at the Regional Russian, East European and Central Asian States Conference at the University of Puget Sound in April. The conference was sponsored by the University of Washington's Harry M. Jackson School of International Relations.

Sarah K. Wiant Receives Top Honor From SLA

Sarah K. Wiant (Director of the Law Library and Professor of Law, Washington and Lee University) has been chosen to receive the Special Library Association's most prestigious honor, the John Cotton Dana Award, in recognition of her outstanding service to SLA.

Sally was named for this year's Dana Award for her work on SLA's copyright committee as an advocate for fair use for all types of libraries. She has written many articles on copyright and has co-authored, with Laura Gasaway, Libraries and Copyright: A Guide to Copyright Law in the 1990s (SLA, 1994).

The John Cotton Dana Award is an annual honor named after SLA's first president and is presented to an individual or individuals who have given exceptional service to special librarianship.
Making a Case for Display Cases

Many libraries are blessed (or cursed, depending on your point of view) with display cases. They can be a public relations tool with your primary patrons and visitors to your library. My library once did a display about a visiting professor, who kept bringing people into the library to see it. Displays can highlight aspects of your collection or focus on library or book-related events.

One of my library’s four display cases has a semi-permanent exhibit about Salmon P. Chase, for whom our school is named. Another features new book jackets. The other cases rotate exhibits approximately every two months. At the beginning of the academic year, we have a display of faculty photos with short bios. This allows our new students to learn something about their professors as well as those they see but don’t have for class.

Illustrations help make great displays. You may want to keep files of the display materials as well as a sketch of how they were set up. I have been researching a display on food law, to be illustrated with product packaging (cereal boxes, canned goods, etc.). Background color, either paper or fabric, can help your display stand out.

Using the calendar can help you start a display program. Black history and civil rights in January and February, National Library Week in April, and Banned Books Week in September are all great display ideas. We fill one of our cases with legal cartoons in December when the students are stressed during exams.

Some of our best displays have been an art law display (by a librarian with a degree in art), combining books on art law from our collection and art books from the main library; famous trials highlighting books from our collection; and celebrities with law degrees, which includes pictures from newspapers and magazines—check the law-lib archives for lists of names; and the Lizzie Borden story—complete with axe!

Displays may be as simple or complex as you like. Some displays have accompanying notes similar to those describing art or museum exhibit pieces. You may also want to include bibliographies or other handouts with some displays. Sometimes you want to do quick timely displays such as the publications of a visiting lecturer or recent opinions of a newly appointed Supreme Court justice.

The size and shape of your display case(s) may limit the types of displays you can create. Some displays work in a flat case but not in an upright case with shelves and vice versa. It can be hard to fill a large case. Our largest case has two sections and has at times housed two separate small displays.

Creating displays may not be a part of every librarian’s life, but there are lots of possibilities.

Carol Bredemeyer, Salmon P. Chase College of Law Library, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, KY 41099-6110 • 606/572-5395 • fax: 606/572-6664 • bredemeyer@nku.edu
Placement Listings

The listings here are edited for space and are provided to keep readers informed of what sorts of jobs have been recently available. Many jobs listed here will have been filled by the time this issue is printed. Full listings of all current placement ads are available through several means: by phone, from the 24-hour Career Hotline, 312/939-7877; by FAX, from the AALL Fax-on-Demand service (call 908/544-5901 and request document 730); on the World Wide Web, at AALLNET (http://www.aallnet.org). To place an ad, call Kate Kosprzyk at 312/939-4764.

Court Librarian, Fourth Judicial Circuit, Jacksonville, Florida. Looking for a “hands on” supervisor for small 40,000 volume facility operating six days with part-time staff. MLS required; minimum 3 years practical Law Library experience or JD preferred. Salary $38,000-$51,000, commensurate with experience. #13194

Librarian, Cataloging & Reference, Dykema Gossett PLLC, Detroit, Michigan. Librarian to develop and manage an automated library system, as well as assist with reference and research activities. Requires MLS; 2-3 years cataloging and library automation experience preferred. Excellent salary and benefits package, including parking stipend. #13193

Librarian, Akerman Senterfitt & Eidson, PA, Orlando, Florida. Requires MLS, library management experience and extensive WESTLAW, LEXIS and Internet experience. Prefer library experience with large, multi-site law firm. Excellent comprehensive benefits package and bonus program. #13192

Law Librarian/Information Center Manager, Kronick Moskovitz Tiedemann & Girard, Sacramento, California. Responsible for all aspects of firm's information services, including library operations, records center, cataloging and conflicts management. Requires MLS and 3 to 5 years law library management. Salary and benefits competitive and commensurate with experience. #13291

Reference/Government Document Contracts Librarian, The George Washington University, Jacob Burns Law Library, Washington, D.C. In addition to daily reference desk duties, performs legal research; participates in the faculty liaison program; drafts guides to legal research; composes and delivers lectures on various legal research topics; plans and mounts library exhibits. No supervisory or administrative duties. Requires MLS and JD or significant academic law library experience. #13290

Government Documents Librarian, Circulation/Serails Librarian and Electronic Services Librarian, Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law Library, Houston, Texas. MLS required. #13289

Head Librarian, Piper & Marbury LLP, Washington, D.C. Handle all acquisitions and maintain research and reference services for the DC Office. Oversee library technology and advise attorneys and management on current technologies and sources of information in both printed and electronic format. Manage and maintain library staff—currently 2. Requires MLS with a minimum of 5 years professional library management experience. Salary based on experience. #13288

Senior Information Specialist/International Law Librarian, Wilmer Cutler & Pickering, Washington, D.C. Take the lead in developing reference services and collection to provide research services in support of growing international law practice. Additional responsibilities will include developing research guides, such as pathfinders and intranet resources and Web pages. Requires MLS or JD plus substantial library experience. #13287

Coordinator, Information Resource Centre, Centre for Property Studies, University of New Brunswick, New Brunswick, Canada. Successful candidate will develop a global information resource for researchers from a variety of disciplines, including law, geography and geomatics, anthropology, forestry and the environment, and economics studying the implications and aspects of property reform. The ideal candidate will have an MLS, a special library background in one or more of the above disciplines, and 5-10 years relevant experience. The initial appointment will be made at the Librarian 3 (salary range of $41,137-$63,866) or 4 ($51,958-$77,580) level and the contract will be for two years with the possibility of renewal. This advertisement is directed to Canadian citizens and residents of Canada. #13286

Law Library Director, Ohio Northern University College of Law, Ada, Ohio. The law college has 340 students and 21 faculty members. The law library is a federal government depository and contains 260,000 volumes and equivalents in its collection. The current computer laboratory has 25 terminals and is being expanded considerably, as is electronic database accessibility throughout the library and classrooms. A major expansion and remodeling of the law library is underway, to be completed in August 1998. The new law library Director will hold a JD and MLS degrees and demonstrate substantial experience in law library administration, preferably in a university environment. #13285

Associate Librarian, Tyler Cooper and Alcorn, Connecticut. Sixty-five attorney firm, with offices in New Haven, Hartford, and Stomford, has an immediate opening for an experienced reference librarian to provide support in both Hartford and New Haven. Looking for a service-oriented professional who can work independently and perform administrative duties as necessary. Requires MLS; significant legal research experience, preferably in a law firm; strong knowledge of legal and business resources; excellent skills in traditional, online, CD-ROM and Internet research. #13284

Cataloging/Reference Librarian, Bracewell & Patterson LLP, Houston, Texas. Responsible for cataloging materials, assisting with technical services functions, and performing assigned reference duties. The Houston library serves 160 attorneys in the Houston office and is involved in serving an additional 50 attorneys in the Dallas, Austin, Washington, and London offices. Requires MLS and 3 to 5 years of cataloging/technical service experience in a law library (law firm experience preferred). Competitive salary and benefits. #13283

Assistant/Associate Reference Librarian, University of Michigan Law Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan. MLS required, plus organizational and teamwork skills. JD preferred, plus law library and computer experience. Salary $30,000 and up depending on qualifications; generous benefits worth 22% of salary. #13184

Assistant/Associate Reference Librarian, University of Michigan Law Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Provides full range of reference service for all parts of the collection to law school community. Responsible for collection development in assigned area of international law and documents. JD and MLS required. Salary: $34,000 and up depending on qualifications; generous benefits worth 22% of salary. #13133
AALL Spectrum has been advised of the deaths of:

Roger Noreen, retired Vice President of the Law Book Division of West Publishing Company, on May 30, 1997. Roger worked at West for 32 years, and was a graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School, where he endowed a chair in 1988 (currently occupied by Professor Joan Howland).

Diana Mary Priestly, for whom the law library at the University of Victoria (Canada) was named upon her retirement, recently in Victoria, British Columbia.

Judge Norman Black, retired Chief Justice of the Southern District of Texas federal court in Houston, father of HALL Past President Elizabeth Black Berry and HALL's delegate to the National Conference on Legal Information Issues, on July 23, 1997, in Colorado.

AALL Spectrum carries brief announcements of members' deaths in the Memorials column. Traditional memorials should be submitted to Frank Houdek, Editor, Law Library Journal, School of Law Library, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL 62901, for inclusion in the Law Library Journal.
AALL Calendar

[1997]

August 31-September 5: International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark.

September 5-8: British and Irish Association of Law Librarians Annual Conference, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK.

September 9-12: Fifth National Court Technology Conference, Cobo Center, Detroit, Michigan. For more information, contact Dawn M. Spinozza, Communications Specialist, 757/259-1877.

September 29-October 3: Banned Books Week. For more information, contact Dawn M. Rogers at NCSC headquarters: 800/877-1233; fax: 757/220-0449; email: progers@ncsc.dni.us.

October 16-18: Mid-America Association of Law Libraries (MAALL) Annual Meeting, Omaha, Nebraska. Contact: Kay Andrus, Creighton University School of Law Library (402/280-2251 or e-mail: andrus@culaw.creighton.edu. James E. Duggan, Program Chair (duggan@siu.edu).

October 22-24: The 1997 ORALL Annual Meeting, Omni Netherland Plaza Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio. Local Arrangements co-chairs: Anne Abate and Carol Bredemeyer; Kathleen Carrick, program chair.

October 23-25: ALCTS/RUSA National Institute on Collections.

November 6-8, 1997: Managing Court Libraries in the 21st Century: Changing Realities and Changing Roles for Court Librarians, Williamsburg, Virginia. For further information, contact Peggy W. Rogers at NCSC headquarters: 800/877-1233; fax: 757/220-0449; email: progers@ncsc.dni.us.

[1998]

January 6-10: Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California


April 21: AIA Legislative Day, Washington, DC

April 19-25: National Library Week


June 6-11: Special Libraries Association Annual Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana.


September 21-24: International Association of Law Libraries, Rome, Italy.

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Rubin argues powerfully that disagreements that have existed for thousands of years among lawyers, ethicists, and political scientists are unlikely to be resolved soon. Current attempts to make "war crimes" or "terrorism" criminal under international law seem doomed to fail for the same reasons that attempts failed in the early 19th century to make piracy, war crimes, and the international traffic in slaves criminal under the law of nations.

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Key for centerspread photo

1. Shirley David
2. Kate Martin
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4. Kalfie Price
5. Dick Danner
6. Julius Marke
7. Jim Heller
8. Kammie Hedges
9. Frank Houdek
10. Judy Meadows
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38. Mark Falmsbee
39. Shelley Dowling
40. Bob Oakley
41. Melody Lembke
42. Joyce Malden
43. Bob Berring
Frank Houdek is a modest man. His socks may be loud, but, as a rule, he is not. He doesn’t often talk about his secret dreams, his secret desires, his secret fantasies unless, of course, it’s over a cozy and romantic Valentine’s Day dinner.

It was over such a dinner that he tenderly revealed he once had aspirations to pitch in the major leagues—The Show, The Big Ticket.

As a wiry youth, Frank used to dazzle opposing batters on the diamonds of Los Angeles with his assortment of junk (or off-speed) pitches. His modest (see above) success merited some attention and a scout from the Orioles organization came to watch him pitch.

The scout told him, “Son, if you ever make it to Baltimore, don’t bring that lousy screwball of yours. There’s no room for screwballs in Baltimore.”

Well, Frank, you proved him wrong. There was plenty of room for screwballs in Baltimore...

Baltimore, Ed Poe’s old stomping grounds, has a rich baseball history. It’s the home of George Herman Ruth. Mr. Ruth? No one called him George. It was The Bambino, The Sultan of Swat, Babe. It’s also the home of the “Baltimore Chop,” the batted ball that hops as high as Fort McHenry’s flagpole.

Statistics weren’t kept, but it’s reckoned that Mr. Ruth probably ate more chops than he ever hit.

It is not without coincidence that we held our Annual Meeting in this city. Our National Pastime and law librarianship are as intertwined and interdependent as chords in a Francis Scott Key melody.

For those of you who’ve read Thomas Boswell’s How Life Imitates the World Series, the strong parallels between our national pastime and our daily existence need no explaining. For those who need explaining, imagine, if you will, hearing James Earl Jones’ rich baritone voice saying something like, “Baseball was always there, just below the surface, waiting for us to discover it and for it to discover us. Baseball, baseball, baseball. This is CNN.”

For those who need explaining and a cite list, run the phrase “infield fly” in the legal database of your choosing.

Well, anyway, if you look close enough, you can find baseball everywhere, even in the law library. Listen to these actual exchanges over-heard at the reference desk of a real academic law library:

“Did you find what you needed in the state statutes?”

“No, I struck out. I’m working on an assignment and the professor has thrown us a curve.”

And,

“You’re looking for information on hit-and-run?”

“Yes, my client has run a foul of the law.”

Baseball has even borrowed a phrase or two from our “field,” so to speak. The expression “around the horn” originated in the Yale Law Library in 1902 when several Yale infielders were studying “around the hornbook.” The term “squeeze play” was first used by filers when they were wrestling with those Matthew Bender pulling binders.

The broadest baseball/law library analogy is the wood verses aluminum (Wood v. Aluminum) controversy. We need only a slight nudge to see that this is the classic paper verses disk argument, the traditional paper being subverted by the new technologies.

We hear the “crack” of the bat, we “crack” the books. Now that we can hear the “dink” of the bat, will we have to “dink” the books?

Let’s explore some more baseball terms we use every day in our libraries.

The Steal. This usually occurs when patrons are too busy to check the item out. If caught, the patrons are “thrown out.”

The Double Steal. This usually occurs when patrons are too busy to check the item out and the copier is broken, too.

The Heavy Hitter. This is the Big Donor, the Dean Emeritus, the Managing Partner, whatever. They command respect and can hit for power.

Doubles, Triples. What the Heavy Hitter has with lunch on Fridays.

The Sacrifice. What we all do every day For the Good of the Library.

Baseball, like legal practice, is not without its terms of violence, many of which bring to mind certain aspects of criminal law. For example, “he has a real gun for an arm,” a double play is a “twin killing” and some players “choke.” [Due to strict editorial standards, terms like “you can tie him up with inside heat” and “he was handcuffed on that knuckler” will not be addressed in this article.]

One feature of baseball sadly missing from our profession is the great nicknames. Shouldn’t we, too, sport monikers like Mudcat, Blue Moon, Catfish? Would ours be Keyboard, Hushy, The Big Stamper? Dink?

Maybe some things are best left alone.

Ladd Brown is Acquisitions/Serials Librarian at Georgia State University College of Law Library, Atlanta, Georgia.