In your career, who has been your most inspirational guide through the transformation of law?

DARIN K. FOX
Associate Dean, Director of the Law Library and Professor of Law at the University of Oklahoma Law Library; University of Oklahoma College of Law; Norman, OK

“Change driven by technology has been a constant in librarianship during my 25-year career. I’ve been influenced by a wide range of technology enthusiasts. Vint Cerf, one of the founders of the internet, was kind enough to speak to me about a new tool called the World Wide Web when I was just a library school student at Illinois. AALL’s Computer Services Special Interest Section (CS-SIS), the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI), and the teknoids listserv created a community for me as a new computer services librarian at the University of Southern California. My first boss, Albert Brecht, taught me how to approach technology as a professional. Recently, I have been inspired by librarian-technologists, such as Jean O’Grady, June Liebert, Ken Hirsh, Greg Lambert, Kenton Brice, and ABA TECHSHOW speakers, such as Jim Calloway and Ed Walters. It is an exciting time of innovation and experimentation for law libraries, law schools, and the legal profession.”

THOMAS SNEED
Associate Professor & Director of the Law Library; Washburn University School of Law; Topeka, KS

“My answer is a bit outside the box. Charles Boteler is a retired trial court judge from Kentucky, and I was his law clerk during my first job after law school. I have only spoken to Judge Boteler a few times in the last 15 years, but he is a valuable presence for me on social media. He regularly posts on current legal and political events, discusses legal works he is reading, and stays plugged into the legal profession. With my hectic schedule, he does a great job of keeping me up to date on legal issues—without him even knowing it. Just another example of why we should keep our past mentors on the Rolodex and our Facebook accounts!”

HOLLY M. RICCO
Law Librarian; San Francisco, CA

“Over the course of my legal information professional career, there are many that have influenced me. However, two influential figures that stand out for me may be a bit off the beaten path. One is KM (knowledge management) innovator Jeff Rovner at O’Melveny & Myers. Working with him opened my eyes to (1) looking outside of legal for inspiration and ideas (what is it about the user experience that makes Amazon and Netflix so sticky?) and (2) focusing on understanding the problem, and then identifying the right solution, technological or otherwise. Another strong influence is Margaret Hagan at Stanford’s Legal Design Lab. After hearing her speak at a CodeX FutureLaw conference, I was immediately drawn to the design thinking concept and how it can be leveraged to improve not only access to justice, but also to creating better legal services more broadly. The commonality between these two approaches to legal technology is that they both put the user first and recognize that technology is only truly successful when it addresses a real need in an intuitive, user-friendly way.”

MARY JENKINS
Manager, Research Solutions; Senior Law Librarian; Accufile, Inc.; Lexington, MA

“I am grateful to my colleagues who ponder out loud about emerging technologies, knowledge management, and the legal profession in general. I’ll name Marlene Gebauer and Greg Lambert’s podcast “The Geek in Review” as my go-to—not just because they reveal their inspirations in each episode, but also because Greg and Marlene interview people with broad perspectives and interesting research and projects. They reflect on the relevance of the work we do and the connections we have across the legal industry. I appreciate Marlene and Greg’s willingness to speculate, their vulnerability and intelligence, and the fun that they have along the way.”