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Creativity: A Group Activity, Coming from Many Participants

Sometimes I focus laser-like. Other times I am cat-like, easily distracted from the objective.

A s a writer and editor, I take Ranganathan’s 4th Law of Library Science to heart—save the reader time. I don’t want my readers to have to read a sentence more than once. When I do, I ensure the meaning is conveyed. Yes, reread a provocative thought, but not for muddled, muddled syntax. So I try to avoid cultural references or jargon that might make some AALL members ask, “huh?”

But this month’s Member to Member question regarding potluck recipes either evoked negative images or referenced a cultural activity some Spectrum readers haven’t experienced—and so puzzled some readers.

A “potluck” dinner resides so far back in my cultural/tribal memory of 1950s Kansas church basements that I don’t remember not knowing what it was. Those potlucks hold good memories for me, mostly because of the quantity of food rather than any cultural significance of the activity. Nevertheless, the activity contributed to my sense of community because it resonated with what I value.

Whether an activity builds community or demonstrates the significance of the activity or individual depends on the recipient and the dish—or service. Librarians contribute value to their communities, organizations, clients, and so on. Unfortunately, sometimes librarians diminish the value of their contributions by how they acknowledge appreciation.

Consider this scenario: A customer—could it be a dean, senior partner, judge, or self-represented litigant—asks a research or reference question. Many customers ask because they recognize that you can find it, and you will find it faster and at less cost than they can themselves. Whether the request involves locating and analyzing many documents or deciphering a citation, you balance conflicting deadlines to complete the task. When you deliver the answer, he or she looks at it and says, “Yes! This is perfect. Thank you.”

How do you respond? “No problem?” Or “You’re welcome; I enjoyed the challenge?”

I hope you would say “you’re welcome,” because saying “no problem” denies how much you had to work to accomplish the project. Moreover, “no problem” suggests the question was easy and that your user should have known the answer too.

Answering with “you’re welcome” acknowledges appreciation while honestly expressing your feelings . . . namely that this was a complex request and answering it was challenging and fun. Further, it is sensitive to the feelings of users who dislike admitting that they don’t know everything. “You’re welcome” says it is OK to not know everything—that’s why I am here, to find answers to your questions.

Law librarians face a wide range of questions, usually related to law or business, but recently I had a physics question: how to prop open a door. The door had no doorstop and a strong automatic closer. There was no piece of furniture available to prop up against the door. I tried making a doorstop of a folded piece of cardboard jammed under the door, but the closer pulled the cardboard across the slick marble floor.

The solution, offered by my board president, a judge, elegantly required merely wrapping a rubber band around the cardboard. That sufficiently increased the coefficient of friction so that the door stayed open.

“Thank you, your honor,” I said. “You’re welcome,” he replied.

Librarians accomplish more collectively than alone. When we embrace the challenges we face and acknowledge how much value we have when we apply different skill sets to answer questions, we exhibit the skills that make us, as information professionals and law librarians, the creative and community builders we are renowned for being.

Nineteen years ago, “my” Annual Meeting as AALL president was held in Boston. The keynote speaker, Sarah Weddington, admonished us all, just as flight attendants do, that “in the unlikely event of a loss of cabin pressure, put your own oxygen mask on first.” Taking care of yourself first remains solid advice—if you don’t stay healthy, you can’t respond to stress; if you don’t keep learning, you can’t use new technology or answer a question about a new legal development. It’s important to keep your skills sharp so that answering a reference question feels effortless to you and amazes your customer. So keep exercising, learning, and thanking your customers for the challenge.
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from the president

Rethinking Our Value: The Year Ahead

By Jean M. Wenger

Farewell, Boston! I hope that all who attended the 2012 AALL Annual Meeting in Boston left as energized for the future as I did. The keynote speaker, Richard Susskind, and association luncheon speaker, Karen McCullough, addressed the critical need to embrace change in order to survive and thrive—with an eye on aiming for what will be rather than what is. The educational programs coordinated by the Annual Meeting Program Committee (AMPC) co-chairs, Jonathan Franklin and Anne C. Matthews, positioned us to learn, connect, and grow. And the Annual Meeting Local Arrangements Committee co-chairs, Katherine K. Cooldige and Susan (Drisko) Zago, opened up the beautiful venue of Boston for our enjoyment.

In Boston, AALL began to implement new ways of presenting education. Participants enjoyed white space of 30 minutes between programs, round tables, and more interactive programs with new ways of learning and engagement. These positive changes were the result of AMPC recommendations.

Hello Seattle: Rethink Your Value

“Rethink Your Value” is the theme for the 2013 AALL Annual Meeting in Seattle. We’ll focus on value because it is intrinsic to who we are. In developing the theme, I considered our greatest challenge—inventing the future—and what will be our greatest achievement—positioning ourselves as indispensable professionals in the legal arena. Our value as law librarians comes from our training and education, our skills and experience, and our personal and virtual networks. Our value is our entire professional package, and it is imperative that we rethink how to brand, promote, and develop it. Without Rainier for inspiration, we’ll heighten our facility at the 2013 Annual Meeting in Seattle as we learn to use change to our best advantage by rethinking our future and retooling our professional assets.

Seattle, known for its majestic scenery and technological innovation, will be an inspiring setting for a strategic education event with special focus and attention on attendees. Sessions will address important issues as identified by members. (Thank you for completing the AMPC survey or for otherwise sharing your ideas for great program topics.) The 2013 AMPC, chaired by Julie Pabarja, announced the call for proposals along with new timelines and a daily schedule that will incorporate a variety of learning opportunities. Look for updates about the Annual Meeting throughout the year. To introduce and welcome AALL members to their city, the 2013 Local Arrangements Committee co-chairs, Tina Ching and Rita Dermody, are creating a menu of activities and events for us to enjoy while visiting Seattle and the Northwest. We’re definitely on to something.

As I was walking in downtown Chicago earlier this month, I noticed that a well-known Seattle coffee shop has picked up part of our theme for next year. “Rethink” is now a slogan on shop windows. Wow! Caffeinated and inspired at the same time!

Association as Destination

Association. 1. The action of coming together for a common purpose. 2. A body of persons who have combined to execute a common purpose or advance a common cause. (Oxford English Dictionary, 2nd edition, 1989.)

I want to ensure that AALL is the destination Association for law librarians at all stages of their careers.

When law librarians come together to promote and advocate for a common cause important to the profession, innovative things happen. Rethinking your value is both an individual endeavor and the result of a group dynamic. Association membership has enabled me to accomplish things I could not do by myself. I recognize that membership does not solve all my issues. What AALL membership does is enhance my skill set and proficiency as a law librarian, enabling me to better address issues within my particular environment.

It is critical that AALL, as an association, rethink its value to the profession. Law librarians look to other types of libraries for inspiration. Likewise, professional associations, such as AALL, look to other associations for trends and best practices to deliver expanded and improved services to members. As a professional association, AALL can rethink how it achieves its objectives by monitoring and strategically implementing the most innovative trends for professional associations. This year, I will work with the members and with AALL staff to position the Association to support the future that we envision.

Advancing Initiatives

As AALL president, my stewardship is one year, and, as part of a continuum of leadership, I will build upon the initiatives of my predecessors. At the July 2012 Board Meeting, the Executive Board approved the Legal Research Competencies and Standards for Law Student Information Literacy, which aim to foster, in part, best practices in law school curriculum development and to inform law firm planning, training, and articulation of core competencies. I am in the process of appointing a task force to develop and put in place mechanisms for distributing the Standards and Competencies to the membership and the appropriate outside parties. The goal is that the AALL Standards and Competencies always be cited and used as the gold standard by law schools, law firms, and the legal profession.

The Executive Board also approved the Futures Summit Implementation Committee Final Report. The Futures Summit, held in November 2011, brought together experienced and newer members to discuss the future of the Association. The report includes prioritized action items based on discussions from the Futures Summit. Based on several action items, I anticipate appointing a task force to investigate how AALL and its members can develop and market products and strategies to increase the profession’s visibility and provide an entrée to customers and stakeholders. Several suggested strategies include provision of continuing legal education and increased authorship in bar and related publications by members.

Strategic Thinking

With member ideas and suggestions, 2013 is the year AALL will develop its next strategic plan. Our collective envisioned future is that “AALL and its members will be the recognized authority in all aspects of legal information.” AALL is also in the final year of our current strategic directions (2010-2013). Initiatives started in the past few years promoting our strategic directions include implementation of the Futures Summit report (leadership),
from the secretary

By Deborah Rusin

Report from the July 2012 Board Meeting and Business Meeting

The city of Boston was the setting of the 105th Annual Meeting and Conference held July 21-24. With numerous programs, roundtables, vendor demonstrations, receptions, and networking opportunities, law librarians were able to engage in all the benefits of being Association members. In addition, conference attendees had the opportunity to enjoy the city of Boston, one of America’s oldest cities and one rich in economic and social history. I now report to you on the July Board Meeting held July 19-20 and the Business Meeting held July 23. Prior to the start of the Board Meeting, incoming board members participated in an orientation session. Vice President/President-Elect Jean M. Wenger conducted this session to bring new board members up to speed with information on Executive Board governance, the roles and responsibilities of board members, and the Association’s finances.

President Darcy Kirk presided over the Executive Board meeting and welcomed Wenger; Immediate Past President Joyce Manna Janto; Secretary Deborah Rusin; Treasurer Susan Lewis; and board members Lucy Curci-Gonzalez, Kathleen (Katie) Brown, Greg Lambert, Diane Rodriguez, Ron Wheeler, and Donna Williams. Newly elected board members in attendance were Steven Anderson (2012-13 vice president/president-elect), Amy Eaton, and Suzanne Thorpe. Also in attendance were Vendor Liaison Margaret Maes, and Special Interest Section Chairs Kathy Carlson (2011-2013) and Holly Riccio (2012-13). Headquarters staff members in attendance were Kate Hagan, executive director; Paula Davidson, director of finance and administration; Emily Feltren, director of the Government Relations Office; Pam Reisinger, director of meetings; Celeste Smith, director of education; Julia O’Donnell, director of membership marketing and communication; and Kim Rundle, executive assistant to the executive director.

Action Items

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

- The proposed Annual Meeting Site Selection Policy revisions were approved.
- The minutes of the Executive Board meetings for March 30-31, 2012, June 7, 2012, and June 21, 2012, were approved.
- The proposed Association operating budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 was approved.
- It was approved that the proposed Bylaws amendments be voted on by distributed ballot, with a 60-day advance notice to the membership as of August 1, followed by a 30-day voting period.
- The Consumer Advocacy Caucus was thanked for its work, and it was approved that the Caucus, in coordination with the Government Relations Office, distribute the proposed letter template for members to use for filing comments with the FTC via the FTC online comment form regarding the prenotification negative option rule.
- The revised Caucus Guidelines deleting reference to signatures as part of the caucus establishment procedures were submitted by the Caucus Formation Policy Executive Board Special Committee.
- The changes to the Executive Board policies to better reflect current practices were approved.
- The recommended revision of the description and selection criteria for the Joseph L. Andrews Bibliographical Award was approved.
- The report of the Law Student Research Competencies Task Force was presented, and appropriate mechanisms were set up to share its content with the membership and interested outside parties.
- The Scholarship Committee’s proposal for a single scholarship application form was approved.
- The proposed vision statement, vivid description, and goals for the draft 2013-2016 Strategic Directions Plan was approved.
- The Final Report of Executive Board Futures Summit Implementation Committee was approved.

Reports

The board agenda also included reports by the president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, executive director, director of government relations, vendor liaison, liaison to the Law Students Research Competencies Task Force, Special Interest Section Council chair, and the Chapter Council chair discussing their various activities since the spring Executive Board meeting. The minutes of the Executive Board meetings are available on AALLNET.

Business Meeting

President Kirk called the 2012 AALL Business Meeting to order on July 19. A quorum was observed, and the Business Meeting rules of conduct and agenda were adopted. The president announced that 1,825 attendees were registered for the 2012 Annual Meeting. There were 190 exhibit booths and 98 exhibiting companies, 15 of which were first-time exhibitors.

In Memoriam

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

Frank Bae
Richard Barrows
Laura Bedard
Martha Bowman
Albert O. Brecht
Mary B. Emery
Scott L. Fischer
Paul Fu
Mary Elizabeth (Liz) Glankler
Frances K. Holbrook
Sandra (Sandy) Lamar
Frank Lukes
Alan MacDougall
Catherine Mealey
Oscar Miller
Felice Sacks
Maryruth “Mimi” Vollstedt
Michael Walsh
Carol West

Secretary Deborah Rusin submitted for approval the 2011 Business Meeting minutes as published in Law Library Journal, vol. 101, no. 4 (Fall 2011). The minutes were approved. Additionally, the secretary reported...
Certificates of Appreciation
Each year, the president has an opportunity to present special certificates of appreciation to people or organizations who have contributed to the Association or the profession in exceptional ways. This year’s recipients are:

• **Marci Hoffman**: for her leadership and dedication to the Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals, positioning it for the future and adding value for its users
• **Sally Holterhoff**: for her leadership, vision, and dedication to AALL and for helping to ensure the Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act became a reality
• **David Mao**: for his leadership, service, and dedication to AALL and for his valuable contributions to the future of the profession as the chair of the Futures Summit Planning Special Committee
• **Diane Rodriguez**: for her exemplary service as the chair of the Executive Board Annual Meeting Special Committee and for her leadership in improving our premier member service, the Annual Meeting
• **Susan Severo**: for her support, assistance, and friendship, which helped make Kirk’s year as AALL president successful
• **Robyn Hagel**: for her leadership as chair of the Futures Summit Drafting Group and for her dedication as a member of the Futures Summit Planning Special Committee
• **Pam Reisinger**: for her 15 years of dedicated service to AALL and its members
• **Paula Davidson**: for her five years of dedicated service to AALL and its members
• **Emily Feltren**: for her five years of dedicated service to AALL and its members
• **Kate Hagan**: for her five years of dedicated service to AALL and its members

Special Guests
Special guests from international law library associations were also recognized. Each of the following visitors gave brief remarks:

• **Marisa Bendiche**, national president, Australian Law Librarians’ Association
• **Petra Kinder**, president, International Association of Law Libraries
• **Cyndi Murphy**, president, Canadian Association of Law Libraries

Resolutions
A resolution of appreciation was presented by Anne Fessenden as follows:

“Whereas the 105th Annual Meeting and Conference of the American Association of Law Libraries held in Boston, Massachusetts, on July 21-24, 2012, was an exceptional educational and networking success; and whereas the success of AALL’s 105th Annual Meeting and Conference can be attributed in large part to the contributions of many individuals and entities that gave willingly of their time, energy, resources, and support; therefore, be it resolved that on behalf of AALL and its members, thanks be given to the following who worked throughout the year on Annual Meeting arrangements:

• President Darcy Kirk and the AALL Executive Board
• Katherine Coolidge and Susan (Driks) Zago, co-chairs of the Local Arrangements Committee, and its members
• Jonathan Franklin and Anne Matthewman, co-chairs of the Annual Meeting Program Committee, and its members
• All members of the AALL staff
• All the speakers, moderators, and program coordinators
• All those who volunteered their time and assistance
• All AALL members, without whom the Annual Meeting would not have been such a success

And be it further resolved that, on behalf of AALL and its members, thanks be given to our Gold level sponsors, Bloomberg Law/Bloomberg BNA, Lexis/Nexis, and Wolters Kluwer Law & Business, and all our other corporate contributors who have co-sponsored or sponsored an event, service, or publication or otherwise given their support to the Annual Meeting.”

A transcript of the proceedings of the Business Meeting will be printed in a forthcoming issue of *Law Library Journal*. This transcript will contain full reports from the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, executive director, and director of the Government Relations Office.

Immediately following the conclusion of the Business Meeting, the Members’ Open Forum was held, with Victoria Trotta as moderator. If you have any questions about the July 2012 Executive Board Meeting or the Business Meeting, please contact me or any Executive Board member.

Deborah Rusin (deborah.rusin@kattenlaw.com) is AALL secretary and director of library and research services at Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP in Chicago.
WASHINGTON, D.C., September 11, 2012—With all eyes on the November election, this year’s Annual Meeting fell at a critical time for our policy work. Legislators across the country will be spending the next several months campaigning in their districts and states, giving AALL members the perfect opportunity to meet their elected officials at home. Embracing the belief that “all politics is local,” the many informative policy programs at this year’s meeting addressed the crucial issues facing all types of law libraries across every state and equipped our members with the knowledge and skills they need to be influential during this important time.

Advocacy Training
On Saturday, July 21, 50 law librarians joined us in Boston for AALL’s annual Legislative Advocacy Training, “Becoming an Effective Advocate,” sponsored by the Government Relations Office and Government Relations Committee (GRC). The training began with a warm welcome from 2011-2012 GRC Chair Catherine Dunn, who recognized the many first-time training participants and energized us for the exciting morning ahead. First, we heard an inspiring presentation by guest speaker Joseph Demers, legislative aide and senior policy adviser to Massachusetts Representative James Dwyer (D). Demers coached participants on the basics of advocating in state legislatures, offering insider tips to help advocates learn to effectively and concisely present their policy positions. Second, I discussed recent progress on open government and records management initiatives, provided an update on funding for the Library of Congress and Government Printing Office, and talked about upcoming challenges as we sprint to the end of the 112th Congress. AALL Public Policy Associate Elizabeth Holland then reviewed the advocacy tools available on AALLNET, including our newly redesigned Advocacy Toolkit, Washington Bites: advocacy listserve, and the monthly Washington E-Bulletin.

One of the training’s special benefits for participants is the opportunity to take part in in-depth discussions on the current issues, challenges, and trends facing law libraries while learning from colleagues in other states. Our panel on the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA), moderated by 2011-2012 Digital Access to Legal Information chair Tina Ching, featured a discussion of the “lessons learned” from UELMA advocates Beth Williams of the Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center Library in Baton Rouge and David McFadden of the Southwestern Law School Leigh H. Taylor Law Library in Los Angeles. With the introduction of UELMA in many states in 2011 and more introductions planned for 2013, this is a critical time for our members to be involved in state advocacy. Participants then split into two breakout sessions to dive deeper into best practices for promoting UELMA in their states and how law librarians can participate in the future of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP).

Policy Programs
Our public policy educational programming officially kicked off on Sunday, July 22, with Program A2: The National Declassification Center—Will It Meet Our Expectations?, an energetic conversation between Sheryl Shenberger, director of the National Declassification Center (NDC), and Nate Jones, Freedom of Information Act coordinator for the National Security Archive. The panelists discussed—and disagreed—on the progress the NDC has made preparing the backlog of approximately 385 million pages for public release.

At Program C5: Hot Topics in Copyright for Librarians, the Copyright Committee presented a series of short presentations on key issues in the world of copyright. Practicing attorney Kristen McCallion and law librarian Steven Melamut provided tips and suggestions for locating elusive owners of copyrighted orphan works. Copyright Committee member Kevin Miles then addressed copyright coverage of state and local government documents. Last, 2011-2012 Copyright Committee Chair George Pike reviewed the most recent developments in copyright legislation and litigation, including the Google Books and Georgia State lawsuits, as well as this year’s controversial piracy debate in Congress.

Mary Alice Baish, assistant public printer, superintendent of documents at the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), included a first look at the data collected by GPO’s State Forecast project during Program A6: The New FDLP: A Collaborative Future for Government Information. She also thanked the many law librarians who submitted their library and state forecasts, which will help GPO determine the direction of the FDLP.

On Monday, July 23, Program E1: State Advocacy Strategies: Learning to Connect, Grow, and Survive offered attendees several templates for action on priority issues in their state legislatures. In these difficult economic times, state governments are pinching savings from every budget line-item, often at a huge cost to public service. By sharing experiences of what worked—and what didn’t—in California, Connecticut, and New York, panelists Jonathan Stock, David Badertscher, and Maryruth Storer offered ideas for a coordinated strategy to protect public law libraries.

The last day of the meeting featured Program K2: Building the Law Library of Congress Web Presence—A Collaborative Approach. Law Librarian of Congress David Mao and staff Andrew Weber and Tina Gheen provided an overview of Project ONE at the Library of Congress and the Law.gov access point, including upcoming updates to THOMAS, new apps, and future technologies. Tying these developments to AALL members’ work and our long-standing support for Law.gov, I discussed the current status of the National Inventory of Legal Materials, to which AALL volunteers spent many hours contributing since 2009. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, work on the federal and tribal inventories continues.

Our culminating event came on Tuesday, July 24, with Program H1: AALL Public Policy Update: Connecting Members to AALL’s Advocacy Efforts. Featuring updates from the chairs of AALL’s three policy committees, the audience learned of the past year’s policy accomplishments, future plans for advocacy, and why we need your help. The program included the presentation of the prestigious AALL Public Access to Government Information Award and the Robert L. Oakley Advocacy Award to Michele Timmons and Barbara Bintliff, respectively, for their leadership in drafting and promoting UELMA. In her remarks, Timmons gave an overview of
the introductions in the states this year and discussed the variety of authentication systems being used by GPO, Delaware, Ohio, and Utah. She also provided a special sneak peek at the Minnesota authentication prototype

Bintliff, who was also inducted into AALL’s Hall of Fame this year, concluded with some inspiring remarks, encouraging the audience to be active and engaged in their states.

**from the president** continued from page 4

revitalized education programming at Annual Meetings (education), revision and strengthening of the AALL Guide to Fair Business Practices for Legal Publishers, improvement of the library procurement process, and passage in states of the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (advocacy). During this year, the Executive Board’s Strategic Directions Committee will assess and share what was accomplished—or not—during the past three years under the current strategic plan.

Our Association is well-supported in our continuum of strong membership, exemplified by the dignity and professionalism of our Marian Gould Gallagher Award winners and the enthusiasm and innovation of our newer members represented at the Futures Summit. AALL is its members—all of us. AALL is you, yes, you—the person reading this column. AALL is your colleagues at work, the friends you see at the Annual Meeting, and the source of that helpful response at the other end of an email exchange.

I am honored and privileged to serve you as AALL president. I look forward to working with you in the coming year. Thank you for your membership.

Jean M. Wenger (jean.wenger@cookcountyil.gov) is president of AALL and government documents/foreign and international law librarian at Cook County Law Library in Chicago.

### Missed AALL 2012?

Even if you weren’t able to join us in Boston, you can still benefit from the wealth of educational programming offered at AALL 2012. Log in to AALL2go, your online center for professional development, for:

- **Online access** to AALL Annual Meeting program recordings, archived webcasts, and accompanying program handouts

- **Advanced search capabilities** to focus on key areas of interest to help advance your career now

Purchase the full compilation as MP3 downloads, CD-ROM, or audio CD, or buy individual MP3 downloads.

[aall.sclivelearningcenter.com](http://aall.sclivelearningcenter.com)
the sustainable law librarian

Law Librarians Make a Difference with the Solar Heater Project

Imagine living in South Dakota on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. It is a cold February day, the wind is blowing, and the temperature is about 15 degrees, with the wind chill below zero. Last year was difficult. Work was scarce, and you struggled to make enough money to pay for basics like food and the electric bill. The electric bill was a big challenge in itself, costing nearly 30 percent of your total income just to heat the home.

Recipients like Olivia Sierra can save up to 30 percent a month on their heating bills by using a Trees, Water & People solar air heater. This is a huge benefit to Lakota families who, during the winter months, can spend up to 70 percent of their limited monthly incomes on heating their homes.

This year will be different thanks to Trees, Water & People, who installed a solar heater to heat your home. This is a huge benefit to Lakota families who, during the winter months, can spend up to 70 percent of their limited monthly incomes on heating their homes.

What is the Solar Heater Project?

The solar heater project that I planned with the AALL Social Responsibilities Special Interest Section was recently showcased at the AALL Annual Meeting in Boston. The project’s purpose is to offer law librarians who are concerned about the environment and poverty in Indian country a way to reduce their carbon footprints and help families in need heat their homes. The project seeks people to make a tax-deductible donation to Trees, Water & People, which offsets their travel to the AALL conference and helps to build and install solar heaters for families living in poverty.

A solar heater uses heat from the sun to provide heat for a home during the day, significantly reducing heating costs. A solar heater replaces heat that is generally provided by electricity, which is created by burning coal. Some families spend up to 70 percent of their incomes on heating, in conditions so cold that ice sometimes forms on the interior walls of their homes. (To learn more about the heaters, visit tinyurl.com/8emo6at.)

The project has three primary social and environmental benefits:

• To provide solar heaters to families who have difficulty paying their heating bills (Sixty percent of the population lives below the federal poverty line.)
• To help reduce negative impacts of climate change by reducing the quantity of greenhouse gas (CO₂) emissions created by burning fossil fuels like coal and replacing it with renewable, clean solar energy
• To provide new jobs of building and installing solar heaters to people living in poverty on the Pine Ridge or Rosebud Sioux Reservations where unemployment is close to 80 percent

As of August 8, 2012, more than 50 law librarians had donated approximately $1,000 to the solar heater project. An additional $500 is needed to cover the cost of building and installing one solar heater. This heater will reduce energy bills and CO₂ emissions for many years to come. If you are interested in making a donation to this project, please go to www.tinyurl.com/solarheaterproject.

Collective Efforts Make a Difference

Will the solar heater project save our climate and eliminate poverty? While a group of law librarians cannot reach these goals alone, our collective efforts add up and make a difference. This project will offset at least 50 tons of CO₂ and help a family save enough money to make it through many harsh winters. A small group of about 50 thoughtful, committed law librarians are leading the way toward a more environmentally sustainable Annual Meeting by offsetting their carbon footprints for their travel. They are also helping a family stay warm in the winter, where might we go from here? Wouldn’t it be wonderful if half of the conference attendees offset their travel to the Seattle conference in 2013? That would reduce conference-related carbon emissions by more than 1,000 tons, which is equivalent to eliminating the annual emissions created by energy consumed by about 80 homes, and would pay for solar heaters for about 15 homes on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Collective Efforts Make a Difference

What ideas do you have regarding environmental and social responsibility? Would something like a “green registration” option make sense for the AALL Annual Meeting, allowing attendees to voluntarily commit to sustainability? Please email me your thoughts and comments at dselden@narf.org. And if you are interested in reading more about the most current science and math relating to climate change, I suggest “Global Warming’s Terrifying New Math” by Bill McKibben, an article published July 19 on Rolling Stone online: tinyurl.com/climatescienceupdate.
2012 AALL ANNUAL MEETING IN BOSTON

Photos by Brant Bender, Brant Bender Photography
Promoting library services and the value they bring to any institution to which they belong has become imperative for libraries. This is especially true of law libraries. Not everyone understands all the things that law libraries—be they county, academic, private, etc.—actually offer to the wide variety of patrons they serve, which is where the importance of good public relations comes in.

In order to further libraries’ promotion of themselves, AALL annually recognizes the best public relations materials from libraries across the country. The AALL Excellence in Marketing Awards are given annually for best brochure, best campaign, best newsletter, best PR tool kit, and best use of technology.

The goal of recognizing the outstanding efforts of libraries to market themselves and showcasing them here is to spark new ideas among other libraries or to allow them to emulate a novel idea successfully implemented in another library. There is no need for every library to recreate the public relations wheel. The sharing of marketing strategies, like the sharing of other information resources, should be the goal of all libraries. By sharing those public relations materials that make a difference in people’s perceptions of and appreciation for libraries, all libraries have the opportunity to better demonstrate their value to patrons and potential patrons.

Each of the following libraries saw an opportunity to show its value, added creative spark and hard work, and put together an outstanding marketing promotion. The Public Relations Committee and AALL encourage other libraries to take that same initiative and demonstrate their value to their organizations and users. We look forward to seeing the amazing things that all those inspired by these Excellence in Marketing Award winners will submit for consideration next year.

Public Relations

Inspiring Excellence

The winners of the AALL Excellence in Marketing Awards

By Shawn Friend

Best Brochure

Yale Law School Lillian Goldman Law Library—Annual Report

The Annual Report is a glossy, full-color brochure that acknowledges and promotes the varied and innovative achievements of the library staff. This report includes information on library collections, reference and other services, library publications, and the strategic plan of the library. It also has a touching tribute to the late Morris L. Cohen, former AALL president and celebrated law librarian. The report provides an effective and concise overview of the activities and achievements of the library throughout the year.

The report itself is largely distributed to a targeted audience, including alumni, law library directors, and colleagues. For others who are interested, it is available electronically on the library’s website and is promoted in several places, including social media and listservs. The response to this year’s report was extremely positive, with both librarians and nonlibrarians impressed with the brochure and the amount of innovative work from the library that it describes.

Best Campaign

Yale Law School Lillian Goldman Law Library—Monty at the Yale Law Library

The introduction of Monty the therapy dog as a circulating library item was a different and influential public relations campaign that garnered significant media coverage for the library. More than 84 students visited with Monty during the initial pilot program, aimed at creating another avenue for librarians to provide a valuable service to students by providing a therapy dog in times of stress. The campaign took on a life of its own, creating a media frenzy and coverage from the New York Times, NPR, other major American newspapers, and even overseas news sources.

More importantly, though, Monty had the hoped-for results with patrons. Students, the target audience, indicated that it was “nice to see that people at [Yale Law School] care about the mental health of the student body.” Students responded extremely positively to the campaign, with Monty becoming so popular that he was voted the law school prom king.
Best Newsletter

Harvard Law School Library—Bathroom Reader

Who doesn’t want a captive audience for promotional materials? Harvard Law School Library’s goal to reach that captive audience resulted in an unusual and successful newsletter—the Bathroom Reader. Placed in the stalls of the bathrooms monthly, the Bathroom Reader includes information on research, resources, and events. There are also trivia questions with a chance to win a gift card and often color photos, either funny or informative. Although tracking exact readership numbers is difficult, the Bathroom Reader seems to be popular. When the October 2011 edition was still up in November, one reader wrote “WE WANT NOVEMBER” on the corner of an issue, showing a significant level of interest from the readers. Additionally, an online version has had hundreds of hits, indicating interest outside the captive audience.

Best PR Tool Kit

Harris Beach PLLC—“Just Ask” Public Relations Tool Kit

This tool kit includes information on services offered by the library, instructions on library activities, bookmarks, and sticky notes, all contained in a folder. Its goal is to promote the services of the library and the library itself. Part of the creation of the tool kit was the creation of the “Just Ask” slogan and logo to brand the library and to use across all library materials.

The folder contents are customized for distribution to all new and lateral hires, as well as to summer associates, during orientation. Posters with the Just Ask slogan and logo are used throughout all the law firm offices to promote library services and advertise educational programs. The feedback from attorneys and staff has been positive. Nonverbal cues, like the presence of bookmarks with library phone numbers next to many computers and phones throughout the office, demonstrate the usefulness of the tool kit as well.

Best Use of Technology

New York Law School Mendik Library—Mendik Mobile

Mendik Mobile is a mobile app developed specifically for Mendik Library that offers access to the library’s key services on a smart phone. The app is free and available for various smart phone platforms. Patrons can search the catalog, renew items, and check accounts through the app. Other library information is also available through the app, such as library contacts, circulation rules, and the library’s own DRAGNET, which allows for searching of free, reliable, law-related websites.

The app is available through the Apple App Store and the Android Market. In addition, the library promoted the app through signs, its blog, and the library homepage. There was also an in-person promotion where the staff demonstrated the app in the library. The results of these promotions were positive. The app has been used by hundreds of unique users, and librarians have received compliments about the app’s usefulness and appearance.

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Curators spend weeks sifting through special collections, thinking of interesting themes for exhibits, choosing potential items to highlight those themes, and then performing background research. This process, for a dedicated curator with a solid collection, becomes a labor of love. After identifying good candidates for exhibition, a couple of initial questions start weighing on one’s mind. First, how does one choose which materials get put in a display case? The inclusion of one item often means the exclusion of another, leading to the aforementioned Sophie’s Choice-type quandary. And second, how does one create an exhibit that is engaging and informative but not overwhelming?

Special collections librarians do not have to wrestle with these questions alone. While curators are sifting through rare books, manuscripts, and artwork, librarians focused on emerging technologies are wading through a constant stream of new products, reviews, and techniques that are on track to change library services and instructional methods. Many of these are free and easy to use, but it takes time, expertise, and dedication to keep track of what is available and potentially useful. When there are competing technologies that perform similar functions, it takes a keen eye to determine which one is most suitable for a particular setting and most likely to outlive the others.

At the Boston College Law Library, we are fortunate to have a position dedicated to the use and support of such technologies—the educational technology librarian. This position encompasses the identification of uses for and training on everything from clickers, tablets, lecture capture, and collaboration tools, as well as course management and law practice management systems. Most special collections librarians have access to some type of technology expert in the form of a dedicated technology librarian, an IT professional, or that person who seems to know a tremendous amount about apps and XML coding. Involving these technology-savvy colleagues in the curatorial process creates a unique opportunity to blend the old and new and to illuminate our cultural treasures by using the latest and greatest technologies.

The curator’s earlier forlorn comment was met with an enthusiastic response from the resident educational technology librarian, who quickly rattled off a list of potentially helpful tools. This impromptu conversation led to a collaborative project that was fun and educational for both parties. Moreover, as with all successful collaborations, the finished product was much richer than it would have been without this interdepartmental exchange.

Specific Challenges

A few challenges, many of which are related, stand out to curators as they put together an exhibit. First, the physical space limitations can be distressing for a curator who has spent a tremendous amount of time choosing and researching items for exhibition. Fascinating items have been discovered and thrilling anecdotes unearthed, but they simply cannot all fit in the display cabinets or cases. How does one still manage to share these treasures?

Second, some valuable materials are in poor physical condition or are unattractive and thus not ideal for physical display. However, these materials may still be relevant to the theme of the exhibit and have internal content that is worth sharing.

Third, physical exhibits have a “one-view” problem because items can only be displayed in one way. This is particularly challenging with books. Does one choose to display the beautiful binding, the gorgeous title page, or the beautifully printed internal page with the famous language or illustration?
The curator wants a visitor to experience all of these, but, again, we run up against physical impossibility. Finally, if there are many items appropriate for display, the curator faces the problem of editing. If the physical exhibit includes too many items, the viewer might be overwhelmed with information and simply walk away. This leads to a delicate balancing act. One must provide access to ample information for those who have a high level of interest without scaring off those who have a casual curiosity.

Potential Solutions
The serendipitous exchange between curator and technologist led to a discussion about potential solutions to these problems. With the aforementioned challenges and considerations in mind, we set out to find solutions that were either freely available or licensed through the university.

An initial brainstorming session generated a list of goals and concerns that we kept in mind throughout the collaboration: 1) cost to us in terms of time and effort; 2) cost to the user in terms of ease of access and the demand on a cell phone data plan; 3) distractions to other visitors; 4) distractions for other users of Boston College Law School’s Rare Book Room; 5) the aesthetic appeal of the option; 6) the ability to use and control the technology with minimal support; and 7) ensuring we had some “wow” factor to draw people in.

First, to address the challenges of limited space, fragile or unattractive materials, and the one-view problem, we looked for solutions that would allow additional content to be available in a digital forum. Having a digital component also hits on the editing problem. People interested in learning more can have access to the images and information, but it is not intrusive to the casual visitor. For each Rare Book Room exhibit, there is a webpage that contains a basic description of the exhibit’s theme and contents, date and time information for visiting, and contact information. Thus, it made sense to use this as the launch pad to any additional digital content.

But what tool should we use to feature this content, we wondered? The potential solutions that we identified included creating a PowerPoint and then producing it as a movie with audio narration; adding images and related captions to the Boston College webpage for the exhibit; constructing a MediaKron site, an online tool for presenting and exploring multimedia course content that was created by Boston College’s instructional design team; or creating a Prezi, a freely available, web-based zooming presentation editor.

![Photo courtesy of Jason Liu, law school technology consultant at Boston College Law School](image)

Once we had identified these potential solutions, it was time to choose.

PowerPoint has the benefit of being a familiar and easy-to-use tool, but there is a certain lack of dynamism. We feared that visitors would see this standard format and lose interest even if the internal content was strong. Additionally, in terms of aesthetics, embedding a PowerPoint file on the exhibit webpage did not seem particularly appealing. Similarly, the option of creating a static webpage with captions under photos left us less than thrilled.

MediaKron is a terrific tool that has been used with great success in several Boston College classrooms, but we feared a steep learning curve for us as creators and a lack of familiarity for users. At the time, there also was no ability to embed the MediaKron presentation into the exhibit webpage so that users could start clicking right through the content. It does have the benefit of being particularly useful for projects that involve significant comparative analysis or that are based on a timeline; however, we decided it might be implemented more effectively in a future exhibit in which the focus is comparison of different texts or progression through time.

Ultimately, Prezi provided the greatest benefits and was our choice for featuring additional content. It is user-friendly, so uploading images, adding captions, and organizing content is extremely intuitive. The curator was able to take ownership of the presentation immediately and felt confident using Prezi in a short amount of time. Since it works best as a presentation tool that allows you to zoom in, it is great for drawing the user’s attention to a particular feature of a given book. For the user, it has a familiar full-screen view with arrows to advance from image to image.

Last but not least, it was simple to embed the Prezi into the exhibit’s webpage, so a visitor to that page immediately will see the first slide of the
recorded. In a matter of minutes, the script that the curator wrote and the recorder to capture the audio from outside of the law library about ways to frequent conversations both inside and exhibit visitors became the next challenge.

The curator’s responsibility is to create an experience that is informative and easy to follow for someone who visits the exhibit space. In large part, this is achieved by arranging the materials logically and by having concise and informative labels in exhibit cases. However, it also seemed like the availability of an audio tour would help guide visitors through the exhibit. Purchasing new equipment was not feasible, so we began brainstorming about free options. Luckily, the technologist was familiar with the tools and methods for capturing and delivering audio files from previous work with faculty members. For example, Boston College Law School’s legal writing professors have provided feedback on assignments via audio comments for many years. This past experience made the integration of audio into the exhibit an easy task.

Delivery of the audio files to the exhibit visitors became the next challenge. At the time, QR codes were the talk of the day; the technologist had been involved in frequent conversations both inside and outside of the law library about ways to integrate QR codes, so we decided to pilot this method in the exhibit.

We used a university digital voice recorder to capture the audio from a script that the curator wrote and recorded. In a matter of minutes, the technologist uploaded the audio files to university web space and generated the QR codes. This was done by using one of the many free QR code generators summoned from a simple Google search. No equipment had to be purchased; no time was wasted; and anyone with a QR code app on his or her cell phone could now access a streaming audio tour.

Our goal was to have the QR codes be an enhancement, not an intrusion; to that end, we limited ourselves to four codes in an exhibit with 10 display cases. Two of the codes linked to audio files—one was the audio tour that introduced the theme of the exhibit and the general layout, and the other a clip about an author featured in the exhibit. Of the two remaining QR codes, one takes the user to a website that provides a plethora of information on a featured publisher and the other takes the user to the exhibit webpage, which houses the digital edition of the exhibit on Prezi.

This last QR code was also included in the print pamphlet for the exhibit so that visitors could take the pamphlet and have a quick means of linking to the digital edition at a later time. The one drawback here, referenced previously, is that this final QR code is of limited utility for those using mobile devices that do not support Flash. These users would see the text on the exhibit webpage, have the capacity to download a PDF of the exhibit brochure, and be able to tell that there is a related Prezi. However, the first screen of the presentation would not display. The user would need to go to a computer to access the actual content of the Prezi. Again, this was a limitation we decided to accept, given all of the positives.

Throughout this process we discovered QR codes could be used to link visitors to relevant movie and music clips, images, YouTube videos, eBooks—the possibilities are as endless as the Web. It is important, however, to keep in mind potential costs to patrons of downloading data, another consideration when integrating digital content into an exhibit.

We attempted to make the QR code experience as simple as possible for our visitors and as painless as possible for other Rare Book Room users, such as students using the room as a study space. As a result, we took a few extra steps. To keep the file size and the required attention span at a minimum, audio clips were limited to three minutes. The length was noted on the display placard with the QR code. We tested Wi-Fi signal strength in the Rare Book Room to ensure that patrons could retrieve the data without taxing their data plans. We also tested Verizon and AT&T, which both worked in the space. To prevent the audio from interrupting other visitors, beneath the QR code we included a request that the user listen to the audio via headphones. Last, we also included all of this information in the exhibit brochure so that users were aware of necessary equipment and applications, as well as connectivity options.

Before opening the exhibit, we tested all of the codes to make sure they worked properly, particularly the ones that were set back behind glass.

The Spirit of Collaboration

When we proposed this article to Spectrum, we initially thought our story was going to be about our use of QR codes in the special collections setting. The more we reflected, however, the more we realized that it was the collaboration—not the specific technologies—that had made the experience exciting and memorable for us. It is hard to overstate how important collaborative opportunities are to libraries, universities, firms, and, indeed, any imaginable setting. We quickly realized that was the story we wanted to tell and the point we wanted to drive home.

Librarians often recognize the problem of “silos” in libraries and the difficulty (real or imagined) in crossing departmental lines. Despite those challenges, it is important to remember how much our individual projects can be enhanced if we keep the lines of communication open and approach our colleagues for their expertise and insights.

This collaborative project made the curatorial enterprise and the resulting exhibit much more dynamic experiences than they would have been had this departmental crossover not occurred. We have since learned of other special collections librarians in the university system who saw our tactics in play and have used them to great effect in their own exhibits. This kind of cross-fertilization is unbelievably rewarding and exciting and can only occur when we embrace the spirit of collaboration.

Technologies inevitably change, and many will become irrelevant. Indeed, QR codes have not achieved the widespread welcome and adoption that many initially predicted. But new opportunities and technologies will spring up in their wake. Regardless, the collaborative process remains all important as librarians search for new and improved ways to share our services and collections with the largest possible audience.■

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Among the thousands of questions that librarians at the Ohio and California Attorneys General (AG) Offices answered last year:

- Spectators at a murder trial want to wear buttons depicting the victim. How many states allow this?*
- Can you compile a legislative history of 42 USC 1396(a)(30)(A)?*
- I need the text of each of the original colonies’ laws against blasphemy.*
- Do condemned inmates possess a “right to competence” in federal habeas proceedings?**
- Are there public access rights along the shore of Lake Erie? If so, what boundary lines determine the right?*
- Since it’s never been officially defined, what does the word “the” mean as it reads in the Ohio Tax Code?*
- Can you compile articles, studies, statistics, and resources on bullying and cyber-bullying for presentations to students throughout our state?*
- Can you provide copies of the official ballot language for every Ohio referendum that has been put to the voters since 1915? (The attorneys general of both states are responsible for certifying the language of statewide referenda.)
- The appellant admits that he committed the murder, but his excuse is that he failed to take his insulin that morning. Can you research this defense?*
- If a prisoner breaks out of his cell but is captured by prison officers before he leaves the prison grounds, is this really an escape?*
- What’s the scientific proof behind GSR (gun shot residue)?
- How do I explain the “CSI Effect” to a jury without making it sound like I think they’re stupid?

Anne McDonald of the Rhode Island AG Library called AG librarians “hybrids.” We agree. Specifics may vary among states, but the multifaceted role of the AG law librarian holds true across state lines. We are public librarians who may not interact with the public. We provide private law firm research services, but we also do in-depth academic research. We teach classes to our in-house colleagues, including legal staff, law enforcement agents, forensic scientists, consumer and environmental specialists, and crime victims’ advocates.

Our work is driven by the offices we serve. So here is a brief explanation of the roles and evolution of state attorneys general.

**How Did the AGs Originate?**

All states (as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands) have attorneys general. In most states, they are elected by the voters. In some states they’re appointed by the governor, but they can also be appointed by the legislature or by the state’s supreme court.

In Ohio, the position of attorney general was created by statute in 1846 (44 Ohio Laws 45). The act provided that the two houses of the legislature elect the attorney general for a five-year term. The act gave the attorney general the authority to appear for the state in cases where the state was a party or had an interest. The act also gave the attorney general prosecutorial powers at the request of the governor, secretary of state, auditor, or treasurer. Other powers included the power to issue legal opinions for state officials, draft contracts, and consult with and advise county prosecutors.

In California, the original Constitution of 1849 established the Office of Attorney General, though it...
The Ohio Attorney General’s Library

Diego, and San Francisco. Sacramento, with additional offices in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Toledo, and Columbus, with additional offices in Portland, Portland, Portland and San Francisco.

The main office is in Cleveland, with support staff, special agents, and laboratory staff: providing high-quality research services in legal and nonlegal subject areas.

Our biggest strength is the performance of what matters most to the attorneys, support staff, special agents, and laboratory staff: providing high-quality research services in legal and nonlegal subject areas.

The public views their attorney general as their state’s “top cop.” Ohio and California have significant criminal justice components, but most AG offices do not. Ohio and California are justifiably proud of their DNA laboratories, fingerprint units, and criminal records systems. The offices lend support to local and federal law enforcement agencies, but the attorneys general never act as substitutes for them. The reality is that AG offices are more like big civil law firms. Our offices cover all practice areas, and we librarians must support those practice areas.

Currently, the Ohio Attorney General has a staff of 1,650, including 440 legal staff. The main office is in Columbus, with additional offices in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Toledo, and Youngstown.

The California Attorney General has a staff of 2,260, including 1,300 attorneys. The main office is in Sacramento, with additional offices in Fresno, Los Angeles, Oakland, San Diego, and San Francisco.

What About the AG Librarians?
The Ohio Attorney General’s Library mission statement reads: The Law Library of the Ohio Attorney General’s Office strives to provide accurate and timely research, relevant debate, and resources in multiple formats to assist staff in representing the State of Ohio and serving Ohio’s citizenship. So, ask us the question!

On the positive side: We work with attorneys who are motivated by public service. None of them will “make partner” or approach the compensation levels of their colleagues in private practice. As a result, we work in a relaxed, casual atmosphere. Our offices have been described as big
did not specify any duties. A year later, the legislature clarified that the attorney general was to represent the state in all matters before the California Supreme Court, draft opinions for state officials, and oversee the conduct of business in the new state. The attorney general was allowed $4,000 for office rent and earned a salary of $7,000. He had no allotment for staff or office supplies. (A year later, the salary was cut to $1,000.)

How Did the AGs’ Responsibilities Evolve?
Over the years, the powers and responsibilities of both offices have expanded. We provide representation to state agencies, boards, and commissions and represent the state in criminal appeals. Both offices have sections specializing in environmental law, correctional law, licensing, health care fraud, consumer protection, antitrust, charities, employment, and tax. We file amicus briefs on behalf of our respective states and provide representation in high-stakes appellate litigation in the courts, including the United States Supreme Court.

The California Attorney General’s Library mission statement reads: Law Library Services is committed to serving the research needs of the Office of the Attorney General by providing library resources, research tools, and personalized research assistance on all subjects in support of the mission of the Department of Justice and the successful practice of law by the Office.

But mission statements mean nothing if they are not implemented daily. Fortunately, our bosses recognize and appreciate our support. How do we librarians support their practice? Ohio has three law librarians: a library director, a senior research librarian, and a principal research librarian. All library staff members are located in Columbus. The California Attorney General has a total of eight law librarians assigned to various offices throughout California. Both the Ohio and California librarians provide a wide range of traditional services, including reference and research, acquisitions, interlibrary loan, administration of online passwords, database training, cataloging, and designing and developing library access through the intranet. Our biggest strength is the performance of what matters most to the attorneys, support staff, special agents, and laboratory staff: providing high-quality research services in legal and nonlegal subject areas.

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
All law librarians experience their share of pleasure and pain, and so do we.

The opportunity to teach is one of the most rewarding aspects of working for the AGs and is an area that our counterparts in law firm settings may not have the opportunity to enjoy.

The California Attorney General’s Library's role in law enforcement is significant. As the state’s lead law enforcement agency, the AG's office investigates and prosecutes crimes, including corruption, environmental crimes, and consumer fraud. The AG's office also defends the state in lawsuits and represents the state in civil and criminal cases.

High-visibility cases: Every day, we scan print and online news. More often than not, we come across stories relating to the cases on which we’re working.

Public service: There is a great deal of satisfaction that comes with knowing that we’re working on what usually feels like the “right side” of an issue. From our personal perspectives, both of us wanted to work in public service ever since we were in junior high school. As undergrads, we were both history/political science majors. We always believed that public service was important work and that we would eventually go on to serve others in that capacity. Working for the attorneys general gives us that opportunity.

Varied client base: We serve assistant attorneys general, deputy attorneys general, senior assistant attorneys general, chief deputies, counsel, press liaisons, paralegals, special agents, and forensic auditors, and we sometimes even provide direct service to our client agencies.

Varied subject matter: With such a wide client base comes a refreshingly broad range of reference challenges. Not only are we performing our customary legal research, compiling legislative histories, and running case law searches, but we also act as academic librarians who research questions in the social sciences, applied sciences, medicine, humanities, and the arts. Any time the state is involved in any sort of dispute or litigation, we may find ourselves on the receiving end of a query.
A wide range of library responsibilities: Because AG law libraries have limited staffing, we have many responsibilities within the library. We handle acquisitions, interlibrary loans, online provider matters, library marketing, collection management, cataloging, library websites, and current awareness features.

We don’t bill for our time. That means we can devote as much time and effort to the state’s business as is required. For example, a series of related cases in Ohio required months of research. The librarians covered treaties, boundary disputes, economic impact statements covering five decades, oral histories, maps, and more. They researched expert witnesses—theirs and opposing counsel’s. They worked with the staff at the Library of Congress, the State Library of Ohio, historical societies, the Bureau of Land Management, and several universities. Their work paid off, the state prevailed, and Ohio’s taxpayers saved much more than the cost of the librarians’ salaries.

A word about training: AG law librarians are heavily involved in training legal staff on key electronic databases such as Lexis, Westlaw, and HeinOnline, just to name a few. The opportunity to teach is one of the most rewarding aspects of working for the AGs and is an area that our counterparts in law firm settings may not have the opportunity to enjoy. While our attorneys’ pace of work is similar to those in law firms, there is no pressure to make billing goals. The attorneys are more likely to take time out of their days to learn. In turn, this allows us to set up classes with database representatives or to teach classes on our own. Of course, these “teaching moments” often lead to establishing relationships with the attorneys, which often leads to more research questions for us.

Appreciative customers: We have many customers who genuinely appreciate our efforts. They recognize and value our professional skills. They often express these sentiments to the administration, and this goes a long way in ensuring support for our work. They value library services, and they view the librarians as vital members of the organization. It is not uncommon for library staff members to be recognized in weekly office-wide emails or for our customers to personally say “thank you,” “I really appreciate your help,” or “nice work.”

Over the last six years, all three of the Ohio librarians have been individually recognized with the PRIDE Award at the yearly all-staff meeting for their “exemplary service to the Office, the State of Ohio, and its citizens.”

In recent years, several of the California AG librarians have received the Attorney General’s Annual Award for Excellence.

On the negative side:

Salaries: Historically, public sector salaries have never come close to approaching private sector salaries. However, the benefits (including the pension structures) attracted top job candidates. In recent years, the status of the public sector workforce has eroded. Concerted efforts continue across the United States to cut positions, salaries, and benefits. Public employees and their “outrageous” benefits are being blamed for the financial ills of state and local governmental entities.

Budget restraints: It’s a difficult time for state budgets, and this is reflected in the AG libraries’ budgets. Book budgets have been cut. We have had to go without database providers we would have liked to utilize. Vacant positions are (for the most part) frozen, and we have endured pay cuts and furloughs. We do the best we can with what we have and work closely with the administration and section heads to reduce costs, eliminate unused or underused resources, and reallocate money toward other resources.

We are often outnumbered and outspent, but it takes more than money and bodies to win a case.

We Are . . .

We never know what’s waiting for us—it could be a scavenger hunt, an intellectual debate, or a mind-numbing legislative history. But whatever awaits us, we always know that we are an integral part of the office. We know that we make a difference for the office and for the state. These are the things that keep us coming back to work every day. We are the law librarians for the state attorneys general.

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Technological restraints: A consequence of working in a large bureaucracy is that we never seem to be in the forefront of technological advances. E-books? Probably not. OPAC upgrades? Probably not. One egregious example of tech myopia: the California AG’s Network Security Unit blocks access to many sites, including all social networking sites. For years, the California AG librarians have asked for one non-networked PC for each of the AG libraries. If the request had been approved, attorneys would use the non-networked PC to access social networks in order to ferret out vital information about witnesses, jurors, and parties. Network Security has ignored the requests. Consequently, attorneys who want to access social networking sites have to do so at home.

The powers of the state: People outside of state government are under the impression that the legal powers of government are enormous and unbridled. Initially, we both felt this way but our experience has shown us that the opposite is true. On many “bet the business” litigation matters, we are outgunned by the big law firms which can throw as much money and as many lawyers into a case as they need. For example, the usual litigation staffing in the California AG’s Office is one case, one supervisor, one attorney. The office simply doesn’t have the unlimited layers of staffing that the large law firms enjoy. Related to this is the fact that the law firms can easily “staff up” and “staff down” by using contract attorneys and paralegals. State attorneys general cannot do this. To overcome this handicap, attorneys general sometimes work with attorneys general from other states and the federal government. One California senior assistant attorney general told us, “We choose our court, our remedies, and our issues carefully. But above all, we must choose our battles very carefully.”

Sometimes we cannot afford consultants or expert witnesses. One California supervising deputy attorney general remarked that he often uses the AG librarians to provide the information that consultants and experts would normally provide. We are often outnumbered and outspent, but it takes more than money and bodies to win a case.
The Competitive Advantage

Using librarians as a business development and competitive intelligence resource to power client relationships

By Stephanie J. Ball
With information overload, having knowledge is not enough anymore. The innovative law firm that uses competitive intelligence (CI) to turn raw data into information and analyses and filters information into actionable intelligence will be the leader. CI is the process of collecting and analyzing information that managers use in efficient decision making to anticipate business development opportunities and to achieve their companies’ goals. CI is like a chess game; it allows you to think more moves ahead than your opponent, plan strategy, and avoid surprises. CI helps you stay ahead of the competition and be successful. When you have good information that you can understand, filter, and analyze, you have intelligence. Now you have the CI to take the right action to make the right decisions. Smarter decisions build profitable client relationships.

Simply stated, CI creates a competitive advantage when you know what information means to your law firm and you act on intelligence to develop business and retain clients. The CI process has four components:

- Designing the research question
- Collecting the raw data
- Coding and grouping the data into information
- Analyzing and filtering the information into actionable intelligence

Librarians are Information Brokers

So where does the process of gathering information to analyze begin? Professional law librarians are educated, skilled experts at mining information with technology and hands-on personal skills. The department the librarian works in is irrelevant. In some firms, the librarians are part of the marketing, business development, or CI departments. In most firms, they are still part of the library information services department. Because librarians have a daily collaborative relationship with IT, accounting, finance, marketing, business development, practice management, human resources, and every attorney and paralegal in the firm, they can pool these resources to create actionable intelligence. By sharing information across all firm departments, the library creates a culture of sharing that makes information accessible to all firm members. Law librarians are the firm’s information brokers. With their multiple resources, librarians can design a network to move information around the law firm, creating an intelligence highway. They are the gatekeepers of the firm’s knowledge management. It does not matter where they are located or what alternative title they have. With their legal industry experience and their understanding of the culture and practice areas of the firm, they have the experience that matters to analyze information.

CI is the game changer in business development. By tracking changes in the marketplace, law librarians can see what is actually occurring and analyze the trends that present emerging business opportunities. Law librarians begin the CI process with a game plan to meet a specific marketing or business development goal. First, the librarian plans the direction and goal of his or her intelligence. Next, the collection of data and information begins. Valuable information about the economy; potential competitors and clients; acquisition targets; new technologies; and political, legislative, and regulatory changes and case law that can affect the legal industry are all part of the CI strategy. By evaluating the multiple resources available, the skilled librarian will use the best resources to complete the project objectives of the marketing or business development department.

Uncovering the Unknown

Without doubt, analysis of the raw data and information by human intervention is the most important step in the CI process. Now it’s time to connect the dots and complete the puzzle. By understanding how unconnected information can be used to create a matrix, we can see the big picture. How does the librarian begin the analysis of research? Research that is based on observations of data is empirical research. Once the raw data is gathered, theories about how they relate to the marketplace can be developed. All research starts with a question we want to answer.

Innovation

The worst economic recession since the Great Depression has hit law firms with a knockout punch. With the latest collapse of mega law firm Dewey & LeBoeuf, many analysts predict that the recession and events leading up to it will permanently change the way business is done in the legal industry. In today’s economy, law firms, like any other company, have been shocked into re-evaluating their business model to be competitive in the marketplace.

Professional law librarians are often as well educated as the lawyers they work with. In fact, besides having an MLS/MIS degree, many law firm librarians also have a JD. Law librarians are educated and skilled in the process of gathering information and analyzing that information, which makes them natural CI experts. All research begins with the question the librarian wants to answer. By meeting with the marketing department or business development contact person, the librarian can conduct an interview that will communicate the goals and objectives of the research question or questions. When the research question has been identified, the librarian can begin theorizing about possible answers to be generated to answer the research question. Sometimes these are gut feelings or hunches based on the librarian’s knowledge about the firm’s practice groups and cross-selling goals. Once these have been established, the collection of raw data that fits the context of the research can begin. Collection of raw data by the librarian is just the beginning of the CI process. The next step is coding and grouping the raw data collected and finding the relevant information. Innovation is the analysis and evaluation of the information and turning it into actionable intelligence that can be communicated to the firm’s decision makers.

Empirical Legal Research: A New Model for Business Development

I recently attended the 11th Annual Conducting Empirical Legal Studies Workshop at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law. The workshop was taught by Professor Lee Epstein from the University of Southern California Gould School of Law and Department of Political Science and Professor Andrew D. Martin from Washington University in St. Louis School of Law and Department of Political Science. Many of the attendees were like myself—librarians at major law firms from throughout the country. And we were all there for the same reason: to learn how we can use empirical research in designing research, collecting and coding data, and using statistical software to analyze data. The statistical program we used was Stata, which is a complete, integrated statistical package that provides everything you need for data management, statistical analysis, graphics, simulations, and custom programming. It is used by many businesses and academic institutions around the world for research, especially...
in the fields of economics, sociology, political science, biomedicine, and epidemiology.

Professor Lee Epstein and Professor Andrew D. Martin define empirical research as the following:

General idea: Research that is based on observations of the world—in other words, on data, which is just a term for facts about the world. “Data” may be quantitative (numerical) or qualitative; neither is more empirical than the other.

Distinct feature: Many empirical projects start with hunches or “theories” about the way the world works, but they do not stop there; they attempt to determine whether those hunches or theories coincide with observations taken from the world.

I am a librarian, not a mathematician. My first thought was this form of research is over my head. I can never learn to use statistical software to analyze data. But to my surprise, it wasn’t difficult at all. It was just like learning to use a new Westlaw or Lexis database. But this time, I can control and code the data into a software program that can systematically analyze data into information that can be verified. Of course, as Epstein and Martin pointed out, there are other explanations that might not agree with the theory you are offering. There may be rival explanations or hypotheses. In reality, you will need to incorporate these rival variables into your analysis. You will need to control them. You will need to create a codebook, which lists all the variables and associated values as a guide to the data you have collected. The idea is that a codebook not only allows the researcher to code his or her data reliably but also allows others to reproduce the analysis.

By using a statistical software program, you don’t just have piles of information. You can create a report that is easy for the decision maker to read and understand how you arrived at your statistical analysis along with your variables. With the ability to add graphics and charts, you can produce a CI product that is shorter, more targeted, less biased, and more precise. The use of the newest technologies is part of the CI process.

After I completed the empirical legal scholarship workshop, I went online to see how many law schools have empirical legal scholarship courses. Just about every major law school in the world now offers courses in this discipline. Empirical legal scholarship is the new buzz phrase in CI. Although no form of CI can qualify as a crystal ball to predict the future, intelligence that is supported by statistical software and human intervention does provide more credibility to the decision makers of the firm. By using both technology and human interpretation to analyze information, CI practitioners can be more precise about the uncertainty of their intelligence.

Attorney Speaking Opportunities and Presentations for Business Development
In addition to all the research and analytical services that librarians provide to their firms, they also play a professional development role to their attorneys. Through their business development and CI research, librarians know which organizations support various industries and professions.

Many professional organizations are constantly looking for opportunities to offer continuing education programs that allow their members to grow educationally and professionally. Librarians can network with these organizations to secure speaking engagements for their attorneys that are large, targeted groups of potential clients. Many of these organizations have continuing education committees that plan a variety of educational seminars throughout the year for their members. In my experience, organizations are thrilled to have a guest speaker who can provide valuable education on topics that only attorneys can provide to a targeted audience.

And there are no seminar production costs to the law firm. Most organizations have a meetings and events specialist who plans and advertises the seminar at no cost to the law firm at which the speaking attorney is a member. By working with the marketing and business development departments, the attorney can create a relationship with the organization that can create opportunities for potential business.

Attorney Authorship Opportunities for Business Development
The library is where all the print subscriptions for publications the firm receives are negotiated and maintained. Because librarians have access to the contacts for all of these publications, they are the best resource to know who the key editors, reporters, and decision makers are for each publication. Many times the publication will ask the librarian for recommendations for authorship contribution. Exposure in trade, bar, newsletters, newspapers, law reviews, and journals is a great way for attorneys to get publicity and gain credibility in their practice. This is another vehicle that does not create an expense to the law firm and creates a marketing opportunity for the attorney and the firm.

Taking a Seat at the Table
The landscape of the legal industry is changing. Doing business in a changing world creates new opportunities for those decision makers who recognize where the advantages can be found. Expectations from clients have changed. They are smarter and expect more. Loyalty in service businesses has to be earned with every new transaction. But help for the decision makers of the law firm is right in their own back yard. Educated, skilled librarians can earn seats at the table by contributing their valuable knowledge to the law firm. No one knows more about finding information than the librarians. What they don’t know, they will find out. They understand the legal and business sides to business development, research, marketing, technology, and CI.

Ask a librarian, and he or she will find you the answer. Librarians can help move their law firms to the top.

Stephanie J. Ball (shall@bfss.com) is director of the law library at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP in Santa Barbara, California.
Most law libraries rely heavily on student employment. Student workers in the public services area are needed to help staff the circulation desk, provide directional information, file specific loose-leaf titles, shelve books, and troubleshoot photocopier and printer problems. These students are highly visible employees, and their faces are often the first that patrons see when they enter the law library. The quality of service provided by these individuals has a significant impact on how the library is perceived by its users.

Law librarians do not always agree about whether to hire only law students, only undergraduates, or a combination of each group. Many law libraries, however, focus on law students for public services positions. Law students working at the circulation desk can generate good will between the law library and student body. Law faculty want to encounter courteous and helpful staff at the circulation desk who will recognize them and understand their questions and requests.

The challenge for law libraries is to develop a program to not only train law students for essential tasks but also to endeavor to make the experience of working in a law library a valuable and enjoyable experience and one that is beneficial to the student’s future employment opportunities. The following methods of hiring, training, and retaining student employees will provide the maximum benefit to the library.

The Interview
The first step in hiring a student employee is to conduct a formal interview. This should be done even if there is only one applicant for the position. It indicates to the applicant that this is viewed as an important position, and it provides good experience to individuals who may never have had a formal job interview.

The applicant should be informed that the interview will be formal and involve the members of the department who will work with the individual. During the interview, or immediately prior to it, the applicant should be shown an updated job description for the position. A written job description with a position title other than “student worker” is important because potential employees should be aware that they will have a specific place within the organization. This tends to lend importance to the job. The interview should provide an opportunity for the student to ask questions about the position and the department’s expectations as well as offer the library staff an opportunity to describe the library culture and the place the student position has in the department and within the library as a whole.

Training
To ensure that a student employee succeeds in the position, it is essential to have a formal orientation and training program in place. Law libraries are busy places, and the tendency can be to provide minimal training for student workers because of the perceived high turnover rate. But, as Joan Howland indicated in her 1987 article, “Student Employees in the Academic Law Library,” published in Trends in Law Library Management & Technology, “Students who do not receive adequate training often dislike their jobs, become frustrated and resign.” Exploring methods of training that will make the work experience more profitable for the student and provide more continuity for libraries is worthwhile.

Each student employee within a department should receive the same basic training. A key element to success is to convey to the employee that the position he or she will occupy is important to the library. Involving all staff who will work with the new employee in the training program will foster cooperation between (continued on page 25)
Some might say that a public law librarian in Wisconsin has it relatively easy. Our state court system provides a wide array of standard court forms and basic guides to popular court actions on its website, useful for referring to pro se litigants. Owing to the brief nature of the guides, however, these don't answer every question that comes up. We have found that resources created by counties can help fill those gaps.

The Wisconsin State Law Library’s County Legal Resources database (wilawlibrary.gov/topics/county.php) currently includes more than 1,600 records and covers all 72 Wisconsin counties. The database contains law-related agency contact information; legal assistance organizations; law-related forms and guides published by county agencies; and links to court rules, ordinances, and court fees for each county. More than 750 forms and guides published online by counties are linked from this database and are arranged topically under each county.

Creating the Database
When we created the database we opted not to involve county agency staff, directly owing to the time it would take to establish contacts. Instead, library staff scoured government and third-party websites, as well as print directories, to pull together agency and legal assistance organization information in one place. Our initial list of agencies and resources amounted to hundreds of records, which we initially maintained in spreadsheets as we built the database from the back end.

When we first launched the database, the main page allowed for a simple lookup by county and data type (agency, legal assistance organization, form, guide, ordinances). On top of the straightforward county access, we also tagged particularly useful entries in the database with ID codes we matched to our legal topic pages (wilawlibrary.gov/topics/witopicindex.html). These tags feed county links directly into the matching legal topic page. For example, our Marriage legal topic page (wilawlibrary.gov/topics/familylaw/marriage.php) links to a sample clergy sponsorship letter from Marinette County and a guide full of useful marriage FAQs from Burnett County. Both of these guides are tagged with our Marriage legal topic page ID code.

Each record includes several fields. For
example, see Figure 1 for a Milwaukee County guide.

**Maintaining the Database**

With so many records, having a robust maintenance plan is especially important. Each week we use an automated link checker to keep on top of broken links and redirects, averaging around five corrections per week. To manage link updates for sites that do not properly communicate broken links, we also update the database at quarterly intervals. The list of 72 counties is split into two shorter lists, and each short list is checked twice a year. During the semi-annual checks, library staff will check phone numbers against directories, look for new links and legal assistance organizations, and check for broken links that the automated link checker may have missed. Library reference staff and users also provide suggestions or alert us to errors throughout the year.

**Future Plans**

A website is never finished, and the County Legal Resources database is no exception. In 2012 we re-examined how library staff use the database to look up and provide information. We realized that we use the database in two ways: to pull up a list of resources for a single county or to pull up forms and guides by topic. With this in mind, we simplified our database main page to include a clickable county map and just two drop down menus—one for counties and one for a topical lookup of guides and forms (see Figure 2).

Our database initially was not search engine friendly. We made sure that a page displaying all database records could be picked up in a search engine, but, as the database grew, it became clear that a single page result with “County Resources” as its title was far too vague to attract a user’s attention. The latest code revisions ensured that the selected county or topic name is dynamically included in the resulting page title, delivering clearer results when the database entries appear in a search. We used website statistical tools to get a better idea of the keywords for which users were searching our website or the web in general. Paying attention to these kinds of queries has helped us fine-tune our record terminology as well as inform our link selection strategy.

The library’s goal for the County Legal Resources database is to provide quick access to county information for legal professionals and pro se litigants. In the next few years, as we continue to refine this resource for our own staff, we will also focus on promoting this resource to the legal community and enhancing its presence on our website and in search results. ■

**Retaining Employees**

Retaining students in their positions for as long as possible is beneficial to the law library. Creating an atmosphere in which these students want to continue working is valuable for all parties. It is good to remember, however, that law students have other options and other responsibilities. Providing needed flexibility in a reasonable manner can prove successful for both the student employee and the library department and will encourage greater longevity.

High turnover in student assistance is time-consuming for libraries and can lead to a sense of frustration with hiring students. When student employees are treated as important members of the staff, they tend to have more loyalty to the law library. As the students learn more about how the library functions and as their skills increase, they begin to realize how much this work is helping them enhance their people skills and their knowledge of the legal collection. They should be given additional responsibilities as they are able to handle them, especially on any projects that would involve contact with law faculty.

Student employees should be included whenever possible in most library events and activities. If cake is served to celebrate birthdays or if a potluck event is to take place, it just makes sense to include the student employees. The more involved they are with library activities, the more positively they view the library and its role in the law school. In addition, this interaction with student employees on a more social level can provide library staff with a more informed knowledge of student concerns.

As the student employee gains more than a superficial knowledge of the activities occurring in law libraries and the career opportunities that his or her work in the library presents, the librarians may want to encourage students to consider law librarianship as a career. Recruiting the next generation is a never-ending process. The formal interview, the shared training, and the retention efforts spell success. ■

**Donna Bennett** (dbennett@nku.edu) is professor of law library services at Northern Kentucky University’s Chase College of Law Library. Since 1998 she has been in charge of the User Services Department where she hires and trains law student employees for work at the circulation desk.
AALL Says Thank You

AALL would like to thank the following contributors for their support of the Association and its activities. These individuals and organizations contributed to the 2012 AALL Annual Meeting and/or any one or more of the following funds: Alan Holoch Memorial Grant, Centennial, FCIL Schaffer Grant, George A. Strait Minority Scholarship, Government Affairs, Grants, Marla Schwartz Grant, Morris Cohen Essay Competition, Research Endowment, or Scholarships.

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There were more than 1,600 tweets during the Annual Meeting using the #aall12 hashtag. Here is a small selection:

@nellcoinc: #aall12 - Great keynote (Richard Susskind)! Thanks. Now let’s get to work on inventing the future. . .
@thehollster: Cultural competence is one of the must have competencies of the 21st century. #AALL12 #diversity
@AustLawLibAssoc: Full house for the AALL/ILTA session on iPads. According to ABA tech survey tablet usage doubled among attorneys in the last year #AALL12

@montserratlj: “The normal person wouldn’t expect a technical services librarian to write about legal history. I don’t let that limit me.” #aall12
@Librynth: #AALL12 “People come to you with, what I like to say are, differing outlooks on reality.” Amy Hale-Janek
@Jsprilliman: #aall12 “work hard, take the opportunities as they come” great advice from a great librarian
@gehhardtr: Brilliant talk by Karen McCullough at the luncheon. Change is good, you go first #aall12
@kimmayyer: Hey, I’m all done tweeting #aall12 now, except to say thanks @AALL2012 for a great conference, and I’m looking forward to @aall2013 :)
Librarians, Legal Research, and Classroom iPads—A Winning Combination

Integrating iPads into legal research instruction at Boston College Law School

By Alex Berrio Matamoros and Mary Ann Neary

Photo courtesy of Jason Liu, law school technology consultant at Boston College Law School

Will using a tablet computer in the classroom help motivate law students and engage their interest in legal research?
This was the question vetted by the teaching librarians at Boston College’s Law Library while applying for a university grant to supply iPad 2s to instructors as part of a pilot program. After using the iPads for more than a semester, these same librarians can respond “Yes!” to the question of whether tablets stimulate student interest and interaction in the classroom.

### Integrating the iPad into Classroom Instruction

There are six teaching librarians on the Education and Reference team. Each librarian teaches one upper-level research class per semester; these are semester-long classes accorded either two or three credits. Our opportunity to experiment with tablets in teaching occurred when Boston College’s Office of the Executive Director for Academic Technology solicited proposals for a pilot program on faculty use of tablets in teaching. The pilot program, managed by staff from the university’s Instructional Design and e-Teaching Services team (bit.ly/Lbcaks), offered loaned tablets for a semester to participants who demonstrated a willingness to experiment and seek out apps to use in instruction, share their results on a private blog, be involved in monthly user group discussions on their tablet experience, and solicit student feedback on their use of the tablet in instruction. Forty participants were selected, including the six teaching librarians in the law library.

#### Our Devices

The pilot provided each of us with a 32GB iPad 2, a Smart Cover to protect the screen, a VGA adapter cable, and $25 for app purchases. In early December 2011, the educational technology specialists in the law library configured each iPad and installed a default set of free apps, including the WestlawNext, HeinOnline, Fastcase, ABA Journal, Dropbox, and Remote Desktop apps. The iPads were distributed to the group at a joint training session where common tasks were reviewed so that every team member was able to hit the ground running with his or her iPad. After using the iPads for a few weeks, the team met to discuss what apps they would like to purchase. We agreed on Page, Numbers, Keynote, GoodReader, Penultimate, WritePad, FileBrowser, and LogMeln Ignition.

#### Putting Our Devices to Work: iPad Successes and Woes

The pilot program began in January 2012. During the semester, we taught two sections of Advanced Legal Research (instructed by Mark Sullivan, Alex Berrio Matamoros, and Karen Breda) in addition to Bankruptcy Research (instructed by Mary Ann Neary), Insurance and Civil Litigation Research (instructed by Karen Breda), Research for Criminal Law Practice (instructed by Laurel Davis), and Intellectual Property Research (instructed by Joan Shear).

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**We have found the pilot to be a good opportunity to think critically about how we teach our courses, how we engage our students, and how we can use technology to enhance our teaching.**

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We viewed the use of iPads in the legal research classroom as preparing students for iPad use in law practice. In drafting our application for the pilot program, the teaching librarians debated possible classroom uses of the iPad. Following is our resulting list and our experiences in implementing each proposed use.

1. **To free librarians from the classroom podium and allow us the mobility to walk around the room while conducting our classroom presentations and demos to increase interaction and student participation.**

   We successfully accomplished this by wirelessly mirroring what was being displayed on the iPad’s screen to the in-class projector and screen using an Apple TV. Because the Apple TV only provides HDMI output and our in-class projectors only support VGA, we worked with the university’s Media Technology Services staff to devise a way to change the digital signal to an analog signal so that it would display correctly. Once this problem was solved, we were able to achieve this desired use, which resulted in more of a seminar aspect to the class by reducing the physical distance between instructor and students, bridging the gap from the podium to the first row of students (some 10 feet or more in certain classrooms), and creating a more collaborative environment. Compared with previous semesters, students were noticeably more engaged in the material and volunteered to answer questions more frequently when iPad mirroring was used.

2. **To demonstrate and encourage use of legal research mobile apps and sites in order to help students develop competency with mobile versions of legal research resources already taught in our courses.**

   Students were exposed to mobile apps for major research vendors, such as the WestlawNext and Lexis Advance iPad apps, along with tablet-friendly websites from legal research vendors, such as Bloomberg Law and Bloomberg BNA. We discussed differences between mobile versions of the research platforms and the standard web browser version.

3. **To facilitate group work during class time.**

   In one application, an instructor divided the class into groups, with some students searching physical volumes in the stacks, taking photos of pages, entries, and indexes, and sending results back to fellow group members who were working on companion digital resources. Students learned how to analyze time efficiency differences between print and digital research formats and responded enthusiastically to the competition element.

4. **To engage students in class by having them use the iPad to demonstrate their research processes, strategies, and results through in-class mirroring.**

   We discovered that students were more eager to demonstrate their research when the anxiety element of standing at the classroom podium was eliminated. We revealed that the app versions of some legal research platforms did not contain all of the features of the browser-based versions, making it difficult for students to accurately replicate their searches. Students, however, also discovered that certain vendors’ tablet-friendly websites, such as BloombergLaw, were the exact same sites as those available in a desktop web browser, so students had no trouble replicating their research on those sites.

5. **To enhance class visits to the Rare Book Room by taking photos of fragile materials, allowing students to “page through” and zoom in on document features that they would otherwise not be able to interact with.**

   We did not have an opportunity to test this proposed use during the spring semester as we had hoped.

6. **To use in research situations where being able to zoom in and closely inspect images is important, e.g., patent applications exhibits, trademarked logos or icons, and comparing artwork for copyright infringement.**

   We did not have an opportunity to test out this proposed use during the spring semester as we had hoped.
All librarian instructors found the iPad to be a great tool for class preparation and assignment grading. The ability to download research exercises and exams onto the iPad to grade and review proved helpful and eliminated the need to print out the assignments and carry them around when grading at home. However, we did discover that our attempts to handwrite comments on the exercises using a stylus on the iPad proved more time-consuming than worthwhile, and we quickly switched to typing comments instead. Overall, most of our proposed uses were successful, albeit with some unexpected limitations at times.

The Next Phase
At the final university user group meeting of the spring semester, participants were given the good news that the pilot was extended through the end of the fall 2012 semester. This summer, we began planning for expanded use of the iPads in our fall classes. One priority will be to expand the use of wireless mirroring and student demonstrations using the iPad to create a more seminar-like atmosphere in our courses, which may necessitate the purchase of a second Apple TV so that one can be permanently installed in one of our teaching labs where many of our courses meet while the other unit can be portable and be used in other classrooms.

Our use of iPads has also led us to consider how to retool our class sessions in order to adopt a “flipped classroom” model, which endorses the use of streamed lectures and presentations to alter how students spend their time engaging with the material in and out of the classroom. In some instances, we plan to use a screen capture app to record what is being displayed on the iPad screen during a presentation that we then narrate. This capture can be uploaded to YouTube or another video-sharing site. Student assignments will include viewing a video introducing the next day’s topic in lieu of a research exercise; the instructor can then begin class by briefly reviewing the content, answering students’ questions, and then using the remainder of the time for in-class exercises. This approach will lead to instructors engaging directly with students as they work through exercises, individually or in small groups.

We consider the pilot’s first semester to be a great success and strongly endorse the use of iPads in the legal research classroom based on our experiences. During the pilot, our students have been more engaged, were more willing to participate and answer questions, and have enjoyed getting to use the iPads on occasion. We have also found the pilot to be a good opportunity to think critically about how we teach our courses, how we engage our students, and how we can use technology to enhance our teaching. We expect that the second semester of this pilot will continue to prove that using tablets in teaching really can lead to improved legal research instruction.

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THE RURAL REALITY
Rural libraries deserve and need your attention

By Vanessa Christman

We interrupt this regularly scheduled bleeding heart sermon about small, rural law libraries for something a little bit different: a rant.

Hi, it’s me Vanessa here, and I had planned on producing a respectable and well-researched article about the plight of small law libraries. I wanted to write a survey, perhaps interview a few sources, and then close the piece with a pitch for understanding and respect. However, since I’m currently writing this article while simultaneously managing a legal aid clinic, staffing the reference desk, and paying bills, I thought I would take a different approach because, well, I’m tired. I’m tired of explaining this issue to people who are intelligent enough to understand wealth and service disparities between rural and urban communities. I’m tired of lamenting the lack of programming addressing the issue and then attending any and all programming addressing the issue to see the same six people in the room (all of whom already work in small/rural law libraries). I’m done shouting about rural advocacy, being told by my larger library colleagues that it isn’t an organizational priority, and then trying to take it upon myself to start a program with my already scant time and resources. Most of all, I’m tired of the paternalism, the pity, and the feeling that rural law libraries are consistently being hung out to dry by the profession at large.

What I have left to offer you is my unbridled honesty and a slice of the reality of this situation from the perspective of the leader of the third largest of the small county law libraries in California. These opinions are mine and mine alone, and in the following editorial I do not presume to represent anyone other than myself.

A Day in the Life
I was no stranger to working in a rural law library when I first took this position more than two years ago. However, I soon learned that each (and large) county law library in California has a structure that is as unique as the counties we inhabit. My previous position as a law library manager in an even smaller county law library was strictly overseen by the county superior court. In contrast, my current library is an island apart from the county and superior court (though we interact frequently).

On any given day my tasks range from managerial-type responsibilities, such as writing reports and fretting over my declining revenue, to staffing the reference desk (usually an all-day responsibility that trumps my other tasks) and fielding phone calls and emails from patrons and vendors. I also am a one-person accounts payable and receivable department, and I am a frequent IT troubleshooter and library handyman. Although I do have a dedicated group of temporary employees whom I call upon in times of extreme busyness or when I need to take a day off, most days I work alone. As my temps are also working hard to eke out a living in a difficult economy, there are times when they are not available to cover for me due to prior work engagements. In these instances, I have to decide whether or not to cancel my engagement (be it a doctor appointment or vacation) or close the library.

I also close the library during my lunch hour since I do not have dedicated coverage; however, if a patron sneaks in here at 11:58 a.m. with a “really quick question,” my lunch hour will be significantly cut short. In addition to all of my numerous day-to-day responsibilities, my library houses three all-day legal aid clinics each week because, to put it simply, the court no longer has space for the clinics, and they would disappear if not for the space and support provided by the law library. The community needs these clinics, as they are the only free legal aid available to county residents.

Professional Interactions
When I first started in this position, I was worried about experiencing feelings of isolation. Although I knew that I would most certainly never be alone due to the steady stream of library patrons, interacting with colleagues and co-workers was an enjoyable aspect of my previous positions, and I had hoped that these positive interactions would continue in some capacity. For the most part they have, mainly through the email discussion lists of the statewide organization for county law libraries, the Council of California County Law Librarians (CCCLL). CCCLL members, like most law librarians, willingly share resources when my small collection and limited Lexis subscription fails to meet a
A combination of a Masters-level library education and law library job experience. I take the frequent slights of the rural law library administrators very personally at times because every idea that is born out of the personal experiences of a law librarian or staff member is relevant to the profession—period. Any professional environment that disregards an opinion due to a perceived lack of proper credentialing, whether said disregard is intentional or unintentional, is acting counterproductively to professional collaboration and growth. If professional competencies are indeed an issue that leads to the devaluing of the opinions of rural law library administrators, why not promote better organizational mentoring and develop statewide standards for preferred staff and administrator competencies?

I cannot really speak to national efforts to focus on issues of relevance to small/rural law libraries because traveling to professional events is nearly impossible given my staffing needs and budget. I do, however, peruse the course offerings at conferences devoted to law librarianship, and I rarely see anything of relevance to the reality of my situation. It could be because the leadership of these national organizations does not deem these issues to be important to the profession at large; however, it also could be that most rural law librarians are so busy trying single-handedly to plug all the proverbial holes in the library hose that the thought of writing a program (in their spare time . . . ha ha) seems like a far-fetched fantasy. It’s problematic either way.

If law librarians are truly interested in the greater good of the profession and its patrons, then I cannot see how the topic of rural law libraries can be neglected for much longer. Granted, our collections and environs are not impressive compared with those of larger libraries, and we don’t typically have the time to work on innovative new projects, but the impact that we have on our communities is unsurpassed because we are frequently the only source of free legal information in a wide geographic area. Instead of relegating rural law libraries to the sidelines due to a perceived lack of staff competencies, the profession should be encouraging mentorship and developing professional competencies catered to rural paraprofessionals. Also, our experiences as supreme multitaskers and creative problem solvers could prove useful to large libraries that are struggling to cope with declining revenue and the need to consolidate staff roles and responsibilities in order to make ends meet.

Rural libraries deserve your attention, and rural library staff members have earned the right to sit at the same table as you, even if they need a little help remembering a particular citation format.

Vanessa Christman (edlawlibrary@gmail.com) is library director at El Dorado County Law Library in Placerville, California.
Making IR Content Discoverable
Improving institutional repository content discovery through your local catalog and WorldCat

By Fang Wang

I
stitutional repositories (IRs) host a lot of unique and valuable digital content. More and more law libraries are implementing IRs to meet the needs for open access, long-term preservation, electronic publishing, and libraries’ evolving role in teaching and research. But most patrons don’t know where or how to find that content. So librarians must make the IR content more discoverable (and easy to find).

The local catalog and WorldCat are another great venue to increase IR access and presence. Making IR content searchable in the local catalog and WorldCat makes them more discoverable to law library patrons and beyond. Adding item links to existing catalog records showing the availability of the IR items seems to be a standard practice. But not all repository items have corresponding MARC records in the local catalog. The IR has a lot of unique digital content not included in the catalog. Cataloging each IR item appears to be time consuming and a duplicated effort. So how can we make IR content searchable through the local catalog as well as in WorldCat?

Making IR Content Discoverable in the OASIS Local Catalog
Texas Tech University School of Law Library’s IR, “ScHOLAR,” at repository.law.ttu.edu, was established at the beginning of 2010 and has been up and running for more than two and a half years. ScHOLAR stands for Scholarship and Historical Online Legal Access Repository. It was built using DSpace, a popular open source repository platform developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Hewlett-Packard. It was designed as a central location to preserve, share, and promote Tech Law’s digital materials, including faculty scholarship, student writings, institutional history, and more. The repository currently has 23 collections containing more than 1,800 digital items.

In 2011, I attended metadata training offered by Texas Digital Library. At the onsite training, I learned that a university library had been working on the discovery of its IR content. The library developed an in-house program (an .exe script) to automatically batch transfer IR records from Dublin Core (DC) to MARC. The script was created in Microsoft Visual Studio as a Windows forms application for the library’s Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD) collection. The library staff generously shared the source code of the program and the mapping document (Excel spreadsheet) they had created that laid out what DC element was mapped to a MARC element.

Because the program was particularly designed for ETD records, some modifications to the program were needed—e.g., fields such as graduation year, dissertation committee, etc., needed to be removed. The assistant director for collection services then uploaded this final MARC file that contains all ScHOLAR records to the local catalog OASIS.

Making IR Content Discoverable in WorldCat
Once the IR content was searchable in the local catalog OASIS, the next step was to make the content also searchable in OCLC WorldCat. OCLC has a self-service tool for uploading the digital repository metadata to WorldCat to maximize web visibility. It is called the OCLC Digital Collections Gateway and has been adopted by many libraries to improve the digital repositories’ discoverability. It was originally designed for OCLC CONTENTdm collections but was later enhanced to be used for any OAI-compliant repository. This service is available at no charge and doesn’t require an OCLC membership.

Figure 1: MARC-DC converter

Figure 2: IR hooding ceremony record reflected in the local catalog
According to OCLC, 20 million digital repository collection records have been added to WorldCat through the Digital Collections Gateway. OCLC provides tutorials and web sessions to help users with learning and using this tool. Before registering and using the Gateway, the OAI setting in the IR needs to be enabled to ensure that the repository is OAI-PMH compliant. Then the institution needs to register to use the Gateway. The login information will be provided in a welcome email, and the IR profile needs to be set up after logging in.

I set up the profile for SchOLAR after registering in the OCLC Digital Collections Gateway. Information needed for setup included an OAI-PMH base URL for the digital repository and the type of the IR (DSpace, Fedora, EPrints, Digital Commons, or other). I then worked closely with the assistant director for collection services on setting up, reviewing, and tweaking the mappings for each collection. The metadata was synchronized after the mappings were approved. After the SchOLAR content became searchable in WorldCat, the repository items were shown as “downloadable archival materials” in the search results. One click on an item opens a record, and the link “view online” takes the patron directly to the item in the SchOLAR repository. See Figure 3 for an example of the law school faculty scholarship record.

Synchronization schedules can be set up to harvest the metadata periodically, whether it be monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. If new items are added to the IR, the Gateway will then automatically re-sync the collection based on the schedule.

Future Steps

Making IR content more discoverable is crucial to the success of any IR. The local catalog and WorldCat can drive more traffic to the IR to boost the exposure and use of the legal scholarship and other unique content. For future steps, any new repository content will continue to be made available via the local catalog OASIS and WorldCat. One improvement will be to add thumbnail displays in WorldCat for IR picture collections. Currently, WorldCat doesn’t support picture thumbnail for non-CONTENTdm collections, but a local customization can be done to achieve this result. OASIS and WorldCat referral traffic statistics will also be collected to measure the success of this project.

Fang Wang (fang.wang@ttu.edu) is digital information librarian at Texas Tech University School of Law Library in Lubbock. She would like to thank Sue Kelleher for her helpful input and comments for this article.

![Figure 3: Law school faculty scholarship article reflected in WorldCat](image-url)
No one was more surprised than its organizers at the success of the Law Library Association of Maryland’s (LLAM’s) latest biennial conference, Full Disclosure: Librarians Sharing Best Practices. Whereas previous conferences have focused on the finer points of legal librarianship, for this year’s event our vice president, Mary Jo Lazun of Maryland State Law Library, suggested that it might be time to try something different. Her vision was a conference focusing on best practices in librarianship, with 15-minute presentations by librarians in the Baltimore/Washington, D.C., metro area. Think TED Conference for Maryland librarians. Talk about different. We'd never done anything even remotely like that before. Thirty or more speakers? All kinds of librarians? Although we kept our expectations in check by calling the event an experiment, in the end it turned out to be one of our best conferences to date.

So what went right? It was a combination of flexible planning, technology, and a little luck.

Flexibility
First, we resisted the temptation to over-explain the concept. Keeping our call for presentations simple, we merely described the topic and format and emphasized the opportunity for presenters to gain public speaking experience in an informal setting. One risk in taking this approach was that people might not “get it,” but we decided to let the concept evolve, if necessary.

Then we sent out the request for presentations with loosely defined tracks: reference (“How May We Help You?”), library systems (“Under the Hood”), and education (“Eyes Wide Open”), which gave potential speakers an idea of what we had in mind without restricting them. Only after we selected the presentations did we formalize the schedule, which we continued playing with until a month before the event. Instead of specifying precise times for each presentation, we decided to hold questions until the end of each session. Although we may be stricter in the future to allow more time between presentations, this approach meant less work (and stress!) for the moderators.

This kind of flexibility is only possible with a superlative team, and Mary Jo assembled her dream team: Katherine Baer (Maryland State Law Library), Pat Behles and Joanne Dugan (University of Baltimore School of Law), Susan Herrick and Jenny Rensler (University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law), Kate Martin (Montgomery County Circuit Court Law Library), Kirstin Nelson (Morningstar, Inc.), and Sara Witman (Gordon Feinblatt LLC). About half of the committee had worked on LLAM’s previous conference, giving the group sound practical grounding so that the newcomers did not need to reinvent the wheel.

Technology
We wanted the conference experience to be as easy as possible for presenters, attendees, and coordinators. The first step was to set up a simple, easily updatable WordPress website solely for the conference. Several of us already had experience working with WordPress, so the learning curve was relatively flat. The next step was to set up an online form for librarians to submit their presentation ideas. Form results were emailed automatically to all conference committee members so that everybody received the information simultaneously.

We ended up approving all of our submissions. Several titles that seemed a bit odd ended up being among the most well-received, so we are glad we didn’t vet them too strictly.

We wanted the registration to be simple, too. We used Google Checkout for the conference because we had prior experience with it, and it did not disappoint. We found a WordPress plugin to handle registration and
payments. We set the basic registration at $25, with a $15 discount rate for presenters, job seekers, and retirees, and we accepted payment online and by check. Best of all, the registration plugin exported the data as a spreadsheet, making it almost easy to manage registration, name tags, catering counts, etc. This real-time registration was critical because we needed to keep close tabs on our numbers; we actually had to close registration early to ensure that everyone would have a seat at lunch.

Success!

On March 20, 2012, more than 40 library professionals shared their best practices with 70 of their colleagues in attendance. Presenters and attendees came from academic, public, and medical libraries along with court, firm, government, and academic law libraries. Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C., were all represented.

The ability to attract librarians of all kinds was one of the conference’s most significant accomplishments. LLAM members in particular were able to relate to presentations from other specialties and to see themselves as part of a larger profession.

To measure the conference’s success, we included a simple evaluation form with the conference materials and also made it available online via SurveyMonkey. More than 50 percent of the attendees submitted evaluation forms. Of those, nearly two-thirds (64 percent) gave our conference an overall rating of 5 out of 5, and 35 percent awarded it 4 out of 5. The comments on the conference were voluminous, which is always a good sign. We received rave reviews about the 15-minute format, as well as positive comments about the relaxed atmosphere, the ability to meet and talk with colleagues, the keynote, and the chance to hear so many people in a single day. Even the quality of the food was mentioned.

We were also struck by the fact that everyone stayed for lunch! Finally, we had a great location for the event at the University of Baltimore School of Law (UB Law). Thanks in no small part to the school’s library staff, we were able to use the facilities for free. Easy access and discounted parking can often make a big difference in how people feel when they arrive at a conference, and, thanks to our UB law library connections, discount parking was available to all. Fortunately, UB Law is also within walking distance of Amtrak and light-rail stations.

Looking Forward

The event was certainly not perfect. More movement between presentations during sessions would have been ideal, as would a different room setup allowing attendees to leave without crossing in front of the room and distracting attendees and speakers. Being stricter about presentation times and including time information in the program may also have helped. Additionally, we should have encouraged speakers to submit copies or outlines of their presentations prior to the event.

Will we do it again? This conference was more work than we had ever done before, but once the enthusiasm for the idea took hold, we had a terrific time. LLAM may be one of AALL’s smaller chapters, but we sure know how to throw a good conference.

Sara Witman (switman@gflaw.edu) is director of library services at Gordon Feinblat LLC in Baltimore, and Mary Jo Lazan (mj lazan@mdcourts.gov) is head of electronic services at Maryland State Law Library in Annapolis. The authors would like to thank Kirstin Nelson of Morningstar Document Research, who suggested the idea for this article and provided invaluable support and comments.
Next Month in Spectrum

Here’s a taste of what you can look forward to in the November issue of Spectrum:

• Creating and implementing a library policy for patrons with disabilities
• Law library service to the jail
• The legal subject heading proposal process and the SACO Law Funnel
• The cognitive disadvantages of replacing books with e-books

Good Apps Aren’t Hard to Find: Resources for Finding Legal Apps

By Emily Lawson
tinyurl.com/9z4wwvr

The dramatic increase in the number of apps during the past couple of years has made it increasingly difficult to stay on top of all the available legal apps. This article discusses resources that can help mobile device users find legal apps, including app stores, app search engines, legal publisher websites, and legal technology blogs and websites.

The Librarian’s Role in Fostering a Confident Approach to Legal Research

By Christine Jaworski
tinyurl.com/8qo233n

This article discusses what librarians can do to simplify the attitude taken by students, especially 1Ls, toward finding information in law schools. This includes some stereotype adjusting and general problem-solving principles, as well as a librarian’s perspective. (Sometimes knowing how the other half lives can ease any unnecessary angst surrounding a process.)

Nation’s Courts Directory - 2013


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**Q:** I’ve been a law librarian for more than 20 years and was very active in my regional association before moving to another state. Now, I can’t seem to connect with my new association. I reached out to the librarians in my new city by inviting some to lunch, and I thought it went well, but there’s been no follow-up. I’ve volunteered for a committee and have been enjoying it, but much of the work is done by phone and email. I really haven’t met many members. While I was in Boston at AALL’s Annual Meeting, I attended my regional association’s reception. I sat down with some other members and introduced myself. They were courteous but were interested in continuing their own conversation, and I felt shut out. What am I doing wrong?

**A:** Actually, it seems as though you’ve done many things right: you’ve reached out, volunteered, and introduced yourself. It seems like you’ve been used to going “where everybody knows your name and they’re always glad you came.” Now you’ve changed bars. I don’t mean to be flippant. It can be disconcerting to be the “new kid” at any stage in our lives. You didn’t identify your former or current library association, but from what you disclosed, I suspect you transitioned from a larger metropolitan area to a smaller one. I can empathize. I am a member of the Minnesota Association of Law Libraries (MALL). Most of our members are located in the Twin Cities and are constantly tripping over one another. In addition to MALL, there is a vibrant SLA association and an active, informal group of downtown law librarians who meet monthly. We have many opportunities to come together with friends and colleagues. I imagine that librarians in Houston (HALL), Chicago (CALL), and other large cities share similar experiences. This isn’t the case for all library associations, especially for those that are spread over larger geographic areas. Often the Annual Meeting is the only time when members meet face to face, and it’s easy to focus on reconnecting with familiar colleagues rather than remembering to reach out to new ones.

Librarians are generally a welcoming, inclusive group. Please don’t allow a minor setback to stop you from contributing your talents and expertise to your new association. Instead, draw upon your experiences and reach out to others. For example, the next time your association holds its meeting, offer to work at the registration desk. This will not only put you in a position to meet other members, but it may allow you to identify new members and guests and pair them with veteran members. Another idea is to be intentional in your attempt to involve new members by suggesting, ahead of time, that they assemble at a particular place and time.

I hope that no one deliberately shut you out. Please be patient with members of your new association. I think it took the better part of three seasons before most of us accepted Frasier Crane as part of the gang at Cheers. Thank you for reminding all of us not to take each other for granted.

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**The reference desk**

By Susan Catterall

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**Yates and Lastres Win AALL Article of the Year Awards**

The AALL Awards Committee selected Sarah Yates from the University of Minnesota Law Library in Minneapolis as the recipient of the 2012 Law Library Journal Article of the Year Award. Her article, “Black’s Law Dictionary: The Making of an American Standard,” 103 Law Library Journal 175 (2011), examines the history of Black’s Law Dictionary, the methods used in its creation, and its evolution. It then compares Black’s with its competitors and identifies factors both inherent in the works themselves and driven by external forces that have led to today’s primacy of Black’s over other law dictionaries.

In addition, the committee awarded the 2012 AALL Spectrum Article of the Year Award to Steven A. Lastres, the director of library and knowledge management at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP in New York, for his article, “Collection Development in the Age of the Virtual Law Firm Library.” The article, which was published in the June 2011 issue of Spectrum, discusses how to expand your footprint beyond your “walls.”

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

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

Both awards include a cash prize of $500 donated by Wolters Kluwer Law and Business. The awards were presented at the Law Library Journal and AALL Spectrum Authors Reception held during the 2012 AALL Annual Meeting and Conference in Boston.
member to member

Potlucks are a great way to build community. What is your favorite dish to bring to a potluck?

I like to bring Lug (it’s actually called Galuska, and it’s Hungarian)—it’s been a family favorite for many years.

—Stacy Fowler, technical services librarian at St. Mary’s University School of Law Sarita Kenedy East Law Library in San Antonio

My favorite dish, or actually dessert, to bring to a potluck dinner is a sour cream pound cake—a simple recipe that is in the first Bell’s Best Cookbook. It is a winning cake made in a bundt pan that turns out golden and crusty. Just add powdered sugar and fresh strawberries to add a little elegance to the already delicious cake.

—U.S. Courts Librarian Rosie Tominello, Fifth Circuit Library System—Jackson Satellite Library in Jackson, Mississippi

My favorite potluck dish for summer get-togethers is strawberry avocado salad. It is a refreshing and different salad to bring. There won’t be 15 of them on the buffet table, so make a big one!

—Cindy Beck Weller, law librarian at Cooper, White & Cooper LLP in San Francisco

Potlucks can be challenging for me as a vegan, so I’m always sure to bring a dish that I can make a meal out of in case there are no vegan options. One of my favorite dishes to bring to a potluck is a platter of organic veggies, pita bread, and homemade hummus. This recipe cuts down on the fat and sodium but tastes delicious and fresh. Served with whole wheat pita bread and organic veggies, this recipe is loaded with antioxidants, fiber, and protein. It’s also incredibly easy to make!

—Laura Hartnett, Faculty Services Law Librarian at Northeastern University School of Law Library in Boston

For a work potluck, I have a go-to dish: guacamole. Sure, sounds simple—but—there is a fine art to the proper proportions of tomato to cilantro, to lime, to avocado, and finally, to salt. And the trick is—don’t measure. It’s all up to taste. You never know how potent cilantro is going to be, nor how limey the limes.

—Daniella Lee-Garcia, Thomas M. Cooley School of Law

My favorite dish to bring is baked beans. This recipe contains a combination of three types of beans and several other flavorings and is a nice variation on the typical baked beans recipe. I like it because not only is it delicious, but the measurements don’t have to be exact, so you can be creative every time you make it. I just keep adding ingredients until it tastes right. This dish is always a hit!

—Donna M. Fisher, law librarian at Senniger Powers LLP in St. Louis

Visit AALLNET for these recipes and more member responses!

memorials

AALL Spectrum has been advised of the death of Judith Esrig. Ms. Esrig passed away May 21 at the age of 74. AALL Spectrum carries brief announcements of members’ deaths in the “Memorials” column. Traditional memorials should be submitted to Janet Sinder at Law Library Journal, Brooklyn Law School Library, 250 Joralemon St., Brooklyn, NY 11201-3798 or emailed to janet.sinder@brooklaw.edu.
Share Your Views with Spectrum

Many law libraries have interesting or dramatic views of cityscapes, mountain ranges, or beautiful vistas. Others boast amazing interiors, sparkling facades, or artful landscaping. What views of your library are meaningful to you? Whether it’s the atmosphere surrounding your reference desk or a moment captured on your morning commute, this is your chance to share it with AALL.

In order to be publishable, pictures must be of relatively high quality. Although we can work with a print, digital submissions are better. Digital submissions must be high-resolution (300 dpi).

Depending on the number of submissions received, we will publish one or two photos in each issue of Spectrum and post them on AALLNET. Photos will be published on a first-come, first-served basis. Publication of a submitted photo is not guaranteed. To submit a photo, or if you have questions, contact AALL Marketing and Communications Manager Ashley St. John at astjohn@aall.org.

A view of part of Texas Tech University’s campus (the second largest contiguous area for a campus) from an administrative office window during a West Texas storm. Lubbock typically has awesome weather, and this is a rare recent event captured by Paul Aguilar, PC/network support specialist, and submitted on behalf of the law library’s Awards Committee.
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