Digital Revolution Turns Librarians into Data Facilitators

The digital revolution has made much of the world’s information free and easily accessible, but that data isn’t always trustworthy and comes at the cost of personal privacy, warned Andrew Keen, keynote speaker at the opening session of AALL’s 107th Annual Meeting.

Keen, a Silicon Valley author and commentator, noted that the invention of the World Wide Web in 1989 didn’t cause the digital revolution. Instead, the revolution occurred with the creation of the Google search engine that used technology to tap the expertise of everyone to create information. Information, once the province of human experts, “was now being curated by a machine,” Keen said.

One of the first consequences of this revolution was the mistaken notion that the wall between experts and amateurs had disappeared. These old boundaries have been swept away, at least in the minds of Silicon Valley leaders, Keen said.

In the past, the world of information was two-tiered. One level consisted of librarians and other experts and the institutions for which they worked. This tier of information specialists—the elite—was based on meritocracy and was broadly based. Then there were amateurs.

The short-term consequence of the Google revolution was the destruction of the barrier between the information elite and amateurs. Information became more free and easier to access. This notion that experts were no longer necessary is part of a larger mindset characterizing this era in American history. “There is a cultural rebellion against authority—experts—that has seen the rise of libertarianism,” Keen said.

The “authority of experts is being steadily chipped away” according to Keen, and “librarians are on the front line in this battle against expertise.”

In truth, however, there is an important role for law librarians in the post-Google world. Data is central to this new world, and librarians need to become “information curators,” he said.

Librarians need to become data professionals who help individuals manage and protect their information. This new age is missing “the human component,” according to Keen. “We all will need curators who help protect our online privacy and help us sort out unreliable and mistaken information.”

AALL Public Policy Update – What We Want and When We Want It – Now!

Linda Corbelli, Supreme Court of the United States Library

The AALL Government Relations Office (GRO) tirelessly informs and supports members on public policy issues relevant to their work. This year, one of those issues requires the immediate attention of Association members, making this year’s update especially pertinent.

Session moderator Emily Feltren (director of the GRO) outlined the way the Office works with policy committees Copyright, Digital Access to Legal Information, and Government Relations to create a policy agenda for the 113th Congress. The areas include public access to government information, access to justice, protection of privacy, and balancing copyright law. State law concerns include the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA), now enacted by nine states, with two on the cusp; funding for public law libraries; and the Universal Citation Guide.

Attendees then broke into groups to learn about the initiatives of each of the policy committees. The Copyright Committee’s activities included providing comments to the U.S. Copyright Office on orphan works; Patricia Barbone’s webinar, Copyright in the Know; and an active Twitter account (handle aallcopyright). The Digital Access to Legal Information Committee created a new practices guide for states (see poster #11 in the Exhibit Hall); and is spearheading a very exciting update of the State Online Legal Information Inventory (see information under My Communities on AALLNET.)

The Government Relations Committee (GRC) detailed the need for AALL member involvement – the Federal Register Modernization Act (H.R. 4195) is now set for a full House vote as early as this week – possibly tonight! This legislation would do away with the requirement to print the continued on page 3
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Public Policy

continued from page 1

Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations and, even more devastating, would eliminate the mandate to index these titles. No paper FR or CFR, and no index to either! The GRC asks you to contact your representative now at www.congressweb.com/AALL/26 or by going to their table in the Exhibit activities area and scanning the QR code. Please provide examples of how this would adversely affect your work and the public’s access to this crucial information.

The presentation of two awards concluded this program. The Mississippi College School of Law Library received the AALL Public Access to Government Information Award for their valuable project to archive floor debate of the Mississippi legislature. The project also makes this information usable by breaking it into searchable fields. The Robert L. Oakley Advocacy Award was presented to Sally G. Holterhoff of Valparaiso University Law School Library, an experienced AALL leader and seasoned advocate for law librarian issues.

Placement Office

The AALL Placement Office is located in the Marriott Rivercenter – Conference Room 1/2 (3rd Floor).

Placement Office hours:
Monday, July 14, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Tuesday, July 15, 9-11 a.m.

Interview rooms are available:
Monday, July 14, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.
Tuesday, July 15, 7 a.m.-noon

Interview rooms must be reserved in advance: contact Hannah Phelps-Proctor at hphelps@aall.org.

New this year, Placement Committee members have drop-in hours for job seekers to ask questions regarding interview etiquette, résumés, what they can expect as they apply for jobs, and more:
Monday, July 14: 9-10 a.m.; 1-2 p.m.; 3-4 p.m.

Meet the AALL Executive Board Candidates

Get to know your fellow AALL members who are running for the AALL Executive Board this fall. A “Meet the Candidates” forum will be held today, July 14, from 9-10 a.m. in the AALL Member Services Booth in the Exhibit Hall. Seize this opportunity to ask questions and find out each candidate’s vision for AALL before you vote in November. Successful candidates will begin their terms of office in July 2015.

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Say Cheese!

Stop by the Member Services Booth to get your photo taken by AALL’s professional photographer. We will email the photo to you after the meeting so you can upload it to your online profile on AALLNET and use it in other social media.

Monday, July 14
2-3 p.m.

Tuesday, July 15
10-11 a.m.

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LexisNexis is excited to introduce LexisNexis Courtroom Cast powered by Courtroom View Network. This offering consists of audio and video content that helps law school students and professors engage in a rich multimedia experience.

“For many law students, it is difficult to develop a deep understanding of the material by text alone. And everyone can benefit from additional resources to complement their books,” said Olympia Duhart, co-president of the Society of American Law Teachers and Professor of Law and Director of the Lawyering Skills and Values Program at the Shepard Broad Law Center at Nova Southeastern University. “These new offerings between LexisNexis and Courtroom Connect will help address both of these needs. I’m very excited about the learning opportunities created by the ability to teach with video and audio embedded into law school eBooks. This will bring an important layer to my teaching, and a critical learning tool to students.”

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In 2014, our editorial team has focused on expanding coverage and getting breaking news to you faster than ever.

Asset Management Law360 is our most recent addition, filling out our financial coverage. Prior to that, we bolstered our corporate credentials with two more industry-focused sections: Retail & E-Commerce Law360 and Automotive Law360.

Law360 now has 40 sections in all, but we’re not finished yet: We still plan to launch two to four more sections before the end of 2014.

In terms of overall content, we put out nearly 200 articles each day, including breaking news, expert-written analysis, rankings, legal industry tips and trends, personnel moves, and more.

Every business morning, our newsletters land in the inboxes of more than 300,000 legal professionals at major law firms, corporations, and government agencies. And our recent expansion of breaking newsletters ensures that big stories are delivered within minutes of an event, throughout the day.

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Sustainability at Thomson Reuters

As a large business with operations across the world, Thomson Reuters is committed to responsible and sustainable business practices as demonstrated through our daily decisions, our work in local communities and also through the products we offer.

Last year, Thomson Reuters introduced Sustainability on thomsonreuters.com. The popular microsite combines insight from across the company, and from a valued community of external partners, including the United Nations, Audubon, the World Wildlife Fund, as well as thought leaders in sustainability from the business community. The site provides a global view of Sustainability from experts in climate, energy, health, law and corporate governance.

Thomson Reuters is itself deeply committed to sustainability. For example, we have an ongoing program to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions across the business. In 2011, we set a modest target to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 5 percent from 2010 levels by 2015. We achieved this in 2012, and are continuing to review and reduce our carbon footprint.

Our own work across the sustainability space continues on the ground in our local communities with our many global partnerships and alongside our customers through our dedicated suite of sustainability products. Whether it is providing ESG (environmental, social, governance) data helping investors make informed decisions, or offering information to government bodies to secure land rights for vulnerable communities, we are proud of our work and the impact we can have.

Several weeks ago, during the first United Nations Environmental Program conference in Nairobi, Kenya, Thomson Reuters launched a blog dedicated exclusively to sustainability. Like the sustainability page on thomsonreuters.com, the blog is managed by Tim Nixon, who is passionate about global environmental issues such as environmental policy and law, climate change and carbon management.

The blog is a space to provide regular insights on emerging trends in the global field of sustainability. Since the content on the Sustainability website is mostly long-form reporting, the blog will allow for more daily engagement around the topic in an easier-to-digest format.

Thomson Reuters is about bringing transparency and trust around important information that professionals and other individuals need to work and engage in society. The sustainability space and the thinkers who are driving it are an important part of this larger network of information needed by our customers.

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**Easier results navigation:** Tabs multiplied too quickly, you told us. So results tabs have been replaced by content links in the left navigation bar. Select a content type and move there. Fast and easy. (Previous searches are only a step away. Select History at the top of most screens.) Once in a full-text document, just select the Results List button to return.

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