The Black Hole in Annual Program Selection

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There is a black hole for most AALL members in the annual meeting program selection process: that period between the deadline for submitting a program proposal and the date you are notified whether or not your proposal was accepted. This year I had a chance to sit inside that black hole as a member of the Annual Meeting Program Selections Committee (AMPSC). I learned a lot about what I, at least, saw during the proposal review process and thought that others might find some of it useful in preparing proposals in the future. Please bear in mind that I speak for myself only, not for AMPSC or AALL, and that procedures and processes change over time.

Having said that, let me also say a little about what we did before entering the “black hole” period. All AMPSC members were assigned to be liaisons to multiple SIS’s, chapters, caucuses, and other interest groups. We were charged with helping groups know about the program theme and proposal deadlines, made sure they all had copies of the Program Planners Handbook (which we also revised), and worked with them to help clarify questions or issues to be considered. My liaison assignments included both the Technical Services and Online Bibliographic Services SIS’s, and I sat in with their education committees during the annual meeting as program ideas were discussed.

Once proposals were turned in, however, it was time to change hats and become a member of AMPSC, charged with looking at all of the programs submitted. And there were a lot of them! Approximately two weeks after the submission deadline, each committee member received a big black notebook with 170 program proposals, 17 workshop proposals, and indexes to the above done every which-way (by proposer, SIS, broad topic, length of time, format, etc.). We had one week to read, review, and rank proposals. Our responses were then sent to headquarters and compiled into more lists that we used during our selection meeting in September.

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Program Selection  (continued from page 1)

I’d never seen that many proposals before, and it was intimidating. I didn’t know anything about some of the topics, so how could I judge their value? And others were near and dear to my heart -- how could I be objective? I had to look at everything as a whole, not as individual components, which sounds lofty and wonderful but is hard to do.

Tim Coggins, our fearless AMPSC leader, gave us some good advice on delving into all this: read through everything without trying to make notes or rank, then read it all through again, starting at number one, and fill out ranking/comment forms. Do you know how long it takes to read 187 proposals? Twice?!? And how hard it is to keep them straight? I stocked up on little colored sticky notes, closed the door, forwarded the phone, and settled in. The first time through, I put a sticky on each proposal with some idea of the subject, which wasn’t always obvious from the title. Since proposals went into the book in the order they were received, it was possible to find proposals on similar topics submitted by different people scattered throughout, and it would be important later to consider them together. By the end, I had so many stickies that it was sometimes hard to find what I was looking for and knew was there. I may possibly have gone overboard!

My second pass through the notebook took two days. I read each proposal, scribbled notes and questions, and highlighted things that grabbed me or made me question. Then I ranked it on a scale of 1 to 5 and added comments and questions on my form and moved to the next proposal. When you’re looking at that many as a big block, it’s amazing what things stand out as both positives and negatives. And it became easier to review and evaluate proposals from a subject or area of law librarianship that was outside my own academic tech services realm.

There were lots of solid programs that were well thought-out and presented with good speakers and clear learning outcomes. There were also some badly written proposals with great topics, well-written proposals on tired subjects, overlap or duplication across several proposals on the same topic, wonderful programs with over-exposed speakers, and things we expected but didn’t see at all. The comments, questions, and issues we raised as we read through all the proposals became the basis for much of our discussion at the September meeting and were conveyed to proposal coordinators after decisions were made.

A Great Proposal Has ...

- An easy to read look. Typed pages are easier to read in great quantities than hand-written pages.
- Word-processed proposals were the easiest of all.
- No typos!
- Learning outcomes that truly were learning outcomes.
- Program levels and target audiences that matched the program description.
- Clear, well-written program descriptions.
- Identified speakers, or at least a well-defined “speaker group.”
- Some indication why those speakers, including AALL representatives to other groups, were selected (as an appended bulleted list, vita, web page information, etc.).
- Ranking for proposals from an SIS.
- When applicable, the relationship of the program to others presented in the past or in the current group (follow-up, counterpart, etc.).

After reading, ranking and commenting, our information went to headquarters to be recompiled. We arrived in Chicago the same day that the Starr report was released (which was a wee bit distracting) and faced the task of making final program selections. We had new lists of proposals in order of their compiled ranking, which was quite eye opening. There was no way that we could thoroughly discuss and review all 187 proposals in one and a half days, so we started with those ranked most highly by the group and went from there. And that’s when I realized what a huge chunk of the work had been done by us as individuals as we read (and ranked) our way through The Notebook.

Don’t be misled -- we didn’t just accept the top-ranked 70 proposals! Every one that was accepted, and many that were not, were discussed by the committee and revised to be sure we had a good balance of topics, speakers, sponsors and formats. Some were accepted without any changes, but the majority were revised in some way to create stronger programs and a more solid overall conference package. Committee members didn’t always agree with each other during the discussions, but we listened and learned and did our best to come up with a mixture of different programs that met the needs of our association colleagues.

One thing that was very clear to me by the end of it all was the importance of the overall impression that a proposal made by its look and attention to detail. I don’t mean the topic, which naturally is important, but how it looks on the page and how well it is written. See the sidebar for a few of my thoughts about what a good proposal should include -- things that helped shape my initial overall impression of the 187 proposals I read this year. Remember: proposals are read first by individuals who are going through dozens of them in a short time period. Appearances do count.
Recently while reading an account of Franklin Roosevelt’s childhood, I was struck by the contrast between his privileged, aristocratic upbringing among the Knickerbocker gentry of the Hudson valley and the sometimes hardscrabble life of a boy just about his own age in western Missouri, Harry Truman. If a lesson can be learned from that contrast it may be in support of the claim that anyone can become president (although we are still a few elections away from being able to see that this ideal applies to every race, gender, and creed). And we may also learn from both of these Presidents that you don’t always get what you expect. How could the scion of one of the oldest families of the most traditional, monied class introduce an approach to government so despised by the very people he associated with? How could a man from a Jim Crow state desegregate the American military against the strong opposition of its leaders? The person who has more than he needs and the person who has less can both end up saying, “There must be more to life than this.” And so there is. In both cases, you have people who looked beyond their particular situation to ask about the larger universe. Comfortable, normal middle-class existence (the fate of most librarians, I would guess) is less likely to bring people to such ruminations naturally. There must be something else that compels it. It is also tempting to say that since our work is not at the same level of importance as a President’s, we have much less need to worry about the sorts of issues that anyone can call “big picture”. Thinking that goes beyond our own work often involves nothing larger than the department, the library, or the parent institution.

But the world has become one that revolves around the issues we are trained in: The Information Age is in full flower. Here is a compelling reason for us to take notice of the larger universe: it is becoming a universe that relies on our sort of expertise more and more. We now have plenty of motivation and even compulsion to look at that larger universe. It has been gratifying to see librarians participating in the conversations and shaping the agenda in this new era. For all the worries our profession has about images, I think this era has already demonstrated that librarians are adapting and contributing in significant ways to the understanding of the information explosion. And in the inevitable “second stage” or whatever appellation is attached to the next phase of the era, technical services librarians will be even more necessary. All of those traits which may have seemed too fussy and old-fashioned in the first gung-ho wave of the Web (insisting on authoritative headings, controlled vocabularies, universally-applied methods of describing) will be seen as more valuable as people work to bring that world of information into order.

“Order” has had a bad rap. Ever since Mussolini and his stupid trains running on time, the idea of order has often been associated with fascists, or (more mildly) with the small-minded. Emerson’s “hobgoblin of little minds” has been a thorn in the side of the technical services world for a long time. But we must remember that Emerson’s hobgoblin was a “foolish consistency.” And who can argue with that? But at times in the past, all the consistency that resulted in the famously complicated rules of our little world (not just AACR, but rules for filing cards that ran to a hundred pages) has been deemed foolish. But the anarchy of information on the Internet demonstrates fairly clearly that a little consistency (and nothing approaching a foolish consistency) would be a good thing.

The question of how to achieve order without stultifying the openness and freedom which have been the foundations of the success of the Internet are the great points in the upcoming analysis. I think the solution lies in our traditional role. We will identify, select, acquire, organize, and prepare for our patrons those “materials” which are best suited to our libraries. We won’t be able to do everything, but we never have. It may mean that the world (including, and perhaps, especially the legal world) is going to need more and more trained professionals to do all these things in order to get some sort of handle on the web of information floating around out there. That will not be such a bad position for us to be in. If we can figure out good ways to find the best things on the Internet, make them available to our patrons, and organize them to make them easy to find, we will ensure that the library continues to be the place people turn to first to find the best information. It will be continually important for all of us to put our best skills into the enormous task of bringing some order to this chaos.

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Imagine my surprise when I opened my TS-SIS member survey and saw the question: “Do you think TS and OBS should be merged?” This question has been put down three times already so we didn’t expect to see it again so soon. In the spirit of intellectual curiosity, Brian Striman added it to the OBS member survey, but neither of us thought much more about it. Lo and behold (or as granny used to say, “Lord in the hole!”) OBS members have told us we need to think about it. In the approximate words of one: “Bibliographic utilities and local systems are so intertwined with the rest of our jobs, that it is difficult to separate them.” OK. Here are some thoughts from my perspective.

Who are OBS members? A good half are technical services librarians in some capacity, but nearly half are non-technical. More than half are academic, almost a quarter are from law firms, and a small but significant aggregate are from state, court, county, public, corporate libraries, etc. As many of you know, we have for some years tried to serve the needs of all varieties of law librarians - technical, public, and administrative - who need information about bibliographic services.

Does our programming compete with or duplicate that of TS-SIS? There is a common conception that OBS and TS compete for program slots. To the extent that the two Sections do share interests, we provide an additional programming source (or vehicle). If OBS disappeared, there might well be fewer. In fact, however, OBS consciously steers clear of traditional technical services programming. Because of the range of member types and needs, our recent programs have been aimed at a broad range of interests, with some not-so-obvious connections: archivability of electronic information; the law librarian’s desktop of the future; evaluating Web sites. This summer, look for a similarly diverse selection: metadata; information architecture in the Web environment; and online systems for small law libraries. We’re still interested in the bibliographic utilities, too, of course, including their reference services.

OBS is an alternative avenue to leadership opportunities. This has been true mostly for potential leaders from a technical services background. The Section has traditionally been led by tech services people, and there may be some contradiction in this. When so many public services librarians and administrators are members, why are they not more in evidence in OBS offices, in survey responses, in program development? Almost the same could be said about non-academic law librarians, of course. Academics and “techies” generally are most active, but we try to serve all of our members, even if they don’t say much.

We need to look again at our stated purposes, perhaps re-evaluate our mission in light of what we learn about our members current and anticipated needs. Does OBS-SIS offer something that both technical and non-technical services librarians need? Is either group getting short shrift because of the attempt to serve both? Do tech services people find something in OBS that TS does not offer? One of our leaders, a member of both TS and OBS, shared her opinion: “I think that TS and OBS complement each other, overlap in some areas, but aren’t the same. Neither one is filling all of MY needs, for example, which is why I’m in both. I’d like to see both groups concentrate on member needs and directions rather than on whether to merge or not.”

Some discussion and planning by both TS and OBS will be required before we can say with any assurance how our complementary goals should be pursued over the coming years.

**Candidates for OBS Offices**

OBS election ballots will be mailed in late March. The nominating Committee, Sue Roach, Sally Wambold, and Jacqui Paul, have done an admirable job. Candidates for Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect are: Virginia Bryant and Ellen McGrath; for Secretary-Treasurer: Cindy Cicco and George Prager; and for Member-at-Large: Richard Amelung and Georgia Briskoe. The new Secretary-Treasurer will serve a two-year term, as will the new Member-at-Large.

**Review of OBS Brochure**

Caitlin Robinson and Kevin Butterfield have my gratitude for agreeing to review OBS’s publicity brochure, which is primarily distributed at the AALL activities table. Their goal is up-to-date information with a fresh look.
I became interested in the topic of digital preservation because of my concern for long term access to the “official word of the law.” In the print world, it is easy enough to pull up a volume of the state reports or a state code and be sure to have the authentic text. But, if, in the future, the state legislatures or courts decide to stop printing the texts and they only exist in electronic form, there will be no equivalent of the print product. In the print medium, the book authenticates the content. The electronic text, on the other hand, is easy to alter, unless precautions are taken.

The two main problems arising with digital legal information are: (1) Its rapid obsolescence, because it is software and hardware dependent, the need to migrate and “refresh” the information, as well as the need for standards of authentication; and (2) The current lack of plan to archive digital legal information and ensure that it will be accessible not only next week, but in 2, 5, 10 and even 50 years from now.

I believe that it is an area where law librarians should be proactive, because they are responsible for access to repositories of legal information. They know how important permanent public access to official legal information is in a democracy. I also believe that AALL is uniquely suited to a leading role in this coordination effort with other stakeholders (including producers and consumers of information) at a time where the profession is redefining its role in the information society.

Judy Meadows, then AALL President, and Rubens Medina, Law Librarian of Congress, appointed a joint AALL/Law Library of Congress Task Force in 1998 to start looking into these issues. Most Task Force members met in Ithaca in August 1998 to start rising to the challenge. They met again in New Orleans at the AALS meeting in December 1998. At that time, it was decided to postpone the National Summit and use the time to enroll the help of the other stakeholders and doing preparatory work. It is hoped that the Summit can be held later on this year.

Some of the suggestions brought up at the Ithaca meeting include the following:

1. Get an AALL representative within each state and at the federal level for coordination purposes:
   a. Survey the current digitizing and archiving practices;
   b. Make a list of “best practices” and use these as prototypes for other states;
   c. Solicit/invite papers on central issues and best practices and invite authors to participate in the summit meeting.

2. Convene a national summit meeting to:
   a. Gather all the stakeholders affected by the issue and raise their awareness of the problems;
   b. Discuss standards for authentication of official digital records;
   c. Discuss several prospective models as potential archival sites for legal information;
   d. Make proposals and recommendations to standard setting institutions and other groups;
   e. Help formulate a plan in each state to preserve and archive the digital legal information produced, after the summit meeting.

Finally, I would like to offer the following proposal for consideration, which would be to explore within the law library community the idea of forming consortial agreements in each state.

Each partner would buy servers and download a portion of the corpus of legal information. For instance, Cornell could keep the New York Court of Appeals decisions (currently produced by the Legal Information Institute at Cornell), the documents of the International Labor Organization (currently running from a mirror site set up at Cornell; includes treaties and national labor laws from foreign countries), and the decisions of the International Court of Justice (running from a mirror site at Cornell). Cornell would make these documents available to other libraries. It would rely on partner libraries for access to other materials.

This plan would ensure that libraries successfully continue their leading role of preserving and making information available to present and future generations of scholars.

2. For a list of Task Force members, see http://aallhq.org/database/roster_current.asp?code=COMMITTEE/TF_LLCPA
Using LCC (Library of Congress Classification) to Classify International Legal Materials:
A Light-Hearted Series of Articles: Part 2

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[Editor’s note: Thanks to Classification columnists Regina Wallen and Marie Whited for their help with this article.]

This is the second installment of articles in *TSLL* on classifying legal materials. The first article appeared in the December 1998 *TSLL*. So let’s continue...

Scene— your messy office. More international stuff is waiting for you to catalog, plus there are a few titles that have JX call numbers on their spines and some books that you’ve been asked to reclassify from the dead JX. Below is a totally fake dialog between “You” and a fictitious character named “Help”.

You: <muttering> JX, JX, I don’t have time to reclass this stuff... I’m sick of piece-meal reclassing. I don’t have a plan. There’s no room in the KZ area on the shelves... geeze, I haven’t even had time to go measure the JX’s for reclass shifting requirements. How am I going to get all the JX’s into the JZ and KZ areas?

Help: Quit your grumbling. What’s your problem?

You: Well, actually, right now it’s this dumb JX book. It’s a publication dealing with Intelligence activities and espionage/sabotage, but JZ doesn’t seem to have what I need, so I hate to force it into JZ and KZ. You’ve got to resist the temptation to think of these new schedules as some kind of “off-shoot” for JX... JZ and KZ were never intended to be a replacement of JX. JX was a hodge-podge mishmash, and a classifier could sometimes only guess in many areas of JX where to put things.

Help: Not much is cut and dried about classifying international legal materials. You’ve got be thinking on several different levels when you class this stuff. Not everything can or should be forced into JZ and KZ. You’ve got to resist the temptation to think of these new schedules as some kind of “off-shoot” for JX... JZ and KZ were never intended to be a replacement of JX. JX was a hodge-podge mishmash, and a classifier could sometimes only guess in many areas of JX where to put things.

You: What about the K (jurisprudence, comparative and international uniform law)?

Help: Yes.

You: <long pause> Yes.... WHAT?

Help: It’s one of the most important schedules that interplays with the dead JX, and the new JZ and KZ schedules. You need to have the K schedule in your default-zone when you are classifying international legal materials. The work might just be properly classed in that schedule.

You: Okay. Fine. Let’s say I’m classifying a book on the law of partnerships in India, and I come up with what I THINK it might be, but I’m not sure it’s right. What can I do to verify the number?

Help: Use the Internet to visit some other law library catalogs and perform a call number search under the call number you gave your book. See if it’s close. Look at it this way... how many books are you going to acquire on Indian law? So, you don’t want to spend hours dwelling on this, but you do want the number to be pretty accurate for anyone else who shares the same bibliographic utility and uses LCC. So do a good job for your colleagues, but don’t worry too much about pinning down an “exact” number, because it’s possible there isn’t an “exact” number in the schedules!

Help: There are several. The first place to look is obviously the Library of Congress <locis.loc.gov>. Their call number browsing is very easy. The technique is to decide on what you think is the class stem number for the piece in hand, then go into LC’s online catalog. Follow the screen instructions, and just do the browse call number stem and look at the hits you get; are the titles they bring up close to yours? Look at the subject headings assigned to the entry; are they ones that match what you’d assign? If so, you’re in the right classification area, and you can more confidently use that number. Also, try the University of Iowa <oasis.uiowa.edu>. You can just telnet to it. Telnetting is...
faster than Web-browsing OPACs. Try OhioLink <eagle.lit.cwru.edu>. You can even call or e-mail Brian Striman <bstriman@unl.edu> and he’ll give you some more sites to try. Many of the libraries are in the process of reclassification, retrospective conversion, and classing the newer materials with JZ and KZ. You’ve got to remember, we’re all in this boat together, so you have to use your best judgment and do the best you can. You can also search their catalogs by important keywords and see what call numbers display from your hits. Also, check the subject cataloging entries for call number ideas.

You: What if I don’t find any useful classification number on any of the Internet searches I did?

Help: Then you consult the LCC Ouija board! Dim the lights in your office, place your hands gently across the open KZ schedules volume. When your fingers move, don’t try to control them. If nothing happens, then you could post a query on the TS-SIS electronic discussion list. If you have a question on a classification assignment, probably others will have questions also.

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Oh No - A Board Game?

Some Tips for Cataloging This Unlikely Acquisition

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A board game? For most law catalogers, what are the odds of running across one of these? Probably less than encountering sheet music. That’s what I thought until one day in 1995 I had to deal with a creature called West's Great American Case Race. Opening its big blue box, I realized this was little more than a parlor game for law students, not much different than, say, Monopoly or Candyland. Its intent is to teach legal research, stressing, of course, the advantages of WESTLAW over LEXIS. Its contents were typical of any board game: a folded board, one set of WESTLAW cards, one set of LEXIS cards, one set of case files ("clues"), four markers ("pieces"), a die, score sheets (as in game points, not music) and an "official rules" sheet.

Okay, you have such a creature in hand, now where do you start? The best place would be Chapter 10 of AACR2. This (for those of us who only use chapters 1, 2, 12 and 21) is the chapter dealing with three-dimensional artifacts and realia. Yes, flat though it may be, a board game is 3D. Descriptive cataloging is straightforward. I’ve included two examples: the OCLC master record for West's Great American Case Race (Example 1) and the in-house Dickinson School of Law INNOPAC record which illustrates my corrections to the OCLC record (Example 2). It is title main entry. If your library is in North America, consult List 2 in Rule 1.1C2. There you will find “game” as a general material designation. If in square brackets follows the title proper. I can’t think of any board games deserving of a 1xx field, since they do not generally have a single author or a Rule 21.1B2 issuing body. Just as in any format, a 246 is

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**Example 1 - OCLC Master Record**
useful for tracing any title variation. The 260 (publisher, distributor, etc.) field is basically as for any monograph; board games generally have copyright dates, rather than publication dates.

Where are the chief sources for a 245 and 260 for a board game? Rule 10.0B1 states:

The chief source of information ... is the object itself together with any accompanying textual material and container together with any accompanying textual material and container issued by the publisher or manufacturer of the item. Prefer information found on the object (including any permanently affixed labels) to information found in the accompanying textual materials or on a container.

In other words, what’s on the board is better than what’s on the cover or the enclosed instruction sheet. Title and (rarely) statement of responsibility, edition (yes, board games do have editions—e.g. the umpteen editions of the board game version of Concentration), and publication, distribution, etc. all have the chief source as their prescribed sources of information (10.0B2). Take any of this information from any place other than the board, and you have to use square brackets. In my case, I was lucky. Title, publisher and copyright date were all on the board. Place of publication was not listed anywhere on the item, but we all know where West was located (St. Paul, Minn.) so it was put in square brackets.

Things start to look really different when you deal with physical description. Rule 10.5 addresses this. Rule 10.5B1 covers extent of item. In a MARC format record, all of this follows subfield a. Since you have one game, you start with “1 game” followed by component pieces (dice, cards, markers) in brackets. Rule 10.5C deals with other physical details. Material, usually (as in my case), consists of cardboard (game board, cards) and plastic (markers). If it is multicolored (modern board games always are) mention this (col.). In MARC format, this follows subfield b. As for dimensions, Rule 10.5D2 governs. Board games are normally in a container (box), so the cataloger should name the container and give its dimensions as the only dimensions. In MARC records this information would follow subfield c. If there are accompanying materials (e.g. game rules) the usual plus sign, subfield e and short description would apply. A summary (520) note explaining what the game is about would be helpful. Create subject (6XX) and added personal or corporate name (700 or 710) entries as usual. (Again, see examples 1 and 2 which should be illustrative.)

Now, for OCLC cataloging. If you need a workform, type wfgm <F10 or F11>. Fixed fields are important. “Type” is “r” for three-dimensional non-projected graphic. “Tmat” is g (for game—designed for play according to prescribed rules and intended for recreation or instruction). For “Time” use the default of three hyphens (---). “Tech” is “n”—not a motion picture or video recording. “Audn” is optional; if it is something dealing with legal research or some aspect of the study of law, “f” (for a specialized audience) would be appropriate.

This topic, like any cataloging topic, could be examined in greater detail, but this essay should illustrate that cataloging a three-dimensional article, unusual though it may be for law catalogers, is not a daunting task. Following Rule 10 of AACR2 and the relevant bibliographic rules for your online database will get you there without too much trouble.

### Example 2 - Dickinson’s INNOPAC Record

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<td>VLL</td>
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<td>043</td>
<td>n-us-</td>
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<td>049</td>
<td>DKLA</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>245</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1 game (1 board, 1 set of WESTLAW cards, 1 set of LEXIS cards, 1 set of case files, 4 markers, 1 die, score sheets):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>520</td>
<td>Intended for people who have used or are using WESTLAW, in order to teach them the effectiveness of computer-assisted legal research.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>650</td>
<td>0 WESTLAW (Information retrieval system)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>650</td>
<td>0 LEXIS (Information retrieval system)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>650</td>
<td>0 Legal research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>710</td>
<td>2 West Publishing Company.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*Technical Services Law Librarian, March, 1999*
Annual Meeting Programs to Address Millennium Issues

Timothy Coggins, Chair, Annual Meeting Program Selection Committee
Hazel Johnson, Member, Annual Meeting Advisory Task Force

Reflecting the theme, At the Crossroads: Information Management, Technology, and Policy, the programs at the 1999 Annual Meeting will confront the issues facing law librarians as the 21st Century approaches. We are at an important crossroads. We must position ourselves not only to survive but also to thrive in the technology based world that continues to evolve around us. Within each of the five tracks at the Annual Meeting, - Management; Technology; Information Access & Policy; Foreign, Comparative & International; and Technical Services - there is a plethora of programming designed to help law librarians address important millennium issues.

The Technology track includes exciting ideas and dynamic speakers. “It’s All in the Books, Right?: The Ethical Perils of Ignoring Electronic Legal Resources in the Information Age” features Judge Robert E. Payne (E.D. Va.) who wrote one of the first opinions acknowledging that attorneys have a duty to stay “ abreast of developments in the law” and that there are numerous resources, including online services, serving this purpose. “Encryption at the Crossroads” features Marc Rotenberg, compiler of The Privacy Law Sourcebook, Director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center and one of the organizers of the grassroots campaign against Lotus Marketplace. The program will feature a discussion of PGP, the current industry standard for email encryption, and current and proposed legislation regulating the use and export of strong encryption products. The proliferation of electronic products, the Hyperlaw decision and the burgeoning number of legal documents found on the Internet has escalated the need for a uniform citation system. The principal drafters of AALL’s new Universal Citation Guide will “state their case” for adoption of the guide during the program, “AALL’s Universal Citation Guide on Trial.” A panel of judges representing various segments of the legal system will cross-examine the drafters about the potential problems and impact of such a system on the way judges, lawyers, scholars and others work.

Among the Information Access & Policy track programs, “Unauthorized Practice of Law 1999” will feature representatives from Nolo Press, which is currently under investigation by a subcommittee of the Supreme Court of Texas for producing materials which assist individuals to do their own legal work. The preservation of the digital records created by federal agencies is one of the greatest challenges of the upcoming millennium. Lawyers, scholars, judges, reporters all should have an interest in how the federal government and the National Archives and Records Administration plans to meet this challenge. “Federal Information Policy and Agency Recordkeeping at the Crossroads” will feature Scott Armstrong, a noted author and journalist, and Dr. Lewis Belardo of NARA debating the issue. The consolidation in the legal publishing industry affects law librarians every day. The two-part program, “Meeting of the Minds at the Crossroads of Legal Information,” offers a panel of law book publishers participating in a roundtable discussion on the state of legal publishing today. Part Two will feature a panel of law librarians reacting to the points made by the publishers.

The Technical Services and Foreign, Comparative & International tracks feature programs of value to everyone, not just the librarians who specialize in those two fields. “Crosswalks to Information Management: Metadata” focuses on one of the cutting edge issues of searching the Internet. What is metadata? How can it make storage and retrieval of information more accurate? How will it affect search engines? The emergence of electronic publications has caused librarians to rethink the definition of a serial. The program “Loose-leaves at the Crossroads: Redefining Seriality” will focus on the ongoing discussions of proposals to re-define seriality and the impact that may have on cataloging and processing traditional materials and their new electronic counterparts. The globalization of the world’s economy makes the quest for the law of other countries a daily challenge. “From Russia With Law,” “Cuban Legal and Political System,” and “Our Neighbors to the North and South” will provide insights in understanding and researching the law of some of the most important of the U.S.’s many trading partners.

A facet of a law firm librarian’s life is laboring on research projects and wondering how much of that time will actually make it to a client’s bill. The program, “Getting the Client to Value Legal Research,” in the Management track will offer a number of suggestions about ways to present librarian research time and tools to be used in the client-retention process. The ubiquitousness of technology in today’s law libraries often requires that technology professionals be employed in the law library. Ensuring that all employees understand each other’s work and that upper level management (and library staff) understand the need for well-compensated technology staff is the focus of “How to Hire the Right Computer People — and Keep Them From Crossing the Road.”

This is just a sampling of the more than 70 programs scheduled for the 1999 Annual Meeting. Want to know more? Watch for “Crossroads Spotlights” postings on the decedprog and law-lib listservs.
ELECTRONIC ORDERING OF MONOGRAPHS

PART I:
Blackwell’s Collection Manager

In August 1998, Northwestern University School of Law Library migrated from NOTIS to our new integrated library management system (ILS), Endeavor’s Voyager. Life in the NUSLL Acquisitions Department changed all at once. As far back as 1996, when Northwestern University began preliminary investigations for a new ILS, we knew that the Acquisitions Department would experience significant workflow changes. The most welcomed workflow change would be the ability to do electronic ordering. As fate would have it, NUSLL went “live” with Voyager about the same time that Blackwell’s announced its newest release of Collection Manager.

Collection Manager is a Web-based acquisitions and collection development tool. Blackwell’s worked with academic libraries to develop what they call a “library workflow support system”. NUSLL has found the Collection Manager extremely useful and easy for the Acquisitions staff and Collection Development librarians to use.

The Collection Manager was first introduced to the Acquisitions staff as a verification tool and a few weeks later was introduced to Collection Development librarians as a selection tool. Staff can search the entire new titles database by title, author, ISBN, LCN, or by Blackwell’s product number. The new title database is not quite as current as First Search Books In Print database. I often need to verify forthcoming title information in First Search because it is not yet available in Collection Manager. Search results are displayed in alphabetical order by title. Next to each title is an icon that indicates the status or handling of that title. Although some of the icons are obvious (e.g. green F for forthcoming), other icons are not easily identifiable. Thankfully, Blackwell’s has provided a Help menu that gives a brief description of all icons used in the database.

The search result is an electronic version of Blackwell’s approval form with a few added bonuses. Each title has brief bibliographic data including subject headings, as well as status information (e.g. date processed by Blackwell’s or expected due date), audience level, type of book (e.g. reprint), etc. What are the added bonuses? Each title has a hot key to either “Request” the title (used by Collection Development librarians) or to “Order” the title (used by the Acquisitions staff). Another added bonus is that if the title is already on order with Blackwell’s, the operator can see the order date, the purchase order number and the status of the order. If the title has been invoiced and shipped that date is displayed. All this information is available to the Collection Development librarian and helps to eliminate duplicate requests.

We have received mixed review from the Collection Development librarians regarding the use of Collection Manager as a selection tool. Some librarians are happy to cut down on the amount of paper that crosses their desk and embrace electronic collection development while other librarians still find the approval forms more comfortable. If a librarian would like to request that a Blackwell’s title be ordered using the Collection Manager, they click on the “Request” hot key and fill in the appropriate information including any instructions to the Acquisitions staff such as “route title to Prof. Zippo for course review”. All of the Collection Development librarians find Collection Manager useful in building bibliographies.

Once a week the Acquisitions staff retrieves all the electronic requests from Collection Manager. We verify that the titles are not already on order, import the bibliographic records into Voyager from the LC MARC database or OCLC and create a purchase order that we do not print out. We toggle back to Collection Manager and click on the “Order” hot key, fill in the appropriate information including any special instructions to Blackwell’s such as RUSH shipment. The order is reflected in real time in Voyager and in Collection Manager. Best of all, we have not generated any paper and do not have to pay postage for mailing out purchase orders.

The relatively minor change in our ordering procedure has been a test of the Acquisitions Department mindset. Some staff share the Collection Development librarians reliance on paper purchase orders; there is still that suspicion that if the order is not on paper it is not official. Other members of the Acquisitions Department are happy to be relieved of the tediousness of stuffing an envelope. We have begun electronic ordering with other vendors, on an experimental level. Our test is to see if when we place an order through their online catalog, we receive the title. The drawback here is that the legal vendors and publishers that NUSLL uses do not have sophisticated online ordering systems comparable to Blackwell’s Collection Manager. Unlike Collection Manager, the legal vendors and publishers online ordering systems do not indicate if the electronic order has been received by the system, invoiced or shipped. The ability to track an order through Collection Manager makes it a valuable acquisition tool.

The next step for the Acquisitions Department will be bulk import of bibliographic records using Collection Manager. We do not have a timetable established to implement this procedure, but Blackwell’s is ready when NUSLL is ready. Finally, by FY2000 the Acquisitions Department will be doing electronic invoicing with Blackwell’s.
Overall, the Acquisitions Department is very pleased with the Collection Manager and look forward to expanding our use. Blackwell’s Collection Manager is not the only game in town. In Part II of “Electronic Ordering of Monographs”, Marla will write about Yankee Book Peddlers’ GOBI. If you would like more information regarding Blackwell’s Collection Manager, check out Blackwell’s Web page at <http://www.blackwell.com/services/cm/CM.html>. Information about GOBI can be found at <http://www.ybp.com>.

**Classification**

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Paul Weiss from the Library of Congress’ Cataloging Policy and Support Office reports that new editions of K, KE, and KF should be sent to the printer the end of this month. The next issue of Classification Plus will contain KD and KZ. The new edition of KD is available.

Be on the lookout for legal books classed in non-legal call numbers. Two areas to watch are popular accounts of trials and medical law subjects.

Conflict of laws is an area that is difficult to classify especially when you can’t read the language. While reclassing our old collection, I noticed inconsistencies even between editions. One edition would be in K and the next in a country schedule. Also, we had classed some of the older comparative titles in K, yet they should have been in KJC. At least with American conflict titles, we have the scope notes in KF and the scope note in Table A of KDZ. KG-KH just above 110 that refers comparative American titles to KG.

You may want to establish some guidelines for your collection to insure consistency. If the work treats several countries equally and is not related to a region, class in K. If the work is theoretical, historical and not related to region, class in K. Many of the historical works in Yale’s collection are actually KJC since they deal with that region. Of course, guidelines are great, but they don’t always solve the problem. Conflict of laws will remain a tough area to classify, especially the older titles. Many of you will want to prefer K unless the work is clearly country or region – that will keep all of your “in doubts” together and that’s a good thing.

Jolande Goldberg and David Guion have given us permission to include their recent correspondence about JX. We hope you all find it as helpful as we did:

1. (JX5121) Belligerent measures. Deceit, spies, etc.
   The subject Espionage, spies, deception/disinformation, etc., are classed in UB250+ as a subtopic of military intelligence; both intelligence and espionage are further subdivided “By region or country, A-Z”.
   Particular spy cases related to a war, are classed with the particular war in Classes D-F.
   General works on “espionage as a crime against the state or peace” are classed in K5252.5, or in subclasses for regions and countries (e.g. KJ-KKZ, Table A, 4442 and 4446; KK9084+, etc. LC has one treatise on history of deception/disinformation (classed in JX5121) which belongs rather to history of humanitarian law, KZ6471, while several other works in JX5121 would now class in UB or K (Law in general...)

2. (JX4079.P7) Means of protecting independence... Propaganda.

Propaganda is to be addressed by law cataloging only if it is a crime, aimed at “endangering the state...” or “international relations”, e.g. KJ-KKZ, Table A, 4448 and 4455.

Otherwise, it is classed in various J subclasses (by country), such as JN3971+, or JF1525.P7, and in subclass UB275.

Potential references could include:

JZ6405.A-Z (Works on diverse concepts and aspects...). Propaganda, Psychological warfare, see UB275

KZ4043 (Means of protecting independence).

For treasonable propaganda endangering the state or international relations, see crimes against the government in appropriate K subclasses (e.g. KJ-KKZ, Table A, 4448 and 4455)

(JX5482.5) Exhaustion... (=K5495 area)

(JX5483) Claims and reparations (=how’bout K967Government tort liability. Including works on the Calvo doctrine. This is an 1995 revision of K) You ask whether this is the right place? Conflict of Laws (K7000+) deals only with conflict rules (comparatively) in particular subject areas established as “Private International Law”. Your book in hand has to decide this.

(JX5486) Claims and reparations. By region or country (=this looks to me like collections which would send you back to KZ238+).
Electronic Archives of Law Reviews:  
An Idea on the Horizon

Recently, I attended the Charleston Conference, “Issues in Book and Serials Acquisitions,” and was dazzled by the developments I found in academic libraries relating to electronic content and process, as well as the state of library/vendor relations. I intended to devote this column to one or some of the topics covered at that conference, but changed my mind upon hearing that the William Hein Company is embarking on a project to store archival law reviews electronically.

The concept is not new. The Andrew Mellon Foundation sponsored a demonstration project which has been transformed into a not-for-profit corporation called JSTOR. This organization works to store back runs of academic journals in electronic format accessible through the World Wide Web. Their address is <http://www.jstor.org>. At the JSTOR Web site, background and history of the project is available as well as a demonstration of how JSTOR works. At present, JSTOR has approximately sixty titles available. It is their plan to have one hundred journals in ten to fifteen disciplines available by the end of 1999. One difference between JSTOR archives and the proposed Hein archives is that JSTOR plans to put all but the current issues of their journals into their archives leaving a three to five year gap between their holdings and current issues. This approach is called the “moving wall.” Many law reviews are already completely or partially available through Westlaw and Lexis. It is likely that Hein will not duplicate journal coverage of these online services.

Hein’s long term goal is to provide an archive site for a comprehensive collection of pre-1980 law reviews. Page images will be identical to the print version, and full text searching will be provided. According to Dan Rosatti at the William H. Hein Company, the goal is to refine the product during 1999 and have a product which would be unveiled in the year 2000.

Hein has a small beta site which it has shown to a small number of interested librarians. Five law reviews are listed there with a total of twenty-two issues. Searching can be done across all issues by author, article title, subject or keyword.

At present Hein must overcome some technical hurdles to successfully transform text to the electronic format with one hundred percent accuracy. In addition, the technical aspects of searching within one volume or across the spectrum of volumes needs to be refined.

Of course pricing models are a question, as well as how the titles would be bundled. It will be interesting to see whether Hein will offer pricing for consortia or have pricing for individual libraries only. Will libraries be able to select individual journals or only subscribe to a package?

Questions remain regarding market strategy as well. Do people want their heavily-used titles available online first or would it be better to provide little-used titles first? The former works on the theory that libraries could eliminate multiple copies of heavily used materials, while the latter would remove low-use titles from their shelves to save space and rely on Hein for access.

The selling of journal archives presents many issues to work out in the realm of copyright, ownership of the archive, and inter-library loan. When you buy a volume of a journal which has been archived and is available through the Internet, does that entitle you to permanent access, even if you drop the subscription at some later date? What about changes in technology? What would happen in the event that the technology moves on and your library could no longer access your archive, regardless whether it was your fault or that of the provider? What about interlibrary loan? Could a library make a copy of an article from an electronic archive to send in response to an inter-library photoduplication request?

It will be interesting to see how the Hein project moves along and whether it will be the only initiative to offer law review archives or whether other models will be offered in competition.
In the last issue of TSLL, Anna Belle Leiserson wrote in this column encouraging technical services librarians to become involved in creating Web sites. I thought I would take this opportunity to give an example of her theory in practice.

At the time, it seemed like a small step. In early 1998, the Southern Illinois University School of Law Library assumed responsibility for all aspects of Web administration for the SIU School of Law, Law Library and the seven legal clinics of the School of Law. The charge for coordinating Web development was written into my job description as Systems/Technical Services Librarian. Production procedures for the SIU School of Law community’s Web sites have been or will be integrated into Technical Services.

Creating Web sites in and of itself may seem like a small but valuable task, one extra line tacked onto a job description already burdened by the “Other Duties as Assigned” clause. It was my strong belief from the beginning, however, that this was not only an opportunity to expand the role of Technical Services within the library and the law school, but an educational opportunity for our technical services staff as well.

In order to meet and exceed this educational goal, Web sites we created became working laboratories for the training of technical services staff. Learning HTML was just the beginning. Our staff meetings have become training sessions for image and text scanning, as well as discussions of markup languages, their relationship with technical services, and ways of integrating our Web based catalog with our Web site to form a more coherent approach to accessing information. In each case, these new skills were not seen as something separate but rather as new tools for enhancing the service component of Technical Services.

In the specific case of metadata, we create Dublin Core headers for every Web page we develop. Metadata creation exists, for us, as a natural part of the Web development process. The Dublin Core (or TEI, EAD, RDF, etc.) are additional tools at our disposal with which we apply principles of description and access.

To provide this structure and standardization we implemented two things. Catalogers create the metadata from a template we have devised and we employ AACR2 as syntax for the header content. The process mirrors our print workflow. As new Web pages are created or acquired, a template is added to the header of the page. Since the bulk of the information the header contains is standard, many of the fields are already filled. A cataloger then takes the page and finishes off the Dublin Core header by modifying any existing data and adding new information as needed.

As we build Web sites for the school and for the library, we integrate canned searches against our catalog for specific topics related to the department or clinic involved. We also use them to highlight aspects of our collection. This provides additional access points for the catalog and keeps it from getting lost amidst the clutter of the Internet. It also emphasizes that a blend of print, electronic, microform and Internet sources results in the best research strategy by showing that everything is not on the Web.

We have been in production for over a year now and are already seeing benefits. Adding the skill of producing and publishing materials in electronic formats as well as practical production considerations to the repertoire of Technical Services has proved very rewarding not only on an individual level, but to the library as a whole. I believe this reaffirms Anna Belle’s assertion that technical services librarians are naturals for building Web sites and I hope that we can explore the practical side of doing this in future columns. Until then, feel free to join us up on the soapbox.

http://www.siu.edu/offices/lawlib/
I recently had the opportunity to hear OCLC president Jay Jordan speak at the annual meeting of CAPCON, the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area OCLC affiliate. I was struck by how easily Jordan was able to assimilate his knowledge of information technology into the much more specialized realm of libraries. Then it occurred to me that it wasn’t so much a change in thinking for him as it has been a drastic (and sometimes overwhelming) metamorphosis in librarianship from the print to the electronic world.

Jordan spoke reassuring words about OCLC’s role in the continuing support of libraries; that is, OCLC’s mission has been and continues to be threefold:

♦ to further access to the world’s information;
♦ to reduce information costs;
♦ to promote the evolution of libraries, library use, and librarianship.

He finished by stating OCLC’s vision:

♦ to be the leading global library membership cooperative;
♦ to be the primary source of bibliographic information, reference services and resource sharing worldwide;
♦ to be a leading educational institute for librarianship globally.

CORC (Cooperative Online Resource Catalog)

CORC is OCLC’s biggest project currently in development. The goal is to explore the cooperative creation and sharing of metadata by libraries. CORC has been designed to help both libraries and OCLC to move more quickly in coping with the huge amount of material becoming available on the World Wide Web. CORC is similar to InterCat, one of OCLC’s recent projects involving the cataloging of Web resources. However, CORC will be integrating the newer metadata initiatives with MARC and will also utilize the Dublin Core. Participating libraries have begun to contribute records (the database can be accessed at <http://corc.oclc.org/>). As of January 1999, participants were still being solicited. Participant institutions are asked to commit at least ½ FTE to the CORC project over the next 12 to 18 months. CORC is expected to grow to 100+ institutions. More information about the project can be found on the CORC webpage <http://purl.oclc.org/corc>.

OCLC Institute Course Offered at AALL in Washington, D.C.

CAPCON will sponsor a regional seminar presented by OCLC entitled: Knowledge Access Management: Tools and Concepts for Next-Generation Catalogers. The seminar will be held July 14-16 at the Georgetown University Conference Center. It consists of an intensive 2 ½ days, on-site instruction, discussion, and hands-on training combined with 1 ½ days’ distance learning accomplished in the following month. The seminar is designed for cataloging team leaders, digital cataloging principals, or electronic resource librarians and will provide a comprehensive and practical understanding of cataloging Internet resources. For more information, please see the OCLC Institute’s webpage at <http://www.oclc.org/institute/index.htm>.
Would a few hundred dollars help you get a research or publication project completed? It’s making a difference for Chris Tarr, UC Berkeley <tarre@mail.law.berkeley.edu>, and me, and in this column we’re reporting our experiences with the OBS/TS Joint Research Grant (JRG) this past year. Elsewhere in this issue of TSLL and at the OBS Web site <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/obssis/> you can obtain general information and the application form for your Joint Research Grant (total of $1,000 to be awarded). For additional assistance, contact the JRG Committee Chair, Corrine Jacox, U. of Orlando, at: <cjacox@uo.edu> or (407) 275-2100.

Christina Tarr’s Interim Report

I chose my Amazon.com project because I find their system interesting. It seems to be a hybrid of a standard library catalog (things searchable by author, title, subject) with some added features. You can search anything by keyword, of course. But also, some of their subjects are not Library of Congress subjects, and I’m curious to know where they got them. I like very much the interactive aspect of their site -- standard reviews are incorporated, but in addition users write reviews which are incorporated into the record for each book. Also, of course, the site remembers anything you’ve ever bought and attempts (sometimes successfully, sometimes not) to suggest other books you might like. There are also links from any book to other books bought by people who bought the first one. I like this additional form of user recommendation.

As a by-the-book cataloger, I wonder sometimes if our catalogs are still the best way to organize material. I think it might be worth taking a look at catalogs which were developed from scratch with the Web as their original medium, and seeing if they have anything to offer our catalogs, which came about based on the medium of the catalog card. There is a lot of conversation in the literature about OPAC-design. It seems that sites like Amazon.com might have something to add to the discussion.

I first heard about the grant at the OBS/TS Open Research Roundtable at the Indianapolis or Baltimore AALL annual meeting when Brian Striman and Ellen McGrath proposed the idea of a technical services grant and were seeking funding. So, when I saw the blurb in the March 1998 TSLL announcing the grants, and I had this Amazon.com idea floating in the back of my head, I decided to apply. I was somewhat surprised (and a little worried) when it was awarded!

The problem I have encountered in actually doing the research is finding the time to stop my normal work (which seems to be in a state of perpetual crisis) to do it. Somehow it is not easy to say — all right, now I will not look at this mountain of books awaiting my attention and work on my abstract research project. Also, I plan to travel to Seattle to see the operation first hand, and it is not easy to tell my family that I will be away for a few days doing research (although I am quite sure they will be just fine without me!).

The response of my co-workers has been uniformly positive. Some of them have expressed some interest in applying for the grant in the future.

LeGrand Fletcher’s Joint Research Grant Report

I received $130 from you all in TS and OBS to assist me in finishing an annotated Nevada legal materials bibliography which will be published in the Spring 1999 issue of Law Library Journal. My goal in compiling the bibliography is to help the new UNLV law library, Nevada librarians, and others with acquisitions and collection development assistance based on my experience at the Washoe County Law Library in Reno, Nevada (1994-1997). My obstacle last year was that I moved to Utah, away from the sources in Nevada. Ellen McGrath knew my situation and suggested I apply for the Joint Research Grant for travel money back to Nevada. Brian Striman, as JRGC Chair at the time, did the legwork to make the actual reimbursement happen.

In early June 1998, I submitted the forms and included the following: 1) a two-page resume showing my degrees, relevant work experience, and publications, 2) a three-page research proposal, relating the projected research to my on-going work and interests, showing the scope and design of my research, and my publication plans, 3) a one-page budget relating expenses to steps in my research plan, and 4) a draft of my unfinished bibliography. Frank Houdek, the editor of Law Library Journal, had already tentatively approved publication of my bibliography upon its completion. I think that helped the Joint Research Grant Committee’s decision to fund me. A related project I proposed was rejected as not being related enough to technical services law librarianship.

Final approval came at the July 1998 AALL annual meeting in Anaheim, after the chairs of TS and OBS okayed
my request. I flew to Nevada the next month, and spent 40 hours in seven different libraries in Reno and Carson City looking at Nevada state documents and legal materials (using vacation time from work). By mid-October, I integrated my pages of notes and photocopies into an official Law Library Journal submission, which will be published in May 1999.

A technical services law librarian I talked to in October was surprised that, in her words, “you could get money to compile a legal bibliography!” She had always wanted to do a project similar to mine, but figured it had to be on her own time. Seeing that I received funding from JRGC helped her see some possibilities.

An unexpected result of receiving the grant is how I’m treated by some of my co-workers. A fellow BYU law librarian (outside of technical services) commented that it was easier to justify my getting various internal resources since I’ve received outside research funding and am publishing the results in our association’s main journal. My response was that TS-SIS and OBS-SIS make a difference in the lives and work of their members.

Research


Publications

Besides the regular law library and technical services newsletters, journals and conferences, you may want to consider submitting to Library & Information Science Research, a quarterly journal about the research process in library science. Contact its editors, Dr. Peter Hernon, Simmons College, Boston, at: <phernon@simmons.edu> or (617) 521-2794 or Dr. Candy Schwartz, also at Simmons, at: <cschwartz@simmons.edu> or (617) 521-2849.

SERIALS

The following serial title changes were recently identified by the University of California, Berkeley Law Library cataloging staff and the University of San Diego Legal Research Center serials staff:

**The CLE journal and register**
Vol. 34, no. 1 (Jan. 1988)-v. 44, no. 3 (May 1998)  
(OCoLC 17389361)
**Changed to:**  
The CLE journal  
Vol. 1, no. 1 (Oct. 1998)-  
(OCoLC 39623641)

**District of Columbia law review**
Vol. 1, no. 1 (Spring 1992)-v.3, no. 2 (Fall 1995)
**Continued in 1998 by:**  
University of the District of Columbia law review  
Vol. 4, no. 1 (Spring 1998)-  
IRS technical advice memorandum, letter rulings, and exemption rulings six-month index and index-digest bulletin  
(OCoLC 31402246)
**Changed to:**  
IRS technical advice memorandums, field service advice memorandum, letter rulings, service center advice, disclosure litigation bulletins, and exemption rulings : six-month index and index-digest bulletin  
1998-1 (Jan.-June 1998)-  
(OCoLC 40427977)

**State trends forecasts**
(OCoLC 28628672 [paper]; OCoLC 31430191 [microform])
**Changed to:**  
Solutions (Lexington, Ky.)  
Vol. no. 5, issue no. 2 (Apr. 1997)-  
(OCoLC 36882964 [paper]; OCoLC 40057100 [microform])

**Virginia Bar Association journal**
(OCoLC 2244167 [paper]; OCoLC 13240402 [microform])
**Merged with:**  
News & views (Richmond, Va.)  
(OCoLC 19365382)
**To form:**  
VBA news journal  
Vol. 1, no. 1 (Sept. 1998)-  
(OCoLC 39857968 [paper]; OCoLC 40430633 [microform])

Technical Services Law Librarian, March, 1999
Does the cataloger’s experience with subject analysis and with the application of headings and classification result in a certain propensity for Web site construction? You bet it does! At the May 1998 OCLC seminar, Knowledge Access Management, I heard the following prediction. Librarians in the future will become less the curators of information, and more the creators of information. Already many librarians are building, for example, detailed descriptions and more widespread access to collections or documents which are unique to the library or its parent organization. If the Internet is to be the means for the access, why cannot our catalogers learn a little HTML or use a web-editing tool, and then apply our skills for description and selecting access points to this new environment? Anna Belle Leiserson made a similar point in her column in the last TSLL issue; I’d like to extend the argument, and address in particular the similarities between Subject Headings practice and Web site development.

Our cataloging department is starting to build a Web site related to the library’s unique collection of United States Supreme Court Justices’ autographs. We have autographs of all but two of the historical justices. Some of them are on documents, some on private correspondence, on calling cards, or on photographs. The entire collection is valued at over $25,000. It is our goal to create a Web site that will educate and inform students and public alike, all over the world, as well as bring exposure to the University and the College of Law for this unique and very special collection. In the initial planning stages, we have been noticing some overlap with traditional cataloging principles in these areas: Content, Categories, and Links.

Content. Consistency, both in form and in structure, is an important objective in the creation of subject headings. Most of the “how to” manuals on Web site construction also emphasize consistency. Particularly for a site that has numerous pages (such as one page for each of over 100 justices!), those pages will be easier to use and navigate if the format and content are uniform, from page to page. Catalogers are accustomed to using standardized formats, and today’s dynamic HTML allows the design of style sheets or “library” data which resemble the workforms or the customized “constant data” macro’s that catalogers use with the bibliographic utilities. Relevance is a big factor, of course. Searches should be made to ascertain whether or not the new Web site would be adding anything new to the Web world. (For example, we have noted that both Cornell Law Library and Northwestern University have already mounted some extensive data about the individual US Supreme Court justices; hence, we may not want to duplicate their data, but rather, refer to it, as appropriate.) We may use a search engine to find Web sites with content similar to our topic, in order to make decisions about the content for our own site, or possible hyperlinks we may want to add. At this point, the cataloger’s skill at delineating and distinguishing between similar names or concepts comes in handy. For instance, we might find that adding the birth year of a Supreme Court justice to our search gives us more meaningful results. “Authorities” experience also lends itself to the choice of alternative access points. Although today’s search engines are sophisticated enough to use the entire text of a web document for access, the cataloger might want to think of synonyms or alternative phrasing for the document’s key terms, and add these in the HTML Head space. This will in effect make additional access points not unlike the action of assigning prescribed subject headings and their “see” or “search under” references to a catalog record.

Categories. Some obvious categories for the frames or headings we might consider for our Web site are: biography, portraits, and of course, the autograph(s). For the cataloger, the impulse to categorize and label is nearly instinctive.

**Subject Headings**

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The following serial cessations were identified by the University of California, Berkeley Law Library acquisitions staff and the University of San Diego Legal Research Center serials staff:

*Decisions of the United States courts involving copyright*  
Discontinued with: bulletin no. 49 (1985)  
(OCoLC 975912)

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**News:**  
Visit the Serials Update Service on the Faxon site. This free service provides daily updates of bibliographic and order changes to serials titles. Entries are under both the old and new titles. The address is <http://www.faxon.com/html/it_susmain.html>.
When we examine a Web page, looking for ideas or for possible hyperlinks to include in our project, immediately, almost subconsciously, we think of the category or class in which it belongs. A caption, or heading, for this class comes to mind, e.g. “Homes and haunts,” or “Anniversaries, celebrations, etc.” regarding individual justices, and, Voila! — the subject heading has been assigned. Of course, in the final packaging or design of the Web site, those precise labels may not be used. In any event, the cataloger’s training and experience make the process of organizing the different types of Web data feel like a familiar step.

**Links.** Anyone who has used the Internet has surely encountered hyperlinks that allow the user to redirect her or his search to another page of the Web site, or to a different (but related-topic) Web site altogether. The principle behind such linking is much like that of the “see also” or “search also” under” references used with traditional Subject Headings; the difference is that hyperlinks are often embedded within text inside paragraphs. When the cataloger chooses a subject heading, references from the heading’s broader subjects and to the heading’s narrower subjects and related subjects are added to the catalog, to help the user find the associated subjects. Likewise, when the content of a Web site alludes to a topic that is related, but beyond the scope of the present site’s coverage, an active hyperlink may be added to help the user find more detailed information elsewhere. The rules and guidelines for selecting Web pages or sites for such hyperlinks are not yet standardized as are the rules for creating subject thesauri (or, a subject heading list such as LCSH). But, perhaps they should be! The guidelines for hierarchical references that catalogers use focus on three types of relationships: genus-species (or class-class member); whole-part; and, instance. In the case of our illustrative, developing Web site, a link to a Web site on the federal Judiciary generally might represent the species-genus relationship; a link from the Supreme Court Web site to a site about the Chief Justices of said Court could be considered to reflect a whole/part relationship; and a link from the page for Samuel Chase (1741-1811) to a Web site on impeached officials would illustrate a kind of “instance” relationship.

This discussion of content, categories and links in the design and development of Web sites, and their relation to traditional subject cataloging or authorities practices is by no means a comprehensive study. It is only a few thoughts and considerations meant to stimulate other catalogers to get involved in creating Web sites for their libraries. If other law catalogers have already built such Web sites, I hope you will share some “do’s and don’ts” with us!
primary focus of the work. New subject headings will be established for core level titles when needed following the same instructions as for full level.

The new start date for form subdivisions implementation is now February 16. At that time catalogers will begin to use subfield $v$ in cataloging and authority records. There will be a project to recode form divisions in existing subject authority records. These records will be distributed on the weekly tapes. In order to use the subfield $v$, please refer both to the authority records and to Subject Cataloging Manual: Subject Headings, 1998 Update Number 2. Once the authority system can accept the new 18x fields, LC will create subdivision records for the more than 3,100 free-floating subdivisions. The 073 field will be used to identify the controlling instructions from Subject Cataloging Manual: Subject Headings, H1095-1200. There will be basic usage statements in the subdivision authority records. Some subdivisions will have two authority records – one for topic and one for form, e.g. subfield $v$ Periodicals and subfield $x$Periodicals. Records for two subdivisions in a string will be coded for the function of the first subdivision, i.e. $x$Foreign relations $v$Treaties. The new edition of the free-floating manual will contain the 18x tags. No work on subfield $y$, free-floating chronological subdivisions, is being planned until after ILS implementation.

Another new field appearing in the authority records is the 781 field which indicates the subdivision form of geographic headings. The 781 field will appear in new and revised authority records but will only be added to existing records as time permits. Hopefully this field will replace geographic information in the 667 and 680 fields.

The list of free-floating subdivisions under individuals now includes composers and authors. New editions and updates to subject headings manuals will reflect the single list. Classification schedule HM will be in no. 273 of LC Classification: Additions and Changes. Please see <http://lcweb.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/>.

The Subcommittee to Promote Subject Relationships/Reference Structures is preparing a panel on subject referencing in OPAC’s for New Orleans ALA. In their sampling, the members found that only about 50% of the OPAC’s display broader terms. They feel all the subject heading references should be displayed and available to aid patrons in searching subjects. Many users search subjects by keyword and about 30% of users search subjects by first searching title keywords. References are needed to provide additional access points and to better show the context of subject heading topics.

The Form Headings/Subdivisions Implementation Subcommittee held an educational panel where we actually got to do some exercises using the subfield $v$. The exercises on form coding may eventually be posted on <http://www.pitt.edu/~agtaylor/ala/implem.htm >.

Consider subfield $v$ Cases, subfield $x$Legislation histories and Harvard University$x$Examinations$x$Mathematics and you can understand some of the dilemmas involved. As mentioned above, information on coding will be given in subdivision authority records and in Subject Cataloging Manual: Subject Headings. This is a dynamic subject as demonstrated by the fact that some subdivisions coded with diamonds for form early on have now been changed to topical. The speakers suggested we all wait until the dust has settled before we begin changing bibliographic records. Keep in mind the following:

1. Ask LC when a practice seems strange
2. Ask if your system can do global changes for a specific location in a string
3. Ask if your system can distinguish, display, and index subfield $v$ versus subfield $x$ and do you want to distinguish yet?

The Subcommittee on Metadata and Classification is evaluating web sites that use classification to organize access to web resources of interest to the site organizer. Members have drawn up a set of criteria to be used for evaluation that will enable them to submit a report on the functions of classification as related to organizing and accessing electronic resources. An example of a classified site is <http://link.bubl.ac.uk/ISC2>.

Metadata and Subject Analysis Subcommittee is working on defining the subject element in the Dublin Core. The element should be flexible, adaptable, and as specific as possible. The element should accommodate both keyword and controlled vocabulary. Whenever controlled vocabulary terms are used, the source of the term should be given, i.e. LCSH, MESH, etc. The work of the group should be finished around ALA 2000 midwinter.

4. Ask what you would like your vendor to do with subfield $v$
Summary of This Year’s TS-SIS Survey

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I feel fairly comfortable in saying that I know you’re not losing any sleep while waiting for the results of the TS-SIS survey. Nonetheless, 148 of you felt it important enough to complete and return, and the officers, committee chairs, Board and TSLL editors have high regard for those responses. By now many of you may have looked at the results on the Web site. [http://www.aallnet.org/sis/tssis/survey/9899surv.htm] The list of written comments is 12 pages long -- too long to distribute to each member of the section, but we're not complaining! The more we hear from you, the section members, the better we are able to serve you. I thought I'd give you a brief overview of the survey results from my vantage point as this year's “survey-master”.

If we had an “average” section member based on the categories with the highest percentages, this is what she or he would be: a cataloger or technical services department head in an academic library, who’s a member of at least one other SIS (most likely OBS), who has worked 10-15 years in law libraries and 15-25 years in technical services, with the bachelor of arts and master in library science degrees, who attends the AALL conference each year, taking technical services programs into consideration when deciding whether to attend (there should be at least 3 of them), who is most influenced to attend by committee or business commitments (followed closely by the location), who finds the Roundtables most satisfying of all types of programs, who rates all columns in TSLL highly, and gives the new look of TSLL a “5.” Now before you get your backs up and whip out your keyboard to send me a scathing message, know that I recognize that this is not statistically valid and cannot be used to make accurate assumptions about the entire membership of the section.

However, this kind of profile can be quite helpful to those of us who have the task of planning programs and other section work, if that is the portion of our membership we wish to target. It also tells us that we may need to market the section or attempt to increase programming for those technical services librarians that don’t fit the “majority” profile. So, for example, if you’re a new acquisitions librarian in a court library who’s not yet attended an AALL conference, don’t despair! This profile can tell you two things: 1) there are plenty of TS-SIS members who can mentor you, formally or informally, or that you can call on for help, a shoulder to cry on, to tell you which publisher just bought out another, etc., and 2) the opportunities for you to become involved and advocate for your interests are wide open.

A few themes came out clearly in the written comments, and I thought you might also be interested in knowing what they are. The one word that popped up in response to almost every question was management (which is one of the tracks at this year’s annual meeting). For some questions, it was listed several times. I didn’t take the time to try to determine if only the department heads listed it (my sense is that it wasn’t). Obviously the section members feel the need for assistance in that area of their work, whether it be the majority of what they do or only a portion of it. Here are some of the themes that came out, listed by question:

Kinds of programs/meetings most useful and the best formats:

- Roundtables/discussions
- Workshops
- Practical/how-to/hands-on
- Current awareness, new trends
- Quality is more important than format

Types of programs or specific programs you’d like to see (there were several good ideas listed – I’ll be calling on some of you soon to follow through on them!):

- Management and related issues (hiring, training, etc.)
- Web
- OPACs
- Web and vs. OPAC
- Metadata (there’s a program on metadata this summer)

Committees/committee structure:

- Exchange of Duplicates (questioning the need; eliminate or merge it into another)
- Management technology
- Split the Cataloging Committee into smaller, subject-specific groups
- Some said everything is fine as is; others think it’s time to restructure

Subjects you’d like to see addressed in TSLL:

- Management

Again, as in the case of the average section member, these common themes let us know what many of you are interested in but don’t mean that these are the only issues the section leadership will concentrate on. 107 of the 148 respondents made at least one comment, so as you can imagine, there are several other comments we will consider. On the other hand, we also recognize that this 148 represents only 26% of the membership and will try to respond to the widest variety of needs that we can.
Part IV of this year’s TS Annual Survey covered Technical Services Law Librarian. Here are the results, compiled by Janet McKinney -- with special thanks to Janet for her rapid work and careful dissemination of this helpful information.

1. Summary of level of satisfaction with TSLL columns (5=very satisfied, 1=very unsatisfied):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acquisitions</td>
<td>4.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automation</td>
<td>3.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classification</td>
<td>3.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description and Entry</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARC Remarks</td>
<td>3.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preservation</td>
<td>3.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and Publication</td>
<td>4.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serials</td>
<td>4.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serials Issues</td>
<td>4.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject Headings</td>
<td>4.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T.S. in Smaller Libraries</td>
<td>3.57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Are there topics not being covered in TSLL that you would like to see addressed?

   Management (can you see the theme here?!)           
   No, I think it's excellent & the new editors are bringing some good changes.
   Catalog electronic resources: especially Internet resources and Web pages.
   Administration.

Need more T.S. in Smaller Libraries.
Management/personnel issues.
Deparmental coordination.
More technology.
Management issues.
OPAC design. Access to electronic resources.
Collection development.

3. On a scale of 1 to 5, how satisfied are you with the new appearance and format of TSLL?

   131 respondents answered this question, and all the answers were '3' or above:
   Rating of 3: 15, 11.45%
   Rating of 4: 50, 38.17%
   Rating of 5 ("very satisfied"): 66, 50.38%

Several also wrote in these comments:

   Looks terrific! Great for the SIS's & our PR.
   Looks very nice! The graphics are a welcome addition.
   "5" [on all columns] I am very satisfied with TSLL & think the new layout is excellent.

   TSLL is wonderful, and it's even gotten better. Where would we be without it! And what a pleasure to be able to access it hot off the online wire!! It's really attractive.
   Rather impressed.
   Great improvement!
   Good content. Excellent job!!
   Looks great, reads well.
   Much easier to read - a big improvement! Always a very "meaty" publication & finally readable.
   Much better format & more professional appearance!
   Please continue the newsletter. I find it useful.
   It doesn't make much difference to me.
   I rely on this source for info.; focuses to Tech Servs in Law Libs - it's concise & thorough.
   It looks great, very professional.
   Don't like when the protective cover sheet is partly used so you can't just rip it off.
   It's a great newsletter.
   Looks great. Generally, TSLL is very well done.
   It's terrific!
   I find TSLL to be one of the most informative professional publications I read.
   Looks good, more polished.
   I have not noticed any changes.
   Very nice!
When offered the opportunity to edit *TSLL*, we knew we wanted to try it and knew it would be way too much work, but guessed that it had to be rewarding. Nine months into the job, we’ve learned it’s not only rewarding, it’s a professional gold mine. And we’re having a great time. This is not to say it’s all chocolate and roses. In fact, chocolate and roses have been lamentably absent; we still haven’t seen any of Margie’s donations (see *TSLL* v.24:no.2, p.1). But each time we go through the editing process, we marvel at the dedication of *TSLL*’s contributors, the depth of their collective knowledge, and the rich potential of our profession as we head deeper into the information age.

Judging from the survey results (opposite), you generally agree. Clearly many of you read it carefully – quoting from it, noting what’s missing and even remembering our buried reference to a new column. Of course, we’re also delighted to hear you like the new look. Much of the credit goes to our software, Adobe PageMaker, plus Dover Publications and their awesome Clip-Art Series. Thanks go to the OBS and TS Boards for letting us make these purchases.

The results also show that we need to add some columns and revive others. Management: the cry is so consistent it sounds almost desperate. We hope one of you will rise to the challenge and volunteer for this column. There is also call for more on the Internet and Collection Development. As luck would have it, we have new columnists for these very topics in this issue — both experienced in their areas. Welcome to Kevin Butterfield and Sandy Sadow as new contributing editors. The areas for which we still need columnists are: Serials Issues and Technical Services in Smaller Law Libraries. If you are interested in doing either of these (two to four times a year), please contact us.

We hope you take a particularly close look at the answers to question 2. There are some terrific ideas that might spark the desire to write in some of you. We noted with interest, for example, Canadiana, AV cataloging, and the history of *TSLL* (which we plan to do in an upcoming issue). A reminder for those who shy away from the time-commitment involved in a column: we also accept articles. Follow fearless Brian Striman’s lead; try a series, give us a snippet, or even send poetry. An ode to AV cataloging perhaps? Well, probably not, but you get our drift.

Finally, a huge thank you goes to *TSLL*’s past editors and columnists. Some of you have been at it for many years. *TSLL* is what it is because of you.

### The TSLL Bookshelf

We have just a little extra space in this issue and, being librarians, we thought we’d give you a glimpse of what’s currently on our collective *TSLL* bookshelf. Perhaps not in the same league as FDR and Mussolini (see page 4), what we’ll admit to includes (in alphabetical order by main entry, naturally):

- Kurzweil, Ray. *The age of spiritual machines: when computers exceed human intelligence*. Viking, 1999. According to Kurzweil, the highly respected expert on artificial intelligence, in a mere 20 years computers will start to outstrip human intelligence. Computer journalists are paying attention to this book, and more traditional reviews, such as *Library Journal*, give it the thumbs up. It’s an approachable, provocative and surprisingly upbeat series of essays on the amazing places computing will take us over the next century.
- Raabe, Tom. *Biblioholism: the literary addiction*. Fulcrum, 1991. This little gem includes diagnostic tests to identify the biblioholic in all of us. Both of your editors will admit to suffering from this addiction, and Tom Raabe’s book provides welcome comic explanations for our literary binges. The illustrations by Craig M. Brown are great too.
- Strunk, William and E. B. White. *The elements of style*. 3d ed. Macmillan, 1979. It may be old, but it’s not dated. And following their own advice, it’s not only succinct, it’s blessedly short. We read bits and pieces with each issue we produce — to inspire the editor in us — not to reduce content!
- Walker, Janice R. and Todd Taylor. *The Columbia guide to online style*. Columbia University Press, 1998. As your editors struggle with how to consistently site to things Internetish, this is the source we turn to. The standard sources (e.g. the Chicago Manual) haven’t tackled the ‘Net, plus it’s more current than Xia Li and Nancy Crane’s *Electronic Styles*. 

*Technical Services Law Librarian*, March, 1999
OBS-SIS SURVEY CHOCOLATES WINNER!

Carol Avery Nicholson (Katherine R. Everett Law Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) wins a *very* nice sampler box of hand-made, locally produced chocolates from Lexington, Virginia.

Congratulations Carol!!

TS-SIS GIFT CERTIFICATE WINNER!

The winner of the survey-return sweepstakes -- a $100.00 gift certificate -- is: Kathleen Hogan, Systems/Projects Librarian at Bennett Jones in Calgary, Alberta.

Well done, Kathleen!