

MAALL MARKINGS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MID-AMERICA ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

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MARCH 2004

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

President's Message:

Kay L. Andrus, Creighton University School of Law

Greetings again, MAALL members! I suppose writing a president's message for our association newsletter is a bit like kissing any of my three sisters, it is an important obligation that is best kept short, respectable, and infrequent. (If necessary I'll quickly apologize to my terrific and forgiving sisters, who each live outside our chapter region and are very unlikely to ever read this paragraph. I'll know by the reception I get when we next meet). Please consider the following:

- *I hope you are planning to attend the 2004 AALL meeting in Boston. If so, please mark your calendars to attend our MAALL Luncheon and Business Meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday, July 13th from 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Details will be announced later this Spring and posted on our website.*
- It is possible for a deserving MAALL member to be awarded a grant to cover the full registration

fees for the 2004 AALL Annual Meeting in Boston. See our website for deadlines and details.

- You may wish to volunteer to assist the 2004 AALL Annual Meeting Local Advisory Committee in a variety of ways. Detailed descriptions of volunteer opportunities at the Boston meeting are available on the AALL web site. A volunteer form (due June 4th) also appears in the preliminary program.
- I'm revising my "random call from your MAALL president" initiative announced in our last newsletter to a minimum of one call per week. I sincerely thank those who have taken or returned my calls. In this age of voice and e-mail it is harder than ever to connect on the phone. Feel free to phone me as well if you have suggestions for improving and enhancing our MAALL Chapter (402-280-2251).
- Food for thought: The ABA Legal Technology Resource Center has released results of its survey of the legal profession on the use of technology. Here is one of their findings: "Librarians in large law firms perform less than 7 percent of their firm's legal research. Lawyers spend equal amounts of time researching in fee-based online sources (37%) and print resources

(34%). [Source: *How High-Tech is the Legal Profession?* Legal Management, Nov./Dec. 2003, p.10].

Dealing with Techno-Stress

Consider this question posed by Tara Lemmy, Executive Director of Electronic Frontier Foundation: *“Because people can be connected all the time, they now have to make a conscious choice of when not to be connected. How do you reclaim your own time when you can be reached all the time?”*

Balancing life and career is a constant challenge for all of us. I’m not whining since I have as many hours in my days as you do in yours, but I admire how stress-free and organized some of you seem in the midst of both increasing amounts of information and accessibility demands. How do you do it? ...and is it really possible to replicate your methods? I suspect the methods are as varied as we are.

Although I take very little comfort in knowing that many others are also having difficulty coping, I refuse to give up on finding ways to use my time effectively. This matter deserves our constant awareness since ultimately, time is a non-renewable resource. Once the day is gone, it isn’t coming back. Web usability expert Jacob Nielsen described a portion of the problem this way: *“Information pollution is information overload taken to the extreme. It’s where it stops being a burden and becomes an impediment to your ability to get your work done...The entire ideology of information technology for the last 50 years has been that more information is better...but the web has mutated into a ‘procrastination apparatus’ that spews more information than can be absorbed, and e-mail is worse because it is a weird mix of*



personal and mass communication. If people don’t develop really harsh counter-measures, it will basically destroy their ability to use the computer in any productive way and it becomes the ruler of your time.” [Source: BBC News 13 Oct. 2003]



So, are you suffering from techno-stress or information overload (information pollution)? What can we do to tackle this problem? Send me your views and I’ll try to summarize your suggestions and methods in our next newsletter (andrus@creighton.edu)

2004 ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM PLANNING

The Education Committee will soon begin working on developing the programs for the 2004 Annual Meeting in Des Moines. If you have an idea for a program (even if you don’t want to be a speaker) or know of someone who is a good speaker, please send that information to me at jmckinney@shb.com. Since we are meeting with the Minnesota group, we aren’t responsible for planning all the programs at the meeting, but let’s show



them what we already know—that MAALL puts on a great conference!

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MAALL Committees / 2003-2004

Listed below are the current assignments for MAALL committees

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Mike McReynolds

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Those wishing to submit items should contact the editor for policy and format information

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Iowa

Drake University

Acquisition/Reference Librarian Deborah Sulzbach's profiles of Lawyers & Judges Publishing Co. and the American Judicature Society were published in vol. 26, no. 2 of the CRIV Sheet in the February 2004 issue of AALL Spectrum.

Illinois

Supreme Court

The Supreme Court of Illinois Library has hired a new reference librarian in the main library in Springfield. Her name is Amanda Murphy. Amanda received her Masters in Library and Information Science in 2003 from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. Amanda's first day in the library will be Monday, March 1 Welcome to Amanda! The MAALL membership looks forward to meeting you!

Southern Illinois University

Diane Murley joined Southern Illinois University School of Law Library as Reference/Web Services Librarian in January 2004. Prior to coming to SIU, she was Head of Reader Services (2000-04) and Electronic Services Reference Librarian (1997-2000) at Northeastern University in Boston; and Reference Librarian at Boston University (1994-97). Before going to library school, she practiced law in Denver for thirteen years. She holds a B.A. (cum laude) from Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD; a J.D. from the University of South Dakota; and an M.L.S. with Certificate in Law Librarianship (with distinction) from the University of Washington. In addition to her library duties, Diane will participate

with other librarians in teaching legal research in the school's first-year Lawyering Skills Program and co-teaching the upper-division Advanced Electronic Legal Research elective course.

Welcome to Diane!

Kansas

Wheat Law Library, KU

Rob Mead, Head of Public and Faculty Services, wants to let everyone know that 2004-05 will be the second year of the ESU-KU Law LIM Program. The application deadline for the Masters of Legal Information Management is June 1, 2004.

Lynne Fothergill, Reference and Information Services Librarian, will be leaving us in March after 2+ years of excellent library service - good luck, Lynne!

On April 22nd at 12:30 p.m., as part of our National Library Week festivities, the 3rd Annual Paul E. Wilson Lecture will be delivered. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education* the speaker will be Mrs. Harriet Wilson. She'll be sharing her recollections of that time as her late husband, Professor Emeritus Paul Wilson, prepared to argue for the state and appear before the US Supreme Court.

Missouri

Jackson County Law Library

Linda Roser, Reference Librarian since May 1995, completed her Master of Public Administration, Nonprofit Management, in December 2003. After nine years at JCLL, Roser resigned her position March 1 to join

Spofford, a residential treatment facility for youth ages 4-12. Roser will be the Director of Community Relations and Development. We wish her well in her new career.

Tranne Pearce joins JCLL as Reference Librarian. Pearce retired last year from the Federal Court Library in Kansas City, MO. She enjoyed the interim time of leisure traveling to Spain, Alaska and Las Vegas. She also “rode the circuit” between the Johnson and Jackson County Court Libraries when needed. She has rejoined the profession! We welcome her, and we are glad she’s back!

The Board and Staff of JCLL held an open house on February 27, 2004 to bid farewell to Linda and congratulate and welcome Tranne.

Debbie Steele, Technical Services Librarian, recently completed “Managing the Branch Library,” an online course via the internet offered through the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Polsinelli, Shalton & Welte, PC

Joan Thomas, Reference Librarian, was selected to participate in LexisNexis’ “Teaching Research in Private Law Libraries” (TRIPLL). TRIPLL will be held April 2-4 in Dallas, TX.



NEWS FROM OTHER CHAPTERS

compiled by Charlie Condon, Northern Illinois University - DeKalb

LLAGNY

The Unified Court System of New York State launched their newly designed web site on August 1, 2003. The new site, www.nycourts.gov, is described as “beautifully laid out, easy to navigate, and useful for attorneys, self-represented litigants and librarians.” Created by Phillip Yow, the Court’s Web Design Manager, this site promises to be a model of comprehensive, yet efficient web design. His work emphasizes three core values of the Court system: Thoughtfulness, service and accessibility. Readers are encouraged to visit and browse this useful electronic resource. LAW LINES vol. 27 no. 1, at p. 4.

Daniel J. Holmader provides a concise and helpful article, “*How to Write an Electronic Newsletter in 8 Easy Steps*,” outlining the process for creating and implementing an electronic newsletter in a law firm. His two page piece advises law librarians to begin by developing a mission statement, identify an editor, solicit contributors, decide on a format and schedule publication dates. Further, he suggests a “low key” introduction of the newsletter and be sure to stick to the publication schedule, making sure to “never miss a deadline.” Finally, he closes by suggesting that seeking input from the library’s regular users would enhance the newsletter and give it broader appeal. LAW LINES vol. 27 no. 1 at p. 6.

LLAGNY announces that the print version of LAW LINES will end with the next issue. Beginning with the Spring, 2004 issue,

LAW LINES will be delivered to members via Email instead of print. A print copy will only be available by request.

-from LAW LINES, vol. 27 no. 1 (Law Library Association of Greater New York).

VALL

The Virginia Association of Law Libraries (VALL) reports that a joint conference was held November 5 - 7 in Hot Springs, Virginia. The joint meeting with the Virginia Library Association (VLA) proved to be a great success with more than 70 concurrent sessions offered to participants. The conference theme, "People Serving People," captured the essence of librarianship and set the stage for numerous networking and learning opportunities for members of both VLA and VALL. The event was described as an "outstanding success" by both organizations.

VALL members were active in other venues as VALL President Bobbie Denny gave a talk in Ellicott City to Maryland County Law Librarians on strategies for dealing with shrinking budgets. Her presentation covered such cost cutting ideas as canceling updates and less necessary services, eliminating duplicates, controlling operating expenses and negotiating better prices with vendors. The talk was well received and Bobbie was lauded by the court librarians for her efforts.

Hazel Johnson and Tim Coggins presented "A Quick Primer on Websites for Attorneys" at the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association meeting on October 9, 2003. The session received prime, full page coverage in the *Virginia Lawyers Weekly* distributed statewide. The session was described as "standing room only" and both speakers were praised for "making law librarians look good at the conference in

Charlottesville and in the statewide press."

Paul Birch, VALL webmaster, has added handouts and slide shows from presentations made at the VLA/VALL Joint Annual Meeting to the website. Look for these useful tools at this link:

<http://law.richmond.edu/vall/meetinghandouts.htm>

Bill Magee, Assistant Research Services Librarian at Regent University Law Library published, "Navigating the Abyss: English Reports Research," in the current VALL newsletter. This brief article gives a thumbnail sketch of the 176-volume set entitled *English Reports*. His article includes a chart classifying cases from 1688 through 1867 and includes Court names and volume numbers. Bill's piece offers handy tips on how to locate a case if you have a party's name or if you have only a citation. In the space of three or four pages, this article offers a handy guide for those who research this material infrequently. VALL Newsletter vol. 19 no. 3 at p. 8.

VALL Newsletter vol. 19 no. 3 (Winter 2003).

KCALL

KCALL met Wednesday, March 10, at the Stinson, Morrison, Hecker law firm to address the topic "Law Librarianship in the Year 2004: Trends, Forecasts & Life Experiences. Focus was on the Industry, Library Schools and Librarians new to the profession.

KCALL Executive board: Thomas J. Marsh, President; Deborah Showalter-Johnson, Vice President Elect; Sharon Hom, Immediate Past President; Cindy Cray, Secretary; Ruth Gervais and Beth Cohen, Board Members.

Many of these articles are available on the websites of the Chapters. For more information about any of these news items, please contact Charlie Condon, Northern Illinois University College of Law Library.

SUPPORTING NEW PROFESSIONALS: THE AALL ANNUAL MEETING GRANTS

The AALL Grants Program provides financial assistance to law librarians or graduate students who hold promise of future involvement in AALL and the law library profession. Funds are provided by vendors, AALL, and AALL individual members. Grants are awarded to cover the Annual Meeting registration fee or the registration fee for workshops presented at the Annual Meeting. Preference is given to applicants who are new to the profession and active in AALL or one of its chapters.

The AALL Grants Program began in 1952 and is one of the oldest and most successful AALL programs. More than 1,000 librarians have received grant assistance, and many of those recipients are leaders in the profession today. For additional information, check out the application on the Association's web site.

<http://www.aallnet.org/committee/grants/grants.asp>

In 2001, the Minority Leadership Development Award was created to assure that AALL's leadership remains vital, relevant and representative of the Association's diverse membership. The Award provides up to \$1,500.00 toward the cost of attending the Annual Meeting, an experienced AALL leader to serve as the recipient's mentor, and an opportunity to serve on an AALL committee during the year following the monetary award. For

more information, see the application on AALL's web site.

http://www.aallnet.org/about/award_mlda.asp

Applications for both AALL Grants Programs must be received at the Association's headquarters by April 1, 2004.

Iris Lee
AALL Grants Committee Chair

RESOURCE FOR PROSE USERS ANNOUNCED

This week, HALT-An Organization of Americans for Legal Reform, a national leader in the publication of self-help legal materials, released a completely revised and updated version of one of the most popular selections from its Citizens Legal Manual series. The book, *Using the Law Library: Your Guide to Legal Resources In (and Outside) the Law Library*, demystifies the typical non lawyer fear surrounding law libraries and makes these libraries accessible to the general public, rather than just to lawyers and law students.

"Using the Law Library should be the 'court of first resort' for self-represented litigants faced with the daunting and unfamiliar prospect of conducting legal research," says Norfolk Law librarian Donna K. Bausch. "A neophyte legal researcher who invests the time to review this book in advance of his or her first visit to a law library will reap the benefits of well-thought out research. Using the Law Library will help you make the best possible use of your time and the resources lawyers and judges use every day."

HALT, which is also a legal consumer

advocacy organization, receives questions daily from consumers who want to handle their own simple legal affairs. Responding to these queries, HALT publishes plain-English guides that offer comprehensive how-to information without the legalese. Working with Senior Reference Law Librarian Jennifer Sekula of the College of William & Mary School of Law, the new edition of Using the Law Library has been brought up to speed to include information about online tools and changes in law library locations or resources.

"With Using the Law Library, HALT and Jennifer Sekula have put together a thorough and easy-to-read guide for novice legal researchers," says Chuck Marcus, head of reference at the University of California-Hastings College of the Law Library. "Using the Law Library is an excellent resource that sets up a successful, systematic approach to legal research."

The manual takes legal do-it-yourselfers through the entire process of conducting legal research using a law library and other resources. Incorporating easy-to-understand and well-organized chapters that include helpful graphics, the guide teaches consumers to read, update and use the law or laws they need to understand their legal problems or to win their cases.

Using the Law Library has been an indispensable guide to legal consumers trying to maneuver the maze of the United States' complex legal system.

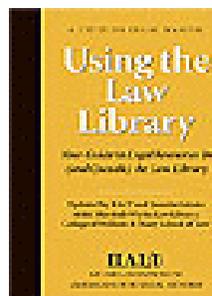
Topics in the recently-released third edition include:

- . Finding a Library
- . Library Rules
- . The U.S. System (A Crash Course in How Law is Made)
- . Defining Your Legal Problem
- . Secondary Research

- . Practice Aids
- . State Statutes
- . Federal Statutes
- . Administrative Law
- . Understanding Case Law
- . Reading Case Law
- . Online Tools
- . Self-Help Law Options

Using the Law Library is 190 pages long and sells for \$12, plus \$3.95 shipping and handling. The book is available for purchase through HALT's toll-free line, 1-888-FOR-HALT (367-4258). HALT's series of Citizens Legal Manuals include Legal Resources Directory, Using a Lawyer, Small Claims Court and Do-It-Yourself Law.

Founded in 1978, HALT-An Organization of Americans for Legal Reform is a nonpartisan, nonprofit public interest organization. HALT pursues an ambitious education and advocacy program that challenges the legal establishment to improve access and accountability and reduce costs in the civil justice system. Please visit www.halt.org for more information.



CS-SIS Grants for AALL

The CS-SIS is offering grants to attend the annual AALL conference, plus opportunities to fund attendance at other AALL workshops and seminars, including AALL Chapter events.

Grant applications for the upcoming AALL

annual meeting are due by April 15th. Any interested AALL member is invited to apply as soon as possible. Please refer to following Web site to obtain the grant application form:

<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/cssis/csgtmod2.htm>

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Boland (contact information listed below).

Susan M. Boland
Chair of CS-SIS Grants Committee

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RESEARCH GRANT STUDY

Hello,

My name is Kelly Browne, and I received an AALL/Aspen Research Grant to study "The Emotional Intelligence of Law Librarians." Studies have shown that emotional intelligence is not only the most important factor in being successful in life, but that certain patterns of the thirteen qualities that make up your "EQ" contribute to success in specific career areas. I plan to survey a sample of law librarians in order to gauge their EQ. The data will then be analyzed to produce "successful" position profiles for various law librarian positions in different types of law libraries. Toward that end, I am seeking "nominations," if you will, for the most successful law librarians in each of the following categories:

1)Academic Law Library Director

- with faculty status
- 2)Academic Law Library Reference Librarian (not necessarily a supervisor)
- 3)Academic Law Library Cataloger (not necessarily a supervisor)
- 4)Academic Law Library Information Technology director or department supervisor
- 5)Large Law Firm Library Director (one who supervises several staff)
- 6)Solo Law Firm Librarian

I will ask those whose names are repeatedly mentioned if they will take an approximately 30-minute online test. I will receive the results of the survey identified by job position only. There is no way I will be able to link the survey results to the individual who took the test. The survey results will be destroyed upon publication.

Please email me directly with the names of no more than ten librarians in each category by March 30. You do not have to nominate someone for each category. Your nominations will remain confidential.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Your assistance in identifying subjects for this study is greatly appreciated.

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