

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from the
Vice-President 2-3

Executive Board
and Committees 4

Member News 5

“BYOB” in Tulsa 6-7

Photos: MAALL
at AALL 8

Article: Elouise
Cobell Speaks at
AALL Annual
Meeting in St.
Louis by Faye
Hadley 9

Article: Com-
puters Make Eve-
rything Easier—
Except Counting
by Darin K. Fox 10-
11

Meet MAALL
Members 11

AALL Contest
&
Thanks to Our
Photographers 12

President’s Message by Brian Striman

Messages from the President are supposed to be business-like. Aren’t they? Serious in tone and informational. Perhaps sprinkled with a few kudos and acknowledgements and even a dash of inspiration. Humor is okay as long as it is gentle and in good taste. Right? Isn’t that a good recipe for a successful presidential column?

However, what happens when the President doesn’t want his column to contain any of those things? Does he succumb to the pressure of doing what is expected? Does he toss all *caution* to the wind and write whatever pops into his thoughts at the time he is composing?

To slap me back to reality, I grabbed a handful of old MAALL Markings. Yes, those old issues are in print! This is cool; when you want inspiration to get you revved up to write all you need to do is turn around in your chair and grab a bunch of earlier MAALL newsletters. Ah, print. The batch I grabbed was June 1984-June 2000. How about these names: Carol Boast, Eileen Searls, Kathie Belgum, Peter Schanck, Sally Wise, Lynn Foster, and Glen-Peter Ahlers? Pretty cool memories, eh? What a group of

fine professionals.

Wow! Hey, here’s a good one.... 1990: Peter Schanck is reminding MAALL colleagues to sign up for the upcoming MAALL luncheon at the AALL annual meeting. He promises to have a short business meeting and the cost for the luncheon is \$5.00 per person. Yes, the luncheon costs were partially subsidized by MAALL, but, yikes, in a good week that is now two gallons of gasoline for us. Of course, not many like gasoline for a luncheon menu option. This does, however, give me fuel for the rest of my column. I probably have your attention if you have gotten this far down. Plus, you have invested your time to the point where you want to finish this column to get your reading “money’s worth.”

Money’s worth is one of the hallmarks of our Chapter. We have had responsible executive boards and presidents, year after year, who have ensured that the MAALL treasury stays well in the black. We were especially pleased that our 2005 MAALL Grand Forks’ Annual Meeting was a financial success: it did more than just “break even” for us. Many of you

may not be aware that the MAALL Executive Boards and Local Arrangements volunteers work hard to keep costs down. Many institutions that employ MAALL members volunteer to absorb some financial costs, such as for printing and/or mailing costs of MAALL annual meeting programs or use of facilities at their institutions. Without the help of our institutions, agencies and firms, it would much more challenging to keep a healthy treasury.

This year, we have increased the annual meeting registration fee to \$125 to help maintain our financial security. The room rates are so reasonable, thanks to the great negotiating of Rick Ducey and Lou Lindsey (the Tulsa Local Arrangements co-chairs), that we are hoping for a great turnout of over 110 attendees. Our budget for this year’s annual meeting is \$17,000. We have our vendor partnership at various sponsorship levels: if we have 100 registrations, that’s \$12,500. So, we should be in pretty good shape financially. Our ever-watchful interim treasurer, Darla Jackson, keeps me apprised of our responsibilities regularly.

(continued on page 3)

From the Vice-President by John Christensen

The last six weeks since AALL in St. Louis have been intense - particularly for members of MAALL's Education Committee. Keeping up with this talented and dedicated group of professionals has been a challenge (but an exhilarating one) for me. Darla Jackson and Lee Peoples (Oklahoma City University), David Gay and Dan Bell (University of Tulsa), Mary Kay Jung (Thompson Coburn, St. Louis) and Eric Brust (Jackson County, Kansas City) are to be thanked for assembling an assortment of top quality educational programs that more than justifies time away from our respective libraries. In Tulsa in October, we will do as our theme suggests: **celebrate, educate, and collaborate.**

Most (but not all) of the **celebration** will be the province of the Local Arrangements Committee, chaired by Rick Ducey and Lou Lindsey. Check out the meeting web site (<http://www.law.utulsa.edu/library/maall/>) for details. One celebratory program, AALL Leadership Roundtable, demonstrates the fact that MAALL is loaded with leadership talent. Our own Ann Fessenden, Vice-President/President-Elect of AALL will be joined by our AALL visitor, Darcy Kirk, and other national leaders in our midst for insights on how they got involved and how association work has benefited them - personally and professionally.

A glance at the program descriptions that you will receive around September 1 reveal a variety of solid **educational** offerings. Let me highlight them:

- Mary Alice Baish of the AALL Washington office will provide a legislative update and preview. She and James Duggan will explain how each of us can help influence public policy. Trends and business strategies in the legal industry will be discussed by Blythe McCoy.
- Electronic research resources and tools will be the subject of several programs: Beyond Google: new and specialty search engines (Susan Boland); Electronic books - acquisition, access, bibliographic control and use (Gordon Russell and Paula Tejada via videoconference); Enhancing access to electronic serials - Serials Solutions, HeinOnline, Wilson Retrospective (Patti Monk, Dick Spinelli, and Martin Wisneski); and Tools for electronic selection - green slips, GOBI (Dick Spinelli and Jean Eaglesfield)
- Two programs focus on the **educational** roles librarians fill in teaching their primary patrons: If they only knew . . . what law firms want/need their associates to know (Ann Long and Jason Bashforth) and CSI legal researchers (competent, savvy, information-literate) - investigating competencies literate lawyers and law students should possess (Darla Jackson and Lee Peoples).
- Several programs involve a **collaborative** approach to challenges and opportunities we all face: Disaster and emergency preparedness (Joanne Vogel and Eric Brust); Native law resources - a survey approach to collaboration (Faye Hadley, Marilyn Nicely, Victoria Santana); Legal Information Preservation Alliance and implications for MAALL (Kent McKeever via videoconference); and Videoconferencing via Vemics Live Access - demonstration of a MALLCO collaborative pilot project.
- Working groups on Saturday morning will explore or continue **collaboration** on several fronts: Native American resources in MAALL, Vemic videoconferencing project, legal information preservation in our region, and MAALL government relations committee training.
- A Town Hall meeting will give members an opportunity to discuss and react to the MAALL Strategic plan being developed by the Strategic Planning Task Force chaired by Carolyn Jean Clark. A change of pace program by Lorraine Lorne is titled, "Virtually legal: a lighter look at 'legal' information found online."

(continued on page 3)

From the Vice-President *(continued from page 2)*

See you in Tulsa!

P.S. "I can't do everything about everyone everywhere but I can do something about someone somewhere" (Richard L. Evans) is a quotation that motivates me to get involved in causes I care about. As President-Elect of MAALL I have been thinking about the importance of wide involvement by our membership in the work of our regional association. I would like to encourage EACH of us to make a commitment to do SOMETHING to further the mutual interests we share by becoming involved in the work of MAALL.

In addition to the traditional committees (e.g., bylaws, education, local arrangements, membership, newsletter, nomination, and placement) we need people interested in tackling some issues that may be difficult to grapple with. How will we implement the Strategic Plan? How can we do a better job of working with the five library schools in our region and recruit law students and library school students to join our ranks? How can we tap collaborative technologies to facilitate human resource sharing? How can we tackle the problems associated with external demands for library space and the willingness of some administrators to have us abandon our historical commitment to preservation of legal information? People interested in public policy at the local, state, and national levels will be needed to staff our government relations committee (Hopefully, each state in MAALL will be represented.).

Whether you are new to the profession or an old-timer, please do not hesitate to share with me your interest in a particular committee or professional issue. We will involve everyone to the extent they wish to be involved. My phone is (785) 670-1658. My email is john.christensen@washburn.edu. If I don't hear from you before the Tulsa meeting, don't be surprised if you hear from me.

President's Message *(continued from page 1)*

Also, please take time to read the Vice-President's column. John Christensen is chair of the Education Committee and, I can tell you from my experience, it is a lot of work and stress to get a great program pulled together. I believe John and his Committee have given us a variety of useful, solid programs— well worth your time and money. Another MAALL committee that has done an excellent job is the Nominations Committee, under the leadership of Darin Fox. This year, we are conducting our first electronic election and are following the bylaws for the election process pretty closely.

One thing about the office of MAALL President is that you learn early on that you have many experienced, caring colleagues who quickly step in to offer their help and advice when you may not even know you need it at the time. I have many such helpers. The thing about being an officer in MAALL is that you are pretty much a "puppet" to the bylaws and the MAALL *Officer's Manual* protocols and procedures. Your job is to become familiar with the established guidelines and to be sure they are followed. You should become familiar with these bylaws and guidelines very quickly after your office term begins. Did I do this? Um... not as well as I should have. We have an officer's manual document that is dated 1994. I need to work with the Executive Board to get that manual revised so it is at least reasonable for your incoming President, John Christensen, and the MAALL Board he'll be working with in 2007. I hope to have a good strategic planning document that he can use, if he chooses, that will give him some concrete guidance as to what possible directions our Chapter should move toward.

Finally, I urge you to come to Tulsa! Why? *Because you need to take the time out of your busy work world* and be with colleagues to talk shop, browse fun shops, have a great time at the planned events, see and visit with our exhibitors and vendors who have new products for your library collection and services, and to attend educational programs that keep you professionally stimulated and up-to-date with current trends and ideas.

MAALL EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Editor: Stefanie Pearlman, spearlman2@unl.edu

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

Member News

Arkansas

Susan Goldner, Technical Services Librarian, UALR/Pulaski County Law Library, will serve as Chair of the Online Bibliographic Services Section of AALL for 2006-2007.

Iowa

Brian Fodrey joined the Drake Law Library this summer as the new Information Technology/Web Specialist. Brian received his Master of Education degree in Instructional Technology from Kent State University, where he previously earned a B.B.A. in Computer Information Systems and worked as an IT Specialist. Among Brian's duties at Drake will be web page development and technology support for students, faculty, staff, and library patrons.

Missouri

Richard Amelung returned to the Saint Louis University Law Library on June 1, 2006 in the new position of Associate Director. He served as the Interim University Librarian at Saint Louis University since October 2004. Prior to his interim appointment he was Head of Technical Services at the Law Library. Margaret Smith was promoted to Head of Technical Services on July 1, 2006. She had been Acting Head of Technical Services and prior to that was Senior Cataloger at the Law Library.

Nebraska

Mary Stultz (Baird Holm LLP) has joined the Special Libraries Association and the Omaha Chapter of SLA. Ms. Stultz also assumed duties as President of the Omaha Law League from June 2006 to May 2007. The Omaha Law League (OLL) and the League's foundation support legal education in Nebraska through contributions to scholarship funds at Creighton University and the University of Nebraska. OLL also donates to the Juvenile Diversion Program (including Teen Court), administers Law Day classroom visits for the Omaha Bar Association, and supports Legal Education Tours for fourth grade students. This year the board awarded money to the YMCA to pay for a legal research program. Ms. Stultz created OLL's first web site. Events for 2006-2007 and membership information are available at www.omahalawleague.org.

Maureen O'Riordan (Koley Jessen) received the 2006 SLA Legal Division Professional Grant Award for New Members.

Oklahoma

Melanie Nelson, twenty year law librarian at the University of Tulsa Law Library, graduated from the University of Tulsa College of Law on May 6, 2006. She has been attending part time since Fall of 2001.

"BYOB" FOR THE TULSA 2006 MAALL MEETING OCTOBER 19-21!

MAALL and OKLL in TULSA: CELEBRATE --- EDUCATE --- COLLABORATE

The Local Arrangements crew for the joint MAALL and OKLL annual meeting is planning a fabulous meeting in the Tulsa area October 19-21! There are lots of unusual things we have planned! For example:

BYOB Tote Bag Contests

When you start packing your bags for the trip, find one of your eye-catching convention tote bags from a previous meeting, or any bag of any sort, to use at the meeting. Why?? Well, rather than seeking bags from a vendor, our MAALL President is sponsoring a contest for noteworthy bags, such as the oldest AALL bag, the oldest MAALL bag, or other award-winning characteristics of even non-meeting tote bags. So this meeting is BYOB - "Bring Your Own Bag!"

Very Special Opening Event

Just next door to the conference hotel is the Oklahoma Aquarium (<http://www.okaquarium.org>), which is the site of our evening special event. We will walk over for a delicious buffet dinner with two meats, pork and salmon (and a vegetarian option, of course) and the best part is we'll be dining in and amongst the fish tanks! The visit includes full "after hours" run of the Aquarium. We have asked for some docents to be on hand to educate us on marine life. No, you don't have to BYOB -- "Bring Your Own Bathysphere" to see these deep sea creatures!

Shopping and Dining Experiences

The site of Thursday's events will be in the thriving southwestern Tulsa suburb of Jenks, the "Antique Capitol of America." Jenks also boasts a brand new "Riverwalk Crossing," with numerous restaurants, shops, a theater, and great bike trails along the Arkansas River. BYOB could mean "Bring Your Own Bike!" In keeping with a MAALL tradition, Friday night will be the dine around. Local Arrangements has selected excellent local color restaurants (no chains) to introduce registrants to several different areas of Tulsa, from Utica Square to Cherry Street to Brookside and more. You can wait to sign up when you get to the meeting. Preview the dine-around choices on the meeting web site (www.law.utulsa.edu/library/maall).

Excellent, Low-Cost Housing

The hotel, Best Western Aquarium Inn and Suites, is already accepting reservations! Local Arrangements secured a great rate (only \$65 single or double occupancy, with tax still under \$80). You must register by October 4 to secure the MAALL rate. Call the hotel directly for your reservation (918-296-7300) and be sure to identify yourself as a MAALL registrant.

Your institution can pay by purchase order, but the hotel must receive the faxed purchase order at least a week before your arrival and you still must have initially booked a room by the Oct. 4 deadline. The hotel's fax is 918-296-7301. Even if you pay by fax, the hotel will expect a credit card for charging incidentals.

The hotel has extended the same great rate for four nights - Wednesday Oct. 18 through Saturday night with check-out Sunday Oct. 22. The hotel has a small pool, hot tub, and sauna. Oh, now we know that BYOB means "Bring Your Own Bathing Suit!"

Meeting Registration is Easy

The meeting registration form will be available on the meeting website (www.law.utulsa.edu/library/maall) by Sept. 1. The registration rate of \$125 applies to MAALL, OKLL, and SWALL members. There will be a student rate of \$75.

Mysterious Key Note Speaker, AALL VIP, and Education Programs for All

The meeting will kick off with a lovely catered luncheon by Upper Crust's Chef Faud, followed by a keynote speech by local attorney mystery writer William Bernhardt (www.williambernhardt.com). The Bookstore at the University of Tulsa will be on hand to sell Bernhardt's books and will sponsor a book signing. So, BYOB could mean "Bring Your Own Bernhardt Book" for this best-selling author to sign! Bernhardt has been dubbed "the master of the courtroom drama" by Library Journal. He's asked for a musical keyboard, so there's something interesting he has up his sleeve for our education and enjoyment!

(continued on page 7)

Our AALL VIP

For Friday morning's breakfast, the Local Arrangements Committee has "wound" up with the First Watch restaurant to cater a hearty breakfast. MAALL's meeting will immediately follow breakfast, with AALL Board member Darcy Kirk updating us on AALL. We are pleased that Darcy will be our official VIP AALL representative for the meeting and hope she can join us in the special events as well.

Unique Opportunity to Hear about a Traveling Judaica Collection

Mid-morning Friday we will board the buses for the University of Tulsa College of Law for an exciting visit with even more treats in store for us. The Mabee Legal Information Center is host to a traveling Judaica collection from Touro School of Law. Dean Robert Butkin secured a local grant from the Schusterman Foundation to sponsor a guest presenter from Touro to tell us (and the legal and religious community) about this collaborative effort of sharing an entire subject matter collection. We are pleased that Associate Director Beth Mobley will be our guest speaker. She currently does the reference work with the Judaica collection which stays at Touro and will have many tips about the collection itself and how different schools throughout the country share this collection. With the support of this traveling collection, law schools from coast to coast have been and will be able to offer Jewish Law courses for the first time.

Following Beth's remarks, the doors to the Main Reading Room of the MLIC will open for an elegant reception and MLIC librarians will tour small groups through the library. Beth will be on hand to answer further questions about this remarkable collaborative effort among law schools and law libraries.

The Programs

The Education Committee is hard at work lining up excellent programs for Thursday and Friday afternoon and Saturday morning as well! Friday afternoon at University of Tulsa's College of Law will bring a variety of excellent educational programming planned by the Education Committee chaired by John Christensen. There are plans for two plenary sessions and a few videoconferencing programs. Topics and speakers are still being finalized, but it promises to have something for everyone.

MALLCO and OKLL Meetings

MALLCO and OKLL will also have an opportunity to meet before the hotel's complimentary "Manager's Reception" greets us back at the hotel.

Two Nights of Hospitality Suite Offers Chance to Relax and Chat

Thursday and Friday nights we will have a hospitality suite (Room 420) in the hotel. It overlooks the Arkansas River.

Our Partners in Law Librarianship Will Be Here

We are hoping to attract exhibitors to this meeting, with the exhibit hall close to the main meeting rooms.

Wait! Don't Scoot Early. Saturday Temptations Call You to Stay

Be sure to stay through the Saturday morning meetings at the hotel. The convention officially closes at 11:45 a.m. on Saturday morning. There's lots to do in Tulsa if you want to stay over another day. Visiting two renowned art museums or a zoo, or going shopping or antiquing, or visiting the new Bass Pro Shop -- these are just a few things Tulsa has to offer. Our famous Oktoberfest (often said to be among the 10 best German festivals in the world) is also going on that weekend.

So, make your plans, reserve your room/s, pack your bags! Remember, BYOB (Bring Your Own Bag!)

We'll see you in Tulsa! We'll celebrate, educate and collaborate!

In the meantime, check out: <http://www.law.utulsa.edu/library/maall>

By: The 2006 MAALL Local Arrangements Committee

MAALL at AALL



Richard Ducey collecting names for Tulsa-themed giveaways at the MAALL luncheon
Photograph by Lou Lindsey



MAALL President Brian Striman at the MAALL luncheon
Photograph by Lou Lindsey



The MAALL display in the Exhibit Hall
Photograph by Martin Wisneski

Elouise Cobell Speaks at AALL Annual Meeting in St. Louis

Thanks to the sponsorship of two Special Interest Sections (Social Responsibility and Government Documents) along with the enthusiastic support from the Native Peoples Law Caucus (NPLC), Ms. Elouise C. Cobell came to St. Louis and spoke to an audience of about 75 law librarians on Tuesday, July 11, 2006. The title of Ms. Cobell's talk was "100 Years: A Look at the Federal Indian Trust Relation through the Cobell Case." Faye Hadley (NPLC ad hoc chair) introduced Ms. Cobell who began her presentation with the screening of a DVD that is a work-in-progress. The working title of the DVD is "Broken Promises" and, through clips of attorneys and tribal leaders interspersed with footage of Native PowWows and dances, the video tells the story of how and why Ms Cobell decided to file the case that has come to be regarded as the largest class action lawsuit filed against the federal government. The case is captioned "Cobell v. Kempthorne" and there is an excellent web site (<http://www.indiantrust.com/index.cfm>) that provides a researcher access to all of the documents that have been filed in the case.

The history behind the case began in 1887 with the Dawes Act (General Allotment Act). At that time, the federal government used a policy of allotting plots of land to Indian heads-of-households. The theory behind this policy was at least two-fold: first, it was intended to turn Indians into farmers; and second, it opened up acres and acres of "surplus" land to white settlers. Because the federal government did not believe that Indians could manage their own affairs, the government established a trust relationship to oversee the management of this Indian-owned land. This is the trust fund that the government cannot account for and this action on behalf of the government gave rise to the class action lawsuit filed against the federal government by Elouise C. Cobell in 1996.

An excellent overview of the history that inspired the case can be found in the transcript of the testimony of Elouise C. Cobell, (Committee on Indian Affairs U.S. Senate, July 26, 2005, <http://www.senate.gov/~scia/2005hrqs/072605hrq/cobell.pdf>). Recently, Federal District Court Judge Royce C. Lamberth, a former Justice Department senior official appointed to the bench by Ronald Reagan, who has presided over the case for the first ten years of litigation, was recently removed from the case by an appellate decision. Judge Lamberth appropriately described the utter failure to reform by the Interior Department and continuing abuse of the Indian beneficiaries in this way in a July 2005 opinion:

"For those harboring hope that the stories of murder, dispossession, forced marches, assimilationist policy programs and other incidents of cultural genocide against the Indians are merely the echoes of a horrible, bigoted government – past that has been sanitized by the good deeds of more recent history, this case serves as an appalling reminder of the evils that result when large numbers of the politically powerless are placed at the mercy of institutions engendered and controlled by a politically powerful few. It reminds us that even today our great democratic enterprise remains unfinished. And it reminds us, finally, that the terrible power of government, and the frailty of the restraints on the exercise of that power, are never fully revealed until government turns against the people."

Ms. Cobell also alerted the audience that there is currently legislation pending before Congress that attempts a settlement in this case (S 1439, HR 4322). Although Ms. Cobell expressed doubt that the bill would reach the President, she did encourage people in the audience to contact their senators and representatives and, at the very least, make them aware that they do have constituents who care about this issue and want a fair and just resolution.

*By: Faye Hadley
Native American Resources Law Librarian, Mabee Legal Information Center
University of Tulsa College of Law*

Computers Make Everything Easier - Except Counting

When I was applying to become a law library director a little over a year ago, there were a handful of resources I examined to get a feel for the current state of the law libraries with openings. They included the library's guide to services, its collection development policy, its budget, and the library's web site. One of the few quantitative and comparative sources of information available is the data tables compiled from the annual American Bar Association (ABA) questionnaire, commonly known as the ABA statistics. These statistics can be very helpful in understanding how any particular library's budget, collection, and staffing levels *generally* compare with other academic law libraries. As collections have continued to transition from print to electronic formats, however, several issues have arisen which make the ABA questionnaire more difficult to answer and less helpful than we would hope, specifically in relation to collections.

One might think that an increase in the number of electronic resources would make the ABA statistics more accurate and the resources easier to count. After all, we can easily generate reports from our online catalog or other electronic databases that show the number of journals contained in a particular product, such as HeinOnline. Unfortunately, this is one case where the transition to computers is just not making our job easier. Let us consider how we would count a current product that many libraries are purchasing, *The Making of Modern Law (MOML)*.

The Making of Modern Law is a full text database of 21,000 legal treatises, casebooks, practice manuals, and more. This database contains the scanned page images from each work, similar to HeinOnline or JSTOR. It is a very expensive resource, and libraries (and their deans) might reasonably expect to be able to count the contents of this electronic resource in their ABA statistics, just as they would a large purchase of print books. However, this is not as easy and straight-forward as it might seem.

Question 1 of the 2006 ABA questionnaire asks for the number of "Titles (excluding non-book titles)." There are no instructions for Question 1. So, we turn to the definitions. The definition of a "Title" would seem to indicate that we can count each MOML title. It says to count "[e]ach item for which a separate bibliographic unit record has been made or obtained." If you bought the cataloging for MOML, you might think your library should count all 21,000 titles here. If you next turn to the definition for "non-book title," however, it says to "[i]nclude in this category manuscripts, photographs, audiotapes, videotapes, CD-ROMs, and DVD titles. Do not include electronic or web-based titles or products." This definition seems to be primarily directed at Question 3 (the title count for "Other non-book titles"), but it leaves one wondering whether MOML titles should be counted in Question 1. Some librarians tell me not to count MOML titles here and others have said they would.

Next, we turn to volume counts. This is probably the single most quoted number relating to law libraries. We put it in our brochures and on our web sites. So, how does the *Making of Modern Law* fit into a volume count. Question 8 asks for "Volumes (excluding microforms)." Again, there are no instructions. So, we turn to the definitions. A volume is "[a] physical unit of any printed, typewritten, handwritten, mimeographed or processed work contained in one binding or portfolio, cataloged, classified or otherwise made ready for use." Now, this is going to sound metaphysical, but what is a "physical unit?" Common sense tells us that it is a book or something you can hold in your hand. In this case, we should not count MOML in our volumes. On a practical note, the volume count of MOML is not easily accessible. It is not available in the vendor's product information.

There are other types of electronic resources that present similar counting problems, specifically aggregators of electronic serials. HeinOnline and JSTOR are two examples. If an academic law library subscribes to HeinOnline, should it be able to count HeinOnline titles in Question 6 ("Number of active serial titles")? The answer would seem to be yes, especially if you have cataloged each title in HeinOnline. However, if your

(continued on page 11)

library subscribes to a serial title in three formats (print, microfiche and HeinOnline), should it be counted once or three times? The definition for serial title does not say whether to count each format. Again, some librarians have advised me to count each title only once, regardless of format, and others have told me that they count each format as a separate title.

JSTOR presents a different kind of problem. If your law library has access to JSTOR, but did not pay for any part of JSTOR (the main campus paid), should your law library be able to count the JSTOR titles? The answer would seem to be yes, though the definition of serial title is not clear. If you do count JSTOR titles, how do you draw a line around the titles to count? Do you count the whole database or just those that you have separately cataloged? Again, the definition is not specific. If your library shares a catalog with the main campus library, does that record count or should you be required to duplicate the record within the "Law Library" location? These are not easy questions.

These examples highlight some of the difficulties with counting electronic resources that law libraries are making available to their students, faculty, and other patrons today. There are other examples like the ones mentioned above and there are not always clear answers to these questions. The issues presented here often lead to more fundamental questions. What is the purpose of the ABA Questionnaire? Do volume or title counts matter in the age of digital resources? Should we be measuring other aspects of the law library, such as customer satisfaction and reference usage? How do libraries in other disciplines measure themselves?

If you would like to get involved with this issue or if you have ideas on this topic, be on the lookout for an upcoming AALL electronic discussion group which will be established to give members a chance to discuss proposed changes to the annual questionnaire.

*By: Darin K. Fox
Director of the Law Library and Associate Professor
University of Oklahoma Law Library*

Meet MAALL Members

Meet...Janet McKinney

By Stefanie Pearlman

"I've learned that you really can do more than you might have imagined in the past" states Janet McKinney. Janet, MAALL's immediate past president, has demonstrated the truth of those words throughout her career. She has actively participated in MAALL and AALL, including: the AALL Annual Meeting Program Committee, Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals Advisory Committee, Chair of the Technical Services SIS, and Treasurer of the Private Law Libraries SIS. She is also currently a member of SWALL and several Special Interest Sections.

Janet credits colleague and fellow MAALL member Nancy Stancel with helping her decide to become a law librarian. Janet has been a Computer Services Librarian for Shook, Hardy, and Bacon in Kansas City for the last six and a half years and a law librarian for about sixteen years. She enjoys working in a law firm because she works on projects with different people at the firm and sees the results of her daily work. She especially enjoys the technological applications in librarianship, legal research, and the practice of law.

Janet graduated college with a double major in Business and French and has Master's Degrees in both Library & Information Science and Religious Studies. She also has a love of musical theater, which she displayed in choral performances in both high school and college.

Why Do You Belong to AALL? Write it Down and Win!

Our profession and its Association have changed greatly in the last 100 years, but have the reasons for joining and retaining our memberships in AALL changed all that much?

The AALL Membership and Retention Committee is sponsoring a 500-word writing contest to find out why membership in AALL is important to you. We want to know what you've gained and what you value from your membership, including illustrative examples or anecdotes. As an added incentive, three winners will receive free full registrations to the New Orleans Meeting next summer. Judging criteria will be based on originality, creativity, and quality and clarity of writing.

So, rise to the challenge! As we embark on AALL's second 100 years, we invite you to tell us the reasons why you belong to AALL. This is also your opportunity for fame—winning entries will be published in *Spectrum*—and fortune—winners will receive free full registrations for the 2007 Annual Meeting. Read on for more details.

Contest Guidelines

- Contest participants must be **current AALL members**.
- **Entries will be divided into three groups based on years as a law librarian:** 1-5 years, 5-10 years, and 10+ years.
- One winner will be selected from each group. **Be sure to indicate your group on your entry.**
- The three winning entries (**500-words**) will be published in the June 2007 issue of *AALL Spectrum* and **each winner will receive a free full registration to AALL's 2007 Annual Meeting** in New Orleans.
- Deadline for receipt of entries is **Friday, December 15, 2006**. Entries should be sent to: Claudia Jalowka, Law Librarian, Connecticut Judicial Branch Law Libraries, 90 Washington Street, Hartford, CT 06106; e-mail Claudia.beth.jalowka@jud.ct.gov; fax 860/706-5086; or phone 860/706-5151.
- Submitted entries become property of AALL.

Thanks to Our Photographers!

Many thanks to Lou Lindsey (University of Tulsa, Mabee Legal Information Center) and Martin Wisneski (Washburn University Law Library) for taking photographs at the AALL Conference in St. Louis! All of your help is greatly appreciated!