



MAALL Markings

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UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA'S SCHMID LAW LIBRARY HOSTS AMAZING GRACE: MIDWEST LEGAL TRAILBLAZERS EVENT

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On February 15, 2017, the University of Nebraska's Schmid Law Library and Women's Law Caucus held an event highlighting women in the legal profession. Entitled "Amazing Grace: Midwest Legal Trailblazers," the event, part of Schmid Law Library's "Roscoe at the Movies Film Series," featured a film, panel discussion, and networking. Jordan Reid, president of Nebraska College of Law's Women's Law Caucus, started the two-hour event with introductory remarks. Next came the screening of a 28-minute documentary, *Amazing Grace*. The film described the inspiring true story of Grace Day, who graduated from the University of South Dakota School of Law in 1950 as the only woman in her class. After the showing, a panel of Nebraska's own female legal trailblazers talked about the challenges they have encountered as women in the legal profession and offered advice on overcoming such challenges to the audience, comprised primarily of female students of the University of Nebraska College of Law. The panelists included Joy Shiffermiller, owner/partner at Shiffermiller Law; Gail Perry, managing partner at Baylor Evnen; Patricia Vannoy, partner at Mattson Ricketts; Judge Jan Gradwohl, Lancaster County's first female judge & former University of Nebraska Professor

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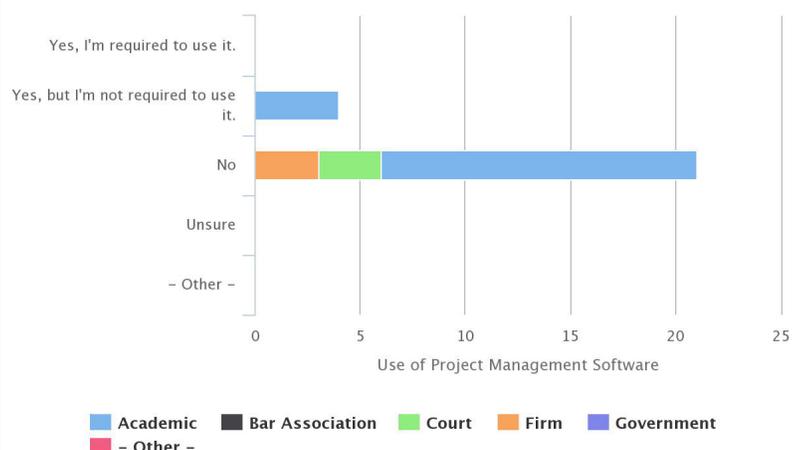
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MAALL Member Survey Question:
**Do you use any project
management software
for your job? (N=25)**

Project Management Software Used:
Basecamp (previously), Freedcamp
(2), Microsoft Project 2016,
Slack, Trello

Use of Project Management Software



of Law; Meg Mikolajczyk, staff attorney and lobbyist for Planned Parenthood; and Caitlin Cedefeldt, associate at Dvorak & Donovan. Heather McMichael, who is the producer of *Amazing Grace*, Client Services Director at Stueve Siegel Hanson LLP, a trial firm in Kansas City, and former television journalist, moderated the discussion. Afterwards students networked with the panelists. The event included light snacks and refreshments sponsored by the Women's Law Caucus, Schmid Law Library, and the Career Development Office. While not an event focusing on legal information in the traditional sense, Schmid Law Library hopes that the event helped to underscore the library's importance as a resource to law students. In addition, it served as an opportunity for the law library to partner with additional College of Law constituents in furtherance of the Nebraska College of Law's mission "to educate lawyers and leaders who will pursue satisfying careers and contribute positively to the world."

MANAGING THE CIRCUS: TIPS FOR JUGGLING STAFF REQUESTS, PATRON ISSUES, AND YOUR OWN NEEDS

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There are few words that strike fear into the heart of a manager more than the D-word: Delegating. Yet it is the mark of a good manager, who can delegate certain tasks with authority. A manager isn't expected to take on all projects herself, and in fact, the point of having a staff is having the ability to assign tasks to make the manager's job easier. So why are managers so afraid to delegate? And can this anxiety be conquered so that a fearful manager can become a delegating master?

The first place to start is with the manager himself. He needs to root out his own fear of delegation to figure out why he is so anxious about assigning tasks to his staff. He should start by asking himself candidly, "Why can't I let go?" Answers may include the realization that the manager really enjoys doing the to-be delegated task himself (maybe the manager's first library job was as a cataloger, and he still prefers to do that work). There may also be a fear that a staff member will be unable to perform the job as well as the manager can, and thus the library will suffer. There is still also the possibility that the reverse is true; that the employee performs the task even better than the manager, and the manager fears being shown up by his staff.

After a manager determines the cause of the delegation-anxiety, she needs to take the self-assessment a step further and appreciate what her non-delegation attitude is doing to her and her staff. By performing all tasks herself, the manager is likely overloading herself, leading to more anxiety and stress. This is a quick road to burnout. A non-delegating manager is also doing her staff a disservice. By hoarding all tasks for herself, she is robbing her fellow librarians of growth opportunities. Sure, it might be easier for the library supervisor to answer a patron's reference question on the spot. But by taking this opportunity away from the reference librarian on her staff, she is taking away the chance for that librarian to learn the important skill of answering reference questions.

After the manager has determined the cause of his delegation-anxiety, and then examined the effects his non-delegation has on himself and his library staff, it's time for the manager to learn how to mitigate his fear. It might help to know that resolution of this anxiety is not an about-face-of-current-practices type of solution. The manager who successfully delegates does not dump a project into an employee's lap and then disappear. The successful delegator remains involved with the project, to provide guidance to the staff member and oversight of the project as a whole. A delegating-newbie manager has to determine at what level she is comfortable having this supervision.

If a manager fears that the task will not be performed as well if he is not himself performing it, he could possibly alleviate

some of that stress by having the employee to whom he wishes to delegate the task shadow him. Doing this will give the staff member first-hand experience of how the manager likes the task to be performed, and it will assure the manager that the employee knows how to complete the job to his satisfaction. If the manager is worried that a portion of the delegated job will slip through her direct report's fingers, she can retain the right to review the staff member's work before it becomes finalized. And if the manager finds that he simply can't let go of a project, he can choose to delegate small tasks that themselves together make the whole project possible. In time, the manager may find that he is more and more ready to delegate larger portions of the project to his staff, once he sees that they are able to complete the smaller tasks to his satisfaction.

Delegating does not have to be a bad word. Having a staff means entrusting them to perform jobs that are essential to the operation of your library. A successful manager will learn the reasons why she feels she cannot assign tasks to her staff, and will work to overcome those obstacles in order to make herself a better supervisor and to spur the professional growth of her staff. Doing this will strengthen a manager's skillset, and make the delegation pill easier to swallow.

TECHNICAL SERVICES TALK

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Head of Cataloging & Resource Management, University of Nebraska College of Law

Taming the Wild West: Electronic Resource Knowledge Bases for Libraries

With the rise of electronic resources in library collections, providing access to resources has changed from the days of simply creating a catalog record for each item on a library's shelf. From a user's perspective, making information available in electronic format can simplify access, enabling retrieval of resources with the click of a hyperlink (or, more realistically, a few clicks of a few links). However, on the backend it can be difficult for librarians to maintain current links and accurate coverage dates, as well as to provide access to resources that are licensed from a number of different vendors. It can feel like trying to maintain order in the proverbial Wild West. The knowledge base is a tool that has grown in popularity to help libraries provide access to their electronic resources and deal with the fluctuations that come with the territory.

Generally speaking, a knowledge base is a store of data that can be drawn upon when necessary. When it comes to electronic resources in libraries, a knowledge base is usually a component of a library collection management tool. Knowledge bases include data about a library's electronic resources, such as the individual titles in a particular package from a vendor, as well as linking capabilities that allow users to access the electronic resources. The data in a knowledge base comes from title lists provided by publishers and content providers, usually formatted according to the standards of [Knowledge Bases and Related Tools](#) (KBART), a recommended practice of the National Information Standards Organization (NISO). Because the title data can change quickly, the process of ingesting data from these sources must be repeated periodically. Updates to the data can also come from librarians that use the knowledge base and report errors. Data from knowledge bases can be used in A-Z lists and discovery services that allow library users to access the resources. Some knowledge base products also provide MARC records to provide access to electronic resources in library catalogs.

As the amount of electronic resources in libraries has grown, many different library vendors have seized the opportunity to provide a knowledge base product. OCLC's WorldCat knowledge base is used in many of their WorldShare products. EBSCO has a product called the EBSCO Integrated Knowledge Base, which works with the company's Discovery Solutions to provide access to electronic resources. ProQuest provides a knowledge base as part of their many electronic resources products, and Innovative Interfaces's Open Knowledge Base is one of the newest additions to the market.

As you can see, it is currently standard for knowledge bases to be part of commercial products from vendors. As such, they only provide access to the data for which the particular vendor has negotiated access. Also, the data in these knowledge bases is only available to those who subscribe to the vendor's knowledge base product. This results in a great deal of duplicated effort in maintaining access to electronic resources. The founders of an initiative called [Global Open Knowledgebase](#) (GOKb) are working to create an open-access alternative to these commercial knowledge bases. As stated on [GOKb's website](#), "Many publishers and content providers supply KBART-formatted title lists to a few commercial knowledge bases, each of which must consume, normalize, disseminate, and update that data in an endless cycle. Libraries, as consumers of this data, participate in the supply chain by performing quality control and reporting errors back to their knowledge base vendors. However, each library's efforts benefit only those others who happen to subscribe to the same product. The current supply chain is messy, duplicative, and entwined with proprietary products." In order to move away from this proprietary model, GOKb's data is available under a Creative Commons license, making it freely available for reuse.

While much of GOKb's data is ingested by computers, they do rely on human editors to make sure their data is high quality. I have personal experience with this, as I have signed up as a volunteer editor and have been working on verifying publication dates and title changes for electronic journals. It is interesting to be a part of a community working together to make this data more useful, and it is a good reminder that some human evaluation of metadata will always be needed, no matter how reliant on computers we become. While technical services librarians may not spend as much time carefully crafting catalog records for individual resources anymore, our skills as evaluators of metadata continue to be important for libraries.

While knowledge bases are useful for traditional library electronic resources, such as electronic journals and books, they are still not in widespread use for law-specific databases like Westlaw and LexisNexis products, except for collections of fairly traditional formats, such as electronic law reviews and journals. Other resources in these databases are not, to my knowledge, very well represented in current knowledge base products.

For anyone looking to learn more about knowledge bases and how they function, I highly recommend the ALA TechSource Library Technology Report titled [The Knowledge Base at the Center of the Universe](#), by Kristen Wilson. The author of this report provides a history of knowledge base products, their current applications (including a directory of current products), and potential future applications of knowledge base data.

Knowledge bases for electronic resources continue to provide new opportunities for innovation in how libraries provide access to these resources. It will be interesting to see the innovations that occur in this area of library technology in coming years.

AFFIRMATIONS

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Littler Mendelson, P.C.

What is Knowledge Management?

Knowledge Management (KM) can be defined as any activity that gathers information and then adds value for the client or the firm. This value comes in the form of saved time and ultimately money. For any given project or attorney request,

internal firm resources may be tapped as well as the physical collection and legal research databases. It is the evaluation, compilation, organization, and distribution of these materials that gives a competitive edge. A legal KM department may include experienced practice area attorneys, technologists, legal researchers, and content administrators. This group is dedicated to enhancing client access to the firm's considerable knowledge and resources through expertly tailored trainings, compliance solutions, and traditional library reference. Through KM's research support services, technologies, and applications, legal services are delivered to clients in innovative and efficient workflows. Who better to manage the multitude of information and connect attorneys with the firm's knowledge store than the library?

Littler Mendelson's library, a division of the greater KM department, bridges information needs and answers through its one-stop-shop for all KM and library research via the Knowledge Desk. The Knowledge Desk is available to all Littler attorneys and staff for any legal research, traditional library sources, KM request, or questions concerning our legal training group (Littler Learning Group). Via the Knowledge Desk, attorneys are connected to subject matter experts, a vast collection of databases, print materials, practice groups, internal work product, and proprietary data collections that our team expertly searches to locate the exact nugget of knowledge attorneys need.

With the myriad of information resources and research strategies, the Knowledge Desk is instrumental in easing new firm attorneys and staff into the world of KM. Required orientations for new attorneys, paralegals, and legal secretaries begin with a brief overview of Knowledge Management activities. The focus of orientation is relaying efficient information-seeking skills. Attendees tour articles written for the firm website, client toolkits and online service solutions, practice group email distribution lists, template storage sites, the variety of ebooks published by KM attorneys, document automation software, and the extranets designed to enhance client communications. Orientation concludes with a spotlight on the Knowledge Desk blog and newsletters, additional learning opportunities and videos, as well as a reminder to contact us with any user support or research needs.

Advanced training includes in-depth and cost-effective legal research skills in common subscription resources—Westlaw, Lexis Advance, CCH, BNA, Fastcase—and the internal databases designed to support their practice. The host librarian provides an overview of tips and tricks to uncover the billions of documents managed within our file structure and strategies for pinpointing the precise material needed buried in the vast legal information landscape. The greatest takeaway from orientations and trainings, however, is that the Knowledge Desk is available to provide research and guide navigation through the array of resources.

The Knowledge Desk has a full-time staff of 20 librarians and assistant librarians, who work closely with the entire KM team. Questions are received via email or phone and triaged through our library ticketing system. Basic questions are quickly resolved by one of our assistant librarians. Cases and complaints are pulled, books are found, and citations are validated. Then, of course, some of those "basic" questions turn into long, drawn-out questions, but the library persists. More complex legal research is sent over to our research librarians, and questions morphing into long-term projects are handed to the Strategic team. When appropriate, research attorneys and KM attorneys are called on as research tickets are escalated.

Littler's Knowledge Desk launched during the summer of 2016 with the marketing campaign "#KnowledgeDesk, Your Answer Is Here!" Requests skyrocketed immediately, and the year closed with well over 18,000 tickets. Over 20,000 tickets are projected for 2017! The team regularly receives praise for their extraordinary customer service and excellent research skills. "Oh my gosh, this is awesome. Exactly the type of resources I wanted. Thank you for the quick response!" and "As always, you all do a fantastic job. Thanks."

Law firm librarians are perfectly suited to liaise between attorneys and a legal KM department. With adept research, archival, organization, analysis, and synthesis skills, librarians take the guess work out of who to contact, where information resides, and determining which external or internal resource best addresses a client need. The library/KM partnership

elevates library involvement in the firm to new levels by incorporating librarians in the research and production of client-facing compliance tools, and imbedding staff in the management of innovative knowledge solutions, tools, and technologies. Littler’s Knowledge Desk has been a tremendous success and has elevated the library staff, legal resources, and skills. That is good news for everyone in the profession!

TABLETS 1.0: ANCIENT CUNEIFORM PIECES FIND HOME IN CREIGHTON’S LAW LIBRARY

Public Relations Manager, Creighton University, reprinted with permission of Creighton University

Among the oldest items to be found on Creighton University’s campus is a receipt for barley that clocks in at just under four-and-a-half millennia of existence.

The piece is small — about an inch-and-a-half square — and covered, back to front and on its narrow sides, in finely-wrought cuneiform, the lingua franca of the Third Dynasty of Ur during the Neo-Sumerian Empire which occupied portions of modern day Iraq and Syria. Known as an administrative tablet in the study of Assyriology, the piece is one of five similar pieces held in the Venteicher Rare Book Room in the Klutznick Law Library/McGrath North Mullin & Kratz Legal Research Center, and which were newly translated in 2016 by a pair of Assyriologists, Changyu Liu, PhD, of Zhejiang Normal University in Jinhua, China, and Kristin Kleber, PhD, of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in the Netherlands.



The written word was in its infancy when the Creighton tablets were penned — or, more precisely, etched onto wet clay with a reed stylus — and it’s striking that something so ornate could serve such a seemingly mundane purpose as to record a commercial transaction. But as Liu said, such administrative tablets are the legacy of the Sumerians, who used written language for the advancement of record and bookkeeping.

“The earliest writing in the human history is Sumerian cuneiform invented by Sumerian people dating to approximately 3200 B.C.,” said Liu who, with Kleber, published their translations in *Altorientalische Forschungen*, a German academic journal of ancient history. “The earliest cuneiform tablets record sales of barley, sheep, and so on. I think that probably the Babylonians or ancient Mesopotamian people started the tradition and the business of keeping accounts and recording transactions, much like ancient Greeks and Chinese started the tradition of recording history.”

And despite the seemingly straightforward economics of four of the tablets, Liu said they still have plenty of history to offer and stories to tell, some of which have portentous echoes in our own epoch.

The barley receipt is recorded as having taken place in the year “Huhnuri was destroyed.” Another receipt for baskets was transacted when “Simurum and Lulubum were destroyed.” A messenger text offering a holding of provisions speaks of “good beer,” “high-quality beer,” and “middle-quality beer” and a store of onions and bread, all inventoried in the year “the Amorite wall was built.”

One of the newer pieces in Creighton’s collection is a recapitulation of rations from the year 585 B.C., during the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar II, the Old Testament royal who features centrally in the apocalyptic visions of the prophet Daniel.

Creighton’s lone non-commercial tablet is a votive cone celebrating the prowess of Sin-kasid, King of Uruk (sometimes rendered as Erech in Bible translations). The cone would have been purchased and used as an offering for the king’s health and welfare, extolling him as “mighty man, king of Uruk, King of Amnanum, provider of Eanna.”



“These tablets are the cultural heritage of human beings,” Liu said. “We are very proud to keep them and study them, because they perpetuate human civilization and continue to help us understand it. Without these cuneiform tablets, we would not understand the Mesopotamian civilization — the first civilization in human history, which is regarded as the origin of ancient Greek civilization and also as the origin of Western civilization. It is also interesting that modern Iraq and Syria, as the heirs of ancient Mesopotamian civilization, are now still, suffering the horrors of wars, panic, and despair. History is interesting, but sometimes it repeats itself in harrowing ways.”

While the tablets have revealed their obscurities to Liu and Kleber, just how Creighton came into possession of this collection remains something of a mystery.

Corinne Jacox, a catalogue/reference librarian at the Klutznick Law Library/McGrath North Mullin & Kratz Legal Research Center, said the tablets may have arrived in the 1920s, along with a shipment of old legal tomes from Great Britain. In 1930, the Omaha World-Herald mentioned the collection — which then numbered six items — in a story about the law library’s holdings.

“So we’ve at least had them since 1930,” Jacox said. “We can’t find any other documentation about them from earlier than that.”

In 1958, the collection was examined and briefly translated by a Creighton Jesuit, the Rev. R. O’Donnell, SJ, who showed the pieces to students and Creighton faculty. Fr. O’Donnell’s translations still reside with the tablets, along with a note to Margaret Gettys Hall, at that time the assistant law librarian.

Liu speculates the tablets were sold to the University by Edgar J. Banks, an American diplomat and antiquarian who served as a consul in Baghdad in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. On self-financed archaeological projects around Mesopotamian sites, Banks collected hundreds of these tablets and peddled them, sometimes for as little as \$1 apiece, to universities and museums around the U.S.

Liu has been tracking down such tablets for a number of years and stumbled upon Creighton’s doing an Internet search.

He was able to make contact with Jacox, law library director Kay Andrus, and University archivist David Crawford, who helped facilitate the translation by sending digital images of the tablets to Liu and Kleber.

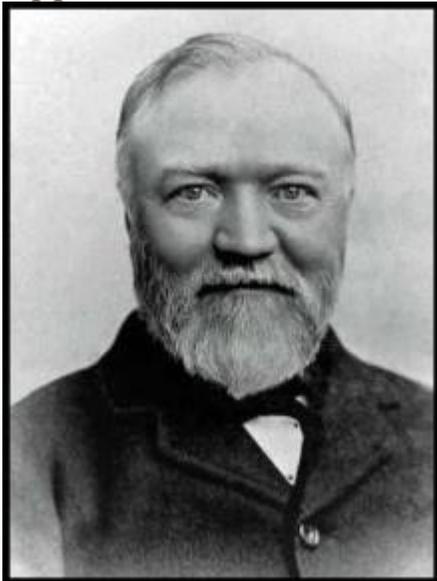
“It was a lucky chance,” he said. “And we felt very fortunate to work with Creighton. It’s still my hope we can find more of these tablets and do further work with them.”

For Creighton, some of the mystery still endures, and Jacox is hopeful the University might be able to confirm the provenance of the tablets someday.

“You’d always like to know where something came from, how it got here,” she said. “But the fact that we have them and we can share them with the world in this way is great, too. These are just more pieces that contribute to our understanding and knowledge of an era long, long ago.”

THE PATRON SAINT OF LIBRARIES: A BRIEF LOOK AT ANDREW CARNEGIE’S IMPACT ON AMERICA’S LIBRARIES

Heather Phillips, Assistant Branch Librarian (San Diego), Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals



Andrew Carnegie was fond of saying that “the man who dies rich dies in disgrace.” He very literally put his money where his mouth was. Born into a working class family in Scotland plagued by lack of employment, his family immigrated to America when he was 12. Though lacking formal education, young Carnegie was ambitious, industrious, and a voracious reader. His love of books dates from the American years of his childhood during which a wealthy local landowner, Colonel James Anderson, allowed any working boy to use his personal library for free. Carnegie later praised Anderson, saying that “[i]t was from my own early experience that I decided there was no use to which money could be applied so productive of good to boys and girls who have good within them and ability and ambition to develop it, as the founding of a public library in a community.”

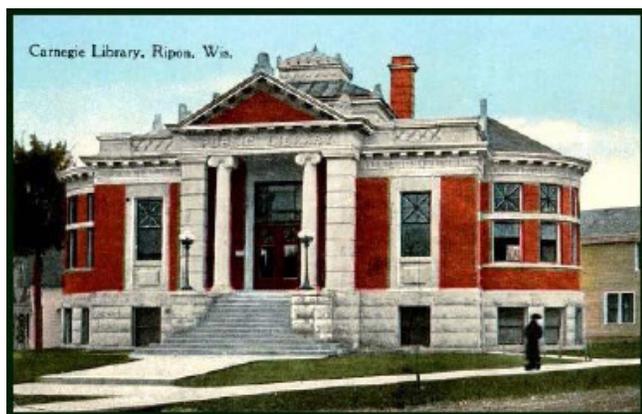
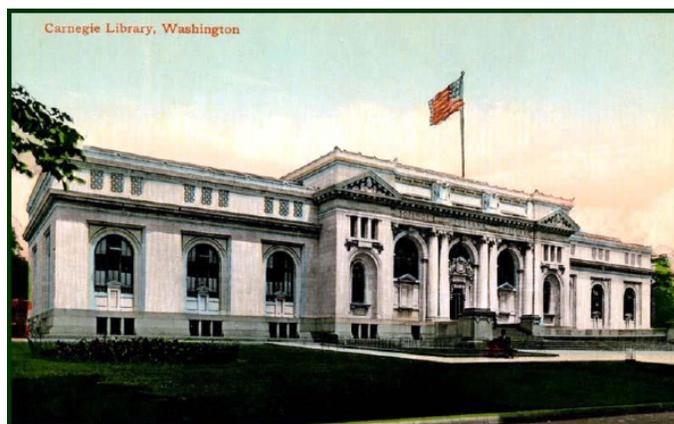
Many stories about Carnegie abound—from his rags-to-riches story; to his clashes with the labor movement; to the [famous 1887 prenuptial agreement](#) in which his fiancée, Louise Whitfield, agreed to Carnegie’s intention to give away virtually his entire fortune during his lifetime. (Carnegie had a personal fortune of over \$300 billion dollars in today’s money. He gave away about 90% of it before his death.) However, no matter what one thinks of him or [his personal philosophy of “the gospel of wealth.”](#) it is clear that he had a vital impact on the library systems of America.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Carnegie and his philanthropic organizations built 1,679 libraries in the United States. Most were intended and designed to be free for public use. This was a marked change from the past. In Carnegie’s day, America had no system of public libraries. Carnegie funded his first libraries in locations to which he had a personal connection, but soon expanded beyond that geographical scope.

Carnegie’s grants were designed only to cover the building costs for new libraries. Communities had to supply the

necessary land, staff, furnishings, and collection themselves. They then had to fund these libraries at least partially from public funds. This was a way of requiring civic participation in the creation of the library, which created a basis of ongoing community support for the library as an institution.

Some of what we term “Carnegie libraries” were actually hybrid community centers, containing recreational facilities like gymnasias and swimming pools as well as library collections. However, most of Carnegie’s endowments were for buildings designed for use exclusively as libraries. Carnegie libraries could be relatively modest in size, or larger, more imposing edifices, and their architectural styles varied -- libraries were built in a wide variety of styles including Baroque, Beaux-Arts, Classical Revival, Italian Renaissance, and Spanish Colonial. However, buildings did have some architectural elements in common. They were typically formal buildings with a prominent doorway accessed by a flight of stairs. Traversing this staircase symbolized a personal journey of elevation through learning. Likewise, the main entry often featured a lamp or lantern, meant to symbolize enlightenment.



Carnegie’s library building boom ended when the last grant for a Carnegie library was made in 1919. At that time, there were 3,500 public libraries in the United States. Carnegie’s philanthropic construction grants had built nearly half of them. Carnegie stopped funding library construction because of a report written by Dr. Alvin Johnson, an economics professor. He studied existing Carnegie libraries in terms of their social significance, physical aspects, effectiveness, and financial condition. He concluded that to be truly effective, libraries needed trained personnel. Building library facilities had been necessary at first, but Carnegie’s goal of promoting libraries in the United States would be better served by turning resources

toward library education and building a corps of professionals who would stimulate active, efficient libraries in their communities. Dr. Johnson’s report persuaded Carnegie. Libraries that had already been promised funding would continue to be built until 1923, but after 1919 all Carnegie’s forthcoming financial support was turned to library education.

For More Information on Carnegie Libraries:

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Callahan, B. E. (1967). The Carnegie Library School of Atlanta (1905-25). *The Library Quarterly*, 37(2), 149-179.

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Koch, T. W. (1917). *A Book of Carnegie Libraries*. New York: The H. W. Wilson Company. (reprinted in 2010 by Nabu Press).

Lorenzen, M. (January 01, 1999). Deconstructing the Carnegie Libraries: The Sociological Reasons Behind Carnegie’s Millions to Public Libraries. *Illinois Libraries*, 81, 2, 75-78.

Van Slyck, A. A. (1995). *Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920*. University of Chicago Press.

MY FIRST YEAR AS A LAW LIBRARIAN: PART I

Mandy Lee

Assistant Professor of Law Library & Reference Librarian, University of Nebraska College of Law

I pulled my office door open and stepped into the hall. Looking to my left, Stefanie's door was dark, and Matt's computer sat, closed, atop his station at the reference desk. I paused and waited for a moment, until Matt appeared down the hall. As he made his way back to the reference desk, I posed my question. "For periodicals, what does 'embargoed' mean?"

It felt kind of silly to have to ask, because I had learned about trade embargoes as a child, but this was clearly a different context. Three-and-a-half months into my role as the Schmid Law Library's most recently-hired reference librarian, hailing from Illinois, I still have a lot to learn: about the Schmid Law Library, law librarianship as a profession, Nebraska law, the culture of the Nebraska College of Law, the town of Lincoln, and the state of Nebraska itself. This is not to say that my training as a graduate assistant at the Jenner Law Library at the University of Illinois last year has proven inadequate; rather, it has stood me in good stead for this new journey on which I have embarked. So many things have stood out over the past quarter-year: my wonderfully supportive colleagues; my first reference shift; my first faculty meeting; having input into the library's collection development; observing, assisting with, and even teaching legal research classes; helping 1Ls navigate legal research databases; and the Friday afternoon when not one, but two students stopped by my office to ask reference questions.

In addition to my interactions with students and colleagues within the law school, I have been fortunate to socialize with them in other settings and to experience more of the Midwest. Oklahoma City was the site of my first Mid-America Association of Law Libraries (MAALL) annual meeting, where I met many of my fellow Midwestern law librarians, and happily reunited with some that I already knew. Three weeks later, when my brother in Beijing informed me that a 5.3 magnitude earthquake had struck Oklahoma, the disaster seemed more immediate, more personal, because I had recently spent time there for MAALL. Outside of professional venues, I have partaken of lunches, dinners, and my first Nebraska football game (televised, at a sports bar) with my co-workers, who are becoming (I hope) new friends in the process.

As spring makes its way to the Heartland, I look forward to continuing my adventure as a law librarian!

The Legal Writing Institute's The Second Draft is seeking submissions on the theme "Rethinking Research." The complete call is here: [Legal Writing Institute :: The Second Draft](#).

Specific suggestions include the following:

- The role of law librarians and other professors in teaching legal research;
- The continued relevance of teaching students to use print-based sources;
- Your favorite research assignment or exercise;
- Innovative ideas for advanced legal research courses;
- Strategies for locating and using non-legal sources; and
- Ways to successfully integrate legal research and writing.

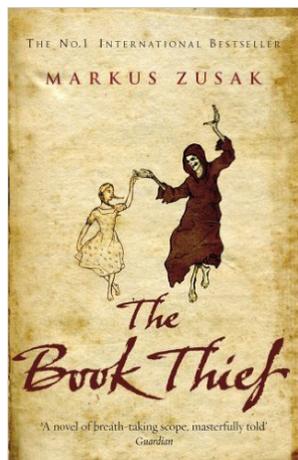
The deadline for submission is **March 14, 2017**.

MAALL BLUEBOOK WORMS BOOK REVIEW: *THE BOOK THIEF* BY MARKUS ZUSAK

Heather Simmons

Law & Business Reference Librarian, University of Illinois College of Law

“It’s just a small story really, about, among other things, a girl, some words, an accordionist, some fanatical Germans, a Jewish fist-fighter, and quite a lot of thievery.” <http://www.audible.com/pd/Fiction/The-Book-Thief-Audiobook/B002V00YSK>



The Book Thief is the story of Liesel Meminger, the daughter of a communist, who is sent to live with foster parents at the beginning of WWII. The book is narrated by Death, which allows the author many opportunities for creative foreshadowing. Liesel is struggling to learn to read, and although not a great reader himself, her foster father helps her. Because of an accordion and a relationship with a fellow soldier from WWI, he agrees to hide Max, a young Jewish man, in their basement. Liesel is sworn to secrecy—she can’t say a word about him outside their house, not even to Rudy, her best friend and fellow thief.

I had an experience a few years ago that made this real for me. I met a woman who had emigrated from Romania in the late 1970s. She explained that her mother, an American citizen, had been trapped there while visiting family just before WWII started. I said, “If your mother is American, how is it that you didn’t learn to speak English as a child?” and she replied, “You don’t understand, under communism, if any of us had spoken one word of English outside the house, very bad things would have happened.”

The writing in *The Book Thief* transports the reader to Nazi Germany—although written in English, it sounds like a translation. And by the end of the book you will be able to swear quite colorfully in German.

Bluebook Worms facilitators posted discussion questions on the MAALL website, in Forums—you can find the discussion thread here: <https://maall.wildapricot.org/page-1861930>. The Bluebook Worms also met virtually, via Uber Conference, on January 13, 2017. During the virtual book club discussion, some of the topics we covered were:

- Do we agree or disagree with the label “Young Adult (YA) for this book?”
- The relationship between Liesel and Max: I saw him as the replacement for the brother she lost at the beginning of the book; others saw a romantic relationship.
- The book vs. the movie.

Reading this book reminded me of a number of other YA books:

Diary of Anne Frank – Hiding from the Nazis during WWII

All the Light We Cannot See – Young girl’s adventures in occupied France during WWII

Anne of Green Gables – Endearing orphan works her way into the heart of a strict foster mother, and like poor Gilbert, will Rudy ever get his kiss?

Harriet the Spy – Breaking into other people’s houses

Terry Pratchett’s Discworld Series – Death is a character who, like this Death, is just doing his job

Here is a short interview with the author, Mark Zusak: <http://www.randomhouse.com/features/markuszusak/videos/>

Please keep an eye out for our next selection.

NINTH ANNUAL MORRIS L. COHEN STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION

The Legal History and Rare Books (LH&RB) Section of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), in cooperation with Cengage Learning, announces the Ninth Annual Morris L. Cohen Student Essay Competition. The competition is named in honor of Morris L. Cohen, late Professor Emeritus of Law at Yale Law School.

The competition is designed to encourage scholarship and to acquaint students with the AALL and law librarianship, and is open to students currently enrolled in accredited graduate programs in library science, law, history, and related fields. Essays may be on any topic related to legal history, rare law books, or legal archives. The winner will receive a \$500.00 prize from Cengage Learning and up to \$1,000 for expenses to attend the AALL Annual Meeting.

Winning and runner-up entries will be invited to submit their entries to *Unbound*, the official journal of LH&RB. Past winning essays have gone on to be accepted by journals such as *N.Y.U. Law Review*, *American Journal of Legal History*, *University of South Florida Law Review*, *William & Mary Journal of Women and the Law*, *Yale Journal of Law & the Humanities*, and *French Historical Review*.

The entry form and instructions are available at the LH&RB website: <http://www.aallnet.org/sections/lhrb/awards>. **Entries must be submitted by 11:59 p.m., April 17, 2017 (EDT).**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Susan M. Boland

MAALL President

Associate Director of Public & Research Services, University of Cincinnati College of Law

Wow, what a whirlwind the past few months have been! It seems like life is moving faster than ever and one crisis just follows another. Rushing around putting out fires is all well and good, but sometimes I have to stop and remind myself of the Ferris Bueller quote, “Life moves pretty fast. If you don’t stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.” I hope that you all take a moment or two to stop and look around.

One of the things that forces me to stop and look around in my professional life is attending conferences. Webinars and virtual communication have their place, but nothing beats the personal attendance and face-to-face engagement of attending a professional conference. I recently attended the Association of American Law School’s Conference in San Francisco and found it gave me a valuable chance to look at things from a non-library perspective. One of the programs that I found moved me the most was the session “Balance in Legal Education: Understanding and Connecting the Student Experience.” I have always had empathy for what the law students experience going through law school (and many a law librarian has ended up being a safe confidant for a frustrated or demoralized student), and the session made me think about what I do and all of the little ways that the law library can have a positive impact on student lives. While this conference and the session dealt with law schools, there is no doubt that understanding, connection, and balance (or lack thereof) also play a part in any law librarian or practicing attorney’s life. One resource from that conference that I want to pass along is The Law School Wellness Project, <https://law.stanford.edu/directory/joseph-bankman/wellness-project/>. The website and podcast are in its infancy, and it holds great promise.

The MAALL Luncheon and Business Meeting at the AALL Annual Meeting and Conference in Austin will be here

before you know it. It is scheduled for Sunday, July 16, from 12:45 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. I hope that all of you can attend! For those of you trying to find funding for the AALL conference, the AALL Annual Meeting Grant Awards Jury awards grants every year. The deadline to apply for those grants is April 1, 2017. More information and the application for the grants can be found at: <http://www.aallnet.org/mm/Member-Resources/grants/annual-meeting-grants>. Many of the AALL Special Interest Sections also offer grants. More information, applications, and deadlines can be found at <http://www.aallnet.org/mm/Member-Resources/grants/sis-grants>.



Photo by ThreecelfByBike

Also, don't forget that the 2017 MAALL Meeting in October will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The meeting will be a joint meeting with several other chapters: Chicago Association of Law Librarians (CALL), Michigan Association of Law Libraries (MichALL), Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin (LLAW), and Minnesota Association of Law Libraries (MALL). If you have further thoughts and suggestions for the next annual meeting or future annual meetings, please do not hesitate to contact me or Vice-President Therese Clarke Arado.

Speaking of connections, balance, and taking a moment to look around, in January, MAALL had its inaugural Bluebook Worms reading club selection. We held an UberConference discussion of *The Book Thief* as well as an asynchronous discussion of the book on the MAALL website. The next Bluebook Worms discussion will be in April and will feature a non-fiction book. Much thanks to Sabrina Davis and the editorial board of *MAALL Markings* for facilitating this. I hope everyone will join us in April for the next discussion!

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

Therese Clarke Arado

Library Deputy Director, Northern Illinois University College of Law

It is hard to believe this message is coming to you in the March issue—2017 is already moving too fast! By the time you read this, hopefully I will have communicated this to you in other ways, but I am happy to announce the theme of the upcoming 2017 Joint Annual Meeting is Better Together. The 2017 Annual Meeting, October 19-21, 2017, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, will bring together members from MAALL, Chicago Association of Law Librarians (CALL), Michigan Association of Law Libraries (MichALL), Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin (LLAW), and Minnesota Association of Law Libraries (MALL). It will be a great opportunity for us to learn from and network with members from all of these wonderful chapters.



Photo by Jeramey Jennane

If you have not already, I encourage you to submit a proposal for a program at the joint meeting. I am working with members from all of the chapters to develop a diverse range of programming that will appeal to all types of library environments. Having been in academia for many years, I am always looking for opportunities to learn from colleagues who work with our students after they leave law school. I hope this joint meeting will provide many opportunities for collaboration and education among members and chapters. If you are still on the fence about proposing a program or

have an idea you are interested in working on with colleagues from one of the other chapters but are not sure how to proceed, please feel free to contact me. I am happy to discuss program proposals or can help connect you with other members to see your idea become a reality.

May this message find you all happy and healthy.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the newest members of MAALL:

- Megan Allen, Case Western School of Law, Judge Ben C. Green Library
- David Bachman, St. Louis University School of Law Library
- Kenton Brice, University of Oklahoma Law Library
- Cheryl Cheatham, Case Western School of Law, Judge Ben C. Green Library
- Sara DeCamp, Littler Mendelson
- Deborah Dennison, Case Western School of Law, Judge Ben C. Green Library
- Andrew Dorchak, Case Western School of Law, Judge Ben C. Green Library
- Angie Eason, Case Western School of Law, Judge Ben C. Green Library
- Donna Ertin, Case Western School of Law, Judge Ben C. Green Library
- Jenny Ham, University of Oklahoma Law Library
- Doris Hooks Anderson, Case Western School of Law, Judge Ben C. Green Library
- Clifton Horhn, Case Western School of Law, Judge Ben C. Green Library
- Judith Kaul, Case Western School of Law, Judge Ben C. Green Library
- Jackie Lemmer, Littler Mendelson
- Rosanna Masley, Case Western School of Law, Judge Ben C. Green Library
- Krystin Mavity, Kutak Rock, LLP
- Jeannette Mazur, Case Western School of Law, Judge Ben C. Green Library
- Fran Milsk, St. Louis University School of Law Library
- Robert Myers, Case Western School of Law, Judge Ben C. Green Library
- Lisa Peters, Case Western School of Law, Judge Ben C. Green Library
- SaraJean Petite, Case Western School of Law, Judge Ben C. Green Library
- Amy Rowland, Littler Mendelson
- Larissa Sullivant, Robert H. McKinney School of Law Library
- Stan Wanicki, Case Western School of Law, Judge Ben C. Green Library

STATE MEMBER NEWS



Sidley Austin LLP

We're happy to announce the arrival of Lindsey Carpino's daughter, Madison Marie Corella, born January 5, 2017, at 10:32 p.m. Congratulations to the family!





Johnson County Law Library

John Pickett, who served as Library Director, retired in September 2016. John worked for over 16 years for the Johnson County Law Library. Thomas Marsh, formerly of Dentons US LLP, was hired in October as the new Director.

Kansas Supreme Court

Kansas Supreme Court Library welcomes Autumn Friedli, Reference Librarian. Autumn comes to us from the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library.

Michael J. Malone Douglas County Law Library

After fourteen-and-a-half years at the Michael J. Malone Douglas County Law Library in Lawrence, Kerry Altenbernd's position as Law Librarian is being replaced with a non-professional library manager position. His last day is March 31, 2017. From the librarians at Wheat Law Library: "Kerry has been the driving force at that library since the beginning. Besides running the library and working with the bench, bar, and public with their research needs, he has built & maintained the library's web presence, published monthly e-newsletters, and managed a free gallery space for local artists, among many other things. We will miss you, Kerry, and wish you well."

Wheat Law Library

We are humming along here. The Tech Services folks are making great progress on a cataloging backlog—admit it, you have one, too; faculty researchers and student publications staff are keeping us on our toes; and the front desk has been fully covered through sickness, moot court competitions, on-campus interviews, and "life-happens" moments thanks to the flexibility and good humor of our library staff and student assistants.

Littler Mendelson

Littler Mendelson celebrated staff members Jennifer Beckley, Erin Bleich, Jill Kilgore, and Jackie Lemmer who graduated from the Emporia State University Masters of Library Science program in December 2016.



St. Louis County Law Library

Lacy Rakestraw, director of the St. Louis County Law Library, has been assisting the St. Louis County Police Department with the development of an indexing system for their collection of vintage police books and pamphlets. Lacy recently received a letter of gratitude from the Police Chief of St. Louis County, thanking her for her expertise and recognizing her contributions to the project.



University of Nebraska College of Law

In January 2017, Emily Dust Nimsakont, Head of Cataloging & Resource Management at the University of Nebraska's Schmid Law Library, presented a webinar for the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) titled "Cataloging 411: Tools to Manage Materials in Today's Libraries." Emily and her co-presenter, Sarah E.M. Lin of Reed Smith LLP, introduced 164 webinar attendees to a variety of cataloging tools and resources.

Oklahoma City University School of Law

The Chickasaw Nation Law Library at Oklahoma City University School of Law created a Library Diversity & Inclusion Task Force to more fully integrate diversity, equality, and inclusion (DEI) into the library's resources and services. Our first project was creating a permanent, rotating collection of DEI books and



DVDs, which we are actively working to increase. We also started promoting DEI resources on a weekly basis. We are currently revising our Law Library Mission Statement and Collection Development Policy to incorporate a DEI focus, and we have more initiatives in the planning phase. If you have something similar at your library, we would love to talk to you! Please contact Sabrina Davis at sadavis@okcu.edu.

Effective July 1, 2017, Law Library Director Lee Peoples will begin serving as Interim Dean of the Oklahoma City University School of Law, while the school conducts a nationwide search for a new dean. During this time, Associate Director Jennifer Prilliman will serve as the Interim Director of the Law Library.



University of South Dakota, McKusick Law Library

The University of South Dakota Law Library is keeping very busy with collection projects, an upcoming integrated library

system (ILS) migration, and a whirlwind spring semester of teaching and reference. But we recently offered a fun (and much needed!) diversion on Valentine's Day, by setting up a photo booth for students, faculty, and staff to take a picture with their literary love—a favorite book. Students who tweeted their photo to the library's Twitter account using the hashtag #loveatfirstchapter were entered into a prize drawing.



A MOMENT WITH MALLCO

Corie Dugas

Mid-America Law Library Consortium Executive Director

MALLCO Welcomes the University of Wisconsin

At the start of the year, MALLCO welcomed the University of Wisconsin Law Library to its membership. We are thrilled to have another Wisconsin school with us. Steve Barkan, Voss-Bascom Professor of Law and Director of the Law Library, has joined the MALLCO Board of Directors. This membership transition has especially fortuitous timing as the MAALL Annual Meeting will be hosted in Milwaukee this year.

New Executive Board

At the January Board Meeting in San Francisco, now Past-President Joe Custer (Case Western) passed the gavel to the new MALLCO President, Allen Moye (DePaul). Allen will serve as the President through 2018. Heidi Frostestad Kuehl (Northern Illinois) has joined the Executive Board as the President-Elect through 2018 and will follow that up with a term as President from 2019-2020. Randy Thompson (Arkansas) will continue to serve as the Treasurer and D.R. Jones (Memphis) as the Secretary through the end of 2017.

During his term as President, Joe Custer established the Paper Presentation series at the MALLCO Pre-Conference. Among many other things, he also helped to set the collaborative partnership between Legal Information Preservation Alliance (LIPA), MALLCO, and NELLCO that turned into the LMN. This joint cooperation provides MALLCO

members with additional continuing education options; discounts on services, resources, and events; and access to future projects. Joe’s tenure on the Executive Board is much appreciated.

LawArXiv

MALLCO has an exciting, new project on the horizon. We will be teaming up with NELLCO, LIPA, and Cornell University Law Library to launch a legal scholarship open-access repository tentatively called LawArXiv. The boards of the three organizations approved plans to move forward in January, and an arrangement has been made to have Cornell as the host institution. The Center for Open Science is serving as the technology host for this project. Over the last year, COS and the Open Science Framework have partnered with and launched SocArXiv (Social Sciences), PsyArXiv (Psychology), engrXiv (Engineering), and ArgiXiv (Agriculture). More information about the current servers is [available online](#).

The LMN Steering Committee will be taking a lead role in the establishment of the governance structure and policies for the server. Allen Moye, Heidi Frostestad Kuehl, and I serve as MALLCO’s representatives to that committee and welcome any input from members.

The goal of this project is to strategically place law libraries in a position to provide scholars with open access and free resources for getting their scholarship online and accessible. Over the next months, we will be setting up standards for measurement and assessment within the site, recruiting scholars to post materials, and getting libraries on board with participation. You can expect to hear much more about this project soon, and I look forward to your participation and involvement in this exciting prospect.

LINKS TO AALL CHAPTERS & SIS PUBLICATIONS

The lists below were originally compiled by Lindsey Carpino for the *CALL Bulletin* and are reprinted with permission. (Broken links have been omitted.) The original post is available at <http://bulletin.chicagolawlib.org/2016/05/aall-chapter-sis-publications>.

AALL Chapter	Chapter Newsletter	Blog
Arizona Association of Law Libraries (ASALL)		AzALL Member Blog
Association of Law Libraries of Upstate New York (ALLUNY)	The ALLUNY Newsletter	
Atlanta Law Libraries Association (ALLA)	ALLA News	
Chicago Association of Law Libraries (CALL)	CALL Bulletin	
Dallas Association of Law Librarians (DALL)		Lex Scripta
Greater Philadelphia Law Library Association (GPLLA)	GPLLA News	
Houston Area Law Librarians (HALL)	HALL Quarterly	
Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin, Inc. (LLAW)	LLAW Briefs	
Law Librarians of New England (LLNE)	LLNE News	
Law Librarians of Puget Sound (LLOPS)		LLOPS Cited
Law Librarians Society of Washington, D.C., Inc. (LLSDC)	Law Library Lights	
Law Libraries Association of Alabama (LLAA)		LLAA Blog
Law Library Association of Greater New York (LLAGNY)	Law Lines	
Law Library Association of Maryland (LLAM)	LLAM Newsletter	
Michigan Association of Law Libraries (MichALL)	MichALL Newsletter	

Mid-America Association of Law Libraries (MAALL)	MAALL Markings	
Minnesota Association of Law Libraries (MALL)		MALL News Blog
New Jersey Law Librarians Association (NJLLA)		NJLLA Blog
New Orleans Association of Law Librarians (NOALL)	NOALL Latest News	
Northern California Association of Law Libraries (NOCALL)	NOCALL News	
Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries (ORALL)	ORALL Newsletter	
San Diego Area Law Libraries (SANDALL)	SANDALL Newsletter	
Southeastern Chapter of the Amer. Assn. of Law Libraries (SEAALL)	SEAALL Newsletter	
Southern California Association of Law Libraries (SCALL)	SCALL Newsletter	
Southern New England Law Librarians Association (SNELLA)	Obiter Dicta	
Southwestern Association of Law Libraries (SWALL)	SWALL Bulletin	
Virginia Association of Law Libraries (VALL)	VALL Newsletter	VALL Talk
Western Pacific Chpr. of the Amer. Assn. of Law Libraries (WestPac)	WestPac News	
Western Pennsylvania Law Library Association (WPLLA)	WPLLA Newsletter	

AALL Special Interest Section (SIS)	SIS Newsletter	Blog
Academic Law Libraries SIS (ALL-SIS)	ALL-SIS Newsletter	What's New
Computing Services SIS (CS-SIS)	CS-SIS Newsletter	CS-SIS Blog
Digitization and Educational Technology SIS (DET-SIS)	DET-SIS page	
Foreign, Comparative & International Law SIS (FCIL-SIS)	FCIL-SIS Newsletter	DipLawMatic Dialogues Blog
Government Documents SIS (GD-SIS)	JURISDOCS	
Government Law Libraries SIS (GLL-SIS)	GLL-SIS Newsletter	
Legal History & Rare Books SIS (LHRB-SIS)	LH&RB Newsletter	
Online Bibliographic Services SIS (OBS-SIS)	TSLL Newsletter	TSLL TechScans Blog
Private Law Librarians & Information Professionals SIS (PLLIP-SIS)	PLLIP E-Newsletter	On Firmer Ground
Professional Engagement, Growth, and Advancement SIS (PEGA-SIS)	PEGA-SIS page	
Research Instruction & Patron Services SIS (RIPS-SIS)	RIPS-SIS page	RIPS Law Librarian Blog
Social Responsibilities SIS (SR-SIS)	SR-SIS Newsletter	
Technical Services SIS (TS-SIS)	TSLL Newsletter	TSLL TechScans Blog

FROM THE EDITOR

Sabrina A. Davis, sadavis@okcu.edu

Reference Librarian & Law Library Professor, Oklahoma City University School of Law

Survey Says . . .

Starting with this issue, we will be including a brief survey of MAALL members in each MAALL Markings. If you have a survey question you want to ask, e-mail it to me at sadavis@okcu.edu. Going forward, surveys will be sent to the MAALL discussion list a week prior to publication, and survey results will be included in the next issue of Markings.

Column Cornucopia

I'm delighted to announce a new, regularly-occurring column for librarians in law firms called "AffIRMations," which is written by co-columnists Cynthia Brown and Allison Reeve, both at Littler Mendelson in Kansas City, MO. Cynthia and Allison also plan to utilize the expertise of their colleagues for this column by seeking information from guest contributors.

This column joins the three other columns introduced in our December 2016 issue: "Managing the Circus: Tips for Juggling Staff Requests, Patron Issues, and Your Own Needs," "Technical Services Talk," and "Dazed and Instructed." We are including e-mail addresses for all columnists to make it easy for you to provide feedback on what you read and give suggestions for future column topics. If you'd like to volunteer to guest write for a column, be sure to let the columnist know of your interest!

Also, if you have an idea for a new column, please let me know at sadavis@okcu.edu.

MAALL MARKINGS INFORMATION

MAALL Markings is published four times a year by the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries, a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries, and is a benefit of membership. The purpose of *MAALL Markings* is to publish news of the Chapter, selected news of AALL and other professional associations, MAALL members, as well as to solicit and publish articles to add to the body of literature in the profession of law librarianship. All articles are copyrighted and any republication or use of any portion of the content for any purpose must have written permission from the author/s.

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There are still a number of opportunities available to serve MAALL. Please contact Susan Boland at susan.boland@uc.edu if you would like to serve on a task force or committee.