



MAALL Markings

Mid-America Association of Law Libraries Volume 28, Issue 1 December 2018
MAALL.newsletter@gmail.com

ANOTHER MAALL-VELOUS ANNUAL MEETING IN MEMPHIS: REPORTS FROM THIS YEAR'S TRAVEL GRANT RECIPIENTS & PROGRAM REVIEWS

ENGAGE, EXPLORE, BREATHE, ACT, AND HAVE FUN WHILE YOU'RE AT IT

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Alas, my blue suede shoes did not make the trip, nor were they the only shoes I forgot. However, the 2018 MAALL Annual Meeting in Memphis still proved memorable from the airport, where I tried (and failed) to take Uber for the first time (pro-tip: download the app from home before you go), through the final lunch in the University of Memphis School of Law Student Lounge. Many thanks to the Grants Committee for facilitating my conference attendance.

For highlights, I have to focus on the programs. (Remember, materials from many sessions can be found [online!](#)) Every session I attended offered something valuable. The theme, *Develop a Winning Strategy*, lent itself well to the idea of incorporating game elements in instruction. Shannon Kemen's *Gamification in Legal Research* session addressed the theory behind gamification, its elements, and options for incorporating gamification into the classroom. She opened my eyes to how often we encounter gamification in real life, from step trackers to shopping rewards programs. The poster Blake Wilson and Chris Steadham created, *Gamification of the Legal Research Classroom*, nicely intersected, offering some excellent, affordable suggestions for prizes. Completing the trifecta, in *Winning at Library Orientation*, Creighton Miller and Barbara Ginzburg examined Washburn's Amazing Library Race program, which has proven incredibly effective at building relationships with 1Ls and legal writing faculty and casting the library as an accessible and even (gasp!) fun place to be.

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Susan Boland (left), Karen Wallace (center) and Allen Moyer (right) participate in a guided meditation in the "Learning to Exhale" session. It's not a bad thing if attendees are shutting their eyes in your session if you are meditating!

The concept of better patron engagement also took other forms. In *Keeping Up the Hype*, Jill Kilgore and Allison Reeve sold the idea of saying yes and trying new things, as long as you maintain a focus on the value to the organization. Jill and Allison discussed ways their library has tried to capture and connect people with otherwise ephemeral institutional knowledge. Sandy Placzek brought an obvious passion to a similar issue in her *Indexing the Nebraska Transcript* program. This student newspaper-turned-alumni magazine offers a treasure trove of insights into the University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Law, the legal profession, and the broader culture. However, in the absence of an index, you could only find these gems if you were lucky or devoted considerable time to browsing. Sandy is in the process of remedying that deficiency. Her session not only included fascinating images from the publication but offered its own treasure trove of tips on structuring and executing this kind of project.

The conference also reminded us to take care of ourselves, as well as our collections. Heidi Kuehl and Susan Urban's *Learning to Exhale* session not only included some simple mindfulness exercises a busy librarian can do to increase calm and focus, but also offered a number of examples of law school offerings related to mindfulness. This delightfully intersected with my own poster, *Answering the Call for Wellness in the Legal Profession*, which describes an initiative we have undertaken at Drake to encourage students to ask for help of all kinds, as well as a project for which I'm seeking a partner (could it be you I've been looking for? Email me!) to create a searchable database of wellness initiatives. Heidi and Susan's program opened with some very quick meditations, and it was amazing to me how much better I felt after such brief focusing exercises. That nicely dovetails with Lacy Rakestraw's program *Game On!* where she discussed using verbal judo to manage unpleasant patron interactions. Those techniques require you to stay focused and centered, while you try to redirect the patron, verbally defuse the situation, and seek voluntary compliance.

The programs also reminded me of the impact we can have in our greater communities. Both the *Book to Action* session, coordinated by Cindy Bassett, for which we read *The New Jim Crow*, and keynote speaker Prof. Demetria Frank raised issues of inequities in the

legal system and access to justice. Prof. Frank challenged us to reach out to the public, possibly partnering with public libraries, to provide legal research resources and present the institution of the law in a more positive light. While there is work to be done, the visit to the National Civil



MAALL librarians quietly explore one of the National Civil Rights Museum exhibits



Exhibit of protesters at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis

Rights Museum effectively showed the struggle to achieve the gains made over the years. Sadly, I could not help feeling that we are backsliding on some very important issues, such as voting rights. I heard little conversation in the exhibits, which I think demonstrates their power. Not just anything can shush a group of librarians. As you leave the exhibit, you join in the silhouettes of protesters, placing you in the activist role.

We can help improve the world via many different roads. For example, the generosity of MAALL members put 85 new books in the hands of Project STAND, which serves students transitioning from juvenile justice facilities back into school. I had the opportunity to talk with one of these students who helped accept the books on behalf of the organization. I asked if he was uncomfortable talking in front of groups, and he said that he just smiles through it and his nerves calm down. That seemed like another good self-care tip to me.

Invariably, all these conference ideas lead to the question of how I will find the time to implement, or even begin exploring, any of these practices. One solutions lies in increased efficiency, using some of the tools suggested by Leslie Behroozi, Sarah Kammer, Rebecca Lutkenhaus, Courtney Segota, and Susan Urban in their session *Winning Strategies for Tech Tool Success*. For instance, I learned that I could be doing a lot more with Microsoft Access, and have added Pixlr to my free image source list.

Finally, I can't talk about a MAALL meeting without noting what an uplifting experience I always have interacting one-on-one with other association members. From meeting new members, like Trevor Chandler and Pia Hunter, to sneaking in a cribbage game with Matt Timko and Cindy Bassett to presenting with Stefanie Pearlman, individual connections are always the best part of an annual meeting for me. I'm looking forward to seeing you next year.



Karen Wallace (left) and Matt Timko (right) enjoy a friendly game of Cribbage

MAALL EXPERIENCE FROM A GRANT RECIPIENT

Cindy Bassett, Electronic Services Librarian, University of Missouri Law Library, (bassettcw@missouri.edu)

In this season of gratitude, I want to send a warm thank-you to MAALL as a whole for extending the grant to me so that I could attend the MAALL meeting this year. I truly could not have attended without it and I continue to find the meeting invaluable for my personal and professional growth.

The theme of this article is going to be homework. Yes, you heard that right – homework. What does that have to do with the MAALL meeting, you ask? I'm glad you asked. Cast your mind back to your school days and remember your experience of homework. For some of us, it is a short trip as I spent my evening doing just that - reading cases about nominal and punitive damages for my Torts class. But for others, the experience might be more distant. Now, ask yourself – would you have read all the books you did in school if you did not have to do so for homework? Would you have thought as deeply about the topics presented in your classes if you did not have to write a paper on the topic? Possibly you would have, but for me, I probably would not. Having an assignment and a deadline, even if imposed from the outside, pushed me to learn more about a topic and to learn it more deeply than I would have on my own. And I was better for it.

Similarly, when I engage with a professional conference like our MAALL meeting, I learn more than if I simply attended without bringing something to the table. Of course, there is more value in both than if I had simply stayed at home. But when I sign up to facilitate a discussion or present on a topic, my brain is more actively engaged and I learn more. I benefit even when ostensibly I am the one that is there to share my knowledge with others. It can be uncomfortable in the moment to do the work, but the benefits are worth it.

I use the term “personal and professional growth” deliberately. I cannot separate one from the other. When I grow professionally by attending and presenting at the MAALL meetings, I also grow personally. My friend circle gets a little wider with each new interaction and conversation I have. This year, I reconnected with long-time friends and made new ones (if you can call getting skunked in cribbage “making a new friend”)! I learned more about how to be a better instructor for my students by talking with those who are also instructing and, in the mix, got to catch up with those friends. I signed up to lead a book discussion on a very hard topic and came away enriched by the depth of compassion and dedication to service of our members.

I’ve spent quite a lot of time over the last few years thinking deeply about conferences such as this one and their continued viability in an era of shrinking support for them, both from vendors and our institutions. I am proud of the work that MAALL librarians have done to keep this conference a vital, living one that members want to come back to for their personal and professional growth. I continue to be convinced that there is an ineffable quality to face-to-face connection that cannot be replicated by online interactions.

So, my homework assignment to you, my dear MAALL friends, is this: put yourself in a position to do a little homework in whatever way that might look like for you. Maybe it is joining a book club, writing an article, or agreeing to present on a topic. We will all benefit.

DEVELOPING A WINNING STRATEGY WHILE WALKIN' IN MEMPHIS

Megan Donald, Access Services and Reference Law Librarian, Mabee Legal Information Center, University of Tulsa College of Law, (megan-donald@utulsa.edu)

Memphis, Tennessee. The historic city of blues, soul, and rock ‘n’ roll. And, most recently, host to furry critters Marbury and Madison, and this newly minted law librarian. I was selected as a travel grant recipient for the 2018 MAALL Annual Meeting, and am very grateful I had the opportunity to attend. As I approach my one-year anniversary of shifting from community college librarianship into law librarianship the conference theme of “Develop a Winning Strategy” resonates with me. I always knew law librarianship was a fun and unique field, with demands and challenges different from what other academic and public librarians face, but after the Annual Meeting I also know just how inclusive and supportive this community of librarians is.

During the Annual Meeting I attended all of the Paper Workshops, curious to hear about the fascinating research occurring at other law libraries. From learning about the FCPA, to the impact artificial intelligence has on providing effective counsel, to the history of the Case School of Law Library, to ethical concerns about public wifi networks, I was surprised at just how varied the research topics were and the mixed methods of data collection. It was impressive and inspiring – I have a few research ideas of my own that I hope to pursue one day.

One of the most impactful sessions for me was “Learning to Exhale: Simple Mindfulness Solutions for Every Law Library.” I am no stranger to the benefits of meditation and mindfulness, but I do need frequent reminders

to employ these strategies during my busy workday. Heidi Frostestad Kuehl and Susan Urban gave an excellent overview of the mindfulness activities and services so many law libraries now offer. Upon returning to Tulsa I promptly checked out *The Anxious Lawyer* and have started recommending it, along with the Headspace app, to stressed-out law students. As meditation and mindfulness continue to gain traction in library settings, I hope to engage in it more at my library and with the law students. Developing a consistent mindfulness practice has been a boon to my work productivity and general happiness; I would love to extend that gift to law students by building a strong mindfulness book collection and offering a quiet space to decompress.

In the words of the great Otis Redding, one of my favorite Memphis musicians, “Always think different from the next person. Don’t ever do a song as you heard somebody else do it.” As I embark on my second year of law librarianship, equipped with new knowledge gained from the Annual Meeting and backed by a supportive community of professionals, I plan to help develop a winning strategy for my law library. A new song, just as unique and innovative as the population of law students the Mabee Legal Information Center serves. It was a pleasure to attend the Annual Meeting and I look forward to seeing everybody again next year.

PROGRAM REVIEW: “DEVELOPING A WINNING STRATEGY FOR LIBRARY FACILITIES MANAGEMENT IN THREE EASY STEPS . . . WELL, MORE THAN THREE, BUT WHO'S COUNTING . . .”

Shannon Kemen, Reference Librarian, University of Cincinnati Law Library, (shannon.kemen@uc.edu)

Presenters:

- Sandra B. Placzek, Assoc. Director and Professor of Law Library, Schmid Law Library, University of Nebraska College of Law
- Candle Wester, Assoc. Director of Faculty Services & Administration, Univ. of South Carolina School of Law

This very helpful program discussed how to plan for problems that may occur in your library when dealing with physical aspects of your building, like providing maintenance, repair, cleaning, and other forms of upkeep. Many of us may take for granted the day to day workings of our library but what happens when someone spills food on the carpet in the Federal Room and it needs to be cleaned or there’s an “out of order” sign on the library’s restroom? These problems need to be addressed in order for the library to continue to run smoothly.

When dealing with facilities management issues, it was recommended that you first determine who at your institution should be called to handle the problem – is it Facilities Management, Grounds Maintenance, Housekeeping, Project Services, or another department? Also, in your library you need to determine who will manage the calls to the facilities management department – is it one person or a team of people who will share the responsibility for reporting these maintenance requests? Next, determine who will pay for handling the problem – the library or the University? As general rule, it was suggested that Universities would typically pay for custodial maintenance (unless it was outside of the normal maintenance schedule) and building upkeep. However, Universities would only sometimes pay, or would request estimates and department payment, for building system maintenance.

Some of the suggested tips for improving your facilities management experiences included:

- Communicating and building relationships with the people working in facilities management departments
- Keeping a log of all reported facilities management issues for future reference

Additionally, the speakers also discussed the practical realities of who controls the daily use of library space. Encouraging flexibility, the speakers recommended inviting others to use your library space in ways that you think will be the least disruptive. They even suggested showcasing the library, librarians, and staff, when possible. However, they also stressed that the library is primarily a study space for students; advocating that point on behalf of students was recommended when a suggested event in the library would be disruptive to the student experience. Also suggested was trying to restrict select library spaces as student-use-only to preserve a quiet space for students.

MAALL TRAVEL GRANT REPORT: DEVELOP A WINNING STRATEGY

Pia M. Hunter, Research and Instruction Librarian, University of Illinois College of Law, (huntress@illinois.edu)

In August 2018, I joined the faculty at the University of Illinois College of Law Library. After speaking with my colleagues, I quickly learned that the MAALL Annual Meeting was an event that I must attend. After the first day of meetings, I understood why this particular conference was recommended so highly: MAALL members are gracious and welcoming, and the conference presented me with the opportunity to meet and learn from law librarians who work in a variety of areas. The theme for this year's conference was "Develop a Winning Strategy," and that has been my focus since starting my career as a law librarian. I am excited about developing new programs at my home institution, and the conference sessions and one-on-one talks with other law librarians helped me to both refine and expand my goals.

The conference sessions were both informative and timely, and I appreciated the opportunity to talk with presenters at breakfast and lunch events. How often do you attend a conference where you have built-in opportunities to dine with so many of the speakers? The MAALL membership is comprised of people who collaborate easily and are excited to share information, and the quality of the programs reflects their spirit of innovation and collaboration.

The "Gamification in Legal Research Instruction" session provided creative ideas to help students engage with legal research. I hope to try some of those strategies in the class I am teaching next semester. Three of my colleagues presented the session, "Cracking the Code: Teaching the Value of Legal Citation." Two weeks later, I partnered with one of them to deliver a much appreciated Bluebook session to our 1L class.

Data has become a buzzword that appears in many aspects of daily life, but questions linger about how to collect and manage data in ways that can benefit our institutions. "The "Effectively Tracking & Using Data" session explained why we need data, what data we should collect, and how successfully interpreting that data can inform our decision making. "Using Microsoft Access to Organize Information" gave me some insight about the capabilities of Microsoft Access, and made me consider how to use Microsoft Office and other software applications more effectively. The "Challenging Conventional Wisdom: Conducting Empirical Research to Help Yourself and Others" session inspired me to develop my own empirical research study. I don't have a topic yet, but I am excited about the possibilities.

My reflections about these sessions represent the information I am likely to use in the immediate future. Listing all that I learned during the conference would require much more space as an overview of the poster sessions and one-on-one talks could consume several more pages. I offer my sincere thanks to the MAALL Travel Grants Committee for awarding me the grant that helped me to attend this meeting. My attendance at MAALL was a fitting welcome to law librarianship, and as a new member of the MAALL community, I look forward to future meetings and collaborations.

Photos from the 2018 Annual Meeting in Memphis



Above: Engaging with vendors in the Exhibit Hall



Left and above: Photos from the National Civil Rights Museum



The Mississippi River from downtown Memphis



Above: Books donated to Project STAND by MAALL members; Below: Keynote luncheon at the University of Memphis School of Law



Beale Street in Memphis



Left: From L to R, Steve Richardson, Anne Robbins and Courtney Segota; Right: Rob Myers (left) and Allen Moye (right) engage in a lively discussion



Save the date! The 2019 MAALL Annual Meeting will be held in St. Louis, MO from October 17-19, 2019. We hope to see you there!

DAZED & INSTRUCTED

Matt Timko, Academic Technologies and Outreach Services Librarian and Assistant Professor, Northern Illinois University College of Law, (mtimko@niu.edu)

WHY SHOULD I ASK QUESTIONS?

Recently I heard Fastcase CEO Ed Walters say that the number one skill students should leave law school with to succeed in an increasingly technological legal profession is the ability to always ask “why.” This ability is seen in a completely different universe involving modern railroad workers. A story on Chicago radio addressed the attitudes of modern railroad workers and their predecessors. The modern workers want to know “the why” behind policies, procedures, and practices. This is quite different from the past where workers simply accepted and applied the required policies and procedures, and did not question practices. This tracks with similar anecdotal information that the current generation of employees wants to have a personal stake in the work they do, such that the “why” of their job is just as important to them as the “how.” You may ask yourself, why is this important? Because if there is so much “consensus” that the current generation of employees and law students want and need to understand the “why” of their profession, why is it so darned hard to have them ask questions!?

As a legal research instructor, I tell students 5-50 times a week that if they have any questions about the subject matter, requirements, or principles of the course (or any other questions) to never hesitate to ask me. Yet, I receive relatively few questions, and when I inquire as to why, I am given excuses such as “I worry asking questions will suggest I’m having trouble with the material,” “I prefer to figure these things out on my own,” or – my personal favorite, “I don’t want to bother you with silly questions.” My responses to each of these concerns, respectively, are “it is exactly the opposite,” “that is a bad idea,” and “it isn’t a bother... it is my job.” I’ve done as much as possible to stress to the students that any question will be respectfully considered and answered without judgment, and in a timely manner. And yet, the questions do not come.

Do not get me wrong: I believe that students should be self-motivated to find the answers for themselves, but the simple fact is that most first semester students simply cannot exercise basic legal research skills without help – this is why the course is offered almost universally in law school. I go so far as to tell my students the content in the course is not easy, but with practice it will make more sense to the point that it will become intuitive, if not automatic. Part of this practice is to ask questions; especially since I know they have questions or are confused about something. Another tack I take is to assure them I would rather they be safe and ask a silly question than assume they know what they’re doing and go astray, which will have longer lasting consequences than the “embarrassment” of asking a silly question. But beyond this shorter term outcome are three fundamentally more important reasons.

First, as Ed Walters pointed out, students should be curious about the content they are learning. My impression is that students are so overwhelmed by the complexity and breadth of legal information being introduced to them, that they assume the source of that information (primarily professors) must be right and should not be questioned. Poppycock! Asking the "why" of the source will almost always reveal a more nuanced and deeper understanding of the concepts than a class lecture or case brief. This leads to the second reason: if you are unclear about the "why" from the lecture, the professor needs to know that. Contrary to popular myth, professors are not infallible, and at times, are imperfect conveyors of information. If I give a lecture and many students leave that lecture confused, the problem is not with them, but with my presentation. It does not serve me or them to continue along in a way where they will be unable to properly digest the information they need to learn, and asking questions is the quickest opportunity for revealing these oversights in the professor's method.

Finally, questioning the "why" of anything, and in particular the law, is more essential than ever before, since it will ensure that students – future attorneys – will not merely accept the law as is, but will question whether the law is as it should be. Fostering curiosity in students ensures that things do not remain unchanged simply because they have always been so, and instead challenges conventional wisdom through critical evaluation of whether things are operating as effectively, efficiently, and justly as they should be. A colleague at the recent MAALL annual meeting kept claiming (I believe only half-jokingly) that she was "starting the revolution." Toward that sentiment, there is no easier way to "start the revolution" than by simply encouraging people to ask "why."

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

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I'LL TAKE MY CRAP SANDWICH WITH A SIDE OF INSINCERITY

Giving anyone criticism is hard, be it your significant other, your mom, or your employee. Sometimes it can feel mean to point out when someone is doing something you dislike, or just plain wrong. To avoid that uncomfortable feeling, we often try to soften the blow, or avoid it all together in some instances.

It's avoidance by softening that I want to address. There is a managerial approach of giving negative feedback that has become known as the crap sandwich. The idea is that the manager puts the piece of criticism between two pieces of positive feedback in order to make the criticism easier to mentally digest.

An example: "Steve, you've done such a great job placing book orders recently. I would prefer that you handled the invoices faster, but once you do finally get them done fiscal tells me they are flawless!" See the sandwich? Positive + Negative + Positive = crap sandwich.

Okay, so why such a crappy name for such a well-known management concept? It's because this method of providing either criticism or positive feedback gets lost in the sandwich. If the criticism is serious enough that it causes the manager to feel the need to address it with her employee, chances are it is worthy of its own discussion and the positive feedback flanking it causes that message to be diluted. In the above example, the manager really should have pulled Steve aside and told him the issue with his invoice processing. As is, Steve likely missed the part where his manager is telling him to process invoices faster. On the other hand, Steve may have hyper-focused on the criticism, causing him to doubt the sincerity of the positive feedback.

The crap sandwich approach can make employees weary of any conversation with their manager that starts with positive feedback. They may immediately wonder “Is criticism coming?” And rightly so, if the manager has employed the positive + negative + positive method of communication for all employee interactions. This method takes the sincerity out of both types of feedback, taking away any shot an employee has at hearing the feedback clearly.

Because employees may begin to doubt the sincerity of the manager’s feedback, it’s likely that they won’t act to improve performance problems. One can’t improve on what one doesn’t know. This can lead to frustration when the manager doesn’t see improvement, when they feel that they have communicated employment issues that they need to see improved.

What is a manager to do to effectively communicate feedback then, without employing the crap sandwich? To start, a manager can provide in-the-moment feedback. Instead of waiting for annual review time or a monthly meeting, the manager can discuss issues (good or bad) right after they occur. This will result in more employee discussions, clearly. But by giving feedback throughout the work experience, managers get used to providing both good and bad feedback, and employees get used to hearing it.

AFFIRMATIONS

Jill Kilgore, Research Librarian (JKilgore@littler.com) & Jackie Lemmer, Assistant Librarian (JLemmer@littler.com), Littler Mendelson, P.C.

HOLIDAY WOES

The holidays are here again! They happen every year like a dark cloud looming in the middle of your gloomy and cold season (some people call it winter). Your responsibilities just doubled and your wallet suddenly feels a lot lighter. One reason that wallet may feel lighter is because your library wants to celebrate. They want to have a staff party/potluck and decorations. To say no would make you the Grinch, though to participate means adding your wallet to the holiday bonfire. The following list should give you guidance during these dreary days:

1. Decorations

Some people love the holidays so much they decorate their desks for the holidays. The festiveness and happiness that radiates from these decorations is alarming. Tinsel should not cause happiness. Some libraries may even have a competition to see who decorates the best. This is your chance! Use this opportunity to overdo it! Take a note from the Jim Carrey movie, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, and steal a traffic light to sit on your desk, surrounded by millions of Christmas lights. Make sure your desk blinds people who look directly into it. If you can knit, knit a snowman hat for your computer monitor. Make sure this hat covers the top part of your screen so you may also use it as an excuse to not see the first half of everyone’s emails. It might be a good way to miss meetings. Depending on your preferred holiday, you may want to invest in a large blow-up menorah that coworkers will have to walk around to get to their respective desks.

With these decorations no one will see you as a Grinch. Most likely your boss will ask you to tone it down for the next year. Which means everyone will sigh with relief when the following year you simply put a little Santa hat on your figurines that already adorn your desk.

2. The Potluck

Most libraries I have worked in love to do the staff potluck as the Holiday Party. These are usually very fun and full of good cheer. However, if you are the one hosting your family holiday party, the addition of another

thing to cook can feel like a lot. There is an easy way to get out of this responsibility. Sign up for a dessert or something that has to go into the oven for the potluck. When preparing the item you may take one of two options: 1) burn it to a crisp, or 2) use this opportunity to experiment. “Wait, you have never put candy canes in meatloaf before? Now sounds like the perfect time to try it!” Spend the day bragging about your dish – this way people won’t want to tell you how much they don’t like the peppermint meatloaf you brought. I would be willing to bet the following year the potluck sign-up sheet magically misses your desk.

3. The ultimate way out of your holiday festivities!

All joking aside, if you are going to lighten your wallet, there are better uses for your resources. The best way out of your holiday festivities is to redirect where the money is going. Approach your manager and talk about maybe going light on the décor and the potluck, and asking people to apply the money they would usually spend on their office obligations toward a charity. Even better, suggest a volunteer event in lieu of your normally scheduled potluck. [Comfort Cases](#) is an organization I recommend to either gathering items for or volunteer for by packing backpacks. This is an organization dedicated to helping children in foster care. Without access to necessities, foster kids are forced to carry their belongings from home to home in a trash bag. This organization provides backpacks and necessities so the foster children can move around with more dignity. The holidays are all about maximizing the stuff you own, so you might as well maximize stuff for kids with minimal belongings. Since we are librarians, another charity your office might enjoy supporting would be a book drive. You can always contact local schools and see if they need any specific books or donate to an organization like [Books for Africa](#).

This option is probably your best option as it is a win, win, win. You win by helping those who need it; everyone wins when they are not forced into holiday festivities; and the charities win because they now have your support. In all seriousness, most charities collect most of their yearly donations during the holiday season (as many public libraries are aware). Libraries are dedicated to providing for our communities by providing knowledge or access to important resources that might normally be out of the average person’s price range. The holiday season is a fantastic opportunity to show our communities how dedicated we are to serving them and how well we understand their needs.

So this holiday season, be the Grinch in disguise. Promote the spirit of the season by promoting helping others.

MOMENT WITH MALLCO

*Susan Urban, MALLCO Executive Director, Head of Access Services,
Oklahoma City University Law Library, (seurban@okcu.edu)*

MALLCO has had a busy few months! Starting in September, we co-hosted a grant writing webinar series with NELLCO and LIPA. The two-part series covered both grant prospecting and grant proposal writing and wrapped up in mid-November. The recordings for both sessions, plus slides and other materials, are available on the [MALLCO website](#) under the “Education and Events” tab. I was able to attend the second session, and it was very worthwhile! I look forward to hearing about our member libraries receiving grants to assist in their continued provision of excellent service to our patrons!

In October MALLCO hosted a breakfast and Thursday morning sessions at the MAALL Annual Meeting in Memphis. With our paper workshops, we got to hear about the research of three members of our community.

Our roundtables were well-attended and provided an outlet for librarians to share best practices and work through common issues with colleagues. MALLCO also hosted three general MAALL sessions relating to data

tracking, wellness, and ALLStAR. I want to extend a big thank you to the team at Memphis for being great hosts and I am looking forward to MAALL in St. Louis next year.

Finally, speaking of MALLCO roundtables, we are seeking three new interest group chairs for the coming years. The main responsibility of each Chair is to facilitate the roundtable session at MAALL each year. Chairs may also facilitate discussions via their MALLCO listserv. Please let me know if you are interested in taking on one of these roles. We are looking for Chairs for: Acquisitions and Collection Development, Reference and Faculty Services, and Resource Sharing.

On a personal note, I got married on November 18 and am writing this from a tapas bar on the La Rambla in Barcelona on my honeymoon. Don't worry, I'm not neglecting my new husband too much; he's busy playing with his fancy new selfie stick.

MALLCO ACQUISITIONS AND COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT INTEREST GROUP ROUNDTABLE REPORT

Needra Jackson, Associate Law Librarian for Collections, University of Missouri Law Library, (jacksonn@missouri.edu)

The 2018 MALLCO Acquisitions and Collection Development Roundtable, held on October 11, 2018, had 10 attendees (1 law firm, 1 department of corrections, and 8 academic librarians). I originally sent the interest group a series of three topics for possible discussion:

1. Due to the continuing reduction in many law library budgets, many law libraries have seen the resurgence and expansion of cancellation projects.

- What are some of the materials that the law library is cancelling?*
- Are you considering the cancellation of any of your electronic resources?*
- Are you continuing to maintain your monographic collection?*
- How do you keep the law library collection from becoming dated?*

2. How are you prioritizing your workflows when you have a reduction in personnel?

- How is your law library balancing the need to participate in new law school initiatives when personnel are already feeling stressed because of added workloads?*
- What techniques are you using to keep personnel engaged with the law library mission and to keep their positions relevant?*

3. With more emphasis on departments working collaboratively, have you joined with the main campus library to do any joint projects?

- If you have had these types of discussions, what do you think the overall impact will be on the law library's future?*

However, the interest group went in another direction, with lively discussion about the following topics:

1. How do you remove catalog records from your online catalog when there is not specific coding in the records to allow you to easily locate these records? Some suggestions were:

- to use student assistants to review individual records for removal;

- to see if the records have a HeinOnline URL; and
 - to use microfiche records with SuDoc numbers to identify records.
2. There was a general discussion about the increase in the cancellation of loose-leaf services.
 3. The question arose as to whether law libraries were still retaining regional reporters. Most of the responses were in the negative for the National Reporter System and attendees only kept state-specific reporters.
 4. The next topic dealt with the removal of library stacks to repurpose the space for different uses, i.e. student study space, experiential learning environments, or use by other departments outside of the law school.
 5. Also discussed was how many law libraries purchased textbooks for the use of law students. The responses varied from not at all, to only for required courses, or at the request of a professor. Most agreed that the addition of study aid packages from various vendors had alleviated some of the financial stress of keeping print copies in the collection.
 6. The last moments of the session were spent discussing collaborative efforts with the main campus library. Most of these collaborations were with providing campus wide access to specific electronic resources.

The discussions and interactions of the attendees was very stimulating and exactly what a facilitator of a roundtable wants to occur. I would like to thank all of the attendees for making my job easier. I believe that the attendees gained some useful strategies for issues that were occurring in their law libraries and gained an awareness that their questions and problems are not unique but similar to those encountered by their colleagues.

Respectfully submitted,

Needra L. Jackson

Needra L. Jackson, Chair

MALLCO Acquisitions and Collection Development Interest Group



Interest Group Chair Needra Jackson and other MAALL Annual Meeting attendees participate in the MALLCO Acquisitions and Collection Development Interest Group Roundtable

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Karen Wallace, Circulation/Reference Librarian, Drake Law Library, (karen.wallace@drake.edu)

As we get ready to ring in another calendar year, the new MAALL year is already underway. The Education and Local Arrangements Committees are working hard to provide a valuable 2019 Annual Meeting in St. Louis. Other committees too, are gearing up for their work. Thanks to all who have volunteered to serve on one or more MAALL committees. If you have not already volunteered for a committee, I encourage you to do so through the prominent link to the committee volunteer form on the [committee page](#) or this [direct link](#). One of the greatest benefits of MAALL is its outstanding networking opportunities. Serving on a committee is a great way to get to know other members better while also contributing to the organization and enhancing your resume. Please consider volunteering.



President Karen Wallace, pointing to our strong future at the MAALL Business Meeting

This year I primarily want to look to the future, finding ways to ensure the continued strength of our 45-year-old organization. To that end, the executive board is reviewing the results of the survey distributed earlier this fall to explore ways to contain annual meeting expenses while maintaining the elements of the conference that most benefit members. In addition, we have already transitioned from the old discussion list platform, for which we would have incurred charges this year, to Google Groups. Additional information about the new list can be found at <https://maall.wildapricot.org/Discussion-List>. Finally, please note that this year a vision planning task force will build on the work of the 2016 task force to develop goals that MAALL can accomplish

over the next three years. As of this writing, there is still room for more voices on this special task force. Please consider whether this might be a good fit for you.

As we close out 2018, I hope you all find time for rest and rejuvenation, enabling you to greet 2019 with energy and enthusiasm for continuing to serve your patrons and contributing to the profession. If you have any suggestions, comments, or concerns about MAALL, please feel free to share them with me. I look forward to working with you all over the coming year.

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

Lacy Rakestraw, Law Library Director, Saint Louis County Law Library, (Lacy.Rakestraw@courts.mo.gov)

Hello MAALLers! I can't believe it's already been two-ish months since we were in the beautiful city of Memphis! If you didn't have the opportunity to visit the National Civil Rights Museum while you were there, I encourage you to check it out on a return trip. It was very moving. Great job 2018 Local Arrangements Committee on scoring that space for us!

I'm happy to announce that the theme for the 2019 Annual Meeting in St. Louis is "Get in the Spirit!" For those of you wondering if the 2019 meeting is being held in St. Louis because I'm this year's Education Committee chair, rest assured that it was a completely happy accident. That said, I couldn't be more excited to work with this year's Local Arrangements Committee, since we're all in the same great city! St. Louis has so much to offer visitors, and MAALL has so much to offer our members in terms of programming.

And speaking of programming, I'd love to get even more members onboard the Education Committee to help plan our next conference program. If you're interested in serving and just haven't gotten around to submitting your volunteer form, please do so ASAP. Everyone is invited to share their ideas for the upcoming conference, and the more input we receive, the better-rounded the conference will be.

And while you're sitting at your desk reading this, open your calendar and mark down October 17-19, 2019. You've got a date with MAALL in St. Louis those days to Get in the Spirit!

Hope everyone has a wonderful end-of-year season, and wishing everyone the best New Year!

STATE MEMBER NEWS

Northern Illinois University

Kate Hartman and Pam Sampson at the Northern Illinois University, David C. Shapiro Memorial Law Library, drew out the Halloween spirit from the law library collection. The books dressed up for the day as judges, artists, pirates, doctors, and superheroes. The display was a welcome diversion for students during a hectic time of the semester.



Books in costume at the Northern Illinois University, David C. Shapiro Memorial Law Library



Wheat Law Library

It was great spending time with you in Memphis! We're happy our Circ/Serials Manager, Jeff, is back to work with us. Classes and finals are now behind us. Where did the semester go?!

Shook, Hardy & Bacon, L.L.P.

Janet McKinney has joined the PLLIP-SIS 2019 Summit Committee and now serves on the Communications sub-committee.

Littler Mendelson, P.C.

Littler Mendelson happily welcomes Tyler Brown as a new Assistant Librarian. We're glad to have you!



Nebraska

Creighton Law Library

Challenge accepted! Creighton Law Library staff Jessica O'Dowd and Erin Dunkleman were challenged to decorate the library's book drop for Halloween. They decided to go one step further and use study aids for the decorations. Who knew study aids were so decorative in nature? (No study aids were harmed during the making of the display.)



University of South Dakota McKusick Law Library

The last few months have sped by at the McKusick Law Library! After a summer field trip to visit government libraries and agencies in Pierre, suddenly Halloween was upon us, with mysteries to solve in the stacks. The staff dressed up as the characters from Clue this year. November was busy with teaching, including three special Lunch and Learn sessions by Head of Instructional Services, Courtney Segota, on topics ranging from HeinOnline to "fake news" and voting research. The snow is now on the ground and our book tree is up and decorated. Happy holidays!



The staff visiting the State Capitol in Pierre, SD. From L to R: Law Library Director & Assistant Dean, Eric Young, Head of Technical and Collection Services, Sue Benton, Head of Instructional Services, Courtney Segota, and Head of Public, Faculty & Student Services, Sarah Kammer



The library staff and law student GAs dressed up for Halloween as the Clue characters. Pictured here, with their respective weapons, "in the library."

Happy holidays and best wishes for a wonderful 2019 from all of us at MAALL Markings!

The holiday tree at the USD McKusick Law Library



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, and 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.

Publication Schedule:

Issues are published in March, June, September, and December. Submission deadlines for each issue are:

December (No. 1): November 15

March (No. 2): February 15

June (No. 3): May 15

September (No. 4): August 15

Editor-in-Chief: Lacy Rakestraw

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The Mid-America Association of Law Libraries assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by the contributors of its publications. Editorial views do not necessarily represent the official position of the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries or AALL.

LINKS TO AALL CHAPTER & SIS PUBLICATIONS

The lists on the following page 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 Links/Newsletter	Blog
Arizona Association of Law Libraries (AZALL)		AzALL Member Blog
Association of Law Libraries of Upstate New York (ALLUNY)	ALLUNY Website	
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)		
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 Website	
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 Website	
Northern California Association of Law Libraries (NOCALL)	NOCALL News	
Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries (ORALL)	ORALL Newsletter	
San Diego Area Law Libraries	SANDALL Newsletter	
Southeastern Chapter of the Amer. Assn. of Law Libraries (SEAALL)	SEAALL Website	
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 Website	
Virginia Association of Law Libraries (VALL)	VALL Newsletter	VALL Talk
Western Pacific Chpr. of the Amer. Assn. of Law Libraries (WestPac)	WestPac Website	
Western Pennsylvania Law Library Association (WPLLA)	WPLLA Website	
AALL SIS	SIS Links/Newsletter	SIS Blog
Academic Law Libraries SIS (ALL-SIS)	ALL-SIS Website	What's New
Computing Services SIS (CS-SIS)	CS-SIS Website	CS-SIS Blog
Digitization and Educational Technology SIS (DET-SIS)	DET-SIS Website	
Foreign, Comparative & International Law SIS (FCIL-SIS)	FCIL-SIS Website	DipLawMatic Dialogues Blog
Government Documents SIS (GD-SIS)	JURISDOCS	
Government Law Libraries SIS (GLL-SIS)	GLL-SIS Website	
Legal History & Rare Books SIS (LHRB-SIS)	LH&RB Newsletter	
Legal Information Services to the Public SIS (LISP-SIS)	LISP-SIS Website	
Online Bibliographic Services SIS (OBS-SIS)	OBS-SIS Website	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 Website	
Research Instruction & Patron Services SIS (RIPS-SIS)	RIPS-SIS Website	RIPS Law Librarian Blog
Social Responsibilities SIS (SR-SIS)	SR-SIS Website	
Technical Services SIS (TS-SIS)	TS-SIS Website	TSLL TechScans Blog

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Website Committee

Chair: Matt Timko
Webmaster: Ayyoub Ajmi
Members: Matt Braun, Jackie Lemmer & Jeannine Linnane

There are still a number of opportunities available to serve MAALL. Please contact Karen Wallace at karen.wallace@drake.edu if you would like to serve on a task force or committee.