CALL Bulletin

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Dear CALL Members,

By the time this issue reaches you, we will be at or near the end of another calendar year. For many of us, this quiet time offers a period of rebirth and reflection marked by new vows and new learning opportunities. It is in that spirit that we offer the 2011 Winter CALL Bulletin. For this issue we decided to pause and focus upon what is new in terms of legal resources in our common jurisdiction, Illinois.

This issue offers a range of perspectives on recent changes in the world of Illinois legal research and what law librarians today are currently working on. Jean M. Wenger from Cook County Law Library offers her thoughts on what county law libraries do today and on what their future might hold. Borrowing from his work for the Illinois State Bar Association, Tom Gaylord offers a look at some recent changes to Illinois official government website. Michael Robak weighs in with an insightful article on researching Illinois workers’ compensation claims.

With reference to changes in technology and new resources, Todd Ito provides insight into AALL’s National Inventory on Legal Resources as it relates to Illinois resources. Patricia Scott recounts her group’s experience with the recent Illinois State Library’s ILEAD U (Illinois Libraries Explore, Apply and Discover) program to assist librarians in implementing new technologies to reach new generations of library users. Finally, Claire Willis and Tom Keefe summarize recent projects to digitize important Illinois historic and legal material and offer examples as to how these may be used for future legal research projects.

As always, the CALL Bulletin is pleased to supply infor-
Dear Colleagues,

As I’m writing this column, the leaves are changing and falling and the air is turning crisp. It reminds me that the season is quickly changing to winter and makes me ponder all of the changes that law librarians confront in our profession. We experience periodic changes in the way that we do business, legal information formats that we purchase, law library facilities that we work in, and ways that we transmit information and communicate with each other. As law librarians, though, I’d like to think that we are well prepared to handle the various changes in this technology-driven and ever-changing world of legal research and also changing notions of library services in varying types of law libraries. Law librarians always seem to be intrigued about new technologies and ready to address unexpected changes because we are specialists in creating order. Perhaps in this changing season you can think about a new change in your organization that you would like to take a leadership role in and contribute to making the transition more seamless as a result of your skills as a law librarian. Our profession and all law librarians, in general, have many invaluable skills and expertise to contribute when confronting changes in our workplace. I must thank Sheri Lewis for helping me coordinate the brown bag session last summer at AALL on “Adding Value to Your Organization: Non-Traditional Roles for Law Librarians.” It was an interesting panel of speakers and opened up a nice discussion of the myriad roles that law librarians take on in their different types of organizations.

At the first CALL business meeting on September 23rd at Lloyd’s Chicago, many CALL members attended and heard our CALL Internet Committee Co-Chair, Debbie Ginsberg, speak about our new social media initiatives. Please see the summary of the business meeting and Debbie’s presentation later in this issue of the Bulletin. CALL now has a LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter account, and we are using these technologies to communicate with all of our members who are interested in using social media to connect with other CALL members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Internet Committee, especially co-chairs Debbie Ginsberg and Frank Lima, and the Public Relations Committee, especially co-chairs Alina Kelly and Pat Sayre-McCoy, for working on the social media projects and continuing to enhance our web and social media presence. These technologies will provide exciting mediums for collaboration and sharing information among members. Special thanks also to Jill Matulionis and Maribel Nash, our Meetings Co-Chairs, for all of their work planning the first business meeting and the venue with delicious food.

Our CALL Strategic Planning Committee, Pam Cipkowski, Frank Drake, Sheri Lewis, Vanessa Nelson, and Gretchen Van Dam, have already been working hard this year on our strategic planning efforts for 2011-2016. Thank you to all of the members of the Strategic Planning Committee for their time and detailed planning for the future of CALL and identifying clear strategic planning goals for the Board to implement. The Strategic Planning Committee will continue its work throughout the year. We really appreciate the Committee’s detailed development of tangible goals for the next five years of our organization and all its hard work. I would also like to thank all of the members of the CALL Nominations Committee, including Chair Sheri Lewis, for the fine slate of candidates for our 2011-2012 election that will be held next Spring.

Our wonderful Community Service Committee continues to offer opportunities for our members to help others by
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President’s Letter cont. from p. 3

contributing to excellent charitable organizations. Our hard-working Community Service Committee Co-Chairs, Kevin McClure and Susan Sloma, have organized collections at each of our business meetings and are also soliciting the input of members for worthy charitable organizations throughout the year. Please consult the news and events section on the CALL website for more information about CALL’s Community Service initiatives: http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/call/index.html.

As you read this Winter issue of the CALL Bulletin, I’d like to also thank our fantastic Co-Editors, Thomas Keefe and Margaret Schilt, for their great work so far this year. I also encourage all of you to thank them for diligently soliciting authors, interesting articles, and creating a vibrant publication that can make each CALL member proud. I learn something from every issue of the CALL Bulletin and appreciate the many contributions of all of our members!

As we are approaching the end of the calendar year, I find myself trying to catch up and organize my schedule for the next year. It reminds me how much time Board members devote to our CALL service, and I truly appreciate all of the wisdom of our Board members and the many hours that they spend analyzing issues and contributing to the overall operation of our association. I would like to thank the whole CALL Board: Juli, Denise, Gretchen, Julie, Gail, and Todd for their numerous hours working with our CALL Committees as liaisons and all of their work during our Board meetings this year. I am grateful for their fantastic input and valuable contributions to our Association by serving on the CALL Board.

This all brings me back to change. We are experiencing changes in our ways of operating and communicating in CALL and within our own organizations at work. Take time during this season for new ways of thinking about change in your work and perhaps embrace the change while planning for ways of addressing the changes throughout this year. Law librarians can spearhead change and offer a unique perspective because we are inherently organizers, categorizers, catalogers, technology specialists, and create order for all types of information. I am looking forward to all of the CALL activities and events yet to come during 2011.

I wish you a very happy holiday season as we welcome the New Year! Best wishes,

Heidi

Editors’ Letter cont. from p. 2

information from our excellent team of columnists. In Tech-Buzz, Therese Clarke Arado recaps a presentation that she and fellow CALL member Sharon Nelson gave at the annual Mid-America Association Law Library meeting on their efforts to create a current awareness source portal. In Working Smarter, Sharon Nelson compares and contrasts two of the leading time and life management books, Julie Morgenstern’s Time Management from the Inside Out and David Allen’s Getting Things Done. Last but not least, for the first time in this issue we sent our new roving student reporter, Loren Turner, out to assess the differences among Illinois library schools, the schools from which most of us graduated.

We aimed to produce an issue that provides reading of interest for all members and hope we have achieved this goal. This issue is anchored by the thoughtful and inspired words of our president and by loyal members like Denise Glynn and Valerie Kropf who help members keep track of the daily work—meetings, budgets, job changes etc. --that form the better part of our Association’s daily existence. We thank all of our contributors for their efforts in making this CALL Bulletin issue a record of our lives, or at least a slice of it.

Reminder from the CALL
Grants and Chapter
Awards Committee:

CALL Grants are available throughout the year.

Please see the CALL website for Grant Criteria and an application.
Ninety-one people attended CALL’s first business meeting of the year, September 23, 2010. The meeting, sponsored by Law Bulletin, was held at Lloyd’s Chicago. The guest speaker was CALL member Deborah Ginsberg. She introduced CALL’s entry into social media. CALL President Heidi Kuehl introduced new members Katelin Anderson, Loren Turner and Sarah Glassmeyer. Vice President/President Elect Juli Jackson introduced and thanked Law Bulletin for their sponsorship of the meeting and LexisNexis for donating the gift cards.

Debbie Ginsberg, Educational Technology Librarian at Chicago-Kent, spoke about incorporating social media into CALL. Debbie explained how Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn can be used not just for personal reasons, but by organizations to market to potential members, to keep current members informed, and to provide additional member services. Debbie also introduced CALL’s social media plan.

CALL now has a Facebook page (http://www.facebook.com/CALLChicago) which we will use to post upcoming events and other information about CALL. Pages differ from typical Facebook profiles in that they are specifically designed for public entities like businesses, celebrities, educational institutions, and organizations like CALL. Facebook users click the “Like” button on Pages to receive updates. Note that “liking” a page doesn’t mean that the page owners can see any personal information about the user. CALL already has over 40 “likes,” but be sure to stop by and click the “like” button if you haven’t yet had a chance.

Updates to CALL’s Facebook page will automatically also be posted to Twitter (http://twitter.com/callchicago). For those not familiar with Twitter, it is a site where users can post short status updates of 140 characters or less. Typical status updates on Twitter include interesting links, breaking news, and information from libraries and other organizations. Other Twitter users then choose to “follow” their favorite Twitterers and track these updates on the web or using a special desktop program like TweetDeck. By posting our Facebook status updates to Twitter, members and others who are on Twitter can follow CALL there as well.

Finally, CALL has formed a LinkedIn group. LinkedIn is a social network used to connect professionals. On LinkedIn, users post online resumes describing their current and past positions, their education, and professional accomplishments. Users then “connect” to other LinkedIn users, forming a virtual professional network. LinkedIn also lets users connect as “Groups.” Using Groups, users who are who are not directly connected but share a particular interest (like libraries) or characteristic (like alumni of a school) can start discussions, post job openings, and contribute other information. CALL now has its own LinkedIn group, which members can join (http://www.linkedin.com/groups?mostPopular=&gid=3417602).

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CALL Executive Board Minutes
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The slides from this presentation are available at: http://bit.ly/callsnpresentation.

Three committees made announcements. Community Service thanked everyone for their generous donations of school supplies for the Chicago Public Schools’ Educational Support for Students in Temporary Living Situations, monetary donations for the Anti-Cruelty Society, and pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. The Continuing Education Committee announced plans for a library tour of the Cook County Law Library. Please watch for upcoming announcements with all the details. Also, the Committee will have an Institute Day in May 2011. Public Relations announced the next CALL-Up event being held October 12, 2010 at the Elephant and Castle located at State and Lake. President Kuehl announced the next CALL Business Meeting to be held November 17, 2010 at Maggiano’s. The door prize drawing followed and the meeting adjourned about 1:10 pm.

Again, thank you to Law Bulletin for sponsoring the meeting and LexisNexis for donating the gift cards.

All photos courtesy of Julienne Grant.
AN UPDATE ON ILLINOIS LEGAL RESEARCH

As the Call Bulletin Committee discussed potential themes for the Winter 2011 issue, it became apparent to us that the scope and sources for conducting legal research in Illinois were changing at a dizzying pace and that these changes provided us with the perfect opportunity to step back and reflect on what is new, what is different, and what we might expect to see just around the corner in terms of Illinois legal research. We solicited articles touching on any and all aspects of Illinois legal research. The following articles provide guidance on the new and changing sources for conducting Illinois legal research and on law librarians’ efforts to capture these sources and make them more readily available in conducting legal research in Illinois. We hope you enjoy them.

AN UPDATE ON ILLINOIS COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

By Jean M. Wenger,
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Editors’ note: What follows is a mock interview with Jean M. Wenger regarding the current and prospective role of Illinois’ county law libraries with a special focus on Cook County.

I hope the article will be of interest to members especially newer members not familiar with county law libraries.

1) What is the landscape for public county law libraries in Illinois?

County law libraries in Illinois are created by state statute, 55 ILCS 5/5-39001. Illinois has 102 counties but not all counties have a law library. However, CALL members benefit from having access to several law libraries in northeastern Illinois staffed by professional law librarians, notably, Cook, DuPage, Lake, Kane, and Will.

The Cook County Law Library opened on September 6, 1966 and is the first free, public law library for the legal profession and citizens of Cook County. In 1961, the Illinois General Assembly enacted legislation enabling counties to establish a public law library at the county seat of government. The initial legislation excluded Cook County. The Board of Commissioners wanted a county law library open to the legal community and the public. The legislature amended the county law library legislation to include Cook County and in September 1963, the Board of Commissioners passed a resolution establishing the Cook County Law Library.

Prior to the establishment of the Cook County Law Library, practitioners had access to the Chicago Law Institute, a shareholder law library, housing one of the most extensive legal collections in the country. Unable to sustain its membership with the opening of the Cook County Law Library, on December 6, 1965, the Institute agreed to transfer its unique collection to the County for the sum of ten dollars. The Cook County Law Library continues to maintain, preserve, and expand upon these unique collections.

Additionally, the Illinois statute permits the establishment of branch libraries. Cook County Law Library has seven branches located in outlying and suburban courthouses. The branch libraries have smaller, locally-focused collections and access to our public access electronic subscriptions, such as Westlaw, LoisLaw, and HeinOnline.

2) How are county law libraries in Illinois like Cook County Law Library funded?

The same legislation providing for the establishment of county law libraries also provides a means of funding. The cost of establishing and maintaining a law library continued on p. 9
An Update on Illinois County Law Libraries
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is the responsibility of the county and is offset by the collection of a law library fee as part of the civil filing fee. The statute provides for a base law library fee of $2.00 per filing with the authorization for a county to increase the fee up to a statutory maximum.

Pursuant to Public Act 96-227 (eff. August 11, 2009), the statutory maximum was increased from $13 to an amount not to exceed $18 in 2009, $19 in 2010, and $21 in 2011. In Illinois, implementing an increase in the law library filing fee is a two-step process. The state enacts legislation increasing the maximum fee and individual counties must pass an ordinance increasing the local fee up to the statutory maximum. The Cook County Board increased the law library filing fee in the county to $18 effective May 2010. (See 10-O-19.)

3) I know the library provides a full range of services from hosting historical documents to providing coverage of other states and free patron-access Westlaw, but what are your most popular/most utilized resources among practicing attorneys?

The most utilized resources are those that directly support the practitioner. Practice and procedure materials are hot items including the IICLE handbooks, specialized Illinois litigation materials and formbooks, both transactional and procedural. Other heavily-used resources are court rules, jury verdict reports, and topical services in such areas as bankruptcy, real estate, procedure (state and federal), and workers’ compensation.

One heavily used resource is the Chicago Municipal Code, which I annotate with the latest amendments as printed in the Proceedings of the City Council. Our local documents collections for Illinois, Cook County, and Chicago are also frequently consulted. Practitioners rely heavily on our extensive collection of superseded state and federal statutes. In addition to Westlaw our other electronic subscription services, HeinOnline and LoisLaw, are also popular with attorneys and the public.

Practitioners in Cook County have an increasing need for foreign legal materials (primary and secondary) especially in the area of commercial/business law, litigation, and family law. We have recognized this need and have actively expanded these collections. Patrons also have access to the subscription service Foreign Law Guide for sources of codes and legislation.

4) Have you seen changes in patron traffic patterns in the last couple of years?

Several trends have emerged in the last few years. Attorneys are accepting a greater range of cases, many outside their comfort zone. The law library provides a wide variety of legal subjects enabling these practitioners to expand their services. An increasing number of attorneys are using the law library because they have canceled their in-house subscriptions due to the economic downturn. This trend is particularly prevalent for solo and small firm practitioners. Larger firms continue to rely on Cook County for our historical statutory materials, secondary resources, and foreign law titles. We have also seen an increase in newer attorneys being directed to begin their research at Cook County as a cost saving measure. Before conducting electronic research, they utilize our specialized treatises from multiple publishers to gain an understanding of the legal issues involved in their case.

Cook County Law Library has always been a resource for self-represented litigants. Given the challenging economic times and with cuts in legal aid, the number of self-represented litigants using the law library has grown in recent years as many try to tackle their cases pro se. Law librarians provide access to the collection by providing referrals to important resources and information on using the publications. Reference librarians do not provide legal advice.

5) What do you see as the role of public law libraries, like Cook County Law Library, in the future?

Public county law libraries will continue to be a major gateway to legal information and ultimately access to justice for many in Illinois and across the country. They are integral to the foundation of a democratic society.

At Cook County, we are finalizing steps to bring in the Innovative Interfaces Millennium integrated library system. Staff is excited about the expanded functionality and the ability to provide a web-based library catalog for our users. We are also exploring greater accessibility to our special collections with technological improvements.

Public law libraries are also looking to provide additional services to enhance the research experience for our users. The main library at the Daley Center has free wireless and is developing a document processing center for users to draft and develop forms and pleadings.

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An Update on Illinois County Law Librarians

As we review and evaluate our collections, we continue to integrate print and electronic resources in an environment of rising prices. We consider ourselves a print repository but seek to expand our electronic subscriptions to provide greater access in all locations and to balance and complement our collection.

I believe county law libraries have a role in preservation and digitization projects for fragile print and born digital documents. Many county law libraries hold unique items focusing on the practitioner and the practice of law. With our knowledge, experience, and collections, county law librarians need to focus on government resources especially at the state, county, and local level. Regulations, reports, studies, and other resources necessary to the practice of law are items of particular interest. Partnering with other libraries, government agencies, and academia for digitization and preservation projects will be crucial to the future availability of these resources.

WHAT’S NEW AT ILLINOIS.GOV?

By Tom Gaylord,
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If you’ve been to the State’s homepage recently, you probably noticed that it underwent a major redesign. The site has a more modern, sleeker appearance, and has made it somewhat easier to find news and services. This month, we’ll take a spin around the new Illinois.gov and see what it has to offer.

Front and center, the new site has helpfully placed the information users will most want to see, including “Online Services,” “Your Government,” “How do I?”, and “Quick Links.” Some of these provide redundancy, but that is not always a bad thing, as it often allows users the ability to find what they’re looking for despite which choice they make.

Looking at “Online Services,” we see a wide range of interactions that Illinoisans can have with their government in an online environment. Among legal practitioners, the potentially helpful options include direct links to searching for a bill or resolution at the General Assembly’s site, birth and death records ordering, e-filing court documents, business name searches and renewals, and many more. Thus, the page aggregates services from many agencies and components of the state government, freeing up time from having to track down the relevant agency website. You can even find out which movies filming locally are casting for extras, in case you want to be in the next Soderbergh film.

“How Do I?” is an extremely long list of explanations for how to anything from adopting a highway to requesting the governor’s attendance at an event. The breadth and depth of the list is admirable, but it is arranged alphabetically (meaning that there are twenty entries, for instance, that begin with “Apply for…”). Thus, if the question can be asked in a variety of ways, it might take some time to find the question in the list. This could be made much better if it were arranged topically. As it is, perhaps the best way to find an answer would be to use your Web browser’s “find on this page” function and search for a keyword. As a lot of the questions on the list are often questions asked by low-income clients, this page could be especially helpful to attorneys working in clinics or handling pro bono cases. Note also that the questions are not always directly answered. For instance, “How do I find a bill, resolution, act, or statute?” does not tell the user how to find anything, really, but merely leads the user to the Illinois General Assembly’s page for the Illinois Compiled Statutes. Thus, in that case, only one of the four types of documents (statute) is being addressed by the answer, and only partially at best.

“What’s New at Illinois.gov?” has three links that would be most helpful to practitioners: “Directories / Contacts,” “Forms,” and “Agencies.” “Directories / Contacts” is pretty straightforward, but the list itself could use a little more beefing up. Also, some of the links are obscured by the use of
The Chicago Association of Law Libraries Invites you to a library tour of THE COOK COUNTY LAW LIBRARY On Friday 14 January 2011 From 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM

The Cook County Law Library is located on the 29th Floor of the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 West Washington Street in Chicago.

The Library is open to the legal profession and the public and is a premier resource for U.S. and foreign legal materials in multiple formats.

The cost for this tour is $5.00 and is payable at the time of the tour. All checks should be made payable to CALL. The tour is limited to 15 attendees and the CALL No-Show and No Walk-In policy [http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/call/noshow.html](http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/call/noshow.html) will be in effect. Preregistration is required and can be completed at [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Q7H6TSY](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Q7H6TSY).

A CALL-Up networking event will take place after the tour at 5:30 pm. More information will follow closer to the event, and all are welcome.
generic labels. For instance, what will I find if I click on “Districts and Officials”? If you guessed the address form to figure out who my elected officeholders are and which legislative districts I live in, congratulations. “Forms” provides links to agency websites that have forms available for citizen use. Although this list is alphabetical the way the “How Do I?” list is, it is a much shorter list, and agency forms are grouped together, such as “Illinois Labor Relations Board Forms.” Thus, this list is much easier to browse to find the relevant materials, as although it is alphabetical it has almost the appearance of being arranged topically. “Agencies” is simply linked to the same A-to-Z agency listing that existed on the former site. That said, although there is nothing here that appears to be new, it is a quick mechanism for finding the Website of the agency one needs.

Finally, there’s at least one other link of note that might be helpful for practitioners. All the way at the bottom of the page (which no one scrolls down to see, unfortunately), there is a “Popular Links” heading. Most of the links here are repeated from above, such as “Online Services.” One that is not, however, is “FOIA Contacts,” which links to a pretty comprehensive list of contact information for Freedom of Information Act requests arranged by agency. Additionally, also at the bottom, but opposite “Popular Links” is “Stay Informed,” which includes a link to all of the State’s RSS feeds (I’ve discussed RSS feeds in the past; if you use an RSS reader, such as Google Reader, this is an easy way to follow news coming out of a particular agency or agencies; over 60 feeds are available).

The State has done a mostly good job of streamlining its homepage and making it more accessible for both citizens and lawyers alike. I often get asked where to find a particular government document or form, and the answer is almost always to go to the source. It’s understandable that oftentimes people would try to avoid going to a government agency to get what they need, but steps like these make it a lot less painful to do so when the need arises.

Illinois Workers’ Compensation Commission Decisions cont. from p. 12

Industrial Commission) have been in existence since 1913, the directive for Commission decisions’ role as precedent was not established until 1981.

Two excellent law review articles provide context for PA 81-1482, the legislation which added language to the statute directing the Commission to provide detailed findings and publish the decisions so they would become “precedent for Arbitrators”.

The Illinois Workmen’s Compensation System: A Description and Critique, by Douglas F. Stevenson, 27 DePaul L. Rev. 675, a 1978 article, provides an excellent perspective on the state of workers’ compensation laws at that time. Mr. Stevenson, at the time he wrote, was a senior partner at Rooks, Pitts, Fullagar and Poust. According to a July 29, 1976 Chicago Tribune article, he had testified before the Illinois Commission on Labor Laws advocating the elimination of the five commissioners of the Illinois Industrial Commission (the predecessor of the IWCC).

Mr. Stevenson’s 1978 article presents a number of concerns about the worker’s compensation system. He uses such language as “the system is about to choke,” “it is illusory to claim that the public has been insulated from the cost of these workmen’s compensation benefits,” “Illinois producers are at a disadvantage with respect to competitors from other states,” etc. I make no judgment on the empirical soundness of the arguments he presents but the article clearly stands as an incredibly detailed summary of the system as it stood in 1978 by someone who had a deep knowledge of all the moving parts.

Particularly intriguing is the description of the administrative process which, even in 1978, was clearly “still planted” in the late 19th century. As Stevenson saw it, a major desired change was the need for the Commission to publish written summaries of the evidence and findings of fact and law. (Stevenson, 690). Stevenson notes:

“The only order received by the parties at the Industrial Commission is a one-page document reciting the ultimate statutory findings. From such a document, no one can tell whether the arbitrator had discerning judgment, noticed particularly significant pieces of evidence, or merely flipped a coin. All decisions look just alike. Such a shield can conceal incompetence. Worse yet, it permits an arbitrator to reward friends and punish enemies with little fear of detection…. Even more puzzling is how arbitrators and com-
Illinois Workers’ Compensation Commission Decisions cont. from p. 13

Despite the reduction in published opinions, Commission decisions have been published since 1981 creating a large body of precedent. As one commentator has noted, “for evaluating disabilities, the Commission decisions are probably the most informative source of precedent.” (Workers’ Compensation Practice (Illinois), IICLE, 2009)

To give a better sense of why the Commission decisions outweigh Court opinions consider these statistics from the 2008 Commission’s Annual Report describing the process funnel: Commissioners issued decisions in 1,500 cases. Of these, only about 30% were appealed to the Circuit Court. Of those, only about 100 decisions were then appealed and resulted in an opinion from the Appellate Court. And of those intermediate appellate court decisions, only about 5% were appealed to the Supreme Court yielding between 1-5 Illinois Supreme Court opinions.

So, to bring us back to the body parts: if a workers’ compensation case involves a particular part which is damaged in a particular way, say fractured zygomatic arch, the attorney would want to find cases decided by the Commission involving a fracture of the zygomatic arch which has facts and circumstances similar to his client’s case. The Commission “requires that precedent be cited” and so finding cases is crucial for the attorney to both evaluate the case and then make a presentation to either an Arbitrator or the Commission.

And this, finally, brings us back to the Q-Dex. An attorney can perform the searches for Commission decisions using the Illinois Worker’s Compensation Commission web site (http://www.state.il.us/agency/iic/ ) and both Commission and Court decisions are available on LexisNexis and Westlaw. But, because there are potentially a number of factors and circumstances which may determine the relevant precedent, the databases lack search robustness. The better source for research is Q-Dex, a unique research tool for Illinois workers’ compensation cases.

Q-Dex is published by the Damien Corporation located in Naperville, IL. (www.qdex.com). The Q-Dex is a shortened name for “A Quick Index to Illinois Worker’s Compensation Decisions”. Those librarians who regularly research Workers’ Comp issues are most likely quite familiar with the Q-Dex. For those of us who use this reference resource intermittently, it can be a bit daunting as a resource. However, its structure and depth of information places it at the top of the heap for researching workers’ compensation cases. Q-Dex offers both a print and online version. The current print version of Q-Dex is divided into 12 “chapters” (Prior to 2006 there were 15 chapters) “each of which related to a primary issue in workers’ compensation law”. (Q-DEX User’s Guide 1). The chapters are “further organized alphabetically by issue, sub-issue, condition, and cause or body part.” Indeed, Chapter 6, Nature & Extent, is a listing of body parts and loss of use, among other data elements.

After working with the Q-Dex one can see why this is a dream resource for any attorney with a workers’ compensation case. The Commission and Court decisions have been meticulously and exquisitely taken apart, sliced and diced, so the totality of the information from the precedential decisions is made searchable on a number of different levels and in a number of different ways. It is a unique and incredibly useful resource. I’ve only had occasion to use the print resource so I can only imagine how powerful the online version’s search capabilities are.

As a final note, regardless of the tool one uses, a key to searching is understanding the numbers associated with the cases. At the IWCC, the initial filing is assigned a WC#. The WC# is a combination of year and filing sequence, e.g., Case # 02 WC 15413. If the Arbitrators’ decision is appealed to the Commission, then it receives an IIWC #. (Prior to 2005, the IIWC was the Illinois Industrial Commission and therefore there would be an IIC#). This number consists of the year designation and sequence, e.g., 03 IWCC 0779. However once the case proceeds to Circuit Court, Intermediate Appellate Court and Supreme Court, the court docketing number replaces the administrative docketing information and you must rely on the party names for the search.

Illinois workers’ compensation case research can appear complicated at first blush. But, with some understanding of the precedential material, and with a guide like Q-Dex, it can be a less bloody process than initial appearances suggest.
“Ignorantia juris non excusat” is one of the bedrock principles of our legal system: the notion that not knowing the law does not exempt one from punishment for violating the law. Yet, even in today’s information-saturated environment, it can be very difficult for the average citizen to locate the law even if she is willing to seek it out. In states where statutes are made freely-available online, such as the Illinois Compiled Statutes, they are often accompanied by a lengthy disclaimer stating that they have “NOT been edited for publication, and are NOT in any sense the ‘official’ text of the Illinois Compiled Statutes as enacted into law” (capitalization in original). The disclaimer goes on to state: “The accuracy of any specific provision originating from this site cannot be assured, and you are urged to consult the official documents or contact legal counsel of your choice. This site should not be cited as an official or authoritative source.” After reading such conditional language, one almost wonders why they bother to post the statutes at all.

Such is the state of affairs in the state of Illinois. When you get beyond the state level and down to the county and municipal level, where some primary legal information is not available online in any format, the picture becomes even grimmer. To some degree, the intention of AALL’s National Inventory of Primary Legal Materials is to determine just how grim the situation is. This effort builds on the work done by Erika Wayne at Stanford University’s Robert Crown Law Library and Carl Malamud of Public.Resource.org to record information about all primary legal resources at every level of government.

To that end, the AALL Government Relations Office has organized working groups for every state plus the District of Columbia with the ambitious goal of completing the National Inventory by June 30, 2011, so that we can celebrate this accomplishment together at AALL’s Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

In the state of Illinois, that means accounting for 102 counties and over 1000 municipalities, in addition to all of the state-level resources. It is a huge project, to say the least, but also a very important one. It is AALL policy that the public have no-fee, permanent public access to digitally authenticated online legal information at all levels of government. The situation is especially dire now, as many states, Illinois prominent among them, are facing serious budget crises, and as a result, may make short-sighted decisions, such as eliminating an official print legal resource or charging fees to access it electronically. We need to communicate to officials the long-term risks and costs related to the preservation of electronic information. The National Inventory is the first step in this process, so that we can get a comprehensive account of the current state of affairs and then determine how to proceed. Once we have data for all fifty states, D.C. and the Federal government, the results will be analyzed and used as needed by experts who will be working with LAW.gov, the Law Library of Congress, and our AALL public policy committees.

Logistically, this involves filling out a detailed spreadsheet hosted on Google Docs that includes information about publication, currency, authentication, and so on for each resource. Volunteers can do as much work as they are able or willing to do. The Illinois Working Group appreciates any help that we can get. CALL members should also feel free to recruit any other librarians, attorneys, or law students who might be interested in this project. Volunteers should contact Todd Ito at tito@uchicago.edu and Emily Feldman of the AALL Government Relations Office at efeldman@aall.org.

Law librarians know that strong legal research skills are essential to the development of attorneys’ careers. Yet even the most dedicated law students and new attorneys can find those skills difficult to master. Often they cite...
a lack of hands-on practice time and a still-developing sense of how to use various legal sources in concert with each other as reasons for their low confidence levels when tackling research assignments. In turn, that can lead to an unfortunate tendency to favor certain forms of sources over more useful alternatives, or to a desire to avoid much of legal research altogether.

As librarians, we recognize these realities among our students and young attorneys, and we constantly encourage them to seek our help. Those efforts meet with varying levels of success. Yet how often do we step back to evaluate the methods that we use to provide that help? Do we seek out and experiment with developing technologies that give us new ways to reach our legal researchers?

“ILEAD U”
Throughout most of 2010, a group of Chicago academic law librarians participated in an innovative Illinois State Library grant program, “ILEAD U: Illinois Libraries Lead, Explore, Apply and Discover,” that challenged us to do just that. Funded through a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian grant by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, ILEAD U is a three-year program designed to foster strong technology and leadership skills in Illinois librarians. Our team, originally christened Chicago Legal Information, was one of eight teams chosen for the inaugural year of the program. Participation required us to spend eight months, including 3-day “immersion” sessions in Springfield, February, June, and October, accessing our library users’ information needs and habits and then using Web 2.0 participatory technologies to design and implement an online community to respond to them.

Based on our experiences as academic reference librarians and legal research instructors, our team quickly focused its ILEAD U project on the legal research needs of law students and new attorneys. Armed with vast anecdotal evidence about their information needs, we designed our early steps to learn more about their information habits, in particular the technologies they gravitate toward when seeking information.

Survey
One major step was designing a concise survey, administered through SurveyMonkey, that was completed by 62 out of 150 law students. A few surprising results from that survey showed us that the conventional “wisdom” that students are all tech savvy and have short attention spans can be misguided. Among those results:

Research via smart phones hasn’t taken hold yet. The number of respondents who access web content on their phones (36.2%) is about equal to the number who use desktops (37.9%) to do that. An overwhelming number (98.3%) use their laptops. No respondents regularly read web content through RSS feeds.

In one of our most surprising results, most respondents (43.1%) think the ideal length of time for an educational tutorial is 5 to 15 minutes. The second largest group of respondents (29.3%) believes that 15 to 30 minutes is ideal. Contrary to what we expected, only 19% like the idea of 2 to 5 minute tutorials.

A combined 63.1% follow or would consider following a school or library through Facebook, but Twitter is a different story. While 21.3% would consider using Twitter to follow a school or library, a far greater number (76.6%) would not even consider the idea.

Despite law librarians’ efforts at outreach, the largest number of respondents (26.8%) ask a classmate or co-worker for help when they run into problems while researching. Another 23.2% try to find the answer online, while the third largest group (17.9%) seek out a law school librarian.

Technology
While learning about our users’ habits, we also entered a steep technology learning curve in which we explored the ins-and-outs of content management system options (for example, Drupal and WordPress), learned some basic PHP coding, tested equipment and software (such as Flip cameras, Snowball microphones, Camtasia, and Snagit) and evaluated an array of participatory technologies available for creating online communities. Those include:

- Blogs
- Photo Sharing
- Podcasts
- RSS Feeds
- Videos
- Virtual Reference
- Web Conferencing
- Wikis

Inspiration
During the ILEAD U immersion sessions, we also heard from inspirational speakers, including our lead instruc-
Illinois Libraries Lead, Explore, Apply and Discover cont. from p. 16

them in their work are changing at a lively pace. Programs such as ILEAD U offer an unusual opportunity to explore and apply those tools.

Notes: Chicago Legal Information/Lincoln Lawgs Team Members are Maribel Nash from Chicago-Kent College of Law, Jessica de Perio Wittman and Jamie Sommer from The John Marshall Law School, and Patricia Scott from Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Valerie Krasnoff also participated on behalf of Northwestern University School of Law. Our mentor was Pat Boze, of the Lincoln Trail Libraries System.

Linear Lawgs
In late July, these experiences coalesced in Chicago Legal Information’s creation of an online legal research community in which Illinois law students and new attorneys can share research experiences and ask questions across school or organizational lines. Dubbed Lincoln Lawgs (http://www.lincolnlawgs.com/), to emphasize Illinois law and to honor the log cabin roots of our most famous lawyer, it offers a whimsical (some say “kitschy”) alternative to other legal research sites. Brief text and video tutorials offer research instruction, and feeds from popular legal blogs make it a one-stop alternative for keeping up with legal news.

Beyond that, though, Lincoln Lawgs is meant to be a place of collaboration, not just a website through which law librarians push information. To that end, those who become members can reserve its virtual meeting spaces (“Cabins”) to meet in groups, or use its message boards (“Campfire Chats”) to share thoughts and start conversations with each other. They can also use the “Ask Abe!” function to submit questions for the “research scenarios” collection of tutorials that is under development. A Facebook tie-in lets them use their existing Facebook accounts to submit questions to our site, and they can submit pictures to Abe’s Photo Album by tagging them on Flickr. The goal of all these options is to draw interest to the community and foster participation.

Conclusion
As a purely ILEAD U project, Lincoln Lawgs has run its course, but we intend to continue the site. Although some things may change as we receive feedback and explore options, our goal is to build on what we have established, to continue using participatory technologies and community building techniques to offer creative research support and interaction. Today’s legal researchers may or may not differ fundamentally from legal researchers of the past, but the tools that law librarians have available to assist

ILLINOIS HARVEST: YOUR ONE-STOP-SHOP FOR DIGITIZED ILLINOIS HISTORY

By Clare Gaynor Willis,
Albert E. Jenner Jr. Memorial Law Library, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
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If you are looking for materials on the history of Illinois, including the legal history of Illinois, you will want to consider Illinois Harvest, http://illinoisharvest.grainger.uiuc.edu/. Illinois Harvest is a portal for metadata harvested from digitized collections around the state. You can find digitized collections from the Illinois State Library, academic libraries, public libraries, and even cultural institutions like the Field Museum.

Illinois Harvest provides quick and easy access to the sort of materials that may be too rare or fragile to circulate. The digitized books and images accessible from Illinois Harvest are available in several formats including PDF. Many of the digitized books are also available in a fast and easy-to-use flippable book format.

The site provides a simple search by keyword, author, and title to search across the collections accessible from Illinois Harvest. Illinois Harvest arranges the collections by themes, rather than by type of document. The thematic arrangement makes the search function especially helpful

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Illinois Harvest cont. from p. 17

because many of the collections contain a wide range of materials, not necessarily reflected in the name of the collection. It would be difficult to guess exactly which titles were digitized as part of the “Brittle Books Project,” for instance.

To help CALL members use this resource, I would like to highlight three areas of interest to law librarians, and point out how Illinois Harvest can help with research in those areas: government information, legal history, and local Illinois history.

Illinois Harvest provides access to historical government information at the state, county, and local level. It provides access to digitized Illinois Bluebooks dating back to 1898 and a similar publication, the Chicago City Manual, from 1908-1916. The Chicago City Manual provides the names of those serving in Chicago and Cook County government as well as facts about the city and its government. For those performing Illinois legislative history research, Illinois Harvest provides access to the Legislative Synopsis and Digest going back to 1985. The General Assembly’s website goes back to 2001, providing access to earlier editions through a link to Illinois Harvest.

In addition to historical information about Illinois government, Illinois Harvest provides access to all versions of the Illinois constitution through the Illinois State Library’s digitized collection. The Illinois constitution collection can be helpful for those looking for quick access to a previous version of the constitution. Illinois Harvest also includes a record of the proceedings at several constitutional conventions.

For those interested in legal history, the legal history of the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago are well-represented in Illinois Harvest. For example, Illinois Harvest provides access to the Illinois Supreme Court briefs and the trial record from Spies v. People, the appeal of the labor anarchists accused of inciting the Haymarket Riot. Those interested in the early history of the legal profession in Chicago will appreciate “The Bench and Bar of Chicago,” a publication from the 1880’s providing lengthy biographies of judges and attorneys in the growing city. The portal also provides access to the “Certificate of Organization and Bylaws of the Chicago Bar Association” from 1879.

Perhaps the most unique collection accessible from Illinois Harvest is “County and Local Histories of Illinois: A Collection of Digitized Books.” I recently used this collection to help a patron find the act of the Illinois General Assembly allowing what was then called the Sangamon and Morgan Railroad to expand to the Illinois-Indiana border. The patron found his initial information on a website about the history of Illiopolis, Illinois, and knew only that the railroad eventually became the Wabash Railroad. I considered looking at histories of the Wabash Railroad,
but I imagined that the legislative act providing for the expansion of a precursor railroad might not merit mention in a history of an entire railroad. Also, I wanted to answer the question as soon as possible. Therefore, I turned to local histories, the sort of histories that would have made ample mention of the expansion of a railroad.

Armed with the name of the railroad, the Sangamon and Morgan Railroad, and a little knowledge about Illinois geography, I went to Illinois Harvest and searched the local histories of Sangamon County and nearby communities. An 1885 book, “Historic Morgan and Classic Jacksonville,” indicated that the legislature allowed the railroad to expand sometime between 1847 and 1857. Having found a time frame for the act, I then searched the Private Laws of the State of Illinois in HeinOnline’s state session laws collection for those years and found the 1851 private act allowing the railroad to expand to Indiana. Access to the digitized material from Illinois Harvest meant that I could email the patron both the private law and the historical background material from the reference desk within hours of his phone call.

I encourage you to take a look at Illinois Harvest, even if you cannot think of a current project that might use these materials. If nothing else, you may enjoy reading about the different cab fares for one or two horse cabs in the 1908 Chicago City Manual!

**DIGITIZING HISTORICAL ILLINOIS LEGAL INFORMATION: RECENT PROJECTS**


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**Hein Digitizes Chicago Legal News**

Chicago Legal News is a weekly legal newspaper began in 1868 by Myra Bradwell, who gained notoriety as America’s first female lawyer. The newspaper was published from 1868-1925. Chicago Legal News had a special charter from the state legislature that made laws printed in the Chicago Legal News ‘evidence of the existence and contents of such laws before all courts of Illinois.’ After the Chicago fire of 1871, Chicago Legal News became the official medium for publication of legal records destroyed by the fire and then restored or recreated. Chicago Legal News is one of the best sources of historical legal information for Chicago and Illinois in General. William S. Hein has recently undertaken to digitize this collection. HeinOnline subscribers can access and search across Chicago Legal News by locating it in the Law Journal Library on HeinOnline.
“Heroic effort is not a sustainable model.” – Diane Jung

Many of us struggle with keeping up with our work and personal “to dos” even in the best of times. Perhaps you’ve dabbled with a few time-management or life-management systems but never found one that exactly fit your style. In this column I’ll briefly review the principles behind two different systems based on two respective books, Julie Morgenstern’s *Time Management from the Inside Out* and David Allen’s *Getting Things Done*. Both systems tackle common problems with time, task and life management, but they do so using quite different approaches.

Due to the constraints of a short article, what follows is by necessity a bare-bones overview of each system. However, I hope you will get enough of a sense of how they work that you will want to learn more about them.

**Time Management from the Inside Out**

Julie Morgenstern’s background is as a professional organizer, and from her point of view there’s not a much difference between an overflowing schedule and an overflowing closet. In both cases you need SPACE (Sort, Purge, Assign a home, Containerize, Equalize). To follow the SPACE system, you sort through things that are meaningful to you so similar items/tasks are grouped together; purge items/tasks you don’t want or need; assign each item/task a “home” in your closet (or schedule); keep things contained (your “stuff” in bins or boxes; your tasks in their allotted time to do them) and “equalize” by fine-tuning the system as new items/tasks come into your life.

To get started, Julie suggests dividing your life up into categories (work, family, friends, home, community, spirituality, etc.). You can set up as many or as few categories as you like, and label them in whatever way is most meaningful to you. She then asks you to define what would make you happy in each of those main categories. These become your big-picture goals. You then connect specific activities to each goal to help you achieve it.

One of Julie’s more intriguing suggestions is to ask yourself the question: “no matter how busy I get, I always find time to ...” These things could be anything from reading to your children at bedtime to processing invoices as soon as they hit your desk. She suggests you then examine the reasons why these tasks get done when others don’t. Are they things you enjoy or are skilled at? Does the time of day seem to make a difference—the classic “morning person” versus “night owl”? Are these things you do on your own, or with other people? All of these clues, and others she outlines in her book, help you discern your priorities, preferences and working style.

When you’re aware of these preferences you are able to build a schedule more in sync with your true self instead of one that makes you feel like a salmon swimming upstream.

Another critical part of Julie’s system is to determine how long a given task is likely to take. Her book contains several exercises to help improve time-estimating skills and get a more realistic idea of what you can accomplish in a day.

The goal of these and other tips in the book is to end up with a Time Map for each week. A Time Map can be very detailed or open and flexible, but its purpose is to ensure every category that is important to you has a designated (and sufficient) time set aside for its related activities. If an emergency crops up, a Time Map gives you a graphic representation of where tasks might be able to be squeezed in or what will have to be re-scheduled. You can then make more conscious choices about what to do about emergency tasks instead of trying to fit them in “whenever.”

*Time Management From the Inside Out* also contains several other useful features. Julie also delves into technical, psychological and external factors that may limit your ability to accomplish tasks you want or need.
to do but never seem to “find time for.” She explains her WADE formula for quickly getting a chaotic day under control, and when there is still too much to do in a day, she calls upon the “4 D’s”: Delete, Delay, Delegate or Diminish (a.k.a., doing a task “good enough” instead of perfectly). If the idea of having a visible reminder of the structure of your week sounds appealing, you might want to give Julie’s Time Map system a try.

**Getting Things Done**

*Getting Things Done* (hereafter, *GTD*) begins with the premise that all of your tasks are commitments, either to yourself or to someone else, to do something. The goal of *GTD* is to get all your commitments out of your head and into a trusted system that you review regularly so nothing falls through the cracks. This frees your mind from having to remember what needs to be done, allowing you to fully focus on whatever is in front of you at the moment.

*GTD* does not recommend scheduling tasks into a given hour or even a given day. Instead, it relies on a system of support materials that, once set up, allows you to choose from all of the tasks you need to do and select which ones to work on based on a three-part criteria: their context, the time or energy available to do them, and their priority.

Unlike many other time management systems, *GTD* also doesn’t require you to define goals or priorities before starting to put it to work. While David Allen notes goals and priorities are important, his view is most people are so overwhelmed by their existing commitments they have no brain space left to develop a big-picture perspective on their work and life. (His frightening estimate is the average person has a backlog of 300 to 500 hours’ worth of things to do.)

To cope with this onslaught, *GTD* employs five steps:

1. **Collect:** Get anything that is a “should do” or “need to do” out of your head and into a central repository where you can look at it and process it. You’ll likely have multiple Collectors – voice mail, e-mail, a physical “in” tray, etc.

2. **Process:** For each item in a Collector, decide if it represents something you need to do. If what needs to be done will take less than two minutes to do, do it immediately. If not, determine what needs to be done with the item. More details about the Processing step follow below.

3. **Organize:** After completing the Collecting and Processing steps, you will end up with eight categories of reminder systems and support materials as described in the book. This may sound like a lot, but most people are already maintaining nearly that many systems in some form or another.

4. **Review:** Look at your reminder systems regularly to make sure nothing falls through the cracks (some, like your calendar, will be reviewed several times a day; others only on a weekly, or longer, basis).

5. **Do:** For your defined tasks, you apply the four-part criteria to figure out which Next Actions to work on, and do them.

Most of the steps and concepts are self-explanatory, but a few require additional clarification in the *GTD* environment, such as the concepts of “Projects” and “Next Actions.” *GTD* considers any task that requires more than one step to be a Project. The example David uses is buying new tires for your car. Most people would consider this a single task, but in fact it is a multi-step project. Do you know what size tires your car needs? If not, that needs to be determined. What kind of tires do you want? That may involve reading reviews in print or online. Do local dealers have the brand and size you want? You’ll need to call them to find out, and before you can do that you may need to look up their phone numbers. Each “Next Action” may not take long to do, but they all must be completed (and in some cases completed in a specific order—thus the phrase “Next” Action) before the task “buy tires” can truly be considered “done.”

Another point that requires additional explanation is Step 2, Processing. The most critical part of Processing is determining whether or not each piece of paper, voice mail, email, newsletter, memo, etc. in your various Collectors is “actionable” – that is, if you personally need to do something about this item, and if so, what that is. The book goes over the steps involved in Processing and provides a detailed flowchart as well to guide you along with what to do with each item. When you’re done with Processing, ideally you will have:

- Deleted/trashed/recycled anything you don’t need
- Filed anything you want to keep for informational purposes

*continued on p. 23*
People & Places
By Valerie Kropf, DLA Piper
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Working Smarter cont. from p. 21

- Recorded on your calendar any time-sensitive commitments
- Delegated anything that can be delegated (and if the task requires follow-up on your part, noted the details of the handoff in your “Waiting For” reminder system)
- Entered into your reminder system any task that takes more than two minutes to do
- Defined a Next Action for each new or ongoing Project
- Put any material related to an active Project into its appropriate Support Materials folder, binder or file
- Put anything that you don’t need to do in the near future but might want to do later into a tickler file or “Someday/Maybe” list/file

Finally, Step 4, Review, is the heart of the GTD system: it is what lets your brain focus on completing tasks instead of reminding you to do tasks. A critical part of the Review process is the Weekly Review, which involves going through the five steps with anything that has landed in your life during the previous week, looking through your reminder systems and support materials, and being “creative and courageous” about what you want to do in the future.

Getting Things Done also provides information on other topics such as dealing with procrastination, managing e-mail, a model for project planning, and how to encourage a positive corporate culture using GTD principles. If you like lists, checklists, and flowcharts, GTD may be a good match for your working style.

Conclusion
Is there one “best” time management system? Because everyone is different, the system that’s best is the one that works best for you. Even if you don’t want to implement a complete time management system at this time, reading these two books (and, in GTD’s case, looking at the related Web site, blog, Twitter feed and Facebook page) will hopefully give you some “aha!” moments or provide you with a tip or technique that will help overcome some of your personal time management problems.

Discussion List Guidelines

The CALL Discussion Forum is provided for general discussion for members of the Chicago Association of Law Libraries. Only CALL members may post to the list.

Appropriate topics for the list include:
- CALL committee news
- CALL meeting and education event reminders
- notices of CALL membership changes
- requests for volunteers for CALL activities
- discussions of issues related to our jobs
- hard to find ILL requests
- informal surveys
- news of interest to the Chicago law library community

Do not use the discussion list to promote or market commercial products.

CALL complies with AALL Discussion Forum Rules and Conditions [http://www.aallnet.org/discuss/list_rules.asp]. These rules state: Commercial use or any other unauthorized use of this Discussion Forum is prohibited. Do not use the Discussion Forum to solicit or conduct business, including the direct or indirect marketing of users’ products or services, in any manner. The Discussion Forum may not be used to provide information, materials, products, or services in exchange for compensation of any kind.

Forum Etiquette
DO add a descriptive subject line to all messages. For example: ILL request; Free books for postage, etc.
DO sign all messages. Please include your name, affiliation, and contact information.
DO remember to unsubscribe from your old address and re-subscribe from your new address whenever your email address changes.
DON’T use the list for longer items. Please use the CALL website and CALL Bulletin for those. You may e-mail out a brief announcement in which you include the URL for a longer item.

MEMBERS MAY send attachments, but these must be limited to text-type files (Word, PDFs, text files, HTML) which are under 3 megabytes.

DON’T use the discussion forum for personal opinions unrelated to CALL or the field of law librarianship.

DO remember to contact the CALL Discussion Forum administrators if you need any help.

CALL Discussion Forum Administrator:
Debbie Ginsberg is the CALL Discussion Forum administrator. You may send her a message at dginsberg@kentlaw.edu.

Updated 05/2010
Imagine that a relative/neighbor/friend approaches you for advice on beginning a career as a law librarian. Assuming you already know that he/she has the personal qualities for success in the field (an interest in service and in legal research, intelligence, tenacity, etc.), what would you list as professional requirements for the job? Where would you recommend he/she apply for a graduate degree in library and information science? What classes are offered and which would you suggest he/she take? If answers to these questions are not quickly tripping off your tongue, hopefully this article will provide some information for you to pass on to the next generation of prospective law librarians in Illinois.

First, a little bit about me. Disclaimers, if you will. I am an attorney who does not identify with that title. This means that I attended, loved and graduated from law school and passed the bar exam but, after making the unfortunate initial decision to work as a divorce litigator, quickly realized I chose the wrong legal path. The practice of law is not for everyone and it certainly was not for me. After some careful consideration (and the following research), I finally left my previous life as a practicing attorney to pursue an alternative legal career as an academic law librarian. Despite my specific employment goals, I am providing the following information in as general and objective a way as possible so that it is useful to all prospective law librarians – not just those interested in working in an academic environment.

Now, as for professional requirements: a prospective law librarian should obtain a graduate degree in library and information science from an American Library Association (ALA)-accredited institution. Although the American Association of Law Librarians (AALL) concedes there are rare exceptions to this general rule, I have yet to see a job posting for any librarian position (much less a position as a law librarian) that does not require the advanced degree. Unless the person asking for your advice knows of an available position as a law librarian and is collecting on a favor from an immediate relative, managing partner, or university president designated with sole authority to hire for that open position, recommend the advanced degree. Yes, that means more school and, for most, more debt. But, the good news is that prospective law librarians still do not need a J.D., unless they want to be an academic law librarian (and sometimes, not even then). So, although a graduate library degree is necessary, most prospective law librarians can confidently side-step 3 years of law school (and law school debt).

Next, where to obtain a graduate degree in library and information science: in Illinois, there are two universities that offer such programs: (1) Dominican University and (2) University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Although I intend to briefly discuss programs outside of Illinois later in this article, most of my analysis focuses on the two schools named above since I did not want to move or travel outside of Illinois to obtain the graduate library degree. I have included a cheat-sheet for a quick glance at the facts:

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<th>Dominican Univ.</th>
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<th>U of Washington</th>
<th>Drexel University</th>
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<td>ALA accreditation</td>
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<td>U.S. News and World Report Ranking</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Tied at #1 with University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill</td>
<td>#4 overall, but law librarianship program ranked #1</td>
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## Law Library Student-at-Large cont. from p. 24

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<tr>
<td>Birth year of library school</td>
<td>1930</td>
<td>1897</td>
<td>1911</td>
<td>1892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit hours required to graduate</td>
<td>36 total credit hours, 15 of which are required core credits</td>
<td>40 total credit hours, 6 of which are required core credits</td>
<td>General program: 63 quarter credits, 33 of which are required core credits</td>
<td>Law MLIS program: 44 quarter credits; all of which are required core credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Format</td>
<td>All in traditional classroom environment</td>
<td>In traditional classroom environment and online</td>
<td>General program: in traditional classroom environment and online; Law MLIS program: all in traditional classroom environment</td>
<td>In traditional classroom environment and online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition*</td>
<td>$27,648</td>
<td>On campus: $16,734 (resident); $32,802 (non-resident)</td>
<td>On campus general program: $40,700 (non-resident); Online general program: $39,000 (non-resident); MLIS in Law (on campus only): $37,000 (non-resident)</td>
<td>On campus: $43,000 Online: $34,560 (with AALL membership discount of 20%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Does not include registration, application fees, taxes or miscellaneous expenses

### Dominican University

Dominican University, a Catholic university located in River Forest, founded its Graduate School of Library and Information Science in 1930. Its Masters of Library and Information Science (MLIS) program is fully accredited by the ALA at present, but its past includes a “conditional accreditation” status until as recently as July 2008.

To satisfy the degree requirements, a student must complete 36 credit hours of graduate credit on a full- or part-time basis. The current cost per credit is $768.00 (plus fees), so a student can expect to pay a minimum of $27,648.00 prior to graduation.

Of the 36 credit hours needed to graduate, 15 are required, leaving a student with 21 electives. The required “core” classes are: (1) introduction to library and information science; (2) organization of knowledge; (3) reference and online services; (4) management of libraries and information centers OR school libraries; and (5) a capstone class, designed to help the student reflect on his/her growth. Of the electives available, only three pertain to legal research.

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Law Library Student-at-Large
cont. from p. 25

and one of them is offered only as “need arises.”

All of the courses are taught in the classroom (as opposed to online) and most take place on campus in River Forest, which is not particularly convenient for those of us living downtown without a car. For part-time students, classes are offered from 6-9 p.m. on weekdays and at various times on weekends.

The benefits of selecting Dominican’s MLIS program are: opportunities to network with peers (due to the traditional classroom experience); a broad array of local alumni for mentorship and support; and friendly and helpful staff.

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (U of I)’s Graduate School of Library and Information Science traces its roots to 1897.6 It is currently tied with the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill as the #1 best library and information studies school in the country, according to U.S. News and World Report.6 The Dean of the school claims that it has consistently been ranked as #1 since the magazine began ranking library and information science programs in 1996.7 Needless to say, it is fully accredited by the ALA.8

To satisfy the degree requirements, a student must complete 40 hours of graduate credit. There are two ways of completing the degree: either on campus or through an online program (known as LEEP).

- **On Campus.** If a student chooses to relocate to Urbana-Champaign to attend classes full-time on campus, he/she will spend a minimum of 3 semesters downstate. The tuition per semester for a full-time on-campus student during the 2009-2010 academic year (the only time period addressed on the website) was $5,578 for Illinois residents and $10,934 for non-residents (plus fees). Thus, a full-time student who relocates to Champaign-Urbana for three semesters can expect to pay a minimum of $16,734 (if a resident) or $32,802 (if a non-resident), in addition to housing and living costs.

- **LEEP.** If a student chooses to participate in the LEEP program, which involves taking most classes online (with the exception of the initial class, taken during a 10-day on-campus session in the summer), the cost is determined per hour rather than per semester. An Illinois resident participating in the LEEP program during the 2009-2010 academic year paid $2,040 per every 4 hours, or $20,400 total for completion of the degree (plus hefty registration fees). A non-resident participating in the LEEP program paid $3,824 per every 4 hours, or $38,240 for completion of the degree (plus fees).

Of the 40 credit hours needed to graduate, only 6 are required, leaving a whopping 34 credit hours for exploration. The required courses are (1) information organization and access and (2) libraries, information and society. Of the electives available, four pertain directly to law librarianship and legal research. Additionally, since the U of I is part of the Web-based Information Science Education (WISE) Consortium, U of I students have the option of taking a limited number of classes online through another WISE university.

Other than cost and flexibility with learning formats and curriculum, the benefits to selecting the U of I’s Masters of Science program are: a broad array of satisfied and loyal alumni for mentorship and support; and excellence in academic reputation both within and outside of Illinois.

Other Graduate Programs

The University of Washington’s Information School, located in Seattle, is ranked by U.S. News and World Report as the #1 library school in the country specifically for law librarianship9 and the #4 library school overall.10 It offers a general MLIS for those students pursuing librarianship in other fields but it also provides a specific MLIS in law for students who have already obtained their J.D. who want to transition into law librarianship. For the general MLIS, students have the option of taking classes on campus or online. The estimated cost for a full-time student taking classes on campus is $40,700 (plus fees) for non-residents.11 The approximate cost for a part-time student taking classes online is $39,000 (plus fees and travel costs for a one-time visit to Seattle for orientation).12 Students interested in obtaining the specific MLIS in law must relocate to Seattle, as the Law MLIS program is only available in the traditional classroom setting. The tuition for this program is $37,000 for non-residents.13

Another note-worthy institution offering a Masters of Science in Library and Information Science (MS) is Drexel University, located in Philadelphia. U.S. News and World Report ranks it as #9 of the top graduate programs in library and information science in the country.14 It is fully
accredited by the ALA\textsuperscript{15} and offers classes on campus, online, or a combination of both. Tuition for full-time students living on-campus is $43,200.\textsuperscript{16} However, membership to AALL yields a discount of 20\% for Drexel’s online program, which decreases the cost of tuition to approximately $34,560.00.\textsuperscript{17}

**Conclusion**

As for me, I finally decided to pursue a career as a law librarian last May – months after U of I’s deadlines for the LEEP program and the fall semester passed. Despite the missed deadlines, I drove down to Urbana-Champaign and tried to beg my way into the program anyway, but to no avail. As a default, I applied to Dominican University, was accepted, and began taking my first class this semester. The class is (thankfully) one of the few classes offered downtown (at the Harold Washington Library) and I enjoy it. However, I am most likely going to transfer to the U of I’s LEEP program as soon as I get the chance. I cannot resist the allure of taking classes in my pajamas \textit{and} saving lots of money in tuition as an added bonus.

What would you do?

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CALL Meeting Schedule 2010-2011

**Business Meetings**

- September 23, 2010 (Thurs.)
- November 17, 2010 (Wed.)
- February 17, 2011 (Thurs.)
- May 18, 2011 (Wed.)

*Details will be posted as they become available. Dates subject to change.*

**Executive Board Meetings**

- August 10, 2010 (Tues.)
- September 14, 2010 (Tues.)
- October 12, 2010 (Tues.)
- November 9, 2010 (Tues.)
- December 14, 2010 (Tues.)
- January 11, 2011 (Tues.)
- February 8, 2011 (Tues.)
- March 8, 2011 (Tues.)
- April 12, 2011 (Tues.)
- May 10, 2011 (Tues.)
Last month, my colleague Sharon Nelson and I presented at the 35th Annual Mid-America Association of Law Libraries meeting in Iowa City, IA. The topic was corralling current awareness. With the ever-increasing number of online services it is becoming more and more difficult to keep track of current awareness availability and means of access. Because of the new challenges that online services bring, we decided to develop a fairly comprehensive page on our web site to assist users in setting up current awareness accounts. Rather than just directing them to the appropriate place on a service, we offer brief overviews of the service, identify the format in which updates can be received, and identify the process to stop the updates from coming, among other features.

In developing the site we looked to other institutions for guidance. Most similar services we found provided links to other institutions for guidance. Most similar services we found provided links to available current awareness resources but very few provided details about how to subscribe to or unsubscribe from the services. The page we ultimately developed, http://law.niu.edu/law/library/current_awareness/index.shtml, is intended to do both. We want to describe the service to our users and provide instructions for accessing information, as well as direct the user to the service.

As the site was created we found that accessing some services was more involved than others and written instructions became cumbersome or at least were more useful if accompanied by video instructions. For these sites in-house videos were (or are being) created to guide the user to the appropriate information and process on a given site. If a video was available from the current awareness provider then the user is directed to that resource rather than an in-house video, e.g., for Intellicontect’s Tracker News the following is included in the instructions: For a video on how to set up Tracker News, see http://researchhelp.cch.com/flashfiles/flashhelp.html?demoid=8.

In determining the usefulness of the site, we surveyed users on knowledge of available resources and what services are currently used. We learned that our users have a keen interest in current awareness services, use a good number of them, yet were unaware of several that are available and are interested in learning more about those services. This feedback opened up...
TechBuzz cont. from p. 28

new learning opportunities for the library to provide. In addition to determining that the page will provide a useful resource to our users, we also were presented with a chance to further educate our users on available resources. In the near future a program with our faculty will take place to “unveil” the website and to highlight those services that are less known to them.

A second group we hope will find value in this page is our student body. Through classes like Advanced Legal Research, seminar talks, training sessions with law review, moot court and other organizations, we hope to introduce the site to the student body. While current awareness is not on the minds of most first-year law students, as they progress through law school students begin to see the value in services such as those described on this page. We hope to educate them as to their availability and ways these services can help them in their future law practice.

A third group we hope will benefit from this page is you, our professional colleagues. Many of the services described are subscribed to by all of us. Therefore, rather than reinventing the wheel for your organization we hope this page will serve as a resource for you in acquiring current awareness access information to help your users.

The creation of this resource is only the beginning. In order to ensure its continued use and usefulness it is imperative that we regularly update the page. We will hopefully continue to add services to the site, including those offered by entities such as Google and Yahoo! Additionally, as mobile applications are developed for these services (some already exist) we hope to add instructions for acquiring the appropriate app. We are open to input and suggestions from our colleagues. If you have a favorite service that could be included or ideas for improvement of the site, please feel free to share those ideas with us.

Website Guidelines

- The CALL website is an official publication of the Chicago Association of Law Librarians. The purpose of the site is to provide CALL members with current and historical information on the chapter’s policies, activities, publications and organization and is maintained by the CALL Internet Committee. The material on the CALL site is for informational purposes only and should not be interpreted as legal advice.

- All the material on the website is intended to be as accurate and up-to-date as possible. CALL makes no guarantee regarding the accuracy or authenticity of material on the CALL site or at any of the linking sites.

- All information that is to be posted to the CALL site is reviewed by the Internet Committee and should be submitted to that committee in final electronic format. All information is subject to formatting changes in order to maintain uniformity.

- Information on the CALL website will be updated or removed at the request of the Board members and Committee Chairs or if the material is out-of-date.

November 2003
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