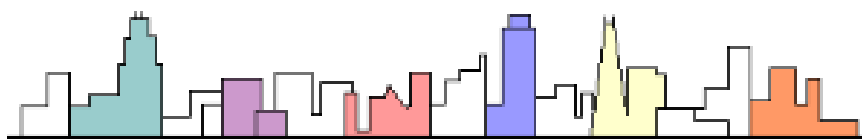


Spring 2009
No. 211

Chicago Association of Law Libraries

A Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries



CALL Bulletin

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FROM THE EDITORS



It's hard to believe that spring's official arrival is just a few weeks away. Welcome to spring, and to a new issue of the *CALL Bulletin*. This issue is full of useful information about CALL and great articles that we're sure you'll enjoy reading.

CALL's annual General Election took place from February 17th through March 15th, and you can check out the bios and personal statements of all of the candidates in this issue of the *Bulletin*. We hope you all had an opportunity to vote!

This issue also offers some terrific feature articles related to our work as law librarians. Pam Cipkowski's piece on Resource Description and Access (RDA), the new standard cataloging code, is an excellent read for both catalogers and public services librarians alike. In "Problem Solving with Publishers/Vendors," Lorna Tang offers advice on how to successfully resolve disputes with legal information providers. *TechBuzz*'s guest editor, Sharon Nelson, describes *LibraryThing* ("a social networking site for book lovers"), and provides examples of how libraries and librarians are utilizing this unique website.

Also, don't miss the two articles that CALL grant recipients contributed to this issue. Specifically, Debbie Rusin writes about her attendance at the 2008 AALL Annual Meeting & Conference, and Anne Abramson chronicles her experience at the Joint Study Institute last year. In our regular columns, you can also find out "Whatever Happened to Jenny Zook," decide if the Bulletin Committee is for you, learn how new technologies keep us all "Working Smarter," and read the summaries of CALL Board meetings and the November Business Meeting.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Christina Wagner who works behind the scenes and handles advertising. We appreciate her efforts and hard work in soliciting and collecting advertisements for the *Bulletin*.

Get out and enjoy the warm weather (after you read the *CALL Bulletin*, of course)!

Gail & Julie

The *CALL Bulletin*, the official publication of the Chicago Association of Law Libraries (CALL), is published four times a year and is provided to active members as a benefit of membership. CALL does not assume any responsibility for the statements advanced by the contributors to the *CALL Bulletin*, nor do the views expressed in the *CALL Bulletin* necessarily represent the views of CALL or its members.

Contributions to the *CALL Bulletin* are always welcome. Please be advised that contributions submitted for publication are subject to editorial review. Direct questions, articles, or other items of interest to the co-editors:

Gail Hartzell
Valparaiso University
School of Law, Wesemann Hall
656 S. Greenwich St., Valparaiso, IN 46383-4945
Phone: 219-465-7836 Fax: 219-465-7917
gail.hartzell@valpo.edu

Julienne Grant
Loyola University Chicago School of Law Library
25 E. Pearson Street, Chicago, IL 60611
Phone: 312-915-8520
Fax: 312-915-6797
jgrant6@luc.edu

Deadlines for submitting articles and advertising:

Issue	Deadline
Fall	August 1
Winter	November 1
Spring	February 1
Summer	May 1

Advertising matters should be directed to:

Christina Wagner
Foley & Lardner
321 N. Clark St., Ste. 2800, Chicago, IL 60610
Phone: 312-832-4317 Fax: 312-832-4700
cwagner@foley.com

For CALL membership information, please contact:

Susan Retzer
Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP
525 W. Monroe St., Chicago, IL 60611-36936
Phone: 312-577-8020 Fax: 312-612-4013
susan.retzer@kattenlaw.com

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Sheri Lewis, University of Chicago D'Angelo Law Library
shl@uchicago.edu



Dear Colleagues,

Greetings! As I write this column on a cold January day, it is difficult to envision that spring temperatures will be with us soon (I hope!). I also marvel at the fact that my term as your president is more

than halfway complete. Through the work of the Board, committees, and members, CALL's tradition of excellence has continued during 2008-2009. But, I assure you that there is even more to look forward to this year. I'll begin my column with some reflections and recognitions for the past few months and end with some exciting news coming this spring and summer.

Our most recent business meeting on November 20th was a wonderful event with 104 members in attendance. Our prestigious speaker, Dean David Van Zandt, provided us with an inside look at some of the innovative approaches to legal education that he and his colleagues have implemented at Northwestern University's Law School. If you were not able to attend the meeting, I encourage you to look at NU Law School's *Strategic Plan and Plan 2008* located at <http://www.law.northwestern.edu/difference/strategicplan.html>. I wish to thank **Gretchen Van Dam**, Vice President/President-Elect, for arranging for Dean Van Zandt to speak to our association.

On December 15th, the Continuing Education Committee presented a brown bag program – *RDA and the Future of Cataloging*. The featured presenter was Marjorie Bloss, Lecturer at Dominican University, and an RDA Project Manager. One of the recognized experts on RDA (*Resource Description and Access*), Ms. Bloss provided an informative talk on the history of cataloging rules (culminating with AACR2), along with the proposed changes

with RDA and FRBR (*Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records*). As one of the fortunate CALL members in attendance, and also as a public services librarian with *very* little knowledge on this subject, I encourage each of you to become more familiar with this topic and FRBR at <http://www.loc.gov/cds/FRBR.html>. I am most appreciative of the work of CE Committee Co-Chair **Frank Lima** for organizing and hosting this event on behalf of CALL.

I am delighted with the dedication of our new Strategic Planning Committee (**Therese Clarke Arado, Pam Cipkowski, Frank Drake, Sheri Lewis, and Vanessa Nelson**). At the November Business Meeting, the group distributed an informal questionnaire seeking opinions on words that express the meaning of CALL. The response was excellent with 87 members providing their feedback; results are posted on the "Members' Only" section of the CALL website. As we continue our work towards creating a mission statement for our association, the Committee will be asking CALL members to complete a brief survey in February and March. Thanks in advance for your responses.

Following a highly successful professional development day last spring, CALL again will host an Institute Day for its members in April. This year's topic will be *Marketing*. Look for announcements from our CE Co-Chairs **Julie Melvin** and **Frank Lima** with more on this event.

At the AALL Annual Meeting this summer, CALL will be hosting a brown bag at lunchtime on Sunday, July 26th. Treasurer **Ruth Bridges** will coordinate the planning of this program, which will focus on balancing print and electronic resources in a law library's collection.

Here's to a vibrant conclusion to our CALL year. I wish you all a warm and safe remaining winter and a fast approaching spring.

Best wishes,
 Sheri Lewis

CALL would like to thank Bloomberg for sponsoring
 the November 20, 2008 Business Meeting.



CALL Executive Board Minutes
By Debbie Ginsberg, Chicago-Kent College of Law Library
dginsberg@kentlaw.edu

*Complete, up-to-date meeting minutes are available here: <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/call/protected/index.html>.
 Members who would like hard copies of any meeting minutes should contact Deborah Ginsberg
 (dginsberg@kentlaw.edu, 312-906-5673), Secretary.*

November 2008**CALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

AALL Headquarters, 53 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 940,
 November 4, 2008, 9:00 a.m.

Summary:**Treasurer's Report (Section IV):**

1. CALL Balance as of October 31, 2008: \$34,953.26
2. Net Income, October 31, 2008: -\$952.00
3. Membership as of October 31, 2008: 315

Significant Actions:

Grants Committee: The Board will provide \$2500 this year for grants and awards. If the Committee learns of special circumstances that would require changing this amount, the Committee should ask the Board.

Grants will be limited to \$500 each, although applicants may request a smaller amount.

At least three grants of \$500 each will be designated for AALL. The remaining \$1000 will be distributed as the Committee decides.

Membership: Because CALL's current membership dues are similar to those of other AALL chapters, and CALL's financial situation is sound, the Board does not anticipate a need to increase dues for the 2009-2010 CALL year.

Membership Committee: The Board reaffirms the membership refund policy stated in "Membership. Refund 2003-05" in CALL's Policy Log.

Nominations Committee: The slate of candidates for the 2009-2010 Board will be asked to sign a form granting permission for CALL to publish each candidate's photograph, biography, and statement in connection with their candidacies.

December 2008**CALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

AALL Headquarters, 53 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 940,
 December 9, 2008, 9:00 a.m.

Summary:**Treasurer's Report (Section IV):**

1. CALL Balance as of November 30, 2008: \$39,079.37
2. Net Income, November 30, 2008: \$4126.11
3. Membership as of November 30, 2008: 317

Significant Actions:

Archives: Until the cut-off date of May 12, 2009, paper documents should be sent to Carol Klink at Loyola. Media should be sent to Therese Clarke Arado at NIU.

CALL Business Meetings, Sponsors: Speaking time not to exceed five minutes will be granted to full sponsors of CALL Business Meetings upon a sponsor's request.

CALL Listserv: Because AALL guidelines clearly prohibit commercial use, seminars that cost a fee, and advertising for commercial services, cannot be posted to CALL's listserv.

Committees: The CALL President will send letters of appreciation to CALL committee members upon request.

Elections: CALL's 2009 election will start on February 16th and run through March 15th.

New Hires: The Board will ask the Placement and Recruitment Committee for the names of new hires. The Membership Committee will then contact the library managers with information about CALL and to invite new hires to a business meeting.

Kudos: Kudos to Sonja Nordstrom and Kathie Goodridge for assisting with the validation of the AALL Election on December 2nd.



Monitor and analyze shareholder activism with FactSet's SharkWatch

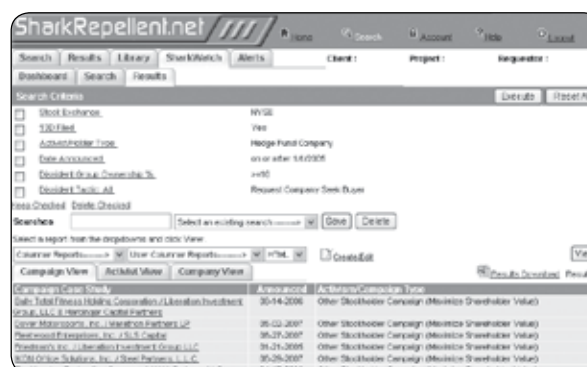
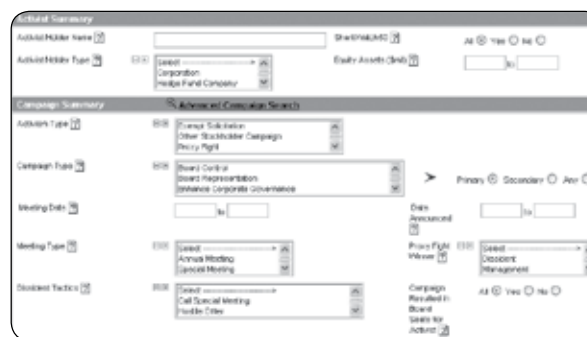
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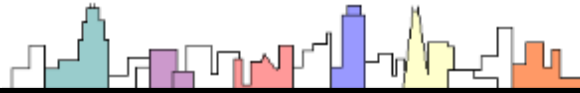


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BUSINESS MEETING ROUNDUP

By Debbie Ginsberg, Chicago-Kent College of Law Library

dginsberg@kentlaw.edu

November Business Meeting November 20, 2008

The November Business Meeting was held at Maggiano's. CALL President Sheri Lewis opened the meeting by welcoming new members Claudia Banks of Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg and Laura Hyzy of Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal.

Sheri next introduced the slate of candidates for the 2009-2010 CALL Board:

Vice President/President-Elect

Heidi Frostestad Kuehl, *Northwestern University School of Law*

Secretary

Julie Melvin, *Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP*
Maribel Nash, *Chicago-Kent College of Law Library*

Director

Gwen Gregory, *John Marshall Law School*
Gail Hartzell, *Valparaiso University School of Law Library*

Vice President Gretchen Van Dam introduced and thanked the meeting sponsor, Bloomberg. A spokesperson from Bloomberg talked to CALL about Bloomberg Law, a research tool that is part of the Bloomberg Professional Service.

Gretchen then introduced our speaker, Dean David Van Zandt of the Northwestern University School of Law. Prior to joining Northwestern, Dean Van Zandt served in two clerkships, including one with Justice Blackmun of the U.S. Supreme Court. He also worked as an associate with the firm Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York. He received his J.D. from Yale and his Ph.D. from the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London.

Dean Van Zandt joined the Northwestern faculty in 1985. He was appointed Dean in 1995. Soon after becoming Dean, he formulated a strategic plan for Northwestern that was implemented in 1998. In 2008, he launched an up-

dated strategic plan that included initiatives like the new two-year J.D.

In 1998, Dean Van Zandt launched a strategic plan, *Building the Great Law School for the Changing World*, to ensure that Northwestern would meet the needs of two distinct markets. First, the plan focused on the legal employment market to ensure that Northwestern's graduates would be competitive. Second, the plan considered the law school academic research market to ensure that Northwestern itself would attract talented and experienced professors. Moreover, Northwestern would need institutional flexibility to respond as those markets changed.

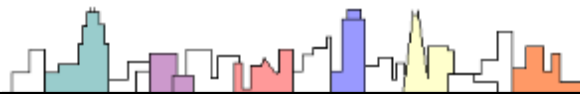
The 1998 plan examined the Law School as a whole, but focused on such areas as the admissions process, the curriculum, and improving the School's infrastructure. As a result of the plan, the School began to seek applicants who had at least two years of work experience. The School also began interviewing all applicants, looking for interpersonal skills and professional direction.

Additional LL.M. programs were created, including a joint program on law and business for international students, with the Kellogg School of Management. Because Northwestern was attracting greater numbers of international students, the Law School also created a two-year J.D. for international attorneys with three years of experience.

Northwestern also found that many professionals wanted some exposure to legal education, but did not wish to obtain an LL.M. or J.D. In response, Northwestern created a series of Executive Programs. For those students who wanted to explore the law in more depth than a traditional J.D. offers, Northwestern created a J.D./Ph.D. program for preparing the next generation of legal scholars.

As a result of the 1998 plan, the school's curriculum places greater emphasis on teamwork and presentation skills, as well as transactional and contract drafting. In addition, the school encourages a more global focus in its courses, featuring international team projects where students study

continued on p. 7



Business Meeting Roundup *cont. from p. 6*

the law of specific countries, then travel to the country to interview lawyers for their research projects. Northwestern's Law Faculty has also become more diverse. The School has been hiring full-time faculty with additional degrees, such as Ph.Ds in the social sciences, and other disciplines.

This past summer, Dean Van Zandt announced *Plan 2008: Building Great Leaders for the Changing World*. The Plan's goal is to determine basic competencies needed for career success. Obviously, legal analysis and legal reasoning are necessary skills, but they are not sufficient. The Plan explores other characteristics that will be needed in modern legal practice.

Plan 2008 sought input from students, alumni, faculty, staff, and employers. Northwestern conducted focus groups with leading law firm managing partners in the United States and the United Kingdom, corporate general counsel, government agencies, and non-profit leaders. The school analyzed the current and emerging market, including demographics and trends. Blaqwell, an international consulting firm, assisted with the process.

Based on its research, Northwestern determined which foundational competencies would be needed. These included the need for teamwork skills – not only to work with lawyers, but with other professionals and staff. Business communication skills would also be needed, including business exposition. Quantitative skills would be necessary for accounting, finances, and statistics. In addition, business strategic planning, project management, and leadership would be important.

Further, Northwestern concluded that basic legal analysis and contract drafting would continue to be vital, but lawyers would also need to apply these skills globally--across cultures and jurisdictions. Going forward, Northwestern will determine how these skills can be emphasized in its legal curriculum, including offering an optional intensive experiential semester and more cross-border experiences.

Northwestern now offers an accelerated J.D. program that will take two years to complete, instead of three. Students will take the same number of credit hours as a three-year J.D. The curriculum will be more fixed than a traditional

J.D. (fewer electives), but will also focus on the *Plan 2008* competencies. Students applying to the program are required to have at least two years of work experience, employer references, an interview with the school, and they must also submit a GMAT or LSAT score. The initial class will be 25 to 40 students.

After Dean Van Zandt spoke, President Sheri Lewis announced the formation of a Strategic Planning Committee for CALL. The Committee handed out questionnaires to members at the business meeting.

Heidi Kuehl of the Public Affairs Committee announced that legislative updates had not been placed on the table at this meeting, but were available at the registration desk. The Committee will phase out paper versions, and will instead post updates on CALL's website. Members will be notified on the listserv when updates are available.

Maribel Nash of the Community Service Committee thanked CALL for providing ten boxes of food for the Greater Chicago Food Depository and donations to CASA. She reminded members that CALL is still collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, and cell phones for Call to Protect.

Julie Melvin of the Continuing Education Committee announced that the Committee would post podcasts when available from CALL events once technical issues are resolved. CALL's 2009 Institute Day will focus on marketing the library and will likely be held in April. Interested speakers should contact the Committee. CALL's next Continuing Education Committee event will be held on December 5th, from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., and will focus on FRBR and RDA. Professor Marjorie Bloss from Dominican will be the speaker. If other committees would like to host programs or suggest ideas, they should contact the Continuing Education Committee Chairs.

Two door prize winners each received a \$25 gift certificate for Borders, provided by Professionals Library Service.

It was announced that 109 people attended this business meeting. Meeting Co-Chairs Betty Roeske and Eugene Giudice did an excellent job organizing everything. The next meeting will be held February 27, 2009, and will be a joint meeting with SLA. The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

CALL would like to thank Professionals Library Service, Inc.
for sponsoring door prizes at the November 20, 2008 Business Meeting.



PEOPLE & PLACES

By Sue Retzer, Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, susan.retzer@kattenlaw.com

Valerie Kropf, DLA Piper, valerie.kropf@dlapiper.com

Welcome New CALL Members:

Tracy Braun
Student
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign
PH: (773)220-6769
greta9977@yahoo.com

Min Chan
Director of Business
Development
East View Information
Services
PH: (952)252-1201
min.chan@eastview.com

Susan Duede
Manager, Chicago Library
Resource Center
Winston & Strawn LLP
PH: (312)558-3185
sduede@winston.com

Ellen Fogelman
Student
Dominican University
PH: (847)502-4834
ellenfogelman@gmail.com

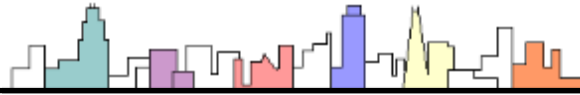
New Positions:

Jamie Sommer
Reference Librarian
John Marshall Law School
PH: (312)427-2737 ext.308
jsommer@jmls.edu

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WHATEVER HAPPENED TO JENNY ZOOK? “LEARNING ACADEME”

By Bob Winger, McGuireWoods LLP

rwinger@mcguirewoods.com

Jenny Zook reflected on her life, pre- and post-CALL, from her home in Madison, Wisconsin. Since leaving Latham & Watkins in the summer of 2003, she has embarked upon a new career as an academic law librarian and is part of the professional reference staff at the University of Wisconsin Law Library.

Jenny originally hails from the Detroit, Michigan area, and went to college at the University of Wisconsin. After obtaining her degree in education, she immediately enrolled in Wisconsin's library school. It was during this time that she met and began dating Jim Busch, who is now her husband.

Upon her graduation in the early 90s, Jenny began her library career as a government documents librarian at the public library in Poplar Creek, Illinois. She acknowledges that this was a gentle start. After two years, Jenny was ready for a change and took a position at Altheimer & Grey as a reference librarian on Susan Cochard's staff. She stayed with this job for six years before accepting a position as library manager at Latham & Watkins's Chicago office.

After working at Latham for four years, Jenny and Jim's twin daughters were born. It was after their birth that she heard about an opening for a reference librarian at the University of Wisconsin Law Library, and applied. She described the all-day interview at the Law Library, during which she gave a presentation on private company research. Ironically, she says that business research is not a skill that she has often utilized since switching to academia.

Jenny's full-time position at the UW was created by combining two part-time library positions. She does not have her J.D., but this was not a factor in hiring, as several reference librarians on the staff do not have law degrees. She was hired and moved her family to Madison. Shortly after starting her position, Jenny had an opportunity to teach a course in legal reference services at the University's library school. She also became lead instruc-

tor of a team-teaching effort involving Law Library reference staff members.

Besides providing classroom support and instruction at the Law School, the public services staff at the Law Library teaches legal research in several departments at the University, including the College of Engineering, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Departments.

In one of her most enjoyable teaching ventures--as part of the East Asian Legal Studies Program at the Law School--Jenny provides support and instruction for Westlaw and LexisNexis training sessions for visiting groups of Chinese judges and scholars. Last year, she taught a session with the help of a Chinese translator.

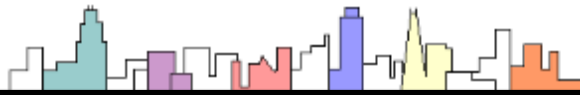
After a retirement in the library staff, Jenny's title was changed to Reference and Instructional Services Librarian, a title that more accurately reflects her instructional responsibilities, and one that she holds to this day.

Jenny highlights the distinctions between working in law firm and academic law libraries. Whereas law firm librarians and lawyers work fairly closely, as a team, there is not as much daily contact between the law school library staff and the law faculty, although the law librarians do provide liaison support to faculty.

However, academic librarians are able to become more involved in technological aspects of the profession, and write, as well as provide research and instructional services to students. She says that in her current capacity, she is able to keep abreast of the latest library trends.

Jenny, Jim and their daughters, Ryley and Lynnette, live in a house in the center of Madison, within biking distance of Jenny's work. The girls are within walking distance of their school, where they are first graders. They are taking Chinese language lessons, an outgrowth of their experience at a local Asian daycare center. Madison is

continued on p. 11



Whatever Happened to Jenny Zook?

cont. from p. 10

well known for its large farmers' market and Jenny takes advantage by purchasing fresh Wisconsin produce weekly at the market.

Jenny has become involved with the Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin, serving as program co-chair for three years, and has written a bit as well. See, among other writings, "I Am the Cheesehead: the Law Librarian Who Moved to Wisconsin," *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 25:169-179 (2006). She does wryly note that her career as a law library humorist is not going as well as other aspects of her life.

Although she enjoys her change of career and lifestyle, Jenny says that she does miss contact with the attorneys and the librarians of CALL. She does stay in touch with several of the attorneys and staff from her former law firms and a few of the librarians with whom she has worked or met through CALL.

Those wishing to get in touch with Jenny may contact her by e-mail at zook@wisc.edu.

SAVE THE DATE

The CALL Institute Day Committee, a subcommittee of the Continuing Education Committee, proudly presents - **CALL INSTITUTE DAY 2009 to be held Tuesday, April 7, 2009.**

The theme and topic of the day will be: "**Marketing the Library: How to Create Awareness of, and Demand for, Library Services**" featuring sessions on marketing strategies, success stories, and tools for academic, firm and other law libraries.

Contact for the event is Alina Kelly, Chair of the Institute Day Committee, a subcommittee of the Continuing Education Committee at akelly@ngelaw.com.

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

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

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 e-mail 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.

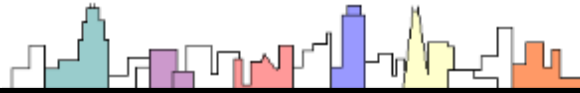
DON'T use the Discussion Forum for personal opinions unrelated to CALL or the field of law librarianship.

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

CALL Discussion Forum Administrator:

Eugene Giudice is the CALL Discussion Forum Administrator. You may send him a message at eugenegiudice@sbcglobal.net.

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PROBLEM SOLVING WITH PUBLISHERS/VENDORS

By Lorna Tang, University of Chicago D'Angelo Law Library

l-tang@uchicago.edu

Placing an order with a legal information publisher or vendor should be a simple and pleasant experience. While it usually transpires without difficulties, sometimes problems occur. Most disputes are resolved quickly after contacting the vendor's customer service representative. Sometimes, however, problems will linger and stay unresolved for some time. What are the best ways to solve problems with legal information providers?

There are many resources available to help law librarians get results when dealing with vendors. For example, the AALL Committee on Relations with Information Vendors (CRIV) has many useful tools on its CRIVPage:

<http://www.aallnet.org/committee/criv/resources/tools/results.htm>

Deal with a problem as soon as you can. When the library's access to a database is lost, clearly the vendor must be contacted immediately. Often a phone call to the vendor is quicker and more effective than writing an e-mail. When failing to receive an item that has been paid for, contact the supplier to track down the status of the order or the delivery date. If a billing problem is not dealt with in a timely manner, the vendor may not accept any new orders from the library.

Have all information at hand before calling or e-mailing the vendor. This will save time for both you and the vendor. Helpful information includes:

- the account number
- the invoice number and invoice date
- the author, title, and edition information or imprint date of the materials in question
- your problem-solving log, with a record of your past communication about the problem

The CRIVPage has a sample publisher's log but actual logs do not have to be formal. You should keep a log for each problem, especially if there has been a previous problem-solving attempt. For each entry, record the following:

- Date of the action
- Actions taken

- Name of the person making the contact
- Name of the person being contacted
- Next step expected

This detailed information tracks the actions taken and the people contacted. For a problem with an extended history, this log will be invaluable.

How long do you wait to hear from the vendor? When contacting the publisher or vendor, ask them when the problem will be resolved. Honor the time that the publisher or vendor needs to resolve the problem. However, if they have not given you a time frame, and you have not heard from the vendor or publisher after 48 hours, it is time to contact them again. As the saying goes, "the squeaky wheel gets the grease."

Move your complaint up the chain of command if you do not hear from them for a week, or if you don't get a satisfactory answer from your customer service representative. Ask to speak with a supervisor or manager. Either your representative will try harder to resolve your problem, or you will talk with a manager. If the problem is still not resolved after speaking with a supervisor, try your sales representative. It is to his/her advantage to keep a customer happy, so he/she will try hard to accommodate you. If you still do not get a satisfactory answer, try the publisher's librarian liaison. The liaison usually knows his/her organization well and his/her words often carry more weight within the company. Here are the library liaisons for a few legal information providers:

ABA Sarah Palmer
Library Relations
(312) 988-5561
PalmerS@staff.abanet.org

BNA Michael G. Bernier
Director, Library Relations
1801 S. Bell Street
Arlington, VA 22202
(703) 341-5752
mbernier@bna.com

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RDA AND THE FUTURE OF CATALOGING

By Pam Cipkowski, Loyola University Chicago Law Library

pcipkowski@luc.edu

Since 1967, catalogers have faithfully followed the rules established in the **Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules** (AACR) and its subsequent revision, AACR2, which came along in 1978. AACR2 lays down the rules for catalogers on how to describe and provide access to library materials. While these rules have served their purpose over the years, new technologies and an increasing number of players in the world of information organization have shown the need to create a new cataloging code that more clearly shows relationships between materials, as well as a set of rules that can be used with any cataloging scheme. Creation of this new standard cataloging code, **Resource Description and Access** (RDA), is currently under development.

Marjorie Bloss, Lecturer at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Dominican University, is Project Manager for the development of RDA. Her presentation, "RDA and the Future of Cataloging," was the topic of discussion at CALL's continuing education event held December 15, 2008. About twenty CALL members attended the presentation.

Bloss began her discussion of RDA by describing the basics of FRBR (**Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records**). FRBR (pronounced FUR-bur) is essentially a conceptual model for the bibliographic universe, comparing relationships between entities. FRBR sets out to define terms that have continued to be vague in meaning in the cataloging world, such as "item," "work," and "edition." Further difficulty arises in expressing these relationships when there are multiple physical versions of the same title (*i.e.*, the novel Gone with the Wind vs. an

e-book or DVD of Gone with the Wind).

Current practice under AACR2 rules state that separate cataloging records must be created when an item's physical format differs from an existing item. In other words, if a print serial comes out with an online version, the online version must be cataloged on a separate record instead of merely adding an Internet link to the existing print record. This is not a very user-friendly approach, however, when patrons are searching the library OPAC.

The FRBR model works to resolve issues like this, addressing issues of semantics in a multi-format world and relationships between different editions, translations, and physical formats of the same work. Four important concepts that are part of the model are "Work," "Expression," "Manifestation," and "Item." *Work* is essentially an intellectual concept, regardless of its format or version; for example, Black's Law Dictionary is a *work*. An *expression* is a realization of that *work*, and can take the form of an edition, translation, or interpretation. The abridged 8th edition would be an *expression* of the *work* Black's Law Dictionary. *Manifestation* describes different physical formats; the online version of Black's Law Dictionary would be a *manifestation* of that *work*. Finally, the term *item* describes each specific piece; that is, the library owns two *items* of the *work* Black's Law Dictionary--the 8th edition and the online version.

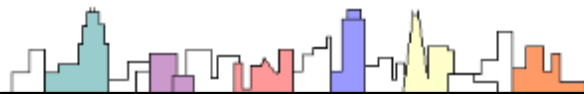
All these concepts embodied in FRBR are the foundation for the new cataloging code, RDA. The cataloging world has recognized that there is a need to provide access to a



Marjorie Bloss lecturing at the "RDA and the Future of Cataloging" program

Photo courtesy of Alina Kelly

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RDA and the Future of Cataloging

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wider range of information carriers and to show relationships between differing works. MARC coding done by MLS librarians is not the only way items are cataloged these days; new metadata schemes are being created by a wider range of personnel in and outside of libraries. Archivists, publishers, vendors, and database creators are just some of the groups creating metadata, and there is a need to standardize the cataloging code so it is understood and utilized by different groups and organizations.

RDA is being developed by the Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA (JSC). The JSC is made up of representatives from six major Anglo-American cataloging communities, including the American Library Association, the British Library, and the Library of Congress. Work began on the new standard in 2004.

In 2005, the JSC reviewed a revision of the first part of what was to be AACR3 and decided that a major change in direction was needed, encompassing a new standard (RDA) to accommodate the digital environment. AACR and AACR2 were based primarily on a card catalog environment, but the new standard will cover description and access for all types of materials and enable record creation in different environments, including the Internet and Web OPACs.

Naturally, the cataloging world has a number of questions and concerns regarding the new standard. Libraries want to know if RDA will be compatible with existing catalog records. The Committee has assessed the effect the new standard may have, and has carefully scrutinized instances where there may be incompatibilities in an effort to minimize any major issues that may arise. Existing capabilities of online catalogs, such as global updating, will greatly assist the process of changing or converting records. The JSC has also been working with ILS vendors to keep them in the development loop.

Format and cost are also issues. Presently, RDA will only be offered as an online product. Concerns have been raised, however, regarding how this will impact the price, and how both the format and price will affect students and smaller libraries.

RDA is expected to be ready for release in the third quarter of 2009, and implementation should begin in 2010. What can libraries and librarians do to prepare for RDA? Becoming familiar with FRBR terms and concepts will greatly aid in the transition to the new model and standards. Reviewing the full draft of RDA would also be helpful. See the draft at www.rdaonline.org, or go to the JSC's website at www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/jsc/rda.html for instructions on how to submit comments.

Problem Solving With Publishers/Vendors

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LexisNexis Bridget MacMillan
 Librarian Relations Group
 70 W. Madison Street, Ste 2200
 Chicago, IL 60602
 312-899-7886
bridget.macmillan@lexisnexis.com

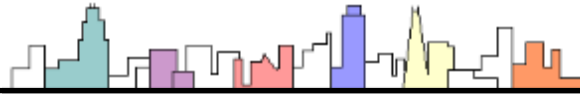
West Katie Leonard
 Librarian Relations Manager
 One N. Dearborn, Suite 500
 Chicago, IL 60602
 (312) 601-8829
katie.leonard@thomsonreuters.com

You can frequently find the librarian liaison for a com-

pany by searching its website under "library relations" or "librarian liaison," or by calling the company and asking for someone who works closely with libraries and librarians.

The AALL Guide to Fair Business Practices for Legal Publishers is not a government publication, but it provides guidelines and describes standards for the business practices that affect librarians. Bringing these principles to the publisher's or vendor's attention will help them understand the best practices when working with libraries and librarians.

Getting results and getting problems solved can be a rewarding experience for any acquisitions librarian. However, frustration often accompanies the problem-solving process, especially when the error is on the vendor's end. In general, patience, persistence, and good record keeping will usually lead to satisfactory results.



COULD THIS COMMITTEE BE FOR YOU? BULLETIN COMMITTEE

By Janice Collins, Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal

jcollins@sonnenschein.com

The *CALL Bulletin* is posted quarterly on the CALL web page. It is not published by magic, but through the dedication of members who serve on the Bulletin Committee. The *Bulletin* contains news of CALL activities, summaries of minutes from Board meetings, descriptions of CALL business meetings and continuing education programs, annual reports of CALL committees, product and service reviews, and regular monthly columns. CALL members write most of the articles and columns.

For the past two years, the Committee has been led by Co-Editors Julianne Grant and Gail Hartzell. The process starts with members of the Committee locating volunteers to write columns or articles for the *Bulletin*. As the submission date draws near, a committee member sends out reminders about the due date. After the articles are received, they are proofed, edited and sent to the layout person who designs the format. The layout person then

returns the *Bulletin* draft for final proofing. When it is ready for publication, the *Bulletin* is sent to the Internet Committee to be posted on the CALL website. The co-editors then create a splash page with highlights of the new issue and e-mail the page to CALL members.

Twice a year, the *Bulletin* has a special section on a chosen topic, and committee members contribute ideas and suggestions for special topics and writers. In 2009, the Committee hopes to create a style manual to assist contributors, committee members and editors. The style manual will include frequently misspelled words, rules for italicizing and underlining, proper grammar, and more. Support and effort from the entire committee will be needed to complete the manual, which will be of great assistance to future editors of the *Bulletin*.

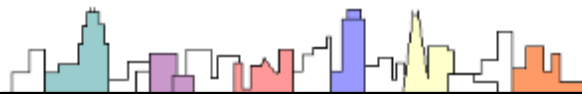
Members who are interested in joining the Bulletin Committee should contact CALL President Sheri Lewis.

CALL Grants Available

Thinking about traveling to Washington, D.C. this summer for the AALL annual meeting? Perhaps there is an educational program a little closer to home that peaks your interest. In either case, it is not too early to apply for a CALL Grant. CALL grants are available to CALL members throughout the year and can be used for the AALL Annual Meeting or other types of continuing education programs. Please see the Grants Criteria page for further information. If you are applying for a grant to attend the AALL Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., the deadline is Friday, April 17, 2009. If you have any questions please contact Denise Glynn, dglynn@depaul.edu or 312-362-8176.

<http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/call/forms/grantsform2008.pdf>

<http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/call/forms/grantsinfo.html>



HARMONIZATION AND CONFRONTATION: INTEGRATING FOREIGN AND INTERNATIONAL LAW INTO THE AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM

MY EXPERIENCE AT THE JOINT STUDY INSTITUTE 2008

JUNE 25-28, 2008

Anne Abramson, Louis L. Biro Law Library, John Marshall Law School

8abrams@jmls.edu

Attending the Joint Study Institute (JSI) in Washington D.C. last June was certainly the professional highlight of my year, perhaps of the last several years. Rarely have I attended a conference that was so illuminating, interesting and fun.

Research & Reception

Immediately after arrival on Wednesday before the conference, I headed to the U.S. Institute for Peace (USIP). There, I was able to do some research for a pro bono criminal defense case involving executive immunity and peace agreements under international and foreign law. Coincidentally, a John Marshall professor approached me about the case shortly before the commencement of the JSI. The opportunity to get research leads for this real-life case from USIP, the Georgetown Law Library and even the Law Library of Congress (before and between the JSI programs), was another special benefit of attending the JSI. I got back in time for the Opening Reception at Georgetown's Eric E. Hotung International Law Building.

On Thursday, the JSI programs officially commenced. We received a great introduction to the Institute from Ann Fessenden, immediate Past President of AALL. We then launched into the scholarly programs, starting with a survey of Supreme Court jurisprudence relating to the use of foreign law to construe the U.S. Constitution, prepared by George Washington University Associate Professor David Fontana. Professors Melissa Waters (Washington & Lee University School of Law) and Ernest Young (Duke Law School) expanded on that topic in an entertaining "crossfire"-like debate.

U.S. Supreme Court and Law Library of Congress Field Trips

After the morning presentations, we took a "field trip" to the Supreme Court Law Library for lunch in the West Conference Room. After lunch, Yale Reference and

Instructional Services Law Librarian, John Nann, gave a lecture on federalism. Our colleagues from other countries find this concept particularly difficult, as do most of us! John's lecture covered a lot of ground very quickly. While his review was quite informative, some of us were still pretty baffled, which just goes to show that federalism is indeed quite a difficult concept to grasp. We were then treated to a tour of the Supreme Court Law Library. Although renovations were underway at the Library, Judith Gaskell and the other law librarians could not have been more gracious hosts. After our library tour, we headed off to the Law Library of Congress. I arrived there rather wilted after walking in the D.C. afternoon heat, but excited to see the foreign law collections of this "library of last resort."

After this very full day, we rested a bit before joining our respective dine-around groups. I got to join the group headed by Herb Somers and Susan Lewis Somers at a favorite local Indian restaurant, where we shared great food and conversation.

Perspective of a Preeminent Supreme Court Advocate

On Friday, we resumed a packed day of programs, starting with a memorable presentation by Seth Waxman, one of the country's premier Supreme Court and appellate advocates, and a former Solicitor General. Mr. Waxman discussed his brief and oral argument in the case of Roper v. Simmons, which involved a challenge to the imposition of the death penalty on a juvenile defendant. In what turned out to be a decisive argument in the case, Mr. Waxman informed the Court that the U.S., and only seven other countries (Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Nigeria, Congo and China), still imposed capital punishment on juveniles. The Court found the "opinion of the world community" to be a significant confirmation

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Harmonization and Confrontation

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of its own conclusions. In its 5-to-4 majority opinion, the Court ultimately joined the world consensus and held that the 8th and 14th Amendments forbid the imposition of the death penalty on juvenile offenders. After this mesmerizing discussion, we heard Professor David Cole of Georgetown University Law Center speak about terrorism, international norms and human rights.



Joint Study Institute 2008 in Washington, D.C.

Theme: Harmonization and Confrontation:

Integrating Foreign and International Law into the American Legal System

Left to right: Gretchen Van Dam, Lyonette Louis-Jacques, Thomas Gaylord, Judy Gaskell, Anne Abramson, Jean Wenger, Sally Holterhoff

Photo courtesy of Sally Holterhoff

Digitization Projects and Blogs

After lunch, the librarians took the podium to discuss the digitization of the world's law collections. This part of the program featured Claire Germain of Cornell on the topic of GLIN (Global Legal Information Network) and Janice Snyder Anderson of Georgetown on LIPA (Legal Information Preservation Alliance). Marilyn Raisch also spoke about the current "archive fever." Her wonderful program materials were impressive for their depth and scholarship, and I'm sure I will refer to them time and again. Janice Anderson contributed a talk on the evolution

of "thinknet," a kind of virtual collaboration of a group of experts that can convene at any time and have a symposium. This "Digitizing the World's Law" program was one of the most practical and important to us in terms of our day-to-day work.

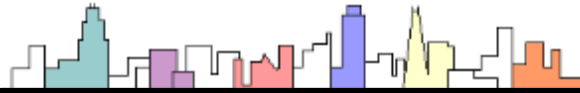
The final program of the day was entitled "Web 2.0 as an Instrument for the Development of International Law: Three Perspectives." The three speakers included Kerry Stephen McNamara, Scholar in Residence at

American University's School of Communication. Mr. McNamara attempted to address the question of whether technology is just a fad or if it can really change world poverty. His answer was a qualified "yes" in that technology enables change, but not as much as expected. Professor Christopher Borgen of St. John's University then spoke of his experience as a founder of the influential *Opinio Juris* blog. He extolled the use of blogs for idea development, and provided the example of his collaboration with Serbian lawyers on the topic of self-determination in Kosovo. He pointed out the downsides as well (*i.e.*, blogs are not a tool for deep thinking or writing). Susan Notar, Managing Editor of ILM (*International Legal Materials*) at ASIL (American Society of International Law) spoke of her efforts to collect materials from new unconventional sources like blogs. As the day's programs concluded, we were all looking forward to the special evening ahead of us.

National Press Club Highlight Dinner: a Chance to See Familiar Faces and Make New Friends

The reception and gala dinner at the National Press Club was a once-in-a-lifetime event for many of us. I felt honored to attend a function at such a prestigious venue and was proud to share it with our international colleagues. I thought it a real tribute to our profession and a far cry from many other professional dinners I have attended. We had a wonderful Chicago contingent (including Lyonette Louis-Jacques, Jean Wenger, Tom

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Harmonization and Confrontation

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Gaylord and Gretchen Van Dam), as our photo will attest. Ironically, it sometimes takes an out-of-town trip to pull us away from our desks so that we can visit with colleagues who may only work a few blocks away.

Another great pleasure was the opportunity to connect with librarians from other Anglophone countries, specifically Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the U.K. At the National Press Club event, I had a wonderful conversation with Nancy McCormack, Head of the Lederman Law Library, Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. In fact, at Nancy's invitation, I just wrote an article for the "other *CALL Bulletin*"--the *Canadian Law Library Review*--about developments in U.S. law librarianship.

Final Day: Law School Exchanges & the Importance of Authenticity

On Saturday morning, we joined together at breakfast and the last of the JSI programs. The program "Internationalization and Globalization of U.S. Law School Curriculums" featured speakers Professor James Maxeiner of the University of Baltimore School of Law, and Wendy Collins of the Purdue University Law Center. Both speakers provided an excellent overview of the approaches at their respective law schools. Perhaps the most innovative of these types of programs is Georgetown's Center for Transnational Legal Studies in London, which hosts 60 to 80 foreign law students and 8 to 10 faculty per semester. Participating law schools jointly fund the program and select students to attend. Each student pays tuition to his/her home school. The program is not degree granting, but rather a co-teaching opportunity. The success of these programs can be measured, in part, by how much they energize, not just students, but faculty. These exchange programs sound worthwhile for law librarians too. See Young, Stephen, "Teaching Legal Research: Taking the Show on the Road" 13 *AALL Spectrum* 14 (November 2008) at http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub_sp0811/pub_sp0811_TLR.pdf.

Our own Sally Holterhoff then spoke about authentication of online legal resources, yet another topic of crucial importance to all of us. Sally started by defining the term "official" as mandated by statute or rule. She made reference to the *2007 State-by-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Resources* at the AALL website: http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub_authen_report.asp The March 2007 *Executive Summary* of the Report was included in our program materials. In

addition, Sally described the AALL national summit in April 2007 that involved 50 delegates from around the country, including members of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, representatives from the ABA, state archivists and federal government officials. As Sally stated, authenticity is an urgent issue as it impacts the confidence we can have in our legal sources. By the way, the authenticity of a legislative resolution is at issue in the pro bono case I mentioned earlier; thus, I can attest to just how crucial this issue is to the proper functioning of any legal system. Sally alerted us to look for a "best practices manual" in the near future. It will be interesting to track progress on these initiatives under the Obama administration.

We were then treated to presentations by many of our international Anglophone colleagues: Anne Matthewman, President of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries; Jennifer Aston, Immediate Past Chair of BIALL (British and Irish Association of Law Libraries); Vanessa Blackmore of the Law Courts Library in Australia; Yemisi Dina, Osgoode Hall Law School Library of York University, Canada; and, Kate Anthony, Parliamentary Counsel Office, Wellington, New Zealand. Anne, Vanessa and others spoke about authentication efforts in their respective countries and took inspiration from our efforts here in the U.S.

JSI 2008 concluded with a wrap-up by Ann Fessenden and Planning Committee Co-Chairs, Timothy Coggins (University of Richmond Law Library) and Darcy Kirk (University of Connecticut School of Law). As we dispersed for our respective corners of the world, spirits were high. I think most of the JSI participants thought that this was one of the best programs they had ever attended. We all took with us the valuable program materials, the memorable presentations and experiences and, most importantly, the names of new friends and colleagues from around the world. Lyonette Louis-Jacques has created many wonderful lists, including a list of foreign country experts. (See Louis-Jacques, Lyonette, *Jumpstart Your Foreign, Comparative and International Research: Use People Resources* at <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/fcilsis/Jumpstart.htm>). As Lyo knows so well, learning about foreign legal systems and meeting legal research experts from other countries, even countries where we speak the same language, is a big part of global law librarianship. Therefore, to borrow a superlative from one of my little nieces, I would designate JSI 2008 as my "BPE" ("best program ever").

Thank you CALL for giving me the opportunity to attend!



AALL 2008 ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE REPORT

By Deborah Rusin, Latham & Watkins LLP

Deborah.Rusin@lw.com

While the 2009 AALL Annual Meeting & Conference in Washington, DC may still be many months away, it is not too soon to start thinking about how you are going to finance your trip. With the current state of the economy, it is not surprising that many institutions are scaling back the number of librarians they will be sending to the annual conference. Unfortunately, many institutions have had to opt out of sending anyone to AALL, and many librarians are left with the choice of not attending the conference at all, or having to finance the trip themselves. If this is your predicament, keep in mind that CALL has grants available to attend the AALL Annual Meeting & Conference.

The Grants and Chapter Awards Committee has three \$500.00 grants available to CALL members specifically to attend the annual conference in July. The deadline to apply for a grant is April 17, 2009. The application is posted on the CALL website under "CALL Forms."

I myself was a recipient of a grant to attend the 2008 AALL Annual Meeting & Conference in Portland, Oregon. While I was not able to attend the entire conference, I was able to attend the Committee Chairs Leadership Training program, held on Saturday, July 12th. At the time, I was incoming Vice-Chair of the *Law Library Journal* (LLJ) and *AALL Spectrum* Committee. It was important for me to attend the meeting, not only to meet John Edwards, Chair of the Committee, but also to



learn what was expected of me as a vice-chair. It was a wonderful training session in which the following were reviewed: the responsibilities of the various committee members, what guidance and assistance we could expect from our AALL Board and

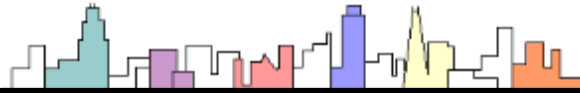
staff liaisons, the AALL 2005-2010 strategic direction, how to plan the work of the Committee for the upcoming year (some of which you will see shortly, in a new look for the LLJ), and how to devise a plan to form our various sub-committees and carry out our various charges.

I have found that, similar to attending CALL Business Meetings, attending the AALL Annual Meeting & Conference gives me the opportunity to network with old friends, hear wonderful speakers, learn a few new things to take back to the office, and maybe even make a new friend or two.

I truly enjoy my work and involvement with CALL and AALL. I plan on being around for a long time to come, attending as many CALL meetings and AALL conferences as possible, and giving back to the organizations that have enriched my professional life in ways I never could have predicted. I would like to make the same recommendation to you: volunteer and participate in your professional organizations! If financial assistance is what you need to make attendance at an annual conference a possibility, know that a grant application is awaiting your completion.

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.



Nominations Sought for CALL Awards

Each year, CALL honors members who have made outstanding contributions to the organization and the profession of law librarianship. CALL members are encouraged to submit nominations for the following annual awards:

The Agnes and Harvey Reid Award for Outstanding Contribution to Law Librarianship is presented annually at the May Business Meeting for outstanding service to the chapter during the previous year, or for contribution to law librarianship.

The Award for Outstanding Lifetime Achievement in Law Librarianship is presented annually at the May Business Meeting to a retired or soon to be retired CALL member for his or her outstanding lifetime achievement in law librarianship.

The Award for Outstanding In-House Publication is given to an individual or group that created in-house library materials (print or web) that are user- and staff-oriented, are relevant for law libraries and are outstanding in quality.

Past recipients of the awards are listed on pages 4 & 5 of the *CALL Handbook*. Criteria for the awards are on pages 54-56 of the *Handbook*. Information about the CALL Grants & Awards Committee is on pages 28-30 of the *Handbook*. The *CALL Handbook* is available at:

<http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/call/publications/callhandbook.pdf>

Follow the criteria given for each award and send your nominations to me by April 1, 2009. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Deborah Rusin, Co-Chair
CALL Grant and Awards Committee
deborah.rusin@lw.com

Thank you to the members of CALL for another successful
community service drive.

At the November CALL meeting, ten boxes of food for
the Greater Chicago Food Depository were collected and money
was donated to CASA.

Thank you for all of your generosity!
CALL Community Service Committee



CALL Committees 2008/09

ARCHIVES:

Co-Chairs:

Carol Klink 312-915-7190

cklink@luc.edu

Therese Clarke Arado 815-753-9497

tclarke@niu.edu

Lenore Glanz

Juli Jackson

Liaison: Deborah Ginsberg

BULLETIN:

Co-Chairs:

Julienne Grant 312-915-8520

jgrant6@luc.edu

Gail Hartzell 219-465-7836

gail.hartzell@valpo.edu

Advertising Manager:

Christina Wagner

312-832-4317

cwagner@foley.com

Roberta Fox

Lyonette Louis-Jacques

Margaret Schilt

Maria Willmer

Robert Winger

Liaison: Deborah Rusin

BYLAWS:

Chair: Frank Drake 312-876-7170

fdrake@arnstein.com

Liaison: Sheri Lewis

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Co-Chairs:

Stephanie Crawford 312-906-5642

scrawford@kentlaw.edu

Maribel Nash 312-906-5600

mnash@kentlaw.com

Janice Collins

Gwen Gregory

Todd Ito

Kevin McClure

Susan Sloma

Liaison: Julie Pabarja

CONTINUING EDUCATION:

Co-Chairs:

Frank Lima 815-753-9496

flima@niu.edu

Julie Melvin 312-876-2501

jmelvin@sonnenschein.com

Tom Gaylord

Laura Hyzy

Alina Kelly

Diana Koppang

Mary Ann Lenzen

Liaison: Julie Pabarja

CORPORATE MEMORY:

Chair: Susan Siebers 312-902-5675

susan.siebers@kattenlaw.com

Frank Drake

John Klaus

Liaison: Deborah Ginsberg

ELECTIONS:

Chair: John Austin 815-753-9493

jaustin@niu.edu

Eugene Giudice

Lenore Glanz

Sharon Nelson

Liaison: Sheri Lewis

GRANTS & CHAPTER

AWARDS:

Co-Chairs:

Denise Glynn 312-362-8176

dglynn@depaul.edu

Deborah Rusin 312-993-2686

deborah.rusin@lw.com

Megan Butman

Janice Collins

Roberta Fox

Gwen Gregory

Gail Hartzell

Valerie Kropf

Liaison: Deborah Rusin

INTERNET:

Co-Chairs:

Helen King-Desai 312-565-8401

hking-desai@srzlaw.com

Eugene Giudice 312-861-2915

eugene.m.giudice@bakernet.com

Annette Cade

Shan Jiang

Sharon Nelson

Liaison: Deborah Ginsberg

MEETINGS:

Co-Chairs:

Betty Roeske 312-577-8022

betty.roeske@kattenlaw.com

Eugene Giudice 312-861-2915

eugene.m.giudice@bakernet.com

Juli Jackson

Maribel Nash

Joan Ogden

Maria Willmer

Liaison: Gretchen Van Dam

MEMBERSHIP:

Co-Chairs:

Susan Retzer 312-577-8020

susan.retzer@kattenlaw.com

Valerie Kropf 312-984-5703

valerie.kropf@dlapiper.com

Therese Clarke Arado

Kathleen Bruner

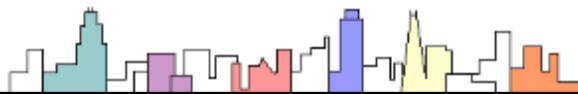
Megan Butman

Annette Cade

Mary Ann Lenzen

Liping Qin

Liaison: Ruth Bridges



WORKING SMARTER: NEW TECHNOLOGIES & NEW EXPECTATIONS

By Maria Willmer, Rinn Law Library, DePaul University

mwillmer@depaul.edu

Today's forecast is 60 degrees and sunny. What's surprising about this is that it is February 10th. Seeing the sun and feeling the warm breeze reminds me that spring is not far off on the horizon. Librarians today constantly need to look at what is on the horizon when it comes to information technology (IT). Libraries and librarians need to adapt to new technologies and to the new expectations that ensue when delivering information to our patrons. Being aware and conversant with the technologies (hardware and software) that are available today, and having a sense of future and emerging technologies, is my topic for today.

I'm not sure about you, but it seems that in the past five years, expectations from students and even patrons who don't know how to open their own e-mail are increasing. Students here at DePaul are offered wireless service and are often bringing their laptops, iPhones, Blackberries... etc. to the Reference Desk. They bring their IT devices/tools/mobiles to the desk with documents, search results, call numbers and often expect us to have a working knowledge of these devices. With new technologies come new expectations.

Looking to the future, a recent source I came across to help us navigate potential future or emerging technologies is the *Horizon Report 2009* (available for download at

http://horizon.nmc.org/wiki/Main_Page). The *Horizon Report* is co-published by the New Media Consortium (NMC) and the EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative (ELI) and was released on January 20, 2009. And, of course, all of us have our favorite sources to keep up with technology, such as *The New York Times*' "Technology News" section (of David Pogue fame), *Business Week*, *CIO.com*, *InformationWeek*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *Computerworld* (materials I've been scouring for a current class I am taking on managing information technology).

Keeping up with technology trends is certainly not easy, but I think it is something we as librarians need to tackle in our own way. Maybe you check certain websites (colleagues here recommend <http://news.cnet.com> and <http://arstechnica.com>), or read certain magazines to keep current. Certainly, we are not all IT professionals, and are not expected to be. However, a new line in our job description requires us to stay abreast of information technology. Staying current can certainly be very challenging since it seems information technology changes daily (if not sooner). However, having knowledge of current technologies, and having some idea of which emerging technologies are on the horizon, can also help us work smarter. I think I'll go out now with my iPod to take a walk in the sun!

\$50 AALL Member Appreciation Discount for 2009 Annual Meeting & Conference

AALL wants to help during these tough economic times. Members who register by **March 31st** will receive an additional \$50 Member Appreciation Discount off the already reduced early registration rate. Register at www.aallnet.org/events/09_registration.asp by March 31st and save up to \$150!



TECHBUZZ

LIBRARYTHING: A SOCIAL NETWORKING SITE FOR BOOK LOVERS (AND LIBRARIES TOO)

Sharon L. Nelson, Guest Editor,
David C. Shapiro Memorial Law Library, Northern Illinois University
snelson@niu.edu



What is *LibraryThing*?

You're probably familiar with "social networking" sites, such as *Facebook*, *MySpace* and *LinkedIn*.

LibraryThing is also a social networking site, but one designed for book lovers. Whereas in *Face-*

book, etc., you make connections through "friending" people, in *LibraryThing* you make connections with people (and libraries) through the books you own in common. While the majority of *LibraryThing* members are individuals, many libraries have become members too. Most of these are public, academic, or specialized libraries, but there is a smattering of law libraries as well.

LibraryThing (hereafter abbreviated "LT") was inaugurated in 2005 by then-graduate student Tim Spaulding as a hobby project to keep track of his own extensive library. It has since grown to a database of over 35 million books (representing approximately 4.2 million unique works), with contributions from over 600,000 members (see LT's "Zeitgeist" page at <http://www.librarything.com/zeitgeist>).

LT has a full complement of Web 2.0 features, including groups, tagging, the ability to find book-related events near you, and various "widgets" you can add to blogs, websites and *Facebook* pages. LT is also a prime example of "crowdsourcing." Like *Wikipedia*, the LT database relies on the unpaid labor of its contributors for its content. The "Legacy Libraries" projects (a.k.a. "I see dead people's books") have been created entirely by members; in some cases, these libraries represent a significant work of scholarship, such as the reconstructed library of the Mather family of witch-hunting fame. Members also disambiguate works, editions and authors (e.g., Samuel Clemens = Mark Twain), add links to author websites, and more. Like *Wikipedia*, the quality of the data varies, and you're sure to find some errors along the way. However, the massive size of the database, and the number of

people contributing data, usually allows accurate information to surface.

What's involved in joining LT?

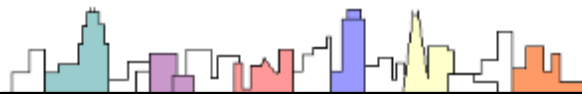
Basic personal memberships in LT are free. With a free membership you're able to add up to 200 books to your account's library. For \$10.00 a year (or a \$25.00 "lifetime" membership), you can add an unlimited number of books. Organizational accounts are also available for a small annual fee, based on the number of books in your LT library (up to a maximum of \$50.00). If your library wants to experiment with LT before committing to an organizational account, you can start with a personal account and switch to an organizational account later.

What do you get when you sign up?

All accounts, whether free or paid, personal or institutional, share the same set of features. While there are lots of bells and whistles in LT (with more being added constantly), each account has three basic components:

- **A "profile" page:** Just as you'd have a profile page in *MySpace* or *Facebook*, every LT account has a "profile page." Your profile page can include a picture, a description of your library, links to a website, and other information.
- **A "home" page:** In addition to the profile page everyone on LT sees, you can also create a customized "home page" only you can see, featuring recommendations, featured authors, book-related events near you, excerpts from LT blogs, and the latest posts from various LT groups.
- **Your "library":** The heart of a LT account is its "library." You (and others) are able to display the contents of your library in various list formats (including different fields, such as author, title, date, tags), by book covers, or by tags. If there

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is a particular way you want visitors to your library to view your data, you can set up a “recommended view” for people to use – otherwise visitors are able to display your data any way they choose.

A guided tour of LT:

The best way to explore these components (except for the home page, which is private to each member) is to take a tour of a representative LT site. (Note: you don’t need to be a member to view LT data and libraries.) As an example, take a look at the test account I’ve been developing for our library in LT: <http://www.librarything.com/profile/niulawlib>. On the left side of the profile page, you’ll see some information about our library and links to our home page. On the right side, you’ll see a list of random books from our library, and a list of LT members who have at least one book from our library in their library. At the bottom of the page are RSS feeds that enable anyone to subscribe to new books or book reviews we’ve added. I’ve also added a list of “Interesting libraries” to our profile page, which are some other law libraries I’ve discovered in LT. You can click on their account names to connect to their profile pages.

Clicking on the “See library” link on our profile page will bring you to the contents of our LT library (or you can go directly to <http://www.librarything.com/catalog/niulawlib>). While you can play around with the sort and display options, at the top of the page there is a link labeled “niulawlib has a suggested style for viewing this library.” Clicking “use it” allows you to see our default display, which I’ve modified to include LC classifications and subjects when available.

Let’s take a look at a specific book to see the kind of information an LT record can contain. The LT record for *Active Liberty: Interpreting Our Democratic Constitution* by Justice Stephen Breyer is at <http://www.librarything.com/work/331062>. From this page, you can see which members have added this book to their libraries, how members have tagged the book, if there are any automatic or member-contributed recommendations for similar works, and much more.

All this is interesting and potentially useful information -- but where’s the bibliographic data? Clicking on the “Details” link on the left side of the page will lead you to a “Work details” tab that looks very much like a traditional catalog card. Clicking on a subject will lead you to other books cataloged under that subject. In the upper

right corner, there’s a box labeled “Buy, borrow, swap or view,” which links to *WorldCat* and a number of online bookstores. LT members can customize this area to add links to their local libraries’ OPACs (if the library has set up such a link on the “Book Links” page at <http://www.librarything.com/bookservices.php>). While not all entries in LT will have this depth and breadth of content, if you compare the information in LT to the amount of information you get about a book in your average OPAC, you can see LT is a potentially rich source of supplemental information.

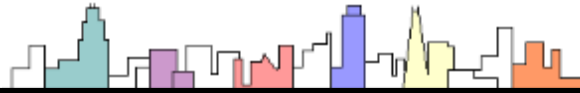
How do you enter books into your LT library?

There are three ways to enter records into LT: 1) through importing a file of ISBNs (this feature is explained in more detail at <http://www.librarything.com/import.php>); 2) by scanning in a barcode; or, 3) by typing in the data manually. In all three cases, the user first selects a “book source,” an external database connected to LT via Z39.50 that is the source for the records to be imported into LT. The nearly 700 foreign and domestic book sources include the Library of Congress, thirteen significant law libraries (see <http://www.librarything.com/blog/labels/law-libraries.php> for the list), and the CARLI (formerly “ILCSO”) libraries, which include the holdings of four academic law libraries in Illinois (Chicago-Kent at IIT, DePaul, Northern Illinois University, and the University of Illinois). Once the book is in your LT library, you can modify its data in a variety of ways, by adding tags, comments, reviews, descriptions, or adding to the “common knowledge” section of each work.

What can libraries do with LT?

- **Catalog a collection:** One of the obvious uses for LT is to organize a collection you currently don’t have cataloged, or perhaps only have cataloged on a database or on a PC in your library. There are many museum, church, and other specialized libraries using LT in this way. A basic search box for your LT library can be generated for your website, blog, or intranet; it’s not a terribly sophisticated search interface, but it handles simple searches adequately. While LT has no true “circulation” capabilities, some libraries make use of the “private comments” field to record who checked out materials and when they’re due. While by default, all LT libraries are “public” --allowing anyone on the Internet to see them--you can set your library to “private,” (viewable only by those who have the login and

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password to the account). Be aware, though, that setting a library to “private” does affect some features, such as the ability to use blog widgets.

- **Highlight parts of a collection:** Even if you already have an OPAC, you can use LT to highlight portions of your collection, such as new books, reference materials, book club selections or reading lists, review materials, etc.
- **Make use of “blog widgets” & other data extract features:** LT’s “widgets” are an easy way to embed information about new books and other featured items from your LT library in your blog, website or *Facebook* pages. The blog widget generates one line of *JavaScript* that can easily be inserted into most blogs or web pages. For the more technologically savvy, LT has APIs available to enable users to extract data from their LT libraries for repurposing.
- **Collection development:** Reading reviews, and seeing how readers have tagged items, may give you a better idea of content than a publisher’s blurb. In addition, LT contains a number of sources in non-English languages, so you just may be able to locate bibliographic information about that obscure foreign item. And, just as LT personal members often keep lists of books they want to read, you could use an LT account as a place to store items you’re considering for purchase (though you may want to make that library private, to avoid whetting your patrons’ appetites).

What else can you do with an LT account?

- If your library hosts events open to the public, you can post information about them to the LT membership via *LibraryThing Local*. LT members can track events on their home page, such as lectures, discussions, book clubs, or book signings, within a 100-mile radius from their location. Even if you don’t have an LT account, you can view events near you by going to <http://www.librarything.com/local> and entering your city or ZIP code.
- **Discussion groups** are available for practically every topic, genre, interest and profession; <http://www.librarything.com/groups> lists the most pop-

ular. The “Librarians who LibraryThing” group is the largest in LT, with over 5,600 members. There is a Lawyers group, a “Progressive Criminal Justice” group, a “Fair Use” group for copyright, a “True Crime” group, and many more. A Law Librarians group also exists at <http://www.librarything.com/groups/lawlibrarians> (though it is currently not very active).

- For libraries that would like to enhance an existing OPAC with LT data, there is *LibraryThing for Libraries*. This is a separate subscription service with its own services and costs, and discussing it in detail is beyond the scope of this article; however, more information about it is available at <http://www.librarything.com/forlibraries/about>.
- Even if you decide LT may not be right for your law library, it may be useful for your personal book collection, or perhaps for organizing the book collection of a church or other organization to which you belong. In that vein, there are many more features of LT that I don’t have the space to discuss here, such as: the “un-suggester” (<http://www.librarything.com/unsuggester>); the new “will you like it?” sliding scale (<http://www.librarything.com/blog/2009/01/will-you-like-it.php>); the “Zeitgeist” page at (<http://www.librarything.com/zeitgeist>) for the secret statistics geek in you; and the fun of purchasing a barcode scanner shaped like a cat for only \$15.00 (<http://www.librarything.com/cuecat>).

What are law libraries doing with LT?

Although I went into this project hoping to find law libraries using LT in extensive and stupendously creative ways, not many law libraries have active LT accounts. The more active ones I’ve been able to find (including the Bodleian Law Library, Oxford; the Gallagher Law Library at the University of Washington School of Law; and the Goodson Law Library at Duke University) seem to be using LT primarily to publicize new or notable books. And while there are law-related books in the LT database, they tend not to be linked to a lot of comments, reviews or tags. However, there is no reason why a law library, like any other special library, could not make use of some of the features other libraries are using to their advantage. Hopefully, more law libraries will take an interest in adding books and enhancing them in LT.

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TechBuzz cont. from p. 36**What about the long-term future of LT?**

Like any other web-based service (or these days, any other company), using LT is tempered by the usual concerns about stability, longevity, support, and ongoing affordability. As always, it pays to be cautious about investing substantial time and money into something that may disappear, be bought out, or evolve into a very different creature before your eyes.

Unfortunately, the LT universe has been rattled by OCLC's proposed "Policy for Use and Transfer of WorldCat® Records" (available at <http://www.oclc.org/worldcat/catalog/policy/recordusepolicy.pdf>). What makes LT unique among its competitors (including sites, such as *Shelfari*, *WeRead*, *BookJetty*, *GoodReads*, *BookRabbit*, *GuruLib*, and *Lib.rario.us*) is its extensive connections to the world of library data, and thus it may be the most threatened of its peers if the OCLC policy is implemented as proposed. You can follow Tim Spaulding's comments about the problems with the policy in general, and its potential impact on LT in particular, on his "Thing-ology Blog" (<http://www.librarything.com/thingology/labels/oclc.php>).

OCLC announced in January 2009 it was postponing the implementation date for the policy to the third quarter of 2009 and establishing a Review Board to solicit feedback, so the uncertainty related to LT's fate will likely continue. It would be a sad day to lose this fascinating and truly valuable resource. Hopefully, LT can come out of the OCLC policy shakeup with its functionality relatively unscathed to survive and thrive for many years to come. And, hopefully, more law libraries will be part of LT's future too.



AALL Annual Meeting/ Workshop Grants for New & Experienced Members Available

Thinking about attending the 2009 annual meeting, but need financial assistance? Apply now for an AALL grant to attend the AALL Annual Meeting or a workshop in Washington, D.C.! Grants are awarded to cover registration fees for the Annual Meeting or workshops presented at the Annual Meeting.

For the first time, two categories of grants are available: one for experienced members (5 or more years) who have a proven record of professional accomplishment and service to AALL and the other for Students/New Members (less than 5 years of professional experience) who hold promise of future involvement in AALL and the law library profession. Previously, newer members and students were given a scoring advantage, but the committee feels that experienced members are also in need of assistance to attend AALL Annual Meetings or workshops.

The application deadline is Wednesday, April 1, 2009. Don't delay! For more information, see the Grants Committee website: http://www.aallnet.org/committee/grants/grant_application.asp Still have questions? Feel free to contact any member of the Grants Committee. Looking forward to receiving your application.

AALL Grants Committee

CALL Committees cont. from p. 32**NOMINATIONS:**

Chair: Mary Lu Linnane 312-362-6895
mlinnane@depaul.edu

Janice Collins
 Eugene Giudice
 Sally Holterhoff
 JoAnn Hounshell

Liaison: Sheri Lewis

PLACEMENT & RECRUITMENT:

Co-Chairs:
 John Klasey 312-984-5222
john.klasey@dlapiper.com

Katie Leonard 312-601-8829
katie.leonard@thomsonreuters.com

Alice Loan
 Sarah Morris
 Doris Nuding
 Joan Ogden
 Sean Rebstock

Liaison: Ruth Bridges

PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

Co-Chairs:
 Heidi Kuehl 312-503-4725
h-kuehl@law.northwestern.edu

Todd Ito 773-702-9617
tito@uchicago.edu

Beverly Burmeister
 Kevin McClure
 Lucy Moss
 Valerie Weingart
 Julia Wentz

Liaison: Deborah Rusin

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Co-Chairs:
 Pat Sayre McCoy 773-702-9620
psml@uchicago.edu

Alina Kelly 312-269-5258
akelly@ngelaw.com

Carolyn Hosticka
 Helen King-Desai
 Doris Nuding

Liaison: Christine Morong

RELATIONS WITH INFORMATION VENDORS:

Chair: Lorna Tang 773-702-9619
lyt2@uchicago.edu

Ed Edmonds
 Eugene Giudice
 Barry Herbert
 Frank Lima

Liaison: Christine Morong

CALL Meeting Schedule 2008-2009

Business Meetings

- Sept. 18, 2008 (Thurs.)
- Nov. 20, 2008 (Thurs.)
- Feb. 27, 2009 (Fri.)
- May 21, 2009 (Thurs.)

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



Executive Board Meetings

- June 05, 2008 (Thurs.)
- Aug. 05, 2008 (Tues.)
- Sept. 09, 2008 (Tues.)
- Oct. 07, 2008 (Tues.)
- Nov. 04, 2008 (Tues.)
- Dec. 09, 2008 (Tues.)
- Jan. 13, 2009 (Tues.)
- Feb. 10, 2009 (Tues.)
- Mar. 10, 2009 (Tues.)
- Apr. 14, 2009 (Tues.)
- May 12, 2009 (Tues.)