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Dear CALL members,

This issue coincides, more or less, with the Winter Solstice. This period at the end of the calendar year provides many of us with a time to relax and reflect on what has transpired in the previous year. For law librarians, the past year was another year of change and another year of belt-tightening.

With that in mind, we sought counsel from our members as to how these changes were playing out in firms, agencies and schools. The articles in this special issue address the broad question: What’s new in legal research?

Much of what’s new is occurring in our many local law schools where librarians and other legal research professors are working to meet the challenge of producing ‘practice-ready’ associates. To that end, this issue presents a group of articles that record how the demand for practice-ready associates and the ever-expanding universe of research sources has affected how legal research is being taught. Tom Keefe points out the rise of digital learners in college is forcing law schools to re-think how legal research is taught to 1Ls and how this affects subsequent curricular development. Joe Mitzenmacher provides some insight into recent changes in Loyola’s legal research program. Heidi Kuehl reviews how Northwestern’s Pritzker Legal Research Center has integrated the teaching of WestlawNext into its legal research curriculum. In addition, Margaret Schilt describes how Bloomberg’s new law product has been adopted at the University of Chicago. Finally, Lyonette Louis-Jacques provides members with a new list of reliable websites for tracking foreign law.

In addition, the Winter Bulletin provides the usual array of meeting reviews, round-ups and information concerning the administrative functions of CALL as a whole.

As always, this issue includes offerings from some of our regular columnists: Therese Arado keeps us abreast of

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Dear CALL Members,

Chicago is an interesting city – as I write this letter it looks to be a gorgeous fall day in Chicago. Only it is about 30 degrees outside, definitely a little cold to still be considered fall and a sign that the change in our weather is upon us. Our Association is in the midst of change as well. As we all experience in our daily lives – technology is everywhere and it changes rapidly. As an Association, it is often difficult to tell what technology we should embrace and when. We took great strides last year in becoming part of the social networking trend. This allows the Association to be more visible and get information out to members faster than it has been able to in the past.

The Bulletin seems to be the next area for technological change. With the creation of our new website (to be unveiled soon), there has been a lot of discussion about how best the Bulletin should be created and maintained for the membership. The issues involved in this decision are not easy ones, so I have appointed a Special Bulletin Committee to look into what would be best for the Association in terms of the Bulletin going forward. Gail Hartzell has agreed to chair this committee and Therese Clarke Arado, Thomas Keefe, Lyonette Louis-Jacques, Joan Ogden, Margaret Schilt, and Maria Willmer have graciously volunteered their time to this committee. Thank you all!

The Bulletin editors, Thomas Keefe and Margaret Schilt, need a special thank you for all of the hard work they put into each issue of the Bulletin. They always have such great ideas and produce a very professional publication! Thank you, Tom and Margaret!

We have had a very busy fall with meetings and Committee activities. Two wonderful Business Meetings have already taken place this year. The first meeting held on September 22nd at Petterino’s was very well attended by the membership. Margie Maes, AALL Vendor Liaison, provided detailed information about the AALL Vendor Colloquium Action Plan. The second meeting was held on November 16th at Wildfire and was also very well attended. Philip Costello, Cook County Circuit Court Archivist, provided entertaining information about the Archives. I would like to thank Jill Matulionis and Maribel Nash for their tremendous efforts in putting together such delicious menus and choosing venues that have such a nice feel about them.

The Continuing Education Committee has already put on one brown bag luncheon, Sealing the Best Deal in Vendor Contract Negotiations. On October 26th, June Libbert led the discussion and provided valuable information to all who attended.

The Association has a new logo! Please look for it throughout the Bulletin and on our various social media sites. We will soon be launching the new CALL website and the logo will be prominent on the new site. Thank you to all who helped get the decision finalized on the new logo. Special thanks to Todd Ito, Debbie Ginsberg, Gwen Gregory, and Sharon Nelson.

I am anxiously anticipating what the Association can accomplish in 2012. Volunteering for our Association takes time (and in some cases – a lot of time) and I would like to thank all of our committee members, committee chairs, and Board members for volunteering their time to make our Association a better one.

I wish you all the best for the upcoming holiday season and look forward to seeing everyone next year.

Juli Jackson
CALL President, 2011-2012

Editor’s Letter cont. from p. 2

recent membership changes in her People and Place and Lyonette Louis-Jacques uses the Techbuzz column to introduce us to Xtranormal, a new technology for creating animated instructional videos.

We hope you enjoy.

Tom Keefe and Margaret Schilt, Co-editors
CALL Executive Board Minutes
By Julienne Grant, Loyola University Chicago School of Law Library
Jgrant6@luc.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 Julienne Grant (Jgrant6@luc.edu, 312-915-8520), Secretary.

2011-2012 CALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
AALL Headquarters, 105 W. Adams St., Suite 3300
August 9, 2011 9:00 a.m.

Board Members Present: Julia Jackson, JoAnn Hounshell, Heidi Kuehl, Denise Glynn, Julienne Grant, Todd Ito, Susan Retzer

Board Members Absent: None

CALL Members Present: Jill Matulionis and Maribel Nash (representing the Meetings Committee); Betty Roeske and Gail Hartzell (via telephone) (representing the Relations with Information Vendors Committee)

Summary:
Treasurer’s Report (Section IV):
1. CALL Balance as of June 30, 2011: $33,959.59
2. Net Income, June 2011: $1,335.44
3. Membership numbers as of June 30, 2011: Not Available
4. CALL Balance as of July 31, 2011: $32,834.59
5. Net Income, July 2011: -$1,125.00
6. Membership numbers as of July 31, 2011: 243 (8 new members, 235 renewals)

Significant Actions:
The Board approved the new charge/description of the Relations with Information Vendors Committee. (VI. Committee Chair Visits, b.)

The Board approved the Relations with Information Vendors Committee’s proposal for a fall program with the Continuing Education Committee on the topic of vendor negotiations. (VI. Committee Chair Visits, b.)

The Board approved the current CALL Committee assignments, with additions/removals as amended. (VII. Old Business, a.)

The Board charged Todd Ito with asking the website designer, LogoMojo, to further edit a selected logo design and derive a matching social media design.

The Board approved the AALL “Web Copyright Statement and Release,” as it pertains to the CALL website. This statement will be posted on the CALL website. (VIII. New Business, a.)

Policy: Going forward, CALL’s Annual Report should be submitted to the Illinois Secretary of State by mail. The Annual Report itself should list all CALL officers (President, Vice President/President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer), and all seven members of the Board as Directors. This is consistent with both the CALL Bylaws and Illinois law. (VII. Old Business, e.)

CALL BULLETIN SURVEY
Responding to changes in technology, The CALL Board has assembled a special committee to investigate whether we should make changes to the CALL Bulletin. In early January the Special Committee will survey the membership about what kinds of information members like to receive in the Bulletin and in what format they would like to receive it.

Please take the time to respond to this short but important survey.
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SEPTEMBER CALL BUSINESS MEETING ROUNDPUP

By Julienne Grant, Loyola University Chicago School of Law Library

Jgrant6@luc.edu

The first business meeting of the 2011-2012 CALL year was held at Petterino’s (150 N. Dearborn, Chicago) on September 22nd. The Community Service Committee collected school supplies for the Chicago Public Schools Students in Temporary Living Situations program. The Law Bulletin Information Network (LBIN) sponsored the meeting, and LexisNexis sponsored the door prizes.

CALL President Julia Jackson opened the meeting at noon and thanked the attendees. She then read the names of new CALL members and asked any in attendance to stand. Next, CALL Vice President/President-Elect JoAnn Hounshell introduced representatives of the meeting’s sponsor, LBIN. Mike Kramer and Olivia Clarke of LBIN first offered a short history of the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin and then discussed some of LBIN’s new developments and initiatives. LBIN is trying to provide a more community-based product, and representatives have been meeting with local law firms for feedback. Mike and Olivia also announced that CALL members were invited to attend two forthcoming LBIN roundtable discussions in October.

JoAnn then introduced the meeting’s featured speaker, Margie Maes, AALL’s Vendor Liaison. Margie has had a long career in law libraries, including positions at Cornell, the University of Minnesota, and the University of St. Thomas. She also served as AALL President from 1999-2000.

Margie was appointed AALL’s Vendor Liaison on November 1, 2010, and she characterized AALL’s vendor relations program as a “work in progress.” Margie stressed that positive outcomes from this program will come over time, rather than overnight. Margie’s talk was divided into three parts that addressed: 1) the role of the Vendor Liaison; 2) the Liaison’s relationship with AALL’s Committee on Relations with Information Vendors (CRIV); and 3) AALL’s Vendor Colloquium Action Plan.

In the first part of her talk, Margie discussed her role as AALL’s Vendor Liaison, and she recommended an article in the April 2011 issue of AALL Spectrum that she authored about the position. Some of the Vendor Liaison’s main responsibilities are to build relationships with vendors and AALL groups, and to participate in educational programs (such as speaking at events). After her initial appointment, Margie met with representatives from Thomson Reuters, Lexis, Wolters Kluwer, BNA, and Hein. In the coming year, she plans to maintain regular contact with these vendors, and she also plans to meet with other vendor reps, including Bloomberg’s. She has also reached out to AALL’s SIS Chairs and asked them to brief her on vendor issues. To keep herself up-to-date, she also reads blogs, listservs, and social media. Additionally, Margie announced that a Vendor Liaison update in the form of an e-newsletter will be launched in early October. She is also involved in developing a vendor relations policy, which should be available next spring.

The second part of the talk centered on Margie’s relationship with AALL’s CRIV. She generally characterized the relationship as cordial and collaborative. She speaks regularly with the CRIV Chair and Vice Chair, and she helped CRIV develop five program proposals for AALL’s 2012 Annual Meeting. Margie also indicated that she and CRIV are currently talking about collaborating on a blog. She distinguished the work of Vendor Liaison and CRIV; Margie works on policy at the Association level, while CRIV is more concerned with the daily work of law librarians.

The third segment of the talk focused on AALL’s Vendor Colloquium Action Plan. A draft of the Plan was originally posted on AALLNET this past June. Margie indicated that comments about the Plan were solicited, but only a few were submitted. The AALL Executive Board approved the Action Plan in July. The Plan has three parts: 1) new projects; 2) areas of current work (with 3 goals); and 3) future work. Two Task Forces have been set up to implement the “new projects” part of the Plan. All of the Plan-related documents are posted on AALLNET under the “Advocacy” link, and then “Vendor Relations.”

There were no questions from the floor.

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**Business Meeting Roundup cont. from p. 6**

Julia then announced that CALL’s new logo would be unveiled later in the day via e-mail and that new guidelines for the Discussion List and CALL website had been posted. Co-Chairs from several CALL Committees then made announcements. Betty Roeske from CRIV provided details on the forthcoming brown bag program on vendor contract negotiations. Robert Martin from Community Service expressed the Committee’s general gratitude for donations and also asked for input on where to donate the money collected during meetings. Tom Keefe indicated that the Fall 2011 issue of the CALL Bulletin had gone to press. He announced that the Winter “Special Issue” would focus on “Changes in Electronic Resources” and solicited contributions from members about their experiences with such databases as Fastcase and WestlawNext.

The November Business Meeting will be held at Wildfire on November 16th. JoAnn announced the winners of the Lexis door prizes: Don MacGregor of Wolters Kluwer and Walter Baumann of DePaul.

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**2011 AALL Salary Survey Now Available**

The AALL 2011 Biennial Salary Survey and Organizational Characteristics is now available online free for AALL members.

This new edition is the only source for up-to-date information about salaries for law librarians and other law library employees who work in academic libraries; private firms and corporate libraries; and state, court, and county law libraries. The survey was carried out this summer in complete confidentiality by Association Research, Inc., a professional research firm in Rockville, Maryland, that works exclusively with nonprofit organizations.

Printed copies of the survey will be available for purchase and shipment in mid-November; $110 for AALL members and $175 for nonmembers (contact orders@aall.org).

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**PEOPLE & PLACES**

By Therese Clarke Arado, Northern Illinois University
tclarke@niu.edu
Christine Klobucar, Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLPcklobucar@angelaw.com

**Welcome New Members:**

**Carole C. Dauer**  
Carole_dauer@hotmail.com

**Frank Oliver**  
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oliverf@joneswaldo.com

**Katie M. Shank**  
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**Taylor Southworth**  
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(847) 981-4747  
TSouthworth@gmail.com

**Jona Whipple**  
Chicago-Kent College of Law  
(312) 906-5677  
jwhipple@kentlaw.edu

**NEW POSITIONS:**

**Carolyn Hersch**  
Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLP

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

We are sorry to announce the death of Frank Lukes, former President of CALL (1965-66), in early December. Mr. Lukes was active in both CALL and AALL. He received the AALL Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award in 1988 and was inaugurated into the AALL Hall of Fame in 2010.
The second business meeting of the 2011-2012 CALL year was held at Wildfire (159 W. Erie, Chicago) on November 16th. The Community Service Committee collected toiletries, new blankets, and stuffed animals for the Jane Addams Hull House Association and cash for Honor Flight Chicago. Cash donations at the meeting totaled $180.00, the largest amount collected for a single meeting in the past two years. Bloomberg Law sponsored the meeting, and LexisNexis sponsored the door prizes.

CALL President Julia Jackson opened the meeting at noon and thanked the attendees. Next, CALL Vice President/President-Elect JoAnn Hounshell thanked members of the Meetings Committee and introduced six representatives from Bloomberg Law. Lou Andreozzi from Bloomberg expressed his gratitude to CALL for allowing Bloomberg to sponsor the meeting and indicated that Bloomberg was generally excited to sponsor CALL events. He said he hoped CALL members would view Bloomberg Law as “another alternative.”

JoAnn then introduced the meeting’s featured speaker, Philip J. Costello, who has served in the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County Archives since its inception in 1992. Philip possesses a B.A. in Political Science from Marquette University, and he earned a master’s degree in Public History from Loyola University Chicago. Philip has also served on the Board of the Illinois State Historical Society and has actively participated in the Society of American Archivists and the Midwest Archives Conference.

Philip began his presentation by describing the general role of the Clerk of the Cook County Circuit Court (currently Dorothy Brown), and how the Archives function within that office. He explained that, by statute, part of the Clerk’s role is to keep the Circuit Court’s records. Currently, there are five records center locations in the Circuit Court’s archival program. According to Philip, the Archives contain “miles” of linear feet of records, and a variety of patrons utilize the Archives, including genealogists, historians, attorneys, and title company representatives. The speaker also mentioned that marriage, birth, death, tax, and election records are not part of the Circuit Court’s Archives, and that those materials are held and maintained by other Cook County departments.

Philip next discussed the types of records that are contained in the Archives. The speaker first described naturalization records, which span 1871-1929, as the Circuit
Court stopped naturalizing citizens in 1929. Philip explained that the Archives also contain probate records, which he characterized as an extremely interesting, albeit “convoluted”, area. Philip explained that, prior to 1970, probate files contained much more information than now, and that these earlier records can be great for researchers. The probate records in the Archives cover 1871-1976, with some wills even dating back to the 1850s. Divorce cases are also held in the Archives, and those records span 1871-1986. Philip said that Archives staff often pull 15 to 20 divorce files per day, as they have great family history value. Other types of records included in the Archives are criminal felony (1871-1900; 1927-1983), law and chancery (1871-1963; 1964-1991 (Chancery)), and county court cases (1871-1974). He stressed that records for adoption, juvenile, and mental health cases are not readily available. During Philip’s talk, CALL member Scott Burgh also stepped to the microphone to provide an interesting example of a pre-Haymarket case that he had researched, utilizing the Archives.

There were a variety of questions from the floor. One attendee inquired about digitization, and Philip said that his office was working to digitize the collection, but that it was an “enormous” task. Another inquiry was about Ancestry.com, and Philip acknowledged that the Archives do work with that service, but emphasized that Ancestry.com can’t generally place records in context. Another attendee asked about the Mary Todd Lincoln records, which the Archives recently donated to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield. One attendee also asked about the Archives’ level of assistance, and Philip indicated that Archives staff must follow Illinois law in terms of how much, and at what cost, staff members may provide assistance to members of the public.

Julia thanked Philip and then asked for announcements from CALL Committees. Heidi Kuehl solicited applications for CALL grants. Two grants of up to $1500.00 each will be available for attendance at the 2012 AALL meeting in Boston. Julie Pabarja from the Community Service Committee thanked the attendees for their contributions to Hull House and Honor Flight Chicago. Julia announced that Pat Sayre McCoy was selling CALL t-shirts for $5.00 each.

The February Business Meeting will be held at Lloyd’s Chicago on February 23, 2012. JoAnn announced the winners of the two Lexis door prizes ($25 gift certificates for Barnes & Noble): Liping Qin of John Marshall and Megan Butman of DLA Piper.

Note: Additional information on the Clerk of the Cook County Circuit Court’s Archives is available at: http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org/?RecArchivePage=6000&page=RecArchivPage
This article is a snapshot of a larger piece that I am presently working on, but it fits with our theme of ‘what’s new in legal research.’ As this piece is not intended to be of publishable academic quality, I have taken some liberties with citations. I assure you I have them.

I. Employer Expectations Regarding Legal Research Skills

This ‘age of austerity’ has produced at least one major shift in the teaching of legal research skills in law school: students must now arrive at firms ‘practice-ready.’ Studies and surveys suggest that law firm administrators and law librarians no longer have the luxury of spending time and client dollars to hone or augment the skills of incoming associates. New associates spend as much as 45% of their time performing research; law firms write off as much as 50% of new associates’ research time because they fail to perform cost-effective legal research. In this economy, if a new hire cannot produce value, he or she will be replaced by someone who can.

But, adding to a firm’s bottom line has often resulted in a shift in the way that legal research is performed in law firms. Firms now rely less on traditional print resources like digests and encyclopedias which occupy valuable real estate and eat away at the bottom line. Firms are also being forced to rely less on ‘traditional’ online resources-LexisNexis and Westlaw-mainly because they face increasing pressure from clients not to pass along the bills. Thus, many firms now require associates to rely on free and low-cost resources like Fastcase, Loislaw and other ‘tier-two’ legal research providers. There is also more emphasis in law firms on ‘fixed-cost’ online subscriptions like BNA and CCH.

The impact of these changes hit home with me a few weeks ago when I had an alumnus sitting at the reference desk. She worked for a small Chicago firm. When she started, the firm had a small but respectable collection of books and a Wexis (I don’t remember which) contract. The associates preferred using the online materials so the firm eventually cancelled the print. Recently, the firm cancelled the online contract. She was now sitting at the reference desk asking me if I could remind her how to do research in books.

Law schools are generally aware of these trends and recent reports on developing law school curriculum of the future, like the McCrate Report and the Carnegie Report, recognize the need for integrating more practical skills-centered classes into law school’s doctrinal curriculum. The great debate now is how to achieve this new balance.

II. Research Skills of Incoming Law School Students

The ‘how do we do this’ aspect of this quandary is even more pronounced when it comes to preparing students to perform legal research in the real world because today students are arriving at law school less prepared, not more prepared. There have been a number of studies recently on the research habits and information literacy skills of college students and the results are not encouraging. Here are but a few:

- nearly all students intentionally make use of a ‘small compass’ for traversing the ever-widening and complex information landscape they inhabit, whether they are finding information for course work or for use in their daily lives;
- students use a strategy driven by efficiency and predictability in order to manage and control a staggering amount of information that is available to them in college settings;
- Students put too much trust in computer software and search engines.

Recent surveys have exploded the myth of the ‘digital native’: college students love Google and other online tools, but they are not very good at using them for high-

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Across the Great Divide cont. from p. 10

level research. In fact, the gap between the rich resources that libraries provide and the ‘smaller set of tried and true’ sources that students actually use is widening. When it comes to writing academic papers, many students have devolved into topic shopping: they search for a topic that yields ‘easy’ search results rather than remaining with a topic that may prove too difficult, even when they have been encouraged by a professor to remain with the original topic.  

III. Closing the Widening Gap Part 1: Where do We Begin?

So this is how we find the average law student today. As one well-respected academic law library director noted, today’s law students seek “convenient and readily available tools . . . they are likely to look first to the Internet to locate information rather than to library databases and similar resources.” Left to their own devices, law students follow the path of least resistance. They will stick to, and have unfounded confidence in, search behaviors that they are comfortable with. This is true even when the superiority of other techniques has been established for them.

These conclusions shouldn’t come as a surprise to those who have taught legal research. But, the truth of the matter is that those teaching legal research are put in the uncomfortable position of having to re-program incoming students and expose them to a world that is unlike anything they have ever seen. We have to teach them structure when all they have seen is a search box. We have to teach that legal research is a process when all they are used to is cutting and pasting from the first page of results. We have to teach them about traditional sources and finding tools at a time when all they care about is grades and there may be student account reps lurking about offering research ‘points’ and free food. We also have to accomplish this goal at the same time that legal writing instructors are covering “introduction to the law and the common law system, sources of the law, the court system, analyzing legal authority, legal method, briefing cases, writing law school examinations, drafting letters and contracts, writing legal memoranda, organizing legal discussions, constructing effective paragraphs, legal research, formatting appellate briefs, advocacy, and oral argument.” I have now completed my twelfth semester of teaching an integrated three-credit research and writing class for first semester students and I feel comfortable in expressing my considered opinion that it is nearly impossible to effectively teach legal research to first year law students. They have no context, and in the grand scheme of things, it’s not that important to them.

IV. Closing the Widening Gap Part II: The Need for More Advanced Legal Research Classes

If employers increasingly demand practice-ready associates and many students are ill-suited for learning to perform cost-effective legal research when most schools provide for that education, i.e., in the first year, then there must be another solution, and there is: provide more advanced legal research courses. One of the main problems in teaching advanced courses in legal research is that the enrollment is usually capped at a very small number. Perhaps if employers speak loudly enough, schools will recognize the need for increasing the number of classes offered so that more students can be accommodated.

Surprisingly, law students seem to recognize the need for additional training. We surveyed our students last spring. Out of 300 respondents, nearly 240 indicated that they would take an advanced legal research class if offered, and some of the rest had already taken one. In a similar survey at Brooklyn Law School, seventy-one percent of the students surveyed reported that they would like to see more of a connection between legal principles and legal research in their substantive law classes. This response anticipates a situation where legal research is taught throughout the curriculum and not just in ‘specialized’ advanced legal research classes. That is another way for law schools to respond to the demands of practitioners.

V. What’s Not New in Legal Research: Training Is a Partnership

As I write, I was just introduced to Bloomberg Law. Bloomberg recently bought BNA and soon they will join forces. So, I guess in addition to teaching traditional print sources, LexisNexis, Westlaw, WestlawNext, Lexis Advance, Aspen/Loislaw, Fastcase, Casemaker, Google Scholar, Thomas, PACER etc etc, legal research instructors will have to begin teaching the Bloomberg ‘platform’ as well. My point here is that there is a dizzying array of products to which students need to be exposed and it’s just not possible to cover them all with the time and attention that law schools provide for teaching legal research.

Joe Mitzenmacher from Loyola and Heidi Kuehl from Northwestern have provided some insight as to how these challenges are being handled by academic law librar-
At Loyola, the reference librarians teach the First Year Legal Research classes, and (as adjuncts) we also teach the Advanced Legal Research (ALR) classes. We try to impart to our students that our research classes can help them make their practice more profitable.

As part of that goal, we want to make our students aware of some of the lower-cost and free options available to legal researchers, along with giving them an idea of the true cost of using LexisNexis and Westlaw in the “real world.” To help us demonstrate those costs, we are now using the “Pricing Guide for Commercial Plans” (which is available in WestlawNext’s “Tools” menu) so that the students can look at some actual prices for using the various databases. While those costs are not necessarily what they would pay for the service, it does provide some context (e.g. - if you have an hourly plan and go into this database and spend one hour, this is how much it will cost you). More importantly, it usually elicits a lot of wide-open eyes when students see the numbers on the screen, and makes them more receptive to what we are saying. We do make it clear to our students that we aren’t telling them not to use LexisNexis and Westlaw; we are just telling them that they should put a little thought into how and when they use those services, and that sometimes a lower-cost or free service can do the job just as well as the more expensive services.

As for those lower-cost alternatives, in Fall 2010, we decided to discontinue access to LoisLaw when they began charging for academic access and switched to Fastcase as our lower-cost legal research service. We did this not only because LoisLaw access was more expensive than Fastcase access, but also because we have so many students and alumni who work in Illinois. With the ISBA making Fastcase available for free as a perk to members, we wanted to make sure that our students were exposed to Fastcase before they graduated. We promote Fastcase during our ALR classes and, starting this Fall, we let our first year classes know about it as well.

With the recent announcement that Bloomberg will be purchasing BNA, it appears that Bloomberg intends to become a major player in the legal research market. As a result, we are giving Bloomberg an increased presence in our law school. Last spring, we started giving some of our upper-level students (including our ALR students) the opportunity to sign up for Bloomberg passwords and training sessions, and this fall we provided the same opportunity to first year students during Legal Research. About three-fourths of our 1Ls took advantage. In a similar vein, we have started to look into Practical Law Company access. We haven’t done a formal push on it yet through our classes, but I have referred some of our students to it when they’ve stopped by the reference desk.

Finally, we have one resource that we created ourselves to help make our students aware of some of the free legal research options available to them – our First Year Legal Research LibGuide. In putting together this LibGuide, we hoped to achieve several goals. We wanted our students to have a Legal Research resource that was specific to our Library’s holdings. We wanted to spend less classroom time talking about the resources and more time showing the students how to use the resources; the LibGuide gave us a place to display this basic information and allowed us to free up that valuable classroom time. And we wanted our students to have an interactive resource they could use not just during the course, but throughout their legal careers. To that end, we included a general “Research Strategies” section that lists a variety of helpful, free online legal research sources. On the whole, the First Year Legal Research LibGuide has been a big success – it has become our most popular subject guide, with over 8,000 page views since it went live last fall. We want to see our students and alumni become better legal researchers, and therefore better practitioners, and we think that our efforts in guiding them to and instructing them on these options will help them do that.
When WestlawNext was launched to Northwestern Law students in January 2011, it was not without some trepidation by faculty and law librarians. However, when we integrated WestlawNext training sessions into the curriculum and planned to teach it alongside other databases and sources for their legal research, the training didn’t seem as daunting. In fact, the students appreciated our launch of this new resource because they had been using it in their law firm research as summer associates during the prior summer. Many students who registered for Advanced Legal Research in the Spring 2011 term even mentioned that they were taking the course because they wanted to learn more about advanced sources and also learn how to more efficiently search WestlawNext (among other resources).

Throughout the term and even during the summer, students offered very positive comments about the enhanced user interface for WestlawNext; however, the one universal drawback for students seemed to be the ability to distinguish among sources. Many students encountered “information overload” from the big search box’s results, so our curriculum focused on identifying the most helpful sources for legal research no matter which database the students were using.

I. Approach for Teaching WestlawNext

The law librarians arranged for hour and a half class sessions in early January to introduce WestlawNext and cost-effective legal research (including free Internet resources). These sessions were held for each Communications and Legal Reasoning (legal writing) section. Prior to working through a research hypothetical as a group on WestlawNext, the law librarians explained the algorithm of WestlawNext, analyzed the search retrieval from the “big box” versus retrieval from selecting a source (jurisdictional approach or topical approach), and highlighted some of the great benefits of WestlawNext in addition to some of the pitfalls for research. These class sessions also offered a wonderful opportunity for the students to ask any questions that they might have while working through a research hypothetical on a topic of Illinois law. Great enhancements of WestlawNext that were highlighted included increased visibility of table of contents in all sources, ease of navigation and searchable indexes, Web 2.0 features, labeled folders to save documents for cost-effective research, and the benefits of the enhanced algorithm. Since the students had already learned about the West Topic and Key Number digest system, the librarians reiterated how to use the digest system on WestlawNext and explained how finding cases through “one good case” would work on WestlawNext through a research example. In addition, the students were also exposed to finding and searching the West Classification Outline (Topic/Key Number System) under “Tools” on WestlawNext. In an effort to be comprehensive, the law librarians demonstrated secondary source research, statutory research, case law research, and updating research on WestlawNext within the context of an Illinois research issue, so the students were able to learn where to find those resources in the new version of Westlaw. Finally, some of the drawbacks of WestlawNext were discussed during the introductory class sessions, such as the overwhelming search results from the “big search box” on WestlawNext and being able to effectively limit the number of documents to a manageable number through the filtering process. Overall, the first-year law students appreciated the research overview and exposure to WestlawNext as one of the options for their legal research and candid discussion about the ramifications for cost-effective research in practice.

II. Teaching WestlawNext in Advanced Legal Research

For Advanced Legal Research, students were exposed to WestlawNext alongside the other resources (Westlaw, Lexis, HeinOnline, etc.) in a workshop format. In order to effectively learn each type of resource, we had them practice each type of legal resource in a workshop class. The law librarians emphasized that some of the same sources are available in multiple databases (and some are

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Reflections On Teaching WestlawNext To Law Students cont. from p. 13

not), but the research strategy and research planning are foundations of legal research that remain the same. As we expected, students seemed to gravitate toward using WestlawNext in the workshop classes when they were given an option; however, they were savvy enough to realize that they weren’t always getting the leading cases or, in some instances, leading statute(s) that they needed to find. In that way, it was a teachable moment about the type of sources that they should be consulting first when beginning their legal research (such as secondary sources). The workshop format also provided the opportunity for the students to evaluate the sources and come back as a group to share their research experiences. Many realized that case law research is quite tricky on WestlawNext without planning a sound research strategy or using the digest system, and others realized the superb benefit of WestlawNext for statutory research. Finally, for the last classes in Advanced Legal Research, students were also expected to consider cost-effective legal research on Westlaw, WestlawNext, and Lexis and keep track of the costs of their research while researching a hypothetical (an appendix of approximate costs of each database or search was given to them for this assignment). Many were surprised to realize how expensive their searches would possibly be in practice and others were more calculated in their use of free Internet resources that we had discussed throughout the Advanced Legal Research course (e.g., FDsys, THOMAS, Cornell’s Legal Information Institute, etc.).

III. Surprising Feedback from Students and Search Habits for the Future

It’s comforting to see after almost two semesters of teaching WestlawNext that students still need to learn research strategy, plan their research process, and actually need legal research instruction more than ever to distinguish among their search results. Many frequent comments among new users of WestlawNext were marvels about the instant gratification of the search box, and the extremely intuitive and user-friendly interface with enhanced information management for a Web 2.0 world. However, with that ease-of-use comes the same age-old challenge of finding the leading case (which is a difficult research skill, as many of our students pointed out), finding synthesis and explanations of the law, gathering a manageable amount of information for research, and making sure that the researcher doesn’t miss anything that is crucial for his other client. One telling example of the greatest challenge of teaching WestlawNext is the number of former students who called during the summer with questions about how to find case law on a particular topic for their summer practice area. They were confused and frustrated when their searches revealed a lack of precedent in their jurisdictions or when the “search box” didn’t yield any on-point search results. Even more challenging still are the sometimes irrelevant search results in areas of law that they might not need and haven’t even learned about yet in law school (e.g., administrative law). WestlawNext is here to stay, and law students need a carefully planned research curriculum to address its challenges while learning legal research resources.

Additional articles for research on this topic:


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.

Email Heidi Kuehl (h-kuehl@law.northwestern.edu) with any questions about 2011-2012 CALL Grants.
NEW TOOLS FOR LEGAL RESEARCH: BLOOMBERG LAW
By Margaret Schilt, D’Angelo Law Library, University of Chicago
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The D’Angelo Law Library began to work with Bloomberg Law early on. Three years ago, Bloomberg approached us and offered us a free terminal in the Law Library, as well as access for librarians to a new product called Bloomberg Law. The Bloomberg representative boldly asserted that Bloomberg intended to challenge LexisNexis and Westlaw for a segment of the online legal research world that they had for so long dominated.

Unfortunately for that first year, the product was problematic. Access was provided through a username and password and a “B-Unit”, a quirky little business-card shaped electronic device that remembered your fingerprint. Firmly tethered to the Bloomberg finance world where users would log on to Bloomberg when they arrived at work and stay logged on ‘till the office lights dimmed, this type of access was totally unsuited to a law library environment where research tasks are intermittent, though intensive. Also, the interface itself had a DOS-type black background and look and feel, oddly retro for the resources provided and the ambitions of the company. It was a tough sell to law faculty, not to mention students. So, it’s fair to say that the first year of Bloomberg was not a whirlwind success at the D’Angelo Law Library.

The Bloomberg folks are quick studies, though, and they listened. They pulled back and rethought their product and redesigned it completely. The Bloomberg Law we use now is an enormous improvement and offers far more to the academic market, as well as having a user interface that is far easier to use. Bloomberg further developed its own citator and topical/digest case-finding tools. As a result, the unique advantages that Bloomberg offers to law researchers are reaching a wider and more appreciative audience.

What are those unique advantages? After all, Westlaw and LexisNexis have decades of experience responding to the needs of law researchers and designing and promoting new products and new versions of familiar, tried and true, legal resources. It’s true – it will be hard for Bloomberg to wean lawyers away from the other services completely, but there are things that Bloomberg offers that the others don’t. In our environment, one factor that differentiates Bloomberg is the access to federal and state dockets and pleadings. Bloomberg offers all the content of PACER with greatly improved searching capabilities. On Bloomberg, you can easily do keyword searches of pleadings for particular types of motions or particular subject matter. Another is the availability of sample documents. And the third, of course, is the inclusion in Bloomberg Law of much of the business information and news for which Bloomberg itself has been renowned for decades. It is these advantages that lure faculty and students into trying Bloomberg Law. Whether those trials mature into reliance and continued use will depend greatly on how successful Bloomberg is with integrating the current awareness tools and research resources acquired in its recent purchase of BNA. BNA brings to Bloomberg Law a wealth of secondary source content, enhancing Bloomberg’s previously sparse offerings in secondary sources. At the D’Angelo Law Library we have aggressively promoted the BNA current awareness newsletters, subscribing entire classes to relevant titles. Bloomberg has the opportunity to build on BNA’s longstanding reputation for content to increase recognition and use of Bloomberg’s other resources. One way to do that would be to assure libraries of their ability to promote the resources to users easily without instituting a password barrier where there has been none.

Bloomberg Law has been enthusiastically adopted by our Corporate Lab transactional clinic, where the integration of Bloomberg’s business resources with legal research tools is of great value. Bloomberg Law’s sample documents are of use in our contract drafting classes. We have also begun to successfully market Bloomberg Law’s Reports as current awareness information for faculty. From a tricky beginning, Bloomberg Law has become a reliable and valued part of our research arsenal.
WHAT’S NEW IN LEGAL RESEARCH: FREE GLOBAL LAW
By Lyonette Louis-Jacques, University of Chicago D’Angelo Law Library
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The links below are courtesy of FALM – the Free Access to Law Movement. See http://www.fatlm.org/ BAILII (the British and Irish Legal Information Institute) also links to some of them here: http://www.bailii.org/ Enjoy!

WORLD LAW RESOURCES

Asia (AsianLII)
Australasia (AustLII)
Canada (CanLII)
Common Law (CommonLII)
Cyprus (CyLaw)
Droit Francophone
Germany (Juristisches Internetprojekt Saarbrücken)

Global Legal Information Network
Hong Kong (HKLII)
Ireland (IrLII)
Italy (ITTIG)
JuriBurkina
JuriNiger
Kenya (KenyaLaw)

University of Montreal (LexUM)
New Zealand (NZLII)
Pacific Islands (PacLII)
Philippines (LawPhil)
Southern Africa (SAFLII)
UK Territories & Dependencies
USA (Cornell)
World Legal Information Institute

Across the Great Divide cont. from p. 11

ies within the CALL community. But, these are merely glimpses. I’m sure that each school has its own unique story as does every firm. Our hope in soliciting articles on what’s new in legal research was to bring some of these stories to bear for the benefit of the entire association. The editors hope that we have accomplished this task.

2. Id. At 159.
5. Id.
The CALL Continuing Education and Relations with Information Vendors Committees presented a Brown Bag Lunch at John Marshall Law School on October 26, 2011.

The speakers were June Liebert, Director and Assistant Professor, and Ramsey Donnell, Head of Access Services, both at John Marshall Law School. This was an extremely informative program full of tips, tricks, and suggestions for dealing with vendors and contract negotiations. It is important to read each contract carefully, know what questions to ask and leave enough time for negotiating the contract. Contracts are always negotiable. June talked about ten tips or suggestions for negotiating contracts with vendors. First, one should get a sample contract and never sign it immediately.

Since part of his job at the library is reading and modifying contracts and working closely with the general counsel at John Marshall Law School who advises on contracts, Ramsey spoke about various specific items to look for in a contract. Ramsey noted that the contract terms are vital. There should be an accurate description of services provided and the terms should not be too vague. The contract should list the service levels which include targets for set-up times and a consequence if there is a failure to meet these targets, such as cash credits. Contracts are drafted by lawyers who may not be familiar with actual services and end products that are covered by the contract. Specific parts of the service may not be covered in the contract, such as provisions for printing and downloading. Contracts should cover all services to be provided. Another aspect to review is where services can be used, such as remote access, or who can use the service, be it alumni, American Bar Association members, or students. Basically, the contract should state such provisions – using the term “walk-ins” will cover all rights for patrons.

There was a negative recommendation for automatic renewal options. And there should be an absolute obligation by the library to police usage. The library should take reasonable steps to train for correct usage by patrons, lawyers, students and faculty and it should be qualified in the contract. Other suggestions included caps on price increases and invoicing provisions to allow more time for payment than invoices being due within thirty days of receipt if this is not always possible. Ramsey also mentioned possible intellectual property infringements concerning not breaching third-party IP rights and addition of liability caps. Finally, miscellaneous clauses were explained, such as assignment clause, boilerplate, amendments and notifications, and governing law and venue clauses.

June continued with suggestions for negotiating contracts. She said to talk to users about the cost of the service and determine how important the service is to them. She suggested establishing good cooperative partnerships with vendor reps to get the best deal, modifying contract terms for your library, and holding the reps accountable. June mentioned not to purchase bundle packages as the library may not need or want all the titles included in the bundle. She cautioned against “historic spending,” which is a practice where the same price is charged if the library changes from print to online. One should respond with a “No” and negotiate for lower prices.

Furthermore, June suggested doing the homework by knowing what other companies and libraries are doing in order to suggest other pricing solutions for services. This has been especially beneficial with eBooks. She warned to avoid problematic vendors who have not worked out in past experiences. Another tip was to keep bosses and management informed about big contracts and problems so they are not surprised. And, she suggested not waiting until the last minute to start negotiating a contract, but starting two or three months before the contract renewal date.

There was discussion about contracts from the attendees. One person talked about a contract consultant who charges depending on how much money they save you. A suggestion of a way to get out of a contract is stating that the library has no more money. In addition, a suggestion was made to have desired clauses and terms already prepared ahead of time.

June’s last tip was to be ready to walk away from negotiations. Talk to your users to explain the situation, such as a significant price increase, and the users will generally comply. Other options for alternative resources can be offered, allowing for the negotiation of the best terms for the library. Do not cave in and let the vendors hold you hostage.
“If You Can Type, You Can Make Movies”

TechBuzz focuses on use of new and emerging technologies in law libraries, and also on novel and interesting applications of existing technologies. The Xtranormal text-to-movie service is a great example of the latter. This Montreal-based company was founded by Richard Szalwinski and launched in October 2008. It is free and easy-to-use. I first saw Xtranormal in use in a blog post by a UK lawyer I know on Twitter as @Charonqc. I assumed he’d created the video from scratch and marveled at the polished look and his mad animation skills (Charonqc’s Xtranormal movies are compiled here). I didn’t realize he was using Xtranormal. That was back in December, 2008 (Charon is an early adopter). Then this past summer, Mary Rumsey at the University of Minnesota emailed me an FYA (for your amusement) link. The link was to her informative and entertaining Xtranormal movie on human rights research featuring a topic I’d been working on (the right to wear headscarves). So three years later, I’m alerted to the possibilities of using Xtranormal in law libraries. Thanks, Mary!

Since then, I’ve seen several other Xtranormal movies. Mary Rumsey’s recent movie on rules for using the law library reference service cracks me up! She also has one on International Moot Court research (including some colorful language). Elizabeth Caulfield’s Xtranormal movies about researching Texas court documents, and using secondary sources and digests are also amusing. She shows them to law students in her Advanced Legal Research class. These short videos are creative ways to teach and reinforce legal research, promote law library services, and convey policies and procedures. You can also embed them in blog posts, websites, and really use them for a variety of law library work-related purposes. And, they are easy to create.

To make an Xtranormal movie, you pick animated actors – “Superzeros” (superhero wannabes), robots, animals, etc. You then choose whether you want one or two actors. You also can choose their accents and male or female voices. Then you choose the backgrounds or action sets and background sounds and sound effects (birds chirping, bells ringing, blues or classical music, for instance). Then it’s just a matter of typing in the text of their dialogue. Xtranormal comes with a set of gestures and camera movements to animate the actors. The biggest challenge seems to be creating or choosing the text, injecting humor into the dialogue, and adding gestures, but it is very easy to get started on Xtranormal.

You can find law library-related Xtranormal movies on YouTube and Vimeo (Jason Eiseman’s 3-part video transcript of law-lib list flame wars is incredibly funny in robotic voices – and I usually stay away from those list discussions). But Xtranormal movies have a unique look and great potential uses. See for instance, The Trial of Sir Walter Raleigh and So You Want to Go to Law School. Hilarious! ☺

Buzzzzzz! Some Google news with law library tech-relevance. Google Scholar Citations helps you find out who is citing your articles. Google+ now allows you to create pages and Harvard and several other law libraries have Google+ pages. And a post on the Law Librarian Blog (thanks!) includes links to updated lists of Google Advanced Search Operators.
AALL2go Pick of the Month

AALL’s Continuing Professional Education Committee presents the AALL2go pick of the month: Teaching and Using Legal Classics: Black Letter Law and the Google Generation.

This hour-long audio file recorded at the 2007 Northeast Regional Law Libraries Meeting in Toronto features two speakers who are actively involved in teaching legal research. Both speakers try to give the audience a sense of how law students may expect to obtain easy answers to legal issues because they are used to finding “the answer” using Google and other technology, yet the black letter law may be more difficult to find...if it even exists.

Shelley W. Obal, a research partner at Toronto law firm Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP, focuses on legal research using expert resources in a law firm setting and tells her law students and new attorneys to begin research with secondary sources before moving online for primary sources.

Next Alison Harvison Young, judge on the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario and former law dean at Queen’s University, uses her experiences in academia and on the bench to provide examples of real world research skills in practice, both good and bad. She also briefly describes the civil law versus common law systems and how the research methods in each system may be a bit different.

The remainder of the program contains a question and answer session hosted by moderator John Sadler from the University of Western Ontario law library.

Find this and more than 80 other free continuing education programs and webinars for AALL members on AALL2go!

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 polices, activities, publications. 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.

- Committees should post their own materials to the website and CALL social networks. The Internet Committee will provide on request: Access to the website and social networks; training; additional website features and social networks

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

August 2011
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CALL Meeting Schedule 2011-2012

**Business Meetings**

- September 22, 2011 (Thurs.)
- November 16, 2011 (Wed.)
- February 23, 2012 (Thurs.)
- May 16, 2012 (Wed.)

**Executive Board Meetings**

- June 14, 2011 (Tues.)
- August 9, 2011 (Tues.)
- September 13, 2011 (Tues.)
- October 11, 2011 (Tues.)
- November 8, 2011 (Tues.)
- December 13, 2011 (Tues.)
- January 10, 2012 (Tues.)
- February 14, 2012 (Tues.)
- March 13, 2012 (Tues.)
- April 10, 2012 (Tues.)
- May 8, 2012 (Tues.)

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

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.

CHICAGO ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES DISCUSSION FORUM RULES AND CONDITIONS (updated 8/22/11)

The following are the rules and conditions of participation in the Chicago Association of Law Libraries Discussion Forums. By subscribing to and participating in this Discussion Forum, users hereby agree to be bound by and warrant their full compliance with the following terms of participation:

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- 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 other than customary fees for interlibrary loan service.
- Chicago Association of Law Libraries does not generally monitor this Discussion Forum for inappropriate postings, and does not on its own undertake editorial control of postings. However, in the event that any inappropriate posting or unauthorized use of the Discussion Forum is brought to Chicago Association of Law Libraries attention, including but not limited to prohibited posting and usage as outlined herein, Chicago Association of Law Libraries will take all appropriate action, in its sole discretion. Chicago Association of Law Libraries reserves the right to terminate, without prior notice, the Discussion Forum access of any user who does not abide by these guidelines.

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

Gwen Gregory is the CALL Discussion Forum administrator. You may send her a message at Gregory@jmls.edu.

Updated 8/22/2011