



Newsletter

Volume 28, Number 2

September/October 2001

Inside . . .

<i>Member News</i>	2
<i>In Memory of Joe Levstik</i>	3
<i>New Member Profiles</i>	4
<i>AALL Annual Meeting Reports</i>	5
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	9
<i>The Internet Column</i>	11
<i>Committee Reports</i>	13

BUILDING On Success

Visit Our Web Site

www.aallnet.org/chapter/mall

MALL Listserv

To subscribe, point your browser to:

<http://aallnet.org/mailman/listinfo/mall-l>

Post messages to:

mall-l@aallnet.org

President's Column

LORI HEDSTROM
President

One of the things our chapter has focused on recently is outreach to others in our community. It is important for everyone to stretch beyond the comfort zone occasionally, but especially for librarians, since what we do can connect to virtually any topic and subject. Even within the legal information community, we have taken advantage of many opportunities to bring the gospel of law librarianship to our colleagues.

The Minnesota Law & Technology Show, held on September 11 and 12, was a great example of law librarians' favorite things—learning and teaching. Unfortunately, due to the tragedies in New York and Washington, DC, many attendees found it difficult to focus on the conference. But in a way it is now more important than ever that we talk as much as possible about law and justice, which are the foundation of our profession and our nation.

For several years MALL has been involved in planning this program for practicing attorneys in firms large and small. Together with bar associations and other educational organizations, our three programs

this year highlighted what we do best. We DO have specialized knowledge that others want to have and are willing to pay to get! At the same time our members get wider exposure outside the library and recognition as the experts we are. In addition, we have done such a good job sponsoring the Internet Café over the years, that it hardly needs staffing any more! Attorneys have moved from “How does this mouse thing work?” to a greater degree of respect for the content and technology knowledge that librarians provide.

Barb Minor organized “Get Smart! Using Company and Industry Intelligence to Turbo Charge Your Legal Marketing Program,” a session featuring Barb Rostad of the James J. Hill Library and attorney Mike McReynolds. Bill Jack, Susan Catterall, and Vic Garces presented “Locating Statutes and Cases: One Research Size Does NOT Fit All,” a look at the range of legal research materials available on the Internet. Mary Wells and attorney Pat Shriver got their audience excited to “Become Search Savvy: Lawyers Can Find ‘Everything’ on the Web,” including a substantial segment devoted to the invisible Web.

Bob Berring, show keynoter and our luncheon speaker, was unable to travel to Minnesota for the conference because all air travel was suspended, but we were extremely fortunate that Ross Kodner was able to address MALL members in Professor Berring's place. Ross is one of the best-known legal technology consultants in the world, was honored as the "Legal Technology Consultant of the Year 1999" by Technolawyer, Inc., and is active in the American Bar Association. His fast-paced presentation of "The Sophisticated Legal Librarian's Net Guide" had useful sites for even the most seasoned searcher.

Another great opportunity for outreach comes with the Min-

nesota Library Association's annual meeting, October 10-12, 2001 in St. Cloud. Judy Flader and Sara Galligan's presentation "It's the Law: Legal Reference Basics, or, How I Was Able to Find Out What I Wanted With No Muss or Fuss and Learned to Love the Law" will provide an opportunity for our non-law colleagues to better acquaint themselves with information that is vitally important to their patrons.

When I attended the Minnesota Library Associations Forum with colleagues representing health science librarians and school librarians, as well as SLA, MLA, and CLIC, we were all struck by how similar the important issues in our specialties were. Each group is concerned with offering strong educational programs to our own

members, outreach to others within our profession or related to it, cost-effective resource management, and recruiting the next generation of superstars. Law fascinates ALL of them and they are highly impressed with the caliber of the law librarians they already know. Let's take advantage of this informal group to get the word out about the importance of legal information in everyday life, and about our expert status in this area. Look for an article describing law librarianship in an upcoming MLA newsletter, and take every opportunity to tell your employer, your patrons, your co-workers, and funders about the challenge and satisfaction to be found in law librarianship. §

Member News

BARB GOLDEN
Membership



The 2001-2002 Membership Directory was distributed the last week in August. The statistics are 153 active members (including 17 new members), 54 institutions and 8 life members. Please send corrections and additions to:

Barbara Golden
Minnesota State Law Library
G25 Judicial Center
25 Constitution Ave
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-0031
barb.golden@courts.state.mn.us

NOTE: Corrections to the Directory are announced on the listserv.

The following **new members** have joined MALL since last reported in the Newsletter. Please join the committee in **welcoming:**

Susan M. Blaske
Law Firm Account Manager
West Group

Nathan Ferguson
Library Assistant for Circulation
Hamline University Law Library

Rick Goheen
Associate Director for Public
Services, University of St.

Thomas Law Library

John Westerfield
Library Assistant
Lindquist & Vennum

Congratulations to **Janice Leichter** on her promotion to head Librarian at **Maslon Edelman Borman & Brand**.

Congratulations to **Mike Tracy** on his new position as Managing Director at Kelly Law Registry.

I regret to report that one of our life members, **Joseph Levstik**, died on March 20, 2001. If you would like to send a remem-

brance to his wife Gina, she can be reached at the address and phone listed in the Life Member portion of the Directory. A memorial to Joe appears in this newsletter.

Mary Rumsey, Foreign, Comparative and International Law Librarian at the University of Minnesota, just published *Selected International Human Rights Instruments*; and *Bibli-*

ography for Research on International Human Rights Law, with co-authors David Weissbrodt, Joan Fitzpatrick, Frank Newman, and Marcy Hoffman.

REMINDER: If you have news you'd like to share with the membership in the next newsletter, please contact one of the Membership Committee members:

Barbara Golden, 651.296.0031
barb.golden@courts.state.mn.us

Kathy Kelly, 612.596.4035
kjkelly@locklaw.com

Mike Tracy, 612.339.9595
tracymi@kellylawregistry.com

In Memory of Joe Levstik

MARVIN ANDERSON
MN State Law Library

lawyers, and other professions, and graduated from the University of Ljubljana with a degree in law.

Then World War II wrecked the lives of innumerable people and tore the country asunder. By the end of the war, almost all of Joe's family had fled the country to neighboring Austria. In Viktring, Austria, he was placed in a "displaced persons" camp and led that sorrowful life. He was preparing for emigration to Argentina and diligently studying Spanish when an opportunity came to go to Canada. After a variety of manual jobs there, Joe decided he needed more to fulfill his life and felt that it could be found in the United States. He obtained a diploma in librarianship from the University of Michigan at Kalamazoo, worked one year at Harvard and journeyed to the University of Minnesota, where he quickly established himself as an extraordinary librarian.

Joe thoroughly enjoyed his retirement, gardening and puttering

On March 20, 2001, a massive heart attack took the life of Joseph Levstik. At the time of his death, Joe was enjoying a well-earned retirement after a 22-year career at the University of Minnesota Law School Library. He was appointed as Instructor and Foreign Law Librarian in 1964, and retired in 1986 as Assistant Professor and Foreign Law Librarian with Honors of Merit.

It was my privilege to know Joe through my association at the Law School Library from 1976 – 1980. I was only on the job a few days when he came down to the Reference Desk to introduce himself and offer his services – which I called upon time and again during my tenure at the University. When I learned of Joe's demise, I felt it

would be important to share something about a man whose humble air often times obscured the depth of his intellect and passions. His wife, Gina Levstik, provided the following details about the life of this remarkable scholar.

Joseph Levstik was born to a farming family September 14, 1916 in Rigorica, Slovenia. The village lies in a countryside of rolling hills and forests, beautiful meadows and fields; it is populated with good-hearted, resourceful and resilient people. Joe had a happy childhood in this picturesque village, filling his days with a deeply felt reverence of life and God – a combination that was his source of inner strength and peace. He had the classic education of students preparing for careers such as medical doctors,

around the house. He would go for long walks and meet all sorts of people. He loved nature and, of course, reading. Where would Joe be without his beloved books? His special interests were history and geography. His intellectual curiosity and appreciation of life made a rich and rewarding life.

To many of his co-workers, Joe was a quiet, perhaps overly modest man, inclined to be cautious in his personal relationships, acutely conscious of his

responsibilities and prone to deprecate his own charms and abilities. And, what abilities he had! I never knew how many languages he could speak but with his command of Latin, I would venture to guess he was comfortable in at least seven: Slovenian, Serbo-Croatian, Latin, German, Spanish, English, and French. He had bibliographical recognition of another 14. He baked a delectable loaf of bread, supplied the library staff with products from his garden and could ride a bike with the very best of them. All of

the above, along with a sly and wonderful sense of humor, characterized the person who became my friend and colleague.

Joe was sincere and earnest, loyal and industrious. He was truly a professional librarian in the broadest sense of the term. I know of no one who tried harder than Joe to fulfill the mission of the U of M law library or hit the mark as often as he did. It was an honor to know him. §

New Member Profiles



Even though she is a new member, **Susan Blaske** is well known throughout much of MALL due to her many years in the **West Group** Minneapolis office. In fact, Sue is known in several AALL branches through her West Group employment since 1989 in

the Eagan home office, Denver, Boston, and of course, Minneapolis.

Sue grew up in Grand Rapids, MI and is a graduate of Aquinas College (Grand Rapids) with a BA in English. She holds a JD from Marquette University of Law and worked as a public defender in the Wisconsin State Public Defender's

office. Sue lives with her husband Paul in Chanhassen and spends her free time oil painting, antiquing and lawn bowling at Brit's Pub for the West Group team (post season championship results pending at time of publication). Welcome, Sue.

...

If you ask **John Westerfield** what it is he likes about law librarian-

The Minnesota Association of Law Libraries does not assume any responsibility for the statements advanced by the contributors to this newsletter. The opinions expressed in the *Newsletter* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of MALL.

All material contained in the *Newsletter* is copyrighted by MALL. For permission to reprint any part of the *Newsletter*, please contact the [Editor](#). §

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES		
Volume 28, Number 1	July/August	July 16, 2001
Volume 28, Number 2	September/October	September 10, 2001
Volume 28, Number 3	November/December	November 12, 2001
Volume 28, Number 4	January/February	January 14, 2002
Volume 28, Number 5	March/April	March 11, 2002
Volume 28, Number 6	May/June	May 13, 2002

ship, he'll tell you "It's all I know!" John began his career at the age of 11 working in his father's New Mexico law firm library. By the time he moved to Seattle in 1991, John was a seasoned law librarian ready to handle the challenges of a large firm's branch office library needs. In April of this year, John moved to Minneapolis to be closer to family members and is presently working in the **Lindquist & Vennum** library. In his spare time, John has kept

busy with classes in literature and theatre (as well as doing some theatre productions) and is a member of the Minnesota Ice Swim team. Welcome, John.

The **State Law Library** Technical Services Department is pleased to announce the hiring of **Brian J. Mulhern** as the new Technical Services/Catalog Librarian. Brian comes to the staff with a great deal of cataloging knowledge and background and at an important time, since they are on the eve of begin-

ning training as an ExLibris beta site.

When you call the **State Law Library**, that new friendly voice you hear belongs to **Alison Doane**. Alison joined the Library's Public Services Department in early August and will be spending most of her time at the circulation desk. She is also beginning the MLS program at the College of St. Catherine this fall. §

AALL Annual Meeting Reports

Each year recipients of MALL grants are asked to write a short report about their experiences at the programs they attend. This year we were able to provide grants to several applicants. What follows are their reports.

THE PRESENT IS THE PAST. THE PRESENT IS THE FUTURE.

Those inspiring words from Judge Edward Toussaint at the trustee's luncheon became my theme for my first attendance at an AALL national convention.

On Sunday, during my day at the convention, I learned from Gary Price (*Power Search-Strategies For Successful Internet Searches*) that "on the Net" is not necessarily "via the Net." The quality of the information on the Internet is

still an issue. The Internet is the tool of the present and will be the tool of the future, but its current lack of standards can waste a lot of time and money. Whereas the telephone, the tool of the past used in the present, may still in some cases be the best low-tech tool for obtaining information of the future.

Troy Johnson and Terry Dick (*The New Reality Of Integrating And Acquiring EBRS Into The Legal Information World*) informed me of the bright future of the Electronic Book Readers (EBRs), both in publishing and in library use. The present of the Palm Pilot will become the past as the EBRS (a better product) expand our knowledge.

Richard Jost, Georgia Briscoe and Susan Goldner (*Everything Old Is New Again*) explored for me the difference between the past, when

libraries were first automated, and the present, when many libraries need to migrate to new systems to handle the increasing complexity of the future.

Finally, Beth Langton and Kate Kennedy (*The Incredible Shrinking Library*) taught me the pain of downsizing the past large library in the present to fit budget and space constraints—while at the same time trying to maintain a good mix of print and electronic resources for the future.

Edward, as Judge Toussaint prefers to be called, told us that we build our house one nail at a time. If our workmanship is shoddy, we will have to live with it the rest of our lives. The present is the past. The present is the future.

Suzanne Grossman
Dakota County Law Library

NEW REALITIES, NEW ROLES: A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

First, let me thank the members of the Awards and Nominations Committee for their generous support. Participation in AALL's annual meeting this past July was an opportunity few students are afforded. The conference lasted only four days, but it will inform my education in library and information science and my practice as an information professional for years to come.

When I received my packet of conference materials, one of the first brochures I discovered was AALL's Competencies of Law Librarianship. While I have observed law librarians for a number of years and have a good understanding of the profession, this pamphlet was the first time I had seen the profession defined in this way. The competencies make sense and are organized into six broad areas: 1) core, 2) library management, 3) reference, research and client services, 4) information technology, 5) collection care and management, and 6) teaching. They were also the subject matter of the conference seminars. Suddenly I saw the conference program in an entirely different light. It was an opportunity for the membership to reconsider the competencies in light of change and to consider the ways in which the new realities affect the roles of the library and the librarian.

I found myself pondering New Realities, New Roles as I attended a Tuesday morning seminar, *Facing Reality: The Death of the Reference Desk?* The three speakers represented a broad spectrum of law libraries: government (Judith Meadows, State Law Library of Montana), academic (Christine Ryan, University of Vermont), and private firm (Susan Siebers, Katten Muchin Zavis in Chicago). They also represented differing approaches to the reference desk.

Christine Ryan described the closing of the reference desk at the law school library at the University of Vermont and the transition to roaming reference librarians. She spoke of change and rethinking the delivery of services. The traditional reference desk has become a reference center with handouts and guides. Students working the circulation desk have been trained to answer simple reference questions, and a fifteen minute video on legal research has been produced. Although she has not conducted a formal assessment of the impact of closing the reference desk, her impression is that the needs of patrons are being met.

The focus of Judith Meadows presentation was the wide range of patrons who use the services of the Montana State Law Library. Many of these patrons are not learned in the law and need reference librarians who will approach them and offer assistance. In her opinion, personal service is a way to make the library more welcoming and is an easy marketing strategy. For her a full service information desk is an essential component of the state

law library's mission.

Susan Siebers described the reference function at a large private law firm, where all librarians serve as reference librarians and as liaisons between departments and the library. In her opinion, accessibility is important but can be accomplished in a variety of ways. At her law firm the reference desk, traditionally located in the library, has been replaced by office areas with large glass windows so the librarian can see and be seen. Attorneys can readily spot the librarian and seek assistance, yet the librarian can work on various projects when not performing the reference function.

After the presentation I found myself wondering about the future. That it is possible to question the continued existence of the reference desk is one manifestation of the new realities and new roles for the law librarian that go to the heart of the profession. After all, reference, research, and client service is the third competency described in AALL's competency pamphlet. However, one needs to separate the physical location of the reference service from the provision of the reference service. The physical desk may be dispensable. Perhaps roaming librarians who are people oriented and willing to approach patrons with an offer of assistance will better meet their needs. Separate from the provision of information is the provision of personal service. In

our impersonal world all too often characterized by the lack of customer service and person to person contact, perhaps one way to add value to services offered by the library is to ensure that patrons interact with librarians in person. Is this not a way to distinguish the traditional library from on-line legal databases?

Three libraries with very different patrons. The nature of the clientele shapes the nature of the reference function. The message is that one must carefully consider what the patron needs and then take steps to ensure that these needs are met. Where personal service is valued, it should be provided. The key is accurate determination and effective delivery. The reference function continues but is provided in different ways. The reality is different but the role continues.

Martha Wright Sartoris
North Hennepin Community
College

...

A DREAM COME TRUE

Attending the AALL 94th Annual Meeting and Conference this past summer was a dream come true for me. My anticipation and excitement started building up as soon as I found out I had been awarded the MALL grant to attend the conference. This was my first AALL conference, and I was just as happy as a schoolgirl. Don't get me wrong; I've attended other conferences

before. In fact, I've attended the Minnesota Library Association (MLA) annual conference for the past couple of years. There's the usual personal networking with other librarians, attending workshops and visiting the exhibition hall. For some strange reason I believed the AALL conference would be somewhat different. I couldn't quite put my fingers on it, but I felt this conference would stand out from the others I had attended. I was right. I wasn't able to attend the conference every day it was on, however I left with much more information, knowledge and new friends on those days that I was there. The experience was one that I will remember for quite some time to come.

The conference was the setting for many formal and informal types of learning. There were educational programs and workshops, the LexisNexis Internet Room (for all to explore the Internet, check e-mails and access the AALLNET web sites and law library postings), placement offices, association meetings, exhibit area and opportunities for personal networking.

In the workshop *Facing Reality: The Death of the Reference Desk?* the panelists presented different perspectives on whether a reference desk is necessary to service their particular patron base. We learned that whichever path we take, involving the constituents is crucial. We should be proactive, anticipate their needs and then provide those resources.

New Roles? Retooling Yourself for

Work in the 21st Century presenter Katherine Reynolds discussed her experience as a facilitator for Stephen Covey's First Things First program. She discussed the six steps to success: have a clearly defined mission, review roles, identify goals, organize weekly, exercise writing in the moment of choice and evaluate.

West Group did an outstanding job of hosting the conference in Minnesota this year. West Group's Customer Appreciation programs and party were highlights of the conference. They went all out to bring an evening of fun and entertainment to conference goers in downtown Minneapolis. The program featuring Minnesota's very own Garrison Keillor, nationally acclaimed humorist, writer, and creator of "A Prairie Home Companion" was simply delightful. In all, the 94th AALL conference was one of a kind, and I'm glad to have being a part of it. I'd like to extend my deep appreciation to the MALL committee members who chose me for this award. It was an honor to receive it. Thank you all so much.

Abike Eyo
Hennepin County Library
University of North Texas
Library School Distance
Program

...



A HIGHLIGHT OF MY SUMMER

School has started, new books have been purchased (can you hear the spine snap and groan as the book is opened for the first time?) and the halls buzz with people talking about what they did over the summer. Well, I'm not shy so let me tell you about my summer highlights. Lets see...I spent several weekends at my in-laws' lake cabin (one of the reasons we moved back to Minnesota from Iowa!), celebrated the first and sixth birthdays of our kids over a four-day span in June (oh yeah, our anniversary was sandwiched in there also), got *most* of the boxes unpacked from our move last summer, and attended the AALL convention, thanks to a grant from MALL.

Now some people may say, "Come on, attending a professional convention as a summer highlight?" After all, you have to sit through educational sessions and business meetings, eat fast food off vendor carts in the convention center, fight crowds in the exhibit hall, etc. But I'll bet that those of you who have attended an AALL convention understand why this makes my highlights list.

Despite having worked in law libraries in some fashion for the last 10 years, this was my first chance to attend AALL, so I started my conference experience with CONELL. What a great program! Our morning was spent getting to know the

organization, and how we can be contributing members. The bottom-line message I received from this program was that my membership is valued and there are ways I can be involved and contribute, even at this early stage of my professional career. Our afternoon was spent on a fun tour of St. Paul (with a great lunch at the Lexington, too!) where I learned a bit about the gangster history of my new hometown.

Then it was on to the conference itself. I looked over the program guide and the choices were difficult, as I found at least two, and often more, concurrent sessions that sounded intriguing. The final selections were tough, but I tried to keep my focus on sessions I felt would be most helpful in my work at William Mitchell, and I was not disappointed. I can say without a doubt that I learned something in each session attended and have had opportunities to put much of that knowledge to use as I work with patrons at our reference desk and teach first year students legal research.

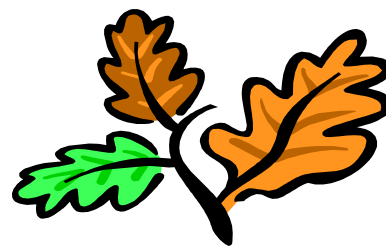
One of my favorite sessions was on choosing a legal research text, or "The Kelly Show." For those of you who missed this one, it was structured as a talk show, with several prominent research text authors as guests. Not only did I gain insight into the various styles of research texts and the goals of the authors, but it was also fun to be able to put a face and a personality to some of the names I have previously known only on the title page of a textbook. The session that sparked the most discussion

was one on designing legal research programs. There are so many different styles and formats, it was interesting to hear what other schools are doing, and what seems to work for them. These are just two of the 10 sessions I attended (yes I did find time to get to the exhibit hall and get my moose from Lexis) and all were extremely valuable.

I would like to extend my thanks to the members of the MALL Awards and Nominations committee for selecting me to receive a grant to attend AALL. I appreciate your support of my professional growth and development through attendance at the conference. I would also like to say thank you to the members of MALL. I have had an opportunity to meet many of you at various events and have always felt welcome and part of the organization right from the beginning and I look forward to meeting more people and becoming more involved in the future.

Sonya Huesman
Reference Librarian, Warren E.
Burger Library William Mitchell
College of Law

...



TIME MANAGEMENT

I enjoyed the AALL conference, specifically the networking opportunities and checking out all the vendor booths. Surprisingly, the part of the conference that was the most meaningful to me was a seminar on a familiar topic: time management. I don't know about how others feel about this subject, but often, when I have been in library settings, whether legal, corporate, public, or academic, there seem to be 10-20 urgent things to do at once! The seminar used Franklin Covey material, and reminded me of a few things and gave me impetus to keep trying:

- ◆ To take the time *before* starting work for the day to

think about which things *must* be done, and rank them separately. Covey recommends "A" for must do today, "B" for important, but could be done later, "C" for least important, and then ranking numerically in order of importance.

- ◆ To really work down the list *in order* of importance. (Which is always so easy to do!)
- ◆ To let people know by the end of the day that you have received their message
- ◆ To use a planner and take it with you

So, did it work? Though I'm not using Franklin Covey material I'm incorporating lots of general ideas, and am enjoying reading two books by Julie Morgenstern: Orga-

nizing from the Inside Out, and Time Management from the Inside Out. Since the conference in July, I've been much more on task and I added an extra class this semester because I felt more organized.

What this seminar, and also conference in general, did for me was inspire me to not give up on a good idea that had seemed tired in the past. Maybe that's the best part of the conference...being encouraged and motivated. It was worth it! Thanks very much for sending me!

Appreciatively,
Kim A. Pettman
Graduate Student—Library & Information Science, Distance Education Program
University of Milwaukee §

Upcoming Events



Back to the Future?

The Minnesota State Law Library is pleased to announce this year's Andersen Lecture on November 8, 2001 at 3:30 in Room 230 of the Minnesota Judicial Center. Dr. Arthur Harkins will address members of the judiciary and interested friends on topics of interest, including the future of the Constitution and anticipatory jurisprudence. For those MALL members who missed Dr. Harkins' plenary session at the

AALL meeting this summer, now's your chance to hear him in a more casual, intimate setting. He is a member of the College of Educational and Human Development and Master of Liberal Studies faculties at the University of Minnesota.

In 1999, the Minnesota State Law Library celebrated its 150th birthday with cake, music and a speech by Morris Cohen on early American legal texts. The Peter S. Popovich Rare Books Fund was established at this celebration and the library decided to continue the

tradition with a speech each year around the time of the Library's anniversary. Former Governor Elmer L. Andersen generously donated money to establish the Popovich fund and our fall lecture is now called the Andersen Lecture Series. In November 2000 Doug Thompson presented "Whiskey and Wisdom: Classics from the Bar."

Refreshments will be served in the State Law Library following the Andersen Lecture. Contributions to the Peter S. Popovich Rare Books Fund are tax deductible.

Minnesota Constitution Day 2001

What do football referees, Sunday closing laws, an Amish buggy and Fort Snelling have in common? They're all featured in a videotape, "Inside Straight: The Third Branch," prepared by the Minnesota Supreme Court for use in classrooms throughout Minnesota. Last year, in early October, over 200 attorneys and judges went to schools throughout the state to show this video to more than 6,000 students. The lawyers and judges answered student questions and helped teachers present concepts of the Minnesota Court System

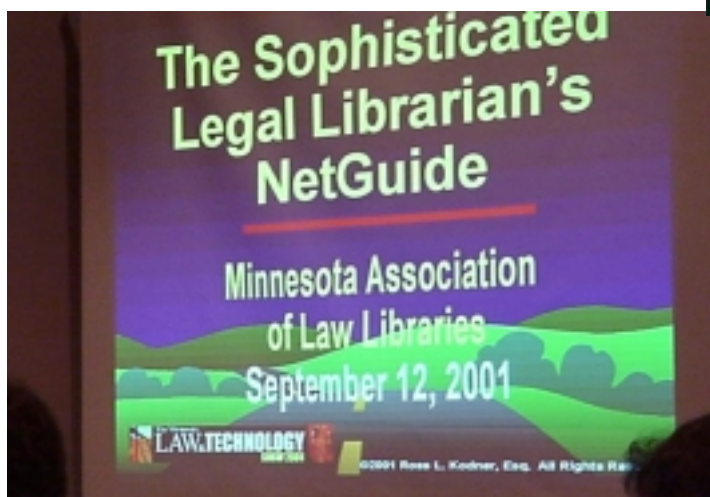
to their classes.

This year, the Supreme Court will be working with the Educational Department of the Minnesota Historical Society to host an event for several hundred students at the History Center, and give youth a chance to look at an early copy of the Minnesota Constitution. Lawyers and judges will again be asked to show the videotape in local schools and alma maters and the Supreme Court hopes to reach even more students than last year.

Why would MALL members be interested in this video? Eagle-eyed MALL members will spot

Marvin Anderson in an early football sequence and Karen Westwood (sans glasses) in the Fort Snelling segment. Marvin and Karen helped write the script and used their research skills in locating case information, finding documents at the History Center and Minnesota Judicial Center and have been involved in the Constitution Day programs in 2000 and 2001. MALL members are invited to show the video in local schools as well. For more information on Constitution Day 2001 (October 12, 2001) call Chuck Tombarge at the Court Information Office, 651-297-4029. §

MALL LOOKS AT



THE 2001 LAW AND TECHNOLOGY SHOW

The Internet Column

BILL JACK
Dorsey & Whitney



Free Statutes And Cases On The Web, Revisited

It's easy to use Westlaw or Lexis for everything, but few of us are afforded that luxury. Thus, free case law and statutes are an important part of the mix that librarians provide. The landscape for getting to those free cases and statutes has changed, but the issues remain pretty much the same: 1) How do I get to them? 2) What can I do once I'm there? and 3) What good are they?

How do I get to them?

For state statutes and case law, you can always go to the official state site and navigate your way around, but this can be time-consuming. Go, for instance, to the Minnesota state home page at <http://www.state.mn.us/> and if you do it just right, you are about six clicks away from a recent Minnesota Supreme Court case.

If you want an opinion from the archive, the navigation is quite different. From the Minnesota Judicial Page, you have to click on the "Opinions" link on the bar toward the top of the page, then select the court that you want, as well as the type of opinions you want (current or archive). Selecting archived opinions takes you to the State Law Library at [http://](http://www.lawlibrary.state.mn.us/archive/index.html)

www.lawlibrary.state.mn.us/archive/index.html, where the opinions are very nicely indexed by release date, docket number, and case name.

Things are not so easy if you want a current Minnesota opinion. Those opinions are in Microsoft Word format and are not searchable. To make your task more difficult, you also must know the release date of the opinion before you know which opinion set to open.

All this is difficult and time-consuming (although by now it is second nature for us Minnesota librarians), and it is probably more difficult for librarians in other states who don't often visit Minnesota sites. Those other states get their revenge on us, however, when we visit them and try to retrieve their opinions. There is no single consistent organization to state pages or to the location of case opinions. Some states are wonderful (North Dakota). Some are not so wonderful. Some offer no opinions at all unless you are a member of the state bar.

Is there an easier way to get to court opinions of all states?

Yes, there is. Go to a metasite such as FindLaw (<http://www.findlaw.com>) or Cornell Univer-

sity's Legal Information Institute (<http://www.law.cornell.edu/index.html>). Cornell offers easy access to state court opinions and statutes at <http://www.law.cornell.edu/states/listing.html>, and FindLaw offers its easy entry at <http://guide.lp.findlaw.com/11stategov/>. I prefer Cornell to FindLaw here because getting to a statute or opinion involves fewer clicks and there's less chance, I feel, for confusion (i.e., if you click on "Minnesota Opinions," you'll be taken to the current opinions only, not to the State Law Library archive).

For federal or state opinions, it is worth your while to register (it's free) with LexisOne at <http://www.lexisone.com>. There, you can perform a search nearly as sophisticated as that of Lexis itself, although make sure you know the parameters of the database that you search (presently, US Supreme Court cases from 1790, and "selected" state court cases from January 1, 1996). Look forward to seeing a similar five-year database of hyperlinked federal and state cases on FindLaw, as West beefs up this recently-purchased site.

Both FindLaw and Cornell do a good job at taking you to federal statutes and opinions too. I especially appreciate Cornell's Popular Names Table at <http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/topn/>. But

for federal research, I often turn to FirstGov (<http://firstgov.gov/>). It's well-organized, clean, comprehensive, and it offers a topical orientation – I find this helpful in instances when I don't know if it's a regulation or a statute that I'm after.

For Minnesota statutes and opinions only, I turn to <http://www.lawmoose.com/index.cfm>. LaVern Pritchard's LawMoose harks back to the good old days of the web and to the now (sadly, and seemingly seditious) outmoded idea that information should be free and accessible to all. In fact, there is so much I love about LawMoose that I wish there was a 50-state version of it. At LawMoose, we get enhanced searching capabilities, easy access to just about any Minnesota materials we need, and bonuses such as the ability to save searches and to search the index of the Minnesota Statutes. Soon, we'll be able to obtain Eight Circuit Court of Appeals briefs, and they'll be indexed by party as well as by attorney.

Sometimes it's even easier.

Try this quick shortcut first. Let's say you need the Minnesota Uniform Condominium Act. You can go through the steps listed above to get to it, or you can try a nifty shortcut that works more often than not. Go to Google (<http://www.google.com>) and type in "Minnesota Uniform Condominium Act." Chances are that the act, as it

appears in Minnesota Statutes on the Minnesota Revisor of Statutes web site, will be in the first three or four of the links in your hit list – you will have gotten there in record time.

So I don't need Lexis or Westlaw?

Wrong. The free web is a great place to go if you want to obtain a particular case or a statute section. But there are drawbacks.

First, there is often no currency information -- Internet does not always mean "newest" or "most recent." If you do a Google search on the NY Rules of Professional Responsibility, for example, you might find the 1996 rules on the NYSBA website (they're still there at <http://www.nysba.org/opinions/codes/anchor1.html> even though a newer version is at <http://www.nysba.org/opinions/codes/index.html>). Similarly, the old Rules for Admission of Attorneys in the State of Minnesota lay on the Minnesota State Courts servers long after the BLE moved to different servers and offered a newer set of rules at <http://www.ble.state.mn.us/rules.htm>. Sites often don't let you know the currency of the laws you are searching.

There are wide variations in the quality of information, and many sites fail to warn you of same. Statutes are often not the "official" version but are "for information purposes only." (See, for example, the lengthy disclaimer for Oregon Statutes at <http://landru.leg.state.or.us/ors/>). Case opinions are often slip opinions and are posted before the

opinion is revised and published in its final and official form.

You cannot check on the subsequent history of an opinion, and statutes are hardly ever annotated (case law can easily do to a statute what a subsequent ruling can do to an opinion, potentially rendering it irrelevant for your particular research issue).

There is no representation of "completeness" on the web. Even when searching state case opinions at the premier free site, LexisOne, remember that these are "selected" opinions only. You will have to go elsewhere before you can consider your case law research complete.

Add to all that the time and difficulty involved in getting to those opinions and statutes, and using a paid resource might turn out to be a bargain.

The biggest reason for not chucking Westlaw or Lexis? Searching. You can locate an opinion or a statute on the web for free, but you can't perform the kinds of sophisticated legal-issue research that your assignment requires. For that, you need the paid services or the books. §



Committee Reports

Exchange

TIMOTHY BALAND
Chair

Greetings from MALL Exchange!

The following old Minnesota Reporters are available from Nicollet County.

Fair Condition

Vol. 26-29
Vol. 39-41
Vol. 44-46
Vol. 48-51
Vol. 54 & 56
Vol. 58
Vol. 60, 62 & 63

Good Condition

Vol. 17
Vol. 21-23 & 25
Vol. 30-38
Vol. 47
Vol. 57
Vol. 59

Very Good Condition

Vol. 52 & 53

Fair Condition = Piece of leather missing on spine and some chipping of leather at top of spine. A few have the front cover that is intact but the leather has let go at the seam. Some look like they may have seen "fire". Just a little bit though.

Good Condition = All leather intact and cover solid. The leather is a little discolored where exposed to light and the top of spine and covers look

like they may be starting to crack.

Very Good Condition = Some discoloration, but very little and all intact.

If you are interested, please contact Shirley.Eken@courts.state.mn.us or call 507.931.6800. Call now--if unclaimed, these volumes will be discarded no later than September 28, 2001.

...

The University of Minnesota Law Library has available for free:

HARVARD LAW REVIEW
v.93 no.1 thru v.114 no.8 (all unbound issues)

If you are interested, please contact Craig Olson at 612.625.0396 or e-mail c-olson1@tc.umn.edu.

...

To advertise your materials through MALL Exchange, please contact Timothy H. Baland at: Minnesota State Law Library, Room G45, Minnesota Judicial Center, 25 Constitution Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55155-6102. Telephone: (651.297.7659. Fax: 651.296.6740. E-Mail: Timothy.H.Baland@courts.state.mn.us. For the timeliest notification of Exchange materials, subscribe to the MALL listserv. Announcements of materials available through MALL Exchange are also posted on the MALL web site and in issues of the Newsletter. §

Membership Annual Report

BARBARA GOLDEN,
Chair

During 2000/2001, MALL had 148 paid memberships and nine life members. Employers paid for 77% of the 148 paid memberships. MALL employers were 43% Law Firms, 25% Law Schools, 17% Government or Courts, 4% Corporate, and 11% Other. 73% of MALL members belong to at least one other professional association with 62% members of AALL. The MALL Grant Fund received \$100 during the membership drive.

The Committee conducted the annual membership drive; compiled, produced and distributed an abbreviated annual Directory; and responded to requests for mailing labels, information, and application forms. Sections previously published in the Directory and now available on the Membership page of the web site are "MALL in a Nutshell", a list of past officers, law librarianship award recipients, and the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The membership application is also available through the web site.

Announcements of new members and other changes to the directory were posted on the listserv. The Committee also published profiles of new members and other member news in the Newsletter and held a draw-

ing for a free AALL membership.

The activities of the Membership Committee support the advocacy and recruitment visions of MALL. E-mail reminders to members brought about an excellent renewal rate. With the help of the Placement & Recruitment Committee, we had a record number of twenty-six new members this year. Each new member received a welcome e-mail or letter that usually generated follow-up information. And our web site information, member announcements and profiles help build a sense of community for both long-time and newer members. Initiatives for next year are 1) to establish a password protected membership list on the web site and 2) to examine and recommend criteria for awarding life memberships.

I want to thank Nancee Halling for her assistance with the production of the directory, Trudi Busch for the new member

biographies she wrote for the newsletter, and Donna Trimble for donating the free AALL membership. §

Copies of MALL's 2000-2001 annual financial report are available upon request from Carrie Long, Secretary-Treasurer. To request a copy or for further information, contact Carrie at 612.766.7118 or clong@faegre.com.

The report will not be published in this newsletter or on the web site. Copies will be distributed at the next membership meeting.

WATCH FOR MALL'S NEWLY
DESIGNED WEBSITE COMING
IN OCTOBER

2001—2002 MALL OFFICERS

President

Lori Hedstrom
651.687.5891
lori.hedstrom@westgroup.com

Vice President/President Elect

Karen Westwood
651.297.2087
karen.westwood@courts.state.mn.us

Secretary-Treasurer

Carrie Long
612.766.7118
clong@faegre.com

Past President

Patricia Cummings
612.335.1660
pc1660@leonard.com

Member at Large

Janet Sheets
612.843.5859
library@bestlaw.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archives

Dennis Skrade
651.297.2090
dennis.skrade@courts.state.mn.us

Awards & Nominations

John Tessner
651.523.2131
jtessner@gw.hamline.edu

Consulting

Sara Galligan
651.438.8080
sara.galligan@co.dakota.mn.us

Education

Paddy Satzer
651.962.4903
pasatzer@stthomas.edu

Exchange

Timothy.H.Baland
651.297.7659
Timothy.H.Baland@courts.state.mn.us

Government Relations

Joyce Larson Schampel
612.664.5380
joyce_larson_schampel@mnd.uscourts.gov

Internet Applications

Aimée Blatz
651.687.4173
a.blatz@westgroup.com

Membership

Barbara Golden
651.296.0031
barb.golden@courts.state.mn.us

Newsletter

Barbara Minor
612.766.8518
bminor@faegre.com

Placement & Recruitment

Janice Leichter
612.672.8235
janice.leichter@maslon.com

Public Relations

Peggy Hall
612.348.7982
peggy.hall@co.hennepin.mn.us

Publications

Brenda Wolfe
612.624.7011
bwolfe@csom.umn.edu

Technical Services SIG

Janice Leichter
612.672.8235
janice.leichter@maslon.com

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Donna Trimble, Production
612.672.3239
dtrimble@bowman-brooke.com

Stephanie Hull
Bill Jack
Brenda Wolfe

The **MALL Newsletter** is the official publication of the **Minnesota Association of Law Libraries**, a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries. It is published six times per year and is a benefit of membership in MALL. Annual membership dues are \$20US. Membership renewals are due in May of each year. For membership information or change of address, contact: Barbara Golden, MN State Law Library, Room G25, Minnesota Judicial Center, 25 Constitution Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55155 651.296.0031 §