

# SANDALL NEWS

JANUARY 2008

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN, BY SHEILA CORMAN

Happy 2008! I hope everyone had a happy holiday season and a great beginning to this New Year.

I've suddenly realized that I am halfway through my tenure as President of SANDALL and it's been an exciting and interesting first half.

We had an excellent Fall Institute which was well attended by both SANDALL members, SCALL representatives and librarians from both the San Diego City and County libraries. The topic and presentations were interesting and informative. We were also lucky enough to have the AALL President, Ann Fessenden, in attendance. She gave a short address during lunch about the future of AALL. I also had the pleasure of spending a day with her touring local law libraries and the Board joined us for dinner Thursday night. We all had a fun time with her. Thanks to the librarians at the three libraries we toured: Phyllis Marion at California Western School of Law, Tiffany O'Neill at DLA Piper Rudnick and Nanna Frye at the Fourth District Court of Appeal.

Our Holiday Party, held in early December at the Town & Country Hotel, found us dancing the night away. Sixty-two members and guests feasted on a wonderful meal and had time to mingle with people we don't get to see very often in a "non-work" setting. We also got to see a glimpse of our members dancing ability and show the hotel staff that librarians are not stodgy after all. Some of them could compete with the contestants on "Dancing with the Stars"!

I would also like to thank all the vendors who made donations and attended these two events, helping to make them so successful.

Now, since it still is early in 2008, I have a few resolutions for all us:

- Get more involved in your chapter. SANDALL is only as good as its members make it. We cannot survive without your support, not only monetarily by paying your dues, but also by attending SANDALL events.
- Consider running for office or serving on a committee. I know that we are all busy with work and other commitments, but being active in SANDALL does not take as much time as you think and is very rewarding. Please contact Betsy Chessler at Morrison & Forester if you are interested in running for office for the 2008-2009 year.
- SANDALL offers two grants covering the registration fee to attend AALL each year. This year's conference is in Portland in early July. Take advantage of this opportunity and apply for a grant when they become available. We also offer grants

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*(President's Column continued from page 1)*

to other AALL workshops and events. Check with Arnold Josefatz, Grants Chair, at Thomas Jefferson School of Law for more information.

- Attend SANDALL Brown Bags and other learning opportunities. They are usually free for SANDALL members and I know I have personally learned much from attending these sessions. Plus I got to know and meet other SANDALL members.
- Support our Spring Social & Scholarship Fundraiser. This fun event is how we raise money for the grants we offer to members. Last year, we had a picnic and raised over \$800 for our grants. The tables were loaded with food and the auction items whetted everyone's appetite and loosened our wallets because we knew it was for such a worthwhile cause. We need to see more people this year to try to "top" the amount we raised last year.

I'd also like to thank this year's Board and Chairs for all their hard work during the first half of my year as your President.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheila Corman



# Save the Date!

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

12:00-1:00 at Selter Caplan

**Al Boldenlos**, a Pearl Harbor survivor, will be speaking on his Dec. 7, 1941 experiences. He'll cover background leading up to that fateful day, a first hand account of the attack, and events that followed. You will be riveted by this wonderful man's recollection of events from a crucial time in the history of our country.

## MEMBER NEWS

**Hadas Livnat** is the newest librarian at Thomas Jefferson School of Law. Hadas is the Evening/Weekend Circulation/Reserve Librarian. Ms. Livnat has a J.D. from New England School of Law, and a B.A. in English Literature from the University of California at Irvine. She is currently studying towards a Masters Degree in Library and Information Science (M.L.I.S.) in San Jose State University's online program.

Hadas has worked in libraries in Boston and California since 2002. At TJSL, Hadas hires, trains and supervises the circulation desk assistants, maintains public services equipment, processes reserve materials, coordinates audiovisual training, performs ILL lending and supervises stacks maintenance. Hadas is a member AALL as well as SANDALL.



**Ellie Slade** is the new Ramona Branch Librarian. Ellie Slade graduated from the University of Michigan and majored in English and Spanish. She also attended Lesley College of Cambridge, Massachusetts and received a Masters in Creative Arts in Education. In addition, she holds a Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of Washington, specializing in law librarianship. Ellie has lived in five states including Michigan, Massachusetts, Maine, Washington and California; plus she has studied and lived in Mexico as well.

During the span of her career she worked in schools, public libraries, law firms, the LA Times Editorial Library and also worked as an artist-in-residence and actress. She has been a branch librarian manager for the San Diego North County Law Library, Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton and McKenna and Cuneo. Moreover, Ellie has served as the President and Vice President of San Diego Area Law Libraries and is currently the Secretary of LIBROS, Reforma's local chapter of Library Services for Latino Patrons. In addition, she has written several articles on librarianship as well as some scripts about working in libraries for National Public Radio. Over the years Ellie received professional development and educational grants from the American Library Association, the American Association of Law Libraries, Reforma and other library organizations.

Ellie enjoys writing poetry, gardening, painting, puppetry, travel, dancing and attending multicultural programs and arts events. Ellie is passionate about reading, computers and life long learning. She believes libraries should promote reading/literacy, serve as a cultural arts forum, a community resource, and educational institution for all citizens.

Ellie looks forward to serving the Ramona public, staff and Library Friends, at the existing library and also at the new library. Currently there is a small courthouse attached to the existing Ramona Library, and there are a fair percentage of legal reference questions serviced at this branch. At present, Ramona and the County of San Diego are in the process of building a new 20,000 square foot library and community center to be completed in 2010. For more information on the new Ramona Library see: [http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2007/12/10/news/inland/1\\_24\\_4912\\_9\\_07.txt](http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2007/12/10/news/inland/1_24_4912_9_07.txt)

## MEMBER PROFILE



Tom at Temple of Horus at Edfu, Egypt.

**Tom Champagne**

Director of Cataloging and  
Database Administration

Thomas Jefferson School of Law

**Where did you grow up and where did you go to school?**

I grew up in Concord, Calif., Sudbury, Mass., and Marshfield, Mass. My undergraduate degree is from Northwestern University in Illinois; my master's degree is from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**How long have you worked in the library field? Always in law?**

I have been working in libraries since 1980. My first library jobs were student jobs during college; after I graduated, I found a paraprofessional position and six years later decided to get my Masters degree. Since 1989, I have been working in a variety of professional librarian positions.

Only a small portion of my library career has been in law libraries. I worked for two years in a small private law firm in Chicago during the 1990's, and then not again until 2004, when I began working for Thomas Jefferson.

**Is there something in particular that you enjoy about working at Thomas Jefferson?**

In my current position I have a wide variety of duties that pull on my technology and cataloging interests. While there are the duties as outlined in my title, I am also the coordinator for our Innovative Interfaces Millennium system. There are lots of challenges in the position and there has been a lot for me to learn.

**Why did you choose to work in academia?**

I like the issues that academia is facing, the depth of the collections and the long focus as we attempt to preserve materials and/or provide access to them in perpetuity.

**What is the typical workday like for you?**

I wish I had a typical workday! They all start off the same (reviewing the ILL backup and system status) but after that, who knows where it will go!

**What do you consider to be your greatest achievement?**

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I had the opportunity to be involved in the development of JSTOR. One weekend (literally, one Sunday afternoon) I was asked to develop the “indexing guidelines” for the early journals, and was able to influence the structure of the database, emphasizing the context for each “article”. Some crucial elements were not being indexed: for example, you could search for the author of a book review but not for the author of the book itself, nor for the title of the book being reviewed if it varied from the title of the review article.

#### **Any memorable library experiences?**

I probably shouldn't tell this story, but it was a learning moment. I was working as a paraprofessional at Northwestern University Library in the mid-1980's when the Library undertook a project to barcode the collection. The barcodes had been specially printed from the shelflist and contained the call number on the label as well as the barcode and library name, so theoretically it should have been very easy to match the barcodes and the volumes. Every library employee had to work two hours a day on the project, and we always worked in pairs. The first day, a friend of mine and I were beginning a bit nervously, but dived in excitedly. Our first books were a twelve-volume set which we successfully matched the barcodes with the volumes (we thought). Until we got to the next set of books –which happened to be a translation of the first set—and discovered that we had barcoded the wrong set! We thought we knew about detail (as we both worked as serials cataloging assistants) but learned the hard way about paying attention to detail that day...

#### **What sorts of vacations do you like to take?**

I like to get away with close friends. It can be as near as Joshua Tree National Forest or as far away as Egypt (so far).

#### **Last nonfiction book read?**

“Discovery : unearthing the new treasures of archaeology / edited by Brian M. Fagan.” London : Thames & Hudson, c2007. ISBN 978-0-500-05149-8 LCCN 2006-940560. It's a collection of short articles on recent archaeological discoveries that Karla gave me for Christmas and which serves as a nice follow-up to my recent trip to Egypt, as it has a number of articles concerning matters Egyptian...But it also has some that relate to my next big trip that I'm planning for 2009: China.

#### **Last fiction book read?**

“Harry Potter ...” the 7th... I think.

#### **Last movie you saw? “Harry Potter ...” the 5th ... perhaps?**

It's been a while. There haven't been (m)any good movies out lately. I'm rather choosy about my movie viewing as well so I don't see a lot of movies.

#### **Hobbies?**

Stereotypically, I like to read. I also enjoy listening to and collecting an eclectic mix of music; going out with friends for dinner, a play or movie; and hiking when I can.

**PUBMED IN A NUTSHELL,  
BY BETSY CHESSLER, MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP**

[Http://www.pubmed.gov](http://www.pubmed.gov)

In November 2007, I had the pleasure of attending a day long seminar on PubMed. Now, I wasn't so sure going into this seminar that it would be a pleasure. I thought it would be overly technical and that there wasn't enough coffee in the world to get me through it. But as it turned out, I thought it was so interesting and useful that I gave a talk on the topic at our January 23rd SANDALL brownbag.

So, as law librarians why should we care about PubMed, an index to biomedical articles? Well, after working as a law librarian for almost a decade, I am still a generalist. I am constantly asked to find material that has nothing to do with the legal field. Recently I was asked to find scientific literature on two chemical compounds that I couldn't spell or pronounce. That's pretty typical. I work with patent attorneys that research biopharmaceuticals, so PubMed is part of my arsenal.

## Overview

So, what is thing called PubMed? It is a huge index to over 5,000 biomedical journals. It covers all the health science topics: medicine, health care, nursing, dentistry, alternative medicine, biology, nutrition, psychiatry, and so on, plus an allied disciplines like biochemistry and biophysics. And it even includes some articles from general interest magazines and newspapers like the New York Times and Newsweek. Articles go back as far as 1950. As of this writing, PubMed had indexed over 17 million articles.

PubMed also contains over 2 million free full text articles. Starting this year, any research that was funded by the National Institutes of Health must be published in its entirety in PubMed. Up until now, that was all voluntary. Since the NIH funded over \$15 billion worth of research last year alone, we should expect to see a lot more free, full text articles. (NIH budget information: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/award/trends/DistBudget07.jpg>. Bill requiring NIH funded research to be published: H.R. 2764, Consolidated Appropriations Act of 207, signed into law ~12/26/07 by President Bush.)

PubMed does NOT search the full text of an article, even if the full text of an article is available. You are only searching the bibliographic citation and abstract. PubMed does NOT index conference proceedings, just journals. Check Biosis and Inside Conferences for conference proceedings.

## PubMed v. Medline

Until I took my PubMed training, I was always confused about the difference between PubMed and Medline. Medline is a subset of PubMed. All the Medline articles have been read and indexed by a human being and assigned Medical Subject Headings. And Medline articles are drawn from biomedical journals only, not general interest journals like Newsweek. If you search PubMed by Medical Subject Headings (MeSH), you're only going to get Medline records. There are over 16 million Medline records in PubMed, so the majority of PubMed records are Medline records.

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## General Subject Searches (or, how PubMed is not like Google)

Can you search PubMed like you search Google? Well, it depends on how you search Google.

Let's try this out. Let's say your cat scratched you, and you want to know if you can get rabies from a cat scratch. So you try this search on PubMed:

*Can I get rabies from a cat scratch*

If you try this on PubMed you will get zero hits. Why? Because PubMed assumes you may not know the correct terms for the medical conditions you are researching. So, it tries to help you out using automatic term mapping (ATM). It will automatically look for synonyms and subject headings that it thinks match your subject matter. And if you put in what looks like an author (format: last name, first initial), it will search the author field too, even if that is not what you intended.

So this is how PubMed translated my search about cat scratches:

```
can i[Author] AND get[All Fields] AND ("rabies"[MeSH Terms] OR rabies[Text Word]) AND from a[Author]
AND (("cats"[TIAB] NOT Medline[SB]) OR "cats"[MeSH Terms] OR cat[Text Word]) AND scratch[All Fields]
```

How do I know that's how PubMed translated my search query? I clicked on the "Details" tab. *Details* is your best friend on PubMed. *Details* will tell you exactly how PubMed interpreted your search, and you may be in a few surprises. The bottom line is that you should only put in key terms and be as specific as possible. Leave out the stop words and unnecessary words. No natural language searching!

Here's the better search:

*Rabies cat scratch*

Here's how PubMed translated this revised search:

```
("rabies"[MeSH Terms] OR rabies[Text Word]) AND (("cats"[TIAB] NOT Medline[SB]) OR "cats"[MeSH
Terms] OR cat[Text Word]) AND scratch[All Fields]
```

Much better!

A note about boolean operators: A space is an assumed "and" here. But you could have also put AND between the terms, though you have to capitalize AND. (Same goes for OR and NOT). And while I'm on the topic of operators, there are no proximity operators (near, adj, etc.) in PubMed. The good news is that the lack of proximity operators is not so critical because you never search the full text of articles on PubMed, just the bibliographic citation and the abstract.

## Single Citation Matcher Search

I use this search tool a lot. This is great when you either have a known citation or an incomplete citation. Just fill in as much information as you have.

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Select the "Single Citation Matcher" link from side bar on the left of your screen. Type in what you know of the article, and then click "Go".. The journal and author fields have a nice "auto complete"

Journal:

Date:  (month and day are optional)

Volume:  Issue:  First page:

Author name (see [help](#))

Only as first author  Only as last author

Title words:  Title words:

## Author Search

You can look for authors several different ways. You can use the Single Citation Matcher, or you can run all variations of a name using the "Limits" tab. Let me show you how that works. This is called the "Author Search Build" and it comes with "auto-completion".

Click on Limits tab

Select: Add Author

Keep adding all the variations of an author's name. (ex: Olefsky, j; olefsky, jm; olefsky, Jerrold; Olefsky, Jerold) Select "any of these authors" to look for all these name variations. Then click "Go".

Search by Author

Author Name (see [help](#))

[Add Another Author](#)

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Typically, only an author's last name and first and middle initials are indexed. Since 2002, some first names have been added, but this can be spotty. So, it's best to search all variations of a name.

You can also search for authors using the field tag [au]. Here's an example and a cautionary tale - you have to capitalize your Boolean operators!

**Olefsky j [au]** (- works just as well as using "Author Builder Search" I just showed, picking up all variants.)

**Devoto and monos [au]** - no hits because AND has to be capitalized

**Devoto AND monos [au]** - this works because I capitalized AND. No need to use parentheses.

### Date Restrictions and other Limits

Again, click on the Limits tab, and go down to the "Dates" section. You can now refine your search by date of publication or date the article was indexed.

You can also limit your results to specific subsets (by language, publication type, topic area, etc.) One limit that you may find particularly useful is the "core journals" subset. These are basically the top 120 or so *clinical* journals in the world, according to Index Medicus. (List of journals included in "core clinical journals" at: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/aim.html>) This list does NOT include the journals *Science* or *Nature*, however. The focus is on clinical medicine.

### Conclusion:

I've just covered the tip of the iceberg on PubMed. There are many more features out there, including the whole world of Medical Subject Headings (MeSH). PubMed has a 162 page manual that lays it out all, with screen shots and practice exercises. You can download the entire manual at: [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/web\\_based.html](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/web_based.html). Happy Searching!



**Editor's Note:** Ms. Chessler made a presentation on PubMed to the SANDALL membership at a brownbag on January 23. Ms. Chessler's efforts to educate the San Diego law librarian community through her speaking and writing contributions are greatly appreciated.

# Holiday Party Pictures

The editor would especially like to thank **Margarita Bull** for the use of her camera during this event.



**We're on the Web!**  
[Http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/sandall](http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/sandall)

**A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN  
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