



SFALL NEWSLETTER

A Quarterly Publication of the
South Florida Association of Law Libraries

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Spring 2002

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Bookmark Our Website

www.aallnet.org/chapter/sfall

What can you find there?

- Chapter announcements
- Handy member directory
- SFALL by-laws
- Useful research links
- Membership application
- Newsletter back issues
- History of SFALL
- Listserv information
- Job listings

President's Message

Janet Reinke, University of Miami Law Library

Hi Everyone!

I hope you're having a good spring. It was great to see so many of you at our February program.

If you are on the Law-Lib listserv, you may have seen the recent discussion about images of librarians in popular culture. Some of these included a Honda ad boasting that the car was "the automotive equivalent of a really hot librarian" and a Bacardi ad featuring a beautiful, scantily clad female model with the inscription, "Librarian by Day, Bacardi by Night."

A few listserv members also pointed out some less positive portrayals of librarians, including a Clairol Herbal Essences Shampoo commercial in which a librarian does a lot of sshh-ing and an article by a UCLA student that questions whether anyone needs to go to school to learn how to become a librarian.

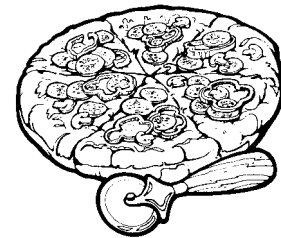
This was followed by a number of law librarians emailing photos of themselves to the list. One librarian created a website collage of all the photos. All in all, it was a very interesting exchange, and the photos of librarians demonstrate the diversity of people who belong to our profession.

The questions that I have for you are the following: "What has been your experience being a librarian? How do people treat you?"

(continued on page 4)

April 30 Program

Connie Bean **of Florida Information Associates will give a presentation on Florida legislative history. You are invited to arrive before 12:00 you would like to speak with Connie individually.**



if

Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2002

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Directions to:

Greenberg Traurig
1221 Brickell Ave., 22nd floor
(Telefonica Building)
Miami, Florida 33131

From the north:

Exit I-95 South at S.W. 7th Street.
Go up one block to S.W. 8th Street and turn left onto 8th Street.
Turn right onto Brickell Avenue.
Turn left onto S.E. 13th Street.
Park in the 1221 Building parking garage.
Take garage elevator to lobby level.
Cross lobby and take building elevator to the 22nd floor.

From the south:

Take S. Dixie Highway north to Brickell Avenue.
Turn right onto S.E. 13th Street.
Park in the 1221 Building parking garage.
Take garage elevator to lobby level.
Cross lobby and take building elevator to the 22nd floor.

People Mover:

Nearest People Mover station is Financial District on the Brickell Loop.



**SFALL
Calendar**

April 30	SFALL general meeting, program on legislative history Noon -1:30 p.m. Greenberg Traurig, Miami
June 7	SFALL annual luncheon Noon - 2:30 p.m. University of Miami Faculty Club, Coral Gables
July 20-24, 2002	AALL annual conference Orange County Convention Center, Orlando
Spring 2003	SEAALL annual meeting Lexington, KY
July 12-16, 2003	AALL annual conference Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle, WA

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

Following is a list of some of the responses that I received when I told someone "what I do for a living."

— I went to buy a car cover here in Miami, and a young store employee, while helping me to fit the cover on my car, asked me the inevitable question about my occupation. When I said I was a librarian, he said, "A librarian. Do you need any education for that?"

— One man said to me, "I never knew librarians were so beautiful. If I had known librarians looked like you, I would have spent more time in libraries when I was younger."

— A woman lawyer said to me in a sarcastic tone, "You're a librarian? I really admire that."

— Recently one of my doctors asked my occupation. When I told him, he said, "Oh you're a librarian like First Lady Laura Bush."

When you say you're a librarian, you get a wide variety of reactions. What impact does your profession have on the person you tell? Personally, I think people infer the following from discovering that someone is a librarian:

- 1) The librarian has a low status job and is not paid particularly well.
- 2) The librarian doesn't necessarily have a lot of education.
- 3) The librarian is probably an honest, hard-working person.

I reach these conclusions from my own experience working as a librarian for the past 10 years and telling innumerable people about my chosen profession. It's been my experience that people seem to view other occupations with greater deference. For example, a lawyer or professor seems to command more respect from people. In addition to being a librarian, I'm also a lawyer and a professor, and I find people assume I'm smarter and better educated when they think I'm a lawyer or professor.

Once, I told someone that I'm a lawyer and that I work as a law librarian. The person responded, "That's a real step down for a lawyer." I have received similar responses from a few other people.

What reaction do you get when people find out you're a librarian? Unfortunately, people who assume that librarians have low-status, low-paying jobs are right on target. For many of us, our salaries are too low for the level of expertise and education we possess. We work hard to do our jobs well, and yet our requests for increases in our pitiful salaries fall on deaf ears.

The institutions for which we work make a big mistake by failing to increase our sub-standard salaries. Sometimes their attitude is self-defeating, as more and more library employees leave the institution because of the bad working conditions. The institution's work isn't getting done, and the library must expend a great deal of money to search for replacement employees. It seems employers just don't understand that librarians want **DECENT SALARIES** and **WE WANT TO BE TREATED DECENTLY**. A little appreciation wouldn't hurt either.

All the literature says that librarians are in short supply right now, and we will be even more scarce in the future. One law library director told me that he has seen applications for librarian positions drop from an average of 40 applications for a job to 14. This is all the more reason why employers need to treat librarians decently in order to retain them.

We need to work to raise our salaries. Those of us who are paid unfairly low salaries can seek employment elsewhere.

Well, so much for my ruminations. I hope to see you at our April program.

Best wishes,
Janet

AALL Renewal Time

It's that time of year again.

Renew your AALL dues by June 1.

Watch your mail for a heads-up flyer and invoice from AALL this month.

Law Librarian Tip

Every librarian needs to keep a bottle of **GOO GONE** handy. This magic product is great for removing sticky residue when peeling old spine labels off books and for a thousand other uses. It even has a fairly pleasant citrus scent.

Liz Chifari

Miami-Dade County Law Library Moves into the Electronic Age

by Bob Riger, Executive Director
Miami-Dade County Law Library

The Miami-Dade County Law Library, a 60 plus year old public law library tucked away in the Dade County Courthouse, is beginning to flex its muscles to enter the electronic age. Exciting technology initiatives for the new year include installation of a computer network; creation of an online catalog that will be searchable from remote locations via the Internet; the addition of six public terminals for accessing LexisNexis and Westlaw (for existing subscribers to these services); and a new computer training/conference room on the 20th floor.

The main library, located on the third floor of the Dade County Courthouse, houses approximately 70,000 volumes, including statutes for all 50 states, the complete National Reporter System, Practising Law Institute Corporate and Commercial course handbooks, and a treasure trove of treatises running the gamut from banking to zoning. Featured special areas include aviation, automobiles, maritime/admiralty, intellectual property, real estate, tax, family law, immigration, municipal government, and a growing international collection, as well as a proposed Latin American section.

The auxiliary branch at the Richard Gerstein Building at 1351 NW 12 Street specializes in criminal law and contains approximately 7,500 volumes.

The Miami-Dade County Law Library will also expand the menu of services offered to its patrons. In addition to a public access computerized catalog, fee-based services will soon be offered. These include document delivery (faxing, photocopying, and e-mailing of cases, articles, etc.), interlibrary loan, computer training, database research, public faxing machines, notary services, and word processing services.

Last but not least, the library is preparing for a major facelift to make it more user-friendly.

For further details about the library, please contact Bob Riger, Executive Director, Miami-Dade County Law Library, 73 West Flagler St., Room 321, Miami, FL 33130, phone 305-349-7545.

Member News

Welcome to our newest SFALL member, **Gus Maltez**, Senior Library Clerk, Holland & Knight, Miami.

Congratulations to **Will Miller** of West Group, who recently passed the Florida Bar.

Janet Reinke, Reference Librarian at the University of Miami Law Library, had a book review published in the Winter 2002 issue of *Law Library Journal*. Janet reviewed the book *Game, Set, Match: Winning the Negotiations Game*.

Terry Seale of Greenberg Traurig is currently running for Secretary of the Private Law Librarians (PLL) special interest section of AALL.

Linda Will of Greenberg Traurig is currently serving on the 2002-2003 AALL Nominations Committee, the body that chooses the candidates for AALL's Executive Board elections. Linda also serves on the Editorial Board of *Practice Innovations* newsletter, published by West Group.

Job changes

Barbara Telesca of West Group is now Regional Manager for Sales. She was formerly Regional Manager for Account Management.

Will Miller of West Group has been promoted to Regional Manager for Account Management. Will was formerly an Account Manager.

The Switch

by Sally E. Haff, Memorial Regional Hospital Library

I wasn't looking for a new job when an opportunity knocked on my door. I had always been interested in medical libraries and now I had a chance to work in one. The fact that it is only a mile from my house and I could avoid that nightmare called I-95 influenced my decision to make a switch from a law firm library to a medical library.

In the first six months I worked at Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood, I was sure I had every condition I researched. An ache here, a pain there became a case of "subacute myelo-optic neuropathy." I had never heard of such things as pheochromocytoma, myositis officans, gpIIb/IIIa, bronchus-associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma. So many things were foreign to me, but I relied on my skills as a librarian and researcher to find needed information.

There are books for every topic: *Dictionary of Syndromes*; *Drug Facts & Comparisons*; *Birth Defects Encyclopedia*. There are atlases of the body, the hand, the digestive system, surgical procedures, on and on. It is amazing how many ailments and diseases there are.

Doctors rely on journal articles to keep current. Even though I have 133 active medical journals and 50 active nursing journals, they are not enough. Interlibrary loan fills the gap for materials not available in the collection. The National Library of Medicine (NLM) database is used for ILL requests, and most times it works out to be a very reliable tool. Some doctors — like lawyers — wait until the last minute to request the information they need, so time restriction is still a fact of life for me.

Medical online databases are not like Westlaw and Lexis. I miss them both dearly. Law librarians are lucky to have such strong resources. The medical profession is just coming around to online fulltext databases. The NLM database called PubMed is one of the main online sources, but it offers only abstracts. Some publishers provide fulltext Internet access to their publications if you subscribe to the journals in print. I did a pilot project last summer on MD Consult, an online database that has some fulltext journals and books. The pilot worked out well, and the hospital did purchase the product.

Medicine is in its infancy where fulltext online databases are concerned. The Internet provides many good sources. Medical agencies and organizations like the National Institute of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, the American Pediatric Association, and the American Cancer Association all provide useful resources on their web pages. Patients regularly use the Internet to find relevant materials on conditions or diseases.

The terminology is the hardest part of the research query. I have a medical dictionary within arm's reach at all times. I often ask doctors to spell things for me and sometimes they do. I use dictionaries, illustrated dictionaries, and atlases to help me figure out what or where something is on the body. In addition, the doctors, nurses, students, and administrators willingly answer questions. They are a great resource for me.

For me, the switch from a law library to a medical library has been a positive one. Now here's the big question: Do I prefer working with doctors or lawyers? I'll never tell.

Law Lib Interrogatory

What is the last book you read for pleasure?

The Nanny Diaries by Emma McLaughlin and Nicole Kraus, a fictionalized peek into the world of child rearing in the upper reaches of Manhattan's social strata, written by two former nannies. -- *Diane Altimari, Nova Southeastern University Law Library*

La Femme de Trente Ans by Honoré de Balzac, a novel of romance with devastating consequences by the French master storyteller (who, incidentally, was a lawyer). -- *Anthony Box, Bilzin, Sumberg*

The Blind Assassin by Margaret Atwood, a multi-layered novel consisting of three stories that weave in and out of each other to reveal a family's secret history. Winner of the Booker Prize in 2000. -- *Liz Chifari, Holland & Knight*

The Red Box by Rex Stout. Nero Wolfe and Archie Goodwin solve a murder that is truly "death by chocolate." -- *Linda Datko, Federal Courts Library*

Exquisite Corpse by Poppy Z. Brite (the reigning queen of the splatterpunk genre), a psychological horror story of two serial killers who find true love over the body of a murdered and mutilated boy in the historic French Quarter of New Orleans. Not for the squeamish. -- *Stephanie Dooley, Holland & Knight*

Killer's Wedge: An 87th Precinct Mystery by Ed McBain. An oldie but goodie. The trials and tribulations of the detectives at the 87th Precinct in New York City. -- *Sally Haff, Memorial Regional Hospital Library*

Circles by James Burke, who did the PBS *Connections* series. Burke takes the reader through 50 short chapters, each being an intellectual musing on how one subject (technology, history, literature, etc.) is not too distantly disconnected from another. Makes excellent sense when read with a glass of cabernet, but not mandatory. -- *Sid Kaskey, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius*

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling. A young, mistreated orphan discovers he's really from a family of heroic sorcerers and decides to take up the family business. It beats reading Trusts & Estates! If comic books count, I also recently read X-Men and

Promethea, which are great for stress relief. -- *Clare Membiela, University of Miami Law Library*

Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil by John Berendt, the true story of the eccentric characters involved in a murder in Savannah, Georgia. I had bought it at an airport four years ago, read 10 pages, and set it down. I found it recently while I was moving a bookshelf, started it again, and could not put it down. Kind of like finding money in a pocket you forgot about. -- *Will Miller, West Group*

The Two Towers by J.R.R. Tolkien, part two of The Lord of Rings trilogy. -- *Kerri-Ann Philp, Hunton & Williams*

Mr. Maybe by Jane Green, a fairly humorous novel about dating. -- *Janet Reinke, University of Miami Law Library*

The Road to Wealth by Suze Orman, helpful ideas on investing and financial planning. -- *Bob Riger, Miami-Dade County Law Library*

I've been re-reading childhood favorites, including new editions of the Nancy Drew books; Mystery of the Mooncusser (a young girl and her two best friends solve a mystery involving strange sightings in the coastal town of Gloucester, Mass.); and The Phantom of Walkaway Hill (a family experiences strange happenings in their new home, and the children discover who the phantom is when the family adopts the dog left by the previous owner who died). -- *Katherine Rosin, Shook, Hardy & Bacon*

L'Ignorance by Milan Kundera, a novel about nostalgia, emigration, family, and the universality of human traits, behaviors, and emotions. -- *Dalia Salazar, Freedom Forum Library*

A Killing at Ball's Bluff by Michael Kilian, a Civil War mystery featuring Southern-born Harrison Raines trying to stay neutral in Washington, D.C. He must prove that he did not kill a Union colonel in the midst of a battle. Rose Greenhow, Allan Pinkerton, and Abraham Lincoln all make appearances. (Historical fiction is so much more entertaining than nonfiction. So what if facts are slightly rearranged?) -- *Robin Schard, University of Miami Law Library*

Double Fold: Libraries and the Assault on Paper by Nicholson Baker. Maintains that there is no problem with searchable digitexts and legible photocopies, as long as we hold onto the real books, magazines, and newspapers. Demolishes the arguments against doing so, such as that libraries are running out of space and that paper is rapidly turning to dust because of its acid content. -- *Terry Seale, Greenberg Traurig*

Be My Guest by Conrad Hilton, founder of Hilton Hotels. An autobiography, also with a biography of his pioneer father and mother, which gives a fascinating look at what life was like in the Territory of New Mexico just before statehood. Trading with Indians via wagon, railroads, World War II, the oil boom in Texas, the Depression. An entertaining book. -- *Bill Stafford, Greenberg Traurig*

The Divine Comedy by Dante Alighieri, the allegorical poem of Dante's spiritual journey through Hell, Purgatory, and Heaven, illustrating that the life to come is but the fulfillment of the life that is now. I truly recommend it. -- *Susana Vazquez, John F. Kennedy Public Library*

Still Wild: Short Fiction of the American West, 1950-Present edited by Larry McMurty, a collection of short stories that induces daydreams. You'll wish, at least for the moment, that you were in Amarillo, Missoula, Gallup, somewhere beneath endless Western skies. -- *Brian Williams, St. Thomas University Law Library*

Cheaters by Eric Jerome Dickey, a story revolving around the African-American dating scene in Los Angeles. The three central characters -- Chante, a single accountant; Stephen, a single software designer; and Darnell, a married attorney and aspiring writer -- are struggling with love. -- *Monica Wilson, Steel Hector & Davis*

Job Openings

The following law library positions are available in the South Florida area. For complete requirements, salary information, and application information, please check the SFALL website: <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/sfall/jobs.htm>

Acquisitions Librarian, Miami-Dade County Law Library

Miami-Dade County Law Library, a dynamic 80,000-volume law library, is undergoing a major technology expansion and is now looking for an experienced Acquisitions Librarian with automated services background. Responsible for overseeing all aspects of library acquisitions, including ordering, receiving, invoicing, and processing of library materials. Submit resume by May 17 to Barbara Hunt, Miami-Dade County Law Library, 73 W. Flagler St., Room 321, Miami, FL 33130.

Law Librarian, Law Office of the Public Defender

Responsible for library administration, reference and research services, and maintaining a complete range of resources for a staff of over 200 attorneys. Send resume to Law Offices of Bennett H. Brummer, Attn: Personnel, 1320 NW 14 St., Miami, FL 33125 or fax 305-545-1996 Attn: Personnel.

The University of Miami Law Library has three positions available:

Assistant Library Director for Technical Services
Assistant Library Director for Collection Development and Special Collections

Reference/Instructional Services Librarian

Contact Sally Wise, Director of the Law Library and Professor of Law, UM Law Library, P.O. Box 248087, Coral Gables, FL 33124, (305) 284-2755, swise@law.miami.edu.

2002 AALL Annual Meeting and Conference Update

by Margie Hawkins, AALL Local Advisory Committee Co-chair



The 2002 AALL Annual Meeting and Conference is fast approaching. The theme for this year's meeting is "Creating Connections." Armed with this new goal of bolstering the professional bonds of law librarianship, AALL will reinvigorate our dedication to and excitement for the profession. Make plans now to join us in Orlando at the Orange County Convention Center during the week of July 20-24. Preliminary program booklets have already been mailed, and local arrangements are in high gear. The welcome message from the Local Advisory Committee (LAC) is on page 39 of your booklet. The committee has put together a wonderful selection of local library tours and excursions, with something for everyone.

Volunteers Needed. The Flamingo wants YOU! If you have any time to spare, please consider volunteering at the Hospitality and/or Registration desks. Just fill out the attached Volunteer Registration Form or find one online at www.aallnet.org/events/02_volunteer_opportunities.pdf. For further information about volunteer opportunities, contact Gregg Gronlund at the Orange County Law Library, phone 407-835-7390 or email gronlund@ocls.lib.fl.us.

Conference Web Sites. If you haven't already done so, be sure to visit the 2002 LAC's website at www.aallnet.org/events/local02/index.htm, and the AALL Annual Meeting page www.aallnet.org/events/.

Some important deadlines to remember include:

JUNE 1, 2002

- Early conference registration forms must be postmarked or fax-stamped to qualify for the lower rate (*after this date, plan to register on site*)
- Return mentor/mentee form

JUNE 10, 2002

- Submit housing form to reserve your room at one of the four conference hotels (*at special discounted rates*)
- Register for local library tours
- Register for CONELL and SIS functions
- Receipt (in writing) of cancellation requests (*for a full refund*)

JUNE 28, 2002

- Advance order deadline for excursions (*all refund requests must be received too*)

JULY 1, 2002

- Receipt (in writing) of cancellation requests (*for refund at 70%*)

JULY 3, 2002

- Advance ticket purchases for Orlando area attractions (*at discounted rates*)

JULY 19, 2002

- No cancellations will be accepted after this date. Requests received between July 1-19 will be refunded at 50%.

Volunteer Opportunities Registration Form

Do you like to meet and greet people?

Want to write about AALL programs or interview speakers?

Like to tell people "where to go"?

Want to know what's in those bags before the conference?

Yes?

Then be a volunteer at this year's AALL Annual Meeting in Orlando. Complete this form and return it before June 10, 2002. *And thank you in advance for your help!*

I'll help with:

- Whatever is needed
- Daily Newspaper
- Registration Desk
- Main Events (Association Luncheon and Closing Banquet)
- Conference Bag Stuffing (Friday a.m. required)

NAME _____

FIRM / INSTITUTION _____

Are You a Member of AALL? Yes No

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

DAYTIME TELEPHONE _____

FAX _____

EMAIL _____

Please complete this form and fax or mail it before June 10, 2002, to:

Gregg B. Gronlund
Head, Law Department
Orange County Law Library
101 E. Central Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32801
Phone: (407) 835-7390
Fax: (407) 835-7646