

From the Editor: Endnote*

Frank G. Houdek**

¶1 “Endnote” may seem to be an odd title for an article in an issue that contains 589 footnotes, not to mention in a journal that has never, to my knowledge, used a single endnote in any one of its ninety-nine volumes. But given its placement at the end of the substantive text in this issue,¹ as well as the fact that, for me anyway, this really does represent “the end” of my work on *Law Library Journal*, perhaps you will excuse one more oddity from a retiring editor.² Because, you see, after thirteen years—that’s fifty-two issues, ten thousand-plus pages, and more than five hundred separate pieces if you’re keeping count—my editorship of *LLJ* is ending with the publication of the issue you hold in your hand. You might say (and would say, if you had an Elvis photo in your office as I do), *Frank has (almost) left the building.*

¶2 Almost, but not quite, because I can’t leave without contributing a last word—make that last *words*—to the flagship publication of AALL and, to my mind anyway, the law library profession. One of those last words has to be *irony*—it’s all over the place. It’s there in the fact that, despite having spent a great deal of my career writing about the history of AALL, I am stepping down as editor on the cusp of the *Journal’s* centennial volume.³ And in the fact that as I leave not only the editorship but also the profession,⁴ I probably know more about law librarian-

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1. *Endnote* has been defined as “a note placed at the end of the text.” MERRIAM-WEBSTER’S COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY 411 (Frederick C. Mish ed., 11th ed. 2003).
2. I say “one more oddity” for those readers who still remember (and rue?) my role in adding such pieces to the “scholarly” literature of law librarianship as Frank G. Houdek, *Stories of “My First Annual Meeting,”* 88 LAW LIBR. J. 9 (1996), Frank G. Houdek, “A Day in My Law Library Life,” *Circa 1997*, 89 LAW LIBR. J. 157 (1997), Frank G. Houdek, *What Law Librarians Collect*, 91 LAW LIBR. J. 577 (1999), and, more recently, Frank G. Houdek, *Frequently Asked Questions about AALL’s First Hundred Years*, 98 LAW LIBR. J. 157, 2006 LAW LIBR. J. 6 [hereinafter Houdek, *Frequently Asked Questions*].
3. “The first issue of the *Index to Legal Periodicals and Law Library Journal* (published under one cover) was exhibited to the membership during the 3rd Annual [AALL] Meeting, held on the shores of Lake Minnetonka in Minnesota, June 1908. Although dated January 1908, the first issue was actually published in December 1908.” Houdek, *Frequently Asked Questions*, *supra* note 2, at 160, ¶ 5. Thus, volume 100 of *Law Library Journal* will appear in 2008.
4. As of July 1, 2007, after thirty-two years as a professional law librarian, I moved from my position as law library director to become the associate dean for academic affairs at Southern Illinois University School of Law.

ship than I ever have before—or ever will again. This last statement leads me to several additional final words: *scholarship* and *literature*.

¶3 The reason I can say with such confidence that I know more than I have ever known doesn't have anything to do with getting smarter with age. (Far from it, but that's something you'll have to "overhear at a bar" rather than learn from these pages.) But it does have everything to do with how I have spent the past thirteen years—"up close and personal" with the scholarly literature of the profession. I will bet there are very few individuals who can say (and perhaps who would even want to say) that they have read every single article published in volumes 87 to 99 of *Law Library Journal*. Well, I not only read them, I read them multiple times as they moved through the submission and editorial processes. In doing so, I learned about California⁵ and Irish legal history,⁶ managing a boss,⁷ records retention,⁸ the relationship between law libraries and American Indians,⁹ and the impact of the PATRIOT Act on libraries¹⁰—and these are just topics that were addressed by some of the *Law Library Journal* Article of the Year and AALL Call for Papers winners that I have edited.¹¹ It doesn't even scratch the surface of the incredible range of scholarship that all the other authors with whom I have had the privilege to work over the years contributed to the rich and fascinating body of law library literature. Nor does it cover the pieces published in *LLJ*'s "competitors," such as *AALL Spectrum*, *Legal Reference Services Quarterly*, *Perspectives: Teaching Legal Research and Writing*, *LLRX.com*, and substantial SIS and chapter newsletters like *Technical Services Law Librarian*, *PLL Perspectives*, and *Law Library Lights*. I wanted to be familiar with the full scope and breadth of our literature, so I read those publications as well. No wonder I feel so well informed about law librarianship. Serving as editor of *Law Library Journal* is an autodidact's dream job!

¶4 The last word in this endnote has to be *thanks*. Thanks to the countless authors¹² who trusted me to get it right when editing their work, and who, in doing

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5. Myra K. Saunders, *California Legal History: A Review of Spanish and Mexican Legal Institutions*, 87 LAW LIBR. J. 487 (1995).
 6. Janet Sinder, *Irish Legal History: An Overview and Guide to the Sources*, 93 LAW LIBR. J. 231, 2001 LAW LIBR. J. 10. Sinder is, of course, the incoming editor of *Law Library Journal*, commencing with volume 100 in 2008.
 7. Janis L. Johnston, *Managing the Boss*, 89 LAW LIBR. J. 245 (1997).
 8. Lee R. Nemchek, *Records Retention in the Private Legal Environment: Annotated Bibliography and Program Implementation Tools*, 93 LAW LIBR. J. 7, 2001 LAW LIBR. J. 1.
 9. Nancy Carol Carter, *American Indians and Law Libraries: Acknowledging the Third Sovereign*, 94 LAW LIBR. J. 7, 2002 LAW LIBR. J. 1.
 10. Susan Nevelow Mart, *Protecting the Lady from Toledo: Post-USA PATRIOT Act Electronic Surveillance at the Library*, 96 LAW LIBR. J. 449, 2004 LAW LIBR. J. 27.
 11. For a complete list of the winners of these awards, see *Law Library Journal* Article of the Year Award, http://www.aallnet.org/about/award_llj.asp#winner (last visited Sept. 26, 2007); *AALL LexisNexis Call for Papers Awards*, http://www.aallnet.org/about/award_call_for_papers.asp#winner (last visited Nov. 1, 2007).
 12. I refuse to name names here—that's a road that can only lead to disaster. I won't even list the obvious ones that come to mind, individuals who have contributed so many outstanding pieces over the years, for fear of omitting someone of equal importance simply because of a memory lapse. But trust me on this—if you wrote for *LLJ* during my editorship, I know who you are and my appreciation knows no bounds.

so, let me contribute in a very small way to the development of our profession's literature. Thanks to the changing cast of characters at AALL and the American Library Association, who managed the production process so well, ensuring the achievement of what every journal editor craves most—issues published on time with few, if any, typographical mistakes. Thanks to my colleagues and friends at Southern Illinois University, including five different law school deans, who were constantly supportive of my efforts and who often covered for me when *LLJ* work impinged on my other responsibilities (nothing like a publication deadline to bring everything else to a standstill). Thanks to my family (my children may not know much about law librarianship, but they certainly are familiar with the acronym *LLJ*), and, especially, to my wife Susan, who has borne the brunt of the frustration that will occasionally erupt from an editor trying to complete work on a two-hundred-footnote article in a single weekend.¹³ Finally, and most important, thanks to you, the readers of *Law Library Journal*. Professional literature doesn't live in a vacuum, it exists to be read, either now or in the future when someone needs it. Without loyal and committed readers, there is no *LLJ*, and without *LLJ*, well, I would have done something else for the last thirteen years. And since I consider editing *Law Library Journal* to be the most significant—and satisfying—contribution of my professional career,¹⁴ surpassing even my service as AALL president, that would not have been good. So all I am left with saying is *thanks!*

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13. In the spirit of thanks, I forgive her for the pile of unread *LLJ* issues that inevitably seemed to build up on her side of the bed, only to suddenly disappear as she “read” them all in a single sitting.
 14. I don't think it is a coincidence that two other individuals who also served as AALL president have said virtually the same thing about their extended stints as editor of *Law Library Journal*. Connie Bolden, editor from 1967 to 1976 and president in 1979–80, said: “Probably my most satisfying experience was the ten years I served as editor of the *Law Library Journal*, even more than my term as president of AALL.” Frank G. Houdek, *AALL History through the Eyes of Its Presidents*, 98 *LAW LIBR. J.* 299, 312, 2006 *LAW LIBR. J.* 17, ¶ 38 (remembrance of Connie E. Bolden). Richard Danner, my immediate predecessor, served as editor from 1984 to 1994 and as president in 1989–90. He said: “My most satisfying (and enjoyable) professional activity in AALL . . . was editing *Law Library Journal*.” *Id.* at 325, ¶ 82.