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AALL Spectrum

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Errata

In the March 2008 issue of *AALL Spectrum*, the article, "The State of Public Access to Federal Government Databases Detailed in Recommended New Book," incorrectly stated that Patrice McDermott served as the director of the American Library Association's Office of Government Relations. She was the deputy director. *AALL Spectrum* apologizes for the error.



Reading on the Run

by Mark E. Estes, mark.estes@hro.com

At least one book or magazine accompanies me to most meetings or on trips—especially airplane trips. Balancing the weight and bulk of the reading materials with my required packing creates challenges. For instance, I really enjoy this 700-page hard back book, but I'm more than half way through it and will surely finish it before my return. Not an Earth-shattering dilemma by any means. Still, the choice reduces or increases overall stress and back strain.

While reading one of my many librarian e-newsletters I found a reference to a new e-book reader for Blackberries and Treos. This intrigued me because I almost always have my Treo with me, so I wouldn't have to buy another electronic device. (I've resisted the dedicated e-book readers because of the Federal Aviation Administration requirement to turn them off during the first and last 10 minutes of airplane flights.) The software is free, and the Denver Public Library has circulating e-books.

So, relatively quickly and easily I installed Mobilpocket Reader, registered as an e-book user with the library, and downloaded my first book for my Treo. Next, I adjusted the font so I can read it without my reading glasses and practiced "turning pages" with a click.

Now, when I must ride light rail and there's standing-room only, I easily hold a hand strap and click through the pages while whisking to and from work. I still have to carry something else to read during the first and last 10 minutes of an airplane flight, but not nearly as much bulk. (Incidentally, there are also pictures of my new granddaughter, Lorelei Elizabeth Deuel, in my Treo.)

Carrying reading material once stood me in good stead during a job interview. The interviewer remarked at my forethought of bringing something to read instead of relying on the reading materials in his reception area. I got the job, too.

This issue of *Spectrum* provides answers for the prospective library school graduates on interviewing—Katherine Marsh and Nathan Preuss (page 18) and the "Member to Member" question (page 38) provide some advice from the experienced librarian's perspective.

Also in this issue Jennifer Behrens explores publicity opportunities with the social-networking site Facebook (page 14), while Peggy McDermott applies a court library public relations program to an academic setting (page 12), and Paula Seeger reports how a county law library responded to a budget crises (page 22). Michael Whiteman describes his quest to understand legal research in the "real world" of law firm libraries (page 6) and Marjorie Crawford discusses what law schools report they are doing to prepare students for the "real world" (page 10). Judith Esrig profiles Stu Rees, the creator of the cartoons appearing in *Spectrum* (page 32), and Laura Orr entices us with tidbits about Portland, the host city for this year's Annual Meeting (page 26).

The Annual Meeting theme, Energize • Explore • Evolve, encourages and exhorts us to engage with our work and the world around us. I trust this issue will help with that effort. ■