



## If you were to write your autobiography or start a new podcast or blog, etc., what would you title it and why?

\*The following responses are available on AALLNET only. For the responses published in the July 2008 issue of *AALL Spectrum*, please see the issue in its entirety.

“I created a blog a few years ago as a communication tool for my monthly law library newsletter. It is called *Law Library Briefs*. Each month I spotlight one of the library’s electronic resources, a cool Web site, a research tip, and one other thing. It has been very well received. Even the firm’s managing partner has commented a few times that he finds it to be a great resource.”

- Cheryl L. Niemeier, director of library services at Bose McKinney & Evans LLP in Indianapolis

“*The Grand Unified Theory*. I chose this title because I feel that it contributes *gravitas* to the book, and because it disguises—until it’s too late for the reader—my deep and abiding dedication to early Susan Sontag.”

- Elliott C. Blevins, manager of library and information services at Sandberg, Phoenix & von Gontard, PC, in St. Louis

“My significant other and I have been talking about this for quite some time. It’s source of great amusement for us—an ‘in’ joke. He remembers more about my life and what I’ve done than I do (I have a very bad memory), so we always joke that he’ll write my autobiography. The working title we have is *My Name in Print: The Unauthorized Autobiography of Lyonette Louis-Jacques* by Michael J. Edwalds.

“Michael is the keeper of my memories and a fellow traveller in my quest to leave a legacy as a scholarly law librarian. He’s helped me with many of my writings and remembers stuff I did when I was in Haiti; in Minneapolis; and here in Chicago. By the way, the ‘unauthorized’ part is a publicity stunt—maybe we’ll get more folks to buy the book!

“As for my blog, I actually have a blog called *Books Are Dead*, which is, well, ‘dead.’ It died shortly after I realized that a blog discussing the ‘books are dead’ paradigm written by a librarian could be misunderstood. I wanted to explore what would happen if we posited that books are indeed dead, but feared that folks would believe that I truly believed books are dead (whether or not I do) and not that I wanted to think of the possibilities of a bookless world for law librarians.”

- Lyonette Louis-Jacques, foreign and international law librarian and lecturer in law at University of Chicago D’Angelo Law Library

“*The Quilting Law Librarian*—because librarianship is my vocation, and quilting is my avocation. Though since I rarely have time to quilt, maybe I should say I’m a fabric-collecting law librarian.”

- Paula Doty, acquisitions librarian at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Law Library

## Member to Member

“My podcast would be titled, *A Luddite in Wonderland: Rational Technophobia in the 21st Century*. My career started not at the beginning of the age of technology but at the beginning of the tech boom around 1970. I remember Radio Shack TRS80 computers, 300 baud modems, ‘dumb’ terminals, thermofax paper, dedicated OCLC M300 monochrome (orange or green) terminals, and ‘Pong.’ I’ve learned that neither new software nor new hardware ever does what the manufacturer says it will; that it always costs more than is promised; that too often private-sector management wants new technology just to be either ‘first’ or ‘hip’; and that early adopters are all too often disappointed and distressed (see Vista).”

- *Rudolf B. Lamy, librarian  
at Maryland State Law Library in Annapolis*

“‘Ethics and Law’ Are You For Real? I chose this title for my blog because ethical behavior and law should go hand-in-hand—the operative word being ‘should.’ The opportunity to demonstrate ethical behavior in the arena of law is capacious. Do you think that ethics come into play when state courts actually make decisions based upon the laws posted on the Web? My answer to that question is, ‘You bet your sweet dippy!’ Sitting at the reference desk, one needs to be careful not to cross the fine line of giving legal advice to the pro se asking a million questions. I wonder what our founding fathers would think of this forum called blogging. I personally think that it would be quit amusing to see them in their wigs, ruffled collars, lace cuffs, and knee-highs sitting at a computer and responding to one another’s blogs. Do you think that their lace cuffs would interfere with the speed of their typing?”

- *Cindi Ernst, government documents and reference  
librarian at the University of Missouri-Kansas City  
Leon E. Bloch Law Library*

“Round Peg in a Square Hole (but that is a good thing).”

- *Beth G. Maser, director of business critical research  
at The History Factory in Chantilly, Virginia*

“*Splendor in the Tapestry*. Here is a vignette that could be in the book:

“...Exchanging pleasantries for a while, hugging friends from abroad, our little group, joined by a few undecided stragglers and very animated, moved on. Where to? Oh, let’s head for the hotel—a cool marble refuge on this sultry southern afternoon, on an Old South Victorian table a mass of the palest roses, softly blushing as they rose like an airy globe from a Chinese bowl. We would ascend to the second floor bar, furnished with sofas and stuffed chairs in silks and chintzes, small niches set with fine linen for some private *tête a tête*. This was the right place. Here, in the solitude of a cool bar, we could savor those essences that made our stories come alive—the incredible rare book hunts through Europe, digital fables, and the astonishing efforts of our best law libraries in recent times to realign their holdings according to rules laid out by LC. Can you imagine the reclassification of LA County Law Library holdings? What a blow to the past!

“Remember all the intrigue in the name of theory and organization for the law and law libraries during the pioneering years of a classification for American law collections? The LA County Law Library and the Law Library of Chicago University united in forceful opposition against LC! The platform for noisy forums set by AALL and the American elite of jurists joined in dissent over a standard classification even as a tool to organize the *law itself*, or as basis of codification, abandoned at the end by decree of the American Bar Association, leaving a sense of pessimism towards limits of classification? Regardless, and 50 years later, here they are: schemes of knowledge written into the memory of libraries.

“And what rectification of the past, what posthumous justification of one man’s projection and logic: finding common ground. Only us few, surviving memories of our institutions, could appraise the latest turn, doused remembrances drifting into the evening in the solitude of an exquisite bar...”

- *Dr. Jolande E. Goldberg, senior cataloging  
policy specialist for law classification  
at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.*