

Going “Outside”

In past columns, I’ve written about Alaska—moving here and traveling within this beautiful state. All of that is part of my day job as the state law librarian.

When I agreed to run for AALL president, I knew that there would be travel required. Alaskans still refer to leaving the state as going “outside” or to “the lower 48.” The shortest trip to a hub is to fly to Seattle but that’s almost 1,500 miles and more than three hours away. I am very pleased that there is a non-stop flight to Chicago that takes about six hours. And, of course, traveling back to Alaska, or anywhere west, is easier—although I might get in at 2 or 3 a.m., that’s still early enough here to give me a reasonably good night’s sleep.

In 2009, I was fortunate to represent AALL at three international conferences: the Canadian Association of Law Libraries (CALL)/Association Canadienne des Bibliothèques du Droit (ACBD) in Halifax in May; the British and Irish Association of Law Libraries (BIALL) in Manchester in June; and the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL) in Istanbul in October. We are fortunate to have solid relationships with our sister organizations. While we all do things differently, that gives us the chance to learn from one another. AALL is the largest of the law library associations, and I’ve realized that it can seem a bit intimidating for our international registrants.

There were about 350 attendees at the CALL conference. CALL does a first-timers breakfast as an orientation and introduction. The first day of the conference was primarily set aside for committee and special interest group meetings, but also included a vendor open forum and five half-hour demonstrations of new products by vendors. The three plenary sessions included end of life issues, technology and the law, and Canada’s immigration policy. Concurrent session topics included “Shariah and Talmudic Law in Canada,” “Training Our Users,” “Sharepoint,” and “E-Discovery.”

BIALL had about the same number of attendees. There were nine plenary sessions and five slots with concurrent sessions. Because law is an undergraduate degree, it was interesting to hear of the different teaching issues. Program topics included social networking, “Managing Change in Difficult Times,” the new

U.K. Supreme Court, records management, and the FLARE Initiative and FLAG Project, both relating to foreign and international law.

IALL was the smallest conference with about 125 attendees. IALL programming is different as it is an introduction and overview of legal issues in the host country. We were fortunate to have a variety of Turkish legal educators, attorneys, and judges explain various issues. After centuries under Ottoman rule, Turkey has evolved during the past 80 years into a democratic, secular, constitutional republic. Turkey is working towards

admission into the European Union (EU). Part of that effort requires Turkey’s laws to harmonize with EU law. Authentication was recognized as an issue in a program on the e-transformation of Turkey’s legal system. The Ministry of Justice has a goal of going 100 percent digital with their records, although a local commented that not everyone has easy Internet access.

As with our own conference, the social events are where I had the opportunity to meet other law librarians. Everyone was extremely welcoming and friendly. I very much enjoyed the various conversations I had that gave me the chance to learn about our common interests and ways that we do things differently.



By Catherine Lemann

Of course, I also learned a bit about the various places I visited. In Halifax, there was a reception at Pier 21, the Canadian equivalent to Ellis Island. The Istanbul organizers arranged a variety of opportunities to see tourist attractions, such as the Hagia Sophia and the Topkapi Palace, manuscript archives, and a trip to Bursa, the ancient Ottoman capital.

I was privileged to represent AALL at these conferences. Recognizing the personal value as well as the value to the Association, I hope that I will attend more in the future. While travel budgets are lean, I encourage you to consider attending one of these conferences in the future.

The 2010 CALL/ACBD conference will be a joint meeting with AALL’s Michigan Association of Law Libraries chapter in Windsor, Ontario, May 9-12. BIALl is scheduled for Brighton, June 10-12. And IALL will be at the Peace Palace in The Hague, September 5-8.

If you cannot travel to these conferences, I encourage you to introduce yourselves to the international registrants at our conference. I hope that we reciprocate the gracious hospitality AALL members receive at their meetings. ■

Catherine Lemann (clemann@courts.state.ak.us) is state law librarian at the Alaska State Court Law Library in Anchorage.

Memorials

AALL Spectrum has been advised of the death of **Fannie Fishlyn**.

Ms. Fishlyn served as circulation librarian at the University of Southern California Law Library from 1972 until her retirement in 1987, where she developed the service model for the library’s outstanding document delivery and circulation services. Many law students at USC saw Ms. Fishlyn as the face of the law library, and she was considered by colleagues to be an exemplary law librarian. Ms. Fishlyn’s professionalism and contributions to law librarianship and to the law school were recognized when she became the first USC law librarian to attain tenure. She was also a long-time member of AALL and served as the chair of the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section from 1982-1983. Ms. Fishlyn died on January 8.

AALL Spectrum carries brief announcements of members’ deaths in the “Memorials” column. Traditional memorials should be submitted to Janet Sinder, *Law Library Journal*, University of Maryland at Baltimore, Thurgood Marshall Law Library, 501 W. Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD 21201-1768; jsinder@law.umaryland.edu.