



Joined by the AALL Executive Board, President Carol Avery Nicholson cuts the ceremonial ribbon that marks the opening of the AALL 96th Annual Meeting and Conference.

Maximizing Our Vision: the AALL 96th Annual Meeting and Conference

by Carolyn Santanella and Nancy Babb

Almost 1,900 law librarians swept into Seattle like a strong north or east wind July 12-16 to attend the 96th Annual Meeting and Conference of the American Association of Law Libraries. The theme of this year's annual meeting, "Maximize Today — Envision Tomorrow," was epitomized in the blending of past, present and future found in the culture, architecture, people and industries of Seattle. So, with Starbucks (or Tully's or Seattle's Best!) coffee in hand, the task of maximizing today and envisioning tomorrow began.

Plenary Session I: Postmodern Survival for Libraries

Peter R. Young, director of the National Library of Agriculture, kicked off the conference with his Plenary Session, "The Future of the Past: Postmodern Library Realities," examining the future survival of libraries in the postmodern age.

Using his family's progression with libraries — from his father's scholasticism to his library career to his teenage son's wired world — Young wove a vivid tapestry to illustrate the migration of libraries from "houses for books" to those based in the technological wizardry of today. The challenge for librarians, Young suggested, is to move beyond the traditional practice of handing out books or pieces of information when asked to embrace the future of interactive as well as proactive informational services that is now. He quoted William Gibson, a writer of science fiction dealing with cyberspace, who said, "The future is here, it's just not uniformly distributed."

Modernism, said Young, was concerned with impressions and subjectivity; there were clear distinctions between high- and low-brow culture, focusing on a hierarchy of knowledge via science. The postmodern world is concerned instead with reflection;

it is fragmentary and anarchic, with high- and low-brow culture mixed. Postmodern knowledge is functionary and focuses on learning for the purpose of doing. In terms of library practice, modern — or traditional — practice has been concerned with tangible print media, with fixed local access, and librarians as holders of materials. Postmodern practice, on the other hand, recognizes intangible, flexible, fluid decentralized access, to digital and other media, with librarians as gatekeepers.

Young also defined the difference between evolution (sustaining technologies) and revolution (disruptive technologies), suggesting that libraries may sometimes need to embrace revolution as well as evolution. Librarians may need to cast aside well-beloved aspects of traditional practice such as library-oriented terminology (AACR2, MARC, OPAC) to embrace, instead, more widely used network terminology (Netscape, Google, blogs, URLs) because survival in the postmodern revolution requires cooperation, collaboration and coordination, with a focus on customer needs, Young said.

Young's speech was punctuated with wit. His use of graphics and references to agriculture were particularly astute at conveying the interrelatedness of library issues with other fields, a merger of disciplines especially pertinent to law libraries, which already balance the varied interests of law and library science, as well as auxiliary sciences, such as politics and history.

Young urged attendees to be "dangerous" and "outrageous" in their willingness to explore new means and methods of providing, presenting and preserving information. "Celebrate" the uniqueness of this profession as well as the changes and discoveries that are there to be experienced, Young concluded.

Plenary Session II: 'Prime' for Today and Tomorrow

Plenary Session II speaker Eugenie Prime, manager of Hewlett Packard Corporate Libraries, offered sage and strategic advice for the library profession she calls bifocal vision. Prime, who won library fame as spokeswoman for HP's advertising campaign saying, "What the Internet needs is an old-fashioned librarian," gave *umph* to this year's meeting theme by moving it from the "passive" to the "imperative." "Maximizing today *by* envisioning tomorrow" provides librarians with this "bifocal vision," the ability to keep both today's issues and tomorrow's dreams in focus and juxtaposed, she said. According to Prime, librarians work in an environment of "steadily accelerating change;" bifocal vision provides means for not only accepting but

embracing and taking ownership of that change.

Prime insisted that the best way to predict the future is to create it. In order for librarians to maintain bifocal vision, Prime said, they must begin “to make today’s decisions in tomorrow’s context.” As leaders in the field of information gathering and dissemination, librarians must begin to plan strategically, picturing tomorrow as they wish it to be and acting in ways to make it happen. In other words, “Just do it,” she said.

Prime advocated the need for librarians to be proud of their professional image. Library professionals have traditionally held themselves as “background workers,” busy researchers hidden in the corner or behind the carrels, and often giving more credence to the stereotypical image of the frumpy old maid with thick glasses, hair-in-a-bun, finger-over-the-mouth shusher than it either deserves or holds true. “What we do matters more than what we call ourselves,” she said. “We need to see ourselves as *life sized*,” because the world will see librarians as librarians see themselves. Librarians must, therefore, first view themselves differently. Then they must perceive the world differently. Librarians must become an interactive part of the world of knowledge and information, Prime said.

Once so engaged, libraries and librarians can and should take the lead in creating a “compelling vision” for the profession, a vision not just of what can be, but of what librarians want [the profession] to be, Prime said. The vision may vary from individual to individual and institution to institution. What should not vary is the involvement of library professionals as those who create the vision — not just tag along for the ride. Librarians must “be willing to lead ... take risks ... focus and execute ... market ourselves and our services and abilities ... partner promiscuously ... communicate clearly and consistently ... practice persistence and patience ... and embrace change,” Prime said.



Carol Avery Nicholson (right) hands over the president's gavel to new AALL President Janis L. Johnston (left).

Prime concluded with a quote from Wayne Gretzky: “You miss 100 percent of the shots you never make.” She challenged librarians to take risks and be innovators. “Go ahead. ... Take some shots! And take them today,” Prime said.

Programs Focus on Competencies and More

This year’s educational programs covered a broad range of topics that addressed the AALL Competencies of Law Librarianship and current issues of interest, such as copyright, preserving access to legal information and Indian law.

The Diversity Symposium, “Affirmative Action After *Grutter and Gratz*: Where Do We Go from Here?,” included a lively debate featuring Curt Levey of the Center for Individual Rights, and Henry McGee, Jr. of Seattle University. Levey argued against affirmative action, while McGee offered an alternative stance supportive of affirmative action in higher education. Attendees also had the opportunity to ask questions and join in the debate.

Monica Martens of the National Indian Law Library was encouraged by the offerings on Indian law. “The amount of activities related to federal Indian law and tribal law created an energy among people who work in those areas,” Martens said. Sessions included general overviews, such

as “Access to American Indian Law Information and Envisioning Justice” (overview of Indian Law and explanation of six “hot” issues in the law), as well as more specific case studies, such as “Creative

Code Collecting” (concerning the acquisition of Arizona Indian Tribal Codes at one law library) and “The Collision of Native American and Anglo-American Legal Concepts: A Legacy of the Louisiana Purchase.”

Dee Dee Narum of Hamline University School of Law noted the prominence of technical services programs with pleasure.

“I appreciated the expanded programming that is reaching past research and reference librarianship into technical services and teaching,” she said. Technical services librarians and law firm librarians found that although the focus of many programs was toward the law school and/or reference librarian areas, this year’s offerings had moved significantly toward a better balance covering a variety of topics, like preservation, acquisitions and classification.

“All of the programs I went to were worthwhile, but my two favorites were ‘Law Made Public: Teaching Basic Legal Research to Pro Pers, Paralegals, New Associates and All Others in Between’ and ‘Maximize Current Awareness: Acquire Information at Warp Speed,’” said Sarah Mauldin of Lionel Sawyer and Collins in Nevada, a first-timer to AALL. “‘Law Made Public’ was directed toward public law librarians but was really about issues of public service and teaching that could transfer to any law library context, and the presenters were highly entertaining. ‘Maximize Current Awareness’ was great for the sources I hadn’t thought of and the various strategies used to push information to users. I really wanted to go home and implement as much of it as I could.”

The emerging Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) was a popular issue for technical services. “Maximize the OPAC: Is FRBR in Your Future?” featured a panel explaining the rules and their application on the LC and elsewhere. Other sessions also examined FRBR, such as “Integrating Resources — or, ‘What Do We Do Now That We Have (Almost) What We Wanted?’” which focused upon the changes to AACR2R Chapter 12.

This year the Annual Meeting introduced new 30-minute programs on July 16. Attendees welcomed the 30-minute sessions on the last day of the conference. The shorter sessions gave attendees an opportunity to wind down from the previous days’ longer sessions as they prepared for evening festivities or the return home and allowed them to schedule last-minute activities.

Committee reports seemed particularly appropriate for the 30-minute sessions, allowing attendees to catch up quickly on news they might have otherwise missed. Susan Goldner thanked the programming committee in her opening remarks during the MARBI Report 30-minute session. She noted that it was a pleasure to present the

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report once, rather than several times as part of different meetings as was the case in the past. Other reports presented in 30-minute sessions included updates from the American Library Association and OCLC Connexion about developments over the past year and anticipated future activities. "The ABA Statistics: Tackling Topical Questions," was another popular half hour offering. The program discussed the American Bar Association annual questionnaire and identified new or hot topics and provided attendees with the opportunity to ask questions and clarify confusion.

Exhibit Hall Showcases Latest Gadgets, Innovations

AALL President Carol Avery Nicholson opened the Exhibit Hall on the first day of the conference with a ceremonial cutting of the red ribbon and a heartfelt welcome to those in attendance. Nicholson commended the 89 organizations filling 166 booths in the hall for their dedication to the betterment of law librarianship and their willingness to participate. She also thanked the 12 new vendors displaying their wares this year.

All in all, it was a mixed bag of excitement, information, high technology, treats and trade. Vendors unveiled and spotlighted many new innovations. New LexisNexis™ products included the Company Dossier and Industry Dossier for legal business research and Total Search for knowledge management. Westlaw spotlighted access improvements with enhancements such as the "My Account" feature — for managing account information — a new "News & Business" tab, and new modules for knowledge management. Dialog displayed new products devoted to intellectual property information. CourtEXPRESS demonstrated its new Web site capabilities, which include filling docket and document requests through various technologies, adaptable to the online capabilities of the seeker. BNA also demonstrated a new Web site, with its Tax Management portal at <http://www.bnatax.com>. CCH INCORPORATED demonstrated Link

Express, a tool to simplify and enhance tax research. The FindLaw Toolbar is a free download that enables quick access to FindLaw's features on the browser toolbar. For those interested in a more traditional research thrill, the Lawbook Exchange displayed antiquarian wares, encouraging attendees to browse and enjoy rare law books.

To many, the Exhibit Hall is not only a vital lifeline to new technologies and new products, but an opportunity to speak with vendors regarding difficulties with products and services.

Vendor Philip J. Rosenthal of Fastcase — a legal research tool which supports quick and easy searching of federal and state case law, statutes, regulations, and administrative codes — expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to meet and brainstorm with those in the field. "This is how we get our best ideas," Rosenthal said. Librarian Joseph Hinger of St. John's University School of Law agreed, citing the Exhibit Hall as one of his favorite conference activities. According to Hinger, communication with vendors is a "two-way street," enabling him to see "who can deliver the product I need."

"I spend time with every vendor," Hinger added. "You have to keep up with what's happening in the market." Hinger also enjoyed networking with other librarians to find out how they are enhancing

their libraries so that they are "the best that they can be."

All Business

At the AALL business meeting on July 14, members approved the proposed bylaws revision to shorten the Executive Board nominations and election schedule with no discussion or questions raised from the floor. The approved bylaws revision shaves about four months off the current election schedule. The new election schedule requires the Nominations Committee to choose the slate of nominees by Aug. 15, with the election taking place in December. The change will affect the nominations and elections in 2004 for the board members

who will take office at the Annual Meeting in July 2005.

Before the proposal was passed, the Nominations Committee was appointed 16 months prior to the election in which it selects the Executive Board candidates. After its appointment, the committee announced the slate of candidates about a year later in the fall. The election then took place in April.

The meeting also included greetings and news from AALL's comrade organizations from around the world, with reports from Janine Miller of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries, Valerie Stevenson of the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians, Holger Knudsen of the International Association of Law Libraries, and Jennie Speirs of the Australian Law Librarians' Group.

In addition to reports from AALL's executive director, vice president/president-elect and Washington Affairs representative, the second business meeting featured a review of the Association's finances. Treasurer Anne C. Matthewman explained that although the fiscal year was a challenging one, with profits down as a result of the economic downturn's impact on investment portfolios and lower-than-anticipated attendance at last year's Annual Meeting in Orlando, Fla., AALL met the challenge, largely due to wise planning and its current reserve fund. Matthewman indicated that the board and its committees are working to lessen its dependence on the Annual Meeting as a primary source of revenue and help replenish the important current reserve fund. She thanked members for their willingness to accept and support the recent dues increase, which was an essential factor in AALL's ability to face tough economic times.

President Nicholson awarded Presidential Certificates of Merit to several people and institutions for their exceptional support and dedication to AALL this year. Those who received the certificates included BNA, Inc. for supporting the Professional Development Program and the educational needs-assessment survey; Gail Warren and Rita Reusch for creating *Beyond the Boundaries*, the report of the Future of Law Libraries in the Digital Age Special Committee; and the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section and the Southern California Association of Law Libraries for their generous contributions to the AALL and West George A. Strait Minority Scholarship Endowment.



Attendees danced the night away after the Closing Banquet.

At the Members' Open Forum immediately following the second business meeting, members discussed revising the Annual Meeting Site Selection Policy as a result of the poor attendance at the 2002 Annual Meeting in Orlando, Fla. They debated the pros and cons of limiting Annual Meeting sites to a rotation of several primary cities, rather than among the five regions of the United States, as has been the tradition. West Coast members encouraged planners to consider the importance of travel time in planning and to avoid lumping consecutive meetings in the Midwest or eastern United States. Members from Portland, Ore., who will host the 2008 Annual Meeting, urged the Association to consult with local membership of proposed sites because the members in those Annual Meeting sites are crucial to planning a successful meeting.

Hospitality and Tours

In between educational programs and activities, attendees got a chance to check out the local scenery of Seattle. The Local Hospitality and Advisory Desk was well staffed by friendly natives, all eager to assist in finding sights and sounds of Seattle to suit everyone's interests. "The best thing I did this time was work at the Registration Desk," said Rosemary LaSala of St. John's University School of Law.

Many attendees headed west of the convention center to Pike Place Market, an authentic farmer's market with more than 600 businesses, including craft and clothing vendors, specialty food shops and restaurants. If you stood in front of the fish counter at Pike Place Market for more than a few seconds, you were certain to have a fresh salmon or halibut or other seafood fare go flying over your head, past your ear, or leave water on your shirt. The fishmongers there are as entertaining as any circus juggling act you will find anywhere.

One only had to walk a few blocks (albeit some of them very steep uphill blocks) from the market to find shopper's nirvana with Nordstrom's, Banana Republic, Nike, FAO Swartz, Tiffany's and countless other retail fare.

For the nature enthusiast, more than 300 parks of all sizes and interests provided respite in Seattle. Waterfront attractions and Blake Island's Tillicum Village also kept attendees' interests piqued.

History buffs got a chance to explore legendary Pioneer Square; the Space Needle,

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Native American Law Commands Attention at Annual Meeting

by Nancy Carol Carter and Kristina Proskus

Native American law enjoyed a new visibility in July at the AALL 96th Annual Meeting and Conference in Seattle. The four programs, roundtable and caucus meeting devoted to the subject in Seattle sparked new initiatives.

The elevated profile of Native American law reflects the dynamic nature of this legal area and a new awareness among law librarians who have been urged to:

- Develop a better understanding of American Indian law.
- Turn increased attention to the neglected primary legal record of American Indian tribal governments.
- Work for changes in the ways Native American legal literature is handled in the Library of Congress classification and subject heading lists [see, 94 *L.L.J.* 7 (2002) for further information].

The first of the four Native American-focused programs compared indigenous legal understandings with those of expansionist Anglo-American settlers in the Louisiana Purchase. The second identified and discussed emerging legal issues in the field of Native American law. Another shared practical tips on how a law library can establish contact with tribal governments for the purpose of acquiring primary tribal law materials. The fourth program introduced ideas for expanding upon the Library of Congress (LC) subject headings thesaurus for cataloging Native American materials, while acknowledging advances in the LC rules. It described the National Indian Law Library and its ambitious subject headings project.

Significantly, Jolande Goldberg of the Library of Congress Cataloging Policy and Support Office attended

every program and meeting on Native American law. She said she was interested in finding ways to cooperate with the National Indian Law Library in bringing about changes in LC practice regarding the handling of Native American materials.

The well-attended Native People's Law Caucus agreed on several action steps, including a commitment to work with LC and the National Indian Law Library to enhance subject thesauri. The group also named a coordinator for the 2004 Annual Meeting programs and intended to contact the AALL Scholarships Committee regarding Native American student awards. Caucus convener Faye Hadley produces a newsletter for the group. She can be contacted at the University of Tulsa School of Law at m-hadley@utulsa.edu.

David Selden of the National Indian Law Library (NILL) convened a Tribal Law Collaborative Collection Development Roundtable as a first step toward making tribal law more accessible. Discussions identified strategies for acquisitions of tribal codes, constitutions and other primary documents, as well as means of sharing collection information, possibly through a NILL electronic gateway.

Immediate plans call for the formation of a committee to work on a tribal law toolkit containing materials and tips for successful code collecting. Future plans include starting a discussion on a collaborative collection development process. Strategies could include working through AALL chapters, beginning an inventory of tribal code collections in libraries nationwide and inviting librarians from every state to participate. For more information, please contact David Selden at dselden@narf.org at the Native American Rights Fund in Boulder, Colo.

erected in 1962 for the Seattle World's Fair; and the Experience Music Project, a modern, interactive music museum for rock 'n' roll devotees.

Law school and firm libraries opened their doors to AALL visitors. Walking tours included the King County Law Library (including its Legal Research and Training Center), Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, Perkins Cole LLP, Heller Ehrman White and McAuliffe LLP, and Preston Gates and Ellis LLP. In addition to the opportunity to view the libraries, tour attendees were treated to great views of Seattle, including the Space Needle, Elliott Bay and the Cascade Mountains (from Davis Wright Tremaine), and Mount Rainier and Lake Washington (from Heller Ehrman White and McAuliffe). The Gallagher Law Library at the University of Washington provided a special opportunity for AALL visitors to see the new facility prior to its scheduled opening in September and to discuss the challenges of moving a large library with Penny Hazelton, director of the Gallagher Law Library.

More Than Just Lunch

President Nicholson handed out awards and accolades at this year's Association Luncheon to several distinguished AALL members. Marvin R. Anderson, Leah F. Chanin and Francis Robert "Bob" Doyle received the Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award for their outstanding work and lifelong contributions to the law library profession. Richard Leiter, professor of law and director of the University of Nebraska School of Law Library, received the Joseph L. Andrews Bibliographical Award for his noted work, the *National Survey of State Laws*, 4th ed., which has become a standard reference source for most law libraries. Other award winners included Mary Rumsey for the *AALL Spectrum* Article of the Year Award sponsored by CCH INCORPORATED, Samuel E. Trosow for the AALL/LexisNexis™ Call for Papers Awards, Travis County Law Library for best brochure for the AALL/West Excellence in Marketing Awards and Christopher Bloodworth for the Minority Leadership Development Award. Congratulations to all who have distinguished themselves in service and

commitment to the profession. For a complete list of all the award winners, please see the AALL Awards & Acknowledgements brochure.

Parties Here and There

Beckoned by the glow of a mini Space Needle, the conference commenced while attendees dined in Seattle style at the Opening Reception sponsored by LexisNexis. A variety of buffets featured regional specialties, including fresh fish and grilled vegetables, and the 30th



Big hair and psychedelic clothes made a comeback at the 1970s-themed West Customer Appreciation Event.

anniversary cake for the evening's sponsor. As talented chefs flambéed mushrooms and kind bartenders provided ample libations, Terry McCormack of the University at Buffalo Law Library remarked with gusto about the salmon. "I love this!" enthused McCormack. Other guests laughingly compared maneuvering the buffet lines to swimming upstream like salmon. Old friends made greetings and new ones found a rousing welcome.

Psychedelic hair, polyester pants, love beads, peace symbols made a comeback at the '70s-themed West Customer Appreciation Event July 14. Beanbag and ring-toss game boards, balloon sculptures, and Polaroid snapshots were among the many treats in store for attendees on this wild and crazy evening. As always, the food buffets were loaded to the max with local fare from fresh berries to medallions of salmon to clam chowder to prime rib. It was a deliciously retro, fun-packed evening.

Closing Banquet and Dance

AALL's 96th Annual Meeting and Conference came to a close with its annual Closing Banquet and Dance. Emcee

Yvonne Chandler of the University of North Texas School of Library and Information Sciences was the hit of the show as she provided the "down and dirty" details on the Executive Board and officers of AALL. For example, Ruth Johnson, chair of the Annual Meeting Program Committee, loves to collect lady bugs. Kathy Carlson, a member of AALL's Executive Board, appeared on an episode of the Food Channel's "Unwrapped" as a food trivia buff. Board member Al Podboy Jr. owns Jack Russell

terriers. Another board member, Nina Platt, rides motorcycles. Executive Director Susan E. Fox has collected more than 1,000 free jazz CDs. Past President Barbara Bantliff is a certified scuba diver. Vice President/President-Elect Janis L. Johnston, now president, is a world traveler. President Carol Avery Nicholson is a bona fide member of the Dancing Law Librarians SIS. A most diverse and talented group of leaders indeed!

Nicholson ultimately passed on the president's gavel to new AALL President Janis L. Johnston of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The plated meal of steak and salmon was a delicious finishing touch for the conference.

Many stayed on following the meal to dance the night away or just to spend a last quiet evening out with old and new friends from AALL's wonderfully diverse membership. It was an evening to remember, to refresh and to revel in what is unique and genuinely awesome about being a member of the profession and the Association.

So, as Seattle settled back into its routine and attendees returned home, those who worked diligently and long to pull this Annual Meeting together must be content to hear that "a good time was had by all." Genuine appreciation goes to all whose efforts made the Annual Meeting noteworthy.

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