

# AALL Spectrum

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## AALL Spectrum Submissions

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# from the editor

## Surprises and Delights

Thirteen years ago, when we adopted our dog, Maya, I promised to walk her in the morning and at night. Most days, I keep that promise; the physical exercise and mental stimulation are good for both of us.

On morning walks, we exchange greetings with other walkers in the growing light, sharing the possibilities and promises of a new day. Sometimes the sunrise shares the sky with the moon while stunning colors subtly shift across the clouds. Maya searches for smells and new messages; I seek out and prepare my mind for new surprises, delights, and promises for the day.

Some surprises appear as hazards during my bicycle commute: a pedestrian crossing the dark street in the middle of the block, looking and listening only for cars and not bicycles; a worker unloading long boards from a pickup truck onto his shoulder and swinging the ends of the boards into the bike path. Other surprises warm the heart: an older man walking his huge, gorgeous Rottweiler, beaming back at me as

I acknowledge his good-looking dog; an individual waiting until I pass to open her car door and smiling back when I thank her.

Regardless of our role in our libraries, by expecting and looking for our coworkers and customers/patrons/users to expand our horizons, I think that most often they will surprise and delight. (If chronically they don't, that's another musing altogether.) Of course, we must be open to surprises and be emotionally and mentally prepared to consider the possibilities.

This issue offers both opportunities to surprise and delight and tools to help prepare you.

- Paul Hellyer discusses declining use of print in reference collections and the future format of reference collections (page 24);
- Amy Hale-Janeke writes a witty and wise guide to dealing with service animals in the library (page 14);

- John Cannan cautions us about the terms of use of Internet-based tools (page 28);
- Stu Reese entertains with a topical cartoon (page 33);
- Mary Ann Neary and George Wilson review Bloomberg Law and discuss its use at Boston College and Stanford (this is a must read for law firm librarians at firms with a corporate/financial practice) (page 16);
- Amy Levine reviews *How to Deal with Your Lawyer*, a book for the consumer of legal services (page 13); and
- If you work quickly, you may be able to use ideas for National Library Week from Susanna Leers' article describing a project that replaced a traditional display case with an electronic one (page 8).

Incidentally, this issue's "Member to Member" question drew few responses (page 34). It may have been a bad question, one that's too painful to consider or requires too complex a response to complete in an e-mail. Perhaps law firm librarians are reluctant to share an answer for competitive reasons, or maybe it's just a "Duh" answer. Still, we did receive some interesting and surprising responses.

Read on. Find new promises in the rest of your day.

Note: This issue marks a transition in AALL Headquarters staffing for *Spectrum*: Julia O'Donnell, managing editor since October 2003, became AALL's director of membership marketing and communications in November 2008. She hired her replacement, Hillary Baker, marketing and communications manager, who started on January 5. Trust me, as AALL members, we benefit immensely from their efforts—past and future.



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by Mark E. Estes