

What is your number one recommendation for work-related and/or recreational reading?

“My recommendation for work-related and/or recreational reading is great for both. William Gaddis’ *A Frolic of His Own*, published in 1994, received the American Book Award and the National Book Award. It’s a clever meditation on our litigious society involving its absurdist hero Oscar Crease in a myriad of unlikely court cases. The title itself comes from the text of an actual court decision, *Joel v. Morrison* (1834, 6 C.&P. 501, 172 Eng.Rep. 1338). One of my favorite cases in the novel concerns the Episcopal Church suing PepsiCo for unauthorized use of an anagram of its name. There’s an abundance of manic dialog, including such quotable lines as, ‘Words, words, words. That’s what it’s all about’ and ‘It all boils down to money. The rest is just opera.’ Pessimistic? Yes. Hilarious? Definitely.”

— **Cindy May**, head of cataloging at the University of Wisconsin Law Library in Madison

“Definitely *Popular Science*, *Popular Mechanics*, *Wired*, and *Smart Computing*. While they may seem outside of our area, they are very informative about what new technologies, trends, etc., are going on in the world. I always find interesting tips and Web sites to pass on to my users in my monthly newsletter.”

— **Donna S. Williams**, law librarian at the California Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District in San Jose

“*The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch. It has truly changed my life.”

— **Lynn Connor Merring**, librarian and records manager at Stradling, Yocca, Carlson & Rauth in Newport Beach, California

“My number one recommendation for both work-related AND recreational reading is *The Economist*. Its international perspective on news brings interpretation and analysis that can’t be found in the conventional U.S. press, and every inch of the globe is covered—it is like a trip around the world each week, which is

personally satisfying to an avid traveler like myself. Wide-ranging content from business and management and book reviews to science and technology and economic theory keeps me current on topics of importance to my work as well as those of general interest that are the ‘buzz of the day.’ Also, by reading *The Economist*, I feel ‘ahead of the game,’ as oftentimes I am listening to NPR and they will reference an *Economist* article or report that I have already read. (And no, I don’t work there!)”

— **Amy L. Affelt**, director of database research at Compass Lexecon in Chicago

“I highly recommend *The Library at Night* by Alberto Manguel, a beautifully written book about the variety of roles libraries of all kinds play in our



Jim Kelly

civilization. For those of us who value reading, knowledge, and libraries, it is a passionate defense and a wonderful love letter.”

— **Jim Kelly**, access services research librarian at Vanderbilt University Alyne Queener Massey Law Library in Nashville

“What a great question! For a work-related read, I would recommend SLAW (www.slaw.ca). It is a Canadian blawg that covers a wide range of topics related to law, information, technology, etc. The authors, from a wide variety of interests, are keen to brighten your day with interesting tidbits and stimulate your brain. For recreational reading, read what your teenage children are reading. If they are into the *Twilight* series, give it a go; it is a light read but thoroughly enjoyable. My sons even jumped on the band wagon—it gave them the edge with their girlfriends.”

— **Louise Hamel**, Judicial Library Services at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, Ontario

Read more responses to this month’s question online at www.aallnet.org/products/pub_sp0904.asp.

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DISCIPLINED for objecting to misconduct by a federal judge, attorney Richard Baldwin Cook writes (2009) **MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT**. \$34.95 on amazon.com (free shipping), 20% discount to libraries: cookrb1@gmail.com



Cindy May



Amy L. Affelt



Donna Williams