

The ALL-SIS Newsletter

The Academic Law Libraries - Special Interest Section
of the American Association of Law Libraries

Volume 18 Issue 2

A Springtime Chat with the Chair

By Ed Edmonds, ALL-SIS Chair,
Professor and Library Director,
Loyola University School of Law,
New Orleans

The Strategic Planning Committee of ALL-SIS met during the Association of American Law Schools conference in January. The committee was joined by current AALL President Jim Heller, President-elect Margie Axtmann, and AALL Executive Director Roger Parent. The committee spent a full day considering the challenges and opportunities facing ALL-SIS. The committee adopted the following preamble and mission statement, largely crafted by Roger Parent:



Preamble

Recognizing that the American Association of Law Libraries and other Special Interest Sections address many issues and functional responsibilities of academic law librarians and the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section has limited resources, the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section will pursue goals that are of high priority to its members and that are not presently addressed by other groups.

Mission

- The Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section provides leadership in identifying the needs and concerns of academic law librarians and developing appropriate programs and services to address them; and represents the interests of academic law librarians within law schools, universities, and to other groups.

Although the committee is slightly behind schedule, I still feel that we will be able to deliver a plan for the consideration of the members at the annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Speaking of the annual meeting, plans are moving forward for a complete schedule of ALL-SIS activities. We will have both a middle managers' and a directors' breakfast. I apologize for the high prices, but I hope that you will look past the cost to the benefits of joining your colleagues for the breakfast. We also will have a luncheon, generously underwritten by LEXIS-NEXIS. The ALL-SIS reception will be on Tuesday evening at Catholic University, within close walking distance of the Metro. In addition to these events, four roundtables will be held as well as a Lexis/Westlaw Forum. A tentative plan of events in Washington is located on page two of this newsletter.

I also want to compliment James Durham, the newsletter editor, for his fine effort in reestablishing *The ALL-SIS Newsletter*. The first issue was outstanding.

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Tentative Schedule - Academic Law Libraries SIS Washington, D.C. Meeting

Sunday, July 18

- 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Business Meeting
Strategic Planning Session
- 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. ALL-SIS Program – At the Crossroads of the Age of Electronic Publishing.– Libraries and
Technology Committee of AALL
- 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Academic SIS Luncheon

Monday, July 19

- 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Directors' Breakfast
- 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Middle Managers' Breakfast
- 4:45 p.m. – 6 p.m. • Collection Development Roundtable (Joint Effort of ALL-SIS and TS-SIS)
- 4:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Forum – Dialog with Lexis and Westlaw (Joint Effort of ALL-SIS and RIPS-SIS)
- 4:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Constructing Student Surveys Roundtable

Tuesday, July 20

- 12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Advanced Legal Research Roundtable
- 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Reception at Catholic University

The ALL-SIS Newsletter Reaches the Web

The ALL-SIS Newsletter is now available in both paper and web versions. The recent "Holiday Issue" of the newsletter was the first issue to be placed on the ALL-SIS web pages. Web access to the newsletter is possible through the efforts of Beth Smith, a reference librarian at the Schmid Law Library of the University of Nebraska – Lincoln.

The web version of *The ALL-SIS Newsletter* is located at:

<<http://aall.wuacc.edu/sis/allsis/index.html>> (click on the link for *The ALL-SIS Newsletter*) or

<<http://aall.wuacc.edu/sis/allsis/NewsLetter.html>>.

If you have questions or comments about the web version of *The ALL-SIS Newsletter*, please contact the newsletter editor, James G. Durham, at <jdurham@stcl.tamu.edu>.

<http://aall.wuacc.edu/sis/allsis/index.html>

Education Committee Survey Results: Quality, Not Quantity

The ALL-SIS Education Committee wants to thank all of you who returned the ALL-SIS Education Committee's questionnaire. While the number of responses is small (miniscule?), the quality is enormous.

As part of the planning for submitting program proposals for the Philadelphia meeting in 2000 as well as future conferences, the Education Committee hopes to be able to identify from the members the key issues that should be addressed in programs and workshops presented at the AALL annual meeting. Responses to the survey included in the last issue of the newsletter have given us many useful suggestions. While several issues were raised in the responses, three dominate the returns so far.

A large number of academic librarians are concerned about developing technologies. How do we keep ourselves and our staff current in fast-changing times? How do we respond to faculty and student needs for training and services if our own resources are limited? Do we catalog web resources? How can we incorporate web technologies and a truly good home page into library services?

Programs on personnel issues received more favorable responses than any other single category. People want information on managing staff, dealing with problem employees, finding ways to reward staff, remaining competitive with salaries, and providing sufficient training and support.

Several responses noted that we need to address issues for the experienced librarian. Senior and middle management want programs addressing their issues, and experienced librarians at every level in the organization are interested in exploring ways to remain challenged and fresh.

The responses raised excellent issues, ranging from programs on dealing with other campus libraries to outsourcing and to the librarian's role as teacher, which was commented upon by several people. The education committee will be reviewing all of the responses and comparing them with past programs. We will be calling on many of you for further ideas and suggestions. If you have ideas or suggestions for a program or want to help with the planning, please contact us. Also, please feel free to complete the survey if you have not done so yet as we are still accepting responses. (In fact, we're currently begging many of our friends to complete the surveys.) The survey is available on the SIS home page at <http://aall.wuacc.edu/sis/allsis/1998/survey.html>.

— The ALL-SIS Education Committee —

Patricia Cervenka
Mercer
912.752.2665
cervenka_pa@mercer.edu

James Duggan
Southern Illinois
618.453.8791
duggan@siu.edu

Paul George
Harvard Law School
617.496.3292
pgeorge@law.harvard.edu

The All New AALLNET Web Site

AALLNET, the web site of the American Association of Law Libraries, has undergone an extensive update. In response to suggestions from members, AALL Webmaster Jason Hinkle, with assistance from AALL members and staff, has reorganized the site and has added several enhancements, including a dynamic new look and feel; new easy-to-read navigation bars on every page; an enhanced online database of members; an improved site search engine; and a safe and secure online ordering system for publications!

Be sure to visit the new AALLNET for yourself at <http://www.aallnet.org/>. For questions or comments about the new AALLNET, contact the AALL Webmaster, Jason Hinkle, at jhinkle@aall.org.



By Paul George,
Research Librarian,
Harvard Law School Library

"Horse With No Name" Has Myriad Possibilities

It's time to vote! Last issue, the editor requested submissions to the "Horse With No Name: Help Name This Newsletter!" competition. Several readers responded with a plethora of monikers. Now, it's time for the readers of *The ALL-SIS Newsletter* to vote.

As mentioned during the call for submissions, any new name chosen by the membership will be accompanied by a surtitle, "The Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries." The original name of the newsletter, *The ALL-SIS Newsletter*, is included among the choices for which you may vote.

Submit your vote to the newsletter editor at <jdurham@stcl.tamu.edu>. Please place "Horse With No Name" in the subject field of your email. Each reader is allowed ONE vote. DEADLINE FOR VOTING IS APRIL 21, 1999. Here are the candidates for election:

Academe	ALLiance
Academic Interest	The ALLigator
The Academic Light	ALL the News
The Academic Miracle Worker	ALL News is Good News
The Academic Spy	The ALL News Letter
Acadenews	ALLocution
ALL About ALL	ALLosaurus
ALL-a-Dither	ALLpourri
ALL American	ALL Right
ALLamode	ALLsense
ALL in ALL	ALL-SIS (and BROS) Newsletter
ALL the Better	The ALL-SIS Newsletter
ALLegro	ALL Speaking InSide
ALLeviator	ALLspice
ALLey Cat	ALLstar
ALL Day and Night	ALLstars
ALL Excited	ALL's Well That Ends Well
ALLfresco	The ALLternative
ALLgorithm	ALL Together



By James G. Durham,
The ALL-SIS Newsletter Editor,
Publications & Reference Librarian,
South Texas College of Law Library,
affiliated with
Texas A & M University

The ALLuvium
ALLways
The Legal Academic
Th-th-th-that's ALL Folks!

Special thanks to those members who submitted titles for the newsletter:

David G. Cowan, Melanie J. Dunshee,
Judith Gaskell, Joyce Manna Janto,
Sheri Lewis, Monica Ortale,
Janet Sinder, Merle Slyhoff,
Susan Spillman, and
Barbara Szalkowski.

Opinion: A Letter to the Editor...

Dear Editor,

One of my favorite responsibilities as associate director is to assist in preparing the library portion of the ABA Annual Questionnaire. I find several of the questions to be highly informative and most to be meaningful indicators that can be used to make qualitative assessments about programs. However, there is one question which just irritates me to no end. That question asks for "linear feet of shelving capacity." I can see how some of the other questions, for example, the number of hours open, the number of serial titles, the number of staff, and even the number of volumes, are relevant when making comparisons in presentations to decision-makers. I can only imagine that a library director would attempt to support a request for more space by showing how little shelving space that library has compared to other schools. Assuming this is the case *and* assuming this is a sufficiently compelling statistic, how is this space to be measured? I would posit that we should be uniform and consistent in how we measure. Nothing short of actually measuring the shelves should suffice. Yet, even an actual measurement continues to beg the question: So what? Linear feet of shelving capacity does not speak to the space needed for materials in formats which do not occupy book shelves. How then can this be a measure of anything that is useful? I urge those of you with influence to work to get this item removed from the library section of the ABA Annual Questionnaire.

— Madison Mosley, Jr., Associate Director

Charles A. Dana Law Library; Stetson University College of Law

Fair Use After the Copyright Term Extension Act

Last October, the 105th Congress extended copyright protection of published works from fifty to seventy years. The Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act ♠ also added a novel fair use provision for libraries and archives during the last twenty years. The Act states that after reasonable investigation, libraries and archives may make fair use of a work on three conditions: when the work is (1) not "subject to normal commercial exploitation," (2) a copy cannot be obtained at a reasonable price, and (3) the copyright owner has not provided notice, through the U.S. Copyright Office, that the work is subject to normal commercial exploitation or a copy is obtainable at a reasonable price. ♥



By Helen Leskovic,
Documents/Reference Librarian,
Rutgers Law School-Newark Library

The Act applies to protected works as of January 1, 1999. The expiration of a copyright term is always at the end of a calendar year. ♦ Thus, although the Act was effective when enacted last October, the earliest copyright term to which the Act applies began on January 1, 1999. Works which were copyrighted in 1923 and properly renewed in 1950-51, plus foreign works protected under 17 U.S.C. Section 104A are also affected by the Act. ♣

On December 30, the Copyright Office announced interim procedures for copyright owners to provide notice to libraries and archives (NLA) that either the work is subject to normal commercial exploitation or can be obtained at a reasonable price. ☐ Among others, copyright owners must file notice at the Copyright Office, with a \$50 filing fee for the first work and \$20 for each additional work.

Information in the Notices will be publicly available in the Copyright Office History Documents (COHD) file at the Copyright Office and through its web site at <<http://lcweb.loc.gov/copyright/rb.html>>. For more information, see the "Notice to Libraries and Archives of Normal Commercial Exploitation or Availability at Reasonable Price" at <<http://lcweb.loc.gov/copyright/cpypub/nla.html>>.

♠ Public Law 105-298, 112 Stat. 2827 (1998).

♥ *Id.* To be codified at 17 U.S.C. Section 108(h).

♦ 17 U.S.C. Section 304.

♣ *Copyright Office Interim Rule on Library Use During Term Extension*, 57 Pat., Trademark, & Copyright J. 188 (Jan. 7, 1999).

☐ 37 C.F.R. 201.39.

Netscape General Counsel Slated to Speak in Washington, D.C.

Roberta Katz, Netscape General Counsel, will speak at the first plenary session during the 92nd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries in Washington, D.C. Ms. Katz is scheduled to appear on Sunday, July 18, 1999, at 1:15 p.m. to present her ideas on reforming the civil justice system for the 21st century.

Ms. Katz is the Senior Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel of Netscape Communications Corporation. Before becoming an attorney, Ms. Katz was a cultural anthropologist. Her interest in technological and social change led her to study the effects of the Information Age on the American civil justice system. She is the author of *Justice Matters: Rescuing the Legal System for the 21st Century*. Her book reports the results of her study and proposes a civil justice system that would organize courts by subject matter; would make greater use of court-appointed experts; and would require more subject-matter expertise from judges and juries. Ms. Katz is a member of the Board of Directors of the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA) Software Division; also, she is a member of the California Governor's Electronic Commerce Advisory Council. Ms. Katz was named recently one of "The Fifty Most Influential Women Lawyers in America" by the *National Law Journal*.

See <http://www.aallnet.org/events/99_home.asp> for more information about AALL's Annual Meeting and Conference.

TRIVIA: Not So Trivial?

Citing Federal Session Laws in Pleadings and Other Legal Documents

A library patron looked puzzled as he approached the reference desk. He held a petition in his hand. He was a junior associate at a law firm and was assigned to do the preliminary work necessary for responding to the pleading. He showed me the pleading and said he surmised that the petition had erroneously stated the section of the federal law on which it was based.

I looked at the pleading and concluded that the section numbering probably referred to the divisions found in the session laws of a particular United States Congress published by the United States Government Printing Office in *United States Statutes at Large*. We consulted the Public Law in which the statute was found and, indeed, the numbering matched.

I thought it might be useful to me as a librarian, to law students, and even to faculty, to delve deeper into the reasons for citing federal session laws in pleadings and other legal documents.

Best Evidence

Federal law contains this provision:

United States Statutes at Large shall be legal evidence of laws, concurrent resolutions, ... proclamations by the President and proposed or ratified amendments to the Constitution of the United States therein contained, in all the courts of the United States, the several States, and the Territories and insular possessions of the United States. (1 U.S.C. § 112.)

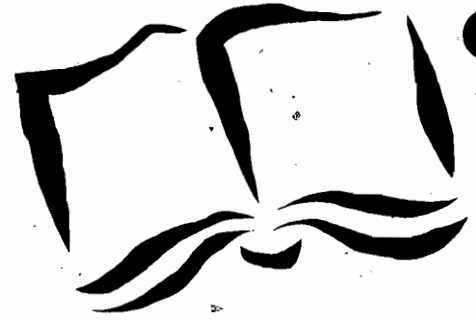
Is this provision a fact to file away for a game on legal trivia? Not by a long shot. The evidentiary value of *United States Statutes at Large* is important for legal analysis, writing, and advocacy of all kinds and may well affect the outcome of a case. *How to Find the Law*, Cohen, Berring, & Olson (West Publishing Co. 1989) contains an informative discussion of the distinction between the "positive law" contained in the *United States Statutes at Large* as opposed to the "prima facie" law in many of the Titles of the *United States Code*.

Cohen, Berring & Olson cite some cases where the distinction has been critical to the outcome of the case. *Royer's Inc. v. United States*, 265 F.2d 615 (3d Cir. 1959) reminds us that editors, publishers, and printers are not perfect. In this case, the compilers of the *United States Code* printed a portion of a bill that was excised upon final passage. *United States Statutes at Large* got it right.

The court in a later case, *Abell v. United States*, 518 F.2d 1369, 1376 (Ct. Cl. 1965), held that even if a title of the *United States Code* has been re-enacted as "positive law," if its provisions conflict with the *United States Statutes at Large*, the latter will prevail. The *Abell* court relied upon *United States v. Welden*, 377 U.S. 95 (1964). (Some titles of the *United States Code* have been reenacted as "positive law." 1 U.S.C. § 204. A list designating titles containing "positive law" is found in the front of each *United States Code* volume.)

These cases turn on close interpretation of the original bills and their amendments. Therefore, if you are contemplating an issue of federal law that contains complicated amendments, it may be worth the time to seek out the provisions of the actual bill as signed by the President. Since the paper editions of *United States Statutes at Large* are not published promptly and may lag several legislative sessions behind the one most recently completed, electronic databases can provide updated information to fill the paper gap. Westlaw, Lexis-Nexis, and Congressional Information Service (CIS) are subscription services that contain Public Law databases.

If you do not have access to a subscription service, free internet access to this information is available through the United States Government Printing Office web site at <http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/dcff001.html>. The database contains the *United States Statutes at Large* for the 104th Congress to the present 106th congressional session. The user should click on the Public Laws database. You also may wish to visit the Library of Congress web site at <<http://thomas.loc.gov/>>. The South Texas College of Law Library web site has hot links to several sources for legislative information, including the Library of Congress. Visit the South Texas College of Law Library web site at <<http://www.stcl.tamu.edu/library/libhome.html>>. Click on "Legal Research Links" and then visit our "Federal" links. (Our site is being refurbished, so visit again in a few months to see our new look as well!)



By Jessica R. Alexander,
Reference and Circulation Librarian,
South Texas College of Law,
affiliated with
Texas A & M University

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The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation, Rule 12.3.1, requires a writer to use a statute's name and bill section number (appearing in the session law) only if the statute is commonly cited that way or the information would otherwise aid in identification. The rule states that an official name, a popular name, or both may be used. Therefore, the writer may use professional judgment. Rule 12.3.1 illustrates federal statutes with the Labor Management Relations Act and the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Whatever the situation, have a citation to the *United States Statutes at Large* at hand for use in legal argument. Remember: case histories prove that legal minutiae cannot be relegated to the back burner. ❁

Using Video to Promote the Law Library and to Strengthen Budget Requests

The law librarians at Regent University in Virginia Beach recently made an amazing discovery. We aimed to help the university president prepare for an ABA reaccreditation site visit, and we received more good will than we could have imagined.

Project Genesis

J. Nelson Happy, Dean of our law school, asked me to prepare a computerized slide show presentation illustrating the services we provide and what we are doing to fulfill the missions of the law library and of the law school. He suggested a PowerPoint presentation similar to one we had done earlier, to be shown at the law faculty meeting the following week in the law library. The president was to be the guest of honor. The marching orders were clear, but details were lacking.

The situation demanded a team effort — and quickly. The obvious first step was to assemble the professional staff for a brainstorming session. Many creative ideas emerged from this session.

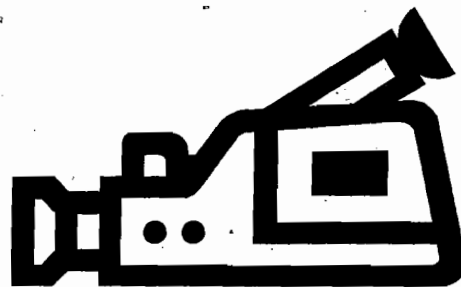
Project Development

Collectively, we decided to include videos of each member of the law library staff briefly describing her or his background and job duties. Our Computer Services Administrator, a member of the professional staff, confirmed that video clips could be inserted into the presentation. Each video clip would be followed by a slide briefly summarizing, in bullet form, that individual's responsibilities. Brief testimonials would be included from several law faculty who utilize our services extensively, and who are among the most respected and prolific authors on the law faculty. Credits would run at the end, acknowledging noteworthy contributions. The presentation would begin and end with a favorite song of the president.

The professional staff apportioned responsibilities among themselves. One team planned what each person would say: name, job title, and a brief job description. Educational backgrounds and career goals were included by the professional staff and younger paraprofessionals. For older staff nearing retirement, the focus was on longevity and accomplishments. The Assistant Director gave each person an outline of suggestions to include in their presentations.

Encountering and Conquering Challenges

Several technological challenges faced us. The first challenge was that video must be digitized before being inserted into a PowerPoint presentation. This required a capture device to be attached to the video camera. Capture devices vary considerably in price and features. Our Computer Services Administrator quickly researched the options, then selected an MPEG encoder capture device that gave us full-screen, full-motion video with TV quality (30 frames per second). Ten minutes of MPEG video uses only about 100 megabytes of disk space, about one-tenth of the space required by less ef-



By Charles H. Oates,
Law Library Director
and Associate Professor,
Regent University School of Law

"The first challenge was that video must be digitized before being inserted into a PowerPoint presentation."

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ficient products. Our twenty-minute presentation required 200 megabytes of disk space, and needed to be saved to a CD for portability. The price of CD-R and CD-RW (CD recordable and CD re-writable) devices has dropped significantly. The price at a national wholesale club was under two hundred dollars in January. Thus, we recorded the entire multi-media presentation on a CD-R, which can be played on any CD drive.

To achieve more flexibility with the PowerPoint presentation, our Assistant Director downloaded from the Microsoft web page free add-ins that included several new templates (some animated), a 3-D rotation, and an animation player which allows the presentation to be viewed from a web site with full animation.

A committee of two was appointed to be in charge of the videotaping. Each person to be videotaped was allowed to record his or her own comments in private by means of a remote control. Re-takes were numerous, and the best of each was selected. A single video shot was sufficient for one of our staff who was formerly a television news anchor and is pursuing currently a Master's Degree in communications at Regent. The rest of us were less comfortable speaking to the camera. However, the project overall was a lot of fun for the entire staff, and produced a collective sense of accomplishment.

Overwhelming Response

The response from the president, the law faculty, and deans was a pleasant surprise. Immediately after the presentation the president turned to me, shook my hand, and exclaimed, "That was a fine presentation!" The dean of the law school expressed appreciation that we had acknowledged him twice during the presentation for the inspiration he had given us for the project and guidance during its production. The response from the law faculty was the most surprising of all. Many times throughout the presentation they broke into thunderous applause in spontaneous expressions of gratitude to specific individuals and departments within the library.

"Throughout the presentation, the faculty broke into thunderous applause."

Immediate Results

Several positive results have emerged. The four endorsements by law professors were of inestimable value. In only two weeks since production, all law library departments have noticed a substantial increase in faculty use of law library services. Most notably, there has been a significant increase in requests for reference and research assistance, as well as for technology support and training. This documented increase in activity will support our next budget request for additional professional staff, as well as similar requests in the future.

Goals and Expectations

Ostensibly, the goal of the presentation was to inform and educate the university president in the most intimate way possible as to the services provided by the law library. More subtle goals were (1) to increase faculty and administration awareness of the range of support services provided by the law library, (2) to allow each of the library staff to be closely involved in a major team effort, and (3) to create a platform of credibility from which to launch future budget requests to the administration.

The presentation will be modified slightly for use in promoting the law library and its services to potential and incoming students, the local bar, and the ABA reaccreditation site team. In the near future, we plan to allow universal access to the presentation through the law library web page.

We are particularly proud of the fact that the law library staff collaborated to put this promotional multimedia project together in less than a week. No outside experts, consultants, or equipment were used.

Applicability to Other Libraries

All law libraries contend with budgets. Because these concepts are applicable to other types of libraries, we hope to share our experience with other law librarians. This approach should help any law library to support its budget requests while unifying the staff in a fun team effort.

* **Brain Candy:** Visit "Shark Talk," an animated hangman game for lawyers. The "Shark Talk" web site features excellent graphics and an opportunity to refresh your lawyerly vocabulary. Visit this entertaining site at <http://www.nolo.com/sharktalk/sharktalk_welcome.html>.



Annual Meeting Programs Will Address Millennium Issues

Reflecting the theme, "At the Crossroads: Information Management, Technology, and Policy," the programs at the 1999 Annual Meeting will confront the issues facing law librarians as the 21st Century approaches. We are at an important crossroads. We must position ourselves not only to survive but also to thrive in the technology based world that continues to evolve around us. Within each of the five tracks at the Annual Meeting — *Management; Technology; Information Access and Policy; Foreign, Comparative, and International;* and *Technical Services* — there is a plethora of programming designed to help law librarians address important millennium issues.

The **Technology** track includes exciting ideas and dynamic speakers. *It's All in the Books, Right?: The Ethical Perils of Ignoring Electronic Legal Resources in the Information Age* features Judge Robert E. Payne (E.D. Va.) who wrote one of the first opinions acknowledging that attorneys have a duty to stay "abreast of developments in the law" and that there are numerous resources, including online services, addressing this purpose. *Encryption at the Crossroads* features Marc Rotenburg, compiler of *The Privacy Law Sourcebook*, Director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center, and one of the organizers of the grassroots campaign against Lotus Marketplace. The program will feature a discussion of PGP, the current industry standard for email encryption, and current and proposed legislation regulating the use and export of strong encryption products. The proliferation of electronic products, the *Hyperlaw* decision and the burgeoning number of legal documents found on the Internet has escalated the need for a uniform citation system. The principal drafters of AALL's new *Universal Citation Guide* will "state their case" for adoption of the guide during the program, *AALL's Universal Citation Guide on Trial*. A panel of judges representing various segments of the legal system will cross-examine the drafters about the potential problems and impact of such a system on the way judges, lawyers, scholars, and others work.



By Timothy Coggins,
Director and
Associate Law Professor,
University of Richmond,
School of Law Library
and by
Hazel Johnson,
Law Libraries Services Consultant,
Richmond, VA

"There is a plethora of programming designed to help law librarians address important millennium issues."

Among the **Information Access and Policy** track programs, *Unauthorized Practice of Law 1999* will feature representatives from Nolo Press, which is currently under investigation by a subcommittee of the Supreme Court of Texas for producing materials which assist individuals to do their own legal work. The preservation of the digital records created by federal agencies is one of the greatest challenges of the upcoming millennium. Lawyers, scholars, judges, and reporters have an interest in how the federal government and the national Archives and Records Administration plans to meet this challenge. *Federal Information Policy and Agency Recordkeeping at the Crossroads* will feature Scott Armstrong, a noted author and journalist, and Dr. Lewis Belardo of NARA debating the issue. The consolidation in the legal publishing industry affects law

librarians every day. The two-part program, *Meeting of the Minds at the Crossroads of Legal Information*, offers a panel of law book publishers participating in a roundtable discussion on the state of legal publishing today. Part Two will feature a panel of law librarians reacting to the points made by the publishers.

The **Technical Services** and **Foreign, Comparative and International** tracks feature programs of value to everyone, not just the librarians who specialize in those two fields. *Crosswalks to Information Management: Metadata* focuses on one of the cutting edge issues of searching the Internet. What is metadata? How can it make storage and retrieval of information more accurate? How will it affect search engines? The emergence of electronic publications has caused librarians to rethink the definition of a serial. The program *Loose-leafs at the Crossroads: Redefining Seriality* will focus on the ongoing discussions of proposals to re-define seriality and the impact that may have on cataloging and processing traditional materials and their new electronic counterparts. The globalization of the world's economy makes the quest for the law of other countries a daily challenge. Three programs will provide insights into researching U.S. trading partners: *From Russia with Law; Cuban Legal and Political System*, and *Our Neighbors to the North and South*.



Many law firm librarians labor on research projects and wonder how much time will be billed to the client. The program, *Getting the Client to Value Legal Research*, in the **Management** track will offer a number of suggestions about ways to present librarian research time and tools to be used in the client-retention process. The ubiquity of technology in today's law libraries often requires that technology professionals be employed in the law library. Ensuring that all employees understand

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the need for well-compensated technology staff is the focus of *How to Hire the Right Computer People — and Keep Them from Crossing the Road*.

These programs are just a sampling of the more than 70 programs scheduled for the 1999 Annual Meeting. Want to know more? Watch for "Crossroads Spotlights" postings on the dcedprog and law-lib listservs. ❁

The Millennium Approaches: Avoiding a Y2K Crash

Along with death and taxes, the Y2K problem is inescapable. Y2K is a two-digit computer malfunction that could affect every aspect of modern life.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, computer programmers were searching for ways to condense information to conserve expensive memory. One technique they used was chopping off the "19" from the year, so "1965" became "65." It seemed a great solution and freed memory for more important tasks. These programmers knew their solution would not work when the year 2000 rolled over. Computers would read "00" as the year "1900," shutting them down; but the programmers believed that technology was evolving so quickly, their codes would be replaced by better methods.

Unfortunately, the programmers did not account for human nature. Instead of replacing code, users simply built onto code since it worked fine, eventually creating vast systems enveloping a doomed core of code. The code is in the center of COBOL, the business and industry computer language.

One caveat is that Y2K will arrive earlier than January 1, 2000. Programmers use specific strings of numbers to indicate the stopping point and commands. For example, they use 9/9/99 as an end-of-file command or infinity. When computers encounter the date September 9, 1999, they may freeze. The same principle applies to April 9, 1999, which is the 99th day of the 99th year. As a result, any forecasting system might fail; some have failed already in the financial industry.

The year 2000 also is an atypical leap year. Leap years are evenly divisible by four or by 400, but not by 100. Since 1998 is a leap year, the next one isn't calculated to occur until 2002. Systems using Julian dates will not recognize December 31, 2000, the 366th day of the year since it is an atypical leap year.

If the Y2K problem had affected only mainframes, as many originally thought, programmers easily would have remedied the difficulty. Unfortunately, all PCs were affected, but not Macintoshes, which use four-digit years. Thus, many companies and institutions are Y2K compliant by default.

Law libraries already should be working with their Information Technology (IT) departments to conduct a thorough assessment of the institution's present computing resources and Y2K compliance status. A Y2K assessment begins with inventories of PC and network hardware, of every custom application, and of every external data communications link. With accurate lists in hand, the institution can recognize the extent of its Y2K problem.

Second, ask hardware and software vendors about their Y2K compliance. Also, inquire about third party firm systems with whom your library connects on a regular basis. Request an updated written statement of every product's Y2K compliance — specifying exact models, versions, and releases.

Typically, a three-part program is effective to insure Y2K compliance: reports, facilitation, and audits. The first step of reporting consists of monthly reports of Y2K progress. Each department of the university will appoint a department liaison in charge of Y2K problems; the liaison will report to the IT department.

The second step of facilitation involves creating guidelines for determining which equipment needs to be tested. The guidelines also help to show "due diligence" later, if needed, while also avoiding unnecessary checking of systems.

Possibly the most important step in a Y2K compliance program is the third, known as the component audit. This process insures that the reports match reality.

Two highly regarded utilities for testing a PC's Y2K compliance are "Norton 2000 BIOS Test/Fix for Windows 95 and Windows98 Operating Systems," and "Yes2K Version 2.04 for Windows 3.1 Operating Systems." Most versions of BIOS made since 1995, and nearly all since 1997, will handle the Y2K transition correctly. The National Standards Testing Lab (NSTL), a private testing facility, offers a free utility called "YMark2000," which you may download from <http://www.nstl.com/html/nstl_y2k.html>.

Commercial software that has been verified as Y2K compliant must be run on Y2K compliant hardware with a Y2K compliant operating system in order to use the correct system date. Check the manufacturers web page for information on Y2K compliance of a particular product.

Some types of software have a high rate of Y2K problems, including accounting, spreadsheet, database, utility, and

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"Along with death and taxes, the Y2K problem is practically inescapable."

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operating software packages. Other types of software have a high rate of Y2K compliance, including word processing, graphics, games, backup, and zip/unzip.

The computer industry typically assigns compliance ratings with the following tags:

- 1.) **Compliant.** The program works correctly with post-1999 dates in its as-shipped form. Software in this category requires no modifications to become Y2K compliant. Compliant packages include Lotus 1-2-3 Millennium Edition; Lotus 1-2-3 Release 97; Access 95, Version 7; Access 97, Version 8; Excel Versions 5 through 8; Office 97 8.0; Office Professional 97; and Outlook 97.
- 2.) **Compliant with Minor Issues.** The program works correctly with post-1999 dates after modifications listed by the manufacturer. Typical changes include new date formats and/or installation of software patches. Compliant with minor issues packages include MS-DOS 5.0a; MS-DOS 6.0; Windows 3.1; Word 6.XX-Win; and Word 7.XX.
- 3.) **Non-Compliant.** The program will not work properly with post-1999 dates and cannot be patched. Software in this category must be replaced with Y2K compliant versions. One example of non-compliant software is Access Version 2.

Strategic Planning Committee Seeks Member Input

As noted in the Chair's column on page one of this newsletter, Ed Edmonds discussed the Strategic Planning Committee meeting held during the AALS conference in New Orleans in January. The committee members reviewed survey results solicited from the membership and discussed how to develop a plan of action which addressed members' concerns.

The Strategic Planning Committee received 212 responses to the survey. Numerous responses suggested better planning and a more substantive business meeting at the annual AALL conference. Other respondents wanted more proactive leadership in areas where librarians are or should be leading the way. Some respondents suggested solicitation of member input for program topics at the annual meeting. (The Education Committee is soliciting suggestions currently.) Numerous specific suggestions were made by respondents as well.

The Strategic Planning Committee used the surveys as a base point for discussing the mission and challenges of the Academic Law Libraries SIS. A checklist was created as a result of this discussion, and is being used as the basis for a plan draft. The Preamble and Mission Statement from this plan are reproduced in Ed Edmonds' column, *supra*.

The Committee intends to have a document ready for discussion at the business meeting this summer in Washington, D.C. As the draft progresses, the plan will be available for review and suggestions on the ALL-SIS web page. As a further working point, you may wish to review "A Vision for the Academic Law Library," which appeared in Volume 14, Issue 4 (Summer 1994) of *The ALL-SIS Newsletter*, on pages 12-18. This document was created by a special committee chaired by Dick Danner to create a vision statement for the future of academic law libraries. The Committee plans to place this document on the ALL-SIS web page as well.

Suggestions from the membership for the creation of a strategic plan are welcomed by the Strategic Planning Committee. You may send your comments to members of the committee:



By Professor David G. Cowan,
Vice President &
Director of Library Services,
South Texas
College of Law Library,
affiliated with
Texas A & M University

"The draft will be ready for review and discussion at the business meeting in Washington, D.C."

Janice Anderson <anderjan@law.georgetown.edu>
Mark Bernstein <mbernstein@law.duke.edu>
David G. Cowan <cowand@stcl.tamu.edu>
Joyce Janto <janto@uofrlaw.richmond.edu>
Nancy Johnson <njohnson@gsu.edu>
and Tory Trotta <victoria.trotta@asu.edu>

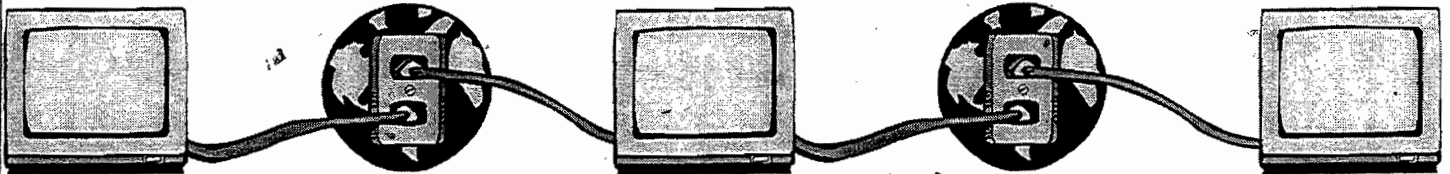
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Please direct any questions to the list owners Mark Folmsbee (zzfolm@acc.wuacc.edu) or James Duggan (duggan@siu.edu).



Deadline for the Next Issue is April 21.

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Special Interest Section
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American Association
of Law Libraries*



Newsletter Editor:

*James G. Durham,
Publications and Reference Librarian
South Texas College of Law Library
affiliated with
Texas A&M University
1303 San Jacinto Street
Houston, Texas 77002-7000
Tel: 713.646.1725
Fax: 713.659.2217
jdurham@stcl.tamu.edu*

ALL-SIS on the Web:
<<http://www.aallnet.org/>
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