

The ALL-SIS NewsLetter

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 3

THE CONVENTION ISSUE
SUMMER 1999

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Conference Chat With the Chair

An exciting year for the Academic Law Libraries SIS is moving strongly towards its culmination at the annual meeting in Washington, D.C. The Nominations Committee recently concluded its work, and you soon will receive your ballot for the election of the new Vice Chair / Chair-Elect. Two outstanding candidates, Ruth Hill, Head of Reference Services at the Loyola Law School Library in Los Angeles, and Dwight King, Head of Reference Services at the Notre Dame Law School Library, have been chosen for the slate. I want to thank the Nominations Committee, headed by Grace Mills of North Carolina Central University, for its work.

A number of important events at the annual meeting are now in place. The ALL-SIS Reception, jointly sponsored by West Group and the Catholic University Law Library, will be held on Tuesday evening, July 20, 1999, at the Columbus School of Law at Catholic University. Because the School of Law is a short walk from the metro stop, getting to and from the reception should be quite easy. The West Group also will be making a short presentation at the Middle Managers Breakfast and the Director Breakfast on Monday morning, July 19, 1999. The ALL-SIS Luncheon will be held on Monday as well. The Luncheon is supported by LEXIS-NEXIS, whose generous contribution allowed us to reduce the luncheon charge to each SIS member. Many thanks to both West Group and LEXIS-NEXIS for supporting SIS functions.

ALL-SIS will hold four roundtables at the annual meeting. The SIS, jointly with RIPS-SIS, is sponsoring a "Dialog with LEXIS-NEXIS and Westlaw" on Monday afternoon. The SIS also is holding a "Collection Development Roundtable" at the same time with TS-SIS. I am deeply pleased that we have joint ventures with RIPS-SIS and TS-SIS. The third roundtable during that time slot will be "Constructing Student Surveys." A fourth roundtable, entitled "Advanced Legal Research," will be held on Tuesday afternoon.

Although the strategic planning process has slowed, I hope to publish the plan on our website prior to the annual meeting. A discussion of the plan is scheduled for the annual business meeting on Sunday, July 18.

I thank Tory Trotta, Vice-Chair / Chair-Elect, and Marguerite Most, Secretary-Treasurer, for their work on behalf of the SIS this year, as well as all of the committee chairs and committee members. I particularly want to thank James Durham for his work on this newsletter. Kudos to Beth Smith, the ALL-SIS webmaster, for placing *The ALL-SIS Newsletter* online. I hope that each of you will volunteer to help Tory next year with the work of our SIS. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to serve the SIS and AALL, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at various events in Washington, D.C.

**By Ed Edmonds, 1998-1999 ALL-SIS Chair,
Professor and Library Director,
Loyola University School of Law, New Orleans**

Special points of interest:

- Conference Roundtable Briefs
- ALL-SIS Listserv Information
- ALL-SIS on the Web
- Email to the Editor

AALL Election Results: The 1999 - 2000 Executive Board

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) announces the four new incoming members to its Executive Board who will assume office in July 1999.

Robert Oakley, Director of the Law Library and Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C., has been elected Vice President / President-Elect.

Karl T. Gruben, Director of Firm Libraries for Vinson & Elkins, LLP, in Houston, Texas, has been elected incoming Secretary.

Maryruth Storer, Law Library Director of Orange County in Santa Ana, California, and Cossette T. Sun, Law Library Director of Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library in Oakland, California, have been elected as members of the Executive Board.

1763 votes were cast by the election deadline and tallied by four members of the Chicago Association of Law Libraries.

AALL Members Approve Ethical Principles

An overwhelming majority of AALL members approved the Ethical Principles submitted to them with their 1999 Ballots. These new Ethical Principles replace the Association's current Code of Ethics and can be located on AALLNET at http://www.aallnet.org/about/code_of_ethics.asp.

Wes Cochran, Professor of Law at Texas Tech University, had chaired the AALL Special Committee on Ethics from 1998-1999 and studied the issue. He said, "I'm pleased that the AALL membership endorsed the Ethical Principles by such a strong vote. The Special Committee on Ethics worked hard during the past two years studying the issues involved and working to produce a statement of principles that can help guide our members when they face ethical questions and problems. It is gratifying to see the results of our work."

1999 AALL Conference in Washington, DC: Obtaining Schedules and Registration Details

The 92nd Annual Meeting & Conference for the American Association of Law Libraries will convene in Washington, DC, from July 17-22, 1999. The theme for the meeting is "At the Crossroads: Information Management, Technology, and Policy."

If you have not yet received a preliminary program and registration form, copies may be obtained by contacting the AALL Executive Staff Office at 312.939.4764. The most current schedule of educational programs and workshops may be found on AALLNET at: http://aallhq.org/database/meeting_annual_programs.asp. The schedule of meetings and events is posted to AALLNET at: http://aallhq.org/database/meeting_annual.asp.

Registrations for the Washington, DC, meeting postmarked by June 1, 1999, are eligible for a \$50.00 "early bird" discount. The deadline for receipt of all Annual Meeting registrations is June 18, 1999. After June 18, please plan to register on site in Washington, DC.

Capture Late-Breaking Conference News: Join the ALL-SIS Listserv and Stay Informed

The ALL-SIS listserv is used for official ALL-SIS announcements, news from AALL, and discussion of topics of interest to our members. If you are a member of ALL-SIS, please subscribe!

To subscribe, send this message to listserv@assocdir.wuacc.edu: **subscribe all-SIS yourfirstname yourlastname**. To post a message to the list, send the message to all-sis@assocdir.wuacc.edu. Please send questions to list owners, Mark Folmsbee (aafolm@acc.wuacc.edu) or James Duggan (duggan@siu.edu).

"When You Come to the Fork in the Road... Take It!"

By **Tory Trotta, 1998-1999 ALL-SIS Vice Chair / Chair Elect,**
Interim Library Director,
Ross-Blakley Law Library, Arizona State University, Tempe

Yogi Berra could have been speaking of the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section when he uttered those now famous words. The ALL-SIS is, in many ways, at a fork in its organizational road. Progress had been made in revitalizing our Section: our Newsletter has been revived; we have a growing website; the popular roundtables are being reinstated; we have an advance educational planning process that will better serve our members; and strategic planning has begun. Still, only about a third of AALL members who are affiliated with an academic institution hold membership in our section. To reach our potential, we need activities and services which will benefit our members who do not attend Annual Meetings, and which will appeal to a broader cross section of academically affiliated law librarians. Much still remains to be done, and we need people who want to be part of this exciting process.

Please plan on volunteering some of your time this coming year to the activities of your Section. In addition to planning our more traditional activities, work will begin on a number of new initiatives. The Section Executive Board continues to seek input from members about activities and programs which would be responsive to Section member needs and which would make the Section desirable for potential members. Please, take that fork in the road with us. We need you.

Below are some opportunities for Section service. They do not represent everything there is to do – only what has been identified thus far. This form contains a place to enter other activities and services which you believe would be beneficial for the Section to undertake. The form lists only brief information for each category. In many cases, the charge to the committee will be to brainstorm and advise the Executive Board on initiatives that might be beneficial to the broader membership. Call me. Email me. Write me. Send me this form. Use whatever form of communication works for you. Please, just get in touch.

INFRASTRUCTURE - *Those old chestnuts!*

1. _____ Bylaws: Explore building the infrastructure of the Section by adding at least one additional Board Member.
2. _____ Nominations: Help find able candidates to continue the work that has begun.
3. _____ Education: Identify and develop appropriate programming for the Annual Meeting, and advise the Executive Board on educational initiatives outside of the Annual Meeting. Responsible for submitting formal educational program requests for the 2001 Meeting.
4. _____ Meeting Local Arrangements: Assist with the actual arrangements for the Annual Meeting: breakfasts/luncheon, Academic Reception, Roundtables. Advise on speaker choices.
5. _____ Membership and Recruitment
6. _____ Publications and Advertising
7. _____ Strategic Planning

(Continued on page 4)

...Fork in the Road...

(Continued from page 3)

SPECIAL PROJECTS - START UP- *Be a pioneer!*

8. _____ CONELL for Academics
9. _____ Awards: It's time to recognize the accomplishments of our peers.

SPECIAL WORKING GROUPS - ADVISORY- *For you big-thinking brainstormers!* This group represents areas in which I think the Section could take a leadership role. The charge of these special committees will be to identify, assess, and report on what appropriate long range projects the Section should undertake.

10. _____ Collection Development
11. _____ Statistics
12. _____ Continuing Status/Tenure
13. _____ Other?? Please list.

OTHER

14. _____ Well, I want to help the Section, but I'm not interested in any of the above. I think the following program(s) or service(s) should be explored and undertaken by the ALL/SIS:

SIGN ME UP! I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO START..

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

FOR AN ONLINE FORM: <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/volunteer.html>

Thank you for your interest in contributing to the work of the Section. Please return this form, or call me, or Email me as is noted below:

Tory Trotta
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Calling ALL Volunteers!

Education Committee Seeks Program Developers

By Paul George,
Associate Librarian for Research Services,
Harvard Law School

The Education Committee has been reviewing the survey responses from ALLSIS members on the issues faced by academic law librarians and the types of programs members want to attend. The results show we are a diverse group with a variety of interests. Distilling the responses to a few topics has been a challenge, but we detect four major areas of interest: 1) programs on personnel/management issues, 2) a desire for substantive law programming, 3) programs addressing the challenges and frustrations brought by changing technologies, and 4) programs about our roles as educators.

The committee has examined these topics and has created several specific potential program topics. We restricted ourselves to program ideas that focus on the issues of academic law librarians. Our goal is to have a few of these ideas developed into program proposals. The proposals would be submitted to the AALL program selection committee along with any other program proposals that ALLSIS members develop.

The next step in the process requires your involvement. Are there topics you would like to see in a program? Is there a germ of an idea that interests you? Do any of these programs suggest another program to you? Do you want to promote someone's skills in the association by suggesting they assist? Do you want to seek revenge on someone by suggesting they assist with a program?

Please let us hear from you. Operators are standing by to take your calls! No reasonable offer will be refused! Of course, please give us a call if you have your own program proposal that is being developed.

PERSONNEL / MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- Academic law librarians: Neither fish nor fowl! What is our status in the law school environment? Are we faculty with tenure requirements? Are we staff? Does it matter? What is the latest news in the ongoing debate? Are there trends, for both directors and non-directors? What can you do to change your role in the institution?
- Gender issues and job descriptions: Are women "librarians" and men "information managers"?
- More work, new library needs, and the same people: Reorganizing library priorities and re-writing job descriptions to meet changing needs. (For this we'd like to see an interactive program in which people are given job descriptions of current staff and a list of library needs. Participants would then draft new job descriptions, deciding what is necessary and what may be eliminated.
- So you want to be a director: Advice for the directors-to-be.
- Has the perennial "Us versus Them/ public services versus technical services" issue become "Us vs. Them and Them, Too" with the addition of library IT departments? Improving communication in the new library setting and helping IT staff learn the ins & outs of libraries.

(Continued on page 6)

Calling ALL Volunteers...

(Continued from page 5)

- Motivating staff and team-building in the academic law library: What does this human resources language really mean?
- No Room at the Top: How to keep the experienced law librarian challenged and rewarded when opportunities for advancement within the institution are limited.
- Fundraising for the academic library: The how, the why, and is it worth the money?

SUBSTANTIVE LAW

- Explanation of legal theories: Who are the legal crits? What is law and literature? Are legal decisions affected by economics?

THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON THE LIBRARY'S INSTITUTIONAL ROLE

- Distance learning: What is the library's role?
- Is technology changing our customer base or the services we provide? As more libraries obtain subscription-based databases limited to students or faculty, are the other library patrons neglected?
- The library and the school technology department: Should they be combined? What are the advantages and the disadvantages.
- The future of Lexis and Westlaw in the law school setting.

THE EDUCATIONAL / INSTRUCTIONAL ROLE OF ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARIANS

- Technology in the classroom - the electronic advanced legal research course.
- Teaching legal research: librarians or legal writing instructors?
- Teaching legal research: the state of the union; the changing face of legal research instruction

Again, please let us hear from you! We look forward to reporting on your responses in July. - ALL-SIS Education Committee

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Talking Teaching: Handling Advanced Legal Research Courses

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION,
TUESDAY, JULY 20 FROM 12:45 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Academic librarians who teach Advanced Legal Research courses confront pedagogy, professional workload, compensation, law school politics, grading policies, course design and logistics. This roundtable discussion provides an opportunity to pool ideas for handling these and other challenges. We will share our handouts and syllabi, as well as offer support for this often thankless endeavor. Ruth Levor and her team of ALR gurus will present a brief "dramatization" of the trials and travails of an Advanced Legal Research course; after the presentation, the experts will facilitate a brainstorming session and encounter group. If you wish to share your ALR materials with SIS colleagues, please mail the items to Ruth Levor before June 18; copies of your materials will be distributed at the roundtable discussion.

Ruth Levor
University of San Diego Legal Research Center
5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, CA 92110-2492
FAX: 619.260.4616
rlevor@acusd.edu

Law Library Collections for the New Millennium

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION
MONDAY, JULY 19 FROM 4:45 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

This collection development roundtable discussion is co-sponsored by the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section and by the Technical Services Special Interest Section. Two collections specialists, from a private and an academic law library, will begin the session: Frank Lee, the Information Services Manager at Latham & Watkins of San Francisco, and Rachel Pergament, the Collection Development / Acquisitions Librarian at the University of Southern California Law Library.

The presentations will be followed by discussions with colleagues about persistent collection development issues:

- Integrating electronic resources into existing collections.
- Employing new resources from vendors who have changed selection practices.
- Considering cost, users, and physical layout, when choosing formats.

For more information about the collection development roundtable, please contact:

Rob Richards
Technical Services Librarian
University of Colorado Law Library
rrichard@stripe.colorado.edu

Roundtable Discussion: User Surveys That Get Results

How do you gauge the success of library services or programs? Determining students' satisfaction is a critical mission. Surveys are practical tools to analyze and evaluate our success as well as areas needing improvement. An effective survey, however, is complicated to develop. Framing the questions to gather valid evidence is only a first step. Administering the survey and analyzing the results are equally important. Overcoming student skepticism and disinterest are significant challenges.

One roundtable discussion at the ALL-SIS business meeting in Washington, DC, will be devoted to building a user survey that gets results. We will engage a collaborative exercise to produce a sample survey document. Our discussion will focus on question development, dissemination, collection, and analytical techniques. We will project the evolving document on a screen so that we may edit as we talk. The final survey will be available electronically on the ALL-SIS web page.

To build the foundation for our discussion ahead of time, we are collecting sample questions and survey documents. If you have materials to share, we encourage you to send them to:

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Head of Reference Services
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57 Worth Street
New York, NY 10013
VOICE: 212.431.2354
FAX: 212.965.8839
Cbroussard@nyls.edu

LEXIS & WESTLAW FORUM: A Head's Up on 1999 - 2000!!!

Don't be surprised this school year by last minute LEXIS & WESTLAW changes! Come to the LEXIS & WESTLAW FORUM to discover what both companies plan for 1999-2000. ALL-SIS has joined forces with the Research Instruction and Patron Services Special Interest Section to co-sponsor the forum on Monday, July 19, from 4:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The program coordinators are Rosalie Sanderson of ALL-SIS and Bill Taylor of RIP-SIS.

You'll have an opportunity to ask the decision makers about services, support, training, and equipment. Gerald Johnson, Vice President for Academic and Librarian Relations at West Group, will discuss his company's plans for the upcoming year. Following Mr. Johnson, Marion Parker, Senior Director for LEXIS-NEXIS, will discuss her company's plans for law school services. Both presentations will highlight:

- Plans for the 1999-2000 academic year.
- New database features.
- New versions of proprietary software.
- Developing web products.
- Company support for stand-alone printing.
- Company support for training.
- Company support for academic account representatives and student representatives.

Company presentations will be followed by 15 minutes of roundtable discussion, concluding with a 30-minute Q&A session. Don't miss this opportunity to converse with company executives from LEXIS and WESTLAW.

Space Planning and Technology for Academic Law Libraries: Professional Development at Its Best

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

Duke University School of Law Library hosted an AALL Professional Development program on "Space Planning and Technology for Academic Law Libraries" on March 12-13, 1999. The workshop had excellent attendance, with 85 registrants and 21 speakers. Dick Danner, Senior Associate Dean for Library and Computing, Duke University School of Law, served as program director. Speaker themes encompassed four issues in academic law libraries:

- 1.) space planning for service points and staff work space, utilizing current theories of customer service, workflow, and library technology;
- 2.) space planning for customer areas in an era of rapid technological change;
- 3.) planning and justifying room for collection growth in a period of increasing reliance on digital media; and
- 4.) the role of the law librarian / administrator in space planning: before, during, and after construction projects.

The workshop presenters were well prepared and provided thoughtful commentary. Some attendees brought building plans for upcoming building projects to share with colleagues. The most entertaining presentation was Harry Martin's on selecting appropriate chairs for a library! All in all, the conference was worthwhile and proved valuable to the participants. AALL should be commended for sponsoring this and other continuing education programs. A special "thank you" goes to Dick Danner and his staff for hosting this highly successful event.

Election Results: Horse With No Name... Likes It That Way!

The Horse With No Name contest ended with a resounding nay -- or was that neigh? The naysayers have it (*drum roll, please*) because the moniker of our venerable publication remains
The ALLSIS Newsletter!

The election was not, however, a landslide. Two proposed titles tied for a close 2d, as *The ALLSIS Newsletter* won by a nose. The 2d place tie was between *ALL the News* and *Academic Interest*. Four additional entries placed respectably in the race: *ALL in ALL*, *ALL Together*, *ALLosaurus*, and (coming up from behind) *Th-th-th-that's ALL Folks!*

Muchos Gracias! to ALL those who participated in our race, both by submitting creative entries and by casting a ballot. Your participation in the contest is greatly appreciated.



An Email to the Editor...

Dear Editor,

Just a quick note of thank you for including the "Trivia" section by Jessica Alexander. How useful!!! Please do more of this type of article(s).

Thanks,
Alan T. Schroeder, Jr.
Senior Law Librarian
Rutan & Tucker, LLP
Costa Mesa, CA

Correction to the Previous Issue of *The ALL-SIS Newsletter*

Two members of the ALL-SIS Strategic Planning Committee were deleted inadvertently from an article on p. 9 of our Spring Issue: Rhea Ballard-Thrower, Georgia State University, and Trina Robinson, Loyola University-New Orleans. My sincere apologies.

Dear Alan:

Thank you so much for your kind words about our newsletter. I'm glad that the substantive articles are proving useful to our readers. I have forwarded your compliments to the author and to her supervisors. They were very pleased. Thank you for brightening the afternoon.

Best wishes,
James Durham

ALL-SIS

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



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