

RIPS

**Law
Librarian**

Volume 22 • Number 3 • Spring/Summer 2000

RESEARCH INSTRUCTION AND PATRON SERVICES SIS

A Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries

Message From the Chair...

Kristin Gerdy

I can hardly believe it is June already and my year as chair has nearly passed! It seems like only yesterday that we met together in Washington D.C., armed with our new strategic plan, and now in only a few weeks we'll come together again, this time in Philadelphia.

This year we set out sights high and aimed to meet many of the initiatives in the RIPS Strategic Plan. Among them, was to provide outreach to new RIPS members. Thanks to the efforts of many, including Felise Thorpe Moll and Peggy McDermott, this year we sent new RIPS members a welcoming packet of RIPS informational materials.

A second initiative sought to increase participation in SIS activities by members from all types of law libraries. Meeting this initiative included establishing guidelines for the Nominations Committee regarding diversity of candidate employment and creating a new Volunteerism committee that would provide a clearinghouse for members to become involved in RIPS activities.

A third initiative was to review and amend RIPS bylaws as necessary for a revised structure that included electing two at-large board members for two-year, staggered terms; separating the Secretary-Treasurer duties from the Newsletter Editor duties and electing two individuals to those one-year positions; including committee chairs and incoming officers in the Executive Committee; and revising the Object section of the bylaws to become a more meaningful mission statement for the SIS. As you know, this initiative was also successfully met, and our newly revised bylaws are in place.

A final initiative for 1999-2000 was to expand RIPS-sponsored events at the Annual Meeting. First steps in doing that will be introduced this year. We're going to try something new following our Business Meeting on Tuesday evening. Because we ended up with a late afternoon meeting time, the executive board thought it would be fun to organize some informal, no-host dinner groups following the meeting. This will provide you with an opportunity to try out one of Philly's wonderful restaurants with colleagues, to catch up with friends you may only see once a year, and to continue your conversations and enthusiasm about Research Instruction and Patron Services over dinner. More information will be forthcoming on the listserv and at the meeting itself, but mark your calendars now!

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Message From the Chair

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Here's some more of what is in store at the Annual Meeting:

D.R. Jones and her Program Committee have a slate of fabulous RIPS-sponsored programs in store for us. Make sure to check the listing later in the newsletter and put them on your Annual Meeting schedule.

Marc Silverman is again coordinating our four round table discussions. Please plan to attend one or more; these discussions provide an excellent opportunity to discuss issues and ideas with colleagues facing similar challenges.

Peggy McDermott is coordinating the RIPS table in the activities area of the exhibit hall. I'm sure she would be grateful for any volunteers to help staff the table! So, if you are interested in keeping company with our mascot, Puro the Penguin, and helping convince your colleagues that RIPS is *the* SIS to join, please consider volunteering an hour of your time. In addition, this year we will have several 2000 National Legal Research Teach-In Kits to give away at the table.

The RIPS Disintermediation Task Force submitted its report to the AALL Executive Board in October. The Board commended RIPS, and the Task Force in particular, on the "impressive work" and "useful and ambitious" initiatives and activities proposed in the report. The AALL Executive Board encourages us to continue exploring and developing the areas and activities proposed in the report. Now the choice is ours--what should we do? This will be a topic of discussion at the RIPS Business Meeting in Philadelphia—be sure to attend!

There are so many of you that I want to thank for your hard work and dedication to RIPS this year. Each committee chair, committee member, and all others who have volunteered their efforts on behalf of RIPS have done so willingly and responsibly. This is truly an amazing group to work with! Although I hate to start naming names, because doubtless I will forget at least someone, there are a few individuals

who deserve particular mention for their efforts this year. Last fall, Felise Thorpe-Moll took on the thankless task of surveying the membership and coordinating volunteerism efforts. The survey is printed in this issue, so if you haven't had the opportunity to complete it yet, it's not too late. Thanks to Felise's efforts, we were able to involve several new members on RIPS committees this year. Barbara Bintliff coordinated the massive revision of the RIPS Bylaws (we hope that AALL realizes what a fabulous Vice-President/President Elect it is getting!) Pam Melton courageously stepped forward to coordinate the web page committee when Bobby Studwell stepped down after several years of dedicated service. Finally, Marc Silverman single-handedly completed a patron services survey (the results of both surveys will be presented during the RIPS Business Meeting).

It has truly been a great year—and a great beginning to a new millennium. I am grateful to each member of RIPS who has contributed to furthering our mission of expanding opportunities and resources for legal research instruction, reference, and all patron services. I am personally grateful for the opportunity to serve this year. Although I am sad to see it end, I look forward with anticipation and excitement to seeing many of you in Philadelphia in July!

RIPS Election Results

Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the Research Instruction and Patron Services SIS. Joining incoming Chair Kelly Browne are:

- Vice-chair/Chair elect **Marc Silverman**
- Secretary/Treasurer **Melissa Serfass**
- Newsletter Editor **Deanna Barmakian**
- Executive Board Member-at-Large **Jean Wenger**

Thanks to our new officers and to those other dedicated members who ran for office.

Fabulous Philadelphia

By John Necci, Temple University Beasley School of Law Library

As a native Philadelphian, I can tell you that there is an abundance of sightseeing, shopping and dining near the Philadelphia Convention Center. In fact, directly across the street from the Convention Center is the Reading Terminal Market, where you can combine all of the above.

The Reading Terminal Market has been in existence since 1653. It is one of the oldest marketplaces in the United States and it lies below the only remaining single-span, arched train shed in the country. Today, it is a gathering place for shoppers and diners and provides a vista for one of the greatest pastimes in the city—watching Philadelphians!

Upon entering the Market, you will be instantly overcome by the variety of shops. For instance, at Beiler's Bakery you can find Amish cakes and pies being sold by Amish folks in their traditional dress. At Termini's Bakery pastry and cannoli are wrapped and delivered to eager customers by women from South Philadelphia. If Amish or Italian isn't your thing, you can purchase Scottish shortbread at the Old Post Road Farm or classic French pastries at the Thai Singha. There is an equal variety of places to buy fruit, vegetables, or freshly cut flowers.

The Market is particularly popular at breakfast time, when you must arrive early to gain a seat at the Down Home Diner. If the Terminal is popular at breakfast time, it is absolutely bustling at lunch time. There are numerous establishments to choose from. You can eat homemade Mexican food at the 12th Street Cantina, vegetarian cuisine at the Basic 4 Vegetarian Snack Bar, or order pizza or stromboli at "by George." My personal favorite place is DiNik's, where I often bring visitors from out of town so that they can sample succulent roast pork, roast veal, or roast beef, topped with sharp Italian provolone if you desire, served in its own gravy on a round Italian roll.

My colleague Burt Benenson's favorite lunch place in the Market is Rick's Philly Steaks. He claims they are the best steak sandwiches you can get in Center City. This doesn't surprise me, since Rick's is operated by the third generation of the family who

once owned the original and famous "Pat's Steaks" of South Philadelphia.

You can also find places at the market to buy hoagies—Italian luncheon meat sandwiches served on long Italian rolls, which were invented here in Philadelphia, as well as sushi, seafood, and the ever-traditional hot dog and hamburger.

You can shop for specialty items here as well. There are craft shops, chocolate and candy stores, places to buy unique kitchenware (have you tried finding a good cork screw lately?), linens, and, how could I forget, books.

If the hustle and bustle of the Market is too much for you, stroll another two blocks to the east of the Reading Terminal and you will be in Chinatown. An elaborately decorated and ornate two story Chinese gate opens onto a colorful neighborhood filled with a variety of Chinese and Asian Restaurants, delis and grocery stores, such as the Chung May Grocery at 1017 Race Street where you can obtain wasabi peas or rice cracker snacks. I asked the staff of the Temple Law Library for their personal recommendations for restaurants and Noa Kaumeheiwa suggests you try Ocean Harbor located at 1023 Race Street for its Dim Sum; Ethel Fiderer gave excellent references for Thai Garden East, 101 North 11th Street and Panang, a Malaysian restaurant situated at 117 North 10th Street; Burt Benenson favors The Cherry Street Vegetarian Restaurant, a Chinese vegetarian establishment located at 1010 Cherry Street; Tom Scholtes, one of our evening reference desk students, likes Vietnam at 221 North 11th Street. I would also suggest the Imperial Inn for traditional Chinese fare, 146 North 10th Street. Our discriminating student assistant, Josh Villari, gives high praise to the spring rolls at Joe's Peking Duck House at 925 Race Street. All of these restaurants, including the ones at the Reading Terminal, are low to moderately priced.

For a more formal visit to Chinatown contact Chinatown Tours at 215-772-0739. As part of the tour you visit a Chinese deli and pastry shop, see Chinese medicine practiced, have lunch, and receive a souvenir.

A block south of Chinatown is the Gallery, an inner-city mall where there are numerous stores such as Penney's, Kmart, and Strawbridge's. At Strawbridge's, be sure to seek out the Porcellino, an exact replica of the reclining bronze Boer sculpture found in Florence, Italy. There is also a large food court located in the basement of the Gallery.

A few blocks to the West and South of the Philadelphia Convention Center there are also amazing sights to see and places to shop and eat. Towering above the city at 574 feet at Broad and Market is our French Renaissance style City Hall. Tours of City Hall are offered once daily at 12:30 in Room 121. A remarkable calm will visit you in the City Hall Courtyard where you are sheltered from the traffic and bustle. Check out the fish-eye view provided by the chrome orb suspended above the courtyard's center space. You can also separately visit the tower and literally stand at the feet of the huge statute of William Penn while simultaneously acquiring a breathtaking view of Philadelphia.

Diagonally across the street from City Hall on Market Street is Lord and Taylor's Department Store, the former John Wanamaker's. I highly recommend visiting the central atrium, where the Wanamaker Eagle statue sits and where organ concerts are performed daily.

The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts is two blocks west of the Convention Center at 118 North Broad Street. The Academy dates back to the time of Jefferson's Presidency and was America's first art school and art museum. Architecturally, it was modeled after Britain's Royal Academy and inside there are masterpieces by Benjamin West, James Peale, and Winslow Homer.

At one north Broad street stands the wonder of the masonic world, the Philadelphia Masonic Temple. Guided tours of the ornately themed halls are given from Monday through Friday at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.

There are numerous good restaurants to the West and South of the Convention Center too. The Marathon Grille on Chestnut between Broad and Juniper serves reliably good food at low to moderate prices. Ludwig's Garten, a German Restaurant, is one block to the south at Juniper and Sansom; McGillin's Olde

Ale House, the oldest Irish Pub in Philadelphia, is nearby at 1310 Drury Lane and serves reasonably priced food.

Slightly further to the west and south of the Convention Center is what many consider to be Philadelphia's restaurant row. Located between 15th and 17th Street on Walnut Street, these restaurants are generally higher priced and require reservations in advance. Among them are a seafood restaurant, the Striped Bass, recently depicted in the Oscar-nominated film, the Sixth Sense; the Vietnamese inspired Le Colonial; the highly rated French restaurant Le Bec Fin, of which I say -" if you can't go to France, go to Le Bec Fin"; its lower priced companion, the Brasserie Perrier; and the gourmet Chinese restaurant Susanna Foo.

Finally, the Temple Law Library staff recommends their own favorites that are either a ten to fifteen minute walk from the Convention Center or are a short taxi cab ride away. They are as follows: Larry Reilly has enjoyed meals at the moderately priced and stylish restaurant Fork at 306 Market Street, and the Irish restaurant, The Plough and the Stars', 123 Chestnut Street. Ethel Fiderer gave glowing reviews to slightly higher priced food served at Buddakan at 325 Chestnut Street. Noa Kaumeheiwa favors the Painted Parrot Café's dessert buffet special at 209 Chestnut Street and tries to spot local luminaries such as Executive Chef Jim Coleman at Treetops at 210 West Rittenhouse. Larry Reilly, Noa Kaumeheiwa, and myself all recommend the Sansom Street Oyster House, located at 1516 Sansom Street, for seafood at moderate prices, and the Belgian restaurant the Monk's Café at 16th and Spruce for authentic Belgian mussels and frites at low to moderate prices.

I would highly recommend both Italian Restaurant Porcini at 2048 Sansom and Roma at 24th and Lombard, which allow you to bring your own wine and are very reasonably priced. At both places you must arrive early to avoid waiting in line as they do not take reservations. I would also give kudos to the moderately priced dinner and dessert creperie Beau Monde at 6th and Bainbridge.

Please stop by the Hospitality Booth at the Convention Center to say hello, and for further recommendations and directions. Let us know what you think about our suggestions.

Internet Ideas

by Jean M. Wenger, Cook County Law Library

Format is irrelevant. At first glance, this statement sounds heretical, but good information comes in a variety of formats: print, CD, microform, electronic, web-based. Provided the information is from a reliable source, is complete and is as current as necessary, format is not critical. (Certainly, electronic information is easier to disseminate and manipulate for word processing purposes, but that is a separate issue.) Among the patrons that I have assisted over the years (attorneys, judges, government officials, faculty, and law students) there are two identifiable "radical" camps; one views all electronically based information as suspect, and the other considers anything in print not good enough. Diluted strains of these views permeate the balance of the researchers, making our job as teachers and instructors more challenging and complex in the electronic age. Researchers not only need to know what resources to use, but the advantages and disadvantages of how the information is accessed and presented, and how these situations will impact their research experience.

As legal research instructors and trainers, where can we turn for guidance in putting together effective legal research classes?

As legal research instructors and trainers, where can we turn for guidance in putting together effective legal research classes, keeping in mind these challenges? Our colleagues are one of the richest sources of inspiration and assistance, and the Internet has made the means of discovering these collegial treasures much easier. In this short space, the focus will be on a resource, accessible over the web, that can provide a starting point for effective legal research instruction -- advanced legal research course materials and syllabi. This resource benefits not only instructors of for-credit law school courses but also legal research training sessions for attorneys, and students "bridging the gap" between law school and practice.

Advanced legal research courses are being taught in a growing number of law schools due, in part, to the difficulty of instilling solid research skills in first year/first semester law students. Course materials and syllabi from advanced legal research courses

provide examples of how courses are structured, the resources highlighted, and problem sets, questions and hypotheticals for the students to answer.

A sampling of resources include:

Advanced Legal Research Syllabi Collection Clearinghouse compiled by Katherine J. Tooley, University of Tulsa College of Law Library. (law.utulsa.edu/zope/alr_syllabi)

Advanced Legal Research, Spring 2000, Wendy Scott, Associate Librarian for Public Services, H. Douglas Barclay Law Library, Syracuse University. (www.law.syr.edu/faculty/scott/advancedlegalresearch/)

Advanced Legal Research, Fall Semester 1999 (Rev. 3/00) George R. Jackson, Reference/Documents Librarian, University of Minnesota Law Library. Classes have accompanying link for research guides. (www.tc.umn.edu/nlhome/m212/g-jack/ALR/

[syllabus.htm](http://www.tc.umn.edu/nlhome/m212/g-jack/ALR/syllabus.htm)) Materials from training presentations by George R. Jackson on Internet research and legal research and analysis are found at www.tc.umn.edu/nlhome/m212/g-jack/present.htm.

Advanced Legal Research, Spring 1998

(www.yale.edu/lawweb/lawcrs/arc9798/las21034.htm) and Spring 1999 (www.yale.edu/lawweb/lawcrs/arc9899/las21027.htm)

Courses taught by Robert Harrison, Blair Kauffman, Lisa Spar, Yale Law School.

Professor Ruth Levor, Associate Director, Pardee Legal Research Center, University of San Diego (www.acusd.edu/alr/index.html). Includes a sample research journal, links to online research guides, a syllabus with links, and research assignments.

Syllabus with research problems from Professor Joyce Pearson, Director, Kansas University Law Library. (lawstudy.law.ukans.edu/alr/)

The page for Advanced Legal Research (Spring 2000) by Kathleen Vanden Heuvel and Michael Levy, Boalt Hall, University of California, Berkeley has texts of handouts, assignments, and information on compiling pathfinders. (www.law.berkeley.edu/library/classes/alr/)

Advanced Legal Research (Spring 1999) Holliday Osborne, Emory Law School has syllabus, links for required and selected readings, and fact problems. (www.law.emory.edu/pub-cgi/print_hit_bold.pl/LAW/COURSES/ALR/osborneALR.html)

Advanced Legal Research, Philip C. Berwick, Washington University, St. Louis has syllabus, including Powerpoint slides. Professor Berwick also has links for selected hypotheticals. (ls.wustl.edu/Students/Courses/Berwick/syllabus.html)

FCIL-SIS Teaching Foreign and International Law Research Interest Group has compiled a collection of syllabi and course materials for foreign comparative and international law courses from many different institutions. (www.law.lsu.edu/library/aall/index_aall.htm)

The archive for the AALL Professional Development Listserv at: <http://www.aallnet.org/prodev/listserv.asp> includes the discussion *Coordinating Legal Research Training*, February 7 - 18, 2000. Moderated by Nancy McMurrer of University of Washington & Rachel Jones of Dickstein, Shapiro, Morin & Oshinsky, participants from all types of libraries articulated how they educate law students and lawyers to use electronic legal research tools efficiently and effectively.

Listserv: TEACHLAWRES-L@lawlib.wuacc.edu (discussion list about teaching legal research in all kinds of institutions)

Send the following message to listproc@lawlib.wuacc.edu:
subscribe teachlawres-l [your first name and last name]

Core Legal Research Competencies: A Compendium of Skills and Values as Defined in the ABA Macrate Report is a report by the AALL Research Instruction Caucus. (www.aallnet.org/sis/ripssis/core.html)

Volunteers Needed !!!



Volunteers are needed to staff the RIPS table in the Activities area during the AALL annual meeting. At past conferences the table has been a wonderful recruiting tool. Please let Peggy McDermott know if you are able to sit at the RIPS table during one of the following time slots:

Sunday, July 16	---	9:00 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Sunday, July 16	---	10:00 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Monday, July 17	---	2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Monday, July 17	---	3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 18	---	1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 18	---	2:00 p.m. to 3 :00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 18	---	3:00 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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RIPS Business Meeting

Draft Agenda

Research Instruction and Patron Services SIS
Business Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, July 18, 2000

- I. Call to Order
- II. Old Business
 - A. Approval of Minutes from 1999 Business Meeting, printed in Fall, 1999 Newsletter, Vol. 22, no. 1
 - B. Financial Report
 - C. Annual Report to Membership
 - D. Introduction of new officers, board members, and committee chairs
 - E. Committee Reports
 - 1. Public Relations and Recruitment
 - 2. Web Page
 - 3. Research Instruction
 - 4. Patron Services
 - 5. Nominations
 - 6. Programs
 - 7. Volunteerism
 - F. National Legal Research Teach-In
 - G. Disintermediation Task Force
 - H. Briefs in Law Librarianship
- III. New Business
 - A. Program Proposals for 2001 Annual Meeting
 - B. Report on Patron Services Survey
 - C. Disintermediation Task Force Activities
- IV. Adjournment

RIPS Sponsored Meetings & Programs

AALL Annual Meeting, July 15-20, 2000

Date	Time	Program/Meeting
Saturday, July 15	4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Web Page Committee Meeting
	4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting
	6:00 p.m - 7:30 p.m.	TS/OBS/RIPS/CS-SIS Joint Reception
Sunday, July 16	2:15 p.m. - 3:45p.m.	C-5 Greeting Our Lay Patrons at the Gateway: Who Are They and How Can We Help Them?
	4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery Roundtable
	4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Research Instruction Roundtable
Monday, July 17	7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Public Relations & Recruitment Committee Meeting
	1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	E-5 A New Legal Citation Manual: What Will It Mean For Law Librarians?
	5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Circulation Roundtable
	5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Reference Roundtable
Tuesday, July 18	7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Research Instruction Committee Meeting
	10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	G-1 New Look to an Old Subject: Electronic Resources in English Legal Research
	3:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.	I-2 Sexual Harassment After Faragher and Burlington: Is Your Library Practicing Safe Policy?
	3:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.	I-4 Developing Legal Research Problems and Assignments that Work
	5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.	RIPS Business Meeting
	6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Dutch Treat Dinner Groups
Wednesday, July 19	7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Program Committee Meeting
	3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.	L-5 Service Marketing

Program Planning for the AALL 2001 Meeting

by D.R. Jones, Program Committee Chair

It is time to start thinking about programs and workshops for the AALL 2001 Annual Meeting in Minneapolis. The 2001 Annual Meeting is over a year away, but the deadline for program and workshop proposals will fall very quickly after the end of the 2000 Annual Meeting. The deadline will be in August 2000, which doesn't leave much time after the 2000 Meeting to prepare. Now is the time to start thinking about proposals.

The theme for the 2001 Meeting is "New Realities, New Roles." As stated in a recent AALL press release, "the choice of this theme was intended to provide members with an opportunity to learn more about the profound changes going on in our profession, from changes in legal publishing to changes in our libraries and the nature of our jobs." Robert L. Oakley, AALL's Vice President/President Elect, stated that "he hopes members will leave the Conference with the skills to manage those changes effectively and to emerge as leaders in their own organizations, as they deal with these far-reaching developments."

Please submit any proposals that you have, even if they do not fit within the theme of the meeting. Any individual or group can submit a program or workshop proposal. Although you can submit a proposal on your own, you may find it helpful to participate in the RIPS Program Committee. Participating in the Program Committee does not mean that you have to write several programs proposals. What the committee provides for you is a forum for review of your proposal prior to submission, and support and motivation for getting the proposal completed.

For preparing your proposal, you may want to consider enlisting the help of someone in another SIS. RIPS-SIS co-sponsors many proposals with other SISs. Bring your ideas to the Program Committee. We can decide which SIS should provide the formal submission of the program. The RIPS Program Committee is one of the resources available to help you turn your idea into a solid proposal. To find out more about the Committee and submitting proposals, contact me, D.R. Jones, at

drj5@po.cwru.edu or 216-368-2794. The Program Committee will be meeting at the AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia on Wednesday, July 19, 2000, from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Bring your ideas and any drafts of proposals to the meeting. I will also be at the RIPS Business Meeting on Tuesday, July 18, 2000 (the meeting starts at 5:15 p.m.)

You can still participate in the Committee even if you will not be attending the AALL meeting in Philadelphia or will not be able to attend the Committee meeting. We will be creating a listserv for the RIPS Program Committee to discuss proposals and share information. Also, there is "Program Planning and Ideas" section of the RIPS Web Page that contains updated information about program planning as well as a list of previous programs and program suggestions.

The Annual Meeting Program Selection Committee (AMPSC) provides valuable resources that you can use to help prepare a proposal and coordinate a program. An important publication is the Program Planner's Handbook. This publication is *the source* for guidance in preparing proposals. It contains a wealth of advice for preparing programs in addition to the necessary forms. The Handbook will be available through AALLNET (www.aallnet.org). Once a program is accepted, there are additional publications to guide you through putting together a final program. AMPSC will be holding an Open Forum to answer questions about the proposal process. The Open Forum will be on Monday, July 17, 2000, from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Official forms for proposals are contained in the Program Planner's handbook. It is advisable to download the form and word process your submission rather than handwrite or type on the printed form. The way the proposal looks is important, as discussed in an article by Anne Myers on page 28 of the May 1999 *AALL Spectrum*. That article discusses the program selection process and offers insights into how to prepare a strong proposal. A proposal needs to be carefully thought through, and should contain carefully drafted learning outcomes. Start working on those proposals – I look forward to hearing from you!

Counting Crows

(or, A Message from Incoming RIPS Chair Kelly Browne)

As I sit gazing across the Quad on this beautiful late Spring day in Connecticut, contemplating the upcoming Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, now but a brief six weeks away, my attention is drawn to a single crow alighting upon a cherry tree. I am struck by the crow's beauty, its shiny black feathers in stark contrast to the fluffy pink tree blossoms. Then another crow alights. Then another. And another. Suddenly the whole Quad is overtaken by crows! My phone rings. It is the Associate Dean: "We need to get rid of the crows. They're frightening the professors. Find out how we can do it legally."



Quickly I jump on the Internet. Hartford and crows, crows and Hartford . . . I learn the following:

1. The crow population has been a problem in Hartford since the 1950s.
2. Crows typically roost together during the winter for protection and safety and then disperse at the end of March.
3. It is not known why a flock will select a particular area to roost.
4. The most typical health problem caused by the droppings is Salmonella, though people with certain medical conditions may have other specific health risks.
5. State and Federal law ban the killing of crows.
6. The USDA and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection endorse a plan of harassment to encourage birds to relocate. If enough stress is created, the birds will leave an area. A typical plan normally includes a week of playing a distress tape of a crow dying.
7. Natural predators include hawks. Last month, a hawk was seen on the library building. We should encourage the hawk to stay here.

So what do crows have to do with RIPS? Two things: 1) I have always wanted to write a take-off on the usual "From the Chair" column,¹ and 2) We are scary in numbers. Imagine all 546 RIPS members gathered in one place!

But seriously, we have a great group of people again this year and I am really excited to be a part of RIPS. Marc Silverman was elected Vice-Chair/Chair Elect, so we had to fill his one-year unexpired term as Executive Board Member-at Large.² Gail Partin, who already works as hard for RIPS as if she were a member of the board, graciously agreed to fill this vacancy as well as chair the Disintermediation Task Force. Pam Melton will chair the Web Page Committee for another year and Darcy Kirk agreed to chair the Research Instruction Committee again. Peggy McDermott, Joan Shear, and Coral Henning volunteered to continue chairing, respectively, the Public Relations, Nominations, and Listserv Committees. D.R. Jones, whose 1999 RIPS Program Committee had the highest percentage of RIPS Annual Meeting program proposals accepted ever, offered to chair Program Committee again. These committee chairs bring many years of experience and dedication to RIPS, and I am grateful to have each and every one of them return.

We have some new folks who will help energize us, too: Matt Wright offered to head the Volunteerism

Committee previously chaired by Felise Thorpe, and Jessie Cranford agreed to chair the Patron Services Committee, a job Marc Silverman has held for many years. Both of these committees undertook ambitious member surveys last year. It is not too late to complete the Volunteerism survey; it appears elsewhere in this issue. Please take a moment to respond, if you haven't already, and let Matt know how RIPS can best help you (and vice versa :-).

Under Marc Silverman's leadership the Patron Services Committee conducted a lengthy survey of its Circulation-ILL Focus Group last year. One idea that came from this survey was that the Patron Services Committee develop a "SPEC" kit (like the Systems and Procedures Exchange Center publications from ARL) of circulation policies on certain topics such as carrel assignments and fine appeal processes. I know Jessie is looking for volunteers to help her with this exciting project. Please let her know if you are interested.

I know the year ahead is going to be great. As a matter of fact, I'm "counting" on it (and you)!

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- ¹ You know, "As I sit blah blah blah . . ." Plus the crow incident really happened here in March and I thought it was funny. The crows actually left after less than a week of playing their "swan song." This reminds me of another "Chair" joke, though: "When I suggested to him [William Howard Taft, who weighed over 300 pounds] . . . that he occupy a Chair of Law at the University, he said that he was afraid that a Chair would not be adequate, but that if we would provide a Sofa of Law, it might be all right." William Howard Taft, reported in Anson Phelps Stokes, Letter to Frederick C. Hicks, 10 May 1940, in Frederick C. Hicks, William Howard Taft: Yale Professor of Law and New Haven Citizen 112 (1945).
 - ² Not so large that he needs a sofa. See note 1 supra.

Interested in Preparing a Program or Workshop Proposal for the AALL 2001 Meeting?

1. Email D.R. Jones at drj5@po.cwru.edu and let her know you are interested in the Program Committee.
2. Attend the RIPS-SIS Program Committee meeting in Philadelphia on Wednesday, July 19, 2000, from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Bring ideas and any draft of a proposal you have.
3. Attend the RIPS business meeting in Philadelphia on Tuesday, July 18, 2000 from 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.
4. Check the "Program Planning and Ideas Page" section of the RIPS Web Page (www.aallnet.org/sis/ripssis/) for updated links and information about program planning.



Even if you can't attend these meetings you can still participate!

RIPS Membership News

Marianne Sidorski Alcorn, Head of Reference Services at Arizona State University, Ross-Blakley Law Library is coordinator and moderator for the 2000 AALL Annual Meeting Program, Philadelphia. J-1 Will I Ever Be Able to Retire? Planning and Implementing Toward Retirement. She authored "A Comprehensive Overview and Analysis of Pac Ten and Big Ten Law Libraries", *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 17(4):69-92 (1999).

Deanna Barmakian, a Reference Librarian at Harvard Law School, was selected for an award in the AALL/Lexis Publishing Call for Papers program for her paper: Better Search Engines for Law.

Christopher T. Bloodworth, Audio Visual Sciences/Circulation Librarian at Ohio State University, Moritz Law Library was recently elected Chair of the Micrographics-Audio/Visual SIS for the 2000-2001 term. Christopher was appointed as a member of the AALL Diversity Committee.

Therese Clarke, Reference Librarian at the University of Colorado Law Library, presented a Brown Bag Lunch Seminar on Securities Research for the Colorado Association of Law Librarians on February 29, 2000.

Jessie Cranford, Circulation Librarian at the UALR/Pulaski County Law Library, has been accepted into the part-time division of the UALR William H. Bowen

School of Law. She will join the Fall 2000 entering class as a member of the Bowen Scholars Program.

Joel Fishman, Assistant Director for Lawyer Services, Duquesne University/Allegheny County Law Library, and Trinka Reed, Librarian, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, co-authored, "Pennsylvania Citations to New ALI Restatement of the Law of Property on Mortgages." *PBA Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Newsletter*, No. 49 (Winter 2000): 16-18.



Janis Fusaris joined the University of Connecticut School of Law Library Reference team in May. Janis received her J.D. from the University of Connecticut in 1990 and practiced

law before attending Southern Connecticut State University and obtaining her M.L.S. in 1999. Prior to becoming a Reference Librarian at the University of Connecticut Janis worked part-time at the Yale Law School Lillian Goldman Library.

Kristin Gerdy, Visiting Assistant Professor at Temple University Beasley School of Law has been elected Chair of the AALL SIS Council. She has also been named to the AALL Publications Committee.

Jean Wenger, Reference Librarian for Government Documents/Foreign & International Law, Cook County Law Library was elected Director for the Chicago Association of Law Libraries (CALL) 2000-2002.

AALL Time Capsule

Where Will You Be in Twenty-Five Years?

The AALL Public Relations Committee is sponsoring a special project for the Philadelphia annual meeting. All AALL SISs are invited to prepare time capsules which will be stored for twenty-five years. Our SIS can help define what legal research is at this point in time by contributing items to the RIPS time capsule. Submit your suggestions to Kristin Gerdy and bring your objects to the annual meeting. AALL says they can be serious, weird, silly, or sentimental. Let's be imaginative and preserve a record of RIPS for future members.

The RIPS Law Librarian is published three times a year by the Research Instruction & Patron Services Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries.

Publication deadlines for Volume 22 are:

- Number 1 October 1, 1999
- Number 2 February 1, 2000
- Number 3 May 1, 2000

Submissions from Section members are encouraged. Please send submissions to the 1999-2000 editor:

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Materials for publication may be submitted by mail on 3 1/2" disk or by e-mail in WordPerfect or Word format. E-mail is preferred.

The opinions and editorial views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Research Instruction & Patron Services SIS or the American Association of Law Libraries. The Research Instruction & Patron Services SIS does not assume any responsibility for the statements advanced by the contributors to this newsletter.

1999 Research Instruction and Patron Services Member Survey ("RIPS")

The purpose of this survey is to find out how you think RIPS can best serve its members and in particular to find out which projects and activities you think RIPS should perform. The survey also asks about your interest in participating in specific projects and activities. The results will be used to create a list of potential RIPS volunteers. Many of you have already completed this survey. Thanks to the RIPS members who made phone calls and to those who took time to answer. However, many of you have not been called, and we want everyone to have an opportunity to complete the survey. Please mail or fax completed surveys to:

Felise Thorpe-Moll
University of Utah
S.J. Quinney Law Library
332 South 1400 East
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112-0731
Fax: (801) 585-3033

Survey Date _____

Member Information

Name _____

Position _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

The Role of RIPS

What are the advantages of belonging to RIPS?

Are there any projects, activities or services you think RIPS should or should not perform?

Newsletter

Mailing and printing the newsletter absorbs a substantial portion of the RIPS budget. If you could opt out of a print copy and receive the newsletter over the web would you choose the web version?

Volunteers

This is an exciting time for RIPS and RIPS can be as productive as members want RIPS to be. To give you the opportunity to participate in RIPS activities most interesting to you, please answer the three survey sets below.

The first set is designed to produce a list of experts whose talents might be useful on a variety of RIPS projects and activities. On a scale from 1 to 5, 5 indicating an area of significant expertise, 1 indicating no expertise, please indicate your expertise in the following areas:

Web page design/maintenance _____1_____2_____3_____4_____5

HTML _____1_____2_____3_____4_____5

Newsletter publishing/distributing _____1_____2_____3_____4_____5

Newsletter writing/editing _____1_____2_____3_____4_____5

Marketing/public relations _____1_____2_____3_____4_____5

The second set is designed to produce a list of willing volunteers for particular projects. If you are interested in volunteering, which of the following volunteer activities interest you?

Web Page

_____ Web page master

_____ Web page support

Newsletter

_____ Writing articles

_____ Publishing Assistant

_____ Distributing Assistant

Public Relations and New Member Recruitment Committee

_____ Recruiting new members by contacting library schools and law school career services offices

_____ Assisting with new member packets, welcoming new members by phone etc.

_____ Staffing the RIPS table during the AALL Annual Meeting

_____ Soliciting sponsors for RIPS events and activities

Volunteerism Committee

_____ Recruiting volunteers for committees and projects by phone tree and e-mail

_____ Being a mentor

Program Committee

_____ Meet during the AALL Annual Meeting to identify potential programs and draft proposals

Research Instruction Committee

_____ Review and edit Core Legal Research Competencies report

Patron Services Committee

_____ Participate in a focus group about the services RIPS provides to circulation, interlibrary loan and non-reference librarians

Other

_____ Lead a round table discussion at the AALL Annual Meeting

The third set is designed to give RIPS an approximate idea about how much time you might be willing to volunteer.

_____ Annually, not over five hours per year

_____ Quarterly, not over five hours per quarter

_____ Monthly, not over five hours per month

_____ Weekly, not over five hours per week

Other

Do you have any questions, comments or suggestions about this survey or RIPS in general?

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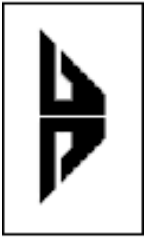
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