

R I P S

Law Librarian

A Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries

Volume 30, Number 1
Spring 2008

From the Chair...Irene Good, 2007-08 RIPS-SIS Chair

Welcome to another issue of the RIPS Newsletter. The topic for this issue, "Using Technology in Legal Research Instruction," says a lot about how technologically savvy librarians are. Using technology in our profession is nothing new when we consider the impact Lexis, Westlaw, and the Internet have had on legal research instruction. I started teaching legal research in 1996, and I'll never forget the thrill of teaching students how to use a citator online after teaching them to use print *Shepard's*. It seemed like a miracle to them and me. Recreating that thrill is why I love incorporating technology into my teaching. I stopped teaching print *Shepard's* a few years ago, but I've found other ways to use technology to make my classes more exciting:

Last year I used clickers to review basic research concepts with my students. I was able to test students' comprehension with the clickers when I reviewed a topic. As a result, students appeared more engaged in the lecture than when I would simply present the material in a PowerPoint presentation.

Two years ago I began using a document camera to demonstrate how to use statutes in print. A document camera captures the color and texture of an object placed on it and then displays the object enlarged on a screen. Teaching with a document camera is like watching live TV. Students can see my hands turn the pages and browse the index or table of contents while I answer a hypothetical question. The picture is so clear I think my hands are part of a commercial for the United States Code. Caution: get a manicure before using a document camera.

These are just two examples of technologies I use to teach legal research, and I'm sure you will find many new ideas for incorporating technology into your teaching in this issue.

On a related technology note, for eleven years I've been an information librarian and educational technology specialist for the Boston College Law Library. During this time, I've worked with some terrific colleagues. Recently I changed jobs, and I am no longer working in a law library. Currently I am the Director of Academic Technology for Suffolk University Law School. Although this position is not part of the law library, I've decided to maintain my membership in AALL and continue as Chair for RIPS. RIPS and AALL have provided me with so many connections to talented people, technology advances, and new practices in legal research that I want to do my part to continue to serve both organizations.

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Webbed Features: RIPS Repartee Webinar Series Begins

Robb Farmer, Instructional Services/Research Librarian, Faulkner University Jones School of Law Library

Beginning in 2007, Puron is putting the “on” in online continuing education opportunities. On November 15th the RIPS-SIS presented its first webinar titled “Technical Issues & Practical Matters: A Law Librarian Q & A on Legal Technology.” This initial entry in the planned RIPS Repartee series was primarily funded by a grant of \$2,298.00 awarded to the special interest section by the AALL Continuing Education Committee on June 15th. Registration for the presentation was filled to capacity, as more than 50 participants pulled up a virtual chair and listened to a presentation by Catherine Sanders Reach, director of the American Bar Association’s Legal Technology Resource Center. Ms. Reach provided her audience with an update on recent developments in technology related to legal research and practice, with the bulk of her presentation devoted to answering questions submitted by law librarians from around the country.

Electronic discovery; knowledge management; RSS feeds; e-journals; Web 2.0; new software platforms: with every technological advance come new challenges. The legal profession uses, chooses, and, sometimes, abuses technology on a daily basis. Some days it’s a godsend; other days it’s a necessary evil. The only constant in legal technology is change, and it constantly changes how law is practiced, taught, researched, and written. Law librarians are on the front line dealing with all the changes, with similar duties across the board. Troubleshooting and field testing equipment; teaching and marketing online databases; selecting, loading and updating software – answers to questions about these common duties are of use to everyone. Legal technology is a broad subject, and no single program could adequately address the concerns of law librarianship as a whole. But, by addressing issues raised by a wide variety of librarians, the focus of this webinar was to identify hot topics for librarians from various geographic regions and library types.

To address these issues, RIPS sought the assistance of Catherine Reach and the ABA Legal Technology Re-

source Center. Many legal professionals turn to Ms. Reach and her staff at the LTRC, as the Center provides access to a comprehensive collection of technology and information resources. Staying at the forefront of technology issues facing the legal community, the LTRC offers education and training on technical usage and trends to attorneys and information professionals alike. Ms. Reach drew from over thirty pre-submitted questions in preparing her presentation. Recovering from an ironic brush with computer problems suffered right before the presentation began, her discussion touched on a number of interesting subjects, including:

- Trends in technology usage in law firms
- Virtual learning environments like Second Life
- Social networks and their impact on the legal profession
- Web-based presentation software
- Electronic media and the digital divide
- Advances in courtroom video, and
- Web 2.0 initiatives

Both the audio, and the visual components of the webinar were recorded for future use, and a link to the presentation can be accessed from the RIPS website at <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/ripssis/>.

An important point that arose several times throughout the webinar was how new technologies encourage and foster collaborative learning, and collaborative learning is what the RIPS Repartee Series is all about. The thing I like most about the RIPS-SIS is its inclusiveness. Our profession seems to establish a lot of borders: geographic, job focus, library type, etc. Though there may be the occasional skirmish, the borders are peaceful, but the distinctions are logical and firmly established. However, research, instruction, and service to patrons are three aspects of law librarianship that cross nearly all borders.

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I've been fortunate, because I've gotten to drift among several of the library camps. When I practiced, I spent a lot of time in court and government libraries. Since then, I've been both a firm librarian, and an academic. I've been a reference librarian, a circulation manager, and, a government document librarian. I've observed catalogers in their natural habitat, and, though I've never been a technical services librarian, I was made party to their mystical ways as public services liaison to the Arizona State University Technical Services department. Despite the differences in collection, patron type, size, structure or function, at least one, and usually all of the RIPS initials applied. The methods and means may have varied, but the end results were learning how to find information; retrieving it; and getting it to the end user.

The great philosopher, Homer Simpson once noted, "Our differences are only skin deep, but our sames go down to the bone." As the legal profession becomes more interdisciplinary and the information profession becomes more interconnected, we law librarians can learn even more from our differences, and our sames. All of us have both something to learn, and something to teach. The RIPS Repartee Webinars were developed with that in mind, for the virtual environment of a webinar provides the opportunity of presentation and participation without regard to location. Programs will also be recorded and archived for later distribution, thereby reaching and even wider audience. Webinar topics will vary, but selection criteria will include: new research tools; cost efficient research; query drafting; research process; distance/digital reference and instruction; digital resources; and individual subject area research.

More importantly, the RIPS series will showcase librarians from a variety of backgrounds sharing their practical experience and expertise. The possibilities for collaborative learning are endless. Court librarians teach academic librarians the magic of electronic docket searches. Academic librarians share methods of searching historical databases, like Making of Modern Law, with their firm librarian counterparts. Firm librarians offer tips on making the intuitive leaps necessary to answer a research question in five minutes. Baby Boomer and Millennial librarians will exchange research methods. Catalogers

show reference librarians how to mine catalog records for access points. Participants can garner many benefits from these shared experiences, including:

- More effective use of research tools and legal technology;
- Improved accuracy of information retrieval and speed of delivery;
- Improved cost effectiveness and resource allocation; and
- Identification of potential research tools; other libraries that utilize/possess those tools; and professional colleagues from whom they can seek assistance.

Our differences are going to make our sames even stronger, and RIPS can be the United Nations of special interest sections.

This first RIPS webinar and those that follow have resulted from the hard work and vision of a number of people. The ad hoc committee that drafted the grant proposal, developed the series concept, and implemented the initial program was established on February 23, 2007. Jumping in with both (webbed) feet, we found the learning curve steep, the hours long, and the advertising preparation maddening. But, the end result was a good one, and we envision great things for the RIPS Repartee series. As chair of the committee, I would like to thank the following for their time and assistance:

- **Peggy McDermott** and **Michelle Rigual**; Webinar Committee members
- **Irene R. Good**; RIPS-SIS Chair
- **Jessie Wallace Burchfield**; Immediate Past RIPS-SIS Chair
- **Jennifer S. Murray**; RIPS-SIS Vice-Chair/Chair Elect
- **Celeste R. Smith**; Education Manager, AALL
- **Carole Hinchcliff**; Immediate Past Chair, AALL Continuing Professional Education Committee

Now, let's continue to make this series a rousing success. See you on the computer.

Creating Multimedia Research and Software Tutorials with Screencasting Software

Sara Kelley, Reference/Electronic Services Librarian, Georgetown University Law Library

In 2001, Georgetown University Law Library developed several web-based legal research tutorials designed to teach first year law students the basics of legal research. These tutorials were written in HTML and included a few images, pop-up windows that let students try out the web-based research methods that were being described, and a very few unscored review questions in some tutorials. The tutorials were assigned reading in most sections of first year Legal Research and Writing at Georgetown. Topics included secondary sources, case law research, statutory research, regulatory research, legislative history, and international law research. Interested readers can find an example of these HTML-based tutorials at <http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/tutorials/cases/one/index1.html> (Cases and Digests Research Tutorial).

Although the HTML tutorials remained popular with our legal writing faculty even in early 2007, Georgetown's reference librarians had by that time concluded that the old tutorials were too "low-tech" and too text-driven to appeal to students who have grown up using multimedia learning and entertainment tools. During the spring and summer of 2007, we therefore set out to create new tutorials that incorporate a lot more graphics, scored review questions, interactive demonstrations of online research tools, and even a few animations and sound effects. For example, our new, multimedia case law research tutorial is available at <http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/tutorials/cases/index.cfm>.

We created the new tutorials using relatively easy-to-use screencasting software. "Screencasting" is the process of recording a movie of your computer desktop as you demonstrate a program or database. Most screencasting software will allow you to record accompanying audio narration, and some software will also let you include static image slides and captions or whole screens of text to describe what is being demonstrated. The best screencasting software allows you to create simulations with which users can interact.

In the process of making our new, richly detailed tutorials, we realized that screencasting software could also be used to create simple software demonstrations. This functionality came in handy when Georgetown Law recently switched to Microsoft Outlook for email and calendar management. For an example, see <http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/ww/ers/docs/libcalendar-to-personalcalendar.swf>.

Available Screencasting Programs

There are many screencasting tools on the market, with a variety of features and prices. During the planning stages of our tutorial project we considered three different programs, described below. All three produce Flash (.swf) files, as well as other output formats.

Wink

Wink is a freeware screencasting program available from <http://www.debugmode.com/wink/>. Quite simply, it captures what you do onscreen as you do it and add text captions to the videos after recording. The latest version also allows you to record accompanying narration. Besides outputting .swf files, Wink will also export projects to HTML, PDF, text (only the captions are exported in this format), and PostScript. The HTML export option is crude, essentially creating one long web page that links to each screen shot as a separate image. Because it lacks interactivity features such as quiz generation, Wink is not a great tool for creating detailed tutorials. However, it is a very reasonable (free!) option for creating simple software and database demonstration videos. Wink is available for Windows and Linux.

Adobe Captivate

Adobe Captivate (<http://www.adobe.com/products/captivate/>), the software we eventually chose to create

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our new tutorials, is almost as user-friendly as PowerPoint, yet produces sophisticated interactive Flash videos. Captivate not only allows you to capture full-motion video demonstrations with or without narration, but also allows you to create click-by-click interactive simulations, text- and static-image screens (much like PowerPoint slides), branching interactive scenarios, and scored review questions. Captivate's only video output option is Flash, but it also allows you to export your text captions as a Word document or to your recorded narration as a separate audio file. A single-user Captivate license costs \$699 for non-academic purchasers or \$199 for academic purchasers, and is available for Windows systems only. Volume pricing is also available.

Because of its branching, text editing, and quiz-generating features, Captivate is an excellent tool for creating in-depth tutorials on any subject, and is more than sufficient for producing simple software demonstrations. Furthermore, learning Captivate is relatively easy, especially if you are familiar with PowerPoint. We were able to get most of our reference staff using Captivate within a short period of time.

TechSmith Camtasia

Camtasia (<http://www.techsmith.com/camtasia.asp>) is a relatively full-featured commercial alternative to Captivate. It allows you to capture software demonstration videos with or without narration, however, it doesn't easily let you create text-only or static-image slides. (There are some workarounds, such as creating the static slides in PowerPoint and then capturing your screen as you "perform" the PowerPoint presentation.) Camtasia does include a quiz-generation feature and has excellent video and audio editing capabilities. It also has many video output options, including Flash, QuickTime, Windows Media, and AVI. However, we at Georgetown Law found Camtasia to be less user-friendly than Captivate. Since usability may be in the eye of the beholder, anyone considering investing in commercial screencasting software ought to download trial versions of both Captivate and Camtasia to compare them before making a final purchase decision. Camtasia is available for Windows systems only. A

single-user Camtasia license costs \$179 for academic purchasers or \$299 for non-academic purchases. Volume pricing is also available.

Accessibility Considerations

In general, Flash video is not very accessible for screen reader (visually impaired) users. In theory, Adobe Captivate can be used to produce accessible Flash, but in practice this is very difficult. For example, Captivate allows you to provide keyboard shortcuts for usually mouse-driven events, but unless you are pretty familiar with the way screen readers work, you will probably wind up assigning shortcuts that conflict with key combinations assigned to regular screen reader functions.

Instead of trying to produce accessible Flash video, we made an effort to provide descriptive captions for the onscreen images and actions. Then, we exported the captions to Word and converted the resulting documents to screen-reader compatible PDF. We included screenshots in these documents in order to provide a printable alternative for sighted students who might not want to work through the tutorials online; screen reader software will ignore these screenshots.

If you want to include audio narration in your tutorials or software demonstrations, you should also plan to provide equivalent text captions for the hearing impaired. If you are working with any of the three programs reviewed here, these captions will not be "closed," but will be visible to all users.

Conclusion

Both students and faculty have so far responded favorably to our new tutorials. However, if we had the opportunity to do the project over again, we would probably give ourselves more time to adopt design standards for use in all the tutorials (there are six in all), record narration, and conduct usability testing. We hope to conduct usability testing in the near future, and to revise the tutorials based on our findings.

RIPS Grant Winner: Sherri Thomas

I Thought it Was Called the “Big Easy,” Impressions from the AALL Annual Meeting **Sherri Thomas, Law Librarian & Asst. Prof. of Law Librarianship, University of New Mexico Law Library**

The 2007 AALL Annual Meeting was a success, but this time it seemed to take a lot more work to make it so. This was the first year of the shortened schedule, and I noticed a huge difference between it and my first meeting the year before. For those folks who are used to full plates, AALL is always hectic, but this was a different kind of busy. My colleagues all seemed to be double and triple booked with business meetings, must-attend presentations, and speaking engagements. The shortened schedule had a lot to do with it, but another major factor is that active members of AALL are just that - active.

Some AALL members were already tired the Friday before the Annual Meeting proper began, having volunteered for the community service opportunities organized by AALL. It was a wonderful way to help out the people of New Orleans outside of tourist dollars. I was able to simultaneously offer my assistance, meet new people, and attach names from listserv postings to faces. Almost everyone at my community service event was a Conference presenter, held office in some SIS (incoming and outgoing), volunteered time to help run the Conference, or had found some way to just be “involved” with some aspect of AALL. Not that these people were self-promoters. I was surprised at how many of them I saw at volunteer booths over the rest of the conference.

However, the concentration of active members did not really hit me until I went to the business meetings. There is a group of individuals out there that I will call the “doers.” These are those special law librarians who find the energy to hold office in at least one SIS or Caucus and are affiliated with at least three other groups as someone who can be relied on to get work done.

During the Closing Banquet, I looked out at some relieved, but exhausted faces. I wondered why it seems the same people were under the gun every year. Looking out into this crowd of vivacious professionals, I wondered why the workload was not dispersed more evenly. It is amazing how so many people attend AALL, but so few participate. If you can get all of these people to travel to St. Louis and

then to New Orleans during the hottest, most humid time of the year, two years in a row, why is it so hard to get them to participate in SISs, Caucuses, etc.?

Now, I’m not so naïve to think that this phenomenon is due to a general apathetic malaise of law librarians. Rather, there are many reasons why so many choose not to actively participate. We are all very busy being law librarians, and for many of us, that means putting in more than 40 hours every week. There is also the “I’m on vacation” attitude that we must fight when we are unchained from our desks and let into the light. Some of us are subject to administrators that do not support involvement in organizations besides the one we work for and others, though supported, have to plan around the “rotation” factor that is involved in conference attendance. For instance, my institution has implemented a “two on, one off” conference attendance policy, so I understand that many law librarians cannot be involved every year. However, even with these obstacles, is it not possible that more librarians can find ways to participate?

More participation by more members is more important than even due to the shortened conference schedule. This year I, and many others, had to make some very hard choices about what we wanted to attend, what we could not attend, when we were going to leave early, and when we were going to arrive late. I cannot recall the exact number of times I overheard someone saying, “I really WANT to go to that, but I HAVE to go to this.” I am not faulting the scheduling committee, as they did a wonderful job in shoe-horning so much into so little time. Unfortunately, it caused double, triple, and even quadruple booking.

This is my call to more members to come forward and say “let me help,” or, better yet, “I can do that” and then to actually do it.

The author would like to thank the RIPS SIS and the RIPS Grant Committee for selecting her as the 2007 RIPS Grant Recipient.

RIPS-SIS Annual Meeting Grant

Don't miss this chance to have the Research Instruction and Patron Services SIS cover your full registration expenses to attend the AALL Annual Meeting in Portland. You don't even have to be a RIPS-SIS member.

The grant application can be found at: <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/ripssis/recent.shtml>.

Purpose: The purpose of the Research Instruction and Patron Services Special Interest Section (RIPS-SIS) Annual Meeting Grant is to assist individuals with registration expenses for the American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting. Individuals chosen to receive a grant have the potential to make a significant contribution to law librarianship through their involvement with AALL and the RIPS-SIS. The grants are funded by the RIPS-SIS.

Qualifications: AALL membership is required of all applicants. Preference will be given to applicants who are members of the RIPS-SIS at the time of application. However, membership in RIPS is not required. In the event that circumstances prevent the use of the grant by a grant recipient, the grant shall revert back to the RIPS-SIS.

Grant Awards: The RIPS-SIS Annual Meeting Grant will cover full registration expenses for the AALL Annual Meeting. RIPS-SIS members will also receive an appointment to a RIPS-SIS committee. Non-members will receive a free one-year membership in RIPS-SIS and a committee appointment. In exchange for receiving grant funding, recipients will be required to write an article for the RIPS-SIS newsletter describing their impressions of the AALL Annual Meeting.

Deadline: Completed applications must be e-mailed by April 25, 2008. Late applications may be considered at the discretion of the Committee.

Grant Committee:

- **Ron Wheeler**, Associate Director for Public Services, Georgia State University College of Law Library in Atlanta, GA
- **Lynn Murray**, Head of Research Services at Underwood Library, Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas
- **James G. Durham**, Head of Public Services, The Gould Law Library of Touro Law Center in Central Islip, New York.

To Apply: Email completed applications to **Ron Wheeler**, Chair, RIPS-SIS Grant Committee at wheeler@gsu.edu.

Apply today!



RIPS Program Proposals

Jennifer Murray, Asst. Director Maricopa County Superior Court Law Library
Chair, RIPS Program Committee

The RIPS Program Committee received an exciting selection of program proposals this year. Committee members **Robb Farmer** of Jones School of Law Library at Faulkner University, **William Magee** of Regent University Law Library, **Tammy Pettinato** of the UCLA School of Law Hugh & Hazel Darling Law Library, and **Jane Underwood** of Capital University Law Library read through each proposal and ranked them carefully. After consideration, the following programs were sponsored and forwarded to the Annual Meeting Program Committee (AMPC) for their review.

The programs marked with an asterisk (*) were accepted by AMPC.

Designing Divas--Learn Simple Techniques to Create Captivating Displays

Proposed by: **Suzanne Morrison**
U.S. Courts Branch Librarian, U.S. Court of Appeals
Eighth Circuit Library

Energize displays using simple techniques that allow information to pop out and grab the attention of your audience. Market your library using displays that not only attract attention but also educate and tell a story. Join the Designing Divas as they share their stories and experiences of falling into a new niche as their jobs evolved and began to include designing displays. See displays they have created, including the 150th anniversary of the Dred Scott decision, the commemoration of the 50 year anniversary of the Little Rock desegregation case and more. Be prepared to participate in the action.

Evolving from Snoozing to Using: Increasing Student Centered Learning Using Educational Technology

Proposed by: **Leah Sandwell-Weiss**
Reference Librarian, Law Library, Rogers College of Law, University of Arizona

Law librarians from the Rogers College of Law, The University of Arizona, will demonstrate how they used educational technology both inside and outside the classroom to increase student engagement and create an environment of student-centered learning in their introductory, intermediate, and advanced legal research classes. They will discuss their strategies for moving away from a paradigm where students are passive recipients of PowerPoint presentations to one where students are actively engaged in constructing knowledge and solving research problems in class. Implementation of four educational technologies will be discussed. Students reviewed short instructional Flash videos created using Breeze Presenter and Camtasia before class so more class time could be devoted to working through hypothetical research problems. Librarians used CALI Insta-Poll, a real-time polling software that works over the Internet, to increase classroom participation by encouraging students to respond to questions posed to the class. Librarians also used mind mapping software during classes to facilitate class-wide collaboration when creating conceptual maps of research strategies. For homework, students were assigned to collaborate on research guides using wikis. The discussion will include critiques of the different technologies, including the ease of implementation and feedback from students.

***Evolving Legal Education: Adding Law Practice Technology to the Curriculum**

Proposed by: **Kenneth Hirsh**
Director of Computing Services, Duke University
School of Law

In today's world, courts require electronic filing; lawyers communicate by email and depose witnesses remotely; files are stored digitally and knowledge management systems organize institutional memory. Software helps identify client conflicts, and is used to prepare courtroom

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stimulations. Lawyers advance their presence to the world through law firm websites and by contributing to blogs. Yet most law students graduate with little exposure to how these technologies are changing the practice of law, or to their ethical implications for the practitioner. This program presents an overview of courses at two law schools that provide students an introduction to technology's impact on current law practice, as well as hands-on experience using a variety of legal technologies. The program considers the impetus behind these courses; identifies course goals; looks at how technology is used in the classroom to meet these goals; and presents an overview of the format and content of the courses, including the incorporation of an ethical component. Speakers will discuss the selection and sequence of topics, and provide concrete examples of subjects covered, for example: metadata as an element of electronic evidence. Types of student assignments, problems encountered, and other practical considerations will be identified. The audience will have an opportunity to share similar teaching experiences.

***Exploring Direct Results: Energizing Teaching Using Audience Response Tools**

Proposed by: **Jeffrey Frey**

Library Director, Stool Kennan Ogden, PLLC

Seminar presentations are tricky. Preparation, delivery and connection are key components to conducting a successful meeting. Studies have demonstrated that interactive learning techniques enhance content and increase knowledge retention. Equipped with the Audience Response System (ARS) technology, lecturers can now use an innovative, interactive delivery system designed to grab audiences' attention. With ARS technology, a speaker can survey audience demographics, ask multiple choice or true/false questions and, within seconds, see the audience responses. Upon closing the survey, lecturers can immediately present the results for discussion and confirmation. This program will highlight how the combination of ARS technology and PowerPoint presentations empower lecturers to connect with their audiences more effectively.

***Exploring Library 2.0: Stretching the Boundaries of Virtual Reference Services**

Proposed by: **June Casey**

Reference Librarian & Coordinator of Pro Bono Research, Harvard Law School Library

Second Life! Facebook and MySpace! Avatars! IM Chat! Are you using these Library 2.0 practices in your library? The intent of Library 2.0 theory and practice is to give library patrons ready and flexible access to information whenever and wherever they may be, thereby breaking down some of the traditional barriers to service imposed by time and space. Library 2.0 is a user-centered paradigm focusing on knowledge, experience, collaboration, and in some instances, the creation of new content by communities of library users. A panel of academic law librarians will share their own libraries' practical experiences with Library 2.0 theory and technology in the context of expanding the reach of reference services to the users' virtual environment. Discussion will include how and why each library implemented a particular Library 2.0 tool into their existing reference activities including the following: the use of virtual reference avatars and islands in Second Life; the use of social networking tools such as Facebook and MySpace; the use of Live Instant Chat; and the use of customized course pages incorporating virtual reference. The speakers will explain how Library 2.0 technology helped them to improve the delivery of reference services to populations of users who would not otherwise be served by their libraries.

***How to Produce a Legal Bibliography Play: An Actors' Workshop for Law Librarians**

Proposed by: **Kelly Browne**

Assistant Director for Public Services, Sacramento County Public Law Library

In 1998, Joe C. Morris and Rhea Ballard-Thrower wrote a short legal bibliography presentation, titled "Throw the Book at Them," for the Georgia Commission of Media Organizations (COMO). In the play a female detective, named Lieutenant Columbia, determines (with the help of the audience, as she has forgotten which laws would apply in such a situation) that a murder has been com-

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mitted in the law library by a local department store fashion buyer who dispatched the victim because she wore white shoes after Labor Day. The presentation, published in the fall 1998 issue of the Legal References Services Quarterly, was very popular. Copycat (with permission, of course) programs soon followed. Fast forward ten years later: the Northern California Association of Law Libraries (NOCALL) Public Access Committee is planning an update of “Throw the Book at Them” to take on the road to show Northern California public librarians the legal resources available to them in their own libraries. Since few adult learners today are familiar with the TV show “Columbo,” of which “Throw the Book at Them” is a parody, and fewer (sadly) still are familiar with the fashion rule against wearing white shoes after labor day, NOCALL member Kelly Browne decided to update the play and parody “Boston Legal.” Join Al Podboy as pompous, forgetful Denny Crane, Joan Howland as stern but beautiful Shirley Schmidt, and James Duggan as he-of-dubious-moral-values Alan Shore as they struggle with basic legal resources. After the show the cast and crew will share tips and techniques for producing interactive legal bibliography “plays” that will appeal to adult learners, followed by a question and answer period. Each participant will receive a “template” for adapting the “Boston Legal” parody to the laws of a specific state.

***Serving the Mentally Ill Patron: Theory and Techniques for Safe Interactions**

Proposed by: **Jennifer S. Murray**
Assistant Director, Maricopa County Superior Court Law Library

Public law libraries can attract patrons with a variety of mental illnesses. However, librarians typically are not versed in how to interact with such individuals or identify warning signs of potentially dangerous situations. This program will give you the basic skills need to improve your ability to interact with the mentally ill. The speaker, who works with Washington County (Oregon) Adult Mental Health, is experienced with helping library staff to work effectively and respectfully with mentally ill patrons. With her guidance, you can develop an ap-

propriate reference interview for mentally ill patrons and identify warning signs in their behavior that should be cause for concern. This program will leave you with the ability to treat this special patron base with the dignity they deserve while, at the same time, preserving the safety and learning environment for both other patrons and the library staff.

***Using WorldCat.org's Social Software to Promote the Law Library**

Proposed by: **Jacqueline Cantwell**
Senior Law Librarian, Brooklyn Supreme Court Law Library

How can law libraries reach out to people who want legal information, but are unaware of law libraries? How can we promote law libraries as reliable sources for legal information? The content we develop in pathfinders and legal research guides are often part of the deep web and may not be easily found. We need to take advantage of social software technology supported on OCLC's WorldCat.org. Even with limited budgets and time, law librarians can utilize WorldCat.org to post legal lists (also known as bibliographies or pathfinders), reviews of legal books, and to create canned searches that will help users find useful materials. The speaker will outline WorldCat.org's potential for law libraries, demonstrate ways she has applied it in her own library, and share her experiences working with OCLC staff.

We Are the World: Dealing with Foreign Issues in a U.S. Law Library

Proposed by: **John Cannan**
Associate Law Librarian, Montgomery County Circuit Court Law Library

Upward trends in immigration and increasing globalization mean that law librarians will face progressively more foreign patrons with problems in this country and/or domestic patrons with legal issues overseas. To evolve to meet these patrons' needs, law librarians must “globalize” their perspective. This program will propel this evolution through advancing the cultural competency necessary to assist patrons with foreign legal is-

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sues. In the context of law librarians, cultural competency involves finding the tools to create an understanding between different legal systems. This program will have two components. The first will contain instruction on developing a cultural competency program to serve foreign born patrons or those with interests overseas. The second will focus an important area of cultural competency— international family law issues.

The Program Committee also sponsored the following workshop:

***Conducting Empirical Legal Research**

Proposed by: **Jill Duffy**

Research Librarian, Supreme Court of the United States, Washington, DC

Empirical legal research uses data analysis grounded in social science to study the law and its impact on society. In recent years, empirical legal studies have rapidly emerged as an essential component of legal research and scholarship. Law librarians can be instrumental in helping empirical legal researchers with this type of scholarship, but it often involves understanding the complexities of data sets and data manipulation. The goal of this workshop is to provide practical hands-on knowledge to law librarians who are trying to assist with the research process for empirical legal studies. Though of particular interest to academic law librarians in reference and faculty services who work with empirical legal scholars, this workshop can also be instrumental to law firm librarians assisting attorneys with briefs or trial strategy as well as government law librarians who encounter empirical legal research in their work. Participants need no background or knowledge of statistics to enroll in the workshop. Through both a lecture format and hands-on computer work, workshop participants will acquire a broad understanding of empirical legal research and will receive an introduction to manipulation of data using Stata statistical software. Temporary licenses for Stata software will be provided to participants free of charge.

Notices

Birthday Celebration — Puron Turns Ten!

It was at the 1998 AALL meeting in Anaheim when **Puron** made his debut as RIPS's "official penguin." In order to mark this important event, RIPS will have a birthday celebration for Puron at the 2008 meeting in Portland.

The Public Relations Committee is planning the event, which will be a combination breakfast and business meeting on Monday, July 14 at 7am. Breakfast will begin at 7am. We will serve scrambled eggs, bacon, chicken apple sausage, breakfast potatoes, sliced seasonal fruit, and assorted breads and pastries. Cost is \$10 per person. Special mementos will be distributed, and Puron will discuss his travels to such places as Philadelphia, Provo, Hartford, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Little Rock and beyond during his ten years with RIPS.

The business meeting is free and will begin at 7:30am. All RIPS members are invited to attend.

RIPS Helps Fund Community Service Projects in Portland

RIPS-SIS is contributing \$100 to help fund community service projects in Portland. This year AALL is organizing two community service opportunities: one with the Oregon Food Bank and the other with the Portland Parks & Recreation Community Gardens. Both will take place Saturday, July 12, 9am-noon, plus travel time. The RIPS-SIS funds will be applied towards the cost of bus transportation. More information on these projects will be available in future Conference Updates.

RIPS Website Updated

The RIPS-SIS website has a new look and feel. Thanks to **Ed Beltz**, Associate Director for Law Library and Computing, Texas Tech University Law Library, we can maintain and update the site more efficiently. Go to <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/ripssis/> to check it out. Suggestions for new content are always welcome!

Member News

Dennis Kim-Prieto, Reference Librarian at Rutgers School of Law in Newark recently authored an article that will be published in the *Law Library Review*. In the article, entitled "En la tierra del ciego, el tuerco es rey," he examines the current state of English-Spanish bilingual dictionaries and annotates some of the more popular items in the field of English-Spanish bilingual dictionaries.

Lauren M. Collins has been promoted from her position as Reference Librarian to Head of Reference Services at the Duke University Law Library. Prior to joining Duke in March 2007, Lauren was the Public Service Librarian responsible for library instructional initiatives at the Arthur Neef Law Library at Wayne State University School of Law.

Duke will also welcome two new reference librarians to the library staff this summer.

- **Amy Taylor**, currently a Reference Librarian at Georgetown Law Library, will join the staff in May. Amy, a former United States Supreme Court intern, will work with several faculty services projects including the Law Library's Empirical Legal Research Initiative.
- **Molly (Mary) Brownfield** will join the library in July. She will serve as coordinator of the Law Library's Faculty Research Assistants Program. Molly comes to Duke from the Rutgers-Newark Law Library and is a former Tarlton Law Library Fellow.

The University of New Mexico Law Library is pleased to announce that **Marcia Baker, Ernesto Longa, Theresa Strike, and Sherri Thomas** accepted appointments to the Faculty and Public Services Department of the Law Library. Each librarian will assume the tenure-track position of Assistant Professor of Law Librarianship.

- **Marcia Baker** was a reference librarian at the Wake Forest University School of Law Professional Center Library. She has also worked at other academic, private, and public law libraries and has an extensive record of legal publications.
- **Ernesto Longa** received the Earl Borgeson Research in Law Librarianship Award for his research on America's First Jim Crow Law School Library and Staff. Before coming to UNM, Ernesto worked as a graduate assistant at the University of Washington, Marian Gould Gallagher Law Library, and at the law firm of Greenberg Traurig in Miami.
- **Theresa Strike** comes to UNM after working as a reference librarian at both the University of Minnesota and at the Warren E. Burger Library at William Mitchell College of Law.
- **Sherri Thomas** has been working in the Law Library as a Visiting Librarian for the past two years. In that time, Sherri created the two-credit-hour Indian Law Research course, was appointed to the Law School's Indian Law Faculty Committee and the Indian Law Certificate Committee, volunteered for the New Mexico State Bar Access to Justice Commission, served as Chair of AALL's Native Peoples Law Caucus, and served on the Indian Law on State Bar Exams Committee of the Federal Bar Association. Before coming to UNM Law School she worked as the Information Manager for Environmental Risk Analysis, Inc., a bio-

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litigation consulting firm, in San Mateo, CA. She also worked as a Database Specialist and Cataloger for Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati, PC, based in Palo Alto, CA.

The University of New Mexico Law Library wishes a fond goodbye to librarians **Lorraine Lester** and **Barbara Lah** who both retired in May 2007 after many years of dedicated service to the Law School's students and faculty.

RIPS-SIS member **Ron Wheeler** and his coworkers **Nancy P. Johnson**, and **Terrance Manion** were recently notified that their article "Choosing the Top Candidate: Best Practices in Academic Law Library Hiring", which appears in volume 100 of Law Library Journal, has attracted the attention of librarians across the country. The Informed Librarian Online, a librarian's service for keeping up with library related professional reading, has selected their article as one of its Editor's Picks for the month of March 2008. Each monthly issue of The Informed Librarian links directly to the latest tables of contents of over 312 library related journals, with links to full-text as available. Their editors select only a few journal articles to highlight out of thousands. Due to the perceived timeliness and relevance of their article, it was chosen to be highlighted as a March Editor's Pick. Congratulations to Wheeler, Johnson, and Manion. You can access their article Choosing the Top Candidate: Best Practices in Academic Law Library Hiring at http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub_llj_v100n01/2008-05.pdf

The University of Iowa Law Library welcomes **Noëlle Sinclair**. Ms. Sinclair is the Head of Circulation which means she supervises the Circulation Desk staff, Interlibrary Loan and stack maintenance. She is a multiple graduate of the University of Iowa, including the law school in 2003. She has practiced law, been a web designer and she has worked at the UI Main Library in the Iowa Women's Archives, and in the Special Collections department on a project called "The Atlas of Early Printing." She is working on a book on the history of Iowa's Territorial Library housed in the Old Capitol Museum, which goes along with her interest in rare books and the history of printing.

Peter J. Egler was named the first Faculty Services Librarian at the Drexel University College of Law Library. Prior to this position, Peter worked at the University of Houston Law Center's library for five years, four of those as the Head of Reference.

Northeastern University School of Law Library is pleased to announce that **Lydia Lafionatis** has joined their staff as the Head of Access Services. Lydia will be working closely with staff in the areas of Circulation, Stacks Management, Interlibrary Loan and Access. Lydia was most recently the Technical Services Librarian at Choate, Hall and Stewart in Boston, MA."

After serving our country in Afghanistan for the last year, **Joey Hernandez** has returned to the states. Joey returned to civilian life duty as a Reference Librarian at Florida Coastal School of Law in March. Welcome home Joey!

Mark W. Podvia, Legal Research Professor and Archivist at the Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University has been named Adjunct Assistant Professor of Political Science at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.

Meet the Candidates 2008-09

The Chair of the Nominations Committee, **Duane Strojny**, has put together an extremely strong slate of candidates for our elections this year. Many thanks to him for finding these terrific candidates, and thanks also to the candidates themselves for their willingness to serve the RIPS-SIS.

Candidate biographies and running statements follow, but not a ballot! We will be holding our elections online again this year. Online elections resulted in higher voter participation, reduced the administrative burden of running the election, and made voting easier for members. Online voting will take place soon. Candidate information will be re-posted at the online election site in addition to its printing here.

It is with great pleasure we introduce the following candidates for office:

For Vice Chair/Chair-Elect:

- **Robb Farmer**, Jones School of Law Library, Faulkner University

For Member-At-Large of the Executive Board:

- **Colleen Ostiguy**, Albany Law School Schaffer Law Library
- **Gail Partin**, Dickinson School of Law Library of the Pennsylvania State University

Please take the time to vote once the online election begins in a few weeks!

Vice-Chair/Chair Elect Candidate Robb Farmer

Candidate's Statement:

Please pardon me for an obligatory cliché. It's an honor just to be nominated for RIPS Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect. That sounds corny even in my head, but it's true. I feel like the new guy at school who's been invited to sit at the cool table. For those who don't know me, I'm in touch with my inner children's librarian. My office is decorated with action figures, armadillos, and the occasional cactus. My conversations and writing incorporate cartoon references. I'm a professionally trained Santa Claus.

Because kids are always growing and always learning, children's libraries have to be able to reach and teach the different age groups. Kids are more concerned with the now and the future, rather than the past. So, children's libraries not only have to keep up with current technology and trends, they also have to remind their youthful patrons that there's value from the sources that came before. Since young attention spans are short, children's libraries have to be creative in marketing services and developing programs. Because patron populations vary, children's libraries have to be inclusive, while celebrating diversity. Maybe it's just the stuffed penguin, but I see RIPS as being in touch with its inner children's library, because we're doing all those things. But, through embracing and focusing on that model, RIPS can accomplish even more. For example:

Show & Tell

In November, the initial RIPS sponsored webinar illustrated how we can showcase our knowledge and expertise via the Net, and the first one's always the hardest to do. Continuing to develop more web-based programming will allow us to pass along valuable information to our colleagues and increase our Section's visibility. Other media like podcasts, RSS feeds, social networking, Twitter or Second Life should be explored both as communication tools for RIPS members, and as ways to increase awareness of our SIS.

Crafting

As a welcome addition to the RIPS library of publications, the Patron Services Committee has started a compilation of library service guides. This project should be a key focus for RIPS. It can serve as an excellent jumping off point for identifying core competencies and developing model policies. Given time, the end result could be a Patron Services Train-In for librarians and paraprofessionals.

Storytime

Be they anecdotes, horror stories, or fables with a moral, we all have tales to tell that are of benefit to our colleagues. A RIPS wiki could be a forum for members to share experiences, critique resources, ask questions, get answers, and exchange sample documents.

After School Programs

By offering instruction, programming and other services to library schools, RIPS can help future law librarians to get off on the right foot. Cross promotion will increase awareness of our SIS among new librarians, while mutually benefitting AALL groups like Recruitment, Placement, and Mentoring.

The Circle of Knowledge

As showcased by the most recent National Library Week theme, interdisciplinary research is the wave of the future. As

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our membership comes from all types of libraries, we have an opportunity to carve a real niche as the SIS to go to in this area. RIPS has focused on specialized legal research in the past. We can continue that focus by reviewing books, developing bibliographies, and compiling guides for interdisciplinary research instruction.

Of course, those are just some of my ideas for RIPS, and I know there are a lot more out there. If given the honor to serve as Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, I would solicit and welcome your ideas and opinions. I have been consistently impressed with the talent and effort shown by the members of this SIS. I believe in our mission. I'm eager to see what heights we can achieve. Whether elected or not, I look forward to helping us get there. Thank you for your consideration.

Education

MSLS, University of Kentucky (2003)

JD, University of Kentucky (1994)

BA, Political Science, University of Louisville (1990)

Graduate, Charles W. Howard Santa Claus School (2005)

Employment

Instructional Services/Research Librarian, Faulkner University Thomas Goode Jones School of Law Library, 2005 - Present

Assistant Librarian, Reference, Arizona State University Ross-Blakley Law Library, 2004 - 2005

Reference Librarian, Greenebaum Doll & McDonald PLLC, Louisville, Kentucky, 2000 - 2004

RIPS Activities

Chair, Continuing Education Grant/Webinar Ad Hoc Committee, 2007-2008

Program Committee, 2007-2008

Patron Services Committee 2007-2008

Professional Memberships & Activities

American Association of Law Libraries: 2007-2008 Placement Committee;

Law Library Association of Alabama: 2007-2008 Scholarship Committee Chair

Southeast Association of Law Libraries: 2008-2009 Chair, Placement Committee; 2007-2008 Placement Committee

Alabama Library Association: 2005-2008 Government Documents Roundtable

Arizona Association of Law Libraries: 2004-2005 Program Committee, Legal Research Institute Committee

Kentucky Bar Association

Publications/Presentations

Senior Editor, *Getting Paid: Retention and Compensation in Bankruptcy Cases – A Guide for Non-Attorney Professionals* (2005)

Content Editor, *Alabama DUI, Traffic and Driver License Law Handbook* (2007)

Content Editor, *Alabama DUI, Traffic and Driver License Law Handbook* (2008)

Presenter, "Case Law Research," 2005 Legal Research Institute, Arizona Association of Law Libraries (May 20, 2005)

Webinar Moderator, "Technical Issues & Practical Matters: A Law Librarian Q & A on Legal Technology" (Nov 2007)

Member-at-Large Candidate Colleen Ostiguy

Candidate's Statement

I joined RIPS because I am interested in obtaining information on the various methods in which librarians disseminate legal information. With the help of RIPS Legal Research Teach In Kits, I have gained a better understanding of many legal subject areas I was unfamiliar with and, thus, am now able to better serve our library patrons. In addition, as a confidential legal secretary, I was able to determine what legal resources were important to practicing attorneys and I use that experience and knowledge to educate our law students. I hope to continue the tradition of providing and sharing invaluable information to our members through the use of traditional and emerging technologies.

Education

J.D. Albany Law School, 2003.
M.L.S. University at Albany, 2000
B.A. University at Albany, 1996

Employment

Electronic Services Librarian, Albany Law School, July 2007-present
Part-time Reference Librarian, Albany Law School, January 2007-July 2007
Confidential Legal Secretary, Hon. Anthony J. Carpinello, 2004-June 2007

Professional Memberships & Activities

American Association of Law Libraries, 2007-present
New York State Bar Association, 2003-present
Business and Professional Woman, Tech Valley Chapter, 2007-present, 2007-2008 President-Elect

Publications/Presentations

Find it Free and Fast on the Net: Strategies for Legal Research on the Web, Continuing Legal Education for Attorneys, Albany, NY, March 2008

Member-at-Large Candidate Gail Partin

Candidate's Statement

RIPS was the first AALL group that I chose to join as a new law librarian back in 1986. I did so for very good reasons and have remained active in RIPS since then for the same reasons – because the work of our SIS is fundamentally relevant to every law librarian in every type of law library in every country of the world. RIPS programs and activities have had, and continue to have, a far-reaching impact on our profession. Ours is a challenging, technologically fast-paced business and RIPS is uniquely poised to respond to these shifting scenarios in ways that benefit our colleagues and distinguish our SIS. I would be proud to serve on the Executive Board and to participate in the new and exciting RIPS initiatives for the future.

Education

J.D., Dickinson School of Law
M.S.L.S., Clarion University of PA.
B.A., Rider University

Employment

Dickinson School of Law, Pennsylvania State University

- Associate Director and Law Librarian, 2006-present
- Interim Director of the Law Library, 2005-2006
- International & Foreign Law Specialist, 1985-present
- Law Librarian & Professor of Legal Research, 2004-2006
- Legal Research Instructor, 1992-2004
- Reference Librarian, 1985-2005

Professional Memberships & Activities

American Association of Law Libraries, 1985-
Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section, AALL, 1986-
Legal Research Committee, 2004-
Awards Committee, AALL, 2004-2006
Chair, Law Library Publications Subcommittee, 2005-2006
Chair, AALL Spectrum Article of the Year Subcommittee, 2004-2005
Co-Chair, National Legal Research Teach-In, AALL, 1994-
Council of Newsletter Editors (CONE), AALL, 1997-1999
Foreign, Comparative & International Law Special Interest Section, AALL, 1988-
Strategic Planning Committee, 1998-2000
Education Committee, 1994-99 (Co-chair 1996-98)
Committee on Self-Instruction, 1992

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Finance Committee, 1990-1991
Research Instruction and Patron Services Special Interest Section, AALL, 1986-
Chair, Legal Research Teach-In Committee, 2000-
Liaison, Access to Electronic Legal Information Committee (AELIC), AALL, 2001-2002
Executive Board Member-At-Large, 2000-2001
Co-Chair, Disintermediation Task Force, 1999-2001
Public Relations Committee, 1997-2003
Strategic Planning Committee, 1998-2000
Executive Board (Secretary/Treasurer), 1997-99
Newsletter Editor, 1997-99
Chair, Program Committee, 1996-97
Teaching Research in Academic Law Libraries (TRIAL) Advisory Council, 2000 and 1998
West Scholarship Advisory Board, 2002-2003
American Society of International Law, 1998-
Electronic Information System for International Law (EISIL) Working Group, 2000-2006
Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law, 1997-
Law Library Microform Consortium (LLMC) Advisory Council, 2005-

Selected Publications

“Bibliographic Resources, Recent Publications on Arbitration and ADR,” *World Arbitration & Mediation Review*, 2005-2008.

“International Criminal Law” in *ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law*, American Society of International Law at <http://www.asil.org/resource/home.htm>.

13th National Legal Research Teach-In Training Resource Kit, ed. Thomson/West, 2005.

“Help is on the Way: ALL-SIS and RIPS-SIS Partner to Improve Access to Legal Research Instruction Materials” with Jennifer Murray and Mary Ann Neary, *AALL Spectrum*, 2004.

“Web Guide to U.S. Supreme Court Research,” *LLRX.com*, 2003.

“International Criminal Law” in *ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law*, *ASIL Bulletin*, American Society of International Law, 2002 and 2003.

“The Scoop on Scholarships,” *Law Librarians in the New Millennium*, 2003.

“A View from the Inside: What a Scholarship Selection Committee Looks For,” *infoEdge*, 2003.

“National Legal Research Teach-In Celebrates 10 Years of Success,” *AALL Spectrum*, 2003.

“A Decade of Teachable Moments,” *Law Librarians in the New Millennium*, 2002.

“International Criminal Law: A Selective Resource Guide” with Marilyn J. Raisch, *LLRX.com*, 2000 and “Update” 2002.

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“What’s Online in International Law: The Nuts and Bolts of Search Engines,” *ASIL Newsletter*, 2001.

Selected Presentations

30 Sites in 60 Minutes and Best Sites for Legal Research on the Web. Office of Attorney General, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, PA, June 2007.

Favorites – Thirty best Free Internet Sites for Attorneys. Dauphin County Bar Assn., Harrisburg, PA, January, 2007.

EISIL it! Using the Electronic Information System for International Law in the Library and the Classroom. Panelist at the 98th Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law, Washington, D.C. (April 2, 2004).

Internet Research for Lawyers. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General, held in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia (July-August, 2001).

Finding Business Information on the Web. Dickinson School of Law (October 14, 2000).

Developing Curriculum (What). Second Conference on Teaching Research in Academic Law Libraries (TRIAL), Philadelphia (July 13-14, 2000).

Developing Curriculum: Steps to Successful Course/Session Planning. Conference on Teaching Research in Academic Law Libraries (TRIAL), Anaheim (July, 1998).

NOTICE:

2008 Legal Research Teach-in Kit Available Electronically No Longer Password Protected

The Research Instruction and Patron Services SIS is proud to announce the release of the 2008 National Legal Research Teach-In Kit. Each year in conjunction with National Library Week, RIPS creates a Teach-In Kit which contains fresh materials for use in your institution's promotional and instructional activities. Due to the great success of last year's web-based kit, this year's release will again be online. New this year - the Teach-In Kit will no longer be password protected, making it available to all and facilitating its inclusion in library catalogs.

The 2008 Teach-In Kit is available at: www.aallnet.org/sis/ripssis/TeachIn/2008/index.html

An overview of the kit as well as kits from previous years are available at:
www.aallnet.org/sis/ripssis/TeachIn/Teach_In.html

RIPS

RIPS Officers 2007-08

Chair

Irene Good

Director of Academic Technology
Suffolk University Law School
Joseph Moakley Law Library
(617) 305-1772
irgood@suffolk.edu

Vice-Chair/Chair Elect

Jennifer Murray

Assistant Director
Maricopa County Superior Court Law Library
(602) 506-3464
murrayj006@scll.maricopa.gov

Secretary/Treasurer

Michelle Rigual

Associate Director & Asst. Professor of Law
Librarianship
University of New Mexico Law Library
(505) 277-0678
rigual@law.unm.edu

Immediate Past Chair

Jessie Wallace Burchfield

Reference and Circulation Librarian
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
William H. Bowen School of Law
UALR/Pulaski County Law Library
(501) 324-9444
jwburchfield@ualr.edu

Member at Large

Eric Gilson

Librarian III/Assistant Professor
Rutgers University Law School Library
(856) 225-6462
etg2@camden.rutgers.edu

Member at Large

Monica Ortale

Faculty Services & Reference Librarian
South Texas College of Law Library
(713) 646-1721
mortale@stcl.edu

Committees 2007-08

Spirit of Volunteerism

Last August a message was sent to the RIPS listserv seeking volunteers for committee work. The message brought forth a positive response from many RIPS members interested in the opportunity to get more involved. The following is a list of the RIPS committees, each committee's charge, and the members for this year. Thanks to all of you for agreeing to work on RIPS projects

Grants

Members: **Ron Wheeler, James Durham, Lynn Murray, Stefanie Pearlman, and Katie Brown**
Charge: Develop guidelines and procedures for a grant to the AALL Annual Meeting. Solicit and review applications and select a grant recipient.

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Legal Research Teach In

Members: **Gail A. Partin** and **Jennifer S. Murray**
Charge: Solicit content for, and administer the creation, marketing, and distribution of, Legal Research Teach-In kits (compiled legal research instructional materials) annually.

Newsletter

Members: **Michelle Rigual**, **Lynn Murray**, and **Colleen Williams**
Charge: Create the RIPS newsletter. Solicit, layout, and submit content to the RIPS webmaster for posting. Notify members and the Council of Newsletter Editors of its availability.

Nominations

Members: **Duane A. Strojny** and **Aletha Honsowitz**
Charge: Solicit potential candidates for the Executive Board. Select the slate of candidates and facilitate the presentation of their biographies and statements

Online List Discussion

Members: **Coral Henning**
Charge: Administer and moderate the RIPS email distribution list through the Discussion Forum utility on AALLnet.

Patron Services

Members: **Maribel Nash**, **Laura Ax-Fultz**, **Janet Camillo**, **Robb Farmer**, **Kathy Hall**, **Holly Lakatos**, **Sibyl Marshall**, **David McCaslin**, and **Laurie Williams**
Charge: Develop tools, publications, and programs of use to circulation and interlibrary loan librarians. Select topics and moderators for roundtables at the Annual Meeting.

Program

Members: **Jennifer S. Murray**, **William Magee**, **Jane Underwood**, and **Tammy Pettinato**
Charge: Assist RIPS members with program and workshop proposals for Annual Meeting educational programs. Solicit topics relevant to RIPS members, assist in developing and refining proposals, and facilitate the proposal process in general.

Public Relations and Recruitment

Members: **Peggy McDermott**, **June Casey**, **Melissa Serfass**, and **Julia Jaet**
Charge: Publicize the projects and activities of RIPS by sending periodic notices to the AALL Spectrum and other AALL-affiliated publications. Recruit new members by coordinating representation at CONELL, and manage marketing displays and giveaways at our SIS table in the exhibit hall at the Annual Meeting.

Research Instruction

Members: **Marc Silverman**, **Monique Gonzalez**, and **David Lehmann**
Charge: Develop tools, publications, and programs of use to librarians involved in research instruction. Select topics and moderators for roundtables at the Annual Meeting.

Web Page

Members: **Uwe "Ed" Beltz**, **Lisa Spar**, **Meg Kribble**, **Jennifer Greig**, **Barbara Glennan**, **Cheryl Rae Nyberg**, and **Leah Sandwell-Weiss**
Charge: Maintain and develop the RIPS web page. Solicit suggestions and additions from the Board, Committees, and membership from time to time.

Business Meeting Minutes 2007



Sunday, July 15, 2007
Hilton Grand Salon 7, New Orleans, Louisiana

Call to Order

The 2007 Business Meeting of the RIPS-SIS was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by SIS Chair **Jessie Burchfield**.

Old Business

A. 2006 RIPS-SIS Business Meeting Minutes

2006 RIPS-SIS Business Meeting minutes were approved.

New Business

A. Annual Report to Membership (by **Jessie Burchfield**)

The officers of the Research Instruction and Patron Services Special Interest Section for 2006-07 were **Jessie Wallace Burchfield**, Chair; **Irene Good**, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect; **Jennifer Murray**, Secretary-Treasurer; **Lynn Murray**, Member at Large; **Eric Gilson**, Member at Large; and **Deanna Barmakian**, Immediate Past Chair. **Michelle Rigual** was the Newsletter Editor.

RIPS is the corporate author of *Briefs in Law Librarianship*, no. 56 in the AALL Publication Series, edited by

Roberta Studwell. The most recent Brief is *Survey on Law Librarian Liaison Services* by **Matthew Wright**.

RIPS is in its second decade of organizing the annual National Legal Research Teach-In. Each year, prior to National Library Week, Teach-In Committee members solicit contributions of unique instructional and promotional materials such as pathfinders, research guides, lesson plans, lecture notes, and research exercises for compilation in a Teach-In Resource Training Kit. In 2007, RIPS released the first all-electronic Teach-In Kit, and it was met with great enthusiasm. Thomson West, a generous sponsor of the print Teach-In Kit, now provides the graphic design and layout for the Kit, which can be accessed by AALL members at the RIPS website.

RIPS awarded its second annual meeting registration grant to **Sherri Thomas**. The grant is an effort to encourage newer members to become involved in RIPS and AALL. Grant recipients are asked to attend the RIPS Business Meeting and write an article about their annual meeting experience for the RIPS Newsletter.

RIPS sponsored two educational programs at the 2007 Annual Meeting: "Multi-tasking Millennials: Blessing or Curse?" and "Setting New Precedent: Using Unpublished Opinions Under New Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 32.1." RIPS members also sponsored three roundtables and co-sponsored the joint roundtable "Library Services to Pro Se Patrons and Prisoners" with LISP and SR.

The RIPS Research Instruction Committee revised and enhanced its Legal Research Text Bibliography, which can be found online at the RIPS website.

RIPS received a grant from the Continuing Professional Education Committee for establishing a series of webinars. The initial webinar will be on November 15, 2007, and will feature **Catherine Sanders Reach** discussing

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recent technological advances, their relationship to legal research and their benefits to different types of libraries. Robb Farmer drafted the grant proposal and set up the first webinar.

Chair **Jessie Wallace Burchfield** and members of the Publications Committee worked with **Julia O'Donnell** and revised the RIPS Brochure. New brochures were distributed at the New Orleans conference along with promotional post-it pads designed by **Melissa Serfass**.

Projects RIPS may undertake in the coming year include redesign of the RIPS web page, seeking collaborative relationships with other AALL entities, and further development of the webinar series.

Officers for 2007-08 are **Irene Good**, Chair; **Jennifer Murray**, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect; **Michelle Rigual**, Secretary-Treasurer; **Eric Gilson**, Member at Large; **Monica Ortale**, Member at Large; and **Jessie Burchfield**, Immediate Past Chair.

B. Committee Reports

The following committees submitted reports:

- Grants (given by **Lynn Murray**)
There were approximately twelve (12) well-qualified applicants for the RIPS AALL Annual Meeting grant. The RIPS Grants Committee members, Ron Wheeler, James Durham, and Lynn Murray, chose to award the grant to Sherri Thomas, who is a reference librarian at the University of New Mexico and has already written a piece for the RIPS newsletter.
- Teach-In Kit (given by **Gail Partin**)
Gail thanked RIPS members for their continuing support of the Teach-In -- especially for their contribution of instructional materials. She announced that this year's format changed from print to a web based resource kit. West designed a Teach-In web page for us. RIPS web master, **Eric Gilson**, deserves credit for creating the file structure and uploading the pages on the RIPS site on AALLNet. Each year West will assist us in designing a new page for that year's resource kit. The Teach-In Committee plans for 2008 are as follows. First, solicit contributions for the 2008 Teach-In Resource Kit. Then, create a more robust site by adding related pages such as: links to research instructional tools, to ALL-SIS Sourcebook, and other suggested links. Gail solicited volunteers to send Jennifer or Gail any web sites or other sources of research instructional support that could be included in our web links, volunteers to suggest new pages or topics on legal research instruction that could be included in the Teach-In web site, and volunteers to create and maintain pages on the Teach-In site. Our goal is to be the portal/gateway for legal research instructional support, wherever assistance or information can be found. At this point in time, by improving the Teach-In web page (especially with West's professional design assistance), RIPS has a unique opportunity to become "the" recognized leader and web portal for legal research instructional support -- and in so doing, live up to the first half of our SIS name!
- Newsletter (given by **Michelle Rigual**)
Two newsletter issues were published. The Fall issue dealt with 2006 AALL Annual Meeting wrap-up and the topic of outreach. The Spring issue dealt with RIPS Executive Board nominees and the topic of specialized legal research. There was insufficient time to publish a third issue. We have identified two topics for the 2007-08 newsletter issues: Using technology in the classroom for Fall and Strategic planning for Winter. Recommenda-

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tions will be taken for the Spring issue's topic. **Lynn Murray** will assist Michelle with the newsletter production.

- **Public Relations and Recruitment (given by Peggy McDermott)**
Reminder that RIPS Public Relations meeting will be at 7:45 a.m. on Tuesday, July 17. Peggy thanked everyone who volunteered to staff the RIPS table in the Activities Area. This is always an excellent way to attract new members and reinvigorate current members. Once again we had an extremely active table at CONELL. New librarians were encouraged to attend the Business Meeting and enter the drawing. The Chair follows up after the meeting by writing each of the new librarians who entered the drawing. **Melissa Serfass**, our "gadget guru," is responsible for the post-it notes with the RIPS name and our signature penguin. They were a big hit at the table. The RIPS brochure was revised this year and is extremely good looking. Next year will be Puron's tenth birthday, so there are big plans ahead. seeking new volunteers for the RIPS Membership Committee.
- **Research Instruction (given by Mark Silverman)**
The 2007 AALL RIPS Reference Roundtable was well-attended with 15 participants and good discussion. The legal research book review project continues to add reviews to the site. Four new texts were reviewed by three RIPS members. The committee is considering allowing rebuttals and comments on the reviews via blog.
- **Program Committee (given by Irene Good)**
The committee reviewed 15 proposals. We provided feedback on all the proposals and managed to move one proposal into a Round Table sponsored by RIPS: "Coffee, Tea or Chat?" In the end RIPS sponsored eight programs and two were selected: "Setting New Precedent: Using Unpublished Opinions under New Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 32.1" and "Multitasking Millennials: Blessing or Curse?"
- **Nominations (given by Duane Strojny)**
Thanks to all who participated in the RIPS-SIS elections. Candidates for Vice-Chair/Chair Elect were **Holly Lakatos** and **Jennifer Murray**. Candidate for Secretary/Treasurer was **Michelle Rigual**. Candidates for Member-at-large were **Monica Ortale** and **June VanWigen**.
- **Briefs in Law Librarianship (given by Bobbie Studwell)**
One Brief was published this year: a survey of law library liaison programs authored by **Matthew Wright**. Additional authors are being sought.
- **Listserv (given by Coral Henning)**
The Listserv software is so straightforward the list practically manages itself. The two main things Coral does are: 1) add new members when they join, and 2) edit members profiles when they change email addresses. We no longer have to deal with spam or other technical issues.
- **Patron Services (given by Holly Lakatos)**
Holly outlined the goals of the Patron Services committee for next year: Conduct a survey of law libraries to get more information on access, policies & staffing issues; create a standardized "model policy" for circulation staff in regards to customer service; collect print & online brochures & publications of law libraries & share somehow (maybe through the website) as a way to promote marketing of services; sponsor a security roundtable or program at AALL next year; think about the definition of "patron services" and perhaps redefine the committee's purpose. **Maribel Nash** will assume the position of chair of the Patron Services Committee.

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- Web (given by **Jessie Burchfield**)

Major task this year was migrating the Teach-In Kit to online format only. AALL Executive Board requested RIPS consider a portal for fostering legal research as a specialty; however, we were not able to pursue this at this time. It will be taken under consideration for next year.

C. 2006-07 RIPS SIS Treasurer's Report

Jennifer Murray presented the 2006-07 RIPS Treasurer's Report. The report will be available on the RIPS website and published in the RIPS newsletter following the 2007 AALL Annual Meeting.

D. Confirmation of Committee Chairs

Most committees will retain the same members and chairs. However, some changes include **Maribel Nash** as Patron Services Committee Chair. **Ed Beltz** and **Lisa Sparr** will be working on the Web Committee.

E. RIPS Webinar

The AALL CPE Grant Committee gave RIPS grant funds to hold a webinar. **Robb Farmer** addressed the first webinar. It will be taught by the ABA's Legal Technology Resource Center and held on November 15, 2007. Thereafter, RIPS hopes to hold 2 more webinars and continue this as a RIPS value-added service. Anyone interested in reading the grant proposal can contact Robb Farmer.

F. Door Prize Drawing

Gail Partin and **Jane Underwood** won the \$25 gift certificate door prizes.

G. Recognition of **Gail Partin** and **Bobbie Studwell**

Jessie recognized both Gail and Bobbie with silver boxes in the shape of a heart with engraving in thanks for their many years of continued support and loyalty to RIPS.

Closing Statements

Jessie thanked all who served as officers. She also recognized **Melissa Serfass** for her assistance throughout the year and her unique ability to find new give-aways for RIPS each year. The Chair and Puron were passed by Jessie to **Irene Good**. Irene presented Jessie with a token of RIPS appreciation, a coffee mug and coffee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Murray, RIPS-SIS Secretary

Treasurer's Report 2006-07

Balance on hand 5/31/2006		\$ 10,787.92
Income		
Dues	\$ 5,407.50	
Sales	\$ 70.00	
Contributions	\$ 1,375.00	
Total Income		\$6,852.50
Expenses		
Annual Meeting Reception	\$ 1,468.29	
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 151.11	
Total Expenses		\$ 1,619.40
Excess revenues over expenses	\$ 2,002.12	
 Balance on hand 5/31/2007		 \$ 16,021.02
Submitted by Jennifer Murray RIPS Treasurer 2006-2007		

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

Submissions from RIPS members are highly encouraged. Please send submissions as an email or an email attachment to the editor: Michelle Rigual, rigual@law.unm.edu.

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