

# R I P S

## Law Librarian

A Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries

### From the Chair...

Melissa Serfass

My last message as RIPS Chair. This is the one where I wonder where the year has gone (it really has flown). I have had the opportunity to work with many of you during the year and have enjoyed it immensely. I look forward to the Boston meeting and the chance to meet with my RIPS friends and colleagues from across the country. There are numerous RIPS activities scheduled for Boston. So, y'all come on down, up, over, or whatever it takes, and I hope to see you there!

Throughout this issue there are descriptions and schedules of RIPS events. Our tradition of excellence in annual meeting program continues. There are two RIPS-sponsored programs and one RIPS workshop. There are two roundtables this year, one of which we are co-sponsoring with the LISP-SIS and SR-SIS.

Be sure to visit the RIPS table in the activities area of the exhibit hall. There you can get one of the fabulous new RIPS stickers for your name badge. You can also pick up a penguin key chain or a penguin beanie. All of the penguin-alia, of course, is in honor of our mascot, Puron. Puron has his own section on the RIPS website now, [www.aallnet.org/sis/ripssis/puron.html](http://www.aallnet.org/sis/ripssis/puron.html). Take a look to see what Puron has been up to lately!

Register at the table or at the Business Meeting to win one of two \$25 amazon.com gift certificates to be given away at the meeting. Why \$25? Why, because it is RIPS 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Please come to the Business Meeting on Sunday and help us celebrate. We will also have sign-up sheets for RIPS committees at the meeting, so while you are there, why not get involved? If you aren't able to be at the meeting, contact Pamela Melton, incoming Chair, and let her know you are interested in a RIPS committee.

Volume 26, Issue 3

Spring/Summer  
2004

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**Rips  
Silver  
Anniversary  
1979-2004**

From the Chair...

Instead of looking back at this past year, I would like to focus on the future. On our to do list:

- \* write a new strategic plan
- \* establish criteria to award a grant for Annual Meeting attendance
- \* enhance the web site
- \* revitalize and energize our committees
- \* encourage more RIPS members to become active in the SIS

This is my last chance to thank everyone who has volunteered over the past year. I won't thank you all by name, because many of you have made contributions (you know who you are!), and I don't want to inadvertently leave anyone out. I know Pamela will enjoy working with our existing group of volunteers and all of you new volunteers who are just waiting for your chance to contribute!

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## Election Results

For Vice Chair/Chair Elect: Deanna Barmakian

For Member-at-Large: Ron Wheeler

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## RIPS Roundtables

The Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery Roundtable will be Wednesday, July 14 from 12-1:00 p.m. Linda Brown from Brigham Young University Howard W. Hunter Law Library will moderate the discussion.

In lieu of a Reference Roundtable this year, RIPS is co-sponsoring a roundtable with two other Special Interest Sections. The SR/LISP/RIPS Joint Roundtable on Services to Pro Se Patrons and Prisoners is scheduled for Monday, July 12 from 5:15 -6:15 p.m.

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## RIPS Programs

There are two RIPS-sponsored programs and one RIPS-sponsored workshop in Boston. They promise to enlighten, educate, and entertain, as RIPS programs always do!

### **Let Me “Edutain” You: Game Shows and Other Unconventional Teaching Techniques in Legal Research Classrooms**

A-5 • Sunday, July 11 • 10:15 - 11:45 a.m.

Coordinator, Moderator and Speaker: Pamela Rogers Melton, University of South Carolina, Coleman Karesh Law Library

Speakers: Corrin Gee, Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering, Washington, DC; and Christopher Vallandingham, University of Florida Levin College of Law Legal Information Center.

In a satirical article, “If It Pleases the Class...,” in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Profs. Douglas and George stated, “We believe that junior professors ... must make teaching entertaining if they are to survive these perilous times in the world of academe.” There are ways to engage students in the classroom that are interesting and entertaining. This program will explore various game show formats and other unconventional techniques that can be used in legal research classrooms. In addition, the speakers will offer practical tips on creating your own instructional tools. A short film of an actual research review using a game show format will be shown.

## RIPS Programs in Boston

### **What in the World Do They Know?: Information Literacy and Today's Law Students**

C-6 • Monday, July 12 • 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Coordinator and Speaker Stephanie Burke, Pappas Law Library, Boston University School of Law

Speakers: Donna Nixon, Kathrine R. Everett Law Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and Kathryn Hensiak, Pritzker Legal Research Center, Northwestern University School of Law

Many incoming law students, who should have had prior research experience, do not have a foundational understanding of how to conduct research. Therefore, they are not facing the challenge of learning legal research, but any research. In a program formatted like “60 Minutes”, recipients of an Aspen/AALL grant will discuss their project, “Assessing Information Literacy Among First Year Students: A Survey to Measure Research Experiences and Perceptions.” The speakers will explain what information literacy skills are, discuss the creation and administration of the survey, share the survey results, provide tips for creating a similar survey, and offer guidance on integrating the survey results into legal research instruction programs and training.

### **Quick Start Basic Legal Reference**

W-1 • Friday July 9 • 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Separate registration fee required.)

Coordinator: Joan Shear, Boston College Law Library

Speakers: Stephanie J. Burke, Boston University, Pappas Law Library; John B Nann, Lillian Goldman Library, Yale Law School; Mary Ann Neary, Boston College Law Library; Anne Stemlar, Hale and Dorr LLP ; Mark Sullivan, Boston College Law Library; Susan C. Sullivan, Boston College Law Library; Christine H. Swan, New Hampshire Law Library and Karin Thurman, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office Attorney General Library.

**Boston to  
Mumbai:  
The World of  
Legal  
Information**

Hampshire Law Library and Karin Thurman, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office Attorney General Library.

You only need two essential skills to become a great legal reference librarian: clairvoyance (to understand what is actually being asked by the patron) and omniscience (to be able to answer the question) This workshop is designed for librarians new to legal reference, either because they are new to law libraries or because they are new to reference. It will teach participants how to amaze patrons with their ability to provide insightful, useful research guidance and answers to reference questions. This workshop is appropriate for librarians from all types of law libraries.

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RIPS member Deanna Barmakian, Harvard Law School Library, will be coordinator of and speaker on the program:

**Electronic Law Journals: The Invisible Literature**

J-5 • Wednesday, July 14 • 2:15 - 2:45 p.m.

*RIPS Programs*

The number of law journals published solely on the Web has increased dramatically within the last few years. Nearly one quarter of U.S. law schools now publish at least one, and even academic presses are beginning to produce these electronic-only law journals. This talk will summarize a survey of 65 electronic law journals, concluding that the majority are not cataloged, indexed, aggregated on the Web, included in tables of contents services, or available on Lexis/Nexis or Westlaw. The speaker will cover trends in electronic law journal publication, review best examples, and recommend how librarians can support and promote this substantive but “invisible” literature.

## What to Do in Boston

### Compiled by Stephanie Burke

Wondering what there is to do outside of the Hynes Convention Center at AALL in Boston this summer? Check out these points of interest recommended by Boston area reference and research librarians:

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One of my favorite places is the North End. Why do I like it? I love the food especially a cappuccino and a cannoli. Go there on a nice summer night and see Boston at its best. On Hanover Street, there is Modern Pastry or Café Vittoria. Of course you can always go to Mike's Pastry or Pizzeria Regina. I also like the Swan boats in the public garden. It's cheap and you can't do anything else like it anywhere else in America. Try going to the top of the John Hancock Tower. Best view of the city and a nice perspective of where you are. The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum has some excellent pieces, all in one woman's former home. It is not as overwhelming as the Museum of Fine Arts does – reasonable size and a cute cafe.

Irene R. Good  
Boston College Law Library

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Our favorite place is the Science Museum. My boys (10, 11, and 45) love it, especially the Electricity Show, a high-voltage demonstration of lightning created by the world's largest air-insulated Van de Graaff generator.

Kelly Browne  
UConn Law School Library

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The place I ALWAYS recommend is the Mapparium at the Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity. What I like best about it is the way it lets me see the relative size of various countries without the distortion of a flat map and gives you a better sense of distance and relationships than an ordinary globe. Besides, it is beautiful.

Joan Shear  
Boston College Law Library

## What to do in Boston

I'd recommend the MIT museum – it's quick, fun, easy to get to, and its exhibits on science and technology are fascinating. <http://web.mit.edu/museum/exhibitions/index.html>.

I'd also recommend the JFK Museum. It's located at a beautiful spot on the water and the exhibits have just been redone. Really nice and very interesting. The speaker series is also top notch. <http://www.cs.umb.edu/jfklibrary/>.

Finally, it's swan boat season – can't beat a ride on the swans. They've recently enacted a no feeding the ducks/swans policy but it is still a great time. (<http://www.swanboats.com/>).

Liz Lambert  
Harvard Law School Library

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This is an obvious one, but for anyone who hasn't been there, I'd suggest going to Harvard Square one evening during their stay. There are numerous destinations—the Harvard campus (including museums during daytime hours), restaurants, clubs, galleries and shops, and several movie theaters, including (for film lovers) the Brattle Theater and the Harvard Film Archive. You can find a café with sidewalk seating, browse at the fabulous Harvard Book Store (among others), take a walk along the Charles River, or just enjoy the energy of the place, with street musicians and others performing most evenings in warm weather. And it's an easy commute: just take the Green Line from the Hynes Convention Center stop to Park station, and transfer to the Red line to Harvard Square.

David Bachman  
BU School of Law, Pappas Law Library

If you like to take walks, I suggest Beacon Street through Brookline, particularly on a Sunday morning. Beacon Street is lined with attractive brownstones and has comfortable sidewalks. Start from Kenmore Square and end at Coolidge Corner where you'll find numerous shops and restaurants. Check out the menu at Zaftigs (<http://www.zaftigs.com/>). Take the C Line back if you're too tired or too full to walk.

I wouldn't miss the Prudential Center Skywalk. From the 50th floor of the Prudential tower, you get a 360 degree view of the city and its surrounding areas. It gives you such a different perspective, it is worth the admission fee.

Kristy Moon  
BU School of Law, Pappas Law Library

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A walk or run around the Charles River is a great break from the convention center, check out the map with mileage at: <http://web.mit.edu/track/indoor/bridges.html>. The pathway around the river is a few blocks from the convention center. Check out the wonderful view of the Boston skyline from the Cambridge side with sailboats and rowers making their way along the Charles. Another great view of the State House and Beacon Hill is on the T's red line, between Charles Street and Kendall Square stations, crossing the Longfellow Bridge.

## **Boston Places**

To really get a feel for the architecture of Boston, take a walk around Beacon Hill, then stop for some shopping, a coffee or an ice cream on Charles Street. Be sure to walk through the nearby Public Garden, where the beautiful plantings should be in full bloom. This spectacular public park is one of the jewels of the Emerald Necklace, a series of connected parks designed by legendary landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted which wind there way through Boston, see <http://www.emeraldnecklace.org/>.

Stephanie J. Burke  
BU School of Law, Pappas Law Library

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For more information, consult the LAC webpage at: <http://www.aallnet.org/events/local04/>

## Pitch a Program for San Antonio! And Let RIPS Help.

Every year, the deadline to propose a program for the Annual Meeting seems unbelievably early. It usually falls in mid-August, just a few weeks after the meeting is over. It's hard to motivate to think about programs this early, but now is the time to do it.

Submitting a proposal is a relatively straightforward process. Sometimes it helps though to talk over your ideas with a group of like-minded folks beforehand. It's also nice to meet someone willing to look over your program proposal and provide a little motivation and support. Maybe you just have a vague idea and need help deciding how to structure a program about it. The RIPS Program Committee is here to help.

Please come to the RIPS Program Committee meeting at the Boston Annual Meeting on Monday, July 12, 2004 at 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. Location to be announced. We'll put some ideas out there and we can chat about yours. If you've attended in the past, you know that this meeting is informal and fun.

### **Start Planning for San Antonio Today!**

At the meeting, we'll also hear the latest info from the Annual Meeting Program Committee, the group that sets guidelines for program selection and makes selection decisions. By then, they will have announced the theme of the San Antonio meeting, the deadline for proposals, and will have completed the Program Planner's Handbook for 2005.

For a sense of the range of RIPS-sponsored proposals from prior years, please see their descriptions in the fall issues of the RIPS Law Librarian available at <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/ripssis/newsletters.html>.

If you can't make it to the meeting but would like some help writing up your program or have questions, please contact Program Committee Chair Deanna Barmakian, [barm@law.harvard.edu](mailto:barm@law.harvard.edu).

Hope to see you in Boston!

## 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:

**Volunteers  
Needed  
To sit at the  
RIPS Table**

Sunday, July 11	9:00 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Sunday, July 11	10:00 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Monday, July 12	1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Monday, July 12	3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 13	1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 13	2:00 p.m. to 3 :00 p.m.

Peggy McDermott  
Head of Reference and Faculty Services  
Saint Louis University Law Library  
3700 Lindell Boulevard  
St. Louis , MO 63108  
Voice: 314-977-2739  
Fax: 314-977-3966  
Email: [mcderrmmh@slu.edu](mailto:mcderrmmh@slu.edu)

Support RIPS  
Volunteer to sit at the RIPS Table

## Make Way! AALL 2004 Book Drive

Help a child blossom by donating a book today!

Plans have been made for the 2004 book drive in Boston. The theme for 2004 is "Make Way!" based on Boston's beloved children's book "Make Way for Ducklings" by Robert McCloskey (The Viking Press, New York, 1941).

This year's efforts will benefit Read Boston (<http://www.cityofboston.gov/bra/ReadBoston/JCSRB.asp>) – a city education support initiative whose mission is to ensure that all Boston children are able readers by the time they complete third grade. The programs include: the Family Literacy Program which provides books for classroom libraries and teacher training; the Reading Trail, a family-focused reading program which allows families to borrow books; and the Storymobile which lends books to kids camps and summer programs.

Think about how you would like to donate this year. Donating is easier than ever go directly to Amazon.com to view the AALL Make Way Book Drive for Read Boston Wish List ([http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/registry.html/ref=cm\\_wl\\_topnav\\_gateway/002-6465435-0354402?type=wishlist](http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/registry.html/ref=cm_wl_topnav_gateway/002-6465435-0354402?type=wishlist)) and your donation will be shipped directly to the Book Drive team! Other options include bringing your donation with you to the conference, donating at the Luncheon or by sending your donation, money order, or check payable to AALL beforehand to:

### **AALL Book Drive Make Way!**

\*Make Way! Book Drive  
c/o Annette Demers  
Harvard Law School Library  
1545 Massachusetts Ave.  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
1-617-495-4531  
[ademers@law.harvard.edu](mailto:ademers@law.harvard.edu)

Thanks for your continuing support of this important project to benefit READ BOSTON!

## RIPS Meetings and Events in Boston

Saturday, July 10, 2004

TS/OBS/RIPS/CS-SIS Joint Reception  
(sponsored by Innovative Interfaces, Inc)  
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 11, 2004

Executive Board Meeting  
12:00 – 1:15 p.m.

Business Meeting  
4:15 – 5:15 p.m.

**RIPS Events  
And Meetings  
In Boston**

Monday, July 12, 2004

Web Page Committee Meeting  
7:45 – 8:45 a.m.

Program Committee Meeting  
10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

SR/LISR/RIPS-SIS Joint Roundtable on Services  
to Pro Se Patrons & Prisoners  
5:15 – 6:15 p.m.

Tuesday, July 13, 2004

Patron Services Committee Meeting  
7:45 – 8:45 a.m.

Research Instruction Committee Meeting  
5:15 – 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

**Plan to attend  
RIPS Events!**

Public Relations Committee Meeting  
7:45 – 8:45 a.m

Interlibrary Loan & Document Delivery Roundtable  
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

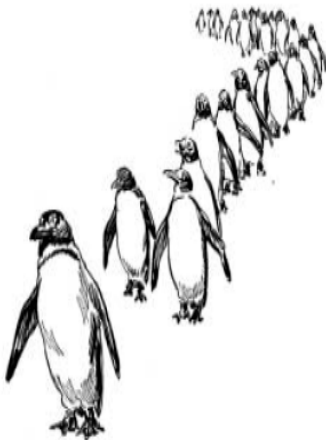
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Publication deadlines for Volume 26 are:

Number 1	October 11, 2003
Number 2	February 29, 2004
Number 3	May 15, 2004

Submissions from RIPS members are highly encouraged. Please send submissions as an email, an email attachment, or on disc to the editor:

Lynn K. Hartke  
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## Business Meeting Agenda

Sunday, July 14

4:15 – 5:15 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Old Business
  - A. Approval of Minutes from the 2003 Business Meeting  
(Printed in the Fall 2003 Newsletter, Vol. 26, No. 1 and posted on the RIPS website at <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/ripssis/minutes03.html>.)
  - B. Financial Report – Lee Ryan
  - C. Annual Report to the Membership – Melissa Serfass
  - D. Committee Reports
    1. Legal Research Teach-In – Gail Partin
    2. Nominations – Kelly Browne
    3. Online List Discussion – Coral Henning
    4. Patron Services – Gary Hill
    5. Program – Jessie Cranford
    6. Public Relations – Peggy McDermott
    7. Research Instruction – Anne-Marie Berti
    8. Web Page – Melissa Serfass
  - E. Briefs in Law Librarianship – Bobbie Studwell
  - F. AELIC (Access to Electronic Legal Information Committee ) Liaison Report – Jennifer Murray
  - G. Introduction of new officers, board members, committee chairs and newsletter editor – Melissa Serfass
- III. New Business
- IV. Adjournment and Closing Statements – Pamela Melton

**RIPS Business  
Meeting—Attend  
And get a chance  
For a gift  
certificate**

## RIPS Executive Board 2003 – 2004

### Chair

Melissa Serfass

University of Arkansas at Little Rock/Pulaski County Law Library

mmserfass@ualr.edu

*2003-2004*

### *Committee Chairs*

### Immediate Past Chair

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Committee Chairs**

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Vacant

Legal Research Teach In

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**2003-2004  
Committee Chairs**

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