

STATE, COURT & COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES



Volume 17, Number 2

Spring 1991

SERIALS

JUL 31 1991

CITY OF WASHINGTON
GALLERIE LIBRARY

Chair's Message

Although I did not attend, I hear from our members that the Conference in Williamsburg went very well with 150 participants. Thanks to Carol Billings and other members of the Section for all of their work on the conference.

Judy Meadows, Vice Chair, is working on the program for the Convention. It will deal with strategic planning and will take up most of the scheduled time. In fact, we will carry on the program until 2:00 p.m. I hope many members will attend since it is vitally important that this strategic planning workshop be implemented in light of the AALL Strategic Plan that is available in the AALL Newsletter for all to read.

I have had the opportunity to be "inspected" by Edgar Bellefontaine of the Social Law Library on behalf of the local bar association. The Bar wanted an outside consultant to evaluate the Library's needs for the coming decade before it decided to try to implement any monetary assistance. Since most county law libraries do not go through this process, I wish to provide you with the major topics covered in Edgar's report because each of you may wish to think of how an evaluation report on your library may be used by yourself to determine future goals and objectives.

Edgar did an excellent job in preparing his report which is divided into the following parts: introduction, patrons, governance, budget and funding, hours, the collection, patron study areas, patron service areas, staff work areas, capital improvements, collection development, personnel, salary scales, staff structure, and Appendixes on materials to be converted to microform, retention guidelines, proposed floor plan, collection development lists for the purchase of additional state administrative codes, looseleafs and periodicals.

Other libraries have sometimes had similar studies performed for their commissioners or boards. You may want to keep it in mind if you feel that sometimes you are hitting a brick wall in developing goals and objectives. By having an outside person come in and inspect or evaluate the Library

the outside consultant serves as a valuable voice to what you already know are the major problems that you are facing. It often gives more status and importance by having an outside expert say it for you. Although some of the report has already been implemented, the major costs of capital improvements and monies for collection development and space problems will not be alleviated very soon.

What is happening at your law library? Do you have any questions, ideas, plans, successes or failures that you would like to share with members of this special interest section? If so, submit your articles or questions to the co-editors Kathy Coon and Regina Smith.

*Joel Fishman, SCCLL Chair
Allegheny County Law Library*

**Computer Technology SURVEY deadline
June 15, 1991.**

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

We recognize that this issue of the newsletter is long overdue, please accept our apologies. The next two issues will be sent out prior to our annual meeting.

We were delighted to see the topic of our upcoming program in July. As newsletter editors, we would like to receive input from the membership regarding what they would like to see in the publication.

What is the purpose of our newsletter?

Should it be a 2-4 page current awareness bulletin?

Is it necessary for us to reprint continuing education or membership information that is already listed in the AALL Newsletter?

Should we have one long article on a particular topic in each issue?

Should we have a theme each year and have information on that topic in each issue?

Should surveys be included as part of the newsletter, or as a separate mailing?

Let's start the planning process early with respect to our newsletter and perhaps some of you could send us your ideas, so we can incorporate them into our next newsletter. We were short on material for this issue, so we included some of our own material but we're sure that you will tire of hearing about Jenkins in each newsletter.

Regarding this issue, the Committee on Automation has a survey for you to complete. Please be sure to return it to Larry Hood by the June 15th deadline. Also, Mary Miles Prince and Donna C. Wair have an excellent report of an informal survey of state law libraries. In addition, we have a new feature, the SHARE column.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Your editors,

Kathy Coon
Maria Sekula
Regina A. Smith

STATE COURT COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES OFFICERS, 1991

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