

ORALL Newsletter

Ohio Regional Association
of Law Libraries

September 1986

Volume 1986, No. 3

Professionalism—Challenge to Change

Imagine yourself in an airplane at 30,000 feet viewing the ground below. Can you picture the kaleidoscope of cars, fields, rail lines, golf courses, and roads one sees from that perspective? As I flew on a Piedmont jet to the AALL conference in Washington, D.C. recently, I realized how drastically my perception of the world changes with this distance.

Professionally, our view of ourselves, our libraries, and librarianship changes when we leave our own libraries to attend conferences and visit other libraries. But what do we gain from this new perspective? Change involves a new awareness of a procedure or idea. Change involves an understanding of this new idea. Change involves a commitment to implementation of new ideas. Change involves a climate for new habits (see Myers, *Every Employee a Manager*).

After our last ORALL meeting where we heard (among other things) an excellent program on relating to the legal profession in reference services, I came home with a new resolve to increase the communication channels of my library to the attorneys. And after the AALL meeting, I have come back with visions of instituting Lotus 1, 2, 3 in my library, initiating an orientation and training program for summer interns, and honing my skills in tax research.

Will I do all these things? Most of them, yes. But some of the others will get pushed into the background because of the "urgent" business of the day. How can we implement what we learn at workshops, seminars, and conferences to increase our professionalism and our effectiveness as purveyors of information?

We must set aside time for professional reading and serious thinking. We must set goals for ourselves and our libraries and keep them before us. We must try to plan and execute our important tasks and not just the "urgent" ones. We have all been to educational programs and come home only to repeat the same tired processes in our libraries. This is not to say that we are not doing many things effectively; only that every library needs periodic review, planning, and improvement.

As professional librarians, we are fortunate to have educational opportunities provided by ORALL, AALL, SLA, etc. It is up to us to make the best use of them. Our salaries, our positions, and our futures depend on it. ■

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Anita K. Shew
ORALL President

ORALL—MICH/ALL in Grand Rapids

The Fall meeting of ORALL will be held in conjunction with MICH/ALL on October 1-3, 1986, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The theme is "Our Changing Profession" and Carol Allred, our V.P./Pres. Elect, promises to have an interesting and informative program. Some of the topics and speakers include: "ORALL Salary Survey," Sue Schaeftgen from Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur; "Collection Development," Byron Cooper from The University of Detroit College of Law; "Resource Sharing," Roger Jacobs from the Notre Dame Law School. In addition to these sessions, a "video-skit" will be presented by the Thomas Cooley Law Library. Margaret Leary, Director of the University of Michigan Law Library, will be the luncheon speaker and Al Brecht, Director of the USC Law Library and incoming V.P./Pres. Elect of AALL, will be the banquet speaker on Thursday night. Come join us! ■

Officers

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Calendar

October 1-3
October 24
January 7-10
January 7-10
May 1987
May 1987

ORALL Fall Meeting—Grand Rapids
Newsletter Copy Deadline—4th issue
AALS—Los Angeles
AALL Midwinter Institute—San Francisco
Ohio Bar Association Annual Meeting—Dayton
ORALL Spring Meeting—Dayton

Ethics and Research Needs Covered in General Session

"Relating to the Legal Profession" was the theme of the ORALL Spring Meeting in Cincinnati. On Thursday the mid-morning general session focused on providing service and meeting needs in certain emerging areas of law. Two topics that were discussed were ethical standards of different professions and anticipating the research needs of patrons.

The first speaker was Professor Nancy Firak from Chase College of Law, Northern Kentucky University. The title of the presentation was "Researching Professional Ethics and Professional Responsibility: Asking the Right Questions." Professor Firak began by discussing the general background of professional responsibility and professional ethics. She explained that the sources for these areas were very diverse and that they covered many different types of materials. Some possible sources of professional responsibility materials were discussed and are listed as follows: the American Bar Association Model Code of Professional Responsibility; ABA, local, and state bar association opinions; the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct; ABA Standards for Criminal Justice; miscellaneous federal and state statutes; court rules including U.S., federal, state, and local court rules and case law.

The next area involved the types of remedies available to clients dissatisfied with their lawyers and how to research a problem involving professional ethics and responsibility. Professor Firak explained that the remedies available depended on the nature of the claim: whether or not it was a civil or a criminal matter and whether or not it involved unethical conduct or incompetence by the attorney. The type of action a person can take against an attorney is dependent on this information, and determines whether it is going to be a disciplinary or a malpractice action. When researching a problem in this area, Professor Firak advised the librarian to try to narrow the scope of the problem, to attempt to identify the profession or professions involved (e.g., law, medicine, accounting, etc.) and what remedy the patron is seeking. A selective bibliography was prepared by Claudia Zaher and was included in the last issue of *ORALL Newsletter*.

The last speaker of the session was Keith Buckley from the Indiana University School of Law, Bloomington, Indiana. His

topic was "Anticipating Research Needs of Patrons." The presentation was an encouraging "pep talk" to those in the profession. It was especially informative to those who provide reference assistance. Mr. Buckley discussed the importance of keeping up with current developments, of identifying the clientele you serve, whether it is in a university, law firm, court or county law library, and finally, the importance of being aware of where these sources of information are located. He also emphasized the advantages in establishing and maintaining contacts with those outside of the profession and with university alumni, for those in an academic setting.

In concluding his presentation, Mr. Buckley provided examples of some sources that may be helpful in the daily (even hourly!) endeavor to keep up with current developments. These sources include *Congressional Quarterly*, *Federal Register*, *Tax Notes Today*, *Wall Street Journal*, advance sheets for the regional reporters, and current looseleafs. Last but not least, he also suggested looking at the local and trade newspapers such as the *National Law Journal* and the *New York Law Journal*. ■

Prepared by Terri L. Hardin

Alternative Dispute Resolution

The first session of the spring ORALL meeting was presented by Earle Brown of the American Arbitration Association (AAA). The AAA was established to privately facilitate quicker, cheaper settlements of problems. Mr. Brown's talk focused on the advantages of settling disputes outside of the court setting. One advantage is that arbitration allows for less formality and is quite successful because people feel they can settle their problems themselves, rather than having to have an attorney and a judge present.

Another advantage is that the participants are allowed to react to their opponent on a gut level: the people are allowed to argue and even yell at one another, so long as the exchanges continue the dialogue toward a solution. The arbitrators are trained to control the situation. They know when to intervene and when to stay out of the discussion. Above all, the arbitrator must remain neutral; otherwise the trust and confidence of the parties will be lost, along with the credibility of the whole process. The arbitrators do not offer legal solutions to the participants since their decisions do not have the force of law.

Rather they try to facilitate solutions or compromises, thereby allowing the individuals to make a more lasting and meaningful choice of solutions. The ability to allow this kind of activity has given the AAA credibility with the people who use arbitration.

Mr. Brown said that he hears about 300 cases per year and that most of them involve minor criminal and civil problems. Mr. Brown then told of a number of cases which he felt were better handled by arbitration than they would have been by the courts. Finally, he mentioned that the AAA has an extensive library of articles, books and films, available to those who are interested. One may join the AAA and receive some materials through membership. Other materials may be borrowed from the AAA. Apply to the AAA Education Section for information; the home office is at 140 West 51st Street, New York, NY, 10020.

Greta Southard, formerly of the Cincinnati Law Library Association, prepared a selective bibliography for this session, and it is available from the Newsletter editor. ■

Prepared by Theodore A. Potter

RICO, Criminal and Civil

The second session of the spring ORALL meeting was a talk on RICO by Terry Lehmann, Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio.

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For extra copies of the ORALL Newsletter write: Theodore A. Potter, University of Toledo Law Library, 2801 West Bancroft St., Toledo, OH 43606

For membership information contact: Brenda Woodruff, Toledo Law Association, Lucas County Courthouse, Toledo, Ohio 43624

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RICO, Criminal and Civil

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RICO stands for Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, Public Law No. 91-452, 84 Stat. 922 (1970). Mr. Lehmann began by describing what RICO is and how it is used. He was quite enthusiastic about the uses of RICO because it is so broad.

The statute allows for criminal prosecution of individuals who engage in any continuing criminal enterprise which is considered "organized crime" (e.g., extortion, bribery, gambling, loan sharking, etc.), and it allows for civil suits against persons who engage in a pattern of racketeering activity. The penalties for the criminal violations are quite stringent, but the civil penalties are what attorneys are interested in because they include seizure of assets. This type of penalty is seen as a deterrent to those who might otherwise be inclined to do business illegally. For example, it takes only two related incidents of fraud within a 10-year period for a pattern of activity to be found. This means that if one were to use the mail or telephone to sell worthless securities, the person is subject to RICO prosecution and any assets of the person would be fair game for the prosecution (this is necessarily an over-simplification of this statute, so please treat it as such). The breadth of the statute has created a new area of litigation and Mr. Lehmann indicated that he thought this area would continue to grow in the foreseeable future.

Marianne Maher of the Federal Court Library in Detroit prepared a bibliography for this session and anyone interested in a copy may write to the Newsletter editor. ■

Prepared by Theodore A. Potter

Building Research Skills

The final general session of the ORALL spring meeting explored the topic of relating to the legal profession through service. Mary Persyn moderated the session as the speakers analyzed the topic of building legal research skills and serving the legal profession from law school to partnership.

Pat Harris of Case Western Reserve University Law Library drew on her experiences with legal bibliography courses to illustrate the problems in teaching and organizing these courses. Dividing integrated processes into teachable segments adds to the difficulty. Pat

emphasized the need for coordination between the research and writing segment and the legal bibliography segment. Past trends in the teaching of legal writing and bibliography were discussed. In recent years, these courses have been growing in respectability. The trend is now to offer advanced legal research courses.

Mary Grace Hune, Librarian of Baker and Hostetter, Columbus, explained her involvement in the firm's continuing legal education program. Because many inquiries from new attorneys concerned how to structure a legal research question, she decided to cover the methodology of legal research in her first lecture. Other lectures cover such topics as the use of looseleaf services and a separate, short, library orientation. Mary Grace also plans to offer a course on Ohio resource materials for new and summer associates. Attorneys are educated about non-legal sources through the library newsletter.

Presenting the role of county law librarians in serving their users was Vicki Brown of the Ashtabula County Law Library Association. Many county law librarians use newsletters or bulletin boards to relay information on new statutes, cases, and sources to their patrons. The county librarians frequently offer continuing legal education courses for which they give CLE credits; computer-assisted legal research training sessions fall into this category. Inviting sales representatives to present seminars on the use of their looseleafs and other publications is another method used to educate attorneys. One more service offered by many county law libraries is to make videotapes and audio cassettes of legal seminars available to the attorneys.

Former ORALL member and now attorney, Merlin Whiteman, from Dann, Pecar, Newman, Talesnick & Kleiman in Indianapolis, was the final speaker. He stressed that the most important function of new attorneys is performing legal research. He recommended that those who teach legal research courses should emphasize the basics. Advanced techniques can be learned sometime later in the three years of law school. If lectures are not the best format for teaching particular skills, another method should be used. Merlin advised the librarians to attach great importance to their dealings with new associates in a firm; these are the people who will eventually become the partners. ■

Prepared by Constance Matts

Acquisitions and Serials Talk Table

The group which met to discuss Acquisitions/Serials consisted mainly of academic and county librarians. The discussion focused on serials. Tom French has been working on the law review at Northern Kentucky University and talked about the claim problem from the "other" side. He explained how difficult it is to satisfy the subscribers when the issue is late and he hoped we could all be a little more patient with law reviews in the future. The discussion then moved to automated serials control—its potential and whether anyone had automated. The Cincinnati Law Library Association has the Faxon system so, again, Tom told us about their experience.

The talk table concept seemed well received and should be given consideration at future meetings. ■

Prepared by Theodore A. Potter

Relating as Professionals; Polishing the Image

A summary of remarks presented at the Spring 1986 conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, by Mrs. Joyce A. Black, of "Expressions in Color" and by Dr. Charles Apple, Assistant Professor of Communications at Northern Kentucky University.

These two presentations emphasized the importance of professional image and the influence of appearance and actions on the impressions conveyed to others. It was stressed that law librarians should be perceived by both colleagues and patrons as information specialists, professional in the performance of skills, and certainly not subordinate. Associated with this is the understanding of the significance of non-verbal messages which are conveyed on a day-to-day basis.

Mrs. Black emphasized the importance of first impressions by relating to the listeners that in the first thirty seconds of an encounter one's financial position, social position, level of sophistication, trustworthiness, self-image, educational level, and aspirations are determined. Needless to say, it is important to gain control over these impressions. One aspect of this control is the improvement of one's appearance through the proper selection of a wardrobe and clothing colors. Mrs. Black offered several suggestions as to the selection of the shades and tones of fabrics which enhance and

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ORALL County Law Libraries SIG Business Meeting

May 14, 1986—Cincinnati, Ohio

SIG chair Rosemarie Chrisant opened the meeting by thanking all the subgroups for their hard work since the fall meeting in Ft. Wayne. She mentioned several activities of interest to county law libraries scheduled for Friday, May 16, and then asked for subgroup reports.

Reporters. Corliss Davis stated that she had written two summaries of subgroup activities for the ORALL newsletter and thanked subgroups for their cooperation in providing reports. Keith Ashelman will be attending and reporting on the AALL conference in Washington. He urged other members to attend the workshops on teaching legal research and problem publications.

Legislation. Rosemarie Chrisant reported on her efforts to determine the legislative intent of S.B. 293 concerning mayor's courts' jurisdiction over drunk drinking offenses. She presented a letter she had received from the bill's sponsor, Senator Paul E. Pfeifer, stating that it was never his intention to change county law library funding in any way and that if the bill made any progress at all—which was very doubtful—any language threatening our funding would be changed. Other legislation discussed included the seat belt law (fine monies *not* to go to county law libraries) and the pending bill on the confidentiality of library circulation records.

Automation/Computers. Martha Cox asked the attendees to move their chairs into a circle for a general discussion of the round-robin letters on online search techniques. Among the tips mentioned were the following:

- 3-hour minimum monthly usage time given to Common Pleas court law clerk who in turn helps attorneys do searches (Vicki Brown)

- One person on staff assigned to do all searches (Keith Ashelman)

- Give 3-hour minimum time away to attorneys (Rita Hamish)

- After 6 months free usage (i.e. July–December) to attorneys trained on WESTLAW, found that increased usage continued after free period ended (Linda Ellashek)

- Use topical database wherever appropriate to gain Allstates coverage without Allstates cost (Martha Cox)

- Circulate WESTLAW highlights

- Use various means of typing on non-billable time

- Use new MAP command to see where you've been and get off billable time

- Use WESTMATE disk if searching on a micro (free?)

- Publicize the fact that WESTLAW training is good for CLE (continuing legal education) credits

- Enter official Ohio cite after I.C. (Insta-Cite) command—retrieves decision and parallel cites

- Be aware that WEST offers two contract plans:

- 1) 3 hour minimum @ \$2.50/minute

or

- 2) no minimum @ \$2.75/minute

- Compile computer research monthly time summary breaking down usage between staff, court personnel, and members (Martha Cox)

A more general discussion followed concerning LEXIS vs. WESTLAW, individual vs. library passwords, printers and the paper used with them. Rose Brown of Defiance County also proposed that larger county law libraries offer to help smaller libraries without computer-assisted legal research. Linda Ellashek stated that she may do a survey on software and hardware currently used by SIG members for internal library automation. Rosemarie Chrisant described her creation of two searchable databases at the Akron Law Library, one an index to the Ohio Official Reports advance sheets and the other an index to ALLA board minutes. Rosemarie also brought up the issue of electrical problems as they affect library computers and the possibility of buying surge protectors or uninterruptible power sources. Lastly, she reminded members that the state auditor has requirements regarding computerized financial records.

Quarters/Space. Mary Tekancic explained that she is creating a file of information on library movers and designers used by SIG members. Carol Suhre of the Clermont County law library would be glad to share her experiences with her library's recent remodeling. Rich DeBear of Library Design has offered to speak to the SIG at our Fall 1986 meeting. All SIG members are urged to complete the AALL space survey as soon as possible.

Funding/Law Suits. Pat Wheeler presented the results of the survey conducted by her subgroup and a general discussion followed. Information about any libraries involved in law suits should be given to Pat so that all SIG members may benefit. Some members felt that all

surveys such as the funding survey should include clearly stated sponsorship and purpose. It was mentioned that a study done by an expert concerning funding for county law libraries in Ohio would be very helpful. Keith Brown expressed his frustration over budgeting when you don't know what money you'll be getting from month to month.

Membership. Sally Davis reported that her subgroup sent a letter in March to all county law librarians who were not members of ORALL. The letter encouraged membership in ORALL and attendance at the Cincinnati meeting. All members were sent invitations to an opening reception held from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. May 14 immediately before the SIG meeting. No new members attended the reception.

Rosemarie Chrisant asked that the subgroup work on updating the membership directory.

This concluded the subgroup reports. Rosemarie Chrisant then introduced Vicki Brown of Ashtabula County whom she had asked to give a summary of her report on special services in County law libraries (to be part of the program on Friday, May 16). Vicki received responses from 44 of the 47 libraries to which she sent surveys. She brought samples of handouts, user guides, and newsletters produced by county law libraries. Among the special services she learned about through her survey were reference files of attorneys' interests so that new books can be held for them, and demonstrations in the library by representatives from Commerce Clearing House and Prentice-Hall. Anita Shew

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Reference/Circulation Talk Table

The participants in the Reference/Circulation Talk Table were from academic and law firm libraries. Since most of the law firm librarians were new, many of their questions dealt with collection control: How to get books back from attorneys (and faculty in academic law libraries)? Should books bought by the firm stay in the library or be allowed to be kept in individual offices?

Other topics of discussion included the comparison of NEXIS and Dialog for similar searches, Ohio legislative history—it was noted that Ohio will not release internal memos, which are very important in the legislative process—and using *Shepard's* on LEXIS. ■

Prepared by Carol Bredemeyer

Announcements

Carol Suhre reports:

Congratulations are due to two ORALL members for having received scholarships from the American Association of Law Libraries.

Marianne Mason, currently Wood County Law Librarian, received a scholarship for a library degree candidate who is a non-law school graduate. She has started the AMLS program at the University of Michigan.

Tom French, currently studying in Germany, received a scholarship for a law degree candidate who is a library school graduate. Tom, who is administrative assistant at the Cincinnati Law Library, will complete his studies at Chase College of Law next year.

Andrew R. Brann reports:

The Columbus Law Library Association announces publication of its *Card Catalog Filing Rules*. They are a hybrid of both the American Library Association and the Library of Congress rules for filing in card catalogs, and they reflect the practice of a small to medium-sized law library utilizing a dictionary catalog. Those wishing to purchase a copy of the nine-page work may do so by sending \$2.00 (to defer postage and handling) to: Andrew R. Brann, Columbus Law Library Association, 369 South High Street, 10th Floor, Franklin County Hall of Justice, Columbus, Ohio 43215. ■

Welcome New Members!

Lynda C. Green
Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue
1700 Huntington Building
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Pat Harris
Case Western Reserve University
11075 East Boulevard
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Elaine Moore
Valparaiso University Law Library
Valparaiso, Indiana 46383

Linda Stebbins
Black, McCuskey, Sowers & Arbaugh
1000 United Bank Plaza
220 Market Avenue, South
Canton, Ohio 44702

Elizabeth B. Wood
University of Cincinnati
M.L. 142
Cincinnati, Ohio 45221 ■

Treasurer's Report

July 1986

BALANCE ON HAND, JANUARY 1, 1986	\$ 3,204.35
Income:	
Dues	\$ 3,990.00
Interest	119.89
ORALL/MICHALL	
AALL Breakfast	487.50
Meetings	6,862.50
Miscellaneous	18.50
	<u>\$1,478.39</u>
	<u>\$4,682.74</u>
Expenses:	
Newsletter	\$ 2,257.05
Meetings	5,610.54
ORALL/MICHALL	
AALL Breakfast	470.41
Miscellaneous	123.29
	<u>\$ 8,461.29</u>
BALANCE ON HAND, JULY 15, 1986	<u>\$6,221.45</u>

Prepared by Brenda Woodruff

Placement Notice

OHIO

Position: Law Librarian, Geauga County Law Library Association, Chardon, Ohio

Requirements: M.L.S. from accredited library school; law library or library experience preferred but not required.

Job Description: The Law Librarian will be responsible for administering a moderately sized county law library collection. Specific responsibility will include establishing a bibliographic database for the collection, managing the collection, and providing library services to all patrons.

Position available: Immediately. Salary negotiable.

Qualified candidates should contact:

Mr. James M. Gillette, Trustee
Gauga County Law Library Association
P.O. Box 225
Chardon, Ohio 44024
216-286-7195

Candidates should include a letter of application, resume, salary requirements, and references.

Relating as Professionals

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brighten the face as well as overall appearance.

Both speakers reviewed the percentage breakdown of the components of message communication. Fifty-five percent of a message is conveyed through the actions and appearance of the body, thirty-eight percent by the tone and inflections of the voice, and only seventeen percent by the actual words.

Dr. Apple professed that effective "body language" as a communication skill will project a more businesslike and assertive image. He began with the explanation that "body language" stems from the perception of oneself and that this self-image develops from the perceptions of and relationships with parents, peers, and the impression of a chosen profession. He stated that, in essence, "body language" is a physical performance of self-image. If the self-image is altered, then so is the "body language." In day-to-day encounters, positive "self talk" will improve physical actions and present a more accomplished behavior.

Dr. Apple offered a few suggestions for improving "body language" during professional encounters.

1. Make direct eye contact. This conveys the message that "I'm interested and I'm not afraid."
2. Maintain an erect and alert posture. This conveys the message that "I'm in control of myself."
3. Use a firm tone of voice with a variety in language. Intonation emphasizes important points.
4. Offering to shake hands first can be a sign of assertive self-confidence.

To be effective, the professional image must be appropriate to the circumstances and natural to the person. This element of coordination is vital to both an influential behavior and a polished appearance. ■

Prepared by Joanne R. Beal

Correction

The article, "Activities of County Law Libraries Special Interest Group Sub-Groups" in the June, 1986 issue of the ORALL Newsletter contains an error. The items to be sent for the archives are to be sent to ALLA (Akron Law Library Association) and not to AALL. The Newsletter regrets any inconvenience this has caused. ■

ORALL—SIG

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mentioned that she bought legal software and has let attorneys use it on her IBM PC-AT.

In concluding the meeting Rosemarie Chrisant proposed adding two new sub-groups: (1) Personnel/Benefits/Salaries and (2) Collection Development. Anyone interested in participating in these sub-groups should contact her.

Late breaking news from the SIG chair:

The best laid plans . . .

Greta Southard, our Chairperson—elect, has left the realm of county law libraries for the world of private law firms. It will be necessary to elect both a Chairperson & Chairperson/elect for next year at the October meeting. Be thinking about nominees or consider volunteering yourself.

Good luck Greta: the Counties will miss you! ■

Administration, Personnel, and Planning Talk Table

The law librarians attending the informal talk table on Administration, Personnel, and Planning represented law firm, court, and university law libraries. The experience ranged from less than one year to six years of experience in a supervisory or administrative position. The group met for only thirty minutes and most of the time was devoted to a discussion of the uncooperative subordinate. Participants emphasized the need to document every instance of insubordination or lack of cooperation. It was also agreed that the individual should be warned only a couple of times and if no improvement, or a marked increase in disrespect occurred, the individual should be let go or perhaps given the opportunity to resign.

Time did not permit a discussion on problems involving "unjust dismissal" or "employment-at-will"; rather the focus was on the understanding the librarian must have of his/her role or authority within the organization with reference to self-image and the ability to "fire."

There was brief discussion on understanding power styles. The six stages of power discussed were: dictator, seducer, the great persuader, the role model, the empowerer, and the sage.

Conversely, the employees were concerned about comfort, recognition, society, security, compensation, and mean-

ing in the job environment. These were some of the motivations of both sides mentioned in dealing with personnel.

Also briefly discussed were the problems of employee evaluations, particularly in a university or civil service system.

There was agreement that often one becomes a particular type of administrator based on a list of "negative" aspects or experiences under an inadequate or incompetent administrator. It was also agreed that an administrator may have the right business skills but lack a critical element in administration: the ability to identify and understand one's own strengths and weaknesses. ■

Prepared by Linda D. Smith

AALL in Washington, D.C.

Some of the programs held at the American Association of Law Libraries convention in Washington, D.C., would be of interest to ORALL members, especially those in small law libraries.

One of the workshops, entitled "Coping in the One-Person Library," discussed ways to make the job easier. In addition to defining time management strategies for increasing the effectiveness of library information services, discussion focused on the relationship between information user and information supplier.

An outline was provided for those libraries interested in contracting-out certain tasks with criteria given as to the financial and administrative costs involved. To provide long-range information needs, the speakers stressed interaction between the librarian and her supervisor, her support staff, and her professional association.

"Compiling a Legislative History" was one of several sessions dealing with the basics of legislative research. Major federal legislative information services were listed as well as sources of background information and reasons for using a document retrieval service.

A novel format of fifteen "problem tables" were available to confront "Problem Publications in Law Libraries," channeling participants to law librarians with similar headaches concerning Restatements and booklets that accompany looseleaf services. The problems and perplexities of replacement volumes, how to deal effectively with vendors and their salespeople, and assessing your library's

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AALL

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collection for preservation, were other topics available for discussing improvement of overall library quality.

The human factor of performance was covered by "Your Wardrobe and Business," "Everyone's a Winner," "Looking Ahead to a Successful Retirement," and "We Are Our Own Best Resource."

In addition to being "wined and dined" by publishers, many interesting perspectives in the field of law librarianship are highlighted at the national convention. Attending such an event is a time for challenge and choice, and time worth planning for a dynamic experience. ■

Prepared by Carol Suhre

Past President's Column

A year ago one of the largest courts in Michigan decided to hire a librarian for the first time. The challenge of setting up a new library lured me out of my familiar niche as Assistant Law Librarian at Adams-Pratt Oakland County Law Library in Pontiac and down to the big city. This 36th District Court serving the city of Detroit may be the only district court in Michigan large enough to have a librarian, so it is a unique situation.



Lane Fichtenau cleans one of the 18,000 books involved in the move.

District Courts were created in Michigan's 1963 Constitution to replace Justices of the Peace and Municipal Courts. They were given limited jurisdiction: civil matters under \$10,000, state misdemeanors and city ordinance violations, and small claims. There are 98 districts so far and just half a dozen Municipal Courts still unconverted.

I started August 12, 1985, in the Old County Building with a desk in the Office of the Judicial Assistant (similar to corporate counsel) and a year-old inventory of books in all the judges' chambers. I went

through each of the chambers, met the judges, updated the inventory, and checked the currency of the volumes. I then wrote a 35-page proposal covering everything related to the library's operation from goals and objectives to budget, recommended books, and personnel.

Meanwhile, using a copy of the floor plan, I recommended some immediate structural changes to increase visibility and add a sink. I got a lighting plan and drew up a shelving configuration that was

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Application for Grant, Fall 1986

ORALL is sponsoring two grants of \$75 each to be used to help defray expenses of attending the 1986 Fall Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Oct. 1-3. Newer members or those who have not yet attended an ORALL meeting are especially urged to apply. Grant recipients will be selected on the basis of potential for professional benefit from attending this meeting, possibility of future contributions to ORALL, and financial need.

To apply, please fill out the following application as soon as possible and return it by Friday, September 19, along with one letter of recommendation from someone familiar with your work, potential, and need for this grant.

Send to:

Sarah Holterhoff, Education Committee Chairperson
Law Library
Valparaiso University
Valparaiso, IN 46383

1. Name _____
2. Phone _____
3. Work Address _____
4. Employment in law librarianship (give dates and places, most current first):

5. Other relevant employment: _____
6. Education: _____
7. Professional activities and committee memberships: _____
8. Member of ORALL since _____ Member of AALL? _____
since _____
9. Will your employer pay any or all of your expenses in attending this meeting? _____
If so, how much? _____
10. Have you previously attended ORALL meetings? If so, when? _____
11. Please describe what you do in your current law library position. (For questions 11, 12 and 13, use additional paper if necessary.) _____

12. What are your career goals? _____
13. How do you feel you will benefit from attending this meeting? _____

Our National Resources

The 1986 AALL Institute on "Our National Resources" took place in Washington, D.C., immediately prior to the Annual Meeting, from June 30 to July 3. The Institute was based at George Washington University, although a large part of it consisted of field trips to libraries and agencies in the Washington area.

The trips included tours of the National Archives, Department of Justice, Department of Labor, FTC, IRS, and the UN Information Center. The tour of the Government Printing Office was very interesting, especially to me, as our library is in the process of becoming a selective depository. The tour leaders explained the sales and depository policies, including the requirements for public access and periodic inspection of depository libraries. Government publications in the scientific and technological areas are published by the National Technical Information Service, a self-supporting agency of the Department of Commerce, which we also visited. The NTIS Bibliographic Database includes legal information, and published searches are available under topics including copyrights, crimes, government policies, labor relations, law (jurisprudence), and patents.

The impressive National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland, is a good argument for a National Law Library. This beautiful library is a tribute to the history of medicine, including exhibits and a room of early medical tomes. It is the world's largest research library in a single scientific field. We received online demonstrations of some of the databases (there are 21 in addition to the well-known MEDLINE), including the use of a new software package called GRATEFUL MED, which allows anyone with an IBM (or compatible) PC and a Hayes (or compatible) modem to search MEDLINE or CATLINE. GRATEFUL MED can be ordered from NTIS for \$29.99, plus \$3 shipping and handling. The purchase number is PB86-158482, and the online rate is about \$20 per hour.

Our tours naturally included the Law Library of the Library of Congress. Like an iceberg, the library is mostly below the surface, in this case in the motorized compact shelving in the basement. Despite their protestations about safety features, being squished between *Am-Jur* and *CJS* would be a good plot for *Murder in the Library of Congress*. The Law Library has a marked international

flavor. The display cases featured ancient law books in Arabic, Icelandic, German, etc. Unfortunately, the Congressional Research Service, across the hall, is only open to members of Congress and their staffs.

The high point of the Institute for me was the tour of the Supreme Court. We were graciously received by the Clerk of Court, who talked about his predecessors and explained some of the administrative aspects of the Court. The tour included the courtroom, the conference room, and the Justices' dining room. Each of these rooms has a different customary system for determining which Justice sits where. Steve Margeton, the Supreme Court Librarian, conducted the tour of the beautiful library. Rosalie Sherwin, Head of Technical Services, and Martha (Mickey) Byrnes, Head of Research, each spoke about her section. The databases they access include WESTLAW, LEXIS, NEXIS, DIALOG, JURIS, VUTEXT, OCLC, SCORPIO (the Library of Congress online catalog), and a bill tracking system. We were shown the "highest court in the land"—the full-scale basketball court on the floor above the courtroom. There is also an exercise room where Justice O'Connor regularly leads an exercise class for women court employees.

A number of vendors and information brokers spoke at the Institute. Some of the more outstanding were the impressive Roberta I. Shaffer of the Library of Congress (and founder of Research Information Services—note the initials) and Matther Leskow of *Information U.S.A.* fame. The closing speaker was David McCullough, author of historical and biographical works including *The Johnstown Flood*, *The Great Bridge* (Brooklyn), *The Path Between the Seas: The Creation of the Panama Canal*, and *Mornings on Horseback*, a biography of young Theodore Roosevelt which received the American Book Award. He is currently working on a biography of Harry S. Truman, and is also the host of the popular PBS series "Smithsonian World." He spoke on his research and writing methods, stressing the help he has received from numerous libraries and librarians. In the lengthy question and answer session following the talk, Mr. McCullough recommended a number of exemplary biographies, including *Reveille in Washington, 1860-1865* by Margaret Leech, *Stilwell and the American Experience in China, 1911-1945* by Barbara Tuchman, *Peter the Great* by Robert Massie, and the historical novel *The Killer*

Angels by Michael Shaara. He also spoke glowingly of the novels of Willa Cather, especially *A Lost Lady* and *My Antonia*. ■

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Past President's Column

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compatible and was allowed to buy metal library shelving in sufficient quantity to take care of the first several years.

The movers came early in December, one Friday around noon, and by noon Saturday all the books were packed and out of all three court building locations. On Monday I met them at the new building but we couldn't get elevators for hours. It took several days to get the books to the 3rd, 4th, and 5th floor chambers and 3rd floor library. The movers unloaded most of the books onto the shelves but most chambers were short one or two shelves. The entire move was hampered by construction.

Finally, the next week all the shelving was in and my new assistant and I shifted nearly every chamber's library. Our central library collection was in boxes until mid-January when our shelving was delivered and erected. In all we handled 18,000 books, sometimes twice, without a book truck! The new library has about 3000 volumes and when it reaches a more satisfactory level, it will have about 5000. That may sound appallingly small but we are not providing a library for the attorneys who appear before the Court (although they are welcome to use the collection). The Judges do not have a staff of law student clerks or research attorneys to independently research each opinion as they do at the Circuit and Federal District Court. They place more reliance on the research of the attorneys and prosecutors.

Our most interesting, ongoing, research question has related to our "sick building." Our collection can't provide answers for the most part, but we have received excellent cooperation from Detroit Public Library, Wayne State University's Schiffman Medical Library, and Mead Data Central. When the case is over I'll tell you all about it.

Meanwhile, I look forward to seeing you all in Grand Rapids. ■

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