

# ORALL Newsletter

Ohio Regional Association  
of Law Libraries

December, 1990

Volume 1990, Number 4

## President's Message - Mary Persyn

### Thank You's

A heartfelt Thank You to Paul Richert, Rosemarie Chrisant and the members of the Akron Local Arrangements Committee for the wonderful job they did in presenting a most enjoyable Fall ORALL conference.

They made my position as program chair much easier. There is a tremendous amount of behind-the-scenes work that is vital for the smooth operation of any meeting and the Akron crew did a spectacular job. This issue of the Newsletter will report on the meeting for those of you who were not lucky enough to attend.

### Committee Preference Forms

One of my first responsibilities as ORALL President is to set up the committees that actually do the work of the Association. You will soon be receiving in the mail the ORALL committee Preference Form directly from me so that you can volunteer to serve on one of the Committees. Committee work is interesting and gives you an opportunity to get to know other ORALL members in addition to providing a great service to the Association. Please volunteer!

Your Committee choices will include: Activities; Core Legal Collection; Education; Membership; Nominations; Constitution, Bylaws, and Guidelines; Newsletter; Legislative; Placement; Public Service; Union List; ORALL Chapter Breakfast at AALL, and Recruitment Committee.

### New Recruitment Committee

In addition, AALL has asked us to find ways of recruiting new librarians into the profession. Any of you who have hired librarians recently know that the librarians

who are available are very good, but that the library schools are just not graduating enough librarians to fill the need of America's libraries. I am establishing a Special Committee on Recruitment to work on ways that ORALL can help in the recruitment of good people into the profession.

### Encore of ORALL Players in New Orleans

I have just heard from Frank Houdek that the ORALL Players have been invited to give an encore presentation of "Donahue Looks at Library Images" at the AALL meeting in New Orleans. Some of you may remember this presentation from the Mid-West Regional in Chicago. The cast will include Frank, James Duggan from Southern Illinois, Tom Hanley from Dayton, former ORALL president Mike Slinger, now at Suffolk University, Mickie Voges from Chicago-Kent and myself.

It has been a beautiful and productive Fall in Valparaiso and I hope that it has been the same for you. Happy Holidays!

*P.S.* Please return your committee assignment forms by January 15, 1991.



### New Officers 1990-91

President	Mary G. Persyn
Vice-President/President-Elect	Jan Novak
Secretary	Keith Blough
Treasurer	Thomas G. Spaith
Executive Board	Mary Kovaks
	Sharon McIntyre
Newsletter Editor	Anita K. Shew

### Calendar

Feb 20-22	"Records Management" Washington DC. Darold Aldridge, 800/424-9773.
Feb 28- Mar 1	"Environmental Conditions for Libraries & Archives" Washington, DC. Kathy Smith, Alexandria Va.
May 15-17	ORALL Spring Meeting, Cincinnati.
July 20-25	AALL annual meeting, New Orleans.

Newsletter Deadlines

February 8, May 31, August 8, & November 8

President Brenda Woodruff Kelley called the meeting to order October 17, 1990 at 9:00 am and thanked Mary Persyn for the excellent programs conducted during the meeting. Paul Richert, Rosemarie Chrisant, and other members of the Local Arrangements Committee were thanked for a job well done. President Kelley announced that Ted Potter would serve as parliamentarian for the meeting.

President Kelley reported on the survey concerning the number of ORALL meetings per year which was conducted by Michael Slinger. Out of 145 received surveys, 90 members favored holding only 1 meeting per year. With this information the Executive Board voted in their meeting on October 17th, to hold only one meeting per year in the fall beginning in 1992. With the Board's approval a Special Interest Group can receive funding for additional meetings.

**Secretary's Report:** Janis Johnston asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes, copies of which were available in the room. A motion was made and passed to waive the reading and approve the minutes. The results of the election of new officers were announced: Jan Ryan Novak, Vice President/President Elect; Keith Blough, Secretary; Sharon R. McIntyre, Executive Board Member.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tom Spaih requested a motion to approve the distributed Treasurer's report. The motion was made and passed. The balance on hand as of October 1, 1990 was \$26,818.20 including \$6,531.95 in checking and \$20,286.25 in CD's.

### Committee Reports Standing Committees

**Activities:** Mary Persyn thanked all who helped with the organization & presentation of the program.

**Constitution & Bylaws:** No report was submitted.

**Legislative:** No report was submitted.

**Membership:** Jackie Orlando reported that complete membership records have been input into a database to allow for easier updating of records and generating of mailing labels. ORALL brochures have been sent to all library schools in the region. A new edition of the Directory was generously provided by Banks-Baldwin.

**Newsletter:** Anita Shew thanked Deborah Bobinets for her efforts which reduced production costs by 1/3. The Committee was thanked for their work, and a request was made for submissions to the newsletter.

**Nomination:** The Committee recommended, in a written report submitted by Ellen Quinn, that Polly Richter, Nancy Miller and R. Jeanne Palmer be awarded life memberships. A motion was made and passed to extend life memberships to the 3 persons recommended.

**Placement:** Kyle Passmore reported that efforts continued to publicize the Committee's services to ORALL members and to report on position openings. The Committee made available the ORALL Placement Information Notebook to meeting participants.

### Special Committees:

**Core Legal Collection:** James Leonard reported that the bibliographies were last published in 1986. In 1988 they were again compiled but not published due to cost. Plans exist to publish new ones in 1990/91.

**Education:** Karen Wilhoit reported that the Executive Board had approved expansion of the scholarship program. Beginning in 1991 the following scholarships will be awarded: \$150 stipend to attend the regional meeting; \$500 scholarship to attend the AALL Annual Meeting; \$150 stipend to a library school student with an interest in law librarianship.

**Public Service:** Anne McFarland reported that now that the 3rd ed of *Ohio Legal Resources* has been published the committee is working on providing workshops on legal research in connection with OLA's spring conference. To date three chapters have selected the legal resource program and speakers will be provided for all three. Efforts continue to publicize the new bibliography.

**Union List:** Brenda Kelley reported the new list is out.

### Special Interest Sections:

**County SIG:** Judith Gill reported on the October 17 meeting at which it was announced that Jan Novak has resigned as chair due to her new ORALL office. At the meeting a report was given on HB 771 which extends free public access. The bill is expected to resurface next year and has substantial support. Members were encouraged to gather data in support of library interests. Corliss Davis and Rosemary Chrisant presented the results of the 1990 County Law Library Survey. Jan Novak alerted members that the new DUI law may have an impact on library funding and urged them to monitor funding sources. Deborah Ward was nominated and elected as chair for 1991 and Carolyn Bolin for 1992.

Paul Fu then made a presentation on dial-up access to the State Law Library on-line catalog, SCROLL.

### Representatives to Other Professional Associations

**OCLIS:** No report was submitted.

**Ohio Library Foundation Board:** No report submitted.

**OSBA Law Library Committee:** Jan Novak reported that a CD-ROM workshop is planned, and participants will receive CLE credit.

**Old Business:** Cleveland and Indianapolis have been proposed as sites for 1996 AALL Annual Meeting. A decision will be made at the April AALL Executive Board Meeting.

**New Business:** No new business was raised.

**Installation of President Mary Persyn:** Brenda Kelley passed the gavel to Mary Persyn. Brenda thanked Mary and the membership for their support. A plaque of appreciation was presented to Brenda. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am.

Respectfully submitted, Janis L. Johnston, Secretary

## *New ORALL Scholarships*

The Executive Board has approved 2 new scholarships recommended by the Education Committee.

>\$150 for a library school student to attend the ORALL meeting. It would be awarded to the student who expressed an interest in law librarianship and would be announced to area library schools and ORALL members.

>\$500 grant for an ORALL member to attend the American Association of Law Libraries national convention. Prior involvement with committees and attendance at regional meetings would be a prerequisite.

The Education Committee also administers ORALL's other scholarship--\$150 for an ORALL member to attend an ORALL meeting. For more information contact: Kathy Carrick, Chairman, [216]368-6357.



## *ORALL Treasurer's Report*

October, 19, 1990

Balance on hand May 11, 1990		28,055.73
<b>INCOME</b>		
Dues	330.00	
Meetings	1,262.00	
Miscellaneous	15.00	
Donations	1,238.00	
Newsletter	50.00	
AALL Breakfast	440.00	
Interest	<u>597.45</u>	
Total Income	3,932.45	
Total Balance on Hand & Income		31,988.18
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Mailing labels	75.00	
Meetings	4,231.41	
Miscellaneous [Refund]	49.50	
Newsletter	374.07	
AALL Breakfast	440.00	
Total Expenses	<u>5,169.98</u>	
Balance on hand as of October 1, 1990		26,818.20
<b>Current Balances as of October 1, 1990:</b>		
Checking Account	6,531.95	
CD's	20,286.25	
		26,818.20

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas G. Spaith, Treasurer

## *Membership Directory Changes*

Butler County Law Library ..... 513-887-3456  
Hamilton, Ohio ..... FAX 513-887-3696

Springfield Bar & Law Library  
Delete ..... Rita Harrish  
Add ..... Paula trainer

Univ. of Cincinnati Law Library ..... 513-556-3016

## *ORALL Placement*

For other job listings and further information, contact Kyle Passmore, ORALL placement officer at University of Akron Law Library, Akron, Ohio 44325 or call [216] 972-7330.





## ***Exciting Developments in Telecomputing - Project Hermes; Cleveland FreeNet***

### ***Cleveland FreeNet***

Even though **Thomas Grunder's** topic at the ORALL meeting in Akron was the U. S. Supreme Court's new **Project Hermes**, what he actually did was to give us an enthusiastic introduction to the world of what he called "community computing." Mr. Grunder is the president of the Cleveland-based, non-profit National Public Telecomputing Network. Before its formation, however, he worked with Cleveland FreeNet - a free, public access community computing network.

Cleveland FreeNet consists of a central computer tied to multiple phone lines that anyone with a pc and modem can access for only the cost of a phone call. The system now offers 145-150 different services ranging from legal, medical and business information to electronic mail. Cleveland FreeNet has 11,000 registered users [i.e. users who are permitted to input information] and receives over 3,000 calls per day. There are 32 phone lines into the system and since they are always busy, Mr. Grunder said, 16 more are to be added soon. If you would like to try accessing Cleveland FreeNet, the phone number is [216] 368-3888. After the welcome screen, you will be asked if you are a visitor [read only] or registered user and you can go on from there!

### ***Telecomputing Network***

Mr. Grunder's current involvement with the National Public Telecomputing Network is a step up in terms of scope from Cleveland FreeNet. NPTN is a network of services like Cleveland FreeNet and its purpose is to help establish and provide support to community computing systems. Community computing, Mr. Grunder said, is a new medium with characteristics of radio, TV and print - a "4th medium" with tremendous implications for the future. As an example, he described NPTN's Teledemocracy Project. The project's goal is "enhancing the democratic process by putting people in closer touch with their elected officials."

One component, the **Congressional Memory Project**, provides people accessing local computer networks with descriptions of selected U. S. House and Senate bills and how their Representatives and Senators voted on them. Another new component, **Campaign '90**, includes position papers from candidates around the state of Ohio as well as League of Women Voters information about the candidates. After each election, files on losing candidates will be erased from the system but position papers by winners will be kept online so we can see how well they fulfill their promises!

### ***Project Hermes.***

A 3rd component to the TP is **Project Hermes**. When the U. S. Supreme Court announced last year that it was looking for bidders to distribute its opinions online, NPTN decided to try for a spot. Unlike companies like WESTLAW, LEXIS and UPI, NPTN promoted itself as a non-commercial supplier to average Americans and it was

surprised and delighted to be successful! A total of 12 organizations were chosen. As soon as an opinion is written, it will be type-set and saved to a floppy disk. On the release date, the opinion will be copied to a computer connected with 12 modems and simultaneously sent to the distributing organizations. NPTN's transmission will go to a Case Western Reserve University computer and from there the text will be put onto the Cleveland FreeNet system. Cleveland FreeNet will then make the opinion available to its users and also send it to affiliates in other locations - such as the new Medina FreeNet.

**The bottom line here is that U. S. Supreme Court opinions will be available all across the country in 15 minutes to 1/2 hour after their release in Washington D. C.!** Supreme Court opinions will stay on the Cleveland FreeNet system indefinitely. No subject searching is possible yet, but opinions can be accessed by title and, once you are into the text, you will be able to search by keywords.

### ***8th District Court of Appeals On-line.***

In conclusion, Mr. Grunder said that NPTN was eager to offer new services in the future and is already working on providing 8th District Court of Appeals opinions online. He wants to hear from us as to what information we need and want and encouraged calls to him personally at [216] 368-2733. "One hundred years ago," he reminded us, "people in this country got literate enough to get together and seek to bring library service to their communities. We are at the point now where computer literacy is high enough and costs are low enough to bring computer access to our communities as well."

Corliss C. Davis, Akron Law Library Assn.



## Comparisons of Cite Checking Software



### Software programs

A new breed of animal among legal research software has been spotted lately, one that will "automatically" check citations on *WESTLAW* or *LEXIS*. The first of this breed I saw was *SuperCite*, available from Superlex, Inc., 1990 Addison Street, Suite 200, Berkeley, CA 94704 [415-649-0279]. *SuperCite* has the advantage of being able to call either *LEXIS* or *WESTLAW*, but lacks some of the features provided in the software developed by the two giants, Mead Data Central and West. West's entry, *WESTCheck*, will extract citations from a Word Perfect, XyWrite, or ASCII document, call up *WESTLAW*, and check the citations on Insta-Cite, Shepards, and Shepards Preview.

Mead's program, *CheckCite*, will extract citations from a MicroSoft Word, Word Perfect, XyWrite, WordStar, WordStar 2000, OfficeWriter, MultiMate, DisplayWrite 3/4, Sprint, DCARevisable-Form-Text, or ASCII document, call up *LEXIS*, and check the citations on Auto-Cite and Shepards. If your word processing program is not one listed above, you have to go through the extra step of saving the document as an ASCII file.

### Caveats & advantages

*WESTLAW/WESTCheck's Insta-Cite* and *LEXIS/CheckCite's Auto-Cite* are similar in that they are both much more current than Shepards [and even Shepards Preview], but on the other hand they only give citations that affect the value as precedent of the cited case, e.g., subsequent opinions affirming, reversing, or overruling the original case. This is, of course, precisely the information one is most interested in, and there is no manual research equivalent that can approach *Insta-Cite* and *Auto-Cite* in currency. This puts attorneys without access to *WESTLAW* or *LEXIS* at a grave disadvantage.

After *WESTCheck* extracts a list of citations from your document it gives you the opportunity to edit the list. This is good because the program is rather liberal in deciding what is a cite--apparently any number-word-number combination qualifies. If you are cite checking a document that has a lot of regulations or other items that meet that criterion, don't run *WESTCheck* or you'll be editing the document all day. Users have complained that the software was skipping citations in footnotes. West just gave me a corrected version of the software that they claim fixes that problem. *CheckCite* is better at recognizing real cites. This is good because you can't edit the list. *CheckCite* will only extract cites that are in Harvard Blue Book or California citation form. It is thus intended to be run in conjunction with its sister program *CiteRite II*, which checks for proper citation form.

The main advantage of *WESTCheck* is that it includes

Shepards Preview, an update of Shepards which is not available on *LEXIS*. A caveat with online Shepards for both systems is that many Shepards citators [e.g., for statutes] are not available online, and those that are available do not go back as far as the books. One should pay close attention to scope messages when Shepardizing older cases. [For example, the online *Federal Citator* currently goes back only to 1969, and many state citators have less depth.] Shepards is very similar on the two systems, except in the case of limiting the display. A much cited case such as *Roe v. Wade* will have hundreds of screens or dozens of pages of citing cases.

To bring order out of this chaos, online Shepards can limit output by displaying or printing only those citations that meet search criteria such as a particular Shepards treatment code [f,r,o, etc.] or cite a particular headnote. Online this is done on *WESTLAW* by using the "locate" command; on *LEXIS* by using the "segment" command. *WESTCheck* and *CheckCite* accomplishes this with pull-down menus. On *WESTLAW*, citations can also be limited by jurisdiction to "all federal" or to a particular state by selecting "Report" and then "special jurisdiction." Actually it is interesting that you can limit Shepards by jurisdiction at all with *CheckCite*, since it does not seem possible to do so online on *LEXIS*.

Most people seem to find the *Insta-Cite* format more readable. *Insta-Cite* also has the extra feature of listing the date and Supreme Court docket number when a petition for *certiorari* is filed: *Auto-Cite* only adds information when *certiorari* is denied or granted. An advantage of *CheckCite* is that you have the option of retrieving citations in *American Law Reports* [because *Auto-Cite* and *ALR* are both produced by the Lawyers Co-Operative Publishing Co.]

### Negatives: An honest appraisal.

To be honest, I have serious reservations about automated cite-checking. If this software were already in use, and someone introduced interactive online searching, it would be hailed as a great advance. Online interactive searching [i.e., what we've been doing for years] has a number of advantages. If a citation you spot while shepardizing looks interesting, you can hit the number on the left of the screen and take a look at the citing opinion. If particular limitations don't pan out, they can be modified. If more current citations than those Shepards provides are needed, one can use *LEXIS* or *WESTLAW* as a citator.

We ran into software glitches such as pulling up 25 Insta-Cites for unpublished opinions all of which had the same Federal Reporter citation [the page of the Federal Reporter that listed the unpublished opinions]. Online, one could quickly stop and then modify the search.

*continued page 6, column 2*

## 1992 - Major Changes for ORALL, Too [1 Meeting Per Year]

### Overwhelming vote for one meeting.

Acting in accord with the mandate of the ORALL membership as evidenced in 145 survey responses, the Executive Board voted at its October 15 meeting to reduce ORALL's meeting schedule to one meeting per year, starting in 1992. 93 members indicated a first preference for either eliminating the Spring meeting or meeting only once a year. 49 members indicated a first preference for any of the 4 two-meeting options.

Perhaps the timing of the survey following on the heels of the Spring meeting and summer's AALL conference reflected a sense of meeting burnout. However, many of the respondents on both sides of the issue included thoughtful comments indicating a desire for more programming. ORALL's Executive Board members are studying the comments in an effort to meet the membership's challenge.

### Status quo vote.

Proponents of the status quo tended to see ORALL's offerings as an alternative to AALL, arguing that AALL's meeting expenses were often prohibitive. This group stated that networking opportunities with colleagues would be reduced with a one meeting per year schedule. On the other hand, proponents of one meeting per year generally viewed attendance at AALL as highly desirable, if not mandatory, and ORALL's schedule as in conflict with the need to allocate time and expenses to AALL.

Many of the respondents saw the two-meeting issue in general, and use of the Ohio State Bar city in particular, as a county law library concern, and encouraged the County SIG to meet independently with ORALL support as needed. One comment suggested that this new structure might encourage the growth of other SIGs, all of which could conduct programs in their own interest areas outside of the general annual meeting.

Those who commented on the Saturday workshop proposal divided between those who praised the idea as a means to increase programming without affecting time away from work, and those who would not countenance expanding into family time.

### ORALL members want good programs.

The suggestion that parent organizations help fund ORALL's meeting met with lukewarm response. Comments predictably were that this wasn't a realistic option.

As the ORALL officer in the awkward position of planning two meetings for 1991, the last dual meeting year, I have a particular interest in identifying a unifying thread to the membership responses. Whether voting for one meeting or two, our members said: Give us meaningful programming and opportunities to interact with our colleagues. However, there are some aspects of organization dynamics that a program chairman is powerless

to control. Real "networking" is not a function of the number of face to face meetings per year; it is a constant process of communication and self education. Anyone who has been involved in an ORALL committee or SIG project will probably agree that the lion's share of the work takes place outside of the spring and fall meeting structure. The challenge to all ORALL librarians is this: view the change in 1992 as an opportunity to do more, not less, with and for ORALL.

Jan Ryan Novak, Cleveland Law Library Assn.

## Cincinnati...You've Got To See It!

Although this is the theme of the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce and not necessarily the theme of ORALL's Spring Meeting for 1991, the Local Arrangements Committee is busy organizing an event that will combine all the best of this city as well as the best from past meetings. By a vote of the membership of ORALL, this will be the final Spring Meeting of our organization.



Besides the World Champion Reds baseball team, Cincinnati also offers the re-constructed Union Terminal's Museum Center as the site of the meeting's opening reception and the newly refurbished Omni Netherland Hotel for accommodations.

Carol Suhre, Clermont County Law Library

## Comparisons of Cite Checking Software

*cont'd. from page 2*



In the first line of this review "automatically" is in quotation marks because after trying it both ways I am convinced that filling in the blanks in the pull-down menus takes longer than getting on *LEXIS* or *WESTLAW* and searching *Shepards* and *Auto-Cite* or *Insta-Cite*. An argument can be made that the intended user of cite-checking software is a secretary or someone else not legally trained. This is probably true and will become more so as the software improves.

by Jim Voelker, 6th Circuit Court of Appeals



## Special Interest Group News

### County SIG Meeting

The County SIG of ORALL met Wednesday, October 17, 1990 from 1:00-4:00, with 27 members in attendance. Judith Gill, Chair, opened the meeting by announcing that Chair-elect, Jan Novak, has had to resign because of conflicting commitments, and asked that one of the members consider volunteering to accept this office.

New members Jill Williams, [Mahoning County], and Paula Trainer, [Springfield Bar Assn., Clark County] were introduced.

Jan Novak reported on H.B. 771 as considered at the Ohio State Bar meeting in September. It is expected to resurface next year, and librarians have been warned that many OSB members are in favor of free public access, as provided by this bill. Jan explained the need for a proposed patron usage statistics sheet to gather needed background on current services to the public in time for the January meeting of the OSBA. Discussion focussed on a proposed statistics form developed by Tim Hammond, as well as one being circulated by Jan in Cleveland public libraries. A final form will be sent to members in time to gather statistics before year's end.

Rosemarie Chrisant and Corliss Davis then presented their compiled report on the 1990 Biannual County Law Library Survey. They were able to obtain participation by 86 of 88 Ohio counties. Considerable discussion followed, with particular concern expressed over the section involving "public access". Corliss asked for additional information to be filed with her by December 1st, in order to prepare an addendum. The members expressed special thanks to Rose and Corliss for their many hours of work in preparing this report.

Jan Novak called attention to the possible impact that the new DUI law may have on law library funding, and urged each librarian to monitor funding sources to ensure proper allocations.

Following a short but lively discussion, Deborah Ward, [Hancock County], accepted the nomination for 1991 Chair, and Carolyn Bolin, [Miami County], Chair-elect for 1992.

Special speaker was Paul S. Fu, Head of the Ohio Supreme Court Law Library, who discussed his library's new dial-up online catalog, SCROLL. The system shows holdings, and provides for searching by author, title, subject, and keyword. It may be accessed from any compatible PC in the state, and is not limited to hours that the library is open.

Judith Gill, Wood County Law Library  
1989/90 Chairman

### Private Law Librarians' Meeting

We are excited about plans for a Private Law Librarian's Special Interest Group!

During the Fall meeting in Akron, 14 private/firm law librarians agreed we should establish an SIG to help ourselves become better at managing matters unique to our law libraries. According to the ORALL Bylaws, we needed at least 10 members to sign a petition. We created our Petition, easily obtained 14 signatures and appointed Jan [Lani] Mikalas, Chair. The Petition has been forwarded to new President, Mary Persyn, for approval.

More information about the status of our SIG will appear in the next newsletter.

Jolan A. Mikalas, Roetzel & Andress, Akron, Ohio

### GCALL Prepared Union List

Law Librarians of the Greater Cincinnati Area Law Librarians [GCALL] met at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, October 16, 1990.

The updated Interlibrary Loan Resources List was revised. This short list details holdings of Cincinnati area law libraries of statutes, regulations, reporters, and other major sets.

After a brief discussion, a committee was established to work on a union list of looseleaf services. This resource would include holdings of all GCALL member libraries and is intended as an acquisition and ILL tool.

The 22 attendees then toured the Public Library with an emphasis on the Government & Business Dept.

The next GCALL meeting will be held January 8, 1991, at the University of Cincinnati, Marx Law Library. For more information contact Anne Abate, Dismore & Shohl; and Barbara Silbersack, Thompson, Hine & Flory.

Submitted by: Barbara Silbersack





## American Association of Law Libraries

What It Offers -- How We Fit

Paul S. Fu, Law Librarian of the Supreme Court of Ohio Law Library, spoke to the attendees at the ORALL fall meeting about current AALL activities. Mr. Fu is currently serving as secretary of AALL and he gave us a concise, well-organized description of the association's structure and responsibilities with well documented pleas for greater involvement by ORALL members!

### *How AALL has grown in 84 years.*

The AALL was formed in 1906 by law librarians attending the annual meeting of the American Library Association at Narragansett Pier, Rhode Island. The Association now has 4,700 members representing most of the 1,000 law libraries in the U. S. The AALL's goals are to promote law librarianship, to develop the usefulness of law libraries, to cultivate the science of law librarianship, and to foster cooperation among the associations' members.

### *President & Executive Board responsibilities.*

Mr. Fu next outlined the organizational structure of the AALL and gave us an idea of the tremendous level of activities conducted on our behalf. The members of the Executive Board are elected by the members of the association and serve for 3 year terms. They have 4 scheduled meetings per year and conduct other business by phone and fax from their own libraries. Each board member also serves as a liaison to several AALL committees. The duties of the President include supervising headquarters, presiding at meetings, making committee assignments, and serving as the representative of the AALL to numerous other library organizations. The AALL's official policy, Mr. Fu pointed out, is to network with other library groups and to be "an active player in the national and international library communities." [For example, current AALL President Penny Hazelton attended the annual meeting of the International Association of Law Libraries in Stockholm, Sweden last August.] The making of committee assignments is one of the most time-consuming duties of the president. This year that job alone took 70 hours to complete! It also appears that there are fewer law firm and county/court librarians volunteering for association committees and we need well-balanced participation to be effective. Please take note!

### *Headquarters projects.*

The AALL headquarters staff in Chicago currently consists of 1 part-time and 8 full-time employees. As in any other large business or association, these people have to deal with payroll and benefits, office supplies, the hiring of advisors and consultants, and space and cash flow problems. So, Mr. Fu admonished, "Please pay your dues on time!" As an example of the challenges headquarters staff face, he sketched out the special activities going on the week of the ORALL meeting:

- Placement software is being designed.
- A new AALL directory is at the printers.
- The annual audit is starting.
- 3 staff members just returned from a meeting to discuss plans and budget for the New Orleans conference.
- Special projects proposals are being received.

Another major challenge facing headquarters staff next year will be the complete responsibility for managing the annual convention. In the past, we have hired outside experts to manage the convention and 1991 will be the first year it will be handled in-house.

### *Chapter & SIS opportunities*

The next level in the AALL hierarchy as outlined by Mr. Fu is the chapter level. We now have 29 chapters, the newest being the Law Librarians of Puget Sound in Washington State. The Council of Chapter Presidents works to coordinate their activities. Chapters are organized on a geographic basis. If a group of association members wishes to meet and function on the basis of a shared interest such as research instruction, they may form a caucus. If the caucus operates for at least 3 years and has 50 voting members, it may become a special interest section. We now have 13 SIS's and an SIS Council. The final organizational units described by Mr. Fu are the committees and they conduct the bulk of our association's work. There are currently 16 standing committees, 4 advisory committees and 2 special committees in the AALL.

"It is indeed an honor and a privilege to serve our association," Mr. Fu concluded and he urged all of us to participate in AALL activities so that we can enjoy the full benefits of our membership.

Corliss C. Davis, Akron Law Library Assn.





## Law Library of Congress - The New Director's Perspective



The immense problems of the Law Library of Congress are being tackled by Kathy Price, Past-President of the AALL [1983-84], currently on leave from her position as Professor of Law and Director of the Law Library at the University of Minnesota. Those in attendance at the ORALL Fall meeting in Akron were

privileged to hear Ms. Price's explanation of the differences between the two libraries.

### *Law Library Staff Unique.*

Thirty-four Foreign Law Specialists licensed to practice in more than 200 jurisdictions are employed at the Law Library of Congress to help in the American government's litigation, especially for the State Dept. and in the areas of naturalization and immigration. These foreign legal specialists do not consider themselves librarians. These lawyers have much difficulty doing their work, despite the Library of Congress' generous technological and financial support. Because of their special expertise, they are now being asked to take on collection development responsibilities.

### *Inherited Problems.*

In terms of technology, where the University of Minnesota employed state-of-the-art cataloguing, the Law Library of Congress retains a homemade classification schedule. The previous Law Librarian refused to allow catalogers to get advice from the foreign law specialists and there was no impetus to finish the LC foreign law classification schedule.

Where the Law Library was made to feel part of the University of Minnesota's technological development, trying out new software and utilizing the on-line integrated system and telecommunications equipment, the Law Library of Congress hadn't been able to procure the personal computers necessary to produce a professional product that meets Congressional deadlines. The recent purchase of PCs was made in conjunction with a payroll conversion and the people who know about local area networks are not "operationally located," Ms. Price said.

The Public Services operation retains the pneumatic tube system of retrieving more than two million volumes housed in the building's basement on faulty compact shelving storage units with no budget for inter-library loan and without a policy to serve outside constituencies. Law Library materials must be provided to Congress, the Supreme court and government agencies before the legal community can receive service, Ms. Price explained.

### *Logistics problems in materials & service.*

Despite an interest from the library community to have access through fee-for-service products, the same staff that

handles referral projects by phone, mail, or in-person also handles 40 hours at the reference desk in the reading room. A "participatory management method" of dealing with internal upgrading activities has caused a stalemate with thousands of pieces of supplements and serials stacking up, Price reported.

Law Library materials seem not to even exist in the LC order department, Ms. Price bemoaned. Foreign official gazettes and journals, much like our own Congressional Record, are delayed due to surface mail and handling dilemmas. Some foreign law specialists are alienated by the use of the long-distance telephone and refuse to use English-language materials.

### *Reasons for Optimism.*

There are, however, reasons to be optimistic for the Law Library of Congress, Ms. Price said. The ABA, AALL, and other professional organizations, will be "tapped" to discover mechanisms to help this situation. Some exciting things have already been going on in the eight weeks of Ms. Price's tenure, despite the failure of a budget being passed by Congress.

A touch-screen, user-friendly access system was produced. The Hispanic Law Index was completed. The cataloging directorate will increase cooperative cataloging with the American Library Assn. There is a big push to add foreign legal databases and to solicit private concerns to provide financing to realize the Law Library's potential.

Ms. Price concluded her presentation with the tongue-in-cheek suggestion that law librarians be required to perform pro-bono work on the Law Library of Congress' retrospective conversion project in Washington, D. C.!

Carol Suhre, Clermont County Law Library.



## ORALL Publications

- > Core Legal Collection. 1984 edition.
- > A Handbook for the Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries - 1988 ed. fiche. Hein.
- > Legal Resource Bibliography & Guide 3rd. 1990. Ohio Library Assn. [614] 221-9057 \$5.
- > ORALL County Law Library Survey - 1988 edition Jan Novak [216] 861-5070, send \$3 to Cleveland Law Library Association.  
1990 edition Rosemarie Chrisant [216]379-2804, sent \$5 to Akron Law Library Association.
- > ORALL Membership Directory 1990-91 edition. Membership chairman [614]445-8836.
- > ORALL Newsletter. quarterly from editor. [513] 887-3456. Members-free; non-members \$10.
- > ORALL Union List of Serials \$57.50 [see March 1990 Newsletter for complete description] University of Louisville, Ekstrom Library, 2301 So. 3rd St., Louisville, Kentucky 40207



## Editors' Note

The March 1991 ORALL Newsletter will carry more program summaries and articles on technology.

Season's  
Greetings

## When Bob Berring Speaks-- ORALL Listens!!

When Bob Berring told a colleague he had been asked to speak on the topic "*The Impact of Technology in Law Libraries*", the colleague suggested a one word answer: BIG. According to Berring, at the Fall ORALL meeting, technology is applied thinking and librarians need to keep up with technology and stay on its bandwagon.

The pace of technological developments is scary. Remember that the card catalog was dangerous technology when book catalogs were the standard. Think back 10 years. How many of us had a microwave oven, a compact disc player, a personal computer, or an answering machine in 1980?

What do librarians do about this rapid growth in technology? A difficult time is coming for us. We have attorneys with fax machines in their cars and attache cases, but not all of them can use a personal computer. LEXIS and WESTLAW are giving law students greater access.

We are going to be forced to change. We can be translators of technology for those who are not on the cutting edge. We need to keep our part of the information turf. We have to understand technology and see how it fits into the grand scheme. We can be the agents of change and have the power to affect change.

Reported by Carol Bredemeyer,  
Chase Law School Library, Northern Kentucky University

## Introductory Legal Research Workshop

The ORALL County SIS sponsored a basic legal research workshop at the recent ORALL conference. This very successful workshop, organized by County SIG Chairman Judith Gill and led by presenters Jan Novak and Anita Shew, attracted 30 individuals including librarians, paralegals, and law clerks.

Using some of Bob Berring's single video on legal research for the layman "*Legal Research Made Easy*" the presenters correlated general research techniques to Ohio materials and discussed sources of Ohio legislative history.

Handouts includes: the *Ohio Legal Resources Annotated Bibliography & Guide* 3rd 1990, Berring's video handbook, and legislative history information.

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