

President's Column-Keith Blough

Rambling Along the Info Superhighway

This is normally the time one would write about the winter doldrums, but if anymore time passes before I get this column finished, I can forget it. Actually, considering the way January began, I am most grateful for the weather we have had in central Ohio for the last 6 weeks. I am also grateful for a call that I received yesterday from an attorney in Eaton, Ohio who was in need of some standards relating to the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry. Eaton just happens to be located near Hueston Woods and I received some very useful directions on getting to the retreat. Had I not received that call, I would have followed the directions provided by an Internet site that my colleague Andy Brann had visited. When I happened to mention my planned route to the attorney, he advised me of a better and more direct route.

This incident brought to mind Bob Berring's presentation last October in Cleveland. Professor Berring talked about cognitive reality and how people tend to put their faith in something like Shepard's Citations or the West Digest System, just as I had assumed that the map from the site on the internet provided the best instructions on getting to Hueston woods. After all, the site appears to be run by travel professionals and the map appeared to outline the best route to Hueston Woods.

We are all rushed in today's fast paced world and are looking for quick legitimate fixes to all kinds of problems that we face. In the information business, the advent of the Internet has raised the level of expectations from our clientele and ourselves with respect to

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Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries is a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries.

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the level of service that we can and should provide. I knew that if I were not to find the standards in question in the CCH Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Law Reporter, or the Code of Federal Regulations or Westlaw or Lexis that I would be remiss in not checking the Internet. Of course the Internet is frequently the first place to check depending upon the circumstances.

To make a long story short, I spent a considerable amount of time attempting to locate these particular standards. I even employed the old fashion method of locating a person in the industry and talking with that individual about pharmaceutical manufacturing standards. He directed me to a section on the Food and Drug Administration web site that contained information on good manufacturing practices. I checked out the site and found a lot of relevant information, but unfortunately not the information in question. My last stab was an attempt on the Infoseek search engine where I entered the terms standards and 409. I didn't expect to find the answer and I did not, unless one of those "working babes on the world wide web" happens to know something about clean room standards. I didn't go that far, honest.

So what's my point? Good question. My point is that just as we can do so much more now that we have the Internet at our fingertips, we frequently find ourselves spending more time on research issues. If this question had been presented to me prior to Internet access, I would have saved about 30 minutes in the process of referring the matter out. It's the technology conundrum. If I am saving all this time, why don't I have any time? I think we are all aware that these times are a roller coaster experience and will continue to be as the transformation of the information infrastructure

continues. I do not believe the issues we confront today are much different substantively than 50 years ago, but they are certainly radically different in terms of practice.

So as I find myself confronted with the obligations of serving as ORALL President, I am thankful for the many people who continue to contribute to the organization and its work. I have included the list of ORALL Committee members in this issue of the Newsletter. If anyone has been omitted or otherwise desires to serve on a particular committee, please do not hesitate to contact the respective committee chair to volunteer. You can also contact me, as I will be happy to refer you to people who need assistance with committee or other ORALL work. Finally, a special thank you to Kathy Carrick who coordinated the planning for this year's retreat at Hueston Woods.

CAMBRIDGE REVISITED

Wendell Johnting, Assistant Director for Technical Services at the Indiana University School of Law Library (Indianapolis), was a delegate to the first Joint Study Institute sponsored by the American, Canadian, British and Irish Associations of Law Libraries held in Cambridge, England, Sept. 6-9, 1998. During the institute, he renewed acquaintances with librarians and staff at the Squire Law Library at Cambridge, since he had been a Visiting Librarian there in 1985.

CATCH A NEW WAVE WHILE SURFING: SMART BROWSING

submitted by Ken Kozlowski, Head of Public Services, Zimmerman Law Library, University of Dayton School of Law kozlowsk@udayton.edu

The next generation of browsers is upon us. "Smart" browsing is the next big thing, or for some of you, it may be the current thing. Netscape Navigator 4.5 and Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.0 both provide the user with intelligent software help. Netscape's "smart browsing" and Microsoft's "search assistant" both strive to make things easier, especially for the novice searcher.

Previous versions of both browsers were capable of completing an address for you in the location box, although I believe IE did not have this capability until version 4.0. For instance, you could type "findlaw" in the location box and not have to type the http prefix or the .com suffix. Netscape has taken this a step further and now allows you to type phrases in the box and will take you directly to a matched site, or offer a list of alternatives. Internet Explorer 5.0 comes equipped with "intellisense." The beta version of this software is all that is available, and if you're leery of Microsoft to begin with, you may want to avoid IE5 until a regular version is released. IE5's "search assistant" lets you specify the type of information you want, and will flip through various search engines until coming to a result that pleases you.

You can always disable the smart browsing features if you feel that they will just complicate matters. Speaking of complications, I just read an article in the February 1999 issue of *Information Today*. ("A New Browser (Utility) Emerges," 16(2) *Information Today* 22) The new browser is called NeoPlanet, produced by BigFoot International Inc. The article raved about it, so I downloaded it and checked it out. The file is about 2mb, fairly small for browser software. The catch is that you

have to have Internet Explorer already installed on your computer. The beauty of NeoPlanet is the ability to customize the look. It offers channels along the right side of the screen that can be edited or shut off, as you desire. The channels are akin to Netscape's Personal Tool Bar, but are more seamless in their operation. I like NeoPlanet, but I'm not quite ready to make it my default browser. It needs some tweaking up, so I'll be sticking with Netscape for the time being. NeoPlanet does provide a fresh look for your browser, and that alone makes it worth a look.

So what does all of this smart browsing mean to the newbie, or to the public patron with little or no Internet experience? I decided to test it out with legal terminology, and see what kind of sites the browsers turned up. (NOTE: domains that can be purchased are marked FOR SALE) Here are the results:

Tort	FOR SALE
Robbery	FOR SALE
Assault	FOR SALE
Battery	Battery Ventures, a venture capital firm
Crime	Organized Crime, a crime statistics site
Punishment	Naughty XXXX site
DUI	California Drunk Driving
DWI	DreamWorks Interactive (Steven Spielberg's group)
Murder	Takes you to "Needle in a Haystack", a spot that actually sells knitting and crocheting needles.
Miranda	Miranda Technologies
Conspiracy	You get a black screen with the message, "There is Nothing Here."
Law	Portal to the Law. Funny thing here is that there is a rather obvious link to "chipshot.com" on this site

	which offers knockoff Ping putters for \$19.99.
Qui Tam	The Qui Tam Information Center
Trademark Copyright	Corporate Intelligence Copyright Clearance Center
Homicide	Links to NBC's television show
Manslaughter	Links to Manslaughter Industries, which is anti-Clinton, Anti-government, anti-United Nations, pro-gun
JNOV	Domanial.com, seller of mnemonic domains
Notary In Limine	French site Michael P. Lehutsky, a PA attorney
UCC	Upper Canada Consultants
Sexual Harassment	Virtual Ventura Boulevard
Hornbook	Malpractice Avoidance
Bluebook	Kelley Blue Book
Treatise	Simulation and Analysis Software for Bicyclists
Looseleaf	Software, Inc.

As you can see, there a few hits, but mostly misses. The more advanced smart browsing features will go further than offering just one or two sites. The user's search will be automatically run on the browser's search engine, or on a number of other outside search engines. Smart browsing makes searching "easier", but not necessarily better or more efficient. The user does not have to know much about searching to utilize this feature, but the trick, as usual, is to do it well. That is still our domain. Your assignment is to play with these new toys and remain two or three steps ahead of your users (or patrons, customers and BOSSES) on the learning curve. As always, comments are welcome.

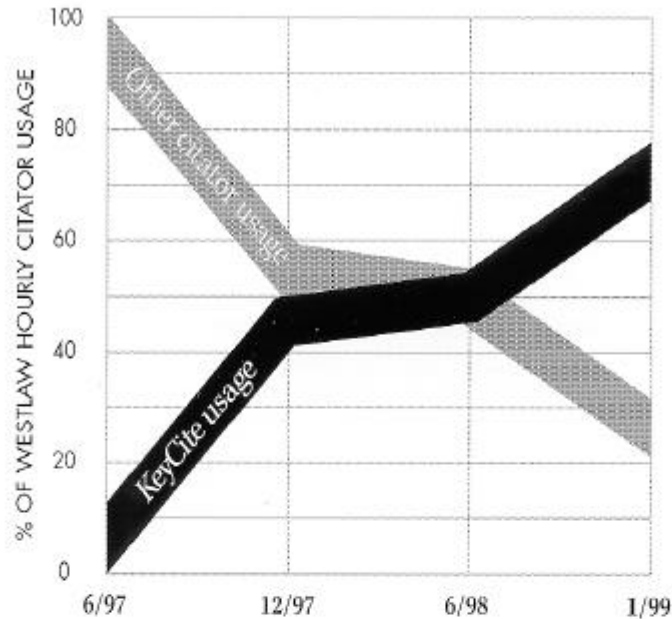
AALL New Member Grants Information

Grants covering registration costs are available to enable newer members to attend the AALL Annual Meeting. The purpose of the grants is to assist librarians who hold promise of future involvement in the law library profession. Applications can be obtained from AALLNET (www.aallnet.org), as a return fax from AALL's fax-on-demand service (908-544-5901), or by contacting AALL headquarters (312-939-4764 or e-mail: aallhq@aall.org).

The application deadline is April 1. Contact Grants Committee Chair Carol Watson at the University of Georgia School of Law (706-542-7365 or e-mail cwatson@uga.edu if you need additional information.

ORALL Executive Board Members

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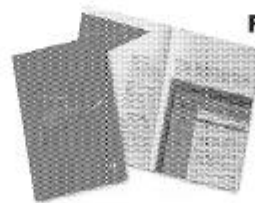
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OHIO COUNTY LAW LIBRARY FUNDING: OPPORTUNITIES AND DANGERS

submitted by Bille J. Grey, Law Librarian, Cincinnati Law Library Association

Most of you are aware of the Ohio system of County Law Libraries. Many of you rely on the County Law Libraries. The funding mechanism for those libraries is not usually a concern. Your concern is whether the service, publication, or information you require is available. There is a County Law Library in each of the 88 counties in Ohio. They are funded by a series of Revised Code Sections directing a portion of fines and penalties, as well as forfeited bail, to the County Law Library. Each County Law Library is a separate not-for-profit corporation managed by a Board of Trustees. The statutes provide for funding and staffing. The statutes establish the purposes for which the funds may be used.

The current statutory funding mechanism is 126 years old. Despite its age, it survives because the County Law Libraries provide needed information. This funding mechanism has provided a County Law Library in each County. However, the funding is not predictable, from month to month or from County to County. Most of these code sections have caps on the amount. The caps were set in 1939 for two sections and 1959 for others. The caps, which were originally intended to provide a ceiling against excessive Law Library funding, now provide a floor which is barely adequate to provide Ohio materials. The uncapped sections, mostly traffic fines, provide the majority of the funds in most Counties. While the larger Counties have the most funding, in 1997 there were 10 counties that had less than \$50,000 in funding. Another 25 counties had less than \$100,000 in funding for the County Law Library.

The Statute specifies that the Law Library Board will appoint, the County will employ, and the Court will set the salary for a Law Librarian and two assistants. This means three separate organizations with differing purposes must agree and cooperate for the County Law Library to have staff. In 1996, 31 County Law Libraries reported having only part-time staff. Fifty County Law Libraries had one or two employees. In some Counties the salaries are set so low that qualified applicants are not interested.

Access to the County Law Libraries is also decided locally. The Statute and a 1996 Opinion of the Attorney General establish that the Law Library does not have to provide free access to the General Public. In 1996, 23 of the County Law Libraries completed a survey indicating that they allow use by the public. However, the conditions of use vary greatly. Some counties are open the public; others have limited

public hours; others charge for access; some have no public usage.

The statutory funding mechanism has repeatedly been the object of attention. The County Law Librarians have been among the first to focus on the problems of the current funding mechanism. Much of the information about the County Law Libraries is drawn from a series of surveys completed and compiled voluntarily by County Law Librarians. Since changes to funding will result in changes to the available services, ORALL members need basic information about the proposals and process. Focusing on the last two years, there were three major efforts to change the funding mechanism. Each of the three will continue in 1999.

Criminal Sentencing Commission

The Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission proposed a general rule that all fines and forfeitures be applied directly to the administration of justice. They treat the funding of County Law Libraries as a diversion from that general rule and initially recommended that County Law Library funding be discretionary at the County level. The Akron Law Library coordinated a response to this recommendation in February 1997 on behalf of 16 County Law Library Associations. That letter documented the history of the funding of County Law Libraries and described the need for any County Law Library funding proposal to:

1. Be mandatory,
2. Relieve current funding deficiencies,
3. Apply to all courts,
4. Be adjusted periodically, and
5. Include a "payback" provision for unencumbered funds.

The Criminal Sentencing Commission's Misdemeanor Sentencing Plan, which includes court cost and filing fee based Law Library funding, was distributed to each County Law Library in late 1998. This plan is the Misdemeanor Reform following the Felony Reform enacted as Senate Bill 2 in 1996. It is expected to be introduced in the 123rd Session of the Legislature. It may be introduced in more than one piece.

Several County Law Librarians have estimated the income for the County Law Library under the Misdemeanor Sentencing Plan and most have concluded that funding would decline. Basically, the plan requires smaller payments but spreads those

payments over more Courts and more types of cases. The Sentencing Commission estimated that its plan could provide \$19.5 million dollars in County Law Library funding. The Sentencing Commission based that estimate on fees and costs being both assessed and collected. However, court costs are frequently waived and fees are not always collected. The Sentencing Commission stated that under its plan the smaller Counties, which currently rely on State Highway Patrol for their Law Library funding, would have less Law Library funding.

Subsequently, the Sentencing Commission Plan does not meet one of the stated aims of the County Law Libraries, which is to remedy current funding deficiencies. It is also not adjusted periodically which could result in the same sort of problems that the caps now create. The Plan does authorize regionalization and does not take a position on public access to County Law Libraries.

Courts Futures Commission

In May 1997, Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer appointed the Ohio Courts Futures Commission. The Commission had 52 members divided into five task forces. The task forces looked at Ohio's entire court structure and County Law Libraries were only a small part. On January 27, 1999 the Courts Futures Commission announced a four-month public comment period. The concept proposed for County Law Libraries includes public access, resource sharing and the establishment of regional centers in each appellate district. It states that local control and autonomy of County Law Libraries will be maintained. Although there is no specific mention of County Law Library funding, the general schema funds court functions from the general state fund and court user fees.

OSBA County Law Library Funding Proposal

The OSBA Law Libraries Committee developed a County Law Library Funding proposal in 1991. That proposal was submitted to the OSBA Council of Delegates in September of 1992 and approved unanimously. This represented the efforts of several Law Librarians and Law Library trustees. This proposal lifted to present value the caps on the currently capped sections. It also established a cost of living adjustment to be made to the caps each year. It additionally required payments from Mayor's Courts. Although it did not fully relieve all current funding deficiencies, it would have resulted in increased funding for most Counties. Also, it would have spread the cost of supporting the Law Library across all the Courts in each County. Perhaps the most notable feature was that it would not result in any County Law Library losing funds. Because of other initiatives, no sponsor was found and the proposal languished.

During the 122nd Session of the Ohio legislature a bill was introduced in the House which would have reduced County Law Library Funding by 50%. In response to which the 1992 OSBA proposal was revived with minor adjustments, such as establishing the caps at 1998 values rather than 1992. A cap was proposed for the currently uncapped Code sections. The OSBA proposal was introduced as House Bill 702. Unfortunately, the 122nd Session had several priority issues, most noticeably the School Funding Question, which prevented further consideration.

The OSBA County Law Library Funding proposal is being reviewed and will be introduced in the 123rd Session. This proposal would provide funds to improve Ohio County Law Library Services. It would not reduce the funding available in any county and would substantially improve funding in many counties. Those who rely on the County Law Libraries should decide if they can support the bill. Support from law librarians is vital and should be directed through the OSBA.

Summary

1998 was a busy year for County Law Librarians. 1999 looks like a busy one as well. The Sentencing Commission proposal will be introduced in the Legislature. The Courts Futures Commission is waiting for public comment. The OSBA is working to have its Law Library funding proposal reintroduced in the Legislature. The County Law Libraries, and those who rely on them, should focus on these developments and assure that the changes are improvements. Any proposal to change the funding of County Law Libraries can be judged against the five elements which were recommended to the Criminal Sentencing Commission. Determine if the proposal is mandatory, relieves current funding deficiencies, applies to all courts, is adjusted periodically, and includes a "payback" provision for unencumbered funds. Whenever County Law Library funding is being reviewed, focus on the work done rather than the cost.



REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE CALL FOR FURTHER NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee of ORALL announces its slate of candidates for the offices designated to be filled for the ensuing one and two-year terms. The Committee found that there are many ORALL members who are poised to serve the Association as officers. However, it was the decision of the Committee that during this 50th Anniversary year a slate would be presented that designates one candidate per office.

The nominees are as follows:

Vice President/President-Elect	Shaun Esposito
Treasurer (1999-2001)	Thomas L. Hanley
Executive Board (1999-2001)	Billie J. Grey

In accordance with ORALL Bylaw XI, Section 1(c), "Additional nominations may be made upon the written petition of five active voting members in good standing submitted to the Secretary (Nancy Clark) no later than May 1 of this year. Such nominations by petition must be accompanied by the written acceptance of the nominee."

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Beal, Nominating Committee Chair
Carol Bredemeyer, Committee Member
Sandra Hyclak, Committee Member

Candidate Biographies

VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT

Shaun Esposito

Shaun Esposito is the Reference/Electronic Information Services Librarian at the University of Kentucky College of Law Library, where he has worked since November 1994. He has been a member of ORALL and AALL since 1991, when he began his law library career as Evening Public Services Librarian at the University of Toledo College of Law Library. Shaun received his MLS from Florida State University in 1991 and his JD degree from the University of Louisville in 1981. Prior to working as a librarian, Shaun taught Legal Research and Writing at Florida State University and as an attorney for the Louisville Legal Aid Society.

Shaun has worked on the ORALL Newsletter Committee since 1991 and has been ORALL Newsletter Editor since 1994. Shaun also started the ORALL web site and has been editor of the web page since its inception in 1997. At the AALL annual meeting last summer, Shaun was selected to be chair of the Council of Newsletter Editors (CONE) for the current year. He currently serves on the AALL Government Relations Committee and served on the AALL Academic Libraries SIS Education Committee in 1996. Shaun has also been active in making

presentations about various aspects of law librarianship and legal research to the Kentucky Library Association.

Shaun welcomes the opportunity to continue to serve ORALL members in a new capacity. He wants to continue ORALL's strong presence in the Ohio library, legal and legislative community while at the same time seeking an increased ORALL involvement and presence in Indiana and Kentucky.

TREASURER

Thomas L. Hanley

Tom has been Director, University of Dayton Law Library, since 1982. Prior to that, he was Associate Director, University of Missouri-Columbia Law Library, from 1979-1982 and Cataloger, University of Kansas Law Library from 1976-1979.

He has been Interim Treasurer since last year when he was selected to complete the unexpired term of the prior ORALL Treasurer. He has been on the Membership Committee from 1989 to the present and co-chair since 1996. He has maintained the ORALL Newsletter mailing database since 1990. He is chair of the AALL Arrangements Committee for 1997-9, a position he also held in 1993-94. He was an ORALL Executive Board member from 1989-90. He also arranged ORALL's incorporation and ORALL's certification as a tax-exempt institution during that period.

His AALL Activities include membership on the Grants Committee 1989-92 serving as chair in 1991-92. Also, he was on the Scholarship Committee from 1992-94 and the Local Arrangements Committee (Indianapolis meeting) in 1995-96.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Billie J. Grey

I received my B.A. in Anthropology from University of Maryland. I got a Paralegal Certificate from the University of Maryland while working as a Federal Civil Servant. After working as a Paralegal on the Franklin National Bank Multidistrict litigation and the Swine Flu Immunization claims, I decided to go to Law School at night. I got my Law Degree from George Washington University in 1983 and entered the attorney job market in the worst economy since the Arab Oil Embargo. I finally got a job at the Federal Securities & Exchange Commission. I attended Catholic University's Library School at night while working at the SEC as an attorney and the U.S. Department of Commerce as Law Library Director. After a few years without night school, I taught Legal Research at the University of Maryland Paralegal night school Program from which I got my Certificate. In 1995, an offer of employment as the Law Librarian from the Cincinnati Law Library brought me to Ohio.

I have been a member of AALL since 1987 and ORALL since 1995. I was the President of the Federal Law Librarians in 1990-1991.

1998-1999 ORALL COMMITTEES

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Calendar 1999-2000

1999

April 11-17 National Library Week

April 15 AALL Satellite Teleconference on Customer Service

May 13 "Copyright in the Electronic Age," Washington, D.C.

July 17-22 American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting, Washington, DC

October 13-15 ORALL Annual Meeting/50th Anniversary Conference, Columbus, OH

2000

January 5-9 Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C

April 9-15 National Library Week

July 15-20 American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA

Newsletter Deadlines

February 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15

OHIO REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

Profile

ORALL is a 4-state chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries [Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan]. It was formed in 1949 "to further the development and usefulness of law libraries and to stimulate a spirit of mutual helpfulness among law libraries of this region."

An annual conference is held in the Fall of each year. ORALL publishes or sponsors the following publications: *Core Legal Collection* [bibliographies for Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan], ORALL Membership Directory, ORALL Newsletter, ORALL Union List of Serials, Ohio Legal Resources Annotated Bibliography & Guide 3rd.

Placement

For Job Listings and further information, contact Deborah Ward, ORALL Placement Committee Chair, Hancock County Law Library Association, 300 South Main St., Findlay, OH 45840 419-424-7077 (phone), 419-425-4136, e-mail: debward@bright.net

Membership

Membership: 303

Dues: \$15.00 per year

Non-membership subscriptions:
\$10.00 per year

Contact: Tom Hanley, U. of Dayton Zimmerman Law Library, Dayton, Ohio 45469-2780, or call 937/229-2444 or e-mail hanley@udayton.edu.

Newsletter Information

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Edited by: Shaun Esposito, University of Kentucky Law Library, 620 S. Limestone St., Lexington, KY 40506; 606/257-8347, FAX 606/323-4906. **Printed By:** Roberta K. Robertson, U. of Akron School of Law Library. Unsolicited contributions are encouraged; contributions submitted for publication are subject to editorial review. For extra copies contact the editor. **Please direct address changes to mailing list coordinator Tom Hanley, U. of Dayton Zimmerman Law Library, Dayton, Ohio 45469-2780, or call 937/229-2444 or e-mail hanley@udayton.edu.**

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