# ORALL NEWSLETTER

**OHIO REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES** 

JUNE, 2016

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## President's Column – Rob Myers

## Conference Season is Heating Up

Being an introvert, I've always approached library conferences with a little trepidation. Somewhat of a homebody, I don't like leaving my wife, my dog, and all the comforts of home. I'm not big on making the travel and hotel arrangements-and while I don't mind flying, I'm not at all fond of going through airport security. I always seem to be the guy who gets yanked out of line to have his baggage checked or some uncomfortable body search. However, once I arrive to the destination city and am booked into my hotel, my mood and outlook vastly improve. I always end up having an enjoyable experience.

The 2016 AALL annual meeting will be the twentieth anniversary of the first AALL conference I attended. I've missed very few AALL annual meetings over those 20 years. The main reason I attend AALL. ORALL. IUG or any other conference is for the learning opportunities they afford. Since I am mainly at the conference to learn, I attend every educational program and meeting that I can fit into my schedule. I also visit the vendor hall numerous times throughout the conference to meet with vendors and learn about new products and how to use existing products more efficiently. As the number of conferences I've attended has grown, I've come to appreciate many of the additional benefits conferences offer. Camaraderie and networking are two such benefits. The longer I've worked as a law librarian, the more friends and acquaintances I've made.

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#### **Newsletter**

The ORALL Newsletter is the official publication of the Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries. Published quarterly in March, June, September, and December.

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#### 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 each fall. ORALL publishes or sponsors the following publications: *Core Legal Collection* [bibliographies for Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan], ORALL Membership Directory, ORALL Newsletter, Ohio Legal Resources Annotated Bibliography & Guide 3rd.

Unsolicited contributions are encouraged; contributions submitted for publication are subject to editorial review. For extra copies, contact the editor.

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## President's Column continued

Conferences often are the only occasion I get to visit with many of these people, and through maintaining these relationships, I've developed a growing list of folks I can call on and who can call on me for assistance with reference or other library-related questions. Perhaps the biggest benefit I receive from attending a conference is inspiration. Upon returning from a conference, I always feel a renewed sense of purpose regarding my career choice and my position, and am rejuvenated to approach my work with enthusiasm.

Last July, Joe Custer arrived at Case School of Law as the newly appointed director of our law library. One of the first things Joe implemented was a conference post mortem. If you're not familiar, the post mortem is a meeting (sometimes several meetings) in which each attendee to a conference reports back to the library staff about what they learned at the conference. I had often thought the concept of requiring a conference post mortem a good idea, but was reluctant to be the guy foisting additional work on my colleagues. Joe had implemented post mortems while library director at St. Louis University, and had no hesitation implementing the concept at Case. A post mortem is valuable in several ways. It expands the conference dollar by sharing the knowledge each attendee gains at the conference.

It encourages librarians to attend as many programs and meetings as possible so that they have a wealth of information to report back to the staff. Knowing we will have to deliver a post mortem upon our return forces each of us to pay particularly close attention and take good notes at the programs we do attend. Lastly, a post mortem helps convince our employer to continue to pay our professional development expenses by enhancing the return on investment through the multiplier effect in disseminating what we have learned at the conference.

I'm looking forward to this year's AALL conference, and not just because it will allow me to escape the chaos that may occur at this year's GOP convention held the same week in Cleveland! For those ORALLians who will be attending the AALL annual meeting, ORALL will be involved with three events. As has been the tradition in the past, ORALL will be participating in the Conference of Newer Law Librarians (CONELL) Marketplace on Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The CONELL Marketplace is where new members to the profession learn about all the diverse AALL chapters and committees, what they do, and why they should join. Secondly, and somewhat different from past years, chapters and committees are not being provided tables in the activities area in the Chicago vendor hall. Instead, chapters and committees will be designing and staffing 4' x 8' display boards. Steve Probst and the ORALL Arrangements Committee are designing a board to represent ORALL. You can check out the ORALL display board and visit with members of ORALL in the Activities Area during the exhibit hall "no conflict break times" Saturday evening through Tuesday morning. Lastly, ORALL will be having its annual get together at AALL. This year's event will take

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place on Sunday, July 17th at 5:30 pm. Details will be forthcoming as Steve Probst is tasked with the "difficult" job of sampling Chicago restaurants to determine a suitable venue for the event. Last year's dinner was a lot of fun and I suspect this year's will be no different.

I'm also looking forward to attending the 2016 ORALL Annual Meeting in Dayton on October 19<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup>. Being a smaller event, the ORALL conference fosters camaraderie and is my favorite conference to attend each year. Maureen Anderson and the Local Arrangements Committee have a great conference planned. The Marriott at the University of Dayton will be the site of this year's conference. Angela Baldree and the Education Committee are in the process of selecting from the program proposals submitted for this year's event; the Education Committee has appropriately themed this year's conference "Building Better Libraries." Carillon Brewing Company in Dayton's Carillon Historical Park will be the site of the opening reception. I'm looking forward to that! For those who have never been to an ORALL annual meeting, I strongly urge you to attend. They are really fun conferences, and very affordable with registration fees for all three days remaining under \$100.

Planning a conference requires a lot of time and the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2017 ORALL Annual Meeting to be held in Cleveland is already at work. Co-chaired by Kathy Dugan and Joe Custer, the committee has selected Case Western Reserve University and the University Circle area as the site of the 2017 meeting. The Courtyard Marriott at University Circle will serve as the conference hotel, while Case Western's new Tinkham Veale University Center will serve as the conference facility. Case was selected for the 2017 conference as something different from previous ORALL conferences in Cleveland, which have typically been held downtown. The University Circle area is a cultural mecca—home to the Cleveland Museum of Art, The Museum of Modern Art, the Western Reserve Historical Society, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and the Cleveland Botanical Gardens.

Conferences are valuable, but the ability to afford attending a conference can be difficult. To this end, ORALL offers help through numerous grants to various conferences. Recently, ORALL offered four grants valued at \$600 to cover registration and travel expenses to the AALL Annual Meeting and one \$300 grant for a newer member to attend CONELL. Since no members applied for the CONELL grant, the Executive Board voted to add an additional \$300 to the CONELL grant, turning it into a traditional \$600 grant for AALL. Lisa Britt Wernke, Chair of the ORALL Grants Committee, recently announced that her committee selected Carol Bredemeyer, Northern Kentucky University; Meredith Conner, Ulmer & Berne, LLP; Paul Gatz, The Ohio State University Moritz Law Library; Marissa Mason, Supreme Court of Ohio Law Library; and Paul Venard, University of Dayton Law Library as the recipients of the five \$600 grants to attend the 2016 AALL annual meeting. To assist members with attending the ORALL annual meeting in October, the Executive Board recently approved the Grants Committee to award \$350 grants to ten members—three more grants

than we were able to offer to last year's meeting and the highest number offered. Grants are an excellent way to defray the cost of a conference—but to receive one, you must apply. The application form for ORALL grants is available on the ORALL website.

I hope you are able to attend the AALL annual meeting this year. If you are, please stop by the ORALL display board in the activities area of the exhibit hall. Also, we'd love to see you at the ORALL get together dinner Sunday evening. If you can't attend AALL, I hope you'll join us in Dayton for the 2016 ORALL annual meeting!

\* \* \*

## **Office 2016 Upgrade** by Jeannette Mazur, Case Western University School

## of Law

As summer rolls around, Case Western Reserve University Law Library, like

many law libraries, starts in on projects impossible to take on during the school year. One of the projects that has everyone excited is our Office 2016 upgrade. If you haven't given it a go, you should! Microsoft has really outdone itself this time. Two of the most fun new features are the Tell Me box and Smart Lookup.



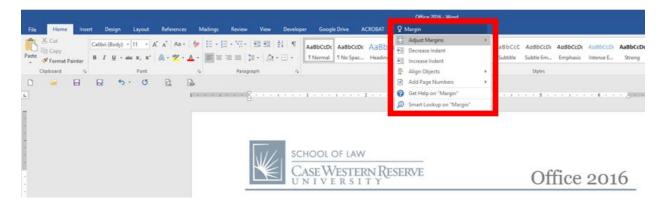
## Tell Me Box

Have you ever had problems finding a tool in Office? Microsoft has heard your complaints and created a *Tell Me* box. At the top of Word 2016 (or Excel/PowerPoint/etc.) there is a wonderful new feature called the *Tell Me* box:

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When you type in what you would like to find, such as margins, it brings up various options that meet the text typed in:



## Smart Lookup

One of the other great new features of Office 2016 is the *Smart Lookup* feature. Try it out by typing in a word or phrase into an Office program - for example, "Julius Caesar". Highlight the words and right click. You will see a *Smart Lookup* option in the right click menu:

Fun facts about Julius Caesar	<b>⊁</b> ₪	Си <u>t</u> <u>С</u> ору
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This will bring up the Insights bar that will allow you to *Define* a word or *Explore* items by searching sources such as Wikipedia, Images and the Web (WARNING: all of these searches use Bing instead of Google).



Microsoft has kept most things the same, but has added a few new features to make our jobs much more efficient, yet still fun! Tell us what projects your library is working on this summer by dropping us a line on Facebook (search for Ohio Regional Association of Law Librarians).

\* \* \*

## Legal Research Fun and Games by Sue Altmeyer, University of Akron

I thought I would share a game I have been playing with the students, as well as some games I am currently exploring for use next year.

## Kahoot

This year I started incorporating <u>Kahoots</u> into my legal research lessons. Kahoot is a free online multiple choice quiz game. It comes complete with a countdown timer, music, graphics and a scoreboard. The students submit their answers via Kahoot.it on their computer, tablet or smart phone. You may have seen it in action at CALI last year. If not, check out the presentation video, <u>Top Five Online Interactive Tools to Turn Legal Education into Legal Educa-FUN</u>.

Kahoot appears to be designed for elementary school students, but the law students love it! One of our legal writing faculty members, Betsy Shaver, put random trivia into the game, interspersed with legal writing and research questions. I tried Betsy's idea, and it really makes the game more fun. Students may use a nickname, so that takes the pressure off. Making up nicknames is often the student's favorite part! Some of the student nicknames included: Blackacre, John Grisham, Feel the Bern and Obscene (when I told the class not to make their nickname obscene).

Once you set up a free account, you can search the public Kahoots for "legal research" to get some examples. Kahoot is very simple to use. It also has a new team mode, as an alternative way to play the game.

Kahoot also has a survey mode which one could use when giving a CLE or training session.

## Versal

I almost didn't look at <u>Versal</u>, because at first I thought it was just a course platform. But it has gadgets you can use to make games. Students can play the games on their own, or the games could be used in a classroom setting. You can even embed the games into whatever course platform you are using (Blackboard, Desire2Learn, etc.). The gadgets include: a timed categorization exercise, short response exercise with hints and explanations, labelling a diagram, creating timelines, a ranking game, and more.

I experimented with Versal by making a categorization exercise for binding vs. persuasive authorities. The hierarchy game might be suitable for ranking items with more or less authority too. I also created a short answer quiz. Students really need to answer with the same words as the answers input by the teacher. The short answer quiz could work well for legal research exercises if there is truly only one answer.

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Binding v. Persuasive Auth	Binding v. Persuasive Authority								
Short Answer Test	0:12	0:12							
Weight of Tax Authorities									
Quizlet Flashcards	6th Circuit Case cited in the Southern District of Ohio	Statutes	Northern District of Ohio Case cited in the 6th circuit						
Add a lesson									
	Binding		Persuasive						
	Drop card(s) here		Drop card(s) here						
	1 Please answer the following		Score: 0/0 Questions left: 1	10					

There is a free version, but you will need to pay \$50 a year if you want create private courses and track student progress. See <u>Upgrade information</u>.

A similar free product is <u>Brain Rush</u>. I found Brain Rush very easy to use. You can make a buckets exercise (categorization), flashcards, sequences (timeline) or an image with hotspots. The BrainRush games adapt to the students' answers – for example, questions the student answered incorrectly are repeated. One day I had problems accessing the site, but I am hoping this was a temporary outage. Tracking student progress appears to be free. Here is a game I created using the buckets template: <u>http://www.brainrush.com/lesson/legal-research-primary-and-secondary-sources</u>).

Getting back to <u>Versal</u>, Versal also enables you to add a Quizlet. Which brings me too....

## Quizlet

<u>Quizlet</u> is free, and allows students and teachers to create "study sets". Quizlet automatically converts the set into flashcards, tests, Scatter (a matching game), Gravity (a quiz version of Asteroids), and memorization drills by filling in the blank ("Learn") and typing what you hear ("Speller"). Quizlet has a new classroom game, <u>Quizlet Live</u>. You can also search quizlets for other people's study sets. Sets created by teachers are clearly indicated.

## Final Comments

Also, don't forget about using <u>CALI Autopublish</u>. You can make your own interactive quiz including multiple choice, short answer, categorizing, matching and other question types. And you may want to try <u>Jeopardy Labs</u> free online Jeopardy creator – which may be easier than using the Powerpoint template.

Happy gaming everybody!

### \* \* \*

## AALL 2016 Day in the Life Winners

For anybody that may have missed the news, Marissa Mason from the Ohio Supreme Court Library had her entry, entitled *Leveling Up*, take 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the *Librarians as Information Evaluators and Managers* category of the *AALL 2016 Day in the Life* photo contest.



Congratulations to Marissa and all the other contest winners!

\* \* \*

## A Note from Your Newsletter Editor

A big thanks this quarter to the Internet & Social Media Committee for contributing their tips and articles. Without them, there would have been no newsletter.

As Rob states in his President's Column, we are fast approaching Annual Meeting season. Our next newsletter, due to be published in September, will have several articles about the AALL Annual Meeting in Chicago (side note: if you received a grant to attend, please contact me with your article topic to ensure we do not have double coverage). We will also be gearing up for the ORALL Annual Meeting right here in Dayton, Ohio.

Thanks to all who help keep this newsletter running on a quarterly basis; if you have any interest in contributing in whatever way, don't hesitate to drop me an e-mail at <a href="mailto:pvenard1@udayton.edu">pvenard1@udayton.edu</a>