

ORALL NEWSLETTER

OHIO REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

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President's Column – Angela Baldree

As most of you know, I've coordinated the annual euchre tournament each year during the ORALL Annual Meeting. What you may not know is how it all came about. Prior to my life as a law librarian, I worked at the Washington-Centerville Public Library, and prior to that I was a college student at Miami University. As any college student in Ohio can attest, regardless of your grades, you cannot graduate without mastering euchre. As a matter of fact, the first time I met my college roommate's dad, he asked if I could spell *euchre* (I could). Soon after being hired at the public library, a group of us began regularly scheduled euchre parties. The husband of our host was an avid bridge player and adapted the rotation schedule from bridge to euchre.

I offered to bring that schedule to ORALL's euchre tournament in 2011, which took place in Columbus. That year's tournament coincided with a strange Ohio event. On Tuesday, October 18, 2011, Terry Thompson freed about 60 wild animals from his private zoo in Zanesville, Ohio (just an hour's drive from Columbus) and then shot himself (one of the tigers did bite his head and drag him, but after he was already dead). During the euchre

tournament that year, we were following the news closely on the efforts to round up the animals. We had news at the beginning of the evening that most of the animals had been killed or captured. There was still a missing monkey – one that authorities described as dangerous because it was carrying the Herpes B virus. By the end of the evening, authorities were reporting that the said Herpes-carrying monkey had been (allegedly) eaten by one of the tigers. [You can read all about the exotic animal saga here.](#)

Since no proof has ever been given to this claim, a group of us immediately smelled a conspiracy and decided to rename the annual euchre tournament in honor of the monkey.

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Newsletter

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Profile

ORALL is a 3-state chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries [Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky]. 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.

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President's Column *continued*

It has since been known as the “ORALL Herpes Monkey Alleged Memorial Euchre Tournament.” It is an alleged memorial tournament because we are convinced that the monkey is alive and well. In February, 2016, a monkey was spotted several time in the Columbus neighborhood of Minerva – my neighborhood, I might add. Then in July, 2017, Judith Maxwell sent me an article about another monkey being spotted in Dublin, Ohio, another Columbus neighborhood. Neither of these monkeys has ever been captured.

Each year I try to create a new graphic in honor of the monkey. The graphic below was for the 2nd annual tournament. In 2013, I created a t-shirt bearing that year's graphic for the winner of the tournament. I know Paul Venard does not mind my reposting the photograph again this year. I have apologized to him through the years for that shirt. I did order an extra-large shirt, but the company who made it gave me a medium and it was too late to get another one.



Graphic from 2012 euchre tournament (left). Paul in the 2013 tournament winning t-shirt (right).

In 2015, Maggie Kiel-Morse forwarded me an article from *The Awl* on euchre called “[The People's Card Game](#)” that gives the history of the card game and examples of its popularity. Interestingly enough, in 1862, Library of Congress Law Librarian Charles Wharton Meehan wrote about it in his book [The Law and Practice of the Game of Euchre](#). (Follow the link to read it via Google Books.) Also, Mark Twain played and wrote about euchre in his memoir, *Roughing It*, and there was a high society tournament in 1898 to benefit St. John's Hospital. However, the article explains that bridge replaced euchre in popularity during the twentieth century. The writer also references the “Euchre Belt” – the area in the Midwest where euchre still lives. I am not sure why it has stayed popular here, but for those of us fortunate enough to attend college in Ohio, Indiana, or Michigan, we'll always have fond memories of playing in our dorm rooms when all we could afford to drink was Natty Light or Goebel Beer.

This year there will not be a 6th Annual ORALL Herpes Monkey Alleged Memorial Euchre Tournament. Within walking distance of Case Western University and The Courtyard Cleveland at University Circle is the Corner Alley Uptown Bowling Alley. The euchre group voted last year to forgo the tournament and try our luck at bowling. I invite everyone to join us. I've been told we might have a sponsor who will pay for bowling. If not, lane rentals are \$30 per lane per hour with shoe rentals at \$3.50. For those of you who wish to play board games or other card games, a room will still be available in the hotel. Have no fear; euchre will be back next year in Cincinnati!

Finally, I would like to thank each of you for allowing me to lead ORALL this year. To my fellow board members, committee chairs, and committee members, thanks for all the work you have done this year. We will be awarding the first George Baker Distinguished Service Award this year, we booked the 2019 conference at Kalahari for a great rate, we have reviewed each committee and how it fits into the structure of ORALL, and we got AALL to select Cleveland for its 2021 annual meeting. See you all in October in Cleveland. I hope the Indians will still be playing baseball!

* * *

Cleveland: No Longer the Mistake on the Lake
by Joseph Custer, Case Western Reserve University Law Library

I arrived in Cleveland in June of 2015 to become the Director at the Case School of Law Judge Ben C. Green Law Library. I had visited Cleveland a couple of different times over the last fifteen years prior to my daughter matriculating to Oberlin College in the fall of 2011. I had been struck not only by the beauty of Lake Erie, but also the history and culture of the city. I had really begun to like the city and the area of Northeast Ohio well before the opening of the Directorship that grabbed my eye.

In the 1960's and 70's the city was being labeled "the Mistake on the Lake," a pejorative term which sprung largely from a *Time Magazine* article reporting on a fire taking place on the Cuyahoga River on a Sunday morning in June, 1969. The 1969 fire was not the result of rampant pollution as the article suggested, although the industrial river was indeed polluted, but rather from the result of a passing industrial train losing oil and sparks that ignited the blaze. The fire did not last long and the pictures taken did not show much so *Time Magazine* sensationalized the event and captured the imagination of the nation by showing a much more serious fire on the river dating from November of 1952 where a ship had caught fire and became engulfed in flames, a catastrophic image.

The time was right to make an example of an industrial city. It was the late 1960's and environmental issues had been gaining significant momentum through the decade. In 1970, for the inaugural Earth Day, a crush of students from Cleveland State University marched from their campus down to the river to protest the pollution. The city had been working on its environmental problems since Mayor Carl Stokes, the first African-American mayor of a major US City, took office in 1967.

The 1969 fire, sensationalized as it was, did help bring about change to Cleveland and the country. Mayor Stokes and his brother, US Representative Louis Stokes, used the site of the fire to hold a press conference and advocate for greater federal involvement in pollution control. The Stokes brothers' efforts played an instrumental part in the passage of the federal Clean Water Act of 1972. Over the decades the river's water quality significantly improved and business investors helped turn significant parts of the industrial Flat's landscape into a very popular entertainment district with fine restaurants, nightclubs and music venues. The Flats has become a very popular destination for both locals and tourists.

Other popular places to visit downtown, and there are many, can start with Playhouse Square. The square is the country's largest performing arts center outside of NYC, hosting over 1000 Broadway shows, dance, comedy, musical concerts and special events. Right down the street is the Public Square which was recently renovated with its crown jewel, Cuyahoga County Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, which tells the story of the County's brave sons and you can also see the personal artifacts. It's open 9 am to 4 pm Monday through Saturday. Still in the downtown area toward the Lake, you can visit the Great Lake Science Center, home of the NASA Glenn Visitor Center which makes science come to life with hundreds of hands-on exhibits. The Steamship William G. Mather is located behind the Science Center docked on a pier. Nicknamed the "Ship that Built Cleveland" because the steel mills were a frequent destination, the ship has been turned into a museum. Also downtown is the Cleveland Grays Armory Museum, America's oldest independent armory representing 170 years of military history.

The Cleveland Lakefront Nature Reserve is in downtown as is the Cleveland State University campus and Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. The Greater Cleveland Aquarium sits on the west bank of the Flats. Down at the Burke Lakefront Airport sits the International Women's Air & Space Museum with a research library onsite!

Oh yeah, almost forgot, there is the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Museum. The Library & Archives are located at 2809 Woodland (just so you know, we tried to book a tour there and they said they didn't have the man power)! The nation's first inside mall is downtown, The Arcade. It's fun to go in just to look at the architecture. For the more serious shoppers, Tower City Center is over by

Progressive Field (Indians) and The Q (Cavs), with more than 80 shops. Stop and shop before you bet and lose at JACK Casino (free advice from a three-time loser).

If you go west to Ohio City you will find the historic Westside Market (Campbell's homemade popcorn is a suggestion). The Christmas Story House is very cool and located at 3159 West 11th Street. If you are Downtown, catty-corner from the Public Square you will see Higbee's Department Store that was used for the parade and Santa-line scenes in the movie. The store was bought by Dillard's in the 1990's and then closed its doors in 2002. During the holiday season the Jack Casino still decorates the store front windows like they did in the movie. Finally, you will find yourself on the east side of Cleveland a lot because that is where Case Western Reserve University campus is located in the Cleveland Circle surrounded by cool, cool stuff starting with the Cleveland Botanical Garden located on campus directly across the street from the law school. The opening reception is being held there. Right across the way is the Cleveland Museum of Art considered one of the top art museums in the nation. Also stuck behind the Botanical Garden and the Art Museum you will find the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, a true delight for the young at heart.

If you take a left on East Boulevard from the Botanical Garden you will find another gem, the Museum of the Western Reserve Historical Society. There will be a tour of this museum after the end of the conference on Friday afternoon and you can then witness the roadsters, racers and airplanes in the newly-renovated Gallery. If you took a right from the Botanical Garden you would have found Severance Hall on campus, which is the home of the world-renowned Cleveland Orchestra.

Some other attractions in the east side includes the new Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) on Euclid Avenue across the street from Corner Alley (one of the fun venues lined up for Thursday night after the Dine Around). Also on Euclid, just down the street, still on campus is the Dittrick Museum, where you can explore all the frightening and strange contraptions and tools associated with the administration of medicine in the bygone era. There are some new exhibits on the history of contraception and diagnostic medicine. See for yourself how masochistic you will feel as you look at the sadistic tools of yesterday. You can take the tour on Wednesday before the meetings and programs start.

If you went straight up Mayfield you would run into historic Little Italy, an ethnic enclave in the center of Cleveland's Italian American community. Started in 1895 by immigrant stonecutter and sculptor, Joseph Carabelli, Little Italy became the home to those immigrants and their families pouring in to work on the monuments being built in nearby Lakeview Cemetery. Its biggest attractions are the restaurants, bakeries and pizzerias but you will also find a thriving art gallery scene and many boutique shops.

There was allegedly a bit of mob activity in the neighborhood in the day. As a matter of fact, the mafia faction located in the area was mentioned by its actual name in *The Godfather* as the Lakeview Road Gang. With that in mind, after your carb out in Little Italy you can work it off by climbing the Mayfield Road Hill and walk through Lakeview Cemetery, where you will find the marker of Elliot Ness, former director of Cleveland Public Safety Department, whose ashes were scattered in one of the small ponds on the grounds of the Cemetery. The most famous inhabitant of the Cemetery is arguably James A. Garfield, the nation's 20th President whose loss by assassination was grieved by over 100,000 citizens visiting his casket lying in state in the Capitol. The Garfield Memorial holds the caskets of Garfield and his wife in a crypt below the memorial. An observation deck provides views of Lake Erie and downtown Cleveland.

A few others buried in the Cemetery include the first billionaire in the United States, John D. Rockefeller. Paint pioneers, Francis Glidden and Henry A. Sherwin. Garrett Morgan, the African-American inventor who put together the first tri-color traffic light and the first gas mask. Carl Stokes, first African-American mayor described above. Dr. Harvey Williams Cushing, the Father of Modern Neurosurgery, is buried there as well as Jephtha Wade, the Cleveland industrialist who founded the Western Union Telegraph. The Wade Memorial Chapel, built in 1901, is largely decorated with glass designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany.

There are other places and people all over Cleveland and we aren't even including the amazing suburb. There are some well-known restaurants with well-known chefs who appear on Emmy-award winning television shows, a professional basketball team with a pretty great player. A baseball team with an atrocious mascot but is known to play the game pretty well. A football team. Well-known joints, bars, lagers, metro parks, farmer's markets, marinas and distilleries. Pretty much anything that you can think of. So we hope to see you at CLE!

* * *

ORALL on Facebook
by Judith Maxwell, Delaware County Law Library

Colleagues, we have a Facebook page called Ohio Regional Association of Law Librarians. On your Facebook page use the search box in the upper left hand corner to find the ORALL page. Please like our page and start sharing posts. There are pictures from the 2016 meeting in Dayton and from this summer's AALL meeting. There are also a lot of connections to related sites, silly memes, and really awful puns.

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Constitution Day in the Law Library **by, Marissa Mason, Supreme Court of Ohio**

In 2016, the Supreme Court of Ohio Law Library staff organized a Constitution Day event for the first time. Unlike educational institutions receiving federal funds, we are not mandated to observe Constitution Day. However, as a government law library, this event seemed a natural fit for us.

Our first go at this event included a display with Constitution facts, videos and interactive content on iPads, games, and cookies and candy. The “Which Founder Are You?” quiz from the National Constitution Center made for a fun conversation starter, and their printable cootie catcher quiz of Constitutional amendments was also popular. Our annual book flag display, with the addition of a banner made by the librarians, served as a festive backdrop. Library staff were present throughout the day to welcome visitors and hit our talking points.

Our first experience with this event confirmed the many advantages we foresaw in using Constitution Day to promote our library. The date, September 17 (which we observe the following Monday), falls about halfway through the year from National Library Week, our primary annual event for outreach and promotion of

our library, which includes trainings and daily prizes and games. Compared to our Library Week programming, Constitution Day is a smaller scale event, requiring fewer resources and planning, yet resulted in the same increase in foot traffic. Constitution Day is one of the many ways we are working to increase engagement with our users year-round, particularly those who are not yet frequent visitors to the library. It is an important opportunity to educate users about our evolving resources and services.

This year we are planning an even bigger Constitution Day celebration which will highlight our government documents collection. As a selective federal depository, we were able to request a free Constitution Day Celebration Packet from the GPO, including pocket constitutions, bookmarks, and government information notecards. Additional free online resources should make planning this event a breeze.

[New York Times](#): Comprehensive Constitution Day Planning Guide

[National Constitution Center](#): Includes online and printable games and educational resources

[Government Publishing Office](#): Includes descriptions and photos of past events around the country

[National Archives](#): Includes videos and educational resources

[Library of Congress](#): Links to primary sources and web resources



* * *

Obergefell: Lessons in Legal Research
by, Susan Azyndar, Moritz College of Law Library

In 2015, *Obergefell v. Hodges* joined the ranks of [landmark Supreme Court opinions that originated in Ohio](#). The opinion itself reflects wide-ranging sources, from the expected judicial precedents to Blackstone's *Commentaries* of 1765 and the Confucian *Book of Rites*. So it is no surprise that this case yielded research lessons from the start. I recently spoke about this research process with Alphonse Gerhardstein, James Obergefell's attorney, who saw the case from its beginning through Obergefell's success at the Supreme Court.

Because the legal team was not arguing for a new definition of marriage, lots of research time was spent examining how older treatises and cases described marriage. Despite the thoroughness of this effort, Justice Alito asked an unexpected question at the oral argument about same sex marriage in Ancient Greece. The oralist worked through the question, but the team was reminded about the value of the research process that led to that point.

The initial approach focused on marriage recognition – Obergefell and his partner were married in Maryland, and they wanted Ohio to recognize the validity of that marriage – rather than on marriage equality. Because of the newness of this claim, Gerhardstein and his team initially worked to brainstorm effective analogies, for example, recognizing the marriage of cousins in another state. Gerhardstein emphasized the value of this first step. When law clerks say “nothing is out there,” he says, they just haven't framed the issue correctly or considered appropriate analogies. For law students and new attorneys, this example underscores the value of performing analysis before jumping into a database.

More than many other cases, this one involved a remarkable amount of collaboration, or, as Gerhardstein puts it, “egos stepping back and the great work stepping forward.” Gerhardstein represented only one client, Obergefell, but the issue was one of national importance. Moreover, the case was ultimately consolidated with other Sixth Circuit cases, and a plethora of amici was involved. To polish drafts and prepare for arguments, documents circulated and sources shared. This coordination prevented one party from conceding a point that was crucial to another's argument. While this level of collaboration may be rare, students and new attorneys should be ready to embrace working with a group of attorneys when a case calls for it.

If you're interested in learning more about the background of this case and its progress through the courts, read *Love Wins*, by Debbie Cenziper and James

Obergefell. In the not too distant future, this book will be made into a feature film, and we'll see research in action on the silver screen.

* * *

AALL 2017: Austin, Texas

Review of AALL Program: Understanding the Human Element in Search Algorithms by Susan Nevelow Mart **by, Amelia Landenberger¹, University of Kentucky**

How similar are the search algorithms of the different legal research databases? Put differently: would the same search in two providers' databases return similar results? It was immediately evident that this question had generated lots of interest in the law librarian profession because the room for this session at AALL was packed. Often at conferences it is hard to predict demand, and the supply of chairs can be inadequate for the surprisingly popular sessions. In addition to the unpredictability, there are usually one or two people standing in back of every session even when chairs are plentiful because they prefer the ability to beat a hasty retreat. But Susan Nevelow Mart's session on the Sunday morning of AALL was bursting the room's capacity. People were sitting on the floor around three sides of the room, and there were clumps of people standing all over. I almost left the room in disgust before finding space near a clump of ORALLians huddled against the wall. My persistence was rewarded by one of the best programs at AALL.

The answer to the question "how similar are the search algorithms" is surprising and disturbing. Ms. Nevelow Mart, the library director at the University of Colorado's William A. Wise Law Library, has set out to discover for us how much overlap there is in search engine results when one compares the same search across different search engines. She used the same search across Westlaw, Lexis Advance, Fastcase, Casetext, Ravel, and Google Scholar in order to compare the cases returned by that search. As she says, of course in real life you'd refine your search based on the results: "God help us if this was the end of the search process," she said about doing only one search, "but to compare them I had to stop after one search." Each database had at minimum 36% of unique cases, which means that more than one-third of the cases returned by each database were not returned by *any* other database in her study. This is disconcerting, to say the least.

Equally disturbing for researchers is the lack of transparency surrounding the way in which these algorithms work. Ms. Nevelow Mart described this as the database's worldview, "Every database is different. Each database has a

¹ Author's note: The author has a personal relationship with Susan Nevelow Mart, having worked for a year as a law library fellow at the Wise Law Library at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where Ms. Nevelow Mart is the director.

worldview, and I'm going to prove it to you." What made this program so fascinating was the questions phase of the presentation, when some vendor representatives stood up from the audience to give answers to some of Ms. Nevelow Mart's questions. I imagine every librarian in attendance has had a moment where they are frustrated by the impenetrability of the search algorithms and the impossibility of knowing exactly what is going on behind the scenes. To be there at AALL in a room full of librarians demanding answers from the vendors was a powerful moment.

When Ms. Nevelow Mart reviewed the results for relevancy (whether they answered the question she was searching for) the results ranged from 39.7-67% relevancy. She also showed the audience what percentage of those results were both relevant and unique. Ms. Nevelow Mart does not claim to be evaluating these databases to find the best of the bunch, and therefore I won't make any judgments on this point. However, this slide was the moment where I finally realized why the vendors are so afraid of this sort of study, and why they are so reluctant to allow transparency. Of course no vendor wants their marketing materials to proclaim that their search results are about 35% relevant, or that other platforms find unique results that their platform won't find on the first try. However, we as librarians need this transparency in order to use these databases, and especially to teach others how to use them. I am glad that Ms. Nevelow Mart is asking these tough questions and that she has the data to give the rest of us a peek into what is going on behind the curtain.

If you're as fascinated by this topic as I am, you should know that Ms. Nevelow Mart has already proposed a program topic for next year in Baltimore, entitled "An Open Discussion About Algorithmic Accountability." I, for one, will be watching closely to see what she does next.

* * *

AALL 2017 – Disaster Planning in an Hour
by, Lisa S. Wernke, Robert S. Marx Law Library, University of Cincinnati

If disaster strikes, no matter how big or how small, is your library ready? Disaster planning is not a matter of if, but when, and being prepared is the first step in handling the worst case scenario. In AALL's "Disaster Planning in an Hour" session, Rebecca Elder, a preservation consultant (www.elderpreservation.com) took the session attendees on a whirlwind tour of emergency preparedness.

The goals for the session were that each attendee be able to:

- Describe the major types of disasters and their effects on collections.
- List the steps required to create an emergency plan.
- Determine your library's salvage priorities.
- Work with first responders before an emergency occurs.

- Have a list of available resources for emergency planning and response.

There are many types of disasters that a library may face and planning for a potential disaster may seem overwhelming. Water disasters are the most common type of emergency because most disasters end with water or are caused by water. Water disasters include: flooding, fire, tornados, and hurricanes. Not only is the sheer amount of water that comes with one of these disasters a problem, but the health hazards that result from a water disaster can be long lasting. If books get wet, they become heavy and expand, and drying books is time and labor intensive. Mold is a huge risk in both library materials and library facilities. If the relative humidity in a building is 65% or more for 3 days, mold will begin growing and the spores can spread rapidly. Flood waters are also unknown as it is difficult to say what, if anything, is in growing in the water. If your facility faces a fire, it is most likely going to be put out with water, so not only will you deal with a fire disaster, but a water emergency as well. Other emergencies that may occur are: earthquakes, hazardous materials accident, mold outbreak, pest invasion, vandalism, bomb threat, or a transportation accident.

So how can you prepare for something you don't know if or when it will happen? There are several steps to your emergency planning process.

1. Establish a team – this should include someone from each library department; a security or university police personnel, and a first responder from your nearby fire and police departments.
2. Assess your risks – for this task, you would look at both facility and collection risks. It is also a good idea to look at what emergencies have happened in the past. If it has happened once, it will probably happen again. A leaky roof, old plumbing, inadequate smoke detectors or fire suppression systems? These are all potential risks that the planning team should take into consideration.
3. Write your plan – the plan should include who should be contacted in the event of an emergency, the procedures to follow should an emergency occur, and what salvage priorities your library has.
4. Implement and update your plan on a regular basis.

Now that you have taken the steps necessary to prepare for an emergency, you are obviously ready for anything, right? Well, there are a couple rules when it comes to emergencies: 1) Emergencies happen on weekends and holidays or 2) when key staff are on vacation. You want to make sure that your emergency plan is available to anyone who needs it and that a list of contacts is ready should something happen. Not only should that list include the people from your library, it should include emergency services, maintenance and utilities, security, conservators and specialist, someone who can retrieve data from computer systems should you need that, and anyone else you think needs to be included.

Once your plan is ready and you have your list of contacts, it is always recommended to have a debriefing meeting to meet everyone and make sure that key people have a copy of the disaster plan in case it is needed.

When an emergency does happen, the first responders are in charge. If you have access to it, provide any information that they request and respect their orders. We all love our collections and we most likely all feel an obligation to save everything that we can, but human life is more important than materials! Once the first responders do give an all clear and you are allowed into your library to assess the damage, you will want to have a set of priorities for your collection to follow. If you are able to afford it, having a contract with a Disaster Recovery Services company who can go in and clean up after a disaster is recommended. If you don't have those funds available, Ms. Elder provided this list of questions to help set priorities:

1. Is it critical for ongoing operations?
2. Can it be replaced?
3. What is the replacement cost?
4. Is it available in another format?
5. Is it an iconic item?
6. Is it vulnerable to water damage and mold?
7. What is its value to the collection?
8. Should it be saved?

At the end of the session, Ms. Elder provided many resources to help develop a Disaster Plan and prepare for the unexpected. Some of her selected resources include:

- Council of State Archivists Pocket Response Plan – This site contains templates to create a quick reference guide to your disaster plan that can be folded and put into a wallet.
(<https://www.statearchivists.org/programs/emergency-preparedness/emergency-preparedness-resources/pocket-response-plan-templ-prep-tm-english-template/>)
- National Heritage Responders (<http://www.conservation-us.org/emergencies/national-heritage-responders>) The NHR is a team of conservation professionals who can provide free advice and assistance during a disaster.
- dPlan.org (www.dplan.org) dPlan is a free emergency planning tool
- ERS App (<http://www.conservation-us.org/emergencies/ers-app>) This is a free app that contains disaster response information
- FEMA National Incident Training (<http://training.fema.gov/nims/>) This site offers free training videos to help prepare you and your team about what to do in an emergency.
- WAAC Salvage at a Glance Chart (http://cool.conservation-us.org/waac/ttl/wn27-3-salvage_at_a_glance.pdf) A comprehensive guide

to salvage for objects commonly found in libraries, museums, and archives.

* * *

Sending the Right Message
by Carol A. Suhre, Clermont County Law Library

Every day we find answers for pro se, judges, staff, students, attorneys, and the public. Because we never give up or give in, most of us feel our Law Libraries are the “go to” for legal resources. But would we be able to give a one-minute message to communicate our fundamental mission? What do you want to achieve when you talk about your work? “Sending the Right Message” was one of the sessions I attended at the American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting in Austin in July. The speaker was Zach Hochstadt from Mission Minded, Inc.

How many times have you been asked “Are you the keeper of the books?” or, “Do you still buy books?” and similar other questions. You must talk about your work in a way to lead people to ask more in-depth questions. It cannot be said too often, communicate your value. Give an “audit” of your Law Library and what is going on in there. Move the conversation to specific projects, impact on a particular case, or an inspiring vision you have had regarding a legal knowledge network. For example, we have an understanding of resources and how to manage them. We have had to be flexible in our organizations based on core components. Traditionally, in Clermont County, we paid for Westlaw passwords. They were free when we received a specific filing fee. Champion the idea that support can or may be different now, but underline it can be restructured for a common good.

Mr. Horschstadt was challenged by AALL to illustrate our field and help us stay ahead of the curve. With the understood premise that Law Libraries are essential, he encouraged us to find and nurture relationships that enhance our work and our lives. Start with some message basics: eliminate acronyms and avoid jargon that create a barrier. Never assume, rather, build comprehension. Highlight benefits, not features, and do not be afraid to make it personal, he said.

Your one minute message succeeds ! Your two minute message will explain why your work is needed and share the engagement with the listener, keeping tuned in to what your audience needs. Use a five minute message to show, don't tell, some impact or result of your work, telling a story. (But please, no data.) Combined, these good messages should remind, appeal, and lead to an action, emotion, or conclusion.

As Seth Godin said, “The road to comfort is crowded and it rarely gets you there.” In my medium sized county Law Library we ***aim for*** broad collaboration across departments. The Law Library is a space people like to come to visit and

customer service is our goal. Many of the sessions I attended at AALL lead me or helped me to be more aware of facilitating interaction. With one court administrator, four common pleas judges, four bailiffs, four constables, three assignment clerks, one jury commissioner, one magistrate, four staff attorneys, one administrative assistant, and one IT person, finding a common project, statistics, or reports, can be daunting ! But my conviction to get buy-in from other departments is worth the emotional labor and challenge to my integrity.

Another example of exciting ways to take a role was voiced by our keynote speaker, Bryan Stevenson. He encourage proximity, each of us finding mercy, fairness, justice, and equality in the courts. Perhaps this means doing uncomfortable things – Say it ! Take a risk! Stay hopeful. One of his messages was “income and grades are not a measure of your capacity to change and have compassion in the world.” You can’t out-source relationships or institutional knowledge. How you view your employment is part of a balanced lifestyle.

As I approach retirement at the end of 2017, a meeting providing food for thought was the Encore Caucus meeting. A caucus within AALL is an informal group of at least 25 members. The Encore Caucus is not designed to replace the retired and/or near retirement listserv, but to be seen as another avenue to continue to participate in AALL and other activities. Perhaps re-engaging or assisting new members of the profession. There are many complimentary skills between older and younger groups of Law Librarians.

Fortunately, I have attended AALL for many years, at the expense of my employer. It is my firm belief that the first grant I received to attend my first meeting, paved the way for my Board to see how important participation and attendance can be for all Law Librarians. I later served on the Scholarships and Grants Committee, chaired it, and served ORALL on the same committee. This year I received an ORALL grant to attend AALL.

Being active helps us all achieve and find purpose – put your name on a list, in advocacy, mentoring, or marketing, to name a few opportunities. Begin by attending the ORALL meeting in Cleveland in October. The most important purpose I have garnered from attending years of AALL and ORALL, is that we each have information to be shared. Being active and volunteering in our Law Library community is not age sensitive. .

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The Court's Perspective: What the Judge can Tell Librarians about Self-Represented Litigants

by Paul D. Venard, University of Dayton Law Library

This session provided great insight from the Travis County Law Library and the Travis County Court about interaction between the two in providing assistance for pro se patrons in the Austin area. Inspired by the self-help center in Maricopa County, Arizona, Judge Livingston was given the freedom to start a similar program in Austin. In order to provide the best help for these patrons, she knew she had to get input from all relevant stakeholders, especially the County Law Library.

In order to best help pro se patrons, they first had to determine what areas were the biggest issues; one of the primary issues to no surprise was that self-representing litigants would arrive at Court with improperly completed documents. As such, the library created brochures with instructions for the most commonly used forms. The library also hired more Reference Attorneys and paralegals who could actually sit down with the patrons and work with them on their issues. Their program continues to grow and evolve as new issues arise and as the needs of the pro se patrons change.

While the establishment of the Austin program was very interesting to learn about, this session was a great example of what is wrong with many of the sessions at AALL – misleading session descriptions. In this instance, the program description promises that, “[t]his program will reveal the judge’s perspective regarding SRLs and their specific problems handling litigation”, and, “[l]aw librarians will be able to identify new approaches for assisting SRLs, as well as the steps to implement them.” Unfortunately, these descriptions disappointingly over-promised, at least for an Academic Law Librarian.

As for the Judge’s perspective, she did state she would often have to edit incorrectly completed forms on the bench, and that she finds that most self-representing clients are distrustful of the Courts and do not want to be there (not a huge surprise that many of us probably could have guessed ourselves). However, any solution to these issues (aside from creating pamphlets related to commonly used forms) are very impractical for most law libraries. Most Academic Law Libraries (at least in this area) cannot establish the working relationship with the Courts similar to that in Travis County (perhaps the County Law Libraries would have a better opportunity as they presumably are closer in location to the Courts). Hiring staff attorneys and paralegals for the library is also very unrealistic due to budgetary issues.

When deciding to attend this session, I personally was looking for practical ways to better help pro se patrons without crossing the line of “unauthorized practice of law”. However, when dealing with this issue, the speakers merely stated that they were unaware of any librarian ever prosecuted or disciplined for providing legal services to pro se patrons. In fact, later in the session when asked to give advice

on how to help pro se patrons, the Judge answered that librarians should sit down with patrons and help complete forms; this is a practice completely against the policies of our library and advice that I have a hard time processing.

Had this session description merely stated that it would be a talk about the assistance given to the self-represented patrons in Austin, It would have been (and was) very interesting and informative. However, it becomes disappointing when expecting to obtain practical knowledge you can pass on to your patrons but come away with very little of what was promised in the program description. Perhaps County Law Librarians saw more promise in this session (although the description did include Academic Law Librarians in its target audience), but I unfortunately came away without the practical information I was seeking.

Still, I would like to thank ORALL for providing a grant for my attendance at the AALL Annual Conference in Austin.

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A Note from Your Newsletter Editor

Thanks to all who contributed to this quarter's newsletter. Can't do it without you.

Next newsletter will be published in December, after we all get together in Cleveland for ORALL. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

As always, if you ever have any questions, concerns or ideas, please e-mail me at pvenard1@udayton.edu.