

ORALL NEWSLETTER

OHIO REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

DECEMBER, 2017

VOLUME 2017, NUMBER 4

President's Column – Ingrid Mattson

The Warmest Welcome!

Law library associations like ORALL give us opportunities for community, open dialogue about professional challenges, and insights into how to do our best work. They also offer us something unique others in the legal field perhaps take for granted: connections to hundreds of colleagues in our profession.

Lawyers, for example, are often surrounded by other lawyers in their daily work lives and their professional organizations are comprised of, well, more lawyers. Law students (especially new ones) spend hours with other law students comparing notes on the law school experience, and their social time is often similarly spent. While law faculty do teach students several times a week, they seem most often seen at faculty workshops and faculty meetings, and

they connect professionally with other faculty in their field if not the faculty in their law school.

Law librarians instead regularly find themselves outnumbered by our patrons. Where you work, you may find yourself the only law librarian or in a small group of five-to-ten with patrons numbering in the hundreds. Our professional network *necessarily* extends outside the walls of our employers. In a way, that is what makes ORALL so great.

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ORALL

Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries

ORALL Officers

Ingrid Mattson, President The Ohio State University, Moritz Law Library	614-292-9476	mattson.30@osu.edu
Rick Goheen, Vice-President University of Toledo College of Law Library	419-530-2945	rick.goheen@utoledo.edu
Lisa Britt-Wernke, Secretary University of Cincinnati School of Law	513-556-0156	lisa.britt@uc.edu
Susan Azynder, Treasurer The Ohio State University, Moritz Law Library	614 292-6342	azyndar.1@osu.edu
Larissa Sullivant, Exec. Board Valparaiso University Law School	219-465-7878	Larissa.Sullivant@valpo.edu
Tim Hennies, Exec. Board Dinsomre & Shohl, LLP	513-977-8433	timothy.hennies@dinsmore.com
Angela Baldree, Exec. Board Franklin County Law Library	614-525-4971	abaldree@franklincountyohio.gov

Membership

Members: 285
Dues: \$20 per year

Contact: Rick Goheen
University of Toledo College of Law Library
2801 West Bancroft, Mail Stop 507
Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390
419-530-2945, rick.goheen@utoledo.edu

Newsletter

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

Editor: Paul D. Venard, Zimmerman Law Library
Univ. of Dayton Schl. of Law, Dayton, OH 45469,
937-229-4151, pvenard1@udayton.edu

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.

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

Deadlines for submissions: Feb. 28, May 30, Aug. 30, and Nov. 30

Advertising (per issue) : \$150 for full page, \$90 for half page, \$55 for quarter page, and \$35 for eighth page.

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President's Column *continued*

I joined the law librarianship profession a mere six years ago and ORALL five. My interview in Ohio was one of the only times I had been in the state to more than pass through, and I confess my experience with Indiana and Kentucky was the same. I immediately joined ORALL (and the legal research section of the Columbus Bar Association) and was greeted with the warmest welcome and sense of community I had ever experienced in my professional life. (I know you are shocked to read that the lawyer community of which I was a part was competitive more than consultative or collaborative.) I moved to Ohio in August 2012 and attended my first ORALL conference in Valparaiso a mere two months later. I met people at that first conference that I look forward to seeing every year and have worked with on various committees. I have called them for professional advice, to compare notes on what students should do to prepare for practice, to know how they handle acquisitions and other technical matters, and to learn all of the many ways one can become a good law librarian. ORALL has provided me with leadership opportunities, mentors, sound advice, inspiration to try new things (including Euchre), fun, ways to learn about my city and the region, insight into law librarianship norms and standards, and friendships.

It is with that background that I hope to ensure all ORALL members experience these same benefits. It is kind of a tall hurdle I've set for myself, but my plan is to start with getting to know our members—past and present.

At the AALL Chapter President Leadership Training, held in the days leading up to AALL's annual meeting, chapter presidents and vice presidents decided it would be useful to learn who in our regions are AALL members so that we can learn whether they are also ORALL members. It has been a day or two since our listserv membership was updated as well, and I have a sense that there may be people there who might have an interest in ORALL but have not renewed their membership. I am also completely fascinated to learn more about members mentioned in the past pages of this newsletter, to check in, and to see what they are up to these days. (I pulled a couple dozen print volumes from our collection to peruse now that the school semester has ended, and I have our digital collection bookmarked.)

And of course, if anyone I come across is not an ORALL member (but is "[a]ny person interested in law libraries" per our bylaws' requirement for membership), I plan to reach out to tell them about the benefits of ORALL membership. For one thing, ORALL annual membership is a mere \$20. I know, right? Such a bargain! Remember my list from above of all the incredible things ORALL provides? It does not even include the fact that registration for the annual conference typically costs just \$100 for 2.5 days of programming including CLE credit, or that ORALL offers generous grants to members (including new special meeting grants offered quarterly).

To me, growing ORALL membership is not about generating revenue. It is about building community. Even if I contact 100 people who tell me they have lost interest in ORALL or cannot afford the membership rate or have other reasons to not be involved, I am excited for the opportunity to learn more about our region's law library community and what they value or would value from ORALL. This community has given me so much, and I am honored to have the chance to give back.

If you have questions, comments, or additional insights into what ORALL can offer you, I would love to hear your thoughts.

* * *

Ohio Regional Association: Then and Now
by Kathy Moreland-Fell, Tuscarawas County Law Library

Recently I was cleaning out a file and came across a program booklet titled The First Fifty Years of the Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries. The 50th anniversary meeting was held in Columbus at the Adam's Mark Hotel with the opening reception at the state capital. I remember attending this meeting and what a grand celebration it was! Three years of preparation went into the 50th Anniversary.

I sat down and began reading the pages inside the booklet. Joanne Beal wrote a forward that depicts the forming of the association, its maturing and turning fifty. The founding of the association began with a letter from Ervin H. Pollack, Law Librarian for The Ohio State University College of Law. The letter was mailed to a handful of colleagues to sponsor a meeting of law librarians of Ohio for the purpose of forming a state association to provide opportunities for the exchange of ideas and discussion of mutual problems and interests. The meeting convened on Saturday April 30, 1949 with thirteen people attending. The meeting continued well into the afternoon with much conversation of various topics such as cataloging, loan programs and reference training. A committee was formed to draft a Resolution to formulate a statement of principles for mutual cooperation among law librarians.

The first Annual Meeting of O.A.L.L. was held November 10-11, 1950 at the Neil House in Columbus, Ohio. The membership was up to 38 with 26 members in attendance. Throughout the early years, members focused on what benefits would be realized by it members. The ball began to roll from that first meeting. At the 1968 meeting, to more accurately reflect the diverse membership of the association, the name changed to the Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries. In 1973, ORALL President, Art Hohlmayer reported to the Executive Board that law libraries serving smaller populations were beginning to lose

interest in ORALL. Some felt the programming was not relevant. Mr. Hohlmayer urged the creation of a special committee for county law librarians to provide a forum for their specific issues. This would become the County Law Library Special Interest Group.

The true purpose of ORALL is to further the development and usefulness of law libraries, the promotion of the growth, advancement and improvement of the profession of law librarianship, and the stimulation of a spirit of mutual helpfulness and cooperation among law libraries of the Ohio region. This year ORALL celebrated its 68th year with the annual meeting held in Cleveland, Ohio. The title of the meeting was Creating Winning Strategies. As a long time member of ORALL, I truly appreciate being part of this association. Though a lot has changed over the years, ORALL remains an association that benefits all law librarians.

* * *

ORALL 2017, Cleveland, Ohio

ORALL "Instructibles" HOW TO DO CLEs **by Carol A. Suhre, Clermont County Law Library**

The physical, intellectual and social aspects of how to do CLEs in Ohio county law libraries was one of the programs offered at the annual meeting. Keep in mind that accessible online services rarely provide anything free for acceptable CLE credit. This is an opportunity for another service to be provided by county law libraries to add value and relevance to patrons and those invested in the organization.

Access to justice is an on-going problem and there are negative aspects to moving legal resources to electronic means only. Aside from a "lawyer in the law library" program or a self-help center, offering CLE courses are another way to help attorneys, such as solo practitioners, who cannot afford the expensive courses offered or who have scheduling conflicts when Bar Association programs are available. Those who have the power to take away financial resources will perceive CLEs as relevant. Make education a part of your county law library mission.

The first suggestion would be to contact other county law librarians and obtain lists of their speakers that have presented. For example: the Franklin County law library hosted a presentation by Dr. Miriam Kahn regarding "Finding Heirs and Owners Using Genealogy Records." Conversation about how well this program was received is bringing the same speaker to Clermont County in April.

One of our most well received CLEs was on Immigration – a speaker who was heard at a county law library meeting. Columbiana County can offer a how-to packet that is successful for planning.

It is important to remember not to narrowly define the patron group for CLE. Law librarians know which areas of law need a refresher or an introduction and can tailor the sessions to specific needs. Some of the most popular at one time may have been workers comp, LLCs, or employment law. It is also a way to bring notoriety to your location. Holding a CLE in the vicinity of where attorneys are actively practicing is a fantastic introduction to your other services.

In some bar associations, the trusted “expert” members have been repeatedly mined for presentations in their area of practice to the point of over-use. Look to your extended legal community such as a Clerk of Courts and find expertise you have witnessed in your law library. There is a declining use of vendors but many law schools have alumni or speakers who provide a comfort level from a different perspective. This activity by county law libraries should not be viewed as competition with the local bar association but more as a compliment to accompany their statutory obligation to serve courts and elected officials, to manage and coordinate, acquire and utilize legal resources.

The physical presence of speakers and attendees could be challenging. But you can find ways to serve your law library and add to relevance, even if for a small group at one time. Focus beyond materials provided on your shelves and reach out, perhaps educating the public librarians and the public. Anything that can broaden the population you serve and brings patrons in, goes hand in hand with CLEs always being in demand.

Topics should be up-to-date and reflect changes in the law. The advantage for county law librarians is that we often know those changes are forthcoming. In Ohio, sponsors do not have to be an organization. Speakers are qualified by education or practical experience. Look at each state’s process, information, and applications online and add those websites to research possibilities for future speakers. A small bit of time for interaction could find numerous potential speakers. Franklin County’s list is online.

Perhaps there are new agencies or services in your county – reach out to local experts who want to serve the local legal community. Do not restrict attendance to only those who want CLE credit – remember the pro se can get access to justice by attending.

Keep it simple with advance planning, submitting paperwork for CLE approval well in advance, offer free registration, and hold the session over the lunch hour so you can eat during a program. Market your program on Facebook, your website and with flyers, utilize all opportunities for communication.

The benefits you will receive include returning patrons and much greater awareness of your county law library just by visiting for this specific intention. Offering CLE is a simple and cost-effective way to provide additional service.

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Review of Analogies Designed to Make Learning Legal Research Easier

by, Amelia Landenberger, University of Kentucky College of law

The best conference presentations are those which engage the audience, and there may be no more difficult time to engage an audience than the last program at the end of a conference. By the last presentation, even the staunchest conference-goers are beginning to wilt. Despite these disadvantages, the last program of the 2017 ORALL Conference was one of the best. To ORALL's credit, the members in the audience were not daunted by exhaustion, and turned out in surprisingly large numbers, and to the presenters' credit, they were able to engage the audience into a state of enthusiastic participation.

The topic of the presentation was the usefulness of analogies in teaching legal research. However, the program was not limited to formal, classroom teaching. In addition to those situations, Erin Waltz of the Ohio Supreme Court Law Library discussed how she uses analogies to teach public patrons about legal research. The program began with Katherine Kelly of The Ohio State University giving an overview of the science behind how analogies can help our brains to build schema for learning. In fact, she says that analogical reasoning “is the heart of ‘thinking like a lawyer.’”

Then Ingrid Mattson of The Ohio State University described her experience using analogies within her classroom teaching. One of her approaches is to teach students about legal databases by asking them to describe the process of choosing a pair of black dress shoes online. This analogy works because nearly everyone wears shoes, and because most law students are comfortable with the steps of finding an appropriate item to purchase online: selecting a store, narrowing by color, size, and/or price. These same skills can easily be analogized to legal research.

Susan Azyndar of The Ohio State University explained an assignment she gives to her students to help them to understand legal research through the lens of travel research. Because students can readily understand the factors at play in planning a trip, they can more easily comprehend all the variables involved in doing legal research, and the utility of tools like reliable secondary sources or the necessity of checking up-to-date sources to be sure of opening hours for tourist attractions.

After Erin Waltz explained how these same sorts of analogies can be successfully used to help clarify patrons’ understanding when the librarian only has a few minutes to explain a complicated topic, the program moved into a think-pair-share phase. Each table shared their analogies and then reported back to the room. This is where ORALL members really began to shine. Parts of legal research can be compared to a river, a puzzle, a mouse, ordering a pizza, or Harry Potter.

The problem with analogies, of course, is that they are not particularly easy to compose from scratch. They always sound deceptively simple when a good teacher explains them, but for those of us who have not yet had that stroke of genius, they are hard to make. Knowing that many of us would want to refer back to the ideas generated, the presenters compiled the audience’s responses for distribution on the ORALL website. If you were unlucky enough to miss this program, I suggest you look at the distributed materials, and take the time to think about how you could integrate the analogies mentioned into your teaching.

* * *

Program Review - Strategies for Coping with Chaos or How We Stop Worrying and Love the Destruction

by, Lauren Morrison, Director, Hamilton County Law Library

Although I have been at the Hamilton County Law Library in some role for several years, this year was actually my first time going to the ORALL Annual Meeting. I am very appreciative of the grant I received to attend, which helped tremendously in a time of diminishing revenue. The session that resonated the most with me at the Annual Meeting, was “Strategies for Coping with Chaos or How We Stop Worrying and Love the Destruction.” The reason for this is simple enough, the Hamilton County Law Library is about to embark on its own chaotic journey into the world of library renovations. I have great aspirations for this to go as smoothly as possible, with minimal disruptions to patrons and staff and was pleased to attend a presentation that could give me tips to help facilitate that.

The presentation featured a panel of librarians from two different organizations who had undergone or were still undergoing renovations to their space. Amelia Landenberger and Beau Steenken from the University of Kentucky College of Law discussed their experiences (so far) in the complete renovation of their law library, and Carolyn Vinyard of Bricker and Eckler presented information about the library move and renovations that took place at the Columbus law firm.

The UK renovations have required a relocation of everything – books, technology, office space and places for the students to work, as their entire space was gutted. In Hamilton County we’ve just hit the tip of the iceberg on this, as we moved our print collection from its existing home and interfiled it with the rest of our collection. This required literally touching every book in the library, adjusting shelves, then readjusting them when one volume would be slightly too large and prompted the mantra, “If it doesn’t fit, then just toss it.” (We did not. Usually.) This went smoothly because it was a collaborative effort and everyone pitched in, just as Amelia and Beau described (and illustrated with great photos) in their discussion of relocating their collection.

Carolyn Vinyard also discussed the process of renovations and massive collection weeding and reduction that took place at Bricker & Eckler. Carolyn discussed the need to let go of certain print materials and the challenges associated with that. Both Carolyn and the team from UK also discussed the challenges (and opportunities) associated with temporary housing of staff and library space during the renovations. Carolyn’s library was temporarily housed in conference rooms that seemed to get little use until they were taken by the library. She had to work with attorneys to accommodate their needs and share the space.

Amelia showed images of their temporary student space and discussed how the different location provided opportunities to interact more with the students. She also showed their temporary staff cube farm, which they'd outfitted with personal touches to make it feel more homey to staff, and a puzzle for students to work on while waiting, making it more inviting to them.

What struck me the most about both of the presentations is how all of the considerations that go into library renovation emphasize the special nature of libraries. Libraries differ so much from other workplaces because the library itself is a destination. Going there is about the space as well as the resources and the people. In most work environments you might just need a temporary space for employees to put a desk. When moving, but still operating a library, you have to recreate the environment that is a main reason patrons visit.

Both Carolyn and Amelia highlighted what is probably the most important aspect of undertaking a massive project like this – making the best of a challenging situation. Approaching the situation with flexibility and humor and taking advantage of the opportunities changes produce can make even the toughest circumstances bearable, and keep patrons coming to your library, even when it is not in the “library” anymore. The end result for Bricker and Eckler was a beautiful new space, and I'm sure UK will be able to say the same once their process is completed. Hopefully we will, too, once our own chaos is done.

* * *

Law Library Relevancy
by, Kendel Croston, Stark County Law Library

The campus of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland was a beautiful setting for the fall ORALL conference. One of the sessions I attended during the conference was “Slam-Dunk CLEs” presented by Jennifer Jones of the Franklin County Law Library. Jennifer explained that at her library they were seeing decreased attendance at the West and Lexis sponsored CLEs that provided overviews of online legal research. They looked for other topics that were relevant to their users and started providing CLEs presented by community members and their librarians. They found the approval process from the Supreme Court to be relatively easy, and have received suggestions from the evaluation forms of the programs they host for future program topics and presenters. The CLE programs have been well attended and the library has seen an increase in the number of people signing up for library cards as well as greater awareness of the services the library provides. The Franklin County Law Library staff see the provision of CLE programs as part of their educational mission and as a way for the legal community to perceive the continuing relevance of the library.

Another program, "Access to Print, Access to Justice (Revisited)" discussed the relevance of publicly accessible law libraries to self-represented litigants. The presenter, Kimberly Mattioli, discussed self-represented litigants use of print resources and referred to research showing that law librarians expected to spend twenty-two percent less on print from 2014-2016. She also discussed that three out of five civil litigants go to court without a lawyer. Ms. Mattioli conducted a survey to which sixty-eight law librarians responded. Of those, sixty served self-represented litigants. Most of those librarians said they were not planning to or probably would not eliminate sources such as codes, form books, and secondary sources that self-represented litigants used in print. However, two-thirds of the responding libraries indicated that they had to refer to electronic resources to assist self-represented litigants adequately.

My thanks to ORALL for providing me with a grant to attend the annual meeting and the opportunity to learn from my colleagues. At the Stark County Law Library we hope to broaden our CLE offerings during the next year, and to use some of the strategies Jennifer Jones discussed. We want the library to remain relevant to the legal community and the self-represented litigant, and the library continues to provide legal information in print when financially feasible.

* * *

How Does the Unauthorized Practice of Law Differ from Reference Services – SaraJean Petite
by, Paul D. Venard, Zimmerman Law Library

As always, there were many valuable and relevant seminars provided at the Annual ORALL Conference this past October in Cleveland, Ohio. I chose to attend, and write about, SaraJean Petite's talk for two reasons: 1) as the primary evening and Sunday Reference Librarian, I find myself interacting with many pro se patrons, many of whom want to push the limits on reference v. representation; and, 2) at AALL in Austin I attended a session on better helping pro se patrons, and a lot of what was presented seemed to push the line as to what a Reference Librarian can and should provide.

The speakers at the AALL Annual Conference in Austin barely touched on the subject of unauthorized practice, and merely stated that they know of few to no cases of a librarian being prosecuted for such, and as such a librarian should be free to help a pro se patron in whatever manner they can (including assisting in filling out forms). This goes against everything I have been told since beginning my career as a Reference Librarian, so SaraJean's presentation provided an excellent opportunity to clarify this contradiction.

In one instance, it appears that SaraJean and the presenters in Austin agree on one basic point: there is little to no case law on and it is very unlikely that a

librarian would be held liable under civil malpractice, especially if the patron is given no reasonable expectation that the librarian has a duty of care for the patron. However, that still leaves the door open for disciplinary action; this can lead to fines up to \$10,000 (although such large fines are unlikely) and may impact a librarian's Character and Fitness Review if they are attempting to become licensed to practice law.

So, then the basic question becomes, "what entails the practice of law?" and not just reference services. According to the talk, the practice of law can and does include explaining; recommending; advising; preparing legal documents; communication on behalf of clients; and, interpreting. It includes the use and application of any legal skill, training, and analysis and tailoring those skills to assist and advise the needs of a specific person.

What does not entail the practice of law includes the use of legal research sources to assist a patron in finding information and making their own decisions. There are of course some grey areas (such as instructing the patron on using the index or selecting a specific treatise/section for the patron), but the less the assistance looks like advice the safer the librarian should be in providing services.

I would like to thank ORALL for providing me with a grant to attend the Annual Conference in Cleveland .

* * *

New ORALLiens at ORALL

Prior to the official start of the conference this year at ORALL, Amelia Landenberger and Marissa Mason invited new ORALLiens to meet with several veteran members of ORALL in an attempt to better acclimate to the conference and learn more about what ORALL had to offer. The first half of the session were informal chats between old and new members, while the second half of the session allowed the new members to interact with each other and learn about each other.

As one of the veteran members asked to participate, I thought this session was very thoughtful and useful and hope it becomes a regular part of ORALL. I thank Amelia, Marissa and all that participated for their time and effort into making this work.

Below you will find some short information blurbs that are a result of the second half of the session (there was no requirement to submit them to the newsletter, but thankfully a few did). Hopefully, this will allow all of us to get to learn more about our new(er) members.

Rachel Kusmik (by Lynn Harden): Meet Rachel Kusmik, a native of the Cleveland area. Rachel received her master's degree in library science from Kent State University, where the focus of her studies was special libraries. She was thrilled to land a position as Research Librarian at Jones Day in Cleveland after completing her degree, and has now been with the law firm for over nine years. Interesting questions that challenge the way she thinks, and collaborating with colleagues are favorite parts of her job.

Lynn Harden (by Rachael Kusmik): Lynn Harden is the Executive Director of the Brown County Public Library, which is in partnership with the Brown County Law Library. Lynn's position entails facilitating the partnership of the Law Library with the local public library system, overseeing business operations, contracts, purchasing and bills. Her favorite thing about her job is that there is never a dull moment in meeting people's needs and there is always a new and interesting challenge. The Brown County Law Library serves the public and local attorneys.

Michelle Hopkins (by Kristin E. Francois): Michelle Hopkins is a Law Library Associate at Georgetown Public Library in Georgetown, OH, a village south of Cincinnati. As of the ORALL conference, she had been in her position for just four weeks. She is a retired Ohio state government employee and has a liberal arts degree. Her 30-year-old son Dylan lives in the Cincinnati area. In her spare time Michelle likes to knit, learn how to quilt, make goat's milk soap, go antique shopping, and write.

* * *

A Note from Your Newsletter Editor

Thanks to all who contributed to this quarter's newsletter. A good reprise of many of the sessions offered at ORALL this past October.

Next newsletter will be published in March, 2018/

Hope you all have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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