

ORALL NEWSLETTER

OHIO REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

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President's Column – Beau Steenken

Please forgive this understatement, but a lot has occurred since my last presidential column: global pandemic; quarantine and its economic fall-out; continuing episodes of lethal violence directed at African-Americans by police and vigilantes; demonstrations, protests and riots; the haunting specter of the possibility of a standing army deployed against American citizens on domestic soil. These are unprecedented times with a convergence of large, daunting problems both sudden (coronavirus) and deeply rooted (a largely unaddressed history of systemic racism). While it is not clear to me what law libraries can do to help address these gargantuan challenges, it is clear to me that the challenges will directly impact us. Our professional *raison d'être* is to provide access to the law and thereby to justice. Yet, the coronavirus has closed many of our doors; at my library, we are relying on email as our point of contact, and we are serving only electronic material. This, while the best we can do under our current restrictions, is woefully insufficient, given that many of the same

people struggling to access justice are also on the disadvantaged side of the digital divide. (For the importance of print sources in providing access to justice, please see this [excellent article by ORALL member Kimberly Mattioli.](#))

At the same time that we face this logistical challenge, the ongoing disparate treatment of different groups of Americans—allegedly equal in the eyes of the law—based on race threatens to undermine faith in law and justice themselves.

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Dues: \$20 per year

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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.

President's Column *continued*

If people lose faith in justice, will they even bother to try to access it? What can we as librarians do not just to deliver information people need but even to reassure them that the information matters? Is there anything we can do in the face of these challenges? Again, I don't know that any one of us has the answers, but I don't think that gets us off the hook of considering the questions. Passively standing by will not benefit us, I think. We need collectively to think and to act to overcome these challenges to our profession and to our society, and I hope, as tight-knit a group as ORALL is, that we can play a positive role in the weeks, months, and years ahead.

* * *

Making the Most of WebEx

By Shannon Kemen, University of Cincinnati Law Library

Many of us have found ourselves using video conferencing tools on a regular basis to hold class or business meetings. While these tools can't recreate the experience of live interaction, using the features that these tools come with more effectively can produce more engaging meetings for everyone. If you work at an institution that relies on WebEx, here are some tools that can make your meetings more interactive and productive:

- **Sharing the screen:** You can make your meetings more interactive by giving other people a chance to participate and share their documents or PowerPoints. In WebEx, the user that started the meeting is the host by default and as the host they can assign privileges to all users attending a meeting. To allow for screen sharing for participants who are not the host, the host must first pass the presenter role to that person. For more information on passing the presenter role, see: <https://help.webex.com/en-us/WBX1800/How-Do-I-Pass-the-Presenter-Role-to-an-Attendee-or-Participant>.
- **Polls:** You can give your audience a chance for real time response beyond simple hand raising by using WebEx polls. Polls will let you ask your audience multiple choice or short answer questions. You can create the poll questions in advance and save them again for another meeting. After administering the poll, you will be able to share the individual poll results and group results with the participants and you can save the results as a poll report. For more information on creating WebEx polls, see: <https://help.webex.com/en-us/WBX38160/Is-it-Possible-to-Create-a-Poll-Prior-to-Starting-a-Webex-Meetings>.

- **Whiteboard:** The Whiteboard allows the presenter to draw, add text and shapes to the screen that they are sharing or on a blank whiteboard. Work done on Whiteboards can also be saved for future reference. For more information on Whiteboards, see: https://help.webex.com/en-us/nytdb92/Use-the-Whiteboard-in-Cisco-Webex-Meetings#id_133514
- **Recordings:** After your meeting has been recorded you can share the link to your recording with the participants of your meeting, allowing them to go back and revisit the content of your meeting at their own pace. For more information on recording WebEx meetings, see <https://help.webex.com/en-us/jfgavq/Record-a-Cisco-Webex-Meeting-on-Your-Computer>.
- **Usage Reports:** The WebEx usage report shows meeting type, date, duration, number of participants invited, number of participants registered, and number of participants who attended your WebEx meeting. To access Usage Reports: Log into WebEx. On the left-hand menu, select Insights. In the upper right corner, select View more. Under All Services, select Usage Report. Enter the date range when your WebEx recording took place and select Display Report. NOTE: You can generate reports for up to three months prior to the current date. Under topic, click on the name of the report you want to select. To download a CSV spreadsheet version of the report, select the Export Report button.

The availability of select reports varies by institution. For additional information on reports, see: <https://help.webex.com/en-us/47hkcw/View-My-Webex-Reports-on-Your-Cisco-Webex-Site>.

As a final tip, remember many of these features can be tested in your WebEx personal room without the need for scheduling a practice meeting with another person.

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The Show Must Go On

Lisa Britt Wernke , Chair, ORALL Education Committee

When we met last October who could have predicted that we would make history by staying home and teaching and working remotely? When the Education Committee began discussing our theme for the annual meeting and decided on “Libraries are Blooming: New Decade, New Directions,” we did not know how relevant this would be to our profession. In our original call for programs we said that the committee “encourages applicants to incorporate the theme of libraries charting a new direction with the start of a new decade.” And what a start to the decade it has been!

As we enter another month of social distancing and uncertainty about what the fall season and academic year holds, the Education Committee is preparing for our annual meeting to still go on – as all good shows must.

While it is uncertain if we will be able to meet in person, our chapter will still meet and share ideas that are germane to all of us. Recently an email went out for a call for program proposals and I would like to encourage folks to send in their program ideas. The Education Committee is excited about the annual meeting and the possible virtual format. We are open to the traditional one-hour programs, shorter “Ted Talk” programs, and any new cool tools that you have discovered or are using during your time of teaching and working remotely.

Please do consider submitting a program proposal for our annual meeting. Keeping our tradition of sharing great ideas and fellowship in October is important for our chapter and our professional development. We have extended our deadline for proposals until Friday, July 31st so that we have a better grasp of what our meeting may look like. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me at lisa.britt@uc.edu.

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ORALL Members Win AALL Awards
by Susan Azyndar and Stephanie Ziegler, the Moritz Law Library

Two ORALL members, Rena Seidler and Ben Keele, were among those honored this year with AALL awards. Seidler received the AALL Spectrum Article of the Year Award, and Keele was one of three librarians honored with the Emerging Leader Award. We briefly profile each of them, and we invited them to share a few thoughts.

Ben Keele earned recognition as an emerging leader, an award for librarians with under ten years in the profession “who have already made significant contributions to the Association and/or to the profession and have demonstrated the potential for leadership and continuing service.” Keele has worked as a law librarian since 2010, first at William & Mary Law School and now at Indiana University McKinney School of Law. He has published a number of articles and book chapters, many of them on the subject of digital publishing. Keele has also served as a co-editor of *Keeping Up With New Legal Titles*, the book review column in *Law Library Journal*, and as the chair of AALL's copyright committee. Here are some of Keele's thoughts:

How does it feel to win the emerging leader award?

Law librarianship is full of outstanding professionals, all of whom lead and contribute in their own ways. To be recognized for service to the profession is immensely gratifying and humbling. In addition to being recognition of past work,

I take the award as indicating an expectation for future contributions, and I hope to live up to it.

What do you think was most important in leading to this achievement?

I think my professional service record includes a mix of activities at various levels (school, university, regional, and national). I've also done some service projects in which I was the primary person responsible, and some in which I'm supporting the leader. The most important aspect I look for in service options is whether I think there is something I can offer that is better than a hypothetical generic person. Sometimes I've been given responsibilities for which I didn't feel particularly qualified. In those instances I had to do some self-teaching and adapt.

What leadership advice would you offer to ORALL members?

Our profession has a lot of departments, positions, and committees. Those are important and can be listed on a CV, but the most important part of leadership trying to listen and understand the people you work with. Much of the work I've done in librarianship has involved collaborating with people and thus compromise and adjustment. Whether I'm the nominal leader or not, I always try to learn something from my colleagues. On a more practical level, break projects up into manageable pieces and keep notes on action points.

Rena Seidler received the AALL Spectrum Article of the Year Award, for her article "Shedding Light on Legal Research Accessibility Issues for the Blind," published in the January/February 2019 issue of Spectrum. Seidler also presented on this issue at the 2019 AALL Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. She previously worked as a reference librarian at Temple University and is currently Research and Instruction Librarian at Indiana University McKinney School of Law. In addition to this award-winning piece, Seidler has also written articles on recent developments in Indiana family law, and several book reviews. Here are some of Seidler's thoughts:

How does it feel to win the Spectrum Article of the Year Award?

I was thrilled to find out that I had won Article of the Year. It is particularly exciting for me because it brings attention to the challenges visually impaired researchers face and how we, as librarians, can best support them.

What is the one thing you would like readers to take from your article?


It is my hope that readers came away from my article with a better understanding of the multitude of challenges that visually impaired researchers face when conducting complex legal research. Underlying these challenges, the key for librarians working with the visually impaired is patience. Complex legal

research platforms and databases are frequently ill set up for the visually impaired and librarian assistance may be essential for successful research.

What advice would you give other ORALLians who would like to write an article?

Sitting down to write an article can be very daunting. Choose a subject that you are passionate about and remember that your article is a way for you to share your knowledge and bring attention to the topic.

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Ohio Women Vote: 100 Years of Change Exhibit at the Stark County Law Library

by Kendel R. Croston, Stark County Law Library

In the United States women have had the right to vote for only 100 years, which is less than half of our nation's history. In celebration of the women's suffrage centennial, the Ohio History Connection developed a traveling banner exhibit, "Ohio Women Vote: 100 Years of Change," and offered it at no cost to locations interested in hosting it.



The Stark County Law Library saw hosting the exhibit as an opportunity to not only inform our visitors and the community about women's activities in Ohio related to obtaining the vote, but also as a way to bring people into the library that weren't aware of the services the library provides.

The opening reception was March 5th at the library, with about 25 people attending. County Commissioner Janet Creighton made brief remarks about Stark County women's involvement in the fight for the vote and encouraged women to seek elected office. Members of the Canton League of Women Voters dressed as suffragists and mingled with the reception attendees. Several people attending noted that it was the first time they had visited the law library.



Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the library closed less than two weeks later and we were not able to host the speakers from the McKinley Museum and Ohio Humanities as planned, and viewing of the exhibit ended abruptly. Hosting the exhibit brought awareness of the suffrage anniversary to those working in the Stark County Office Building where the library is located and introduced some people to the library's services. The sponsorship of the Ohio History Connection of this exhibit was very much appreciated, and the library hopes to work with them in the future to host another exhibit. Ohio History Connection has made the exhibit available online at:

<http://resources.ohiohistory.org/omeka/exhibits/show/suffrage> and an article

about the exhibit at the library is available at:

<https://www.cantonrep.com/news/20200308/traveling-exhibit-celebrates-womensquos-centennial>

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A Note from Your Newsletter Editor

Thanks to all who contributed once again this quarter. I appreciate you all taking the time to contribute even though we are all still adjusting to this (hopefully temporary) “normal”. Our next newsletter will be published in September 2020, not long before our annual ORALL meeting is supposed to be happening.

I hope everybody is staying healthy and safe during these uncertain times.

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