

# ORALL NEWSLETTER

OHIO REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

DECEMBER, 2022

VOLUME 2022, NUMBER 4

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## ***President's Column – Sarah Starnes***

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As November comes to a close and the holiday season begins full force, I find that there's a lot to be thankful for. I am thankful that I was able to spend Thanksgiving with family and friends and that I get to spend the holiday season with my family. I am thankful for this organization and that I got to see all of you in person just over a month ago in Lexington, Kentucky. I am thankful for the first full successful year of our new website and the reintroduction of a list-serv that will allow us easier access to communicate with each other. I am thankful for our new members and that ORALL continues to grow with fresh new faces and ideas.

These new members bring the promise of a bright, active future of our organization and the opportunities that lie in the year ahead. This became crystal clear during our 2022 Annual Meeting. Having had the pleasure of planning the program schedule, I was excited for each and every program presented. We heard from a variety of voices, from county, government, and academia, and had the opportunity reconnect with old friends and make new ones. It reignited my passion for libraries and our profession. I had not

realized until our annual meeting how isolated I had become in my position. Emails and Zoom are great, but there is nothing quite like connecting through conversation, both professional and personal, with others who share the same love of librarianship. I am excited about the future of our profession and who we will be as information professionals in 2023 and beyond.

As an academic, the introduction of the Next Gen Bar Exam validates what we do and how important the skills we teach are.

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# ORALL

## Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries

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### Membership

**Members: 285**

**Dues: \$20 per year**

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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 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.**

## President's Column *continued*

The potential to change what we do to adapt to an increasing demand for research education in law schools affects the profession as a whole: what then becomes important for librarians across all fields to continue to educate and assist attorneys and the public with? How will the tools we use now change, and what new technologies may be released? How will each of our jobs change? The coming year holds a lot of potential as we begin return to pre-pandemic activities and connecting with each other as we keep growing as ORALLians. I am eager to hear from you about the direction you want to see ORALL go in 2023. If you have any thoughts, ideas, or suggestions, please reach out to me at [sstarnes@uakron.edu](mailto:sstarnes@uakron.edu). I hope you stay happy and healthy and enjoy the coming holiday season.

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## ***New ORALLian Interviews (from the 2022 ORALL Annual Meeting):***

### Dawn Kirkpatrick:

New to ORALL and new to the law, Dawn Kirkpatrick spent 20 years working in the public library system before making the transition to being a law librarian for the private firm, Dinsmore & Shohl. She enjoys her new role. Especially, learning the ins and outs of legal research.

I enjoyed meeting Dawn and getting to know her at the ORALL Fall Meeting. She is married with a 12-year old son who plays basketball and loves to read. Together, Dawn and her son have read the Harry Potter series for the last three summers. They make it a “book battle” with a prize of cold hard cash. The winner is the one who rereads the series the fastest! Dawn’s favorite flavor of ice cream, a very important detail, is mint chocolate chip.

### Sandra Stoll:

I had the pleasure of meeting Sandra Stoll, at the 2022 ORALL Annual conference in Lexington, KY. We met at the Mini-Conference for New ORALLians, and interviewed each other for the ORALL newsletter. Here are some fun facts about Sandra! After returning to her hometown to assist with family care, Sandra worked fulltime and put herself through Law School, graduating in just two years! She practiced private law, but then decided to make a change and accepted a position as telecommuting editor for LexisNexis. Sandra moved from Lexis to Wolters Kluwers as an editor.

While many people were learning how to work from home during the COVID-19 pandemic, Sandra was already a pro having worked for both LexisNexis and Wolters Kluwers from her home office for years. When the long beloved Law Librarian of Hancock County Law Library, Deborah Ward, retired, Sandra’s friends and colleagues reached out to see if she would consider taking up the position. Although, these were very big shoes to fill, Sandra has stepped in with grace and kindness, streamlining FAQ packets of information and forms for her customers so that they have everything they need all on one spot.

Sandra, loves to travel, and is part of a gourmet club where she and her friends create an elaborate lunch/dinner event each month that can last up to five hours!

### Kieran Layton:

Kieran Layton is the Reference and Electronic Research Services Librarian at Case Western Reserve School of Law and has held the position for about one year. They have an undergraduate background in mathematics, philosophy, and computer science from Case Western Reserve, a law degree from

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, and a MLIS from Kent State University. Kieran is originally from Zanesville, Ohio, and has lived in Ohio all their life. Beyond ORALL, they are a member of the Mid- American Association of Law Libraries and attended the AALL conference this year, where a favorite session was Researching Emojis in the Law. More information about Kieran can be found on their website at <https://www.kieranlayton.info/>.

#### Rachel Dilley:

Rachel Dilley is a lifelong Ohioan and the current Research Librarian at the Supreme Court of Ohio. Starting that position in January 2020, Rachel was able to see the Supreme Court of Ohio in its pre-pandemic form as well as different remote and hybrid formats. She's happy to see public patrons face- to-face again and for the opportunity to meet other librarians at conferences like ORALL.

Though new to ORALL, Rachel is no rookie to the government law library game. Already well-versed in workers' compensation, having worked as a Paralegal for Frost Brown Todd, Rachel got her start in librarianship as a Circulation Clerk at the Franklin County Law Library in 2015. There, she gained a deeper knowledge of commonly used legal materials while working her way through an MLIS at Kent State University.

Shifting gears, Rachel spent a year at Richwood-North Union Public Library as an Adult Services Librarian before setting her sights on academic librarianship, where she focused on open educational resources and where her passion for accessibility blossomed. Hesitant to say she has a green thumb or call her respectable acreage a farm, Rachel is also an avid gardener and chicken caretaker, as well as a wife and a mother.

#### Beverly Jackson:

I had the distinct pleasure of interviewing Beverly Jackson at my first ORALL. Beverly works at the Champaign County Law Library in Ohio. Since I am from Champaign County, Illinois, there was some initial confusion before the interview, but it turned out to be a humorous icebreaker!

Beverly has been at the county law library for 1 year. She told me that her predecessor had been in that position for twenty-one years—big shoes to fill! Even though Beverly has no experience in the profession, having been a hairdresser and teacher's aide previously, she seems very adept at her job and is eager to learn.

Her responsibilities include purchasing and maintaining legal resource subscriptions and giving out legal forms to patrons. As with many public law libraries, Beverly noted that the primary patron group includes pro se litigants and the difficulties that come with assisting these individuals. She indicated how hard

it is to walk the tight rope of providing legal forms and answering questions and not slip into the unauthorized practice of law. We can all relate to that, can't we?

I think Champaign County, Ohio is very lucky to have Beverly in the law library. She cares very deeply about the patrons, attorneys, and courthouse staff. She is exactly the type of front-line person we need in the profession. I wish my new colleague all the best and look forward to seeing her next year at ORALL.

Jeanmarie Byrge:

Jeanmarie Byrge has been with the Jefferson County Law Library for a year and a half. She initially moved back to Jefferson County because she wanted to come home. Current projects underway at the Law Library include revitalizing the existing space and automating the libraries financial systems. Previously, Jeanmarie had worked in the financial world as an IT specialist. She is a horse lover, and was a competitive swimmer through college, as well as being a swim coach. She also writes songs with her brother, who is a musician, and they perform Simon and Garfunkel acts at local areas around their town. She has also traveled to 37 of the 50 states, and enjoys reading mysteries and biographies of playwrights. Jeanmarie is also the Chair of the ORALL SIG for County Law Libraries for 2022-23.

Kristy Wells:

Kristy has been with Butler County Law Library just over 1 ½ years. In that time, she has risen from the position of Law Library Clerk to become the Law Library Administrator. During this brief tenure, Kristy has been dealing with major projects including the move of the Butler County Law Library to a new location in 2022. Kristy's prior experience includes administration with the Butler County Domestic Relations Court, the public library and stay at home mom. Kristy's family home is actually a small farm, complete with goats, chickens, pigs and honey bees. Her horse stables nearby, allowing Kristy a chance to decompress on a ride after a full day of work, or after attending one of her children's many activities including hockey, 4-H and riding lessons. Finally, and gratefully, Kristy has volunteered to be Vice Chair of the ORALL SIG for County Law Libraries for 2022-23, in her "spare" time.

John Moreland:

John Moreland is the Student Services Librarian at Indiana University Maurer School of Law in Bloomington, Indiana. He received his M.L.S. from the Indiana University Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering in 2022, his J.D. from Southern Illinois University in 2020, and a Masters in History from Illinois State University in 2016. While pursuing his MLS, John also served as an Assistant Professor of Practice at the SIU School of Law, assisting in the teaching of legal research in their first-year program; he looks forward to flexing

his instructional muscles further in Spring 2023, when he will teach a section of Maurer's 2-credit Advanced Legal Research course. As Student Services Librarian, John engages with the law student body in a number of ways: He provides research instruction and support to the law journal staff, moot court participants, and several other research-focused law student groups; he created a Student Library Advisory Board, to get feedback from students about library services and spaces and serve as a direct advocate for their interests; and he supports student wellness by collaborating with the law school's Office of Student Affairs and planning a variety of stress-busting activities through the law library, such as a recent "field trip" students took to see and learn about rare legal materials at IU Bloomington's world-renowned Lilly Rare Books Library. In addition, he is currently working on a paper for the forthcoming Yale Law Library symposium on "The Legal Treatise: Past, Present, and Future." New to the profession, John is looking forward to getting more involved in AALL and ORALL. He enjoyed his first ORALL conference, but wonders how we'll top bourbon vending machines and complimentary cocktails in the lobby at future meetings!

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## ***2022 ORALL Annual Meeting Grant Reports***

### ***Recounting ORALL: A Cautionary Tale About Data*** **by Susan Azyndar, Kresge Law Library, Notre Dame Law School**

One theme among many of the programs I attended was statistics —what we collect, why we collect it, and how we use that data. In her roundtable discussion, "Database Usage Statistics and Challenges of Determining the Value of Electronic Resources," Larissa Sullivant kicked off a discussion about usage statistics, with a focus on how difficult they are to obtain from vendors, using usage statistics in the negotiation process, and the [COUNTER](#) code of practice. In "Big Data in Law Libraries: Unstoppable or Untenable?," Susan Boland addressed the many types of data libraries collect and the tension between data collection and patron privacy, encouraging attendees to investigate privacy policies both at their own institutions and under our licenses with vendors. I have since learned that the main library at my institution has a patron privacy/confidentiality team. In the final session of the annual meeting, "Deep Dive Discussion: Improving ALLStAR: Where Do We Go From Here?," Susan deMaine led a conversation about the ALLStAR benchmarking tool, and participants offered a number of suggestions on how this tool could better serve academic law libraries. This conversation marked a starting point in a listening tour, focusing on what kinds of data law libraries need and want to include and the benchmarking needs of law libraries, which may vary based on institutional context.

This focus on data and statistics is not new. Law libraries often need to justify expenditures through demonstrating use of resources, and some stakeholders, be they deans or judges or partners, are intensely data-driven. Many of these conversations centered on how external forces' interest in or use of data shape stakeholders' views of libraries. Surely, if there is no option to track a given data point, that data cannot be part of a library's story about how it serves the larger institution. Opportunities for data tracking, though, sometimes invite libraries to surrender control over their own narratives. Demands for data we do track can presuppose value in certain aspects of libraries or approaches to librarianship (e.g., seat counts valuing the library as a place where people can physically work). At ORALL, many speakers encouraged a thoughtful approach about data collection, including reflection on the stories our data collection tells about our libraries, so that we can create meaningful connections with our communities.

Many thanks to ORALL for provide me a grant to attend our Annual Meeting in Lexington!

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### ***Diversity & Social Issues in Research Hypotheticals – What Crosses the Line?***

**by Natasha Landon, The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law**

Back in October, I had the pleasure of carpooling with some colleagues down to gorgeous Lexington, Kentucky for ORALL's 73rd Annual Meeting, "Reconnecting with Our Communities." I was ecstatic to attend my first Annual Meeting and incredibly grateful to have received one of the ORALL Annual Meeting Grants. And what an experience it was! Thank you to the Grants Committee and to everyone whose work made this year's meeting possible.

Although I enjoyed every program I attended, I found Shamika Dalton and Susan deMaine's program, "Diversity & Social Issues in Research Hypotheticals – What Crosses the Line?," particularly insightful. In it, Shamika and Susan explained how it is not only appropriate but also beneficial to use thoughtful and diverse hypotheticals. By being thoughtful about the hypos we use in our legal research courses, Shamika and Susan stressed that we can provide an opportunity for students to exercise critical thinking skills and build their cross-cultural competency, and with a little luck and extra care, they may even make a personal impact on our students. In these ways, a hypo can make an invaluable difference to students' legal education and law school experience.

Beyond explaining the value of diverse hypos, Shamika and Susan also provided some tips and suggestions for how to incorporate diversity and social issues into hypotheticals, including using diverse names and incorporating issues unique to underrepresented people. With particularly tough topics, the presenters suggested framing hypos in terms of current events—using news headlines, law



review articles, or other media—to incorporate these difficult subjects more organically.

Although we may feel unqualified or otherwise unequipped to address certain topics, Shamika and Susan reiterated the value of taking some step towards incorporating diversity and social issues, no matter how large. Both presenters, speaking from their own experience, explained how creating a space for those uncomfortable conversations can lead to really meaningful engagement, which should come as little surprise since grappling with current issues, inequalities, and injustices is exactly what draws some students to the legal profession.

It was a pleasure to listen to and learn from Shamika and Susan. As a novice instructor, I greatly appreciated the guidance and suggestions they provided, but I am sure that everyone, no matter how seasoned, benefitted from their wonderfully informative and sincerely engaging program. What's more, to help each of us take that first step in re-examining our course materials and to learn more about diversity in legal education, they graciously provided a number of diversity-related hypothetical ideas (<https://go.iu.edu/4BQW>) and a list of further recommended readings (<https://go.iu.edu/4BQX>).

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***Reconnecting with our Past, Reuniting with our Present, & Revitalizing our Future***  
**by Paul D. Venard, University of Dayton Law Library**

I admittedly stumbled into this presentation as I was not interested in the session on teaching Tax. As odd as it sounds, I actually really enjoyed my Tax Law classes in Law School; I just knew I would never be teaching it. As such, I ended up taking a chance on the session presented by Amelia Landenberger and Sarah Starnes.

As soon as I sat down in the session, I was dismayed to learn that this was going to be an interactive session. However, unlike most interactive sessions, most of the participation occurred through a Word Cloud App. Having never participated in a Word Cloud, I was skeptical but soon found this to be an engaging and not so stressful way to provide automatic feedback. The hosts would suggest a prompt: some as simple as asking the audience what type of library they worked in to questions about how they currently see ORALL and how they would like to see it evolve in the future.

For the actual content, Amelia and Sarah provided interesting notes about the history of ORALL and where we originated. Having originally been conceived as OALL (Ohio Association of Law Libraries) to adding “Regional” to the organization name in 1968. We also learned about ORALL’s inclusion into AALL as well as past notable members.

As the title of the session indicates, we then moved onto where we are now not only as ORALLiens but also as librarians in general. We were asked to contribute what we loved being about librarians as well as our current vision of what ORALL is.

Finally, we delved into how we see ORALL evolving, as well as our roles as librarians. Interestingly, we also talked about why people are leaving the world of librarianship and ways in which we can maintain and even grow the profession. On the other side of this, we talked about why we are drawn to continuing our roles as librarians even as library budgets and relative pay decreases.

In the end, I am glad that I was a part of this session, even with the interactive component. It really helped to consider what our roles are now and what they should grow to be. It was an insightful reminder that we, as individual librarians and an organization, are in an ever changing evolving profession.

I want to thank ORALL for providing me a grant to attend this and other equally interesting sessions. It was great to reconnect with those we have not seen face-to-face in too long and I look forward other such opportunities in the future.

If you would like to see the slides that Amelia and Sarah used in their presentation, you can find them (as well as slides from other presentations) on the [ORALL Web site](#) (log in required). You can also find pictures of some or the Word Clouds on the [ORALL Facebook page](#).

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***To FDLP or Not to FDLP?***  
**by Virginia C. Thomas, Wayne State University Libraries**

The Depository Library Council (DLC) joined the Federal Depository Library Conference for its Fall 2022 meeting on October 17-19 – virtually. The conference offered a variety of educational presentations and interactive sessions on topics that affect the Federal Depository Library Program. All sessions were free and open to the public. The conference agenda, handouts and archived conference recordings are available at: <https://www.fdlp.gov/2022-fdl-conference>.

As someone who began her career as a law school library Gov Docs Librarian, I was drawn to Professor Billie Jo Kaufman’s presentation, “Continuing to Say ‘Yes’ to FDLP” on October 18. Professor Kaufman, who serves as Law Library Director at Mercer University, discussed the benefits of selective depository library status, and shared her library’s rationale for staying with the program after 44 years. Central to their deliberations was the availability of FDLP primary sources from a host of free and low-cost alternative sources. Why keep the

“official” FDLP publications as well? How much redundancy does a law school collection need?

The Mercer team examined these questions by considering budget impact, staff processing and servicing time, and the importance of providing public access to government information. They concluded that maintaining the collection was fundamentally budget neutral in terms of library operations. Moreover, they viewed the special knowledge and expertise acquired by library staff who work with FDLP publications as a source of pride. The FDLP as an avenue for collaborating with librarians at other depository institutions is viewed as a bonus. Finally, Professor Kaufman stressed the role of the FDLP in supporting public access to information – indeed, access to justice – which is part of the school’s public service mission. Yes, much government information is re-published by commercial publishers, but licensing agreements may restrict the library’s ability to provide public access to these resources. Professor Kaufman’s assessment may be of interest to the other academic law libraries that make up almost 13% of all federal depository libraries. It certainly has been a topic of discussion here at Wayne State University.

The next day I tuned into the DLC’s “Ask Us Anything” virtual snack session. During the Q&A, panel members shared their views on the value of being a federal depository library. Here are some of the takeaways from that discussion:

- Given the wide public distribution of government information in digital format, being a federal depository library is less about collection content and more about service. Specifically, depository libraries are an important part of providing access to government information by offering patrons their research expertise.
- There is a vibrant support network that comes with depository library status. The FDLP strives to promote a sense of community among depository libraries. FDLP’s shift from content to service emphasizes training (e.g., through its FDLP Academy, Coordinator Certificate Program) and support for pilot programs involving cataloging and metadata services for FDLP libraries. The goal is to make FDLP collections more accessible. Some training opportunities are available beyond FDLP – to anyone.
- Speaking of making government information accessible, the FDLP provides promotional materials to help libraries with community outreach.

The mission of the U.S. Government Publishing Office is to “[p]ublish trusted information for the Federal Government for the American people.” (See: [https://www.gpo.gov/docs/default-source/mission-vision-and-goals-pdfs/gpo\\_strategicplan\\_fy23-27.pdf](https://www.gpo.gov/docs/default-source/mission-vision-and-goals-pdfs/gpo_strategicplan_fy23-27.pdf)). And despite the increasing availability of government information online, it seems clear to me that federal depository libraries still play an essential role in keeping America informed.

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### ***Librarians in ORALL Libraries***

**by Judy R. Maxwell, Delaware County Law Library**

Judith R. (Judy) Maxwell rejoined the Delaware County Law Library as the Director and Librarian in September of 2022. She was previously with the DCLL from mid-2007 through the fall of 2017.

Judy graduated from Capital University Law School and was admitted to the Ohio Bar in November of 1985 and to the Federal Bar in January of 1986. From 1985 through 1999 she was in private practice; from 2000 through February of 2004 she was the Executive Director of the Delaware County Family and Children First Council; from February of 2004 through mid-2007 she was in private practice; and from the fall of 2017 through July 1, 2022 she was the Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) Director/Mediator for the Delaware County Domestic Relations Court. Judy attempted to retire from Delaware County in July of 2022, but was convinced to return to her “all-time favorite” job as a Law Librarian in September of 2022.

During the time that Juli D. Jones was the Delaware County Law Librarian the library moved from the old Sheriff's Residence and Jail, at 20 W. Central Ave. to the original 1905 Carnegie Library building at 101 N. Sandusky Street. Juli has now taken a staff attorney job with the Delaware County office of the ODJFS.

Sadly, the large Maine Coon cat, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. (or Ollie) died a few years ago. However, the evidence skeleton, Flexible Fred, made the move to the new library site.

The newest outreach program at the Law Library is a partnership with the Andrews House Legal Advice Clinic ([www.AndrewsHouse.org](http://www.AndrewsHouse.org)) and the Ohio Justice Bus ([www.ohiojusticefoundation.org/grantees/ohio-justice-bus/](http://www.ohiojusticefoundation.org/grantees/ohio-justice-bus/)) to host a legal advice clinic on the first Thursday of the month. The Clinic is staffed by local volunteer attorneys and supported by the Justice Bus staff; with pre-screening and scheduling by the Andrews House staff and volunteers.

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### ***A Note from Your Newsletter Editor***

Thank you all once again for your contributions to this quarter's newsletter. We were greatly aided in contributions by reports from the ORALL Annual Meeting (both program reports and bios on new ORALLiens).

Our next newsletter will be published in March, 2023. Hopefully all communication (but especially calls for articles and contributions to the

newsletter) will be back on track thanks to our new listserv and we will continue to have valuable information to share with our members.

Here's to hoping that everybody has a safe and wonderful holiday season.

If you ever have any questions, concerns or ideas, please e-mail me at [pvenard1@udayton.edu](mailto:pvenard1@udayton.edu).