MAALL Markings

VOLUME 19, NUMBER 2   **APRIL 2009**

President's Message by Joe Custer

Custer Turns Around MAALL in First 100 Days

"I would have to say that, in my view, this has got to be the most outstanding performance ever for a new MAALL administration," Custer boasted in a recent interview with Matt Novak. "I've assembled a top notch executive board that has helped me make strides in every important sector. I've calmed the troubled waters of information security. I've set in motion initiatives that will help establish seamless collaboration among MAALL law libraries and I've begun the steps necessary to achieve social justice."

After hearing Custer go on ad nauseam declaring he and his executive board had single handedly solved the vast majority of problems facing Western Civilization as we know it, Novak asked Custer if he was confused or perhaps at least dealing in hyperbole. "It is what it is, I know my record," was Custer's simple response. Novak pressured Custer for an example or two that would help clarify what he was talking about. Custer responded, "Oh, I don't like to toot my own horn with examples."

Well, let's take a look to see if Custer has indeed done any of the things he claimed he has done in his first 100 days. We talked to various people familiar with Custer's work over the last 100 days. A few executive board members and co-workers at the Wheat Law Library agreed to talk. What follows is a representative sample of what was uncovered.

"He said what?" asked Joyce McCray Pearson, his director at the Wheat Law Library, who then spoke in what sounded to be a nervous tone, "I must say…I really have no comment."

One executive board member speaking on terms of anonymity stated, "I've been in on every HearMe executive board meeting and I haven't heard anything about information secu-rity or establishing collaboration between MAALL Law Libraries. He does talk about achieving social justice, which we thought at first was just a joke."

Another nameless executive board member stated, "I can't really say I've heard anything like that in the HearMe meetings, other than the goofy social justice stuff. Most of the time he just falls asleep and somebody else has to take over the meeting."

Obviously there appears to be some disagreement between what Custer is claiming to be accomplishing and what is indeed being accomplished. One executive board member was asked if she would offer a pass fail mark for Custer's first 100 days. She stated she would rather not, preferring to give him a letter grade, "He gets an F!" she stated emphatically.

The Education and Local Arrangement Committees have been hard at work planning the 2009 MAALL Annual Meeting, which will be hosted by the University of Missouri-Columbia Law School. I would like to thanks the members of both committees:

Education Committee
Ann Fessenden
Mary Kay Jung
Cindy Shearrer
Chris Steadham

Local Arrangements Committee
Cindy Bassett
John Dethman
Randy Diamond
Needra Jackson
Steve Lambson
Kathy Smith

The cooperation of the two committees recently resulted in the receipt of a grant from AALL/BNA to support programming on the historical trials activities in resources at the University of Missouri Columbia and Kansas City campuses.

The grant includes funding to support the presentation of Professor Stephen Easton from the University of Missouri-Columbia Law School, who will serve as the opening luncheon speaker. Professor Easton will talk about his famous trials course and the Historical and Theatrical Trial Society (HATTS) he founded in 2007. The grant will also support the presentation of Professor Douglas Linder from UMKC Law School. Professor Linder will present a Thursday afternoon program on his Famous Trials Collection. From these programs we will learn about opportunities for conducting historical trial research and enhancing advocacy skills using trial materials. Thursday evening we will have a live performance of the HATTS group for MAALL and members of the Law School community at the newly restored Missouri Theatre for the Arts.

Additionally, Randy Diamond has undertaken the task of arranging co-sponsorship of a workshop on copyright by the University of Columbia libraries and MAALL. The workshop will be led by Kevin L. Smith, scholarly communications officer at Duke, and a nationally recognized expert on university copyright issues. MAALL attendees will have the opportunity to attend the workshop on October 16.

The Education Committee has also received a number of excellent program proposals for the 2009 annual meeting. Notwithstanding, if you have a program idea and have not yet submitted a proposal, it is not too late; however, the Education Committee is moving forward with the process of proposal review and acceptance, so I would encourage you to submit your proposals prior to the end of April. Information about submitting a proposal is available at http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/maall/pgproposals.htm.

This year's MAALL Annual Meeting theme is "Show Me the Past/Imagine the Future." The historical trials programs fit well with the portion of the theme regarding the past. I would encourage those submitting proposals to consider ideas relating to the future as well. I was reminded by my recent attendance at the AALL Management Institute that we must not only imagine the future, but we must plan for it. If your library has been involved in a recent strategic planning effort, you might consider sharing lessons learned as you undertook the strategic planning process. MAALL members familiar with the technological developments might also consider sharing your expertise and experience. NELLCO's Universal Search Solution or WorldCat Selection might be topics of interest to your MAALL colleagues.

I look forward to seeing you at the MAALL Luncheon at AALL and at the MAALL Annual Meeting.

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Publication Schedule

MAALL Markings is published in electronic format in January, April and August by the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries.

Submission Deadlines
V.19:no.1 (Jan. 2009)…... .09 Jan. 2009
V.19:no.2 (Apr. 2009)……10 Apr. 2009
V.19:no.3 (Aug. 2009)…...07 Aug. 2009

Editor: Matt Novak, mnovak3@unl.edu

Those wishing to submit items should contact the editor for policy and format information.

Input on AALL Luncheon

The executive board has been discussing what our options are in regard to the extremely high priced meal charges being offered at AALL this summer, and we have decided to toss it out to you, the people who count, for your comments. The executive board has determined that the only feasible luncheon meal option for our association would be the sandwich or salad boxed meal, which will cost members $35.00 apiece - this includes a subsidy from MAALL of over $11.00 per boxed lunch. These prices are akin to other SIS type breakfast and luncheon meetings running in the $35.00 to $48.00 range. As you know, we are dealing with Washington, D.C. prices. I have been in contact with people from AALL and other chapters, primarily through Jennifer Murray, president of the Chapter Presidents. She states some other chapter presidents have expressed their frustration with the high prices at AALL, but none have decided to skip their meal at this point.

AALL states we can have the room on Monday, July 28 from noon to 1:15 p.m. without having a meal. But if we don't have the boxed lunch, we can't bring in brown bag either. In other words, it would be strictly a business meeting. Since the meeting is scheduled on early Monday afternoon, there is some open time afterwards before the programs start up again at four p.m. From 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. the Exhibit Hall is on break, and from 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. the AALL Business Meeting is taking place followed by an open forum until four p.m. Thus, there would be some possible time perhaps for some folks to meet, eat and socialize elsewhere after the MAALL business meeting. Granted this is not a wonderful alternative.

We need to confirm our meal plans with AALL by Friday, May 15. Please have your comments into me via email (jcuster@ku.edu) by Wednesday, May 13. We have an executive board meeting on May 14 in which we will make a final decision based on the feedback we receive. We will follow this up with a posting on the MAALL listserv.

Meet MAALL Members

Meet … Cindy Bassett
by Stefanie Pearlman

Cindy is a new law librarian, a new mother, and interested in new technology. Cindy has been the electronic services librarian at the University of Missouri Law School Library in Columbia, Missouri for a year and a half. Her work is diverse, ranging from training faculty and students on database use to reference work to managing the library's digitization efforts.

As a new member to this profession, Cindy participates in a wide variety of professional development activities. In addition to being active in library related committees on her campus, she is active in MAALL. She helps write the "News from Other Chapters" section of *MAALL Markings* and is a member of the Digitization and Regional Retention Coordination Committee. Cindy is also helping to organize the MAALL annual meeting that will be held at the University of Missouri, Columbia. In AALL, she is a member of the Computing Services Special Interest Section and the Research Instruction and Patron Services Special Interest Section.

When not working, Cindy keeps busy with her two month old baby. She and her husband also enjoy geocaching. It is a hobby that uses a handheld GPS unit to find buried "treasure." She has heard it described as, "… using multi-million dollar satellite technology to find Tupperware in the woods." Geocaching allows them to use new technology and helps them find "beautiful spots that we never would have found on our own."

Although Cindy was born in Louisiana, she grew up in northern Wyoming. In fact, she uses "Wyogirl" as her geocaching name. So, if you are able to come to the annual meeting, be sure to check in on Wyogirl. Maybe she'll hide something around campus for us. After all, who doesn't need more treasure in their lives?

Beyond PowerPoint

By: Susan M. Boland, Head of Information Services
Indiana University School of Law—Indianapolis

Do you remember the days before PowerPoint? The days before bullet points? Like most people, I have a love / hate relationship with PowerPoint. I resisted for a long time. Then, when I gave in, I committed some egregious mistakes that make me cringe now to look back on them. I'm not too proud to share them either.

Bad-Things-I-Have-Done-With-PowerPoint:

1. Put everything in writing in the PowerPoint
2. Read my slides
3. Used backgrounds that seem really cool but make the actual type unreadable
4. Used font size that is too small
5. Went animation and special effect crazy
6. Created too many slides – 96 slides in a presentation? Whoa!

Recognize any of these? The first step to solving a problem is admitting that you have a problem. Unfortunately, I do still commit some of these same PowerPoint atrocities. It is a constant battle to stop myself from backsliding, especially when I am in a hurry

To make matters even worse, there is debate whether PowerPoint actually prevents people from learning.[1] According to cognition theory, there is a visual channel and an auditory channel.[2] Each channel has a limited capacity.[3] We take in information through these channels and incorporate it into our working memory, but working memory is very limited.[4] PowerPoint can overwhelm this working memory, especially when done wrong.[5] What follows are some of the more successful moves that I have made to go beyond the use of traditional PowerPoint in instruction.

Richard Mayer, professor of psychology at the University of California, and an expert on educational psychology, states that "Bullets [as used in Power-Point] don't kill learning, but improper use of bullets kills learning."[6] This may be true, but I have tried to move away from bullets and instead present material in a more visually interesting way using concept or mind maps. A concept map uses a diagram to present ideas or tasks.[7] According to Mayer, research shows that "people learn better from words and pictures than from words alone…" and "people learn better when corresponding words and pictures are presented at the same time…"[8] A concept map, as opposed to bullet points, allows the presenter to verbally communicate the concepts while showing a picture illustrating the concept. There are several good open source or freeware software packages for creating concept maps that you can export for your presentations, such as FreeMind,[9] CMap,[10] Think-Graph,[11] and Mind42.[12] In addition, you can use PowerPoint itself to create diagrams, but it often is not as flexible as these other programs. Concept maps are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to revamping PowerPoints. There are some wonderful resources out there on PowerPoint that go into much more detail on how to use it more effectively in teaching.[13]

Another major change that I have made is to break up my presentation with an activity related to what was just covered. According to Mayer and other cognitive scholars, people learn best when they engage in active learning processes.[14] I have always believed that the best way to teach legal research is in a small group setting where students can actually interact with the sources and do research. Unfortunately, that is not the setting where most of my research teaching takes place. Usually I have fifty minutes to address a group of thirty or more students. I struggled to figure out a way to incorporate active learning but still cover all of the information I needed to cover, in the very limited time I had to cover it, and in a way that was logistically manageable.

One thing I had to force myself to do is let go of the info dump. It is impossible to teach students everything they need to know about the different legal secondary sources in fifty minutes. I focus now on the major concepts that I feel they must know. Sometimes these can be very basic. This embraces the coherence principle. The coherence principle in cognitive theory asserts that "people learn better when extraneous material is excluded rather than included."[15] While I would not characterize all of the information I long to impart to students as extraneous, some information is more important than other information and I have learned to triage it.

With the time I have freed up by cutting down the amount of information presented, I incorporate in-class activity that breaks up my presentations. Sometimes this involves bringing in books and having students pair up for a ten to fifteen minute activity in the middle of class. Other times this involves screen shots or going live in a database and having students find the answers to questions about that database. It could also involve something as simple as a matching activity or puzzle directly related to what they have been learning.[16] When I have the opportunity to teach an ongoing class such as Advanced Legal Research, the tasks can build on each other as the cognitive load of new information decreases.[17]

Incorporating the activities has forced me to relinquish some control over my teaching. Activities can take longer than I initially estimated and the time they take can vary from group to group. This means that I cannot always guarantee that I will get through all of my PowerPoint slides. However, this has also opened up more flexibility in my teaching. I am no longer tied to the PowerPoint and am more in tune with how my audience is taking in the information. This in turn has made me a better presenter and teacher.

One thing I have learned thus far in my odyssey to escape the evils of bad PowerPoint is that you can't be afraid to take risks. It is wonderful when the new techniques work. They don't always. Occasionally they fail spectacularly. Failure isn't the end of the world and can actually be a good thing, forcing you to learn from your mistakes. Now, go forth and experiment!

NOTES AND REFERENCES

[1] See Edward Tufte, *PowerPoint is Evil*, WIRED, Sept. 2003, *available at* http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/11.09/ppt2.html.

[2] Richard E. Mayer, *Cognitive Theory and the Design of Multimedia Instruction: An Example of the Two-Way Street Between Cognition and Instruction*, 89 NEW DIRECTIONS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING 55 (2002).

[3] Id.

[4] Fred Paas et al., *Cognitive Load Theory and Instructional Design: Recent Developments*, 38 EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST 1 (2003).

[5] Cliff Atkinson, *The Cognitive Load of PowerPoint: Q & A with Richard E. Mayer*, http://www.sociablemedia.com (last visited Apr. 14, 2009).

[6] Id.

[7] Joseph D. Novak and Alberto J. Caños, *The Theory Underlying Concept Maps and How to Construct Them, Technical Report IHMC CmapTools 2006-01, Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition* (2006), *available at* http://cmap.ihmc.us/Publications/ResearchPapers/TheoryUnderlyingConceptMaps.pdf.

[8] Cliff Atkinson, *The Cognitive Load of PowerPoint: Q & A with Richard E. Mayer*, http://www.sociablemedia.com (last visited Apr. 14, 2009).

[9] FreeMind, http://freemind.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/Main_Page (last visited Apr. 14, 2009).

[10] CMap, http://cmap.ihmc.us/ (last visited Apr. 14, 2009).

[11] ThinkGraph, http://www.thinkgraph.com/english/index.htm (last visited Apr. 14, 2009).

[12] Mind42, http://mind42.com/ (last visited Apr. 14, 2009).

[13] *See generally*, Deborah J. Merritt, *Legal Education in the Age of Cognitive Science and Advanced Classroom Technology*, 14 B.U. J. SCI. & TECH. L. 39 (2008) and Diane Murley, *Technology for Everyone … Making Presentations Visual*, 99 LAW. LIBR. J. 451 (2007).

[14] Richard E. Mayer*, Cognitive Theory and the Design of Multimedia Instruction: An Example of the Two-Way Street Between Cognition and Instruction*, 89 NEW DIRECTIONS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING 55 (2002).

[15] Cliff Atkinson, *The Cognitive Load of PowerPoint: Q & A with Richard E. Mayer*, http://www.sociablemedia.com (last visited Apr. 14, 2009).

[16] For more information on active learning techniques, *see generally*, Elizabeth F. Barkley et al., COLLABORATIVE LEARNING TECHNIQUES: A HANDBOOK FOR COLLEGE FACULTY (2005) and Melvin L. Silberman, ACTIVE LEARNING: 101 STRATEGIES TO TEACH ANY SUBJECT (1996).

[17] For more on this subject *see* Alexander Renkl & Robert K. Atkinson, *Structuring the Transition from Example Study to Problem Solving in Cognitive Skill Acquisition: A Cognitive Load Perspective*, 38 EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST 15 (2003).

CALL (Chicago Association of Law Libraries)
CALL Bulletin http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/call/publications/callbull210.pdf
Winter 2009 Number 210
Entitled "Business Resources for Law Libraries," this issue primarily focused on various materials and methods related to business research. The topics ranged from business databases to international business and anyone with an interest in either teaching or conducting business research will enjoy these articles. Julieanne Grant discussed a special collection of Chilean materials housed at Loyola University Law Library. On the technology front, Julie Melvin gave a thorough description of Second Life and Therese A. Clarke Arado summarized how various businesses are using social media tools.

CoALL (Colorado Association of Law Libraries)
CoAll Scuttle http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/coall/scuttle.asp
Winter 2009 Volume 19 Issue 1
Those interested in computing will be interested in two articles in this issue of the *Scuttle*. Robert Linz, associate director and head of public services at the University of Colorado Law Library in Boulder, Colorado writes part one of an article outlining his experience in migrating a personal computer from a very slow Windows Vista operating system to a much peppier Ubuntu version of Linux. John Moss, in Library Technical Services at Holme Roberts & Owen LLP Law Library in Denver, Colorado explains the process of downloading the open source software referred to as a LAMP stack which is needed to support open source ILS software. LAMP stands for Linux, Apache, MySQL and PHP.

HALL (Houston Area Law Librarians)
Houston Area Law Librarians Newsletter http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/Newsletter/MarApr09.pdf
March/April 2009 Volume 26 Number 2
Included in this newsletter was a summary of HALL's spring seminar whose theme this year was "The Internet as a Legitimate Research Tool." The seminar included opportunities for learning about virtual justice, emerging technologies, and using public library resources. An interview with Caralinn Cole, a HALL member, rounded out the newsletter.

LLAM (Law Library Association of Maryland)
LLAM News http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/llam/publications/llamnewsletter/Llamnews200903.pdf
March 2009 Volume 28 Issue 3
Kurt Meyer reports on a January LLAM update on AALL legislative advocacy. The article includes an interesting sidebar on PACER fees.

LLAW (Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin)
LLAWBriefs http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/llaw/publications/newsspring09.pdf
Spring 2009 Volume 26 Issue 4
Nancy Scibelli describes her experiences using Westlaw's new limited access for hand-held devices.

LLOPS (Law Librarians of Puget Sound)
LLOPSCited http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/llops/committees/newsletter/spring09.pdf
Spring 2009 Volume 19 Issue 3
As a part of this spring issue, Amy Eaton gave a brief history of CRIV, AALL's Committee on Relations with Publishers and Dealers. Jan Lawrence updated members on various search engines such as Google, Yahoo, Cuil, and Hakia. Those who research companies will enjoy Sue Mecklem's piece about conducting an effective reference interview with someone who wants company research. While the information may seem obvious, her article challenges librarians to refine their interviewing skills. Other articles worthy of mention in-

clude Marcus Hochstetler's "2009 State and Federal Legislative Update" and a preview of the "Bob Oakley Memorial Symposium."

LLSDC (Law Librarians Society of Washington D.C., Inc.)
Law Library Lights
http://www.llsdc.org/attachments/files/91/Law%20Library%20Lights%20Vol.%2052%20No.%202%20(Winter%202009).pdf
Winter 2009 Volume 52 Number 2
Themed "The Global Library," articles include information about the State Department library and a review of the International Association of Law Libraries' (IALL) 27th Annual Course on International Law Librarianship "Puerto Rico & the Caribbean: Legal Information in Multiple Legal Systems." Another article argues for using 970 fields in the catalog to describe hierarchical databases.

MALL (Minnesota Association of Law Libraries)
MALL Newsletter http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/mall/mnews.htm
January/February 2009 Volume 35 Issue 4
In her column "Next Gen Confessions," Lindsay Hutchins Matts discusses the effect that technology has on the brain, as gleaned from the book *iBrain: Surviving the Technological Alternation of the Modern Mind*. The authors suggest three ways to manage technology in our everyday lives: (1) schedule and assign time to tasks, (2) alternate tasks during the day rather than multitask, and (3) reduce physical clutter in your workspace. Sheri Brendan, research education librarian at Faegre and Bensen, suggests four ways to make training more effective.

ORALL (Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries)
ORALL Newsletter http://www.orall.org/
March 2009 Volume 2009 Issue 1
Amy Burchfield, at the Cleveland Marshall College of Law, encourages law librarians to consider learning how to create videos. She writes about her experience using Camtasia to easily create videos that can be launched on a library's web page. This article gives practical advice about things to think about in planning such a project.

SANDALL (San Diego Area Law Libraries)
SANDALL News http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/sandall/newsletter2009-03.pdf
March 2009 Volume 11 Issue 4
Responding to the foreclosure crisis, the San Diego Public Law Library hosted a speaker who gave the audience resources and information related to foreclosure. Benita Ghura summarized the presentation aptly and included links to the resources the speaker provided. For locals who planned to stay in San Diego instead of traveling elsewhere, John Adkins listed numerous ideas for ideal "staycations." Finally, Betsy Chessler pulled together resources for Washington, D.C. and the editors provided a comprehensive list of federal bills that AALL supports and opposes.

SCALL (Southern California Association of Law Libraries)
SCALL Newsletter http://aallnet.org/chapter/scall/newsletter/NewsletterJanFeb2009.pdf
January/February 2009 Volume 36 Number 3
Some of the highlights in this newsletter included a feature called "There Oughta Be a Law," which summarized new California laws such as an identification requirement for anyone selling scrap metal, a ban on selling Salvia Divinorum to minors, and increased safety for children 48 inches and shorter at wave pools. Also, if you think librarians do not gossip, then you have missed Larry Meyer's "Heard About Town" column. Full of interesting library-related news from California, this is a must-read for anyone with ties to the Golden State.

SEAALL (Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries)
The Southeastern Law Librarian http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/seaall/newsletter.htm
Winter 2009 Volume 34 Issue 1
To Facebook, or not to Facebook, that is the question (with apologies to the Bard). It is a question that Brian Barnes answers rather convincingly. For those who have already implemented a personal or library Facebook page, consider Brian's idea about building a library catalog search application that your fans or "friends" can use to search your catalog from their Facebook page.

WestPac (Western Pacific Chapter American Association of Law Libraries)
WestPac News http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/westpac/newsletter.asp
Winter 2009 Volume 33 Issue 1
Debora Person at the University of Wyoming Law Library offers an intriguing article outlining library promotion opportunities. Her idea for a Chocolate and Champagne farewell party for 3L's will make your mouth water!

Member News

Iowa

Sara Lowe, reference librarian and assistant professor at Drake University Law Library was selected by the MAALL Grants Committee to receive the 2009 AALL Chapter Registration award to cover the cost of full registration at the annual meeting in Washington, D.C. in July.

Missouri

The planned permanent display for the Judicial Learning Center in the Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse in St. Louis, Missouri, has been installed. Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor was present for the official opening of the Center on Wednesday, February 25, 2009. The content of the display focuses on the importance of "The Rule of Law" and depicts how and why the federal court system was created. The display also features interactive displays and highlights landmark Eighth Circuit cases. The display was developed in consultation with prominent educators, representatives of the bar, museum experts, community leaders, and judges. It was jointly sponsored by the federal courts of the Eighth Circuit and St. Louis lawyers serving on the board of directors of the not-for-profit corporation that raised funds to support it.

Cindy Bassett, electronic services librarian at the University Of Missouri School Of Law Library, and her husband David, welcomed Nathanial Thomas Bassett to their family on January 13, 2009. Cindy, who was seven months pregnant while presenting at the 2008 MAALL meeting in Arkansas, says that Nathanial arrived at 6 pounds 3 ounces and 21 inches long and is growing like a weed.

Mark Bernstein is leaving his position as director and assistant library professor of law at the Omer Poos Law Library, Saint Louis University School of Law. Effective July 1, he will become the director of the Legal Research Center and professor of law at Drexel University.

Nebraska

Stefanie Pearlman, University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Law, earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor of Law Library.

Oklahoma

Darla Jackson, head of reference and access services at Oklahoma City University Law Library, attended the 2009 AALL Management Institute in Tampa, Florida from March 19 to 21.

Do you have a bright idea?

Apply for an AALL/BNA Continuing Education Grant.

- The AALL/BNA Continuing Education Grants Program helps fund educational programming outside of the Annual Meeting. Educational programming that can be distributed to the entire AALL membership will be given priority.

- Chapters, SISs, member institutions, and individual AALL members are eligible.

- Guidelines for proposals and the application form are available online at www.aallnet.org/prodev/grant_program.asp.

- The deadline for the fourth round of proposals is May 7, 2009.

Save the Dates for Upcoming AALL Webinars

May 20: Libraries and Social Software
Time: 12 p.m. EDT
Speaker: Sarah Glassmeyer, Reference Librarian at the University of Kentucky Law Library

June 9: The Shared Electronic Resource Understanding (SERU): Can It Work in My Library?
Time: 1 p.m. EDT
Speakers: Judy Luther, President of Informed Strategies, and Karla Hahn, Association of Research Libraries

Check the AALL Calendar of Events for more details coming soon.

Take the Lead: Apply for the 2009 AALL Leadership Academy

Law librarians in the early stages of their careers can get ahead in the profession by attending the 2009 **AALL Leadership Academy, October 16-17**, at the Hyatt Lodge in Oak Brook, Illinois.

Train for leadership roles by acquiring both the self-awareness and strategies you need to emerge as a leader within your organization and the profession. Academy participants will use self assessment tools, group exercises, case studies, and skill practice to develop key signatures of leadership. Selected fellows will participate in pre-engagement exercises, be matched with a mentor, and receive ongoing leadership development opportunities.

Applications will be accepted May 1-June 30. For more information, visit www.aallnet.org/prodev/event_leadershipacademy.asp and see the Leadership Academy flyer: http://www.aallnet.org/prodev/docs/AALL-Leader-Academy-2009.pdf.

New Tools for Success Added to AALL Wiki

Many law librarians have been hit hard by the economic crisis. AALL is here to offer resources to help you get through it, especially the Tools for Success in Today's Economy wiki. We encourage you to both use the resources and add more that would help our colleagues in law librarianship. Thanks to the members who have added resources so far. Here are a few examples of recent additions:

- Saving Costs May Save Jobs – Take it Seriously
- Networking is key to navigating recession
- Take Proactive Steps to Avoid a Layoff
- Finding Our Voices in an Internet World
- Ask a Librarian—We're at Your Service
- PDL's Public Displays of Law Library Books

AALL Dues Help for Unemployed Members

AALL dues invoices for the 2009-2010 membership year mailed out in mid-March. To help in these tough times, **AALL is offering a discounted membership rate for AALL members who are recently unemployed.** The discounted membership appears online and in all public records simply as an "Active" membership, but is billed at the student/retired rate **($55 instead of $218)**. The discounted rate is good through May 31, 2010.

Unemployed AALL members should fill out the online form or contact AALL Membership Services Coordinator Hannah Phelps (hphelps@aall.org or 312-205-8022) to sign up.

Archived Webinars Available on AALLNET

AALL members now have the chance to view six popular Webinars presented October 2008-February 2009 in the Members Only Section of AALLNET:

- Twenty Essentials for the Effective Speaker
- How to Train Without Showing Up
- Law Firm Library Budgeting for Hard Economic Times
- Take the Lead: Journey to Authentic Leadership (free for AALL members)
- C-ing is Believing- Next Steps for Library Success
- Guided Tour of your AALL Membership (free for everyone)

The links above are available for AALL members only. **Nonmembers** can access the 2008 Webinars and 2009 Webinars for a higher fee.

Ready, Set…TWEET!

AALL is now on Twitter. Get up-to-the-minute AALL news by joining the AALLNET Twitter Feed. A separate 2009 Annual Meeting Twitter Feed is dedicated to updates on this summer's Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Sign up and stay connected!

Get More for Less

The AALL Annual Meeting and Conference offers essential content to help you in your workplace and in your career–but you can't be in six places at once and attend every session. This year when you register for the AALL Conference, you can pre-order the **complete set of all 66 educational program recordings and the keynote speaker address in downloadable MP3 format for just $99** (members) or $149 (non-members). MP3 CDs will also be available for $199 (members) or $299 (non-members). *These prices will go up after the Annual Meeting*, so be sure to pre-order with your registration.

Free CALI Lessons

AALL now provides members free access to the full set of online lessons hosted by the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI). With more than 600 lessons covering 32 legal subject areas, these online learning opportunities feature a variety of interactive formats that make for an engaging, effective user experience. They are particularly helpful for new law librarians with little or no exposure to legal research. Obtain the access code through the Members Only Section of AALLNET.

Coming Soon: AALL2Go

AALL is proud to announce it is adopting a new, powerful, state-of-the-art learning technology, which will provide a new learning gateway to all AALL members.

The new AALL2Go site will provide members with:
- Online access to the AALL Annual Meeting program recordings, as well as archived Webinars, audio recordings, and video recordings
- Continuing educational program handouts distributed electronically, adding convenience in an environmentally-friendly way
- Advanced search capabilities, which will allow you to focus on your key areas of interest with maximum flexibility to find the materials where and when you need them
- Online profiles so you can keep track of the continuing education programs in which you participate and determine areas where you need more education

Stay tuned for more news about when the AALL2Go site will be available.

New Advocacy Toolkit for the 111th Congress

The AALL Government Relations Office is pleased to announce an exciting new resource to help AALL members and chapters become effective advocates for law libraries. The *Advocacy Toolkit for the 111th Congress: 2009-2010* is designed to help *you* learn more about AALL's ambitious legislative agenda.
The purposes of the Advocacy Toolkit are to:
- illustrate the many ways in which you can get involved in advocacy;
- notify you of the latest action alert so that you can promote our legislative efforts;
- present you with a comprehensive look at the issues and legislation we are currently working on; and
- provide AALL members and chapters the tools you need to become effective advocates on both the federal and state levels.
The Advocacy Toolkit is available as a live document and as a PDF on the AALL Government Relations Office Web site. I encourage you to sign up for the RSS feed to receive valuable updates, learn about AALL's latest action alert, and monitor our legislative priorities.