



# MAALL *Markings*

Mid-America Association of Law Libraries Volume 22 Issue 3 June 2013

## TAKING STOCK: DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S IN YOUR PRINT COLLECTION?

*Jenny Watson*

*Head of Access Services, Oklahoma City University*

Starting a new job in access services can be intimidating. There could be a new integrated library system to learn, a new catalog to navigate, and a long list of policies and procedures to memorize which apply to patron interactions. The area where I struggled the most when I began work at the Oklahoma City University Law Library in 2010 was learning the print collection. I had no idea what a hornbook, treatise, or looseleaf was. On my first day a patron asked me for the Bluebook. I asked him which one. Nearly a quarter of the items we have on permanent reserve have blue spines. I was in over my head, but now I have a better time understanding how 1Ls feel when they walk into the library for the first time.

Learning the language of law libraries was fairly easy. My coworkers helped me learn a new vocabulary and Gary Yessin's "Orienting New Employees: Law Libraries 101" (96 Law Libr. J. 193 2004) got me started on the right track, but I was still a little lost in the collection. I knew what kind of things were in a law library collection, but I didn't know our collection yet. I could easily look up a call number range for contracts or torts and then figure out which wing of the library they would be in, but I didn't know how many volumes we had or how much shifting I would need to do if a new edition of a multi-volume set was added to the collection. I decided to rectify the situation the only way I knew how: by taking on a project much larger than I anticipated (see also: Jenny Watson knits socks for the first time, 2006; Jenny Watson knits a sweater, 2008).

The Oklahoma City University Law Library began an inventory of the print collection in summer 2011. According to library records a full inventory had not been completed since 1993.

### **Process**

Systems Librarian Kathy Broad's suggested the project could be accomplished using handheld barcode scanners. We had some Opticon 2001s on hand but there are newer Bluetooth-enabled models on the market that may make for quicker work in the future. Student workers were assigned at least 30 minutes of each shift to scan items in an assigned wing in call number order. Any items found without a barcode were taken to Technical Services to be barcoded. Damaged books and overfull looseleaf binders were also taken to Tech Services for repair and rebinding. Librarians and circulation assistants pulled the barcodes from the scanners to an excel spreadsheet using Opticon's Data Downloader. All of the barcodes were copied to an inventory master list organized by wing. The spreadsheet was then converted to a TXT file which could be processed by the Voyager Circulation module's pick and scan function where the item was assigned the statistical category of Inventory 2011.

After an entire wing or portion of the collection was scanned Kathy or I used the Voyager Reports database to run queries on

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items in that wing that were not marked as inventoried and not charged to a patron. An initial search was conducted and then these unmarked items had their status changed from not charged to missing in Voyager. As part of our standard procedures the stacks are searched for missing and lost books at the beginning of the month. After an item is not found on the shelves 3 times the item is marked as lost. Any item that was identified as missing through this process was assigned the statistical category of Lost Inventory 2011.

Kathy also reviewed the inventory master list after scanning of a wing was complete to find barcodes that were not in Voyager. This helped her identify items that were either incorrectly recorded when they were initially barcoded or items that had been withdrawn but not removed from the collection.

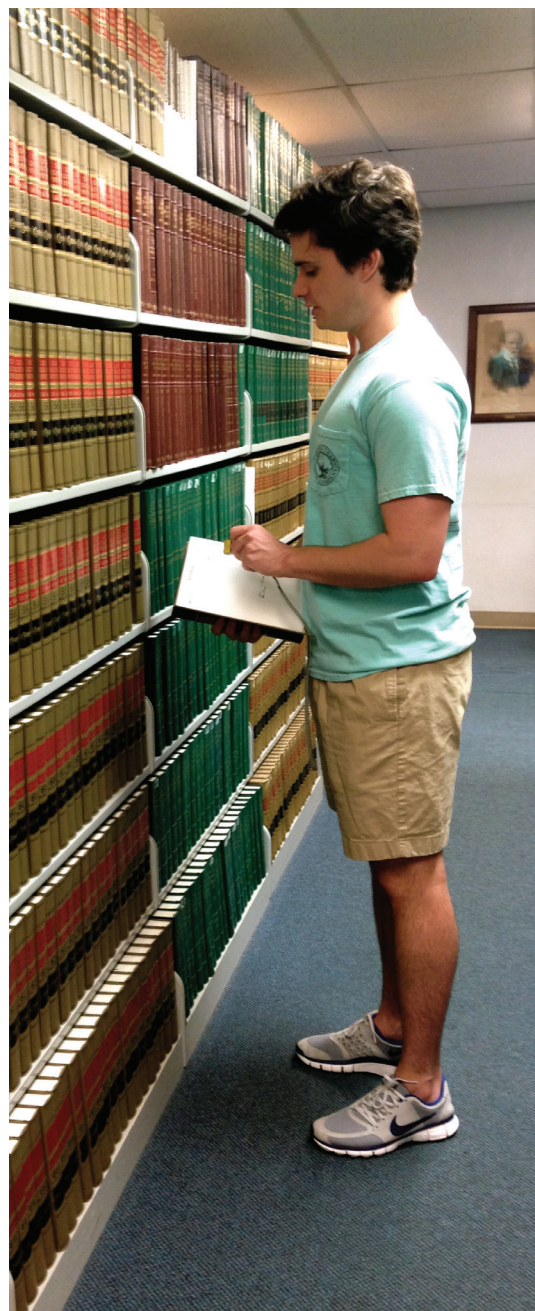
Student workers put in the majority of barcode scanning work on this project. Circulation assistants and librarians contributed hours of work training student workers and scanning areas of the collection with fragile materials, faculty offices, and the general collection as needed.

## Results

126,112 items were marked as inventoried over the course of the project. 1,445 items were discovered missing and labeled with the statistical category Lost Inventory 2011. Many titles were found in faculty offices but had not been charged to their accounts. Within the KFs, Oklahoma materials (56), Contracts (40), Intellectual Property (43), Constitutional Law (53), Taxation (40), and Legal Profession (68) held the most missing items. Non-law areas that were missing the most titles were Social Sciences (381) and Philosophy, Psychology, and Religion (61). Of the lost items, many focused on the same relatively narrow topic, suggesting that a faculty member working on an article or a student working on a seminar paper may have “borrowed” some items without visiting the circulation desk.

Since October, Interlibrary Loan Librarian Natalie Vaughn and I have been reviewing the lost items for repurchase. 172 items have been found on shelves or withdrawn from the collection since I began my review. 1,273 items are at this point officially lost. 532 of these lost items were recommended to the director for repurchase due to their currency, circulation history, popularity among other law libraries, relevance to a current professor’s research interests, and/or whether the item is part of a set. If the library owns a second copy of the item repurchase was not recommended.

Over the course of those 18 months I had the pleasure of taking a very hands-on approach to stacks management. I now know exactly where items should be, particularly our most popular titles. Since marking items as missing or lost, library staff and patrons can feel more confident that a title they find in the catalog will be on the shelf. I also got a small glimpse of the acquisitions process and learned a lot about our ILS.



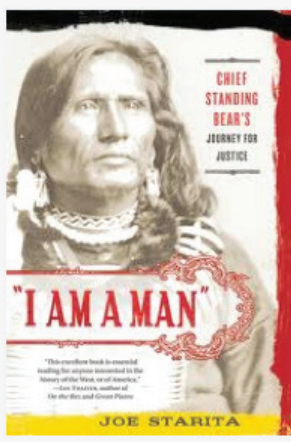
Student Worker Kellynn Brack scans a book for inventory.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ted Potter

*Head of Public Services, College of Law Library University of Iowa*

MAALL is 40 years old this year and we're excited to celebrate! We'll begin our celebrations with a luncheon (and business meeting) in the Emerald City – Seattle – during the 106th annual meeting of AALL. It will take place at 12:30 pm on Sunday, July 14th at the Sheraton (the headquarters hotel). To further entice you to attend, we have invited Monica Guzman, a Seattle journalist and community strategist who consults for startups and media, to make a short presentation. We hope to accommodate everyone's dietary preferences with a "Sustainable Luncheon Table." The meal has lots of choices and all should find something to enjoy at this luncheon. In addition to a variety of greens and vegetables, there will be minestrone soup, sweet potato fries, grass-fed sirloin burgers, goat cheese, roasted peppers, pan roasted halibut medallions, and organic hummus with pita chips. There will also be strawberry parfait, cornmeal cookies, and chocolate pot de crème for dessert. The luncheon will cost each member \$25.00; you will receive a form to reserve your spot via e-mail very soon. A receipt for the luncheon will be provided to all who register. Please join us for this



We are also busily planning our MAALL Annual Meeting to be held October 17-19 in Omaha. This year's theme is "Connecting Law Libraries for 40 Years." The Education Committee, led by Vice President Jeri Kay Hopkins, is working hard to provide a slate of programs designed to help every law librarian's professional development. She has invited journalist and author Joe Starita to be the keynote speaker.

If you want to submit a program proposal, there is still time. Please contact Jeri Kay ([Jeri\\_Hopkins@ca8.uscourts.gov](mailto:Jeri_Hopkins@ca8.uscourts.gov)) for more information.

Meanwhile, Kay Andrus and his terrific local arrangements group in Omaha are busy making sure you will be comfortable, well fed, and entertained during your visit. They have booked Embassy Suites and the Durham Museum in the downtown district as a couple of the venues for our visiting and dining pleasure. As someone who has served on past local arrangements and education committees, I know how much work it can be to put together a successful annual meeting. I extend a big "Thank you" to both committees for their hard work.

I hope that each of you has the opportunity to help us celebrate at these two events. Don't forget to look for scholarship opportunities to attend these professional meetings. I look forward to seeing you!



MAALL is now Tweeting!  
Follow us @MAALLibraries

## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Jeri Kay Hopkins

*Branch Librarian, U.S. Courts Library 8th Circuit*

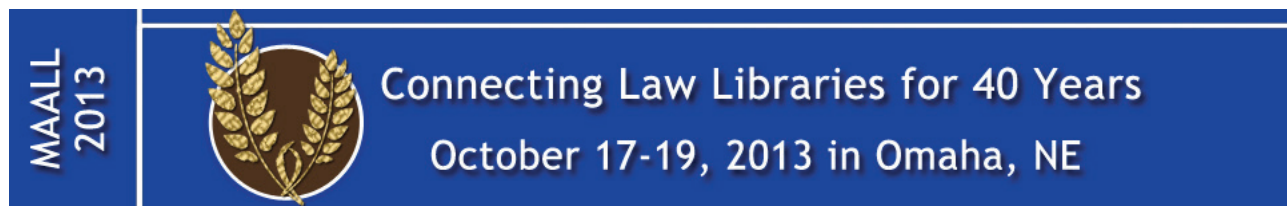
Connecting Law Libraries for 40 Years

It is our 40th Annual Meeting! Isn't it amazing that we have been coming together to share ideas, insights, and lessons learned for that long? Hopefully, this annual meeting will be worthy of the anniversary.

Our keynote speaker will be Joe Starita, Professor at the University of Nebraska - Omaha and author of *I Am A Man, Chief Standing Bear's Journey For Justice*. Joe was also a journalist for the Miami Herald and its New York bureau chief. He will be speaking to us about Chief Standing Bear's amazing story and his search for it.

For those of you who may not know the story, the Federal government forced the Ponca people to march to Oklahoma from Nebraska in what became known as the Ponca Trail of Tears. Chief Standing Bear was a Ponca chief who in 1879 filed a writ in US District Court where he earned the right to leave the reservation in Oklahoma and return home to Nebraska. It is a story where all the people of Omaha, both European American and Native American, came together to help.

We hope you will join us for a wonderful time connecting with fellow law librarians and maybe get in a little shopping in the Old Market area of Omaha!



## CALL FOR PROGRAMS

We still have a need for program proposals! Got some great project or insight that you would like to share? Now is the time! Please think about collaborating with a colleague or bring in an author who is already on a speaking tour. The 40th annual meeting should be extra special and we need your help to make that happen!



Photo by National Milk Producers Federation

## MEMBER NEWS

A warm welcome to the newest members of MAALL:

**Artie Berns** Student, Southern Illinois U. College of Law and (starting Fall 2013) UIUC Library school

**Mandy L. Easter** Law Librarian, State Library of Iowa

**Matthew Gran** Part-time Reference Librarian, John Marshall Law School Library

**Katherine Hall** Executive Law Librarian/ Associate Director, University of Iowa Law Library

**Margaret L. Gipson** Technical Services Library Assistant III, U. of Nebraska-Lincoln Schmid Law Library

**Alicia Granby** Jones Reference Librarian, Southern Illinois University School of Law Library

**Sarah Kammer** Volunteer, University of South Dakota Law Library

**Kate Miller** Reference Librarian, UMKC Law Library

**JoAnna Price** Educational Technology Librarian, John Marshall Law School Library

**Heather Simmons** Reference Librarian and Assistant Prof. of Library Service, U. of Illinois Law Library

**Nancy L. Strohmeyer** Head of Public Services, Southern Illinois University School of Law Library

**Melissa Tiemann** Research Services Specialist, Kutak Rock LLP

### Iowa

#### *Drake University*

Karen Wallace, Circulation/Reference Librarian, Drake University Law Library, along with Drake colleague Melissa H. Weresh, Professor of Law, published the eBook *Legal Research Supplement: Exercises on Lexis Advance*. Designed to introduce students to LN Advance, the book offers research exercises covering secondary sources, case law, statutes, *Shepard's*®, administrative law and search strategies. The eBook can be downloaded for free in Kindle or ePub formats. After June 24th, the teacher's versions will be available on the new Lexis Law School Faculty home page, and student versions will be available on the student home page and the LexisNexis Store.

### Kansas

#### *Washburn Law Library*

Creighton Miller, Research and Bibliographic Instruction Librarian at Washburn University School of Law has won the 2013 ALL-SIS Outstanding Service Award. Here is what the Awards Committee said about Creighton's service:

*"Creighton has served diligently as the ALL-SIS webmaster since 2010. He can always be relied upon to quickly and effectively respond to requests to update various portions of the website. With the many active ALL-SIS committees this is no small feat! In addition to his service as webmaster, Creighton's history of service to the ALL-SIS includes serving on the Task Force to Review and Update the ALL-SIS Web Presence, the ALL-SIS Archives and Website Committee, and the Faculty Services Committee. His dedication to maintaining and improving the ALL-SIS website is an invaluable service to the ALL-SIS."*

For National Library Week, Washburn Law Library hosted librarians from several county law libraries that are frequently used by Washburn Law graduates, particularly graduates who hang their own shingle as solo practitioners. The librarians talked about their services, print and electronic resources that are available to users, including Lexis and WESTLAW, and how they are able to save lawyers money. The librarians were: John Pickett, Johnson County (Kansas) District Court; Eric Brust, Jackson County (Missouri) Law Library; Susan Fowler, Librarian, Lyon County (Kansas) Law Library.

### *Wheat Law Library, KU*

The library teaching faculty (Blake Wilson, Joyce McCray Pearson, Chris Steadham, and Ashly LoBurgio Basgall) concluded another successful semester of the Kansas Supreme Court Research Clinic. Chris Steadham, Associate Director, says the goals are to provide students with practical research experience as well as provide assistance to the Kansas Supreme Court and the Office of Judicial Administration. If anyone is interested in learning more about this clinic, please contact Chris at [csteadham@ku.edu](mailto:csteadham@ku.edu).



Blake (left) and Allison (far right)

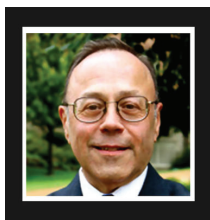
Blake Wilson, Head of Instructional and Research Services, and Allison Reeve, Cataloging and Technical Services Librarian, are singers with the KU Law School “Moody Bluebooks.” The band is made up of law school faculty, staff, students and alumni. The group was the star attraction at this year’s Pub Night, an annual fund raising event put on by Women in Law. As Blake says in our recent law library newsletter, he and Allison are “breaking librarian stereotypes one jam at a



time!” The entire set can be found at <http://youtube.com/kulawschool>, currently in the “Recent Uploads.”

### **Missouri**

#### *Saint Louis University*



After more than 33 years at the Saint Louis University Law Library, Richard Amelung, Professor of Legal Research and Associate Director will be taking retirement as of July 1, 2013. He plans on seeking emeritus status and continuing to work on a few publishing projects that are still in progress.

Joe Custer’s paper, “Ideological Voting Applied To The School Desegregation Cases In The Federal Courts Of Appeals From The 1960’S And 70’s,” has been accepted for publication in *The Scholar: St. Mary’s Law Review on Race and Social Justice*. Joe is the Assistant Professor of Law, Director, Omer Poos Law Library

#### *U.S. Courts Library, Kansas City*

Due to budget sequestration and continuing budget uncertainty, the U.S. Courts Library in Kansas City, MO will not be filling the branch librarian position vacated December 31, 2012 by the retirement of Deborah Showalter-Johnson. Instead, Kathryn Ballard will be continuing indefinitely as Acting Branch Librarian. In addition, Jennifer Huffman has been hired to assist her as part-time library technician.

Kathryn has worked for the Court as Library Technician since 2004 and is currently pursuing an MLS through Emporia State. Jennifer has previous experience in special collections and libraries in the Kansas City area and is pursuing a MAIS from the University of Missouri.

## South Dakota

### *University of South Dakota*

On May 20, 2013, the University of South Dakota announced that Thomas Geu had been named as Dean of the School of Law. Appointed interim dean of the School of Law in 2011, Geu came to USD in 1989 as a visiting assistant professor of law and joined the faculty permanently the following year. As a professor, his teaching areas included organizational, transactional, and capital formation courses as well as business organization law. The McKusick Law Library staff looks forward to continuing to work with Dean Geu.

Candice Spurlin, a long-time member of the McKusick Law Library staff, has announced her retirement in October 2013. The McKusick Law Library staff would like to recognize and express our appreciation of Candice's years of service.

Darla Jackson has been selected to participate in the Ignite presentations as part of program H8 at the 2013 AALL Annual Meeting. The topic of her presentation is the role of law librarians in assisting attorney compliance with the modified rules of professional conduct regarding technology. Darla's recurring column, "Thinking About Technology" will also address this topic in the 2013 summer issue of *Law Library Journal*. *Oklahoma Legal Research*, which Darla co-authored with Darin Fox and Courtney Selby, is scheduled for publication by Carolina Academic Press in August 2013.

## MAALL ELECTION

The MAALL Nominations Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates to the MAALL Membership:

### **Vice President/President Elect:**

***Cindy Bassett***

Electronic Services Librarian  
University of Missouri Law School Library

***Jessie Wallace Burchfield***

Circulation and Reference Librarian  
UALR/Pulaski County Law Library at the UALR Bowen School of Law

### **Treasurer:**

***Troy Johnson***

Reference Librarian  
Creighton University School of Law

***Jenny Watson***

Head of Access Services  
Oklahoma City University Law Library

### **Member-at-Large:**

***Lynn K. Hartke***

Reference/Educational Services Librarian  
Assistant Professor of Legal Research  
Assistant Professor of Law  
Saint Louis University Law Library

The online election will be held from **July 22nd-August 15th**. You must be an active individual or institutionally designated member to vote, so if you have yet to renew your registration, please do so.

Thank you!

The Nominations Committee  
Crata Castleberry, Needra Jackson, Ellen Jones, Janet McKinney, and Stefanie Pearlman

## ART EXHIBITS IN MAALL LIBRARIES

Libraries are not only repositories of information, but also community spaces where people for a variety of reasons. The addition of art and art collections makes that space even more appealing. Many MAALL libraries host art collections. We are spotlighting a few in this edition of MAALL Markings.

The Drake University Dwight D. Opperman Hall and Law Library is currently hosting the work of Professor Jonathan Rosenbloom. Below are charcoal drawings by Rosenbloom from the book *Psychology of Space: NYC Series* (1994-2004). Drake's Law Library began hosting art displays in 2005. Professor Rosenbloom's work will on display through June 2013.



Photo courtesy of Drake University Dwight D. Opperman Hall and Law Library.

Oklahoma City University School of Law Library holds a growing Native American art collection to accompany their Native American Law Resources. Pictured is a multi-media piece donated by Cherokee Artist Joseph Erb titled *Twitting ᏊᏊᏊ (hello)*.



Does your library have an interesting collection, works of art, or archives?  
Please tell us about it for the next MAALL Markings issue! Contact your MAALL Markings state liaison.



# AALL ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **AALL2go Pick of the Month – Passing the Baton: Managing Temporary and Permanent Succession Changes**

AALL's Continuing Professional Education Committee presents the AALL2go pick of the month: *Passing the Baton: Managing Temporary and Permanent Succession Changes* (<http://aall.sclivelearningcenter.com/index.aspx?PID=6278&SID=153750>).



The time to prepare for retirements, extended leaves, and resignations is before they happen. What do you do when a key staffer announces his or her retirement? How do you prepare if you're the one leaving? Speakers Wendy Moore and Meg Butler discuss succession planning in law libraries. They identify issues and problems and offer solutions ranging from training other staff to take over essential duties to using technologies, such as LibGuides, to make policies and procedures easily accessible to all library staff. This program will help you take your transition from a horror story to a smooth, orderly process.

This program was originally presented at the 2012 Annual Meeting in Boston. It is available as a streaming audio and can be accessed via AALL2go (<http://aall.sclivelearningcenter.com/index.aspx?PID=6277&SID=153742>).

Find this and more than 80 other free continuing education programs and webinars for AALL members at AALL2go!

## **Spring 2013 *Law Library Journal* Available**

The Spring 2013 issue of *Law Library Journal* is now available and has been mailed to members (<http://www.aallnet.org/main-menu/Publications/llj/Vol-105/no-2>). The issue features articles on the legislative history of the Affordable Care Act and how the history of that legislation is an example of the changing process needed to research federal legislative history; how academic law librarians can help their law schools enhance the visibility of faculty scholarship; and ways that training for foreign, comparative, and international law librarians can be improved.

## **2012 AALL Price Index for Legal Publications Now Available**

The 2012 AALL Price Index for Legal Publications is now available on AALLNET (<http://www.aallnet.org/main-menu/Publications/products/pub-price/Price-Index-2012.html>). The table-based report includes details for the mean cost of titles and percentage increases over previous years for serial publications, legal periodicals, loose-leaf services, commercially published court reporters, and supplemented treatises.

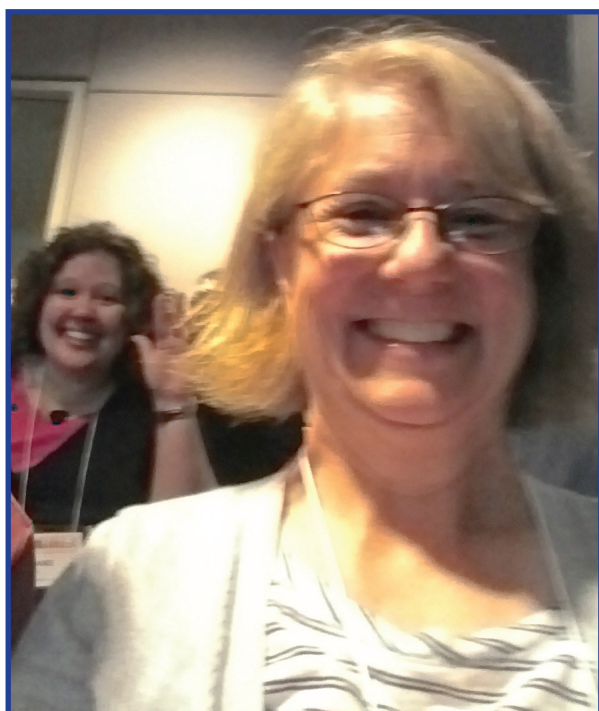
The purpose of the Price Index is to provide members with comparative information about past price changes to help with budgeting and collection development decisions. In gathering information for the Price Index, the committee asks publishers to provide their pricing. If a publisher declines to do so, its pricing is not included in the index.

Special thanks to the Price Index for Legal Publications Committee ([http://www.aallnet.org/assn/Committees.aspx?code=COM\\_PRICE](http://www.aallnet.org/assn/Committees.aspx?code=COM_PRICE)) and Carol Avery Nicholson ([cnichol@email.unc.edu](mailto:cnichol@email.unc.edu)), Price Index editor, for their work on this edition.

# MAALL Librarians at



CALICon13 was held at Chicago Kent School of Law in Downtown Chicago. The views of Chicago are from the top of the Willis Tower. Pictured: Darla Jackson from University of South Dakota with Marcia Dority Baker, University of Nebraska (above), Sandy Placzek photobombed by Stefanie Pearlman University of Nebraska (lower left), Jennifer Prilliman, photo taken from Willis Tower observation deck. It is processed in a poor imitation of the amazing Abelardo Morell: The Universe Next Door exhibit on display at the Art Institute of Chicago. June 1, 2013–September 2, 2013.



## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Brian Striman

*Editor-in-Chief, MAALL Markings & Head of Technical Services & Catalog Librarian, Schmid Law Library, University of Nebraska-Lincoln*



Please consider writing something for Markings that are the result of your professional time you spent in Seattle at the 2013 AALL Annual Meeting. I'm particularly looking for articles between 500-1000 words on a program you attended that was particularly noteworthy and made you think, or even a program or event that made you come back home and change the way you work a little bit. Maybe Jeri Kay would love to hear about a last-minute program proposal for our October Omaha MAALL Annual Meeting. It's always a clever idea to do an "article-program" combo. It keeps your writing skills and desires up, and the program presentation keeps your speaking skills honed. Try it!

You have read in this newsletter, and perhaps already have known, that our Richard Amelung has announced his retirement on July 1st, 2013. For you new MAALL members who don't know much about Richard, you will not experience his wonderful possession of skills to "educate the technical" and do so with an equally wonderful wry sense of humor. He was able to make technical presentations fun. Yes. Believe it. It's true. I'm using editorial privilege here to write about Richard because I think he is an excellent example for our AALL Chapter members. What a tremendous asset we are to ourselves! We are competent, easy to get along with, caring, and together we have fun being professional colleagues. That's Richard, and that's us.

Take a few minutes and visit the Markings portion of our MAALL website under "Newsletters" and get an idea on the guidelines we have for writing. There's a lot going on write under our noses!

### MAALL MARKINGS INFORMATION

MAALL Markings is published four times a year by the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries, a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries, and is a benefit of membership. The purpose of MAALL Markings is to publish news of the Chapter, selected news of AALL and other professional associations, MAALL members, as well as to solicit and publish articles to add to the body of literature in the profession of law librarianship. All articles are copyrighted and any republication or use of any portion of the content for any purpose must have written permission from the author/s.

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