



MAALLMarkings

Mid-America Association of Law Libraries

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LAWYERS AS ARTISTS OR ARTISTS AS LAWYERS? HOSTING AN ART SHOW IN THE LAW LIBRARY

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Why an art show in a law library?

Each year the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) holds a university-wide staff art show. This annual event served as the inspiration for our Schmid Law Library Art Exhibition. The UNL staff art show is always a fun, well-attended, and eclectic exhibit highlighting talents and abilities from all across campus. We felt that this model would work well on a more intimate scale and would be an excellent opportunity for our library to facilitate a law school community event. We knew several of our colleagues were artists and were confident that still more people would surprise us with their interests and talents.

Our goal was to create a non-juried show open to staff and faculty of the University of Nebraska College of Law. We envisioned the exhibit as a way for the staff and faculty to learn more about each other, for students to see a different aspect of their professors, and for our entire community to enjoy the talents and interests of those we work alongside each day. In addition to showing the art for about a month, we wanted to participate in Lincoln's city-wide "First Friday" art walk event, where we would host the law school and broader Lincoln community at an opening celebration.

How to host an art show...

Deciding to host an art show was easy. Our library director loved the idea and gave us permission to pursue the exhibition. The challenge of planning a new program came next. Here is what we learned while organizing an art show.

Because we decided to showcase faculty and staff art, whom to invite for participation was pre-determined. Our first call for artists was a save-the-date announcement in the law school weekly publication, *The Sounding Block*. The second call for artists included the art show application link and important dates. We created a Google application form for the show, which allowed us to collect relevant artist information in one place. The application included the artist biography and a question on why art is important to the artist, as well as a show disclaimer that each participant had to agree to. We also asked for art type/medium and the approximate size and title of the piece. This data assisted us in preparing the wall labels and gallery guide.

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Due to space and the fact that it was our first show, we decided that each artist could submit one piece. Our budget included a wall-mount hanging system for art, which the UNL Facilities department installed. The art gallery area is the only usable wall space on the first floor of the library. We have floor to ceiling windows on the north and south sides of the library first floor and poured concrete walls in the foyer, courtesy of the library's 1970s Brutalism architecture. While the space was not ideal, it was an area with excellent lighting, space for wall art, and unexpectedly, an area of the library that improved due to the art show. We worked with the law college Communications department to promote the event. This included an art show graphic, press release for traditional media, and promotion via the law college website and social media channels. Schmid Law Library promoted the art show via Facebook, Twitter, our library blog Unofficial, and word-of-mouth marketing.

The results please

The first art show had twelve artists participate, a nice mix of law college faculty members, an administrator, and staff. Artwork included photography, oil, ink, needlework, silkscreen print, and woodwork creations. Our art exhibition opening coincided with the February First Friday event in Lincoln. We had over fifty attendees, food and drink, and good conversation. The comments from the artists, attendees, and students have been positive. Even



better was the excitement from the law students who were appreciative of the art and interested in participating in the next show.

Goals and to-do list for the Next One

For this first show, we were eager to have as many submissions as possible, but we've learned that in the future a firm hand is necessary to ensure that artists carefully follow directions. For example, artists must frame their pieces and attach a hook or wire to the back. Due to the nature of our track system, this is a requirement for mounting; we do not want to be responsible for any possible damage caused by adding hooks or wires to artwork. The show preparation dates need to be adjusted as well. Some artists were late providing their piece, which changed when we could mount the exhibition, and one artist backed out because the art was not finished in time for the show. We will also modify the hours of our opening celebration to align more closely with the schedules of those who use our building. Our best attendance on the First Friday opening was from 4-5 p.m., with attendance dropping off after many people left the building for the day. A month-long art show is enough time for people to see the exhibition; it also allows us to catch our breath before the next law college event.

After the success of our first art show, we are optimistic that we can make art exhibitions a semi-annual event at our library. We have received positive feedback from students expressing interest in submitting their own art, and we anticipate alternating student and alumni shows with faculty and staff exhibits. We're confident that future art shows will be even better as we tweak our plans and instructions based on what we learned from our first experience. Our inaugural art exhibition was a positive, community-building event. We recommend hosting an art show in your law library. Yes, our lawyers are artists and artists can be lawyers!



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Cindy Bassett

Electronic Services Librarian

University of Missouri School of Law

Dear MAALL friends,

There are so many good things happening in MAALL right now. You are busy! Let me just help you catch up with some of the work being done in MAALL committees right now.

PR is tweeting up a storm! If you haven't followed it yet, don't wait a minute longer to follow [@MAALLibraries](https://twitter.com/MAALLibraries). In fact, when I was on the AALL site the other day to register for the [Annual Meeting in Philadelphia](#), whose tweet did I see in their feed? I don't even need to say. I also noted that PR is assigning a liaison to other committees so they

can tweet news coming out of committees. They are also dreaming up a MAALL scrapbook and a possible new social networking adventure, so stay tuned.

The **Grants** Committee is set and ready to hand out the AALL meeting grant that we are receiving this year. This is intended for a new-ish member, so if this is you, hunt for Needra Jackson's email and get cracking! The deadline is March 17.

The **Library School Liaison** Committee has been reaching out to library schools, inviting student members to join. The **Engaging New Members** Task Force has identified our newer members and is surveying them to find out how we can best connect with them, and the **Service to the Public** Committee is working on a service opportunity for MAALL to coincide with the Annual Meeting in Kansas City. And I didn't even mention yet (but you know I will) that the **Vision Planning** Task Force is meeting and dreaming up a beautiful vision for the next 3 years. --- I'll give you hint: Collaboration, Community, Continuing Education.

I'm running out of space (and your attention) and I am not even close to the bottom of the list of great work being done in service to MAALL. This chapter continues to amaze and inspire me. We will be having our [Annual MAALL Luncheon](#) at the AALL Annual Meeting on Sunday, July 19. I'll look forward to connecting with you there.

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Jennifer Prilliman

Associate Director, Oklahoma City University School of Law Library

with contributions from Meg Martin

Branch Library Manager U.S. Tenth Circuit Courts Library

The countdown begins...

As I sit down to write this, the MAALL annual meeting is only 235 days away! But who is counting? I AM. I can't wait to see all of my MAALL friends and colleagues again and in such a fun location!

The Local Arrangements committee headed by Paul Callister and Michael Robak is already deep in planning a great time for all of us in Kansas City. The Education Committee is also busy planning and coordinating the programming. The MAALL annual meeting is my favorite professional development event every year. The programming is diverse and relevant. Our MAALL colleagues are some of the best law librarians in the country and are so willing to give their time and services to one another. The conference is large enough that there is something for everyone, but small enough for us to connect one-on-one and really get to know our colleagues.

This is your not-so-exclusive invitation to not only attend, but also to propose a program.

Though we all know MAALL members are the best law librarians around, feel free to invite your other non-MAALL friends. Maybe even propose a program with your friend and colleagues from other chapters. [Program proposals are due by April 3, 2015.](#)

Date: October 22 – 24, 2015

Where: Kansas City, Missouri

Hotel: Holiday Inn at the Country Club Plaza <https://countryclubplaza.com/>

Theme: Everything is up to date in Kansas City!

Meeting website: <http://maall.wildapricot.org/meeting2015>

Barbecue? Of course there will be barbecue! The Local Arrangements committee has provided a list of some best places: Arthur Bryant's, Fiorella's Jack Stack, and Gate's Bar-B-Q, which are among traditional popular favorites. Local favorites include Joe's Kansas City and Q39. These are only the tip of the iceberg. The food options may be the best reason to attend. We look forward to seeing you in Kansas City!



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MEMBER NEWS

University of Arkansas – Little Rock

Jessie Burchfield is the new library director as of January 1, 2015.



Wheat Law Library, KU

Chris Steadham has been appointed Interim Director following Joyce's departure. We are working on: 1) a weeding and shift of materials from the 5th floor to the 3rd floor to accommodate the building of a new workroom for the Moot Court teams, 2) a customized format for library faculty annual reports, 3) a new law library Twitter account, and 4) plans for National Library Week and looking

forward to spring!



University of Iowa

The University of Iowa College of Law is celebrating its sesquicentennial with an exhibit in the Old Capitol Museum on the campus of the University of Iowa, from February 12-August 1, 2015. Click the following URL for a full description of the exhibit: <http://www.uiowa.edu/oldcap/>.

Schmid Law Library - Nebraska

The librarians are preparing for Research Palooza 2015 in May to help our students before summer clerking and associate jobs begin. Last year's guide is available at <http://schmidguides.unl.edu/researchpalooza2014>.

Schmid Law Library hosted our inaugural art exhibition in February 2015. Please see the article by Marcia Dority Baker and Margaret L. Gipson in this issue for more information.



Our library is changing! We celebrate (and cry) that Joyce Jensen, our copy cataloger, co-mail sorter, and co-serials check-in staff, and co-loose-leaf filer has retired after 15 years of dedicated service. Joyce was known for her always-pleasant disposition, cooperative spirit, and supreme accuracy in her job. We send her off with all our very best wishes and have invited her to come visit us any time. (There's always more filing to do!)

Brian Striman is retiring after 37 years in law library landscape. His career began at Creighton Law Library in 1978, before migrating across the Platte River in 1982 to do his gig at the Schmid Law Library. Actively involved in MAALL and AALL, serving at every level of involvement for these organizations, he is best known for being president of MAALL and his work as editor-in-chief of the MAALL Markings. Brian guided the publication for many years - his creative call-for-articles via email will be missed.

Also, Margaret Gipson, who hasn't been at the library long, but has proven herself not only to be an incredible asset to the tech services department, but to the entire library as well---- alas, she will be leaving a few days after Brian retires. Her husband found a great job as a math professor at SUNY-Cortland. Margaret is a joy to work with. Margaret and hubby are also excited to experience parenthood with the coming birth of their first child. Lots of changes for her.

So the library is busy in discussions about workflow, workloads, and staffing. So much fun!

Another tidbit of news: the library enjoys over 300 Facebook likes and has just a tad over 2,000 followers on Twitter. We also have a fantastic web presence for our library newsletter. Just Google "schmid unofficial." Marcia Dority Baker does a fantastic job with that.

Baird Holm LLP Library - Omaha, NE

The third annual Technology Fair is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, in conjunction with Library Week 2015. The firm is celebrating a week earlier this year to accommodate a busy law firm schedule. The theme of the week is Navigating the New World. Vendors will showcase their products and get users connected via mobile devices. We have a few new products available to our users this year. Other activities include daily prize drawings for participation.

GREETINGS FROM MARBURY & MADISON!

After our visit to AALL in San Antonio, we caught a bit of the travel bug. We hitched a ride to the MAALL Annual Meeting in Chicago last October and have been on the road ever since. It has been incredibly exciting to leave our original home at the Oklahoma City University Law Library and begin our tour across the Midwest.



Our first stop was the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. The Jenner Law Library was great! We hung out in the stacks with the students, sat in on a few classes, and even pulled a couple of reference shifts. We also meandered across campus to visit the library school. During the on-campus day for LEEP (online) students, we were able to visit with budding librarians from all over the country. We also learned many of our MAALL librarians are University of Illinois GSLIS alums!

At the beginning of this semester, it was time to pack up and head west. Next stop: University of Kansas (KU)! We arrived just in time for President Obama's visit and to become [Raymond Forklift](#) licensed by attending training in the KU Libraries Annex. As the semester got rolling, we toured campus, cheered on law students in Professor Richard Levy's class while they competed in the first annual Marbury v. Madison Con Law Feud, and then bid farewell to former Director Joyce McCray Pearson as she headed to St. Louis to become the Director at Washington University. Good thing she's still in MAALL! Also, thank goodness for tax law experts! Dean Stephen Mazza helped us file this year. We wrapped up our time at KU rocking out with the Moody Blue Books band at Women in Law Pub Night. Our visit here has been a blast!

We will be in St. Louis starting this month. We're excited to visit the firms, courts, and academic libraries there! We may even head to the top of the arch!

We would LOVE to visit you too! If you are interested in hosting us at your law library or in your city, contact Corie at cdugas@slu.edu. We look forward to continuing our travels and hope to catch up with everyone in Kansas City.

Peace, Love, and Prairie Dogs,
Marbury & Madison

NEWS FROM OTHER CHAPTERS

*Submitted by Rebecca Lutkenhaus,
Reference Librarian
Drake University Law Library*

Chicago Area Law Librarians

CALL Bulletin <http://bulletin.chicagolawlib.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Issue234-Winter2015.pdf>

Issue 234, Winter 2015

In “Digital Voices: Devices that Speak and Listen,” Debbie Ginsberg offers step-by-step instructions for getting your Mac or PC to read text to you or transcribe as you dictate.

Michael Verderame provides a short introduction to empirical analysis in his article “Empirical Legal Studies: A Brief Overview.”

Kevin McClure summarizes a recent Georgetown Symposium on the problem of link rot in his article “What’s Rotten About Legal Scholarship, and How to Cure it: A Georgetown Symposium.”

Emily Barney unmasks how Facebook determines what you see in your news feed and how you can exert more influence over relevancy rankings by making changes to your personal settings in “Facebook: Who’s in Control?”

Joe Mitzenmacher reports on recently enacted changes to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act in his article “FOIA Reform Amendment in Illinois.”

Colorado Association of Law Libraries

CoALL Scuttle <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/coall/pubs/scuttle/2014/winter2014.pdf>

Volume 24, Issue 2, Winter 2014

The University of Colorado’s William A. Wise Law Library has launched a new digital collection of Colorado session laws dating back to 1861. Robert Linz provides details in his article “CU Law Library Launches Colorado Session Laws Digital Collection.”

Houston Area Law Librarians

HALL Newsletter <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/newsletter/Fall14.pdf>

Volume 31, Number 5, Fall 2014

Emily Lawson’s article, “Sure, I Can Help With That: Assisting Attorneys and Law Students With Finding Legal Technology Information,” suggests a number of technology training resources librarians can consult as they help the populations they serve stay abreast of changes.

Law Library Association of Maryland

LLAM Online <http://llamonline.org/>

On February 2, LLAM blogged “UELMA Introduced in Maryland.” See the Maryland Uniform Legal Materials Act (HB 162) to view details about the proposed legislation.

The blog has also been featuring a series of posts on copyright issues. The third installment in the series focused on digital rights management and was posted February 2. It highlights elements of the Copyright Office’s currently proposed rules (<http://www.copyright.gov/fedreg/2014/79fr73856.pdf>).

FROM THE EDITOR'S SHED

There must be 50 ways to say goodbye. This is my final issue as editor. Because of many MAALL colleagues saying "I'll do that," in spite of their other workloads, this publication has flourished.

There is a nice balance of staff, each of whom plays a very important role in getting this quarterly publication produced. It may seem like a lot of people to publish a chapter newsletter. The idea is to spread the responsibilities out so no single person has a lot to do.

I'm pleased to turn over the editor's responsibilities to Sabrina Davis, Reference Librarian at the Oklahoma City University Law Library. She's eager to begin her work, and the two of us have been working together to ensure a smooth, seamless transition. The editor is also chair of the Newsletter Committee, so is responsible for working with the MAALL president to keep the Committee with full membership. What's unique about the Committee, is that all the members are working members of Markings. If there is a vacancy, and you are contacted to fill the vacancy, please seriously consider saying yes, but remembering it's a working position on the Committee.

My final word to the reader is to solicit you to continue writing and contributing to MAALL Markings. Without colleagues to share their news, ideas, articles, announcements, and awards, the newsletter would cease, or become so little on content, that it no longer is read and not worth the effort to produce.

Keep writing, and volunteering my friends! It has been a terrific experience and I'm incredibly amazed at the skills and talents in our Chapter. You guys Rock! And that really *is* my final word. I think....

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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