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A Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries

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Presidential Address

Glen-Peter Ahlers, Sr., University of Arkansas Law Library

Greetings MAALLers! Another academic year is completed, and law firms and the courts should be slowing down a bit as well. Summertime, when the livin' is easy, is almost upon us.. And here comes the AALL annual meeting! We'll meet next month in Philadelphia, and then not again until the temperatures cool a bit; October in Fayetteville. Plans for October are moving along quite nicely under the eyes of program chair Vice President Mary Ann Nelson and local arrangement co-chairs Lorraine Lorne and Jim Jackson. Plans for our business meeting in Philadelphia are also moving along nicely. Just don't ask me where we will meet. Yet.

After studying the menus and prices charged at the convention hotels, I recommended to the executive board that we not have a meal function at the hotel, but instead try to meet nearby at a local eatery. The board felt strongly that MAALL members have an opportunity to gather together at AALL annual, but we felt lunch prices would scare away many members unless MAALL provided significant subsidies. The least we could spend, \$35 each, provided a box lunch containing a sandwich, chips and a soda. (Pop for you true Midwesterners.) We felt we would like to experiment by meeting nearby, with or without a meal, perhaps brown bagging it. I estimated that we would have to spend a minimum of \$600 to \$800 to get the cost down to a manageable \$15 to \$20 per member for 40 members. We thought we might better spend the \$600 to \$800 on educational programs.

While this will make our efforts to find a suitable meeting place a bit more exciting, I think it gives us an opportunity to explore outside the convention hotels. At the moment, thanks to the efforts of Secretary Castleberry, it seems we'll lunch in Philadelphia's Chinatown, a five to ten minute walk from the convention hotels. Now, we just need the temperature to remain temperate. We'll keep you informed about the specifics via the MAALL listserv and web page, so make sure you are subscribed with your current e-mail address. See you in a few weeks!

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The deadline for the next issue is **August 15, 2000**.
Please do **not** submit **hard copy** or **faxed** materials.

Articles for publication may be submitted in one of the following ways:

By U.S. mail on IBM compatible disk. WordPerfect 6.1 or higher is preferable.
By e-mail in the form of a typed message or an attachment.

Forms should be sent on diskette if possible.

Advertisers should contact the editors for advertising
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Advertisements should be sent in camera-ready format.

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constitute the opinion of MAALL, AALL, or *MAALL Markings*.

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Illinois

Southern Illinois University Law Library

Heija Ryoo, Director of Library Systems/Technical Services has been promoted to the level of Professor.

James Duggan, Director of Information Technology & Professor, was recently elected as Vice-Chair/Chair-elect of the AALL Computing Services Special Interest Section. James also authored the article, "Illinois Bar Association Journals and Newsletters," **88 Illinois Bar Journal 175-176 (2000)**.

Kansas

University of Kansas School of Law Library

The Friends of the KU Law Library held their annual membership meeting on April 15, 2000. A library open house and book preservation demonstration preceded the business meeting. Judge Robert Gernon, Kansas Court of Appeals, was installed as the President of the group for the upcoming year.

Law Library Associate Director, **Joe Custer**, was recently granted tenure.

Robert Mead, currently a reference librarian at the University of New Mexico Law Library, will be joining the library staff at KU on August 1 as the new Faculty Services Librarian/Research Attorney.

Washburn University School of Law Library

Marie Mack received her M.L.S. from Emporia State University in December and has been inducted into the Beta Phi Mu honor society. In March of this year Marie was promoted to Assistant Circulation/Legal Reference Librarian. Ms. Mack also serves on the advisory council for the joint law librarian program of Emporia State University and the University of Kansas.

Missouri

University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law Library

Darcy Jones, Automated Systems/Technical Services Librarian, University of Missouri-

Columbia School of Law Library, will co-present "How do you get them? What do you do with them? How do you keep them? - Innovative Ideas for Managing Law School Student Computing Workers" at this year's CALI Conference in Chicago. Her fellow-presenters are Sarah Conrad from Case Western Reserve University Law Library and Ana Marie Hinman from Washoe County Law Library.

Oklahoma

Jan Eric Cartwright Memorial Library

The library will be offering training sessions this Summer for public librarians on "Using Legal Resources for Reference Services." The library is also migrating its online system from NOTIS to Endeavor's Voyager system.

Oklahoma City University Law Library

The library had a lively National Library Week this year. There were computer demonstrations, giveaways, and free pizza every day in the computer lab.

Speakers included Gayla Reed from Matthew Bender, Deanna Wilson from Westlaw, Jim Bubliss from LEXIS, Greg Lambert from the Oklahoma Supreme Court Network, and **John Perkins** from the OCU Law Library. John addressed legal research resources on the Web. There were also prizes given each day to students for answering research questions and an amnesty was granted for overdue books returned during library week.

Sylvia Ho, Computer Services Coordinator, and **Patti Monk**, Associate Director of the Law Library, both participated in the ***Web Course in a Box Users Conference*** held in May at the Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. Sylvia's presentation was on "Supporting Faculty Use of the LEXIS Virtual Classroom," and Patti addressed the topic, "Teaching Advanced Legal Research and Technology." Patti and Sylvia will be doing another presentation, "Automating Career Services," at the 10th Annual CALI Conference on Law School Computing in June at the Chicago-Kent Law School in Chicago.

A Visit to Saint Louis University Law Library
Courtesy of the MAALL Staff Exchange Program
by Darcy L. Jones

I started my first professional cataloging position at the University of Missouri-Columbia Law Library in December, 1998. Besides the usual challenges one faces when embarking on a new position, I not only had to learn the cataloging standards and practices used in a new library, but also those of a state-wide consortium of libraries (MERLIN). You can imagine my chagrin my second day on the job when I was told I would be attending my first monthly consortium cataloging meeting (that usually last 6 hours!) the next day. Although I was reassured that I wasn't expected to understand everything said at the meeting, my head was quickly swimming with the various system codes and procedures I needed to be using, as well as a general feeling of panic that I may inadvertently sabotage the entire system by entering incorrect bcodes. Because of well-documented consortial cataloging standards and very patient librarians from other libraries, my fears faded as I grew more accustomed to cataloging in the MERLIN environment. However, I still needed to tackle many questions regarding authority work in our shared system, and I also wanted to obtain a greater depth of understanding about the system and its capabilities. There were also a couple of collections in my library I wanted to begin cataloging, and I wanted to see first-hand how another law library cataloged and arranged them, as well as what issues I needed to consider before beginning the new projects.

I approached Richard Amelung at Saint Louis University Law Library about the possibility of visiting his library for training. Not only did I know that SLU-Law has a wonderful reputation as a legal cataloging center (I remember being told while I was a government documents assistant at Washburn Law that I could always trust a SLU-Law record), but Richard is an active member of many MERLIN committees. I requested and received a MAALL Staff Exchange Program Grant to visit SLU-Law for two days of training in November.

These two days were certainly time well spent. Richard first took me on a thorough tour of the library and law school, which gave me a better perspective on the philosophy of the law school and the library. While I've had the opportunity to visit many law schools, especially in the mid-west, I'm always surprised at the differences I see among different institutions that provide me with a different perspective about new ways of doing things. We then went to dinner and spent the evening working on authority record maintenance and my questions related to our system reports of headings used for the first time, blind, and invalid headings. Richard also clarified my understanding of what I should expect from our vendor authority maintenance reports.

The next day I had the opportunity to work with Bill Toombs, SLU-Law's Senior Cataloger, regarding questions about cataloging our Rare Book Room collection. Bill was very patient as I asked him questions about everything from basic arrangement to specific concerns about cataloging broadsides, land transfer documents and incipit titles. He also gave me wonderful ideas about ways to catalog our photographs and different ways of arranging them that I hope to develop as time permits.

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During the afternoon, I spent time with Tom Patterson, SLU-Law's Cataloging Assistant. Tom has developed several innovative macros using OCLC's PRISM software that he has used to automate a variety of processes in cataloging and spine label creation. He shared several of them with me, and even gave me a disk full of macros to take home and use at my library. By the end of the second day, I was both tired and exhilarated by all I had learned, and excited to go home and begin utilizing the new knowledge I had acquired.

The guidance and training I received from the library staff at SLU-Law have been invaluable both to my understanding of the complexities of cataloging in a large consortium as well as the particular issues and decisions that need to be considered when cataloging legal collections. I greatly appreciate the time Richard and his staff spent with me, as well as the generosity of the MAALL Resource Sharing Committee in helping to fund my training.

Whether you're a new librarian in need of training in certain areas, or an experienced librarian looking for new ways of doing things, I encourage you to take advantage of the MAALL Staff Exchange Program. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to work with other librarians regarding the specific needs I identified in my own professional development, and it provided me with contacts I feel comfortable calling on when I need guidance in other areas I have not yet anticipated.

NOTICE


An online application for Travel Grants to the MAALL Annual meeting in Fayetteville, Arkansas is posted on the MAALL web site at <http://www.siu.edu/offices/lib/MAALL/>. Details for signing up for the MAALL business meeting/luncheon at AALL will be forthcoming through the MAALL listserv.

PLACEMENT SERVICES NEWS

The MAALL Placement Committee is now able to better publicize position vacancies in member libraries. Thanks to the efforts of **Cindy Shearrer**, Chair of the MAALL Library School Liaison Committee, we now have a list of placement officer contacts at all of the ALA accredited library programs in the MAALL region and a few other schools in the midwest surrounding the MAALL region.

Now when member libraries have openings that they wish to have publicized, the notices will be forwarded to the appropriate placement officers with the various library schools if the posting member library wishes. It is hoped that this service will improve recruiting efforts and improve communications between the library schools and MAALL. Member libraries may continue to forward vacancy notices to Mike McReynolds, Chair of the MAALL Placement Committee, [mike@sound.net] for posting on the Internet listserv, inclusion in the **MAALL Markings** newsletter and forwarding to the library schools.

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MAALL Membership

The Membership Committee wants to encourage each and every person in your library to become members of MAALL. If you have hired new personnel who are not presently members of MAALL, or if you know of staff who were members in the past but are not presently members, please forward their name, library address, and e-mail address to:

Jessie Cranford, Chair, MAALL Membership Committee

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