

# NOCALL News

Northern California Association of Law Libraries  
A chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Jocelyn Stilwell-Tong

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2020, and to our 40th Anniversary! The 40th Anniversary is the “Ruby” anniversary, and I’m pleased to inform my good friend’s cat (named Ruby) that we’re celebrating this year in her honor:



(photo credit: Amy Ackerman)

Doesn't she look pleased about it? Well, maybe not. But I'm pleased about it! Sarah Lin and I are organizing a number of opportunities for our members to get together and celebrate this milestone. If you're a party fan, please reach out and let us know if you'd like to join our 40th Anniversary Planning Committee! All ideas are welcome.

The New Year brings with it ...nominations season! As I write this, **our Nominations committee is still searching for VP/President Elect** – if you're interested, please don't be shy about self-nominating! It's a lot of fun, it's a great resume-builder (a way to add that all-important “management experience!”), and an excellent way to make friends. I know I've learned an immense amount from the experience, and gained so much personally. It's work, that's for sure, but there's an amazing team of volunteers to support you, and you really can tailor the focus of this position to suit your strengths and your interests (I just put a picture of my friend's cat in the President's column – you're at least as “Presidential” as I am!). We have a healthy treasury and a core group of great volunteers, and a wealth of people to reach out to – this is a great time to volunteer! Don't be shy, or feel like you need to wait to be asked – if you're interested, just reach out to our Nominations Chair, April Eudy. I'm also happy to talk to anyone interested.

Sarah Lin is planning our upcoming Spring Institute, and I'm happy to announce the date and theme:

### NOCALL Spring Institute 2020: **“Beyond the “L” Word – Expanding the Boundaries of Legal Librarianship”**

Date: Friday, March 20, 2020

Location: Walter A Buehler Alumni Center  
530 Alumni Ln  
Davis, CA 95616

We're planning to have a fun opening reception on the evening of the 19th – details on speakers and hotel information will be added to the NOCALL website as we finalize them. As you plan your conference attendance for this year, please remember that NOCALL offers grants and support for our

Volume 40, Number 3  
January - February 2020

## IN THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN .....	1
HEADNOTES FROM HOLLY .....	3
LEGAL TECH RECAP .....	3
PROFESSIONAL READING IN REVIEW .....	5
MACHINE LEARNING: MY JOURNEY INTO AI .....	6
COMMITTEE CORNER: PLACEMENT COMMITTEE .....	8
E-READER LIBRARIAN BOOK REVIEWS .....	9
SPOTLIGHT ON... ROBYN M. MOLTZEN .....	10
NEW PHILIP S.C. LEWIS ENDOWMENT FUND FOR LEGAL AID WILL SUPPORT SERVICES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY LAW LIBRARY .....	11

members, especially for the Spring Institute and the Annual Meeting. It's worth applying if your firm, school, or organization isn't able to support your attendance – or if they'll only support parts of your attendance (for example: they'll pay the registration fee but not the hotel stay). Watch for details on that as the date gets closer.

Thank you to everyone who came out to join us at the January Business Meeting, we were so glad to see you! Our guest speaker, Carla Rydholm of Lex Machina, gave us a great "inside baseball" presentation on how they're using state court data in their product development – it was fun to see how each librarian in attendance had a different focus and interest in what they were bringing to the table. Many thanks to Luci Barry and Emily Morris of Weil Silicon Valley for hosting the meeting! Our next Business Meeting will be after the Spring Institute, in May at the Marine's Memorial Club.

I've been seeing a lot of announcements from AALL's Awards Committees about nominations being open for various awards. My own GLL-SIS has a number of awards available; I know other SIS's are requesting nominations, as is the AALL main body. I'd love to see a diverse group of NOCALL members getting awards! Can you think of anyone who you'd like to see win any of the following awards?

- The [Emerging Leader Award](#) recognizes newer members who have already made significant contributions to the Association and/or to the profession and have demonstrated the potential for leadership and continuing service.

- The [Excellence in Community Engagement Award](#) honors outstanding achievement in public relations activities by an AALL member, SIS, chapter, library, or any other group affiliated with the Association.
- Established in 2008, the [Robert L. Oakley Advocacy Award](#) is given to recognize an AALL member or group who has been an outstanding advocate and has contributed significantly to the AALL policy agenda at the federal, state, local, or international level.
- The [Volunteer Service Award](#) was established in 2009 to honor members who have made a significant contribution to the work of AALL but have not served on the AALL Executive Board or received any of the AALL awards for distinguished service listed in the section below.

If you'd like to look them all over, here is a link to the AALL Recognition page: <https://www.aallnet.org/community/recognition/> - many of these nominations close on Feb. 1st, so now is a great time to check them out.

In our next issue, we plan to have a column touting any new publications, trainings, promotions, or accomplishments by our NOCALL crew – keep an eye out for that!

## NOCALL News

The NOCALL News is published five times a year by the Northern California Association of Law Libraries, a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries, and is a benefit of membership.

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## HEADNOTES FROM HOLLY

Holly Riccio

**IMITATION IS...** Ah, that infamous quote. "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery." In this vein, I am going to repurpose something from a weekly e-mail newsletter I receive from James Clear, called *3-2-1 Thursday*. Each week, he shares three of his ideas, two quotes from others, and one question to ponder. While I will employ a bit of creative license with my interpretation, the 3-2-1 e-mail remains my initial inspiration source.

**THREE IDEAS...** With the start of every new year, I look forward making incremental improvements to the way I organize my daily tasks, calendar and time. Everyone finds what works for them, but the big question is how to stay truly productive, often amid a day of putting out fires and being more reactive than proactive. **IDEA #1—*The most dangerous items on your to do list are the ones that look like opportunities, but are distractions in disguise.*** It's important to find that time to step away from the e-mail, stop texting, close your door...whatever you need to do to concentrate on big picture projects and those things that will have large or lasting impacts. **IDEA #2—*Focus is the art of understanding what to ignore.*** But clearing away distractions isn't enough on its own. Creativity comes when your mind is open to possibilities, and not held back by past experience or the notion that "...we've always done it this way." Clearing the mind is not easy, but essential to true innovation. **IDEA #3—*Creative work first; reactive work second.***

**TWO QUOTES...** I read an article on having difficult conversations with employees that ended with the following: "***Most people's hearts are in the right place, and most people want to do well. Your job is to help them recognize and capitalize on their strengths. That's a rewarding job in itself.***" This quote reminded me that when people feel valued and safe, they will be great employees. Laying that groundwork of trust and respect when stepping in to manage and lead any new team is the most important step, as everything that comes after will build upon that solid foundation. If you mess it up in the beginning, sure, you can repair it along the way, but it's easier if you just get it right from the start. As for a second quote, I came across

this classic from furniture designer Charles Eames recently: "***The details are not the details. They make the design.***" It can often be tempting to think about the details as coming after the big picture, but very often, the details are what clarify and dictate the vision and/or result. Put another way: the details aren't an afterthought—they *are* the thought.

**ONE QUESTION...** Since it is a new year, the following question seems quite apropos: Where will you find your inspiration this year, and what will you use it to help you do or achieve?

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## LEGAL TECH RECAP

Delia L. Montesinos, Ropes & Gray

The inevitable year-end recaps are here to clutter our inboxes. These are must-reads:

Jean O'Grady [looks](#) at five innovations that redefined legal research in the past decade: docket analytics, brief as a query, judicial analytics, AR-enabled research, and deal terms/what's market metrics.

Bob Ambrogi's decade in review is [here](#). Among his top 10, the surge of legal startups, acceptance of the cloud, being able to work from anywhere, the proliferation of practice management, AI adoption, and the emergence of data-driven legal practice.

Top Ten [Geek In Review](#) Podcast Episodes for 2019. If you work CI, don't miss the "Marketing, Business Development, Knowledge Management, and Library Collaboration" one. I also really enjoyed "Legal Data Analytics", which explains how legal data is converted into analytics.

Legaltech News has a bunch of recaps as well, but I recommend you read their [predictions](#) for legal innovation in 2020.

### BLOOMBERG

- [Announced](#) it has discontinued the limited collection of law review and journal articles that were available under Secondary Sources and within Practice Centers.

### CASETEXT

- [Added](#) a Brief Binder, which pulls up the full text of cited cases in a brief, with quoted sections

tabbed and highlighted, flags for cases, and “depth of treatment” scores. You can now also download CARA search results, as well as a list of cited authorities.

- Announced partnerships with [Lawfare](#), [DocketBird](#), and [Hire an Esquire](#) to provide their users with access to Casetext content and research tools.

#### ESPAENET

- The European Patent Office has revamped [Espacenet](#). The new platform offers a number of functionality enhancements, including results filtering and an improved legal status overview covering the entire patent family.

#### FASTCASE

- The Big News is that Fastcase and ROSS announced a partnership to share content and jointly develop new products. At present it’s unclear what this collaboration will ultimately yield, but Legaltech News [thinks](#) that at least some of it will have to do with the growing field of regulatory compliance, while O’Grady [wonders](#) if this could finally put Fastcase in direct competition with Westlaw. Ambrogi’s take on the announcement is [here](#).

#### GAVELYTICS

- [Expanded](#) its litigation analytics to include the five counties within the boundaries of NYC
- [Launched](#) a new business intelligence tool, which provides reports on law firms and litigants at the state court level. It currently has insights for 18 New York counties and 4 Texas counties.
- [Announced](#) the USPTO has granted them a patent for their analytics platform. According to the CEO, it’s “the first of several patents in the works.”

#### LEXIS

- For its 50th bday, State Net [got](#) a major facelift and some cool upgrades. The new, faster, cloud-based platform features a dashboard with dynamic mapping of bills. Tracking has expanded to include legislation from 300+ major cities and counties. In addition, Momentum Analytics identifies bills that are moving rapidly or slowly

through the legislative process, to provide a more accurate Legislative Outlook.

- You can now [share](#) Context analytics reports within and outside your organization via permalinks.
- Lexis Answers cards for judges and expert witnesses now [link out](#) to Context and Lex Machina.
- Added a number of enhancements to Practice Advisor’s Labor & Employment module. Among them, a Key Legal Development Tracker, a 50-state survey on paid vacation/PTO, and checklist for working with telecommunicating employees.
- The CRIV/Lexis semiannual call took place in December. Recap is [here](#). Of note, in 2020 they plan to integrate Law360 and CaseMap into Lexis Advance. Coming soon to Advance, a statutes compare tool, a brief analysis tool, AI enabled research tools, and additions to Context.

#### PREQIN

- New data [has been added](#) to investor profiles covering their direct investment activity in buyout or venture capital. Tables detailing known assets/ transactions can be accessed from the Private Equity tab > Direct Buyout Exposure/Direct Venture Exposure.

#### ROSS

- Beyond the partnership with Fastcase I mentioned earlier, ROSS [launched](#) a law school program, offering its legal research platform to law students and faculty for free.

#### WESTLAW/THOMSON REUTERS

- [Announced](#) it inked a multi-year contract to provide Westlaw Edge to the Federal Judiciary, as well as federal public defenders.
- Westlaw Edge [added](#) a Regulations Compare feature to select state regulations. At present, it is available for about 40 states.
- The CRIV/Thomson Reuters semiannual call took place in December. Recap is [here](#).

## WOLTERS KLUWER

- [Enhanced](#) Cheetah's Labor & Employment suite with two new SmartCharts, covering covenants not to compete and visa requirements/employment verification (the latter is [also available](#) in the HR and Payroll suites). Also added four new SmartTasks, and new treatises on arbitration, FMLA, and wage and hour.
- The CRIV/Wolters semiannual call took place in November. Recap is [here](#). Of note, in 2020 they will make Smart Charts its own document type for searching.

## THINGS YOU SHOULD CHECK OUT

- Thomson Reuters/Georgetown Law Center released their [2020 Report on the State of the Legal Market](#). This is one of my annual must-read reports.
- According to an independent study commissioned by LexisNexis and conducted by PwC, Gen Z prefers Advance to the other legal research platforms. You can access the full report [here](#). Ambrogio's column about the report findings is [here](#).
- ALA released "Law Librarianship in the Age of AI", a collection of essays authored by well-known legal tech professionals: Bob Ambrogio, Steve Lastres, Scott Baily, Saskia Mehlhorn and Jamie Baker. Edited by Ellyssa Kroski, with an intro by Jean O'Grady. Order the book [here](#).
- Uh oh. A group of Am Law 100 firms is [working](#) to develop a first-of-its-kind, shared back-office center in a low-cost location in the United States to handle functions including accounting, payroll, IT and data security, *research* and human resources.

## PROFESSIONAL READING IN REVIEW

Elisabeth McKechnie and Kristin Brandt,  
U.C. Davis Law Library

**"Relieving Librarian Burnout: Tips & Tricks,"** by Katrina Lewin, *Public Libraries*, vol. 58, no. 6, pp. 46-50.

Librarianship is a service profession for most, whether the patrons are general public or the attorneys of a firm. This can lead to stressful situations, which in turn can lead to job burnout. This little article gives a brief description of burnout then turns to multiple solutions. I was gratified to discover that I already do many of the recommended tricks. I'm a big fan of chocolate, which has been proven to reduce cortisol and raise endorphins. Hot beverages also help the mood, whether or not they contain caffeine. Decorating your workspace makes it friendlier and more comfortable and, of course, basic meditation and deep breathing exercises help. The article is very approachable and offers additional techniques that can be added in small bursts during a busy day.

**"Why librarians can't fight fake news,"** by M. Connor Sullivan, *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*, vol. 51(4), 2019, pp. 1146-1158.

In the aftermath of the 2016 presidential elections, there were calls for librarians to take the lead in combating fake news. Methods of countering fake news included raising awareness and providing users with accurate information. Examining misinformation research in other fields, the author critically examines the effectiveness of those efforts and the underlying assumptions behind them. Analogizing fake news to the problem of e-mail spam, the author suggests that the answer lies in not just identifying misinformation, but creating technological solutions that keep disinformation from spreading.

**"Papercuts: Hierarchical microaggressions in law schools,"** by Nantiya Ruan, *Hastings Women's Law Journal*, vol. 31, no. 1, Winter 2020, pp. 3-40. Retrieved from <https://repository.uchastings.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1433&context=hwlj>.

Although this article focuses on law school faculty, embedded hierarchies are part of the culture of most legal workplaces. According to the author, law schools provide the precursor to hierarchies in

firms: “the top ranks (partners/tenured professors)” have the most power and resources compared to the “bottom ranks (associates, paralegals, staff/nontenured professors, staff).” Microaggressions are the “brief, everyday exchanges that send denigrating messages to certain individuals because of their group membership.” Four types of microaggressions occur based on workplace hierarchies: devaluing, degrading, demeaning, and discrediting. The author has many suggestions for addressing these pervasive microaggressions, both at the institutional and personal levels. Although changing the culture of legal workplaces may seem insurmountable, this article made me think about and examine my own assumptions and interactions. Being aware that hierarchical microaggressions exist is a first step on a path to change.

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## MACHINE LEARNING: MY JOURNEY INTO AI

Sarah Lin

Information Architect & Digital Librarian,  
RStudio, Inc.

Soon after starting a new position as a librarian at a data science software company, I saw that my employer was offering a workshop to learn how to do machine learning in the R programming language and I jumped at the chance to learn more about the subject. With support from my boss, I struggled through October and November refreshing my linear regression knowledge (knowledge I’d happily left behind in high school) and bringing my coding skills from near zero to “won’t be embarrassed in front of my colleagues.”

While preparing, I revisited the AI-focused issue of the *Spectrum* from Sept/Oct. In one article, the term AI was used 40 times in 2.5 pages, but I found nothing explaining what it means or how that term relates to other buzzwords like algorithms, deep learning, machine learning, text mining, and natural language processing. Even though these words are often used in regard to the legal industry and the data we generate, do we have shared and commonly understood definitions for them? We interact with artificial intelligence every day (suspected spam callers? Netflix suggestions? Westlaw answers?), but without a shared vocabulary, it’s hard to talk about

these subjects confidently with our colleagues, decision-makers, and vendors.

After a lot of studying, in early December I flew to Boston for the two day machine learning workshop, where I’m proud that I actually kept up with the class. Between my preparation and the course itself, I learned what machine learning is, where it fits with other buzzwords I’ve heard so much about, and how it actually works (hint: math). As a result, I was finally able to fully grasp where and how bias sneaks in, so that I could re-read those *Spectrum* articles with better understanding of the terminology, and I could form an educated opinion.

As a starting point in our definitions: I think it’s important to know that “**AI**” is an umbrella term and not very useful for describing legal analytics tools or search engine functionality. If you read the term, your first thought should be, “what *kind* of AI?” **Machine learning** is just one type of artificial intelligence, and there are several kinds of machine learning within that sub-category. **Deep learning** is a subset of machine learning. **Natural language processing** and **text mining** are two other types of AI that often (but not always) go together. Before going into any level of detail on types of machine learning, it’s important to note that the goal of machine learning is to create an algorithm that will allow a computer to generate accurate predictions. Machine learning makes use of well-established statistical models to generate those predictions, but is less concerned with which model than about how it performs.

Focusing back on what’s called “classical” machine learning (ML), there are several types. The first distinction that I think is relevant for law librarians is the difference between “**supervised**” and “**unsupervised**” ML. Supervised machine learning is what’s at play in the major legal databases, and the attorneys who help vendors classify case topics are one familiar example. Unsupervised ML takes data and lets correlations/categories appear within the data itself, rather than having a human involved. I’ll focus the rest of this article on supervised ML since it relates so closely to the legal service providers NOCALL members work with daily.

The two types of supervised machine learning are Classification and Regression, and there are multiple

algorithms that could be used for each one. On a broad level, though, regression deals with numbers and classification deals with categories. During the workshop, I did both linear and logistic regression, as well as the ensemble method called random forest bagging. For a very readable explanation of some of these details, I recommend “Machine Learning is for Everyone” at <https://vas3k.com/blog/machine-learning/>. At the end of the day, though, all the machine learning I did at the workshop had the same general process.

The first element of machine learning is the data, specifically a source of a large amount of data. That data is used to make a model, like putting a trend line on year-over-year circulation statistics. Making the model requires an algorithm though, which is made up of the regression (a mathematical equation) plus any data manipulation like normalization (another equation)--these are both standard statistical operations. Once that model is deemed to be the best ‘fit’--i.e. it makes the best predictions--then you’d run the algorithm over a new data set and adjust as needed before putting it into practice. (The peril of not fully testing & adjusting a model is illustrated by the recent coverage of the Apple Card’s allegedly “sexist algorithm” <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/10/business/Apple-credit-card-investigation.html>) This explanation is a massive simplification of the data manipulation and mathematics involved and the multiple options to choose from at each juncture. Even from this brief summary, you can see points where the (always fallible) humans are doing math and where decisions they make could produce unwanted bias, depending on the algorithm’s purpose and the entity that created it.

Let’s not anthropomorphize algorithms, though; they’re just math! Algorithms are used by people and require choices, which have repercussions. My condensed explanation of machine learning identified multiple human choices that will affect each outcome:

- Training data: what data do you have? How much do you have? What is missing? Is the original data objective or subjective?
- Weighting: what factors do you think are more important than others? What source is more authoritative?

- Regression type: which mathematical and statistical tools, or which combination of those tools, will you use?
- What success means: how correct do your predictions need to be? How much collateral damage--false positives and/or false negatives--can you tolerate?

To bring this full circle to law librarians, machine learning bias in legal research is easier to see when you know where the math stops and the humans begin.

One aspect of training data choices that affect law librarians are the data sets that legal search providers use, which are documents. While the publicly-available black letter law is the same across vendors, we know that publishers have different news documents and different treatises, current awareness products, and original analysis. This means that the data they use to train search algorithms is going to be different from vendor to vendor (and sometimes from product to product, even within a single vendor). Thus, the same search using unknown algorithms on different data sets is going to result in different sets of documents in search results.

I remember reading Susan Nevelow Mart’s first AI article in 2017 and being surprised by her results, which showed markedly different search results using identical search terms across the major legal research platforms. Now that I’m intimately familiar with just this one type of machine learning, I can see how my experience with library catalogs blinded me to the way machine learning, with its core tenant of probability (% match), would work so differently than a straight Boolean search (yes/no match) that I got so familiar with as a technical services librarian. Now, we must expect the results of the same search to be different across search providers (legal or otherwise)--they are using different data and different math!

One area of bias that I didn’t find discussed in Mart’s articles was the recognition that for-profit companies’ pricing models could influence the weighting of elements within an algorithm. If different sources or types of documents cost more for the end user, it would be in the company’s best interest to weight expensive items higher in a search result. Because each company’s mathematical recipes are deemed trade secrets, there is no way to know for sure any

financial impact on search results (or lack thereof). We have a certain amount of trust in our vendors, but all in all, it is good to remember when using any online search provider that every business has bias. Google is a great example: it is a company that sells advertising and isn't infallible or neutral, for all the usefulness it provides.

Knowledge of database structure helps you be a better researcher, strategist, and teacher; in this new decade, understanding--even just conceptually--the math that stands between a searcher and a database is key to getting the best results. Machine learning in legal information is definitely here to stay and librarians would do well to make sure they understand its functions, limitations and applications. But no need to revisit linear algebra unless you want to!

[Note: I'll be teaching text mining in the R programming language (someone else will cover Python) as a Deep Dive at the AALL Annual Meeting in New Orleans in July, if you want to learn more!]

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## COMMITTEE CORNER: PLACEMENT COMMITTEE

Jourdan Corbitt, LAC Group

*In this installment, Robyn M. Moltzen highlights the recent accomplishments and broader goals of the Placement Committee. Have committee business you'd like to share with the community? Please email [Jourdan.Corbitt@lac-group.com](mailto:Jourdan.Corbitt@lac-group.com).*

***Tell us about your latest news/accomplishments.***

The Placement Committee has posted over 50 positions to the NOCALL website and list-serv in 2019.

***Why is the Placement Committee important to NOCALL and the profession in general?***

Knowing that a variety of employment opportunities are available within our profession is very valuable to members, especially those looking for a new challenge or those hoping to relocate. It can also be very useful to know what the trending position requirements are and current salary rates, so that members can improve their job skills and know their own value within an organization, particularly when asking for promotions.

***Do you know when/how/why the Placement Committee started? How many committee members are there?***

We currently have 2 members on the Placement Committee. I joined the committee as a member in 2008 when Mary Staats was the chairperson. In 2016, when Mary retired, she trusted me with continuing her legacy as chairperson and she recruited Judy Heier to be a new member. Typically, when a request comes in by email, we will use a tag team approach. Judy will send the position out on the list-serv and I will upload it to the NOCALL website.

***Please describe the important work done by the Placement Committee. Are there any other notable items, successes, or efforts you'd like to highlight?***

The primary mission of the NOCALL Placement Committee is to connect prospective employers with job seekers of law librarian positions. In keeping with this mission, the committee does not actively seek out open positions for inclusion into the list-serv or website. It is an employer driven process, where the prospective employer contacts us directly at [placement@nocall.org](mailto:placement@nocall.org) and asks us to post their position.

Another aspect of the committee is to share the weekly job list that SANDALL (San Diego Area Law Libraries) sends out on their list-serv. We try to distinguish this list from a NOCALL posting by having a unique subject line and by giving credit to SANDALL for compiling the list. The Placement Committee is unable to add, correct, or make any changes to the SANDALL list, as we are only sharing their list. Typically their list includes non-legal positions and positions that are available throughout the country. To have a position included in the SANDALL list, you can submit a job to their website at <http://www.sandallnet.org/jobs/current-openings/>

***What would be the best way for a NOCALL member to get more information about or to participate in the Placement Committee?***

If you or your employer need to have a position posted on NOCALL, send your position announcement via email to the Placement Committee, at [placement@nocall.org](mailto:placement@nocall.org).

## E-READER LIBRARIAN BOOK REVIEWS

Elisabeth McKechnie, UC Davis Law Library

*Book prices will be listed where available; All prices are accurate as of writing date and may have changed by the time this column goes to press. Books are sourced from Amazon.com unless otherwise noted.*

*This set is entitled, "The Ones That Got Away". Basically they were discounted when I bought them but by the time I was preparing to review them, the price had shot up to between eight and ten dollars. Too rich for my blood, so I scrambled to find something else. Here are some, but not all, of the books I found and enjoyed in this category.*

### **The Whole Five Feet: What the Great Books Taught Me About Life, Death, and Pretty Much Everything Else**

By: Christopher R. Beha

Source: Amazon.com

Format: Kindle

Price: \$9.99

The author's grandmother left him the Harvard Five Foot Shelf of books, with which she had educated herself during the Great Depression. He had graduated college but didn't 'feel' educated, so took it as a challenge to read his way through the set. Along the way a beloved aunt died and his life changed. His commentary discusses both his life changes and how the themes of the books affected him. Most importantly, he began to feel that in the company of the great authors, he had found friends. (Don't forget the set is available cheap!) I find this book propels me toward great literature almost as much as Helene Hanff's 81 Charing Cross Road (Kindle edition \$10.59).

### **Names for the Sea: Strangers in Iceland**

Author: Sarah Moss

Source: Amazon

Format: Kindle

Price: \$7.30

Just before Iceland went bankrupt during the Great Recession, Sarah Moss signed up to teach college English in Iceland for a year. Her husband and children went with her. Her pay packet dived because of the financial crisis, so her family had to cut costs. Her adventures trying to find a home, a used car (there's no resale market for used cars), cheap

furniture (people dump their used belongings and buy new) and food (a whole 'nother story) gives the story its pep. Although everyone in Iceland speaks English, the meanings behind the Icelanders' words are not the same. This isn't a fish out of water tale, it's more like a giraffe on Mars story. She was able to make friends and struggled hard to fit in, although she was never able to shake the appellation: "foreigner". Oh, and yes, there are the trolls in Iceland...

### **The Bees: A Novel**

Author: Laline Paul

Source: Amazon

Format: Kindle

Price: \$11.99

Flora 717 is in the lowest caste of bee workers serving the hive, but she is a special bee. The Queen who gave birth to her had mated with a wild bee, thus Flora was a bit more curious and intelligent than the average worker. She works her way through the various jobs in the hive, finally challenging the queen for dominance. The author seems very knowledgeable about bees and creates a complete inhuman world based on them. I found the characterizations fascinatingly inhuman. Best of all, this is not a Disney version of her world. Flora's hive has life, death and struggle in it on a daily basis. A very good read, as of this writing it's free on Kindle Unlimited.

### **Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea**

Author: Barbara Demick

Source: Amazon

Format: Kindle

Price: \$12.99

North Korea has justifiably been called the Hermit Kingdom because so little information seeps out about ordinary people. Beyond the government-sponsored propaganda, is Demick's account of the lives of eight North Koreans during the reign of Kim Jong Il. The book is a bit dated but very well-written and an easy and fascinating read with extensive end-notes.

## Robyn M. Moltzen

Sacramento County Public Law Library

### *What's the best advice you've ever received working as a librarian?*

Early on in my career, as a nervous, new, librarian, I was told that I do not need to know "the answer" to a reference question. Rather, my role as librarian is to know which book to look in, perhaps even the chapter, and if I were really doing well, I could point out the paragraph that discusses the issue in question. It immediately gave me more confidence in my ability, because even if I was not familiar with the topic, my research training would get me to the answer.

### *Who or what has had the greatest impact on your law librarian career?*

Being able to start and continue my career at the Sacramento County Public Law Library has had a tremendous impact on my journey in law librarianship. Even though our library is always doing something new, and continuously looking for innovative ideas to improve county law library services, it really is my colleagues that have been invaluable. Here in Sacramento, I am surrounded by amazing Librarians who have been incredible coworkers, mentors, and friends. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been mentored by the late Coral Henning for 17+ years and to continue to work closely with Mary Pinard Johnson, who is undoubtedly the most skillful librarian I know and who I continue to learn from daily.

### *How (or which) books influenced your childhood?*

In 8th grade French class we were tasked with reading *Les Misérables* by Victor Hugo in French. Each day we would read a few pages in class and line by line our teacher translated it. From that point on, I was hooked. I am obsessed with all things *Les Mis*! I have seen several of the musical productions, several movie versions, including a 1935 version that was really well done. I know all the songs and I even had an instrumental clip of "Bring Him Home" in my wedding 20 years ago!



**New Philip S.C. Lewis Endowment Fund for Legal Aid  
Will Support Services of the San Mateo County Law Library**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SAN MATEO COUNTY LAW LIBRARY FOUNDATION RECEIVES ENDOWMENT TO PROMOTE  
IMPROVED PUBLIC ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAMMING AND TO HONOR LEGAL AID PIONEER  
PHILIP S.C. LEWIS**

Redwood City, CA (1/27/20) – The San Mateo County Law Library Foundation is pleased to announce it has received a \$1 million endowment from the children of Philip S.C. Lewis to posthumously honor the work and spirit of their step-father, attorney and legal scholar Philip Simon Coleman Lewis. This endowment is created with the goal of enhancing and solidifying the San Mateo County Law Library’s mission to provide access to quality legal materials, guidance and support to all members of the community, regardless of their financial status or educational background; a mission which echoes Mr. Lewis’s own pioneering efforts to provide legal aid to the poor and overlooked and understand the full weight of a lawyer’s role in society.

The Philip S.C. Lewis Fund for Legal Aid aims to provide the Law Library with the ongoing means to support and benefit the pursuit of justice by the people of San Mateo County and the State of California. The fund will be used for programming that invests in human capital, emphasizing one-on-one legal assistance in dedicated areas on a wide variety of legal topics that touch people’s lives on a daily basis, from Family Law to Probate. The Fund also seeks to promote the Law Library’s mission – and to salute Philip S.C. Lewis’s values and legacy – by providing legal services, advice and resources to those who most need the guidance and can least afford hiring a lawyer.

“The impact of this endowment on the library’s future is monumental and transformative,” says Library Director Caroline Bracco. “After years of just trying to keep our doors open, we can now expand to meet the legal needs of our community, as we work to overcome the digital and economic divide in the face of rising costs.” Jeffrey R. Loew, President of the Law Library



Foundation, agrees. "This generous gift will help support the indispensable role the Law Library serves for all members of our community."

"The law library is largely used by the public and mostly by residents who can't afford a lawyer," said Congresswoman Jackie Speier. "This gift is a gift to them but it's also a great example of how to level the legal playing field. When this library thrives, justice thrives. Congratulations to the San Mateo County Law Library!"

### ***About the San Mateo County Law Library & Foundation***

The San Mateo County Law Library was established in 1916 to offer legal tools for citizens to exercise their right of due process. Over the past 5 years, County Law Libraries state-wide have experienced a decrease in funding, with San Mateo County Law Library being no exception. The San Mateo Law Library Foundation was created in 2016 to assist and promote the Law Library, and its vital role in the community through outreach, fundraising, advocacy and volunteerism. The financial and organizational support of sponsors, businesses, and community-based organizations enables the Law Library to continue in its mission to provide access to everyone who needs legal information to help protect their rights.

For more information or to donate, visit [smclawlibrary.org](http://smclawlibrary.org) and [smcllfoundation.org](http://smcllfoundation.org)

### ***About Philip S.C. Lewis***

The rich professional life of Philip S.C. Lewis (1933-2019) began at Oxford University, where he earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees. After University, Philip became a barrister in London chambers from 1958-1965, at which time the Law Commission arranged with All Souls College (Oxford) for Philip to become a Fellow and work on Law Reform. He remained a Fellow at All Souls until his death.

During his first decade there he edited a major legal work, *Gatley on Libel and Slander*, but his research interests widened to sociology and questions about a lawyer's role in society. This led to his first major work, *The Sociology of the Professions* (1970), which addressed the community role of doctors and lawyers. Philip also helped establish Oxford's Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, where he remained a senior Associate until his death. For nearly fifty years the Oxford Centre has been at the forefront of research into the nature and role of law in society.

Philip's innate humanity and care for others naturally evolved into work examining how the law and lawyers could help those in society who most need a lawyer's help and can least afford it. Throughout the 1970s Philip's research and pro bono work turned on these issues, writing on



“Unmet Legal Needs”, and contributing to the European Colloquium on “Legal Services for Deprived Persons” as well as making various proposals for Legal Aid funds to the government.

From the early 1970s on, Philip’s life partner was a northern Californian, Linda, and the family divided their time between Los Altos and Oxford. Philip’s work on the contrasting role of lawyers in civil law and common law countries culminated in a groundbreaking international symposium he convened with Rick Abel (UCLA) in 1985 with experts from around the world. The conference and subsequent collaborative work resulted in a three volume set of essays, Lawyers in Society (1995, recently reprinted), edited by Abel and Lewis.

Professionally, Philip was always liked, respected and listened to. His voice was soft but carried the authority of well-reasoned positions married to an unwavering sense of morality. His family and his colleagues miss him deeply but know that he would be extremely pleased to be able to support the work of the SMC Law Library and its legal assistance to those in society who need it most.