# NOCALL News

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

## EDITOR'S NOTE

The newsletter committee is pleased to bring you this issue of the *NOCALL News*. In addition to many of your favorite columns, this issue includes the candidate biographies for the upcomign NOCALL election.

Please remember, the *NOCALL News* needs your news! If you or your staff members have attended a seminar, published an article, received an award, been elected to an office, or done anything else interesting, please let us know! We'd love for you to share information about special projects you're working on, new or exciting services your library is offering, or anything else you think would be of interest to NOCALL members.  Upcoming deadlines are  March 8, 2024, and May 11, 2024. Please contact mpjohnson@saclaw.org if you are interested in contributing to the newsletter!

# Professional Reading in Review

### Refugio Acker-Ramirez and Kristin Brandt, U.C. Davis Law Library

**"Expanding equipment lending: Addressing accessibility and curriculum gaps,"** by Emily Akers, Seti Keshmiripour, and Briana Knox, *Journal of Access Services* (January 22, 2024).

The University of North Texas Libraries offered a variety of equipment for checkout, both items related to general course work, such as laptops, calculators, and anatomical models, and makerspace items, such as cameras and sewing machines. Laptop checkouts exceeded those for books and students continued to request the addition of new items to the collection. As a result, the Access Services Department obtained an internal grant to expand offerings to meet unmet accessibility needs of students. Added items included electronic translators, c-Pen readers, weighted laptop pads, LED page magnifiers, assisted listening devices, and sensory kits. The authors discuss their challenges, including unforeseen costs, the need for storage shelving, and difficulties in locating and purchasing items, and emphasize the importance of promotion and marketing to make patrons aware of newly available equipment.

**"Adapting legal research for a first generation audience,"** by Thomas Sneed, *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* (December 29, 2023), vol. 42, no. 3-4, pp. 220-234.

Law students who are the first to attend college in their families may face challenges in law school. For example, they may have additional financial burdens, lack professional connections, or have difficulty adjusting to an unfamiliar professional culture. In order to better serve these students, the author redesigned a summer legal research class. One change was creating a more positive class environment by simplifying the syllabus and looking for opportunities to get to know students better. This included having one-on-one meetings with students. Another change was to allow more creativity in course deliverables. Instead of traditional papers, students could submit videos, PowerPoints, and other formats. The author also used more inclusive research examples. Overall, the changes were relatively easy to incorporate and resulted in a more positive experience for students.

**"AI in Legal Education: Drafting Policies for Balancing Innovation and Integrity,"** by Nachman Gutowski and Jeremy Hurley, *SSRN*, (November 9, 2023).

The article discusses the benefits and challenges of integrating generative AI into legal education. It highlights how AI tools can aid in research and drafting but also raises concerns about academic integrity, plagiarism, over-reliance, and inherent bias. To balance innovation and integrity, the authors recommend law schools implement thoughtful, collaborative policies with input from all stakeholders, including students, faculty, and administration, that address the importance of adaptability, distinguish between permissible and impermissible uses, and ensure clarity and transparency in these policies.

**"Managing Your Library's LibGuides: Conducting A Usability Study to Determine Student Preference for LibGuide Design,"** by Julie Burchfield and Maggie Possinger, *Information Technology and Libraries* (December 2023), vol. 42, no. 4, pp. 1-18.

This article highlights a library's usability study on their LibGuides to identify student design preferences. The study found students preferred consistency across guides, including clear and concise language, minimal scrolling, and simplistic layouts with images and icons. Prior research has shown that guides with librarian-centric design hinder student success. To help address this issue, the paper highlights best practices for implementing a standardized student-centric template that aims to offer consistency and increased user proficiency for all guides.

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# Legal Tech Recap

### Kristie Chamorro, UC Berkeley Law Library

Happy 2024! This past month I've been working on a worksop series for LL.M. students on generative AI ("GenAI") basics and uses for law students and legal professionals.

Instead of my usual product/platform updates, below is a summary of the first workshop - *GenAI & Law Practice: Foundations & Key Concepts*. As I continue learning about GenAI, I've found it helpful to go back to the basics of some of the key concepts, categorizations, and risks.

**Understanding GenAI: Terminology & Key Concepts**

There are many complex terms floating around in the continuing deluge of AI news.  Here are a few of the basics to keep in mind when examining new GenAI tools.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a very broad term signifying the branch of computer science dedicated to systems that have the ability to mimic human human intelligence and thought. It encompasses machine learning and deep learning as subsets, with neural networks also playing a crucial role. Generative AI, the talk of the town since the ChatGPT burst onto the scene in November 2022, is capable of producing original content by identifying patterns in extensive datasets. Large Language Models (LLMs), like Chat GPT-3 and GPT-4, is a type of GenAI that can generate text, understand conversations, and even write code.

- How AI Chatbots like ChatGPT or Bard Work – Visual Explainer, The Guardian, 11/1/23

- An Introduction to Artificial Intelligence for Federal Judges, Federal Judicial Center, 9/23

- The Artificial Intelligence Glossary, Legal Tech News, 7/19/23

- What Is ChatGPT Doing … and Why Does It Work?, Stephen Wolfram Blog, 2/14/23

- A Generative AI Primer, National Center for AI (UK), 1/2/24

**General Purpose GenAI Tools**

The standout general purpose GenAI tools (also called "foundational models") are currently ChatGPT (OpenAI),  Bard (Google), Claude 2.1 (Anthropic), and Copilot (Microsoft).

- The GenAI Models Legal Professionals Should Know, Legal Tech News, 1/16/24

- ChatGPT vs. Google Bard vs. Bing Chat vs. Claude: Which Generative AI Solution Is Best?, Search Engine Land, 1/26/24

- Generative AI, ChatGPT, and Google Bard: Evaluating the Impact and Opportunities for Scholarly Publishing, The Scholarly Kitchen, 8/17/23

**Specialized GenAI Tools**

Lately, it seems like there are new specialized AI tools coming out every day.  To create a specialized legal AI tool like Lexis+ AI and Westaw AI-Assisted Research, foundational GenAI tools are often layered on top of extensive legal datasets. The creators of these tools say that this layering greatly reduces the risk of hallucinations and privacy/security issues. This remains to be seen and of course depends on the tool.

Law firms are also launching their own GenAI tools to streamline operations, enhance legal research, and offer innovative services. For example, Gunderson Dettmer, Dentons, and Davis Wright have all created their own GenAI chatbots.

**It is Crucial to Keep the Risks and Ethical Considerations in Mind**

The very real and significant risks of GenAI include: hallucinations, bias in AI outputs, intellectual property and copyright risks, the "Black Box" problem (which refers to the lack of transparency in AI's decision-making processes), and privacy/security considerations. For resources on these risks, see the Ethics/Risks and the Legal Issues folders (both include subfolders) in my GenAI Zotero Group Library.

Additionally, legal professionals need to be informed about applicable ethical rules and judicial standing orders regarding GenAI use. Here are a few resources:

- Practical Guidance for the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in the Practice of Law (California State Bar Board of Trustees)

- Federal Court Judicial Standing Orders on the Use of AI (Bloomberg Law)

- GenAI Federal and State Court Rules Tracker (Lexis)

- State AI Task Force (ABA)

My next presentations are on prompting tips and specific GenAI tools, so I'll be back next time with more resources and updates!

# SPOTLIGHT ON...

## AMREET SANDHU
### Outreach and Training Librarian, Sacramento County Public Law Library

*How did you choose law librarianship as a career?*
My goal in both law and library school has been to provide access to information and resources, without means testing those seeking support. That is exactly what my position as a law librarian allows me to do. I appreciate that of all the questions I ask in reference interviews, none of them include if a person is eligible or may financially afford to receive the information they are requesting.

*What have you enjoyed the most from being involved with NOCALL?*
Our NOCALL trivia team, the Dewey Decimators, won third place in pub trivia during the winter four corners event at the Fox & Goose!

*If you were not working as a law librarian, what would you most likely be doing?*
If I were not a law librarian, I would be riding my bicycle and gardening. Cycling to my office allows me a bit of "recess" time before and after my work, and perhaps 2024 is the year I will hang a flower basket outside my office window for the hummingbirds. Who says one cannot have it all?

*Who or what has had the greatest impact on your law librarian career?*
I have learned in life that listing one's friends only causes trouble!

*What is your favorite meal?*
Dessert.

*What was the last book you read that you really enjoyed and why?*
I am currently reading Ben Wilson's ***Urban Jungle: The History and Future of Nature in the City.*** In addition to the imagery it offers, of both ecocides and brilliant biodiversity, it is helping me understand new ways policy choices may positively impact the anthroposphere. I view nature not as a place that we go to on weekends, but something that we are and that we shape throughout our lives. The book is giving me a bit of hope amidst living in climate chaos.

*How (or which) books influenced your childhood?*
Given the answers to my other questions, it perhaps comes as no surprise that the book most impacting my childhood, and perhaps even my current life, is Barbara Cooney's ***Miss Rumphius.*** My elementary school teacher would be proud to know I took the book so seriously!

*What's your favorite online research tip?*
Don't let the long line of patrons rush you too much!

## Candidate for Vice-President/President-Elect

# Laura Moorer

Law Librarian
DC Court of Appeals
Washington, D.C.
2019 - present

*Education:*
BS, Virginia Tech
J.D., Mercer Law School
MLS, Univ. of Maryland

*Previous Employment*
Law Librarian
Public Defender Service for DC
Years Employed: 13 years

*Candidate Statement :*
My family moved to Hollister, CA in the summer of 2019. We moved here after my husband accepted a job as a park ranger at Pinnacles National Park. I am a remote librarian and travel back to D.C. quarterly to update the physical library and otherwise work remotely the rest of the year. I am a solo librarian and our library is not open to the public. The DC Court of Appeals is the equivalent of a state supreme court, if D.C. were a state.

I look forward to running for the position of VP, for NOCALL, and being more involved in this amazing chapter. Our legal world is rapidly changing again with the emergence of AI based legal research and I hope to embrace this time with NOCALL and see where it leads our profession!

*NOCALL Committees, Offices and Activities*

Member of AALL and LLSDC

# Andrew Gurthet

Head of Research Services
Santa Clara University Mabie Law Library
Santa Clara, California
2000-2006 and 2022 to present

*Education:*
B.A. – University of Wisconsin-Madison
J.D. – University of Wisconsin Law School
M.L.I.S. – San Jose State University



*Previous Employment:*
San Mateo County Law Library; Financial Advisor; 2019-2022
Kitsip Regional Library System, Bainbridge Island Public Library; Manager; 2018-2019
San Mateo County Law Library; Library Director; 2012-2018
U.C.-Hastings College of the Law; Assistant Dean, Academic Technology; 2011-2012
Apple, Inc.; Senior Law Librarian; 2006-2011
Santa Clara University Law School; Assistant Dean, Law Technology and Academic Computing; 2002-2006
Santa Clara University Law Library; Reference Law Librarian; 2000-2002
San Francisco County Law Library; Reference Law Librarian; 2000
Stanford University Law Library; Reference Law Librarian; 1997-2000
Santa Barbara County Law Library; Reference Law Librarian; 1995-1997

*Candidate Statement*
I have worked in various positions in the librarian profession since 1995, and have been financially responsible for the budgets of many library organizations, most notably, Santa Clara University Law School's technology budget (as the Assistant Dean of Law Technology), Apple Inc.'s Law Library budget (as the Senior Law Librarian), and the San Mateo County Law Library's budget (as the Library Director and Financial Advisor).

*NOCALL Committees, Offices and Activities*

2024 Spring Institute Planning Committee

*Other Professional Activities*

CALI (Computer Assisted Legal Instruction); 2000-2006
LWI (Legal Writing Institute); 2000-2006
AALL (American Association of Law Libraries); 2000-2006, 2022- present
NOCALL; 2000-2006, 2022-present
CCCLL (Council of California County Law Librarians); 2012-2018
ALA (American Library Association) 2018-2020
CALTC (California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners); 1997-2000

**Candidate for Member-at-Large**

# Refugio Acker-Ramirez

Law Librarian
Mabie Law Library at UC Davis School of Law
Davis, CA
January 2023-present

*Education*

BA, Sociology and Ethnic Studies, University of San Diego
MLIS, UCLA

*Previous Employment*
Research Specialist
Akin Gump
Years Employed: 2010-2022

*Candidate Statement:*

I am grateful to be nominated for the NOCALL Member-at-Large position. Since moving to northern California in early 2023, I've been eager to get more involved with the NOCALL community. Serving on the Board would allow me to give back and support the organization's important work.

*NOCALL Committees, Offices and Activities*

NOCALL-Spring Institute 2023, Attendee

*Other Professional Activities*

AALL member 2009-present

SCALL member 2010-2023

**Candidate for Member-at-Large**

# Megan Books

Outreach Librarian
Alameda County Law Library
Oakland, CA
Years Employed: 1



*Education:*

MLIS, Paralegal Certificate

*Previous Employment:*

Paralegal
Independent Paralegal services to CJA panel attorneys
Years Employed: 15

*Candidate Statement :*

As a new librarian Megan is excited to become more involved in NOCALL. Being the member at large would provide a wonderful opportunity to learn more about NOCALL and the greater network of local law librarians. She hopes to bring a dedicated, compassionate, and organized style of working to the organization.

*NOCALL Committees, Offices and Activities*

New member of AALL

# 2023-2024 NOCALL Officers and Committees

| OFFICE | NAME | EMAIL |
|---|---|---|
| President | Tony Pelczynski, UC Law San Francisco | president@nocall.org |
| VP/President Elect | Bianca Randall, Baker McKenzie | vicepresident@nocall.org |
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| Member at Large | Courtney Nguyen, San Francisco Law Library | memberatlarge@nocall.org |
| Member at Large | Laura Moorer, D.C. Court of Appeals | memberatlarge@nocall.org |
| **COMMITTEE CLUSTERS** | | |
| **ADMINISTRATION** | | |
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| Spring Institute | Bianca Randall, Baker McKenzie | springinstitute@nocall.org |
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| **OUTREACH** | | |
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| Public Relations | SEEKING A NEW CHAIR | publicrelations@nocall.org |
| **RECOGNITION** | | |
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| Grants | SEEKING A NEW CHAIR | grants@nocall.org |
| Memorials | Leslie Hesdorfer, Kirkland & Ellis LLP<br>Jane Metz, Nixon Peabody LLP | memorials@nocall.org |