November is upon us! 2017 has been an extraordinary year. Let’s all come together and raise a toast to its departure and our survival at our upcoming 4-Corners Holiday gathering. Our wonderful Networking committee chair, April Eudy, is recruiting hosts and scouting venues for gatherings in the San Francisco, South Bay, Central Valley and Sacramento areas. Look for more details coming to you soon via our list-serv.

Other upcoming events include our Winter Workshop (postponed from Fall), our January business meeting and the Spring Institute. I’m working to find more volunteers for our Education committee so if you have an idea for a workshop topic or if you like organizing educational events, please email me. Our January business meeting will be held at a firm on the Peninsula - details to be confirmed. And our Spring Institute is coming together nicely! Save March 16, 2018 for a day of advocacy training held at the California Museum. We’ll hear from an advocacy expert from EveryLibrary and then we’ll break out into groups to learn more about advocating for ourselves in Court and County libraries, law firms, and law schools. The Spring Institute promises to be a great opportunity to learn, network with colleagues, and visit the fantastic California Museum all in one day! If you’re a vendor, please visit this page to learn how you can support the Institute. If you’re a member and would like to help make this event a success, please email our Vice President, David Holt.

NOCALL is a vibrant community of some of the best people I know -- people who can appreciate some of the quirky things that give me joy. The rainbow of CFR volumes in the stacks. The serendipity of finding an answer to a reference question in a database you’ve just learned about. Meeting up with fellow NOCALL members out in the real world. I’ll be sure to remember NOCALL in my Thanksgiving gratitude meditation.

And we all make NOCALL go by giving of our time and expertise. Volunteering and participation are the keys. Our Nominations committee is working to find candidates for 2018-19 officer positions, and demonstrating healthy rotation of leadership at the same time. Thank you Amy Wright for stepping into the Nominations committee chair position!
Our Public Relations committee needs volunteers. Do you have a flare for marketing? Are you enthusiastic about the benefits of NOCALL? Consider using your talent to the benefit of our professional organization.

Last but definitely not least, have you renewed your membership in NOCALL? Did you know that Jessica Brasch is the new Membership Committee chair? If you can’t remember if you’ve renewed, don’t hesitate to email Jessica.
More People are Using Federal Websites, and More People Hate Them...More Americans than ever are interacting with government online. But their experiences with federal websites are getting worse, according to Forrester Consulting. Fully 44 percent of customers used a federal website in 2016, more than in-person interactions and e-mail interactions. But less than 60 percent of users found those sites satisfactory based on ease of use, relevancy of information and security. The number of customers who consider federal websites easy to use fell 4 percentage points -- down to 55 percent. SSA.gov and Studentloans.gov drew high marks for security. USPS.com and eBenefits.va.gov drew low marks due to insufficient authentication.

Remember the First Daughters? No, not Malia and Sasha...The former First Daughters of the United States, twins Barbara and Jenna Bush, have written *Sisters First*, a memoir of growing up in the White House. At one point in the book, one of the daughters gets personal about the distance she felt from her mother Laura when she was young: “My mother was a librarian and an only child—a combination that sometimes made it hard to relate to her point of view.”

Phubbed?...Researchers at Baylor University surveyed 140 people and found that almost half had been “phubbed” by their partner—that is, snubbed in favor of checking social media, news, or texts on a phone—and that half of those said phone overuse was causing conflict with their loved ones. Even if a phone isn’t in use, it can still cause problems. Studies show that simply having a phone out on a restaurant table interferes with your sense of connection to your dining partner—perhaps because his or her eyes keep flicking at the device for new alerts, suggesting that the small piece of technology is more interesting than you.

Hooked on “The Wire”...For years, my friends have been telling me to watch “The Wire,” a series which ran on HBO from 2002 to 2008. Each season highlighted a particular aspect of life in Baltimore: the Drug Trade, the Port, the Schools, the Politicians, and the Press. I’m now into the fifth and final season that focuses on the role of the press in a free society, and what a vibrant source of information should mean to any major metropolitan area—in this case, Baltimore. I have a special interest in this topic. In 1997, when AALL was in Baltimore, many of us took a tour of the *Baltimore Sun*. Back then, the *Sun* was still a healthy newspaper with a strong readership and a network of offices around the world. With the growth of the internet, things began to change for the newspapers, and I don’t have to tell you how most newspapers have been decimated. Nationwide, newspaper circulation continues to fall, as does the headcount of newspaper journalists. “Something vibrant and essential to America life is passing,” said David Simon, creator and executive producer of “The Wire.” “And unless a new economic model is created to accomplish what a healthy newspaper once did, we are all bereft.” Today, with the cries of “Fake News” it seems to me that newspapers are more valuable than they ever were. And what about “The Wire”? The series is extraordinary. It will take a commitment of time and attention and emotions for you to watch it, but it’s well worth it.

PROFESSIONAL READING IN REVIEW

Elisabeth McKechnie

U.C. Davis Law Library


Taking advantage of a loophole in the 1998 Copyright Term Extension Act, which extended copyright coverage an additional 20 years, the Internet Archive found that libraries can digitize books that are out...
of print and not actively for sale. The IA team has created a procedure to check copyright status and actually process books. This vastly expands the potential for digitization well after the 1923 cut-off used by Project Gutenberg and other sources. The present collection only has 62 books in it dating from 1923-1941, but the Archive has promised many more books and encourages libraries to digitize their holdings. For more discussion, see: https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2017/10/internet-archive-puts-full-out-of-print-books-from-20s-and-30s-online.

“Every Book Its Reader; The Meek Shall Inherit... The Library,” by Neil Hollands, Booklist, September 1, 2017, p. 45.
Do you dislike large meetings and crowded rooms? You might be an introvert. Hollands’ article discusses the differences between extroverts and introverts within a library context. Contrary to popular theory, you needn’t be an extrovert to make a valuable contribution to your library. Introverts are better listeners and better writers than extroverts. They have longer attention spans and are more empathetic. Holland, himself an embarrassed introvert, will tell you how to put your personality type to use in his short article.

Ernie Smith, the sometime professional internet snarker, has produced a fun essay on how copyright law can go oh, so wrong! He discusses the various iterations of United States copyright law from 1909 all the way to the Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act in 1998. Because of small, unintentional errors a variety of movies have lacked copyright protection from the date of production, i.e. George Romero’s “The Walking Dead”, while others became public domain because of failure to renew copyright, i.e. Henry Fonda’s “It’s a Wonderful Life” (for which the Supreme Court later restored some copyright aspects). Smith describes the various ways in which copyright can go wrong and yet boost the popularity of a work after copyright has lapsed and how some celebrities have leveraged their copyrighted characters (think “Grampa” Munster) to make money despite the copyright restrictions.

FUNDING RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES GRANT (FROG) UPDATE
Sarah Lin, Reed Smith LLP

Late this spring I received a grant from AALL’s Technical Services and Online Bibliographic Services Special Interest Sections to research the possibility of coordinating in-kind donations from NOCALL members to northern California county law libraries. This is my second NOCALL News installment to keep members in the loop about my progress. The last few months have been occupied with surveys, both to the county law libraries and NOCALL members.

In mid-September our own Diane Rodriguez arranged for me to speak about this project at the Council of California County Law Libraries (CCCLL) annual meeting in Sacramento. It was great to meet some of the staff and directors of several county law libraries and to hear some of their challenges in their own words. You may remember the discussion of filing fee waivers from the 2015 Spring Institute: for libraries that derive income from filings fees, an increase in waivers since the recession led to gaping holes in annual budgets. The directors discussed how several fee parameters stack the deck against library revenue. For example, a denial of a fee waiver request requires a judicial hearing, something no over-scheduled judge is likely to invite. Another librarian mentioned that the filing form sets library revenue at a disadvantage because the question, “Do you require a fee waiver?” appears on the form half a page before the question, “Can you pay a portion of the fee?” She remarked that were those two questions switched on the form, libraries might receive more revenue from fees. The last point made was that in civil cases that settle for $10,000 or more, any waived filing fee is recouped: “do you know how many cases settle for $9,999?” the director asked, rhetorically.
CCCLL lobbyist Michael Corbett gave a Legislative Advocacy Report that spoke directly to a plan to solve the ongoing county law library funding crisis. From what I gathered, there seems to be a two-pronged approach. On the one hand, making state legislators aware of both the need, and more importantly the degree to which county law libraries impact constituents’ lives lays the groundwork for lobbying for a line item in the budget. Corbett noted that last year only 19 out of the 58 counties in California wrote advocacy letters. The second part of the strategy is to lobby for a general fund ongoing appropriation which would make up the gap between yearly revenue and the budget amount allotted in 2009, which is essentially $0.41 per Californian. So while Corbett works hard at the budget appropriation, it sounds like there is room to support it with stories of impact and letter-writing to legislators in Sacramento, something we’ll hopefully learn a lot about at the 2018 Spring Institute.

Shortly following the CCCLL meeting I sent a survey link to the CCCLL directors’ listserv. Even with 3 reminders, just half of the county libraries north of Fresno responded. This was a bit unexpected given that every person I talked to was very interested in a potential partnership for donated materials. Although about half of the membership attended, I think the low response rate speaks more to the overwhelming number of duties these directors are responsible for. Another challenge is the high number of responses that were some variant of “it depends.” It’s a bit challenging to figure out a prospective project without fully clear details. Of course, vagaries in legal publishing practices are probably a major cause—some books receive only one update per year and so one year out of day might not have many changes. A loose-leaf updated quarterly would be much more out of date at the one year mark.

As soon as my last NOCALL News column was published, in early October, I sent out a link to the survey for NOCALL members. With several reminders, I garnered 47 responses. That’s about a quarter of the NOCALL membership, but I did request that only one person per library complete the survey. My feeling is that we have more than 50 different libraries represented in our membership, but there’s not a directory search that corroborates that feeling. Here again, the survey responses weighted heavily towards ‘it depends,’ making it difficult to say for a certainty that NOCALL members have materials that county law libraries need and can obtain.

My next steps are to further analyze the data in order to come to a solid conclusion about the feasibility of donating books to county law libraries. Additionally, I am currently reaching out to libraries for in-person visits so that I can better describe both the need and the available materials in greater detail.

EREDRER LIBRARIAN’S DIGITAL BOOK REVIEW
Reviewing free and low cost digital books for Kindle, iPad, Nook and other tablets.
Elisabeth McKechnie
UC Davis School of Law, Mabie 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.

Only a Novel, the Double Life of Jane Austen, by Jane Aiken Hodge
Published: Endeavour Press
Price: $3.99 at Amazon; Free under KindleUnlimited Formats: kindle

This is the best biography of Jane Austen that I’ve seen so far. I was attracted to the book first by the familiarity of the author. Jane Aiken Hodge was a prolific British author of historical fiction and non-fiction and a clear professional. Her treatment of Austen’s life demonstrates that, as she bases her account primarily on Austen’s surviving correspondence as well as that of her family. After Jane Austen’s death, her well-meaning relatives made an effort to recreate Jane’s character into a mid-Victorian paragon of good behavior. The true
Austen was far from that and had a sharp wit capable of skewering her society. Hodge has succeeded in retrieving as much of the true Jane as is possible with what escaped destruction after her death. Hodge also updates the reader on then-current events that would have been known to Jane and commented on within her books. Altogether an excellent companion to any of Jane Austen’s works.

**A Colored Man Round the World**, by a Quadroon
(David F. Dorr)
Published: Printed for the author, 1858
Price: Free at Project Gutenberg at: [http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/55759](http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/55759)
Formats: Kindle, EPUB, Plain Text, HTML

A travel book with a lively style and interesting back story, this is a worthy read. David F. Dorr was a slave, owned by a man who took him along on a trip around the world with the agreement that Dorr would be freed at the trip’s end. During the trip, Dorr lived like a wealthy white man with plenty of spending money and freedom to see the sights, but on return his master refused to free him. Betrayed, Dorr escaped west and wrote this book.

That said, there is very little bitterness and much humor in the account. Although Dorr couldn’t have been very educated, his bright writing style is entertaining and fluent, giving the reader a tourist’s eye view of Europe and the Middle East. A true romantic, he routinely falls in love with the maids in his various inns and has an eye for a pretty girl in every country. In keeping with that, Dorr also writes about places reserved for men alone. Clearly visiting some bawdy houses along his way, Dorr never stoops to vulgarity and views the entire experience with wit and humor. Normally I don’t read travel books but this was an entertaining exception. For example, his impression of Prince Albert (handsomest man in court, attractive to ladies) and Queen Victoria (very red in face and very jealous wife) was well mixed with local gossip. The Sultan of Istanbul (surrounded by seven sultanas) looked very tired. Constantinople is summed up: “The dogs provoke me and the women are veiled.” A very entertaining read.

**Ho-Ming, a Girl of New China** by Elizabeth Foreman Lewis
Published: Chicago: E.M. Hale, 1934
Price: Free at Internet Archive, Sonny Bono Memorial Collection* [https://archive.org/details/hominggirlofnewc00lewi](https://archive.org/details/hominggirlofnewc00lewi)
*For details about the Sonny Bono Collection, see Professional News in Review Column, this issue.
Formats: HTML, Full Text, PDF

This is a children’s book, written between the fall of the Emperor and the rise of communism. This is a well-written account, of interest to adults as well as children, following the life of a farmer’s daughter who struggles to navigate the rules of old China and the opportunities of the new. She is befriended by an educated Chinese woman doctor, who also arranges for Ho-Ming to be educated at a local foreign school. The girl’s family reluctantly agrees since Ho-Ming isn’t very good at housework anyway and her father had always wanted but couldn’t afford education. She experiences the political realities of China, from solders as rapacious as the bandits they’re supposed to defend against, to young pro-China protesters who burn her school down because it uses foreign teachers. It’s a quick read with good illustrations. Recommended.

**Cautionary Tales for Children** by Hillaire Belloc
Published: 1918, various publishers
Available:
$1.99: Amazon (with color illustrations): [https://tinyurl.com/ydfcswjo](https://tinyurl.com/ydfcswjo)

If you are a fan of Lemony Snicket, you will love this book. Written in rhyme and illustrated with line drawings, this book warns children of the dangers of disobedience and general naughtiness! In the first story, a boy slips away from his nurse only to be eaten by a lion; in another Godolphin Horne, afflicted by pride, came to a Bad End.
How did you choose law librarianship as a career?
One could say I took a circuitous route to law librarianship. I started librarianship inside a loose-leaf treatise, namely working for a law library updating service, I then moved on to library tech work, strayed into the world of litigation paralegal work and while there found my love for research back in the very law library I left behind. What I had discovered while actually making use of the library and its resources, is that you might know the biographical information of a treatise, but you’ll never know its true value or limitation until they’ve been tested by an actual problem that you personally needed to resolve. And that’s when law librarianship became infinitely more interesting to me. Many of my questions at the time were procedurally related and I had found the trusty “Rutter Guides” to be infinitely valuable. Paralegal work was interesting, but the satisfaction of researching and finding answers in treatises, was much more appealing to me - that’s when I discovered law librarianship was ultimately what I wanted to do.

What have you enjoyed the most from being involved with NOCALL?
I’ve enjoyed the camaraderie and sharing that comes with being involved with NOCALL. It’s a place to learn from one another, to reaffirm and to challenge your conclusions, to share your frustrations and to share your triumphs with people who can truly understand because they too live in the world that is unique to law librarianship.

If you were not working as a law librarian, what would you most likely be doing?
The camera pans over a dark room, computers set up everywhere, multiple large screens on the wall showing maps, a suspect…and more maps. The room is abuzz with excitement and frantic people. There I am in the corner, laptop light reflecting off of my eyeglasses, fingers typing away, while someone barks – “Find me everything we know on him! Where’s he been…who’s he been in contact with…where’s he going. Find me everything!” I guess if I wasn’t a law librarian, I’d be an investigator of some sort digging for information and connecting the dots; for whom, you might ask? Well the CIA or FBI of course, because hey, we librarians know access is everything!

What’s your favorite online research tip?
Look at your question from different angles. For instance, your question might cover multiple areas of law. When you pay attention to that, would your question be better answered in a treatise in a different area of law? Who else, i.e. public agency, etc., might also have an interest in your topic/question – would they have done research that might be helpful to you? Is the information you seek, “required” reporting anywhere?
A MESSAGE FROM THE NOCALL AWARDS COMMITTEE

It’s not too soon to start thinking about nominations for our annual awards to honor the contributions and accomplishments of our members. You would hardly jump the gun if you decided to submit a nomination sooner rather than later - see the details below.

What awards are given?

**Award for Professional Achievement**
The purpose of the NOCALL Award for Professional Achievement is to recognize a member for notable and enduring contributions to the Chapter and the profession. The Award represents a cumulative evaluation of an individual’s career and emphasizes local activity and leadership of an exemplary nature.

This is an opportunity to acknowledge the work of a NOCALL colleague. To be eligible for the Award, a nominee must be a current Chapter member, active or retired, and in good standing.
(See a list of past recipients here.)

**Award for Advocacy**
The purpose of the NOCALL Advocacy Award is to recognize a member of the greater NOCALL community for notable and enduring contributions affecting law librarians, law libraries, and legal information patrons everywhere. The Award represents NOCALL’s appreciation and encouragement to continue the valuable advocacy contributions of our colleagues and allies.
(See a list of past recipients here.)

Who can you nominate?
Anyone except current members of the Executive Board and the Awards Committee.

How do you submit a nomination?
Nnominate a fellow member by completing this form.

Please help the Committee understand the scope of their contributions by submitting a short statement - or statements if several people are collaborating in the nomination - that illustrate the ways your nominee has worked to further their library’s mission and for the greater glory of NOCALL and our profession!

All nominations are completely confidential.

When are nominations due?
Nominations are due no later than March 16, 2018.

Want to be more involved?
The Awards Committee Chair is looking for volunteers. Please contact Michael Ginsborg if you’d like to help review nominations.
About two months ago, I walked into my new job all confident and sassy. Before the day was done I had major impostor syndrome, due to legal tech.

I know I have mad research skills: I am the queen of CI reports; I live for convoluted legislative histories; I can write a perfect Boolean query before my first cup of coffee; I majorly pwn Wexis et al. And yet, there it was, mocking me and my so-called skills: the welcome email with my IDs and passwords. Forty-four resources and, at best, I only knew ten.

After the panic subsided I turned to what we do best: I researched the heck out them. First, I hit up the trinity of legal tech: Bob Ambrogi, Jean O’Grady, and 3 Geeks. When that yielded little info—some are very esoteric databases—I visited the vendors’ web sites. There, I watched online demos, browsed FAQs, poked around the user guides, and signed up for newsletters (in retrospect, that last one was a big BIG mistake). Next, I set up training sessions with vendors who offered them, and I also audited a lot of the Fall Associate trainings—fortuitously, I arrived at the same time they did. Finally, and only after asking tons of questions about contract charges, I went in and explored the databases.

In all, I probably spent a week and a half buried in learning instead of ‘working’. Luckily, my new employer was very encouraging and understanding, and my co-workers were glad to point me in the right direction whenever I felt lost. However, not everyone is as lucky as I was. Much too often librarians are expected to be up and running the moment they walk through the door. And this, to me, begs the question: just when and how are we supposed to learn about new tech? I am not brave enough to discuss the ‘when’ (huge can of worms), but I can address the ‘how’.

Keeping tabs on the Big Four is also easy. AALL’s CRIV holds semi-annual calls with them and publishes notes from the calls in its newsletter and blog. Lexis, West, and CCH send out regular newsletters. Plus, Lexis and West hold regular “What’s New” meetings and/or webinars (email me if you’d like the latest recording for West, or the PPT for Lexis).

It’s the smaller vendors I fret about, the vendors which are not covered by blogs or which are only mentioned in passing, as an afterthought. It takes a lot of time and effort to keep up with them and, to be honest, I’m not sure I’m doing such a good job. So, I’m putting the question to you: how do you keep up with tech from our smaller vendors? Is there a newsletter I’m missing? A listserv? A blog? Drop me a line and let me know. I’d very much like to put together a shareable doc of tech news’ feeds and newsletters, and would appreciate any insights y’all might have.

So, fast forward six weeks. I’ve now had a chance to use most of the resources in my list and, while not an expert, I understand what each of them does and when to use one versus another. I’d like to say I’m finally getting my groove back but...recently got an email from my tech services librarian. I am now privy to the master list for all our electronic subscriptions. It has HUNDREDS of items. Sigh. Back to square one.
In my previous article, I discussed the pronunciation of classical Latin and the legal phrases that we use or at least encounter in our work as law librarians. A few readers seem to have felt bad to learn that they were “doing it wrong,” to which I respond, “Don’t...how could you have known?” I also promised in the former piece that it would not be about grammar. Now, this one will be, but it will not tell you how to do anything; it won’t tell you how to formulate Latin phrases. But I hope it will give some insight into what is going on in them.

Have you ever noticed that certain words seem to crop up frequently in legal Latin, but in slightly different forms? Have you ever wondered why, for instance, why we say “amicus curiAE”, but “per curiAM”? The answer is that Latin is a highly inflected language. A language is inflected (or inflective) to the extent that the exact meaning of a word is shown by changes in the word itself, usually suffixes and endings added to a stem, rather than by contextual clues and cues such as the position of the word in the sentence (which makes a language “analytical”), or by particles, prepositions, adverbs, etc. I say “to the extent” because no language is completely one or the other. In English, for instance, we have different forms of singular and plural nouns, and verbs, which also have different forms for tense (past, present, and future, and ongoing or completed action) and mood (indicative versus subjunctive, whether something is really happening or just possible or wished for, though the latter are almost entirely gone.) But the role of a noun in the sentence can generally be told from where it is: the subject usually comes first, then, after the verb, direct and indirect objects (also indicated by prepositions such as “of”, “to”, “by”, “with”, etc.) Some variation is allowed, in poetry (for the sake of rhythm or rhyme) or in the old “Time” magazine style, famously parodied by Woolcott Gibbs as “Backward ran sentences until reeled the mind.”

Japanese and Chinese do not indicate any of these of number or tense; they are almost completely analytical. French and other Romance languages are somewhat more inflected than English, because they change the forms of adjectives and articles to show number and gender.

But in Latin, the various forms of a noun (or an adjective), the combinations of stem and ending, showed what it was doing in the sentence: the “nominative” form was for the subject; the “genitive” form indicated possession (marked in English by an apostrophe and an s, or “of”); the “dative”, an indirect object (whom the action is done to or for); the “accusative”, a direct object or the object of prepositions showing motion towards (or some other things); and the “ablative”, “by”, “with”, or “from”, or “in” (a location), among many others. (Latin used a lot of prepositions.) A sentence or phrase could actually have its words in any order and still make sense and retain the same basic meaning, and word order was instead used to provide shades of meaning and emphasis. In the orations of Cicero (many of which were legal arguments), the writer/speaker would often build up suspense by naming the doer of the action, then piling up adverbial phrases like from the game “Clue” -- “in the library”, “with the knife” -- and subordinate clauses: “in order that he might not be caught” -- and only at the very end get to the verb and reveal exactly what the subject actually did, eliciting gasps from the audience.

These different forms for different grammatical roles were called “cases”, from the root that meant “to fall”, and the whole system, and the process of running through them for a particular word, is called “declension” or “declining”, since the noun was perceived as going down from its highest form, the nominative. As Hamlet says (Act I, Sc. 5), “What a falling off was there!” The term “conjugation”, literally “yoking together” of stem and endings, is only for verbs.
Almost all the languages originally spoken from Ireland to India and Western China, excluding the Turkic languages, which came later, the Semitic languages like Hebrew and Arabic, and weird outliers (or inserts) like Basque, Hungarian, and Finnish -- hey, am I going to get to the verb? -- are part of the Indo-European family, descended from a common ancestor last spoken about 5000 years ago, give or take a millennium. There are no written records of “Proto-Indo-European” (PIE), as it’s called, but it has been reconstructed in great detail and with a high degree of certainty by the comparative method discussed in the previous article.\(^1\) “PIE” was highly inflected, but the languages derived from it have largely lost the inflections, especially for nouns, pronouns, and adjectives.\(^2\) Russian still has more cases than Latin did. German still indicates case somewhat by the endings on articles and adjectives. Old English, or Anglo-Saxon, the language of the epic poem *Beowulf* from about 1200 years ago, had cases, but lost them as it mixed with the languages of Scandinavian and French invaders and eventually became what we speak today. Still, we use suffixes to indicate possession, and for pronouns we have separate subject and object forms: *I/me, we/us, they/them, who/whom, and the ever-popular thou/thee.*

Not having cases leads to all sorts of ambiguities in English: is a “graphical user interface” a graphical interface for a user, or an interface for a graphical user? Are the “corduroy duck hunting pants” advertised in the LL Bean catalog for hunting corduroy ducks? “He writes long paragraphs full of sentences that go on forever…” -- is it the paragraphs, or the sentences that are eternal?

The various forms of a noun weren’t random, requiring individual memorization, but followed patterns, called “declensions” like the overall system. There are so-called “first declension” nouns, almost all of which were feminine in the grammatical sense; many denoted female beings, like *femina* (“woman”) or *puella* (”girl”) or *dea* (“goddess”) or *lupa* (“she-wolf”), but also others like *mensa* (“table”) or *copia* (“plenty” -- which in the plural meant that/those of which a general had plenty, that is, troops, even though those soldiers were generally males! Not to mention “pirata” and “poeta”. ) They end in “a” in the nominative, then “-ae” in the genitive, “-ae” again in the dative, “-am” in the accusative, and with a LONG a in the ablative. (See, I told you the length of vowels would matter. But in writing, it’s really hard to tell the nominative from the ablative. ) In the plural, the endings ran “-ae”, “-arum”, “-is”, “-as”, and “-is” again for the ablative.\(^3\) This is the origin of the “-ae” plural forms of many words borrowed into English: *antenna/antennae, alumna/alumnae.* “Second declension” nouns looked like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nominative</td>
<td>annus</td>
<td>anni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genitive</td>
<td>anni</td>
<td>annorum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dative</td>
<td>anno</td>
<td>annis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accusative</td>
<td>annum</td>
<td>annos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ablative</td>
<td>anno</td>
<td>annis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most of us have experienced several of the above forms of the noun that means “year”, and gives us derivatives like “annual” and “perennial”. “Annus horribilis”, for instance – that’s the nominative. “Per annum”, “through the year”, that’s an accusative with a preposition of motion. “Anno domini”, that’s an ablative: “in the year” (and “domini” is the genitive of “dominus”, so it’s “of the Lord”. Latin, by the way, did not have articles, equivalents to “a” or “the”, though it did have pronouns/adjectives that meant “this” or “that”.)

Most second declension nouns were masculine (for some reason, most trees were second declension

\(^1\) If you’d like to know more about Proto-Indo-European and its speakers, look in the introduction and the appendix of an American Heritage dictionary.

\(^2\) The endings are generally unaccented, so they start to get pronounced the same and/or dropped. Speakers of the language start using the same case-forms for more than one purpose. Indo-European had a separate “locative” used to show something was in a place, but in Latin, it converged with the case showing motion away. In Greek, it was absorbed into the genitive case that shows position.

\(^3\) The cases are always listed and recited in this order – it’s just a convenient convention.
but feminine), although many were neuter, with the nominative singular (and the accusative singular as well) in “-um”, and the nominative and accusative plural in “-a”. Hence, the singular of the word for a microscopic creature is “bacterium”, and the plural “bacteria”, but to us using it in English today, the final “a” of the plural makes it look like a first declension singular, so that people refer to “A bacteria”. In Greek, neuter nouns worked almost exactly the same way, except that by a simple sound change rule they used “-on” instead of “-um”, so that you have one criteriON, multiple criteriA. I’m sure we’ve all, in demonstrations of database searching techniques, heard trainers talking about “adding A criteriA (as a filter)”; I recently experienced one doing this, even though the search screen itself used the right word. I restrained my urge to correct him, even when he used as a plural “criteriAS”, which neither I nor Google N-grams had ever heard before.

Nouns/adjectives of the third pattern, the third declension, not only had different endings, but formed their stems differently. Whereas nouns of the first two declensions use the same stem for all forms, and you can get the stem from any of them, in the third, you CAN’T look at the nominative, but have to check the other forms. The nominative usually represents a sort of contracted form of the stem, and can end in almost anything. (While the stem is the form from which the English derivatives come.) Consider a noun dear to all of our hearts, the one that gives us words like “legal” and “legislate”. Its genitive form is “legis”, “of the law”; then dative “legi”, accusative “legem”, ablative “lege”, and in the plural, “leges”, “legum”, “legibus”, “leges”, “legibus”. But the nominative, if you haven’t guessed already, was different, and shorter: “lex”. (“Lex Machina” is a wonderful tool, but its name doesn’t make sense in Latin. If it’s supposed to mean something like “law machine”, it would have to be “machine of the law” — “LEGIS Machina”. But that loses the pun on the expression “EX machina”. And the association with the well-established Lexis. When I first heard of LM, I thought, how soon until Lexis sues them for trademark infringement? I guess LN decided to save their legal fees, and just buy the upstart startup instead.)

There is a fourth declension, but I can’t think of a lot of legal expressions in which its members occur, so I’m going to skip it. There aren’t a lot of nouns of the fifth declension, a declension not of time or space but of mind, but they’re important. Here’s an example: “spes”, which meant “hope”. (Its verb form gives us the motto “dum spiro, spero”, the motto of South Carolina, and Spanish “esperar”, “to wait for”.)

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{spes} & \text{spes} \\
\text{spei} & \text{sperum} \\
\text{spei} & \text{spibus} \\
\text{spem} & \text{spes} \\
\text{spe} & \text{spibus}
\end{array}
\]

(Notice that the same ending can be used for more than one form of a noun, so the Romans had to figure out what it meant from context. As I said, even a language with a lot of inflection is still analytical to some extent. Also, since they followed one of these five patterns, Latin nouns tended to end with the same sounds, as did verbs and the other parts of speech, so they tended to rhyme, and it was a lot harder to achieve the surprise, the “aha”-ness that we get from rhyme, which is probably why the Romans didn’t use it.)

So if you remember from many pages ago, I promised that understanding the case system will allow you to understand why similar -- but not identical -- words show up in different expressions. So consider “res”. It’s generally translated as “matter”, “case”, or “thing” in the abstract sense, rather than the physical one (“I have accomplished great things” rather than

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4. For neuter nouns, the nominative and accusative forms were always identical. And the nominative and accusative plurals, no matter what declension, end in “-a”. Just a useful rule.
5. Yes, the dative plural ended in “-ibus”. The adjective “omnis”, “all”, whence “omniscient”, “omnidirectional”, the stage direction “exeunt omnes”, etc. (which stands for “et cetera” — neuter plural!), becomes “omnibus” in the dative plural, as in “justitia omnibus” — “for all”. When a vehicle “for everyone” was introduced, it was called an “omnibus”, eventually shortened in English just to its last syllable.
“what are those little black things crawling all over your back?” That latter sense of “thing” would be expressed by a neuter form of the adjective standing on its own.) It was of the fifth declension, like “spes” above, so you can easily make its forms.

Now think about some common legal expressions. “Res ipsa loquitur” – “the thing itself speaks” - the nominative form is the subject. But for “in the matter...”, we use the ablative form, and say “in RE.” But when the Latin preposition “in” governs the accusative form, it means “towards” or “against”, so an action or jurisdiction affecting property or other “thing” rather than a person? “in reM”. (And outside of the law, there is the famous poem on philosophy and physics by Lucretius, “de rerum natura”, “About the nature [ablative, first declension, ends with long a, and note the unEnglish order of the words] of things; if you spell out words “by means of things” [i.e., pictures], you call it a “rebus”.)

(By the way, “res” was used in lots of expressions in which it’s fun to translate it as “thing”. The “res publica” was the “thing of the people”, the state, but it could also mean “public affairs”, “governance”. “Res militaria”, “the military thing”, meant “military affairs”, in which a Roman politician was expected to be “peritus” -- “experienced, expert”. As part of that, an officer might be in charge of “the grain thing”, the “res frumentaria”, the army’s food supply. But the thing the Roman ruling class feared the most was simply called “res novae”, “new things” -- revolution, the desire for which could get you extrajudicially executed. Someone who did remake Rome, and didn’t get executed for it, was Augustus, the first emperor, whose list of accomplishments, carved onto a monument, was titled, using a form of the verb meaning “to do, to carry on” that has given us “ingest” and “digest”, “res gestae”, “things done”.)

“Curia” originally meant “assembly of men”, but since legal matters were discussed at such assemblies, came to mean “court.” (It’s still used to denote the officials around the Pope.) It’s a first declension noun, so the friend “OF the court” is the amicus curiae (genitive form), but through the court (preposition “per”) uses the accusative form “curiam”, and “from the court” uses the ablative form, giving us “ex curia”.

A “persona” is a person, of course, but an attack against, “in”, uses the accusative, “in personam”, while to represent yourself, standing IN your own person, is “in propria persona” -- with the long final a of the ablative of location.

A thing which has been decided is a “decisum”, the neuter singular second declension. If you stand by things decided and won’t move from that legal position, you’re in the ablative plural, “stare decisis”. Those who have put themselves through the ordeal of reading all my articles may remember the Maxim of Jurisprudence that the law does not worry “about the smallest things”, again, an ablative plural, “de minimis”. (I’ve seen that written and pronounced “de minimus”. Grammatically impossible!)

The stem “lit-”, also meaning “case” or more particularly “suit”, which has given us words “litigation”, was third declension, so it contracts to “lis” in the nominative. Hence, “lis pendens”, but a guardian “to, for the purpose of, a suit” is “ad litem”.

The stem “iur-”, as in “iuris doctor”, the title proclaimed in the diplomas on our attorneys’ office walls. “Jury”, “jurisprudence”, “juridical”, etc. In the ablative, it’s in the expression “from [or by] the law”, “de iure”, as opposed to the practical but unidealistic “de facto”. Its nominative is “ius”, the name of lots of particular laws or rights, such as the “ius primae noctis”, the “right of the first night” (two genitives there), the Count’s “droit de seigneur” at issue in “The Marriage of Figaro”.

The stem “tempor-”, “time”, gives us derivatives like “temporary”, and in the ablative, expressions like “pro tempore” (“pro tem”), “for the time”, and “ex tempore”, “from the moment”. A third declension

6. Another example: “res judicata”.

7. Or as we write it, Juris -- remember the Romans didn’t distinguish between “i” and “j”.
noun, its nominative contracts to “tempus”, the thing that flies in “tempus fugit”. (Don’t let that “-us” ending fool you; it’s third, not second declension.) Similar is “corpor-”, “body”, as in “corporeal” in “incorporate”. It’s neuter, so its plural is “corpora”, which have come to mean “large bodies of text” (usually for some sort of language analysis.) But the nominative/accusative is the shorter “corpus”, as in “corpus dilecti” (the body, or facts, OF the “dilectum”, the second-declension-neuter-genitive “crime”.) To demand this body of evidence, you get a writ that says “you must have the body”, “habeas corpus”. Or you might look in that legal encyclopedia called the “Body of Law, Second”. (“Iuris” – see right above!)

The stem “homin-“, meaning “person” had the nominative “homo”, as in the name of our species, “homo sapiens”. (Many Latin nouns ended in “-s” in the singular, but when English speakers see them today, they think they are plural. “Homo sapiens” is singular; the nominative plural would be “homines sapientes”. In each arm, you have ONE biceps; you can’t talk of a “bicep”. The plural is “bicipites”. Third-declension stem changer.) An attack against or towards a person is “ad hominem” (accusative, but not because it often involves accusations; the name of the case is actually a mistranslation from the Greek with no sense of guilt implied.)

“Fides” is another fifth declension noun (as I said, they punch above their weight in importance), means “faith”. It gives us half of the Marine Corps motto, “Semper Fidelis”. The nominative is “bona fides”, but to say “IN good faith”, it’s “bona fide” - the ablative.

“Dies” means “day” (actually from the same root as “deus”, or “god” -- the Indo-Europeans worshipped gods of the bright sky, rather than the earth.) You seize the direct object, accusative form: “carpe diem”. When a legislature adjourns without a set day to meet again, it’s done so “sine [without] die”.

This example involves pronouns, but they followed similar patterns. The interrogative “quid”, “what” (the words go back to the same Proto-Indo-European root, by the way, but I’ll let you research that yourself), has the ablative “quo”, as in an offer of exchange, “quid pro quo”. (So while it gets translated as “this for that”, it’s really a first position in a negotiation, “what for what?”)

So now that you’ve mastered Latin grammar, just think of how much more useful to your firm you can be. It’s true that many judges don’t much care about or for classical quotes in briefs, but some still consider a point inarguable if it’s expressed by a Latin phrase. Now, if an attorney is having trouble supporting his legal theory, you can simply compose for them a Latin quote that exactly makes their point. If you make sure that your cases end properly, your attorneys’ cases are sure to end well.

So the term “case ending” has a completely different meaning than the one we’re used to in the legal world: it won’t be verdict, dismissal, settlement, mistrial, or appeal.

8. Later, male persons who considered themselves the only persons who mattered took over the word for their gender, so that French “homme” and Italian “uomo” and Spanish “hombre” are exclusively masculine; the same thing has happened, to some extent with “man” in English.
Greetings
Ramona welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. Welcomed Lori as the new Secretary. Lori will be formally sworn in at the upcoming Business Meeting.

Members Present: Ramona Martinez, Lori Ruth, Cindy Weller, Sarah Lin, David Holt, Coral Henning

AALL Annual Meeting debrief
David and Ramona attended the Chapter Leadership training and found it useful and helpful.

NOCALL’s efforts in the exhibit hall were creative and well received. Thanks to Leslie and Coral for pulling together the poster and cowboy boot giveaway. Coral opined that the expense and time providing the giveaways is not borne out by the cost and effort involved. Ramona will put on the agenda for the next board meeting an item to discuss whether to continue providing giveaways at next year’s annual meeting in Baltimore.

Ramona sent out an email to membership regarding submitting proposals at next year’s meeting.

Thanks to Michael for submitting the Annual Chapter report to AALL.

Status updates on some of the year’s (2017-18) events
September Board/Business meeting in Sacramento (Ramona)
The upcoming board meeting is coming together. Ramona will check in with Jessica regarding registration via Wild Apricot. Coral reported that 16 people have registered thus far. A reminder about the meeting was sent out, but registration numbers seem low.

Fall Workshop (Ramona for Holly)
The Fall Workshop has not pulled together yet. Holly has an idea for a program, where a U.S. Supreme Court librarian gives a virtual presentation via Skype. She is currently reaching out to Supreme Court librarians to do that. The California Judicial Center is available to host the Workshop gratis. Since Holly is so busy, we need a coordinator to pull the Workshop together. Suggestion that the Workshop be virtual or a hybrid, though it is unclear how the technology would work on the presenter’s end for members to log on virtually.

Spring Institute (David)
The Spring Institute is coming along very well. It will be held on Friday, March 16, 2018 at the California Museum in downtown Sacramento. The morning session will focus on advocacy training for librarians, presented by a well-regarded Brooklyn-based speaker from Every Library. The afternoon session will in part focus on confronting the funding crisis affecting county law librarians. David is currently working on recruiting other speakers for the afternoon; it was suggested he make a report at the upcoming Business Meeting as well as appeal to the membership via email for someone with advocacy expertise. Coral will pay for Chapter Insurance by October 10, 2017. Ramona will provide contact information to David so he can get a certificate of insurance.

Discussion re: Master Calendar (All officers and committee chairs to enter key deadlines)-review of how to access calendar and enter deadlines
An idea of utilizing NOCALL’s Google account to create a master calendar of critical deadlines was presented via email. Ramona could use some help with instructions with how that would work. After becoming familiarized with Google calendar, Ramona will push out to the board instructions with how to populate the master calendar.

One example where having a master calendar would help is in tracking dates such as the deadline for paying chapter insurance (October 10) and the deadlines for NOCALL News submissions (next deadline November 3).
Deadlines:
9/8/17
11/3/17
1/5/18
3/9/18
5/4/18

Committee review
If everyone could contact your cluster committee chairs to remind them to have reports prepared for the upcoming business meeting and to correct their information on the website. Any updated information goes to Julie.

Administration cluster (Coordinator: David)
- AALL Liaison (Coral)- Liaison for the AALL representative visiting the NOCALL Spring Institute.
- Archives (NEW CHAIR NEEDED) Update: Stanford can continue to house archive. Ramona will contact Stanford to recruit an Archive Chair.
- Audit and Budget (Jean)- Audits of books should have already taken place. David will communicate with Jean and make sure everything on track for budget and that a copy of the budget will be available at the Business Meeting.
- Constitution and Bylaws (Chuck)
- Nominations (Diane NEW CHAIR NEEDED) Diane wants to pass position to new leadership. David will contact Diane for an update.

Communication cluster (Coordinator: Lori)
- Ramona will contact Julie about updating website – for example Lori has replaced Jodi as Secretary and Communication cluster coordinator, Michael has new position at Akin, and the Archives are staying at Stanford.
- Newsletter (Mary)
- Webpage (Julie)-RM going to send updates
- Wiki (Jaye)
- Technology (David)- David ok with staying on.

Education cluster (Coordinator: Cindy)
- Education (Holly NEW CHAIR NEEDED)
- Networking (April)
- Spring Institute (David)

Membership cluster (Coordinator: Sarah)
- Academic Relations (Jodi NEW CHAIR NEEDED). This position relates to library schools. Sarah will contact Jodi for ideas for a replacement. As far as a report is concerned, Sarah needs to publicize that we need a new chair and what those duties involve.
- Membership (Jessica)-Jessica ready to take over.
- Placement (Robyn or Judy H.)

Outreach cluster (Coordinator: Coral)- Ramona will forward Michael’s report.
- Government Relations (Judy J.)
- Access to Justice (Michael)
- Community Service (Monica)
- Public Relations (Emily)- Emily is looking for a new chair. Coral, check in and make a report.
- Recognition cluster (Coordinator: Michael)- Michael provided a report as he can’t make it to the business meeting.
- Awards (Michael)
- Grants (Cathy or Sherry)
- Memorials (Leslie or Jane)

Treasurer’s Report (Coral)-made a deposit to the California Museum of $750 as we are renting space for Spring Institute. We have a total of 51,157.78

Possible donation to HALL and maybe SEALL members affected by Harvey and Irma?
Ramona found out that the Westpac Board donated to $200 to assist Houston chapter members. Western Pennsylvania chapter made a similar donation. Ramona will get more information about the donations and will present that information to the Board.

Additional items
Board members don’t necessarily need to get to the Business Meeting early.

Coral will provide parking information for the Business Meeting.

But make sure you register!
Members Present:

President Ramona Martinez called the meeting to order at 1pm.

OLD BUSINESS
President Ramona Martinez presented proposed minutes for the May 18, 2017 Business Meeting. Coral Henning moved to approve the minutes; David Holt seconded the motion. Minutes were adopted with date edit – 2016 changed to 2017.

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS
• Lori Ruth was sworn in by President Martinez as the new Board Secretary.

President Martinez announced the following:
• NOCALL is co-sponsoring the SLA Sierra Nevada Chapter’s Fall Workshop, “Generation Gap – Benefits and Challenges of a Mixed-Generation Workforce.” The event will be held at Shields Library, U.C. Davis campus on October 6, 2017. NOCALL agreed to financially support and promote the program. NOCALL members can register for the member price of $60. http://sierranevada.sla.org/events/generation-gap-workshop/
• NOCALL also plans to have a Winter Workshop in January or February 2018 featuring a virtual presentation by a U.S. Supreme Court Librarian. The California Judicial Center will be hosting.
• An email was sent out to the membership with an appeal to make a donation to a number of suggested relief organizations in light of the number of natural disasters that have occurred.

NEW BUSINESS
Audit and Budget Chair Jean Willis presented the 2017-2018 budget; Mark Linneman moved to approve the budget and Coral Henning seconded the motion. The budget was adopted as presented.

Committee Reports

AALL Liaison
Meg Krible from Harvard will be 2018 AALL Liaison to the Spring Institute.

Academic Relations
A new Chair is needed.

Access to Justice
AJC needs members to succeed. It will sunset at the end of June 2018 if no one else joins. As Chair, Michael welcomes your ideas. One idea may be to help Bay Area legal advocacy organizations with public policy research for state legislative reforms. Feel welcome to contact Michael at mginsborg@gmail.com.

Archives
President Martinez announced that the Archives will not have to be relocated from Stanford. Currently, a search is on for an Archives Chair and someone on-site at Stanford who could be a liaison.

Awards
Prano Amjadi and Michael Ginsborg would welcome your help when we start reviewing nominations. Of course, we need nominations to review, and though it’s early to ask, it’s never too early to submit a nomination. You can link to the nominations form here: https://nocalltechnology.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/professionalachievementaward.doc

Community Service
Please email Monica Stam with ideas for community service, community@nocall.org.

Education
A new Chair is needed.
Grants
Sherry Takacs reported that Ramona Martinez was the recipient of the 2017 AALL Grant. The grant enabled Ramona to attend the Chapter Leadership Training at the annual meeting in Austin.

Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP has made a generous donation to NOCALL for a grant in memory of Debbie Maglione to help pay for a NOCALL member to attend the 2018 AALL conference in Baltimore.

Membership
Jessica Brasch has taken over from David Holt as Chair.

Memorials

Networking
Four Corners will be happening in December.

Nominations
Chair Diane Rodriguez, Jessica Brasch, Mark Estes, Julie Horst, Leslie Hesdorfer, Angela Wang, and Amy Wright would welcome your help when they start reviewing candidates for nomination to the NOCALL Board. Please submit nominations to diane.m.rodriguez@sfgov.org by noon on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, and include the following:

• Name and contact information of nominee
• The office you are nominating for
• A brief description of your nominee
• Your name and contact information

Public Relations
A new Chair is needed!

NOCALL giveaways at AALL are under consideration as there is no longer space in the exhibit hall to display them, only a poster is allowed. The Board will take up whether to continue with giveaways, which Les Forrester has handled beautifully for many years.

Spring Institute
David Holt reported that the Spring Institute is coming along very well. It will be held on Friday, March 16, 2018 at the California Museum in downtown Sacramento. The morning session will focus on advocacy training for librarians, presented by a well-regarded Brooklyn-based speaker from Every Library. The afternoon session will have three tracks: 1) confronting the funding crisis affecting county law librarians, 2) effectively communicating the value of law librarians in a law firm setting, and 3) advocating for inclusion of library research training in law schools’ curriculum. David is recruiting other speakers for the afternoon, so if any members have any experience with advocacy training, please contact him dbholt@ucdavis.edu.

Technology
David Holt will be staying on as the Chair of this committee.
NOCALL OFFICERS  2017 - 2018

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Vice President/President Elect • David Holt, UC Davis School of Law • vicepresident@nocall.org
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Treasurer • Coral Henning, Sacramento County Public Law Library • treasurer@nocall.org
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Nominations • Diane Rodriguez, San Francisco Law Library • nominations@nocall.org

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Access to Justice • Michael Ginsborg, Akin Gump • access@nocall.org
Community Service • Monica Stam, California D.O.J. • community@nocall.org
Public Relations • publicrelations@nocall.org

RECOGNITION
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Grants • Cathy Hardy, Fenwick & West and Sherry Takacs, Skadden Arps, et al. LLP • grants@nocall.org
Memorials • Jane Metz, Nixon Peabody and Leslie Hesdorfer, Hanson Bridgett LLP • memorials@nocall.org

UPCOMING EVENTS
For more details, see http://www.nocall.org/