

# NOCALL NEWS

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

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello NOCALLers! I hope you all enjoyed your summer. It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the AALL Annual Meeting in July. I was able to attend Chapter Leadership training with the help of a NOCALL grant. Please don't forget that grants are available for members needing some support to pursue professional development. More on grants here: <https://nocall.org/officers-committees/grants/>. Our current VP/President Elect, David Holt, took advantage of the Chapter Leadership training as well. We were able to share some ideas and brainstorm with our colleagues from other chapters across the country. David was also part of a panel on innovative uses of technology in the law library. NOCALL members are well represented in AALL leadership with our own Prano Amjadi just finishing her year as Chair of ALL-SIS and Michele Finerty taking on leadership of the GRC as well as Jean Willis serving on the Executive Board as Treasurer. I was honored to accept a Professional Development Award on behalf of Holly Riccio for the excellent Fall Workshop "Hot or Not: You be the Judge." The Awards luncheon was another excellent opportunity to network with colleagues from other chapters and to hear about their award-winning projects. NOCALL's poster in the Exhibit Hall Activities area was a popular selfie spot and the place to get this year's swag, a mini cowboy boot with the message, NOCALL is still kickin'. Finally, NOCALL's social on Tuesday was a very well-attended and fun gathering to wrap up a successful conference.

Coming up on September 27 is our Business Meeting at Ten22 restaurant in Old Sacramento where we'll hear from Karin MacDonald, the director of a Berkeley research center focusing on redistricting and elections data. I hope to see many of you there for a delicious lunch and fascinating discussion of timely election issues. Register today! <https://nocall.wildapricot.org/event-2652151>.

You ALL are what makes NOCALL go. Share your talents and enthusiasm. Head up or be part of a committee that interests you. Organize a workshop on a topic you want to learn more about. Get help from your fellow NOCALL members on a research question that's confounding you. Share a photo. Make a new friend. You're not alone. We're a community.



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## MUSINGS FROM MARK

Mark Mackler

**Our Profession is Like What Profession?...**A recent New York Times “Upshot” article explored the deep, dark secrets of the United States Department of Labor’s O\*Net database. Access the Times article by Claire Cain Miller and Quoc Trung Bui, or go to <https://www.onetonline.org>. You will learn what makes every job distinctive, whether it relates to physical attributes or knowledge-based skills. And the fun part is that you’ll learn which jobs are least related to librarianship and which jobs are most related. Among the jobs least related are physicists, models (how can *that* be?) and mine shuttle-car operators. Most related are archivists, occupational therapists, and public relations specialists.

**Steve McQueen’s Very Best Film...**I don’t care what anyone says. It has to be “Bullitt.” I must admit that although I’ve seen it at least four times, I still don’t comprehend all the intricacies of the plot. But the Chase Scene more than makes up for the obtuse story line. During my most recent viewing, I noticed something I hadn’t noted before. Whether Captain Baker is shouting at him, or the evil politician Walter Chalmers (played by Robert Vaughn) is threatening to end Lt. Bullitt’s career, Bullitt always keeps his cool. No lowering of his eyes, no counter-arguments. But after the storm, Bullitt just goes on and continues to do things his own way. Maybe this is a lesson for all of us?

**Is Our Nation Coming Apart?...**Recently, Senator Dianne Feinstein was hissed and booed at a Commonwealth Club event at Herbst Theater. So, what was her horrible faux pas? Feinstein said, “I think we have to have some patience. I do. It’s eight months into the tenure of the presidency...We’ll have to see if he can forget himself and his feelings about himself enough to be able to have the empathy and direction this country needs. This man is going to be President most likely for the rest of this term. I just hope he has the ability to learn and change. If he does he can be a good President.” The Senator was

hit with widespread criticism from many sides. The press called her “tone deaf” and Julian Assange said, “When Senator Feinstein defends Donald Trump, something is very wrong.” You might have thought that DiFi had made her way up the political ladder by drowning new-born kittens! This affair is a reminder of how supercharged our politics and our nerves have become. If you don’t believe me, ask anyone who has been at Charlottesville or the Berkeley Civic Center lately. Ask yourselves if you, too, have been a little overwhelmed. Yes, I’m guilty, too. A few weeks ago, we were with friends who were visiting from Honolulu. As we were taking each other’s pictures near Pier 39, a very nice couple came by and offered to take a group picture. Ever the curious librarian, I asked the very nice couple where they were visiting from. They replied: Dallas. In my head, I found myself thinking: You bastards killed Jack Kennedy.

**Speaking of Honolulu...**Ordinance 17-39 as codified at Section 15 of the Honolulu Revised Code has outlawed using an electronic device while crossing a street or highway. In short, if the ordinance is enforced, there might be no more idiots staring at their smartphones while they cross a street. Wouldn’t it be great if a similar ordinance were adopted here in San Francisco?

## PROFESSIONAL READING IN REVIEW

Elisabeth McKechnie, U.C. Davis Law Library

**“U.S. Code on the Move,”** by J. Michael Goodson Law Library at Duke, *The Goodson Blogson*, September 5, 2017. Available at:

<http://dukewelawref.blogspot.com/2017/09/us-code-on-move.html>

This blog entry discusses the September 1, 2017 editorial reclassification of the Title 34 of the United States Code. Empty since its former content (U.S. Navy) was repealed in the 1950’s, this section has gained new life as the new “Crime Control and Law Enforcement” title. As of the article’s date, the reclassification has gone into effect in Lexis and Westlaw but not Bloomberg. The entry helpfully

describes where Title 34's new content comes from and discusses other editorial tinkering in the U.S. Code since July 1 of this year.

**"Inheriting library cards to Babel and Alexandria: contemporary metaphors for the digital library,"** by Paul Gooding and Melissa Terras, *International Journal on Digital Libraries*, September 2017, vol. 18, issue 3 pp. 207-222.

Available at <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs00799-016-0194-2>

In describing the modern digital library, two metaphors for the wisdom of the world are often used: either the library of Babel or the long-lost Library of Alexandria. The writers of this article were intrigued, especially when Neil Gaiman used Alexandria in his Sandman comic book: inheriting a library card to the Library at Alexandria. Babel arises from a short story by Luis Borges describing a library so big that it's useless. The authors set out to discover how librarians use these terms and what they mean in the LIS world. Use of both metaphors have risen abruptly since the early 1970's, usually in common with words like "digital" and "library", often used as metaphors for either an ideal library or an unmanageable one. An intriguing article.

**"How People Approach Facts and Information,"** by John B. Horrigan, Pew Research Center, September 11, 2017.

Available at: [http://assets.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2017/09/12135404/PI\\_2017.09.11\\_FactsAndInfo\\_FINAL.pdf](http://assets.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2017/09/12135404/PI_2017.09.11_FactsAndInfo_FINAL.pdf)

This timely study analyzes and divides Americans into five disparate groups by their interest in and enthusiasm for information. There are the "Eager and Willing" who are very interested in information and anxious to increase their technical skills. The "Confident" are interested in information and comfortable in their ability to access it. The "Cautious and Curious" are more ambivalent; strong interest in news but less trust in news purveyors. The last two are wary of both information and news sources: the "Doubtful" and the "Wary". The survey has managed to describe the various strata of American society,

coupling educational level with information-seeking behavior along with racial and economic statistics. Ironically, the most trusted source of information, by approximately 78% of those surveyed: libraries and librarians.

## REMEMBERING DEBBIE MAGLIONE

Collected by Leslie Hesdorfer

As you know, Debbie Maglione passed away unexpectedly on June 22, 2017. Her absence is felt by both her friends and colleagues at Kilpatrick Townsend, as well as by those in the NOCALL community. Her coworkers at Kilpatrick and several NOCALL members have contributed memories of Debbie:

***From Debbie's Kilpatrick Townsend colleagues:***  
Debbie was born on July 27, 1953 to parents John and Anna Sankey in Passaic, New Jersey.

She grew up in Elmwood Park, New Jersey and graduated from Eastern Christian High School in 1971 and then received a B.A. in Sociology at Upsala College. After moving to California, she received a Master of Library Science from San Jose State University. Debbie was a research analyst at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP and had been a legal research professional for 38 years.

Before joining KTS in February 2016, Debbie was a senior reference librarian at the law firms of Howrey LLP and Finnegan Henderson Farabow Garrett & Dunner LLP. She was known by former colleagues as having high standards for quality research and library services and someone who genuinely cared about the people she worked with.

Our firm came to meet Debbie when we were looking to fill a void. We were looking to fill a position for a new reference librarian. For a firm with a heavy IP focus, we needed to find a strong patent researcher, and we needed to find one fast. Debbie filled that void. Whereas other candidates would have required

extensive training to bring them up to speed, Debbie required none of that. She came in seasoned. With 30+ years of experience under her belt, she was able to hit the ground running and quickly became a critical member of our team.

As we came to know Debbie better, we realized that there was much more to her than just her research skills alone. As quickly as she adjusted to the work, she also adjusted to the people. She made the effort to get to know the attorneys and staff in the Silicon Valley office where she was based. She made an effort to participate in the various practice team meetings. And within our department, she made the effort to get to know each of us. She always participated thoughtfully in our department meetings and she was always willing to help out on a particular project. She was a true team player who valued the people she worked with.

Debbie also stood out in two other areas: her commitment to the field as a whole and her desire to constantly grow in the field. As others can attest, she was an active member in NOCALL and AALL for many years. She believed in the basic values of the field and she wanted to see it succeed. In our firm as well, she took every effort to promote our department and market our skills to the firm. She also realized that librarians succeed only when they have a full grasp of the research tools they use. To maintain that grasp requires constant training and Debbie always enjoyed the process of learning new techniques and new ways of doing things. We sat on countless training calls and webinars together and she always pushed us to continue learning and to continue growing.

Finally, there are two other qualities that we will never forget about Debbie: her concern for others and her sense of humor. While at the firm, Debbie participated in a number of charitable causes. Her activities included working with the Second Harvest Food Bank, the Los Robles school supplies project, and the Knit/Crochet for a Cause for cancer patients. All these events show that Debbie was passionate about caring for others. Above all, though, we will

miss her sense of humor. No matter how stressful the project she was working on, whenever we spoke, Debbie always managed to include a laugh. That sense of humor made such an impression on all of us and will be sorely missed.

In sum, for our firm, just as her arrival came to fill a void, her departure has also left a great void. We miss her on both a professional and personal level. (Louise Adams, Trevor Rosen, Amy Stabler, Mateeka Smith, Nancy Mayer and Michael Lopez)

***From Cathy Hardy, Jan Priefer and Cheryl Frey:***

The thing you need to know about Debbie is that she had an awesome laugh. It was infectious, and you couldn't help but smile and laugh along. She had a way of lifting your spirits and letting you know "Yes, the world is crazy, but everything is good and we are going to be OK, no matter how crazy things get." She loved her family, and we heard many funny stories about Augie, her husband. She would tell us some long story about his latest escapade, and complain, but with a smile. She was so proud of her daughter Danielle. You could tell just by the way she talked about her.

Debbie was generous, and always sharing information. She would answer questions or offer help, and was always encouraging. The last email some of us had from her involved letting us know about something the PTO had just done. She was a peace-maker and bridge builder, at work and at home. She also worked as a volunteer reader at grade schools in East Palo Alto. Debbie valued NOCALL and the connections she made there, and wanted to make sure that NOCALL continued as a valuable resource for the profession.

A few of us used to get together with Debbie from time to time over a glass of wine and talk about work, our families, work, chocolate, work and sometimes books. We had a good time. It is somehow fitting that we are sitting here writing this while drinking a glass of wine and laughing over the memories. Debbie – we really miss you!

**From Sharon Lahey:**

Though I never worked in a law firm with Debbie, she and I communicated often. She and I would exchange emails regarding questions, or where to look for something, or ILL requests. She was always so responsive and helpful. We had lunch on many occasions. She had a great laugh and smile. Debbie always wore beautiful jewelry, and I make and love to buy jewelry so I would always ask her where she got an item. We had fun talking about pieces we owned and telling the story of how we received them. She was a professional, always. I miss her good heart and spirit.

**From Lynn Brazil:**

I knew Debbie for many years as a colleague and the owner of the loose-leaf filing service she and her husband, Augie, ran. I got to know her better in the last several years when a group of us would get together periodically, usually for lunch, but several times at her home. She was a wonderful hostess and great cook. As a professional, Debbie was very knowledgeable and sensible. She had extensive experience in all aspects of law librarianship and especially in IP research. She was always willing to share her knowledge and I enjoyed swapping tips and insights on various resources with her. I will miss her expertise, wonderful laugh, and friendship very much.

**Note from Leslie Hesdorfer:**

Debbie's colleagues from Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP have made a generous donation to NOCALL for a grant in memory of Debbie to help pay for a NOCALL member to attend the 2018 AALL conference.

NOCALL has made a donation to [Project Cornerstone](#), an organization Debbie worked with while at Kilpatrick.

## 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 our northern California county law libraries. I hope to keep NOCALL members in the loop about my progress by including an article in each *NOCALL News* this year. For this first issue of the year, I will provide some background on the project, what I have learned so far, and what is up next for my research.

If you attended the 2015 Spring Institute at Santa Clara University, you probably heard Kim Tucker, Carey Rowan and John Zorbas speak about the incredible pressure they are under as county law library directors of Sonoma, Contra Costa, and Butte counties, to provide service to the public with dramatically decreased resources. Like many others in attendance, I was eager to hear about ways in which the NOCALL community could ameliorate the situation. Former NOCALL President Ellen Platt articulated my thoughts when she asked if the county law libraries could utilize books that NOCALL members would otherwise throw away: the answer was yes.

Fast forward to late 2016 and my firm was busy weeding one of our non-California offices and I began to think again about Ellen's suggestion and if there was some way I could help make it a reality. Our own David Holt confirmed the technical possibility of a website to facilitate exchange of materials, and I wrote a proposal to the FROG committee that was accepted—their first application in 13 years!

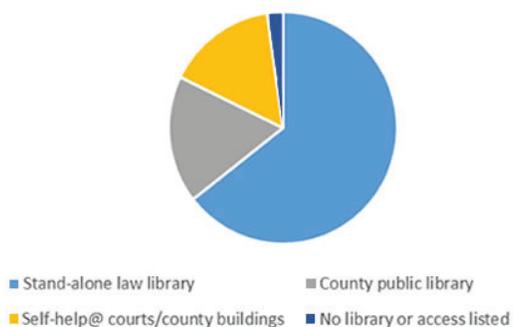
Although an informal exchange has been taking place between larger and smaller county law libraries over the years, there is no data to support just how much the county libraries need and how much (and what

types) of materials NOCALL members can donate. As an acquisitions problem (county law libraries cannot acquire all the materials they need within the budgets they have), data is paramount and so I have set about the task of quantifying some of the county law libraries' budget problems from a collection management viewpoint.

My first task was simply to define the geographical scope of the project. I quickly ascertained that there are 58 counties, but was stunned to see that if I included everything from Fresno north (which seemed a reasonable division between northern and southern California), then 45 of those 58 counties would be considered northern California county law libraries.

As the chart below shows, 64% (29) of this group have a stand-alone library collection, with the remaining 35% having anything from access within their county public library to absolutely nothing (based on the 2017 Public Law Library Directory). As law librarians, we understand how access to legal materials limits access to justice. Upon reflection, I realized that acquisitions problems in this context tie directly into access to justice for Californians.

Source of legal information in northern CA counties



By the end of my grant term I hope to have a page on the NOCALL website which will provide a place for NOCALL members to post their discards and Council of California County Law Libraries (CCCLL) members to select what they need. Before then I will be gathering details on what CCCLL needs are and what materials

NOCALL members have to offer; stay tuned for a survey after this newsletter is published!

Shortly after the deadline for this NOCALL News issue, I will attend the CCCLL annual meeting to share a bit of background on this project and connect with CCCLL members so that I can better understand their needs in order to arrive at the best possible solution. In the meantime, I welcome comments, feedback, and invitations to visit at [slin@reedsmith.com](mailto:slin@reedsmith.com).

## EREADER 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.

**Shades of the Gods** by Erin Hayes

Available at amazon.com

Price: .99 for the first book, \$3.99 for sequel: *Blood of the Gods*. Partly related sequel (different main character) coming soon.

Callista, a touchy San Francisco cop, is retained by the Greek God Hades to find out who is trying to kill his son, Plutus, the god of wealth. He uses an odd method to hire her; she is hit by a truck, putting her into a coma. Her body is in the hospital (mostly dead) and Callie isn't coming back again unless she solves the mystery. Gods generally are immortal but they can be killed, as Callie soon discovers. She also finds out that her best friend and SFPD partner has an interesting reason for being an alcoholic, harpies can be BFFs and she's falling in love with the god she's trying to save. It's a fun series, especially Callie's frustration when she applies human morals to the eternal gods of Olympus.

**The History of Ink** by Thaddeus Davis & Co.

Available at: Internet Archive <https://archive.org/details/historyofinkincl00davi>

Download this in PDF and do NOT send to Kindle using Amazon. Either download directly to Kindle with an app like ES File Explorer or download to your computer and transfer by cable. (I'll explain later)

Price: Free

When you look at this book in HTML, you realize what a gem it is. The title page is illuminated in multiple colors and the typeface is a Victorian copperplate script. The book itself traces the history of ink and colors from ancient Egypt to modern day, including recipes for historic inks and discussions of what makes an ink long-lasting. Oh and it also gives you the word for 'ink' in about twenty languages, ancient and modern. The pictures tend to be black and white but there are a couple of vivid color plates. This was clearly an homage to ink and color itself. You'll learn things like, as of 1880, blue writing ink was a recent discovery! The MOBI version of the book is somewhat readable but has no pictures; the processed Kindle looks like a bad machine scan and definitely has no pictures!

**The Maid's Tale, A Revealing Memoir of Life Below Stairs** by Tom Quinn and Rose Plummer

Available at: Amazon

Price: .99

Say goodbye to Downton Abbey and hello to Rose Plummer, born in the East End of London and (later in life) a convinced socialist. Rose began in service at age 14 and felt lucky that she'd had some education before she had to work. She served at a variety of houses in England during the 1920's and 1930's, mostly in the smaller upper or middle-class households of that era. She worked hard and resented those 'above' her, although many of the ladies she served were as trapped by their positions in life as Rose was. Rose completely removes the smug rose-colored glasses from the pictures of downstairs life created by the upper-crust authors of Downton Abbey and Upstairs Downstairs, while managing to be very entertaining.

**Peeps at Royal Palaces of Great Britain** by Beatrice Home

Available at: Project Gutenberg: <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/55450>

Price: Free

This book describes both current and former palaces in Great Britain and includes ink illustrations and also color plates, unusual for its publication date of 1913. I gravitated towards the chapter on the Tower of London because I've been there once but knew very little about it at the time. Informative but simply written, this book will illuminate many a historical novel by providing location background. Also includes a chapter on 'vanished palaces' like Nonesuch and Hatfield (childhood home of Elizabeth I).

## **WELCOME TO MY NEW NORMAL: LIVING AND BREATHING (AND SOMETIMES DREAMING ABOUT) LEGAL TECH**

Delia L. Montesinos

Anyone else feel like the pace of legal tech has increased by a thousandfold this year? As researchers, we are expected not only to understand the tech our attorneys use, but also to know about technologies that are currently peripheral to our duties. For me, this was always one of the most fun aspects of the job. But I have to admit that, lately, I'm starting to feel a bit overwhelmed.

One of my duties is to compile an annual report of trends in, among other things, legal tech. As of July 31, my trends report is 58 pages long and contains 582 articles—more than half of which are about developments in legal tech. Scanning my RSS feeds and selecting stories, a process which used to take 30 minutes at best, can now easily take more than an hour each day.

It seems to me that once upon a time, though not too long ago, I was (mostly) OK if I kept up with the doings of Lexis, Westlaw, BloombergBNA, and Wolters/CCH.

While no longer trailblazers, you could always count on the fact that at some point they would jump on a new trend. But then along came Casemaker, Fastcase, LexMachina, and Casetext. And then, in rapid succession, we welcomed Ravel, ROSS, and Judicata.

In response, the Big Four began not only to revamp themselves but also to launch new products/tech. In the last 7 months:

- BLaw added new analytical tools and [practice centers](#) and completely [overhauled](#) its interface, making it more sleek and user-friendly.
- Lexis [partnered](#) with ALM, [launched](#) Answers, [went multimedia](#) with a practice guide, [acquired](#) Ravel, and is [testing chatbots](#).
- West enhanced Westlaw and beefed up Practical Law and Practical Law Connect (aka Practice Point). Of note is [Matter Maps](#), which is currently available only in the UK (though I expect it will be rolled out stateside at some point).
- Wolters/CCH [dipped](#) its toes in AI with contract drafting, [launched](#) a new product to track federal developments, and [enhanced](#) many of its platforms.

Meanwhile,

- Casetext [expanded](#) CARA, a product which not only won the 2017 AALL New Product of the Year award but also got \$12M in new funding.
- Fastcase [went](#) into the “AI sandbox” and also announced that it will [launch](#) a legal imprint.
- Judicata finally [came out](#) of stealth mode. And they [publicly released](#) their query benchmark data.
- Lex Machina [launched](#) two new data analysis applications: Damages Explorer and Parties Comparator.
- Ravel, pre-acquisition, [added](#) law firm analytics.
- ROSS+Wexis [outperformed](#) Wexis alone (at least in bankruptcy law) and the company continues [to sign](#) new Big Law clients.

Amidst all this, legal tech accelerators, incubators, and start-ups became the new darlings of [venture capitalists](#), [law schools](#), and [law firms](#)—even [Lexis](#) and [West](#) got into the game! So now, besides keeping up

with the tech that impacts my job, I need to stay on top on artificial intelligence, automation, big data and analytics, blockchain technology, chatbots, and cloud services, to name a few. And all of these areas are EXPLODING.

Firm leaders [think](#) that, within the next five years, “technological advances will change the face of their business more than competition and client demands will combined.” I can tell you that, based on what I’m seeing in my feeds, change will come much sooner than that.

We are uniquely positioned to help our employers manage the accelerating pace of technology. After all, not only are we completely fluent in the language of tech and in legalese, but we are also:

- aces at figuring out any tech that’s thrown our way
- experts in knowledge curation and management
- pros at parsing and organizing data
- wizards at finding the (most obscure) glitches in any database
- champions at innovation

More importantly, we are in-touch with attorneys’ tech needs, wants, and fears. We are the ones who have gained their trust, and who are best positioned to help them navigate these choppy waters.

The nature of our work has changed drastically over the last few years, and everyone (meaning, outside our community) is finally starting to notice: ALM [changed the name](#) of its annual Law Librarians Survey to reflect “the evolving and expanded roles that law librarians occupy in firms today”, while Thomson Reuters recently published a [white paper](#) that states, “forty-eight percent of respondents reported spending more than three-quarters of their time on activities that were not part of their job descriptions three years ago.” As TR says, that’s a staggering degree of change.

No wonder I’m overwhelmed...and yet, most days I am also very excited by all this change. It’s what keeps me interested and passionate about the work I do. So, legal tech, bring it! I’m ready for you.

*Spotlight on...***David Holt*****How did you choose law librarianship as a career?***

I really didn't choose it. While I was attending library school, I never considered going into law librarianship. I started the program thinking that I would go into academe but wanted to do something in the humanities, not law. It was actually a rather fortuitous series of events that led me to law libraries. I was working as a library page at the Santa Cruz Public Library System and registered with an employment agency that placed temporary workers in libraries. They offered me a short-term assignment at Santa Clara University's Heafey Law Library. I worked there periodically over the next two years while attending the library science program at San Jose State (this was before the program went online). When a circulation manager position opened up, I applied for it and worked in circulation at Santa Clara for about 18 months. At that point, one of the reference librarians at Santa Clara left for a position at Lewis and Clark in Portland. Prano Amjadi sat me down in her office and told me they were considering me as a replacement for this position contingent on me applying for, and successfully completing, the part-time JD program at Santa Clara. I had all of two weeks to prepare for the next LSAT exam to get my application in for the Fall deadline. It was pretty hectic but I was able to get my application in on time, with an LSAT score I was happy with, and was successfully admitted into the part-time program.

The next five years were pretty tough as you might expect. I was living in Santa Cruz at the time which made for very long work days. It was not uncommon for me to spend more than 12 hours on campus during a typical work day. I would work in the library until 6pm and then be in class sometimes until nearly 10pm. I then had a 45-minute drive over Highway 17 to get back home. It was pretty exhausting.

I think the stars really aligned for me when it came to landing in law librarianship. I've discovered a career path that I love and a subject area that is endlessly fascinating

and engaging. If it had not been for Prano's kind mentorship I have no idea where life would have taken me.

***How do you, as a librarian of over 12 years, continue to keep yourself vital in this profession?***

Technology, technology, technology! Library Science, as an academic discipline, is moving closer and closer to computer and data science. I love working with tech projects and collaborating with other librarians or IT professionals. There are so many interesting ways that librarians can help improve access, discovery, preservation, and usage of information resources.

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

This is an easy one. Prano Amjadi has undoubtedly had the biggest impact on my professional life. She saw me working in circulation over 12 years ago and for some reason saw some potential that she wanted to encourage. She helped provide guidance during law school, offered me my first professional librarian job, and has continued to be an invaluable mentor and colleague. She truly is a treasure for the entire law librarian community in Northern California.

***Is there anything that most people don't know about you that you should like to share?***

I was the first in my family to attend college. None of my grandparents finished high school. I grew up in a small logging town in Southern Oregon that is on the Crater Lake Highway. My first job in high school was working as a log scaler during the summer at the local lumbermill. It was 12-hours a day, 5 days a week, on hot asphalt. It was miserable. I did that for three summers to save up enough money for college tuition for my first year.

***Which books influenced your childhood?***

I loved the Armistead Maupin "Tales of the City" series when I was in high school. I checked them out from my local public library.

**LINGUA LATINA PRO  
BIBLIOTHECARIIS LEGIS!  
(FIRST OF TWO ARTICLES.)**

**Michael Stoler  
Morrison & Foerster**

I've studied a lot of languages, living and dead, and always look for a chance to use them. My current firm has offices in Europe, and as I monitor the request queue, I'm always looking out for work from them (unfortunately, due to the time difference, it's usually handled long before I arrive at the office.) At my former firm, I did get to use French on a pro bono immigration case; Russian on a shipping matter; and German to sort documents from a Heidelberg-based client. But when it comes down to it, the language I actually use most is Latin, since briefs and cases teem with phrases borrowed from the ancient Romans who contributed so much to the development of modern law. But it pains me to hear others struggling with them, with their pronunciation. Who can help these people? Well, as the intellectual centers of our firms, who can advise on everything from where to put a comma to how to win a case, I think we law librarians should step forward and take responsibility.

But wait, why should we worry about how Latin is pronounced? We're not speaking it. Well, we kind of are. Despite email and text and everything, people do still discuss the law aloud, whether in meetings with each other or in trials before judges. If one person pronounces "pro hac vice" one way and another another, they might not understand each other. Plus, isn't it just interesting to know? Well, read on; I'll try to make it so.

(And this won't be like that scene in "Monty Python's Life of Brian"<sup>1</sup>; it's about pronunciation, not grammar.)

Another thing people say to me when I try to tell them how to say Latin phrases is, "How can we know how Latin was pronounced anyway? No one's around who spoke it. There are no recordings." Well, that's

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAfKFKBIZbM>

not quite true. There are indeed writings by Romans discussing the pronunciation of their own language, often in comparison to others (such as Greek.) Another source of evidence is wordplay. We can tell how words were pronounced in Shakespeare's time by looking at how he rhymed them (for instance, "love" and "move".)<sup>2</sup> The Romans didn't really use rhyme, but their writing contained plenty of wordplay and punning<sup>3</sup>, which tells us what words sounded similar.<sup>4</sup>

But perhaps the most important tool for reconstructing the pronunciation of Latin is the use of linguistic science, the so-called "comparative method". Words don't just change randomly over time; rather, the sounds of a language themselves change, according to rules within the language, and these rules of change tend to follow patterns throughout all languages. What this means is that, for instance, British speakers of English don't just drop h's at the beginning or r's at the end of a few words, but of all of them. And it's not at all uncommon for h-sounds (called "aspiration") to be lost -- look at Spanish, where we can see by the spelling that there were h's in words like "hablar" which are no longer pronounced. It would be surprising, though, for initial b or d or g -- strong consonants -- to disappear.<sup>5</sup> So historical linguists can look at and perhaps more important, listen to, the modern forms of languages and figure out what their ancestors looked and sounded like, just as we could look at a group of siblings and make some pretty good assumptions

2. "Romeo and Juliet", Act 2, Sc. 3.

3. Cicero was famous for his wordplay, prompting one of his rivals, Cato, to remark (according to Plutarch, "What a witty consul we have!" Well, he said it in Greek. Or at least, it was Greek to me.

4. My main source for this, besides my basic college textbooks, is W. Sidney Allen's "Vox Latina: The Pronunciation of Classical Latin", Cambridge University Press, 1965.

5. The emphasis on figuring out the rules and laws by which sounds change is one reason many undergraduate linguistics majors go on to law school. Also, of course, the law is all about the meanings of words. I'm very proud of one of my college classmates who is now a staff attorney for the ACLU. A lot of classics majors also become attorneys, like my esteemed colleague Courtney at the SF Law Library. A big chunk of extant Greek and Latin literature consists of legal speeches, like those of Cicero.

as to what their biological parents looked like. And remember that we have plenty of modern forms of Latin; we just don't call them Latin, but rather French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Catalan, Romanian. (Why is that? We still call the descendent of Ancient Greek "Greek". But there's basically only one "daughter language" of Ancient Greek, while we see that there are quite a few from Latin that need to be distinguished with different names.)<sup>6</sup>

Some people assume that Latin was pronounced like modern Italian, simply because Rome is in modern Italy. But the same Latin was spoken throughout the Empire, and Italy was just as subject to invasion and language mixing as other parts, if not more so. (Visigoths, Vandals, Huns....) Often we find that when a language is spoken over a wide area, innovation and change come from the center and spread outwards, with the edges keeping the old ways longest. And indeed, when I studied Portuguese in the past year, I noticed it had conserved certain attributes of Latin that I had not seen in other Romance languages I've studied, such as French and Spanish. Basically, every country or language area tends to pronounce Latin in accordance with its own sound patterns and way of writing them. English users of Latin tended to follow English's unique spelling system (or lack of system), in which, for instance, we pronounce the letter "i" as "eye" rather than "ee", the way basically every other language does. Around 1900, there was a movement in British schools to institute a more correct<sup>7</sup>, less idiosyncratic system of Latin pronunciation, with mixed results. (In the novel "Goodbye, Mr. Chips", a character complains of having to pronounce the word "vicissim", formerly "vie-sis-sim", as "we kiss 'im.")<sup>8</sup>

An argument that is harder to dismiss is that a

6. Of course, the modern Romance languages are descended not from Classical Latin, the literary form that survives in written records, but from Vulgar Latin, the spoken form. But we have the same difference in modern English: we say "gonna", but write "going to" – especially in legal papers.

7. See <http://archive.spectator.co.uk/article/6th-april-1907/11/the-pronunciation-of-latin>, or [https://www.forgottenbooks.com/en/readbook/RecommendationsoftheClassicalAssociationonthe-TeachingofLatinandGreek\\_10175788#0](https://www.forgottenbooks.com/en/readbook/RecommendationsoftheClassicalAssociationonthe-TeachingofLatinandGreek_10175788#0)

8. <http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks05/0500111h.html>, Ch.11.

lot of Latin legalisms entered use in medieval or Renaissance times, not ancient ones, and thus should be pronounced more like the modern languages. Well, yes, probably. To know which ones, I would have to research every expression individually. Since the idea is to have relatively simple, uniform system on which we can all agree, though, I think it's better always to use Classical pronunciation.

So let's take a look. As with most European languages (French and our English being the notable exceptions), Latin spelling was phonetic; no silent letters, and one symbol represented one sound and vice versa. A lot of the sounds assigned to letters ARE identical to English<sup>9</sup>. B, d, g; p, t; m, n; l; f<sup>10</sup>-- no problems there. The letter "c" was always hard, like "k" (a letter the Romans basically did not use) - never like "s", and definitely not like "ch" as in Italian. The "qu" combination is always like "kw", never just plain "k" (as in "quay" or all those other high-scoring Scrabble words.) "X" was always like "ks", rather than "gs", as it often is in English (in "example", for example.) "S" was always soft, or "unvoiced", never like "z". (And the letter "z" was only used in borrowings from Greek; it was not native to Latin.) The "r" sound was probably "trilled," with the tip of the tongue against the roof of the mouth. "H" was weak, so that sometimes it was

9. Yes, it is important to distinguish between letters and sounds. Throughout history, relatively few languages have been written, and even when they were, often only a tiny percentage of speakers knew how to write them. Often the sounds of a language change while the written forms remain the same, as in English since Shakespeare's time. There is a difference between talking about the sound /b/ (as represented in the International Phonetic Alphabet and dictionary respellings) and the letter "b", even when a language is written phonetically. Also, sounds are on a continuum, so that while, for example, /b/ and /d/, the sounds represented in English and Latin by the letters "b" and "d", are differentiated by the first being pronounced at the front of the mouth, with the lips, and the second with the tongue against the ridge behind the teeth, there can be some variation among languages as to exactly where in those general areas the tongue falls. But then, there is variation among speakers of the language as well. And anyway, this article is about how to pronounce the expressions we see in writing, how to pronounce "pro bono", rather than how to pronounce "the expression that translates as 'for the good.'"

10. The Romans didn't use lower case letters, but I will.

not written (for instance, in the original family name of the Emperor Nero, “Ahenobarbus”, literally “bronze beard.” Today, we write it with a diaeresis mark, ¨, as in French “Noël”, to show that the vowels were still articulated separately.)<sup>11</sup>

Another consequence of the lack of “silent” letters is that even double consonants were both pronounced. “Annus”, the word for “year”, was “an-nus”. (Romans pronounced everything they wrote or they wouldn’t write it. Because hey, paper, parchment, vellum, stone -- none of them were cheap. Of course, the Romans did a lot of their writing on, or into, wax-covered boards, which could be erased with the flat end of a stylus, and hence weren’t used for anything permanent.)

The pairs i/j, and u/v, are interesting. In writing, the Romans did not distinguish between the two members of each pair, as anyone who has looked at ancient inscriptions or their modern imitations has probably noticed. (E.g, the sign above the entrance to the Infinite Corridor in Cambridge: “MASSACHVSETTS INSTITVTE OF TECHNOLOGY”). The letter “i” was pronounced as a vowel between two consonants, and before a vowel, like the letter “y” (as in “yes”, not as in “psychology” or “Egypt”). Similarly, “u” or “v” (depending on your handwriting or skill with a chisel) was a vowel when it came before a consonant, and vice versa. There was no sound of English “v” as in “veer”, and no need for the letter “w”; nor was there a sound of English “j” as in “jeer”.

However, the Latin vowels are trickier. They are not pronounced as in English. “A” is always as in “father”, never as in “Nevada” (as Nevadans say it) or “happy”. “E” was like in “pet” (but not as it is pronounced in the American South); “i” like in “pit”; “o” like in “pot”; “u” (when it was vowel) like “putt”(not “put”). Oh, and “y”: that was another letter the Romans only used in borrowings, to represent the Greek upsilon,

11. The poet Catullus famously mocked a pretentious fellow named Arrius for inserting “h”s where they did not belong in order to sound more Greek and cultivated. See <http://www.vroma.org/~hwalker/VRomaCatullus/084.html> for the original and translation.

which had the high squeezed sound of French “tu” or German umlauted “u” which sounds kind of like “ee” after a while. (Which is why the name for “y” in Romance languages often translates to “Greek i”.)

Well, that’s not quite the whole story.

Those were just the “short” forms of each vowel; each one had a “long” form as well, and these do not always match up with the short and long forms of vowels you may have learned if you had phonics in elementary school, with breve (˘, from the Latin word that gave us “brief”) and macron (¯, from the Greek for “long” or “large”, or the President of France) symbols. For “a”, the long form was the same as the short, just drawn out about twice as long; “e” could also be like English “ay” in “day”; “i” could be like “ee” in “screech” (not like “been”); “o” could be like “owe”; “u” could be like “oo” in “boot”. Why the Romans did not come up with some way of indicating which one it was I don’t know. The Greeks had separate letters for some long and short sounds, “eta” versus “epsilon” (“psilos” meant “simple”, so this was “simple” e.) Similarly, there was “simple u” (“upsilon”) and the long “u” sound represented as “ou”. And there were two “o”s, differentiated by adjectives that have passed into many English words: the little short one, o-micron, and the big long one, o-mega. This will all be familiar, of course, to former members of college fraternities and sororities.)

So when it comes to the sound of vowels, you often have to resort to your dictionary. (A good one is found at the [Perseus Project](http://www.perseusproject.org), and I’m not just promoting it because I worked on it back in 1989 when hypertext databases meant CD-ROMs, except for a VERY small number of people who happened to work at the European Center for Nuclear Research.) Because very often, the only way to tell two words apart is the length of a vowel. (For instance, “mälum” means an evil thing, but “mälum” means “apple”. Which may have helped in the misunderstanding of the story of the Garden of Eden.)

Latin also had “diphthongs”, vowel combinations.

“Ae” was pronounced like English “eye”. Really. Not like “ay”. Or “ee”. Or “a” in “bat”, no matter what the astronomers or associations of graduates of a particular school may say. “Oe” was like the Yiddish lament. (Because they were pronounced as one, for a long time, they would be written with a combined letter, as in “Encyclopædia Britannica”.) “Au” was like you just hurt yourself, not as if you had just seen a cute kitten -- “ow”, not “aw”.

And turning to a different aspect of pronunciation: Latin had an accent, like English, with one syllable of each word stressed more, louder, than others. But whereas in English, we can put the stress anywhere and use it to distinguish identical-looking words, for instance, telling us whether “conflict” is a noun or a verb, the Latin accent was governed by the form of the word. In a two-syllable word, it went on the first syllable, the next-to-last; in a word of three or more syllables, it moved back (or forward in the word, depending on how you look at it; closer to the beginning, further from the end) to the second-to-last. Unless the next-to-last contained a long vowel, or a diphthong, which makes sense, since it would be drawn out longer, and thus get more stress. (But here’s a cool rule: the stress almost always stays on the same syllable in the Romance words derived from the Latin words, so if you know those, you’re golden. And if you know where the stress was, you often know whether the vowel was long or short!)

So let’s finally look at some words. (I’m going to write short “e” as “eh”, short “i” as “ih”, and short “u” as “uh”; but “ah” and “oh” will be the long forms of “a” and “o” – it just seems to conform better with English orthography. And when there is an actual English word that sounds like a syllable, I’ll use that in my transliteration. And I’ll indicate the stressed syllable by putting it in ALL CAPS, as if I’m shouting it. Some words may be hard to say the Latin way because of built-in rules of pronunciation. Consider the pairs “p” and “b”, “t” and “d”, and “k” and “g”. In each, the two sounds are pronounced with the tongue in the same part of the mouth – try it, and you’ll hear and feel – the difference being that in the second sound

of each pair, the vocal cords vibrate. This is called “voicing”. In English, when a word ends in a voiced consonant, and we add an “s”, say, to mark the plural, that “s” will get voiced to a “z” sound. Compare “pots”, and “pods”, with your hand at the top of your throat. We just do it automatically; it’s hard not to. But not for the Romans. They had no trouble following a voiced “n” with a voiceless “s”. So we really have to concentrate on each sound.)

*Amicus curiae*. The middle syllable of the first word is long, and takes the stress. Think of Spanish “amigo” or French “ami”. Latin did not insert a “y” sound between a consonant and “u” as we do in English (“cure”, “pure”.) And a vowel is always short before another vowel or diphthong. So it’s something like “a-MEE-kuss KOO-rih-eye”, and the plural would be “a-MEE-kee”.

*Bona fide*. The “o” is actually short. Surprisingly, the singer from U2 has it right.<sup>12</sup> (Don’t think of the late singer and Congressman whose name is attached to Pub.L. 105–298.) The “a” is long, as are the “i” and the “e”, so it’s “BO-nah FEE-day” (because any day that the clients pay their fees is a good one.) And “proh BO-noh POO-blih-koh”.

*Certiorari*. Ker-tih-o-RAH-ree – “ti” was not pronounced “ch”, but just as it was spelled.

*De iure* (also written “de jure”.) Remember, no “j” sound as in English or even French “jour”, but a consonantal “y” and a long “u”: “day YOO-reh”.

*De minimis*. The “e” is long, as in Spanish, not French. The “i”s are short, short, long, so it’s like Dr. Evil’s clone in the “Austin Powers” films: “day MIHN-ih-meess”. (Some think the phrase is “de minimus”, with a “u”, not an “i” – it’s not.)

*Ex parte*. Straightforward, except that the final “e” is short, ergo, “eks PAR-teh” (not PAR-tee or PAR-tay.)

12. Supposedly his name comes from “Bono Vox”, meaning “Good Voice”, but Latin has gender for nouns and agreement for adjectives, and “vox” is feminine, so it should be “bona vox.”

*Habeas corpus.* “HA-beh-ahs KOR-puhs.”

*In forma pauperis.* “In FOR-mah [long a...there’s a rule here which I’ll explain in the next article] POW-peh-rihs”.

*In limine.* “In LEE-mih-neh”, with a long “i” in the first syllable and short vowels in the next two.

*In propria persona.* “In PRO [short “o”] –pri-ah [long “a”] per-SOH-nah”.

*Lis pendens.* Imagine the English words “lease PEN-dense”, except not quite, because it’s a long “e” in the last syllable, but “daints” isn’t a word.

*Mens rea.* Same idea: like “maints REH-a”. (“Mens” is not pronounced like the sign on an old-fashioned gender-restricted restroom, although on the door of one of the facilities in Boalt Hall, some wag, probably a 1L, had scrawled “REA” under “MENS”.)

*Nolo contendere.* A fun one. Two long “o”s, then a bunch of short vowels. “NOH-loh kon-TEN-deh-reh” – not “day-ray”.

*Stare decisis.* I don’t think I’ve ever heard anyone say the first word like “stair”, which is good, though it should be “STAH-reh” not “STAH-ray”) but in the second, forget about English “decisive”: it’s like “day-KEY-cess”.

And one of my favorites: *pro hac vice*. Do this one on your own; the answer is in the footnote.<sup>13</sup>

*Bene* (that’s “beh-neh”)! *Optime!* (“OP-tih-may”!) Well done!

Next article: Hey, what’s the deal with words that have the same meaning and look pretty similar except for a couple of letters at the end?

13. “Proh hahk WIH-keh”.

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