A Message from the President

As we reach the halfway point of NOCALL’s year, the Executive Board is planning several initiatives both by NOCALL itself and involving the other California Chapters. The first is to coordinate with SCALL and SANDALL to sponsor two statewide library and/or legal officials to the AALL Conference in Washington. Fran Jones, California State Librarian will issue the invitations to our guests, State Librarian Kevin Starr and Chief Justice Ronald George. Stay tuned as developments in this exciting program will be posted later. And by the way, David McFadden, SCALL President, is scouting locations for another joint California chapter reception in Washington, D.C.

The second is to sponsor the AALL teleconference on customer relations scheduled for April 15 in three locations: San Francisco, Peninsula/San Jose and Sacramento. The Education Committee is coordinating these efforts. The third you already know, the joint NOCALL/SCALL Institute. VP Cathy Hardy and her committee are planning a very interesting 1-1/2 day Institute in Monterey with SCALL’s VP and his committee. Please check the NOCALL-list and the website for updates.

And finally, in San Francisco, Mark Mackler has agreed to chair an ad hoc committee to develop a list of representative job duties for San Francisco private law librarians and discuss these with the local chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators.

So, as you see, NOCALL has a lot on its plate, right now. I realize that some of these initiatives may be a multi-year endeavor and may not amount to a plan of action, but I want the NOCALL membership to know where we are headed.

Please contact me if you’d like more information about this or have ideas for the Executive Board to consider.

— Mary Ann Parker
President

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FUTURE WAVES: RIDING THE CREST
1999 NOCALL/SCALL JOINT INSTITUTE
FEBRUARY 26-27, 1999

Monterey DoubleTree Hotel
Two Portola Plaza
Monterey, CA

Change. It is everywhere and constant. Like a wave carrying us into the future. How do we avoid wipeout? Prepare

(Continued on page 4)
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From the Editor’s Desk

WHAT’S YOUR STORY?

Since taking the reins as editor of NOCALL News, I have been interested in focusing the content of the News on our members -- our accomplishments, interests and knowledge. My thought is that by doing so, the News will be interesting and fun to read.

Keeping a newsletter exciting, and not ho-hum, depends on fresh material, and this is where you come in. Did you recently change jobs, receive an award or a promotion, attend or participate in a conference? Or, perhaps you wrote an article, prepared some in-house materials or have some practical tips, or library success stories that you would like to share. Even personal events, travels and hobbies have a place in NOCALL News.

So, let your fellow members know the latest about you. Send me information you would like to see in future issues.

As always, I welcome your suggestions at jcaporaso@mdbe.com, or (415) 393-2560, or fax (415) 393-2286.

Jo Caporaso
Editor, NOCALL News

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NOCALL DISCUSSION LIST: To subscribe, send a message to: listserv@ascocdl.wuacc.edu. In the body of the message type: subscribe nocall-list. Your Name. Contact Joan Loftus at (415) 986-4200; loftus@netcom.com with any questions or comments.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES
January/February: January 6, 1999
March/April: March 5, 1999
May/June: May 7, 1999

Submissions made to the Editor must be in Word 6.0 or WordPerfect 5.1 on a 3.5" disk or sent via the Internet as an e-mail attachment.
Musings from Mark

Mark Mackler Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal

'TIS THE SEASON...Last week, I was thinking (yet again) of how much we rely on each other to help us excel in our jobs. We tap our colleagues' expertise on management issues, we utilize our colleagues' collections for materials which we don't have in our own libraries, and we sometimes cry on our colleagues' shoulders. I plan to call some folks over the next month just to say "Thanks" for the help, and I hope that you will, too.

A TALE OF CUSTOMER SERVICE...Recently I went shopping in one of the large, warehouse-style office supply stores. (The first word in its name is "Office," and the second word begins with the letter "M"). I asked three salespeople where I could find a particular item, but none of them knew the stock well enough to know! I finally found what I was looking for, and took it up to the register. Here's where things really get good.

Two customers ahead of me and two customers behind me, but no store personnel at the register. There are three of the store's staff working on something at the "Service Desk." No one else in sight. After several minutes, I call over to the employees: Hello! We're the customers. Can someone take our money?" No response, not even an apology, an acknowledgment, or even a "We'll be right there in a minute."

Two or three additional minutes pass. Finally, I lose it and yell: Hey! We keep you guys in business! Apparently, you just don't want our money or our business." I leave the merchandise on the counter and I walk out. I drive over to the "other" office store where I'm greeted at the door and treated like the paying customer I am.

The next day, I call the 800 Customer Service phone for the first store, register my complaints and concerns. The courteous customer service person taking my call assures me that the District Manager will be in touch with me very soon. I am still waiting. Question: If any of us ran our libraries like this, how long would we last?

AT HOME IN THE BRANCH...If any of you have been to the SF Law Library Branch, you've seen the homeless man who spends his days there. Every day, he enters the building, neatly stacks his belongings outside the door to the Library, and seats himself at the reading table near the legal newspapers. He then reads the papers, occasional books, and maybe (God forbid) the Federal Register. I can't help thinking that there is something nice about this scene...the Library as refuge, perhaps?

A MATTER OF MONEY...Associates in the law firms have no ethical or moral problems when they compare their earnings with their peers. There are now websites which enable them to do so online! Yet, for whatever reason, we librarians have always been (do I dare say it?) too timid to do the same. Maybe it's time to get over it. If we don't lobby for solid salary advances now during the economic good times, we'll never receive the money which we deserve. Thoughts or comments, anyone?

(FUTURE WAVES Continued from page 1)

Here is more information on the programs and exhibits. We are fortunate to have an impressive group of speakers and a varied group of exhibitors supporting this event.
To register, visit http://www.nocall.org/ for a copy of the registration form.

Friday, February 26, 1999

We kick off with the opening address on the future of legal research with Bob Berring Director, Boalt Hall Law Library. This guarantees an interesting and thought-provoking discussion.

Fred Levien, a professor at the Naval Postgraduate institute, and the head of the Levien Group Consultants, will speak on Information Warfare. Professor Levien has written extensively and has been a contributing editor for the magazine, Silicon Valley Engineer. He has lectured throughout the U.S. and oversees to both military and civilian audiences.

Recent changes in Maritime Law will be presented by Rupert Hansen, partner at Cox, Wootton Griffin & Hansen and Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of San Francisco.

There will be a concurrent technical services breakout session from 3-4:30 with Melody Lembke, Technical Services Librarian for the Los Angeles County Law Library, Judy Janes from UC Davis Law Library, and Kathleen Smith from Advanced Information Management (AIM). The panel will be exploring the issues of converting jobs and duties as you convert to a second generation automation system, purchasing "shelf ready" books, and the jobs available in today's market for technical services librarians.

Saturday, February 27, 1999

We begin with the History and Future of Water Politics in California with Rita Sudman, Executive Director of the Water Education Foundation. A former radio-TV reporter, she also produces made-for-TV documentaries, some of which have won awards from National Geographic Magazine and PBS.

Continued on page 7
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Meet Executive Board Member Liza MacMorris

-- Jo Caporaso, McCutchen, Doyle, Brown & Enersen, LLP --

I recently caught up with Liza MacMorris, one of two NOCALL Executive Board Members, to ask her a few questions about her personal interests, professional challenges and her expectations as a Board Member this year.

Jo: Please tell me about your current position, the professional challenges you have faced recently or anticipate facing in the current year.

Liza: I'm Manager, Library & Research Services at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, where I have been for 12 years. As the firm has grown, we have had to adapt to accommodate the needs of our different practice groups, wherever they are -- up the street, or out of state -- with both print and non-print resources. We have developed a library website with internal information and links to useful legal and non-legal websites, and updating it is a continual process as new information and technology become available. We plan to add our online card catalog to our website this year.

Future Waves: Riding the Crest

(Continued from page 4)

The CEQA program will be presented by Michael Zischke, a partner at Landels Ripley and Diamond. He is an expert on the subject, having written numerous books and articles, including Practice Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEB).

Mark Estes of Holme, Roberts & Owen in Denver, Frank Lee of Latham & Watkins in San Francisco and Annette Heath of the Kern County Law Library will share experiences in New Waves of Service breakout session, running concurrent with the Water Politics and CEQA sessions.

The Bioethics program will be presented by Lawrence Nelson, a Lecturer for the Department of Philosophy, and Faculty Scholar at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University.

Michael DiMario. U.S. Public Printer, and Mary Alice Baish, AALL's Government Liaison, will speak on the Future of Government Documents.

In addition to all of the scholarly events there will be plenty of time to network with colleagues. We have an ice cream social break on Friday, a reception at the Maritime Museum Friday evening, and breakfast, break and lunch events on Saturday. We also have an impressive list of Exhibitors and many opportunities to visit their booths, talk to them, and find out what's happening.

Exhibitors (As of January 28, 1999)

Advanced Information Management (AIM)
Bureau of National Affairs (BNA)
CCH, Incorporated
Certified Personnel
Continuing Education of the Bar
CourtLink
CSC-The United States Corporation Company
Daily Journal Corporation
Global Securities Information, Inc. (LiveEdgar)
William S. Hein & Co.
Jan Raymond Legislative History & Legislative Intent
Legislative Intent Service
Legislative Research, Inc.
Lexis-Nexis
LOIS - Law Office Information Systems
Matthew Bender
Ocean Publications, Inc.
Practicing Law Institute (PLI)
Shepard's
Taylor & Associates
Library Management and Personnel
West Group
Contact Cathy Hardy at (650) 233-8567 for more information.

Jo: Tell me about how you view your role on the Executive Board, why you decided to run for the position and what you hope to contribute.

Liza: I hope I can bring my perspective of (way) past-President and former Executive Board member to the current Board. I had wanted to be more involved with NOCALL in a direct way and was glad for the opportunity to run for this position. It is the best way to see what our association is doing in the current legal environment, what kinds of issues are arising in our legal community, and what plans for change and growth need to be addressed as we move along to a new millennium.

Jo: Tell me about yourself -- your interests, hobbies and your family.

Liza: I am the somewhat stressed-out mother of two very active kids, one in elementary school and the other a new middle-schooler. We have a very old parakeet and a brand new cat, so you can imagine the dynamics when both animals need attention at the same time. Hobbies include reading and workouts at the gym, sometimes done simultaneously when I'm lucky enough to get time on a treadmill or stationary bike.
If you didn’t find a session at Internet Librarian that piqued your interest or gave you some insights to carry back to your own library, you didn’t take advantage of all that this conference has to offer. The conference was organized around several themes, or tracks: Metadata, Content, Learning, Searching, Website, Transitioning, Virtual Services, Web Management, Digitizing, Intranet Libraries, Net Trends. Did they leave anything out? Probably not. Each track had sessions covering various subtopics within the category. I wasn’t able to attend each track at the conference, but here are some highlights from the ones I did see:

**Metadata:** Get used to this word --- metadata --- you’ll be hearing it a lot in the coming months. Much of what I gleaned came from two excellent presentations, one by Joyce Ward of Northern Light, and the other by Sue Feldman of Datasearch.

- What is metadata? It is another word for indexing or cataloging. Or, as some people say, it is “information about information.” In terms of the Internet, it is how the structure of a website affects how search engines work.

**Intranets:** Whatever stage your library may be at in the Intranet building process, there are some important tips to remember, from Julie William, Information Services Specialist at Texas Instruments, Inc.:

- Maintain quality by preparing a policy document that lays out appropriateness of material, copyright issues, and publication procedures.
- Evaluate content by surveying users, or setting up feedback buttons on the Intranet.
- Promote the Intranet via “e-mail pushing,” or group demonstrations.

**Next Generation Tools:** Stephen E. Arnold of Arnold IT showed off some exciting new tools that could change the way we view the web:

- Cartia: A tool that creates a “terrain map” of a website --- indicating where the heaviest content is
- Daily Diff: A tool that allows users to build a folder of URLs that they can monitor for number of hits or changes to a site.

**Searching:** Mary Ellen Bates offered some pointers on deciding when to use a traditional online service vs. the web:

- Use traditional online sources when you need a more sophisticated search engine, pre-'97 info., and information from validated sources.

In addition to the daytime sessions, there were two evening panel discussions. The one I attended, led by the Southern California Online Users Group, was a great chance to hear from other librarians as to how they are handling web searching vs. traditional online sources. I appreciated the opportunity to hear from librarians across the spectrum --- public, special and academic.

Next year, Internet Librarian will be in San Diego. While the conference appeared to be settling in Monterey permanently, the move to San Diego must be a sign of good news: growth and a sense that it is a worthwhile and useful conference to attend. For law librarians, I would recommend it for anyone who wants to bring back practical information on Internet searching and training, Intranets, or technology trends.

**Ann Wiley, Howard, Rice, Nemerovski, Canady, Robertson & Falk**

Marya Place of Nutter, McClennen & Fish, LLP in Boston very accurately described the “I want it five minutes ago” mentality of a corporate law firm in her presentation with Amy F. Lannon of Bingham Dana, LLP also in Boston. “Triage Training” provided good suggestions for on the spot internet training in under thirty minutes. Yes, it can be done. Marya and Amy effectively illustrated surviving a hurried partner’s request (or, perhaps, I should say demand) for internet training “right now” because “everything is on the Web, isn’t it?” Some of their more helpful suggestions included 1) show the attorney “core sites” immediately applicable to their practice and, of course, the bottom line 2) provide a glossary of terms, and 3) provide a search engine screen with annotations describing the layout and functions. To see a copy of “Triage Training” e-mail Marya at mpp@nutter.com or Amy at lannonaf@bingham.com.
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AALL Grants Available for Newer Members

Sue Welsh, McGeorge School of Law

Grants covering registration costs are available to enable newer members to attend the AALL Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the grants is to assist librarians who hold promise of future involvement in the law library profession. Preference is given to those with fewer than five years experience in law libraries. Applications can be obtained from AALLNET (www.aallnet.org), as a return fax from AALL’s fax-on-demand service (908-544-5901, or by contacting AALL headquarters (312-939-4764 or e-mail: aallhq@aall.org).

The application deadline is April 1. Contact Grants Committee Chair Carol Watson at the University of Georgia School of Law (706-542-7365) or e-mail cwatson@uga.edu if you need additional information.
Why Am I at West?

— Anne V. Ellis, Director, Librarian Relations, West Online —

In the last few months, my professional life has taken a definite turn. Although I remain a law librarian by education and experience, I now work for West Online instead of a law firm. What is the difference? Well, for one thing, I now telecommute to my office in Eagan, Minnesota on most days. That is because I travel the country, and sometimes the world, talking to librarians about their technology, educational and support needs. Do I like this way of working? As they say in Minnesota, You Bet!

Probably the biggest difference in my professional world is working solely with librarians. I continue to say that my job is the opportunity of my lifetime. After 14 years in law firms and 23 years as a librarian, I am lucky enough to be able to give back to a profession that has afforded me a challenging career. I am also enthusiastic about working with West, a company that has supplied all of us with quality legal and non-legal materials throughout the years. West has given me the chance to educate librarians on new technologies such as the Intranet ToolKit and take on projects that focus on and effect librarians.

One of the first things I hear from librarians lately is “What's going on with West and Customer Service?” I like to think that the Dark Tower has a bright light shining forth. That light is directed at you, law librarians, a very important group of professionals. Among my objectives, the Librarian Relations program wants to give you three things - support in your quest for perfect customer service, education about the ever-growing world of information, and technology to help you achieve your important goals. During the last three months, I have defined my mission, written a business plan and submitted a budget. I have done all of this while traveling to the far reaches of the country and beyond. My mission is to bring useful information, correct invoices, inspired Westlaw research and empowering technology to you. A big job, but well worth the challenge!

The Librarian Relations group was created in mid 1998 to consolidate and strengthen West group’s law librarian activities and initiatives. As you know, law librarians are a very important group to West. You directly influence and control the purchase of legal information for law firms, government and academic institutions. Your choices in acquiring legal materials (print, CD-ROM and online) dictate how lawyers will conduct research. Not only do you manage legal professionals’ information needs, but you also negotiate for the information market is estimated to have grown at an annual rate of 5.2%. In 1997, law librarians from 1384 libraries were responsible for budgeting approximately $830 million on print and electronic legal materials in the United States. Law librarians are responsible for purchasing approximately one-third of this legal information market. You have enormous clout!

Perhaps you might be interested in some of my activities:

Intranet ToolKit Programs and Workshops: I have presented these programs to librarians to inspire them to take charge of this remarkable technology. I was fortunate enough to manage the information of a highly sophisticated Intranet at Holland & Hart in Denver. My case study highlights Holland & Hart's use of five databases as applications. I also encourage librarians to make use of West Online's advanced Intranet technology to become the creators of Intranets. I believe that as librarians embrace Intranet technology and the management of Intranet information, you will become more visible and empowered in your institutions.

AALL and SLA: I have met with several groups of officers from AALL Chapters, attended the Mid America Library Fest in Milwaukee, met with current AALL President, Jim Heller, and President Elect, Margie Axtmann, New York SLA officers and attended the International Association of Law Libraries meeting in Rome. What has evolved from these meetings is an alliance between West and the associations to provide increased education and support to law librarians.

Westlaw Staffs: I have also been meeting with regional marketing managers and account managers in various cities to discuss librarian relations on the local level. I have been encouraging...
account managers to be more involved in local library associations and encouraging them to teach Intranet technology to their local librarian groups. One of the interesting results of these meetings with both librarians and West Online folks is the request from librarians that West Online account managers spend more time with librarians. This message has been passed onto each region. If you would like more individual attention from your account managers, just let them know.

Law Schools: Recently I spoke to 3rd year law students in an advanced legal research class at the University of Colorado on “Real Life in Law Firms.” I stressed the need for them to relearn basic legal bibliography before they hit the doors of the law library. I also encouraged them to learn how to do automated cite checking with Westcheck and KeyCite. Very few of them had taken the opportunity to learn this in their previous two years of school. They did not realize how big a part of their jobs this would be. They were also surprised by the amount of non-legal research they would be doing. And, of course, I stressed that their law librarian should be their first choice in asking for help in all research matters.

Law Librarianship Education: One of the Librarian Relations program’s objectives is to establish career-long relationships with librarians. Practicing law librarians complain that librarians who enter the legal profession are under-trained in legal research and online skills, i.e. Westlaw. The Librarian Relations program will support this goal by working with library schools and AALL’s Task Force on Legal Education in Library Schools to offer more specialized training in their curriculums.

Information Innovator’s Institute: Next on the event agenda for me is the 1999 Information Innovator’s Institute to be held March 26-28, 1999, in San Diego. Letters with applications were sent out to private law librarians. In case you have not heard of III, it is held annually, each spring, with the purpose of assisting legal information professionals in successfully enhancing their skills to serve today’s and tomorrow’s legal community. The emphasis of this year’s sessions will be on improving technological awareness using virtual libraries, managing Internet/Intranets/Extranets and implementing sound management practices in budgeting technology and information dollars. We will also address application decisions, how technology is changing work roles and new strategies for acquiring online information.

In addition to planning committee faculty, outstanding speakers from within and outside of the law library community will include:

Jane Dysart, Dysart & Jones Associates
Blaise Cronin, University of Indiana
Bob Berring, University of California
Richard Wiggins, Michigan State University
Martin Cullen, Lehman Brothers
Marty Metz, Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison
Noreen Steele, Information Initiatives

AALL and SLA: This year, I will also be responsible for coordinating the AALL party at the Washington, DC meeting in July. We have already started planning a party and a band that will be as good as last year’s. I assure you that it will be another West party to remember! Since SLA will be held in Minneapolis next June, West will be hosting both fun and educational events.

To sum this all up, what has been the impact of West’s creating a Librarian Relations program? First, West is doing positive things to improve relations by creating a group whose sole focus is on law librarians. Full support has come from all sectors of West Group. I am in touch with virtually every part of an organization that has grown to 8,000 employees. I am personally grateful for such a wonderful opportunity in my career.

Second, AALL leaders look at the Librarian Relations program as an ally to AALL. West Online will be providing meeting space for AALL Professional Development Committee regional programs such as “Training the Internet Trainer.” We also are providing Thomson University programs and workshops such as “Life in the Fast Lane: Working at the Speed of Change” to regional chapters of AALL.

Third, the Intranet Toolkit case studies and workshop presentations that I have done have brought me into contact with many librarians. All of you seem enthusiastic about having a colleague at West who can bring to you new technologies and education.

Fourth, I have personally fielded numerous calls and e-mails from customers about service issues. Most of them I have forwarded to Mary Ellen Marlowe, Senior Director of Customer Service, for resolution. I have spoken with some librarians personally about their concerns. I have also been keeping in touch with Frank Houdek, Chair of CRIV, to facilitate better librarian/vendor relations. I am now CRIV’s contact at West concerning CRIV matters. Lori Hedstrom, Manager of Library Services at West was recently appointed to the CRIV committee. Lori is joining the Librarian Relations group as Program Manager for Librarian Relations in Eagan.

Fifth, and the best part, is that you, the librarians, seem very pleased to have a colleague at West. I hope that you will communicate with me about your problems, ask for technology solutions for your law firms that West Online can provide and generally have a collegial relationship with me and West. I believe that the Librarian Relations program continues the trust in West and its products. By having a Director of Librarian Relations to watch over your issues, you have a voice at West.

The Librarian Relations program is growing rapidly and you have generated many ideas during my visits. I urge you to contact me about any creative ideas you think West should support. Law librarians are at the core of every legal organization. Your value cannot be underestimated. West and the Librarian Relations program are ready and willing to partner with you in the achievement of your goals. Remember, the light shines brightly in the Tower.

Contact Anne at the following address: Anne V. Ellis, Director, Librarian Relations, West Online, 610 Opperman Drive, Mail Code D5-B, Eagan, MN 55123, Phone: (651) 687-5019, Fax: (651) 687-5614, E-mail: anne.ellis@westgroup.com
I've really enjoyed these two short novels by Larry Watson: JUSTICE, and its sequel, MONTANA 1948. These two novels tell a multi-generational story of a family that settled in Montana. It's a moving tale that doesn't shy away from issues of sex, class or race and still succeeds in painting a fascinating portrait of a family, a time and a place.

Todd Bennett, Thelen Reid & Priest

I am reading THE DEVILS' NOVICE, Book Eight of Ellis Peters' BROTHER CADFAEL, a 21-volume medieval mystery series. I have read the first seven books in order, up to the present. They are a real kick. All of the stories take place in medieval England starting in the year of our Lord 1138 in the St. Peter and Paul Benedictine abbey on the outskirts of Shrewsbury, England. Brother Cadfael is an older monk (in his late 50's when the series starts) and has been a man of the world most of the years of his life until his early 40's. He has been a Crusader, a sailor, and a lover up to the time he took his vows to join the Order; hence, he is a very appealing character who retains his worldly sense while having gracefully adopted the monk's habit. He is also a skilled herbalist and a shrewd observer of mankind, skilled both as healer, warrior, and solver of mysteries. He also has a soft spot in his heart for lovers in danger.

The first novel of the series is entitled A MORBID TASTE FOR BONES.

These are cracking good mysteries. I expect to spend the rest of the season reading the series before reading anything else major!

Greg Fite, Bernard E. Witkin, Alameda County Law Library

I've just finished Barbara Kingsolver's first novel, BEAN TREES, and am about to begin ANIMAL DREAMS. I've also gotten a heavy dose of James Ellroy's books (he wrote L.A. CONFIDENTIAL)--THE BIG NOWHERE, WHITE JAZZ, and BLACK DAHLIA. These are EXTREMELY well written, in a 50's noir style, but are so violent that they actually gave me nightmares....so now for the Kingsolver stuff and regained peace of mind!!

Lisa MacMorris, Wilson, Sonnini, Goodrich & Rosati

I am now reading the novel EXCELLENT WOMEN by Barbara Pym and also ALL YOU WHO SLEEP TONIGHT, a slim book of poems by Vikram Seth.

The main character in EXCELLENT WOMEN, Mildred, is just over the age of 30 in 1950's London. Her life is very ordinary, going to work and coming home, yet there is a great deal of humor and meaning in the details, as she becomes entangled with a more flamboyant married couple who move in downstairs. They are an anthropologist named Helena and her husband Rocky, a naval officer. Rocky and Helena completely disrupt the comforting but dull routine that Mildred has developed for herself.

The poems in ALL YOU WHO SLEEP TONIGHT, by Vikram Seth are poignant, peaceful, and humorous, if these senses can be present all in the same book. One poem, "Night in Jiangning," about drinking tea outside in the moonlight, transported me from the 2 Clement bus to another world. I felt the influence of Vikram Seth's Chinese poetry translations in this book. Added bonus: it is so slim that it takes up almost no space and is almost weightless, though of course this last would be worth nothing if I did not love the book so much.

Andrea Rabin, McKenna & Cuneo

I. Compton-Burnett wrote strange, modernistic novels, usually around the notion of family tyranny, that read almost like plays because they are mostly dialogue, with very little description. They are strange, but also very funny, and it has long been a mystery as to what sort of person wrote them.

Hilary Spurling reveals the person in her wonderful biography, IVY: THE LIFE OF I. COMPTON-BURNETT. In a fabulously researched and well-written biography, Spurling describes a sort of childhood right out of one of Compton-Burnett's books. Even if you're not very interested in Compton-Burnett herself, though, the book is great for its description of English intellectual life from pre-WWI through the 1960's. In Ivy's life, we see the terrible toll WWI took in England, when a huge number of men of that generation were killed. (Virginia Woolf is from the same generation). Also, it's just supremely readable. To quote from the Amazon.com review of Spurling's new biography of Henri Matisse, UNKNOWN MATISSE: A LIFE OF HENRI MATISSE, "If all biographers wrote with Spurling's warmth, empathy, and intelligence, no one would likely want to read any other kind of book." Her books are supremely researched, with quite a lot of information gleaned from personal interviews, and so well arranged, with small details concisely illuminating larger points or whole relationships, that I read the whole thing in a
week. This is not the average biography pace. You'll have to find IVY at the library, because it's gone out of print, but it sounds like UNKNOWN MATISSE is a sure bet, too.

Chris Terr, UC Berkeley Law Library

I recently took a break from my steady diet of mysteries to sample three "chick" books in a row. Sometimes you just need to know that there are some nice people out there—even in fiction.

First, I both read and listened to QUITE A YEAR FOR PLUMS by Bailey White. You may have heard Ms. White gravelly Southern drawl on NPR. Her commentaries were gathered into her previous books, MAMA MAKES UP HER MIND and "STAYING AT THE STARLIGHT MOTEL," but this is her first novel. For better or worse, her novel is just like her non-fiction, incredibly entertaining descriptions of the characters in a small town. I loved it but, if you expect a traditional novel, you might be disappointed in how little actually happens. Give this one a listen—her voice adds to the experience.

Next I read Fanny Flagg's new book, WELCOME TO THE WORLD, BABY GIRL. About a third of the way through, I felt disappointed that I wasn't as captivated by the characters as I had been in Flagg's previous books, FRIED GREEN TOMATOES and DAISY FAY AND THE MIRACLE MAN but nonetheless, I was enjoying it. Then, as I neared the halfway point in the book, I was crowded on an airplane, bawling my eyes out. Sad tears and happy tears; have a hanky ready. Flagg also has a wonderful, warm voice so this would probably be great on audio tape.

Finally, on the plane ride home, I read YOUR OASIS ON FLAME LAKE by Lorna Landvik. I enjoyed her previous book, PATTY JANE'S HOUSE OF CURL, but I have never heard her voice. She was a stand-up comic and her writing is full of great one-liners. But it's not all funny—have your Kleenex nearby—although I did survive the flight without embarrassing myself. The story is told through the alternating voices of five richly drawn characters.

The main characters in all three books are really good people that you'd like to know. Maybe that's what makes them so appealing.

Jenny Wu, Curator DeLaverson

I just finished reading SLAVES IN THE FAMILY by Edward Ball. Many of you may have read reviews of it already as it has been out for months. It is a chronicle of a descendant of white slave owning southerners telling his story about searching out the descendants of slaves owned by his extended family. Truly, this is a unique perspective on a huge vein of American history told in a sincere and fascinat-
I have not included as many references in this issue as in the past because I have been reading a book called The Art of the Long View by Peter Schwartz. I am participating in a discussion of the book on the SLA-KINF list (Futurists Caucus). It is a very interesting book that is directly applicable to my job, and, I think, the job of other special librarians. I recommend it highly.

I have included a couple of articles which provoked a strong negative reaction in me. You comments, or reactions, to these articles would be interesting to hear.

I also received an article from one of our colleagues, which I have included. Everyone is welcome to send articles that you think I may not have seen.


Discusses what firms are doing for their own systems in the Year 2000 issue. Am Law 100 firms were asked and only 20 firms were willing to respond. Big potential problems that are identified: time and billing, accounts receivable, File Manager glitch in Windows 95 that affects retrieval of documents, calendar and docketing software, issues with the physical facilities.


My first, immediate reaction to the first few paragraphs of this article was anger. The beginning of the article bashed librarians because of how little we are doing to catalog the Net. Immediately, the article goes on to catalog the different projects, spearheaded by (or related in some way to) librarians, library organizations and libraries to organize the Web in some way. I was disgusted with the librarian-bashing that the author felt necessary to include. Is this a new trend that we have to accept? I am not being altruistic either, since the author goes on to describe a large number of projects which relate in some way to libraries or librarians.

Additionally, the author misses the point about cataloging the Web. Any kind of cataloging is NOT about LC's system. Cataloging is about organizing information in a manner useful to the users of the collection. Every collection (library) is not going to advertise the use of every web site to their patrons.


Rowley has written other articles on current awareness services. This one forces the reader to think about other alternatives. Is it still possible to route with slips via interoffice mail? How do we serve our attorneys who are on the road more than at home? She lays out the components and discusses changes we can make, how to evaluate various services, various available services and some future possibilities. Unfortunately, law is poorly represented, but the article is food for thought.


Discussion about the power of the Internet to disseminate information, ramifications on use, potential and misuse of the power. Includes examples using Whelan's Smoke Shop's "collection policy." Discusses the reduction of serious societal discussion via the Web and the Internet to sensational news blasts, and the authority/authenticity of web sites.


Discussion over the various changes in pricing, especially Dialog's pricing changes. Also talks about changes in Lexis-Nexis' academic plan, Dow Jones and OCLC First Search. Somewhat biased, as the article only talks about price increases.

I am beginning to think that special librarians (including law librarians) are different in more ways than the obvious from public, academic and school librarians. When I read articles, like this one, which discuss the various failures and missed opportunities of "our profession" I fail to see how it applies to me, personally, and special librarians, in general. Inevitably, I find that what the author is discussing has little to do with either. I see law librarians moving forward, adding value to their research, embracing technology, etc. Is it possible that we are on such a different planet?

In all fairness, the author does reinforce the need to force officials, higher ups and administrators to do their duty as far as libraries go. While this concept may not apply in the same ways to us, there are things that we can take away from it.


Describes a listserv that discusses legal related websites.


Brief discussion of how sites rank search results and some of the questionable practices they employ. Some information on use of metatags.


Review of a professional development opportunity held in April, which gives some sound strategies for finding information on private companies.


Information about new laws and regulations being proposed or going into effect regarding whether web sites

e-mail are considered advertising. These regulations may effect an entire firm's website, if the firm has an office in the affected states.


Article discusses how to use meta search engines and provides appallingly low statistics for the accuracy and hit rate of various regular search engines.


In depth examination of changing major law firm systems. Might be interesting for you to bring to the attention of your management.


Briefly describes the PTO process for handling patent applications and describes in detail the flood of overly broad patent applications and the process a company has to go through when accused of patent infringement. What caught my eye about this article was the section on "prior art". It seems that making this process easier to research is a prime opportunity for librarians. Any takers??
Present: Mary Ann Parker, Linda Weir, Cathy Hardy, Lille Koski, Liza MacMorris, Mike Saint-Onge, Nancy Adams.

1. **PRESIDENT MARY ANN PARKER** welcomed all to the meeting and called it to order at 12:10 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 11, 1998 MEETING.** Linda Weir moved that we accept the minutes as corrected. The minutes of the NOCALL Executive Board Meeting of June 11, 1998 were approved as corrected.

3. **OLD BUSINESS:** Amount of Check for Which One Signature is Sufficient—Treasurer Nancy Adams agreed with Past-Treasurer Marlowe Griffths on $500 as the amount of a NOCALL check for which one signature is sufficient. Everyone on the Board concurred.

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**
   - **Treasurer’s Report - Nancy Adams** - The balance as of June 11, 1998 was $34,355.24. The balance as of August 25, 1998 is $33,139.10. Income during this period was generated by the newsletter advertisements. Expenses during this period were the grants given to NOCALL members to attend the AALL annual meeting. Nancy has submitted last year’s records to the Audit & Budget Committee for review.

   Resolution needed to send Cathy Hardy as well as next year’s vice-president to the SCALL Institute in 2000. In the past NOCALL has sent the vice-president/president-elect to the annual SCALL institute. In 1999 there will be no SCALL institute so Mary Ann proposed Resolution 98-3: 1998-99 being a year in which a joint NOCALL/SCALL Institute will be held, the Vice-President shall attend the SCALL Institute in her presidential year (1999-2000) in addition to the Vice-President. The entire Board concurred.

   **Report on the AALL conference and joint reception.** Everyone congratulated Mike Saint-Onge on the great job he did with the programs at AALL in Anaheim. The "Hot Topics" and Knowledge Management programs were discussed. Everyone also thought the NOCALL/SCALL joint reception went very well and was well attended.

   **AALL Chapter Visit:** David McFadden (SCALL President) reported to Mary Ann that no one from AALL can attend our joint institute as planned! Unfortunately, an AALL Board Meeting is scheduled for that weekend. So we will have an AALL board member (probably Frank Liu) attend our January business meeting at the Marines’ Memorial. NOCALL will pay for the Thursday night lodging. Liza suggests we get a list of AALL board meetings so we can better schedule our chapter visits.

   **Report on Council of Chapter Presidents - Mary Ann** - It was well worth attending. She recommends that the vice-president/president-elect attend next year.

   **Report on joint NOCALL/SCALL Institute** - The NOCALL/SCALL presidents and vice-presidents met at AALL meeting in Anaheim. We are looking into a second conference room for a concurrent topic at the Institute. The type of topic was discussed. Should it be substantive or practical? We have plenty of sponsors for the Institute.

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
   - **Education Committee – (Mary Ann)** - Chair Jenny Kanji will be out of work for four-six months due to health problems. Committee members Debbie Mazor, Lauri Flynn, and Nancy Green will take over for Jenny. The type of educational programs to be held was discussed. Liza suggested we follow the SLA model and hold half-day workshops.

   **Nominations Committee - Marian Sawyer-Gomes (Mary Ann)** - The committee hopes to put together a slate of candidates for the next NOCALL election by Christmas.

   **Academic Relations - Diane Rodriguez (Linda)** - Diane received many offers to speak at the SJS library class after her posting on the NOCALL-list. All slots have been filled.

   **Technology Committee - Marie Blosh (Linda)** - Marie is planning to survey members on the NOCALL-list about getting discounts for various programs.

   **Networking - Sue Welsh (Linda)** - Sue is monitoring the Library of California workshops set up to promote the concept: "One library 8,000 doors. The workshops are aimed at putting special librarians at ease. The goal is to network the entire state. The Library of California would like to put the state into regions and obtain money for wiring. The Library of California bill (SB 409) is moving forward. It is currently before the assembly."
Government Relations - Susanne Pierce Dyer (Cathy) The committee has been busy urging people to support the Library of California. The letters that librarians wrote on H.R. 2281 have definitely made a difference. Cathy met with SCALL representatives to discuss California Government Relations at AALL. SCALL is involved in many projects in which they would like NOCALL participation (i.e. an online government relations handbook and the State Legislative Day in Sacramento).

Placement - Mary Staats (Nancy) Mary's one complaint is that she doesn't get follow-up from companies that request NOCALL resumes. The placement committee does not know if the resume requestor found a person from their file. It was suggested that Mary set up a tickler file and give the numbers of requests to the Executive Board.

Publicity - Donna Williams (Liza) The committee sold thirty-three polo shirts at AALL in Anaheim and six more off the NOCALL list. Our tattoos were a very hot item at AALL! The Daily Journal articles have been very well received and the committee has had a good response from its request for writers. SCALL would like to help, also. Donna's other committee members are Leslie Ann Forrester and Donna Purvis.

Membership - Yvonne Boyer (Nancy) We have received $8000 in membership dues since 6/1/98. The new directory should be out in October.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS -
California Code of Regulations - Mary Ann - By law (Government Code §11344) the CCR was supposed to be available on the Internet on July 1, 1998 but the new date is Jan. 1999. Mary Ann is now on their advisory committee along with Nanna Frye, David McFadden and Paul Smith. Mary Ann gave them some suggestions about search engines and the number of concurrent users.

Next Meeting - Mary Ann - Our next meeting will be in the library at UC Davis Law School at 1:30 p.m. at UC Davis Law School. The Business Meeting will be held in the Moot Courtroom at 3:30 p.m. Jim Smith (Professor of Law at UC Davis) will be our speaker.

January Business Meeting - Mary Ann - The January Business meeting will be held at noon at Marines' Memorial with the Executive Board meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Lille's new position - Lille is now working with Debbie Dinneen at Shartsis, Friesen and Ginsburg on Tuesday and Thursday. She is back at USF Law Library on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Mike Saint-Onge - Looked into possibility of setting up an Executive Board List serve. He contacted Mark Folmsbee but his listservs are full until October. Mike is also on the advisory program committee for the D.C. meeting. Looks like there are lots of great programs!

7. ADJOURNMENT.
Mary Ann adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lille Koski, NOCALL Secretary
September 4, 1998
1. **PRESIDENT MARY ANN PARKER** called the meeting to order at 2:11 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 25, 1998 MEETING.** The minutes were approved as corrected.

3. **OLD BUSINESS:**
   - **Treasurer’s Report - Nancy Adams** - We spent more money this month that we made. Our expenses were from Publicity (the new brochure) and the NOCALL News, our newsletter. However, we made seventy dollars with our Certificate of Deposit (for the last three months) and we should be receiving money from the newsletter advertising.

   **Tapes from AALL Annual Meeting.** Mary Ann received all four boxes of audiotapes from the AALL annual meeting in Anaheim. The Board discussed the best way to publicize their availability to NOCALL members. Some suggestions: Notify members on the NOCALL listserv and list the tapes in the NOCALL News. Mike Saint-Onge volunteered to be the "keeper of the tapes" until the next annual meeting. The tapes will then be sent to NOCALL Archives.

   **California Code of Regulations Advisory Group.** The Legislature hopes to have the CCR online by January 1, 1999. Mary Ann (on the advisory committee) reported that the consultants really listened to the ideas expressed by the librarians on the committee.

   **Grants Committee.** Mary Ann reported that Mary Sigafoos (Grants Chair) asked for clarification of her charge. What grants should the committee be awarding? The Board decided NOCALL should focus on the joint institute and offer the cost of the registration and one night's lodging at the Doubletree ($145.00/night). Hopefully we can award five or six grants to this program.

   **Sally Wambold’s Program Proposal Form.** Sally Wambold of the Virginia Association of Law Libraries submitted a program proposal for the 1999 AALL Annual Meeting. The program was to be a joint presentation by VALL and NOCALL. The program was not accepted but we should start thinking now about program proposals for the Philadelphia meeting in 2000.

   **Chapter VIP Program.** The Board discussed sponsorship of the Program Meeting to be held in conjunction with the AALL annual meeting in Washington, D.C. NOCALL has been asked to send some VIPs. Some individuals to consider: State Librarian Kevin Starr, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Ronald George, the deans of the UC Berkeley and San Jose State library schools. Mary Ann will call David McFadden (SCALL President) to see if SCALL is interested in helping to sponsor some people.

4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
   - **Government Relations - Susanne Dyer (Cathy)** - The committee has been monitoring three pieces of legislation—Library of California (SB 409); Klug-Boucher Fair Use Amendment to H.R. 2281 (on digital copyright); Wendell H. Ford Government Publications Reform Act of 1998 (S. 2288). The committee has written letters supporting the bills and has urged NOCALL members to write individual letters.

   **Placement (Nancy)** - Nancy attended a Midsize Firm Librarians meeting where law librarian salaries were discussed. Four librarians (Mark Mackler, Marlowe Griffiths, Cindy Weller, Cynthia Papermaster) volunteered to develop a salary survey. The group asked NOCALL to officially contact Assn. of Legal Administrators to define job descriptions. The Ad Hoc committee would like to work with ALA to define Bay Area law librarian job descriptions.

   **Education - Lauri Flynn (Lille)** - The committee is having a scheduling problem for the fall workshop. They don't want it to conflict with the Internet Librarian in November and there is too short of notice for October. Would the Board like to reschedule it for mid-winter? Maybe in conjunction with the January 1999 Business meeting? Cathy Hardy suggested that we cancel the fall workshop and ask the committee members to help with the NOCALL/SCALL joint institute in March.

   **Union List - Pati Traktman (Lille)** Pati has two issues to be
placed before the Board: 1. Do we have a policy re who we sell the Union List to? Does it have to be librarians? (The Board thought we should sell the Union List to interested people. It is up to the individual firms if they want to then lend to those individuals.) 2. Request for a laptop computer with ACCESS software. It is needed so that committee members can work on it at work or at home. (Decision to be made at the next Board Meeting.)

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
Mary Ann - Next meeting will be on October 29, 1998 at the State Archives in Sacramento. A tour of the archives at 11 a.m. will be followed by lunch and the meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT. Mary Ann adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lille Koski, NOCALL Secretary
October 25, 1998

AALL Scholarships Available
– John Edwards, Chair, AALL Scholarship Committee –

AALL awarded nearly $50,000 in scholarships last year to support members pursuing various educational goals. With awards averaging more than $3,000 for each recipient, scholarships provide invaluable assistance in furthering professional growth. Scholarships are offered in the following categories:

Type I - Library Degree for Law School Graduates
Type II - Library School Graduates Attending Law School
Type III - Library Degree for Non-Law School Graduates
Type IV - Library School Graduates Seeking a Non-Law Degree
Type V - Law Librarians in Continuing Education Courses

Selected recipients of these awards also may be designated for the John Johnson LEXIS-NEXIS Memorial Scholarship. Additional funds are provided through two named scholarships: The James F. Connolly Congressional Information Service Scholarship is awarded to a law librarian with an interest in government publications who is pursuing a law degree. The George A. Strait Minority Stipend provides assistance to law librarians who are degree candidates for library or law degrees.

The deadline for submitting applications is April 1, 1999. Scholarship forms are available from AALLNET (www.aallnet.org), Fax-on-Demand (908/544-5901), or from Headquarters (312/939-4764). For additional information, contact John Edwards, Chair, AALL Scholarships Committee, at (515) 271-2141 or John.Edwards@drake.edu. Students also may want to review the scholarships offered by the American Library Association at http://www.ala.org/work/awards/grt-scho.html.
NOCALL AWARD
FOR PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Call for Nominations

Linda Weir, Hastings College of the Law Library

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 emphasizes local activity. Last year the Award was presented for the first time to Joan Loftus.

The Northern California Association of Law Libraries is nearing its twentieth anniversary. Over the years, many members have quietly contributed their time and energy to NOCALL endeavors. This is an opportunity to acknowledge the work of a NOCALL colleague. Nominate a fellow member by completing the form below. All nominations are completely confidential. The deadline for receipt of nominations is March 25, 1999.

The Awards Selection Committee consists of three members, with the current past President serving as Chair. Other current members of the Executive Board are not eligible to serve. To be eligible for the Award, a nominee must be a current Chapter member, active or retired, in good standing.

Katherine Henderson, Joan Loftus, and Linda Weir are this year’s committee members.

NOMINATION FORM

NOMINEE ________________________________

NOMINATED BY ________________________________

Signature ________________________________

Phone number ________________________________ Date ________________________________

On a separate sheet, please describe the achievement(s) or contribution(s) to NOCALL or law librarianship on which the nomination is based. Please include pertinent biographical data for the nominee. Forward in confidence to:

Linda Weir
University of California
Hastings College of the Law
Library
200 McAllister Street
San Francisco, CA. 94102
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1999

- January 22nd Friday NOCALL Business Meeting, Marines Memorial, San Francisco. Noon NOCALL Executive Board Meeting, Marines Memorial, San Francisco
- January 24th-26th Sun.-Mon. SLA Winter Education Conference, San Francisco
- February 26th-27th Fri.-Sat. Joint NOCALL/SCALL Institute, Monterey. Contact Mary Ann Parker, (916) 653-8001.
- March 18th Thursday NOCALL Executive Board Meeting, Wilson, Sonsini, Palo Alto
- March 25th Thursday Benchmarking for Information Professionals, sponsored by SLA SF Bay Region Chapter, SLA San Andreas Chapter, and BayNet, Golden Gate University, San Francisco. Contact Christine Merten (650) 347-6335. http://www.sims.berkeley.edu/sfsla/events/benchmar.html
- April 11th-17th Sunday-Saturday National Library Week
- May 20th Thursday NOCALL Business Meeting, Crosby, Heafy, Oakland. 3:00 NOCALL Executive Board Meeting, Crosby, Heafy, Oakland

For a complete calendar of events visit the NOCALL Web Page at http://www.nocall.org

Grants Available to Attend AALL and SLA Annual Meetings

The NOCALL Grants Committee would like to award a number of grants to attend the AALL and SLA Annual Meetings.

Deadline for applications is April 23 for SLA and May 7 for AALL.

Contact Mary Sigafoos for a grant application or more information.

Mary Sigafoos, Chair
NOCALL Grants Committee (415) 248-1516
msigafoos@grmlaw.com
NOCALL Web Server and Electronic Mailing List

NOCALL has its own web server. In case you haven’t had a chance to check it out, its URL is:

http://www.nocall.org

If you would like to subscribe to NOCALL’s electronic mailing list, send a message to: listserv@assocdir.wuacc.edu with the following in the body of the message: subscribe nocall-list Your Name (e.g. subscribe nocall-list Tom Jones). If you have any questions about either of these services call or e-mail Joan Loftus, at (415) 986-4200 or loftus@netcom.com.