



# NOCALL News

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

November – December 2001

Volume 22, Number 2

## President's Message

by Sue Welsh  
NOCALL President  
University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law

### Changing Times

When I wrote the last President's Column on September 10, 2001, I had no idea what would transpire the very next day, and I guess no one else did either. Since then, all of our lives have been affected and everything we do now seems to have an overriding cloud. I hope each of you will be able to carry on, and know that your fellow librarians are available to help, if necessary.

### Past ...

It has been a busy fall, with **LegalTech**, co-sponsored by NOCALL and American Lawyer Media, as the first event of the year. The first business meeting of the year was held at the **University of San Francisco's** new Dorraine Zeif Law Library, and the **Fall Workshop**, Improv

to Improve, was held at Ft. Mason. Many thanks to LegalTech coordinators Lauri Flynn and Alan MacDougall, gracious hosts Virginia Kelsh, Lee Ryan and the staff at USF, and to Education Chair and Workshop organizer Erika Wayne, for their valuable contributions.

### ...and Future Events

There are more events planned, so mark your calendars, if you haven't already done so. Ginny Irving, Academic Relations Chair, is working with the SIMS folks at UC Berkeley to sponsor a reception for students on **Thursday, December 6**. This would be a good opportunity to recruit some eager prospective librarians, so plan to attend if you can. The January Business Meeting will be on **Wednesday, January 23**, at the Marines' Memorial in San Francisco, and luncheon will be generously provided by WestGroup. Carly Hegle, NOCALL's VIP to AALL last year will speak about

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her experience as a Valuable Invited Participant. The Government Relations Committee, along with the Council of California County Law Libraries, is planning a Legislative Advocacy Day in Sacramento on **March 12**. Don't forget that the Spring Institute is set for **April 26-27** in Half Moon Bay. This is a new location for an institute, and not to be missed!

### People Traps

When I was in Library school at Catholic University, I had Father Theall for a course in Humanities Reference. He was quite exuberant about being a librarian, and shared with us some of the most interesting resources available to librarians (such as the *New York Public*

*Library Desk Reference*, almanacs, desk books, and various specialty encyclopedias). "However," he said, "so many of these books are people traps that you have a hard time actually getting to the information you are seeking because you are 'trapped' by other interesting things to read along the way." I have come across numerous people traps over the years, but I think you will agree that the Internet is the largest people trap of all! It is resources such as this that make our profession so dynamic, and I think we will always be fascinated by whatever people traps we encounter. Father Theall would be pleased with the proliferation of people traps - and overwhelmed!

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### NOCALL News

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

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#### **Submission Deadlines\*:**

September/October issue: September 5  
November/December issue: November 5  
January/February issue: January 4  
March/April issue: March 5  
May/June issue: May 3

\*Submissions should be sent to the editor in electronic format, via email attachment or 3.5" floppy disk.

## Musings from Mark

by Mark Mackler  
Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal

**The Grand Complication**...Faithful readers might recall that I work most weekends at various branches of the San Francisco Public Library. Well, for the past three weekends in a row, SFPL users (I hate the term "patrons") have come in asking about The Grand Complication by Allen Kurzweil (Theia/Hyperion, 2001). I had not read it, so my librarian's curiosity got the better of me and I read the "New York Times Book Review":

The use and abuse of order is the subject of Allen Kurzweil's engaging new novel... We try to keep life under control by cataloging it, only to find that what gives it its meaning is its refusal to be pinned down. To live well is to make room for confusion. This moral is given us through the story of Alexander Short, a New York librarian, who, overwhelmed by life...has taken refuge in rules. 'Librarians often don't do feelings all that well,' he notes.

The story involves Short's increasing neurosis, the disintegration of his marriage, and the planned theft of a rare book about an 18<sup>th</sup> century French inventor. As I said, I have not read this book, but it sounds like a must-read.

**If I Lived in New York**...I might see the off-Broadway play called "Underneath the Lintel." In this monologue, T. Ryder Smith plays a Dutch librarian. The "New York Times" calls him a "fussbudget with the personality tics of the shy, small-minded and eccentric, a man whose life's focus is making sure no one tries to get away with leaving overdue books in the library's overnight return bin." The story unfolds as The Librarian finds a book in the overnight bin - - - a book that had been checked out 113 years earlier!

Well, not exactly the most positive depiction of us, but it seems to be an interesting plot.

**Speaking of New York**...It would be impossible for me to write this column tonight without saying something about September 11. All AALL

members surviving, several SLA members dying. For me, it was surviving the 101 California Street massacre. For you, it might have been surviving a life-threatening illness. The point I'm trying to make is simply this: After we experience terrible times, we sometimes vow to live our lives differently. Often, however, we revert to our old ways. Years ago, I heard a sermon which still resonates with me. The point was something like this: There is nothing wrong with trying to live your life in a richer and more rewarding manner, even if your efforts ultimately fail. There is plenty wrong with failing to even try to make the needed changes.



## Professional Reading in Review

by Jaye Lapachet

**"Being the Boss is Good; Being Bossy is Not so Good,"** Bob Rosner, **Working Wounded** column, San Francisco Chronicle, Sunday October 28, 2001, pg. W2

You probably think that I am bossy for constantly pointing you to articles about being a good boss. Like our employees it is easy for us as managers to fall into ruts and consistently reading articles that remind of techniques for acting like a good manager help us stay out of the rut. This article mentions one very important technique which is asking lots of questions. Not only does this make you smarter about a situation, but it also gives you time to think before you react. Rosner also reminds us that modeling good behavior can change the personality/habits of departments, using storytelling and metaphors to get your points across can get you out of the blame game, using humor to diffuse tense or stressful situations, and knowing your own personal competitive advantage are all the trademarks of good bosses.

### **"L.A. Confidential"**

I recently saw this movie and think that all of you should leave your office right now, go rent it and watch it (or watch it again if you have already seen it). This is a movie about politics in the LA Police Department in the early 1950s. It is important for us to watch, because the politics of the complicated situations are clearly spelled out. One character wants to get ahead and the audience thinks of him one way until they find out why and until he shows his true cards. Another character come across one way, but as soon as your back is turned he stabs you. All the characters can be compared to people in your firm or with the users in your library. If you forgot what nasty politics are like, then watch this.

**"The Personalization of Web Services: Opportunities and Challenges,"** Monica Bonett, Ariadne, <http://www.ariadne.ac.usk/issue28/personalization>

"Personalization involves a process of gathering user-information during interaction with the user, which is then used to deliver appropriate content

is to improve the user's experience of a service." Copy the above and put it where you can see it every day. Read it. Think about it and do it. The article is about personalization for web-based services and talks about what personalization is, the science behind it, web sites that use it, etc. This is a great article if you have no marketing budget and need to ramp up services in order to maintain the status quo through these uncertain economic times or because you are bored and need to do something different. First, take advantage of floundering dotcom marketing budgets by looking at what these sites are doing to keep eyeballs sticking to their pages. Translate it into keeping bodies in the library. "Satisfaction is the ultimate aim of personalization." If something looks good on the web page, but can't be translated to the library, then don't do it. If an idea does translate, but doesn't work, then stop offering the service. You have to fall a few times before you learn to walk. You also can't offer personalization if you don't know anything about the user, thus it is the job of everyone in the library to add to the picture of people who come in. By getting a picture of your users not only can you think up services to offer you will know who will be receptive to trying out something new. Includes references.

**"The Secret of Library Marketing: Make Yourself Indispensable,"** Marylaine Block, **American Libraries**, September 2001, pg. 48-50.

The summary says it all about this article, which is "listening to the community will do more for the bottom line than sloganeering." Listen to your users. REALLY listen. If they don't want something you think is great, then get rid of it. We all must remember that we are part of a business and that the library/information center must be part of the business. Private libraries are not there for the good of the world, they are in place to serve the needs of a specialized community. Find out how your users work and then cater to those needs. And listen; listen carefully. Especially listen to what they are not saying.

**WTC Collapse Spotlights Need for Data Back-Up**  
September 12, 2001 6:56 pm EST By Caroline Humer  
[http://web.archive.org/web/20011031061359/http://us.news2.yimg.com/f/42/31/7m/dailynews.yahoo.com/h/nm/20010912/tc/tech\\_storage\\_dc\\_1.html](http://web.archive.org/web/20011031061359/http://us.news2.yimg.com/f/42/31/7m/dailynews.yahoo.com/h/nm/20010912/tc/tech_storage_dc_1.html)

and services, tailor-made to the user's needs. The aim

It may seem coldhearted to use the recent events in New York to talk about improving your library, but the events really speak to things that librarians need to think about. This article discusses backing up of data on and off site. It gives a short overview of the pros and cons of on and offsite storage of computer files and data as well as an explanation of what off site storage can do for you.



### **AALL through the eyes of a NOCALL Grant Recipient**

**by Annette Heath  
Kern County Law Library**

I would like to thank NOCALL for the grant that allowed me to attend this year's AALL meeting in Minneapolis. As a Librarian from a County Law Library, and considering our current funding issues, this trip would not have been possible without your help.

I found myself consumed with choices to make from the time I arrived. There were excellent programs to choose from and my decisions were tough ones. I know there were other County Law Librarians from California in attendance but with everything going on I didn't catch up with most of them until the State, Court, and County Law Libraries breakfast.

I was finally able to attend a program on UCITA, as I had been unable to attend any programs that had been previously available or even attend a showing of the video available from AALL. I also was able to attend the program on the Minnesota Model, which was extremely relevant to the current situation among California County Law Libraries. I also found the program the "Digital Divide" a very thought provocative program. At the urging of other past attendees I was urged to attend the West Party and all that I had been told proved to be correct. I also was able to attend the NOCALL reception, where I was

able to finally to meet people I had either spoken to on the phone or had communicated with through e-mail.

From the chance to meet new people to the educational programs, my attendance at this meeting proved to be one I will remember and one that allowed me to bring back valuable information that could be put to use.



## NOCALL VIP @ AALL

by Carly Hegle  
Sacramento County Bar Association Law Library  
Committee Member

I am writing to relay my heartfelt thanks to NOCALL for awarding me the opportunity of attending the American Association of Law Libraries' 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Conference this past July in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Although I have been the chair of our County Bar Library Committee, attending Trustee Board meetings for the last few years, I have been practicing as an in-house corporate lawyer with little opportunity for actual law library usage, and I have no library science background. I am a research hound from way back, however, and I am a fierce believer in everyone's right to access the law, wherever it is set forth. The AALL Conference reinforced my belief that it is the community of law librarians of this country that is upholding this right, despite many technical, budgetary, and ideological impediments.

I sampled quite a few of the educational sessions. The following were two that I really enjoyed.

“New Opportunities Through Collaboration: The Minnesota Model”. This program, involving various panelists from governmental agencies in Minnesota, was insightful and thought provoking. As we look at our current California model, at least with respect to the smaller county law libraries and the difficulties they are and will be facing, Minnesota's efforts must be examined carefully. One of the most admirable aspects of this collaboration was the at least apparent ability by the various entities to finally set aside egos and create solutions. I learned some great information regarding lobbying for libraries as well, which assists me in working with our local issues.

“Nobody Does It Better: Leading Government Web Sites”. All of the panelists in this program were very impressive, but I think it goes without saying that Justice Dale V. Sandstrom of the North Dakota Supreme Court came away with the popularity award. He was informative and instructional, and the fact that he has virtually single-handedly created one of the best state court websites in the country made his small town modesty just that much more impressive. I

would recommend a quick visit to the site, <http://www.court.state.nd.us>, to anyone interested in seeing the legal information for an entire state set forth in an organized and accessible manner.

The social events were very plentiful in number, graciously presented and thoroughly enjoyable. You folks sure know how to party!

I will ask that you consider giving the person who is lucky enough to serve as this representative a different moniker. The VIP nomenclature was somewhat embarrassing and hard to explain to anyone who asked. I think ‘representative at large’, or something else less flashy would have served me better. The last thing that this event needs is any more acronyms. Another ‘VIP’ suggested that an index to the acronyms be supplied with the program materials, at least to the lay attendees, so that we can keep up at the awards ceremonies.

I really do feel that, as a result of my attendance at this AALL event, I will be better able to serve not only my own County Law Library, but that I have a broader understanding of the issues facing law librarians state and country wide. I hope that I can turn this knowledge into a benefit to the law library community in California as a whole. Thanks again to the members of NOCALL for providing me with this wonderful opportunity.

☞

## Sierra Valley Library Network (SVLN)

by Mary Ann Parker

Department of Water Resources Law Library

Our president, Sue Welsh, asked me to succeed her as chair of the Networking Task Force Committee formed many years ago when Gary Strong, the former State Librarian, initiated the development of multi-type library cooperation. This culminated in the passage of legislation forming the Library of California. See Sue's report on the NOCALL website at <http://www.nocall.org/comnetworkrep2001.htm> for the current status of the Library of California. I am writing to tell you what belonging to the Sierra Valley Library Network and serving on the Board of Directors is like. The geographical territory covered by SVLN corresponds to the area covered by two public library systems: Mountain-Valley Library System headquartered in Sacramento and 49/99 Library System headquartered in Stockton. MVLS ranges from Yolo County west to Mono County on the eastern side of the mountains, and the north of Sacramento counties of Sutter and Yuba. 49/99 includes San Joaquin and Merced Counties and counties east of them roughly along the 2 state highways of 99 and 49. (To see the map of the 7 regions of the Library of California, go to: <http://www.library.ca.gov/loc/buffer/maps.html>.)

The Board of Directors includes two members of each type of library: public, academic, school and special. Shirley David and I represent the special libraries on the Board. The directors of the two library systems serve as the Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer respectively and the current Chair is Janet Larson, of the Sacramento Public Library. We meet monthly. So far our task has been to form SVLN in accordance with the Library of California Act and its supporting regulations. SVLN has hired consultants, formed committees, and received grants for database searches for its participant libraries.

What has SVLN done for me? I have a subscription to OCLC First Search with up to 500 free searches through June 1, 2002. I was recently informed that the number of searches could be increased if I used up my supply. Access to WorldCat has been a real help for cataloging and ILL. I also have used the World

Almanac and BIP databases in FirstSearch. Members of SVLN have gotten a free two year subscription to backfiles of the *Sacramento Bee*, *SF Chronicle* and *SJ Mercury News* from 1985 to the present from Newsbank. Access to these databases has been a worthwhile benefit for my law library and for me as a librarian. It reminds me of how it felt to get a Westlaw password after years of using Lexis only and then to get a Lexis password again after many years of Westlaw only. It's also been useful for me to observe and participate in the discussions relating to SVLN governance and duties. I have been glad to have the opportunity.

CG

## The Competing Roles of Books and Computers In Legal Research: Paradigm Shift or Ideology?

by Michael Ginsborg

Howard Rice Nemerovsky Canady Falk & Rabkin

What justifies more comments – the worse for being cursory and tentative – on how information technology has changed legal research? The exercise has as much promise as preparing another recipe for macaroni and cheese. It does not matter that in a recent KQED television program, “Jacques Pépin's Kitchen: Old Favorites Revisited,” Jacques surprises viewers by remaking macaroni and cheese into a flavorful Penne au Gratin. Variations on macaroni and cheese, however creative, inherently limit the scope of a culinary imagination.

Unfortunately, the literature on the role of books and computers in legal research has limited the scope of our thinking about the subject. For the literature has encouraged the widespread currency of a questionable model of legal research. The idea of a “new paradigm” in legal research was innovative when Bob Berring introduced it in 1986<sup>1</sup>, but it invites renewed scrutiny, because it has become a vehicle of an old ideology – the ideology of commercialism.

In *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*,<sup>2</sup> Thomas Kuhn compares scientific revolutions to shifts in paradigms, or fundamental conceptual frameworks that inform scientific theory and method. To underscore the extent to which computer-assisted legal research (CALR) has transformed traditional ways of finding the law, Berring distinguished between the “old paradigm” of the West digest system and the new paradigm of CALR<sup>3</sup>. Several commentators have expanded upon his idea of a “new paradigm” to describe what they believe has been the sweeping nature of the transformation. Their account will survive the following oversimplified retelling.

For more than a century the classification scheme of the digest system was the foundation of legal research. Under this scheme, seven major digest topics, including such categories as property and contracts, rule their own respective subject kingdoms, with unique subdivisions defining conceptual dukedoms, and still further subdivisions defining the conceptual equivalents of marquis and earls. This legal hierarchy binds legal researchers to

yeoman's service within its rigid confines. The indexing involved has been characterized as “inflexible” for several reasons. It can not keep pace with changes in the law or with the sheer volume and complexity of decisions; it spawns editorial mistakes or omissions in assignment of headnotes and preparation of digest summaries; and too often it does not match the legal researcher's judgment of the expected topic classification.<sup>4</sup> Comparable objections can be raised against other forms of classification, such as that of the Library of Congress, whenever developments in a given discipline outpace efforts to classify its content. Do deficiencies native to the enterprise of classification warrant the criticism that it is “inflexible” or that it stifles creativity? Let's return to that question later.

CALR has liberated legal researchers from vassalage to the digest system. They are now free to “think outside of the box” or “beyond the books”<sup>5</sup>. By selecting their own keywords, legal researchers can find cases, statutes, and regulations that meet their specifications; they no longer must try to translate their needs into the language of editors or authors. As a result, CALR enables legal researchers to be uniquely creative as they subvert the stodgy hierarchies of the digest system to chart their own courses through the turbulent seas of raw data.

The entire approach to legal research has been turned upon its head: where once West digest editors reigned supreme over the topic-and-key-number kingdoms, the former vassals have now become their own rulers in finding the law. Hence the shift in paradigms. No longer must legal researchers extract legal concepts from fact patterns, fit the concepts within a wider context of jurisprudence, and then apply larger legal principles to the particular facts involved in a legal problem. They can extract key words from fact patterns, search online sources for whatever relevant raw data happens to match their key words, and then devise their own legal principles.<sup>6</sup>

So much for this parody on the paradigm shift in legal research. The point is that the paradigm analogy has become a carnival mirror through which our understanding of the transformation in legal research has been distorted by misplacement of focus and exaggeration of bona fide differences.



In the first place, why not also consider similarities between book-based legal research and CALR? For example, serendipity gives researchers the same opportunities for discovery. If online researchers move seamlessly and quickly from one icon or hyperlink to the next, case digests “link” their plodding users to cases whose authorities or footnotes “link” them to relevant sources that they might otherwise overlook, and these sources might “link” them to other ones through footnotes and bibliographies. Moreover, Westlaw has – with some qualification – richly enhanced the usefulness of the key number system. This marriage between a traditional research tool and its online incarnation is hardly an “odd couple.” Legal researchers can benefit from enhanced database equivalents of a variety of finding aids, such as the ALR series, AmJur, and CJS.

Consider the claim that CALR opens up possibilities for unique creativity that reliance on the digest system tends to stifle. This claim has been exaggerated, precisely because invoking the idea of a paradigm shift has unduly circumscribed, and thus distorted, the true domain of traditional legal research. On this overly reductive view, the digest system provides the only foundation of traditional legal research. But traditional legal research has other foundations, including not just the many resources that Berring covers in *How To Find The Law*,<sup>7</sup> but also legal literature – legal treatises and law review articles – and English literature, philosophy, and history. The fertile domain of traditional legal research reminds us that law libraries – and libraries generally – remain “laboratories” of the law that support creative applications of reasoning by analogy. If online legal researchers find creativity in matching keywords with raw data, regardless of context, they can equally make creative uses of the knowledge and expertise of editors and authors, who supply the “big picture” to neophytes or the untutored. Books have never placed legal researchers in a “box” that they must “think beyond.”

Objections to the indexing in the digest system are also misplaced. It is true that classification systems have internal infelicities. But these problems are the price that most of us are willing to pay for systematic approaches to rapidly changing fields of

knowledge. Why, then, have some law librarians, who justifiably pride themselves on their indexing skills, overemphasized the problems? After all, an arguably more balanced and nuanced interpretation of changes in legal research begins where criticisms of the digest system end. On this interpretation, book-based legal research and CALR have similarities and differences, unique advantages and disadvantages, and tradeoffs between the advantages and disadvantages. The idea of a “paradigm shift” thus begins too sound extreme and alarmist.

Indeed, an undercurrent of urgency runs through observations about the new generation of legal researchers, whose first impulse in legal research is to “go online” or use legal web site portals. Because of the alleged paradigm shift, we are told that we must radically change law librarianship and legal education to accommodate the needs of law school students and recent graduates. Those of us brought up in a one-dimensional “book world” must immerse ourselves in the multidimensional workings of the web.<sup>8</sup> Either join the bandwagon now or get left behind. The rush to adapt to the newest and sexiest information technology – arising from the perceived inevitability of technological change – creates its own self-fulfilling momentum. The dynamic resembles that of Groucho Marx when, in “Duck Soup,” he decides to go to war with a neighboring country just because he has already paid a month's rent on the battlefield. A related lesson can be learned from Thomas Edison's prediction that the movie projector he invented would supplant the use of textbooks.<sup>9</sup> The American enchantment with technology, with all the hyped expectations about its potential, has led to the same kind of predictions every time a major technological innovation changes our lives.

If the paradigm analogy distorts the nature of changes in legal research, the resulting sense of urgency, and the self-fulfilling belief in their inevitability, simply reinforce the alarmist tone of paradigm enthusiasts. An unstated ideology of commercialism fosters and sustains their “inevitability syndrome” about legal information technology. The underlying exaggeration, distortion, and hype match our culture's lucrative, commercially-inspired myths about technology –

that it advances Progress, and that all but reactionaries or Luddites will have the foresight to prepare for its new imperatives. The legal publishing conglomerates that market legal information technology cultivate “partnerships” with law librarians. Translated from marketese into English, partnerships are nothing more than incestuous relationships that profit the publishers at the expense of a profession’s integrity. It would be unfair to contend that a professional organization funded largely by West Group and Reed Elsevier disposes many members to sound the alarms of a paradigm shift in legal research. Nothing like a quid pro quo between the publishers and AALL members prompts law librarians to embrace a view of legal information technology that profits the legal publishers. But it is not unfair to ask whether the so-called partnerships of the last five years in particular have supported a kind of dogmatism that prevents us from questioning the currently fashionable dogma about paradigm shifts.

*This article is a draft. The author welcomes comments at [mginsborg@hrice.com](mailto:mginsborg@hrice.com).*

<sup>1</sup>Robert Berring, *Full-Text Databases and Legal Research: Backing Into the Future*, 1 HIGH TECH. L.J. 27 (1986)

<sup>2</sup>Thomas S. Kuhn, *THE STRUCTURE OF SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTIONS* (3d ed. 1996)

<sup>3</sup>I am using “CALR” in a broader sense than Berring does in the 1986 article, to include the Internet. I am thus downplaying significant differences between Westlaw or Lexis and Internet search engines and legal web sites. All online sources share fundamental problems that I can not discuss here.

<sup>4</sup>Diana R. Donahoe, *Teachinglaw.com*, 5 U. VA. L. & TEC. 13 (2000) and at [www.law.georgetown.edu/faculty/Donahoe](http://www.law.georgetown.edu/faculty/Donahoe), 13. See also Carol M. Blast and Ransford C. Pyle, *Legal Research in the Computer Age: A Paradigm Shift?*, 93 LAW LIBR. J 285, 288 (2001).

<sup>5</sup>Diana R. Donahoe, *Researching Beyond The Books*, AALL SPECTRUM (September 2001)

<sup>6</sup>Blast and Pyle, *supra* note 3, at 297.

<sup>7</sup>Morris Cohen, Bob Berring, and Kent Olson, *HOW TO FIND THE LAW* (9th ed. 1989) The latest, 11th edition (1999) is a curiously much slimmer version, with much of the insightful details of the 9th left out, apparently in service of the paradigm shift analogy.

<sup>8</sup>Donahoe, *supra* note 3, at 31: Targeting hopeless bibliophiles among law school professors, Donahoe warns: “You need to submerge yourself in the culture of the Web; it is only by experiencing this world that you can begin to understand it.”

<sup>9</sup>Edison is widely quoted as saying in 1922 “that the motion picture is destined to revolutionize our educational system and that in a few years it will supplant largely, if not entirely, the use of textbooks.” For example, see Larry Cuban, *TEACHERS AND MACHINES: THE CLASSROOM USE OF TECHNOLOGY SINCE 1920*, 9. (New York: Teachers College Press, 1986.) In fact, Edison had an even more radical view. “It is my opinion,” he testified at a 1923 Federal Trade Commission hearing, “that in the next 20 years children will be taught through [motion] pictures and not through books.” *NEW YORK TIMES*, May 16, 1923, 21:6. Unfortunately, Edison had already predicted that motion pictures would replace books in public schools by 1923: “Books will soon be obsolete in the schools... It is possible to teach every branch of human knowledge with the motion picture. Our school system will be completely changed in the next ten years.” A.L. Benson, *Edison’s Substitute for Schoolbooks*, 21 *WORLD TODAY* 1923-1927 (March 1912). Apparently, Edison needed to extend his prediction by another 20 years when the expected changes did not materialize as quickly as he thought or hoped. The paradigm partisans of legal information technology have been predicting, for nearly a generation, that the revolution in legal research will reach fruition within a generation, just because law school students and younger attorneys tend to rely more on computers than books to do their research. Their prediction, though far less overreaching than Edison’s, has all the virtues – and vices – of his visionary, futuristic tone.



**NOCALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
Tuesday June 26, 2001**

The meeting was held at UC Davis School of Law in Davis, CA.

Present: Sue Welsh, Ellen Platt, Marlowe Griffiths, Erin Murphy, Todd Bennett, Mary Hood, Faye Jones, Jane Metz, Donna Williams, Debi Mazor, Cathy Hardy

Absent: Janice Kelly.

**President Sue Welsh called the meeting to order at 12:50 p.m.**

Sue reported that Bob Oakley will give the President's Award to NOCALL for the Legislative Day held prior to the Spring Institute. Sam Trosow & Sue Welsh will accept the award at the final business meeting in Minneapolis.

**1. Approval of Minutes from the May 16, 2001 Meeting**

The minutes were approved as read.

**2. Treasurer's Report (Debi)**

NOCALL currently has \$22,125.59. A year ago at this point we had approximately \$10,000 more. Suggested explanations include the sale of the Union List which was done in 1999, lower advertising in the newsletter, loss of some membership dues income. Debi will look over the expenses for the 2000/2001 year and compare to previous years in an effort to ascertain reasons for the lower amount. The new signature card for the checking account was distributed for Sue, Ellen and Marlowe's signature.

**3. Budget**

Lynn Lundstrom will check with each committee's chair regarding their budgets.

**4. Auditing Books (Marlowe)**

The Cmte has had a difference of \$291 since 1998-99 but there is no record of the bank statement reconciliations. Marlowe will talk with Nancy Adams and do a review. Marlowe recommends that a copy of Quicken be bought each year to allow for greater detail on the receipts, additional help with tax records, etc. than Excel currently provides. The Board authorized Marlowe to purchase Quicken.

**5. Listserv address**

[nocall@aallnet.org](mailto:nocall@aallnet.org) for officers and board members only to post notices which will go to all members.

**6. Old Business**

- **LegalTech** Aug 21 in San Francisco. Lexis sponsors and the program for librarians, luncheon and exhibit hall access is free. A letter should be coming to all NOCALL members from Lexis.
- **Newsletter (message from Tina Dumas handout at meeting) (Sue)** Discussion followed as to how electronic access should be instituted. How long will newsletters be kept electronically? What about server space? What about institutions that like to have a paper copy or those members who do not have electronic access? Todd suggested that PDF would still allow for advertising. Can a message still be included in the membership bills that ask members to indicate their desire for print access? The Cmte will be notified that NOCALL should move toward electronic access to the newsletter but have the Cmte look into newsletter membership options only, cost of short printing run, and any other issues presented.

**7. Committees**

**Next year's Committee Chairs (Sue):** Sue is pleased to report that she has filled all committee chair positions. The new and continuing committee chairs are:

AALL Liaison: Shirley David **(Sue)**

Academic Relations: Ginny Irving **(Erin)**

Archives: David Bridgman **(Donna)**

Audit & Budget: Lynn Lundstrom **(Sue)**

Awards: Donna Williams **(Donna)**

Constitution & Bylaws: Prano Amjadi **(Sue)**

Consulting: Dan Cunningham **(Todd)**

Education: Erika Wayne **(Ellen)**

Government Relations: Susan Van Syckel and Susanne Dyer (co-chairs) **(Sue)**

Grants: Peg LaFrance **(Marlowe)**

Membership: Holly Riccio **(Marlowe)**

Networking: Mary Ann Parker **(Mary)**

Newsletter: Tina Dumas **(Marlowe)**

Nominations: Janice Kelly **(Erin)**

Placement: Mary Staats (**Mary**)  
 Public Access: Coral Henning (**Donna**)  
 Public Relations: Maryanne Gerber (**Todd**)  
 Spring Institute: Ellen Platt  
 Union List: Pati Traktman (**Todd**)  
 Web: Leslie Forrester (**Mary**)

- **Assign Board Liaisons** See bolded name under Agenda Item "Committees." Board Member should contact Committee Chair before each board meeting to find out if there are any questions or obtain a report.
- **Committee Chair Meeting** Peg LaFrance volunteered Orrick for this meeting. Sue suggested Sept 8 or the 15<sup>th</sup> and will check with Peg as to the date.

## 8. AALL

- **VIP Information:** Dr. Cindy Mediavilla, President of California Library Association, will be hosted by Sam Trosow. Carly Hegle, Chair of the Law Library Committee for Sacramento County Bar Association will be hosted by Shirley David.
- **Leadership Roundtable Discussions:** Sue discussed the various roundtables offered. We will attempt to have members at them. Sue will look into the possibility of a newsletter roundtable to see if Tina could attend and check with other chapters/SIS about the electronic access issue.
- **Joint Reception (Donna):** Tuesday July 17 6-8 p.m. Duluth Room at the Hilton. Lexis is giving \$5000 towards the cost. It was difficult to find a sponsor since there are so few vendors now. NOCALL and SCALL will provide the balance since SANDALL's budget is small. The possibility of a no-host bar will be discussed next year to help to lower the cost.
- **Chapter Biography (Sue)** Has been completed and mailed to AALL. Will be put up on the link through the AALL site.

## 9. Tentative Schedule of Meetings (Sue)

Business meeting at USF Friday Sept 21. January luncheon will be at Marines Memorial sponsored by West and is tentatively scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in January. The Spring Institute will be on April 26-27 in Santa Clara. Reception at the University. Board meetings: Next one will be in Sept before the Business Meeting.

## 10. Lexis TTIP (Sue)

Technology Toolkit for Information Professionals will be offered September 12 in San Francisco. Event is geared to law firm librarians. Offered by Lexis in conjunction with AALL.

## 11. New Business (Sue)

Librarians Association of U.C. Berkeley and U.C. Berkeley Extension are offering a workshop entitled Forging Library Partnerships in the Information Age. We'll give them mailing labels.

AALL will be contacted to see what steps or conditions are necessary to ensure that nonprofit status is kept.

## 12. Adjournment (Sue)

Sue adjourned the meeting at 2:11.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Murphy  
 NOCALL Secretary

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## NOCALL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, May 16, 2001

The meeting was held at the California Court of Appeal in San Jose. There were approximately 25 members present.

### President Donna Williams called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM.

#### 1. Welcome (Donna Williams)

President Donna Williams welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced Presiding Justice Christopher Cottle. Justice Cottle spoke briefly about the challenges facing today's court.

#### 2. Approval of the Minutes from the January 26, 2001 Business Meeting and Move to Destroy the Ballots (Donna Williams)

The minutes were approved as read. A motion was passed to destroy the ballots from the 2001 election.

#### 3. Treasurer's Report (Debi Mazor)

Debi announced her resignation from the board, effective May 31, 2001. Marlowe Griffiths will be taking over Debi's position for the remainder of this term. The treasury balance is \$38,554.28.

#### 4. Old Business (Donna Williams)

- **Legal Tech Update:** Alan McDougall and Lauri Flynn have been working with the Legal Tech people to put together a day of librarian programs at the August 21<sup>st</sup> Legal Tech meeting.
- **AALL California Joint Reception:** NOCALL, SANDALL, and SCALL will hold a joint reception on Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at the AALL annual conference.

#### 5. Committee Reports

- **AALL Liaison (Shirley David):** AALL President Bob Oakley visited our chapter this year during the Spring Institute. Bob commented that the chapter kept him very busy, and he was extremely impressed with both the Legislative Workshop and the Institute. In addition, NOCALL is subsidizing the travel expenses for sending two VIPs to the

AALL annual conference. The two VIPs are Dr. Cindy Mediavilla and Carly Hegle, esq. Dr. Mediavilla is current President of the California Library Association. She was nominated by Sam Trosow, who will also serve as her host during the conference. Ms. Hegle chairs the Law Library Committee of the Sacramento County Bar Association and has negotiated contracts for the Sacramento County Public Law Library. She was nominated by Shirley David, who will also serve as her host during the conference. Shirley introduced Ms. Carly Hegle to the group.

- **Academic Relations (Jane Metz for Jenny Kanji):** The Academic Relations Committee held two events this year. The fall event was SIMS career day at UC Berkeley. Debi Mazor was a speaker. In the spring, the committee sent two speakers (Sharon McNally Lahey and Jan Priefer) to a career event at San Jose State University. Jenny will be stepping down next year, and the new chair will be Ginny Irving.
- **Archives (David Bridgman):** David is indexing the archives and has started sending permanent records to be hard bound.
- **Constitution and Bylaws (Prano Amjadi):** The committee put together an accurate electronic version of the bylaws for the chapter website. Other questions posed to the committee included membership qualifications, procedures for resignation of the Treasurer, and how to handle a tied election.
- **Education (Sue Welsh for Erica Wayne):** This year's fall workshop, entitled "New Choices: Legal Research Tools for Today and Tomorrow" was a resounding success. Over 90 people attended.
- **Government Relations Committee (Cathy Hardy for Sam Trosow):** The committee is proud to report that we were the first chapter to hold a legislative advocacy day. In addition, the committee continues to track UCITA.
- **Grants (Debi Mazor for Peg LaFrance):** Four grants were made this year: Spring Institute (Marie Blosh), WESTPAC (Sam Trosow), and two AALL VIPS (Dr. Cindy Mediavilla and Ms. Carly Hegle).

- **Membership (Debi Mazor for Marlene Harmon):** Current membership is over 350. The directory has gone to the printers.
  - **Networking Task Force (Sue Welsh):** The Library of California is now a reality. A number of NOCALL members have been active, but the committee would like to see more law libraries join the Library of California.
  - **Newsletter (Janice Kelly for Leslie Campbell):** Leslie Campbell will be unable to continue as newsletter editor. Tina Dumas has agreed to take the position.
  - **Placement (Debi Mazor for Mary Staats):** Mary has taken over responsibility for posting jobs on the NOCALL website. 65 positions were posted last year, and Mary believes that most of the positions were filled.
  - **Public Access (Janice Kelly for Coral):** The committee presented its second workshop on "Introduction to Legal Research and Citation Form" to the Sacramento Area Legal Secretaries Group in March. Coral is looking for committee members.
  - **Spring Institute (Sue Welsh):** This year's institute was a success, and enjoyed by all who attended. Approximately 75 people registered. Preliminary budget reports show that we broke even.
  - **Web Committee (Kathy Hall):** The web committee spent this year overhauling the webpage design. The committee is constantly updating links, and seeks members who would be willing to assist in keeping our links up-to-date. In addition, the committee created links from board positions to the appropriate parts of the constitution, bylaws, and procedures manual. Lastly, the committee renewed our domain name for the next three years.
6. **New Business / Roundtable**
- **Job Opening at NASA Ames (Wynne Dobyns for Doreen Cohen):** There is a job opening for a law librarian at NASA Ames.
  - **Library of California (Wynne Dobyns):** Wynne inquired whether private law libraries or corporate libraries were joining the Library of California.
- **Newsletter (Prano Amjadi):** Prano asked if the newsletter will be going to a web format. Donna indicated that the newsletter committee had looked into this issue last year, but came to the conclusion that most members preferred hard-copy. It will likely be revisited next year.
  - **New committee chairs (Sue Welsh):** All of the committees have chairs, except for Public Relations. The new and continuing committee chairs are:  
AALL Liaison: Shirley David  
Academic Relations: Ginny Irving  
Archives: David Bridgman  
Audit & Budget: Lynn Lundstrom  
Awards: Donna Williams  
Constitution & Bylaws: Prano Amjadi  
Consulting: Dan Cunningham  
Education: Erika Wayne  
Government Relations: Susan Van Syckel and Susanne Dyer (co-chairs)  
Grants: Peg LaFrance  
Membership: Holly Riccio  
Networking: Mary Ann Parker  
Newsletter: Tina Dumas  
Nominations: Janice Kelly  
Placement: Mary Staats  
Public Access: Coral Henning  
Public Relations: vacant  
Spring Institute: Ellen Platt  
Union List: Pati Traktman  
Web: Leslie Forrester
7. **Professional Achievement Award (Donna Williams)**
- Donna Williams thanked the committee: Cathy Hardy, David Bridgman, and Barbara Friedrich. She then presented this year's award to Shirley David. This is the text of Donna's speech:
- "I am pleased to introduce **Shirley Hart David**, recipient of the NOCALL Professional Achievement Award for 2001. Shirley has been active in professional library organizations since the beginning of her law library career and is a candidate for AALL Vice President/President-Elect, a tribute to her hard work and dedication over the years. In addition to the many professional activities and offices held since

entering the law library field at the Minnesota State Law Library in 1971, Shirley has probably done more than any other person to elevate the image of law librarians to others in the legal community, as well as to other library organizations.

It is impossible to list all of the activities she has participated in, but Shirley has been active in many law library organizations, beginning in 1973 with the Minnesota Association of Law Libraries, where she was chair of several committees and Treasurer. In 1983, Shirley moved to California to become the director of the Sacramento Public Law Library. Since then, she has greatly increased the staff size and services, opened the first library branch, and recently directed a move to much larger facilities in the remodeled Hall of Justice near the County Courthouse in Sacramento.

After joining NOCALL in 1983, she immediately became an active member, and has held numerous positions: she has served on several committees and was chair of the Grants Committee and Audit and Budget Committee. She was elected Vice President/President-Elect in 1987-88, was Chair of the Spring Institute in 1987, and President of NOCALL in 1988-89. Since 1997, she has been the Chair of the AALL Liaison Committee. In that capacity, she has acted as hostess for visiting AALL officers, including offering lodging and meals and acting as tour guide to Northern California law libraries, law schools and library schools. She has also kept NOCALL up to date on activities at national headquarters.

After her NOCALL presidency, she continued to serve the chapter at AALL. She had joined AALL in 1972 while still in Minnesota, and since then has served on numerous committees and has been a speaker at several conferences. She served on the Executive Board from 1990-1993. Since 1978, she has been active in the State, Court and County SIS, having held every major office, serving as Chair in 1999-2000. She has also been a member of the Western Pacific Chapter since 1983, serving on several committees.

Shirley was instrumental in establishing the Council of California County Law Librarians and served as President of that association. She has actively promoted county law libraries to the legislature. She vigorously led and supported efforts to keep the State

Law Library open after it was closed by the State Librarian in 1991. She participated in the establishment of the Library of California, and served on several planning committees for the Sierra Valley Library Network, having recently been elected to the Board of Directors. After having allocated travel money in her budget for several years to allow the President of her Board of Trustees to attend the AALL Annual Meeting, she became involved in the establishment of the AALL VIP program, officially implemented by President Jim Heller in 1998. This program invites non-librarians to the annual conference so they can see the work of professional librarians.

Not only is Shirley known to nearly everyone in the Northern California law library community, she is friendly and is always available for consultation on any aspect of law library management. Shirley's efforts on behalf of NOCALL are key to the fact that the California chapters of AALL are at the forefront of new activities and initiatives. For example, she served as moderator at the recent Legislative Workshop in Sacramento, the first of its kind in any state.

We know of no one who can match Shirley David's professional activities over the last thirty years. We are very proud that she is a NOCALL member, and we think that she richly deserves this high honor in recognition of her many achievements."

#### **8. Installation of New Officers (Donna Williams)**

Donna thanked the outgoing board for their work this past year. She congratulated and introduced the new board: Sue Welsh, President; Ellen Platt, Vice President; Erin Murphy, Secretary; Marlowe Griffiths, Treasurer; Todd Bennett, Member at Large; and Mary Hood, Member at Large.

Donna presented a plaque to Cathy Hardy. Sue presented a thank-you gift to Donna.

#### **9. Adjournment**

**Sue adjourned the meeting at 4:07 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Metz, NOCALL Secretary

## Membership News New & Continuing NOCALL Members

The names of members who have joined NOCALL since publication of the 2000-2001 NOCALL Directory are listed below, as well as changes and corrections for continuing members. Any corrections, changes, or additions to the Directory should be sent to:

Holly Riccio  
NOCALL Membership Chair  
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### New Members

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### Continuing Members

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## Announcements

### SCALL Institute 2002

Press Release

SCALL proudly announces their 30th Annual Institute:

**Employment Law: Not Just 9-5.**

Scheduled for March 22-23, 2002 at the Royal Scandinavian Inn, Solvang, California.

Attendees will hear presentations regarding the various aspects of employment law, including layoffs and transitions, amongst other programs, and vendors will showcase their products in the exhibit hall.

For further information, contact:

Cornell Winston, Institute Chair,

by telephone at (213) 894-2419,

or by e-mail at [Cornell.H.Winston@usdoj.gov](mailto:Cornell.H.Winston@usdoj.gov)

### 2002 AALL Annual Meeting/Workshop Grants

Deadline: April 1, 2002

The AALL Grants Committee is now accepting applications for grants for the 2002 AALL Annual Meeting/Workshops. The AALL Grants Program provides financial assistance to law librarians or library school students who hold promise of future involvement in AALL and the law library profession. Funds are provided by vendors, AALL and AALL individual members. Grants cover registration costs at either the Annual Meeting or Workshops. Preference is given to newer, active members of AALL or of its chapters. For additional information, including the application form, see [http://www.aallnet.org/services/grant\\_application.asp](http://www.aallnet.org/services/grant_application.asp). The deadline for applications is April 1, 2002.

## NOCALL OFFICERS 2001-2002

**President Sue Welsh**, McGeorge School of Law (916) 739-7014 [swelsh@uop.edu](mailto:swelsh@uop.edu)  
**Vice President/President Elect Ellen Platt**, Santa Clara University (408)554-5139 [eplatt@scu.edu](mailto:eplatt@scu.edu)  
**Secretary Erin Murphy**, University of California at Davis (530)752-0643 [eemurphy@ucdavis.edu](mailto:eemurphy@ucdavis.edu)  
**Treasurer Marlowe Griffiths**, Howard Rice (415)399-3043 [mgriffiths@hrice.com](mailto:mgriffiths@hrice.com)  
**Past President Donna Williams**, California Court of Appeal (408) 494-2529 [donna.williams@jud.ca.gov](mailto:donna.williams@jud.ca.gov)  
**Member at Large Todd Bennett**, Thelen, Reid & Priest (415)369-7063 [tbennett@thelenreid.com](mailto:tbennett@thelenreid.com)  
**Member at Large Mary Hood**, Santa Clara University (408)554-2732 [mhood@scu.edu](mailto:mhood@scu.edu)

## NOCALL COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

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**Archives David Bridgman**, Stanford University (650) 725-0806 [bridgman@leland.stanford.edu](mailto:bridgman@leland.stanford.edu)  
**Audit & Budget Lynn Lundstrom**, U.S. District Court 415/436-8130 [lynn\\_lundstrom@cand.uscourts.gov](mailto:lynn_lundstrom@cand.uscourts.gov)  
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**Constitution & Bylaws Prano Amjadi**, Heafey Law Library, Santa Clara University (408) 554-5320 [pamjadi@scu.edu](mailto:pamjadi@scu.edu)  
**Consulting Dan Cunningham**, Crosby, Heafey, Roach & May 510/466-6194 [dcunningham@chr.com](mailto:dcunningham@chr.com)  
**Education Erika Wayne**, Stanford University 650/723-2471 [evwayne@leland.stanford.edu](mailto:evwayne@leland.stanford.edu)  
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**Government Relations Susanne Pierce Dyer**, Alameda County Law Library 510/272-6486 [sdyer@admin2.mail.co.alameda.ca.us](mailto:sdyer@admin2.mail.co.alameda.ca.us)  
**Grants Peg LaFrance**, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP (415) 773-5928 [mlafrance@orrick.com](mailto:mlafrance@orrick.com)  
**Membership Holly Riccio**, Davis, Wright Tremain 415/276-6506 [hollyriccio@dwt.com](mailto:hollyriccio@dwt.com)  
**Networking Task Force Mary Ann Parker**, California Department of Water Resources (916)653-8001 [mparker@water.ca.gov](mailto:mparker@water.ca.gov)  
**Newsletter Tina Dumas**, Nixon Peabody 415/984/8378 [tdumas@nixonpeabody.com](mailto:tdumas@nixonpeabody.com)  
**Nominations Janice Kelly**, Phillips & Cohen 415/836-9004 [jkelly@whistleblowers.com](mailto:jkelly@whistleblowers.com)  
**Placement Mary Staats**, Farella, Braun & Martel (415) 954-4880 [staats@ix.netcom.com](mailto:staats@ix.netcom.com)  
**Public Access Coral Henning**, Sacramento County Law Library (916) 874-5625 [CHenning@saclaw.lib.ca.us](mailto:CHenning@saclaw.lib.ca.us)  
**Public Relations Maryanne Gerber**, Golden Gate University (415)442-7000 [mgerber@ggu.edu](mailto:mgerber@ggu.edu)  
**Spring Institute Ellen Platt**, Santa Clara University (408)554-5139 [eplatt@scu.edu](mailto:eplatt@scu.edu)  
**Union List Pati Traktman, Rogers**, Joseph, O'Donnell & Quinn (415) 956-2828 [ptraktman@rjoq.com](mailto:ptraktman@rjoq.com)  
**Web Page Leslie Ann Forrester**, Murphy Sheneman Julian & Rogers (415) 398-4700 [lafsmwb@well.com](mailto:lafsmwb@well.com)

## Calendar of Events

For more details, see <http://www.nocall.org/calendar.html>

### 2001

- December 6, Thursday, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Reception for UC Berkeley School of Information Management and Systems, cohosted by NOCALL Academic Relations Committee (with SLA-SF).

### 2002

- Wednesday, January 23, 2002  
Business Meeting & Luncheon, Marines' Memorial, San Francisco
- March 12, Tuesday  
NOCALL Legislative Advocacy Day, Sacramento
- April 26-27  
NOCALL Spring Institute, Half Moon Bay