



NOCALL News

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

May – June 2002

Volume 22, Number 5

President's Message

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

Farewell - and Thanks

This NOCALL year is at an end, I can't believe it has gone so fast! It has truly been an honor to serve as president during the year, and the part I enjoyed most was working with the Board, Committees, and members on almost a daily basis! I will miss that. The events of September 11 gave us all cause for some sobering thoughts about what is important in our lives. I am grateful for the fine friends I have accumulated during the last 20 (!) years as a NOCALL member. NOCALL has been a constant in my career and I am so grateful.

This is my opportunity to thank everyone for their work and support. I would like to thank McGeorge Library Director, Faye Jones, for allowing me time to work on the details which the office entails. Special thanks go to the Board. Ellen Platt, as Vice-President, did a great job as organizer of the Spring Institute in Half Moon Bay. She kept her committee and me informed of the current status of an incredible number of details, and somehow, she kept track of everything! Ellen will be a fine President! Donna Williams, as Past President, completing three years on the Board, was

just wonderful. She has such great enthusiasm for librarianship and always provides just the right advice for the situation. Erin Murphy, Secretary, kept track of all records, and helped me to remember things I forgot. Marlowe Griffiths, interim Treasurer, was a big help with all things fiscal. Board Members-at-Large Mary Hood and Todd Bennett, both past Presidents, were so helpful as advisors in the "corporate memory" category. Thanks also to all of the Committee Chairs and their committees, for without their work, the organization would not thrive. We have a lot of dedicated members who are willing to say "Yes" and that is one of the reasons for the success of NOCALL!

James Duggan, AALL Executive Board Member, was the keynote speaker at the Spring Institute. In a note to me, he said, in part, "You and the members of your chapter are some of the friendliest people on the planet! I learned, I laughed, I marveled at the beauty of Half Moon Bay - and I ate and ate!" I think that sums up NOCALL pretty well!

As the next Board and Committees take over, I wish them all the best, and trust that they will carry on the strong NOCALL tradition of learning, laughing, marveling - and, yes, eating! I leave you with a toast to NOCALL! May it continue to be the best chapter in the land!



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NOCALL/SANDALL/SCALL Reception @ AALL

sponsored by Westlaw

Tuesday, July 23, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Peabody Hotel

Join friends from all three California chapters, and help celebrate SCALL's 50th Anniversary!

NOCALL News

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

Professional Reading in Review

by Jaye Lapachet

"Getaway: At New York's Library Hotel, books are hip," by Amy Laughinghouse, **Atlanta Journal Constitution**, 4/10/2002

<http://www.accessatlanta.com/ajc/travel/content/0410getaway.html>

This hotel is the ultimate tribute to librarians! The article talks about the boutique New York hotel and how the floors are assigned Dewey Decimal numbers and the rooms are arranged according to one number. The example used is Journalism (1000.005). The room is decorated with art related to journalism. Other aspects of the decor follow the theme. Not really professional reading, but interesting nonetheless! I'll have to put this on my list of places to stay if I go to NY AND if I can afford it.

"Google Turns Away Robots From Its Front Door," by Brian McWilliams, **Newsbytes**, 28 Mar 2002, 8:50 AM CST

<http://www.newsbytes.com/news/02/175524.html>

Want to know why your favorite non-Google search engine is not picking up Google's great indexing of Usenet? This very interesting article not only explains that Google is keeping its servers free for us to search, but also discusses the IP strategy behind their decision. There is also an excellent explanation of how robots.txt files work and a clue for searching websites for 'forbidden files. Any of your attorneys who practice IP law with Internet companies may be interested as well.

"Digital Libraries- Metadata As If Libraries Depended on It," by Roy Tennant, **Library Journal** 4/15/2002

<http://libraryjournal.reviewsnews.com/index.asp?layout=article&articleid=CA206408&display=Digital+LibrariesNews&industry=Digital+Libraries&verticalid=151&publication=libraryjournal>

A fairly brief, understandable article about what makes good metadata. The MARC format is cited as one of the best examples of a successful metadata container. Roy Tennant is a librarian and may be biased, but I agree that MARC has been very successful and widely adopted. There are links to articles about Dublin Core, EAD, METS, MOD and other related topics. You might want to consider the issues Tennant brings up

when updating/upgrading your Intranet.

"New Google Answers Service Raises a Few Questions of Its Own," by Tara Calishain, **Information Today NewsBreaks** 4/22/2002

<http://www.infotoday.com/newsbreaks/nb020422-3.htm>

Review discusses Google's new answer service. In reprinting the qualifications for Google researchers, the review makes it clear that Google does not value librarians or their skills. Qualifications are listed as "Anyone who is an expert at locating information on the Web and has excellent written communication skills can be a researcher. Applicants must be 18 years old and answer an essay question about why they want to be a researcher as well as five sample questions. Researchers' answers are reviewed by Google editors before they're posted, and those who get too many poor reviews by Google users do risk being dropped." There is no doubt that people who are not librarians can be excellent researchers, but if someone has a Master's degree in Library and Information Studies or has been trained to work in a library, then there are some basics that one learns, some grounding that one picks up. I don't necessarily think it is a bad idea, but think that Google has not thought this process through and could gain a lot by partnering with information professionals.

"Upstart Search Engines Try to Topple Google," by Lisa Guernsey, **College New York Times** 4/4/2002
<http://college4.nytimes.com/guests/articles/2002/04/04/911647.xml>

Google relies on their technology to keep them king of the search engines, but other search engines, new and old, are trying new things including looking closely at content and using pages that have some authority. If you thought your hunt for the all encompassing search engine was over, remember we live in 'Internet time.' In my brief look at Teoma, I found their search results to be good, however many links, especially for listserv e-mail messages were broken. For example all the NOCALL messages that were on the lawlibdns.wuacc.edu/nocall NOCALL listserv were inaccessible. Additionally, they need to work on their descriptions, because it is very hard to tell what is relevant by looking at the list of hits on their page. Other than that, I found that their results rivaled those of Google.



What Are YOU Reading?

Compiled by Nora Levine
Crosby, Heafey, Roach & May

I just finished AND STILL WE RISE by LA Times reporter Miles Corwin. Intrigued by a neatly folded exam on the French Revolution found in the back pocket of a teenage boy killed in a drive-by shooting, Corwin decides to track a group of students through their senior year at the gifted magnet program at Crenshaw High School, in the middle of LA's South Central neighborhood. The goal for these students is to earn AP credit and fully paid college scholarships - their only hope of attending college. The obstacles are huge: many of the students are working full time in addition to going to school, several are living on their own or in foster homes, a few have suffered abuse. It's a truly inspiring story, and a good reminder of just how trivial many of our everyday problems are by comparison. It's also sad though, as not all the students graduate.

Leslie Hesdorfer
Paul Hastings Janofsky & Walker LLP

It's the Year of the Horse - so what better time to immerse yourself in SEABISCUIT: AN AMERICAN LEGEND by Laura Hillenbrand. My brother, a racetrack aficionado, insisted that I read it, but you don't have to care about the races or, for that matter, horses to be carried away by this meticulously researched and passionately written biography. Seabiscuit was the classic "underdog", an odd looking loser transformed into one of the greatest racehorses of all time by an unlikely trio of a self-made owner--San Francisco's Charles Howard--a taciturn trainer and a Shakespeare quoting Irish jockey. Odds are good that you, like millions of Depression Era Americans, will lose your heart to the "Biscuit."

I almost never buy books, preferring to patronize my local branch library, but I eagerly plunked down full price for the hardcover edition of Alice Munro's latest collection HATESHIP, FRIENDSHIP, COURTSHIP, LOVESHIP, MARRIAGE. Although I had already read many of these stories in the New Yorker, reading them again was just as, if not more, compelling. Munro's stories (she calls them "long short story

fiction") are richer and denser than most novels, opening up worlds at once ordinary and remarkable.

Ella Hirst
Nolo Press

I just read MAYBE THE MOON by Armistead Maupin. It was published in 1994, but I just got hold of a copy this week and tore through it. It is a novel about a female dwarf living in Studio City trying to gain fame and fortune as a singer/actor. Besides the central character, who is as true and fascinating as anyone alive, there are really great characters, other actors, directors, agents, the Hollywood studio "machine," many complex twists and turns of plot, and deep, subtle symbolism. It is a brilliant, satisfying work which makes an important point about the nature of being "different" and what that may mean in the eye of each beholder. In usual Maupin style, things may be exactly as they appear and then be so much more. He has a gift for pointing out the profundity of what, on its surface, appears mundane.

Devon Warner
Banchemo & Lasater

I just finished TENDER AT THE BONE by Ruth Reichl. If you are unfamiliar with her food reviews from the New York Times, you'll enjoy her memoir of growing up around food. If you know her writing, you'll enjoy learning about her journey all the more. Her mother was a terrible cook, at times serving food that had literally spoiled. As a child, Ruth would try to steer guests away from certain foods knowing the guests would get sick. Her mother was also bi-polar and it is interesting to see how that affected Ruth. There are also recipes included in the text that go along with the stories she tells. Very entertaining, even if you're not a foodie.

Also, THE READER, by Bernhard Schlink. A compelling story, set in post-World War II Germany, narrated by a man who had an affair when he was a teenager with a much older German woman. Later, when he is in law school, their paths cross again. The woman is on trial for a wartime crime and the man wrestles with a moral dilemma that could affect her case. Hard to put down.

(continued)

MAN AND BOY, by Tony Parsons. A poignant novel, set in contemporary London, about a man who is suddenly a single parent to his four year old son. His wife, whom he loves very much, leaves him when she learns of a one night affair he had with a colleague. He at first feels inept in his parenting but he becomes a truly wonderful father to his young boy. At times laugh-out-loud funny, it is his observations about his son and parenthood that are truly touching. He is a British writer that I had not heard of before but I recommend this book highly.

Next up, CASH, by Johnny Cash.

Julie Watters
Morrison & Foerster LLP



Announcement

InfoPeople Computer Grants

The Solano County (CA.) Law Library along with 10 other county law libraries received an InfoPeople grant (<http://www.infopeople.org>) this year for a public online access computer. This grant not only provides a computer, printer, and training, but also includes one year's support. This will be the first public online access that Solano County Law Library has been able to offer its patrons. The California county law libraries that received and are very appreciative for the InfoPeople grants are:

- Alameda County Law Library, South County Branch
- Marin County Law Library
- Plumas County Law Library
- Riverside County Law Library (2 branches)
- San Diego County Law Library (4 branches)
- San Joaquin County Law Library
- Siskiyou County, Family Court Services Branch
- Solano County Law Library
- Sonoma County Law Library
- Yolo County Law Library
- Yuba County Library

Musings from Mark – Reprise

by Mark Mackler
San Francisco Public Library

Tina Dumas was kind enough to give me the opportunity to write an occasional "Musings" column for our NOCALL News. I appreciate her graciousness, and I hope that you'll continue to read and enjoy the column.

By now, you know that I have left law libraries. After 18 years, I felt that it was time to move into a different area of librarianship, a profession that I still love. Because I had been working part-time for the San Francisco Public Library over the past two years, the natural thing was to apply for full-time work with SFPL. I interviewed for an Adult Services job at one of the small neighborhood Branches, and for a Teen Services job in a large Branch. Probably because I had previously taught secondary school and have an M.Ed., the Library appointed me to the Teen Services position.

Here are some reflections after six weeks of public library work.

The Civil Service interview process: Have you ever gone through a Civil Service interview? There's a panel of several librarians and administrators. Each candidate is asked the same questions in the same order. Each answer is scored, and the candidates are ranked according to their total scores. Remember all the books you've read about interview skills? In this kind of interview, whatever you've read is irrelevant. I think the panel is looking for certain answers and there doesn't seem to be much wiggle room for you.

In law libraries, especially in the law firms, we've been spoiled in terms of our surroundings. I work in a Carnegie library built in 1918. The entire staff, including the Branch Manager, works in one big workroom. Three telephones and three PCs for the entire staff, inadequate wiring, no privacy whatsoever, a flaking ceiling, occasional sewer gas, a disparate collection of desks and chairs right out of the 50's...get the picture? But I do count my blessings: At a nearby Branch, the Staff Bathroom is essentially an indoor outhouse.

Organizationally, the staffing scheme resembles the military. There are Librarian I's (like me), Librarian II's, and Librarian III's. In addition, there are the 3602's (pages), 3610's (library assistants), and 3616's and 3618's (library technical assistants). The numbers coincide with the City's rather Byzantine civil service classifications. In addition, there are District Managers, Coordinators, Directors, a Deputy City Librarian and a City Librarian.

Salary advancement is lockstep, and follows our three-year Union contract. All of the law library professional literature regarding how to negotiate effectively for a raise is totally irrelevant. By the way, the SFPL Librarians Guild (which numbers only several hundred members) is part of Local 790 of the Service Employees International Union which has more than 17,000 members. Advantages: Because you bargain within a labor union with thousands of members, you have strength. Disadvantages: Because the librarians are a small group within the large Local, you have to wonder if your fellow Union brothers and sisters take your concerns seriously.

Vacation and other benefits? No more using the interview process to negotiate for what you want. Like salary, everything is predetermined. No paid vacation for one year, no paid sick days for six months, etc. By the way, you have to apply six months in advance for vacation, and there is no guarantee that your request will be granted.

Coming Up Next Time: Bring On the Patrons! (except now we're supposed to call them Customers.)



Catch the Wave: 2002 NOCALL Spring Institute

by Pam Rino
Perkins Coie LLP
and
Tina Dumas
Nixon Peabody LLP

Certain questions are familiar to every librarian. How do I convince a young attorney that the ability to search Yahoo! is not equivalent to the ability to search Lexis -- that sometimes the answer really is in a book? Or how do I explain that even though times are financially tight, a library really does provide a service which needs to be maintained through the economic downturn—and no, everything is not available online. These questions and others were addressed during the NOCALL Spring Institute 2002, *Catch the Wave: Managing Change*.

On the first day of the Institute Lexis-Nexis provided a full day session on Teaching Research in all Law Libraries. Presented by Melanie Putnam, cataloger and web librarian at Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP, the day was spent thinking about the challenges of teaching an adult audience. When teaching in a law library, the audience is extremely knowledgeable. Putnam discussed adult learning theory, particularly the importance of explaining to an adult learner why they need to know the new information. The group considered different learning styles, for example those that deal with brain functions, those related to personality and those addressing differences in sensory modes. The important thing for the adult teacher to remember is that people are most likely to train in their own style, but not everybody learns in the same way. To be an effective trainer, a librarian must reach out to different learning styles.

The group then turned their attention to how to create the best possible class. To create a successful class, a trainer must start with assessing the needs of their clientele and then creating a class that will draw people in. Finally, the course must be evaluated and you must actually trust the evaluation. Jenny Kanji gave us detailed tips on how to create and make use of a course evaluation.

The second day of the Institute provided a variety of programs that addressed issues common in all law libraries.

Melanie Putnam teamed up with Kim Clarke of McGeorge School of Law Library to discuss “Teaching and Training in the New Economy.” They addressed the challenges of teaching law students and new attorneys (and summer associates) how to research efficiently. Audience participation was encouraged, and several audience members put forth interesting ideas, including: teach your summer associates how to do a reference interview; create angst and then fill the gap.

A constant problem for all libraries is how to use new technology. Can a reference librarian serve patrons at a different location. Reference 24/7 is a project which is addressing this particular question. The Institute was treated to a demonstration and discussion of how this project came into existence.

[Editor’s note: See Shirley David’s article in this issue for more about the Reference 24/7 project.]

Within the category of law libraries, many different types of libraries exist including county, court, firm, and academic. Each library faces similar challenges, though the structures are unique. After lunch the Institute hosted a panel on how librarians are responding to economic change. The panel included Deborah Schwarz, President of Library Associates, Lauri Flynn from Little Mendelson, Cossette Sun from Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library and Donna Williams from the California Court of Appeal. Each of the speakers reviewed the specific funding challenges from their individual library. The constant theme from these presentations is that librarians must constantly market their skills and services, and teach the people why a library is necessary.

The meeting closed with “Words of Wisdom” from Bob Berring. He regaled us with his usual aplomb and humor about the state of legal research today.

It was difficult to leave the conference center at Half Moon Bay, after having enjoyed such warm hospitality from the Spring Institute Committee. Their planning provided a wonderful setting, great food, and a collegial atmosphere in which to share ideas and learn from other law librarians. Thanks to Ellen Platt and her committee for their hard work!



Catch the 24/7 Reference Wave

by Shirley H. David
Sacramento County Public Law Library

"Reference 24/7" was the topic of a NOCALL a program during the AALL Chapter's "Catch the Wave: Managing Chance" Institute on April 27, 2002.

Law Librarians were encouraged to "Ask Three Questions a Week" so that the participating California public law librarians could practice their virtual reference skills for the 24/7 Reference Project.

Eleven public law libraries throughout California are participating in a pilot project to provide real time legal reference service via the Internet. Reference librarians are collaborating to escort researchers to free Internet sites that may answer their legal reference questions. The service uses software that combines chat and the ability to collaboratively view and search sites. The real time service is available forty-three hours per week primarily during standard business hours. The questions are received via "Ask the Librarian" Icons on library websites provided by the 24/7 Reference project. Susan McGlamery at the Metropolitan Cooperative Library System, and Shirley David for the Council of California County Law Librarians are coordinating the project, supported by an LSTA grant.

Each public law library has agreed to staff the reference service at least two hours per week and the current schedule includes more that 40 hours of real time reference assistance. Law Librarians are scheduled primarily from Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. On Monday's from 7:00-8:00 p.m. and Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. There are some gaps in the staffing so try again if you don't reach us the first time.

Participants are fielding law related reference questions received through the website icons of participating libraries of the 24/7 Reference Service of the Metropolitan Cooperative Library System in Southern California.

Participating law libraries are: Bernard E. Witkin California State Law Library, Butte County Public Law Library, Fresno County Law Library, Kern County Law Library, Los Angeles County Law

Library, Orange County Public Law Library, Placer County Law Library, Riverside County Law Library, Sacramento County Public Law Library, San Diego County Public Law Library, San Francisco Law Library.



NOCALL Mailing List

Are you subscribed to the NOCALL mailing list?
If not, then point your browser to:
<http://aallnet.org/mailman/listinfo/nocall-list>
to sign up!

If you have questions about your subscription that cannot be answered at this site, please contact the list manager, Joan Loftus at jloftus@brobeck.com

Two Announcements from the San Francisco County Law Library

**San Francisco Law Library
401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 400
San Francisco, California 94102**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 22, 2002

CONTACT: Marcia Bell, Law Librarian
554-6824
marcia.bell@sfgov.org

SF LAW LIBRARY DOWNTOWN BRANCH AVOIDS CLOSURE

The San Francisco Law Library is pleased to announce that it has reached agreement with its landlord to extend the lease of its downtown branch to June 2012. Kurt Melchior, President of the Law Library's Board of Trustees, announced today that "during the recent tight real estate market the Law Library trustees had been gravely concerned that they might not be able to keep the downtown branch open; but the trustees are greatly relieved that recent changes in the market have permitted execution of this lease extension on financially feasible terms. We look forward to serving the legal community and the public through this branch for many years to come." The downtown branch, which has been open since 1947, will thus continue to operate on the fourth floor of the Monadnock Building at 685 Market Street. The branch contains 36,000 volumes of essential California and federal materials, practice guides, treatises and regional reporters. The library's catalog and legal databases can be accessed at the branch on public computers. Additional public computers and a remodeled front desk area will be added in the next few months now that the branch will remain in the building. The San Francisco Law Library Branch at the Monadnock is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday noon to 4 p.m. The Law Library's main collection, which was moved out of City Hall in 1995 for the seismic upgrade, remains temporarily located at the Veteran's War Memorial Building in the Civic Center. See, www.ci.sf.ca.us/sfl for more information about the Law Library, access to its catalog, and links to dozens of legal web sites.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Mary Gavin
Bar Association of San Francisco
415-782-9008

MAYOR WILLIE BROWN MEETS WITH BAR BOARD ON FUTURE OF SAN FRANCISCO LAW LIBRARY

San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown will meet with the Board of Directors of the Bar Association of San Francisco on Wednesday, May 8 at the Association's headquarters. Mayor Brown is meeting with the Board and members of the newly appointed Law Library Task Force to discuss ways to assist the Law Library in its efforts to acquire adequate space, funding, and staffing, at the invitation of Bar President Angela Bradstreet and Executive Director Teveia Barnes. "BASF is very grateful to the Mayor for his responsiveness in committing the City's help and resources to reinvigorating the Law Library which, with the Mayor's great vision and the collaboration of BASF, will be on the cutting edge of metropolitan law libraries," noted Bar President Angela Bradstreet.

Open for operation in 1865, the San Francisco Law Library was officially sanctioned by the State legislature in 1870. Its mission is to ensure that "(t)he judiciary, city, county and state officials, members of the Bar, and all inhabitants of the City and County shall have free access, use and enjoyment of the Law Library.... The City and County of San Francisco is charged with providing suitable and sufficient quarters ... readily accessible to the judges and officers of the courts." (Section 8.103 SF Charter, 1995 Revision) The Library is governed by a Board of Trustees, which includes the Mayor.

The San Francisco Law Library was always housed in City Hall, until seismic retrofitting forced its evacuation in 1995. It has been housed in the Veteran's building since that time, in a space so small that 2/3 of its collections (165,000 volumes) have been placed in inaccessible storage, subscriptions have been discontinued, only six tables are available for research and legal work, and staff work in open lobby areas.

About 33,000 people use the Civic Center law libraries (Veteran's building and reference room at the Courthouse). Almost half of the Library's users are nonlawyers. Among lawyers, it is relied upon most heavily by solo practitioners and members of small firms, as well as the judiciary and city and county officials. Usage is down considerably since the move to the Veteran's building, as the collection is not accessible, and not housed with the courts. The Law Library Director, Marcia Bell, estimates that the library needs over 60,000sf of space for its collections, staff, and visitors through the year 2025.

Members of the new Law Library Task Force are:

The Bar Association's representatives:

Angela Bradstreet, President (Partner, Carroll, Burdick, & McDonough)
Jeffrey Bleich, President-Elect (Partner, Munger, Tolles & Olson)
Jon Streeter, Treasurer (Partner, Kecker & Van Nest)
Allan Littman (Retired Partner, Pillsbury Winthrop)

The Law Library's representatives:

Marcia Bell, Law Library Director

Kurt Melchior, President of the Law Library Board (Partner, Nossaman, Guthner, Knox & Elliot) David Heilbron, Law Library Board Member & Treasurer (Partner, McCutchen, Doyle, Brown & Enersen) Judge James McBride, Law & Motion Judge, San Francisco Superior Court

The Mayor's representatives:

Mark McDonald, Head of Real Estate

Yomi Agunbiade, City Engineer

Jeff Heller, Architect

"This library is a vital part of our legal community. It is used by many members of our San Francisco community who need help in researching and understanding legal issues confronting them, and by many members of the bar association who also need its full resources and excellent staff to serve their clients. We need to do everything we can to secure its future, and to make sure that this invaluable City resource remains accessible to our entire San Francisco community," notes Teveia Barnes, Executive Director of the Bar Association of San Francisco.

The Bar Association welcomes the Mayor's help in securing the library's future, and having its full resources available to the San Francisco community.

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Mary Gavin

Director of Communications

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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:

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Calendar of Events

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

2002

- June 8-13, Saturday through Thursday
SLA, Los Angeles
- July 20-24, Saturday through Wednesday
AALL Annual Conference, Orlando, FL
- November 6-8, Wednesday through Friday
Internet Librarian, Pasadena, CA