



# NOCALL News

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

March – April 2003

Volume 23, Number 4

## President’s Message

by **Ellen Platt**  
**NOCALL President**  
**Santa Clara University School of Law Heafey Law Library**

### **NOCALL Presidential Ramblings....**

#### **NOCALL elections and other acts of bravery....**

As many of you will recall, the Board counted the ballots during the Joint California Institute, and I am pleased to say – although the choices were difficult – the next generation of NOCALL officers and board members was selected.

As I said in my email announcement, I would like to thank all the candidates for their willingness to run for office, and take the chance that they might not be elected. As you've all heard me say many times, (likely way too many times) volunteers are the lifeblood of our chapter, and the members who run for office are our bravest volunteers!

My personal thanks and gratitude to: Sharon McNally Lahey, who ran for secretary; and Sharon Borbon and Michael Levy who ran for Board Members at large. I hope that you will all consider working for NOCALL in other capacities in the future such as committee leadership positions or running in future elections.

My congratulations to the following candidates, I look forward to working with you all on the Board next year:  
Tina Dumas, Vice President/President Elect  
Diane Rodriguez, Secretary  
Wynne Dobyns and Eric Wade, Board Members at Large

#### **Some final thoughts about the Spring Institute**

For those of you who were not able to attend the joint institute in San Luis Obispo, you missed a good one. Kudos to Susanne Dyer, Sushila Selness and Diana Jaque. The programs were interesting, the meeting and programs went smoothly and there was ample time to talk with other NOCALL members and to meet folks from SCALL and SANDALL.

As is usual for me, I look at the programs and wonder which ones are most closely connected with my job. Then, often unscientifically, I just go to the ones that sound most interesting and am invigorated by learning something new. Even if the program wasn't "relevant" to my daily job duties, I always learn something and am certain to meet some new people who sat in the audience around me.

Before this year's institute I received an email from a new firm librarian, who wondered how it is that the programs are selected for an institute. Regrettably, there was nothing relevant to their job duties that would help them justify the expense to their firm administrator, and thus they were unable to attend the institute. And so, as is often the case, another member who is new to their position (and maybe to the profession) and who would benefit by attending the institute, wasn't in attendance. And so the hard question remains, how do you explain and quantify the benefits of networking with your colleagues to your

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employer? How do the planners select programs?

Unfortunately, this concern about institute programming is a perennial issue, and a similar message comes to the President or Vice President nearly every year.

Equally unfortunately, we planners also get very few suggestions from those folks – or anyone for that matter – about what types of programs would be most useful to NOCALL members and would enable them to justify the expense of their attendance to their employer. So.... for those of you who feel this describes your situation, **WHAT KIND OF PROGRAMS DO YOU WANT??**

As you ponder this, consider the difference between a professional meeting and a training session.... The latter teaches a particular skill, the former includes opportunities to meet our colleagues, to make professional contacts, to discuss a situation you are facing. The meeting program may teach skills, but more likely it involves discussions, both formal and informal, of the issues that face us in our daily efforts as professionals. You know, the type of challenge that makes us use our professional skills or

allocate scarce resources or plan for the introduction of new programs or technology into our work environments.

The good news about programming at the chapter level is that the process is much more informal than the programming selection for the national meeting. It is the responsibility of the Vice President and the spring institute planning committee. So please do send an email to Tina Dumas, who will be planning next year's institute, or to me or Susanne Dyer if you feel you know us better. Tell us what issues or professional challenges you need advice about. If you had the opportunity to listen to a panel of experts discuss some problem you are facing, what would they be discussing. Please – tell us what you're thinking!

**Upcoming events**

Please mark your calendars for the May meeting; we will be meeting in Sacramento at the Rio City Café on Thursday, May 22 at about noon. The business meeting and installation of officers will follow the luncheon. The Daily Journal has generously offered to treat us to lunch, so stay tuned for a mailing with more details.

**NOCALL News**

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**Submission Deadlines\*:**

September/October issue: September 6  
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*\*Submissions should be sent to the editor in electronic format, via email attachment or 3.5" floppy disk.*

**2003-2004 NOCALL Election Results**

Congratulations to the newly-elected officers:

**Vice-President/President-Elect:** Tina Dumas  
**Secretary:** Diane Rodriguez  
**Executive Board:** Wynne Dobyns and Eric Wade

As of June 1, Susanne Pierce Dyer will become President, Jacqueline Grossman will continue as Treasurer, and Ellen Platt will serve on the Board as Past President.

Thank you to all of the candidates who agreed to run for offices!

## Professional Reading in Review

by Susan Llano and Erin Murphy  
UC Davis Law Library

“*Elsevier’s Vanishing Act*” by Andrea L. Foster, **Chronicle of Higher Education**, v.49, January 10, 2003, <http://chronicle.com/free/v49/i18/18a02701.htm>

This article discusses publisher Elsevier’s practice of purging certain documents from their database. The documents that are being removed are ones that were called into question for various reasons (e.g., plagiarism, scientific misconduct, gross error such that human safety is at risk). Scholars and librarians are concerned about the preservation of historical record and are urging publishers and editors to develop standards for dealing with inaccurate articles. Another concern is the impact this practice may have on researchers who have read a discredited article but who never see the retraction. The author then gives examples of what other publishers have done with similar discredited articles; most simply link the article to the retraction notice. The article concludes with a list of some of the purged articles and the reason given for their withdrawal.

“*Library Science Sees Many Career Changers; Shortage Raises Subject’s Appeal*,” by Jeffrey Steele, **Chicago Tribune**, March 2, 2003, pg. 4, Zone:C and “*Libraries may Face Dark Future*,” by Katie Menzer, **Dallas Morning News**, January 19, 2003, Metro p. 35A.

The authors of these two articles published in major metropolitan newspapers take the same statistic (one in four librarians is projected to retire in the next five to seven years) and make different predictions about the future of librarianship. Both authors pinpoint lagging compensation as one of the main reasons we are facing a librarian shortage. Menzer details the problems that led us to this shortage and predicts a possibly bleak future for libraries if things don’t change. Steele’s article is not quite so gloomy. He claims that library science is attracting many prospective students. He describes programs at two library schools, Dominican University and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign that have seen strong interest from students, including many mid-life career-

changers. According to the deans of these schools, a common bond in these students is that they tend to be older, are looking for fulfilling work, and have a commitment to service.

“*Tackling Recruitment*,” by Michael Rogers, **Library Journal**, v.128, no. 2, February 1, 2003, p.40-43.

Michael Rogers addresses the problem of the graying of the library profession by discussing ways to successfully recruit new librarians. After identifying the main problems to recruitment (money and librarian stereotypes), he details three programs that have worked. One program at Miami-Dade Public Library used a “grow your own” approach and began looking from within their organization for talent. Internships were developed focusing on staffers who already held baccalaureates and who have been accepted to library school. Another program, run by the Metropolitan Cooperative Library System, called “From Interns to Library Leaders” provided paid internships in member libraries to library school students enrolled in specific schools. The author cautions against neglecting paraprofessionals and claims that they continue to get short shrift when it comes to recruiting. Most libraries do not offer incentives to their staff working toward library degrees. The author concludes by looking at models from other fields to see how they tackle similar recruitment problems.

“*Job Power: Career Management Resources for Librarians*,” by Terren Ilana Wein, Marjorie Gagnon, and Maura Barrett, **Information Outlook**, v.7, no. 1, January 2003, p.10-16.

Another article that begins by talking about the bleak outlook for librarians in the job market, but this one gives hints on how to conduct a successful job search including ways to allocate your time. The authors include annotated lists of resources for resume-writing, books on networking and interviewing, web sites to look for job postings and books on career development and career change. They also include a list of what they consider the best international job sites for those librarians who may be considering a career outside of the U.S.

(Continued on page 4)

**“Lawyers Who Blawg,”** by Jason Krause, **ABA Journal**, March 2003,  
[www.abanet.org/journal/redesign/03fblog.html](http://www.abanet.org/journal/redesign/03fblog.html).

First some preliminaries. ‘Blawgs’ are weblogs that deal with law-related items. A ‘weblog’ is an online journal comprised of periodic entries by the author on items that reflect their interests. Entries can also consist of hyperlinks to web-based sources. If the blawg is frequently updated, it can be a good source of recent news on a particular area. The ABA article interviews a few of the more outstanding and popular blawgs. These include Howard Bashman’s “How Appealing” at <http://appellateblog.blogspot.com>, and Martin Schwimmer’s Trademark Blog at <http://trademark.blog.us/blog>. Some attorneys see the tool as part of marketing while others have found a new “community” of like-minded people. Find a list of blawgs at <http://www.blawg.org>.

**“Is It Time to Get Blogging?”**, by Blake Carver, **netConnect**, January 25, 2003, pg. 30.

Mr. Carver looks at the subject from a librarian’s point of view. His <http://www.lisnews.com> site allows readers to comment on his postings. Recent subjects include the oral argument at the Supreme Court over the Children’s Internet Protection Act and the possible closing of the Florida State Library (see next story). Mr. Carver explains how to set up a blog and what makes a blog good (fresh content and a strong voice). He points out some public libraries that have blogs and believes the tool is a great way to enhance an institution’s or an individual’s visibility and create a “dynamic learning community.”

**“Librarians Throw The Book at Plan to Close State Library,”** by Ron Hayes, **Palm Beach Post**, February 16, 2003, pg. 1A.

Governor Jeb Bush proposed dismantling the Florida State Library in January 2003 in order to save \$4.7 million. The Library’s Museum of Florida History and the State Archives would be moved to the state’s Park Services under the Department of Environmental Protection. Fifty-five of the Library’s employees would be fired. A more pressing issue is the question of what to do with the circulating collection of 500,000 books and documents. Florida State

University turned down the offer of accepting the collection when it was learned it would come without staff or money. Nova Southeastern University has been mentioned as a possibility but that would limit circulation to only Broward County residents and include a downtime of one year or more to assimilate the items. Online petitions have been posted and AALL has written to Bush opposing the plan (as has the ALA). Keep your eyes on this one, folks.

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### 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](mailto:jloftus@brobeck.com)

## What Are YOU Reading?

by Nora Levine  
Crosby, Heafey, Roach & May

I'm willing to shamelessly admit I'm a huge fan of Ann Rice. Her son Christopher Rice, is a writer as well. I recently read his second book, THE SNOW GARDEN, and found it to be quite an enjoyable mystery with a number of dark turns. This young, 20-something-year old novelist has inherited his mother's talent for telling intriguing and macabre tales.

Todd Bennett  
Thelen, Reid & Priest, LLP

I just finished James Michener's last novel, (as far as I know), MEXICO. The knock on Michener is that he sticks to his formula of taking a geographic location and weaves in the history of the place with the history of one or more fictional families in the development of the lifestyle of the place. This one is no exception.

That said, I found this to be a good read. The protagonist, Norman Palafox, who tells the story, is a journalist sent to Toledo, a (fictional) city near Mexico City to cover a bullfighting duel between 2 of the best bullfighters in Mexico, one of mainly Indian descent, courageous but lacking style, the other of mainly Spanish heritage, stylish, but not as courageous.

The writer goes back to his roots. He was born in Toledo. His father was descended from Virginia colonists and his mother from conquistadors and the royal family of the local (fictional) Indian tribe, the Altomecs. There is lots of development of the writer's family history, going back to the Inquisition in Spain and to the building of the local pyramid by the tribe known as the Drunken Builders and their conquest by the Altomecs, who had human sacrifices to the gods to make the sun return at the end of winter.

Two of his ancestors, brothers, one a soldier, the other a priest, discovered the silver mine, and made the king of Spain so rich that the persecution of their family by the Inquisition ended, and one became the governor and the other the bishop, who later married an Indian woman, the first of 4 Palafox bishops of Toledo to do so. The brothers ran the mine, which depended on cheap Indian labor to operate. They used their shares of the riches extracted to build a cattle ranch extending a million acres at its zenith and to build a beautiful

cathedral in Toledo.

Norman, a bullfighting aficionado, meets a group of wealthy American oilman and their families from Oklahoma, including a 17 year old named Penny who is there to meet a bullfighter. They are joined by the leading Mexican bullfighting critic, who, if he is paid by the bullfighter, will praise his efforts in his newspaper columns, incorporating elements of literature, history and art. They are also joined by a young American Vietnam veteran, trying to make a career as a bullfighter at small local bullfights and by jumping the fence at the big fights to make a few passes at the bull before getting arrested.

The characters of the bullfighters and their entourage are developed as well, to the extent of describing a clandestine visit by one bullfighting camp to shave the horns of the bulls in the middle of the night. They get interrupted before they finish and one bull's horns are untouched. This is a cause of worry because they can't predict which bulls their bullfighter will have to fight. The interplay of the drama of the bullfights with the history and the interaction among the characters attending, with the exciting climax of the bullfights makes a fascinating read, even for those like myself who see bullfighting as cruelty to animals.

Dan Cunningham  
Reed Smith Crosby Heafey, LLP

While I don't mind admitting that I peruse the headlines on the tabloids at the grocery store checkout, I did have to explain to my husband why I was reading AMERICAN SON, by Richard Blow, illustrated with a photograph of John F. Kennedy Jr. on the cover.

The book is not a peek into Kennedy's medicine cabinet, but is a very interesting look at the magazine publishing world. Blow, a former editor at George, discusses such business realities as the role of the parent publishing company, soliciting advertisers, circulation numbers, recruiting authors, and the emphasis on celebrity rather than substance in reporting on U.S. politics. I came away with respect for Kennedy's intelligence and what he was trying to accomplish at George.

Jane Evans  
Administrative Office of the California Courts

Just arrived in my mailbox from Amazon.com after months of waiting! COUTURE CULTURE: A STUDY IN MODERN ART AND FASHION, by Nancy J. Troy (MIT Press 2003). An art history professor at USC, Nancy Troy looks at the relationship of art and fashion in the first decade of the twentieth century. She examines the rise of mass-market, department store reproductions based on clothing designed and made to order for the wealthy. Illustrated with many line drawings and photographs, regrettably all in black and white, Troy's treatment appears to be well-researched. Her writing style, at first glance, is breezy and witty. Pages upon pages on Vionnet, Paquin, Poiret, Duchamp, Picasso, Callot Soeurs, Orientalism, Les Ballets Russes, et al., promise a delightful read this weekend.

Nancy Fadis

Kohanov, Linda. THE TAO OF EQUUS: A WOMAN'S JOURNEY OF HEALING & TRANSFORMATION THROUGH THE WAY OF THE HORSE. Novato, CA: New World Library, 2001, 363 pp.

Last autumn, after 10 years *sans equus*, I was able to purchase another horse. Since I was not only out of practice but older and less flexible than before, I also signed up for riding lessons. My trainer loaned me this book insisting that I read it; she wants all her clients to read it. At first blush this is a New-Age, "fluffy-bunny", psycho-spiritual sort of book, but if you set that aside (or revel in it, if that's what you like) and simply absorb what the author has learned about horses, you will come away with a new respect and admiration for these magnificent creatures.

Kohanov details her experiences of learning from horses about her own emotional health and using these insights in her work as a therapist using horses with human clients. Contrary to the belief of some, horses are intelligent, strongly empathetic, and non-judgmental. As prey animals, they perceive the world differently than predators. They are masters at perceiving nuance and interpreting levels of threat, and then knowing what to do about it. If they were not, they would not have survived throughout the millennia. This makes them wonderful companions for women who themselves are often prey in human cultures. They can teach confidence, honesty and strength to anyone who has been abused or victimized.

They can empower those who simply feel inadequate to the tasks of living. Riders who have not suffered abuse or been victimized also have much to learn from horses, if we are willing to learn their language. If you ride, own a horse, or simply admire them from afar, this book offers new insights into the horse/human relationship and the kind of collaboration that is possible between the two species.

Janet Fischer  
Golden Gate University Law Library

I just finished Sara Paresky's novel, TOTAL RECALL. This V.I. Warshawski mystery interweaves her latest case, involving insurance policies issued during the Holocaust with her old friend Lotty Herschel's past as a wartime refugee, and with a man who insists he is related to people back in Europe. Not your standard procedural who-dun-it.

For the start of the baseball season, I'm reading Eric Greenberg's THE CELEBRANT, which has been called one of the best baseball novels ever written. A Jewish immigrant jeweler is a big time fan of John McGraw's turn of the (20th) century New York Giants and he celebrates the exploits of his favorite player, Christy Matthewson by making rings for the pitcher and later his teammates. Scenes at the stadium really capture the feel of being at a game and life in those times. The Hall of Fame has a traveling exhibit called "Baseball as America," and that kind of sums up my feelings about this book.

A fun book chock full of photos is FOOTSTEPS IN THE FOG: ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S SAN FRANCISCO, by Kraft and Leventhal. It really should be Hitchcock's San Francisco, Santa Rosa, Bodega Bay and other points in Northern California, as the authors trace the real life sites where the filmmaker shot Vertigo, The Birds, Shadow of a Doubt and other films. The authors did a lot of detective work to track down the locations where the films were made and the book includes photographs comparing then and now. Ever wonder where the book store was in Vertigo? The schoolhouse attacked by birds in Bodega? Lots of fun for film buffs and anyone interested in how Northern California has changed in the last half century.

Paula Lichtenberg, Librarian  
Keker & Van Nest LLP



I just finished COMFORT ME WITH APPLES by Ruth Reichl. It is the sequel to TENDER AT THE BONE. It picks up with her as an adult, living in Berkeley, meeting Alice Waters and becoming a food critic. It tells a lot about her personal life, which is very interesting, and contains some good recipes. Foodies will enjoy.

I recently read THE SAFETY OF OBJECTS, by A. M. Homes. It is a fabulous collection of short stories and has just been made into a movie [with Glenn Close and Patricia Clarkson – a Sundance entry]. Her writing on suburbia is dead-on.

I also just read, PRAGUE, A NOVEL by Arthur Phillips. I could not put this book down. It's about five ex-patriots living in Budapest in the early 1990's. They would all prefer to be in Prague, hence the title. This book encompasses so much about Hungarian history and the writing is so wonderful that it's hard to do it justice here.

I'm currently reading THE KEY TO MY NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE: SEEKING JUSTICE IN BOSNIA AND RWANDA by Elizabeth Neuffer. She is a journalist who spent time in both countries during the recent tragic events there. If you are at all interested in this subject, I highly recommend this book. It is the best overview I have read of the confusing events that occurred. She follows the lives of several individuals so that you understand the human impact of the war. She also details the formation of the International Criminal Tribunals for Yugoslavia and Rwanda and their attempts to bring the war criminals to justice.

Last year I raved about MAN AND BOY, by Tony Parsons. It was not available in the states. It has just been released here in paperback. Mr. Parsons has written a sequel called MAN AND WIFE. I haven't read it yet, but I expect it to be equally good.

Julie Watters  
Morrison & Foerster LLP

The inspiration for reading GODS AND GENERALS by Jeff Shaara came from an antique dealer I met on a cruise who said the movie of that name was the reason she and her husband were able to take the trip. She went on to explain that Universal Studios had "rented" some of their 19th century furniture for the movie, and

the rental money paid for their cruise! GODS AND GENERALS is the bestseller Civil War work spanning from November 1858-June 1863, the first battle of Manassas to the Battle of Fredericksburg. It is actually the prequel to another bestseller, THE KILLER ANGELS, by the author's father, Michael Shaara. Jeff Shaara brings four generals - Robert E. Lee, "Stonewall" Jackson, Winfield Scott Hancock and Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain - to life and they become just not historical figures, but genuine people. You can almost imagine the various campaigns and interactions among the generals from the vivid descriptions. One does not have to be a Civil War enthusiast to appreciate the book. I hope to finish it before the movie leaves the theaters!

Sue Welsh  
UOP McGeorge School of Law

#### Seattle Library Tours

The Preliminary Program for AALL provides your only opportunity to sign up for library tours in Seattle. Take a moment to register for tours of private, public, and academic law libraries. See the public research opportunities at King County Law Library; be dazzled by the glass roof of the library at Davis Wright Tremaine; check out the new and nearly new libraries at Seattle University and the University of Washington; and more!

Fred Hanson  
Seattle Local Arrangements Publicity Chair  
[fredhanson@dwt.com](mailto:fredhanson@dwt.com)

## Musings from Mark

by Mark Mackler  
San Francisco Public Library

**We often take things for granted...**including our own eyesight and hearing. I never really thought about this until I recently attended a performance of a play at the New Conservatory Theatre. A substantial portion of the audience was deaf or hard-of-hearing.

The theatre management had set up small, TV-like screens adjacent to each seat. As the actors spoke their lines, two technicians typed the words in transcript form so that the audience members could read what the actors were saying. More than likely this technology has been around for years, but this was the first time that I'd seen it in action. It was terrific!

**MUNI really has been improving...**but every so often it makes me cry. Last week, I was walking on Van Ness Avenue near Market. A MUNI bus was coming up Van Ness. Instead of the normal destination sign (49 Van Ness, etc.) the bus was flashing "Need Help!! Please call 911!!" I happened to see a MUNI inspector nearby, and I tried to call his attention to the situation. The problem was that he was too busy talking on his cell phone about his upcoming night out to listen to me. Sure hope that the bus operator wasn't having a real crisis.

**On a serious note...**NOCALL has lost several wonderful members in recent years. John Moore, Veronica Maclay and Bev Lipton come to mind. (I still expect to bump into John whenever I'm walking on Market Street.) How about naming our scholarship and grants after these folks? Most NOCALL members remember them. But for the newer NOCALL members, this would provide an opportunity for them to learn who these great people were.

**And finally...**I've recently been working through a personal/professional issue. Several NOCALL members have given me valuable guidance. You know who you are, and I want to thank you.

## Law Day 2003 in Alameda County

by John Schroeder  
Alameda County Law Library

The Alameda County Law Library, Bar Association, Superior Court, and School District will participate in activities to commemorate Law Day 2003. Law Day occurs on May 1<sup>st</sup>, however activities will take place throughout the week from April 28<sup>th</sup> through May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Law Day events will be promoted with posters at the Law Library and various county libraries.

The keynote speaker at the Law Day Luncheon will be California Attorney General Bill Lockyer. The Rotary Club is collaborating in this event. Another highlight of this year's luncheon will be the presentation of the Liberty Bell Award. Cossette Sun, Director of the Alameda County Law Library, is head of the Award Committee. Throughout the week tours will be conducted of the courts and the Law Library for the benefit of local middle school students. The Law Library and the South County Branch in Hayward will celebrate the installation of computers linked directly to the Alameda County Superior Court Domain System.

The grand opening of the Alameda County Superior Court's Wiley W. Manuel Self Help Litigant Center will occur on May 1<sup>st</sup> and be a part of the festivities. The center is located in the Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse in Oakland which was named to honor the late Justice Wiley W. Manuel (1927-1981) who was the first African American member of the California Supreme Court.

The Alameda County Law Library will be publicizing the Sixth Annual Bernard E. Witkin Memorial Symposium throughout the week. The Witkin Institute, the Alameda County Bar Association (ACBA), and the Law Library co-sponsor this annual event. The topic of this year's Symposium is Ethics, and it will take place on Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. At least two hours of MCLE ethics credit will be available to attendees. The symposium is open to the public, and the ACBA is handling registration. The registration fee includes lunch. Please view the Law Library website for additional information.

<http://www.co.alameda.ca.us/law/>



PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE  Bar Association Sponsored

**Alameda County Bar Association and Alameda County Law Library**  
Oakland, CA

TITLE	Law Week 2002
CONTACT	Cossette Sun Csun@co.alameda.ca.us
BUDGET	\$8,000

The Alameda County Bar Association Law Day Committee and the Alameda County Law Library worked together to plan and promote activities during the week of April 29–May 3. One of the activities was to work with local schools and courts to coordinate court tours on May 1. Approximately 250 students toured the court and witnessed the court in session.

During Library Week the library placed copies of historic American documents on display. These documents were incorporated into the Law Week displays in the library. Reference librarians provided tours of the law library throughout the week for middle school and high school students. The librarians talked about the American legal system and how the codes, reporters, and treatises are used. The librarians included materials in the tours that were relevant to the lives of students, such as books on dog laws or music copyrights, in order to show them that the law touches their lives. The students received a packet of information including library services as well as the ABA career booklet "A Life in the Law."



#### Spanish-English Brochures

*Practical law information on important topics, with complete text in both languages.*

See page 68.

## American Society of Information Science & Technology (ASIST) Annual Meeting Philadelphia, PA November 17-21, 2002

By Donna S. Williams  
California Court of Appeal

### What is it all about?

It all started with the “Newbie” reception. Never thought I’d be a newbie again at anything but it was fun! Several members of the national board gave an overview of ASIST and how their Annual Meeting is run. They gave us insight on how to get the most out of everything. They even encouraged program hopping! In each timeslot there are six different programs so it’s a tough decision to pick just one. They also explained that there are only a dozen or so exhibitors at the meeting (with only a table full of wares). ASIST focuses more on programs than on vendors.

Next, the President of ASIST introduced international attendees from Nigeria, Belgium, Australia, China, England, Ireland and several other countries. I met information technology people, science librarians, Ph.D. candidates, professors of library science, and the librarian from the National Center for State Courts. It was a great mix of disciplines! There were over 700 attendees and I didn't know one of them! It was a great opportunity and I have to admit I was a bit anxious!

After the Newbie Reception, we joined the Opening Reception. I met an indexer from Genentech in the Bay Area, a researcher from Wellesley College in MA, and a Harvard science librarian. We talked for quite a while about our professional situations and what we wanted to get out of the meeting. We all agreed this was the place to find out about “bleeding” edge technology. Several of the people I spoke with who have been ASIST members for years said that they hear of new technologies here years before they are in the mainstream.

### Revelation

The most important revelation I had from this annual meeting was that law libraries are years away from “digitizing” our entire collections. While several

science research libraries are going digital (i.e., electronic), I realized how different the field of law is.

In science, research is based on journal articles and research reports. These are meant to be shared, downloaded, copied, and used to create new research. Unlike us, they don't seem to care about copyrights. Also, once a research paper is written, one doesn't go back and change it every year to update it according to all the new research. This clears the path for digitizing libraries.

The law library, on the other hand is a completely different beast! Our treatises, case law and law reviews are all copyrighted. These materials, along with statutes, are always in revision with pocket parts and supplements, coming anywhere from once a year to several times a year. (We'll be paying our publishers for use of materials till the cows come home!) Our case law becomes superseded and overruled. We need to Keycite or Shepardize all cases and statutes. Most of the time, current material reigns supreme.

Law libraries are constantly evolving and changing because that's the nature of law and society. Law libraries are very distinct when compared with other disciplines.

### A Few Program highlights

Monday morning started out with a *Plenary Session on Openness, Privacy & National Security Post 9/11*. The speakers were Thomas S. Blanton of the National Security Archive and Lee S. Strickland an attorney with the Senior Intelligence Service on assignment at the University of Maryland. It was an excellent discussion on how the Federal Government is handling electronic information since 9/11.

The main ideas I took away from this talk are that we are in an era unlike we've ever been before. The terrorists of today are not like the Cold War of years ago. We need to get away from the mentality of only releasing information on a need to know basis. Instead of closing off Government information, we need to make it available so our society is more aware. The more we know makes us a powerful people. By hiding information, it makes us unable to relate that

information to areas of everyday life and events. A good example of this was the decision to release the Washington area snipers license plate and description of the car. Police held that information for days. When they did release it, a citizen called in with the location of the car within 1 hour of the data being released.

Another very interesting session was “*Deeper Representation of Digital Information: From Metadata to Semantic Data.*” Three researchers that are working on digital library projects spoke about their ventures. I learned that metadata is more than cataloging. It is resource discovery and constructing new resources by recombining. Recombining is linking old materials (perhaps a chapter of a book in digital format) with other materials available (perhaps educational websites).

One speaker is doing eye scanning research to find out where users look on websites and for how long their pupils scan information. This helps them focus on how to most effectively organize their site. Another speaker discussed "concept" or "idea basis searching." This is not just word searching but idea searching. In concept or idea searching, specialized mark-up language is used. In some cases several different mark-up languages can be used which would link up to very different results. It was interesting because in our field we just do word searching. This way of searching is totally different and it's interesting to think of the possibilities when applied to the legal field.

Next was an “*Update on Federal Information Policies.*” The first speaker gave his vision of how Egovernment should be. He wants it to be an interactive and integrated site linking government with corporations, agencies and citizens. The next speaker discussed the need for balance between national security and sharing information. There is a need for dissemination of research. This in turn helps defend against terrorism. Scientists and citizens need to find out about detecting small pox and what to do about a possible anthrax threat. On the other hand, we need to be very aware of what terrorists may be looking for. It's a difficult situation all around.

The third speaker discussed the need for Records

Management. Agencies must develop vital records programs and keep copies offsite in case of an emergency. We need to preserve electronic information into the future. That's difficult to do when it is constantly changing. Standards need to be developed and followed. The National Archives is moving more towards International Standards Organization (ISO) standards. Finally, the last speaker discussed how each agency defines records differently, and the reality of how there is no money to do these projects such as archiving electronic documents. He also discussed the problem that websites usually fall under IT departments and not always the library. It was a very enlightening session.

### Conclusion

Overall going to the ASIST meeting was a great experience! The programs were all excellent. I'd recommend attending an ASIST Annual Meeting to anyone. I did feel a little out of my element but we all need to learn new things, meet new people and stay on top of our field. AALL does an excellent job in that respect, but it was fun to see how another organization is run and how they handle professional training.

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### In Memoriam: Lydia Freeman

contributed by Jim Nichols  
 Director of Operations  
 Hanson, Bridgett, Marcus, Vlahos, Rudy, LLP

Lydia Freeman, beloved librarian at Hanson, Bridgett, Marcus, Vlahos, Rudy, LLP, for 24 years, passed away peacefully in March. We will all miss her terribly here at Hanson Bridgett. At the beginning of March, we named our law library the Lydia Freeman Library in her honor. We felt it was only fitting, as she was the one who truly built it, and we wanted her to know how much we loved, appreciated, and respected her.

Services for Lydia were held in Dixon, CA on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.

You may send condolences to her husband, Bob Freeman, at home at 875 Stratford Ave., Dixon, CA 95620.

## Self-Represented Litigants and ACCESS in San Francisco

by Colin Hutton  
San Francisco Law Library

As any librarian knows, interacting with and assisting the general public presents its own set of rewards and challenges on a daily basis, and in the law library setting, it takes on a new dimension: dealing with the Self Represented Litigant. At the San Francisco Law Library, we receive many requests from patrons who are representing themselves in court, doing their own legal research, or just simply investigating issues that interest them. In this we are no different than any other county law library in the state, and probably in the nation.

The San Francisco Superior Court has been, like all courts, dealing with self-represented litigants for eons now. To say that this slows down court proceedings is an understatement, and is just one aspect of the self represented litigants' impact on the court system. To better deal with this impact, the Superior Court created a Self-Represented Litigants Task Force to discuss the resources, methods and manners in which the Court can better assist these litigants.

This article is a report about the activities of the Self Represented Litigants Task Force (whose bimonthly meetings I attend on behalf of the Law Library) and how this task force has impacted the access to information and the efficient integration into the court system for the self-represented litigant in coordination with the resources of the San Francisco Law Library.

The task force spent a considerable amount of time and resources discussing ways in which we could better serve ALL self represented litigants in as many areas of the law as possible. One end result of this discussion, and the focus of this article, is the **ACCESS** Center (Access for Customers in Court Employing Self-Help Services).

The purpose of this Center is to be a one stop location for pro per litigants to receive assistance in most if not all areas of the Court system. The assistance to be provided is intended to be in six languages (English, Spanish, Russian, Tagalog, Vietnamese and Mandarin), and would be offered to the patrons in signage, dedicated computer terminals, and perhaps

even multilingual independent voice activated telephonic systems.

In addition, the other major facet of the Center is that it will work in close cooperation with the various and multitudinous community based organizations (CBO's) throughout San Francisco. The Center will have regular outreach to the CBO's, and will have a rotation of attorneys or other qualified staff members to represent the courts in this new capacity onsite at the locations of various CBO's.

The budget crisis has affected the San Francisco Courts as well as most state and municipal agencies, and the ACCESS center is not excepted from these new fiscal restraints. Accordingly, the Center is staffed by only one person, its Director, Cristina Llop. Her focus is to ensure that everyone that enters the Center receives some assistance, even if it is just directional (although, of course, the intention is to offer much more substantive assistance than mere directional or referential advice). The Director is bilingual (Spanish and English) and there are court employees available, at times, who can speak other languages to assist the non-native English speakers.

Also, there are printed materials at the Center to assist the self-represented litigants, including pamphlets for various legal situations that have been translated into the aforementioned languages. Also at the Center are self help legal monographic materials, such as Nolo Press titles and California Practice Guides from Rutter.

The San Francisco Law Library is working closely with the Center to ensure that there is a coordination of resources and an ongoing communication. This cooperation has resulted in a mutually expanded sense of community resources, a synthesis of knowledge. This is important to the self represented litigant in a number of ways. The main branch of the San Francisco Law Library is not in the courthouse, and does not have immediate access to the resources of the courthouse that the self represented litigant requests (such as case information, small claims advisors, family law facilitators), but now there is a professionally staffed resource that we in the Library can refer the Self Represented Litigants to. Secondly, the ACCESS Center does not have nearly as many print, computer and online resources of the main

branch of the San Francisco Law Library, and can refer litigants to our resources with greater precision. Lastly, by working together, we can be assured that the litigant has access to current law, and is aware of current workshops, clinics, and other community outreach events.

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**What the Law Library Can Do For You & Your Constituents: An Orientation to Legislative & Legal Resources for Legislative Aides**  
*A Program of the San Francisco Law Library*

by Ruth Goldstein  
 San Francisco Law Library

By provision of the Charter of the City of San Francisco<sup>1</sup>, the San Francisco Law Library is to “*be so located as to be readily accessible to the judges and officers of the court.*” This mandate has always put the main branch of the Law Library in the hub of governmental activity as well. From 1916, when City Hall was rebuilt after the 1906 earthquake and fire, until 1995 when City Hall closed temporarily for extensive seismic repair, the Law Library was located within the magisterial space of City Hall itself. City Hall then also housed the trial courts, along with many departments of city government as well as the Board of Supervisors. State judicial and governmental offices faced the square outside City Hall; and one block further, the Federal Building provided, among other offices, the district office of the U. S. Congressional representative from San Francisco.

Since 1995, the entire Civic Center has seen a good deal of flux: new buildings have been constructed and old ones retrofitted. In 1995, the Law Library itself moved across the street from City Hall into interim quarters. Throughout all these space reconfigurations, though, the geographical character of Civic Center has been defined by the local, state, and federal offices of government. The Law Library, too, continues its role of serving the “*judiciary, city, county, and state officials, members of the Bar, and all inhabitants of the City and County.*”<sup>2</sup>

One way the Law Library maintains that connection is by presenting programs for the staff of new supervisors as well as other legislative aides. The first

was held in early 2001. After that program, the Law Library sponsored an exhibit of students’ letters and suggestions to President Bush on his inauguration. This exhibit, *Active Democracy*, caught the attention and imagination of city, state, and congressional representatives, with letters of commendation issued to the students and to the library. As a result, several of those legislative offices expressed an interest in learning more about the library collection. In the recent November 2002 election, two new San Francisco supervisors were elected and two former supervisors went to the Assembly from San Francisco, so a new tour was planned for February 2003.

The Civic Center reference team<sup>3</sup> worked together with Library Director, Marcia Bell, and Assistant Director, Mary Hays, to design a program that would first and foremost be brief enough and focused enough for extremely busy people to attend. It was decided to keep the program within the constraints of one hour, tailoring the presentation to those library resources that would be most cogent to their work. Over and over again in the planning stages, ideas were tested against the criteria of the usefulness to the work of these legislative aides, either work in drafting or analyzing legislation, or work in responding to constituent calls for assistance.

The program was presented by the reference librarians, in five parts: an overview of the Law Library collection and services; a survey of municipal law materials with emphasis on San Francisco materials, current and archived; a presentation of materials helpful to constituents (such as Nolo Press materials); a demonstration of a few key electronic resources; and an introduction to a unique Law Library reference tool that tracks San Francisco legislation (*List of Sections Affected*<sup>4</sup>). Time was also put aside for questions during and after the presentations.

With the priorities of the tour clearly in mind, the staff rehearsed their parts with each other, doing a complete walk-through twice, always keeping an eye on the clock, and the unity of the overall presentation. To complement and reinforce the presentations, the reference staff also created related source guides. Each participant received a packet which included:

- A one-page overview of library services: *What the Law Library can do for Legislators and their*



*Constituents:*

- A selected list of municipal and governmental materials in the Law Library collection;
- A guided pathfinder to searching the San Francisco Municipal Code in both text and electronic formats;
- A selection of Helpful Constituent Materials (such as titles on immigration, landlord/tenant, neighbor disputes, disability rights, insurance company disputes, family law, and self-help litigation);
- A guide to Selected Legal Referral Resources (listing pro bono legal services, useful Court services such as the offices of the Family Law Facilitator and Small Claims Advisor, and other self-help resources);
- An example of the *San Francisco List of Sections Affected* reference tool;
- An application for library privileges<sup>5</sup>; and
- A bookmark, listing locations, hours, and website.

The Law Library invited each of the supervisor's aides and support staff, the Office of Legislative Counsel, and legislative aides to state assembly, state senate, and U. S. Congressional representatives. Seventeen staffers attended the program, and contrary to the concern for their tight schedules, almost all stayed for questions afterwards. Many applied for library cards.

More than half of the participants represented the Board of Supervisors, including aides from five supervisors' offices, two legislative analysts to the Board, and several Board support staff members. Four of the participants were staff aides to state assembly and state senate offices. Two others were congressional aides.

An almost immediate indication of the impact of the tour was a phone call received only a few hours after the tour to the reference staff from one of the participants, requesting assistance in researching a municipal issue. Other feedback has also been positive, and will lead to more frequent programs of this type, including specialized workshops in legislative research. In the near future, the Law Library will repeat the orientation program for those aides who were not able to attend but who want to know how the Law Library can support their work.

<sup>3</sup> The Civic Center reference team is comprised of: Richard Schulke, Colin Hutton, Gerald Clark, and Ruth Goldstein.

<sup>4</sup> To look at the *List of Sections Affected*, go to the San Francisco Law Library home page, at [www.sfgov.org/sfl](http://www.sfgov.org/sfl), and click on Special Features.

<sup>5</sup> Under San Francisco Law Library rules, any local, state, or federal governmental official working in their official capacity may borrow Law Library materials.

### Volunteer in Seattle

We need you! Join the group of interesting and dedicated people volunteering their time to help make the 2003 Annual Meeting a great success!

How can you help? There are a variety of activities available -- pick the ones that interest you most! For example:

- meet new people and see old friends while working at the Registration Desk
- write articles for the daily newspaper, "Coffee Talk"
- help "stuff" conference tote bags (Friday July 11)
- take tickets and seat individuals at the Association luncheon and closing banquet
- work with children at the Family Social Hour (Saturday July 12)

Volunteers really help the conference run smoothly, and it's a lot of fun! Thanks in advance!

Please complete the Volunteer Opportunities Form available on the AALL website (<http://www.aallnet.org/committee/local03/>) and in the Preliminary Program by June 1, 2003, and fax/send/email it to:

Ann Hemmens  
University of Washington  
Gallagher Law Library  
1100 NE Campus Pkwy.  
Seattle, WA 98105  
FAX: (206) 685-2165  
PHONE (206) 543-7672  
[hemmens@u.washington.edu](mailto:hemmens@u.washington.edu)

<sup>1</sup> San Francisco Charter, Sec. 8.103

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, Sec. 8.103

## NOCALL Grants available

Grant applications for attendance at the SLA and AALL Annual Meetings are due no later than **Friday, April 11, 2003**. Applications are available on the NOCALL web site. Applications can be faxed, e-mailed as an attachment (WORD preferred), or actually put in the mail. But they must get to me **no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, April 11th**.

### NOCALL Grant Award Criteria

1. Candidates must be members of NOCALL. Members may receive more than one NOCALL grant to an AALL function and more than one NOCALL grant to a NOCALL function in their lifetime.
2. Applications from first-time grant recipients will have priority. An application for a second grant can be made when three (3) years have passed since the award of the original grant. Members of the Grants committee are ineligible to apply.
3. Members may receive grants to non-AALL and non-NOCALL sponsored events when the topic is of importance to the law library field and professional development and when the materials can be shared with the NOCALL community. This can be accomplished through NOCALL News, a workshop or a special report.
4. The grants will be awarded on the basis of:
  1. Proven ability and/or expertise in a topic field
  2. Financial need
  3. Promise of future usefulness and permanence to the law library profession
  4. Willingness to share materials

Peg LaFrance, NOCALL Grants Chair  
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 400 Sansome Street  
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 Fax: (415) 773-5759 (to the attention of Peg LaFrance)  
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 Questions: (415) 773-5928

### AALL RESEARCH GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Research Committee of the American Association of Law Libraries is accepting applications through **May 5** for grants from the AALL Research Fund. The committee will award one or more grants totaling up to \$5,000 to library professionals who want to conduct research that affects librarianship.

Established with an endowment from LexisNexis™ in July 2000, the annual grants fund projects that create, disseminate or use legal and law-related information. The Association's Research Agenda offers suggestions for research projects that cover the profession of law librarianship, law library patrons, law library services, legal research and bibliography, legal information resources and law library facilities. However, projects are not limited to those described in the agenda; the committee will consider all applications and research projects. To review AALL's complete Research Agenda, please go to: [http://www.aallnet.org/about/research\\_fund.asp](http://www.aallnet.org/about/research_fund.asp).

To apply for the grants, all applicants must provide resumes and statements of their qualifications for carrying out their projects. The applications must demonstrate experience with research projects and an understanding of the dissemination and use of legal and law-related information. Priority will be given to practicing law librarians and AALL members, working individually or in partnership with other information professionals. The grant application and complete guidelines are available at [http://www.aallnet.org/about/research\\_fund.asp](http://www.aallnet.org/about/research_fund.asp).

The submission deadline for applications is **May 5**. Grants will be awarded and announced by July 1. Allocation of the research grants will be at the sole discretion of the AALL Research Committee.

**For more information**, contact Kumar Percy, Chair of the AALL Research Committee, by email at [kpercy@mail.law.utexas.edu](mailto:kpercy@mail.law.utexas.edu) or by phone at 512-232-1568.

## Membership News

### New & Continuing NOCALL Members

The names of members who have joined NOCALL since publication of the 2001-2002 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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## NOCALL OFFICERS 2002-2003

**President Ellen Platt**, Santa Clara University (408)554-5139 [elplatt@scu.edu](mailto:elplatt@scu.edu)

**Vice President/President Elect Susanne Pierce Dyer**, Alameda Co. Law Library (510)272-6486

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## NOCALL COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

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**Spring Institute 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)

**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>

### 2003

- ∅ May 22, Thursday  
Business Meeting and Luncheon, Rio City Café, Old Town Sacramento, CA
- ∅ July 12-16, Saturday through Wednesday  
AALL Annual Conference, Seattle, WA
- ∅ July 12, Saturday  
Joint Western Chapters of AALL Reception (SCALL, SANDALL, WestPac, NOCALL), Seattle WA