

NOCALL NEWS

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

March-April 2015

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Michele Finerty

As you know, NOCALL finds itself in the position that is affecting many other regional and national professional associations. Due to the economy, many administrations for academic, law firm, government, and public law libraries have cut back on their financial support of chapter membership. This has resulted in the following:

- Decline in NOCALL membership. Thanks to Sean Kaneshiro, we have a record of membership dues from 2008/2014:

Fiscal Year	Membership Dues Collected
2013/14	\$8,705.65
2012/13	\$8,787.72
2011/12	\$11,415.00
2010/11	\$9,490.00
2009/10	\$12,835.00
2008/09	\$14,110.00

- Lack of financial support for chapter members to attend Business Meetings, workshops and Institutes.
- Lack of some employers' support for NOCALL members to spend time on NOCALL business due to staffing cuts.
- The increasing costs of carrying out the business of NOCALL operations, including educational initiatives, grants for members to attend chapter and AALL annual programs, and technology necessary for the membership database and other online services.

In light of these circumstances and to ensure that our chapter can continue to carry out its mission to provide networking, information sharing, professional support and education for its members, I formed a task force to review these concerns and consider how NOCALL can respond to the challenges. The NOCALL members who have agreed to serve are: **Ellen Platt**, Task Force Chair; **Prano Amjadi**; **Coral Henning**; **Jean Willis**; **Chuck Marcus**; **Emily Bergfeld**; **Jeremy Sullivan**; **Cathy Hardy**; and **Rachael Smith** and me, who will serve as ex-officio members.



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They will consider the following:

A. Responsibility for the Institute

Arranging for, managing and running the Spring Institute is a huge undertaking and individuals who accept the nomination for vice president are to understand this. The Nominations Committee has the assignment of identifying an individual who has the time, support of their institution, and leadership experience to take on this role. They often find that qualified members do not want to accept the nomination of vice president because their institution will not support their participation, or the potential candidate does not wish to take on the responsibility for the Institute.

As I noted in my last column, I learned in December we lost the Monterey hotel and meeting rooms for what was to be the March 27-28, 2015 Institute because their contract was not signed by its October deadline. As a result, several Executive Board members and other NOCALL members stepped forward to locate a venue and develop a program for a 2015 Institute.

In light of this circumstance, one role of the Task Force is to determine whether the Executive Board should play a larger role in developing the Institute by selecting the location and venue, reviewing the hotel contract, and assuring that NOCALL's representative signs the hotel contract documents by the deadline. It was suggested to me that another chapter has had success in following this model and that it might be considered by NOCALL for future Institutes.

B. Institute Locations:

NOCALL covers a large area in Northern California, including Sacramento, San Francisco, the South Bay Area, as far south as Fresno, and up to California's northern boundary. A large portion of NOCALL members are employed in San Francisco. Typically Spring Institutes held in San Francisco enjoy a higher attendance rate amongst both NOCALL members and those vendors who choose to exhibit. It permits those in the San Francisco region to use public transportation rather than staying overnight in a hotel. The downside is that San Francisco has become extremely expensive for such events, and despite the generally good turn-out, this location does not guarantee that members both in and outside San Francisco will attend.

Spring Institutes held in other locations, such as Sacramento, Napa or South Bay/Silicon Valley, see lower attendance rates, amongst both NOCALL members and vendor exhibitors, but costs are typically lower. However, past experience has shown that there isn't anyway to please everyone as to location/venue no matter where the Institute is held and perhaps this should be a reality kept in mind when considering future locations.

C. Institute Format:

NOCALL has a fine tradition of two-day Institutes. The goal of looking into the Institute format is not to change that tradition, but to review possibilities in light of declining membership and income.

NOCALL News

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The Northern California Association of Law Libraries assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by the contributors to the association's publications.

Editorial views do not necessarily represent the official position of the Northern California Association of Law Libraries.

The Task Force will have its first conference call the week of March 23, 2015, at a time yet to be determined. It will report to the Executive Board, and that report will be distributed to the NOCALL membership as well. Please contact me if you have any questions in regard to this initiative.

Our NOCALL Archivist, **Rachael Samberg**, will be working with **Anna Russell** of SANDALL and a representative of SCALL to investigate the possibility of a cost-effective shared medium for digitally archiving the reports for each chapter. This includes budget, committee, executive board, events, meeting minutes, and other reports produced in carrying out the respective chapter's business. Such a platform would not only provide valuable history and easy searching but would assure continuity with respect to policies and traditions as well.

Currently NOCALL's materials are stored in archival boxes at Stanford's Robert Crown Law Library. Some papers were digitized for free by HeinOnline, but the documents must be viewed by scrolling down page by page in order to locate relevant information. We look forward to Rachael's updates on the work of this tri-chapter committee.

Jessica Trenary of Morrison and Foerster LLP is the recipient of a grant to attend the April 18th NOCALL Institute. Congratulations Jessica! Thanks to the Grants Committee, **Cathy Hardy**, chair, **Sherry Takacs**, **Sandy Marz**, and **Janice Kelly** for their fine work.

Spring seems to be suddenly here! Our Executive Board and other colleagues are working very hard to provide an educational and interesting Spring Institute. We have arranged for free parking in the lot adjacent to Preservation Park, and the venue is close to public transportation. I hope to see you there.

MUSINGS FROM MARK

Mark Mackler

California Department of Justice, San Francisco

GENDER GAP...We get plenty of e-mails from Primary Research Group, and so might you. A recent communication highlighted "The Survey of American Lawyers at Major Law Firms: View of the Law Firm Library." Just a few of the study's findings: Men in the sample were slightly more likely than women to ask for help from a law librarian. More than twice as high a percentage of associates than partners wanted to hire additional librarians. 30% (??) of lawyers sampled considered the overall performance of their firm's librarians as excellent. Legal research accounted for 15.65% of the overall work time of the lawyers in the sample.

ARE BOOKS BOUNCING BACK?...They might be. According to figures from Nielsen, 519 million books were sold in the U.S. in 2012. In 2014, the number rose to 635 million.

YET ANOTHER DISCOVERY DISPUTE?...Sadly, yes. A recent order filed in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in the litigation between Caroline Herron and Fannie Mae: "Order on One Millionth Discovery Dispute" Yes, that's how the court actually captioned the order! Read on: "Much as the Court admires the advocacy of counsel, it is exhausted with these disputes." /s/ Rosemary M. Collyer, United States District Judge.

THE "OPEN CARRY" LIBRARY?...No, you didn't mis-read that. February's *Spectrum* deals with the ability (or lack of ability) of libraries to control the presence of guns within their walls. You might remember that, in 2013, California gun owners brought their weapons into Starbucks in order to test "open carry" laws. In response, Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz wrote "Our company's longstanding approach to "open carry" has been to follow local laws: we permit it in states where allowed and we prohibit it in states where these laws don't exist...Recently, however, we've seen the "open carry" debate become increasing uncivil.

For these reasons...we are respectfully requesting (emphasis mine) that customers no longer bring firearms into our stores or outdoor seating areas—even in states where ‘open carry’ is permitted—unless they are authorized law enforcement personnel.”

Peet’s took a different position, and announced that it would not allow armed customers into its stores or outdoor seating areas. And what about libraries, you might ask? In 2014, Mike Warren brought both his 9mm handgun and his little girl into the Kalamazoo Public Library’s Summer Reading Party for children. Librarians ‘invited’ him to leave, and he did so before the police arrived. It’s important to understand that a year earlier the Michigan Court of Appeals held that the Library’s ban on guns violated state gun regulations and the Michigan Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal. Mr. Warren is quoted as saying, “I was there to protect my family. God forbid there was a person who decided to shoot up the place, but I’d be the only one there who could do something about it.”

This is clearly an evolving area of law and it will not be settled any time soon. What will be next? Will the lawyers be “packing heat” in your library?

HOW DOES YOUR LIBRARY COMMUNITY LOVE YOU? LET US COUNT THE WAYS!**

Cecilia X. Berber
Alameda County Law Library

“Your Library Community Loves You,” presentation by Sarah Houghton, Director of the San Rafael Public Library and author of *The Librarian in Black* blog. BayNet Guest Speaker, at the California State University East Bay Downtown Campus in Oakland, January 29th, 2015.

Sarah Houghton spoke to a full house of BayNet participants about the popular trend of libraries urging the community to love their library. She states this is the wrong approach. “It makes us sound dysfunctional, needy and pathetic...it’s defensive

and rooted in fear.” She believes this trend came from the fear of libraries becoming redundant and unnecessary in the age of Google. “But we’re still here, we’re still needed...bullying and guilt is the wrong way to market our services.”

Houghton believes the focus should be on how libraries and librarians love and appreciate their communities. Directors should find ways their staff can show appreciation. For example, rather than “I love Libraries” week, it should be “The Library Loves You” week, which is what she has instituted in her own library. Each day of that week, library staff actively tells patrons about whatever service is being offered that day: free replacement library cards, or \$1 forgiveness against fines, or giving away book bags. Our language should change too; instead of saying something is “free,” say “this is a gift from the library to you.” “Libraries must think like a business,” says Houghton.

“Communicate your responsiveness to the community. Let patrons know their suggestions were heard and acted upon, and what the result is. Also, focus on individual contributions and recognize the people who contribute. Volunteers are valuable and do so much for the library, and so often are ignored and forgotten.”

** *Originally published in The Alameda County Law Library Blog, The Advance Sheet.*

TECH TALK: EXPLORING THE REDESIGNED WEBSITE OF THE CHIEF CLERK OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY

Ramona Martinez
Berkeley Law Library

With a shout out to Kris Kasianovitz at Stanford for bringing the redesign to my attention, I want to applaud the people behind the new look of the legislative document archive from the Chief Clerk’s office. <http://clerk.assembly.ca.gov/archive-list>

For purposes of comparison I tried three different tasks:

1. find the page in the journal of the 1849-50 session talking about election of the State Printer;
2. find the listing for Concurrent Resolution No. 8 in the Assembly History dated 1881; and,
3. find 1850 Stats ch. 2.

I used three different browsers: Firefox, Chrome and Safari. I started with Firefox since that is what I use most often. I was able to perform all the tasks in all the browsers which was a relief since I believe there were some problems when the new site was first launched where only the first page of the journal would display and you couldn't get to the rest of the pages. I can say that we (here at BerkeleyLaw) had many problems navigating the old site in Safari so I am happy to report the new site behaves well in all the browsers I tried. I will note that I appreciate the ability in Firefox to go to a specific page. That utility is not available in Chrome or Safari that I could tell so I ended up doing a lot more scrolling than I would have liked.

With apologies for the relatively abbreviated column this time around but I've been out sick the past two days. I invite you to try the new site and send me your comments to be more fully explored in a later issue.

PROFESSIONAL READING IN REVIEW

Elisabeth McKechnie and Susan Llano
U.C. Davis Law Library

"The Long Good Fight," Rebecca T. Miller, *Commentary, Library Journal*. February 15, 2015, vol. 140, issue 3, also available on EBSCOHost. Following the January 7, 2015 attack on the Paris magazine Charlie Hebdo, librarians began discussing what being a library is really about. In her column, Miller reminds librarians that we exist as more than curators of a collection. In the face of censorship, librarians, who are often in the front lines, must

remain "radical change agents" who must "actively try to change the world." This is a truth that librarians often forget in the humdrum daily grind.

"Books and Browsers," Peter Brantley, *PW (Publishers' Weekly)*. January 2, 2015. <http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/libraries/article/65161-check-it-out-with-peter-brantley-privacy-for-library-patrons.html>

The author discusses the balance between traditional library practice of eliminating patron data as quickly as possible versus the need for libraries to use this data to create their own apps to support patrons' needs. He points out that data leakage is unavoidable in today's world and that the patron is better served if the library protects what it can and then discloses the type of leakage likely. By getting patron informed consent to use personal data, the library can compete with commercial interests for patron time and support.

"Communities in Techno-Transition," Terence K. Huwe, *Building Digital Libraries*, infotoday.com. January/February 2015. Also available at Questia (with subscription): <https://www.questia.com/read/1G1-398073960/communities-in-techno-transition>

Keeping up with all the new communications technology creates varieties of stress on us all, mostly along generational lines. "Techno-fatigue" is the term used here to describe the difficulty that older (and no, not retirement age) professionals are having in dealing with the increasing multiplicity of electronic communications methods. E-mail versus texting, DVDs versus streaming video, print versus electronic are all choices made by library users that are dependent on age. In order to keep up, the author notes, librarians have to adopt or at least pretend to understand new technologies in order to serve their audience while being able to support older patrons who must use unfamiliar systems. This new world of split-second communication is leading to a new techno-competency mandate for the librarian. Far from being a burden, the author sees this as an opportunity for librarians to expand the reach of their profession.

“Why Digital Natives Prefer Reading in Print.

Yes, You Read that Right,” Michael S. Rosenwald, *Washington Post*. February 22, 2015. Available at http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/why-digital-natives-prefer-reading-in-print-yes-you-read-that-right/2015/02/22/8596ca86-b871-11e4-9423-f3d0a1ec335c_story.html

Unlike what many people believe, bookstore owners and college student surveys all seem to indicate that millennials still prefer hardbound books for pleasure and learning. While students might prefer online textbooks for classes, especially when the cost is free, there are advantages to reading in print. One problem for millennials reading e-books is that distraction is readily available when using an electronic device; it is too easy to try to multitask and then get distracted. One student was quoted as saying that he doesn't feel like he absorbs as much reading online, and research shows that readers only spend about a minute on Web pages and only 16 percent of people read word-for-word. Unfortunately, the article notes, school systems around the country are buying millions of laptops and tablets for the classroom without thinking about the potential downsides.

“Preserving Patron Privacy in the 21st Century Academic Library,”

Amanda Nichols Hess, et al., *Journal of Academic Librarianship*. January 2015, v.41(1), p.105-114. Available online by subscription at <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0099133314001943>

This article discusses how libraries are reconciling increasing access to information and encouraging the use of 21st century technology systems and tools while also preserving patron privacy. All libraries have these same concerns, but academic libraries must also take into consideration student privacy and information security. The article includes a literature review of privacy and libraries, sample library privacy statements and an appendix with the chart, “Areas of Library Work Affected by Public Patron Privacy Statement.”

“Forecasting the Future of Libraries 2015,” Miguel Figueroa, *American Libraries*. March/April 2015, p.28. Available at <http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2015/02/26/forecasting-the-future-of-libraries-2015/>

This issue of *American Libraries* focuses on some of the key trends shaping libraries and librarianship. In 2013, the ALA announced the formation of the Center for the Future of Libraries; the Center focuses much of its work on identifying emerging trends relevant to librarianship. One article gives an overview of the Center's [Trend Library](#), a place where the library community can get regularly updated information on current trends. Other articles discuss the future of teaching and learning and explore the future of the MLIS.

Save the Date!

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

11:30 – 1:30

NOCALL Business and Luncheon Meeting will be held at the Marines' Memorial Club, 609 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.

The Constitution & Bylaws Committee and the NOCALL Board are proposing changes to the NOCALL Constitution and Bylaws. Information about the proposed changes is available on the NOCALL website at <http://nocall.org/2015-amendments/>.

The proposals will be voted upon at the May Business Meeting.

Spotlight on...

Chuck Marcus

How did you choose law librarianship as a career?

After I got my MLS, I worked at the HUD office in New York City on a records automation project for Section 8 contracts. I moved to San Francisco shortly thereafter and started out as a library assistant at UC Hastings. I became more interested in Law Librarianship as I worked at Hastings, and after a couple of years when the vacancy came up, I moved into being a reference librarian.

What have you enjoyed the most from being involved with NOCALL?

Education programs at NOCALL are just awesome. I have learned so much from attending the spring institute about new and controversial areas of law... as well as beer, wine and marijuana law. Of course the networking opportunities are valuable as well. I'm not the greatest networker, and nocall events are always

relaxed and informal--NOCALL members are very approachable.

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

I'd have to say that the librarians whom I have worked with at Hastings have had the biggest impact. I have had the opportunity to work with a lot of very smart, supportive colleagues.

If you were not working as a law librarian, what would you most likely be doing?

Probably public librarian, teacher or dog walker.

What's the best advice you've ever received working as a librarian?

Always err on the side of "Fair Use." Advice received from Peter Murray Rust, Chemistry Prof at Cambridge University and open access activist.

MEMBER NEWS

I am retiring this year on my birthday, Feb. 6. I will miss the friendships and collegiality that I have found in the law library community. Best to all of you. - *Claudia Cook*

I attended the SLA seminar "Presentations That Don't Suck" and found it very worthwhile. The presenter, Eris Weaver, is a former medical librarian who has transitioned into a career as a facilitator, consultant and trainer. Eris is very lively and humorous in her presentations. She made me think, analyze previous presentations and how they could have been improved and plan for future presentations. She covered the TED commandments and we viewed and analyzed two TED presentations. We were encouraged to tell a story and if power point is used, only display images not text. She suggested ways to engage an audience, plan for a smooth performance and tips on other resources that we might check to polish our presentations. - *Lauri Flynn*

Sarah Lin's article, "Pressure Points in Vendor Relationships: Tips for Working with Outsourced Staff" appeared in the **CRIV Sheet** v.37 no.2 (Mar 2015). She is also hosting an AALL webinar in March and April, "User-Friendly Library Websites," which are free to AALL members. The webinars are focusing on law libraries of all shapes and sizes and invite attendees with private websites/library catalogs to send screen shots to be included in the presentation.

PROPOSED**NOCALL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, January 27, 2015

11:00 am - 1:30 p.m.

McDermott, Will & Emery

Menlo Park, CA

Preceding the Business Meeting and luncheon, Sharon Pate and Basil Fedorchenko, of Bloomberg BNA, provided an educational update of Bloomberg Online, followed by a panel discussion of how some law librarians are using this service in their work environments.

Michele Finerty, President, called the meeting to order at 12:53 p.m.

1. Preliminary Business

Thanks were given to Sharon Pate and Basil Fedorchenko for their informative presentation of Bloomberg Law; to Bloomberg BNA, for graciously sponsoring NOCALL's January Business Meeting; and to Jourdan Corbitt of DLA Piper and Chuck Marcus of SFU for their contribution as panelists.

2. Old Business

Approval of Minutes

Members approved the September 23, 2014 Business Meeting Minutes as written.

3. New Business

- a. NOCALL 2015 Spring Institute:** Vice President Tara Crabtree reported that the Spring Institute will be held on April 18, 2015, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The half-day event will feature three programs and will include a buffet breakfast and buffet lunch. There will be free parking for exhibitors and attendees, and 4-6 vendors are expected to exhibit.

b. NOCALL Election/Slate of Candidates:

- i. Vice President/President Elect: Michael Ginsborg
- ii. Secretary: Mary Pinard Johnson
- iii. Member at Large (2): Emily Bergfeld, Jackie Grossman

Thank you to Ellen Platt and the Nominations Committee for a wonderful slate of candidates! The 2015 election polls will open on March 2nd and close on March 23rd. Eligible voters will receive an email with a link to the ballot, so please be checking your spam folder regularly around this time. More information will be posted to the listserv as the election approaches.

c. Grants Committee:

Chair Cathy Hardy reported that grants will be offered for the Spring Institute and the AALL Annual Meeting. The committee is waiting for the Institute's member registration to open before sending out grant info and applications. No grants were offered for the Fall Workshop because there was no cost to attend.

d. Awards Committee: The deadline for nominations is March 15, 2015. The following awards will be presented at the May Business Meeting: 1) Award for Professional Achievement, and 2) Award for Advocacy. The page also lists past recipients. Please complete the forms available on the Awards page and send your nominations to Jean Willis, jwillis@saclaw.org, anytime between now and March 15, 2015.

e. Technology Committee: David Holt reports that the committee is still in the process of reviewing more cost-effective alternatives to Memberclicks, the chapter's current service for managing membership renewals and the directory, among other things. A Memberclicks subscription is \$3,500 annually; other services, like Wild Apricot, are more affordable (\$500). The committee is carefully reviewing all options before recommending a course of action to the Board.

f. Secretary's Report: Jen Fell provided information on the upcoming election and the Board's decision to forego using AALL's Online Election System for the 2015 election, with an eye towards more cost-effective services. The Board decided to use SurveyMonkey for this year's election, and members with an email address should expect an email with a link to an online ballot beginning in March.

g. Treasurer's Report: Rachael Smith, Treasurer, was unable to attend the meeting but submitted this quarter's report: in this quarter, our expenses totaled \$669.88. Our checkbook balance is \$10,145.45; our CD balance is \$6,395.79, and our PayPal account has \$4,176.58. She is waiting for the final 4-Corner Holiday Social reimbursement, and reports that the NOCALL Google account and the email forwarding (ADDR) have been added to the business card.

h. Budget Update: Michele reported that NOCALL has seen a slow but steady drop in income and assets in the past few years, likely due to a combination of factors such as the economy, higher Institute costs, a drop in membership numbers, etc. The Board is exploring a variety of cost-saving measures, including switching to a one-day Institute for a number of years. The discussion and ideas are under consideration and will be discussed further at future Board and Business meetings.

4. Committee Cluster Reports

Placement Committee: Mary is still hoping to organize a small resume-building workshop or mock-interview workshop. Stay tuned for updates.

Networking Committee: The committee organized a cheese-making class on Saturday, March 14th, from 11:00-12:00 pm. The cost is \$40 per person. There may be a group lunch afterwards if the mozzarella-makers are so inclined. The class will be held at the Alameda County Law Library in Oakland. Many thanks to Mark Estes for allowing us use of the library conference room. Interested cheese-wiz(ards) should RSVP to Julie Horst, Julie_Horst@LB9.uscourts.gov

No other business was suggested.

President Michele Finerty adjourned the meeting at 1:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Fell
NOCALL Secretary

NOCALL OFFICERS 2014 - 2015

President • Michele Finerty • president@nocall.org
Vice President/President Elect • Tara Crabtree, State of California, Court of Appeal, 5th District • vicepresident@nocall.org
Secretary • Jen Fell, Sacramento County Public Law Library • secretary@nocall.org
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NOCALL COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

ADMINISTRATION (Coordinator: Rachael Smith)

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RECOGNITION (Coordinator: Tara Crabtree)

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Grants • Cathy Hardy, Hanson Bridgett LLP • grants@nocall.org
Memorials • Mark Mackler, California Office of the Attorney General • memorials@nocall.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

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