

NOCALL NEWS

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

March-April 2016

Volume 36, Issue 4

EDITOR'S NOTE

The newsletter committee is pleased to bring you this issue of the *NOCALL News*. In addition to your favorite columns, this issue includes a recap of some of the very interesting programs at the 2016 NOCALL Spring Institute. We are also pleased to announce the return (by popular demand) of the "What Are You Reading?" column, and the addition of a new, related column, "Ereader Librarian's Digital Book Review," which will review free and low-cost titles available for Kindle, iPad, Nook, and other tablets.

Please remember, the *NOCALL News* needs your news! If you or your staff members have attended a seminar, published an article, received an award, been elected to an office, or done anything else interesting, please let us know! We'd love for you to share information about special projects you're working on, new or exciting services your library is offering, or anything else you think would be of interest to NOCALL members. The deadline for the final issue of the year is May 7.

NOCALL News

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

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.



In this Issue

Editor's Note.....	1
Musings from Mark.....	2
Ereader Librarian's Digital Book Review.....	2
What Are You Reading?.....	3
Professional Reading in Review.....	4
NOCALL Spring Institute 2016.....	5
NOCALL Announcements.....	6
Spotlight on... Michele Finerty.....	7

MUSINGS FROM MARK

Mark Mackler
California Department of Justice
San Francisco

BESTSELLING AUTHOR JAMES PATTERSON: “Kids have not made the switch to reading books on phones, tablets, or even e-readers. It isn’t useful for anyone to go on the internet and see 2 to 4 million titles. It is useful to have human beings to talk to and help guide you to exactly the kind of book you’re looking for or hope to find.”

LOOKING BACK 50 YEARS...What was happening in the *State Bar Journal* (the predecessor to *California Lawyer*) 50 years ago? To begin with, there was a story about current California judicial salaries. Justices of the Supreme Court earned \$32,000 per year, and Justices of the Court of Appeal earned \$30,000 per year. Trial court judges made only \$25,000 per year. There was also an intriguing advertisement for Law Research of California, Inc., a subsidiary of New York’s Law Research Service, Inc. The company had divided the law into eight thesauri: Negligence, Corporate, Criminal, Damages and Evidence, Contracts, Domestic Relations, Estates and Wills, and Real Property. The legal data was in a central computer, and used Western Union’s old Telex communications system to do its work. All an attorney had to do was to dial into one of the thesauri, and the system would spew out names, dates and syllabi of citing cases. Costs? \$75 for each thesaurus, and \$15 for each inquiry.

JUSTICE ANTONIN SCALIA: “I’m normal. Everyone else is crazy.”

JUSTICE SAMUEL ALITO: “I think what Justice Scalia wants to know is what James Madison thought about video games.” This was Justice Alito’s way of mocking Justice Scalia’s originalism in what came to be known as the “Violent Video Games Case.” (*Brown v Entertainment Merchants Association.*) I found this quote to be particularly delicious because I had worked very hard on our oral argument for this

case. By the way, we lost 7-2! The California statute in question was written by none other than State Senator Leland Yee.

**EREADER LIBRARIAN’S
 DIGITAL BOOK REVIEW**

Reviewing free and low cost digital books for Kindle, iPad, Nook and other tablets.

Elisabeth McKechnie,
UC Davis School of Law, Mabie Law Library

Introduction: Since I was given my first e-reader (a Kindle Touch) four years ago, I have become addicted to this new format for reading. A natural cheapskate, I have discovered a variety of sites where it is possible to download e-books that are free or low cost. By low cost, I mean \$4.99 or less. Along the way, I have found self-published gems and forgotten classics that I would like to share with you. By the way, I am now up to 3 Kindles and two iPads!

I do have a blog about, no surprise, e-books and e-reading although this column isn’t going to overlap. Come visit me at www.ereaderlibrarian.com!

**Book prices will be listed where available; All prices are accurate as of writing date and may have changed by the time this column goes to press.*

Evelina’s Garden by Mary E. Wilkins Freeman

Available at Project Gutenberg: <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/17891>

Price: free

This is a gentle, multigenerational romance that asks the question: love or money? Evelina Adams, the wealthy Squire’s daughter, falls in love with a young village boy who returns her feelings. Alas, Evelina never dares to follow up on her emotions and grows old in the house her father has left her. She becomes a recluse, loving only her garden.

In later life, she invites an impoverished cousin, also an Evelina, to come live with her. The elder Evelina’s

fine gowns are made over for the young cousin who, alone of the household, attends church. Young Evelina falls in love with the new church pastor, Thomas, the son of the Elder Evelina's village boy. But Young Evelina has more spunk than her cousin and agrees to go out walking with the pastor and soon the two are planning marriage but decide to keep their relationship a secret for now. Complications arise when more of the Elder Evelina's relatives, the impecunious Mrs. Loomis and her daughters, move to town. But then the Elder Evelina dies leaving a very unusual will.

If this book had a fragrance, it would be lavender and old roses. Published in 1899, it's an easy read without any of the sizzling sex we seem to demand in current reading. But neither is it cloyingly sweet or dragged down with purple prose. Altogether this is a very satisfying short book. Good read for a rainy day by the fire.

Just One Damned Thing After Another by Jodi Taylor, Accent Press: 2013,
Available at: amazon.com (Kindle), barnesandnoble.com (Nook)
Price: \$1.99 (sequels average \$3.99 each)

This is the first in a series, chronicling the adventures of the historians of St. Mary's, an obscure research organization associated with the University of Thirsk in an alternate Great Britain. At St. Mary's, historians travel through time to record history and, hopefully, get home alive. Because of the inevitable attrition, Madeleine Maxwell, Ph.D (aka Max) is recruited as a new historian trainee and we follow her adventures as she somehow survives the Cretaceous period, and a few other adventures, to become a qualified historian.

St. Mary's is a vividly depicted madhouse, filled with the noise from R & D's (mostly) accidental explosions, the swans in the pond are blue, and building evacuations are commonplace. You don't have to be crazy to work for St. Mary's, but it helps. But while the book is tongue in cheek, it does portray history in all

its bloodiness; our heroine is appalled but fascinated at what she sees and experiences. However, the one time she tries to change history, history fights back. The style of writing is breezy and fluid. The author draws you in and refuses to let you up for air until you've finished the book. By the time I'd finished it, yes, I was buying the next one. And the next. It is a series, and a highly addictive one. If you're lucky, you might find it in a public library (thank you Overdrive!), but if not, buy it. It's worth every penny. Highly recommended.

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

Nora Levine

Bryant & May and the Burning Man by Christopher Fowler

I'm just starting the latest book in the British born Fowler's "A Peculiar Crimes Unit Mystery" series. Each novel, which takes place in present day London, brings us a treasure trove of obscure and fascinating material about London, such as its underground rivers or a history of London pubs, in addition to the adventures of the eccentric members of the crime unit and the mystery they are trying to solve. (If you're interested, the first book in the series is titled Full Dark House.)

Joanne Block

Jackson Lewis P.C.

Havana Nocturne: How the Mob Owned Cuba & Then Lost it to the Revolution by T.J. English

The book was okay. I found the story VERY interesting but not worth the length of an entire book - too much repetition and too much filler. I did, however, learn a great deal about that era in Cuba and the early days of Fidel Castro.

Julie Horst

Ninth Circuit Library

Wicked Autumn by G.M. Maillet

This is a new author to me. I picked it up at an Audible sale and was pleasantly surprised when I started listening. The writing is witty and acknowledges that

the readers have brains. The book centers around a murder, but otherwise the book is very cozy. The main character is an MI5 agent turned vicar of the small, isolated English village. I also like the fact that 21st century technology is embraced, but not showcased in the book.

The Mysterious Affair at Styles by Agatha Christie

I have enjoyed the PBS series about Poirot, but recently a recommendation to read this one first, if starting out with the Poirot series. I am a big fan of reading series books in order, so I decided to start over and read this one. It wasn't as enlightening as some first books in a series are, though I liked finding out how Poirot came to England. This is a murder mystery and I was pleased to not be able to winkle out the perpetrator. I would also recommend this book.

*Jaye Lapachet
J8 Consulting*

Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things

by Michael Braungart & William McDonough

This short, inspirational book (also available in audio on Overdrive) advocates the design of industrial products and other human-made structures and activities that would follow the design of nature, where "waste = food" and bounty is beneficial rather than wasteful. Their philosophy is that instead of working to reduce harm (the current "reduce, reuse, recycle" philosophy), we should design products that are so integrated into the natural cycle that they are non-harmful and even beneficial from the very beginning, thus minimizing harm to nature and maximizing benefits to humanity and other life on earth. The solutions are inspirational because they show how industry can be green in a completely different way which benefits business and solves the environmentalism against business conundrum plaguing current politics. If you read just one book about sustainability, read this one!

*Hadas Livnat
University of California Hastings College of the Law*

When Books Went to War: the Stories That Helped Us Win World War II by Molly Guptill Manning

This book takes a look at the role of books – paperback books in particular – that were sent to soldiers to boost morale, relieve tedium, and provide an escape from the realities of war. They were meant to be subtle reminders of the freedom enjoyed by all Americans – to express and share ideas. The movement to provide books was begun by librarians as an antithesis to Hitler's book burnings. I knew that modern paperbacks were invented during the war but here is the whole story!

A quick read as a good deal of the back of the book is given over to lists such as the titles published for soldiers.

*Pati Traktman
Rogers Joseph O'Donnell*

PROFESSIONAL READING IN REVIEW

Elisabeth McKechnie, U.C. Davis Law Library

"Flint Public Library: A Gateway to Critical Information," by Julie Hordyk, *Public Libraries Online; News and Opinion*, <http://publiclibrariesonline.org/2016/03/flint-public-library-a-gateway-to-critical-information/>

Everyone has heard about the Flint, Michigan water crisis by now, but word is just spreading about the Flint Public Library's role as a community center in helping to alleviate it. The public library staff are active in planning how to mobilize resources, and are plugged into the city's network of organizations: "We don't need to create the solution. We just need to know what it looks like and know how people can access it." As a trusted organization, the library has a central role in guiding citizens to helpful organizations, directing water donations, and putting programs in place to assist lead-exposed children who are expected to have learning disabilities later in life. This is a good example of what a library should be.

“The Gadfly Alerts: They Warn Us of Corrupted Information,” by John N. Berry III, editor, *Library Journal*, February 1, 2016.

Every now and again you find out about a librarian group that you’ve never heard of, and such is the subject of Berry’s editorial: the Progressive Librarians Guild (PLG). He discusses the controversial concept that librarians must remain neutral, a concept that the PLG flies in the face of. Inherent in the group’s founding concepts was an intention to go beyond social responsibility, but rather to recreate progressive librarianship. They urge that librarians must ensure that information remains accurate, free, and easily available without corruption by political or commercial interests. Given that the current U.S. Presidential campaign has heightened our awareness of how important accurate information is, his discussion seems apt.

“Intellectual Freedom Associations, Resources for Online Research,” by Steve Greechie, *C&RL News*, February 2016, p 90-93.

Given current concerns about privacy, freedom of expression, and intellectual freedom, many of our library users are actively researching these and related issues. To that end, this article is a resource guide to a variety of advocacy organizations, both U.S. and international. Of course, the value to a user in such a listing is that much of the data available is free, timely, and accurate. He begins with the old standbys, like the ACLU, but also adds groups like the Free Expression Policy Project and international groups like Article 19 and IFEX.

“Distinctive 16PF Personality Traits of Librarians” by Jeanine M. Williamson & John W. Lounsbury, *Journal of Library Administration*, 2016, vol. 56, p124-143. Available via Taylor & Francis or Routledge

The two researchers, a librarian and a psychologist, found on a literature review that there were relatively few studies determining the common personality traits of the successful librarian. They elected to use

the 16PF Questionnaire, since it measures individual personality traits related to the ‘soft skills’ evidenced by the ideal librarian. They hypothesized, based on a variety of librarian job descriptions and librarian competencies from such organizations as the ALA, that a successful librarian would score more highly in such areas as general reasoning ability, privacy, openness to change (flexibility) and perfectionism (i.e. detail). They expected librarians to score lower than average in dominance, liveliness and social boldness. (Is anyone recognizing a stereotype here?) The result? Yes, for the most part they found that librarians were quiet, meek, bookish people accustomed to working well with change (I interpret that as working on a spit and duct tape budget). Having read the report, I’m not sure whether their results were truly objectively interpreted, but are certainly interesting.

NOCALL SPRING INSTITUTE 2016

Mary Staats

Farella Braun + Martel LLP

As a fortunate recipient of a NOCALL grant, I was able to attend the Spring Institute March 18th. Since it was necessary for me to attend as I was hosting a program, I am especially grateful for the grant.

As Placement Committee chair for what must seem decades to all of you, I’ve been wanting to put on a workshop or program that would provide some guidance to job seekers. With encouragement and great ideas from Julie Horst, she and I were able to put together a program, *Do I Look Like a Librarian? Demonstrating Your Value in Traditional and Non-Traditional Career Paths*, and squeeze it into Michael Ginsborg’s Spring Institute.

With Deb Hunt’s (Deb is the director of the Mechanics Institute Library in San Francisco) enthusiastic call for us to examine what we do from a different perspective; to view a not altogether satisfying job as a stepping stone to where we want to be; to undertake a new task that no one else will

do, learn how to do it and just do it; and a number of other motivational statements and Ed Hosey's (Ed is the Deputy Circuit Librarian of the Ninth Circuit) sound, practical and sensible advice of what to include and what not include in a cover letter, resume, or interview, the program was a success and well received.

I was also able to attend *The Algorithm as a Human Artifact: Implications for Legal {Re}Search*, presented by Susan Nevelow Mart, former Vice President/President elect of NOCALL who was unable to fulfill her term because she was appointed Director of the University of Colorado Law Library. Susan reported preliminary results of her research on the search algorithms of six vendors: Lexis, Westlaw, Fast Case, Ravel, Casetext and Google Scholar. Most vendors consider their algorithms to be proprietary. What Susan set out to do is to show that the searcher needs to know some basics about the algorithms to be able to adequately analyze the search results. With Boolean searching, the searcher knows the results will reflect the Boolean search logic. But with the search algorithms, the searcher does not know exactly how terms are treated. The preliminary results of Susan's (and her law student searchers') research are rather shocking. There is not nearly the overlap in the results one would expect. I think everyone in the room was surprised, and the vendor reps looked uncomfortable. These results are only preliminary, Susan cautioned, and they are not ready for publication. What I took away from this presentation was the feeling that it is good to check more than one system. And, if I were negotiating contracts and considering going sole provider, I would be very eager to see these results when they are published.

In the afternoon I attended *Hidden Jewels: Business, Science and Technology Resources at the SFPL*, presented by Lia Hillman, Librarian in the Business Science & Technology Department of the San Francisco Public Library. Lia is also a professional chef and has created the Biblio Bistro program and the SFPL Mobile Kitchen where she teaches young kids and teenagers about growing and preparing food,

and she publishes beautiful brochures on different vegetables. In addition to presenting her work on disseminating information on culinary delights, Lia also discussed all the resources available to SFPL cardholders. (SFPL library cards are available to all California residents, by the way.) Lia pointed out many useful resources which are listed in her handouts available [here](#).

I regret that I arrived bit late to *Mindfulness, Meditation and Law Libraries*, but not too late to enjoy Professor Tim Iglesias' talk. What resonated with me were three things: stay in the moment; be curious and observant but don't be judgmental-just let it be; and when distracting thoughts enter your mind, simply acknowledge them, do not give them energy or allow them to take center stage. Professor Iglesias' handouts can be found [here](#).

Thank you, NOCALL, for giving me the opportunity to attend the entire program, or rather, as many presentations as I could since we had a dual tract going. This was one of the best Spring Institutes ever, and I have attended almost all of them.

NOCALL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to the newly elected NOCALL Executive Board Members:

Ramona Martinez, Vice-President / President-Elect
Rachael Samberg, Treasurer
Jessica Brasch, Member-at-Large
Leslie Hesdorfer, Member-at-Large

The Awards Committee happily and proudly presents their selection of **Marlene Harmon** for the 2016 NOCALL Advocacy Award and **Leslie Forrester** for the 2016 NOCALL Professional Achievement Award. They will be recognized for their achievements at the May Business Meeting.

Spotlight on...

Michele Finerty

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

Two initiatives have had the greatest impact on my career, so much so that my activities for NOCALL and AALL continue in the present:

- Many years ago, as a member of the AALL Government Relations Committee, I worked with several colleagues whose dedication to FOIA and open government initiatives both inspired and mentored me. Our efforts were fruitful in furthering paths to successful legislative advocacy and together we advocated for the expansion of public access to electronic court information. We approached then-AALL President Frank Houdek as a team and he approved the formation of a working group that later became a standing committee called the Access to Electronic Legal Information. Working with those colleagues, Tim Coggins, Shirley David, Sally Holterhoff, Cathy Lemann, and Cheryl Nyberg, as well as Mary Alice Baish, opened my eyes to the impact law librarianship can have in working with the courts and other legal entities.
- More recently, I was a member of the UELMA Team in successfully advocating to have the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act signed into law in California. Once again, it was a very special and exciting period as part of a dedicated group, which included Emily Feltren, Judy Janes, David McFadden, and Larry Meyer, each of us working in coordination with Diane Boyer-Vine, the California Legislative Counsel.

What have you enjoyed most from being involved with NOCALL?

I enjoy the synergy of teamwork on NOCALL committees in furthering our chapter's educational and supportive mission for the professional development of our members.

What would be surprising to learn about you?

When I worked and lived in Orange County, I was fortunate to achieve parts as a supernumerary in several Opera Pacific productions and those of visiting ballet companies, including the American Ballet Theatre, the Royal Danish Ballet, and the Royal Ballet of London. My "roles" included that of a nun in *Cavalleria Rusticana*; a slave in *Samson and Delilah*; a vendor in both *La Boheme* and *I Pagliacci*; and as a member of royal households in other productions. The part that was most fun was that of a woman whose ghost rises from behind a huge bolder to the terrify soldiers in *Il Trovatore*. I felt so fortunate to see and hear the performers at what was the best seat in the house!

NOCALL OFFICERS 2015 - 2016

President • Ellen Platt • Santa Clara University, Heafey Law Library • president@nocall.org
Vice President/President Elect • Michael Ginsborg, Arnold & Porter LLP • vicepresident@nocall.org
Secretary • Mary Pinard Johnson Sacramento County Public Law Library • secretary@nocall.org
Treasurer • Coral Henning, Sacramento County Public Law Library • treasurer@nocall.org
Past President • Michele Finnerty • pastpresident@nocall.org
Member at Large • Emily Bergfeld • memberatlarge@nocall.org
Member at Large • Jackie Grossman • memberatlarge@nocall.org

NOCALL COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

ADMINISTRATION

AALL Liaison • David Holt, Santa Clara University, Heafey Law Library • aallliaison@nocall.org
Archives • Rachael Samberg, Stanford University, Robert Crown Law Library • archives@nocall.org
Audit and Budget • Jean Willis, Sacramento County Public Law Library • auditandbudget@nocall.org
Constitution & Bylaws • Chuck Marcus, University of California Hastings Law Library • constitutionbylaws@nocall.org
Nominations • nominations@nocall.org

COMMUNICATION

Newsletter • Mary Pinard Johnson, Sacramento County Public Law Library • newsletter@nocall.org
Webpage • Mary Sexton, Santa Clara University, Heafey Law Library • webmaster@nocall.org
Wiki • Jaye Lapachet, JL Consulting • wiki@nocall.org
Technology • David Holt, Santa Clara University, Heafey Law Library • technology@nocall.org

EDUCATION

Education • Tony Pelczynski, UC Hastings Law Library • education@nocall.org
Networking • networking@nocall.org
Spring Institute • Michael Ginsborg, Arnold & Porter LLP • springinstitute@nocall.org

MEMBERSHIP

Academic Relations • academicrelations@nocall.org
Membership • Tina Dumas, Goodwin Procter • membership@nocall.org
Placement • Mary Staats, Farella, Braun & Martel LLP • placement@nocall.org

OUTREACH

Government Relations • Judy Janes, University of California Davis, Mabie Law Library • govrelations@nocall.org
Public Access • Marguerite Beveridge, Witkin State Law Library of California • publicaccess@nocall.org
Community Service • Tricia Lee, Kirkland & Ellis • community@nocall.org
Public Relations • Emily Bergfeld, Alameda County Law Library • publicrelations@nocall.org

RECOGNITION

Awards • Michele Finnerty • awards@nocall.org
Grants • Sherry Takacs, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom 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/>