

NOCALL NEWS

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

David Holt, U.C. Davis Law Library

Dear NOCALLers,

This is my last column as NOCALL President. I “passed the baton” to our incoming president, Jocelyn Stilwell-Tong, at our last business meeting. It has been a great opportunity to serve NOCALL over these last two years as both Vice-President and then President of our association. I think the future really does look bright for our profession. Although many of our libraries are transitioning from print to electronic resources, the need for information literacy instruction, information curation, and technology competence has never been greater.

It was great seeing many of you at the May Business Meeting in San Francisco. We held this meeting in the library at the Marines’ Memorial Club. It was an appropriate venue for our organization! I was delighted to see our advocacy award given to David McFadden. David has volunteered so much of his time and energy to advocating for issues deeply valued by our community including access to justice and the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act. We also honored Holly Riccio with our professional achievement award for her illustrious career. Holly has served in so many capacities in our profession - from being AALL president to currently serving on the advisory board for our national magazine, *Spectrum*. Congratulations to both David and Holly!

As we start the summer season, NOCALL has an exciting agenda planned for the AALL Annual Meeting in DC and preparations for our Fall Workshop. As usual, NOCALL will have an outsized presence at the annual meeting with many of our colleagues participating in sessions, trainings, and poster sessions. We will also be present at the Joint Reception with our “sister” regional chapters - LLOPS, SANDALL, WestPAC, and SCALL. Please consider attending the reception if you have time in your schedule. It’s a great opportunity to connect with new colleagues or spend time with old friends.

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June is also the month for our Crossover Meeting. We will be conducting this meeting via Zoom to avoid having to travel. Monitor the list-serv for more details as they are available.

Summer is a season when we may have time in our schedule for other activities that we may have put off during the business year. If you have a webinar topic or presentation that you'd like to share with your colleagues, please let us know. We have a subscription to Zoom and would love to create educational content that can be distributed among our membership. No topic is too small! Even if you simply have a new tool that you'd like to show off, please consider reaching out to the board with your proposal.

As I close my term, I would like to express my gratitude for NOCALL. Our professional organization gives us so much! It helps us with grant funding, professional development, educational opportunities, and networking with colleagues. But, as with any volunteer organization, NOCALL is only as relevant and strong, as we make it. Perhaps you've been thinking about running for a board position. Or you have a topic you'd like to present via webinar or at the Spring Institute. The time to make a contribution to NOCALL is right now!

NOCALL News

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PROFESSIONAL READING IN REVIEW

Elisabeth McKechnie and Kristin Brandt
U.C. Davis Law Library

“How Little is Known: Finding Regulations from the First 100 Years of the United States,” by Michael VanderHeijden, *Legal Reference Services Quarterly*, February 1, 2019, Taylor & Francis <https://doi.org/10.1080/0270319X.2018.1552053>

In modern times, finding regulatory history can be challenging. But locating those promulgated during the first century of the United States can seem virtually impossible. This article gives the beginner a guide to nineteenth century regulations, including a variety of catalogs, indexes, and checklists, like Poore’s and Spinelli’s *Law Library Reference Shelf* on Hein. But it doesn’t stop with sources. The author also gives search tips and strategies for researching old regulations, indicating that nineteenth century regulations weren’t necessarily labeled that way, also called “executive legislation” and “secondary legislation”. This is a useful resource that should be kept in hard copy.

“Faculty Perceptions of Librarian Value: The Moderating Relationship Between Librarian Contact, Course Goals, and Students’ Research Skills,” by Savannah L. Kelly, *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, vol. 45, pp. 228-233 (2019).

This empirical study, based on the 2015 Ithaka S+R *US Faculty Survey*, tests a statistical model to evaluate undergraduate college faculty’s perceptions of librarians’ contributions to student research skill development. Specifically, the study examines the relationship between faculty perceptions, frequency of student/librarian contact and faculty course goals. Teaching faculty equated increased student-librarian contact with favorable perceptions of librarians’ contributions. Teaching faculty who prioritized information literacy as a course goal were also more likely to have students interact with academic librarians.

“Population by the Numbers: Finding Demographic Data,” by Jeffrey Meyer, *Online Searcher*, vol. 23, no. 2, Mar/Apr 2019, pp. 16-21.

Increasingly, government agencies are putting statistical information online. This article gives practical advice for searching U.S. government websites for various types of demographic data. The author does not attempt to be comprehensive, but explains the type of data collected by particular agencies, where to find “hidden gems” within those databases, and how to use them, giving specific examples. Three Census tools are covered: the Population Clock, American FactFinder, and QuickFacts. The author also explains how to navigate the Bureau of Labor Statistics website and where to find annual crime statistics (FBI), international demographics (CIA World Factbook), Social Security data (Social Security Administration), health data (CDC), and global health data (World Health Organization).

“The ‘Bus Proof’ Library: Technical Succession Planning, Knowledge Transfer, and Institutional Memory,” Karl G. Siewert & Pamela Louderback, vol. 59, no. 4, 2019, pp. 455-474.

How do libraries prepare for departures of key personnel? After the retirements of the head of technical services and two catalogers at their institution, the investigators created a survey to explore succession planning in libraries. The 223 respondents were primarily from large academic libraries. Results confirmed that academic librarianship is a “greying” profession, with many librarians close to retirement. Less than 20% of respondents believed written documentation of procedures by their libraries was sufficient. Most respondents agreed or strongly agreed that knowledge of their area was “concentrated in the minds of one or two key individuals.” Specifically, respondents noted that the loss of institutional knowledge was detrimental to their ability to continue to provide adequate services. The takeaway of the study is that libraries need to do a better job of making knowledge accessible to the staff who remain. Libraries also need to identify and cultivate new leaders.

CI REDUX: OUR TOP PAIN POINTS, A SPRING INSTITUTE RECAP

Delia L. Montesinos, Ropes & Gray

Thanks to everyone who participated in my roundtable in April! Plus, an apology: should have started the session with the last question because I incorrectly assumed y'all work CI on a regular basis—I'm guessing you were expecting more me and less you. To redeem myself, I will pen a regular column to try to demystify CI work a bit. I have tons of ideas from the roundtable (54 post-its with 27 distinct pain points, 5 of which got multiple votes) but I'd love to hear from those of you who couldn't attend!

No surprise here: our biggest pain point is getting private company info. I addressed the topic in my last [column](#), where I deconstruct a company profile, and we brainstormed resources at the roundtable. Participants suggested using (in no particular order): local news; social media, especially LinkedIn; Crunchbase and angel lists; domain name search (might yield ownership info/location); secretary of state and municipal filings; public records searches; SF Biz Times' Book of Lists (caveat that info is self-disclosed); industry publications; Google Maps (Street View once showed me that a mailing address was a White Castle parking lot!); Google Images (products/people, follow breadcrumbs); government contracts; SEC filings (company may be mentioned in someone else's filings); trademark searches; shipping/trade manifests/info; and using Wayback Machine to browse older versions of the company's web site.

To those, I'm adding one source mentioned at the recent AALL webinar on CI: Dockets! You can find a lot of company/financial info in court filings. Check out the parties and facts in the complaint, browse through subpoena filings to find DOBs and partial SSNs, and look at relevant exhibits. Yes, it's super time-consuming but well worth the effort if you're striking out everywhere else.

Coming in second place is shaping the deliverable, aka "making it look nice" or "compiling all the data into

a report". Alas, CI is 10% research and 90% curation; there is no avoiding the "organizing and cleaning the data" part. One solution: use a template. Beyond guiding your research, a template's defined [style set](#) will allow you to format everything quickly and painlessly.

If your firm doesn't have a template, you need to create one (things you can add to your performance review: initiative/leadership). To get started, look at past CI reports to identify sections that are specific to your firm's practice areas (union facts? FDA approvals? patent list?). In addition,

- Company profiles should include a business overview, financials, key executives, news, and info on legal/regulatory matters. Additional sections could be business segments/products, R&D/pipeline, business strategy, top competitors, family tree, company history, and in-house counsel staff/legal strategy, to name a few.
- Person profiles should include a summary, employment history, education, memberships, and some personal info (family, political donations, volunteer, social media, etc.). If the person is VIP, you could add a news section and awards/recognition, among others.
- Attorney profiles are the Person profile plus representative matters and/or litigation profile. Additional sections could be publications/presentations, awards/recognition, and news.
- Judicial profiles are the Attorney profile plus motion analytics and attorney reviews.
- ALL of them should include a section detailing how they have interacted with your firm in the past.

Run the list of sections past all team members AND, more importantly, past someone in Business Development/Practice Development. Why BD/PD? Because, typically, they are the first recipient of the CI report, the go-between between you and the attorneys, and you want to make sure you cover all of their needs/expectations as well.

Once you have your section list, I STRONGLY encourage you to think about how these fit into the third pain point: turnaround, aka “RUSH!”, “short deadline”, “knowing when to stop”. Juli Stahl addressed timing in the AALL webinar and I agree 100% with her approach: scale your deliverable based on the deadline or the business need, not the other way around. More importantly, when you guesstimate turnaround time, don’t forget to take into account how long it takes to “clear the deck” before you can start on the report, nor how many fires you may need to put out while you work on it.

To preempt this problem, you could offer/market three levels of CI:

- Same/Next day: data dump, aka canned reports from the various vendors. If there’s time, high-level news from law sources (Law360, BNA, Law.com)
- Three business days: basic profile that includes business overview, financials, key executives, 2-3 years of news from top sources, a recent (pretty much canned) litigation history, and firm-specific sections (patents, union activity, etc.)
- Seven business days: in-depth profile that exhausts you and all your resources. It is NOT everything but the kitchen sink, however. I once turned in a report that was so over-the-top it linked to the history of its logo and videos of its very famous jingle/ads. Fortunately, Big Boss read it before anyone else and he kindly steered me in the path of “delivering more with less.”

Now, while those turnarounds are reasonable for most companies, there’s no way you can put together an in-depth profile on Microsoft or Alphabet in a week. This is where you need to negotiate. Call the person (don’t email!), explain the problem, and offer two solutions: 1) They give you more time to assemble a complete profile, or 2) they narrow the scope to something that’s manageable in the given time frame, e.g. skip some sections, or focus on a specific part of the business.

In fact, you should conduct a reference interview before embarking on any CI. Remember those? The reference interview one of the first things we learn in library school and amongst the first things we seem to forget as practicing librarians. Yet, it is so SO important! Taking a few minutes to understand the requestor’s wants/needs will not only help resolve any timing issues but also another pain point: “scope too vague or too broad”, “unclear instructions”, “unrealistic attorney expectations (about what kind of info we can find)”. Besides, it’s downright awesome customer service.

As far as what the template should look like, try to team up with someone in marketing and design the template together (things you can add to your performance review: teamwork/cooperation). This is truly the best option because not only will you end up with a super-sleek template but it will also provide a starting point for your library branding (yes, your library needs branding). Think of how many other ways you can use this design! Intranet pages, handouts for fall/summers, research guides, PPT presentations, newsletters, etc.

If you fly solo, be sure to integrate your firm’s design scheme. This info is typically found in the marketing team’s page; if it isn’t, use your firm’s logo and letterhead as a guide. To start, design 3-4 company profile templates using different Word themes/style sets—maybe you can share the fun and ask other team members to submit a design (things you can add to your performance review: project management). The templates can be as simple as the ones shared in the AALL webinar or as fancy as you want to make them (within reason, keep it professional). When done, get the library team to vote and then use the winner to create the rest of the templates (judge, person, industry, etc.).

One final tip: To remember where to find specific info, add footnotes to each section and list all potential sources. Alternatively, create a ‘Sources Consulted’ section at the end of the template and list

all resources there. Either way, don't forget to delete unused sources before you submit your final work product!

One final final tip: Using the style set to format everything does not absolve you from a) running spellcheck when finished, nor from b) taking one last good read/look at the report before you submit it. You've spent an awful lot of time finding, organizing, and summarizing the info, why would you ruin such beautiful work with sloppy spacing, distorted images, or typos?

The recording for the AALL webinar "What's missing from your CI Report?" is [here](#). Do yourself a favor and watch it. Here's the [link](#) to the 3 Geeks podcast I mentioned at the roundtable. They talk about the value of collaboration between the Marketing/Business Development, KM, and Library teams. And here's a [link](#) to ILTA's recent webinar on "Competitive Intelligence: A 360 Degree View of Your Clients", which gives you an insight into what BD/PD is up against.

Happy CI everyone! Be sure to send me your questions and suggestions at delia.montesinos@ropesgray.com

DID YOU KNOW THAT SCPLL PROVIDES LAW LIBRARY SERVICES TO INCARCERATED CITIZENS?

Mary Pinard Johnson

Sacramento County Public Law Library

Incarcerated populations have a strong need for legal information, but limited access to legal reference materials. Inmates often turn to outside sources for help, sending letters to numerous libraries, hoping someone will respond. This hit-and-miss approach leads to uneven access to legal information and justice for many inmates.

Luckily, California inmates have access to materials outside their institutional libraries through a

partnership with between the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and the Sacramento County Public Law Library (SCPLL). Under this contract, SCPLL uses its existing staffing and resources to provide document delivery and reference assistance to inmates at all California state adult institutions. Unfortunately, this program does not extend to California inmates housed out of state, or inmates at city or county jails, or at juvenile detention facilities.

HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

This project began in 1997, when the Mountain Valley Library System (MVLS) contracted with the CDCR to provide legal document delivery services to California state prisons. The CDCR's obligation to provide legal material to its prisoners springs from *Gilmore v. Lynch*, 319 F. Supp. 105 (N.D. Cal. 1970), affirmed *Younger v. Gilmore*, 404 U.S. 15 (1971). In *Gilmore*, the Court held that the CDCR must provide adequate law libraries in order to safeguard prisoners' rights to equal protection and access to the courts. The Court suggested that the CDCR "expand [its] present list of basic codes and references in the manner suggested by this opinion." The CDCR contracted with MVLS to provide inmates with copies of the materials suggested in the *Gilmore* opinion. Sacramento Public Library housed MVLS, but that library's legal collection was inadequate to fill most of the inmate requests. MVLS therefore used SCPLL's collection to fill inmates' requests.

On July 1, 2006, North Bay Cooperative Library System (NBC) assumed administrative responsibility for MVLS, and SCPLL assumed responsibility for the CDCR Document Delivery Contract. This arrangement was short-lived, though. In 2004, legal publisher Thomson-West had created a DVD product that contained the titles mandated by *Gilmore*, which the CDCR used as an onsite law library at each of its institutions. In December 2006, the CDCR determined that the DVD product was adequate to satisfy the *Gilmore* rule, and chose not to renew the contract with SCPLL or to open the contract up to outside bids.

However, the CDCR soon realized that the electronic product was insufficient, and in late 2008, sought to re-implement the document delivery program. SCPLL's bid was accepted, and the library began filling requests again in January 2009.

In 2009, the CDCR implemented regulations (15 CCR 3124, also listed in the CDCR DOM §§101120.11 and 101120.14) that require that all inmates have access to a law library that is sufficient to provide meaningful access to the courts. These regulations require CDCR to maintain at each prison, at a minimum, the complete and updated materials that were set forth in the Gilmore Injunction. The regulations also require print or electronic access to *Corpus Juris Secundum*, *Federal Rules Decisions*, and *California Jurisprudence* through an outside source. That's where SCPLL comes in – we serve as the outside source for access to those titles. However, we do not limit ourselves to just those materials. We make a good faith effort to provide copies of any requested documents.

WHAT SCPLL CAN PROVIDE TO INMATES

SCPLL provides document delivery, Shepardizing, and reference services to inmates at California adult institutions. All requests must be reviewed and signed by CDCR law library staff before they are submitted to SCPLL. SCPLL cannot fill requests submitted directly by inmates.

We accept requests by mail, email or fax. SCPLL librarians review each request, then staff retrieves the requested materials from the library's print and electronic resources, and returns photocopies or printouts by mail unless rush return via email or fax is required.

Document Delivery:

SCPLL will provide photocopies of legal resources and materials to requesting institutions. Exact citations are required for retrieval of documents. Delivery is limited to 200 pages per request. For longer documents, we provide the first 200 pages of the document, and recommend submitting a separate request for pages over 200.

Shepardizing:

Inmates may request a Shepard's or KeyCite report for any reported case. SCPLL will provide only the list of citing cases. Inmates can submit separate requests for copies of any of cited cases if they are not available in their institutional library.

Reference Service:

Reference questions are requests for information or documents on a particular subject, which require librarians to search databases, catalogs, etc. to locate information. We consider requests that do not ask for a specific document by citation, or have an incorrect or incomplete citation, to be reference questions. This service is limited to reference questions that we can answer with less than one hour of research. SCPLL cannot provide legislative histories, superior court dockets, pleadings, or answer complicated reference questions that require in-depth research.

SCPLL will provide no more than 20 pages of information to answer a reference question. If the documents that answer the reference question are more than 20 pages, SCPLL will provide only a list of citations for these documents. Inmates can submit separate requests for copies of any of these documents if they are not available in their institutional library.

WHAT CAN OTHER LIBRARIES DO

We understand that many law libraries receive letters from prisoners asking for legal reference or research assistance. The best option is to refer them to their institutional library, where they can work with prison library staff to submit their legal research requests to Sacramento County Public Law Library through our contract with CDCR. Tell the inmate about this program so that they can work with their prison librarian to request materials from SCPLL. There is no charge to the inmate; all costs are covered by the CDCR. If you have any questions about this program or how it works, please feel free to contact Mary Pinard Johnson at mpjohnson@saclaw.org.

LEGAL TECH RECAP

Delia L. Montesinos, Ropes & Gray

It's the midway point of the year, at least as far as NOCALL newsletters go, so here's a quick recap of what vendors have been up to since my last tech column:

BLOOMBERG BNA

The Attorney analytics I [mentioned](#) in November are now [live](#). It includes data for 100,000 attorneys from 775 law firms.

[Added](#) the International Trade Practice Center, a resource focused on import-export developments and compliance issues. It includes country profiles, chart builders, news, and analysis.

Summary of the latest CRIV biannual call (December 2018) is [here](#). Of note, BLaw is "unequivocally committed" to becoming a digital-only platform. There is not a concrete date set for the move but it will be "within the next few years." Also, some answers in re: the future of Tax Management Portfolios in print.

CASEMAKER

[Announced](#) that subscribers who receive access through bar associations can get a one-week free trial of vLex's Vincent and then 50% off first-year pricing. Other subscribers can access Vincent but not with the free trial or special pricing

CASETEXT

[Partnered](#) with SCOTUSblog to provide access to opinions, statutes, and other primary legal content cited in SCOTUSblog's posts.

[Added](#) new filters to focus on three motions types (dismiss, summary judgement, compel discovery), causes of actions (count is up to 142), and party type (cases involving the top 100K US companies by revenue have been associated with industry or service sectors).

FASTCASE

Added select titles [published](#) by the ABA, as well as ABI's [catalog](#) of bankruptcy publications. Subscribers must purchase titles to which they want access, but Fastcase is working with the ABA to create a pass-through subscription for folks who have an existing print subscription.

Provided [access](#) to Courtroom Insight expert witness profiles to all Fastcase 7 users (separate \$60/month subscription) and added profiles from JurisPro (no extra cost).

[Added](#) public records information and analytics for individuals and businesses from TransUnion.

Docket Alarm [added](#) a new feature that gleans any deadlines from the docket and automatically displays them to users.

[Released](#) its first book in print, from its new legal publishing arm, Full Court Press.

INTELLIGIZE

[Launched](#) SEC No Action letter analytics, which provides trends and league table for grants and denials by company, issue, or law firm. They also expanded their archive back to 1973.

LEXIS

Advance [added](#) 26 titles from the ABA's section of Antitrust & Trade Law (access based on subscription), as well as a variety of news sources from Newsbank, ProQuest, Contify, and more.

[Announced](#) it's working on a chatbot, which they plan to release later this year. "Lexis Research Assistant" will make suggestions based on a user's past research, such as a reminder they had previously run a search or suggesting filters to narrow the focus.

Context [added](#) new motion, keyword, and practice area filters to the judicial analytics tab.

The [new and improved Courtlink](#) is coming! Migration

supposedly began for some in April (alas, not me). Users will have access to both platforms during migration and all personal data – alerts, tracks, etc. – will transfer automatically.

Lex Machina [released](#) a Comprehensive Contracts Litigation module, which adds more than 45,000 non-commercial cases to the former Commercial Litigation module.

Practice Advisor got a [new](#) Labor & Employment Key Legal Development Tracker

Summary of the latest CRIV biannual call (December 2018) is [here](#). Lexis' recap of all its 2018 Advance enhancements is [here](#).

TRELLIS

Trellis Research, a graduate of the 2018 TechStars startup accelerator, [launched](#) with \$2 million in seed funding. This new platform provides California state court data and judicial analytics based on more than five million Superior Court records. The Company plans to add New York courts later this year.

VLEX

[Acquired](#) UK online legal publisher Justis, whose flagship product, JustisOne, has a comprehensive collection of common law cases, including Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Singapore, the UK, the Caribbean Commonwealth Islands, and the British West Indies.

[Announced](#) a partnership with Dow Jones through which vLex will offer content from Factiva, the Dow Jones Newswires, VentureSource, and the Wall Street Journal.

WESTLAW/THOMSON REUTERS

[Added](#) Precedent Analytics to WL Edge. The new feature lets lawyers see which judges, cases, districts, or circuits a judge relies on most often on when writing their opinions. It also shows the frequency with which judges have dealt with different issues. According to West, what sets this product apart is its

integration with West's Key Number system.

[Launched](#) Panoramic, a new workflow and pricing solution directed to large and mid sized firms. The platform provides process mapping for various types of legal matters; legal guidance for completing those various steps; financial tools to measure costs, realization rates and profitability by matter and task; and tools for future budget creation based on data and analysis.

Summary of the latest CRIV biannual call (November 2018) is [here](#). Of note, for law firms, WestlawNext sunset date will likely be around 2025.

WOLTERS

[Extended](#) AltLegal partnership to include WK's Manual of Industrial Property (MIP). The integration gives WK customers one-click access to relevant MIP content from within Alt Legal, including some 36,000 cases and 100 books.

Summary of the latest CRIV biannual call (November 2018) is [here](#). Of note, the Securities Topic Navigator is being discontinued and will be replaced by new topic filters.

SURVEYS YOU SHOULD CHECK OUT

AALL's [State of the Profession 2019](#) survey is out. The full report costs \$299 (\$199 for AALL members) but there is a free [snapshot](#), as well as a recap in the [ABA Journal](#).

ALM/Lexis' [Data & Analytics: Transforming Law Firms](#) (free) shows how analytics are being used more and more in the business of law (versus for litigation purposes)

Thomson Reuters' [2019 Report on the State of the Legal Market](#) (free) helps understand the new market realities our employers face.

Wolters' [2019 Future Ready Lawyer Survey](#) (free) states that fewer than 24% of lawyers say they understand transformational technologies, such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, predictive

analytics and blockchain. Bob Ambrogi's recap is [here](#); Jean O'Grady's is [here](#).

Lastly, Jean O'Grady has been posting the results of her 2018 Hit or Miss Survey. So far, she's posted [Part 1 \(Biggest Miss\)](#), [Part 2 \(New Products/Features\)](#), [Part 3 \(Analytics\)](#), and [Part 4 \(WL Edge\)](#). Upcoming posts will discuss Competitive Intelligence and KM survey results, as well as what products people plan to cancel or purchase. Thus far she has named:

- Worst Vendor Relations Move/Worst Product Change or Realignment: the Bloomberg/BNA integration and subsequent product realignment seriously beat out all competitors' faux pas. No surprises there.
- Best New Product or Product Realignment (from a Major Legal Publisher): WKCheetah replacing Intelliconnect won this category, with Lexis' integration of Ravel a very close second (<1.5% points).
- Best New Product (you became aware of in 2018): Westlaw Edge led the survey, followed by Gavelytics and Courtroom Insight.
- Best New Feature (excluding analytics): WL Edge statutory and regulatory redlining feature (vendors: yes, please!) came in first, followed by Lexis Context/Ravel, and WL Edge Citation Risk.
- Best New KM or Drafting Tool: Practical Law's Automated Documents won by a large margin, followed by the new Lexis LSA powered by Intelligize, and WK's M&A clause analytics.
- Best New Competitive Intelligence Product: Manzama Insights received nearly 40% of the votes, while "Other" came in second with 22.31% of the votes. For "Other", no single product was named more than twice and all products were older than five years. Not surprising AT ALL, especially if you've read my long-winded rants about the current state of CI tools.
- Best Analytics Product: Westlaw Edge won with 24.14% of the vote. Runner-ups were (in order) Lexis Context, BLaw Attorney Analytics, Fastcase Docket Alarm, and Lex Machina Contracts. O'Grady forgot to include Gavelytics in the ballot but notes that it received the most write-in votes.

- Best Analytics Documentation (in re scope, functionality, etc.): Lex Machina has the best; BLaw has the worst.

E-LIBRARIAN BOOK REVIEWS

Elisabeth McKechnie

UC Davis School of Law, Mabie Law Library

*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. Books are sourced from Amazon.com unless otherwise noted.

I'm finding it more difficult to locate good e-books, published recently, for \$3.99 or less. What seems to be happening is that I'll spot a likely book, buy it cheap and start to read. By the time the column goes to press, the price has shot out of range. That being the case, let me recommend again that the cheapskate reader subscribe to a variety of e-mail newsletters advertising book options. I currently get BookBub, Bookperk, The eReader Cafe, BookGorilla and Chirp (cheap audiobooks). While there are many duplications, individual newsletters can offer different titles from the others. You are also able to snag very inexpensive books during a short window.

Books I got for \$3.99 or less, before the prices went up:

Quackery, a Brief History of the worst ways to cure everything

current price: \$10.18

Mules and Men by Zora Neale Hurston

current price: \$9.49

The Library, a Catalogue of Wonders

current price: \$9.99

The Opposite of Fate, Memoirs of a Writing Life by Amy Tan

current price: \$11.99

So, when you see a deal, jump on it.

BOOK REVIEWS**Command and Control, Nuclear Weapons, the Damascus Accident and the Illusion of Safety** (ALA Notable Book for Adults)

Author: Eric Schlosser

Source: Amazon.com

Format: Kindle

Price: \$4.99 (a bit pricey but worth it)

Later made into a documentary of the same title, this book explores the hidden history of the management of and mistakes made in America's arsenal of nuclear weapons. Focusing on a near miss that occurred in Arkansas, the reader will be left unsettled at what has really been going on behind the scenes. The writing style is crisp and doesn't bog the reader down although the book runs 640 pages. This is not happy reading, but necessary.

Complete Harvard Classics Collection: [Five Foot Shelf (51 volumes) and Harvard Classics shelf of Fiction (20 volumes)]

Author: Various

Publisher: Golden Deer

Source: Amazon.com

Format: Kindle

Price: .99

Available: https://www.amazon.com/Complete-Harvard-Classics-Collection-Volumes-ebook/dp/B075GWV4W3/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=harvard+classics&qid=1557786940&s=digital-text&sr=1-1

Originally created for the general public who didn't have access to a liberal education, the Harvard Five Foot Shelves combined non-fiction and fiction classics. Each volume has both critical and introductory material helpful to the reader, including lectures and essays by Harvard professors and footnotes (even in the fiction). Since this is Kindle format, you aren't stuck with tiny print on yellowed paper. The only downside to this collection is that it lacks a master table of contents. To see what is in each volume, you need to consult the table of contents for each. Still,

the price is right and if you want a complete library on your Kindle, this is it.

The Matrimonial Advertisement

Author: Mimi Matthews

Source: Amazon.com

Format: Kindle

Price: \$3.99

This piece of modern historical fiction has that unusual creature, an absolutely accurate Victorian lady as a heroine. She faints, she is afraid and she always behaves with propriety! Helena Reynolds has a problem. Her brother has died, leaving the family title to an uncle but all the money to his sister. As a result, the evil uncle is pressuring her to sign over her fortune, threatening to commit her to a madhouse for excessive grief over her brother's death. She is unprotected by a man and needs to find one to help her. She and her companion hatch a plan to arrange a marriage for her. Based on a newspaper advertisement, she marries the owner of a remote and rundown Devonshire property before he discovers who she is. Trouble (and romance) ensue. Not a very imaginative plot, but the characters have personality and back stories. I was very impressed with the heroine and how she uses the knowledge she does have, of high society and its rules, to leverage herself away from her predatory uncle.

The Writers' America

Author: Marshall B. Davidson

Source: Amazon.com

Format: Kindle

Price: \$1.99

"America is the invention of its writers." This book is a history of the United States, illustrated by writings including excerpts from essays, reports, newspapers, poetry and letters from those living through the times. Although many quoted are writers, politicians and presidents, most are not anyone you've ever heard of. This makes American history much livelier than anything I ever studied in school!

REMEMBERING CORAL HENNING

NOCALL Memorials Committee

Leslie Hesdorfer, Jane Metz, and Donna Williams

Coral Henning, NOCALL member, Director of the Sacramento County Public Law Library, and tireless advocate for numerous causes, passed away on March 28, 2019. Please click [here](#) to read her obituary. A celebration of Coral's life was held on June 1 in Sacramento. Coral's family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations in Coral's memory be made to the [Food Literacy Center](#). NOCALL made a contribution in honor of all that Coral has meant to our community and beyond.

Coral's law library career started in 1980 when she worked part time at the San Francisco County Law Library while in law school. Coral stayed at SFL until 1991 and eventually became the Chief Assistant Librarian. She later served as Library Director for McCormick, Barstow, Sheppard, Wayte & Carruth, LLP in Fresno and worked as an independent information broker, before joining the Sacramento County Law Library as a Public Service Librarian in 1995. Coral remained at SacLaw for the rest of her career, becoming Training Coordinator in 2001 and moving into her final position as the Director in 2004.

Coral was a longtime NOCALL and AALL member, serving in a variety of leadership roles for both organizations. For NOCALL, she served as Vice President, President, Treasurer and Board Member. She also served as a member and chair of several NOCALL committees over the years, most notably Public Access to Legal Information Committee from 1985-2004. Coral was also involved with a number of other library associations, including the Mountain Valley Library System, the California Council of County Law Libraries (President, 2006-2008, Vice President, 2004-2006), and the Special Libraries Association (where she was serving as President of the Sierra Nevada chapter at the time of her death).

Coral received her JD from Golden Gate University School of Law in 1983 and her MLIS from San Jose State University in 2003. Throughout her career,

Coral strongly advocated for public access to legal information. Coral's accomplishments included moving the Sacramento Self-Help Center to the law library when the court no longer had space, initiating a Lawyer in the Library program, taking over the contract with the California Department of Corrections to provide reference services to inmates, and building the SacLaw web site into a go-to source of legal information for self-represented litigants.

In 2017 Coral received the NOCALL Professional Achievement Award for notable and enduring contributions to the chapter and profession. She will be posthumously awarded the Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession by the Government Law Libraries SIS at the AALL conference this summer. In addition to all she was doing in the law library community, Coral somehow found time to be a board member and strong supporter of Slow Food Sacramento and was a co-founder (with her husband) of A Better Pickle Company.

The depth and breadth of Coral's influence cannot be overstated. The memorials committee shares these tributes and fond memories from Coral's colleagues and friends with you.

From Jean Willis, Sacramento County Public Law Library:

I met Coral in 1991, when I hired her as the law librarian for the McCormick, Barstow law firm in Fresno. At the time, I was their IT Manager. Because of my law library background, I also supervised the law library. I suspected that Coral probably wouldn't stay too long in Fresno, but I never regretted hiring her. Coral and I immediately "clicked" on so many levels, and we had a good time working together improving and updating the firm's law library. Coral led the effort to automate their serials control system, as well as introducing Westlaw and Lexis to the firm. Coral opened up the world of online searching at McCormick Barstow by negotiating with the vendors to provide ongoing training in-house. It was revolutionary for the firm at that time.

Coral was always interested in access to justice and, as NOCALL's Public Access Chair, she provided several legal information workshops at a number of general public libraries in the San Joaquin Valley. They were much appreciated with compliments sent to the firm's partners for permitting her to do this.

Coral moved on and moved back to the San Francisco Bay Area a little over a year after moving to Fresno. We maintained a solid friendship even at a distance, stayed in touch and exchanged notes and information back when the Internet and email weren't readily available.

I started working at the San Diego County Public Law Library in the late 1990s, and shortly thereafter Coral began working at the Sacramento County Public Law Library. We continued our firm friendship, as well as sharing ideas particularly about serving the needs of self-represented litigants. This was when the sea change at our county law libraries occurred bringing more and more self-represented litigants through our doors. It was especially challenging at first figuring out how to provide services for them and meet their needs. We shared a lot of tips and information, and in parallel Coral and the San Diego staff began developing training classes for self-represented litigants. Coral even flew down to San Diego to attend some of our early classes there.

Then Coral was promoted to Director in Sacramento, and she asked me to come work with her when my position opened up. The rest is history, and I haven't looked back. Coral had tremendous drive and energy and incredible creative talents. While our vision for services to meet the needs of self-help litigants closely matched, Coral is responsible for developing and manifesting a range of services that have made our library and our website a beacon in California. I feel so proud and grateful to have had the chance to work with Coral and support her vision, seeing it come to fruition. Of course, many kudos must go to our great staff whose teamwork and efforts made it all possible.

It is with great regret that I witnessed my good friend

and boss leave us far, far too soon. But I salute her for her untiring efforts to serve the needs of the underserved, as well as for being my good pal. I miss you, Coral. Rest in peace, my friend.

From Jocelyn Stilwell-Tong, California Court of Appeals, Sixth Appellate District:

The idea of NOCALL without Coral is almost inconceivable to me. Coral has been one of our living sources of Institutional Memory for this organization as long as I've been an active member. She really believed in giving back to her professional community with her time, attention, and skill set, and she was an invaluable guide. I can't tell you how often I've faced a question or problem and thought, "Oh, I should reach out to Coral and see what she thinks," and I'm sure I'll keep having those thoughts as long as I'm on the board. I believe she has, at some time or another, held nearly every position on our executive roster. I'll miss her as a personal friend, as a professional colleague, and especially as a voice of conscience whenever an ethical or an access to justice issue arises.

The fact that the memorial in her honor will go to the Food Literacy Center makes me so happy – one of my first memories of her was seeing her personally ensure that any wasted food from a NOCALL event could go to a local homeless shelter. Her work has left a legacy anyone would be proud of, and her personality has left a wealth of grieving friends – I'm proud to number among them.

From Mark Newman, retired:

Coral was a talented law librarian, a consummate colleague and mentor, an extraordinary comedian, a devoted advocate for animals, an entrepreneur pickle producer, and certainly more. But for me it was something else among her vast repertoire of talents that was most memorable. Coral was also a tremendous event planner and tour guide.

It was at AALL conferences where these skills were remarkably on display. I tagged along numerous times with Coral and others on adventures to such places as the toilet museum (yes, really) in San Antonio; and

to the museum of oddities, curiosities, and weirdness (yes, really) in Minneapolis. Coral definitely had a flare for creating memorable AALL conferences, and it was a certainty that the conference events would not be as noteworthy as the event with Coral.

Hanging with Coral was for me usually the highlight of the 25 AALL conferences I attended in my 30 years as a law firm librarian. But these excursions were never included in the review of what I learned and accomplished at the annual AALL conference that I presented to my supervisors at the law firms. They clearly would not have understood Coral's unique ability to create memorable bonding experiences. Coral, thanks for the memories. They will last my lifetime.

From Rose Turner, on behalf of the Turner Family:

When Kathryn Turner became the Yolo County Law Librarian in 2006, Coral Henning welcomed Kathryn into the profession and mentored her for many years, developing a strong friendship.

In 2012, after Kathryn was diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer, Coral provided a positive presence for Kathryn (and for us) by often sitting with Kathryn during her many chemotherapy sessions. Coral's interest in the slow food movement was also a welcome distraction from the threat of Kathryn's cancer. Even though Kathryn didn't feel like eating at times, the prospect of venturing out to experience a dinner arranged by Coral with people interested in enjoying a slow pace in unusual places like a farm down in the Sacramento Delta was sublime.

We imagine Kathryn and Coral now together nibbling on slow food from on high, encouraging us all to enjoy our lives as much as they did.

From Judy Janes, Esq., UC Davis Mabie Law Library:

Coral was the heart and soul of our Sacramento law librarian's contingency. Her vibrant and inclusive nature was a call to all librarians to come together to support each other and advocate for our profession. Your leadership, warmth, and compassion, Coral, will be greatly missed.

From Ruth Gustafson, Shields Library, UC Davis and on behalf of the Sierra Nevada Chapter of Special Libraries Association:

Coral was a delight to work with and, when she found out that our SLA chapter was in danger of closing down due to the lack of a President, she very kindly agreed to serve this year. She was just that way!

We have had many joint SNC/NOCALL December Holiday Gatherings with Coral as the planner on the NOCALL side. No one else had such a beautiful boisterous laugh or such a cheerful outlook. I enjoyed co-planning with Coral for a couple of these holiday gatherings – her suggestions for locations were always intriguing and we had such fun planning the menu selections. Coral also made the recommendation that the SNC Board have our meetings at the Sacramento County Public Law Library, which proved to be a very nice central location for Board members who are from all around the Sacramento region.

Coral served as Publicity Chair for SLA Sierra Nevada Chapter in 2005-2006. She frequently suggested that NOCALL and SNC collaborate on events and workshops together. Many folks recall the harness racing networking joint event – a first for this type of SLA networking event! The legal workshop for non-legal researchers in May 2015 at Sacramento Public Law Library was particularly well attended.

Coral was such a generous and talented colleague. We will all miss our fellow Sierra Nevada Board member and friend, Coral Henning.

From Mary Staats, retired:

We have lost one of the best.

Decades ago, when Coral was with the San Francisco Law Library, we worked together on the NOCALL Committee for Public Access to the Law. This was indeed a special cause for Coral and we visited several public libraries giving short courses on how to conduct legal research with sparse materials. We also worked together to come up with a fee arrangement for private law libraries who needed assistance from SFL, but were unable to trek over to the library.

Coral's energy, dedication and enthusiasm never ceased. She has left us with the wonderful SACLAW website of indispensable links. She came to NOCALL's rescue when we found ourselves without a treasurer. There is so much she did for us, the community, animals and many more. And above all, she was a cheerful, fun, kind person who will be sorely missed. May her generosity of spirit live on.

From Nancy McEnroe, Alameda County Law Library:

I doubt a day goes by when one of the reference desk staff members at ACLL doesn't say to a pro per patron or themselves – "Let's check to see what the Sacramento County Law Library website has available on this issue." I am sure reference staff at all the California county law libraries will agree that we are very thankful to Coral and her staff for all the guidance and resources made available over the years on the site.

From Mark Mackler, retired:

Years ago, I was in Sacramento for something (I can't remember what) and Coral invited me to stay for an "early dinner" with her and Dywan at their home. Of course, I agreed, but with the caveat that I couldn't stay too late because I had to drive home to San Francisco that night. Well, I still don't know how it happened but before we knew it, it was well past midnight. What a terrific evening we had talking about everything from politics to dogs. It was a very long ride home, but it was well worth it. I'll miss Coral (along with the variety of names she had for me).

From Malinda Muller, Los Angeles Law Library:

Many of us here at LA Law Library go back many, many, many and more many years with Coral and the Sacramento County Public Law Library staff. You all have been an inspiration, a collegial group and full of heart.

When I started at LA Law Library 9 years ago, I heard about SacLaw practically on day 1 of my job. I joined SacLaw's email list, followed the new website revamp, met up with staff at AALL, collaborated with staff on AALL/GLL committee matters and information

sharing, spent weekends with Coral as a witness to the California Council of County Law Libraries directors' meetings, each time with Coral taking the podium to share some new innovation the library had introduced. Then, in the same breath Coral would offer coaching for any library interested and willing to take on any one of them.

I have respect, admiration, appreciation and love for all that Coral has been, done, contributed and offered for the community in need and also for the benefit of this tender and wonderful collective of professionals who are fortunate enough to be able to say we have jobs worth coming to every day. And have each other. Thank you Coral. My heart goes out to the SacLaw staff and Coral's family.

From Diane Rodriguez, San Francisco Law Library:

(Excerpted from letter nominating Coral for the 2017 NOCALL Professional Achievement Award)

When I think of Coral, I think of a generous colleague whom I greatly respect and admire. Coral has probably done more for our association than anyone else I can think of. She has literally chaired or been involved in just about every committee, every Board position – multiple times – and completely gone out of her way to make sure NOCALL is solid and survives into the future. Coral has organized Spring Institutes and fun activities all over our region, facilitated business meetings, and even taken it upon herself to arrange catering for meetings she could not attend. That is dedication!

Coral is also generous in sharing her knowledge and mentoring others. As I was learning the ropes of NOCALL, she was always available for consulting and suggestions. She never turned me away, no matter what my question or the amount of work involved.

In addition to her very busy job and prolific work with NOCALL, Coral is also heavily involved with the California Council of County Law Libraries (CCCLL). She volunteers and dedicates a lot of time to the organization, once again mentoring others, but also advocating for access to justice in California.

I really don't know how Coral has the time to do everything she does. She is a super woman, super librarian, and a wonderful friend and colleague. All I can say is that I really want whatever it is she is drinking!

From Michael Ginsborg, Akin Gump:

After many years of service to NOCALL, Coral returned to NOCALL office as our Treasurer in 2015, when both our President and Treasurer needed to resign. Coral spared no effort to improve means for tracking our expenses, including introduction of a NOCALL credit card. She was also a mentor to me. She was ready to answer every question I had about organizing a Spring Institute – and I had many questions for her, involving everything from signage and sponsorships to catering and registration fees. I had a singular opportunity to appreciate not only her seemingly endless reserves of patience, energy, and enthusiasm, but also her absolute dedication to NOCALL, advocacy, and our profession. I will remember Coral for all of these things, but, most of all, I will remember her for her big heart and generosity.

From Slow Food Sacramento, a chapter of Slow Food USA:

It is with great sadness that we share the loss of our own Coral Henning, a board member and strong supporter of Slow Food Sacramento. Coral gave generously of her time and expertise for nearly a decade, dedicating herself to Slow Food's mission of good, clean and fair food for all. She loved food in all its aspects – cooking with farm fresh ingredients, supporting restaurants using locally grown foods, and attending events celebrating and educating a new culinary style drawing on locally-grown produce and authentically prepared dishes that harked to our region's heritage. We didn't call it Farm to Fork or Farm to Table back then, but Coral guided us in that direction.

Coral innocently attended her first Slow Food Sacramento event nearly 10 years ago and soon thereafter offered to step into the center of our

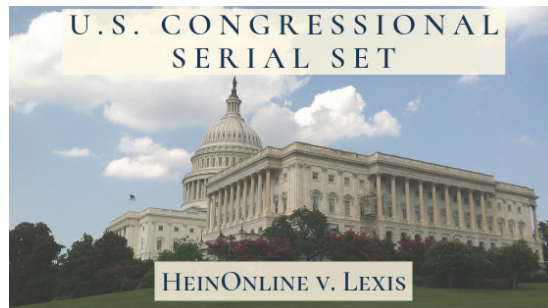
nascent organization to help however she might. And help she did. She took on a board role, ultimately serving alternately as secretary, president and treasurer, hosted meetings at her office and fundraisers and events at her home. Coral always seemed to have the necessary skill to make our events more successful. Need table signage? Coral knew how where to get it printed. Need arrangements with a linen purveyor? Coral stepped in and made it happen. Need someone to organize volunteers? Coral was there.

In particular she launched our Slow Food chapter into the tech age, helping us develop an Eventbrite site to sell our fundraising tickets more expediently, introduced us to online banking, took on the role of securing our insurance policy, schooled us on social media and got us onto/into Facebook. And she made everything she did look effortless. For a long time, we thought she did these things only for us, until once day we found out she served on many boards and was equally generous helping them as well.

By day Coral was the director of the Sacramento County Public Law Library, overseeing its relocation to its present location. In this capacity she drew on her education as a lawyer and dedication to free libraries.

In her private food life, Coral aspired to start her own pickling business with her husband Dywan. Together they took a multi-class pickling course with the intention of naming their business The Happy Pickle. And she was recently accepted to the master food preserver's training program as further testament to her passion for food. Our board members were often treated to her delicious cooking – soups, stews, bread and more.

In everything Coral did for our chapter, she was diplomatic, gracious, fun and enormously generous with her time and talents. We will always remember her fondly and our hearts go out to her husband Dywan and all her extended family members.

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL SERIAL SET**DATABASES UNFURLING: 1777-2018 & ONWARD**

Ruth Geos, Reference Librarian, San Francisco Law Library

Every Congress accumulates a veritable ocean of words: in resolutions made, hearings held, and legislation introduced and sometimes passed. From the very first Congress opened on March 4, 1789, then in Federal Hall in New York City, to the current Congressional session opened on January 3, 2019, documents and records have been piling up. Now that content is data--virtual and weightless--it is hard to imagine the vast and unruly mass accumulated over 230 years' worth--and counting--of Congressional matters under consideration, including bills, reports, records of hearings, maps of boundaries and territories, drafts, and treaties, select executive and agency documents, odd-ball records [such as reports on rivers and harbors 1817-1982], and some interspersed annual reports of various non-governmental organizations, such the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, DAR, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Smithsonian.

The *Serial Set* was ordered by Congress, in 1813, and has by now been modified and codified in Title 44 of the US Code §§ 701, 719, 738. [for an excellent discussion of the history and evolution of the Serial Set, see: <https://www.fdlp.gov/about-fdlp/mission-history/u-s-congressional-serial-set-what-it-is-and-its-history>]

“Ordered, That, henceforward, all Messages and communications from the President of the United States; all letters and reports from the several departments of the Government; all motions and resolutions offered for the consideration of the House; all reports of committees of the House; and all other papers which, in the usual course of proceeding, or by special order of the House shall be printed in octavo fold, and separately from the Journals - shall have their pages numbered in one continued series of numbers, commencing and terminating with each session” (v. 9 Journal of the House of Representatives, pages 166-167). December 8, 1813.

Its name--the *Serial Set*-- is a nod to the process of organizing congressional history as it unfurls, through a serial identification system that consecutively numbers every document from each congressional session. Even with this numbered identification system, the sheer quantity and mix of types of materials can daunt or delight any researcher. While legal researchers may be intent in building out a legislative history¹, other researchers may turn to the *Serial Set* for other explorations, such as genealogical research², research into environment change, or assessments of social and political history through the details of the records collected over this entire historical period. Due to the enormity of the task, full digitization with advanced search functions has been a wish more than a promise.

1 See [Singer, Statutes and Statutory Construction](#) §48:31-48:3 on an extensive discussion of use of legislative history as an extrinsic aid to interpretation of a statute.

2 <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2009/spring/congressional-serial-set.html>

Open source sites, such as committee reports collected on [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) [93rd Congress, 1973-1974 forward] or other core congressional materials on www.govinfo.gov [104th Congress, 1995-1996 forward], offer a first bite, with excellent collections of relatively recent materials, but thin out quickly as time spools backwards. Microfiche, for anyone who has arduously wound through the pages one by one, is hardly the answer any researcher wants to hear.

The full print *Serial Set* is said to take up more than 15,000 thick bound volumes with an ever-growing density, Congress to Congress. On Hein Online, the entire framework fits on one screen, containing these subsets:



- [American State Papers: 1st-25th Congress \(1789-1838\)](#)
- [Congressional Serial Set: 15th-113th Congress \(1817-2014\)](#)
- [Congressional Documents: 114th-115th Congress \(2015-2019\)](#)
- [Congressional Reports 114th-115th Congress \(2015-2019\)](#)

The HeinOnline *Serial Set* database launched at the end of 2018 is better considered an archive under construction. Phase I provides a complete index of all congressional documents across the full date range of the *Serial Set* (1789-2018), along with full-text content of the most recent 40 years, 1978-2018. The indexing element is a useful research stepping stone, since the *Serial Set* identification number can be one key in helping to locate a document in the morass. Ongoing development of a complete archive of full-text content is in the works, with a projected addition of a million pages a year until the full congressional date range of materials are entirely available and searchable. The *Serial Set* database fits well with other HeinOnline libraries of gnarly federal materials archives, such as earlier editions of the U.S. Code (from 1925 forward), and archives of the Federal Register (1936 – forward) and CFR (1938-forward), expanding the ways and means of accessing these materials.

HeinOnline is not the only player in the game when it comes to the *US Serial Set*. LEXIS also includes *U.S. Congressional Documents 1777-present (U.S. Serial Set)*, with its own advanced search functions. You may be thinking this is overkill [isn't one of these enough?] – but for any researcher who has something specific in mind and cannot easily fish it out, it is a boon to be able to have all sources at hand and algorithmic search variables to multiply the means to compare and locate possibilities.³ As valuable as a specific *Serial Set* Identification Number may be, the problem with a very special number is that even a small anomaly in the citation may mean a blank wall within one or the other databases.⁴ Fortunately, both *Serial Set* databases also offer keyword and title searches, with advanced filters. The true charm of having this content both within HeinOnline and on Lexis is the power to search across the entire *Serial Set* based on whatever level of information is already known to the researcher.

In the current Phase I of the HeinOnline *Serial Set*, search results indicate whether the material is downloadable as full text content, or preliminarily indexed as part of Phase I, with the *Serial Set* citation and other information given.

³ Yet another congressional resource collection is provided as part of the ProQuest Congressional database [coverage from 1970 for some congressional reports, later dates for other document types]. Online access is available for free to any CA resident with a library card issued from the [San Francisco Public Library](#)


⁴ As one example: The Senate Committee on Judiciary Report on the Nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor, is available on both LX and HOL. The *Serial Set* citation given on HeinOnline is **13406 S.rp. 22** and on Lexis, the report is designated as **13406 Exec. Rpt. 22**. Neither will bring up the other solely on the assigned number.


Nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor [Ex. Rept. 97-22]  

U.S. Congressional Serial Set v. 13406 (1981)




Document Summary

Type:	Senate Executive Reports
Title:	Nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor
Volume:	13406  
Doc. No.:	22
Congress-Session:	97-1
Year:	1981
Preferred Citation:	Ex. Rept. 97-22
Bluebook Citation:	S. Exec. Rep. No. 22, 97th Cong., 1st Sess. (1981)
Serial Set Citation:	13406 S.rp. 22

In LEXIS, searches facilitated by its own advanced search functions, bring up detailed summaries of results, with the option of downloading the original text, as:  Replica of Original Proceedings.

Lexis Advance® Research  13406 Exec. Rpt. 22 Congressional Documents 177

Document: Nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor | Actions

   Go to All terms 8 Search Document

Nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor

Sept. 18, 1981

Serial Set ID: U.S. Serial Set ID: **13406 Exec.Rpt.22**

Document Type: Serial Set Digital Collection

Author: James Strom Thurmond (1902-2003), Republican Senator from SC, see [Biographical Directory of the United States Congress](#)

Committee: Committee on the Judiciary, Senate

Document Number: **Exec. Rpt. 97-22**

Serial Volume: **13406**

Congressional Session: 97-1 (1981)

SUDOC: Y1.1/6:97-22

Length: 8 pages

Summary

Recommends confirmation of Sandra Day O'Connor to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Includes additional, supplemental, and separate views (p. 2-7).

Note: O'Connor, Sandra D.

None of this would be worth the bother at all if it didn't offer the most vivid view of the history of the nation. With the sting of Supreme Court nominations so recently in mind, the *Year-End Report, 1st session of 97th Congress (1981)*, regarding the nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor, reminds us that consensus was once easier to achieve. Speaking about the recommendation to the full Senate [17 aye, one present]. Senator

Thurmond, then Chair of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, summarized those hearings: [at p. 147]

...The Committee recommended the approval of the first woman to be nominated to the United States Supreme Court. In providing the background and recommendation on which the Senate could fulfill its Constitutional duties, the Committee held three days of hearings and considered the views of a wide range of witnesses. On the recommendation of the Committee, the Senate unanimously confirmed the nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court

Twelve years later, the nomination of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, in 1993, was sent to the Senate Floor with a unanimous recommendation to confirm, with a [final Senate vote](#) of 93-3:

NOMINATION OF RUTH BADER GINSBURG TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

AUGUST 5, 1993 (legislative day, JUNE 20, 1993)—Ordered to be printed

Mr. BIDEN, from the Committee on the Judiciary,
submitted the following

REPORT

together with

ADDITIONAL VIEWS

(To accompany the nomination of Ruth Bader Ginsburg to be an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court)

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the nomination of Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg to be an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon, a quorum being present, by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays, with the recommendation that the nomination be approved.

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And in-between, in 1991, was the highly charged hearing on the nomination of Clarence Thomas as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, with testimony given by Anita Hill of a pattern of sexual harassment by the nominee. With contemporary articles pointing out the all-but-too-close parallels to the conduct of the Clarence Thomas and Brett Kavanaugh hearings, [see for example, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/17/us/politics/anita-hill-clarence-thomas-brett-kavanaugh-christine-blasey-ford.html?module=inline>] the *Serial Set* refreshes history with the report of the Senate Judiciary Committee, ultimately making no recommendation on the nominee, with the Committee vote tied at 7 to 7:

NOMINATION OF CLARENCE THOMAS TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

OCTOBER 1 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 19), 1991.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. BIDEN, from the Committee on the Judiciary,
submitted the following

REPORT

together with

ADDITIONAL AND SUPPLEMENTAL VIEWS

(To accompany the nomination of Clarence Thomas to be an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court)

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the nomination of Judge Clarence Thomas to be an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, having considered the same, reports the nomination, a quorum being present, without recommendation, by a vote of 13 yeas and 1 nay, having failed to report favorably thereon, by a vote of 7 yeas and 7 nays.

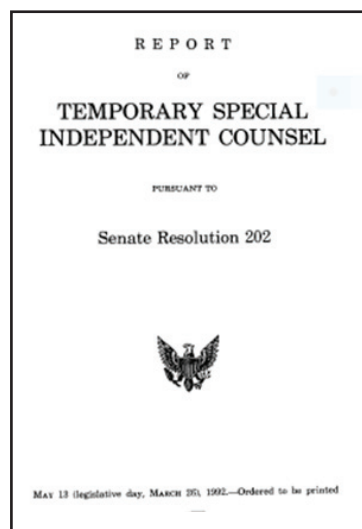
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Among the many speeches by Senators who rose to explain their vote, Senator Robert Byrd took to the floor with a singular and powerful eloquence, explaining why, in the end, he could not vote to confirm Clarence Thomas--ultimately rejecting the nomination in favor of the grace of the Court itself.

Even after the [final vote](#), 52-48, the narrative continued, with a potent shift to the another part of the story. A Temporary Independent Counsel was immediately appointed to investigate the leak of the confidential Anita Hill information, disclosure of which triggered the public airing of the sexual harassment she detailed, and the hyper-charged televised hearings that followed:



The subsequent Report of the Temporary Independent Counsel summarized all the key players, and yet in the end concluded that it was unable to identify the source of the disclosures.

This report of the Temporary Independent Counsel was accompanied by a 172-page collection of exhibits. Among other materials, it included the Anita Hill statement, photographs of Anita Hill arriving at the Senate hearings, deposition testimony from the NPR legal affairs correspondent, Nina Totenberg, editorial cartoons, and press reports and newspaper articles on colleagues of Anita Hill supporting her veracity.

The *Serial Set* has all this and more.

As the 116th Congress--convened on January 3, 2019--begins its work, all the records of whatever comes across Congressional sightlines will be also eventually be added and indexed and become a part of the *U.S. Congressional Serial Set*. Finding these records within the *Serial Set* will be a function and test of the very reach of these databases--and intrinsically, the accessibility of these resources to all researchers.

The HeinOnline *U.S. Congressional Serial Set*, and the Lexis *U.S. Congressional Documents 1777-present (U.S. Serial Set)* are made available for free public access at the [San Francisco Law Library](#). For more questions about research in the U. S. Congressional Serial Set or about the scope of other San Francisco Law Library database resources, please contact the Reference Team at sfl.reference@sfgov.org or 415: 554-1772.

All Congressional documents noted in this article may be accessed through Dropbox at: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5noch4sg080ez5k/AAAuWtdUECPA37k2U89HZ3f2a?dl=0> or by request to the author: ruth.geos@sfgov.org.

A version of this article also appears in the San Francisco Law Library blog, serialized in 3 parts: <https://sflawlibraryblog.wordpress.com/>

Spotlight on...

Maribel Nash

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

Of course, NOCALL's great members! I've been a member of NOCALL for just a few years, but very recently started to become more involved by going to meetings and becoming active in committees. It's been great meeting members and going to exciting and creative events, like the Night at the Roxie and the trivia night.

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

"Say yes." Sometimes it gets me into trouble (when I overcommit), but generally, that simple advice continually allows me to enjoy new experiences, face my fears, and grow as a librarian.

What is your most significant professional achievement?

When I was at Northwestern Law, I had the honor of being picked as a faculty advisor for a team of law students traveling to Southeast Asia and researching the legal systems in Thailand and Myanmar. I was the first non-Director law librarian to serve as a faculty advisor. Not only did I get to go on an amazing trip to learn first-hand about the laws in those countries, but I opened the door for other law librarians to participate in the program in subsequent years.

Is there anything obscure that you know more than the average bear about?

I'm pretty good with trivia. I don't know much about anything useful, but I hold my own on a trivia team.

What was the last book you read that you really enjoyed and why?

Elena Ferrante's Neapolitan novels, and the way they go into the complexities of childhood female friendships, just blew me away.

What ability or skill do you most wish you had (that you don't have already)?

I would love to learn more languages. All the languages!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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