

NOCALL News

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Delia L. Montesinos, Ropes & Gray

I have been struggling with this column for the past month. Now, two days before it's due I'm staring at a blank piece of paper ... still staring, half a day later....

(As some of you have figured out by now) I am procrastinator. I'm that person who waits until the last possible minute to get something VIP done. Not the small stuff, mind you. For mysterious reasons I tackle those items right away. It's the 'my work/school/life depends on it' kind of stuff that gets shoved to a corner until it can no longer be ignored.

I've always told myself that I am not procrastinating, I am simply 'mulling' over the issue until it's completely formed in my mind and I can act on it—I am, as someone on the web aptly called it, "procrasta-learning." For the most part, this has worked out OK. But then COVID happened and everything accelerated and now I find myself in panic mode 24/7 and I'm the one who put me there in the first place. Trust me, it's not a good place to be.

I'd love to tell you that being exhausted from the constant panicking has cured my procrastination; that I've found discipline and work on projects in a timely basis. I want to but I can't, namely because I just ~~wasted~~ spent an awful lot of time [researching](#) procrastination when I should have been writing this column. I also a) found the perfect [side-dish recipe](#) for Thanksgiving, b) browsed [Atlas Obscura](#) for places I must add to my bucket list, and c) walked to a couple of places [Gary Kamiya](#) describes in *Cool Gray City of Love: 49 Views of San Francisco* (I am SO taking one of his walking tours when COVID is over!).

So I'm putting myself on blast before you. I will work on these things for NOCALL now, not later:

- I will send out a questionnaire to all the Committee Chairs so they can explain their committees to me and I can then explain them to you, our members. Why? Because a) volunteers needed (see my last [column](#)) and b) these folks do amazing things for NOCALL and deserve to be recognized for their efforts.
- I will begin to work on our 42nd Anniversary Party, to replace the 40th Anniversary one we cancelled due to COVID. Last time we were going to take a cruise around the Bay. If you have other suggestions send them my way.
- I will find Chairs for at least two of the four committees that [need them](#). If you know me even peripherally, expect an email.



Volume 42, Number 2
November- December 2021

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- I will find an amazing speaker for our May Business meeting. Sadly, the Law Librarian of Congress declined my invite.

Feel free to call me out if I don't get going on these soon (and please do, because, you know, procrastinator...)

And as always, don't forget the Board is here to serve the needs of this amazing community. Drop us a note and let us know how we're doing, especially send us any action items you'd like us to take on.

HEADNOTES FROM HOLLY

Holly Riccio

DON'T CALL HER INSPIRATIONAL... I recently had the pleasure of getting to hear a presentation by Haben Girma, a human rights lawyer advancing disability justice and the first deafblind person to graduate from Harvard Law School. Her message of how we can combat ableism—the valuing of nondisabled individuals over disabled individuals—in ourselves and others was moving and enlightening. The event was a virtual one, and in order to communicate with us, she had an interpreter sitting off camera typing the questions into a wireless keyboard that outputs to a braille machine she uses to read. As part of her talk, she explained why she doesn't like to be called an inspiration, as it is often a euphemism or

disguise for pity, and she encouraged all of us to move beyond the "inspiration cliché." She urged us all to be inquisitive and open to change, to be advocates for greater inclusion, and to embrace opportunities to do things differently in order to create increased accessibility, striving towards an inclusive world in which people with disabilities have the same opportunities and choices as nondisabled people. If you ever have the opportunity to hear this Bay Area native present, I encourage you to find the time to attend and participate—you won't regret it.

BETTER TO GIVE THAN RECEIVE... It seems both utterly impossible and completely believable that we are coming to the end of the year—such is the passage of time during the pandemic. It is also the time of year to start thinking about gift giving, whether it be for family, friends, co-workers or professional colleagues. If you're in need of the perfect gift for any of the information professionals in your life, look no further than the Library of Congress. Not only do they have wonderful [online shop](#) that you can browse the virtual aisles of, but they also recently announced their [Friends of the Library of Congress](#) program, where you can join as an inaugural member to help advance the Library's mission to engage, inspire, and inform. There are five different membership levels to choose from, aptly named Reader, Writer, Explorer, Collector, and Bibliophile, and you can direct your donation to a specific fund, one of which is the Law Library of Congress. Some other bibliophile gift-giving ideas can be found at the [New York Public Library Shop](#) and the [Los Angeles Public Library Store](#). Happy Holidays, NOCALL!

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.

PROFESSIONAL READING IN REVIEW

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

“Suggestions for Improving Morale, Part 2: Review of Existing Literature on Librarian and Library Staff Morale,” by Emily C. Weyant, Rick L. Wallace & Nakia J. Woodward, *Journal of Library Administration*, vol. 61, no. 8, pages 996–1007

This article compiles the results of a literature review, analyzing 65 articles on morale among library workers. Morale-increasing methods include trying to make the job tasks “fun” and surveying the workers to find tasks they deem “fun”. The authors also found that cross-training and job rotation improved worker morale. Increased salary and recognition for good work were also helpful. Lastly, knowing why librarians chose their career can assist management in directing projects to them that fire passion and interest.

“Pausing in the Middle of the Storm: Assessing Functionality of the Library Reserve Collection for the Post-pandemic Future,” by Maria Kiriakova, *Journal of Access Services*, vol. 18, no. 3, pages 184-211, 2021

In academic libraries, faculty often place textbooks and other required readings on reserve for students to check out for short periods of time. When libraries closed physical premises due to the pandemic, print reserves came to a halt. The author, a librarian at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, surveyed teaching faculty to find out how they adjusted to the lack of print reserves. Most faculty did not make changes to required readings. Instead, they distributed readings to students in digital formats, primarily through the course learning platform (Blackboard, in this instance), and, to a lesser extent, Dropbox, Google Drive, and email. The library assisted faculty by locating electronic versions of materials and purchased some materials in e-formats. Now back on campus, the library has received only a handful of print reserve requests. In the future, the author sees a continuing shift away from print reserves, with the library playing a key role in locating alternate resources in digital formats.

“#PowerInNumbers: How Digital Libraries Use Collaborative Social Media Campaigns to Promote Collections,” by Kyle H. Goedert, *Journal of Web Librarianship*, vol. 15, no. 4, pages 195-218, 2021

My library has participated in the New York Academy of Medicine Library’s #ColorOurCollections campaign several times. Libraries tweet copies of colorable art from their collections. Our library also sets out photocopies of the art and colored pencils to encourage our students to participate. The campaign is a fun way to join with other libraries, celebrate our collection, and portray legal texts in a different light. The author of this article studied the benefits of collaborative library social media campaigns, using return on investment to measure user engagement and increase in followers. The author found that these campaigns engage users, promote interaction with materials, and build relationships with other libraries, benefitting even smaller libraries.

“Skills for 21st Century Librarians: Learning Objectives for Library Programming,” by Rebecca Joy Norlander and Jena Barchas-Lichtenstein, *American Library Association*, 2021, available at: <https://www.ala.org/tools/sites/ala.org/tools/files/content/211022-ppo-skills-for-21st-century-librarians-report-SCREEN.pdf>

This report is a follow-up to a 2019 white paper analyzing library education by the National Impact of Library Public Programs Assessment (NILPPA): (<https://nilppa.org>) that identified these library programming competency areas for library workers:

- content knowledge
- creativity, responding to challenges and opportunities with innovation, flexibility, and creativity to resolve them
- evaluation of program effectiveness
- event planning
- financial skills and budgeting
- interpersonal and communication skills
- knowledge of their communities
- marketing
- organizational skills

The new report takes these suggested competencies and expands on them, including resource suggestions to help librarians cultivate these skills. It also includes librarian survey results indicating that most librarians don't have formal training but learned on the job. They mostly wished that they had been exposed in library school. Reacting to the Covid pandemic, the task force also recommends that digital education be emphasized more in library school. Digital knowledge isn't a separate goal, but rather is folded into existing competencies.

LEGAL TECH RECAP

Kristie Chamorro, UC Berkeley Law Library

This issue's recap is in the usual format of legal tech happenings organized by vendor. As always, please let me know if there's a topic or new legal tech product you would like to see covered. Happy Holidays!

BLOOMBERG LAW

Bloomberg Law [announced](#) the release of its [Bloomberg Law 2022](#) series, which explores legal practice trends. The 25 articles in the series address: Litigation, Transactions & Contracts, Regulatory & Compliance, and The Future of the Legal Industry. In her [November 1 Dewey B Strategic post](#), Jean O'Grady points out that there's "something for everyone" in these timely articles.

For additional Bloomberg Law news, check out their [What's New](#) posts.

CASETEXT & GAVELYTICS

[Casetext](#) and [Gavelytics](#) announced [a new strategic partnership](#) to provide Casetext's users with access to Gavelytics' state court briefs database.

COURTROOM INSIGHT

[Courtroom Insight](#) and [Fastcase](#) announced a partnership to integrate Fastcase's [Docket Alarm](#)

with Courtroom Insight's knowledge management platform. O'Grady [explained](#) that "Docket Alarm's 500 million state and federal litigation docket and documents will be mapped to the experts and judges within Courtroom Insight."

Courtroom Insight users will also now find [Wolters Kluwer Arbitration](#) content information integrated into their research. This [expanded partnership](#) includes international arbitration content.

EVERLAW

In his [November 2 LawSites post](#), Bob Ambrogi broke the news that [Everlaw](#) joined the elite ranks of legal technology unicorns - companies valued at over \$1 billion - when it was recently valued at over \$2 billion.

FASTCASE & MATTERHORN TRANSACTIONS

[Fastcase](#) and [Matterhorn Transactions](#) recently [announced](#) that Matterhorn's M&A deal data and analytics will be available in Fastcase's legal news platform. In her [October 26 post](#), O'Grady reviews the deal and points out that integration of analytics with news has been a growing trend.

HEINONLINE

HeinOnline updated and added new content to its [National Survey of State Laws \(NSSL\)](#) print and online resource. Read their [October 19 post](#) to learn more.

HeinOnline also launched the [Air and Space Law Database](#), which contains laws, books, legislative histories, and other documents relevant to the ways humans interact with the skies and outer space. For other HeinOnline updates, check out their [October Content Release](#).

LEXIS+

Lexis+ [unveiled](#) Judicial Brief Analysis, a new addition to [Lexis+ Brief Analysis](#) which allows users to compare up to six briefs at once and obtain Shepard's warnings, case recommendations, quotations errors, and more. Some were confused

by the new name - Ambrogi [explains](#) it is meant to suggest that using Judicial Brief Analysis mirrors the process judges and court clerks use when analyzing multiple briefs in a case. Both [O’Grady](#) and [TechnoLawyer](#) also penned recent posts about its features.

LEXBLOG

[LexBlog](#) launched the [Open Legal Blog Archive](#), a centralized database of legal blog posts worldwide. Abrogi [interviewed](#) Kevin O’Keefe, the founder and CEO of LexBlog, who explained that this new archive provides an organized way to search, archive, index and cite legal blog content.

NETDOCUMENTS

[NetDocuments](#) recently [announced](#) Highlights, an enhancement that allows users with a Lexis or Lexis+ subscription to automatically add legal research intelligence to litigation documents.

TRELLIS

[Trellis](#) raised \$14.1 million in its latest round of funding that it [plans to use](#) to expand its AI-powered state court coverage into additional jurisdictions.

For a helpful overview of Trellis, check out the recording of their recent AALL presentation: [Leveraging Legal Analytics in State Trial Courts](#).

WESTLAW

Westlaw announced that it is partnering with [Write.law](#) to provide more practical guidance for law students through certification in three areas: Core Tech, Practice Tech, and Legal Soft Skills. A recent [CRIV blog post](#) covers this new partnership.

WOLTERS KLUWER

On November 1, [Wolters Kluwer Legal & Regulatory U.S.](#) rebranded its Cheetah legal research platform as [VitalLaw](#) and announced new subscriber content. [O’Grady noted](#) that “librarian list-serves lit up with the expected questions and concerns as well as a dash of snark” after the surprising announcement, but pointed

out that “there is quite a bit of good news in the enhanced platform, including more content and a streamlined ‘point of need’ workflow.” [Ambrogi also covered the rebranding](#), pointing out that the changes include free access to legal news in VitalLaw’s public-facing side.

Wolters Kluwer also updated [Kluwer Arbitration Practice Plus \(KAPP\)](#) with a new Relationship Assessment Tool and enhancements to its Arbitrator Tool. In her [November 18 post](#), O’Grady highlights the ongoing challenge of locating arbitration information and explains that the new Relationship Assessment tool “will allow lawyers to research the connections of arbitrators, expert witnesses, counsel, tribunal secretaries and other stakeholders to uncover potential conflicts of interest.”

THINGS TO YOU SHOULD CHECK OUT

Just in case you missed it, the November/December issue of AALL Spectrum - [Beyond Data Analytics 101: Data Literacy Competency for Law Librarians](#) is a must read!

The 2021 awards are starting to roll in. This month the [American Legal Technology Awards](#) and the [Litera Changing Lawyer Awards](#) were announced.

Cindy Weller

Cooper White & Cooper LLP

How did you choose law librarianship as a career?

In third grade we were asked to write an essay about what we would be when we grew up. I chose librarianship, as my family had just been to see the play, Music Man. I know, a bit cheesy. My brother began trombone lessons and I decided I'd be a librarian. After my masters program, there were no public librarian jobs as Prop. 13 had made drastic cuts. I took a position as a "Girl Friday" at Bledsoe Cathcart and had responsibility for the library. While there, I took a course at SF State in legal research, and then was hired for a law librarian position at Pillsbury. I have loved helping legal professionals find the answers to their client needs throughout my career!

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

I think I would have become an elementary school teacher. I loved my years as a Girl Scout leader, for my daughter's troop, working with young women to help build confidence and the next generation of women leaders.

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

The internet. When I started, there were Lexis (UBIC stations), early Westlaw (WALT terminals), and Dialog. Librarians were on the phone all the time asking for this document or that filing and waiting for delivery. We paid a lot of money to information retrieval vendors for SEC filings or court pleadings. It is so much easier to find the usual information. Of course, the internet brings with it so many other issues both good and bad and now I deal with those. Additionally, the library staff at Pillsbury was instrumental in my training and understanding of what law librarianship is and how to interact with users of information. They were such great law librarian mentors and so very patient with my early years. They remain great friends to this day.

What is the last book you really enjoyed and why did you enjoy it?

I am a "clean" romance novel junky due to an hour long BART commute. They are easy reading but not so involved that I miss my stop! My Kindle app on my phone is in constant use. The book that I enjoyed outside of this genre was "Uprising: A Revolution of the Soul", by Erwin Raphael McManus. I read it with my women's book club. It really got me to think about what kind of life I am living and how to be more outwardly focused. I am also an avid Oakland A's fan, and read Ken Korach/Susan Slusser's, "If these Walls Could Talk". Fun stuff about A's players of the past.

What is your idea of the perfect meal?

My perfect meal would be Lasagna, a lovely green salad, and a nice Cabernet Sauvignon...and peppermint ice cream for dessert – without all the worry of Carbs and sugar glucose counts. However, these days I am more apt to enjoy grilled salmon, roasted brussels sprouts and a nice Cab (I still get to have that!) without consequences of high blood sugar the next day.

What would people be surprised to learn about you?

I completely redid my backyard while home on the shelter-in-place order (3 months). It had completely been taken over by 3 ft weeds. I pulled them for days, got my husband to build retaining walls, gates, pergola and a ton of other little projects. I repurposed old garden tools and other items into yard art, so that I am now a beginner avid gardener. I try to work outside a few minutes every day and most weekends for the pure enjoyment. Even weed pulling feeds my soul. The planting of bulbs/seeds and reaping the joy of their blooming, filling the area with color, amazes me. I am planting more Peonies this year as I practiced on one last year and got two blooms off of it in its first year, which isn't always the quick reward. Lots of work but so rewarding – if you are patient!

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