

NOCALL News

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



EDITOR'S NOTE

It's hard to believe we're already in June. This year has flown by! I hope you all have an opportunity to slow down a bit this summer, and enjoy some time with friends and family.

The newsletter committee is pleased to bring you this issue of the NOCALL News. This issue includes some of your favorite columns, as well as a report on the recent NOCALL event to help members prepare or update their estate planning and end-of-life documents.

Please remember, the NOCALL News needs your news! We take the summer off but look forward to bringing you new issues this fall. If you or your staff members have attended a seminar, published an article, received an award, been elected to an office, or done anything else interesting, please let us know! We'd love for you to share information about special projects you're working on, new or exciting services your library is offering, or anything else you think would be of interest to NOCALL members.

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Professional Reading in Review

Elisabeth McKechnie, Kristin Brandt,
Elisa Rodrigues, and Refugio Acker-Ramirez
U.C. Davis Law Library

“Microsoft 365 Apps for Library Statistics”, by Gwen Wilson & Claire Gray, *Journal of Hospital Librarianship* (Apr 17, 2023). Retrieved from: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15323269.2023.2203050>

Providing meaningful data and statistics to leadership and stakeholders could help librarians demonstrate the value of the services they have to offer. Yet, purchasing a data tracking system can be challenging for libraries with limited budgets. As a workaround, some institutions may have site-wide subscriptions to a suite of Microsoft statistical tools including Microsoft 365, that come at no additional cost. The authors reviewed individual applications and selected Microsoft Forms, Excel, and Power BI. While these Microsoft statistical applications do have their limitations, they could help serve as good cost-effective alternatives for providing library statistics for libraries with limited budgets.

“The Cornered Office: A Qualitative Study of Low-Morale Experiences in Formal Library Leaders,” by Kaetrena Davis Kendrick, *Journal of Library Administration*, vol. 63, no. 3, pp. 307-338 (March 8, 2023).

Previous research has demonstrated low morale among employees in library workplaces, but this is the first study to examine library leaders. The authors dispel the notion that library leaders do not understand or are not impacted by workplace abuse. In fact, leaders experience emotional and verbal abuse and neglect from their own supervisors and higher-ups such as deans and provosts, from colleagues, and from direct and indirect reports. This abuse brought about mental and physical health issues and prompted leaders to seek other jobs and leave librarianship. Although this study was based on a relatively small and primarily white

and female group of participants, it provides insight into dysfunction in library workplaces and should promote further research on addressing toxic culture and its impacts on employees at all levels.

“Critical Collections: Bringing A Critical Eye to Law Library Collection Development,” by Nicholas Norton, *Legal Reference Services Quarterly*, vol. 42, no. 1, pp. 36-41 (Apr 10, 2023)

For law schools that are exploring strategies to incorporate concepts of antiracism and DEI into legal education, this article provides an overview for assessing library collections for inclusivity using the theories of critical legal information literacy and epistemic injustice. The author offers a walkthrough example of a particular current-events scenario, along with potential epistemic injustice and critical legal information literacy-related considerations, possible impact on the library collection, and strategies to maximize patron use of the material. While no law school library is ever going to have a perfect collection, the author highlights that librarians can help ensure collections remain critical to the success of any law school by assessing who the patrons are and thinking collaboratively on what their needs are to make their scholarship possible.

“Library snackables: A study of one-minute library videos,” by Robert Tomaszewski, *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, vol. 49, no. 2, (March 2023).

The article describes library snackables as a means for library users to digest useful information in short bites, which could be appealing for Generation Z students. The study used six one-minute videos informing students about library services, and the survey instrument and viewing data were used to gauge student opinion, analyze engagement, and assess knowledge retention. The findings revealed that students had a positive perception of short library videos. While creating library videos can be time consuming, the article highlights the impact of providing access to succinct videos with less content.

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NOTES FROM A NOCALL “DEATH PANEL”

Collaboratively written by NOCALL’s End of Lifers

Following up on a similar event held in SF back in 2017, the NOCALL Networking committee coordinated a meet-up on April 1st (We’re-No-Fools) at the Sacramento County Public Law library where Pete Rooney graciously hosted a Will-Writing party. A group of members and their partners gathered to create and notarize very important end-of-life documents. Many people completed either a Will, a Power of Attorney, or an Advance Healthcare Directive, others completed all three documents.

Jenna Simon Halai volunteered as our intrepid notary, and she was excited about how organized and prepared we all were. [Of course! We’re law librarians!] Along those lines, it was great having our professional “hive mind” available while crafting these documents – attendees feel more confident in the shape of their final documents given the company they were in while drafting them.

The highlights of this event for all attendees include meeting and building relationships with law librarians in the field and, it goes without saying, getting that darn paperwork either updated or DONE.

Those who didn’t have other commitments went to a yummy restaurant down the street from the library to celebrate finishing a very daunting task. The contrast of important & “heavy life events” preparation was lightened by the celebration of a fun lunch.

All in all, it was a pleasure seeing old friends and making new ones.

We are tentatively planning a repeat of this event for those who wanted to attend but were unable to. Please reach out to us (networking@nocall.org) to aid in the planning of this, or any other event you may have dreamed of.

We end with shouting out a THANK YOU to Pete who is an excellent host, and the conference room at the Sacramento County Public Law Library is really nice, too!

SPOTLIGHT ON... BIANCA RANDALL

Baker McKenzie

If money was not an issue, what new library service would you offer your patrons (lawyers, students, the public etc.)?

A librarian specialist for each practice group, and an internship program for future law librarians.

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

NOCALL is great because it gives me the chance to learn new skills I otherwise would not have had the chance to try. For example, I was part of the Planning Committee for the 2023 Spring Institute. There were so many logistics to think through, and I gained a new perspective that will now enhance my regular day job.

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

My undergrad degree is Philosophy, so I likely would have been a corporate ethics advisor or a community college professor.

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

I know a lot about platypuses. I’m looking forward to the day when I can see one in person in the wild.

What’s your favorite online research tip?

If stuck using a commercial research platform, go to the live chat. What better method than asking the vendor how to use their own product?

What 5 books made the biggest impression on you? How did they do so?

- *Total Recall: My Unbelievably True Life Story*, by Arnold Schwarzenegger
- *Papillon*, by Henri Charriere
- *Divine Mercy in My Soul*, by St. Faustina Kowalska
- *Smoking Kills*, by Antoine Laurain
- *Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*, by Mo Willems

These books remind the reader to keep your head up even when your dreams are still far away.

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