



Presidents' Column-Kathy Carrick

RETREAT REFLECTIONS AND BEYOND

The word "Retreat" often means a loss of ground or a time of solitary reflection. To ORALLIENS, our recent "Retreat " may have been in a bucolic setting and it may have been an occasion for some individual introspection, but generally it was an invigorating opportunity to discuss issues with colleagues and to move our Chapter forward in many of our projects. Although I am writing this column before the actual Retreat occurs, I have seen the agenda and anticipate a productive meeting.

I also know the members who are coordinating the program and trust that they will come through with sessions that are informative, provocative and pertinent to pending issues. We are fortunate to have had the timely opportunity of this Retreat occurring as the State considers several bills and projects that have tremendous impact on

our County libraries . The information gathered at the Retreat's open discussion forums and meetings will help guide ORALL's future actions and committee work in the coming months.

Personally, I am struck at the opportunity that the Retreat is providing us to listen and debate critical issues facing our profession. It reminds me that I learn a large part of my practical understanding of the issues impacting law libraries from my colleagues in ORALL. For example, through ORALL I learn how the firms are restructuring their collections to accommodate the demands of technology and economically concerned partners, and how the counties are handling political issues of funding and future support.

You can tell that if asked, my vote will be to add another "Retreat" meeting to ORALL's

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Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries is a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries.

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calendar next year. I think we will discover that it is a great product for the cost, providing a vital opportunity for productive planning that otherwise would take months for our members and committees to accomplish. I hope all of you who attended will send your comments and suggestions to Keith and/or myself. Those of you who did not attend could also help by telling us why you did not attend the day, and what a more attractive programming schedule/time might be for you. Remember, ORALL is here to provide you with professional educational opportunities - we throw in a mix of fun and collegiality for the soul and spirit.

As some of you read this you may be thinking that you would like to become more involved with ORALL, but financial constraints at work prevent travel support for professional meetings. Please remember our Scholarship program. Included in this Newsletter are applications for two substantial scholarships to attend the Anaheim meeting. One is earmarked for a new member and combines local ORALL support with one of the semi-annual AALL registration subsidies. The other is the regular \$500 stipend given each year. Please consider applying for a scholarship - traditionally we have had very few applicants so the odds are in your favor and we solicit your application.

The Retreat also was great preparation for the next Annual ORALL conference scheduled for Cleveland on October 28-30. Come for the information packed programs and stay for the sights, sounds and general fun times that Cleveland offers visitors. Vice President Keith Blough is planning the program "Rocking the New Millennium: ORALL Approaches 50 and Law Libraries Into the 21st Century". Peter Pogacar and a dedicated team of Cleveland law librarians are creating an event filled meeting on the North Coast - although I have to admit that there is a discussion brewing among Rock n

Roll, Indians and other local activities for the most appropriate social "theme". I do not find it a problem - the Indian mascot Slider is often seen jitterbugging on the dugout while munching a pierogi - so Peter can provide it all.

Keith's program reminds us that ORALL is anticipating its 50th Birthday in 1999. A committee chaired by Paul Mitchell is planning several special events in Washington D.C. and Columbus, the locales for our 1999 AALL and ORALL meetings. We are also planning a commemorative publication and ask you to search your files for ORALL memorabilia. We need pictures, programs, and other documents that help tell ORALL's story. While some of us can testify that 50 is just the beginning of a good life, it is also a time to reflect on past success and accomplishments.

We are fortunate that ORALL is a strong organization and a rockin' chapter. I hope you will join the rest of our members in Anaheim and Cleveland as we begin to celebrate our proud past and continue planning an exciting future.

One final note - thanks to the members who have agreed to stand for our 1998/99 election. ORALL is very fortunate in its strong and dedicated members who do the work that accomplishes our goals. This year's list of candidates continues to reflect the talent and variety that makes us strong and successful. Thanks also to Paul Mitchell and his Nominating committee for identifying this strong slate of candidates and ORALL secretary Jane Underwood who will mail the ballots out in early May. ORALL's work continues because of you. Thanks

Professor Janet L. Wallin
Law Librarian and Professor of Law
University of Toledo
1963 - 1993
Her Legacy to Us

What began as a journey few women of her day undertook, Professor Janet L. Wallin took up a life-long love affair with the law and the University of Toledo. After graduating cum laude from Loyola University School of Law in Chicago, Janet came back to Monroe with her husband, Richard. However, instead of pursuing a career in law, Janet was lured back to the College of Law at one of its most exciting phases: the beginning of a full-time day division. The school was a poor second cousin among other units until the university made the commitment to build a separate facility. On whom did the administration call to help shepherd this project? Janet Wallin. Soon after the dedication in 1972, when the "new" facility was deemed too small for the student body and materials, on whom did the administration call to help build the addition to the law school? Janet Wallin. To this day, the Law Center stands as a monument to Janet's commitment to the college and the university.

Janet's legacy was much more than any building, and her love extended far beyond the College of Law. Her lasting legacy for many will be her care and concern for the students, staff and faculty of the college and the law library. She also was very supportive of law librarians across the country. She served as President of ORALL in the 1960's and encouraged her librarians to become involved in national and regional organizations. Janet had a way with people that always put them at ease and gave them room to be themselves. Her limitless patience and understanding was matched with a firm grasp on the heart of the matter and definite ideas on how to solve difficult problems.

Janet's legacy also is reflected in law librarianship. More than a dozen law librarians have been inspired by her example. Many of these librarians are law library directors who learned a great deal about loyalty and dignity from Janet. If she could let us know of what she is most proud, no doubt it would be that people found in her a good model for how to be a good law librarian, a good lawyer, and a loyal person. Not many people can live what they believe; Janet Wallin was one of the few who could and did.

Janet died on December 11, 1998; we miss her but we hold her memory in our hearts through her legacy to us.

submitted by Theodore A. Potter, University of Toledo College of Law Library

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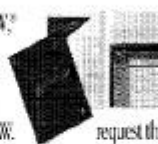


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OHIOLINK - A LAW LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

by

Bruce S. Johnson

Associate Dean for Information Services

Professor of Law

The Ohio State University College of Law

OhioLINK was started in the late 1980's by the Ohio Board of Regents with the goal of establishing a state-wide online catalog linking academic libraries. By 1992, when the first modules of OhioLINK were installed, the project encompassed the public universities, Case Western Reserve University, the University of Dayton and the State Library. Since then, OhioLINK's membership has grown beyond the original members to include fifteen private college libraries and the libraries of twenty-three community and technical colleges. All nine of the academic law libraries in Ohio now participate in OhioLINK.

OhioLINK is both a real and virtual library network and faculty, students and staff from the member universities and colleges have on-site borrowing privileges at each others' libraries. The electronic system behind OhioLINK is by Innovative Interfaces and is two tiered. At the local level, each institution has Innovative's online catalog, circulation system and acquisitions, fund accounting and serials control modules. These local systems are then linked to the central online catalog which combines the bibliographic records from all of the participating institutions. Faculty, students and staff of OhioLINK member schools can search the central catalog and use the "patron initiated borrowing" feature to electronically place requests for books. The books which patrons have requested directly through the online catalog are then sent to the patron's library by a delivery service which is under contract to OhioLINK. In essence, with the exception of journal articles, OhioLINK has supplanted traditional "mediated" interlibrary loan among the member colleges and universities.

In the relatively short time it has existed, the central catalog has deepened into a rich resource containing well over six million bibliographic records. At the same time, its value has been

dramatically expanded by the sixty-five research databases which have been attached to it. The databases range from traditional indexes (including the *Index to Legal Periodicals*) to full-text collections of journals from Academic Press and Elsevier Science, to full-text reference sources such as the *Oxford English Dictionary*, to information sources like *HANNAH Online*.

The libraries of Ohio State have been involved in OhioLINK from the beginning and it has been, without a doubt, the most valuable (albeit time-consuming) cooperative venture in the history of the Law Library. The form and substance of OhioLINK have been equally important and beneficial. The Law Library's participation in OhioLINK has given it a state-of-the-art, online, fully integrated library system which it would have been very hard pressed to purchase on its own. The new online catalog at Ohio State, which reflects the holdings of the Health Sciences, Law and University libraries in a single database, gives strong support to the growth of interdisciplinary research and teaching in the College of Law. OhioLINK's central catalog links us with our sister law school libraries as well as giving us access to the collections of other special and general libraries. This in turn, given the law school libraries in Ohio a structure for cooperative efforts such as shared collection development.

In short, from my vantage point, OhioLINK provides terrific value for the price. In return for a substantial investment of staff time (which is moderating as the basic system matures), OhioLINK has brought a fundamental part of our technology up-to-date and, most importantly, has given our faculty and students fast and effective access to a wealth of publications and information. If you want to take a look at OhioLINK, visit its website at www.ohiolink.edu.

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Andrea Muto

LEXIS-NEXIS Regional Information Manager

EDUCATION: J.D., Cleveland-Marshall College of Law;
BA, Journalism, The Ohio State University;
MLS, Kent State University (May 1998)

PROFESSIONAL: Ernst & Young, LLP national library, 2 years

MEMBER: AALL; SLA

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES!!!

APPLY FOR ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ORALL/AALL SCHOLARSHIPS TODAY

****Apply by April 1 for one of these great scholarships - Don't be an April Fool!****

The theme of this year's AALL Annual meeting is "New Horizons" and as we face constant changes in our role as law librarians and in our organizations this theme is very timely and appropriate. The preliminary program describes an exciting array of educational sessions and a dynamic new structure for the entire meeting.

The ORALL Board encourages members to attend the AALL annual meeting if possible. To ensure this possibility for several ORALL members the ORALL Board is pleased to announce that two scholarships are available for application by the ORALL membership to attend the AALL Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA!

The first scholarship is for \$895.00 offered jointly by AALL and ORALL. It includes \$395 for the conference registration fee from AALL and \$500 from ORALL for use in travel expenses. *Application for this scholarship will be accepted from those who have been members of AALL for three years or less.*

The second scholarship is offered by ORALL and application is open to all members of ORALL. This scholarship consists of \$500 for travel or registration costs.

The ORALL Board encourages application for these scholarships no matter the type or size of your organization.

Complete this form and return to :

Cindy Spohr
LEXIS-NEXIS
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Dayton, OH 45401

Applications must be received by April 1, 1998

If you would like to receive the application form in an electronic version, please e-mail Cindy at cindy.spohr@lexis-nexis.com

ORALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

I am applying for the (please check one):

____ New Member scholarship of \$895 ____ General scholarship of \$500

1. Name:

2. Organization Name:

3. Address:

4. Phone (include area code):

5. Employment in Law Librarianship (include dates and places; if currently a student please indicate school):

6. Other recent employment:

7. Education:

8. Professional Activities and Committee Memberships:

9. Member of ORALL since: Member of AALL since:

10. What percentage of your expenses will your employer pay for you to attend this meeting?

10. Have you previously attended AALL or ORALL meetings? If so, when?

11. Please describe your responsibilities in your current position:

12. Please attach a summary of your career goal and a statement of how you will benefit from attending this meeting.

13. Please include one letter of recommendation from a person familiar with your work, potential and need of this scholarship.

AND THE NOMINEES ARE.....

submitted by Paul G. Mitchell, Chair, ORALL Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee announces its slate of candidates for the 1998-99 ORALL Executive Board. For the first time in several years, we have contested elections, including the interim Treasurer position, who will complete the unexpired term of Anne Kirkhope, who has resigned. Ballots will be mailed to each member as outlined in the ORALL Bylaws.

A word about the nominations process: this committee has found several ORALL members who would be extremely qualified to serve our association; regrettably, there are not enough positions for all who want to serve. Moreover, there are other members who are extremely qualified, and interested, but are unknown to the committee. We would like to invite any of you who do have an interest in chapter leadership to make that interest known -- to the executive board, to the SIG leadership, to the Nominations Committee -- so that you may be considered.

In accordance with ORALL Bylaw XI, Section 1 (c), "Additional nominations may be made upon the written petition of five active voting members in good standing submitted to the Secretary [Jane Underwood] no later than May 1st of the year. Such nominations by petition must be accompanied by the written acceptance of the nominee."

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions/comments --

Paul G. Mitchell
Chair, ORALL Nominations Committee
Ernst & Young LLP
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Candidate Biographies

VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT

Richard Humphrey

Richard Humphrey is currently Reference / Collection Management Librarian at the Indiana University School of Law Library - Indianapolis. He received an A.A. degree from Brewton-Parker College, a B.A. from Georgia Southwestern College, and an M.L.S. from the University of Kentucky.

Richard joined the IU-Indianapolis Law Library faculty in 1995, after three years as Public Services Coordinator of the Athenaeum of Ohio Library in Cincinnati, OH. Prior to his term at the Athenaeum of Ohio, he was Circulation Manager of the Cincinnati Law Library, from 1986 - 1992, and Assistant to the Director of the Jefferson County Public Law Library in Louisville, KY from 1980 -1986. During his years at the Cincinnati Law Library he also worked as part-time law librarian for several private law firms in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

Besides providing reference services, managing the collection, and teaching legal bibliography, Richard is also active in AALL, currently serving as editor of the CRIV Sheet. His activities in ORALL have included serving on the Internet Committee and on the Bylaws Committee. In March, he spoke at the ORALL Spring Retreat, reporting on recent activities of the CRIV and leading a discussion on current vendor issues.

SECRETARY

Nancy Clark

Nancy S. Clark began her law library career as the Serials Librarian at OSU Law Library in 1984, having been a librarian in public and technical services positions within other OSU libraries from since 1974. She became the first professional hired at the Columbus Office of Arter & Hadden in 1987 - 1993. Nancy continued her career as the Head Librarian at Squire, Sanders & Dempsey in Columbus, 1993 - 1998. She has just risen the

elevator (literally up 6 floors in the same building!) to be the new Library Manager at Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue.

Nancy has been a member of ORALL since 1987 and served on the Local Arrangements - Hospitality Committee for the November 1992 Midwest Regional Conference. She is a past Chair of the Columbus Bar Association, Legal Research and Information Resources Committee, 1992-94. Nancy also served on the Ohio Dominican College, Library Science Advisory Board, 1989 - 91.

Nancy has been active in AALL, serving on the Education Committee, 1988-90. She was Co-Director of the pre-conference Institute on " Basic Legal Reference Services" in Tallahassee, Florida, 1991, and Co-Director of the AALL Workshop on "Weeding the Law Library Collection," Reno, 1989.

Nancy looks forward to having the ability to serve ORALL as our chapter helps to "further the development" and "improvement of the profession of law librarianship".

Deborah Ward

Deborah Ward is currently the Law Librarian for the Hancock County Law Library Association. Deb joined the Hancock County Law Library in 1988. Prior to that, Deb worked at the law firm of Oxley, Malone, Fitzgerald & Hollister as their first paralegal. Prior to Oxley's office, Deb worked in the Hancock County Clerk of Court's office for 10 years. Deb was an instructor for Marion Technical College's Paralegal program and has also instructed paralegal classes for the University of Findlay. Deb received her Paralegal Certificate from the American Institute of Paralegal Studies in 1988 with Scholarly Distinction.

Deb has been an active member of ORALL for the past 10 years. She has contributed articles to the ORALL Newsletter and has served on numerous committees including AALL Arrangements, Membership, Nominating and Public Services Committees. Deb is also a past Chair of the ORALL County Law Library Special Interest Group. She is a member of AALL, currently serving a four-year stint on the Placement Committee, as well as holding membership in the State, Court & County SIS. Deb also enjoys serving on the OSBA's Law Libraries and Legal Information Services Committee.

TREASURER (1998-99 year)

Thomas L. Hanley

Tom has been Director, University of Dayton Law Library, since 1982. Prior to that, he was Associate Director, University of Missouri-Columbia Law Library, from 1979-1982 and Cataloger, University of Kansas Law Library from 1976-1979.

He has been on the Membership Committee from 1989 to the present and co-chair since 1996. He has maintained the ORALL Newsletter mailing database since 1990. He is chair of the AALL Arrangements Committee for 1997-9, a position he also held in 1993-94. He was an ORALL Executive Board member from 1989-90. He also arranged ORALL's incorporation and ORALL's certification as a tax-exempt institution during that period.

His AALL Activities include membership on the Grants Committee 1989-92 serving as chair in 1991-92. Also, he was on the Scholarship Committee from 1992-94 and the Local Arrangements Committee (Indianapolis meeting) in 1995-96.

Carol Suhre

Carol A. Suhre has been Director of the Clermont County Law Library for the past 15 years. She graduated from Kent State University with a BA degree in Journalism and Library Science and from the University of Kentucky with a Masters Degree in Library Science. After receiving a grant to attend the 1984 AALL annual meeting, Ms. Suhre has been involved in that professional organization by serving on the Scholarship, Grants, and Placement Committees, including serving as Chair of the Grants Committee 1988-1989. She is also a member of the AALL Legal Information Services to the Public SIS and a member of the State, Court & County SIS, having served on its Newsletter and Nominations Committees.

Ms. Suhre has served the ORALL constituency as Chair of the Nominations Committee 1987-1988. She was also involved with the Local Arrangements Committee, securing sponsorship for the Cincinnati meetings in Spring 1986 and Spring 1991. She is a member of the OSBA Law Libraries' Committee and has been a book reviewer for Legal Information Alert. She was also the chair of the County Law Libraries SIG in 1996-1997.

Closer to home, Ms. Suhre is the administrator of the Clermont County Judges' Committee on Notaries Public; a trustee of the Clermont County Public Library; a manager of the Clermont County Bar Association and its Lawyers' Referral Service. When not enjoying numerous activities with her husband Jim and daughter Jaime, Ms. Suhre collects Precious Moments figurines and cheers for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Deborah L. Bobinets

Deborah L. Bobinets received her law degree in 1995 from the University of Akron School of Law where she was Case and Comment Editor for the Akron Law Review, co-founder of the "evening class of 1995 book scholarship" and co-initiator of "The Not Ready for Day School Players", and a Student Bar Association member. She received her M.L.S. degree in 1988 from Kent State University where she was President of the Association of Library Students of Ohio and a Tour Guide for the Kent State Freshman Library Instruction Program. She also holds a B.A. in History from the University of Akron.

Since 1991 she has been Assistant Law Librarian for Public Services, at the University of Akron School of Law Library. From 1989-1991 she was Assistant Law Librarian for Public Services at the University of Akron School of Law Library. From 1988-1989 she was Reference/Media Librarian at the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Library. From 1986-1988 she was Library Assistant, Serials Check-In, Kent State University Libraries, and from 1985-1986 she was Jr. Supervisor, Circulation and Reserves, The University of Akron School of Law Library. She also taught Legal Research in the Fall Semesters, 1996 and 1997.

Her Professional Affiliations include:

Akron Bar Association - 1995-present
American Association of Law Libraries - 1986-present; annual meeting grant recipient, 1989
American Bar Association - 1995-present
Northeastern Ohio Government Documents Roundtable - 1991-present
Ohio State Bar Association - 1995- present
Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries - 1986-present; Newsletter Co-Editor, 1989; Newsletter Committee, 1989-1997; Meeting grant recipient, 1988.
OhioLink - Database Management and Standards Committee, 1994-present
Special Library Association - 1997-present
SuPort Documents Librarians of Summit and Portage Counties - 1990-present; Founding member

Randall Thompson

I received my B.A. from Indiana University in 1980 and my J.D. from the University of Illinois in 1983. I then practiced law for four years as a member of the U.S. Navy's Judge Advocate General Corps. Upon my discharge, I found the thought of becoming a civilian attorney completely unappealing so I instead spent a forgettable year working as an adjuster for an insurance company. In 1988, I decided I wanted to pursue my long time interest in information management and I returned to I.U. for my M.L.S., which I obtained in 1991. I also began my library career in 1988 by securing a position as the Assistant Librarian at the Indiana Supreme Court Law Library. I worked there until 1990 when I moved to my current position as the Librarian at Locke Reynolds Boyd & Weisell in Indianapolis.

I've been a member of ORALL and AALL since 1991 and I've served on the ORALL Government Relations and Membership committees. I also belong to the Indiana Library Federation and I'm a Trustee for the public library in Sheridan Indiana.

I'm honored to have the chance to serve ORALL in a more active role.

TEAMWORK IN LAW LIBRARIES

submitted by Donna Bennett, Chase College of Law Library, Northern Kentucky University

As the complexity of our jobs increase and as we respond to rapid changes within our organizations, we find a greater need for more interaction and communication between all levels within the law library. The library director who is developing a vision statement realizes that, at a minimum, department heads must be involved if there is to be any kind of support for the final statement. The librarian considering the question of how to determine the best means of OCLC access in the future, now that we know that our dedicated lines are on their way out, must work not only with the cataloging staff, but also with those in ILL and others where reliance upon OCLC is important. The question of whether to open a public computer to the Internet will need to be discussed at a number of levels. Many of us know by this point exactly how much more time-consuming it can be in the long run to make major decisions which affect many people without first obtaining input.

We know today the answer to Warren Bennis' question of 26 years ago, "Is Democracy Inevitable?" (*AN INVENTED LIFE* at 37). We can answer this with a resounding YES! Our library faculty and staff want to participate and contribute. Maureen Sullivan, in her article "The Changing Role of the Middle Manager in Research Libraries", (41 *LIBRARY TRENDS* 269, 275 (1992)) has described this movement to involve staff in problem-solving and decision-making, and the resultant need to handle much of this work in work groups, as a major contributor to the development of teams in our organizations. To cope with a rapidly changing environment and to handle an increasing work load the library director, as well as middle managers, have come to rely more and more upon work being accomplished through groups or teams.

As we consider how best to accomplish our goals and encourage the participation of our staff, we struggle to understand some of this new terminology. One question which continues to occur within our library is, "what is the difference between a committee and a team?" Is there really a difference?

The American Heritage Dictionary defines a committee as "a group of people officially delegated to perform a function" and a team as "a group of players on the same side in a game

or any group organized to work together". According to Russell Linden in *SEAMLESS GOVERNMENT: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO RE-ENGINEERING IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR* (1994), members of committees usually represent their particular area or turf. Representing the point of view of their particular group or area is often their major commitment. The committee chair has the authority to delegate assignments, set deadlines, and encourage or discourage discussion.

Teams, on the other hand, should be composed of individuals whose skills complement one another and who are working on an equal level for a common purpose. The team leader's responsibility is to maintain focus on how to get the job done, encourage discussion among all members, encourage active listening, and develop diversity by showing respect for the ideas of all members, even when those ideas differ from those of the majority.

Library teams may be permanent in nature, or exist for a limited time. They may be assigned to turn out projects or simply act as advisory or problem-solving groups. They may have decision-making power or they may simply make recommendations to the director ("What's in a Name..." 9 *LIBRARY PERSONNEL NEWS* no. 4, p. 2) Members of teams should possess knowledge which is needed within the group, and they must be individuals who are willing to work with and cooperate with others. Their commitment to the common goal of the group should be stronger than their own personal agenda.

Many libraries are trying the team approach. Within our own library we have a number of standing committees which will remain committees. We have also recently formed teams for those areas where we need a group of individuals to work on an equal footing to develop or enhance certain areas, such as our Technology Team, which is assigned to explore future needs within the library and to make recommendations to the Library Director, and our Web Team, which is working to develop our web site. As we strive to enhance our services, and as we endeavor to do more with less, we find that the team approach is one way to draw upon the talents of many of our library faculty and staff.

SCANNING THE NEWSLETTERS

Items of interest from recent local and regional law library association newsletters, compiled by Shaun Esposito:

Whitney Berriman, *Preservation Q & A*, VALL NEWSLETTER (Virginia Association of Law Libraries) Winter 1997 at 8 (provides listing of websites that deal with preservation issues).

Brandon D. Quarles, *Foreign and International Law on the Internet*, SEAALL NEWSLETTER (Southeastern Chapter, American Association of Law Libraries) at 4 (author provides some of his favorite websites dealing with foreign and international law).

Anna Cherry, *The Internet Column*, MALL NEWSLETTER (Minnesota Association of Law Libraries) November/December 1997 at 12 (provides internet sites related to tax law).

Ellen McGrath, *Technical Tips*, ALLUNY Newsletter (Association of Law Libraries of Upstate New York) December 1997 at 15 (author recounts experiences in determining whether to switch from NOTIS based catalog to an alternative vendor).

Julia Overstreet, *Hot Web Sites*, NEW ORLEANS LAW LIBRARIAN at 4 (author lists, with commentary, several web sites of interest to the legal researcher).

April Schwartz, *The Internet Column: Securities Law Resources*, MALL NEWSLETTER (Minnesota Association of Law Libraries) January/February 1998 at 13 (author provides list of securities law sites with her commentary on their contents).

Brenda Kelley, *The Docket: Automation*

Dilemma, SWALL BULLETIN (Southwestern Association of Law Libraries) January 1998 at 15 (reviews software available to smaller libraries for creating online catalogs at an affordable cost).

TAKE NOTE!!!

The **Cincinnati Law Library Association telephone numbers have changed**. The new numbers are:

Phone: 513-946-5300
Fax: 513-946-5252
Circulation: 513-946-5302
Membership: 513-946-5301

ORALL @ Anaheim

Mich/ALL/ORALL breakfast has been scheduled for 7-8:30am on Sunday, July 12. The menu has not yet been set.

The ORALL Executive Board Meeting on Saturday, July 11 has been scheduled for 4-6pm.

CAROL'S CORNER

by Carol Parris,
University of Kentucky Law Library

This is a regular column of light-hearted, tongue-in cheek musings by Carol Parris, Reference/Document Delivery Librarian at the University of Kentucky College of Law Library.--editor

Through the years I have had some rather stupid reference questions asked of me, as I am sure you all have. Some of my favorites are:

"Is this the Law Library?" as they stand looking at the Law Library sign.

"Do you have a book on the law?"

"Are these the only law books you have?" As they look at our reference collection.

"Do you have any books on Elvis?"

Customer: "I need statistics"

Librarian: "What kind of statistics?"

Customer: "Oh, just any kind will do"

Customer: "Do you have any law Journals?"

Librarian: "On what subject?"

Customer: "Oh, any subject will do."

Customer: "Where do I find the President's secret directive turning over control of the United States Armed Forces to the United Nations?"

Librarian:

Response # 1: "Well, if it's a secret directive, why would it be in a public law library?"

Response #2: "Well, if I told you, I'd have to kill you"

"In what states can first cousins get married?"

"Is this where I file my divorce papers?"

And what every Academic Reference Librarian dreads hearing:

"Can you help me, I'm not an attorney?"

"I've been to every Attorney in town and they are afraid to take my case."

"I'm not asking you to interpret the law, just tell me what this means."

"They told me at the County Clerk's office that this would be the place to....."

A. Get the forms I need to file.

B. Get legal advice

C. Get a free attorney to handle my case.

"I don't need no attorney; I know from t.v. that I can take my own case to the Supreme Court."

"I know every attorney in town is in a conspiracy with Aliens. I have heard them talk to each other through the implant in my teeth."

For Academic Law Librarians:

"What do you mean, I can't check out the US Code ? I am an alum of this college."

"What do you mean, I can't check out this book? I am a tax payer and I pay your salary."

"I am Dr. SOSO from the Political Science department and I must use Lexis."

For the Private Law Firm Librarians:

"I don't have to file your stupid looseleaf....my Dad's the senior partner."

Lawyer "I need this material by the end of the day....."

Librarian, "Should I put this material on the unread stack of material you needed by the end of the day last week?"

Lawyer, " What do we need with a librarian. Isn't everything on the computer now?"

If anyone else has some funny reference questions or reference stories to share, please e-mail me at carol@pop.uky.edu. We will post them in future issues of the ORALL Newsletter.

Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries
Business Meeting
ORALL Annual Conference
Omni Netherland Plaza Hotel
Cincinnati, Ohio
October 24, 1997

The meeting was called to order at 12:40 p.m. by President Joanne Beal. Ms. Beal thanked the membership for coming to the conference and staying for the business meeting.

Minutes: Since the minutes had just been distributed, the act of the reading of the minutes by the secretary was suspended by President Beal. The minutes were accepted as received, with the comment that any corrections or additions to the minutes of the last meeting should be directed to secretary Jane Underwood.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Kyle Passmore submitted and distributed her report of ORALL's financial condition as of September 30, 1997. The balance on hand as of September 30, 1996 was \$30,352.07. There is \$13,979.78 in the checking account and \$16,372.29 in CDS. Total income for the period is \$9,133.49, with total expenses of \$4,653.59. The checking account balance as of September 30, 1997 is \$18,393.47. September disbursements were \$339.26, with the CD balance being \$16,777.76. The balance on hand September 30, 1997 is \$34,831.97. The report was approved as distributed.

President's Report: President Joanne Beal reported on her year of leading the ORALLiens through the activities of 1996-1997.

In October of 1996 ORALL was one of eleven chapters participating in the highly successful and equally lucrative northeast Regional Conference of Law Libraries held in Toronto.

Our chapter membership now totals 324 members, an increase over last year's total of 308 members. Due to the wide range of activities of our three state chapter, the Executive Board has decided to make available the membership directory on diskette as well as in the more traditional printed form. It is anticipated the Chairs of the Chapter's Special Interest Groups as well as the organizers of city gatherings will find the format helpful, and it will alleviate the need to factor in "turnaround time" in planning for mailings.

ORALL's new web site looks great. Shaun Esposito's wonderful work is especially appreciated by the President and by the membership, both on the web site and on the newsletter. Both are exceptional. The web site address is <http://www.uky.edu/Law/orall>.

ORALL's listserv is also up and running. The membership is encouraged to use it to communicate news, views and questions.

The Executive Board designated a permanent address for the chapter. When in doubt as to where to send something, send it to this address at the University of Dayton: Orall, Zimmerman Law Library, University of Dayton, 300 College Park, Dayton, Ohio 45469-2780. An ORALLien thank you is extended to Tom Hanley, Director of the Law Library at the University of Dayton, for accepting this duty and the mailing list duty.

The publication and distribution of *Ohio Legal Resources* in conjunction with the Ohio Library Council came to fruition in 1997 and continues to be successful. Approximately two hundred have been sold, with proceeds totaling nearly \$600.00 for ORALL.

ORALL also joined with OhioNet to sponsor a half-day workshop on "**Legal Resources on the Internet**" in March of 1997. Melanie Putnam presented the program to a sellout crowd.

Many libraries in ORALLien territory were registered viewing sites for AALL's first Satellite Video Conference in March. It was broadcast from a local television station in Dayton.

ORALL presented a \$500 scholarship to Cheryl Garcia of the University of Akron for the purpose of defraying the costs of attending the AALL Convention in Baltimore, Maryland. Ms Garcia was introduced at the Annual ORALL/MichALL Breakfast held on Monday, July 21, at the Baltimore Convention Center.

Two of our members were selected by the AALL Nominating Committee as candidates for national offices. Al Podboy, Director of the Libraries of the prestigious firm of Baker & Hostetler, is a candidate for 1997-98 Office of Vice President/President-Elect. Janis Johnston, Associate Director of the preeminent Notre Dame Law Library, is a candidate for the 1997-1999 Office of Treasurer. Strong ORALLien support for both is assured.

In order that the activities and concerns of ORALL's four Special Interest Groups are adequately addressed, a Special Committee to Review the Structure of the SIGs has been created by the Executive Board. Under examination will be the overall structure of the Groups as well as financial support. An integral part of pinpoint programming, it is hoped that such a review will provide motivation for expanded SIG activities.

Many activities were started during this year and will continue on. The chapter is preparing for its 50th Anniversary Meeting fueled for action by the energy of its members anxious to meet the continuing challenges of the "Information Age." President Beal also extended thanks to the members of the Executive Board and to the efforts and support of the staff of The Dayton Law Library Association who allow her to serve as their leader.

Committee Reports

AALL Arrangements: Mary Persyn submitted a report read by the Secretary. ORALL and Mich/ALL held their traditional joint breakfast during the AALL meeting in Baltimore. Since it was Mich/ALL's year to make the arrangements, all the ORALL Committee had to do was send out the announcements to the members. ORALL had a good turnout for the early morning breakfast.

Bylaws and Guidelines: Mary Persyn submitted a report read by the Secretary. The Committee had a slow year and has no action to report. The Committee will be discussing the question of Special Interest Group structure during 1997-98.

Education: Kathleen Carrick submitted reports for both the **Activities** subcommittee and the **Grants & Scholarships** subcommittee. She especially thanked Melanie Putnam, Judith Kaul, and Jim Hart for work on the training sessions offered as part of the fall conference. The Activities Committee planned the 1997 conference program held in Cincinnati, Ohio on October 22-24, 1997. The major presenters were Kenneth Crews, Louis Sirkin, and Laura Abrams. Crews is an associate professor of law and of library and information science at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, where he also directs the Copyright Management Center. He presented a full-day workshop on Copyright issues. Sirkin and Abrams presented a half-day program on First Amendment issues of the Information Age. The Fall conference included training sessions prepared and presented by ORALL members Melanie Putnam (OSU), Judith Kaul (CWRU) and Jim Hart (U. of Cincinnati). Their workshops presented two and a half hour training opportunities to members. This was the first year that ORALL attempted to provide a program of training, done by its members for its members. The training addressed the use of the Internet for Legal Research. There were two introductory sessions on Wednesday and an advanced session on Friday. Each session was limited to 25 attendees. It is our hope that ORALL can continue to provide valuable training on pertinent topics to its members for reasonable prices. This we feel is a valuable service that the Association can provide its members and appreciate the generosity of the initial team of trainers.

The **Grants & Scholarships** subcommittee had one application for a grant to go to AALL, which they granted. The members of the subcommittee are going to look at revising the forms. They would like feedback from members. Firm librarians apparently felt they should not apply for a grant. This is not accurate. More interest should be generated concerning the grants program.

Government Relations: The report was read by President Joanne Beal. Activity in Ohio is still pending and has not been resolved. The Ohio Criminal Sentencing Committee and the Ohio Bar Association are still dealing with changing the funding of the county law libraries. Compromises concerning the distribution of fine revenue have not been accepted. Legislation has been introduced to update funding.

There are federal grants currently available through the LSTA advisory council. The LSTA is the Library Services Technology Act. Academic and special libraries are eligible to apply for these grants. The LSTA council is especially interested in libraries participating in partnerships, consortia, and resource sharing.

Membership: The report was submitted by Natalie Pitman and read by Jane Underwood. The 1996-97 Membership Committee was asked to study the possibility of electronic and online access to the Membership Directory for ORALL Members. In addition, the Committee was charged with creating an ORALL produced print copy of the traditional Membership Directory. The Membership Committee was also asked to provide certain membership statistics in response to a request from the American Association of Law Libraries.

In January of 1997 an Information Request Form was mailed to all ORALL members along with the annual dues notices. The purpose of this form was to obtain current personal information from as many members as possible and to satisfy AALL's request for statistics. A total of 191 members completed and returned the Information Request Form. Of those 191 members, 144 or 75% indicated that they were members of AALL. The average number of years of membership in ORALL is 6.1. As of October 14, 1997 there were 324 members of ORALL including Life Members.

In September the ORALL produced print version of the 1997-98 Membership Directory was completed. The entire cost of printing the Directory is to be borne by ORALL. Further, at its meeting on September 10, 1997 the Executive Board agreed that the 1997-98 Membership Directory will also be available in an electronic format at a cost of \$2.00. Order forms for the electronic version have been distributed with the print version of the Directory. At this time, online access to the Membership Directory is still under consideration.

Newsletter: The Newsletter Committee's activities were reported by Shaun Esposito. All members are encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter. The last three or four editions of the newsletter are available on the web page. He would like the newsletter to include more photographs, which could be included digitally on the web version.

Nominations: Jo Ann Fisher reported on the Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee of Donna Bennett, Mahnaz Moshfegh, Deb Ward and Jo Ann Fisher met via phone and e-mail to select candidates for officers of ORALL. The following persons were nominated for the open offices: Vice-President/President-Elect, Keith Blough, Columbus Law Library; Treasurer, Anne Kirkhope, University of Toledo; Executive Board Member (1997-99 Term), Claudia Zaher, Chase College of Law Library, Northern Kentucky University. Pursuant to the Bylaws it was decided not to mail a ballot. The new officers were elected by acclamation. The Nominating Committee offers congratulations and thanks the nominees for agreeing to serve as officers.

Placement: Anne Abate is the chair of the Placement Committee, but no report was given. President Beal mentioned that Placement announcements are sent to the membership through the listserv.

Public Services: Teresa Trimboli submitted a report. The Committee's focus this year was the marketing and sale of *Ohio Legal Resources: An Annotated Bibliography and Guide*, 4th ed., 1996. In order to advertise the *Guide*, a flyer was designed and made available on the ORALL Activities Table during the 1997 AALL Convention held in Baltimore. The Ohio Library Council was contacted several times concerning the number of copies sold and ORALL's share of the proceeds as outlined in ORALL's (December 6, 1996) agreement with them.

A report received October 15, 1997 from Connie Riegel, Director of Finance for the Ohio Library Council, stated that as of September 30, 1997, net proceeds from sales was \$1,161.00 making ORALL's contractual share \$580.50. Five hundred copies were printed, with 272 copies left to sell at \$20 a copy. Thirty two copies were distributed at no cost, five copies were sold at the early bird rate of \$16 a copy, with 191 copies sold at \$20 a copy as of 9/30/1997. \$3,900 has been received from sales through 9/30/1997, with the publication cost being \$2,739 (unit cost of \$5.48).

50th Anniversary Committee: Paul Mitchell reported on the activities of the committee. The 50th anniversary meeting will take place in 1999. The committee established its specific mission of planning and promoting ORALL during its 50th

anniversary year and meeting, along with the general purpose of promoting librarianship at large. Discussions of how to best accomplish this have included asking the membership through the media of the listserv and the newsletter for items of memorabilia and photographs to be displayed or made up into a special program. April 1999 is National Library Week, and the committee feels this is a natural promotion time for ORALL and its anniversary. AALL is meeting in D.C. in 1999; a reception or some other festivity has also been mentioned, along with having an extravaganza in Columbus. According to Paul, "we met, we talked, had fun."

Internet Committee: Jill Williams submitted a report. Randy Wilcox of CWRU was chair of the committee through June 1997, and then Jill Williams took his place for the remainder of the year. The ORALL listserv was established in October of 1996 and during the past year it has grown to include approximately 75 subscribers. Instructions for subscribing can be found on page 16 of the September 1997 ORALL Newsletter. The committee was represented by Shaun Esposito and Greg Laughlin at a meeting for those interested in chapter web pages held at the Baltimore AALL meeting. Tips and suggestions for Chapter Home Page management were shared. The new ORALL web page is still under construction but is available at www.uky.edu/Law/orall/index.htm. Many thanks to Shaun Esposito for setting this up.

SIG Structure: Joanne Beal reported that this SIG did not meet. It is going to study the organization and funding of all SIGs. It is also to look at the inclusion of city organizations as well. It is considering the interaction between the main organization and the SIGs on dues, activities, and proposals for the retreat. The committee is composed of Carol Suhre, Joanne Beal, Jo Ann Fisher, and Mary Persyn.

Special Interest Groups

Academic Law Libraries: Kathy Carrick reported that the purpose of ORCLL (Ohio Regional Consortium of Law Libraries) seems to be negated with the success of OhioLink. The academic law librarians need to revisit what they could be doing in light of OhioLink.

County Law Libraries: Carol Suhre reported that the county law librarians' SIG met in April in Findlay with 47 in attendance. The featured speaker was Bruck Boguski, addressing "empowerment" and your own ability to have a positive attitude.

Much business was discussed at the Spring meeting concerning a threat to the county law libraries' current funding scheme. County law libraries became a part of the Ohio Supreme Court's Sentencing Committee's work and this committee's proposals could be devastating.

The Sentencing Committee's proposal would propose replacing fine money funding with additional court cost fees. A compromise was worked out making a mandatory fee schedule part of the Committee's document.

When the county law librarians met Wednesday afternoon at the Cincinnati Law Library, we were told that an older proposal, drafted in 1992, would be introduced into the state legislature in January 1998. This proposal would remove the current caps under ORC 3375.50 - .53. More information on this subject can be discussed in the OSBA Law Libraries' Committee Report.

To summarize, now more than ever, Ohio county law libraries must network and be responsible for their continued existence. The newly released county survey will be helpful. The new Chair will be Sally Davis, Medina County Law Library.

Indiana: No report submitted.

Private Law Libraries: No report submitted.

Related Organizations

OCLIS: Melanie Putnam reported on the Ohio Consortium of Library and Information Services. Representatives from twenty six Ohio library organizations meet as OCLIS. These include the Medical Librarians Association, OLC, SLA, the theological librarians and so forth. They have volunteered to participate in a task force for a conference in June 1998.

OCLIS is inviting all leaders of library organizations to discuss where we've been and where we're going. The law librarians are able to work with a lot of different organizations. We have three major library organizations well represented in Ohio. This task force will be a factor in stopping the fragmentation of the profession. It sounds exciting. She is willing to continue as ORALL's liaison even though she is no longer on the Executive Board. ORALL might consider planning a joint meeting with another librarians' group.

OSBA: No report submitted. Jan Novak is the liaison.

Old Business

It was mentioned by Frank Houdek, a member of AALL's Executive Board that our business meeting in Toronto had a "lot of charm."

New Business

Spring Retreat: Joanne Beal reported that twenty four positive answers have been received thus far. The membership

that has bothered to mention it is interested in it being in the “real” spring: April or May. March was considered to keep the costs down by scheduling our meeting in the off season when the rooms cost \$79-99 a night. By holding down the costs we hope to hold down the formality of the meeting, too. This came about as a way to solve the problem of when the committees meet. It is a way for the membership to discuss and respond to requests or comments from AALL. (AALL’s Executive Board meets at the end of October.) There was no way to meet prior to the summer conference.

Paul Mitchell thinks it is a good idea. Academic law librarians might have problems getting away in April or May due to finals. Firm librarians are gearing up for the summer associates. Al Podboy mentioned the problem previously had by ORALL with two meetings. There was difficulty getting volunteers and getting good programming. A retreat might be a good answer to those concerns. He did not want it held in a major city. Maumee Bay is a good example. We could have miniprograms and work on committee relationships.

Beth Langton summarized the financial items--SIG funding for speakers and programs. She hopes it will motivate discussions, groups, and networking. It would be good if it reached the level of sophistication needed for CLE hours, which are normally not granted for “grassroots” type of programming. ORALL can also maintain the annual fall meeting. The retreat would be arranged through the Executive Board, so there would not be the danger of local arrangements committee burnout. It would be all in one location. Members would pay for their rooms, etc. There may be a small fee to offset the mailing. The committees could meet and become more active.

The SIGs would be responsible for the programming. The length of the program is up to the sponsoring SIG. The content of the programming would depend upon what is currently important to the members of the SIG.

Joanne Beal discussed the structure of the retreat. It needs to be compartmentalized, so members may pick and choose to go to the programs of most interest. All programs are open to all members, regardless of SIG affiliation.

A straw vote gave it overwhelming approval.

AALL’s Open Membership Proposal: Frank Houdek, an AALL Executive Board member visiting the chapter, discussed the proposal. A letter has been distributed. ORALL has had an open membership policy for twenty five years. It is an important source of information for many court personnel, MIS people, paralegals, and others. On the other hand, at the AALL discussion in Baltimore, there was great concern over the dilution of the organization. There was fear the librarians would be lost with the vendors taking over. Will we be asked to endorse products, will the vendors vote in a block, and so forth.

Martha Cox asked if they have analyzed the numbers that might be involved. There has been a phenomenal growth in the conference over the last few years. Frank Houdek, visiting AALL representative, said there’s no study on what numbers may be involved. One survey believe it may involve another 3,000 who work with or are connected to law librarians above the 5,000 currently involved. AALL may want to target these although we may not get them all.

Frank feels the concerns over vendors is a specious argument. The endorsement argument is not valid, as once AALL would lose its credibility, the reason for seeking the endorsement would be gone. The convention attendance has remained between 1800-2300 over the last ten years. This number probably won’t be affected by letting the vendors join the organization.

Al Podboy mentioned he was the AALL Bylaws Committee chair when this topic came up. No vote was taken. The board really tried to get discussion of this issue among the members, starting in September in the first issue of *Spectrum*. The board never thought that the vendors would “pad” the association. They are afraid the “Seven Years as a Practicing Law Librarian and If No Longer, Out” rule would knock out librarians who are employed at the online companies such as LEXIS. The discussion became very emotional. He still supports the proposal.

Frank amplified a remark from Kathy Carrick. Both the report from the Renaissance Committee and a report of a task force mentioned we should consider open membership for the organization. The proposal on open membership is actually the AALL Board responding to requests from members, not an action initiated by the Board independently of member concerns. It is an opportunity for input into the organization. Frank felt there were many cheap shots taken in the Baltimore discussion. The process was good, and there was plenty of time for discussion. A call was made for a show of interest as to whether this should be considered by a mail ballot.

It was pointed out that academic librarians attend AALL in disproportionate numbers. There should have been a mail ballot. Every isn’t on the internet, either. Many of those who did not attend do support open membership.

Keith Blough felt the objection in Baltimore was that everyone didn’t have time to study it. This could be solved by mail.

Al Podboy noted there was a town meeting on this topic at AALL in Indianapolis. Many members did not attend the town meeting. A mail ballot was needed. With more emphasis on local/regional/satellite programs, we need other ways to communicate besides the annual meeting.

Many ORALL members felt the context in Baltimore was emotional and there was no room for disagreement on either side. It was felt the discussion turned ugly and scare tactics had been used.

Frank Houdek asked if we thought it would be helpful if ORALL wrote a letter, posting it to the listserv, talking about our organization’s experience with open membership.

Carol Bredemeyer noted that ORALL has only one meeting a year. There was no time for discussion at the Toronto meeting, and many of our members are not on the internet. The law librarian community needs more “community.” This

is a good reason for having the spring retreat.

Joanne Beal felt that AALL was selling out to the vendors, that it was a money issue. It followed on the heels of the rejection by the membership of the dues increase. AALL may have felt the vendors may pull their support for the annual meeting.

Frank Houdek replied no vendor has been asking. A few individual people have participated in chapter activities at a high level. There has never even been a veiled threat to pull support. The push for open membership has been from AALL committees. There is an argument for open membership for not just vendors, but also for MIS people, in the Renaissance Report. The dues increase fight is in the past and is not a factor. There is a bottom line argument for funding AALL activities, but he hasn't heard anything about shortening the meeting or otherwise affecting service from headquarters. Joanne Beal asked if the last minute problem came with the low ebb of vendor love. Higher prices had just come from the West Group. Frank replied the same issues were being discussed twenty five years ago.

Further business: There was no further business to discuss.

Introduction of the 1997-98 officers: Joanne Beal introduced the 1997-98 officers:

President Kathy Carrick, Vice President/President-Elect Keith Blough, Secretary Jane Underwood, Treasurer Anne Kirkhope, Executive Board Members Claudia Zaher (1997-99) and Beth Blondin (1996-98) and Immediate Past President Joanne Beal.

President Joanne Beal handed over the gavel to the new president, Kathy Carrick. Kathy thanked Joanne for her hard work, devotion, and excitement on behalf of ORALL. She also thanked all who were involved in the meeting, and commented that it is an exciting group and an exciting time.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Underwood, Secretary

I. U. INDIANAPOLIS SELECTED FOR BIBCO ONE OF ONLY TWO LAW LIBRARIES IN NATION

The Technical Services Department at the Indiana University School of Law Library, Indianapolis was recently authorized by the Library of Congress Regional & Cooperative Cataloging Division as a BIBCO participant, and has also received OCLC Enhance authorization at the national level. As a BIBCO participant, the law library catalogers can input or upgrade monograph records at the same level of authentication as the Library of Congress. They can also enhance OCLC non-CONSER serial records that have 10 or fewer holdings attached to them. At the time the IU Law School Library was authorized for Program for Cooperative Cataloging participation, only 24 other libraries nationwide were members, and only one of those was a law library (St. Louis University School of Law). Chris Long, Cataloger, and Wendell Johnting, Assistant Director for Technical Services, received training on PCC procedures from David Glenn at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Ohio General Assembly Considers County Law Library Funding

There are two bills pending in the Ohio General Assembly which would change the funding for County Law Libraries. There is a third proposal which is anticipated but has not been introduced.

County Law Libraries receive a portion of fines and bail bond forfeitures, as directed by the Ohio Revised Code. This funding mechanism was initially established in the 1800s. Certain sections were capped in 1938 and 1958. These statutory funds represent the majority of the budget for most County Law Libraries. In a recent survey, 58 county libraries stated that they received some non-statutory income. Twenty libraries stated that they did not receive any non-statutory income.

House Bill 636 was introduced by Representative Grendell of Geauga County. This bill would change the percentage of fines paid to County Law Libraries from 50% to 25%. Such a dramatic reduction in Law Library funding would have major consequences

for all County Law Libraries across the state. The Ohio State Bar Association opposes HB 636.

Representative Womer Benjamin of Portage County introduced House Bill 702. This proposal was drafted by the Ohio State Bar Association in 1992. HB 702 increases the capped amount to present value and provides for a cost of living adjustment to the amount each year.

The third proposal is from the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission. The recommendation would fund County Law Libraries with a Civil Fee and a Criminal Cost. The Ohio State Bar Association has in the past opposed plans which increase the cost of access to justice.

County Law Librarian Expresses Concerns to State Representative

On the following two pages there is reproduced a copy of a letter written by Martha Cox, Stark County Law Librarian, to Rep. Diane Grendell, who introduced H.B. 636, discussed above.

Stark County Law Library Association

PHONE (330) 438-0380
FAX (330) 438-0381
E-MAIL sclawlib@imperium.net

JOHN H. BRANNEN, PRES.
RAYMOND E. GRIFFITHS, VICE PRES.
JOHN R. FRANK, SEC. & TREAS.

110 CENTRAL PLAZA SOUTH
SUITE 401
CANTON, OHIO 44702

January 28, 1998

The Hon. Diane V. Grendell
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: House Bill 636

Dear Representative Grendell:

I have tried to keep abreast of the progress of H.B. 636 and now seems to be one of the last opportunities to express our concern. I am frankly appalled at this assault on Law Library funding by this bill. My best information seems to indicate that one judge, seeking relief for his county government, found one supportive representative to carry his mission, thereby jeopardizing the financial basis of most county law libraries - at least libraries in counties without county courts. It appears that 80-95% of library funding comes from the very code section redefined by this bill to reduce that funding by 50%. For one county government??

No one has been concerned as domestic law publishers have lined their pockets with deals that moved the U.S. law publishing to foreign markets thereby increasing the minimum volume cost from \$85.00 to \$150.00 per volume. No one has shown one whit of concern over the past decade as pressure opened law libraries to public use without additional funding to provide staff or resources for this expanded useage that grows daily.

In fact, very few people even realize that law libraries work without budgets! We start out at \$0.00 every single January and ward off the bills until we get enough to start paying. Meantime, staff and other incidentals must be cared for. **This does not mean that librarians do not budget!** Having no funds simply means that you budget more closely than ever before. You hold off on the purchase of just about everything until 4-6 months into the year. An occasional jurisdiction holds off a payment - although by law they are required to pay monthly, - and then you receive year-end conscience money. Many payments are as regular as clockwork; but you never know how much a payment is going to be. Payments vary with the decisions of judges who drop charges or divert penalties to community service; courts who neglect to collect outstanding fines, the patrol officers who write the ticket to a local ordinance instead of a state code section. There are no bonuses or extra funds -- only fines and penalties as levied by the courts. One of our funding entities did not pay a portion for two years, and still owes

2.

a part of it. If an audit issues a finding on it, the library will be paid. This mandatory audit, once absorbed by the counties, now costs \$2-4000.00. Yet, jewel-like collections of resources available to the statutory users and the public, carefully selected, managed, and arranged are kept up-to-date by staff who don't know how much money they will have, when it will come, indeed, if will come.

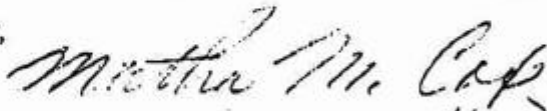
Personnel is often limited. Only a librarian and two others can be paid by the court. Any additional staff is supported by the fines and penalties - now to be cut by 50%. For several years we were able to use personnel from Jobs programs at no cost. We trained them, encouraged them, until they could enter the work force, and then we would receive new assignees and start over. That has ended with the redesign of the welfare program. As library user demands increase, so do personnel needs.

Not only personnel stretches the budget. Technology and publishers often double the expenses. CD's are not one time costs that are balanced by taking a book off the shelf. The CD usually costs a great deal more than the book and must be updated like books. All users cannot use the CD. Now we update the book & the CD, plus teach new users until they can manage on their own. Once they become a user, the need for computer stations increases. Either the multiuser cost or the CD cost escalates....And now there is a proposal to cut the bulk of funding by 50%

Surely careful thinking and weighing of values is required. If access to the law is to be as easy for the professional and the public as it is for the prisoner, something needs to be done. Law libraries are still operating with caps and formulae that have not been adjusted for inflation in half a century. Responsible counties weigh the issues -- we beseech them to include law libraries! --, educate their voters and provide the funds without sacrificing library services. The day may come when the library disappears, but our statistics show increases in users, book circulation, and electronic searching each year. The time is not ripe to dispense with the library; we hear only the requests for "more", "can you get", "will you help"...? And we are "free" to the user. However, the cost of law continues to climb as attorneys and judges pay the cost of electronic searching and pass it along to the client. Libraries simply cannot afford to make everything free! Fines and penalties have supported this growing service for over a century, but at half the price, will anything worthwhile be there? Even the Internet does not provide legal resources up to date or 'for free.'

I reiterate that the Law Library's major support is fine and penalties. It is not the tax payer. Even the computer time, copies, memberships, etc. paid by Attorneys is a minuscule part of the law library's income. For computers, database access, CD-Roms, new books, personnel, copy paper, chairs, etc. this library is 95% dependent upon fines and penalties from ORC 3375.53, the very section that would be reduced 50% by the proposed legislation. Think carefully. If anyone reading this has questions, feel free to call Martha Cox at 330-438-0380.

Sincerely,


(M. M. Cox)



Calendar 1998-99

1998

April 19-25 National Library Week

July 11-16 American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting, Anaheim, California

October 28-30 ORALL Annual Meeting, Cleveland

1999

January 6-10 Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana

July 17-22 American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting, Washington, DC

Newsletter Deadlines

February 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15

OHIO REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

Profile

ORALL is a 4-state chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries [Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan]. It was formed in 1949 "to further the development and usefulness of law libraries and to stimulate a spirit of mutual helpfulness among law libraries of this region."

An annual conference is held in the Fall of each year. ORALL publishes or sponsors the following publications: *Core Legal Collection* [bibliographies for Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan], ORALL Membership Directory, ORALL Newsletter, ORALL Union List of Serials, Ohio Legal Resources Annotated Bibliography & Guide 3rd.

Placement

For Job Listings and further information, contact Katherine Malmquist, ORALL Placement Committee Chair, Cleveland State University Law Library, (216) 687-6873 (phone), (216) 687-5284, e-mail: katherine@zipmouse.csuohio.edu

Membership

Membership: 303

Dues: \$15.00 per year

Non-membership subscriptions:

\$10.00 per year

Contact: Tom Hanley, U. of Dayton Law Library, Dayton, Ohio 45469, or call 513/229-2444.

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