

ORALL NEWSLETTER

OHIO REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

MARCH, 2010

VOLUME 2010, NUMBER 1

President's Column – Ken S. Kozlowski

President's Column

Threat...or Opportunity?

A few months back I received an e-mail from someone at AALL. It was a request to head up a group in Ohio that would form opposition to the movement of official legal resources from hard copy to the electronic format. The e-mail stated:

The AALL Government Relations Office is forming working groups in every state to stop the threat of elimination of state official print legal resources in favor of online-only and increase understanding among state officials about authentication.

I declined to be a part of the group for the simple reason that I did not believe that the movement to electronic official resources constituted a "threat." In this era of shrinking budgets and cost-cutting in every corner of the State of Ohio (and I'm sure in Indiana and Kentucky as well), demonizing the move to an electronic format as a "threat" was either wrong-thinking or perhaps just a poor choice of words.

However, the second part of the charge concerning increasing understanding among state officials concerning authentication is a valid goal, and I'm guessing one that would decrease the "threat." As a way of full disclosure, I was part of the AALL group that researched online Ohio government legal resources to see if any had become "official" or "authenticated." At that time (2007/2008), none had, and just about all of them had that information up front on the web page.

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ORALL

Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries

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Membership

Members: 285
Dues: \$20 per year

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Newsletter

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page.

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 each fall. ORALL publishes or sponsors the following publications: *Core Legal Collection* [bibliographies for Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan], ORALL Membership Directory, ORALL Newsletter, Ohio Legal Resources Annotated Bibliography & Guide 3rd.



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President's Column *continued*

Unbeknownst to me, and to my great chagrin, my own employer, the Supreme Court of Ohio, had begun digitally signing court opinions that were posted on the court's web site.

My feeling was that all the signature was indicating was that yes, the court had posted the "unofficial" opinion online. The signature looks like this:



If you look at the SCO opinions, the *Signatures* tab is at the left of the PDF version of the document. The fact that it states that the "signature is not yet verified" is a bit vexing. If you look at other opinions, you will also find that the "signature validity is unknown." Official versions of opinions can still be found within the hard copy of *Ohio Official Reports*, so for my money, the digital signature is neither here nor there, it just exists.

Within the next few years, I believe the Supreme Court of Ohio will look seriously at publishing officially authenticated versions of its opinions online. Can't give you an exact date, but it is coming. That's probably one more reason that I don't see the threat of moving to electronic formats. Don't want to be at cross-purposes with my employer.

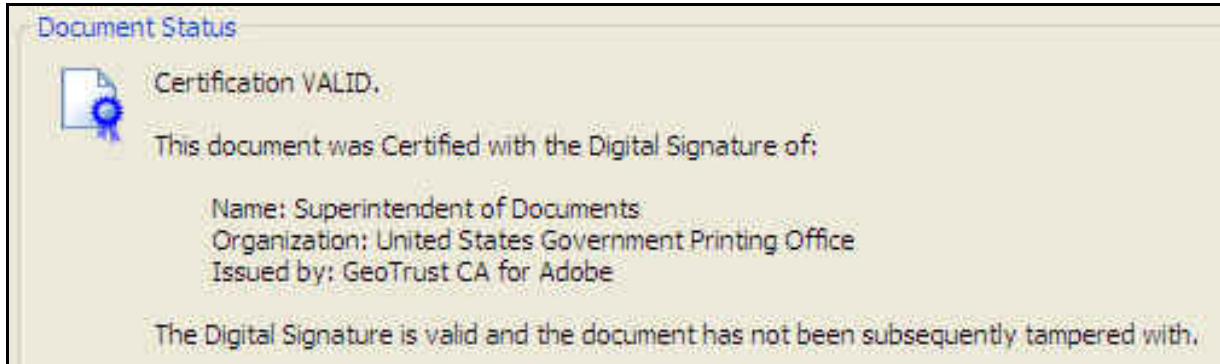
If you've ever done any strategic planning, you may be familiar with what is called a SWOT analysis. SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. What you do is look at your internal and external environments. The internal deals with strengths and weaknesses, the external with opportunities and threats. If you look at the external environment for libraries as institutions, is it really a threat for official government publications to move to an electronic format? I believe the movement to electronic formats presents an opportunity to make sure it is done correctly, and the documents are properly

authenticated. The federal government seems to have handled the problem with the GPO's Authentication Initiative



(<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/authentication/index.html>). The congressional bills page states that “Congressional Bills documents for the 111th and 110th Congress on GPO Access have been digitally signed and certified. GPO has signed and certified the PDF files to assure users that the online

documents are official and authentic.” The graphic to the left appears on the document, and a dialog box opens up:



When was the last time you worked with a paper copy of a federal bill? It shouldn't be a stretch to see the states following the same route. With the proper safeguards, the “threat” disappears, and the opportunity for complete public access to official government resources at lower costs is realized.

ORALL's Government Relations Committee headed by Mary Jenkins of the Hamilton County Law Library is going to take a role in this AALL project. I see value in it, at least in the authentication portion. I would like the threat language to be excised, but that's not my call. Mary still needs more volunteers for the project, and if you have the time, a few more members of the Government Relations Committee would also be welcomed with open arms.

In closing, I see the move to electronic formats as inevitable. My hope is that librarians become a major part of the solution and implementation of this movement, and not the ones standing in the way wailing that the sky is falling.

* * *

Authentication: Help Wanted

The AALL Government Relations Office is working with volunteers in every state to stop the threat of elimination of state official print legal resources in favor of online only and increase understanding among state officials about digital authentication. For more information about this issue, see http://www.aallnet.org/aallwash/webinar_authentication.pdf

Ohio is represented in this effort, thus far, by Mary Jenkins of the Hamilton County Law Library and Ron Jones of Robert S. Marx Law Library, University of Cincinnati College of Law, but they can't do this work alone! The progress the working groups make will be very helpful when the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws' Drafting Committee on Authentication and Preservation of State Electronic Legal Materials releases its recommendations on a new uniform state law. More specifically, the Ohio group will make an effort to ensure that disclaimers are added to state data portals, as needed, stating that the available data is not official or authenticated. We will also work with officials if we discover a threat to the print publication of official Ohio legal resources.

We need your help to set the groundwork in support of digital authentication in Ohio today. Please contact Emily Feldman (efeldman@aall.org) if you would like to volunteer for this important effort .

* * *

**Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries
Annual Business Meeting
Friday, October 16, 2009
Cleveland, OH**

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:20am by President Maureen Anderson
 - Special thanks to Kathleen Sasala and Sue Altmeyer for their hard work on this year's Annual Meeting.
 - Special thanks to everyone's support during this year with the increase in dues.
2. James Duggan (AALL Immediate Past President)
 - Congratulations to ORALL on its 60th anniversary.
 - President Catherine Lemann will be using her time toward developing a new strategic plan for next 3 year cycle. There will be a number of opportunities for members to give feedback. There is a blog on the website, too.
 - Last year's initiatives were to institute additional means recognition to members who might not have received that recognition in the past. New awards include the AALL Hall of Fame, Emerging Leader Award, Volunteer Service Award, Innovation Award, and Membership Award.
 - AALL will continue to look at dues and this past year they have made adjustments to the dues for unemployed members.
 - Financially, the Washington, DC meeting was not as successful as expected. Attendance at the meeting was slightly down. Membership overall is slightly down, too.
 - This past year the AALL headquarters staff moved a block away to 105 W. Adams St.

- The Government Relations Office moved too. They are now located at 25 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 500 in Washington, DC 20001. They had a very successful Day on the Hill this summer.
 - Vendor Relations continues to work with various vendors trying to solve some issues facing members
 - Kathy Lemann is also reviewing the annual meeting.
 - Continued Professional Education Program continues to be successful. Next round of grant application are due Nov. 5.
 - AALL 2Go is a new online feature which offers specialized continuing education programs.
 - There is a new Professional Development Center where members can post resumes and look for jobs.
 - Leadership Academy is being held this weekend in Chicago.
 - Another project for this year is the redesign of ALLNet.
 - The next annual meeting will be in Denver. The theme will be Summit 2010: Mapping our Future. So far 66 programs and 3 workshops have been selected.
3. Secretary's Report (Angela Baldree)
 - a. Approval of the October 17, 2008 Annual Business Meeting minutes.
 4. Treasurer's Report (Laurie Miller)
 - a. See attached
 5. Committee Reports
 - a. AALL Arrangements (Maureen Anderson)
 - i. ORALL did not meet in DC due to the shortened schedule, an effort will be made to arrange a meeting in Denver
 - b. Bylaws (Mike Whiteman)
 - i. No report
 - c. Education (Ken Kozlowski)
 - i. A special thank members of committee who presented and/or procured speakers.
 - d. Government Relations (Angela Baldree)
 - i. Members of the ORALL Government Relations Committee participated in the AALL's Day on the Hill. In the morning a former congressional aide gave pointers on how to approach legislators with your needs. The Ohio contingency then split up and 3 members visited with Senator Brown's staff and 2 members met with Senator Voinovich's staff.
 - e. Internet (Sarah Glassmeyer)
 - i. See attachment
 - f. Membership (Sara Jean Petite)
 - i. ORALL currently has 293 members, up from 291 last year.
 - ii. The committee has been working with Kent State University's Library and Information Science School. They were present at the 2009 career fair and

discussed law librarianship with MLIS students and handed out information about ORALL.

- g. Newsletter (Paul Venard)
 - i. See the attached haiku
- h. Nominations (Miriam Murphy)
 - i. See attachment
 - i. Scholarship (Tom Hanley)
 - i. See attachment
- j. Local Arrangements (Sue Altmeyer)
 - i. See attachment

- 6. SIG Report
 - a. County Law Libraries (Ardis Stein)
 - i. See attachment
 - b. Private Law Libraries (Beth Langton)
 - i. See attachment
 - c. Kentucky Law Libraries
 - i. no report

- 7. New Business (Maureen Anderson)
 - a. Thanks to Laurie Miller and Cheryl Niemeier for their service on the executive board.
 - b. Jan Morley, Local Arrangements Chair for the 2010 ORALL, meeting hopes to see everyone in Canton next year at McKinley Grant Hotel. The opening reception will be at The Football Hall of Fame.

- 8. Passing of gavel to Ken Kozlowski

- 9. Adjournment at 9:01.

Respectfully submitted by Angela T. Baldree

* * *

AALL Grants

Interested in attending the AALL Annual Meeting, July 10-13, 2010 or one of the workshops affiliated with the conference in Denver, CO? Consider applying for an AALL Grant to cover your registration costs. There are two categories - Experienced Members and Student/New Members. The deadline is April 1, 2010.

Please note that prior recipients may still apply as long as they have not received a grant within the past three years.

Purpose:

The AALL Grants Program provides financial assistance to experienced law librarians who are actively involved in AALL or its chapters and to newer law librarians or graduate students who hold promise of future involvement in AALL and the law library profession. Funds are provided by AALL, AALL individual members, and vendors.

Grants cover registration costs at either the Annual Meeting or workshops associated with the Annual Meeting. Individuals eligible for the Experienced Member Grant are active members with five or more years of AALL or AALL chapter membership. Individuals eligible for the Student/New Member Grant are active members with less than five years of AALL or AALL chapter membership or student members of AALL or an AALL chapter.

Qualifications:

An applicant must meet all of the following criteria to be considered for the award:

- * be a member or student member of AALL or an AALL chapter;
- * not have received a grant in the past three years.; and
- * submit a timely and complete application.

*If circumstances prevent a recipient from using the grant, it reverts to the Committee; however, the recipient remains eligible to apply another year.

Instructions:

Submit one application package with the following items:

- * a complete, legible application form;
- * two letters of recommendation that comment on your potential to contribute to AALL and the field of law librarianship and address your need for the grant; and
- * a current resume is strongly suggested. Note: Applications and letters of recommendation must be on 8 1/2" x 11" paper.

Deadline:

The complete application package must be received by April 1 at the address below:

Grants Committee Chair

American Association of Law Libraries
105 W. Adams Street, Suite 3300
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Application for Experienced Members

http://www.aallnet.org/services/grant_application_experienced.pdf

Application for Student/New Members

http://www.aallnet.org/services/grant_application_new.pdf

* * *

AALL Announcements

Get a Free Year of AALL Membership with Nonmember Annual Meeting Registration

New this year AALL is offering nonmembers a complimentary one-year membership when they register for the [AALL Annual Meeting and Conference](#), to be held July 10-13 in Denver. The membership includes:

- Career resources, such as the online AALL Career Center and continuing education to help you learn new skills to advance in your career
- Access to specialized information created just for law librarians, such as the *AALL Biennial Salary Survey* and the AALL Price Index for Legal Publications
- Subscriptions to the monthly magazine, *AALL Spectrum*, and quarterly journal, *Law Library Journal*, to help you keep up on the latest trends in law librarianship
- The opportunity to network and connect with other law librarians from across the country who share similar interests and are facing the same challenges
- Discounted rates on all AALL products and services, such as publications, webinars, and online job postings

[Annual Meeting registration is now open.](#) Register by June 1 at the early bird rate and save \$100. Be sure to take advantage of this special offer for nonmembers.

Renew Your AALL Membership Early for a Chance to Win a Free 2010 AALL Annual Meeting Registration

In March, AALL dues invoices for 2010-2011 will mail out to all library directors for their institutionally paid memberships and to all other individual members. The deadline for membership renewal is May 31.

This year, when you renew early—by May 1—you will be entered in a drawing for a free 2010 AALL Annual Meeting and Conference registration. If you renew on time—by May 31—you'll be entered in a drawing for a free AALL webinar of your choice in 2010-2011. Following is the 2010 membership renewal schedule:

- **March:** First dues invoices mailed out.
- **May:** Second dues invoices mailed out.
- **June:** Final dues invoices mailed out.
- **July:** Expiration notices e-mailed to all members—individuals and those paid by institutions.
- **August 1:** Expired members deleted from the AALL membership database and access to the AALLNET Members Only Section and Law Library Journal and AALL Spectrum subscriptions discontinued.

For more information or to renew your membership online, view the [application form](#) on AALLNET. If you have any questions about your membership renewal, contact AALL Headquarters at membership@aall.org or 312/205-8022.



AALL2go Pick of the Month

AALL's Continuing Professional Education Committee presents the AALL2go pick of the month: [Libraries of Hope: When Professional Competencies and Social Responsibility Connect](#).

As librarians, how do we best put information into the hands of the world? Librarians Without Borders (LWB) have developed guidelines for providing sustainable information that is tailored to each community's language and culture. Sandra Hodgson describes sending health-related materials to Angola and the continuing efforts of LWB, including advising those who want to send books to other countries. Jane Kenny Meyers developed similar relevancy guidelines when opening a library for street kids in Zambia. The children found a safe haven where they had the opportunity to improve their English language literacy to the point that they could seek acceptance to secondary schools where they received room and board.

Find this and more than 60 other free continuing education programs and webinars for AALL members on [AALL2go](#)!

* * *

Changes and Additions to the ORALL 2009-2010 Directory

p.2 Add Roger Jacobs to the list of ORALL Life Members between Rosemarie Chrisant and Carol Meyer-Keener

p. 9 Change FAX number for the Akron Law Library from (330) 535-0077 to (330) 643-7457