

# ORALL NEWSLETTER

OHIO REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

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## *President's Column – Sue Altmeyer*

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### **President's Column – Special Polar Vortex Edition**

If anything can be counted on in life, it is to expect the unexpected. Life throws everything at us from subzero temperatures, to ruptured Achilles tendons, to massive snow storms that shut down the city, to library budget cuts, to H.B. 66 (the Ohio County Law Librarians will remember that one), to the 2008 recession, to the law school “new normal”. How can we better respond to these difficulties, view them as challenges, and maybe even turn the situation into something positive?

In my observation, our ORALL library community has weathered all of the

above adversities, and more. We have gotten through it by sticking together (H.B. 66), making our voices heard (H.B. 66 – and the recession and new normal, speaking up within our organizations), reinventing ourselves and coming up with new roles (recession, new normal, and H.B. 66), and eating lots of chocolate (Achilles tendon repair, snow storms, and possibly just about any crisis). I have seen my library colleagues get through all of this by keeping a positive attitude, working their tails off and rolling with the punches.

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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

**The ORALL Newsletter is the official publication of the Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries. Published quarterly in March, June, September, and December.**

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**Unsolicited contributions are encouraged; contributions submitted for publication are subject to editorial review. For extra copies, contact the editor.**

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**Advertising (per issue) : \$150 for full page, \$90 for half page, \$55 for quarter page, and \$35 for eighth 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.

## **President's Column *continued***

If you need some inspiration for whatever life is throwing at you now, I asked our Cleveland-Marshall Law Library staff for some words of wisdom:

- You can't control outside events, but you can control your reaction to outside events. Do not accept misery – you are in control! Sean Kennedy
- Deal with the moment, but don't live in the moment. Don't dwell on negative events. Push forward and deal with the situation! Margo Mathis
- In stressful times, it helps to run or take a walk to clear your head. I did a lot of running in law school! If all else fails, go out with some friends. Use Yelp to find some new restaurants and attractions. You can even find places in your hometown you did not know existed. Brian Cassidy
- Beth Farrell was not around when I conducted this survey, but I simply needed to walk into Beth's office to get the answer. Beth has a Zen garden that the staff likes to play with when we are stressed out, in addition to bamboo, lucky chimes and other peace-inducing items. There is also a Snuggly and a space heater to ease your polar vortex woes. Beth also occasionally brings snacks in for the staff, which definitely helps morale!



To close out this topic, I will leave you with a quote from a former U.S. president, and possibly in the future, a U.S. first spouse:

If you live long enough, you'll make mistakes. But if you learn from them, you'll be a better person. It's how you handle adversity, not how it affects you. The main thing is never quit, never quit, never quit.

[William J. Clinton](#)

So, what's new with ORALL? All our committees are hard at work, from the Education and Local Arrangements Committees planning the October meeting to the Bylaws Committee revising the Bylaws, last updated in 2002. Read on to see what your ORALL colleagues have been up to ....

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***Top Ten Reasons to Attend the 2014 AALL PLL-SIS Summit V***  
**by, Cheryl Niemeier, Bose McKinney & Evans LLP**

The Private Law Libraries Summit, now in its fifth year, continues as a vehicle for examining the impact and opportunities presented by change. Last year, we explored how to take charge, shaping ourselves as well as the services we provide to meet the changing needs of today's law practice environment. This year we will consider "The Voice of the Client" by delving into ways librarians can help their firms deliver legal services more efficiently and add value through client-facing initiatives.

In the morning, a keynote presentation and a panel discussion will address the value that librarians can bring to the lawyers and clients they serve by examining how real-world practice innovations and changing models of legal service delivery are combining to create new opportunities for library professionals.

Following a relaxed networking luncheon, interactive afternoon break-out sessions will examine client facing initiatives, research competencies, and the concepts of leadership, intelligence, and inclusion. The breakout sessions will be presented twice so that Summit participants can benefit from two of the three afternoon sessions.

Now on to the top 10 reasons for attending....

10. Escape the office for several days and spend time in popular San Antonio, Texas;

9. Attend the destined-to-be amazing Bloomberg BNA Welcome Reception on Friday evening;

8. Funds an issue? No worries – grants are available to attend the Summit! Stay tuned to the Summit blog for more information;

7. Networking, networking, networking!;

6. Opportunity to attend two out of three interactive and sure to be practical afternoon programs;

5. Learn more about the importance of research competencies;

4. Explore practical means of adding value to and what your role can be in the firm's client facing initiatives;
3. Delve into the concepts leadership, intelligence, and inclusion as they relate to our interactions with our client base;
2. Hear from an amazing lineup of well-known and influential keynote, panel, and session speakers;

And the number 1 reason....

You will leave energized and armed with key takeaways on how to help your firms deliver legal services more efficiently and add value through client-facing initiatives in fresh and innovative ways!

Please visit the 2014 [PLL Summit Blog](#) to get more information, or apply for a grant to attend the Summit. [Click here](#) to register for the conference. Please note that the Summit is a pre-conference event of AALL, thus you must check the appropriate box on the annual meeting form to register for it.

In order to provide access to a wide audience, we have secured a venue that can accommodate up to 300 attendees. We encourage members to register early so they can be a part of this awesome one-day conference.

If you have additional questions please contact the co-chairs, Marcia Burris [marcia.burris@ogletreedeakins.com](mailto:marcia.burris@ogletreedeakins.com) or Cheryl Niemeier [cniemeier@boselaw.com](mailto:cniemeier@boselaw.com).

As always we thank the support of AALL leadership including Executive Director Kate Hagan and AALL President Steve Anderson.

Thank-you to our generous sponsors: Bloomberg Law/Bloomberg BNA, Thomson Reuters, Wolters Kluwer Law & Business, and LexisNexis, and Fastcase.

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### ***Communicating Your Law Library's Value***

**by: Ingrid Mattson, Moritz College of Law, the Ohio State University**

The Columbus Bar Association's Legal Research & Information Resources Committee meets monthly to discuss issues pertinent to law librarianship. Recently our committee (comprised of firm, governmental and academic law librarians and library students) met to share ideas on marketing and outreach. The session was titled *Communicating Value: What Are Effective Communication*

*Strategies To Let Others Know What We Do?* For discussion fodder, the following articles were circulated in advance of the meeting:

- [A librarian by any other name would smell as sweet...or would they?](#)
- [Value of Academic Libraries Toolkit](#)
- [Renaming the Private Law Libraries Special Interest Section \(PLL-SIS\) of the American Association of Law Libraries \(AALL\)](#)
- [The Value of Law Librarians at Law Firms](#)
- [6 Building Blocks for Communicating Your Value Proposition](#)
- [County Law Libraries: 50 Mission Statements](#)

Based on our conversation, I've compiled a Top-10 list of ideas you might find successful in your own law library.

1. Open new channels of communication. Start a library blog or create a library newsletter. Create small announcements or "ads" for news screens law students or other library patrons might see.
2. Take full advantage of existing channels of communication. Write a regular column or provide a regular research tip in the law school student newsletter, alumni magazines, practice groups' newsletters, or local bar association newspapers and web sites. Make friends with PR and communication staff. If they are looking for content, they will be eager to have a regular supplier of information and may be able to extend your reach for relatively low effort on your part.
3. Provide subtle reminders of the services you provide. Consider adding a helpful search tip or a link to a useful database to your signature line along with the phrase "Ask me about." You can change the tip or link monthly to hold patron attention and hopefully keep them engaged. Consider creating different signatures for different practice groups or patron populations so that your tip directly relates to the work of the person with whom you are corresponding.
4. Think big. Consider something attention-getting like life-sized cardboard cutouts of library staff. Sometimes the unexpected is all it takes to get people in the door.
5. Go old school. Working somewhere where electronic communication is all the rage and people are glued to screens? Consider a classic bulletin board outside the library with rotating displays and info sheets on the variety of services the library provides.
6. Get modern. Embrace social media. Consider getting a chat service. Chat services can be quite inexpensive (with LibraryH3lp costing as little as \$180/year depending on the number of patrons you serve). Many

undergraduate libraries offer chat services and approximately 30% of law school libraries offer chat services. This may mean new attorneys would appreciate chat in firms, and why not give your patrons more ways to get in touch?

7. Go where your patrons are. Embed librarians in practice groups simply to listen and be more attuned to the issues attorney patrons are facing. You can proactively provide solutions that they may not have thought of or realized you provide. Participate in new student or new employee orientation. Show up for faculty lectures and student organization meetings, then follow up with an email and a list of helpful books or databases patrons may not have considered.
8. Bake. If food is permitted in the library, put sweet treats at the reference desk to lure patrons over. They don't need to have a question, but having them stop by gives you a chance to ask them what they are working on and fosters a friendly library atmosphere.
9. Tell patrons that library staff can do more than simply find cases and articles. Create and circulate a Top 5, Top 10, Top Whatever list with real-life examples of less-typical research and services you've provided to patrons. Career services may not know that librarians can assist with tracking down recent law graduates who have not yet reported employment data; development might not know librarians can help with market research. Attorneys may not realize the extent to which librarians can help with competitive intelligence that might help the firm pitch their services more effectively. Patrons don't know what they don't know—tell them.
10. Collaborate with your local law librarians. Academic law librarians: consider bringing firm librarians into classes and workshops to provide students with realistic information on what resources they will actually have access to in practice. Firm librarians: call up an academic librarian to see if they need a guest speaker. Governmental librarians: invite academic law librarians and firm librarians to stop by for a visit to showcase your print and digital collections to encourage your collective patron groups to take full advantage of the resources in which we're all investing.

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***Double Post Entries: My Indexing Experience***  
**By Amy Burchfield, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law**

Even as a kid I could read the most boring stuff. My dad used to say that I could read the phone book and find it interesting. He wondered why I read biology textbooks for fun in the summer. It's no wonder that today I'm a librarian, and that I worked for five years as freelance indexer.

The librarian-indexer connection is not surprising. In a recent article in *Legal Information Management*, Kate Faulkner points out that most librarians have the right temperament for indexing, and all of us appreciate the usefulness of a good index.

Indexing is in my blood, so to speak. I have a favorite aunt who worked for many years for the veterinary college at the University of Georgia. She also indexed several editions of a standard veterinary textbook. So unlike most people, I could actually say that I knew an indexer personally before I became one myself.

My educational background helped me along the path to indexing too. Before law school and library science was ever a thought in my mind, I got a master's degree in German translation. I never translated much German after that—but I've found that translating and indexing are very similar activities, both drawing on holistic reading and love of language.

I fell into indexing accidentally. Out of the blue, a professor at the law school where I worked asked me to index a book she was writing on the use of force in international law. In law school I had focused on international law, so maybe she thought I would at least understand the subject of her book well enough to index it. I would cringe to read through that index today.

That first index piqued my interest though. I had a vague notion that I would continue indexing, and that I needed training to do that. I enrolled in a correspondence course, but dropped out after completing only about three assignments. But I didn't abandon the idea of indexing.

Sometime later, I came across an article about indexing posted to site about library careers. I decided to do something utterly out of character for me—email someone I didn't know for advice. Enid Zafran, sole proprietor of Indexing Partners, responded to my questions and invited me to Delaware for three days of indexing boot camp. A couple years later, I returned for advanced boot camp.

Enid took me on as an indexer-apprentice. She sent me books to index on a regular basis. She also critiqued every index I sent her, giving me her feedback directly and without sugarcoating. Learning to index seemed overwhelming at first, but eventually I felt some degree of confidence in what I was doing.



I indexed my fair share of boring books, but that's the nature of the business. Not everything was dull, though. Enid pegged me as her international indexer. That meant that while other subcontractors worked on legal treatises, I got mostly foreign policy books. And World Bank books, lots of World Bank books, which were typically case studies of the problems facing countries on the receiving end of World Bank loans.

I started picking up my own clients at some point in my five-year indexing career, which meant I got work in addition to the work Enid sent me. This was something I never willed to happen, it just happened. The circle of law librarians is small, but the circle of freelance indexers is even smaller.

An author emailed me one day to see if I was interested in taking a project. I read the signature line and thought the name sounded vaguely familiar. The author contacting me was Helmut Türk, an Austrian judge sitting on the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. I felt like I had arrived.

Indexing part-time while working full-time as a librarian gave me an adrenaline rush of sorts. All weekends and many weeknights were crammed with indexing. A 60+ hour work week was typical. I pulled all-nighters like a 1L with a contracts exam. In all, I indexed over 150 books in a five-year period.

Then I stopped and asked myself why I was working so much. After all, I became a law librarian precisely to avoid the type of overwork common to attorneys. Certainly I enjoyed indexing. Yes, I liked the extra cash flow. And that sense of 'look how super busy I am' made me feel self-important. Ultimately I decided it wasn't worth it.

My experience as a freelance indexer has taught me several important lessons. I've learned to think analytically and holistically about a text. I've honed my ability to work in a solitary environment with a tight deadline and a focused mind. I can take criticism levelly, without searching for someone else to blame for my mistakes.

Perhaps most importantly, I've learned the importance of a good mentor. When I left translating school, I suddenly found myself no longer surrounded by helpful professors and colleagues. Not surprisingly, I lost my confidence in translating and never attempted to pursue translating as a career. The indexer-apprentice model I benefitted from gave me the confidence to continue doing something that at times seemed confusing and overwhelming. Mentors can be the light guiding you through many dark and winding career paths.

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