

# ORALL NEWSLETTER

OHIO REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

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## ***President's Column – Shannon Kemen***

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It's time to get ready for ORALL's annual conference! This year the conference will be located in Fort Wayne, Indiana and will take place on October 21, 22, and 23. Applications for grants to attend the conference (<http://orall.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/ORALLGrantApplication2.pdf>) are now being accepted and I hope to see you all there.

Our conference theme is "Implementing Diversity in All We Do." The Education Committee, chaired by Rob Myers, and the Local Arrangements Committee, chaired by Phebe Poydras, have really outdone themselves this year with a diverse array of educational programming and scheduled speakers. Some of the programs you will see this year will cover access to justice issues, using alternative dispute resolution, creating interactive videos, and competitive intelligence, as well as the

return of our popular cool tools and poster sessions.

In addition to our own excellent ORALL speakers, we are also extremely lucky to have some very distinguished outside speakers at our conference this year. AALL President, Keith Ann Stiverson, will be joining us as our AALL visitor, Professor Nancy C. Marcus, Indiana Tech Law School, will be speaking on LGBT Rights and Religious Freedom and Greta Southard, the director of the Allen County Public Library, will be discussing Human Resource issues. Please remember, if you are interested in having Ms. Southard cover specific HR issues or topics, you can email her directly at [gsouthard@acpl.info](mailto:gsouthard@acpl.info) with the subject line ORALL and she will try to incorporate your learning objectives into her program.

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### **In This Issue...**

<b>President's Column</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Reports from AALL 2015, Philadelphia, PA</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>A Day In The Life</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>A Note From Your Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>14</b>

# 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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### *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***

Of special interest to new members of ORALL, we will be offering a "Mini-Conference for New ORALLians" to help newer members maximize their involvement in ORALL and to help jump-start their conference networking. Organized by two of our own new(er) librarians, Amelia Landenberger, Law Library Fellow at the University of Colorado Boulder, and Marissa Mason, Reference Librarian at the Ohio Supreme Court Library, this is a great opportunity for new ORALLians to get to know each other and ORALL a little better.

The conference registration form and educational programming descriptions are now available on ORALL's website ([http://orall.org/?page\\_id=909](http://orall.org/?page_id=909)) so be sure to check them out! Also, remember to bring a children's book with you if you would like to participate in this year's charitable conference activity, Kate's Karts (<http://www.kateskart.org/>) and keep an eye out for upcoming information on how to sign up for dine-arounds.

I look forward to seeing you all in Fort Wayne!

Shannon Kemen

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### ***Reports from AALL 2015, Philadelphia, PA***

#### ***AALL Philadelphia Program Review - Influence: The Art and Science of Changing Minds***

***by Richard Humphrey, IU Robert H. McKinney  
School of Law - Indianapolis***

One of the most engaging and thought provoking sessions I attended at the 2015 AALL Annual Conference in Philadelphia, was presented by Steve Hughes, founder and President of Hit Your Stride, LLC. (<http://www.hityourstride.com/index.php?section=1>), a company whose stated mission is, "to help people look and sound smart when they talk." Mr. Hughes is an outstanding presenter, with the ability to immediately engage his audience, to maintain their attention, and to deliver his message in a never-lagging delivery that informs, encourages, and challenges attendees to re-evaluate their interpersonal skills.

If there were one word that sums up Mr. Hughes message on influencing others in the workplace, it would be **listen**. In every aspect of his presentation, the importance of connecting with those one wishes to influence came through loudly and clearly. To clarify that message more emphatically, not only listening, but

developing empathy with ones colleagues, administrators, or clients will, in Mr. Hughes' opinion, lead to greater success in all work related endeavors. Once empathy has been demonstrated, the path is cleared for meaningful dialogue on next steps, suggested changes, and evaluative feedback.

In a four-pronged approach, Mr. Hughes introduced the audience to concrete methods for influencing the outcome of any project negotiation, regardless of its size or scope. None of these tools are difficult to develop, they only require patience and a firm resolve.

- 1) Peer Pressure: Not in a bullying sense, but pointing out to the listener that others are accomplishing success with the suggested practice and your organization is way behind for not using it. Remind the listener that they are not alone. Help them to feel a part of the group, since, as Mr. Hughes points out, "We're all 'wired' for community." We all want to feel that we're a part of something greater than ourselves that is being successful.
- 2) Commitment and Consistency: Make the request concretely and obtain verbal (or written) consent. The person will then strive to maintain consistency with their initial response. Their positive response can be further increased by obtaining multiple yeses. Mr. Hughes used the example of a television reality show, called *American Pickers*, where the show's hosts break down collectors' resistance to parting with big-ticket items by agreeing to the seller's price on a number of less expensive items.
- 3) Mirroring: Replicate the listener's actions, even down to physical motions (it makes them feel comfortable). Most people think they are awesome, so mimicking their movements enhances that feeling. It also helps to match their verbal speed, energy level, and to "playback" what they said, without commentary or judgement. Listening intently and taking notes will also further increase their comfort level.
- 4) Progress: Provide encouragement. Focus on progress, not on the road ahead. Acknowledge what has already been accomplished, which affirms and reinforces success, rather than pointing out what hasn't yet been done. Focusing on success gives the listener a head start on having a positive outlook toward the remainder of the project.

I found all of Mr. Hughes' remarks to be timely, insightful, and practical, especially given the current state of change in the law library market. Being able to effectively negotiate the successful completion of proposed projects, while also building ones sphere of bankable influence, are not outcomes to be lightly

dismissed. And the prospect of enhancing ones law library career, in an age when accountability has become the byword, is extremely encouraging.

Mr. Hughes expressed a great desire to continue his collaboration with the law library community, so I would highly encourage contacting him whenever his skills may be compatible with your organization's continuing education goals. I don't believe you'll be disappointed.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the ORALL Scholarship Committee for their having awarded me one of the AALL Annual Meeting scholarships. It has been several years since I last attended the AALL Conference, so I am indeed grateful for having this opportunity for further growth and professional development. I was also most gratified to see so many familiar faces, to rekindle several friendships, as well as establishing a number of new and delightful acquaintances that will hopefully become dear friends as well. Thank you again to ORALL and the Scholarship Committee.

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***The Jail Mail Blues: How Law Libraries Support Access to Justice for Prisoners***

**by Marissa Mason, Supreme Court of Ohio**

I am thankful to ORALL for providing me a grant to attend the AALL annual meeting this summer. As a first-time attendee, I was very excited to visit Philadelphia, make new friends at CONELL, and learn from the experiences of my colleagues. One session, "The Jail Mail Blues: How Law Libraries Support Access to Justice for Prisoners," was particularly memorable because the speakers were so clearly passionate about the topic. The program was presented by Stacy Etheredge of the West Virginia University College of Law Library, Sara Gras of the **Georgetown University Law Center**, and Marc Bookman, Director of the Atlantic Center for Capital Representation.

Marc Bookman began the discussion by speaking on the state of indigent defense in this country, based on his own experience as a former public defender. He presented a convincing argument that the needs of indigent defendants and prisoners typically far exceed the assistance they receive, and that law libraries play a critical role in helping to fill the gap. Marc acknowledged that prisoners can be difficult to help. Their questions can seem inane; they can come across as demanding, remorseless, helpless, or mentally ill. In fact, he said, many prisoners are mentally ill, at rates far exceeding the general population, but it is for this very reason that helping them is such important work.

Next, Stacy Etheredge discussed the historical context of access to prison law libraries, particularly the U.S. Supreme Court decisions which have shaped public policy: *Bounds v. Smith* (1977) and *Lewis v. Casey* (1996). Although the Supreme Court had previously articulated that prisoners have a right to

meaningful access to the courts, in *Lewis v. Casey* they held that there is no freestanding right to access to a law library, and prisoners must demonstrate actual injury in order to challenge the adequacy of resources provided to them. The impact of this decision was dramatic: after *Lewis v. Casey*, 34 prison law libraries were disbanded in the state of Arizona alone. Stacy suggested that the economic recession in recent years, coupled with the privatization of prisons, has further contributed to the decline of prison law libraries. Print collections and librarian staffing have been cut, while prisoners' access to computers remains restricted. One of the many ways in which law libraries are working to advance access to justice for prisoners is through prisoner letter programs.

Sara Gras discussed her work to expand the prisoner letter program at the Georgetown Law Library at a time when many other libraries have been cutting back on these services. The program has remained open to any incarcerated individual, free of cost. However, many changes were made to the program policies. Whereas the previous policy did not limit the amount of material requested, the new policy allows for only one request per person per month, with a limit of 50 pages of material. This has made responding to the letters more efficient and helps to keep postage and material costs down. Furthermore, in an effort to improve the quality of the service, they removed the requirements for specific citations and for primary sources only. Sara is hoping to be able to develop user guides and annotations on frequently requested topics to help support prisoners' research efforts. Sara also created an email account which she has used to send materials to prisoners' family or friends at their request. Sara acknowledged that the program is time consuming and costly to the library. Much of the cost is due to the fact that most of the letters Georgetown receives are from out-of-state prisoners in Texas and South Carolina. To reduce staff time dedicated to the program, she recruited law student volunteers to respond to letters as a pro bono service project. This was a win-win, helping her manage the volume of letters and gain supervisory experience while also providing valuable experience for students.

Librarians face difficult decisions in allocating our limited resources. There are very real limitations that would prevent some libraries from being able to provide services to prisoners. But I think that the more libraries do participate, the lighter the burden would be on each library. I also think that attitudes toward prisoners in general can be a barrier. For example, Sara Gras commented that she has been asked if she is concerned that she is helping guilty people get out of prison. This session reminded me of the reason I went into this field: libraries are among the most democratic and equalizing of institutions, providing access free of judgment. As Stacy Etheredge put it, law libraries are "the social conscience of the nation." We have an opportunity to profoundly impact the quality of access to justice in this country.

As a reference librarian for the Ohio Supreme Court, I regularly respond to prisoner letters, and this program increased my appreciation for the value of

prisoner letter programs and encouraged me to think more about how this work might be accomplished more efficiently and effectively. For librarians interested in creating or revamping a prisoner letter program, there are resources and guidance available on the AALL Social Responsibilities SIS website (<http://www.aallnet.org/sections/sr/residents>). The SR-SIS also maintains a list of law libraries serving prisoners (<http://www.aallnet.org/sections/sr/residents/Prisoner-Letter-Database.html>). If your library provides services but is not on this list, the SR-SIS would like to hear from you.

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***AALL Seminar: Struggling with Juggling? How to Stress Less.***  
**by Ron Vest, Columbiana County Law Library**

Thanks to a grant from ORALL I was able to attend my second Annual Meeting and Conference for AALL in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Like last year in San Antonio, I tried to attend as many events and educational opportunities as possible. For completion of this grant, I was asked to write about one educational event that I attended.

One seminar that I found interesting was titled “Struggling with Juggling? How to Stress Less”. Our presenter was Karyn Nishimura-Sneath and her objective was to have a frank conversation with our group discussing the social and work environment factors keeping us from a healthy pace.

Ms. Nishimura-Sneath divided the seminar so it would be part lecture and part group discussions. She gave us an opportunity to first greet and introduce each in a randomly chosen small three or four person group. As she went over some areas of workplace stress, time was given to the small groups to discuss our own stressful situations with each other.

Within these small groups with we discussed the work life balance, stress, workplace speed, technology advances and multi-tasking efforts and challenges in our work lives. I found a lot in common with my group as we are all doing more with less and always promoting the value of our law libraries to our patrons and institutions. While many of us are proud of our efforts and energized by the work we do, we too often overlook the inherent stressors we live with and situations that can lead to burn-out.

Ms. Nishimura-Sneath really challenged this idea that we should become multitaskers, which she claims is a weakness and not a strength. In support, she cited a Stanford workplace study done in 2009 that tended to show that in experiments that included switching among tasks, filtering irrelevant information, and using working memory, researches expected that frequent multi-taskers would outperform non multi-taskers on at least some of these activities.

However, they found the opposite: Chronic multi-taskers were abysmal on their assigned activities. Interestingly, this study tended to show that frequent multi-taskers use their brains less effectively.

I really think we really clicked as small groups that our discussion went a little over time that we didn't have much time for solutions, but we did discuss tactics for confidently and kindly saying "no" and tips for avoiding burnout. Things like exercise, seeking mentors who display a good work life balance, and focusing on one problem at a time were some of the concrete suggestions offered.

Finally, I thought it was a good start and I got to have a lengthy discussion with three colleagues addressing this issues and it was nice to meet new people in our profession.

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***Review of "Strategic Integration of E-books and Digital Content in Law Libraries"***  
**by Alice Davidson, Indiana Attorney General Law Library**

As a first-time attendee, I was excited to see the myriad of program choices as I perused the 2015 AALL conference schedule online. I used the conference app to set up my personal itinerary ahead of time, and relied on it daily to keep me on track at the conference. Included in my list of programs was "Strategic Integration of E-books and Digital Content in Law Libraries." This session provided a look at how universities and private law firms have integrated e-books into their collections.

I chose this particular session to evaluate because I have always been a big fan of e-books. It has been a goal of mine to add e-books to my collection every year since taking the reins of the Indiana Attorney General's law library in 2009. While the program description did not represent government law libraries specifically, I was interested to see what could be gleaned from the academic and private law firm perspective.

Darla Jackson, Director of McKusick Law Library at the University of South Dakota, served as coordinator and prefaced the session with a few remarks about the status of e-books. Based on statistics from both the United States and the UK, e-books are in a slight decline and books in print have increased. Recent surveys show that readers prefer e-books for quick research while showing a preference for textbooks in print. Finally, she noted that librarians are faced with saving money and space, and view e-books as a possible solution.

Jackson then introduced the speakers that included Sandra Placzek, Associate Director for Schmid Law Library at University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Bess Reynolds, Electronic Resources Manager for Debevoise & Plimpton, LLP. Sandra Placzek began her segment with the admission that she and her library



are “newbies” to the e-book world. They launched into an e-book project using EBL ProQuest, along with 13 other academic libraries. The consortium negotiated the specifications through online discussions but were also able to individualize their own setup.

Placzek discussed her library’s decision to limit access to their e-book collection by requiring users to create an account in order to browse. Short term loan periods were established and auto-purchasing was not enabled. Rather, formal requests had to be made to purchase a title.

After 18 months, statistics from her library, in addition to the other participating libraries, showed that users preferred open access through the OPAC. Tech assistance was limited to instructions for downloading the e-books and only one university circulated an iPad as an e-book reader.

To summarize her segment, Placzek listed several points to keep in mind when considering adding e-books to your collection. They included: 1) investigate consortia or joint-campus purchasing to share costs; 2) consider capping the cost of individual titles; 3) determine what titles are most widely used; 4) establish the loan period; 5) decide whether or not to enable demand-driven acquisitions; and 6) negotiate vendor terms, including waiving set-up fees and providing MARC records.

The second speaker, Bess Reynolds, described her private law firm’s e-book experience as “one-stop shopping.” Their OPAC houses 100 titles from the Lexis Digital Library that were imported with OCLC records. They also have access to over 70,000 e-book titles through membership with the New York Law Institute’s eBook collection, provided by EBL ProQuest services. Multiple users can download e-books to their devices, anytime and anywhere. This is a clear advantage over having to purchase titles individually. Also included in their OPAC are other web subscriptions, RSS feeds, electronic journals and e-newsletters.

Reynolds continued the session with statistics on the rate of e-book adoption by law firms. The percentage of law firms who have purchased e-books rose steadily over the last four years from 14 percent to 54 percent. The number of law firms who plan to purchase e-books in the next year has risen slowly also. One major barrier to the adoption of e-books has been the limited number of legal publishing vendors. Thomson Reuters trails LexisNexis due in part to the development of their own lending platform, ProView, as opposed to using a pre-existing platform like Overdrive. Other obstacles include lack of attorney demand, DRM (digital rights management), and the cost of multiple proprietary platforms depending on what practice areas your library is interested in most. She also believes that the one user—one device model is not practical.

Ease of use needs to be a priority. It only requires two clicks for Debevoise & Plimpton patrons to read the MARC records for each title. Their ILS vendor, EOS International, worked closely with LexisNexis on the integration of titles. Attorneys do not have time to remember publishers' names or lengthy steps to get to the resources they need. Reynolds likes to meet one-on-one, when necessary, for tech support and offers classes on e-books every two weeks. However, she encourages self-sufficiency because of global travel and the volume of work by her firm's attorneys and staff.

Reynolds summed up her segment by stating that the delivery of e-sources is complex. Using e-sources does not simplify law librarianship—rather, it demands a greater understanding by library professionals of how e-sources work and how to manage them in a collection. “Discovery” is the key. If your users cannot access the e-sources easily, they will give up on the idea and return to what they know best.

This session provided two very different examples of how e-books and digital content are being used in law libraries. While the speakers both agreed on advantages and disadvantages of using e-content, the methods of purchasing and delivery were varied. I found the information useful as I continue the pursuit of e-books for my special government law library. Finding the best solution for integrating e-content for my users is the greatest challenge. It is not a matter of “if” but “when.”

A great big THANK YOU to ORALL for providing such a generous grant to attend the 2015 AALL convention in Philadelphia! I look forward to next year's conference in Chicago!

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***AALL 2015 Annual Meeting: CONELL Recap***  
**by Jennifer L. Baker, Keating Muething & Klekamp PLL**

First and foremost, thanks to Lisa Britt Wernke and the ORALL Grants Committee for selecting me as our organization's first CONELL Grant recipient! Since this was the first year that a grant was specifically awarded for use towards CONELL expenses, it seemed appropriate to write about my experience at CONELL, in hopes of encouraging others to apply for that grant and to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities that CONELL offers new law librarians.

A mention of CONELL conjures fond memories for many of our colleagues who have attended the pre-conference workshop, and, honestly, I was surprised at the passion many had when I asked them about CONELL. This was not something that I had ever heard of before; my knowledge of CONELL came from friends who, during conversations about attending the 2015 Annual Meeting, would ask if I was also attending CONELL as part of my first conference experience. The seed was planted, and after some investigating, it was decided

that I could register for CONELL. Everyone said that it is an experience you will never forget, and that at CONELL, you meet individuals who will become friends, professional allies, and mentors to carry you throughout your career in law librarianship. I can tell you firsthand that all of that is true – CONELL afforded me the opportunity to meet a remarkable group of people, who work across very distinct facets of our profession, who are at various points in their careers, but all of whom have valuable experience to share.

The Conference of Newer Law Librarians has a single purpose that permeates the day – meet people! It isn't somewhere to learn about how to be a law librarian, or what to do if you have spent limited time in the profession, but feel like you are floundering around. In part, that is what I expected. In reality, from the time you arrive at 8:00am, to the time you go back to your hotel room in the late afternoon, CONELL is all about making connections.

During the morning sessions, you hear from many law librarians who are involved in AALL at the board level. They explain to you how to get involved in the organization via many avenues – you can volunteer to chair committees, publish in AALL Spectrum and Law Library Journal, mentor other librarians, and help with annual meetings. The afternoon sessions are more interactive; attendees split time between the Marketplace, where representatives from communities and special interest sections within AALL are available to help you find smaller groups to get involved with, and the infamous Speed Networking, where you rotate every five minutes to meet a new CONELL class member. Both of these events were fantastic opportunities to make acquaintance with other AALL members. The last part of CONELL was a tour of the host city's historical landmarks, where we experienced colonial Philadelphia. I thought this was a great addition to the day, because scheduling constraints throughout the conference would have prohibited me from being about to explore Philadelphia otherwise, so I was grateful that these tours are incorporated into CONELL.

Clearly, CONELL was a wonderful experience for me, and I would encourage anyone new to the Annual Meeting to spend time at CONELL before the conference. It offers the opportunity to get your feet wet in terms of meeting people, figuring out where everything is, and hearing what the popular conference sessions are, which are all important parts of having a productive and low-stress conference experience. Shout out to Emily Janoski-Haehlen, for doing a wonderful job of putting together this year's CONELL!

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Steve Richardson, Chair of ORALL AALL's Arrangement Committee and Reference Librarian at Indiana Tech, at the ORALL table at AALL 2015

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### ***2015 AALL Grant Winners in Philadelphia!***

At the 2015 AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, several of the recipients of an ORALL AALL Grant allowed me to take their picture and submit it for our esteemed *Newsletter*. Congratulations to all of the AALL grant recipients!



Pictured are (from left to right): Alice Davidson, Lisa Wernke (Chair, Grants Committee), Marissa Mason, Jennifer Baker, and Ron Vest.

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## ***A Day in the Life***

***by Lisa Britt Wernke, Robert S. Marx Law Library, University of Cincinnati***

For the past several years I have begun each new academic year with a welcome kit for each of the first year students from the library. I also choose a “theme” and decorate our library entrance. This year my theme is “You’re a Library Star” complete with rolling out the red carpet and a photo booth with props. As I’ve mentioned in the past and during my poster session at last year’s annual meeting in Columbus, I keep my costs for the welcome kit and decorations as close to zero dollars as I can get. Everything in the welcome kit is donated by our vendors and the decorations used are almost all from The Dollar Tree (where everything is only a dollar) or from my stash at home. For example, the “red carpet” and black back drop are inexpensive plastic table cloths and the stars were a package from The Dollar Tree as well. The photo booth sign is Pinterest inspired and was done using a piece of black poster board that we had here at our library and the writing in chalk.

We have had a great response and the students (and faculty and staff) who enter our library always chuckle when we mention, “We knew you were coming,” when they ask about the red carpet. I hope this helps to inspire some of you, too!





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### ***A Note from Your Newsletter Editor***

Our next newsletter will be published in December, with lots of news and reviews of the ORALL Annual Meeting in Fort Wayne (ORALL is geared to award 8 grants this year!). But before then, we have the actual meeting where I will be once again looking for volunteers for the Newsletter Committee; I don't ask much of Committee members, except that each member writes at least one article for the Newsletter. I am always open to criticism, concerns or ideas that anybody, whether on the Committee or not, may have.

Sounding like a broken record, I continue to look for contributions for our ***Day in the Life*** and anything anybody would like to contribute is more than welcome. If you would like to contact me, you can reach me at [pvenard1@udayton.edu](mailto:pvenard1@udayton.edu).