Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries 1998-99

The year 1998-99 was a milestone for the association as we began the celebration of our fiftieth anniversary. Our forty-ninth Annual Meeting was held on October 28-30, 1998, in Cleveland, Ohio, with featured speaker Professor Robert Berring reflecting on the history of legal publishing and information. The afternoon session was devoted to the basics of Internet communications technology and was presented by Michael D. Edmiston, Professor of Physics and Chemistry at Bluffton College, Ohio. Friday morning's session featured two talented and entertaining attorneys from Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease of Columbus, Ohio, Julia Davis and Jacklyn Ford, speaking about the basics of personnel law and updating the membership on current workplace issues with an emphasis on sexual harassment cases recently decided by the United States Supreme Court.

ORALL held its second annual Spring Retreat at Hueston Woods State Park on February 26-27, 1999. The retreat has proven to be an excellent vehicle for combining committee meetings and educational programs with a brief respite from the daily routine. There were two excellent afternoon programs on Friday, February 26. Thanks to ORALL member George Baker for arranging to have Andrew Colarik of Janus Systems & Associates speak on the topic of establishing a Web page. The Private Law Libraries SIG, chaired by Beth Langton, sponsored a program entitled "Preparing Your Internet Training Presentation" which was presented by Melanie Putnam of the Ohio State University College of Law Library. The evening program was moderated by member Ken Kozlowski and provided a lively forum for discussing the meaning of service in the contemporary library. Arrangements have already been made to have the next Spring Retreat on March 30-31, 2000, at the Deer Creek Resort and Conference Center.

As of this writing, we are looking forward to the special fiftieth anniversary reception on Tuesday, July 20, 1999, at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C., followed by the Fiftieth Anniversary Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio, on October 13-15, 1999, at the Adams Mark Hotel. Vice President Richard Humphrey and the Education Committee have planned an exceptional program for the meeting.

The ORALL Web Site continues to improve under the capable management of our Webmaster and newsletter editor, Shaun Esposito. In addition to these duties, Shaun has been named Vice President/President-Elect effective October 15, 1999. The other new officers will be Thomas L. Hanley, who will succeed himself as Treasurer. Tom has been filling in as Treasurer to complete an unexpired term since last year. Billie Grey will begin a term on the Executive Board.

This indeed has been a unique time to serve as President of ORALL. By learning more about ORALL's accomplishments of the past, I can truly appreciate the effort of those members who have so graciously donated their time and talent to the organization.

Keith A. Blough, President, 1998-99