Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries Annual Report 2001-02

ORALL and MichALL continued the tradition of holding a joint chapter event at the AALL Annual Meeting with a luncheon attended by sixty-four members from both chapters in Minneapolis in 2001. MichALL’s twenty-fifth anniversary was in 2001, and its generosity in providing some financial support to help celebrate the event was welcome.

ORALL held its annual meeting on October 3-5, 2001, at Maumee Bay Resort and Conference Center, with ninety-seven members attending. The Local Arrangements Committee, co-chaired by Marianne Mussett and Gail McCain, warmly welcomed us to Ohio’s North Coast. The Education Committee, chaired by Ellen Quinn, offered creative programming built around the idea "Everybody's a Critic-Applying Critical Thinking Skills in the Law Library." Jack Powers, a dynamic speaker from the Communications Department faculty at Cleveland State University, offered a lecture on presentation skills. Other programs included "Intranet Development," "Evaluating Law Dot Corps," LexisNexis and Westlaw Intranet and Classroom Web Products presentations and demonstrations, "Preservation," and "Collection Development."

The new ORALL Board for 2001-02 was installed during the annual meeting: Ellen M. Quinn, President; Beth A. Langton, Vice President/President-Elect; Nancy S. Clark, Immediate Past President; Thomas L. Hanley, Treasurer; Claudia Zaher, Secretary; and Kurt X. Metzmeier and Michael Whiteman, Executive Board members.

ORALL held a spring retreat at the Salt Fork State Park Lodge in Cambridge, Ohio, March 1-2, 2002, with thirty-seven members attending. Member Jan Ryan Novak gave a presentation on "Legal Reference Services for Public Librarians." Mike Apicella, chair of the Ohio State Bar Association’s Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee, spoke on "Law Librarians and the Unauthorized Practice of Law." The retreat was an opportunity for special interest groups (SIGs) and committees to conduct business and discuss issues of concern. The Executive Board held a meeting at the spring retreat and decided: (1) a spring retreat will not be held in 2003. The Board discussed the issues surrounding the required number of meetings. An annual meeting of the membership and Board is required by the bylaws. Ideally the Board should meet at least twice a year. Other meeting options were discussed. There was also concern about declining attendance at the retreat. (2) A stipend will be allocated to the vice president and the president to attend the AALL Annual Meeting. This was done to encourage members to volunteer to serve on the Executive Board who might otherwise decline because it is a financial hardship to attend the meeting.

A new special interest group was formed in 2001 to reflect the special interests of our members who are in Kentucky. The SIG held its first meeting in Lexington on March 22, 2002. It was a luncheon meeting with Susan Clary, clerk of the Kentucky Supreme Court, as speaker.

On April 18-19, 2002, ORALL sponsored the AALL program, "Bootcamp for Teachers of Electronic Research." Mary Lynn Wagner arranged for the program to be held in our region. The day-and-a-half session attracted thirty-six attendees and was held at the offices of Taft, Stettinius & Hollister LLP.

In February 2002, Bylaws Committee Chair Mary Persyn arranged to have the revised ORALL Handbook printed and distributed to the membership. This is a valuable tool for the members, but particularly for
the Executive Board of our organization, as it constitutes an important part of ORALL's institutional memory. Several members have begun working on a project to create an inventory of the chapter's archives, which are housed at the Ohio State University Law Library. The project will help support ORALL's institutional memory by providing easy access to past chapter decisions.

The slate of candidates for the 2002-03 ORALL Board, to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in Akron, October 16-18, 2002, are Sandy Hyclak, Vice President/President-Elect; Miriam Murphy, Secretary; and Marcus Hochstetler, Board member.

Ellen M. Quinn, President, 2001-02