PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

WHERE ARE OUR LIBRARIES GOING: 1977 TO DATE?

At last, computer assisted legal research seems to be penetrating the every day practice of law. A faculty member recently visited a very rural county in southern Ohio. The bench and bar consists of one judge and thirteen lawyers. For several years the county has been unable to buy supplements for the county law library. To off-set this deficiency, the lawyers and judge have purchased microcomputers to access LEXIS and WESTLAW. There are two or three lawyers who like to do research online, and they do most of the work for the entire bar. Electronic mail is used between lawyers and the court. In a seemingly backwoods county, the local bar uses the most sophisticated and up-to-date methods of doing legal research and practicing law!

In 1977, when I first came to Akron, we had no LEXIS or WESTLAW terminals. In fact, I had never even seen one in law school. Today the University of Akron has four terminals plus access through numerous microcomputers. A fifth terminal is about to be installed. Akron also uses Legal Trac with its associated optical digital disc technology and Wilson Disc with CD-ROM. Every librarian has a microcomputer, as does virtually every faculty member. Some of the library technicians have microcomputers of their own, and all technicians have some familiarity with micros. OCLC has taken over much of the work in cataloging and interlibrary loan. We can access the University Library’s catalog online through our micros and WESTLAW terminals. Students use microcomputers for word processing and for computer-based instruction. Professors use microcomputers as electronic blackboards in class.

Computer products and technology improve all the time. LEXIS recently announced that they will provide pagination for their online material. Not to be outdone, WESTLAW now includes star paging to the printed reporters. Many law libraries can now do without parts of the National Reporter System on their shelves. Lawyers can use LEXIS or WESTLAW without having to look up page numbers in the reporters for their citations.

(Continued on Page 2)

OFFICERS

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Theodore A. Potter

CALENDAR

Jan. 1, 1988: Assume New Committee Assignments
Jan. 7-10: AALS-Miami Beach
March 7: Newsletter Copy Deadline-1st Issue
May 25-27: ORALL-Spring Meeting-Cleveland
June 6: Newsletter Copy Deadline-2nd Issue
June 26-29: AALL-Atlanta
Sept. 5: Newsletter Copy Deadline-3rd Issue
Oct.: ORALL Fall Meeting-Indianapolis
Nov. 28: Newsletter Copy Deadline-4th Issue
President's Message
(Continued from page 1)
With such enhancements, are we approaching an
electronic library where no one uses the books?
I think so. Many of us already work in libraries
where the physical space assigned to the library
is limited now and is never going to increase.
In these libraries, the only way to increase the
availability of legal information is to use
microforms and electronic media (either onsite
or via telecommunication lines).

Unfortunately, the electronic version of
printed material runs a very poor second to
actually having a book in hand. In general, I
think that when I know which legal information
source to consult and the source is a book or
multi-volume set with a good index, my research
is much more efficient with the books than with
the computer. On the other hand, in situations
where we don't have the book readily available
or where we don't know what book to look in,
the computer assisted legal research systems are
valuable research tools.

In addition to giving access to otherwise
unavailable materials, the computer is also
wonderful at looking for needles in hay stacks.
However, once the "needle" is found, the
"sewing" becomes difficult online. Reading
computer screens is very slow and frustrating.
Until computer screens display the equivalent of
two or more printed pages at a time and
computer printout quality is equivalent to that
of the printed page, doing research on micro-
computers will be less efficient and more
difficult than opening a book.

These display and printing problems will be
solved in the next few years, given the way
microcomputer technology is progressing.
Already, high resolution screens and laser
printers are available but at a cost beyond most
libraries' reach.

Another nagging (and costly) problem for
online research is the necessity to use
communication lines. It's great to get the latest
information, but telephone lines are expensive
and subject to problems. All the daily searchers
on WESTLAW or LEXIS use only a handful of
main frame computers. Research can be slow
because many other people are using the system
at the same time.

This problem may have a solution. Within
five to seven years much of our current online
research will be done locally using CD-ROMs,
optical, digital discs and other storage devices.
Users will depend on this new technology and
will only go online to check the last month,
quarter, or year for new developments. If users
are accessing the services just for updating
rather than hunting online, it should be easier
for vendors to provide quick online service. Using
online searching to complement other
research should encourage people to use
computer assisted legal research since the time
clock or meter will not be running for the bulk
of the research.

In the near future our libraries will be
housing more equipment to accommodate the
research technologies. Our book collections will
start to stabilize or decrease in size to make way
for the equipment. Rent and space limitations
will not permit most of our libraries to house
large collections of books as well as scores of
microcomputer based legal research work
stations. The next question will be if lawyers
have a LEXIS or WESTLAW terminal on their
desk, do they still need us? More about that
later.

Paul Richert
ORALL President

ORALL Executive Boards, past & present: L-R Brenda Woodruff
(past), Ted Potter (present), Mary Persyn (present), Paul Richert
(2015-2017 President), Carol Allred (present), Mary Grace Hune (Secretary),
Anita K. Shew (past), Marth Cox (past). Present members not
shown are: Michael Slinger (Vice President) and Ruth Long
(Treasurer).
INFORMATION: THE LAWYER/LIBRARIAN CONNECTION

The Northeast Regional Conference in Albany, NY was an interesting meeting for all who attended, not only for the programs offered, but also for the unique combination of regional chapters in attendance. People had the opportunity to attend programs which had the qualities of national programs and to meet with librarians from many chapters on a much smaller scale than the national meeting. It was a good combination of high quality and smaller quantity. The programs were well attended, for the most part, and well received. The following articles contain summaries of some of the programs, with the purpose of informing you as to the lawyer/librarian connection.

LINDA WERTHEIMER
NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO

The opening luncheon was the official beginning of the conference and it was well attended. The scheduled speaker was to be Nina Totenberg, National Public Radio Legal Correspondent. However, this was at the time when the President was to decide whether Judge Bork should withdraw from consideration for Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, and so she had to stay in Washington to cover that story. In her place, NPR sent Linda Wertheimer, the National Political Correspondent, who spoke on the political situation in Washington.

The main thrust of Ms. Wertheimer’s speech was on the Reagan years. She spoke of the “magic” of the times, from the beginning of Mr. Reagan’s presidency up to the breaking of the Iran-Contra Scandal. Washington was a magical city for those first five and a half years because Mr. Reagan brought with him a re-newed sense of America. The magic died in November, 1986, when information on the diversion of funds to the Contras became public. At that point, the Reagan Administration began to lose its power.

The Iran-Contra Hearings were something like Watergate Redux, but in many ways this was a much more serious problem. Watergate, in essence, was a third-rate burglary connected to the highest levels of government, the purpose of which was to gather political information. The Iran-Contra situation was a case of foreign policy for our nation being handled by privateers, whose motives were patriotic, but whose ultimate goal was to profit from the sale of government arms and supplies. The hearings which were to follow the revelations were graphic examples of the Constitution in action, a particularly good time since this is the 200th anniversary of the writing of that document. It became the job of the Congress to investigate the actions of the Executive Branch representatives and to make sure they were within Constitutional bounds. These hearings were much more serious than Watergate; after all, a part of the foreign policy of the nation was not being handled by the White House, but by private actors using government contacts to achieve their goals.

What of the future in Washington? As one can see by the elections in November, 1986, the republicans have lost control of Congress but can the Democrats do anything with their advantage? From the list of Democratic contenders, whose ranks seem to get smaller (Continued on Page 4)
Linda Wertheimer
National Public Radio
(Continued from Page 3)
every week, it would appear that no one has a
strong enough following to win an election.
Jesse Jackson is leading in the polls but
problems await him at the convention. The
others are not well known or have only regional
appeal.

What of the Republicans? Ms. Wertheimer
suggested that the nomination is George Bush's
to lose - it will depend on the campaign. If he
were to falter, Senator Robert Dole is waiting in
the wings to take up the banner.

What will be the issues? The deficits, both
in spending and trade, will be major issues of
this campaign, as well as a catastrophic illness
bill, which will be pushed by many
constituencies, notably the baby boomers,
because of the impact it has across age and
political lines.

The speech was well received because of its
fairness to all sides of questions presented. Ms.
Wertheimer deftly answered a few questions
from the audience and then withdrew to
appreciative applause.

Prepared by Theodore A. Potter
University of Toledo Law Library

Ms. Lim introduced the audience to the
MacDraw system with the use of overheads and
handouts. She described how the library
prepared maps, diagrams and newsletters, along
with library user-guides. She explained the ease
of use and expressed enthusiasm with the
simplicity of the process. The laser printer is
preferred over dot matrix for the quality of
copy. In her handouts, Ms. Lim presented copies
of users' guides, which included the integration of
maps and text to simplify the location of
publications.

She stated, "Macintosh 'Desktop Publishing
Bundle' is sold to schools for $5,300. It includes
everything you need except the hard disk."

The second discussion centered on usage of
Dbase III+, by Virginia Wise. She stressed that
this is not a simple package to use, that it takes
considerable time to learn, but in the long run
she is satisfied with its performance.

This process provides a variety of functions
and they are described in the publication,
Essential Guide to Dbase III Plus in Libraries,
by Karl Beiser, Meckler Publ. Corp., Westport,

Also she advised reference to Understanding
Dbase III Plus, by Alan Simpson, Sybex, Inc.,
Alameda, CA, 1986.

Ms. Wise stated that you will want to ask
yourself various questions as you prepare
equip your library, such as, "What is available
from various vendors?" "Are instructions
available?" and "Can I get immediate help from
those vendors?" She advised taking a long look
at your needs before making the final purchase.

The final system was Nutshell, described by
Teresa Wrenn. This system was put into use
following a bad experience in which a great
dead of money was paid for a system that was
not operable by this office. The Nutshell system
proved to be considerably less expensive and a
more "workable" solution.

Ms. Wrenn explained the Nutshell package
with a packet of handouts as well as a list of
the various functions which they used within
their system such as cataloging, maintaining
shelf-lists, keeping track of serials and
acquisitions, routing publications, as well as many other uses.

She stressed that this is not an accounting system; that it is difficult to change fields; and in many cases the punctuation fields are not correct. However, the ease of use and the relatively small cost involved make this system especially attractive to the small library.

All panelists agreed that each library has to assess its own needs and make its decisions based upon those needs.

Prepared by Rose Brown
Defiance County Law Library

CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

One of the most interesting programs of the Albany meeting was a discussion of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Professor Peter W. Hogg, Professor of Law at Osgoode Hall Law School of York University, spoke on the Charter itself and Professor Balfour J. Halevy, Professor of Law and Law Librarian at the same institution, discussed the bibliography of the Charter.

Professor Hogg began by going through the history of the Charter. The British North America Act of 1867 created the independent federal parliamentary state government of Canada. The document which served as the Canadian Constitution did not contain a bill of rights because the British did not have a bill of rights. By 1945, at the end of World War II, a movement began to adopt a bill of rights. By 1960, a Canadian Bill of Rights became statutory law and applied to the federal government but not to the provinces. In 1982, the Canadians had a constitutional reform and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms became part of the Canadian Constitution.

The Charter looks a great deal like the American Bill of Rights but has significant limitations. Section I sets the tone for the rest of the document by saying that the rights enumerated are guaranteed, subject to "reasonable limits prescribed by law... as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society." Professor Hogg explained that this means the rights are guaranteed in accord with principles of fundamental justice. For example, if a provincial law burdens any of the rights, the law is not automatically rejected because the state is allowed to prove that it is a reasonable limit justified in a free and democratic society.

One of the major limitations to the Charter is Sec. 33, which allows the suspension of any of the rights by a clear declaration within a statute. Apparently, in order for the Constitution to pass, the provinces required this clause be included so that important provincial considerations could be taken into account. Professor Hogg indicated that the section would largely be unused because of the political unpopularity of its use. However, it could be used by a majority to pass laws on highly controversial issues which could have a large impact on the people. The Charter is an interesting document and worth a look.

Professor Halevy then discussed the bibliography of the Charter. He handed out a microfiche of what he considered to be a "reasonable" representation of the Osgoode Hall Law Library holdings on the Charter and he also handed out a printed bibliography of the major sources of information on the Charter. Professor Hogg's book, Constitutional Law in Canada, 2nd ed., published by Carswell, contains a chapter on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and is required reading for students of the Charter.

Research in Canadian law is done differently from American research because of the differences in structure. Professor Halevy explained that the cases are reported much more slowly in Canada and therefore commercial services are more heavily relied upon than in America. The case reporting services in Canada digest the cases and many of those are later "reported" in the official Canadian reporters. Finding current binding authority is a bit more of a struggle in Canada than in America because of the methods of reporting.

Legislative history is also different because the government itself is the sponsor and (Continued on Page 6)
Canadian Charter of Rights & Freedoms
(Continued from Page 5)

drafting body of legislation. The comments of
Members in Parliament are not used in the same
way as American Congressperson's comments
because the Members don't have as much say in
the legislative drafting process as in America.

Finally, Professor Halevy suggested that
one need not purchase a special periodical index
because Current Law Index and the Legal
Resources Index provide adequate access to
Canadian periodical literature.

For further information on this program,
including copies of the Charter and
bibliography, please contact Professor Halevy.

Prepared by Theodore A. Potter
University of Toledo Law Library

Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award is
presented for outstanding recognition of
extended and sustained distinguished service to
law librarianship and to AALL. The award is
presented to an individual nearing or following
completion of an active professional career.
Honorees may be recognized for achievement in
a particular area of law librarianship, for ser-
tice to the Association, or for outstanding
contributions to the professional literature. The
individual must be a member of AALL. To
nominate an individual for this award send a
letter to John Edwards summarizing the
individual's career.

Law Library Publication Award

The Law Library Publication Award is
presented to honor achievement in creating in-
house user-oriented library materials
outstanding in quality and significance.
Qualified materials include bibliographies, aids,
guides, pathfinders, maps, newsletters,
s Camp, slides, and software. Publications
which are produced primarily for sale outside
the local clientele or which are offered
systematically for sale in large numbers are not
eligible for this award. Unsuccessful entries
may be submitted for consideration each year,
and new editions may be submitted for new
consideration. To nominate a publication, send
three copies to John Edwards.

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW OUTSIDE OF THE
COURTS

Professor Frederick F. Schauer, Professor
of Law at the University of Michigan Law
School, spoke on constitutional decision-making
which goes on outside of the courts. His
premise was that the decisions made in the
courts are only a small portion of the
constitutional process and that the most
significant constitutional decision-making goes
on in the everyday lives of the American people.
One example comes right from the Constitution: one must be at least 35 years old to run for President of the United States. While it isn’t the dominant thought of most Americans, anyone under 35 who is interested in that office cannot even consider it. Another example is that people may not be subject to involuntary servitude under the 13th Amendment (even though many librarians may feel like slaves!). This kind of constitutional decision-making goes on every day as a result of our form of government. Without this kind of decision-making, our society would fall apart. Many constitutional values are taken for granted but we truly are making decisions based on that document.

Virginia Wise, Reference Librarian at the University of Michigan Law Library, spoke on the need to collect the sources of constitutional decision-making going on outside of the courts. Things like public opinion on constitutional issues should be collected. However, how should it be done and made accessible? The obvious sources of information related to constitutional decision-making include the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents and House/Senate bills and related reports and hearings, etc. These materials are readily accessible in most law libraries. However, no good solutions exist as to collection of the more ephemeral sources of constitutional decision-making. The program raised interesting questions about how we view our Constitution.

Prepared by Theodore A. Potter
University of Toledo Law Library

LAW LIBRARIANS - WHAT IS YOUR QLQ (QUALITY OF LIFE QUOTIENT)?


An inspiring and compelling program was available to conference attendees interested in identifying, evaluating, and improving the quality of life in their jobs. As coordinator and moderator of the panel, the charismatic Donald Dunn, Law Librarian and Professor of Law at Western New England College, set the tone for the lively presentation by first enumerating thirteen factors by which "quality" can be measured. Quoting from an article by Cheryl Price, quality of job life is measured by stability, responsibility, an accurate job description, meaning in the position, leadership, flexibility, support by the administration, clear administrative lines, prestige, professional salary level, growth opportunities, a healthy and comfortable environment, and support services.

A high level in each of these areas is quite a "wish list," which was aptly illustrated by Don's daydreamed conversation with his law school dean, fantasizing high expectations for his library. In essence the message was that in order for the librarian to perform well the governing institution should provide for its professionals all of these elements, categorized as clear direction, job security reinforced by adequate salary, and a positive working environment along with responsibility and a modicum of prestige.
(Continued on Page 8)
Law Librarians - What Is Your QLQ?
(Continued from Page 7)

The next speaker, Marnie Warner, the Law Library Coordinator for the Massachusetts Trial Court Department, elaborated on the point that one's own perception of the working environment can alter the quality of life in different organizations. She added that one greatly enhanced "quality factor" can override a less than desirable factor, tipping the scales in favor of an overall good quality of life. Marnie emphasized that it is important to focus on the full picture. Is the library running smoothly? Are the patrons adequately served?

It is also important to be emotionally happy with a job in order to deal with day to day problems. The less than desirable factors of inadequate office space, the performance of non-professional tasks, and the occupational stress arising from bureaucratic red tape can be offset by a job that is secure, a salary that is good, a work schedule that is somewhat flexible, and a reasonably high level of autonomy. She reinforced that communication between co-workers remains foremost in establishing a good quality of life. It improves and gives importance to the job. Day to day experiences will be gratifying if they work well.

The ever popular Ken Svengalis, the State Law Librarian of Rhode Island and self-appointed LLCA (Law Librarians' Consumer Advocate), addressed the need for law librarians to recognize the greater good resulting from their efforts to improve legal services in the community and to reinforce this purpose with both the governing authority and patrons. The acknowledgement by others of this goal, along with professional performance, affords the law librarian a level of status within an organization regardless of graduate degree, either MLS or JD.

Of equal importance to job satisfaction are autonomy and self-motivation in developing a work day and time to pursue professional activities. Adequately funded attendance at professional meetings is a significant indicator of quality of job life. In most communities the professional law librarian has few peers or colleagues and the networking value of regional and national conferences is vital, as well as the continuing education and technical training offered. In most organizations prominent participation in professional programs is highly valued.

Cornelia Trubey, the Law Librarian for the Boston firm of Ropes and Gray, described a librarian's quality of life as seen from a "window-office" in a big-city law firm. In most firms personnel not engaged in the practice of law for the firm, including the librarian with or without a JD, will be considered support staff. If, however, the librarian is identified as key administrative personnel, one is likely to receive a higher salary, if the firm employs a professional manager.

As law firms are private, profit-making organizations the activities of the librarian may vary with the focus of the firm; however, increasing the speed and efficiency of library operations is the overall goal to be achieved. The users are not generally aware of the functions and processes performed by the librarian but they easily recognize positive results.

Librarians in large law libraries are often overwhelmed by the enormity of a project and the attendant administrative problems. The smaller scale of library activities in a law firm library affords the librarian the opportunity to initiate, develop, and complete substantial projects within a reasonable amount of time. This creates for the librarian a strong sense of accomplishment which in turn elevates the quality of job life.

As an example, Cornelia described the conversion of her library records to an in-house automated system. The accuracy of records and the accessibility of materials was enhanced and, in addition, the level of technological awareness of the librarian was displayed. Contact with other administrative managers in the firm was expanded.

The enthusiasm and energy with which these speakers described their situations clearly indicates that each enjoys a high quality of job life and accentuates Don's very suitable description of each as "untouched by time, dashing good-looking, and enjoying life in the fast lane."
DETERMINE YOUR OWN QLQ

The following is an informal, unconventional, and unrefined quiz highlighting many of the comments presented in the "Law Librarian's Quality of Life" program. Identifying deficiencies may be the first step in the elevation of your QLQ.

Do you regularly schedule your day's activities? Yes  No

Is your salary equal to or above the regional, professional standard? Yes  No

Is your working or office environment desirable? Yes  No

Do you have adequate opportunity to display leadership skills? Yes  No

Is your formal job description accurate? Yes  No

Do you feel secure in your position? Yes  No

Are your support and staffing needs acknowledged and met? Yes  No

Is your level of prominence in the organization equal to your level of responsibility? Yes  No

Do you enjoy a satisfying level of communication with colleagues and co-workers? Yes  No

The responses to these ten questions might offer a clue as to how you perceive your quality of job life. Total the "yes" responses and identify your category as follows:

8-10 - high satisfactory QLQ

4-7 - average QLQ - need improvement to continue employment

1-3 - poor QLQ - search the placement lists, it's time to make a change

Two of the panel participants offered the following as guideposts for knowing when it's time to change your present position:

"When you give it your best year after year and it keeps getting worse and worse." - D. Dunn

"Move on when you stop caring about your work, it is morally corrupting." - M. Warner

Prepared by Joanne Beal
Dayton Law Library Association

TREASURER'S REPORT
OCTOBER 1, 1987

Balance on Hand, January 1, 1987 $2,188.64

Income:
Dues: $3,870.00
Meetings 3,848.00
Miscellaneous 4.50
Interest: 222.90
Exhibitor's Booths 4,937.30
ORALL/MICHALL (AALL) 528.00
Breakfast $13,410.70

$15,599.34

Expenses:
Newsletter: $1,475.04
Meetings 5,190.32
Breakfast (AALL) 519.37
Misc. 1,568.39
(Refunds, "footnotes," core bibliography, grants) $8,753.12

Balance on Hand, October 1, 1987 $6,846.22

C.D. $2,131.43

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Woodruff, Treasurer
The fall meeting of the County Law Libraries SIG was called to order at 11:30 A.M. on October 8th, 1987, by Chair Mary Tekancic, who then called for subgroup reports.

Legislation: Rosemarie Chrisant (Akron) discussed the impact of the recent Ohio Attorney General’s opinion regarding juvenile court fines. The opinion covers only traffic fines collected in juvenile courts. The fines monies are to be distributed on a percentage basis (under O.R.C. Sec. 3375.53) to county law libraries, with no cap on the total amount. Each county auditor should send a breakdown of sources of funds with checks sent to the county law library so that juvenile court distributions can be monitored.

Automation/Computers: Martha Cox (Stark) reported that she had received no responses to her letter requesting computer related news. She also described her library’s experiences with a trial subscription to the Hanna System, an online Ohio and Michigan legislative tracking service. The system is very fast and has very helpful support staff, Martha said. It can provide legislative histories and copies of bills with access by bill number, O.R.C. section or broad subject terms. The Toledo Law Association Library is the only county law library currently subscribing. They use Hanna on an IBM 3101 and charge $1.50 per minute for searches.

Rosemarie Chrisant gave a final report on her automation survey. She received only one additional response after the spring meeting. Anyone interested in a copy of her summary of responses should contact Rosemarie directly. The survey revealed that the IBM is the microcomputer most commonly used in county law libraries and that cataloging, acquisitions, serials and circulation are the activities being automated. Martha Cox added a few comments about the SIRSI software being installed at her library. It allows communication via modem within a 100-mile radius of the library. The Akron Law Library uses Datatrek for cataloging, serials and acquisitions. It also has modem capability.

Quarters and Space: Mary Tekancic (Lorain) noted that four libraries have used the SIG’s notebook of moving and renovation information.

Funding and Law Suits: A letter was read from Jan Novak (Cleveland) regarding the OAG juvenile court opinion. No other lawsuits are pending. Betty Busch (Dayton) reported on a discussion of a proposed unified court management system that took place at the September meeting of the Law Libraries Committee of the Ohio State Bar Association. The proposal, as described in a report from former Chief Justice Frank Celebrezze’s office, would create state-wide funding of county law libraries with coordination through the State Library. Extensive discussion of the far-reaching effects such a change would have on our libraries followed. Loss of local control and discontinuation of private sources of funding would be among the most devastating results. We all need to closely monitor any developments in regard to this proposal.

Membership: Sally Davis (Medina) reported that no new members have been added to the SIG since the spring meeting.

New Business: The first item of new business was the election of officers. Rose Brown (Defiance) will be the Chairperson-elect for 1988. Rosemarie Chrisant will be the SIG reporter to the ORALL newsletter. In subgroup changes, Rosemarie Chrisant will be replaced on the legislation subgroup by Brenda Woodruff.

The spring 1988 meeting of the SIG will be held at the Cleveland Law Library Association and will be hosted by library director Jan Novak. An ad hoc committee of Judith Gill (Wood), Corliss Davis (Akron) and any other SIG members who are interested will prepare a presentation on the unified court management proposal.

Martha Cox asked all SIG members to write letters to West Publishing protesting their recent increase in ultrafiche prices. The cost of one ultrafiche is now $17.00 minus the book return discount and fiche from other publishers is substantially less expensive.
Rosemarie Chrisant reported on the formation of an informal group of northeast Ohio county law librarians. The group met for lunch and a tour of the Stark County Law Library in September and planned to meet at the Medina County Law Library in November.

Corliss Davis offered to share a notebook containing sample county law library handbooks and newsletters. Two SIG members requested it at the meeting and anyone else who is interested should contact Corliss directly. Members are also encouraged to send copies of their publications to the Akron Law Library Association for inclusion in the notebook.

Betty Busch described a proposal by Mead Data Central to promote LEXIS at her library. A discussion followed of local sponsorship of online systems and the extent to which county law libraries should promote commercial ventures.

Mary Tekancic concluded the meeting by offering her library as a clearinghouse for information on audit-related problems. Due to the extensive discussions on other topics at the meeting, there was no time for Mary to present the results of her questionnaire on audit problems. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

Prepared by Corliss C. Davis
Akron Law Library Association

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rose Brown, Librarian at Defiance County, has been asked to serve as Secretary to the NW Ohio Bar Association's newly formed Grievance Committee. This Bar Association encompasses Counties of Defiance, Williams, Henry, Fulton, Putnam, Van Wert, and Paulding. It is the secretary's duty to act as liaison between the complainant and Grievance Committee. Ms. Brown reports that she was asked to serve in this capacity due to her active involvement with the Defiance County Law Library and its Bar.

ORALL GRANTS

The Education Committee was pleased to receive a number of grant applicants to the 1987 fall meeting of ORALL. After much deliberation, the Committee named Andrew Brann of the Columbus Law Library Association and Helen Skuggedal Reed of the Vanderburgh Co. Law Library (Evansville, Indiana) as recipients of the two grants. Congratulations!

Encouraged by membership response, the ORALL Executive Board voted to continue offering two enhanced grants of $150 each for the regular spring and fall meetings of ORALL. Plans are underway for the ORALL spring meeting in Cleveland on May 25-27, 1988. The Education Committee again solicits applications from interested members.

The purpose of the Grants Program is to encourage and aid members in attending the programs and becoming active in ORALL. Although we especially encourage newer members or those who have never attended an ORALL meeting to apply, we also extend an invitation to active members.

Grants will be awarded on the basis of (a) potential for professional benefit from attending this meeting, (b) possibility of future contributions to ORALL, and (c) financial need. To apply, please photocopy and fill out the application form found in this issue of the newsletter and mail it along with a letter of recommendation by April 8 to Marcia Siebesma, chair of the Education Committee. Grant recipients will be notified as soon as possible after all applications have been reviewed.

AALL GRANTS/SCHOLARSHIPS

A grant application is included in this newsletter for AALL Grants and Scholarships. For further information please contact:
Donald J. Dunn, Chair
Scholarships and Grants Committee
American Association of Law Libraries
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"How good do we do what we say we do in our library?" That question was the focus of a program at the Albany Conference on "Evaluating Reference Services." Charles McClure of the Syracuse University School of Information Studies and the co-author of Unobtrusive Testing and Library Reference Services1 spoke on the sometimes controversial social science research technique. Unobtrusive testing involves the use of a proxy with a posed reference question. This technique looks only at the quick fact and bibliographic information aspect of reference. A test in academic law libraries reported in Government Publications Review2 found law librarians 67% on target. The correct answer fill rate is measured by dividing the number of correct answers by the total number of questions. Questions posed by phone were twice as likely to receive a correct answer. The zeal and enthusiasm of the individual librarian was also an important factor in testing. McClure noted that the half-life of an M.L.S. is 4 to 4 1/2 years - much of what is learned is outdated by then. Testing is a good way to pinpoint problems and to help the librarians update their reference skills.

Judging from the remarks of others who attended the program, the internal evaluation techniques used at the State Law Library of Michigan are just as controversial as unobtrusive testing. Barbara Vaccaro arrived at the library on the heels of a consultant's report which found the library lacking in several areas. She had the existing reference staff train her in order to evaluate existing services. An elaborate system now exists for internally checking the accuracy of reference work before results are given to the patron. For all but basic quick answer questions, a detailed reference worksheet must be filled out. A reference librarian does not begin to work on a question until another librarian arrives to cover the Reference Desk. Giving wrong information and poor telephone procedures are corrected on the spot.

Yvonne Wulff of the University of Michigan Medical Library spoke about the different perspective of medical libraries. The level of reference intensity is great. She stressed the importance of written policies as a quality control measure - make sure everyone knows the policies and applies them in a standard fashion.


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