President’s Message

By Joan Bellistri

Law Librarian, Anne Arundel County
Public Law Library

The imminent retirements of Mike Miller, director of the Maryland State Law Library, and Pam Gregory, Law Librarian at the Prince George’s County Law Library, have thrown me a bit. Of course, I want to wish them well and congratulate them on starting a new stage in their lives BUT my first reaction is what will we do without them? On a personal level they have always been there for me from day one. They have offered advice and guided me through crises and projects. Knowing that I had their support as I started my career in a one-person library at the same time that I started work on my M.L.S. made everything so much easier. On another level, Pam and Mike have contributed so much to the law library community in their many leadership roles, both locally with LLAM and nationally in AALL and SCCLI, that it will take an army to replace them.

I cannot imagine my day to day work life without them or AALL and SCCLI without their input. Although, while Mike’s retirement will take him right to Florida, where he intends to actually do nothing for awhile, Pam has promised that she will still be around, and intends to travel, garden and continue with her volunteer work. No matter; we will have to learn to get along without them and at this point I am not looking forward to that.

Should we be afraid that, as those in the library profession progress to retirement, there will not be anyone to continue in the profession? Participants at the Maryland Advisory Council on Libraries Conference I attended in September cited the greying of the library profession as a major problem for libraries. I will admit that I am one of those who are greying (though I do my best to cover it up) and I have no idea when I will even be able to think of retiring.

Still, I was encouraged when I visited the University of Maryland College of Information Studies (CLIS) Web site today and saw that no applications could be accepted for this spring semester due to the large size of the recent fall class.

In keeping with the goal to make our profession more visible and with the thought that we will be needing replacements, I will visit my daughter’s elementary school for career day. I admit that I never have before out of fear of being unexciting and boring, but now I wonder how many other parents will have an action figure like we do. I do know that I love what I do and hope I can impart this love, perhaps, to some future librarians.
LLAM Brown Bag Lunch Program Series

By Scott Stevens
Law Librarian, Baltimore County

Pat Behles of the University of Baltimore Law Library joined the Program Committee in December. Welcome aboard Pat! Your help has been invaluable.

In January, Carol Mundorf and Ballard, Spahr, Andrews, & Ingersoll hosted Jared Goralnick, president of SET Consulting, for the presentation “Tools to Effectively Search the Internet.” In this well-attended brown bag session, Jared presented various search tools for desktop PCs (read more about it on page 16 inside this issue of LLAM News).

Janet Camillo of the Montgomery County Circuit Court Law Library will give an hour-long presentation in February on book preservation. Her three tiered program covers Book Preservation, Basic Book Repair, and Computer File Preservation. Anne Morrison of the Prince George’s County Law Library will join Janet for this presentation. This program has been slated for February 24 at noon, again at Ballard, Spahr, Andrews, & Ingersoll. Lunch will be provided by LexisNexis.

Looking ahead to March, Trevor Rosen of Shapiro, Sher, Guinot & Sandler and Harvey Morrell of the University of Baltimore Law Library will bring us up to speed on Web logs. More affectionately known as “blogs,” these online diaries are becoming important information dissemination tools. On March 16, Trevor and Harvey will talk about what blogs are and how law librarians can benefit from them.

Currently, April and May brown bag sessions are yet to be scheduled and are open to suggestions. If you have any ideas for a program or would like to host one, please let me know by contacting me at slindsey-stevens@co.ba.md.us. Thanks to everyone who has offered their ideas on where to hold the Spring Fling.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who has made our 2004-2005 brown bag programs a success this far. Your support is greatly appreciated!

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Interview with Steve Anderson

By Betsy Sandison

During the week of January 11th, I had the pleasure of interviewing LLAM’s newest celebrity, AALL Board Member-Elect Steve Anderson. I would have preferred to report that the interview took place over lattes and quiche at Sotto Sopra, but due to the realities of schedules/childcare/life, the interview was conducted via phone and email. A great big thanks goes out to Steve for taking time out of his busy schedule to answer the following probing questions. Unless noted by parentheses, the answers are in Steve’s own words.

What possessed you, I mean motivated you, to run for AALL Executive Board?

I was asked so I said yes (laughter)! Of course, I wanted to give back to my community. Though I am overcommitted and should be committed!

What was your reaction when AALL called you to notify you that you had won?

I thought they were joking! I didn’t think that I had a snowball’s chance in he**!

What do you hope to accomplish as a member of the AALL Executive Board?

I’d like to see AALL increase its visibility among other legal professional associations. For example, the LawNet organization, which historically has been a loose affiliation of IT staff members at law firms, recently became the International Legal Technology Association. I think their move makes sense, but I think we should question what impact this might have on AALL, especially as we librarians “morph” into technology roles in our institutions. We need to reach out to the ABA and the Association of Legal Administrators.

Even within your own local community—your neighborhood block, for instance—there’s probably a need for greater librarian "visibility." Will AALL do that? No. Can it motivate people to increase awareness? Yes.

Where do you see AALL/ the profession of law librarianship going?

I really think that the sky’s the limit. Finding information is much more problematic for the average person these days as compared to 10 years ago. Whereas someone with an information need used to look in a book and then maybe on Lexis or Westlaw, these days that person would also need to search multiple databases on the Web, as well as look in several books and CALR files. This is all occurring at the same time that the expectations for immediate delivery—RIGHT NOW!—are very high. This means that the average attorney, or lay person, simply cannot research thoroughly without either needing a lot of time to sift through material or needing consultation with a researcher of some sort. I believe that we are becoming very unique--and very necessary--specialists.

What do you think has been the most challenging thing that law librarians have faced/will be facing?

Let me first say that there is no challenge too great for us to handle. The very minute we begin to say, "no, it can't be done," is the same instant we become irrelevant and start writing our application for unemployment benefits. Of course, there is a range of options available to us when dealing with difficult people and situations, such as substituting available, inexpensive books for unavailable, expensive ones. If we can't get the "perfect answer," we need to work with people to find one which is at least acceptable.

While there are many "micro" issues in our individual institutions, such as budgeting, malcontented co-workers, or technology failures, that make our work life troubling on occasion,
New Associate Director for Research Services at University of Maryland, Baltimore School of Law Library

Janet Sinder joined the staff of the Thurgood Marshall Law Library at the University of Maryland as Associate Director for Research Services in July 2004. She is new to Baltimore, having arrived back in the U.S. last summer after 3 years spent overseas.

Janet received her law degree from the University of Michigan and began her legal career at the Office of the State Appellate Defender in Springfield, Illinois, an agency that is appointed to represent indigent criminal defendants on appeal. After practicing law for several years she returned to study library and information science at the University of Illinois and then took a job at the Duke University Law Library, remaining there until 2001, at which time she was the Library’s Head of Information Services and the Law School’s Web Site Manager. That year, Janet temporarily departed from the law library world and traveled to Dublin, Ireland. There she worked as an Information Specialist at the GSM Association, an international trade association representing mobile phone operators. Her work focused on developing and improving the user interface to the association’s members-only Web site.

While she loved Dublin, and the corporate lifestyle, Janet missed working in law libraries. She also missed the convenience of life in the U.S., particularly the cheap shopping (she adores Target!) and having a car. But she didn’t miss these things enough to give up the chance to take a break between jobs! So, in February of 2004, Janet left

(Continued on page 6)

New Assistant Director for Public Services at University of Baltimore Law Library

In September 2004, Joanne Dugan joined the University of Baltimore Law Library staff as the head of the public services department. Joanne brings a wide range of experience to the job. She received her MLS degree from the University of Washington and her JD from University of Maine School of Law. Prior to joining UB, she was the head of public services at University of Colorado in Boulder. She has also worked in firm and court libraries, taught legal research and writing at University of Colorado, and worked as a library relations manager for West Group.

Joanne’s responsibilities include overseeing circulation, reference, interlibrary loan, government documents, and stack maintenance. She is also active in collection development and serves on the director’s management team, along with the assistant directors for technical and information services. Joanne loves the variety her position brings to her work day. “I’m lucky that I work with such skilled and helpful colleagues. Everyone is an expert in a particular field and has been very generous in sharing knowledge with me. Because I don’t have to get bogged down in the details of a particular function, I have the time to look for ways to increase efficiency and service to our patrons.”

Patron service is the dominant theme for the public services department. The library is open for extensive hours and prides itself on offering reference services for most of those hours. Patrons include faculty and students at the law school, as well as the larger University of Baltimore community, the local bar, and members of the public. “I really enjoy

(Continued on page 6)
Don’t Yell FIRE! In a Crowded Library:  
Reflections on the Prince George’s County Court House Fire

by Anne Morrison  
Assistant Law Librarian, Prince George’s County Law Library

Most people know by now that on November 3, 2004, a fire gutted the Duvall Wing of the Prince George’s County Court House. The Duvall Wing was under construction at the time – no court records were lost, and no court personnel were in the building at the time. Thankfully, no one was killed or seriously hurt.

The occupied portion of the courthouse (where the law library is located) suffered nothing more than some smoke damage, but what if there had been other damages to the building? What if the sprinkler system had come on and soaked all our books? What would we in the law library have done?

Disaster planning is something that every law librarian should think about. Do you have a complete listing of all your library holdings (once known as a “shelf list”)? Do you have accurate records of what you would need to replace, if necessary? What about your “Core Collection” needs? If you could not replace everything at once, what are the most important needs? Do you have a backup of your library records, and where is it stored? In your desk drawer at the office, or is it off-site for safety purposes?

Backup in a “Flash”

Here at the Prince George’s County Law Library, we perform regular “backups” of our records. We belong to OCLC through CAPCON in D.C. for off-site storage of our card catalog, and on-site, all of our SERMAN (SERials MANagement) records and card catalog records are stored on Inmagic databases. I regularly copy the data records from both databases onto a “flash drive” that I store at my home.

Flash drives are available at most computer retailers, and range in price and storage capacity. Currently, flash drives with 128MB of storage cost under $30.00; 1.0GB of storage could cost just over $100.00. (Flash drive costs vary, as do styles – some can store MPG music files and come complete with headphones, while others are featured in pens and even Swiss Army Knives.) Most computers in use today have USB ports that allow use of a flash drive, but if your computer has a CD-Rom burner on it, you could also store your records onto a CD-Rom, just as easily.

The most important point is, have a backup copy of your records and update that backup frequently! Set a regular update schedule – be it weekly, monthly or quarterly, and stick to that schedule! Then take that copy and store it off-site, not in your library.

Core Collection

What is it that your library cannot be without? Would it be the Maryland Code, perhaps a set of COMAR, the Maryland Digest, or Maryland Law Encyclopedia? The immediate needs of each law library will be different. As part of disaster preparation, each library should make an assessment of what materials they absolutely could not do without. Maryland law librarians may be interested in taking a look at the “core collection” list compiled for Maryland County Law Libraries by the Maryland State Law Library.

Consideration of Costs

What would it cost to replace your current holdings? Does your library’s parent organization (whether it is a law firm, academic, or government library) have insurance to adequately cover the law library? Would you have enough funds to replace...
Don’t Yell **FIRE!** In a Crowded Library, continued

(Continued from page 5)

your entire collection or to pay for the professional restoration of damaged volumes? Even if you had the funding, would it be possible to replace everything?

Here in Prince George’s County, we have a comprehensive collection of the Laws of Maryland and superseded Maryland Code volumes. It is doubtful that we could ever replace every volume of that collection. What about your collection of law reviews (there are many that probably are not on Westlaw or Lexis) or those classic treatises such as Poe’s Pleading and Practice that Maryland attorneys still refer to occasionally? Law libraries might not be able to replace some parts of their collections at all, since many titles are no longer available.

As part of the February LLAM meeting, Janet Camillo of the Montgomery County Law Library will present a program on Book Preservation and Repair, and I will discuss Disaster Planning. Please join us!

New Associate Director for Research Services, continued

(Continued from page 4)

her position at the GSM Association and traveled for almost six months. Her journeys took her to Thailand, Cambodia, New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa, and concluded with two months studying French in Paris. Finally, this summer she returned to the U.S. to begin her job at the Thurgood Marshall Law Library and to reacquaint herself with American culture.

In addition to travel, Janet is interested in legal history and research sources for the law of other common law countries. In 1996 she spent four months at Trinity College, Dublin, writing a paper on sources for research into Irish legal history which was published by *Law Library Journal* in 2001. At the Thurgood Marshall Law Library, she manages the Research Services Department as well as teaching in the first year and advanced legal research programs.

New Assistant Director for Public Services, continued

(Continued from page 4)

working with the students at UB. Many of them are older than the average law student and bring a wealth of life experience to the school. They’re very motivated and eager to learn new research skills, and they are truly appreciative of the services we offer.”

The new job has brought Joanne back to the state where she grew up after being away for 25 years. Since leaving Maryland after high school, Joanne has lived in Maine, Washington state, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Colorado. She is an avid gardener and looks forward to gardening in Zone 7 after many years of struggling with Zone 4 and 5 gardens. (For those of you who aren’t gardeners, that means a short growing season and limited plant selection. See the [USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map](http://www.usda.gov/nr/lsgarden/zone_map.html).) She’s also looking forward to beach trips to Rehoboth, Orioles games at Camden Yards, and sailing on the Chesapeake Bay.
Entering the Blog Age

By Trevor Rosen
Librarian, Shapiro, Sher, Guinot & Sandler

Even before starting the Maryland Law blog a couple of months ago, I had already entered the blog age. Some years ago, when the term “blog” was just beginning to surface, I, being a library school student, thought I should check out this new technology. So I did! In fact, I created a simple, crude blog, entitled “The Rosen Family Blog,” for my family. Ecstatic about my new creation, I quickly e-mailed the rest of my family members. They all dutifully checked it out, said, “Wow, that’s cool,” and then promptly forgot it. And so did I.

I forgot about it, that is, until a little while later, when the buzz about blogs began to intensify. Then, like many others, I began to see blogs not just as some cool new technology but as a new mode of communication which held promise as a marketing vehicle, a knowledge management (KM) tool, and a source for serious (not to mention, legal) research. But I’m getting ahead of myself. First, I will provide a definition and a bit of history. What are blogs and why did they come about? Characterized by some as “online diaries,” blogs are essentially scaled down Web sites composed of typically short, chronologically ordered postings. Blogs began to surface because of two parallel trends in the information sector: (1) an explosion in the amount of online content, and (2) a desire on the part of the online consumer to get involved in the creation of online content.

Blogs began to surface because of two parallel trends in the information sector:

1. an explosion in the amount of online content, and
2. a desire on the part of the online consumer to get involved in the creation of online content.

The constant flow of information. At the same time, the Web quickly became not just the province of big business and the media, but of the average person on the street. The average person on the street, though, knows little about HTML coding or JAVA programming. As a result, technology was needed that would permit technology novices to publish to the Web. Web blogs, or blogs for short, helped meet that need.

Now you know a little about blogs, but why should librarians be particularly concerned about them?

I would argue that librarians should be interested in blogs for four primary reasons. The first is that blogs are a new communication medium. On the most basic level, blogs are a new information resource; just as librarians need to understand the unique properties offered by the e-mail medium and the Web medium more generally, so, too, librarians need to understand and be able to exploit the opportunities offered by the new blog medium. We are, after all, information professionals and, as such, we have an obligation to gain at least a passing familiarity with this new information medium.

Second, blogs are a marketing vehicle. Given the relative ease by which they can be created, and given their vast reach—at least theoretically, any online user in the world can be their audience—blogs offer unique potential as a marketing vehicle. Librarians should be aware of this for two reasons. Librarians can use blogs as a means of marketing the strengths of librarians and of librarianship more generally; further, librarians can suggest blogs as a means of marketing the services offered by their host organizations (lawyers, in particular, have been quick to realize the marketing potential of blogs). By doing so, librarians can also leverage their pull within their host organizations.

Third, blogs can be used as a KM tool. The essence of a KM strategy is to figure out a way to get a particular user group to collaboratively share information. As many pundits have pointed out, technology is not the KM solution; the essence of KM is a change in the information sharing culture of a particular organization. Nonetheless, given a healthy information sharing culture, blogs can be an effective tool to increase information sharing among a particular user group. This is true especially for organizations with geographically dispersed offices. Because they can be easily accessed by anyone with a World Wide Web connection and because the learning curve to becoming a master

(Continued on page 8)
blogger is minimal, through the use of blogs individuals in far flung places can suddenly be forged into a collaborative information sharing community. In addition, since most blogs offer the option for users to comment on other user’s postings, blogs provide an ideal collaborative work space.

Fourth, blogs are a source for serious research. Blogs can be useful tools for legal research for two primary reasons. One reason is that because of the nature of the medium, the information on blogs is often updated more often than other information sources (news sources, or even other Web sites). As a result, you’ll often find new information posted on blogs before it is published elsewhere. Another reason is that blogs are essentially “pointer” resources: the postings on blogs provide brief summaries of information with links to where on the Web that information is described in greater detail. Therefore, although you can typically find ready information about a newly published court case, oftentimes a blog entry will provide a link to the full text of the case.

Blogs are a particularly good source for legal research. For whatever reason, the legal community, more so than many other communities, has been quick to realize the research potential of blogs. Many high profile attorneys, experts in their area of law, now publish their own blogs. This in turn has boosted the credibility of blogs as a source for legal research. Many high profile attorneys, experts in their area of law, now publish their own blogs. This in turn has boosted the credibility of blogs as a source for legal research.

This being said, the idea of blogs as a source for serious research certainly has its pitfalls. Anyone who has searched even nominally in the “blogosphere” (as the totality of blogs on the Web has come to be known) realizes that, among relevant postings, one is likely to encounter postings discussing unrelated current events, the author’s political views, and a recipe for teriyaki chicken that the author was kind enough to share. This has to do with the fact that blogs are, after all, a kind of “online diary” of the author, and it is the author’s discretion alone which determines what gets published. After hanging out in the blogosphere for a while, though, you will quickly determine which blogs offer worthwhile content and which don’t. By restricting your searches to these blogs, you will likely come to find blogs an effective source for research.

Have I said enough to make you interested? If the answer is yes, here’s a simple way to get started: First, if you want to find out what blogs are available on the Web, check out Web Link Director, or Globe of Blogs. If you’re interested in checking out what legal blogs (often called “blawgs”) are available on the net, take a look at Bag and Baggage or Blawg Republic. None of these sources are comprehensive, but they’re good starting points. Then, if your interest in blogs is sufficient to make you want to try your hand at creating one, there are a number of technologies out there to help you do just that. PC Magazine has a good article entitled “Blog Tools” which provides a good introduction to the tech tools that are out there. Basically, all of these tools offer ready made templates so all you have to do is choose the template, select a name for your blog and—viola!—you’re essentially done. If you’re like me and you’re looking for something simple and free, Blogger is a good place to start. I created my Maryland Law blog using Blogger in about 10 minutes, and I’m not particularly “tech savvy.” It’s that easy! If you’re looking for something more sophisticated and you’re willing to pay, you can check out Live Journal and Type Pad. I hope this article whets your appetite to learn more. If it does, there are plenty of articles available on the Web to help you learn more about this topic. So, go and learn!

Additionally, you can learn more about blogs by attending the presentation on blogs given by myself and Harvey Morrell on March 16 at 12:00 p.m. at Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP, 18th Floor, 300 East Lombard Street. In the next LLAM newsletter, I will discuss the Maryland Law blog more specifically.
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Differences that matter.

Westlaw.
Interview with Steve Anderson, continued

(Continued from page 3)

there is one overarching issue I find especially troubling. In our drive to move online, we, as a society, are utterly failing to store digital information in any reliable manner. Once everyone gets F.3d online, who will buy the books? What if Westlaw "goes down?" What if you wanted to—gasp!—cancel your Westlaw contract 10 years down the road? Where does someone in 2045 find a copy of the 2005 F.3d case? Until just a few years ago, I think everyone just assumed that libraries would do a good job of keeping information. For print information, this is still true; for digital information, it is not. Someone needs to "mind the store" and guarantee that "born-digital" legal and government information will continue to exist far into the future. Should libraries do this? Perhaps, but I view us as more of a constituent part of a much greater initiative involving publishers, government agencies, and organizations like Archive.org.

What are your own professional goals and how will being on the Board further those goals?

My goal is to just be a pretty good law librarian. Personally, I think that having the opportunities to meet so many other librarians, and learning about the issues they face, definitely will have a positive effect on me. Of course, I didn’t run for a Board position with this perspective in mind. I’ve been given many skills and opportunities because of AALL, and I wanted to repay some of that debt.

What attracted you to law librarianship? How has your image of law librarians changed over the years?

Well, I’ve always worked in libraries—since I was 16, which is more than half my life at this point. At some point deep down, I suppose I knew that I "belonged" in libraries, but I went to law school anyway! Of course, it was shortly after being hired—by YOU!!!—that I realized that this profession was a perfect match for my skills and temperament. I like the ability to complete discrete research tasks so that I have a sense of accomplishment; awaiting the completion of protracted litigation would not be my preference. I also, in a sense and to a certain degree, feel called to serve. For me, there is a more tangible element of service in librarianship than I believe there would be in practicing law.

I think with a younger generation of librarians coming into the profession, there is an even greater understanding of both the fragility and the power of information, especially digital information. Law librarians 10 years younger than I am have had an opportunity to have had home PC’s since they were youngsters. I was introduced to computers in high school; they were introduced to them in kindergarten. I think that will impact all of us—for the better.

Otherwise, I’m not sure that my image has changed any— I think just about everyone else in the profession is smarter and more experienced than I am! Perhaps this makes me look insecure, but I think it reflects highly on the profession—there is a lot of brilliance out there!

What’s next after serving on the AALL Board?

I can’t think that far ahead!

I think with a younger generation of librarians coming into the profession, there is an even greater understanding of both the fragility and the power of information, especially digital information.

I would like to thank Steve again for taking the time out of his busy schedule to be interviewed for this article, and to congratulate him on a monumental achievement that has made all of LLAM proud!
By Janet Camillo
Assistant Librarian, Circuit Court Law Library

I am writing this just after the holiday season, during which I attended a few parties. This year when people asked what I did for a living, being a librarian was not such a turn-off (thanks, I am sure, to the latest librarian action movie—see the review on page 12). But they still ask the inevitable questions about what to read. No amount of hinting that I work in a law library ever works and telling them about the latest issue of Federal Reporter 3rd just doesn't seem right. The general public thinks that all librarians have first hand knowledge of all literature since we love books so much. So I have, over the years, made an effort to familiarize myself with general reading materials. This isn't always easy. It's hard enough to select things for myself, or for my reading group, where I am familiar with everyone's tastes. I've come to rely on some books that fall into the genre of "readers advisories" and thought you might want to know about them too, so we won't let our public down.

My favorite source is Book Lust: Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment and Reason (Sasquatch Books, 2003) by Nancy Pearl, of librarian action figure fame. Pearl's book transcends the average reader's advisory because it is so well written. You get the sense that she really did read the listed books and she provides thoughtful descriptions and lists the books in useful categories like "Three Hankie Reads" and "Shrinks and Shrinkees" that help you find just the right one. She also lists authors not to miss, like Laurie Colwin and Patrick O'Brien. The breadth of her suggestions covers topics as varied as mysteries, romance and science fiction. You get the feeling that she reads and enjoys widely different books. As Will Manley stated in his review in American Libraries (February 2004), "[Pearl] is obviously someone who has spent a lot of time out on the library floor helping real people." One of her reading rules endears her to me: If you don't like a book, you can give up on it after the first 50 pages (less if you are over age 50). I will never again feel guilty about not finishing a book.

There are, of course, many other reading lists, but recently an interesting variation appeared in bookstores. So Many Books So Little Time: A Year Of Passionate Reading (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2003), by Sara Nelson, is a combination memoir and book list. The author conceived the notion of reading a book a week for a year, and writing down her reactions to each book while describing what was going on in her life as she read it. The concept makes for compelling reading as well as a little envy; who wouldn't want to be able to devote that much time to reading. Her selections are very personal and quirky but the book is fun to read and her book choices are interesting and different.

Along similar lines, books by Washington Post book critic Michael Dirda, An Open Book (W.W. Norton, 2003) and Readings, Essays and Literary Entertainments (Indiana University Press, 2000), are interesting book list/memoirs. How Reading Changed My Life (Ballantine Books, 1998), by Anna Quindlen, has also been a favorite of mine. She combines a memoir with a discussion of the books that comforted, inspired, educated and delighted her throughout her life.

I hope these books help you make wonderful selections for your friends and yourselves. If you would like to e-mail me about the books you are currently reading, I will publish a column here on "What LLAM is Reading." Hope to hear from all of you.
Law Librarian Errin Roby Reviews

*The Librarian: Quest for the Spear*

By Errin Roby
Associate Law Librarian, Baltimore County Circuit Court Law Library

The television channel TNT had a large advertising campaign for a movie called *The Librarian: Quest for the Spear*, aired on December 5 (the preview is on the TNT site). Naturally, I was excited to see how our profession would be portrayed. After seeing the movie, I have to say that I was quite satisfied by the plot and the characters. Noah Wyle was charming as “Flynn Carsen,” the Librarian. His job was to protect the priceless historical artifacts stored beneath the public library that employed him. I felt his job was more in line with an archivist than a librarian, but it made for a good story.

The rest of the movie traces his journey to find the Spear of Destiny, a historical artifact that can bestow power to the person who finds all three pieces. The pieces were scattered all over the world, and the Librarian has his trusty reference book to help him. He even has a beautiful female bodyguard (“Nicole Noone,” played by Sonya Walger) to protect him from the Serpent Brotherhood, a group that will kill anyone who keeps them from the spear. The Librarian successfully recovers all three pieces of the spear just in time for a showdown with the Serpent Brotherhood. As expected, our hero wins and the world is saved from evil. My favorite part of the movie was at the end. The Librarian is talking to his mom, played by Olympia Dukakis, who is saying how dull his job must be (sound familiar?). He replies, “Being a librarian is a pretty cool job.”

This movie gets high marks from me just for that one line. Try to catch this movie on TV if you can. It’s campy and fun. Also, a librarian saves the world! If that doesn’t increase our visibility, nothing will!
November Brown Bag: Future of Legal Research

By Susan Herrick
Research Librarian, Thurgood Marshall Law Library

On Nov. 17, 2004, in the final installment of the Maryland State Law Library’s Anniversary Lecture Series, Professor Amy Sloan of the University of Baltimore School of Law addressed a gathering of librarians, lawyers, and other interested parties on “The Future of Legal Research.” Mike Miller, Maryland State Law Library Director, introduced Professor Sloan with a colorful metaphor, likening the proliferation of legal information to “mold in a Louisiana bayou.”

Professor Sloan began her talk by apologizing for her lack of a lead-in joke. She noted that since she had been teaching legal research for only twelve years, she did not yet have any jokes to offer; she further stated that a prolonged Internet search for jokes on the topic of legal research yielded no results. From this she concluded that either there were no such jokes, or that one cannot find everything on the Internet. (Perhaps this should be taken as a challenge by the law library community to find or invent some jokes about legal research!)

Moving to the substance of her lecture, Professor Sloan first commented that for the purpose of assessing the relative prevalence of print versus electronic research, while it is easy to define what constitutes print sources, electronic sources are much more diverse. She opined that the term “electronic resources” should be broadly construed to include Lexis and Westlaw; subscription services such as HeinOnline; sources such as government agency or non-government organization Web sites; general Web resources such as Google; and CD-ROM products. She proceeded to compare recent American Bar Association statistics assessing the relative use by lawyers of print and electronic research techniques; while in 1997 half of the lawyers surveyed in firms with 75 or fewer lawyers stated that they never used Lexis, Westlaw, or the Internet for research, in 2001 the statistics showed a dramatic increase in the use of electronic resources as she broadly defined them. She noted that the E-Government Act of 2002, P.L. 107-347, requires, among other things, that the federal courts place their dockets and opinions online in searchable format; she further noted that many types of government information are beginning to be available only electronically. Prof. Sloan concluded that electronic research is steadily gaining prominence and that there is no reason to expect that this trend will be reversed or even slowed down.

Prof. Sloan identified three significant effects of the trend toward more extensive use of electronic materials. She characterized the first as “the paradox of both more and less access to information.” She theorized that as people tend to use electronic sources first, books became “not available” because they are not in fact used; she stated that perception is the issue, and that print is effectively excluded if no one thinks of trying to use it as an information source. The other part of the paradox is the increase in the gross amount of information, such as that available on the Web, which as we all know does not necessarily equal better access to more useful information. She further observed that as information becomes more dispersed and fragmented, access is actually decreased, and further cited the transient nature of information on the Web as having the practical effect of limiting access to information.

In Professor Sloan’s opinion, a second effect of the electronic revolution is the growing tendency to treat all information sources as the same. She described her law student researchers...
Holiday Madness

By Scott Stevens
Law Librarian, Baltimore County Circuit Court Library

For those of you who could not make it to LLAM’s December holiday party held at the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court Law Library on the evening of Midnight Madness in Annapolis, you missed a fine time. The light rain and difficult commute (1-3 hours for the Baltimore and Washington, D.C. contingents) did not dampen the holiday spirits of our community.

About 35 folks turned up for the delicious food, the silent auction, and, most importantly, the great company. Attendees bid on a variety of items including: tickets to the Charles Theatre in Baltimore, plush and decorative toy lambs, Greg Otto’s Cathedral of Books poster, handcrafted “bookish” earrings, truffles, wines, and more. The prized LLAM mascot and other items generated a lively competition, and winners were envied by all. The auction netted $534.

The Honorable Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, joined us for the evening. His warmth and humor helped spread the holiday cheer. LLAM extends our thanks to Justice Bell for his generous participation in the silent auction.

I’d like to thank Joan Bellistri and Nancy Wallace of Anne Arundel Circuit Court Law Library for organizing, hosting, and otherwise making this grand event happen. You did a great job!

I also want to thank newsletter editors Susan Herrick and Jenny Smith for photographing the event. Finally, thank you, Linda Hutchinson and Wendy Brown, for your generous support.
January Brown Bag: Internet and Desktop Search Tools

By Jenny Smith
Librarian, University of Maryland School of Law Library

LLAM held a workshop on using “Desktop and Internet Search Tools” at the brown bag event on January 24, and attracted over two dozen attendees. The guest speaker, Jared Goralnick, founder of SET Consulting, demonstrated specific search tools for computer users to conduct more efficient searching in two spaces—the Internet and the local network—during his interactive, “user-friendly” presentation. Jared handed out detailed instructions so attendees could take his tips back to the office to practice them.

To speed up Internet searching, Jared recommended all things Google, as well as Dave’s Quick Search Deskbar. First, he suggested downloading the Google Toolbar, and taking advantage of its features, such as the ability to highlight search terms and to search on a specific site or the whole Internet. With the Google Toolbar in every browser window, I am empowered to search the esteemed Google without opening another browser window, and block pop-ups at the same time.

Next, Jared emphasized the value of Google’s Advanced Search page, which allows you to hone your search results with various limits, including by specifying a file type, and searching within a specific site or for similar sites. Although the default mode is to display 10 search results at a time, Jared pointed out that you can increase the display to as many as 100 results, simply by changing Google “Preferences.” Users who tend to scroll rather than click to view results would prefer this option to increase the results display, since this feature widens the results “net” on a single page. Jared pointed to additional options for efficient Google Internet searching: Google Images to search for images by search term, type and size; Google Groups to search USENET discussion group archives; and Google News to access articles from select media sources. Also, a member of the audience reminded us of the exciting new feature, Google Scholar, used to search Web-based scholarly literature, including peer-reviewed publications and dissertations. There is even a place on the site to request that literature be included in Google Scholar.

Last but not least on Internet searching, Jared revealed the power of a second toolbar that resides on the operating system’s taskbar, Dave’s Quick Search Deskbar (DQSD). DQSD allows you to search sites using abbreviations for various selected Web sites, including search engines like Yahoo! and Google. For example, to search Dictionary.com for the term “rejoinder,” type “dic rejoinder” into the search box and press enter. DQSD opens your browser for you and brings up the definition on Dictionary.com.

Finally, Jared suggested full-text desktop searching to find information faster on a personal computer or network. The full-text desktop search engine allows you to search on a subject in all files stored on your local network. Similar to an Internet search engine, a desktop search engine does not require the user to know exactly where or in what format the information is saved. He demonstrated two tools for conducting desktop searches: MSN Desktop Search Beta and Google Desktop Search. Jared mentioned that full-text desktop searching has implications for privacy, security, and liability, and said that interested desktop searchers should check with a network administrator before searching an employer’s local network, but these issues reached beyond the scope of his presentation.

This informative LLAM program, “Desktop and Internet Search Tools,” covered a handful of the hottest information search tools and tips. Thanks go out to Jared Goralnick for sharing these insightful goodies with us! Considering the rapid development of innovations in search technology, efficient searching is a program topic LLAM members will find beneficial again and again.
Future of Legal Research, continued

(Continued from page 13)

who struggle to distinguish between types of authority, such as statutes and regulations, or between cases from different jurisdictions; she theorizes that the fact that all the documents appear the same on the computer screen, with no need to visualize a different set of books, or to move to a different part of the library, has impeded researchers’ ability to distinguish between types of authority. She also referred to a study by Coleen M Barger, “On the Internet, Nobody Knows You’re a Judge: Appellate Courts’ Use of Internet Materials,” 4 J. App. Prac. & Process 417 (2002), that showed a rapid increase in the number of Web sites being cited in judicial opinions. She cited as examples two cases from the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals: United States v. Land, Winston County, 221 F. 3d 1994 (11th Cir. 2000), in which the court cited a Geocities Web site as the source for information regarding the legality and illegality of cockfighting among the states; and Bourgeois v. Peters, 387 F. 3d 1303 (11th Cir. 2004), in which the court cited Wikipedia as the source for statistics related to the raising and lowering of the Department of Homeland Security’s threat advisory level. Noting that alternative sources existed for both types of information, Prof. Sloan observed that veteran legal professionals, as well as students, often feel that any information obtained electronically is superior to that obtained by more traditional methods.

A third and related effect of the increasing convenience of and reliance upon electronic sources, according to Prof. Sloan, is the blurring of the distinction between factual and legal research. Citing Frederick Schauer and Virginia J. Wise, Nonlegal Information and the Delegalization of Law, 29 J. Legal Stud. 495 (2000), she posits that both federal and state court judges are increasingly citing and relying upon nonlegal sources, including but not limited to news sources and academic and non-academic periodicals, often apparently with little regard to the reliability of the information sources. One prominent example she cited is Bush v. Gore, 531 U.S. 98, 103 (2000), in which the United States Supreme Court cited statistics on voting derived from Associated Press Online and the Omaha World Herald. She cited additional cases in which judges conducted extensive Internet factual research and theorized that the second and third trends will eventually lead to appellate judges making decisions based on facts not in the record.

In response to a question from the audience, Prof. Sloan addressed the further change in the area of unpublished as compared to published court opinions. She observed as an example that the 80 percent of federal cases formerly described as “unpublished” are now referred to as “non-precedential,” which makes sense in view of the fact that many of these cases are in fact published both electronically or even in print, in the West publication Federal Appendix.

Professor Sloan concluded her talk by offering several recommendations for how legal research professionals can assist the lawyers, law students, and others who are seeking to grapple with the issues raised by the proliferation of electronic information. She suggested that legal researchers be advised not to assume that electronic research will always be easier, even though it may often appear more convenient than print research; that researchers should not assume that search is always the best method of conducting legal research; and that they keep the hierarchy of authority firmly in mind as they conduct research. She further suggested that legal researchers constantly remind to critically examine Internet sites for currency and source reliability, and that they keep paper copies of any Internet sources that they intend to cite; she noted that some courts are beginning to require this, and predicted that courts will begin to incorporate this requirement into their procedural rules.

Prof. Sloan’s remarks were received with great interest by the audience, to whom Mike Miller in his introduction paid homage as “those who add value to legal information for our patrons.” Her speech served as a vivid reminder that legal information professionals must remain in touch with the ways in which our clients access and use information.
Things are Bigger in Texas

By Monica M. Ortale, M.L.I.M., J.D.
Faculty Services & Reference Librarian
The Fred Parks Law Library
South Texas College of Law

"Things are Bigger in Texas!" Just take a look at the giant sized boots outside North Star Mall. A tribute to just two of my not so secret vices, shopping and shoes! San Antonio has fabulous shopping, and La Villita is next to the Hilton, a complex of 27 restored buildings on the site of a Coahuiltecan Indian Village. Each building showcases various artists. There's painting, jewelry, pottery and beautiful weavings, all unique to the region.

Just a short trolley ride down Commerce St. is El Mercado, a veritable warehouse of pottery, and then there's the farmer's market. If you don't get enough to eat browsing the stalls, then head to the restaurants. La Margarita is my favorite, and I can picture it now as the colorful waiter carries the sizzling fajitas platter, the steam streaming behind and, oh, the aroma!

Ah, but I digress. For those who love shopping for footwear, there are marvelous bootmakers. Try Lucchese, hand made bootmakers since 1883, or Crazy Horse custom boots, both in San Antonio.

For me, shoes are everything, and the factory outlet shoe stores are an option. But, if you want something closer to the convention center, then Dillard's & the shops in RiverCenter have a wonderful assortment. When all are tried on and bought, there's nothing like relaxing at a table on the Riverwalk level, watching the tourists and the riverboats, sipping a Starbucks coffee, knowing that the bags surrounding you are full of shoes just waiting for the right occasion, like, the General Business meeting.

Supporting New Professionals: the AALL Annual Meeting Grants

By Paddy Satzer
AALL Grants Committee Chair

The AALL Grants Program provides financial assistance to law librarians or graduate students who hold promise of future involvement in AALL and the law library profession. Funds are provided by vendors, AALL, and AALL individual members. Grants are awarded to cover the Annual Meeting registration fee or the registration fee for workshops presented at the Annual Meeting. Preference is given to applicants who are new to the profession and active in AALL or one of its chapters.

The AALL Grants Program began in 1952 and is one of the oldest and most successful AALL programs. More than 1,000 librarians have received funding to assist them in attending AALL educational activities. Many of those recipients are leaders in the profession today. For additional information, check out the application on the Association's Web site.

In 2001, the Minority Leadership Development Award was created to assure that AALL's leadership remains vital, relevant and representative of the Association's diverse membership. The Award provides up to $1,500.00 toward the cost of attending the Annual Meeting, an experienced AALL leader to serve as the recipient's mentor, and an opportunity to serve on an AALL committee during the year following the monetary award. For additional information, check out the application on the Association's Web site.

Applications for both AALL Grants Programs must be received at the Association's headquarters by April 1, 2005.
LLAM Placement Committee is Here to Help

By Kirstin Nelson
Reference Librarian, Piper Rudnick

We've all been there at one time or another….the job hunt. Whether you are looking for a new position, or your employer is looking to fill a position, the LLAM Placement Committee is here to help. The goals of the committee are to assist you before, during, and after your search. This month the focus will be on looking for a position. Next month’s newsletter will contain advice on filling an open position in your library.

Before Your Search

Before you get started is the time to take stock of where you've been and where you want to go. It is essential to have a clear idea of what type of job best fits your skills. Often the first question you will encounter in your job hunt is, “What do you want to do?” If you don’t have a good answer, people will be unable to effectively help you. Are your skills more focused on technical service or public service? Do you wish to make a change in the kind of library work you do? What kinds of training or additional education might you need to find the perfect position for you? These are all questions that you must ask yourself, and have answers for, before starting on your hunt for a new job.

People often speak of networking during a job search; however, networking should take place long before the search begins. One perfect way to network within the library community is to become active and participate in LLAM functions. Frequently job openings, especially with private employers, are not listed in newspapers or on Internet Web sites. The best way to find out about these positions is through a network of professional colleagues. These contacts must be in place prior to beginning your search.

It is essential that you polish up your resume and cover letter, as well. Be sure to add any new skills or job duties. It is a good idea to create several different versions – for print, for e-mail, and for completing online forms. There are many Web sites and books available that can help in creating an effective resume or updating your current one. Also, use the people around you. Supervisors or co-workers can give valuable advice on improving your resume.

Deciding where to look for job advertisements can be quite daunting. Today, because there are so many different Web sites that list jobs, you can spend hours combing through page after page. Fortunately, there are a handful of great sites for law librarians to consult. Depending on whether or not you are willing to relocate, you actually have quite a few options. Probably the most commonly used site for law librarians is the AALL Job Hotline. This is a great resource if you want to look for jobs all around the country. If you prefer to stay in your local area, or want to focus your search geographically, you will find that many of the AALL chapters list job openings on their Web sites, as well. One that is available in this area is the LLSDC jobline. The Special Libraries Association is also a good place to look for law library jobs. If you are willing to broaden your search to other types of libraries, the sites of ALA and its various chapters are also a good place to look. It is also important not to overlook the tried and true -- the newspapers. Both the Baltimore Sun and Washington Post frequently contain law library job advertisements in their Sunday editions. You can also search these online for free.

During Your Search

Once you have started to send out your resume, it is important to stay engaged in the process. Just sending out a resume or two isn't enough. You should follow up to be sure that your resume has reached the appropriate people. Continue to talk to your contacts and to
reach out to those that can help you. Promptly respond to e-mail or phone messages from companies that want to set up an interview. Don't assume that every e-mail message you send is received and read. Spam and computer virus-generated messages comprise a large portion of e-mail traffic today. Many companies have responded to this problem by using filtering software in an attempt to separate the "good" mail from the "bad." It is possible that your message and resume may be deleted or diverted by one of these electronic gate keepers; thus, it is a very good idea to follow up via phone or regular postal mail. But remember, be politely persistent and do not call employers that specifically request "no phone calls" in the job advertisement.

Prior to interviewing for a new job, it is a good idea to write out some ideas and thoughts about what you want to convey to the interviewer. It is even a good idea to practice giving answers to possible interview questions. Again, colleagues are a great resource for this. They understand libraries and the kinds of questions and answers that will get a potential employer interested in you.

**After Your Search**

Remember that once you have been hired for your new law library position, the work has just begun. Stay involved in your professional organization and/or join new groups. Go to conferences, workshops, seminars, and monthly meetings. Work on committees, if at all possible. You will continue your professional growth, and maintain those important connections. Consider writing, teaching, and speaking to further enhance your marketable skills. You will be more successful professionally if you can write well and are comfortable speaking in front of groups. Remember, we all job hunt many times during our professional career. By following these tips and keeping active in the profession, you will be ready next time you decide to take another step in your career.
LLAM MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

LLAM membership information is online at: http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/llam/membership.htm

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Would you like to receive LLAM mailings at (circle one): HOME or WORK? 
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Which LLAM Committee(s) are you interested in working on this year? 

Please check the type of membership for which you qualify:

____ ACTIVE INDIVIDUAL MEMBER: Any person officially connected with a legal and/or government publications collection, or who has had such a connection within the past three years, may become an Active Individual Member upon approval of the Membership Committee and payment of annual dues.

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Any law library wishing to become an individual member MUST fill out the following additional information:

Do you provide interlibrary loan services (circle one)? YES or NO
Where should someone pick up an interlibrary loan from your library?

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During which hours is your library open:

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PLEASE SEND THIS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND A CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO "LLAM" TO: 
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Phone: (410) 752-9700 * Fax: (410) 727-5469 * E-Mail: jhessenauer@tydingslaw.com

REMINDER: YOU MUST RETURN YOUR APPLICATION WITH DUES BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2004, IN ORDER TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY. THANKS!
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Requesting Submissions for LLAM Newsletter

The LLAM Newsletter Committee welcomes submissions from LLAM members on a variety of engaging topics, including but not limited to legal research tips, member news, and local events. Submit your contribution by April 15 for inclusion in the May 2005 issue!

The LLAM Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Law Library Association of Maryland, a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries. LLAM members are the most important part of this newsletter. The articles appearing herein are by us and for us. We encourage all members to submit articles to LLAM News. Please share your experiences and your insights into our profession. The editors will be glad to assist with the process of bringing your ideas to print.

Send articles, letters to the editor, news updates, advertising inquiries, photographs, comments, and suggestions to the Newsletter Committee Co-Chairs Susan Herrick and Jenny Smith, preferably via e-mail. Photographs and print-only materials are also welcome by post mail.

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The LLAM Newsletter is distributed by mail as a benefit of membership. Electronic archives are available on the LLAM Web site.

For membership inquiries, please visit the LLAM Membership page or contact Membership Committee Chair Jean Hessenauer by e-mail at: jhessenauer@tydingslaw.com.

LLAM is on the Web!

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