President’s Message

By Scott Stevens
Associate Librarian
Baltimore County Circuit Court Law Library

Welcome 2006! What will you bring?

Among other things, a new Maryland General Assembly session and a brief extension of the Patriot Act, as well as the first full year of the new bankruptcy laws. Additionally, the new year brings with it yet another new Supreme Court Justice. As I write this, John Roberts, who was confirmed as Chief Justice late last year, has heard his first few cases, and Samuel Alito is being approved by the Senate in his nomination to replace retiring Justice Sandra O’Connor.

The General Assembly promises to start off on a raucous note, though not for the same reason as the previous three sessions. Jockeying, pardon the pun, for position on bringing casino-type gambling to Maryland does not seem to be getting the same press this year as it did in previous years. Instead, there seems to be more noise regarding certain bills vetoed last year. Specifically, the vetoes of the minimum wage bill and the so-called “Wal-Mart” bill as well as bills allowing for extending voting procedures have been overturned in the early days of the legislature. Perhaps once we are through this rough patch, the political waters of Annapolis will not be as choppy this election year.

In other areas, I am happy to say that I am seeing and meeting more and more LLAM members at every program we conduct. I am sure this is due in large part to the excellent programs Pat and her committee selected and worked so hard to set up for us. Our December event at the Senator Theatre truly was a delight, from the excellent hors d’oeuvres and refreshments to the screening of the latest Harry Potter movie.

It seems as if I see a new face at every function. I am sincerely glad that LLAM continues to provide such useful resources and networking events for our members. I genuinely hope that these functions will help spur more of our members to participate in LLAM activities.

We have such a wonderfully diverse membership that we warmly encourage to participate in LLAM activities. Do you have an idea for a program you would like to present? Or an idea for a newsletter article? Perhaps your idea seems commonplace to you and you feel that everybody already knows about it, but chances are that everybody would learn something new. The LLAM Board and Committee members look forward to hearing from you.

Let us look forward to the promises of 2006, and let us make good things happen!
LLAM Lunch Program Series

ON FEBRUARY 15TH, JOIN LLAM FOR LUNCH AND A PROGRAM, COURTESY OF BNA.

Chuck Knapp, indexing manager for the Legal Services Publishing Group and Tax Management, will present “Indexes, Taxonomies and the Google Generation: What You Don’t Know Will Hurt You.” The program is based on the results of a usability study that Mr. Knapp conducted with students from DC area law schools. He compared users’ success rates and completion times for researching a variety of issues using an index or conducting full-text searching. In his presentation Mr. Knapp will describe his study’s methodology and his findings that index searching is both faster and more successful than text searching. This program was part of a panel discussion at AALL in San Antonio which got rave reviews from a LLAM board member.

PLACE: MILES & STOCKBRIDGE, PC, 10 LIGHT ST., BALTIMORE.
RSVP: PAT BEHLES 410-837-4583, PBEHLES@UBALT.EDU BY 2/13.

February Program

“Indexes, Taxonomies and the Google Generation,”
Feb. 15 at 12:00p.m.
Miles & Stockbridge, PC, 10 Light St., Baltimore.

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LLAM January Program: Ergonomics in the Workplace

By Carol Mundorf
Librarian/Information Manager
Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP

On January 11, Chris Esgro, Occupational Safety Associate at the Environmental Health & Safety Office of Ergonomics at the University of Maryland - Baltimore, presented an interesting and informative program on “Ergonomics in the Workplace” at the University of Maryland Law School.

Ergonomics, Mr. Esgro said, had its beginnings in the military and took off with the development of mass production facilities. As baby boomers in the workforce began to age, the correlation between specific kinds of tasks and specific kinds of injuries, as well as the high cost of workers’ compensation, became apparent. During the 1980s and 1990s, programs began to develop to address these concerns.

Mr. Esgro focused on work stations used by librarians and office workers in general. He emphasized the importance of what he called a “neutral position” of the forearms, i.e., wrists and hands aligned with elbows and parallel to the floor. Elbows should be close to the body and supported by armrests. Mr. Esgro emphasized that many problems are caused by the failure to use armrests, including numbness and tingling in the hands and arms. The head and neck should be balanced, and the shoulders should be relaxed. The top of the computer monitor should be at or just below eye level. The worker should avoid slouching, reaching, twisting, and hunching over. Feet should be flat on the floor (foot rests of the appropriate height can assist when necessary), and the lower back should be flush with the back of the chair. Telephones and other frequently used equipment should be within arm’s length since having to reach can result in neck and back problems. Those who design work areas with ergonomics in mind usually produce one design to accommodate the physical dimensions of most workers and then tweak them to address individual variations in size and specific health concerns.

Bad habits and fatigue can prevent a good work area design from working well for an individual. Mr. Esgro stated that his job often involves coaching individuals to adopt better habits. In order to show workers how they may be deviating from the best way to sit and work, he often photographs them. Some problems are caused by workers’ inheriting equipment from a previous employee without adjusting it to make sure that it accommodates a good working position.

Mr. Esgro demonstrated the optimal seated position and allowed us to photograph him to illustrate this article. He also showed us some hand exercises and provided us with the following references. A more complete discussion of a model work area along with an illustration can be found at http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/computerworkstations/positions.html. Additional information can also be found at http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ergonomics. For a good but somewhat technical overview of the field, Mr. Esgro recommended Mark S. Sanders and Ernest J. McCormick’s Human Factors in Engineering and Design, 7th ed., N.Y.: McGraw-Hill, 1993. Mr. Esgro promised to supply his power point presentation to post on LLAM’s website.
I grew up in an inner city area in Bridgeport, Connecticut. That background and the service orientation of my parents, a social worker and a nurse, encouraged me to go to law school with the goal of practicing poverty law. I attended college at the University of Bridgeport and then went to University of Virginia for law school. Charlottesville was quite a change from Bridgeport! I worked at the Legal Aid office during law school and learned about the problems of rural poverty. I then went to work for Neighborhood Legal Services in the Anacostia area of D.C. and later worked for Legal Aid in D.C.

At the same time as I was developing my legal background, I was working pretty constantly in libraries. I started in high school as a "page" in the public library and continued through college; I worked first in the children's room, then in reference, and finally in the cataloging department, where I finally discovered that the expert cataloger everyone deferred to named "Elsie" was really LC (Library of Congress)! During law school I continued working in reference, and my first job out of law school was as the Research Librarian at my law school library.

I then moved into my legal phase. While with Neighborhood Legal Services, I handled all types of civil cases and eventually specialized in public benefits law and family law. At Legal Aid D.C., I worked in the housing unit. I worked as a lawyer for seven years until having two children inspired me to take a break and eventually to go to library school at the University of Maryland.

While in library school, I took a part-time job with a law firm, and upon graduation I became the head librarian. I stayed with Linowes and Blocher for eleven years and then moved on to the Arlington Circuit Court library, fondly known as the Walter T. McCarthy Law Library. I finally shifted over to Montgomery County as the Assistant Librarian, where I continue to work with the public and feel that my legal background helps me deal with the reference questions that are posed by our patrons.

Outside of legal and library work I jog, mainly so that I can participate in the annual Hein Fun run at AALL! I also work as an aerobics instructor, volunteer at a therapeutic riding stable, and enjoy reading and my book club.
Franchising Resources

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

Franchising law in Maryland is governed by The Maryland Annotated Code, Business Regulation Article 14-201, and applicable regulations at COMAR 02.08.02.01. These laws largely take their lead from the federal regulation, 16 CFR 436.1, promulgated by the FTC in 1972, which imposes disclosure requirements on the sale of franchises. For an overview of the rule, see this summary from the FTC.

The FTC rule requires the seller of a franchise to disclose to the prospective buyer basic information—arranged in a standardized form—about the franchise. The FTC has ruled that a franchisor can use either the FTC format or the more common Uniform Franchise Offering Circular (UFOC) format developed by the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA). The UFOC format consists of a list of 23 disclosure items. For more background see "Franchising 101." Although the FTC rule requires disclosure to a potential franchise buyer, it doesn't require you to file the form with the FTC. As such, there's no database on the FTC website which affords you access to these documents. Moreover, even though Maryland does require the franchisor to file with the state, these documents are not online. The only online resource for these documents seems to be a vendor called Frandata.com. Frandata.com sells UFOC’s for typically around $220.

If you don't need the info right this minute, you may be able to get it free from the Securities Division of the Maryland Attorney General's Office. If you're just interested in locating the franchise agreement (and not the UFOC) you might get lucky finding this online, simply by searching using a regular search engine like Google. (Thanks to Andy Zimmerman for getting me started on this).
At the Reference Desk

Compiled by Janet Sinder
Associate Director for Research Services
University of Maryland School of Law

This column, new to LLAM News, will highlight interesting reference questions received by Maryland law librarians. If you have any interesting reference transactions you’d like to see included in this column, please send them to me at jsinder@law.umaryland.edu.

Joanne Dugan sent the following from the University of Baltimore Law Library Reference Desk:

A patron recently came to the library to research how to fight a traffic ticket. She had been cited for failure to obey a traffic signal, in violation of Md. Tr. Code Ann. §21-201. While I’m sure that she was simply hoping to find some help on the procedural aspects of fighting the ticket, she ended up with a much stronger argument than she could have dreamed of: it seems the law itself lapsed on September 30, 2004! Here’s what we found:

§21-201(a)(1) reads: “Obedience required. … [T]he driver of any vehicle … shall obey the instructions of any traffic control device applicable to the vehicle and placed in accordance with the Maryland Vehicle Law.” The historical notes indicate that the most recent amendment, 2002 Md. Laws ch. 549, repealed and reenacted subsection (a)(1) without change. An Editor’s note points out that ch. 549 also contained a sunset provision that “at the end of September 30, 2004, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.” A search of the session laws for 2004 and 2005 show that no further action has been taken by the General Assembly. In other words, the law requiring motorists to stop at red lights expired over a year ago. Oops!

So what happened? It looks like the General Assembly wanted to enact legislation concerning HOV lanes. It chose to do this by repealing §21-201 and then reenacting it exactly as written, but with additional language concerning HOV added at the end. No doubt the sunset provision was intended to apply only to the HOV language, but in fact it explicitly refers to “this Act,” which included the reenactment of the basic “Obedience required” language.

Should you now feel free to treat red lights as mere suggestions? Well, in addition to practical considerations, there is a pretty strong argument that the red light law survived the sunset provision of chapter 549. If the session law both repealed and reenacted §21-201, then wouldn’t the sunset provision have applied to the repeal as well? In other words, the repeal of §21-201 lapsed on September 30, 2004, leaving the old law in place. Since the old law has the exact same language as the new law (absent the HOV language) you still have to obey red lights.

Going from recent statutes to very, very old cases, the following is a true story from the Reference Desk at the Thurgood Marshall Law Library. . . .

A patron came to the Reference Desk with this citation:

Chapleyne of Greye’s Inn, Y.B. 2 Hen. IV, f.8, pl.40 (1400).

(Continued on page 7)
Having read my Shakespeare, and knowing a bit about English legal research, I had a good hint that this was a reference to English materials, and in fact the cite to Y.B. is to the Year Books, one of the earliest forms of English case reports. Knowing this, though, and finding the document itself, are two different matters.

The Year Books were manuscripts published from 1272-1535, and report pleas and debates in cases, rather than actual court rulings. They are all in Law (or Norman) French. Some have been translated, but many have not been, and for many there is no modern reprint.

The best place to begin looking for Year Books is the Selden Society publication series. The Selden Society was founded in 1887 “to encourage study and advance the knowledge of the history of English Law.” It publishes annual volumes of source materials such as law reports and court records. The volumes of the Year Books published by the Selden Society are accompanied by facing pages of English translation, making them extremely useful for those of us who are no longer fluent in Law French.

Unfortunately, the Year Book of Henry IV we needed is not included in any Selden Society volume, so it was necessary to look elsewhere. There are other reprints and translations of the Year Books – for example there are Year Books from the Reign of King Edward I and King Edward III that were published by H.M.S.O. in England in the 19th century and which are held by the libraries at both University of Maryland – College Park and Johns Hopkins. But again, nothing like this exists for poor Henry IV.

Finally, from a Google search, I discovered that the Rutgers University Law Library not only has a very helpful research guide to English legal research, they also own a copy of the "Maynard edition" (1679), a reprint of the Year Books. Paul Axel-Lute, who wrote the guide, was kind enough to fax me a copy of the case I needed, whose abbreviation, 2 Hen. IV, f.8, pl.40, stands for Plea number 40 in Folio 8 from the second year of the reign of Henry IV. Whether it will be useful to the patron is another matter, since it consisted of approximately 3 lines of text in Law French!

Are you on the LLAM Listserv?

If not, you’re missing out on items of interest to local law librarians as well as the opportunity to request and receive help and advice from your local colleagues!

If you’d like to sign up for the Listserv, just go to the LLAM Homepage. http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/llam/

From the drop-down menu, which starts with "Site Menu," select “Listserv” and follow the instructions to subscribe.
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LLAM Member News

By Susan Herrick
Research Librarian
University of Maryland School of Law

LLAM Members Jenny Smith, Trevor Rosen, and Jim Gernert were faculty members at a National Business Institute (NBI) seminar held November 28th on Internet legal research, entitled "Find it Free and Fast on the Net." Topics covered in the program included traditional legal research resources as well as general Internet information and investigative resources. The seminar attracted over 30 attendees, including a variety of legal professionals from across the state.

LLAM congratulates Karen D.M. Smith on her retirement! She is leaving February 1st after 39 years as the Law Librarian for the Montgomery County Circuit Court Law Library. (Don’t forget, Karen, about LLAM’s new “retired member” membership category!)

The Prince George’s County Circuit Court welcomes new Law Librarian, Tonya E. Baroudi. Ms. Baroudi has 17 years of law library experience and obtained her Master’s Degree in Library and Information Science from the Catholic University of America in 1997. Ms. Baroudi was formerly employed with Keller and Heckman LLP.

Kirstin Nelson has resigned her position at DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary to accept a position as Library Manager at Blank Rome LLP in Washington, D.C. We will miss you, Kirstin!

Aviva Adler, who just joined DLA Piper, is a recent transplant from the Pacific Northwest (Seattle). She did her undergraduate work at the University of Oregon in Eugene, and got her MLIS from Simmons College GSLIS in Boston. Aviva’s most recent position was as a solo librarian supporting attorneys and lobbyists at Manatt Phelps & Phillips in Washington, DC. She is thrilled to have a great research position, without the 3-4 hour daily commute to DC! Welcome, Aviva.

LLAM also welcomes new member Dawn Adair Johnson, who joined Hogan & Hartson LLP in October 2005 as a Research Analyst in the Baltimore office. Dawn received her B.A. degree in English from Indiana University in 1987. She received her Juris Doctor degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in 1991. Prior to joining Hogan & Hartson, Dawn was Librarian at the Washington, D.C. office of Pepper Hamilton LLP. Prior to Pepper, she was a government contractor and was in charge of the Department of Labor’s Law Library.

Edy Butler has left her position at the Howard County Circuit Court Law Library.

The Eighth Annual Maryland County Law Library Conference took place on October 21, 2005, at the Office of the Attorney General. Beverly Rubenstein hosted the group of fourteen, which included librarians, law clerks, and court administrators from eight different libraries. They enjoyed an address by Attorney General Joseph Curran and a talk by Steven Anderson, the new Director of the Maryland State Law Library. Catherine McGuire then moderated a discussion of common issues facing the libraries including collection development, cooperative cataloging, public relations, and collection and preservation of court and administrative documents and local government publications. The group also enjoyed a wonderful lunch, provided by Beverly, and a tour of the Attorney General’s Library.

LLAM has been invited to be a member of the Maryland Library Association’s Legislative Panel. Joan Bellistri, Immediate Past President of LLAM, agreed to attend the monthly Legislative Panel meetings. Other Maryland library organizations represented on the Panel include MEMO (Maryland Educational Media Organization) and CALD (Congress of Academic Library Directors of Maryland). In addition to planning the legislative day for libraries, the Panel monitors state and federal legislation of significance to libraries, and coordinates lobbying efforts when appropriate.

Send us your news! If you have items to include in the next issue’s Member News column, send them to Susan Herrick.
Holiday Party 2005

Photo montage by Jenny Smith
Research Librarian, Thurgood Marshall Law Library
Holiday Party 2005
murder. The third novel in the series, Angels in the Gloom, holds the prospect of being equally powerful.

Perry's series confronts an ethical and moral dilemma greater than the murders of individuals. She explores in depth the question of whether war is, in fact, ever a worthwhile answer. This series is powerful, dynamic, and involving. The stories go much further and deeper than the traditional “whodunnit.” The characters, like real people, are complicated and take some time to get to know. But the stories are rewarding; the time commitment is definitely worthwhile.

Joanne Dugan wrote that she enjoyed Laurie R. King's two mystery series. The Kate Martinelli series is a police procedural drama set in modern-day San Francisco; the Mary Russell series is historical and features a retired Sherlock Holmes and his much younger, intellectual wife/protege. The latest King book is also a mystery, Folly. The main character moves to the San Juan Islands to recover from a car crash that killed her husband and daughter. She starts to rebuild the house she inherited from her eccentric uncle. There is a current day mystery, a puzzle about the fate of her uncle, and the parallel dramas of the house and her mental health.

The other big areas for series are fantasy and science fiction. My favorites in these areas are the fantasy books by Terry Brooks, especially his Magic Kingdom books, and in science fiction, the Enders series by Orson Scott Card - starting with Enders Game (according to my sons, the hands down best sci-fi book.)

For the next column, let me know your favorite books that feature librarians in the plot. Or just drop me a line and let me know what you enjoyed reading by the fire this winter season.
AALL Education Summit

By Pat Behles
Govt. Documents/Reference Librarian
University of Baltimore Law Library

On September 23-24, 2005, nearly 70 individuals from across AALL leadership gathered at The Lodge in Oak Brook to consider the future of education in the field of law librarianship. Representatives from the Executive Board of AALL and AALL staff, the AALL chapters and the Special Interest Sections (SIS), as well as from sponsor BNA, spent a day and a half considering what the appropriate roles in educational delivery should be for AALL, its chapters, and the SISs. The session was designed and facilitated by Cate Bower, principal partner of Tecker Consultants, LLC. (a Maryland company!)

Participants were divided into groups to discuss basic issues such as “what is professional development” (defined as “ongoing practice training to help one in one’s current job and to further enrich one’s career.”) Comments were then shared with the entire group.

Other questions we considered included: what do we know about librarians’ needs, wants, and preferences? What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics of our environment? What do we know about the capacity and strategic position of AALL and its components?

A few of the answers to these questions are: people want programs that correspond to their job responsibilities; more regional and local opportunities; affordable programs; partnering with others to expand educational opportunities; specialized training in addition to advanced training; and better marketing to alert people to the programming that already exists.

AALL HQ can’t be all things to all people. But AALL has resources that chapters and SISs do not. AALL should develop modules to bring to the chapters that would appeal to the smaller segments. Chapters are great at cost-effective delivery. There has been a missed potential in getting chapters and SISs to work together. The suggestion was made to get a facilitator to help these two entities work together.

Among the issues still to be resolved are the need for better marketing outside the annual meeting, and cost issues - whether to make money, break even, or subsidize professional development. The more competition in the marketplace, the more important it is that we define our ideal niche and develop clarity about what we are and what we have to offer.

For years our defined role was as the source of knowledge for members; today the role is evolving into becoming the resource and conduit – whether we create it or we get it by linking to someone else.

What is to be done? Suggestions included flexibility in delivery; development of leadership training for continuity; development of strategies to work with chapters and SISs in offering programs and offering grants; offering of several of the conference programs locally; and starting a master calendar of programs from various organizations on the AALL website and a speakers bureau. The Northeast regional meeting in Toronto in October 2007 will serve as a test for local programming.

The experience of attending the summit was great. Everyone worked hard for a common goal: making high caliber, relevant educational programs available to the widest audience. With a new technology and staff, AALL has developed and released the master calendar and is developing criteria for a speakers’ bureau. The board remains committed to going forward with the recommendations of the summit.

(Note from the author: Some of the material in this article was taken from the Final Report of the Education Summit.)
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The NE Regional Law Libraries Meeting: A Brief History

By Stephen Weiter
Principal Law Librarian, Appellate Division Law Library
Rochester, New York

The Northeast Regional is a conference series started a number of years ago by American Association of Law Libraries' northeast chapters wishing to hold a regional conference.

The first NE Regional was hosted by ALLUNY in October 1987, in Albany, New York. The theme was "Information: The Lawyer/Librarian Connection." This was a Thursday afternoon - Saturday evening event, and registration was $75.00. At the time, it was believed to be the first such event held by law libraries in the United States. Participating chapters were ORALL, MichALL, LLNE, SNELLA, LAGNY, and GPLLA. There were 19 exhibitors. Nina Totenberg of U.S. National Public Radio was the keynote speaker. There was a visit to Saratoga to enjoy harness racing, with a horse temporarily renamed (?) "On your MARC" in honor of the event.

The second Regional meeting was held Nov. 7-9, 1991, in Philadelphia. GPLLA hosted the meeting, and the theme was "Rights, Privileges, and Ethics: Issues for the Nineties." Registration was $150.00. Participating chapters included: ALLUNY, LLNE, LLSDC, LLAGNY, LLAM, NJLLA, SNELLA and WPLLA. The Thursday afternoon-Saturday evening format was repeated. There was a trip to Atlantic City to visit the casinos by way of entertainment. There were 30 exhibitors, and the keynote address was given by Arthur Miller, Professor of Law at Harvard University.

The most recent conference, held October 17-19, 1996, was hosted in Toronto. NE '96 was a huge hit, thanks in large part to the efforts of TALL members organizing the local arrangements. Anne Mathewman of TALL and Kathie Sullivan of ALLUNY co-chaired the conference planning, while Dawn Urquhart of Toronto chaired the Local Arrangements Committee. In addition to ALLUNY and TALL, LLAGNY, ORALL, MichALL, WPLLA, GPLLA, NJLLA, LLNE, LLSDC, and SNELLA participated. There were 30 exhibitors and 450 attendees. Registration was $125. The keynote speaker was James E. Baker, Deputy Legal Advisor, National Security Council, Presidential Advisor on Domestic, Constitutional, and International Law. The theme was "Libraries Without Borders: Legal Information Partnerships in the 21st Century." The closing banquet was held at the Royal Ontario Museum.

ALLUNY recently resurrected the idea, and NE2007 was born. The fourth NE Regional is being planned, again for Toronto, at the Marriott Eaton Centre Hotel, October 17-20, 2007. This time around, it is being co-chaired by Connie Crosby of TALL and Steve Weiter of ALLUNY.

Numerous U.S. and Canadian law library associations, including LLAM, will be taking part. Each chapter or group is providing seed money, and at least one educational program. The other planning work is largely being divided amongst those associations.

Next on the agenda will be the finalizing of a conference title and creating a logo that will be used on the website and in upcoming promotions. The working title has been "Libraries Without Borders 2" so it may well become a sequel to the 1996 conference. That would not be a bad thing.

If you would like further information, please contact Jim Gernert, LLAM's Northeast Regional Committee Chair, at either (410) 837-4674, or jgernert@ubalt.edu.
Welcome to My Pod—LLAM November Program

By Scott Stevens
Associate Librarian
Baltimore County Circuit Court Library

On November 29, 2005 Scott Stevens of the Baltimore County Circuit Court Law Library presented an introduction to podcasting entitled “Welcome to My Pod” for that month’s LLAM program. Hosted by the University of Baltimore Law Library, this program drew approximately 15 LLAM members who learned what podcasts are as well as how to listen to and produce them.

Along with passing on some helpful tips on creating podcasts, Scott also explained some of the uses of podcasts, as well as how to find them. He provided a hands-on demonstration of some popular portable audio players such as a first generation Apple iPod. Using the tools discussed in the presentation, this program became LLAM’s very first podcast!

Also, the Powerpoint presentation is available on LLAM’s Program website.

If you have any questions for Scott about this program, please feel free to contact him at stevens@co.ba.md.us or 410-887-3086.

LLAM Legal Research Institute to be Held on March 22

By Maxine Grosshans, Research Librarian
University of Maryland School of Law

The biennial LLAM Legal Research Institute is returning in 2006 with bigger and better offerings. The Legal Research Institute (LRI), sponsored by the Law Library Association of Maryland (LLAM) and the University of Baltimore Law School, will be held at the University of Baltimore School of Law on March 22, 2006 from 9:00AM – 3:15PM.

The purpose of the LRI is to enhance the knowledge of professional and support staff in law and public libraries, legal assistants, and pro se litigants. This day-long workshop will feature sessions on the topics: basic legal research, corporate/business, family law, immigration, criminal law, bankruptcy, and health law. Attendees will choose the topics in which they are interested for each of the three hour-long sessions in the institute.

The faculty for this institute is composed of highly qualified professionals who are skilled in legal research. They have many years of experience in academic, court, and firm libraries. Steven Anderson, Joanne Dugan, Pamela Gregory, Susan Herrick, Catherine McGuire, Trevor Rosen, and Will Tress will share their expertise with those attending the Institute. They will also provide handouts to reinforce the information presented at the various sessions.

Cost of the Institute is $55.00 to LLAM members/ $70.00 to non-members. Catherine McGuire of the Maryland State Law Library is in charge of registration for the Institute. Call her at (410) 260-1430, or e-mail her at cath-erine.mcguire@courts.state.md.us for more information. Continuing Education credits are available to participants.
By Susan Herrick
Research Librarian
University of Maryland School of Law

On November 1, LLAM members gathered in the beautiful offices of Ballard Spahr Andrews and Ingersoll, LLP, for our October meeting and program. The featured presentation was entitled “Life Cycle of a Company,” and was conducted by Barbara Eames, M.L.S., of Global Securities Information, Inc. (GSI).

Barbara explained that the presentation would follow a fictional California-based pharmaceutical corporation, Viralmed, Inc., through its life as a publicly traded company. Throughout each phase, she would demonstrate how the databases and resources of GSI can be used to find the relevant documents tracing Viralmed’s ascent, decline, and eventual demise.

Barbara began by observing that SEC research has its own jargon, with which the researcher must become familiar. Both her presentation and the excellent handouts she provided, which extensively list the various SEC forms and accompanying exhibits, will serve the attendees as extremely useful tools in pursuing this goal.

Viralmed begins its existence as a public company through an initial public offering of stock to raise funds, in order to expand its R & D activities and to hire more scientists. Barbara briefly discussed the process of choosing an underwriter and making other decisions related to the stock offering. She described the steps taken to comply with the Securities Act of 1933, including filing a registration statement (S-1) with the SEC; the SEC Staff Review Process that follows; and the documents generated by this process. Her Power Point slides illustrated the use of LIVEDGAR to find registrations, prospectuses, underwriting agreements, and SEC Staff Review documents.

Once Viralmed has successfully “gone public,” it is subject to the various reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as well as of subsequent legislation such as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. Barbara described how to locate the compliance documents generated by Viralmed, including annual reports; periodic financial statements (including Management Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition (MD&A); and reporting of “material events” such as acquisition or disposition of assets, resignation of a director, mergers and acquisitions, among many others. She also discussed proxy statements, shareholder proxy proposals, and SEC No-Action Letters.

Soon Viralmed, faced with significant financial losses, must file a “material event” or Form 8-K with the SEC. As Viralmed’s fortunes continue to decline, a member of the board of directors sells many of his shares just before the issuance of a press release announcing the posting of a significant loss by the company, resulting in an SEC investigation of alleged insider trading, and the resignation of the board member. Barbara demonstrated how LIVEDGAR enables the researcher to locate related documents and to monitor SEC enforcement activities.

Beset by declining finances and regulatory troubles, Viralmed is faced with the decision of whether to attempt a voluntary workout or to resort to formal bankruptcy proceedings. Barbara described using LIVEDGAR to discover information related to a company’s bankruptcy proceedings. Viralmed’s demise (sadly) is documented by the filing of a Form 15, Termination of Registration, which signifies the end of its existence as a public corporation.

In response to a question, Barbara confirmed that GSI has been acquired by Thomson West, but that to the best of her knowledge GSI will continue to function as a separate entity for the time being, and that the information available through LIVEDGAR will not be made accessible through Westlaw.

Many thanks both to Barbara Eames for an excellent presentation and to Carol Mundorf and Ballard Spahr for hosting us.
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. Please submit your contributions by the deadlines indicated below!

LLAM News 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 Chair Susan Herrick, preferably via e-mail. Photographs and print-only materials are also welcome by post mail.

**Deadline Issue**

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

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