President’s Message

I have a confession to make. One of the most interesting experiences I had at the AALL Annual Meeting actually happened at CBS studios in Hollywood. While waiting online to see a dress rehearsal of Roseanne Barr’s new talk show (did you miss this program in annual meeting schedule?), I struck up a conversation with the woman sitting next to me. After the usual pleasantries (how are you, nice weather, did you get on "The Price is Right"), she asked me where I was from and what I did. Okay, the easy one first, “Baltimore” (everyone knows Baltimore-the O’s, crabs, Homicide) next, the tough one “Law Librarian” (Whooppee, I’ll have to explain it for the millionth time). Much to my surprise, she said “Law Librarian, I’m a second year law student at the University of Kansas, the Law Librarians there are so helpful and knowledgeable...” We went on to talk about how the AALL meeting is organized, law librarians’ salaries, and her perception of Law Librarians as being underrated professionals. The conversation many me feel proud to be part of the profession of law librarianship and inspired me to dedicate my tenure as LLAM President to strengthening our profession by promoting its value to others.

One way to promote law librarianship is to increase our numbers. A great place to do this is to attract students from local library science schools. In an effort to do this, the Board has determined that LLAM should offer reduced dues for student members, specifically ½ of regular dues (this is common practice for most library associations). However, we need your support to amend the bylaws and a vote will be taken at the first Educational Program meeting on September 22nd at Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll.

While you have your calendar open, please mark it for all of LLAM’s fall programs (see program schedule on page 2). There is probably no better way to improve our professional value and promote ourselves to our respective organizations than by improving our skills via continuing education. This year’s programs are being developed in response to the results of the LLAM Programming Survey that was completed by you, the membership, this past Spring. In addition to providing you with programs that are focused on your particular needs, the LLAM Program Committee, headed by Steve Anderson, is compiling more detailed flyers with maps and parking information to make attending programs even easier, especially for our members outside of Baltimore City.

President’s Message, Continued on Page 3

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Mark Your Calendars!

September Meeting
"Reference Interview Techniques & Sources"
Presented by Susan Paznekas, Public Library
Consultant, MD State Department of Education
And Mike Miller, State Law Librarian
Tuesday, September 22, 1998 at
Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
Contact Carol Mundorf @ 410-528-5640

October Meeting
"An Overview of the Year 2000 Computer Crises"
featuring
Carla Stone Witzel, Esq. (a former law librarian)
who is a Partner with Gordon Feinblatt Rothman
Hoffberger & Hollander
October 21, 1998 at
Gordon Feinblatt Rothman Hoffberger & Hollander
233 East Redwood Street
Contact Steve Anderson @ 410-576-4255

November Meeting
Watch your mail for Details!

December Meeting
Watch your mail for Details!
President's Message, continued

To promote our expertise to the greater legal community and the public, LLAM is assisting the MSBA with updating their web site by annotating and critiquing the links on the site in an effort to make it more user friendly and research oriented. The MSBA benefits from our expertise and we benefit from the publicity, the reviewing library is listed on each review. Anne Garrett has been doing an excellent job of coordinating this project and deserves LLAM’s thanks. If you are interested in working on this project please email Anne at: AGarrett@wtp.law.com.

After contacting Anne, why not contact a LLAM Committee chair or chairs and volunteer your time and expertise. As you can see from the committee chair articles in this issue there are a lot of exciting projects in the works and many opportunities for you to contribute, no matter how much (or how little) time you have available!

Correction

In the March, 1998 issue of the LLAM Newsletter, an article describing the January, 1998 meeting featuring the editors of the new Maryland Law Encyclopedia from West failed to give credit to its author, Elizabeth Rhodes of the University of Baltimore.

Editor's Corner

This is the first issue of the LLAM Newsletter for its new editor, Anne Morrison. I hope that you will join me in thanking Maxine Grosshans for her many years of hard work on this publication.

I encourage all LLAM members to send me their news and article submissions. This is your newsletter, LLAMers – let me know what you would like to see in future issues! I’ll do my best to bring you a quality publication!

Submit articles/news to me via e-mail at amorriso@clark.net or snail-mail at P.O. Box 1696, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1696.

Through the plans described earlier, upcoming projects, and most importantly, your involvement, LLAM will continue to be a vital force in promoting and supporting Law Librarian ship in Maryland. I look forward to serving as your President for a year long run. Unfortunately, I doubt that Roseanne will be as lucky with her talk show...but that's another story. See you at the first meeting.

Best Regards,
Betsy Sandison

A Note of Thanks.

Many thanks to the generous people at Lexis and Berman for their support of the Spring Fling at the Baltimore Streetcar Museum in May.

Harvey Morrell
University of Baltimore Law Library

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Anaheim Review

OPENING LUNCHEON:  
FROM SPACED-OUT TO CYBERSPACE

Death Valley may be cooler than I am but two of my grandchildren are named for Grateful Dead songs so that is one group of which I have heard.

The speaker at Monday's luncheon was John Perry Barlow, former lyricist for the Grateful Dead (he calls himself the Junior varsity lyricist -- he wrote the songs that Jerry Garcia did not sing), co-founder of the Electronic Frontier Foundation and the first to use the word "cyberspace" in its current meaning. He is evidently famous for bashing lawyers but toned down his remarks for an audience that included many J.D.s. He did say at one point that he goes around the planet "discouraging lawyers and encouraging librarians" and that librarians are "guerilla warriors on the barricades of liberty." The gist of his speech is that information should be free, that ideas belong to everyone and that legal concepts of property cannot apply to cyberspace that has no physical boundaries. Copyright laws or attempts to control the Internet will destroy the place where ideas can be freely traded. A society based on ethics rather than law (like the old West) will lead to the free flow of information and a sense of community.

He described how bootleg tapes of Grateful Dead concerts in the early days did more to promote the group and lead to their later fame and sold-out concerts than anything sold legally by record companies. However, I did hear later that his talk was not taped because of copyright issues. So, what do we believe? He was a provocative and dynamic speaker and the audience expressed its appreciation.

The luncheon was one of the more enjoyable events of the annual meeting. With good food and Mexican ambience (pinatas on the tables) and a lively speaker, it remains memorable. By the way, why do birds of a feather, etc? When we couldn't find other LLAMers, Kathy Sweeney and I sat at a table of strangers (except for Kelly Vinopul whom I enjoyed seeing again), with at least one V.I.P., Mike St. Onge, Chair of the Program Selection Committee. We had a terrific time.

Beverly Rubenstein  
Attorney General's Office

PROGRAM D-4:  
ADMISSIBILITY OF HYPERTEXT BRIEFS

This program highlighted the current investigation by Federal courts as to whether the courts will adopt new rules that will allow lawyers to submit briefs in electronic format. Currently, only two Circuits, the First and Third, have any rules that discuss electronic filings. It seems as though the other Circuits are adopting a "wait and see" attitude to determine what the Federal District Courts will do. Many factors are involved in the development of electronic briefs. Briefs are being developed in two different formats, HTML (Hyper-Text Markup Language) and PDF (Portable Document Format). Which the Courts will ultimately prefer is one major question. There are already rules in place which forbid the brief from being mounted via the World Wide Web, primarily because many links become "dead" or "outdated" so quickly.

Fair access to the briefs is also an important question. The technology needed to create and read these electronic filings is based in Windows 95/98 software. Pentium processors are needed for producing and viewing these documents. Not all courts or law firms have access to this technology at this time. Statistically, more small firms (2-30 lawyers) have Windows 95 than larger firms at this time, yet the larger firms are more likely to be able to afford to produce these filings. The program was not designed to be the final authority on Hypertext Briefs, but designed more as an informative look at possible future technologies.

Anne Morrison  
Circuit Court for Prince George's County

GO WEST.... AND PARTY!

This July, my husband and I flew three thousand miles, from one side of the North American Continent to the other side, from our home in Annapolis, Maryland to Anaheim, California to go to a party. No, we're not jet setters, we've never been to Cannes, St. Moritz or even Club Med. I'm a law librarian and I just won't miss a West Group party at the AALL convention. And I'm not the only quiet, bookish, four-eyed, sleepy librarian who leaves hibernation to make this annual pilgrimage. It's a major event in our lives and librarians from across the country made the trek.

Anaheim Review, continued on Page 6
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Anaheim Review, continued

West Party...
("For every bear that ever there was will gather there for certain because, Today's the day the Teddy Bears have their picnic...")

...This was my third West Party and (oh yes, there was a convention there, too) it was the best yet. I guess being in L.A. (Anaheim, LaLaLand, Hollywood, what's the difference?) we should have expected top-notch entertainment because that's what we got. The band was hot! My husband and I like to dance and the music wouldn't leave us alone. We had no choice. And it was clear everyone else felt the same way. The dance floor was large but absolutely packed. And those of us party animals who weren't on the dance floor were watching the band and the dancers. The floor under our dancing feet was bouncing like a trampoline and I actually worried that it was going to give way. But did we stop and give it a chance to cool down? No way! We crossed our fingers and shouted along with "dance to the music." The band had three women singers each better than the next. I thought it was Aretha Franklin singing "Chain of Fools." You go, girl!

...West always offers great prizes, too. The band stopped long enough for the company's representatives to award several cases of champagne and trips to the California wine country. Not too shabby.

Do librarians deserve all this? You bet we do. The public and our patrons might not believe it if they saw it. Those lawyers we work with just wouldn't understand. But West Group sure has our number. Thanks, West.

See you next year.

Ruth Hodgson
Maryland State Law Library

TRIPLL 1998,
Scottsdale, Arizona

I was privileged to attend TRIPLL (Teaching Research in Private Law Libraries - sponsored by Lexis/Nexis) in Scottsdale, Arizona this past April for a very intense three-day learning experience. Not knowing what to expect, I walked into the first session a little apprehensive about what was going to occur at this conference. After all, we were housed at a stunning resort in Phoenix with the most inviting pool I've ever been around. Why should we be excited about spending hours on end indoors?

Very quickly my fears dissipated, however, as the first of many speakers began his session on just who lawyers are, and how to take that into account when training them. Speaker after speaker presented to us on different teaching techniques, presentation skills, effective presentations, handouts and publicity and even body language. What at first seemed like a large, scary group of 30 librarians from across the country (after all, why did they pick me?) became a close group of professionals sharing techniques on how to do a better job.

These lessons, interspersed with the occasional outdoor dinner and ice cream break, made me forget that I had started by only wanting to jump into the resort's pool. The quality of the information presented was of the highest caliber. It was not like a three-day you-must-buy-this-condo sales pitch from Lexis as it could have been, but a very informative useful sharing of ideas.

I commend Lexis/Nexis for holding such a program and appreciate the experiences they gave me. Never did they push their product or suggest that we should. It simply, from my point of view, was a nice thing for Lexis/Nexis to do for librarians. To me it proves that vendors and librarians can have a mutually beneficial relationship without strings.

Melissa Harter
Miles & Stockbridge

Membership News

Congratulations to Bill Grady, who began a new position with Paul, Hastings, Janofsky and Walker in Washington, DC on July 6th. Bill is the new Librarian. Good Luck, Bill! Baltimore will miss you!

Steve Anderson is not only serving as Vice President/President-Elect of LLAM, but has been elected President-Elect of the Maryland Chapter of the Special Libraries Association. Not that he's busy enough, Steve recently had an article published in Legal Reference Services Quarterly Vol. 16(4) 1998 entitled "Communications Conflict at the Law Library Reference Desk: A Survey of General Library Science and Communications Literature." Congratulations, Steve!
Membership News, Continued

During the SCCLI-SIS Breakfast and Meeting in Anaheim, Pamela Gregory was awarded the O. James Werner Award for Distinctive Service to Persons with Disabilities. The Werner Award was established by the SCCLI-SIS to honor a member who has made a significant contribution to serving directly or for arranging services to be provided to persons with disabilities. Congratulations, Pam!

Melanie Michaelson, Research Analyst at Hogan & Hartson L.L.P., has announced that her email address has been changed. Her new email is: MMMichaelson@hhlaw.com. Please make a note of it.

What's New?

West Group, Inc. and MICPEL (Maryland Institute for Continuing Professional Education of Lawyers) have teamed up for a new Premise CD-ROM product. The new CD features several often-used MICPEL titles, including the Maryland Criminal Pattern Jury Instructions, Discovery Under the Maryland Rules, Worker's Compensation Manual 8th Edition, and Mechanic's Liens. More titles are expected to be added in December, 1998 and even more in 1999. For more information, contact your West Group Representative, or call (800) 762-5272.

AALL's Research Instruction and Patron Services SIS has recently published Volume 2 of their Briefs in Law Librarianship series. Survey on Legal Research Instruction offers timely information about legal research courses and CALR training in all types of law libraries. More than 130 academic law libraries, law firm libraries and government librarians submitted responses about the types of training they provide and receive. Sample syllabi from courses are appended. For information on ordering, contact Fred B. Rothman & Co. at info@rothman.com.

The Legal Publisher's List is updated regularly on the Web. Rob Richards of the University of Colorado Law Library is responsible for this service to fellow law librarians. The current listing is available on the WWW at http://www.colorado.edu/Law/lawlib/ts/legpub.htm.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT!

THE STAFF OF THE MARYLAND STATE LAW LIBRARY PROUDLY ANNOUNCES THE "BIRTH" OF OUR ONLINE CATALOG, MOLLIE (MARYLAND ONLINE LAW LIBRARY INFORMATION EXCHANGE) AND OUR HOME PAGE -AFTER A LONG, HARD DELIVERY - AT WWW.LAWLIB.STATE.MD.US

MOLLIE not only tells you what books we have, but in the case of periodicals and serials - will let the user know what the library's holdings are and the last issue checked in. MOLLIE will allow the user to make suggestions for the library and recommend publications to be purchased. In some instances, there are links to URLs and some full text articles (for example - there is a link to the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, which is full text online).

In addition, our home page contains not only the usual - name, address, phone numbers, and policies - but also links to in-house publications, such as:
- a comprehensive INDEX of MARYLAND STUDY COMMISSION and TASK FORCE REPORTS;
- RESEARCH GUIDES (full text);
- INTERNET links to various MARYLAND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES; and other
- MARYLAND LEGAL INFORMATION.

We are also in the process of adding to MOLLIE our in-house Maryland Index of Legal Journal/Newspaper articles.

As with any newborn, MOLLIE and the library's website are in a developmental stage. Please pay us a visit and look around. As any new parent, we are extremely proud of our new creation, but we would welcome any suggestions for nurturing our offspring, especially for Maryland oriented content.

Shirley Aaronson
Maryland State Law Library
Committee Reports

PLACEMENT COMMITTEE

As the new chairperson of the Placement Committee I am writing to remind everyone exactly what it is we do and how we can help you.

We are beginning to compile a new resume bank. Resumes will be accepted from individuals seeking professional and clerical law library positions. Anyone interested in having his or her resume on file can send it to me at the address below. When your resume is received it will be kept in our files until I am notified by you that you no longer wish to be in the resume bank. In addition, we are accepting job postings for law position. Once an employer contacts me regarding an opening, all resumes on file are sent to the employer.

Job postings will be kept until I am notified by the employer that the position has been filled. Also, we are considering soliciting library science student interns for local libraries. Please let me know if this would be helpful to you.

We look forward to your participation and hope to make this a successful, less stressful way for individuals to find a job and employers to fill a vacancy.

Stacey A. Ray
Niles, Barton & Wilmer
111 S. Calvert Street, Suite 1400
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
SARAY@Niles-law.com
410-783-6386

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

IN SEARCH OF:
Exciting, vivacious LLAM Publications Committee, ISO SWLM (smart, willing LLAM members) to assist in the revision of the Maryland County Publications Checklist, Union List of Periodicals (1992 ed.) And the Union List of Looseleaf services (1990 ed.). Even though this seems a daunting task, I have been assured by previous compilers that success will bring its own unique rewards. So, as committee chairwoman, I am ISO a few good SWLM. No long-term commitment expected! Will be content with short term but productive relationship. Please call Ruth Hodgson at (410) 260-1430 or e-mail ruth.hodgson@courts.state.md.us.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." And who would ever want to relive 1991?

LLAM archives are kept so that we can look back at what we have accomplished, so that we will not keep reinventing the wheel, so that we can remember those no longer with us, so that we can laugh at our funny clothes and, as Sally said, so that we can see how much weight we have gained. The rather skimpy collection that resides on two shelves in my office consists of the following:

flyers for meetings, 1989- (incomplete -- please send what you have)

complete run of the BLISS News and the LLAM Newsletter (do not send others)

LLAM Directories, 1992-1993 and continuing (if you have older ones, please send)

Board minutes, 1987-1988 (Kai-Yun was President); 1988-1989 (Kate was President); 1989-1990 (Maxine was President)
correspondence, 1988-1989

information on incorporation of LLAM (1989)

the banner that hung over Pratt Street during AALL's annual meeting, 1997

information on BLISS (forerunner of LLAM)

LLAM: The First Ten Years (multiple copies)

tapes of AALL's annual meeting, 1997 and the Biennial Salary Survey, 1997 (not strictly LLAM archives but meant to be part of a lending library -- if you have other materials that should be included, please send)

As you can see, many things are missing, most notably photographs. Please rummage through your files for any bits and pieces that would add to LLAM's history. (Send anything. We will decide whether or not to keep them.) Your great-grandchildren may not know your name but future generations of LLAM will remember you forever.

Beverly Rubenstein
Chair, Archives Committee
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PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Anyone interested in working on the Public Relations Committee please contact Jean Hessenauer. The work mainly involves writing a brief summary of our programs to put in different publications. Contact Jean at 410-576-4010.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Announcing a new LLAM Committee!!!

As a result of discussions regarding technology that took place at last April’s “Charting the Course of LLAM” program, the LLAM Board has created a new Special Committee, the Technology Committee. (Please note, it is the Board’s intention to upgrade the committee to a standing committee via a vote of the membership at the first meeting on September 22nd at Ballard Spahr Andrews and Ingersoll.

At this time, the Technology Committee is charged with the following duties:

- Coordinating the LLAM/MSBA Website Review Project (LLAM members critique/rate legal links listed on the MSBA’s revised webpage)
- Assisting with compiling and updating a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) for the LLAM Listserv

ANNOUNCING OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER TO SERVE ON THIS EXCITING NEW COMMITTEE! First off, we are looking for a Chair. The Chair DOES NOT HAVE TO HAVE HTML EXPERIENCE, JUST A WILLINGNESS TO LEARN BASIC HTML COMMANDS. Steve Anderson, LLAM’s interim webmaster, has graciously offered to provide training. This is a great opportunity to get HTML experience—the ultimate resume builder!!!

Last but not least, we are looking for committee members willing to assist the Chair by performing such tasks as writing articles, rating websites, monitoring technology topics, etc.

Please contact me via email at bsandison@co.ba.md.us or phone 410-887-6042 if you are interested in chairing or serving on this exciting new committee!
VIPS in Washington, DC: 
A Dialogue with our Colleagues

The 1999 AALL Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. offers a unique opportunity for AALL chapters to fortify established bridges and begin building new ones with members of their local legal, library, and information communities. The meeting offers AALL chapters an excellent chance to showcase the expertise of law librarians and to strengthen our position as important players in the legal information industry. Meeting in our nation's capital will allow interaction with the most influential and visionary governmental and private sector figures in today's world of legal information, management, and technology.

How do we accomplish this goal? The Chapter VIP program that was approved recently by AALL's Executive Board is one way. The program provides complimentary registration and most meals for two guests from each chapter to attend the meeting from Saturday through Monday. Chapters would be responsible for transportation and housing costs of their guests. "I chose At the Crossroads: Legal Information Management, Technology, and Policy as the theme for the Washington meeting. It's the perfect time to show the library, academic, court, firm, publishing, and government communities the expertise in information management, technology, and policy that law librarians possess," says AALL President Jim Heller. The VIP program is designed specifically to foster enhanced relationships between chapters and their local legal and information communities by involving local leaders - such as judges, attorneys, and legal administrators - with law librarians in important discussions and presentations of legal information issues. Each chapter can help increase the visibility of law librarians by inviting and participating in dialogues with our colleagues from other law-related communities. "The Washington meeting is a special opportunity to have lively and informative discussions and debates about the continuing changes in the creation, dissemination, and management of information," says President Heller. "Our program selections on Sunday and Monday of the Washington meeting will utilize the background, knowledge, and expertise of our members and the invited chapter guests to explore and debate the important issues facing the legal information community. Our reputations, both individually and collectively, will be enhanced by this dialogue with our colleagues."

But why should my chapter spend its money on helping fund an outsider to attend the AALL Annual Meeting? Wouldn't it be better to use the money to help the chapter's own members? Both are valid questions, and both activities are important uses of a chapter's resources. Each AALL chapter has to decide on the best uses of its funds. But, there are important reasons to invite local colleagues. Think about this.

- Does your state provide Internet access to its cases, statutes, regulations, and administrative registers? If not, don't you want it to do this? Perhaps, an invitation to the chief judge of your supreme court or a member of the court's information technology staff to attend programs on access to information debated will encourage them to explore the issue more fully.

- Does your state provide funding for (or poorly fund) public law libraries? An invitation to the president of the local or state bar or an influential legislator might be just the impetus to get a project moving.

- Does the dean of your law school support fully librarians' attendance at professional meetings, or understand the state of the legal publishing world today? Perhaps his or her attendance as a VIP at the Washington Annual Meeting will demonstrate the important issues facing law librarians and the reasons why librarians need continuing education opportunities at events such as the AALL Annual Meeting.

Your chapter President already has received the Chapter VIP Handbook which includes more details and information about the Chapter VIP program. The goal of the program is simple. Having our colleagues from the legal, library and information communities at our meeting will introduce them to the issues we face, the services that we can provide, and the significant role that law libraries must play in the legal information world. Washington, D.C. 1999: Be a part of the action "At the Crossroads".

Hazel Johnson
Law Library Services Consultant
Richmond, Virginia