



LAW LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND
A Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries

LLAM NEWS

Volume 20, Issue 1/2

September/December 2001

Upcoming LLAM Events

- Legal Research Institute, January 8, 2002
- A Look Inside the General Assembly, LLAM Program, February 20, 2002
- Spring Fling with Chief Judge Bell, May 10, 2002

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President's Message

Elizabeth Rhodes, University of Baltimore Law Library

Happy Holidays LLAM Members! I hope this season finds you and yours safe and well. As this is our first newsletter in some time, there's a lot of catching up to do. LLAM's 2001-2002 Board Members and Committee Chairs took office in June, 2001.

Happily, my first task as LLAM's twentieth President is to acknowledge those who've gone before. We are all indebted to those who had the vision, courage and commitment to found this organization. They, and those who followed them worked hard and persistently to create and maintain an organization that serves law libraries, law librarians and their patrons. Sincere and well-deserved gratitude to all who played a part!

Let me specifically extend appreciation to last year's Board Members and Committee Chairs. Their vision, hard work, and many accomplishments, were outstanding. To name just a few, LLAM's bylaws were revised, LLAM's web page was significantly enhanced, a procedures manual for board members was begun, the groundwork for teaching a legal research workshop was laid, and we welcomed Barbara Bintliff, the incoming President of AALL as our Spring Fling speaker.

While attending the AALL conference in Minneapolis, (when, after all, they could have been riding the roller coaster at the Mall of the Americas), many of this year's Board Members and Committee Chairs attended

workshops designed to help them better perform their jobs for LLAM. Added to their expertise, we now have that of Mary Ann Redman and Betsy Sandison as Newsletter Committee Co-Chairs, and Bill Grady as Chair of the Special Committee on Bylaws.

LLAM became an AALL chapter in July of 1982. Ruth Hodgson, Vice President/President Elect and Program Chair, is well on the way to planning a Spring Fling worthy of LLAM's 20th Anniversary. Those of us who have been lucky enough to attend other programs Ruth has planned know the high quality of her work, and look forward to

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Program News

Ruth Hodgson, Vice-President/Program Chair

As this year's Program Committee Chair (via VP/President-elect) it was my role to prepare a slate of nine program meetings for our members. In order to begin this task I prepared and sent out a survey questionnaire to all members

soliciting information regarding the types of educational and professional development programs that they would like to see. This survey also requested information on opinions of what LLAM does best and could do even better.

The results of the survey are as follows:

Question:

What do you see as the challenges in the next 2 years for law librarians?

Response:

Library closing

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LLAM Officers 2001—2002

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The LAW LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND NEWS is published quarterly in September, December, March, and June. Chapter dues, which include a subscription to the Newsletter, are \$20.00 annually.

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New Technologies
collection management
budget cuts
pro se patrons

Question:

What do you think LLAM does best?

Response:

Monthly program meetings and also LLAM's Listserv.

Question:

What do you think LLAM could do better?

Response:

Increase membership and reach out to non-Baltimore members.

Question:

What type of educational programs do you want?

Response:

Lunch meetings with speakers
1 to 2 hour programs on legal issues and library topics
Some full-day programs but no weekend programming

Question:

Rating topics as to how likely would attend

Response:

Financial management skills
Collection "rebalancing" in light of new technologies
Business research on the internet
Pro se Patrons
Electronic access to court records
Legal research skills
Web design
Joint meetings with SLA and/or MLA to network

Question:

How could the following existing LLAM services be enhanced?

Response:

More Newsletters!!!!

I therefore took my cue from these responses in planning this year's meetings.

So far this year we have had the following programs:

On September 25th there was a brown bag lunch program held at Piper, Marbury, Rudnick and Wolfe in Baltimore entitled "Welcome to the Fascinating World of Web Page Design".

George Hopkins who operates his own computer graphics company, Geo Graphics, Inc., spoke about technical considerations for producing effective electronic design on the Web. He touched on types of software packages available and guidelines that should be followed. Mr. Hopkins then demonstrated some of his work and distributed a sample Microsoft Frontpage 2000 trial disc.

The October 17th meeting, "Mastering Assertive Communication Skills", was co-sponsored by LexisNexis Librarian Relations Group. Deidre Payne and Linda Hutchinson of LexisNexis lead the workshop in examining passive-aggressive-assertive communication styles, identifying your own communication style and discussing ways to adapt these styles to work more productively with others. The workshop objective was to increase your communication effectiveness.

LLAM took a field trip to the Maryland State Archives on November 19th. Dr. R.J. Rockefeller, Director of Reference Services at the Archives, gave us a guided tour of the Archives "Most Wanted" collections online and how to access them from our offices. We also got a quick tour of the building and a peek into the inner workings of our state's repository for records of the state, county and municipal governments.

The LLAM Holiday Party will be held this year on December 13th from 4:30 to 7 p.m. in the Camden Warehouse at Oriole Park. In addition to celebrating the season and meeting with old and new friends we will be having a Silent Auction. How much fun can we stand!

LLAM will be trying something new in 2002. On January 8th, LLAM will be sponsoring "Legal Research Institute: Introduction to

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