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From the President

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AALL Newsletter **American Association of Law Libraries**

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What could eighteen law librarians, thirteen legal publishers and information vendors, and two scholars in the field of legal information technology find to talk about at a one-day retreat? Should the agenda include resolution of billing problems and treatment of sales representatives? Or are there perhaps issues at a policy level that it would be beneficial to discuss in an informal setting? I recently convened a retreat on electronic information on the premise that there are such issues of mutual interest, and the results of that meeting exceeded my expectations.

The meeting was held April 7 and 8, at the Harrison House conference center in Lake Bluff, Illinois. It began with dinner on the 7th, and continued with discussions all day Saturday and adjournment after dinner. The facilitator was Eunice Hogeveen, of InFocus Marketing in Ontario, Canada. Her participation was generously funded by Lawyers Cooperative Publishing Company, whose president, Kathryn Downing, was a supporter of the goals of this meeting. Dick Danner coordinated the planning for the meeting, with assistance from Anne Grande and Mark Estes.

Attending were:

Kay Moller Todd
Paul Hastings Janofsky & Walker

Roger H. Parent
American Association of Law Libraries

Martha S. Brown
American Association of Law Libraries

Edgar Bellefontaine
Social Law Library

Robert C. Berring
Univ. of Calif. School of Law Library

Carol D. Billings
Law Library of Louisiana

David Cohen
Oceana Publications, Inc.

Jonathon Copulsky
Commerce Clearing House, Inc.

Richard Danner
Duke University School of Law Library

Mark Estes
Holme Roberts & Owen

Paul S. Fu
Supreme Court of Ohio Law Library

Claire M. Germain
Cornell Law Library

Anne W. Grande
Hennepin County Law Library

Ken Halajian
Matthew Bender & Co.

Brian Hall
Shepard's McGraw-Hill

James Hambleton
Texas Wesleyan Univ. School of Law
Library

Rick Heuser
Little, Brown & Company

Marci Hoffman
University of Minnesota

Eunice Hogeveen
InFocus Marketing

James L. Hoover
Columbia University Law School Library

Joan Howland
University of Minnesota Law School

Michael A. Jacobs
Mead Data Central

Roger Jacobs
Notre Dame Law School

George Knight
Bureau of National Affairs

Kathleen Larson
U.S. Department of Justice

Graham J. Marshall
Butterworth Legal Publishers

Peter W. Martin
Cornell Law Library

Edward L. Massie
Commerce Clearing House, Inc.

Judy Meadows
State Law Library of Montana

Vance Opperman
West Publishing Company

James W. Shelar
Arnold & Porter

Gary D. Spivey
Shepard's McGraw-Hill

Ron Staudt
Chicago-Kent Law School

Richard Vaughan
Indiana University School of Law Library

Martha Whittaker
The Uncover Company

George Wallace
Thompson Professional Publishing
Linda Will
Research & Libraries Consultant

During the planning process, two assumptions were made. First, that it would be beneficial for each group to learn the motivations of the other and to understand what drives the other's decision-making. Second, that the current legal information environment, with its rapid rate of change, threatens both legal information providers and law librarians.

Although the meeting provided each constituency with an opportunity to recognize that there were ill-founded and inaccurate perceptions on both sides of the table, the discussion very quickly moved to productive problem-solving. The meeting began with a brainstorming session that identified a multiplicity of issues, and the group then agreed, by vote, on four key issues for substantive discussion. Those were:

- Addressing the need for a common definition of "public domain" and open access to documents in the public domain in digitized formats.
- Exploring the potential for alliances that could be formed among information users, librarians, publishers, and government.
- Rethinking existing copyright laws in light of fair use in the electronic media.
- Gaining a better understanding of the economic and financial constraints on publishers and librarians, and the impact on users.

After identifying these four topics we divided into small groups for refinement of the issues and then reported back to the full group. This process was repeated, as the small groups moved their analysis toward identification of future initiatives and then reported again to the full group. The issues analysis focused on the problems associated with each of the four issues, including the barriers to reaching agreement.

By the conclusion of the retreat, the group had identified a list of suggested initiatives, including:

- AALL should designate a working group to write guidelines for the use of electronic information, which would specifically address copying, downloading, retransmission, networking, and reuse. The CONTU Guidelines were suggested as a model.
- AALL should identify training needs and provide training for those who train others in the use of electronic products; this training should be standardized. The Research Instruction Caucus' work on creating standardized research evaluation tools was cited here as a model.
- AALL's Copyright Committee should promote discussion of print and digital fair use.
- Publishers should be encouraged to use some vehicle to make it easy for libraries to discharge their fair use obligations. This could be the Copyright Clearance Center if more publishers would use it.
- AALL should continue and broaden its educational programs on such topics as copyright and basic competencies in legal research skills.

- Regional publisher/librarian dialogues on the model of this meeting could be beneficial. Possible topics would include an explanation of the product development process.
- New pricing needs and models should be investigated by the two sectors. One possibility would be the drafting of a model agreement for the sale of information in a particular format.
- Librarian/Publisher exchange programs could provide an opportunity to learn about each other. Tours are only one possibility, as the group saw the benefit of longer/more extensive in-depth exchanges.
- Legal information providers and law librarians should jointly identify available market research on the use of legal information, and consider market research efforts of mutual interest.

This was a landmark meeting for the law librarian and legal publishing communities, as well as for the individuals who attended. There is the likelihood that some of the initiatives enumerated above will be implemented, and that similar policy discussions will be convened in the future. This opening of dialogue is exciting for all of us.

Babe Russo

Babe Russo was for many years Executive Secretary of AALL, and in that role she managed the headquarters office before there was an Executive Director. She died suddenly this past March. Babe was a warm, enthusiastic person who cared deeply about the Association and its members and profession of law librarianship. From the time we first met, she was always keenly interested in what I was doing and was highly supportive of me on a personal level. Other AALL officers have expressed similar feelings to me, and that support was important to each of us.

Babe was a delightful company and her sense of humor was well-tuned. She delighted in Father Guido Sarducci's performance at the Washington, D.C., Annual Meeting in 1986, some of which used her as its foil. Members of the Southeastern Chapter remember fondly the 1988 cruise ship meeting of the chapter which Babe attended shortly before her retirement. I am pleased to have known Babe and I shall miss her company.

Washington Affairs Representative

I have written before about the activities of AALL's Washington Affairs Representative Bob Oakley, his Assistant Susan Tulis and the benefits their efforts yield in the area of federal legislation and regulation relating to legal information, government publications and libraries. However, I was unaware that they were also effective spokespersons on the state level. They have recently written to state legislators in Nebraska, California and Virginia to express the interests of AALL's members in legislation pending there.

As AALL's volunteer Washington Affairs Representative, Bob Oakley has been extraordinarily effective. Susan Tulis was hired last year as his assistant. Regrettably she will be leaving this position during the summer to return to her former job at the University of Virginia Law Library. The establishment of this AALL staff position has made Bob's job easier and the Association is currently searching for a



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Matthew Bender

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From the President

successor. My thanks to Susan for her work over the last year.

Contest

With the background of Nicholson Baker's article on the destruction of the traditional card catalog in *The New Yorker* (4/4/94), the passage quoted below is particularly timely. The first three readers who respond to me and correctly identify the author and title of the work from which it comes will receive, if not vast riches, at least an appropriate reward. Read the July issue to learn the lucky winners' names.

The Library was outmoded and archaic—it had been so even in _____'s time—but that was all to the good. _____ always rubbed his hands with excitement when he thought of an old and outmoded Library. The older and the more outmoded, the more likely it was to have what he needed. In his dreams, he would enter the Library and ask in breathless alarm, "Has the Library been modernized? Have you thrown out the old tapes and computerizations?" And always he imagined the answer from dusty and ancient librarians, "As it has been, Professor, so it is still."

Dusty and ancient? 



Browsing Seattle

Continued from front page

1. The Seattle Center, site of the 1962 World's Fair, is home to the Pacific Science Center, the Opera House, Seattle Repertory Theater, Fun Forest Amusement Park, and the Space Needle with its observation deck 520 feet up. Many Metrobus routes from downtown have stops at the Center. For a treat, take the Monorail from Westlake Center—the 1.2 mile trip takes 90 seconds. (Elvis rode the Monorail; you can too!)

2. The Pike Place Market, one of America's largest open-air farmer's markets, is located downtown, overlooking Elliott Bay. The Market is within walking distance of the Convention Center and is THE place to get "local color"—more than 600 vendors sell fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers, and seafood. And yes, you can get your salmon ice-packed to go, or shipped anywhere in the U.S.

3. The Seattle Waterfront Streetcars provide a historic look at three Seattle neighborhoods: the Waterfront, Pioneer Square, and the International District. For only an \$.85 fare, the trolleys make nine stops near attractions including Myrtle Edwards Park, Pier 70 shops and restaurants, the Victoria Clipper, Belltown, Waterfront Park, Seattle Aquarium, Pike Place Market Hillclimb, Seattle Art Museum, and the Washington State Ferry Terminal.

4. Pioneer Square, a busy historic and cultural enclave of galleries, museums, shops, theaters, and public parks, is just a quick (and free) bus ride from the Convention Center. Check out Elliott Bay Books, one of Seattle's favorite bookstores. Also consider taking Bill Speidel's Underground Tour of the remains of old Seattle below Pioneer Square. This tour is a


humorous, historical look at the way Seattle was rebuilt after the fire of 1889.

5. The International District, also just a quick (and free) bus ride away, reflects a blend of Asian culture. There are many excellent ethnic restaurants and shops, the Wing Luke Museum, and Uwajimaya, the incredible Japanese grocery and department store.

6. Capitol Hill, just northeast of the Washington State Convention and Trade Center, is moments away by bus. Capitol Hill has a lively mix of stores, restaurants, and theaters catering to both the gay and straight communities.

7. The University District, easily accessible by bus, is full of used-book stores, import shops, museums, and coffee-houses. The main University of Washington campus is quite lovely, with gothic buildings and traditional quads, surrounded by newer buildings. The Law School is a few blocks west of the main campus and the Gallagher Law Library will be hosting several tours during the Annual Meeting.

8. The Wallingford District, a twenty-minute bus ride from downtown, is a residential area bounded by Lake Union and the University District. Wallingford has wonderful bakeries, Art Deco movie theaters, great neighborhood restaurants, and Gas Works Park, with one of the best views of the Seattle skyline. Other highlights include lots of parks within reach of public transportation, for hiking, biking, strolling, kayaking, fishing, etc. (Yes, minutes from the Convention Center is the Center for Wooden Boats where boat rentals and instruction are available!) The Information and Hospitality booth will have plenty of maps and brochures to help you explore our wonderful city.

Well, there you have it! Of course, the main reason to come to Seattle in July is for the educational programs and the professional contacts you'll make. But if you also want to experience the flavor of the Northwest while you're here, there is plenty to do, for people with various size budgets. We look forward to seeing you in July! 

Danner to Resign LLJ Editorship

Richard A. Danner, Associate Dean for the Library and Computing Services, Duke University School of Law, will resign as editor of the *Law Library Journal* upon completion of volume 86. Dick has served as editor of *LLJ* since 1984.

A task force to select a new editor has been appointed by AALL President Kay M. Todd. Anyone interested in obtaining more information about the selection process can contact the task force Chair, Mary Lu Linnane, DePaul Law Library, 25 E. Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60604, 312/362-6895 (e-mail: lawmll@orion.depaul.edu)

Look for more information in next month's *AALL Newsletter*. 