



A Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries

SCUTTLE

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by Martha Campbell

I was going to start out with a comment about spring being just around the corner, the sky staying lighter later, it almost being time for the first spring bulbs to start appearing, when we got another one of our crazy snowstorms that drove home the point that it definitely is still winter here. I won't be looking under my snowball bush for crocus buds just yet. Instead I'll keep my mind on work and the profession of law librarianship.

Our new library assistant asked me the other day if we have a book on law librarianship and I looked around, but found we don't have anything that's current. So, I've started thinking about what we do in a law library that's not the same as in other libraries. While some tasks and duties are pretty much the same no matter what kind of library you're in, there are quite a few things that we have to know that others do not. If you're in a firm or corporate law library you probably don't have to explain that, for the most part, only appellate cases are published, but you do have to know it. We all have to know how the court system works, both at the state and federal level, how bills become laws in the legislature, what powers are delegated to state agencies, how municipal and county governments differ in their set-up and which level of government handles which situations. High school Civics class didn't teach all that. This knowledge is critical when you are trying to find a particular piece of information, be it online or in print. At this point I'm talking only about legal information, but what we're required to be familiar with encompasses a lot of other areas as well: business, medicine, etc. I think we're rather a select group based on our know-how. Fortunately we have an organization like CoALL that provides opportunities for our professional development as well as teaching others the mysteries of legal research. Dan Cordova has planned programs that should do both: one on the Patriot Act, another on helping pro se

patrons, and of course, BRAG. We've all got something of value, so increase your wealth and share it with others.

We need volunteers to speak at BRAG. Please notify Dan or me if you would like to help get the word out that our group can set new attorneys, paralegals and others on the right path in the legal profession.

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Increased Scholarships are available for Library Science Students

Each year the Colorado Association of Law Libraries (CoALL) has provided two scholarships in the amount of \$170.00 each for students enrolled in library school. The Board voted in January to increase the amount to \$250.00. Applicants must be members of CoALL. (Cost for student membership is only \$5.00.) For more information contact dselden@narf.org or 303-447-8760.

CoALL's annual BRAG program, (Bridge the Research and Analysis Gap)

This will be held June 3d. Please contact Martha Campbell very soon if you are interested in working on the committee.

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Holiday Party at
University of Denver College
of Law
Westminster Law Library

Thanks to everyone on the library staff at the D.U. College of Law for hosting the CoALL holiday party on December 18th. Here, Gary Alexander greets Gary Weitzel.



Approximately 30 members gathered to enjoy smoked salmon-Boursin canapés, warm artichoke hearts and parmesan cheese on baguettes, French pastries, vegetarian spring rolls and chocolate-covered strawberries in the law school's spacious Forum. Former DU music student Mike Purcell played enjoyable background music on the vibes.

Caryl Shipley gave tours of the library and classrooms having both power and dataports at each seat. The building is on a wireless network.

In the Forum, law students meet to talk, study, eat and work at tables in the light, open space that includes a cafe, basic services, a glassed-in staircase that serves as a sort of art element, and easy access to the library, classrooms and study areas. The LEED's-certified law school building utilizes environmentally-friendly technologies and design. The building is highly energy-efficient. Its design is intended to promote interaction between and among students and faculty, while incorporating natural light and materials.

*Don Ford from CU Law said it best:

I simply just have to rehash
my thanks for the wonderful bash.
Friends, fun, and booze,
and of course food
make CoAll parties a smash!

Jane Thompson, Druet Klugh, Wanda McDavid, Diane Burkhardt and Goldie Burton listen to the presentation without getting too far from the food.





Holly Hoxeng and Druet Klugh at the base of the elegant stairs.

**Colorado Association of Law Libraries (CoALL)
Treasurer's Report – Goldie Burton**

January 28, 2004

Note: This report does not include activity in January, but not yet reported in a bank statement.

October 1, 2003 – December 31, 2003

<u>Beginning Balance:</u>	10/1/2003	\$3,016.97
<u>Receipts:</u>	Membership	\$120.00
	Ad Revenue	\$60.00
	Interest	.31
<u>Total Receipts :</u>		\$180.31

Disbursements:

Liability Insurance	\$111.00
Bank's "Analysis Service Charge"	\$1.00
George A. Strait Scholarship Fund	\$500.00
Post Office Box Annual Fee	\$44.00
11-13-03 General Meeting and Program	\$97.79
Holiday Party Wine	\$98.98
<u>Holiday Party Vibe Music</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>
Total	\$840.77

Janus Fund Balance 9/30/2003 \$3,887.54

Ending Balance 9/30/2003 \$2,244.51

BIB INSTRUCTION: IT'S MORE THAN SPOON- FEEDING INFORMATION

By Don Ford

Reference Librarian

University of Colorado School of Law

Boulder, Colorado

I. Can You Get a "Bib" On? The Making of a Bibliographic Instructor

The legal reference librarian *is* a bibliographic instructor, whether at the reference desk or in a class. Law students are the main focus, but they're now students who've honed their research skills in an online, Internet environment. And, we know that working with the public in general and pro se clients in particular is indeed a type of bibliographic instruction.

In 1985, during my pre-librarian days, I once explored Richmond's main public library, located not far from Virginia's Capitol. A sixty-something patron interrupted me and exclaimed he was looking for the "KOE-ran."

I found him a reference librarian who in turn asked the patron if "KOE-ran" was "the author or the title." I didn't know it at the time, but I was eavesdropping on a truncated reference interview, complicated no doubt by the patron putting the **emPHAsis** on the wrong syllable.

Any really effective instructor in bibliographic skills and information literacy must have the soul of a good reference librarian. But there is more than one type of reference librarian, and

for both general and specialized bibliographic instruction it's important to be the right kind. I draw upon Eastern religious and social terminology to show where library instructors came from and where they need to go.

II. Librarian Evolution: From Mandarins to Sherpas to Gurus

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary Online (<http://www.m-w.com/>) has several definitions of "Mandarin," including the following: "[A] pedantic official."

The KOE-ran seeking reference librarian cited above was a Mandarin. She was helpful, but certainly not eager. The patron made his request shortly after the library's 9:00 a.m. opening time, and maybe the librarian hadn't yet had that saving cup of coffee. She was very restrained, and led the patron off and maybe got him a copy of the Koran--or maybe not. Perhaps the patron ended up with an encyclopedia article or a short entry from a religious dictionary. The patron *appeared* "unlettered," and I suspect the Mandarin-type reference librarian probably figured the patron could jolly well take whatever she gave him.

I don't think there are many Mandarin librarians left, but I'm sure they still exist. What's needed at reference now, and even more so in bibliographic instruction, is the "Sherpa." Merriam-Webster Online defines "Sherpa" as "[A] member of a Tibetan people living on the high southern slopes of the Himalayas in eastern Nepal who provide support for foreign trekkers and mountain climbers."

Thus, "Sherpa" is sometimes used figuratively to mean a guide in rough terrain. Sherpas, either literal or figurative, have to think nimbly and quickly, deftly adjusting to circumstances. Librarian Sherpas try all the permutations and combinations to get an answer and, if need be, they'll leave the reference desk and go with the patron into the stacks to locate the material. Sherpas are ideal bibliographic instructors for the general public.

The third type of reference librarian is the "Guru," defined by Merriam-Webster Online as, *inter alia*, "[A] teacher and especially intellectual guide in matters of fundamental concern," or "a person with knowledge or expertise[.]" Librarian Gurus include law and medical librarians.

III. Today's Library: A Mandarin-Free Zone

Now I will apply my typology to reference and bibliographic instruction. The Guru is definitely needed for specialized instruction, e.g., business, medical, or legal information literacy. I myself received bibliographic training from an outstanding medical librarian/informatics specialist who is both a Guru and a Sherpa. I found similar mentors among law librarians: One at Virginia's State Law Library (Guru/Sherpa) and an international law librarian from the Library of Congress (a distaff Tenzing Norgay: She led me into the sub-basements of the Madison Building). The Sherpa, however, is indispensable in any library setting (including law) catering to information neophytes.

Here are some ready references for librarian Sherpas. I thought Jim Kapoun's "Teaching Undergrads WEB Evaluation" (<http://www.ala.org/acrl/undwebev.html>) was a good overview of

what the current generation of students needs to know and the approach instructors need to take. In addition, I considered Jakob Nielsen's "How Users Read on the Web (They **don't**)" (<http://www.useit.com/alertbox/9710a.html>) a fine summary of what librarians are up against regarding the mindsets (and attention spans) of younger students and researchers. Finally, Kathy Schrock's "TEACHER HELPERS: Critical Evaluation Information" (<http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/eval.html>) is an outstanding set of links for library instructors to find real life, funky, catch-their-attention scenarios that are a key to library training and are definitely non-Mandarin.

What about our poor Mandarins? They're superannuated. They belong to a period of library use and instruction that was patronizing, to say the least. They were a dogged and valiant cohort, those librarians of the puckered lips and furrowed brows. They were the stalwarts running the old Carnegie system, designed as much to Americanize the immigrants as it was to provide knowledge "free to the people."

Even non-Mandarins may feel superannuated after the reading Beloit College's Mindset List for the Class of 2004 (<http://www.beloit.edu/~pubaff/releases/Mindset-List-2004.html>). However, in addition to driving home to me my age, the Class of 2004 Mindset List also implicitly stresses that for the Class of 2004 a manic-paced, multi-tasked, opti-choice life is *de rigueur*.

Current library users revel in their choices and the only reference librarians and library instructors worthy of the job are Gurus (for specialists) and Sherpas (for generalists). The Mandarins don't realize that we live in an age of cultural omnivores; one source or one product is *never* enough.

AALL

Supporting New Professionals: the AALL Annual Meeting Grants

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. <http://www.aallnet.org/committee/grants/grants.asp>

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. http://www.aallnet.org/about/award_mlda.asp

The AALL Mentor Project Wants You!

The AALL Mentor Project:

- Provides an informal, personal source of information for newer members
- Provides an avenue by which experienced law librarians may meet promising new members of the profession
- Provides a network for members who are contemplating a move to another type of library

Who should participate?

- All experienced law librarians willing to share their time and wisdom
- All enthusiastic newer members
- AALL members considering a move to another type of library

2003 mentees benefit from guidance and support:

- *While I have yet to meet a law librarian who wasn't willing to offer advice when asked, it is great to have someone who specifically wants to be asked. My mentor was also great fun to be around at the conference. She has continued to help me since, providing local introductions when I moved to San Francisco. – Monica Donovan, Information Specialist, Jackson Lewis LLP.*

Applications for both AALL Grants Programs must be received at the Association's headquarters by April 1, 2004.

Iris Lee
AALL Grants Committee Chair

- *My experience with my mentor has been great. We are both in similar situations and I know that I can always turn to her for advice and encouragement. – Sarah Mauldin, Director of Library Services, Lionel Sawyer & Collins*

2003 mentors recommend the experience:

- *Working as a mentor provides an opportunity for reflection and analysis about what's going on in law libraries and it makes you appreciate how much you have learned in your own career path. It's not rocket science and there's no right or wrong way to make it work. Even if your only time together is at the annual meeting, you have nothing to lose by trying it but, potentially, a lot to gain. – Suzanne Thorpe, Associate Director for Faculty, Research, and Instructional Services, University of Minnesota Law Library*
- *I have been a mentor at the last two AALL conferences, and it was a great experience. In addition to sharing my knowledge and experience with others, I believe that I can always learn something new by listening to my colleagues, regardless of their level of experience. I find it refreshing to hear how other libraries approach common issues. Moreover, frequently we come to law librarianship after many years in other professions. Often these new librarian*

colleagues have experience and knowledge of their own that enriches me. Finally, I enjoy teaching and helping (that is, after all, why I do what I do for a living!), want to give back to the profession what I can, and never pass up the opportunity to network. – Barbara Traub, Head of Reference Services, Rittenberg Law Library, St. John’s University School of Law

- *For the past two years, I have had wonderful mentees who are interested in foreign, comparative and international law librarianship. As many times a newer FCIL librarian is the only subject specialist at his or her workplace, a mentor and professional connections are vital. – Stephanie Burke,*
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Senior Reference and International Law Librarian, Pappas Law Library, Boston University School of Law

How can you join the Mentor Project?

To learn more about the AALL Mentor Project and to become a mentor or mentee, visit our website at:

http://www.aallnet.org/committee/mentoring/mentor_project.html

Mentors and mentees will be matched as closely as possible based on submitted applications.



Have you been thinking of writing an article of interest to law librarians? Maybe you just need a push to get started? Whether for fame or for fortune, this is your chance to enter the AALL/LexisNexis™ Call for Papers Competition.

The AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Committee is soliciting articles in three categories:

- Open Division for AALL members and law librarians with five or more years of professional experience
- New Members Division for recent graduates and AALL members who have been in the profession for less than five years.
- Student Division for budding law librarians still in school. (Students need not be members of AALL)

The winner in each division receives \$750 generously donated by LexisNexis, plus the opportunity to present his or her paper at a special program during the AALL Annual Meeting in Boston. Winners papers will also be considered for publication in the Association's prestigious *Law Library Journal*.

For more information, a list of previous winners and an application, visit the AALL website at http://www.aallnet.org/about/award_call_for_papers.asp. **Submissions must be postmarked by March 1.**

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Committee, Kathryn Hensiak, k-hensiak@law.northwestern.edu or Virginia Davis, Davis@UH.edu