

# LLNE News

*Newsletter of the Law Librarians of New England*

*Volume 33, Issue 2, 2016*

## Spring into Government Info!

**Team up with LLNE & ABLL at the 2016 Spring Meeting to explore access to government information**

The Spring 2016 joint meeting of the Law Librarians of New England and Association of Boston Law Librarians will be Friday, April 8th, at the Northeastern University School of Law.

The theme of the meeting is “Access to Government Information.” We will be spending the day discussing the role of law libraries and the government in providing access to this information, and why it is so critically important.

**Go to page 7 for the meeting agenda and more additional articles on this important topic!**



IMAGE: CENTENNIAL OF THE BULLFINCH STATE HOUSE P. 5, 1898

## Massachusetts Senate Passes Public Records Reform Bill

The Senate bill, S.1676, was passed by a unanimous vote that would strengthen access to state and municipal records. This is the first time the law governing access to public documents has been updated in approximately 40 years.

The bill cleared the Legislature's upper chamber after debate on dozens of amendments, but maintained its core principles:

- requiring each state agency or municipality to assign one employee as the “supervisor of public records” for all records requests and responses
- Less expensive access to information: Copying costs would be limited to 5 cents per page, down from 20 to 50 cents per page under current law.
- State agencies would also be required to provide four free hours of work time before being allowed to charge for searches (Municipalities would offer two hours)
- Time beyond that could not be charged at a rate above \$25 an hour.
- There would be no charge at all if the agency fails to provide the requested records within 15 days or doesn't respond to the request in 10.

The bill also puts some teeth into the law by allowing for

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**Keep up with LLNE!**  
**LLNE News** is available at:  
<http://www.llne.org/newsletter>.  
Stay up to date with the latest LLNE information  
at our blog:  
<http://www.llne.org/blog>

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## Editor's Note

Happy Spring and welcome to another addition of the LLNE Newsletter!

This issue we are thankful for the contributions from our members, special guests, and even from some former LLNE colleagues! Marvel at the newest presentation technology, revel in the LLNE News past logos, hear about the controversy between two legal information vendors, explore the latest open records law, and more!

This issue of the newsletter also continues our regular favorites such as What Are You Reading?, This Issue in History, Dear Miss Nomer, and others

We wish you a fantastic and productive Spring and Summer, and we look forward to seeing you at the LLNE Spring Meeting at Northeastern University School of Law!

- Kyle, Jenna, & Mindy





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# LLNE President's Message

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Greetings LLNEers!

I'm super excited about some of the goals and initiatives that are on tap for this year - so let's get right to it:

## WE VALUE YOU!

LLNE is your organization – it belongs to all of us – not just the executive board or long time members – we want everyone to have opportunities to brainstorm and share ideas for new initiatives and future goals. What makes LLNE so rich and unique is our members – no matter what state you're from or what legal setting you work in – your voice matters! The executive board has been working hard on ways to encourage involvement and make all members feel welcomed and valued. Here are some of the things we're working on:

**AD HOC BYLAWS COMMITTEE:** I appointed an ad hoc committee to look into whether or not we should propose a change to the bylaws to allow us to hold our annual elections at our spring meetings, instead of at our annual meetings at the AALL conference in July. With budgets shrinking and not as many people able to travel to the national conference every year, we want to make sure all members are able to participate in our election process. We're also looked into the possibility of online voting. Details of the proposed bylaw changes were distributed on the listserv and are available on the website!

**MEET & GREETs:** Raquel Ortiz and the rest of the membership committee have been planning LLNE meet and greets at different locations throughout New England. If you're interested in helping to organize one of these casual events, contact Raquel

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

I appointed a nominating committee to select candidates for 2016-2017. I'm excited about the proposed slate of new officers. Details of voting to follow!

**STATE LAW LIBRARIES AND ACCESS TO PUBLIC COURT RECORDS:** LLNE supports public access to court documents and the mission and value of public law libraries as well as our fantastic colleagues who serve the public. If you're interested in getting involved with these issues, please contact one of our government relations co-chairs: Anne McDonald or

Emilie Benoit or immediate past president Mindy Kent.

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

**LIBRARIANS GETTING LATTES:** Thanks to the hard work of education directors Elliott Hibbler and Ellen Minot Frentzen, LLNE was awarded an AALL/Bloomberg Continuing Education Grant for 2015-2016. This grant will help us fund out Librarians Getting Lattes initiative. Have you seen Jerry Seinfeld's Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee series? If you haven't, you should definitely check it out. We were inspired by this cool approach to chatting with colleagues and learning more about each other. We're hoping to do 2 of these this year. If you're interested in getting involved with this project, contact Elliott or Ellen.

**LLNE WEBINARES:** We know that folks don't always have the time or money to attend our fall and spring meetings, so we're looking into using webinar technology as a way of presenting more learning opportunities for LLNEers.

**COLLABORATING WITH OTHER CHAPTERS:** Our education directors have recently reached out to other law librarian chapters in our area like SNELLA, LLAGNY and ALLUNY to discuss joining forces. We're hoping to work together to create relevant and engaging meetings and programs for our members.

**SERVICE:** Kudos to the service committee for the Girls Who Code fundraiser that coincided with the fall meeting in RI this past October. Meeting attendees were asked to donate money to purchase Raspberry Pi computers for Rhode Island's only public chapter of Girls Who Code. LLNE members donated enough money to purchase 10 computers for the club. If you haven't already, check out the LLNE Legal Link and all the great work the committee is doing to support public libraries and access to legal information.

**OUR HISTORY:** Our new archives committee chair Ron Oppenheim is leading the charge to organize our archives and make our history -- especially some of the fun facts -- available to members via blog posts and social media.

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** Don't forget, we have several scholarships you can apply for. For more details and to review the scholarship guidelines, contact Jenna Fegreus, scholarship committee chair or check out the LLNE website.

-Diane D'Angelo

## Star Wars Invades Harvard Law Library!

The Harvard Law School Library hosted a book talk by Prof. Cass Sunstein on his forthcoming book, *The World According to Star Wars* (Harper Collins, 2016).



The book talk was a success, not only because the library raffled five free tickets to a 3-D screening of Star Wars VII: The Force Awakens, but because Star Wars fans from the region attended in full costume!

**LLNE Archives Committee member Heather Pierce shows off her lightsaber skills**

**LLNE Member Tim McAllister helps Harvard Law Library's new reference assistants...**

**"These are not the torts you're looking for..."**



**The Library's new circulation staff dealing with a late return**



# LLNE/ABLL Spring Meeting 2016

Friday, April 8th, Northeastern University School of Law.

## AGENDA

**8:30 - 9:00 Registration / Breakfast**

**9:00 - 9:30 Introductions**

**9:30 - 10:30 Keynote:**

**“Hot Messes, Dumpster Fires and the Role of Law Librarians in the 21st Century”**

Sarah Glassmeyer  
Research Fellow  
Harvard Library Innovation Lab; Affiliate, Berkman Center for Internet and Society

**10:30 - 11:00 Networking Break**

**11:00 - 12:15 Panel 1:**

### **Social Justice & Public Access to Government Information**

Dan Jackson  
Executive Director  
NuLawLab

Susan Drisko Zago  
Associate Professor of Law, Director of the Law Library  
University of New Hampshire  
School of Law

Adam Ziegler  
Manager, Special Projects  
Library Innovation Lab at Harvard Law School

Moderator: Cate Kellett  
Catalog and Government Documents Librarian and Lecturer in Legal Research  
Lillian Goldman Law Library at Yale Law School

**12:30 - 1:45 Lunch :**

**Location: Alumni Center (6th floor of Columbus Place), 716 Columbus Ave.**

Guides will be on hand to coordinate getting there and back.

## AGENDA, cont.

**2:00 - 3:00 Panel 2:**

### **Access to Records**

Joe Keefe  
Archivist,  
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

Beryl C.D. Lipton  
Reporter  
MuckRock

Pam Wilmot  
Executive Director  
Common Cause Massachusetts

Moderator: Elliott Hibbler  
Senior Law Librarian, Northeastern University School of Law

**3:00 - 3:30 Dessert Break: Sponsored by Bloomberg BNA**

**3:30 - 4:30 Panel 3:**

### **Government Information and Boston Area Librarians**

Kevin Coakley-Welch  
Librarian  
Office of the Attorney General of Massachusetts

Helen Lacouture  
Associate Librarian for Access and Organizational Services  
Boston College Law School Library

Moderator: Brian J. Harkins  
Head of Reference,  
ocial Law Library

**All sessions will be in the Dockser Building, Room 240, unless otherwise indicated**

**REGISTER TODAY- SPACE IS LIMITED!**

**Register: <http://bit.ly/LLNESpring16>**

**LLNE members: \$50 ABLI members: \$40**



# Discover GovInfo

Remember when FDsys was new? Well now, the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) has launched the next-gen (beta version) website of access to information from the three branches of the federal government.

Called Govinfo.gov, the site is the modernized version of FDsys, which is now seven years old. FDsys is scheduled to sunset in 2017.

“Govinfo is a user-friendly, modernized site that provides an easy to use navigation system accessible on smartphones, tablets, laptops and personal computers,” said the GPO’s announcement of the new site. It features what we have come to expect with 21st century search engines, a basic Google-like one-box search combined with either Advanced Searching or drill down category options. It also features the handy “find by Federal citation” search which allows you to see the breadth and scope of federal citation formats.



Everything that is available on FDsys is also available on govinfo. It contains more than 1.5 million titles, covering:

- Bills and statutes.
- Budget and presidential materials.
- Congressional committee materials.
- Congressional rules and procedures.
- Directories of organizations and officials.
- Executive agency publications.
- Judicial publications.
- Legislative agency publications.
- Proceedings of Congress
- General congressional publications.
- Regulatory information.

Among the enhancements to the site over the older FDsys site are:

- More modern look and feel.
- Capability to link related content.
- Two new ways to browse content: alphabetically and by category.
- A new open-source search engine.
- Enhancements to the search filters.
- More options for sharing pages and content on social media.

The two sites will run in parallel for a period of time while Govinfo remains in beta until the end of 2017.

# Duel Over State Rules

## Two of the nation’s leading legal research services will be facing off in federal court, and Fastcase, Inc. is seeking a declaratory judgment that could have broad-reaching implications for legal publishing in the United States.

A new lawsuit between Fastcase, Inc. and Casemaker falls into a very interesting category of litigation that has sprung up over the last decade: right to free, public access to the law. For example, In July 2015 the State of Georgia sued Public.Resource.Org, a nonprofit founded by Carl Malamud, for making the Official Code of Georgia Annotated available online.

In this latest battle over attempts to assign and enforce publishing rights over state law, the fight is between Casemaker and Fastcase, two online legal research services, over the publication Georgia Administrative Rules & Regulations. Casemaker’s parent company, Lawriter, has an agreement with the Georgia Secretary of State designating it as the exclusive publisher of the Georgia Administrative Rules & Regulations and giving it the right to license that content to other publishers.

Responding to a December takedown demand from Casemaker, Fastcase Inc. filed suit in federal court in Atlanta, seeking a declaratory judgment that the Georgia Administrative Rules & Regulations can’t be copyrighted.

Casemaker “cannot claim a valid copyright or an exclusive license to a valid copyright,” says Fastcase in its complaint. “It is well established in American law that state laws, including administrative rules and regulations, are not copyrightable, and must remain public as a matter of due process.”

They go on to cite some serious authority asserting this statement:

“It is well established in American law that state laws, including administrative rules and regulations, are not copyrightable, and must remain public as a matter of due process. See *Wheaton v. Peters*, 33 U.S. (8 Pet.) 591 (1834); *Banks v. Manchester*, 128 U.S. 244 (1888); *Davidson v. Wheelock*, 27 F. 61 (C.C.D. Minn. 1866) (publisher can’t copyright state statutes, even if state purports to give exclusive publishing rights); *Howell v. Miller*, 91 F. 129 (6th Cir. 1898) (“no one can obtain the exclusive right to publish the laws of a state”) (Harlan, J., sitting by designation); *Nash v. Lathrop*, 142 Mass. 29, 6 N.E. 559 (Mass. 1886) (“Every citizen is presumed to know the law thus declared, and it needs no argument to show that justice requires that all should have free access to the opinions, and that it is against sound public

policy to prevent this, or to suppress and keep from the earliest knowledge of the public the statutes or the decisions and opinions of the justices.”).

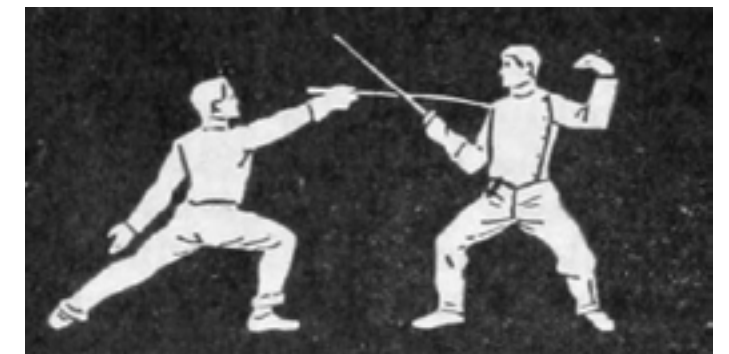
In a conversation for Bob Ambrogi’s website *Lawsitesblog.com*, Fastcase CEO Ed Walters, said “Someone needs to stand up for the proposition that public law is in the public domain.”

While Casemaker has not yet responded to the declaratory judgement filing, other people in the law, library, and tech fields have expressed great interest in the case.

Sarah Glassmeyer, law librarian and current Harvard Library Innovation Lab fellow said, “I’m happy to see the free law movement on the offensive and Fastcase working to reclaim our rights to access the law. Although it seems to my mind that the law is well settled, hopefully a modern court decision in Fastcase’s favor will clear up some of the ambiguity states are apparently finding in whether or not they are required to make their law accessible.”

Sarah is no stranger to these scenarios. She just recently completed a massive research project about the ways legal information is published by the states. Her full report is called *The State Legal Information Census* (<http://www.sarahglassmeyer.com/StateLegalInformation/>). It is a comprehensive census on the quality of primary legal resources published by states on the web.

This is not the first, or the last time we will see copyright litigation over publishing laws and codes. As Walters stated in a 2014 interview about Fastcase with the *ABA Journal*: “Publishers should have the right to protect the stuff they add in. We add in stuff too, and we would like to protect that. The point is that public law should be available to everyone so that anyone can create value on top of it. That way, people can create all kinds of wonderful products that are available to anyone. There will never be any innovation otherwise.”



# Update: Access to Court Records

## The MA Trial Court Committee on Public Access to Court Records has invited comments on Proposed Trial Court Rule XIV Uniform Rules on Access to Court Records.

These proposed changes are a result of testimony given at the Court's public hearing held in June 2015 at which LLNE President Melinda Kent and ABLL President Bob DiFabrizo testified and AALL sent a letter in support. The hearing was covered in our last newsletter. LLNE's original letter of support is available on llne.org.

Each proposed uniform rule is available online (<http://bit.ly/proprtrialctrules>) and is accompanied by the Committee's

### MA Senate

Continued from page 1

punitive damages up to \$5,000 if a court finds an agency acted in bad faith. The proposal would bring Massachusetts in line with 47 other states and the federal government in allowing attorney's fees to be awarded to plaintiffs who are victorious in court when denied records.

Sen. Jason Lewis, the original Senate sponsor of the bill, said "I was very pleased that the Senate passed the bill yesterday with a unanimous vote, which means of course that it was bipartisan. I believe it's a very carefully crafted and strong bill that will, after more than 40 years, bring our public records law into the 21st century."

The bill still has some work before it becomes law. The House passed a public records reform bill in November. The bill will now go to a committee of House-Senate negotiators to hammer out a final compromise.

As for the timetable for the bill's final approval, Sen. Lewis stated "My hope will be that it would all happen in the next few months."

Open government advocates have praised the enforcement mechanisms contained in the Senate bill, which they identified as key differences from the House version of the legislation.

The bill has drawn significant attention from open government groups, who advocate for more transparent government, but also from municipalities worried about the burden the law will place on city and town workers.

There was little disagreement that the state's public records law is in need of an update, and, where opposition does exist, it focuses largely on the costs that could be imposed upon of-

explanatory notes for additional guidance.

The LLNE Executive Committee is reviewing the proposed rules with the intent of submitting a letter with our comments. We would love to get the input of our members! Please direct any comments for consideration as part of LLNE's response to Diane D'Angelo, LLNE President or Mindy Kent, Immediate Past President.

Individual comments should be sent by email to [rules.comments@jud.state.ma.us](mailto:rules.comments@jud.state.ma.us) or regular mail, directed to Hon. Peter M. Lauriat, Chair, Public Access to Court Records Committee, Superior Court Administrative Office, 13th Floor, Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108. The deadline to submit comments has been extended to May 4, 2016.

fices tasked with fulfilling records requests.

Representatives from some municipalities state that the new bill creates an unfunded mandate on municipalities because it limits how much a city or town can recoup in fees rather than allowing it to charge for the full cost of complying with the request. For reasons like this, the Massachusetts Municipal Association, a non-profit, non-partisan association of Massachusetts cities and towns, prefers the public records reform bill (H 3858) passed by the House in November.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, though, said it prefers the Senate version of the reforms, and hopes many of its provisions prevail in conference.

However, some amendments to the Senate bill attempted to quell both sides. For example, an amendment filed by Sen. Anne Gobi would allow small municipalities to seek extensions based on their normal business hours. Gobi, said that some town halls in her district are only open a few hours a week and may have a harder time meeting deadlines.

Differences between the House and Senate bills will likely be hashed out by lawmakers from both branches in a conference committee.

The bill also sets aside certain penalties paid by the government for a fund that will support information technology improvements and other upgrades to help communities comply with the law.

Both the Senate and House bills will go to a committee of House-Senate negotiators to hammer out a final compromise.

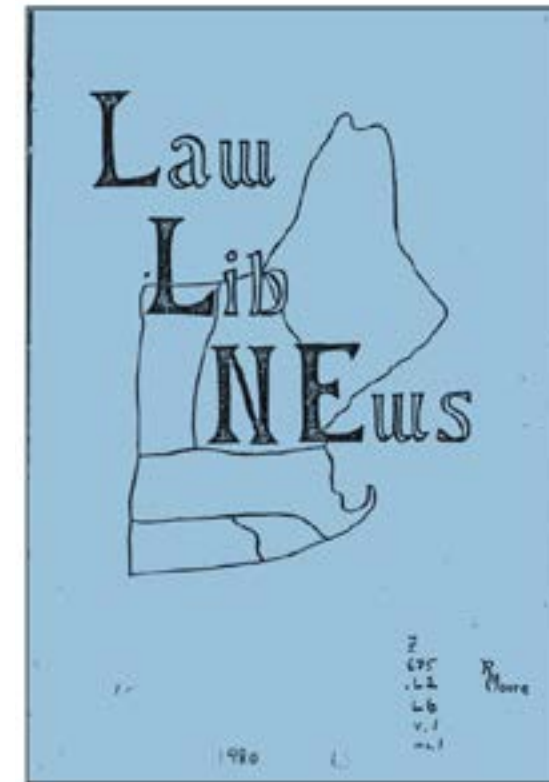
## LLNE (Not-so) News

By Heather Pierce, Archives Committee

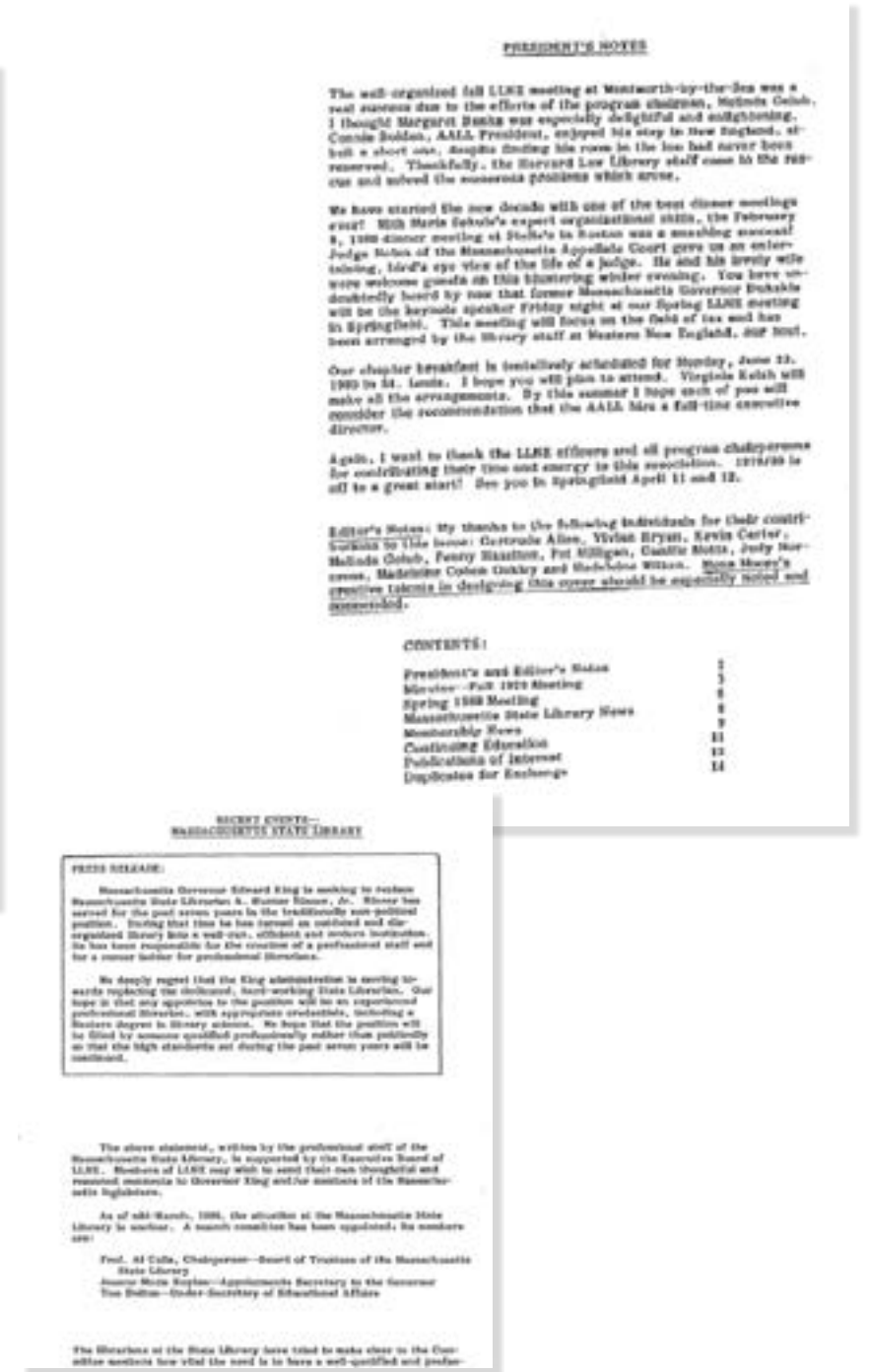
A blast from our LLNE News past! Here is the cover, with a very nifty logo, of the first ever LLNE News from 1980!

We had just had a visit from AALL's president, a great meeting at Wentworth-by-the-sea, planned an upcoming LLNE with Governor Dukakis, and had news of the Massachusetts State Librarian job.

Should we go back to that logo?



Highlights from *Law Lib NEWS*, our first issue from 1980!





# How to Negotiate a Free iPad or Lessons Learned from Attending the AALL Business Skills Clinic

by Ellen Frentzen

Last October, I attended the inaugural AALL Business Skills Clinic, held at the Hyatt Chicago Magnificent Mile. I was fortunate to receive a continuing education scholarship from the LLNE Scholarship Committee, without which I would not otherwise have been able to attend. In addition to learning essential business skills in six key areas, Managerial Finance, Human Resources, Marketing and Communications, Performance Measures, Negotiations, and Strategic Planning, I got to meet and learn from a great mix of law librarians from law schools, law firms, and courts from all across the US. While all the segments were valuable, Negotiations was perhaps my favorite, and Human Resources the one I found least helpful. Following are some reflections, takeaways, and suggested readings from my time in Chicago.

While the first unit, Managerial Finance, was presented with a focus on law firms, as someone who hasn't much finance education, I found even the basics helpful. In addition to raising questions librarians should look at, such as focusing on what our reference desk users need, why they need it, and how they use it, so we can better align services, we looked at how to read an income statement and some basic finance terms, as well as how to build an effective business case. A key takeaway from this session was that context is king. When you are describing the value of something to your stakeholders, be sure to include the qualitative context. Similarly, when you are submitting budget or similar requests, include choices and tradeoffs in your request so stakeholders can better understand your request and what they're getting (or not getting).

Our second unit, Human Resources, examined the supervisor's duty to ensure compliance with the myriad federal labor and employment laws that apply to employees. While it was helpful to go through several example anecdotes on workplace conduct and discuss the appropriate response, this unit felt like it would have been better presented by the HR department at each of our organizations, so we could also have looked at state laws and specific university/firm policies. If I could have changed one thing about the Business Skills Clinic, it would have been to have this unit look more at the strategy of managing human resources—motivating underperforming employees, practicing having difficult conversations, etc.

We finished up day one with sessions on Marketing and Communications and Performance Measures. In Marketing, we learned about the components of a brand, and went through a series of exercises to put together marketing plans for ourselves, assessing ourselves as leaders, and examining our target markets. A really helpful piece of this unit was that our speaker had us put deadlines on our action items. She also gave us a great tip for putting together a response to the inevitable question,

“so, what do you do?” For the 30 second answer, ask yourself “what problems do I solve for whom?” and be sure to use a verb in your answer. For the five-minute answer, follow up on that by discussing how you solve those problems, why they are compelling problems, and what your “clients” say about you. A handy tip for any introvert who sometimes feels overwhelmed meeting so many new colleagues at the annual meeting! In Performance Measures, we learned about the what and the how—what do you measure, and how do you present it? A key takeaway from this session was to collect what I've always called “orchids”—praise and testimonials from your clients that can be added into reports with hard numbers, to really tell a story about the impact of what you're doing. Sadly, this session was quite short, and we did not get to look at any examples of how to put together a good presentation of performance measures, or think about what would be effective performance measures for our own organizations.

On day two, we had our final units on Negotiations and Strategic Planning. While I got something out of every session, as previously mentioned, Negotiations was the most valuable for me. Our speaker alternated negotiation exercises with practical tips and information, so we could see where we were weak as negotiators and then have a chance to implement our newly acquired knowledge. Additionally, she addressed head-on some of the issues people have with negotiating, be they gender-based, feeling tongue-tied under pressure, or the tendency to take negotiations personally. This session was the perfect blend of lecture and hands on learning. While it's hard to pick just one helpful tip from this session, my favorite was “fair is for girl scouts.” What is fair to you may not be fair to an opponent, so avoid the “fair” strategy in negotiations. Instead, look to what each party wants, and how that can be achieved.

In Strategic Planning, we started out with an explanation of the process that seems to regularly get overlooked when the words “strategic plan” are uttered, which was extremely helpful—a strategic plan doesn't tell you where you're going, but rather, is to lay out what it will take to do what you want to do. As with almost any session on strategic planning, we looked at the components of a SWOT analysis, as well as tools and evaluation approaches, but what made this session helpful was in laying out the questions and issues to be addressed up at the beginning of the process, especially the question “what is untouchable?” These two elements of the session helped illustrate the value of strategic planning, done properly.

While the value of many of the lessons I learned at the Business Skills Clinic is incalculable, one had an immediately noticeable impact. Shortly after returning to Boston, a software update fried one of our older departmental iPads which was no longer under warranty. Using the skills I acquired in the Negotiations unit, I successfully negotiated with Apple Support to not only get our iPad shipped into AppleCare and examined



for free, but to have it completely replaced when they could not fix it, so our Associate Director is up and running again, without our having to purchase a brand-new iPad. (Protip: before calling customer service, take the time to lay out your argument, with the supporting facts and timeline).

Overall, the Business Skills Clinic was a great experience, and one I would highly recommend to those interested in attending the next time it comes around.

Additional Information on the AALL Business Skills Clinic can be found at: <http://www.aallnet.org/Documents/CPE/bskills-facilitators.pdf>

Additional Information on LLNE Scholarships can be found at: <http://llne.org/committees/scholarships/scholarshipinfo/>

## Reading List:

American Association of Law Libraries Economic Value of Law Libraries Special Committee, *The Economic Value of Law Libraries*, 2015, <http://www.aallnet.org/mm/Publications/products/economicvaluelawlibraries.pdf>.

Steve Denning, *Do we need libraries?*, *Forbes*, April 28, 2015, <http://www.forbes.com/sites/stevedenning/2015/04/28/do-we-need-libraries/#7fe32cb96b91>.

Richard Dobbs, Tim Koller, & Sree Ramaswamy, *The Future and How to Survive It*, *Harv. Bus. Rev.*, October 2015, <https://hbr.org/2015/10/the-future-and-how-to-survive-it>

Bruce MacEwan & Peter J. Kalis, *Growth is Dead, Now What?: Law Firms on the Brink* (2013)

David C. McClelland, *The Achieving Society* (1961).

Kandarp Mehta, *Five Essential Strategies for Creative Negotiations* (Harvard Business Review Case Studies 2012).

### Optimizing Google Drive With Additional Tools

Given that so many individuals and institutions using Google Drive, it is no surprise that new tools are always debuting to add functionality and efficiency to projects undertaken within the Google Drive ecosystem. Some of these tools address features that those who have previously used Microsoft Office might miss, and others offer options that aim to streamline workflows. Below are a few intriguing examples of tools that will be useful to librarians and library patrons alike.

#### Draftback

With Draftback, you can move backwards through the history of any Google Doc with the click of a button. After a short rendering process, you are ready to view a movie-like display of all of the past edits that have been made throughout the entire history of your document. This Chrome extension can be both a useful tool when working on a lengthy, complicated document and an interesting way to get insights into your writing process (or that of your collaborators). You can even see a timeline of your changes and view document statistics. According to the tool's developers, all of the rendering work takes place on your computer, so you won't be exposing any additional information beyond what is already held by Google.

#### Easy Accents

This add-on brings additional functionality to the menu in your Google Doc and streamlines the process for adding accents from over fifteen languages to your document, including Ancient Latin, French, Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Maori, Spanish, German and more. This tool is perfect for anyone who frequently switches between languages regularly and, given that it is free, it's a great tool to suggest to library patrons who are struggling with adding accents to Google Docs.

#### Poll Everywhere

Those of you who teach may have heard of Poll Everywhere before. This tool allows presenters to integrate polls and quizzes into their slides for presentations and is used frequently by teachers who want to inject interactivity into their lectures. Now Poll Everywhere offers a Chrome extension that makes this process even easier when using Google Slides. With this extension, adding live Poll Everywhere content to a presentation in Google Drive is as simple as inserting an image on a slide. This is a great way to add more audience participation to your presentations and is particularly useful in a classroom setting.

#### Draw.io

If you ever create diagrams, wireframes, or charts, Draw.io is a powerful tool that will make this process more efficient. With dozens of templates for almost any design project and an ability

to add your own custom templates and design elements, this tool makes design work simpler and faster. This application is a bit different than the others on the list because it can integrate with Dropbox and OneDrive as well as Google Drive, but, given the robust functionality that it offers, it is still worth a mention. It also has plugins for additional integrations with Jira and Confluence.

These four tools offer exciting new ways to use Google Drive in virtually any professional setting. Though these are but the tip of the iceberg when it comes to add-ons and extensions for the Google Drive ecosystem, these will help you to get started with integrating new tools into your Google toolbox and will hopefully allow you to discover completely new ways to create, share, and collaborate.

## What are you reading?

### Anna Lawless-Collins, BU Law Library

Over the summer I finally gave in to my inner nerd crying out for funny fantasy and started reading Terry Pratchett's **Discworld** books. With over 40 books in the series, it's a hilarious, warm, and thoughtful gift that keeps on giving.



The series all takes place on the Discworld and follows sets of characters throughout the books. There are the wizards at Unseen University, the witches in the Ramtop Mountains, the personification of Death, the City Watch (my current favorite), and a few other groups and individuals on the Disc. The characters are engrossing, the turns of phrase often hilarious, and the gentle messages in the books are often surprisingly insightful.

## Dear Miss Nomer...



Dear Miss Nomer,

The last column was over the top! One could call it PUN-tastic! Do you have any more library puns or jokes that I can use at upcoming conferences?

Thanks,  
Len DeHand



Here are some of my favorites, by category:

**Criminal Law:**  
What did the detective do when he didn't believe the librarian's story?  
He booked her!

Why didn't the thief burgle the library?  
Because he was afraid the judge would give him a long sentence.

What's the difference between an accountant and a detective solving the Case of the Stolen Book?  
One's a bookkeeper and one's a bookcaper

What happens when you cross a librarian and a lawyer?  
"You get all the information you want, but you can't understand it."

**Interdisciplinary:**

What did one math book say to the other math book?  
"Do you want to hear my problems?"

Why did the librarian slip and fall on the library floor?  
Because she was in the non-friction section.

**For non-law library conferences:**

How do school librarians file melted marshmallows?  
According to the Goody Decimal System.

**For Downton Abbey discussion groups:**

Where are there more nobles than in the royal court?  
In the library. All the books have titles.

**Reference Questions**

Patron: I am looking for a globe of the earth.  
Librarian: We have a table-top model over here.  
Patron: No, that's not good enough. Don't you have a life-size?  
Librarian: Yes, but it's in use right now.

A chap walks into a library and asks for a book about cliffhangers. The librarian says...

A man walks into a library and asks for a book on the laws of probability. The librarian says "it might be on the shelf over there".

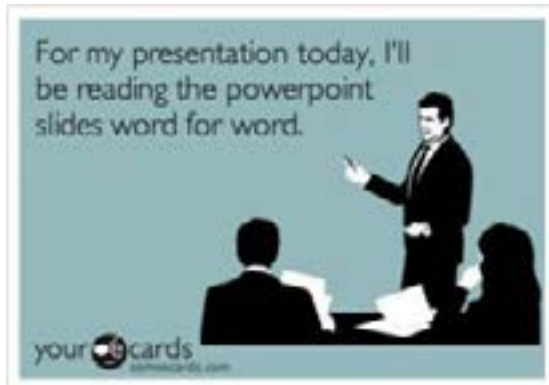
I went into the local library and asked if they had any books on floor panels. "No" the librarian replied, "We keep them on shelves here".



# Presenting...five alternatives to PowerPoint

by Kris Turner, Special Guest Correspondent, Associate Academic Librarian, University of Wisconsin Law School

Ah, PowerPoint. The old standby, always there when you are in dire need of a professional and (relatively) simple-to-create presentation.



Everyone knows it, everyone feels comfortable with it. Well, almost everyone.

If you're like me, you may like to break out of your comfort zone from time to time and try something new. I did a Cool Tools presentation last year on a few PowerPoint alternatives that may help you try something new and impress a few faculty members, attorneys, or staff along the way. None of these tools is completely new, but they are a nice alternative to the same old presentation style. All the tools here are free, but you may have to sign up for an account to use them.

*Note that I am not including Prezi on my list. I do like Prezi and think that it is especially useful for presentations that you need to spice up, but I think enough librarians are aware of it that I can move on to other lesser-known tools.*

## Google Slides:



The Google Mothership continues to slowly assimilate all things, including presentation tools. Slides is a very easy way to create presentations, with an intuitive interface, some nice fresh templates and designs, and most handily, a way to access your slides anywhere via the Cloud. The final

look is very similar to PowerPoint, so you aren't going to

shock many people with the look of a final Slides presentation, but it is still different enough to provide a breathe of fresh air.

## Powtoon:



The polar opposite of Google Slides is Powtoon. With Powtoon, you can create an animated video that is very dynamic and eye-catching. Instead of a true presentation tool, this video could be played for a group to showcase an idea or embedded in a website to promote your library or services. The learning curve here is somewhat steep and the look is a little cartoony, so

be aware of what tone you want to establish. But if you really want catch someone's attention, check out Powtoon.

## Zoho Docs:



Zoho Docs is part of a larger suite of office tools that lives entirely in the cloud. Zoho looks and acts like an offspring of Google Slides and PowerPoint, and produces a nice, clean presentation that is very easy to use. Like Google Slides, Zoho's final product resembles PowerPoint,

so this is another good tool if you're interested in a new production setting while producing a result that will be similar to what you're used to seeing.

## Adobe Voice:



Adobe Voice is unique in this list in that you can download the App and create the entire video presentation right on your iPad. You sign up for a free account (with email, Facebook or Adobe ID) and are ready to go. You can create a video using music, photos, and animation very quickly. I saw this tool at another presentation at AALL (25 Free Technologies for Law Librar-

ies...great session!) and had to try it. I was able to create a raw but usable video in 45 minutes (that included learning how to use the app) that night. This is good for highlighting your library or service in a quick video that looks professional.

*Continued on page 17*

## Presenting

*Continued from page 16*

## EMaze:

This one is my personal favorite. WithEMaze, you can create a presentation that follows an order much like PowerPoint, but the environment is completely different. Your template can be a 3D model of a city or outer space, a



museum gallery or a wide range of other backgrounds (some free, some 'premium,' though there are enough free choices to keep me happy). While this one isn't as easy to learn as Zoho Docs or Google

Slides, it is still relatively painless to understand, and the end result is unique yet familiar enough that I think the learning curve is worth it.

There you have it—five new (and free!) tools to explore and use. There are many other tools out there, so please share any that you enjoy (Slideshark? Visme? Keynote? Haiku Deck?) Remember, be daring, be brave...move beyond PowerPoint. Happy presenting!

## Nominating Committee Report 2016 Slate of Candidates Announced

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, we are pleased to present the final slate of nominees for the LLNE Board.

The 2016/2017 slate includes:

- Vice President/President Elect: Ellen Frentzen, Boston University Law Library
- Education Director (2 year term): Elliott Hibler, Northeastern University Law Library
- Education Director (Ellen Frentzen's remaining 1 year term): Ellen Phillips, UNH Law Library
- Secretary: Nicole Dzyslewski, Roger Williams University Law Library

Many thanks,

Mindy Kent, chair  
Barbara Schneider  
Kathy Fletcher

## Service Committee News

For the third year in a row the LLNE Service Committee, with the support of the LLNE Executive Board, granted two scholarships for New England public librarians to attend our chapter's award-winning Legal Research Instruction Program. ([http://llne.org/legalresearchinstruction/intro\\_course/](http://llne.org/legalresearchinstruction/intro_course/)) The two librarians who received the scholarships this year were April Pascucci, Library Technician at the U.S. Court of Appeals Library for the First Circuit and Jazmin Idakaar, Generalist Librarian I of the Mattapan Branch of the Boston Public Library.

The Service Committee continues to focus its efforts on making connections and building partnerships with public libraries in the New England. This Spring the co-chairs of the service committee will be presenting a session titled *Successful Strategies for Managing Law-Related Patron Inquiries* at the Rhode Island Library Association (RILA) Annual Conference in Warwick, RI. This will provide an opportunity for the Service Committee members to meet public librarians with an interest in law and to showcase LLNE's Legal Link project.

## LLNE Leadership Academy

The January 2016 issue of the AALL E-Newsletter announced the participants for this year's AALL Leadership Academy.

The LLNE Executive Board is pleased to acknowledge the five LLNE members selected to participate in this year's academy:

- Claire DeMarco
- Nicole Dyszlewski
- Cate Kellett
- Anna Lawless-Collins
- Anne Rajotte

AALL's Leadership Academy is an opportunity for newer and aspiring members of the profession to develop and learn from experts and each other essential skills for effective leadership such as communication, collaboration, leadership versus management, and more. Through a series of assessments, focused conversations, group activities, and networking opportunities, these aspiring newer members will develop these skills and add colleagues from around the nation to their expanding network of professional connections.

Congratulations to Anna, Anne, Cate, Claire, and Nicole!

## This Issue in Vermont History

(We will feature other New England states each issue)

**September 11, 1814** - Commodore MacDonough's fleet is victorious against British in Battle of Plattsburgh, saving Vermont from certain invasion.

**September 14, 1941** - Vermont Legislature declares war on Germany in order to make sure the Vermont military servicemen are paid a wartime pay bonus.

**October 14, 1795** - Ethan Allen's brother Ira offered to pay the University of Vermont 1,000 pounds sterling if it would change its name to Allen University.

**October 19, 1864** - "St. Albans Raid." Confederate soldiers attacked citizens, stole a total of \$208,000 from the banks in St. Albans, and fled to Canada. The raid was the northernmost land action of the Civil War, taking place exclusively in St. Albans, Vermont.

**October 22, 1763** - Daniel Chipman, the first reporter of Vermont Supreme Court decisions is born in Salisbury, Conn.

**November 3, 1838** - Legislature abolishes law that requires any imprisonment for financial debts

**November 17, 1825** - Vermont State Library created

**December 18, 1880** - Women were first allowed to cast a vote in Vermont in school district elections.

**December 23, 1779** - Bethel became the first town chartered by the independent state of Vermont.

**January 5, 1921** - Edna Beard of Orange became Vermont's first woman legislator. There has never been a legislative session since without a woman member.

**January 6, 1791** - The Bennington Convention ratifies the federal constitution and applies for Vermont's admission to the Union. Vermont becomes a state on March 4, 1791.

**February 12, 1781** - Judah Spooner and Tim Green began publishing Vermont's first newspaper, the Vermont Gazette, in Westminster.

**February 20, 1779** - Vermont adopts the first state seal. Ira Allen, Ethan's brother, designed it and Reuben Dean, a printer, carved it.



## Directory of Officers and Chairs

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