

LLNE News

Newsletter of the Law Librarians of New England
Volume 24, Number 3, 2004/2005

A Call to Action: Electronic Access to Government Information

Government Relations Committee's 2004/05 Program

By Edward T. Hart, Committee Chair

The Issue

For the coming year, the Government Relations program is seeking to address the issue of public electronic access to government information. Here in Massachusetts, we have already identified two important legislative publications that we believe should be kept permanently available. The current legislative session's Bulletin of Committee Works and introduced bills are published on the General Court of Massachusetts website, but previous sessions are not archived for continued public access. In New Hampshire, session laws that have been kept available on that state's website have recently been removed without warning.

This program follows the work of AALL's Government Relations Committee, whose report, *State-by-State Report on Permanent Public Access to Electronic Government Information*, is available at the AALL Washington office website at: <http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/aallwash/PPAreport.htm>.

The Committee seeks further examples of state information that should be maintained in an electronic format for public access and new material that should be added. Once a fuller list of publications for each state has been developed, we will communicate with the appropriate authorities in the state governments. We will attempt to educate and enlighten them that law librarians of their states and from the New England region as a whole believe that certain fundamental information held or produced by the state governments should be accessible in electronic formats on the Internet.

A Call to Action

So what we need from the membership of LLNE are the documents and information that you feel should be published on our states' websites. Please send the titles and the publishing offices of these publications and any other suggestions to me at ehart@nesl.edu during the month of September. The Committee will compile a list to share with the membership during the Fall meeting on October 15, 2004. After that meeting, we will begin contacting state officials to share our professional opinion regarding accessibility of the information resources we have identified.



Outgoing LLNE President Susan Sullivan poses with incoming LLNE President Raquel Ortiz at the AALL Annual Meeting in Boston in July.

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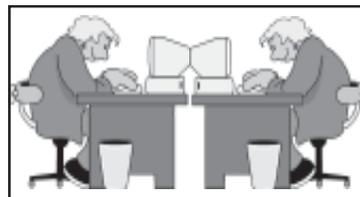
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The Law Librarians of New England (LLNE) is a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries. *LLNE News*, the chapter newsletter, is published quarterly on the LLNE webpage at <http://www.aallnet.org/chapters/llne>. LLNE does not assume any responsibility for the statements advanced by the contributors to *LLNE News* nor do the views expressed necessarily represent the views of LLNE or its members. Any other questions concerning *LLNE News* including requests for reprints should be directed to:

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CO-EDITORS' NOTE

Now that the AALL Annual Meeting is behind us, we think the first thing to do, after taking that big sigh, is to give ourselves a helping of "Good Job!" We saw many LLNE members staffing the local activities table, giving tours, writing articles for the *The Hub*, and organizing charity book drives, to name a few. It is because of your hard work that the meeting was such a success.

Since we are on the subject of jobs well done and members deserving of thanks, we want to take the time to thank our co-editor, Michelle Pearse. This is Michelle's last issue of the LLNE Newsletter as an editor (at least for now). We also want to thank John Pedini for agreeing to stay on as co-editor of the newsletter. With this issue of the newsletter we welcome two new co-editors, Sharon Persons, Northeastern University Law Library, and Susan Vaughn, Suffolk University Law Library.

We are also welcoming several new LLNE board members. In this issue of the newsletter, we have a column by one of our new officers, Raquel Ortiz, President of LLNE.

For many of us in academic libraries, the students and faculty are returning to campus, we are teaching classes and introducing new patrons to our libraries. Maybe the summer meeting of AALL has provided the impetus for a new project. Attorneys are back from vacation and summer associates are gone.

If you are interested in contributing an article or announcement for our next issue or want to be our new cartoonist please contact Susan Vaughn, svaughn@suffolk.edu, s.persons@neu.edu, or John Pedini, jpardini@sociallaw.com.

We look forward to seeing you all in Sturbridge this fall!

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**LLNE
President's
Message**

August 5, 2004

As I sit here on a rainy August morning, I realize that fall is almost upon us. For many of us this season marks the beginning of a new year by bringing new students, associates, clerks, and more. This fall LLNE also starts a new year with new officers, committee chairs, ideas and projects.

Our officers and committees continue their work full steam ahead. Susan Sullivan continues to provide her leadership and expertise by reviewing the consistency of our founding and operating documents: the LLNE Constitution, Bylaws, and Procedures Manual. The Scholarships committee is currently considering how to expand its mission of recruitment to law librarianship and support for our members. Our Public Relations committee has published our first annual member bibliography, which was distributed at the Annual Meeting and is posted on our website. Watch this year for more news on how you can help recruit new members to our profession.

The LLNE News editors bring you this issue with highlights of the annual meeting and more exciting things to come. Our Communications and Internet committees will explore how we can get up to the minute information to you via our website, "listserv", and more. The Service committee continues to expand its good work to other locations in LLNE's geographic area. Our Education Directors are looking at more ways to provide programming. In all, I see another very productive year ahead for LLNE.

Speaking of educational programming, the fall LLNE meeting has been a work in progress for almost a year. The LLNE website now features the agenda for *Yankee Ingenuity — Doing More with Less*, our meeting taking place on October 15 at Old Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts. The roster of speakers and the topics are impressive and perfectly in tune with the realities we face in our libraries today. Watch your mail for a meeting announcement and registration form.

Take a look at the Directory of Officers and Chairs appearing at the end of this issue, to see all the changes in our leadership. It is this dedicated group as well as the many volunteers in the committees that help our organization succeed. I take this opportunity to call on the rest of our 300+ members of LLNE to join us in this tradition of leadership. Consider beginning this year by offering your help to one of our committees.

As I finish this message, the rain has cleared and we enjoy a bright fall-like day in Boston. I wish you many more sunny days and an autumn full of opportunities. See you at Old Sturbridge Village in October!

**LLNE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2004-2005**

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Raquel Ortiz

Vice-President/President Elect
Michelle Pearse

Past President
Susan Sullivan

Secretary
Kathleen Fletcher

Treasurer
Juliana Hayden

Educational Directors
Sue Zago
Kelly Browne

**LLNE Business Meeting
Tuesday July 13, 2004
Boston, Massachusetts**

President's Report

President Susan Sullivan called the business meeting to order at 12:25. She thanked members for attending; all of the LLNE volunteers who helped make the AALL Annual Meeting so successful; Susan Scoville of SNELLA for arranging the joint LLNE/SNELLA luncheon; and the corporate sponsors of the luncheon, Lexis-Nexis, Westlaw, and the *Connecticut Law Journal*.

President Sullivan then presented gifts of appreciation to folks rotating off the Executive Board: Jeanine Uppgard (Secretary), Maureen Quinlan (Education Director), Michelle Pearse (Newsletter Editor). She also thanked Michael Hughes (Immediate Past President) who in turn presented a gift of thanks to Susan Sullivan as she passed from President to Immediate Past President.

The LLNE Annual Report was submitted to AALL and will appear in the *Law Library Journal*. All members are encouraged to read it. Annual committee reports will be appearing on the LLNE website so that members will be able to see the work that committees are currently involved in.

Reports

Treasurer – Treasurer Juliana Hayden reports that LLNE has over \$25,000 in the current treasury. President Susan Sullivan commented that this is a good deal of money and there has been an ad hoc committee formed to look at ways of spending it. The Board's goal is to use the money for education and recruiting new law librarians.

Nominations – The Nominations Committee (Michael Hughes, Diane Frake, and Joan Shear) put forth the following slate of candidate for the LLNE Executive Board:

- Michelle Pearse – VP/President Elect
- Kathleen Fletcher – Secretary
- Kelly Browne – Education Co-chair

A motion made to accept this slate of officers was carried.

Incoming President – Raquel Ortiz reported that she had been contacted by Steven Weiter, incoming president of ALLUNY, about a potential regional meeting to be held among several Northeast regional chapters. The membership agreed to plan a regional meeting to be held in Toronto.

Communications – Diane D'Angelo, incoming chair, reported that LLNE has a new brochure. Diane thanked John Pedini for putting together the LLNE display table in the Exhibit Hall. Diane reported that the LLNE bibliography is complete and is on the website. There are also paper copies in the Exhibit Hall. Sharon Persons and Susan Vaughn are the new newsletter editors. John Pedini will be continuing as co-editor and Michelle Pearse will continue as co-editor for one more issue. The next issue of the *LLNE Newsletter* is November 19, 2004. Patricia Newcombe and Steve Bobowicz from Western New England will be taking over the website.

Scholarships – Margaret Cianfarini reported that there is scholarship money available and encourages all members to apply for them. Bonnie Koneski-White received a scholarship to attend the AALL annual meeting. The committee is looking forward to expanding the scholarship program. Mary Ann Neary will be making the scholarship application form web-accessible.

Service – Stephanie Burke reported that LLNE members raised \$800 in the Walk for Hunger. LLNE members also participated in an Earth Day cleanup. Stephanie encouraged members to participate in "Read Boston."

Legislation/Government Relations – Ed Hart reported that the committee's focus this year will be on ensuring user access to state electronic information.

Education – The preliminary agenda for the Fall 2004 meeting is set. The meeting (to be held October 15th in Sturbridge, Mass.) is themed "Yankee Ingenuity : Doing More With Less." The meeting co-chairs reported that because of vendor backing the meeting will hopefully be inexpensive. Members are reminded that there are a limited block of rooms set aside for staying in Sturbridge Village, so please book early.

Upcoming meeting locations have been scheduled as follows:

- Spring 2005 – Harvard
- Fall 2005 – Roger Williams
- Spring 2006 – University of Connecticut
- Fall 2006 – Boston College

Members are encouraged to communicate with Education Committee Members if they have any ideas or desires for programming.

WRAP UP

President Susan Sullivan closed the meeting by reminding members that there are several LLNE projects that are ongoing. The Executive Board continues to work on both the Procedures Manual and the By-laws. LLNE's focus is now on recruiting new members and new people into law librarianship.

Calendar of LLNE Meetings

Fall 2004

Mirck O'Connell (Worcester), Bowditch & Dewey and the Worcester Law Library -
Massachusetts Trial Court
Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, MA
Friday, October 15, 2004

Spring 2005

Harvard Law Library

Fall 2005

Roger Williams University School of Law Library

Spring 2005

University of Connecticut School of Law Library

Fall 2006

Boston College Law School Library

Beyond the Traditional Curriculum: How to Create and Teach a Law Practice Technology Course

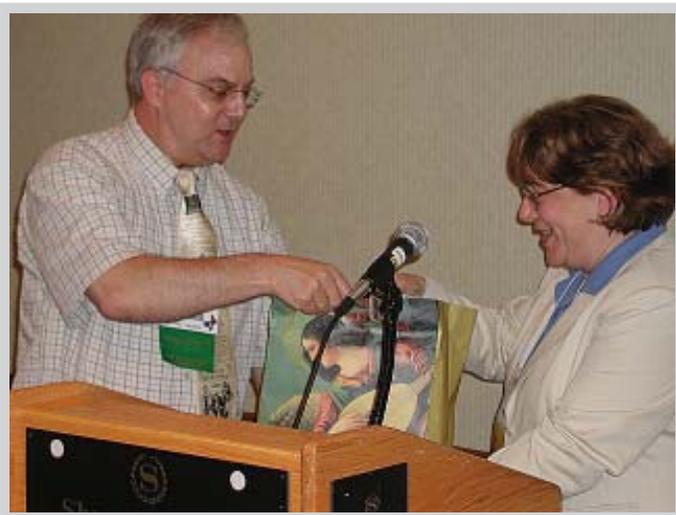
By Nan Balliot

There are many technological applications currently used in the practice of law, including document and case management, time/billing/accounting, desktop publishing, website creation and maintenance, web depositions, electronic discovery, litigation support, trial presentation, exhibit preparation, electronic court filing, and automated calendaring. Those attending the program *Beyond the Traditional Curriculum: How to Create and Teach a Law Practice Technology Course* at this year's AALL Annual Meeting and Conference held in Boston, Massachusetts, heard speakers Maryanne Gerber and Sally Irvin address various considerations in educating law students about these technological applications used in law firms and courtrooms. Maryanne and Sally advocate that now is the time for today's law students to be educated about law practice technology and believe that law librarians are well-positioned to take the lead to instruct them. To this end, they described resources for educating yourself about law practice technology and discussed what to teach in what format. They also reviewed lawyering skills courses already being taught: clinical education; appellate and trial advocacy; and, legal research and writing.

They noted that many law schools already offer courses such as law practice management, law practice technology, business of practicing law, and law office practice.

Maryanne spoke about malpractice errors which could be avoided by knowledgeable use of technology such as automated calendaring and automated conflicts checking. She also talked about teaching alternatives for educating students about law practice technology: a one or two unit course for credit for a full semester or for several weeks; library-sponsored brown bag presentations; or a module in a Professional Responsibility or a Law Practice Management course. She teaches a two unit Law Practice Technology course at Golden Gate University School of Law. The goals of this class are for the students to obtain a basic understanding of technological applications and to explore the privacy and ethical considerations of some of these applications.

At Wake Forest University School of Law, Sally Irvin conducts a series of brown bag presentations that are on subjects of practical interest, which may or may not be interactive, and are about 45 minutes in duration. Her



Past President Michael Hughes presents outgoing President Susan Sullivan with a token of LLNE's appreciation for her contributions.

Law Practice Technology Course Golden Gate University School of Law

Maryanne's class covers MS Word, desktop publishing, Excel and Access, researching court rules and practice guides, case management (Amicus) and litigation support (CaseSoft and Summation). Students enrolled in her course do exercises for each software application covered in class and draft a variety of legal documents using legal forms and MS Word legal templates. They also have opportunities to hone their presentation skills. Students are required to research a technology that is not covered in depth during the course, give a presentation in class that explains what the technology does, why it is valuable, and what the ethical considerations are. Students must create a handout in MS Publisher to accompany their presentation. Also, in lieu of a final exam, students can give a PowerPoint presentation on a pre-approved legal topic to educate classmates and invited guests about a legal issue, explain and illustrate a use of technology, or educate a client.

subject areas are law practice technology with an emphasis on the ethical and legal issues; legal research on the Internet - what's new, what's hot; and electronic resources available at the law school. Some specific presentation topics are using MS Word to create a website and MS Word features which include: MS Word styles, Auto Correct and Auto Text; Pleading Wizard; and, TOA and TOC. Her attendees can also learn about new sources and fact finding on the internet. In addition, Sally covers law practice software for practice management, litigation support, knowledge management, and time and billing. She described the high tech courtroom at Wake Forest University School of Law and the North Carolina Business Courtroom with their state of the art technology (mentioning that judges like visual aids).

Brown Bag Alternatives - Wake Forest Law Library

There are subjects that can be taught in forty minutes or less as library-sponsored brown bag presentations. These subjects can be software or hardware specific.

Software: MS Word's Pleading Wizard and MS Word's Auto text features, creating web pages in MS Word, other web software, document management software, time and billing software, online practice guides with forms, electronic court filing, automated calendaring, PowerPoint for trial exhibits, and desktop publishing software for newsletters

Hardware: networks, laptops, PDAs, and the Mobile Lawyer
You can also match and teach specific technology to specific subjects: case and litigation management and trial presentation software for trial practice, or, practice and knowledge management and time and billing software for clinics.

The N.C. Business Courtroom's website is www.ncbusinesscourt.net.

In an effort to provide guidance to professors, law librarians, and law school IT staff; Maryanne and Sally have created a national TWEN (Westlaw) course. After you access TWEN using your Westlaw password, click on the Drop/Add a Course button and select from the National TWEN courses How to Create and Teach a Law Practice Technology Course. To access the course, email Maryanne (mgerber@ggu.edu) for password information.

Kudos to Ken, Maryanne, and Sally for providing attendees with an informative, educational program.

Kenneth Hirsh, Director of Computer Services at Duke University School of Law, was program coordinator and moderator. Along with Wayne Miller, Ken is the co-author of *Law School Education in the 21st Century: Adding Information Technology Instruction to the Curriculum*, 12 William & Mary Bill of Rights Journal 873 (2004). **Maryanne Gerber** is Electronic Services Librarian at Golden Gate University of School of Law and **Sally Irvin** is Associate Director for Educational Technology and Electronic Resources Librarian at Wake Forest University School of Law's Professional Center Library. The speakers program materials along with Ken's article are available from AALL.

Maryanne and Sally provided some helpful resources for self-education. These resources include Jeff Beard's Lawtech Guru Blog at www.lawtechguru.com; An Internet Legal Research Weblog, among other things at www.inter-alia.net; Sabrina Pacifici's websites at www.llrx.com and at www.beSpecific.com; and the ABA Law Practice Management's monthly webzine *Law Practice Today* at www.abanet.org/lpm/lpt.

Sally and Maryanne recommended the following publications: *Teach Yourself..Visually series* (many of the titles in this series are authored by Ruth Maran, published by Visual); *Lawyers Quick Guide to Microsoft Word* authored by Allan S. Adler and David Greenwald (American Bar Association, 2000); *Persuasive Computer Presentations: The Essential Guide for Lawyers* authored by Ann E. Brenden and John D Goodhue (Chicago, Ill.: Law Practice Management Section, American Bar Association, 2001); and *Using Computers in the Law Office*, 4th ed. authored by Brent D. Roper (Delmar Publishing, 2003). They also recommended reading *Law Office Computing* magazine. Access to articles online is available at www.lawofficecomputing.com with a paid subscription and ABA Techshows and vendor demonstrations (i.e. West km) of their products.

Lessons Learned - Some Observations from the AALL Annual Meeting

By Susan Vaughn

We waited all spring and finally the day was upon us...the beginning of the annual meeting of the American Association of Law Librarians. This being my first AALL annual meeting, I wasn't sure what to expect. Would I find brilliant programs, top-notch speakers, networking opportunities with lawyers from far and wide, and helpful hints on new resources? Well the answers of course were yes, yes, yes, and yes! What I didn't expect were the lessons I would learn about the character of my fellow librarians.

Librarians are Stylish

Between the Opening Event on Sunday to the Gala on Wednesday, there were plenty of opportunities to get gussied up. I saw a lot of very well-heeled librarians. In the most informal survey of all time, local librarians found Raquel Ortiz of Boston University Law Library, to be the best dressed librarian at the Annual Meeting Gala, with Anne Myers, also of BU, a close second.

Librarians are Funny

Amy Hale Janeke, San Diego County Public Law Library, and Sharon Blackburn, Texas Tech University School of Law Library, gave a presentation both informative and uproarious. Their session on "Negotiating with the Bizarre: Strange Questions at the Reference Desk" could have doubled as a Saturday Night Live skit.

Librarians are Innovative

I had the opportunity to provide a few brief contributions to the AALL meeting blog. I hope you all got a chance to check it out during the meeting. (For those of you who didn't, it is still currently posted at: <http://www.aallnet.org/events/local04/blog.htm>). This is one of the first conferences that I have attended that utilized this new technology. Many law librarians authored blog entries that helped to keep meeting attendees up to date on all the meeting news and to provide suggestions as to local activities.

Librarians are Thrifty

In my informal survey, I asked several librarians what was the most expensive purchase they made at the meeting. Given the location, I was amazed at the frugality of those surveyed. Amounts, spent ranged from \$4.00 for a small tin of mints (the mall was sans lifesavers) to \$49.00 for a black dress at Anne Taylor Loft (gorgeous and wrinkle-free, perfect for my vacation).

Librarians are Gregarious

Many attendees found the time to meet new people or visit with old friends. Some of my survey respondents noted: "Networking is my number one priority for the annual meeting;" "I met several people I had heard about but never got a chance to meet;" and "I met several new people through the daily paper, the hospitality desk and working with the placement committee."

Librarians are Hard-Working

LLNE members and other librarians worked hard to make the AALL annual meeting a success by serving on the Local Advisory Committee, writing articles for *The Hub* or the AALL meeting blog, staffing the hospitality desk, leading tours, and organizing a charity book drive. Many AALL members spent early mornings at meetings. Yours truly saw the sun-rise for the first time in many years and was feeling pretty sorry for myself until someone else told me they got up at 4:30 a.m. to attend a meeting. That's dedication!

Librarians are Fearless

As much as I was impressed by the dedication and hard-work of the local librarians, I must say that for pure inspiration, Kimberli Morris was the frontrunner. For those of you who missed her presentation, Ms. Morris is currently working with three law schools in Iraq helping them to rebuild their libraries. She has been in Iraqi since this February and has been chronicling her experiences in a weblog (<http://mysite.teknoids.net/BaghdadBiblioFiles/>).

Stylish, funny, innovative, thrifty, gregarious, hard-working, and fearless. Those are pretty good qualities for law librarians to have or aspire to. Wouldn't you say?



Kate Dixon, Sue Zago and Raquel Ortiz at the LLNE Luncheon



Will Meredith accepts his prize from Hein's Dick Spinelli.

Hein Fun Walk & Run

On Sunday, July 11th, AALL runners and walkers gathered along the banks of the Charles for the 22nd annual Hein Fun Walk & Run. Nearly 200 participants met at 7:00 am for an opportunity to enjoy beautiful weather and burn some calories in preparation for the opening night dessert gala. Dick Spinelli, Hein's Vice President for Sales & Marketing and his staff organized the event and supplied all participants with free T-shirts and refreshments. A number of LLNE members took part: runners included Will Meredith (Harvard), David Turkalo (Suffolk) and Diane D'Angelo (Suffolk). Darcy Kirk (UConn) and Scott Matheson (Yale) were among the walkers. Congratulations to Will Meredith for being the 1st place male runner for his age group. For a complete list of winners visit the Hein website at <http://www.wshein.com/>

Member News

Mary Liz Brennickmeyer is the new Eletronic Services / Reference Librarian at Northastern University School of Law Library.

Diane D'Angelo, Reference Librarian, Suffolk University Law Library, is the new chapter news column editor for AALL Spectrum.

Betsy McKenzie, director of the Suffolk Law Library, is on sabbatical this semester. She is the first law library director in the history of Suffolk Law School to be granted a sabbatical. During her absence, **Susan Sweetgall**, Assistant Director of Public Services, will serve as Acting Director of the library.

New Leadership for the LLNE Service Committee

The LLNE Executive Board wishes to thank **Stephanie Burke** for her outstanding work as first chair of the LLNE Service Committee. Stephanie has stepped down from that position to pursue other professional opportunities. **Pat Newcombe** and **Barbara West** from WNEC School of Law have been appointed co-chairs. Created in 2002 by then president Darcy Kirk, the Service Committee was charged with identifying, publicizing and promoting volunteer and community service activities for the members of LLNE. Since its creation, the committee has organized several activities each year including the Walk for Hunger, helping sort books for the Prison Books Program, and raising funds for AALL's George Strait Minority Scholarship. Pat and Barbara are planning to continue the committee's Boston activities and to expand the committee's work to Western Massachusetts and beyond. They welcome your ideas and participation in the volunteer opportunities arranged especially for LLNE members. Please see <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/llne/committees/service.htm> for Pat and Barbara's contact information and to learn more about the Service Committee.

LLNE Member Bibliography

Eighteen members contributed to make the inaugural 2004 edition of the Member Bibliography a great success. Take a look at the list of contributors, publications and presentations or read the complete bibliography in PDF format at <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/llne/resources/memberbib.htm>. The member bibliography project aims to publicize member accomplishments, promote law librarianship, encourage new scholarship and provide a forum for professional growth. The 2005 edition will be released next July, in time for the AALL conference in San Antonio. If you'd like to contribute to the next edition or have any comments or suggestions, please contact Diane D'Angelo, Communications & Public Relations Chair, ddangelo@suffolk.edu.

Notes from NELLCO – Aug., 2004

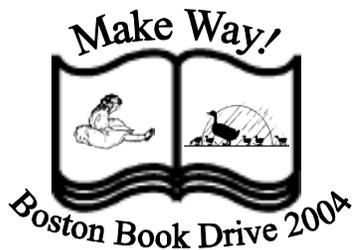
By Tracy L. Thompson, Executive Director

In the swelter of August we're reminded that the summer has nearly slipped away. We never did get that down time we kept imagining was just around the corner and now the new academic year is almost upon us. But it has been a productive summer.

Congratulations to all of those NELLCO members who did such great work on the AALL Annual Meeting in Boston! It was a huge success, and no small part of that success came from the contributions of the Local Advisory Committee, co-chaired by Darcy Kirk (University of Connecticut) and Cathy Breen (U.S. Attorney's Office) and supported by many volunteers.

Among other NELLCO activities and meetings during AALL, we hosted our Annual Meet & Greet at Suffolk Law School on July 10 and I was happy to see many of you there. Please plan to attend this now-annual event next year in San Antonio (yee haw!).

The NELLCO Standing Licensing Committee, chaired by Diane Frake (Vermont Law School), has completed a revision of the NELLCO standard license agreement. The revised agreement is at <http://www.nellco.org/nellcolicense.pdf>. Thanks to the committee for their ongoing efforts!



I am pleased to announce that the final numbers are in from the Make Way! Book Drive 2004 sponsored by the Social Responsibilities SIS. This year's book drive raised a total of 562 books and \$1721 in monetary donations - nearly triple the previous year's donations, and an incredible gift to this year's recipient - Read Boston.

THANK YOU to everyone for your generous donations and support of this initiative!

Annette Demers

As chair of the AALL Licensing Principles for Electronic Resources Special Committee, I would also invite you to review the current draft of these principles at http://www.nellco.org/working_draft_2004-rev2.pdf. The committee is near completion on this work and will submit the final revision to the AALL Executive Board for approval at its next meeting.

NELLCO's new web site is up and running at <http://www.nellco.org>. The new site is very dynamic and I am continuing to work with Michael Blair of Blair Technologies on a weekly basis to add new functionality and tweak the site as we learn of member needs.

The new site requires staff members from NELLCO libraries to register and create their own username and password for access to the members only side of the site. These registrations will also form the basis of all NELLCO communications to the various interest groups. Please register if you haven't already done so, and don't forget to direct new staff to the NELLCO page to register!

One new feature of the site is the scrolling news link in the top right corner. I hope you'll notice the link to the Librarians' Book Club. I anticipate engaging in some rousing discussions as part of this reading group, and I hope many of you will, too!



Dave Turkalo gives a tour of Suffolk Law School Library to a group of librarians attending the AALL Annual Meeting.

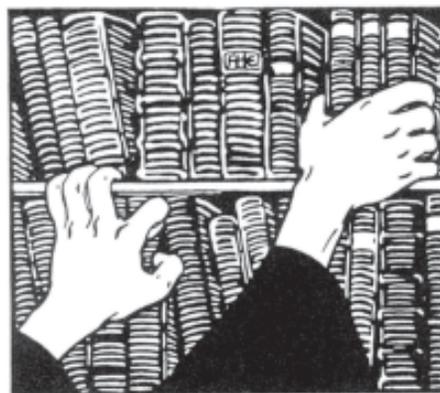
What Are You Reading?

By Hilary T. Frye, Law & Legislative Reference at Connecticut State Library

Here are two out-of-print mystery authors for you to enjoy on your vacations. You may have to poke around the used book stores to find these, but you'll be glad you did.

The first author is Manning Coles. This is a pseudonym for Adelaide Frances Oke Manning and Cyril Henry Coles. They wrote about the exploits of Thomas Elphinstone Hambledon, secret agent extraordinaire. Hambledon was sent to Germany as a spy just before World War I. He had been a teacher at a public school in England and was fluent in German. There are no James Bond gadgets in this series of books and no mastermind spy keeper. Hambledon is on his own and manages quite deftly. Wit, charm and ingenuity set the tone. The fact that Coles actually had been a spy adds a note of interest to the series. I don't know if it's a note of authenticity, or if it's a note of "if I had it to do all over again, this is what I would do instead". Most of the early titles are set in pre-and post war Cologne and are written by someone who knew the city well. The description of life in Cologne before during and after WWI is good. The books are not entirely unsympathetic to the Germans. The first few titles are *Drink to Yesterday*, *A Toast to Tomorrow*, *They Tell No Tales*, *This Fortress*, *Without Lawful Authority* and *Green Hazard*.

Australia is the setting for the other series of out-of-print books. These were written by Arthur Upfield who created a brilliant policeman named Napoleon Bonaparte, affectionately known as Bony. "Bony" is half-aboriginal and these books are full of the life of the Aborigines in Australia. The author flourished in the early years of the 20th century in Australia, taking odd jobs on stations in the Outback. The series opens a window onto scenes from Aboriginal Australia. As Tony Hillerman has done with the Jim Chee and Joe Leaphorn series, Upfield treats the native culture with respect. All the romance of the Bush is here the use of camels, the rabbit-proof fence, and the incredible Aboriginal tracking ability. I have seen references to the Aborigines as the most moral race on earth. Bony is depicted as the best of both cultures. He has an advanced degree from the University of Brisbane and the insights of a tribal wiseman. The books were dramatized and televised as a series in Australia in the 1970's. Some of the titles are *The Bone is Pointed*, *Death of A Swagman*, *The Sands of Windee*, *The Widows of Broome*, *A Man of Two Tribes*.



Here's a newer book, published in 2001:

Savage Beauty, by Nancy Milford

This biography of Edna St. Vincent Millay fully treats those areas of her life which cause her to be compared to Madonna, the rock diva. The title is from "Assault", a poem published in 1921, but I was never sure when reading this book if it did not refer to "Vincent" herself. In the 1920's and 1930's, Millay was considered the most alluring woman in the country. Her poems are as achingly lovely as the poet herself. She was the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize in poetry. But the details of her personal life have the same tempo as that of an overexposed rock star. Sex, drugs—just the rock and roll is missing. She wrote sonnets, instead. The vicissitudes of her life draw the inevitable comparison with rock stars and this does a great injustice to the poetry and to the woman who dedicated her life to a rare gift.

The romantic in me is enchanted by a nation that made an icon of a poet; a nation which memorized poems and attended poetry readings. What's missing from this book is the poetry—neither the poem "Assault" nor any other is in the book. You need the poetry to understand the appeal. Edna St. Vincent Millay spoke and wrote in a particularly beautiful way.

They say that she was more than her poetry, but it's the poetry that lives on and continues to enchant. Read this book because it is based on letters, Millay's diary and extensive interviews with Millay's sister, but be sure to read the poetry. A hundred years from now, Madonna may seem curiously dated, but the poetry of Edna St. Vincent Millay will still leave the reader breathless.

These reviews are all by me—I think everyone is taking a well-deserved rest after AALL-great job LLNE!

Becoming More Nimble

By Rebecca Engsberg

In June, over 25 reference librarians who wanted to “become more nimble” participated in the workshop entitled, *Serving a Diverse Patron Base: Reference Skills for the Nimble Librarian*. Held at Boston College and sponsored by NELLCO, the workshop provided a forum for librarians from diverse environments—academic, public, and firm—and using diverse media—face-to-face, telephone, email and virtual—to expand reference perspectives and share experiences and expertise.

Jeff Dowd from Connecticut Judicial Branch Libraries and Joan Shear from Boston College facilitated the workshop. The format was as diverse as the audience, with power point presentations, informal group exercises, and group discussion. The workshop was designed for librarians with many years of experience, as well as those just beginning their careers.

In Shear’s words, the primary goal of the workshop was to “think about the different needs of our different types of patrons, and learn a little about how to tailor our answers to their needs, especially when dealing with the types of patrons we don’t see as often.”

Give a Fish v. Teach to Fish

To that end, the workshop provided a forum where facilitators and participants discussed the differences in patron service attitudes between academic, public and firm librarians. For example, Shear likened the old adage of “give a person a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a person to fish and he feeds himself the rest of his life” to the perspective of many academic law librarians.

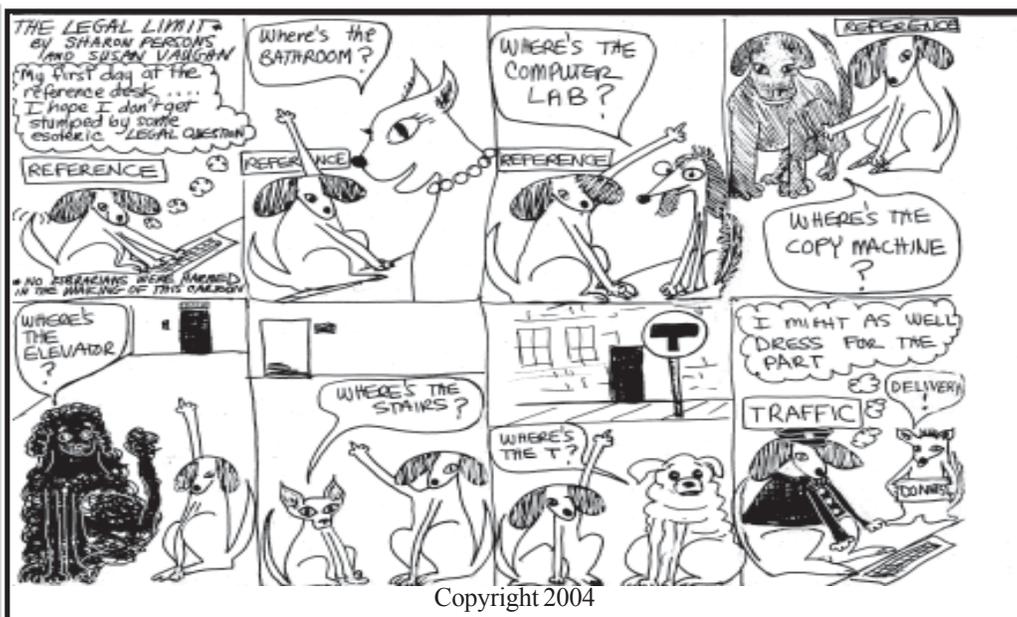
In other words, in an academic institution, helping patrons (primarily students) to learn how to use informational resources to get answers to their questions is preferred over simply telling patrons what the answer is. Put yet another way, “the **means** to an end” (or the **process** of finding an answer) is more important than the “end” itself.

However, librarians in public law libraries often have a quite different perspective. In fact, many public law libraries have a policy of getting patrons the answer, period—the “**end**” is more important than the “means.”

Firm librarians, too, generally utilize the answer or “**end**” approach. Their patrons are primarily firm attorneys and partners who expect answers right away. Therefore firm librarians also work under time constraints not experienced by those in public or academic libraries.

Can Parrots Fly?

An additional workshop goal, according to Shear, was to “share our collective wisdom about how to “be nimble” around different types of questions.” The participants discussed reference questions that illustrated a vital concept—in Dowd’s words, “finding out what the real question is.” For example, one participant posed a particularly thought-provoking reference question: “Can parrots fly?” The audience grew quiet as participants thought of appropriate responses—perhaps “Let’s check the animal encyclopedia entry under parrots!” or “Let’s look online at AnimalsRU.com!” Then the librarian explained that the patron *really* wanted to know if he could take a parrot on an airplane!



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