

LLNE News

Newsletter of the Law Librarians of New England
Volume 24, Number 4, 2004/2005

Electronic Reference is Here to Stay

By Sarah Ludwig

I love the smell of musty old leather-bound books as much as the next bibliophile, but it is undeniable that we are in the thick of the electronic age. Therefore, library professionals are faced with a decision: either to let technology drag us along in its wake, or to stay at the forefront of emerging technologies, and to use them to our advantage. Four librarians addressed this issue at the Fall LLNE meeting, presenting three service alternatives that can help librarians keep ahead of the game.

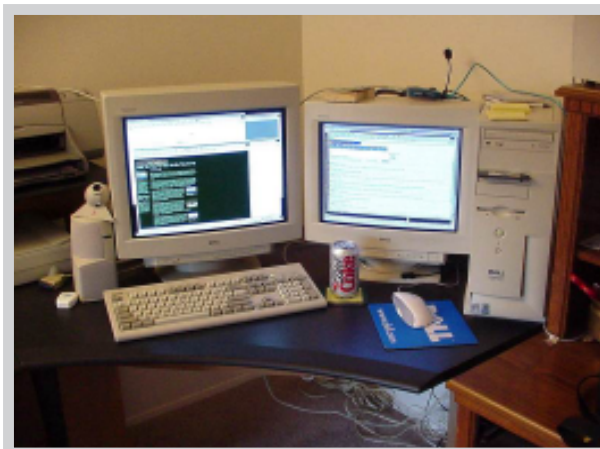
Electronic Document Delivery

Martha Elkins, Head Law Librarian of the Barnstable Law Library, described how her library has used electronic document delivery to improve reference services, and the challenges that this service brings with it. Document delivery allows libraries to send articles electronically to patrons via databases such as Westlaw or Lexis. The library must make policy decisions when opting to implement such a plan, in order to ensure a smooth process. Elkins highlighted the fact that, when discussing these policies, librarians simply can't ask too many questions, and that it is important to make sure the policies can be revisited and reconsidered if necessary. It is also important to discuss copyright issues.

Librarians need to discuss the issue of privacy, as users' email addresses become available through the document delivery service. It may be beneficial to provide a disclaimer stating this to potential users. In fact, disclaimers should be

used liberally to inform users that: the accuracy of the information they receive is not guaranteed; the document providers may not have the most current information available; and comprehensive information can't be provided all of the time. Librarians also must address the issue of

duplicate requests and personal document delivery, and come up with solutions to these potential challenges. Email reference questions, if directed to the document delivery service, should be forwarded on to the appropriate person.



If the challenges of document delivery are anticipated and addressed, the service will be dependable and advantageous. It gives librarians the opportunity to provide their patrons with information

quickly and remotely. Documents on both Westlaw and Lexis can be emailed directly, allowing patrons to facilitate the document delivery service independently.

E-Mail Reference

Pat Newcombe, Associate Director of the Western New England College School of Law Library, discussed email reference, a service that has been implemented by many libraries and, in many cases, been superseded by virtual (chat) reference. It remains to be seen whether or not chat reference is truly better than email reference. In order to improve email reference, librarians need to revisit, evaluate, and revitalize the service.

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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 questions concerning *LLNE News* including requests for reprints should be directed to:

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LLNE News

Newsletter of the Law Librarians of New England
Volume 24, Number 4, 2004/2005



CO-EDITORS' NOTE

If it wasn't for the recent dusting of snow and the holiday leftovers, who would believe that it is time for another issue of the **LLNE News**? The membership has accomplished a lot this past quarter. Worcester law librarians from Bowditch & Dewey, Mirick O'Connell, and the Worcester Law Library-Massachusetts Trial Court put on a terrific fall meeting in old Sturbridge Village, *Yankee Ingenuity - Doing More with Less*. For those of you who couldn't make the meeting don't worry, several articles in this issue are devoted to giving you a glimpse of this successful program.

Our Board and Committee members are working hard on initiatives such as keeping state government information online, reviewing our by-laws and other governing documents, and exploring possible scholarship opportunities to increase interest in law librarianship and LLNE. An ad hoc Archives Committee to determine what is in the LLNE archives and make collection recommendations is being spearheaded by Michael Hughes, past-president of LLNE.

We are also making some changes to the LLNE newsletter. Some of you may have noticed the comic strip in the last edition. This edition we bring you a new column, **Tip of the Day**, a tip by an LLNE law librarian in a specialized area of law. We are also proud to bring you a new column by Michelle Pearse, **High Tech Hints**. Also new is the LLNE News blog. This blog will include member news, posts on technology trends affecting libraries, reference tips, and much more. We are also planning an **Ask the Librarian** column and some other interesting additions, so stay tuned.

If you are interested in contributing an article, a **Tip of the Day**, a question for **Ask a Librarian**, or an announcement for our next issue, please contact Susan Vaughn, svaughn@suffolk.edu, Sharon Persons, s.persons@neu.edu, or John Pedini, jpedini@sociallaw.com. If there are any firm, government, or technical services librarians interested in contributing a short, regular column, we strongly encourage you to get in touch with us.

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LLNE President's Message

November 2004

It is now November and it feels like just yesterday when I sat down to write this column for the last issue. Since then, many of us met at Old Sturbridge Village to learn how to best cope with economic and other realities affecting our collections and services. I take this opportunity to once again thank Elaine Apostola, Byron Hill, and Suzanne Hoey for organizing such a wonderful educational program, with the added bonus of a special screening of *Desk Set* at the OSV Theater.

Time passes quickly for LLNE as well, as it continues a period of rapid change that will maintain our organization for the next fifty years as strong and vital as it has been for the past fifty years. Speaking of over fifty years of LLNE history, I have appointed Michael Hughes to chair the new Archives and History Committee. Michael not only compiled the lists of meetings and presidents available on our website, but also has the enthusiasm to continue such good work. Michael's committee will be conducting an inventory of our archives and setting procedures to ensure retention of important documents, thus preserving our history for the years to come.

Our committees are all hard at work to make sure any necessary changes happen swiftly. The Membership Development committee is redrafting its charge to reflect its recruitment activities, while continuing to reach out to library schools for new members. The Education Committee has a number of projects as well, including revising our meeting planning manual and investigating new ways to deliver programming to our membership. I have tapped Elaine Apostola to take the seat of Education Director vacated by Kelly Browne's departure from New England. Elaine's attention to every detail surrounding the fall meeting wowed all of us and I'm sure that her contributions to the Executive Board will do so as well. The Scholarship committee is busy drafting a proposal to provide new scholarships designed to support our

recruitment mission and they are also creating an electronic application form.

Juliana Hayden, Michelle Pearse, and I are undertaking a review of LLNE's organizational status, financial procedures, and tax obligations. We will be engaging the services of accounting and tax professionals to help us assess our situation and to comply with all applicable laws.

Finally, I am calling a meeting of the LLNE Executive Board early next year to discuss many of the projects that are in progress, including proposed revisions to the LLNE Constitution and Bylaws needed to complete the harmonization of our governing documents that began with our strategic discussions in 2002. After that meeting, the Executive Board will submit the proposed changes to the membership.

DON'T FORGET: LLNE continues over 50 years strong thanks to your support and participation. Volunteer for a committee, attend meetings, or write for the newsletter. Our members make us a strong organization!

LLNE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2004-2005

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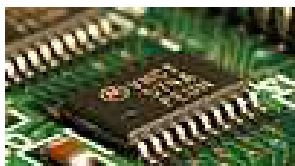
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Sue Zago



High Tech Hints

By Michelle Pearse

More Tools for Getting Organized and Social — Virtually

From FURL'in to SPURL'in

In a recent issue of *LLNE News*, we spoke of the wonders of FURL, an online “filing cabinet” to help get you organized online. If you want to learn about additional things you can do with FURL, check out Amy Garahn’s posting. Also, check out her “More FURL Tricks” and One More FURL Trick-Pre-Blogging. More recently, FURL has added a feature allowing you to export your links into a bibliography. According to a blog by Mike Giles, the man who started FURL, it now allows exporting into a variety of citation formats such as Chicago and MLA.

So now that you have pondered the wonders of FURL, are you ready for SPURL? A free online bookmarking tool, SPURL is somewhat similar to FURL. You can add the button to your toolbar so you can SPURL an item in a flash! When you SPURL a page, you can select a category or folder in which it will be filed. Under the general information, you can assign keywords or tags, as well as write a description about the page. You can also cut and paste snippets from the page. Under the private information section, you can protect the entry so it will not be shared with other users. You can add comments, as well as “store and index” which saves and indexes a copy of the page for full-text searching later. With the click of an icon, you can also e-mail the page to a colleague.

Do you already have a collection of bookmarks that you would love to add to SPURL? You can upload them! You can also easily *export* your SPURL’s/bookmarks from SPURL so that you could easily create a bibliography/webliography.

Want to share your great finds? SPURL allows you to create streams where you can create a stream of links pages under a given topic which can then be shared with colleagues, friends and total strangers. You can make the stream public or have it “unlisted” where only those to whom you send the address will learn of it. You can also create a description and include a link to another web page. It can be configured so that contributions can be made by a SPURL user, only those who are invited, or nobody, but it is publicly listed. You can even create feeds for your SPURLs so those who have jumped on the RSS bandwagon can sign up for RSS delivery of your additions. As an example, I have set up one with various blog finding tools. I have left it open for all SPURL users to contribute, so add your suggestions if you decide to join SPURL. Tools like SPURL could be useful for LLNE colleagues to build/share information and resources.

In the next issue, we will tell you about another “tasty” social bookmarking service called del.icio.us.

Other Noteworthy News

Google Scholar

As you might have heard everywhere by now, Google has released its Google Scholar in Beta. People everywhere have been making comments. It claims “Google Scholar enables you to search specifically for scholarly literature, including peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, preprints, abstracts and technical reports from all broad areas of research. Use Google Scholar to find articles from a wide variety of academic publishers, professional societies, preprint repositories and universities, as well as scholarly articles available across the web.” Sample reviews include ones in the Harvard Crimson, Information Today Newsbreaks, and ResearchBuzz. A ResearchBuzz entry revealed that a local Massachusetts librarian has even developed a weblog for it. Also see a side-by-side search comparison devised by Peter Jacso. More on Google Scholar in a later issue when we have more time to see how it fares with legal literature.

Getting Fired Up about Firefox

There is a new browser in town. Firefox (formerly Firebird) recently made its debut on the scene. Downloadable for free, it has lots of neat features like LiveBookmarks, tabbed browsing and a great feature for finding words in a web page. You can easily import your bookmarks from other browsers or a file. It also has a variety of extensions that enhance its utility.

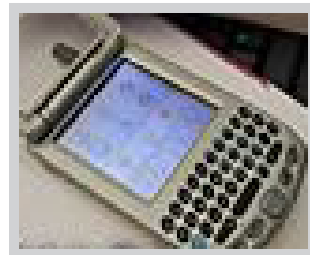
From the RSS Revolution

Like me, have you become an absolute RSS addict? Was I ever shocked when I glanced at my bloglines account and noticed that I was now subscribing to 223 feeds! How many feeds is too many? Need ideas for managing RSS overload? Roland Tanglao and Steven Cohen, Library Stuff have some thoughts about RSS overload.

Are your friends and colleagues also obsessed with RSS? RSS Calendar offers you a tool with which you can schedule events and offer updates to the calendar in daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly RSS feeds. People can easily be invited to subscribe. With a line of code, you can also add the calendar to your website or blog. While the product still appears to be in beta, you might want to check it out.

The FDA now has feeds for its recalls, market withdrawals and safety alerts.

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners now has feeds of new jobs added to its database.



Other News from the Blogosphere

The LLNE Newsletter Committee has created a blog. This blog will include member news, technology trends affecting libraries, reference tips, and much more. Why wait three months to catch up with LLNE? Instead check out current news.

The AALL Computing Services SIS has created a Blawgs Committee. Check out its blog.

John Doyle, of Washington and Lee University, has announced his blog Legal Periodicals which supplements his Most-Cited Legal Periodicals website.

Our LLNE colleagues at the Reference Department at the New England School of Law Library have developed their own blog. The law library at the Syracuse University College of Law also has a new blog, BarclayBlog.

Gary Becker and Richard Posner recently launched the Beckner-Posner blog.

The Law Professors Blog Network has added several new blogs, including ones on Antitrust, Contracts, Criminal Law and White Collar Crime.

A recent article in Law Office Computing discusses the utility of trial blogs. See Janet Roberts, Blogs Generate Legal Buzz: Trial-specific blogs appear with high profile cases, Law Office Computing, p.26 (December/January 2005).

MSN has launched in Beta a new blogging tool called MSN Spaces. The Washington Post's WebWatch recently reviewed it. (Leslie Walker, A So-So Debut for Microsoft's Blog Service, Washington Post, December 5, 2004, F07)(last accessed December 11, 2004).

Where Do Blogs Go?

RLG DigiNews recently had an article about the stability of blogs and the issue of archiving them. See Richard Entlich, Blog Today, Gone Tomorrow: Preservation of Weblogs, RLG DigiNews (August 15, 2004)(last accessed December 11, 2004).

Finding a Red Needle in a Haystack: The New England School of Law Color Index

By Sarah Boling

(formerly a librarian at New England School of Law Library)

"My professor said it was the red contracts book."

Nineteenth and twentieth-century library catalogs were not set up to help this patron, although he or she is and will probably be forever a common visitor to the reference desk. The next generation of the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, currently due out in 2007, is not likely to have room for fuzzy information like 'what the book looks like' any more than the old rules did. However, the library catalog is there to help the patron find a book, and if that means trying to meet them half-way when they bring vague information such as the word 'pink' with them, so be it. A tool to this end was built into Portia, the online catalog of the New England School of Law, with the programming assistance of Innovative Interfaces.

Binding color is searchable by color swatches.

Color is available as a limit on the browse screens following any author, title, author/title, or subject search, or anything other than keyword

Direct text-based color searching is available from the ISSN search page, <http://portia.nesl.edu/search/i>

The color index is set up as MARC tag 599, mapped to the ISBN index, with subfields for color thesaurus term, six-digit RGB browser color code, and copy/volume information. The user of the index is forced to choose from a list of pre-set color terms, since the odds that a cataloger and all future patrons would think of the same word for light green were estimated as approximately zero. The RGB browser color code is included as the nearest thing available to a standard color descriptor. Copy and volume information are included because the library's copy may have been rebound in Library Buckram Color #74.

This first attempt works. Who knows what the future of data indexing will bring? The job of librarians will still be to help our patrons fish the information ocean with whatever hook they possess.

Read more about the New England School of Law Color Index at:

"Visual indexing in a multimedia world" (*LLNE Newsletter*, v. 21, no. 2)

"Innovations in cataloging" (*Bulletin (Special Libraries Association. San Francisco Bay Region)*, May/June 2000)



Top Ten Cool Ideas or... Neat Stuff I Learned at *Internet Librarian*

By Susan Vaughn

I just got back from the Internet Librarian conference in Monterey, California. Besides being happy to have missed at least one snow storm this season, I am also bursting with fabulous ideas from this conference. Sunshine, surf, sea, and spellbinding presentations, who would complain? Certainly not this internet librarian. Although if I were a true internet librarian, I would be blogging or IMing this to you. Oh well, at least you are probably getting electronic delivery of this little news gem.

10 Feel the Power of Instant Messaging

Aaron Schmidt and Michael Stephens gave a presentation on IM in libraries. At Michael's library they used IM when their Virtual Reference system went down and haven't looked back. At Aaron's library he started it himself alongside his library's VR program. He had 400 IM's from April to October and the IM lines are only staffed 30 hours a week.

See: Fast, Cheap and Easy: Instant Messaging in Libraries

Other Resources:

AOL Instant Messenger (AIM)

MSN Messenger

Yahoo!Messenger

Jabber

Jabber developers have created software that allows some jabber clients to run AIM, MSN Instant Messenger, and Yahoo! Messenger.

9

Get Involved in Distance Learning

Stephen Abram, Vice President, Innovation, Sirsi Corporation, gave a presentation that outlined twenty roles for librarians in e-learning. He stressed the importance of placing resources at the patron's source of need. Here are some of his ideas.

- ❖ Create library plug-ins
- ❖ Create small learning objectives, for example, a citation tutorial that can be accessed when students are writing papers
- ❖ Use the OPAC as a discovery resource by utilizing e-reserves
- ❖ Put webliographies records in the OPAC and on course pages
- ❖ Use blogs and RSS for distance education classes
- ❖ Fine tune a federated search engine so that it returns results pertinent for particular courses
- ❖ Digitize and put class materials in the catalog.

8

Move beyond the Google Toolbar

Use a tool bar that has some different bells and whistles. The new Yahoo toolbar has added a search feature for OCLC that currently searches over 2 million records. Or try Needlesearch or Copernic, either of these toolbars allows you to query multiple search engines.

Yahoo Toolbar – OCLC search

NeedleSearch

Copernic Toolbar

See also: *Favorite Tools and Useful Freebies*

Another Good Resource: ZDnet Review on toolbars:
This article has compatibility information for the top toolbars.

7

Join an Online Community

Webjunction is an online community for library staff. Use this site to find out about collection development, take an online course, and more.

WebJunction.org

See also: Webjunction's step-by-step tutorial

6

Use Multiple Search Engines

The following two tools demonstrate that often there is little overlap between search engine results.

Jux2

Ranking.Thumbshots.com

See also: *Favorite Tools and Useful Freebies*

5

Use Tools to Facilitate Personal Storage

In *Research Tools: Turning Search into Research*, Marydee Ojala, Editor, ONLINE Magazine, discussed

several tools that facilitate personal storage of web materials. They have different interfaces and features but all are designed to facilitate the collection and management of web resources. Most of these programs sit on your personal computer.

[HTTrack](#)

[ContentSaver](#)

[Catch the Web](#)

[AskSam's Surfsaver](#)

[Kee<p>oint](#)

[Netsnippets](#)

This idea of saving search results was echoed in the panel of experts from several big name search companies that presented *Start Your Engines*. The two tools mentioned below are internet-based and also have a social bookmarking aspect (see number 4 below).

[MyJeeves](#)

MyJeeves allows you to save and annotate your searches and results, organize them into folders, and share your saved information.

[My Yahoo Search](#)

You can save and block web pages, and share results.

4

Move Beyond Personal Storage with Social Bookmarking

Also in *Research Tools: Turning Search into Research*, Darlene Fichter, Data Library, Coordinator, University of Saskatchewan, described several new Web applications/ social bookmarking services. These products include features like the ability to share documents by email or RSS, browse other people's archives, and read and save suggested items from people with interests similar to your own.

[Pluck](#)

Furl

“Furl will archive any page, allowing you to recall, share, and discover useful information on the Web. Browse your personal archive of Web pages, and subscribe to other archives via RSS.”

Frassle

“Frassle helps you read and publish weblogs, track bookmarks, and find relevant content organized your way.”

Del.icio.us

Spurl

Feedmelinks

Flickr

You can store, search, sort, and share photos.

3

Find Items on Your Computer

In Wednesday’s Keynote, *Search Engine Update*, Chris Sherman highlighted applications that might help you find that revised presentation that you know you saved somewhere on your computer or that email you semi-remember from last August.

LookOut

Lookout is a search tool for your email, files, and desktop works that use Microsoft Outlook.

Google Desktop

Google Desktop “allows you to find your email, files, web history and chats instantly [and to] view web pages you’ve seen, even when you’re not online.”

Copernic Desktop

2

Behold the Next Frontier: Personalization

Another topic we heard a lot about from several presenters was personalization, personalization, personalization. Several of these search engines have been mentioned already but here are links to some special personalization features.

Google Personalized

Create a profile to get personalized results.

MyYahoo

Find and save RSS feeds, organize information, block sites, and change homepage design and layout.

AskJeeves – SmartSearch

The following commercial applications have features that we might see in the future on main-stream search engines:

SmartSort at Yahoo Shopping

Use sliders to indicate features that are most important to you.

Kayak (Travel “Meta” Search)

On screen filters allow you to customize results

1

Finally if you don’t have a search box for your OPAC on the library’s home page....

PUT ONE THERE!!



What are you reading?

***Oryx and Crake*, by Margaret Atwood (Doubleday, 2003) By Lisa Arm**

Margaret Atwood packs a wallop with her recent speculative novel *Oryx and Crake*. Atwood sets the work in the not too distant future and gives us a vision of the virtual elimination of the human species. The novel is narrated by “Snowman”, one of the few survivors of a virulent plague that nearly destroys the human race. Snowman, who was an unwitting accomplice to the medical disaster, gives tantalizing clues to events that shaped the catastrophe. By turns dark, clever and chilling, Atwood’s prose draws us into a fascinating “what if” scenario. Her imagination is limitless and her descriptions of various human biological “improvements” are priceless.

In the aftermath of the pandemic, Snowman recalls the brave new world prior to apocalypse: designer babies, the destruction of the east and west coasts as the polar ice caps melt; gated mega-complexes of scientists, biologists and the intellectual elite; the plebe lands where everyone not associated with a complex lives; chickie knobs, the ultimate fast food; and video games such as “Extinctathon” and “Blood and Roses”. These are all creations that are terrifyingly possible. All we have to do is listen to the news or read a newspaper.

Atwood’s command of “science speak” may reflect the countless hours she spent among the biologists working in her father’s laboratory. Whatever the source of this virtuosity, her scenario has an eerily authoritative prescience.

This book affected me on many different levels. I remember being similarly rocked when I read *1984* years ago. Atwood weaves a spell with this book and I found myself hooked from beginning to end. *Oryx and Crake* is similar to *A Handmaid’s Tale* in which Atwood created a perfect vision of a parallel world. In *Oryx and Crake*, she carries her vision to the next level.

You won’t sleep easily after reading this book, nor read a newspaper with trust and confidence.

The publisher’s blurb, “once read, nothing will look the same again,” is true. This would be a great choice for a book club read.

***The Time Traveler’s Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger (Harcourt Books, 2003) By Denise Jerinigan**

This work is the literary equivalent of a mutable collage – a book where time slips its bounds and colors the way characters know and relate to each other, and the future is as slippery as the colors in a reflecting pool. Audrey Niffenegger has used her considerable artistic ability as a graphic and paper artist for this creation.

The Time Traveler’s Wife is told in the first person by the title character, named Clare Abshire, and by the time traveler himself, Henry de Tamble. In what passes as “the present,” Henry is a librarian at the Newberry Library in Chicago, where he has the pleasure of actually handling the Kelmscott *Chaucer* and Audubon’s *Birds of America*. Just knowing that should be enough for most of us to want to read this novel, but be assured there is more. This is no quick-shot sci-fi romance; but an extraordinary first novel that traps your imagination and your heart while keeping you guessing about how it could possibly resolve itself!

Henry de Tamble is a victim of “chrono-impairment,” a condition in which he has no control over his time traveling, although he rarely travels far from his own time, or that of his parents. He first meets Clare at the Newberry Library, but she has already known him since she was six. Their complex and fascinating relationship begins when he appears in a clearing in her back yard. In the accepting way that children have, the six-year-old Clare is completely nonplussed by that sudden appearance. In much the same way as Clare, the reader accepts this puzzling facet of Henry’s life, and waits to see when he will next appear, learning more of each person’s history, family, friends, and makeup with each incident. Inevitably, questions about the intersection of love and linear time arise, as well as those involving trust, fate, and hope.

These are large themes to tackle but somehow the plot nimbly races along while weaving the mysteries of the past with those of the future. This is an intensely pleasurable read which ranges from unrestrained joy to sorrow and even despair. In the life that Henry and Clare make for themselves, transformation is more literal than metaphoric, and the author depicts their courage and devotion to each other with great affection, humor, and an admirable skill. As the book hurtles toward its inevitable conclusion, you might just find yourself wondering what really goes on in the darkened stairwells of special libraries when no one is paying attention.

LLNE Business Meeting October 15, 2004 Old Sturbridge Village Sturbridge Village

The October 15, 2004 business meeting of the Law Librarians of New England was called to order by President Raquel Ortiz at 1:00 p.m.

President's Welcome and Thank Yous

Members were officially welcomed by Raquel Ortiz. Raquel specifically thanked the Worcester Law Librarians who put the meeting together. Raquel also especially welcomed new LLNE members who were introduced and asked to stand. Sponsors of the meeting were thanked. Raquel asked members to seek volunteers for two committees. Three members are needed for the Education Committee and one member is needed for the Service Committee.

Executive Board Changes

Raquel reported that Stephanie Burke has stepped down as chair of the Service Committee. She will be replaced by co-chairs Pat Newcombe and Barbara West. Michael Hughes has agreed to chair a new ad hoc committee on LLNE History and Archives. Kelly Browne is relocating to the west coast and will be replaced as Education Committee co-chair by Elaine Apostola. Raquel thanked Kelly Browne for her service on the Education Committee and the Government Relations Committee and presented her with a gift.

AALL Update – Anne Myers

Anne Myers, LLNE member and AALL Executive Board member, reported to the membership from AALL. The AALL Executive Board thanked LLNE for doing a great job with Local Arrangements for the Boston AALL Annual Meeting. Anne reported that AALL strategic planning is on-going and AALL members will soon see an e-mail in regard to the various ways they can participate in the process. The board projects that the AALL Strategic Plan will be in place by July 2005. AALL elections will be held on-line this year. On November 15, electronic ballots will be available. Members have one month to return the ballots. The on-line election is expected to save AALL money.

Treasurer's Report – Juliana Hayden

Treasurer Juliana Hayden reports that there is currently \$30,022 in our checking and savings.



LLNE President Raquel Ortiz and Kelly Brown

Education Director's Report – Sue Zago

Sue also thanked the Worcester librarians for putting this meeting together. The Spring 2005 meeting will be held on April 1, 2005 at Harvard University Law School and is titled, "Terrorism and International Tribunals."

MOVED to Committee Reports

Communications/ Public Relations Committee – Diane D'Angelo

Diane reports that she is collecting citations for the 2004-2005 LLNE Members' Bibliography. All members are encouraged to submit citations of published articles to her.

Government Relations Committee – Raquel Ortiz for Ed Hart

Government Relations committee members are working to keep state governments from taking older government information off line. This committee needs a New Hampshire representative. New Hampshire members are encouraged to volunteer.

Membership Committee – Cathy Breen

The membership committee is working on redrafting its mission statement. This committee is also actively working on recruiting more people into the profession of law librarianship.

Newsletter Committee – Sharon Persons

The next deadline for the LLNE News is November 19, 2004. Sharon reported that there are several new additions to the LLNE News including: a comic strip, a "high-tech solutions" column, and a "tips and tricks" reference column. Upcoming ideas include a "dear librarian" questions column,

and a blog that will be hosted by AALL to update members on news between editions.

Scholarships Committee – Margaret Cianfarini

Margaret congratulated Ginny McVarish from Harvard and Sarah Ludwig from Western New England who won scholarships to come to this meeting. Margaret encouraged members to apply for scholarships as money is available.

Service Committee – Barbara West

Barbara reported that the Service Committee needs one more member and she hoped it could be a member from a geographically diverse area. Members should expect e-mails about service opportunities to appear on the list-serv. If any member has an idea for a service project, please let her know.

MOVED to New Business

Ad Hoc LLNE History and Archives Committee – Mike Hughes

Mike Hughes reported that he was asked to serve as chair of the ad hoc LLNE Archives committee and he accepted. This committee will assess the LLNE archives, and make recommendations about what should be collected in the future. This committee will put together material for the AALL Centennial in 2006.

AALL Centennial Committee – Kelly Browne

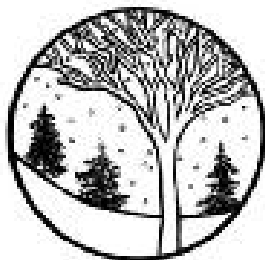
Kelly reported that the AALL Centennial Committee is putting together a “Variety Show” for the AALL Annual Meeting. She asked members to put together acts related to law librarianship. Volunteers will be asked to audition for the show.

MOVED to Wrap Up

BNA was thanked specifically for sponsoring our luncheon. The business meeting concluded at 1:40 at which time Byron Hill introduced Deb Navas our keynote speaker.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Fletcher
LLNE Secretary



The Call for Papers Has Begun



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 San Antonio. 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, Chair, Virginia Davis, davis@uh.edu; Renee Rastorfer, rrastorf@law.usc.edu; or Patricia Wellinger, pwelling@law.du.edu.

Tip of the Day

Searching Foreign or International Law on the Web

Did you know you could use the advanced search techniques of Google to find foreign and international law on the web? Yesterday, a patron telephoned asking for a Spanish version of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. She said that she had asked everywhere and everyone, and no one could seem to find the text in Spanish for her.

The first thing I did was to see whether or not there were citations to any Spanish sources listed in Wiktor's *The Multilateral Treaty Calendar = Répertoire des traités multilatéraux, 1648-1995* (The Hague; Boston : M. Nijhoff Publishers, 1998), an invaluable treaty resource which we keep at the reference desk. I quickly determined that there was no citation to fit my needs in Wiktor.

Next, I went to <http://www.freetranslation.com/> an excellent, free online translator service which allows you to enter special characters directly into your search. I converted *Convention on the Rights of the Child* from English to Spanish, then "cut and pasted" the Spanish text.

Next, I went to Google's "advanced search" feature. I pasted the Spanish translation into the search line. Then I used the "language" limiter to find documents in Spanish only. I used the "format" limiter to find documents in *pdf* format. (This generally helps you to find the full text of documents as opposed to just a passing mention of them). Finally, I used the "domain" limiter to search only the UNICEF website ([unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)). UNICEF is the United Nations' main body for monitoring and enforcing children's rights and their website is served up in English, French and Spanish. I thought that an authoritative translation would be most readily available through UNICEF.

Sure enough, the search was a success! The third link was to the *Texto Completo de la Convención sobre los Derechos del Niño*, a full-text *pdf* from UNICEF itself. Not bad for a 30 second search, and much better than the patron's previous results after hours of asking and searching.

For the full-text of the *Convention* in Spanish, see:
<http://www.unicef.org/argentina/data/derechos/Texto.pdf>

I have also often been successful in finding the civil code, the penal code, etc. for several jurisdictions, by using these same steps, but in particular, by limiting the domain to the country code of the jurisdiction being searched.

For a list of all country domain names, please visit:
<http://www.thrall.org/domains.htm>

This tip has been offered by Annette Demers, Reference Librarian Foreign, Comparative and International Law, Harvard Law Library. If you have a tip you'd like to share, please submit it to svaughn@suffolk.edu or s.persons@neu.edu.

MCLE Holds Annual Librarian Lunch

By Edward Hart

On Friday, October 29th, Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, Inc. (MCLE) held its annual lunch for law librarians. The purpose of the lunch is to inform librarians about MCLE happenings and forthcoming changes in the organization. This is also a time when they like to announce new titles and major changes to their reference titles in the blue binders. They also hold a great sale of titles in stock.

This year MCLE representatives also responded to questions and issues posed by the Massachusetts Committee for Relations with Information Vendors (MACRIV). A short time before the lunch, MACRIV followed up on last year's visit to MCLE with a letter listing points of improvements MCLE had made (e.g. better description of updates to looseleaf titles) and points where MCLE still lagged (e.g. separating lawyers' and firms' subscriptions).

In the past year Sherin O'Brien, current customer service manager, has worked toward improving MCLE's responsiveness to librarians and attorneys' needs, but problems persist for many institutional customers such as firms and law schools. The remaining problems with MCLE's customer services continue to be blamed on the administrative software business system. This software is being replaced, and the new system is expected to be in operation by Spring 2005. Once the system is up and running, MACRIV plans another site visit to consult about the best procedures for customer service for law libraries using the new system.



Ken Svengalis

Frugality in a Material World:

A Report on Ken Svengalis' Presentation at the 2004 Fall LLNE Meeting

By Sue Zago

Ken Svengalis' presentation "Coping with Law Library Budget Cuts: Creative Solutions in Lean Times" was a wonderful beginning to the fall LLNE meeting at Old Sturbridge Village. This was evident as the hall was packed to hear Ken's advice on working creatively within our library budgets.

Ken gave a detailed description (complete with graphs) of changes in legal publishing pricing and then progressed to suggestions and strategies to cut costs. Although Ken didn't get an opportunity to complete his PowerPoint show, he did promise to post the PowerPoint on the RI Law Press website at <http://rilawpress.com>. Here are the highlights of Ken's presentation.

After the mergers in legal publishing from 1992 to 2003, there emerged three legal publishing powerhouses, Thomson, Reed Elsevier, and Wolters Kluwer, which together control 80% of the U.S. market. These three publishers are trying to become one stop shops, where one can purchase print and electronic practice, scholarly, and other legal materials

It seems to be working as the growth of these companies has been rising steadily over the years. The price increases have had a serious impact on the budgets of law libraries. Essentially libraries are unable to keep pace and will have to reconsider their purchasing decisions. The "fat" in library collections has been eliminated and further cuts will continue to impact the quality of library collections.

Types of materials that have already been cut include non-essential state codes, Corpus Juris Secundum, Regional

reporters, multiple copies, British and Canadian materials, supplemented treatises and other materials unable to earn their keep. The surprise is that users as a general rule have not noticed the very large cuts.

Ken then suggested some cost saving tips and strategies that libraries should employ when faced with shrinking budgets. Here are a few to wet your whistle.

- Before negotiating with online vendors do your own homework and then work with your vendor to satisfy your organization's specific needs and usage patterns.
- Unbundle databases when it will be best for your budget.
- Use a member of your library committee, your dean or your chief judge to act as the "bad cop" in negotiating the best deal before signing any online contract.
- Create a set of collection priorities to guide your purchasing/cancellation policy.
- If a deal sounds too good to be true it probably is.
- Utilize your consortia's negotiating power.
- Let the powers that be know about your attempts to negotiate better deals as a means of adding credibility to your budgetary requests.
- Repurchase complete sets at periodic intervals in lieu of maintaining standing orders for supplementation.
- Use the Committee on Relations with Information Vendors' page and CRIV tools at <http://www.aallnet.org/committee/criv>

Report from the Government Relations Committee

Edward Hart, Chair

The Committee is continuing to draw Massachusetts state officials' attention to the need to maintain their online legal information resources. We will be contacting the appropriate officials at the State House to lobby them about the benefits of maintaining important legal documents on their websites. Resources that have been brought to the Committee's attention include state bills for past legislative sessions, the Massachusetts Register, and older Attorney General Opinions.

Please let me know if there are any other resources for Massachusetts you would like us to promote. Also, we are still seeking input from librarians from other New England states, so please contact me with any thoughts, ehart@library.nesl.edu.



My First LLNE Meeting at Old Sturbridge Village

By Ginny McVarish

I attended my first LLNE meeting, Yankee Ingenuity - Doing More With Less, held at Old Sturbridge Village on October 15, 2004, thanks in large part to a scholarship from LLNE. I have been a member of LLNE for about a year and a half. I'm halfway through my Master's of Library and Information Science at Simmons and received my J.D. degree over twenty years ago.

My main goal in coming to the meeting was to put some faces to the names I had heard during my involvement in LLNE and to renew acquaintances I had made through work and school. I have been greatly encouraged by all the support I received for the career moves I am making. I was also looking forward to the program sessions. Thus, for me, the meeting was another step in determining whether law librarianship is the best career path for me at this time in my life.

Although I have attended other professional meetings and conferences, I wondered what this one would be like as I drove out to Sturbridge on the Mass Pike early that morning. It was a lovely morning, sunny, the fall foliage was out and at 7 a.m. the highway was, for the most part, gloriously empty (for which I was most grateful).

Since I hope to become a reference librarian in an academic law library, I was especially interested in the session entitled "Service Alternatives - Imaginative Ways to Meet Your Customer Need". The panelists raised issues I had not yet considered, and the discussion made me look forward to trying some of the alternative reference methods mentioned. My husband is a local historian; thus I was also interested in the lunchtime-talk entitled *Murdered by his Wife*, given

by Deborah Nevas. I greatly enjoyed the talk, and Ms. Nevas' book was just the present for my husband.

By late afternoon, the weather had turned to rain, and I drove to the Lodge where I was spending the night to take a nap, planning to return for the movie "Desk Set." at 9 p.m. But my fatigue at the end of a long, fruitful day (I'd gotten up at 5 a.m.) won out. I lay down on the bed, and when I awoke it was already 5 past 9 — so that was it for the evening.

The next morning, the weather was beautiful. I had decided to spend the morning exploring Old Sturbridge Village itself and then to take the "scenic route" home to Cambridge in the afternoon.

I had a lovely time at Sturbridge Village. I began my exploration feeling a bit melancholy being there by myself, but as I strolled up the road I heard beautiful singing coming from the Center Meetinghouse. I walked in and listened to a singing class, practicing for a concert that afternoon. I stayed about half an hour and left feeling uplifted and refreshed.

I then walked up to the potter's barn and watched the potter make a pitcher on the wheel. Making pottery is something I've always enjoyed watching and is something I've wished I knew how to do, so watching the potter and listening to him answer questions was another extremely pleasant half-hour.

My favorite part of the Village was a 15-minute boatride on the Quinnebaug River (for only an extra \$3). There were two passengers on the boat, and the boat was piloted by a weathered woman who commented on development on the river over the centuries. The river is now largely returned to its natural state — our pilot even pointed out a beavers' dam along one bank of the river. The sail was short, but extremely informative and restful.

I left the Village around midday for my scenic drive home. The foliage was beautiful. However, I've learned that I should take the Mass Pike both ways to avoid being tailgated! Tailgaters aside, I found the LLNE fall meeting to be an outstanding opportunity to learn a few new tricks at the programs, enjoy a bit of Massachusetts history, and, most importantly, to meet new people and renew old acquaintances. The people I have met through LLNE have been very friendly and supportive. Now, I am really looking forward to the spring meeting.

Spousal Murder in Revolutionary America

By Jeff Flynn

Author Deborah Navas, the keynote speaker at the LLNE's fall meeting, discussed her book *Murdered by His Wife*. *Murdered* is the account of the 1778 murder of a prominent Brookfield, Massachusetts farmer, Joshua Spooner, and the subsequent trial and execution of his wife Bathsheba. Bathsheba Spooner was convicted of "instigating" three soldiers, William Brooks and James Buchanan of the British Army and Ezra Ross, a seventeen year-old Continental soldier to murder her husband. Bathsheba, the mother of three young children and pregnant with a fourth, sought a stay of execution until after the birth of her child. The Massachusetts Council (the legal authority at the time) denied her request, one normally granted.

The unique set of facts (the kind that spawned great nineteenth-century novels) that made the Spooner family a particularly unhappy one is not entirely known. It is assumed that Joshua Spooner was an alcoholic, a feckless father and something of a philanderer. A year before the murder, Bathsheba took in and nursed the ailing Ezra Ross, who was on leave and passing through Brookfield on his way home to Ipswich. When Ross returned to the Spooner household later in the year, the two apparently became romantically involved. It was speculated that Ross was the father of Bathsheba's unborn child. What is indisputable is that on a dark, March night, Joshua Spooner, while returning from the local tavern, was murdered by Brooks, Buchanan, and Ross and thrown down his own well.

That two British soldiers stranded in America after the defeat of Lt. General Burgoyne at Saratoga, were roaming, apparently unhindered, through the Massachusetts countryside is indicative of the chaotic nature of the period. The rebellion did not have universal support among the colonists, thus, Brooks and Buchanan were not necessarily moving about in a hostile environment. Nava speculates

that Bathsheba, as the daughter of Brigadier General Timothy Ruggles, a leading, and much despised, Massachusetts Loyalist, may have considered Brooks and Buchanan as compatriots and would not have been necessarily averse to aiding them. According to Navas, much of the public hostility directed towards Bathsheba was due to her family's loyalist leanings, even the decision by the Massachusetts Council to deny her stay of execution. Navas also reveals that the Secretary Deputy of the Council, the person who signed the final warrant of execution, was John Avery Jr., step-brother to Joshua Spooner.



Deborah Navas

While the basic facts of the case are not in question, the perception of Bathsheba's level of malevolence has evolved over the last two centuries. Was Bathsheba a beautiful femme fatale, or hapless victim of an abominable husband, or as Navas puts it, how "witchy" was she? Her silence before and after her trial and her refusal to repent was seen as evidence of her moral turpitude. It was the nineteenth-century feminist Elizabeth Cady Stanton who in 1899 initiated a

revisionist examination of the trial and treatment of Bathsheba. The pendulum swung dramatically in 1938 when Esther Forbes portrayed Bathsheba in *The General's Lady*, as a guiltless victim of a misogynist culture, trapped in an abusive marriage without the possibility of divorce.

Americans were searching for a "new way to be." The American Revolution had precipitated a kind of existential crisis in its citizenry, calling into question cultural, spiritual and legal norms. The murder of a husband by his wife was seen as a serious challenge to the accepted order. Ironically, the swift rush to justice, which may be seen as an attempt to reinstate a sense of normality, resulted in the execution of a pregnant woman, an act in itself that violated the social norm.

There are numerous advantages to email reference. Librarians are able to serve remote patrons, provide a wider array of resources, address complex and time-consuming questions, and direct patrons to print sources. Email reference forces the user to think about their needs, which may lead to a more well-thought-out reference request. There is less immediate pressure on the librarian, so they may spend more time on each question. Patrons can also communicate with the library when it is closed, as the question occurs to them, and with confidence. They may even feel that the librarian will spend more time on the question.

There are several methods of conducting a reference interview via email, and the most useful of these is a systematic approach. In this method, the librarian emails the patron a numbered list of questions, which the patron will then answer and return to the librarian. This is easier than the piecemeal approach, which is a spontaneous, back-and-forth question-and-answer session between the patron and the librarian; both can easily be sidetracked by this method. Designing a Web form for patrons to use may be helpful, as it allows the librarians to present the questions they would normally ask at the reference desk, structuring the user's request.

Newcombe also presented some of the reasons why chat reference has begun to replace email reference: it is a synchronous process. Asynchronous reference, which is what takes place during email reference, is unfamiliar to librarians, who are used to having conversations with their patrons. Chat reference is a familiar medium; many patrons know how to use chat software, which is easy to operate. However, chat reference puts pressure on the librarian to keep the patron engaged. Patrons may disappear from the chat screen without explanation. Often, librarians must juggle more than one user, which can be exhausting.

Email reference, however, is not "better" than chat reference—it's not an either/or decision. Rather, the type of reference should be tailored to the appropriate questions, and if email reference is used, the quality of the service must be evaluated. Librarians should measure and rate patron satisfaction, perhaps by emailing patrons to follow up. As with document delivery, policies also affect quality. Librarians need to set parameters for email reference service. For example, who will handle email reference questions? At what times? For how long? What will be the standard turnaround time for answers? How comprehensive will the service be? Will librarians handling email reference also provide document delivery? When these parameters are determined, they should be clearly

stated on the library's web site, and expectations must be met in order to increase the visibility and dependability of the service. Librarians should consider ways to promote the service—the more users, the better.

Virtual Reference

Finally, Jeff Dowd, Law Librarian for the Connecticut Judicial Branch Law Libraries, addressed virtual, or chat reference. He began by asserting that there are three types of librarians: those who do not use chat reference at all; those who are waiting for chat reference to stabilize (which, he says, will never happen); and those who are currently using chat reference in their libraries. The increasing presence of chat reference can be attributed to two shifts in libraries: the move from full-service to self-service and the move from place-bound to place-free. In other words, people have become accustomed to helping themselves anywhere, anytime.

Dowd listed the top advantages of virtual reference: librarians can serve users where they are searching; librarians can keep up with rising expectations; there is a faster response time than with email; librarians can connect with a new (and more tech-savvy) generation; distance learners are served; users with differing abilities are empowered; virtual reference creates excitement and helps people to learn cutting-edge skills; and virtual reference aids in marketing and relationship building.

As with the other reference alternatives discussed, there are certain obstacles that apply to virtual reference. Librarians can feel threatened by the service, leading them to be unenthusiastic about it. Technical problems can arise, and the library must have qualified technical personnel on staff or available to tackle problems. Staffing can be an issue, as virtual reference can take up a great deal of time and energy. Overconfident users believe that everything is online, and use virtual reference to discuss resources that are not available online. The existence of virtual reference means that librarians are not necessarily serving their own patron base, even though priority should be given to library users. Controlling costs and receiving funding is also an issue. Librarians must also tackle patrons' uncertainty and fear of the unknown. Ultimately, implementing virtual reference will, as Dowd put it, help libraries win the race against the future, and stay relevant.

While we may fear that technology is going to replace librarians, the truth is that technology will allow us to reach more library users. The need for libraries will never dissipate; in fact, as technology becomes more and more sophisticated, libraries will be able to provide a better service to more people, and that is the ultimate goal.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

MEMBER NEWS

Roger Williams University School of Law

Kelly Shorrel is the new Acquisitions Librarian at Roger Williams University School of Law. She was previously employed by William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota. Kelly holds an M.L.I.S. from the College of St. Catherine/Dominican University.

NELLCO NEWS

For those of you used to Tracey Thompson's NELLCO updates, you may notice their absence in this issue of the *LLNE News*. This is because NELLCO has launched its own quarterly newsletter, *The Beacon*. The first edition has NELLCO and members' news and articles on topics such as the Merger of 24/7 and QuestionPoint and an introduction to EISIL, a new international law database. Be sure to check it out at <http://www.nellco.org/BEACON/november%202004.pdf>.

NELLCO Internship/Personnel Exchange Task Force Update

Established in spring 2004, the NELLCO Internship and Personnel Exchange Task Force (the TF) has been moving forward towards its goal of establishing internships for students at NELLCO member libraries. (For more information about the TF, please see *LLNE News*, Vol. 24, Issue 2, at page 22.) Aiming to establish the first internships for summer 2005, the TF is recruiting NELLCO member libraries to host interns. Several libraries have already expressed interest in the program. Also, the background work for promoting the NELLCO internship opportunities to local library and law school students is underway. Several TF members have been working on draft letters to the local law and library schools, a sample packet of information is being collected and other avenues are being explored to get the word out about the internships to potential interns. The TF is developing web pages, to be hosted on the NELLCO site, which will provide information about the NELLCO internship program for the interns and host libraries. The TF anticipates the website "going live" some time in the winter of 2005.

The website will serve as a clearinghouse of internship opportunities, similar to the AALLnet job postings page, see <http://www.aallnet.org/hotline/hotline.asp>. A form

will be available, in the password protected section of the NELLCO website, for libraries to post internship opportunities. Each library can determine the details of the internship (hours, days, etc.) as well as any requisite skills the intern applicant should have. As with most internships, student interns will work with their schools to arrange the internship and any credit they wish to receive. If you have any questions about the NELLCO internships, or if your library would like to know more about hosting an intern, please contact Stephanie Burke Farne at sjburke@bu.edu.

Save the Date - April 1, 2005
LLNE Spring Meeting at Harvard
International Justice in a Time of Terrorism

People tend to fight back when threatened. So do human institutions. Sometimes they fight dirty, relaxing the constraints on behavior that constitute civilization. As part of his attempt to preserve the Union, Abraham Lincoln suspended the writ of habeas corpus and ignored the Supreme Court order that John Merryman receive his day in court. To create a pure environment for a pure Volk, the Nazis committed unspeakable atrocities. Today we have the War on Terror and legislation designed to relax civil liberties in the name of Patriotism. Can our country preserve liberty and security at the same time?

Juliette Kayyem of the Kennedy School of Government and Philip Heymann of Harvard Law School directed a project to take a hard and detailed look at how to go about balancing the competing concerns of U.S. liberties and national security in the age of terrorism. The project brought together a broad spectrum of bi-partisan advisers and experts to consider ten critical issues and recommend clear rules to reconcile critical democratic norms and security concerns around each. See Philip B. Heymann, and Juliette N. Kayyem, *Preserving Security and Democratic Freedoms in the War on Terrorism*. [Final Report of the Long-Term Legal Strategy Project. Cambridge, MA: Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, 16 November 2004.]

The Spring 2005 LLNE Meeting at Harvard Law School will continue to explore this topic. Professor Kayyem will be one of the featured speakers, along with Professor Nathaniel Berman of Brooklyn Law School. I hope you will attend, enjoy, and benefit from what should be a stimulating day.

Harry S. Martin III (Terry), Henry N. Ess III Librarian
& Professor of Law, Harvard Law School

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