It's Pumpkin Time Y'All!!

I am thrilled to welcome everyone to the Fall Newsletter. I hope you are all enjoying some pumpkin beverages or at least a nice crisp morning now that the summer months are in our rear view mirror. For some of us the last several weeks might have seemed a little quiet when it comes to SEAALL, but I assure you the board and committees have been hard at work.

The first exciting development I want to share is that the nominations committee, under the excellent leadership of Billie Jo Kaufman has put together a brilliant slate of candidates for the next SEAALL election. Information, candidate statements, and candidate bios will be available in the special election edition of the newsletter, coming soon.

In the upcoming election we also hope to have a new set of SEAALL Bylaws for you all to vote on as well. You may have heard that SEAALL has incorporated in South Carolina, using the excellent services of the Nonprofit Organizations Clinic at University of South Carolina School of Law. We hope to work with the clinic again in the Spring to secure our IRS letter for 501(c)(3) status. In the meantime, we are putting the finishing touches on the new bylaws and plan to submit them to the membership for approval during the next election.

The scholarship committee is also working hard to award some well-deserved funds to students interested in law librarianship. The application deadline is November 7, 2022, so please help us publicize this scholarship to anyone you know who may be interested.

Finally, I'd like to bring the SEAALL Annual Meeting to your attention. We will be meeting back in-person in Richmond, Virginia March 8-11, 2023. It will be here before you know it. I know the program committee is working on a theme and will be soliciting proposals very soon. Local arrangements has secured a great space at the Omni Hotel and the team at The University of Richmond School of Law is planning a brilliant institute to kick it all off. The registration will be set at $175, dramatically lower than many other conferences that might offer similar educational content. You should expect announcements, schedules, a web site, and other details very soon. I can’t wait to see you there.

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**Fall 2022-2023 Student Scholarship**

Do you know a student wanting to enter a career in law librarianship? Need money to attend library school? Already have a library degree but want to attend law school?

The Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (SEAALL) Student Scholarships are designed to encourage library school students and graduates to pursue a career in law librarianship. The Scholarship Committee will award grants to the student or students whom the Scholarship Committee determines has indicated a genuine interest in the profession of law librarianship and is likely to pursue a career in law librarianship. Award recipients will also be given a one-year membership to SEAALL.

Application Submission Deadline: Friday, November 7, 2022.

Application: [https://seaall.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/SEAALL%20Student%20(Fall)%20Scholarship%20Application%202022-2023.docx](https://seaall.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/SEAALL%20Student%20(Fall)%20Scholarship%20Application%202022-2023.docx)
TechTip: CSS Coding

Recently, I was working with my coworker, assisting with a project in LibGuides and I realized that I had a piece of knowledge that would be perfect for my tech tip. I am sure many of us are used to the frustration and struggle of formatting in LibGuides, websites, and other blogs. Everyone has experienced being unable to link something, being unable to make something bold, changing font sizes, and spacing issues. There is a way to work around some of these issues and create a well-formatted page and it does not take much at all! Just understanding a little thing called CSS.

CSS stands for “Cascading Style Sheets” and is a programming language that works in tandem with HTML to beautify websites. As my friend who has a degree in computer science and whom I consulted about this article explained: “CSS is the seasoning you add to HTML.” It controls all the stylistic elements of a page and, once you have mastered it, you can change the appearance of websites you are working on or within.

Any blog website, including LibGuides, will have CSS in its coding. While I will be using LibGuides for an example, you may take these same coding principles to other websites as well. I learned these skills coding my personal blog, so I am happy to share them now!

One of the most helpful pieces of coding is for links. When you are hyperlinking a list of many links, it can be a pain to go through and highlight each one—you may make a mistake linking the wrong thing, or the hyperlink format can mess up. Going into the actual HTML prevents this and you can copy/paste the formula for much quicker editing.

For LibGuides, it is easy to find the HTML — simply, navigate to the HTML by clicking the “source” icon in the editing window popup. (Image 1, below). Once inside, you will see your page in its barest bones. To create a hyperlink, type the following code where you want your link to appear: `<a href="link"> link name </a>`. (Image 2, below). Remember: the `<a>` is very important. This “closes” the code. If you do not include the backslash part of the code, anything that comes after “link name” on your document will be hyperlinked. Think of the CSS coding primarily like bookends, with whatever you would like to edit in between. Some websites and programs will automatically create the bookend when you finish the first part of coding, but LibGuides does not.

Here are a few other helpful CSS shortcuts:

- To bold font, use: `<b> text </b>` OR `<strong> text </strong>`
- To italicize font, use: `<i> text </i>` OR `<em> text </em>`
- To strikethrough font use: `<s> text </s>`
- To change font size, use: `<span style="font-size:[12]px;"> text </span>`
- To create a paragraph break, use: `<p>text</p>`

Always remember to close your code!

There are other helpful tips on SpringShare’s website, if you are interested in more coding tips and tricks to customize your webpages: https://blog.springshare.com/category/tips-and-tricks/

Tech Note: SEAALL has a Twitter account and we love to highlight the accomplishments and activities of SEAALL members. Please tag @SEAALL1 on Twitter or send us a direct message or email apitt16@lsu.edu with your news you would like us to share with our Twitter followers.
When I saw the topic for this month’s article, it caused me to reflect to 2010 when my library moved from my home office in Savannah, Georgia, to a ten-foot by ten-foot storage unit. The personal items that I kept were carefully wrapped and densely packed in varying sizes of boxes. However, the book lover (or maybe the correct term is book addict) in me needed to access my diverse library, so I created an aisle in my storage unit with 11 six-foot tall bookcases that each had six evenly spaced bookshelves. My books were organized by genre and placed on the shelves to optimize the usage of the space and to ensure I could read the spines. Books in my storage unit were loosely grouped by type as I categorized it: religious and spiritual books; professional books and training materials related to process improvement (Six Sigma, Lean, and Total Quality Management), self-help, health, children’s, crafts, home repairs, cooking, inspirational, mystery, romance, coloring, and meditation. My collection at this time was predominantly books with a few audio books.

Although some books travelled with me to my apartment during law school from 2010 until 2013, I had little time to read any materials other than law books. While in law school, I attended a technology fair at my alma mater, Savannah College of Art and Design, which I live full-time. According to the 2010-2011 Savannah Chat, while I lived in the RV full-time, I sold my house and moved into a ten-foot storage unit. As I travelled abroad during the pandemic, I carried a backpack of spiritual and religious books. My apartment and the remaining books, including those in ten-foot by ten-foot storage, were packed into boxes and moved into a ten-foot by fifteen-foot storage unit. As I travelled abroad during the pandemic, I carried a backpack of spiritual books and my Kindle.

In July 2021, I turned fifty and could not decide exactly where I wanted to live in Florida. I sorted through all my books and consolidated down to two crates of spiritual and religious books. My apartment and the remaining books, including those in ten-foot by ten-foot storage, were packed into boxes and moved into a ten-foot by fifteen-foot storage unit. As I travelled abroad during the pandemic, I carried a backpack of spiritual books and my Kindle. In July 2021, I turned fifty and could not decide exactly where I wanted to live in Florida.

So, I purchased a twenty-four-foot RV in which I live full-time. Now, I have two bookshelves behind the jack-knife couch, which also serves as a bed for guests. My RV collection is organized based on purpose and physical location. Generally, my collection has a reference section, a play section, a rotating section, and a vacation section. The reference section is on the right side of the picture, contains materials and books that I use regularly in energy healing, and is always in my active collection. The white three-ring binders contain a printout of the training materials for Andrea Hess’ Soul Realignment® certification program. To the right of the binder, the comb-bound materials are Messages from the Body, Their Psychological Meaning by Dr. Michael J. Lincoln and The Body Code 2.0™ The Ultimate Health, Wealth, and Happiness Solution by Dr. Brad-ley Nelson. On the second shelf and tucked in the right-hand corner behind the Egypt travel guide are the Metu Neter series books by Ra Un Nefer Amen.

The play section is on the top shelf behind the Crayola tin, which contains coloring pencils and crayons. In this container are various coloring books. My two favorites are mandalas and Curious George. In addition, there are a Sudoku book and a Zentangle book.

The rotating section of books is on the left side of the picture and changes based on what I’m studying, learning, or reading. I’m currently studying Hermetic Astrology and the materials are in the white 3-ring binder in the upper left-hand corner. In addition, right below on the second shelf are American Ephemeris and Book of Tables by Neil F. Michelsen. Also included in the rotating section are the two clear containers on the top shelf. The first has three forward facing books (The Power of Prayer: Choosing Joy and Effectual Prayer) and is filled with books on prayer and meditation that I use in my duties as a Unity Prayer Chaplain. The second has a postcard from Hot Springs and a black and red mandala contains a few Unity classic books and legal magazines that are changed out monthly when the new one arrives.

The vacation section includes just two books that are both on the second shelf. The first book is The Dead Hand: The Untold Story of the Cold War Arms Race and Its Dangerous Legacy by David Hoffman. The second book is The 400th: From Slavery to Hip Hop by John Burl Smith. When it’s time for vacation, I’ll take one or both of these books with me.

The radical change in my Closed Stacks is only because of a space constraint. I still have all of my books and maybe one day I’ll consider weeding them out. Today is not that day!
In October, I had the great honor of joining the staff of the Bounds Law Library at the University of Alabama School of Law. As a lover of history, one of the most appealing aspects of the library is the extensive special and archival collections. Present special collections holdings include more than 12,000 printed volumes, more than 1,300 cubic feet of manuscript materials, several thousand photographs, and an assortment of artifacts.

Of particular interest is a replica of United States Supreme Court Justice Hugo L. Black’s home library in Alexandria, Virginia, and the papers of the former United States Senator Howell Heflin, a noted alumnus from the University of Alabama’s School of Law. The library is also blessed to have many of the papers and scrapbooks of Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr., another noted alumnus of the Alabama School of Law. Judge Johnson was instrumental in implementing the expansion of the Civil Rights movement in the South, first as a U.S. district judge in Alabama and later as a member of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The library also maintains a collection of the recordings of the Albritton Lecture Series. The series is provided by the Albritton Fund established within the University of Alabama Law School Foundation in 1973. The fund commemorates the contributions of the Albritton family of Andalusia, Alabama, to the legal profession. The Albritton Fund provides academic support to the School of Law by sponsoring visits from distinguished practitioners, judges, and legal scholars. The first lecture sponsored by the Albritton Fund was given by United States Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy in 1996. This series has hosted several Supreme Court Justices and other notable jurists throughout the years.

Another notable collection is the winning volumes of the Harper Lee Prize for Legal Fiction. The prize was first awarded in 2010 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the publication of Lee’s world-famous novel To Kill a Mockingbird. It is a joint award of the University of Alabama School of Law and the American Bar Association’s ABA Journal. The prize was awarded to the year’s published work of fiction that best exemplified the positive role of lawyers in society.

Justice Black’s library replica is complete with the Justice’s books and furniture, as well as an exhibit of plaques, awards, photographs, and even Justice Black’s Ouija board. As senator and Justice, he scoured bookshops for the works of his favorite authors, accumulating books on law, history, philosophy, and other topics, becoming a self-taught classicist. Justice Black underlined and annotated many of his books, making them a unique source of insight into his thoughts and opinions and a great research resource.

Senator Howell Heflin graciously donated many of his papers to the Bounds Law Library. Senator Heflin helped select the displays in the Howell Heflin conference room. He particularly enjoyed political cartoons, many of which are on display.

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Justice Black’s Ouija board
Legal Podcast Review: Criminal

Criminal, a biweekly podcast hosted by Phoebe Judge, is an engaging and gripping story-telling podcast that covers the cases of true crime, law reform, and those wrongly accused. The show is well-researched and incorporates the voices of experts, survivors, and convicted criminals alike.

This podcast runs the gamut of legal topics mostly told by the players themselves, ranging from immigration law, environmental protection, dental forensics, penal system corruption, and fraud. Guaranteed, there is something of interest for everyone.

Episode #183, titled “Breaking Into the FBI,” is the recounting of a 1971 group of anti-war activists who break into FBI offices in Philadelphia to steal draft records. What they uncovered was evidence of the FBI’s surveillance of the black community with the intention of causing paranoia and a sense of fear among black American citizens. The anti-war activists turned whistle-blowers sent their findings to members of Congress, as well as the press, resulting in an investigation that uncovered the FBI’s illegal Counter-Intelligence Program.

Readers’ Advisory

One of the things I enjoy most about librarianship is how almost anything can be relevant to the job. The class I took on country music in undergrad? I suggested the textbook as a resource in a faculty workshop on a music copyright paper. My yearly speculative fiction writing workshop? Knowledge of academic works on fairy tales came in surprisingly handy for a professor who was writing about Disney & IP. Last week I suggested a book about lactation law (yes, law about breast milk) to a religious studies PhD student writing about the Catholic church and motherhood. She’s going to check it out next week.

So I often find myself reading academic works beyond law librarianship and legal research. Some of them help me understand libraries and archives better, while others assist me in supporting faculty and students in their many and varied research projects. As the print collection development librarian at UNC, I’ve also learned a great deal about academic and popular presses over the past few years.

Here are some books I’ve found fascinating recently:


Works published by the University of North Carolina’s Press are highly regarded for a reason, and this book is no exception. Georgann Eubanks’ Saving the Wild South takes readers on a tour across the southeastern United States, visiting folks who are working to save the region’s endangered plant life. I loved the chapter on the Alabama canebreak and pitcher plants, mostly because I grew up in their native region and saw several pitcher plants as a child. However, I won’t tell you where, because the black market for pitcher plants is thriving, and they are routinely stolen!

Hoyer, Jen, and Nora Almeida. The Social Movement Archive. Litwin Books, 2021. I’ve been aware of some of their titles for years, but I’ve only recently discovered Litwin Books & Library Juice Press. LJP was founded in 2006 to specialize in “theoretical and practical issues in librarianship from a critical perspective.” The Social Movement Archive fits neatly into their other works; it is a series of interviews with creators of radical social justice creative work and their archivers. The interviews discuss the relationship between the works and the politics of archiving, saving, and making them available to future generations. The book is filled with illustrations of the art and graphic design, placing representations of the works themselves alongside the words of their creators.


Duke University Press is another highly regarded academic press, and one of their specialties is publishing interdisciplinary works that engage deeply with theory. Information Activism navigates media studies, queer theory, and archival theory to examine the communication networks and archival practices of lesbian feminists from the 1970s through today. Queer communities have often had to resort to alternate and underground forms of communication to talk to one another, and McKinney shows how these techniques have moved across time and different types of technologies.

Building on the surprise success of The Secret Lives of Church Ladies (Deesha Philyaw’s excellent short story collection), West Virginia University Press has expanded greatly over the past couple of years. WVU Press has a number of specialties, including works on Appalachia and a line on practical academic pedagogy. So Much to Be Angry About is a history of a small collection of printing presses and publishers, mostly in West Virginia. The presses balanced publishing radical works engaging with the social movements of the period, including feminism and the New Left. The first half of the book is made up of several essays contextualizing the presses and their histories, while the second half reproduces five key works produced during that time.

Readers’ Advisory, continued

I struggled with writing this column, as I knew I did not want to write a book review but could not think of a single recent acquisition by me, or my library, that might be interesting enough to support 500 or so words. So instead, I am going to write about several small things I have acquired recently that have me feeling happy about an upcoming season of snuggling inside in cooler weather and enjoying a good book.

1. My new mug warmer! I love sipping a hot coffee on a cold day, and it’s annoying when my coffee fades to lukewarm. Mine is a “Bestinnkits” brand, and it is very simple and works perfectly, but there are lots of other options out there. True confession: what I really want is an Ember Temperature Control Smart Mug, but I can’t justify $150 for a mug.

2. Library card-themed mugs. These are from the Out of Print store, where they have all sorts of library card-themed items. I may or may not also own a library card tote bag and some socks.

3. A non-resident card to the Houston Public Library. This lets me borrow ebooks and audiobooks from their collection for $40 per year. I love my local public library, but I like having access to a bigger collection as well. The Brooklyn Public Library used to offer a similar program with a huge collection, but they are discontinuing it this year.

4. The Library extension for my web browser. This app automatically tells me, when I am looking at a book on Amazon, Goodreads, Bookshop.org, or similar sites, whether any of my libraries has it and how long the expected wait will be if there is a hold. It lets me click right through to borrow the book or place a hold. In the picture, you can see I am looking for the book The Last Nomad. My local library, the Knox County Public Library, doesn’t have it. But I can get the ebook immediately via my non-resident card from the Houston Public Library.

5. The Happy Color App. What does this have to do with reading? I love audio-books, and sometimes I want to listen, but need to have something almost mindless to do with my hands. This coloring app helps me relax and enjoy the book. I paid the $7 to get rid of all ads and in-app purchases – definitely worth it for me.

6. The “Rainy Day Reads” scented candle from Frostbeard Studio (on Etsy). I am not usually much of a scented candle person, but I received this one as a gift and it smells so good! It is described as “fresh rain, ginger, and lavender.” I may check out some of their other candles, such as “Old Books” and “Reading at the Café.”

7. My new Hooga book light. It can clip onto a book, stand on its own, or even coil into a little pouch for travel. It is rechargeable and uses amber light, which blocks out blue light and allows you to sleep easier and better. For cheapskates like me, the $13 price is hard to beat. I hope you find something intriguing from this list, either for yourself or perhaps as a gift for a booklover you know.

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Recent Acquisitions

Sibyl Marshall
Head of Public Services
The University of Tennessee

Image by author

Happy Color App
Legal Movie Review: Ace Attorney, 2012

I initially struggled in choosing which legal movie to review here. I was spoiled for choice: Better Call Saul just ended, She-Hulk is well under way, and seminal classics like To Kill a Mockingbird are always a solid option. In the end, I settled on the most obvious pick of all: a 2012 Japanese-language video game adaptation that contains spirit mediums, the cross examination of a parrot, and some seriously impressive hairstyles. If you’re in for an interesting ride, dear reader, then allow me to present to you: Ace Attorney

Adaptation and the Legal Imaginary
In the world of Ace Attorney, Japanese courts have introduced a new bench system to speed up the legal process. Trials happen almost immediately after crimes are committed, and are allowed to last for a maximum of three days. The defense attorney and prosecutor proceed to make their arguments before a judge, who must render a verdict by the end of the third day. If no verdict can be reached, then the defendant is judged guilty.

This is the world that fledgling defense attorney, Phoenix Wright, finds himself in. Shortly after winning his first trial, Phoenix’s mentor, Mia Fey, is murdered in cold blood. As it turns out, Mia was looking into a case from 15 years ago: the controversial DL-6 incident. It becomes increasingly clear that someone is masterminding a scheme to prevent any details of that case from seeing the light of day. This all comes to a head when Phoenix’s once-friend now-rival, prosecutor prodigy Miles Edgeworth, is accused of a murder undeniably linked to DL-6. As the film builds to its climax, Phoenix will have to solve two murders at once, finally bringing a conflict 15 years in the making to a decisive close. You may not know of Phoenix Wright or Ace Attorney by name, but you may have heard of a strange video game series where you play as a lawyer. That series, also called Ace Attorney, is the basis for this adaptation, and Phoenix Wright is the titular “ace attorney” for most of those games.

It would be impossible not to talk about this film as an adaptation. Even if you didn’t know that the film was an adaptation going in, the particular over-the-top look and feel of everything might give you a hint. True to the game, hair is styled to absurd heights, emotional beats verge on the cartoonish, and the highly-saturated colors of the main cast provides a stark juxtaposition to the dark and somber courtroom setting.

Granted, this isn’t a world without grounding – even Phoenix himself isn’t sure that cross-examining a parrot is a great idea – but the movie isn’t afraid of what it is. In an age where some film adaptations seem embarrassed by the source material they’re working with, it’s refreshing that Ace Attorney embraces how camp it all is – and all the silliness and brazenness that comes with it.

A Cross-Examination of Ace Attorney’s Legal World
Within seconds of hearing how trials work in the world of Ace Attorney, it’s hard to not start question it. A three day time limit? The defendant’s presumed guilty? Discovery just happens during the trial, I guess?

For the most part, these strange rules can be explained away by the film’s video game roots. To quote the game’s creator, Shu Takumi, “[Ace Attorney] is simply a ‘mystery game.’ ‘Being realistic’ is not what is important. What’s important is emphasizing, and recreating the unique ‘atmosphere’ and ‘tension’ of the courtroom.” This focus on narrative flow over realism carries over to the film, serving much the same purpose – priming the audience for fun legal twists and turnabouts, even if it’s nothing like a real legal system.

However, that’s not the entire picture. While the creator denies doing so intentionally, there’s a popular theory that the court system in the Ace Attorney world is actually a satire of the real Japanese legal system. Proponents of this theory mention that, like in Ace Attorney, Japan’s court system is adversarial – jury-less trials where the judge hands down a verdict. The conviction rate of Japanese courts is greater than 99%, and arrests can lead to a social presumption of guilt, even if presumption of innocence is the official law of the land. One could write at length on this topic (and several have), but that’s quite outside the scope of this review. For now, I’ll leave it at this: it seems like even completely fictional legal systems in media can spark thought-provoking legal comparison and analysis.

Closing Thoughts
Ace Attorney is a weird legal film. It’s over-the-top in a way most legal thrillers and melodramas shy away from, and it’s bizarre in a way that legal comedies seldom are. If I’ve done my job here, then hopefully you should be able to tell if this very unique blend of a movie would be to your taste. It’s certainly not for everybody, and I can’t fault anyone if it doesn’t sound like their cup of tea. Coupled with some erratic pacing and a two-plus hour runtime, and I could certainly see it being a drag if you’re not sold on the premise. If you’re on the fence, I think it’s potentially worth a watch for the novelty alone. That said, for those of you who’ve been on board since you read the phrase “cross-examination of a parrot,” then I think this is an easy recommendation.

Ace Attorney is available to rent or buy digitally on Amazon, iTunes, Google Play, and YouTube. Note that there is no physical release outside of Japan, and the movie is only available in Japanese with English subtitles. Directed by Takashi Miike.
**Wild Card: Haunted Libraries?**

Halloween! It’s that time of year when evening darkness arrives earlier, tree limbs creak and sway, dry leaves scatter, and thoughts turn to eerie ghost stories. I’m sure most of you have your local haunted tales and South Carolina is no different. Some of our more famous spooky spirits include Lavina Fisher, allegedly America’s first female serial killer, Pawley’s Island Grey Man, and the Bishopville Lizard Man. The Dock Street Theater in Charleston claims at least three spirits, Junius Booth (yes, John Wilkes Booth’s father), the White lady, and Nettie Dickerson, the Lady in Red.

However, for sheer number of troubled spirits, I suggest our most haunted locale is the castle-like Old City Jail still standing at 21 Magazine Street, Charleston. Built in 1802, the Old City Jail was reviled for its overcrowded, filthy, and horrific conditions until it closed in 1939. Because nearly all official records have vanished, legends flourished about the thousands of men, women, and children imprisoned and executed at the Jail. Inmates included enslaved people, pirates, Denmark Vesey, Union and Confederate prisoners, and the notorious Lavina Fisher and her husband, John.

By now, you are probably wondering what does the Old City Jail have to do with haunted libraries? In 2000, for 16 years, the Old City Jail served as the home for the American College of the Building Arts and housed classrooms, library, and special collections. In 2016, ACBA renovated the abandoned Charleston Trolley Barn and moved to its now larger campus. The Jail is now closed and renovations are planned.

My acquaintance with the Jail started as a new library science student and volunteer at ACBA, gaining experience cataloging their specialized books and antique tools collection. I thought the building and its history was fascinating. Every day was like a trip back in time, from the original stucco and block walls and iron steps, to the immense grated iron cell-block door to the library locked at the end of the day with a 2-foot long cast iron key. Like most old buildings, there were environmental challenges. Dust was always present and temperature fluctuations were extreme. But, I thought all the challenges were worthwhile to see the students’ creative endeavors making something positive out of the Jail’s dark history.

Did I ever see any ghosts? Well, I was only in the Jail during the day. But, there were times I knew I had neatly shelved books, only to see them extending beyond the shelf edges the next day! Were ghostly fingers at work or just an unstable, old building shuddering? I’ll let you decide.

If you would like to read more about the Old City Jail history, I suggest the 2010 book, *Abode of Misery: An illustrated Compilation of Facts, Secrets and Myths of the Old Charleston District Jail* by retired newspaper reporter David Scott. ISBN: 9781451512021; $24.95.

The book includes a timeline, source notes, and bibliography.
Meet & Three

This is the city: New Orle-ans. I work here. I'm a li-brarian. I gather, organize, and present information to the public. Louisiana has a population of 4.657 million people. New Orleans alone has 391,249 people. In addition, in 2018, New Orleans welcomed 18.51 million visitors. They come from all over the world, and speak a dozen different lan-guages. The Law Library of Louisiana stands ready to assist them all.

Here at the Law Library of Louisiana, we have created a fair number of LibGuides that I think people may find both interesting and useful. When patrons call or email us for information on a legal topic, I have often referred them to one of our LibGuides for more detailed information and links. Conversely, patrons who have seen one of our LibGuides will contact us for further details or resources on that particular topic. In our LibGuides, we employ pictures, maps, news articles, and photographs to add context and background. Because people want more than just the facts.

There are over ten people in this city who know that being a law librarian is an endless, glamourless, thankless job that's gotta be done. I know it, too. And I'm damned glad to be one of them.

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Fran Norton Jr.
Law Library of Louisiana

And Three . . .

#1) My most popular LibGuide is Pet Laws in Louisiana: Wild or Exotic Animals; every year it gathers over 30,000 hits. You are welcome to take the format and adjust it for pet laws in your own state. However, be forewarned: it generates a fair number of odd questions from patrons. Here are some average questions, along with answers that I thought of giving, but did not:

Q: “I just saw a TV show about Nigerian River Weasels. They sure look cute. I wanna get me some. Is that legal here?”
A: ---Well, weasels ripped my flesh. Perhaps you could try a nice domesticated animal instead.

Q: “I got a fenced yard. I want to get some Komodo dragons. That legal?”
A: ---Why don’t you go to a shelter and get a cute puppy dog instead?

Q: “In my parish, are anacondas considered to be dangerous?”
A: ---Guess you didn’t see the movie..

For some odd reason, if it bites, stings, or oozes poison, folks really want it. I usually refer patrons to the ordinances for their municipality in Municode. If not for those very same ordinances, our state would be overrun with exotic and dangerous critters from all over the world.
#2) After seeing a presentation at the Denver AALL Annual Meeting, I was inspired to create Tribal Law in Louisiana. Before starting this project, I didn’t know much about tribal law. Sure, I had seen Mardi Gras Indians and had seen the Native American Village at the Jazz & Heritage Festival, and had even read histories from 300 years ago. However, that’s about all I really knew on this topic.

I discovered that Louisiana has 15 tribes that are recognized by either the state or federal government. There are additional tribes that are not recognized. While completing this project I learned much about these tribes;

I also learned much more about Louisiana and the federal government and how poorly they interacted with these separate sovereign groups.

After reading this article, you may decide to create a LibGuide on your own state’s indigenous people. If you do, be warned that gathering information can be a challenge. A tribe may have a website with information on its constitution, codes, council, and courts. Or, it may have nothing at all. Tribes have an oral tradition, rather than a written tradition. This greatly limits the resources that you can locate and share.

#3) The civil rights case that everyone reads in law school began with the most famous cobbler since Geppetto: Homer Adolph Plessy. My Plessy v. Ferguson LibGuide shows the reader what was going on at the time of the case. The Background section describes the civil rights battles being waged in New Orleans after the Civil War, including an actual armed insurrection in 1873 known as the Battle of Liberty Place. The Litigation section has links to the exhibits, writs, and petitions filed in all of the legal proceedings, from the arrest through the courts up to the Supreme Court of the United States.

For me, this standard law school casebook case is actually very local: it began right by my son’s high school. The 1892 railroad track is still in use. I took pictures of the area and the historical marker for the guide.

I hope that these examples will inspire you to create LibGuides that focus on topics from the states and cities where your libraries are located. I know that I live in a unique and historic city. However, the southeast provides a rich tapestry of legal issues from which you may choose among past and present issues, such as civil rights, abortion, social justice, and economic justice.
## Submission Guidelines

The Southeastern Law Librarian (ISSN 0272-7560) is the official publication of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries. It is published quarterly and is distributed free to all SEAALL members.

### Newsletter submission deadlines are:

- **Winter:** January 20, 2023
- **Spring:** April 20, 2023
- **Summer:** July 20, 2023
- **Fall:** Oct. 20, 2023

MS Word is the preferred format for electronic submissions.

All submissions will be edited for grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation, and to ensure style consistency within the newsletter. Every effort will be made not to change the intended meaning of the text.

The opinions in the columns are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of SEAALL.

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