

Official newsletter of the Southeastern Chapter of AALL

I SURVIVED SAN DIEGO!

by Mark A. Evans

Florida State University College of Law Library

Perhaps you are new to librarianship, or just to law libraries, and someone asks you if you are going to the national convention. If you have to foot the bill you may be reluctant to commit yourself. After all, what does a convention have to offer you? I had similar thoughts, but with financial assistance took advantage of the opportunity to visit the AALL Annual Meeting in San Diego. I came away with a number of impressions and would like to share some of them here.

First of all, I had no idea as to what to expect from the meeting since I had never been closer to a major library-related conference than the Vague Mystical Library School Murmurings about ALA and ALA-MIDWINTER. In an attempt to overcome this unfamiliarity, it was suggested that I attend CONELL (Conference of Newer Law Librarians). I was skeptical since it added an extra day of absence from work and home, but I came away from CONELL as a real supporter of that part of the meeting experience.

CONELL gave me a relaxed informal view of the meeting to come and how best to try and take advantage of what it had to offer. CONELL gave advice on how to deal with the proliferation of meetings. It helped me to use my time in a more reasonable and survivable manner. It dispelled some of my preconceptions about the AALL meeting and helped me to utilize that time in a way that was more com-

fortable for me, i.e. no one really expected me to be in meetings every hour of the day. I took their advice and included some time for R&R, since there were so many outstanding opportunities available in the area. Aside from its how-to-approach, CONELL afforded me the opportunity to meet people who were in situations similar to my own, people I could talk to later on about things I had missed or things I was thinking about doing. I felt that the people I met were people who will be available in the future as friends rather than just five-day acquaintances. On a cost versus benefit basis the CONELL experience was by far the best part of the entire meeting for me.

As for the atmosphere, I would like to applaud the organizers for a mixture of relaxation and serious endeavor that will be hard for future meetings to match. With such outstanding attractions as Sea World, the zoo, movies, the dinner cruises, the speakers and excellent food provided at the banquet, it was easy to get through the convention without getting too wound up.

I was also pleasantly surprised to find that there was a full range of humanity present there; not a great abundance of stuffy types, as was one of my earlier fears. The people ranged from stereotypical librarians (of either sex) to normal human beings, to people similar to myself (I bet I was the only person there that went to Kobey's Swap Meet at the sports arena).

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From The President

As most of you realize, this is my first letter to the chapter as its president. Before sharing with you a few thoughts concerning our chapter and law librarianship. I would like to take one more opportunity to thank publicly Kay Todd our past president, Ed Edmonds our past secretary/treasurer and Carol Billings our past editor of the SOUTHEASTERN LAW LIBRARIAN. For many a moon each of these people has served the chapter; in fact, one must go back over two years not to find each of them mentioned on the masthead of the SOUTHEASTERN LAW LIBRARIAN. Personally and as a group we owe many many thanks to them and the chapter members who served on committees this past year or assisted them in their tasks these last two years. Many thanks to all of you for a job well done.

My first task as chapter president has been to appoint committees. This is noted elsewhere in the newsletter; I hope I have remembered to appoint to committee preferences each of you that volunteered. If I haven't, please feel free to drop me a line or give a call so that I can correct that omission. Dick Danner (Duke) and his Program Committee of Susan English (U. of Richmond) and Peggy Martin (Kilpatrick & Cody) are already hard at work planning our spring meeting scheduled for March 7-9 in New Orleans. Dick and the Program Committee will appreciate greatly any suggestions you may have.

If you would indulge me a few moments I would like to share some more personal thoughts with you. What are we? What are Law librarians? In a sense we must be all things to all peoples.

We are INFORMATION SPECIALISTS. We aren't limited by the four walls of our libraries; ours is to acquire the information whether in our collections or elsewhere.

We are BUDGET AND FINANCE OFFICERS; we are PLANNERS. We set the goals for our

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EDITOR'S CORNER

In the following pages you will find the results of our efforts to produce a newsletter.

It has been hectic and time consuming but also (dare we say it?) fun! The year promises to be exciting and we are starting it off with a new column, ONLINE UPDATE, and a couple of timely articles. The ONLINE UPDATE column is aimed at those of you who have too much to read but still try to keep up with the ever changing databases. If anyone would like to supply information on BRS, DOW JONES or NEXIS, please contact us. Don't forget to supply our chief correspondent, Tim Coggins, with S.E.A.L.L. BRIEFS. PLACEMENT information should be sent to Cherry L. Thomas at the University of Alabama. DON'T FORGET the newsletter when you have a job opening. We have a standing committee for Placement so let's use it effectively.

In our next issue, you can look forward to some more good articles and information on the chapter meeting coming up in New Orleans in early 1985. Remember the deadline for the next issue - November 15.

Mary S. Bourget
Hazel L. Johnson



SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER A.A.L.L. OFFICER & COMMITTEE CHAIRS 1984-85

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SCHOLARSHIP

Sara M. Straub
U.S. Court of Appeals,
11th Circuit
Atlanta, GA

FROM THE PRESIDENT

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enterprise; we estimate the costs of achieving our goals and we try to accomplish those goals even though the budgets allocated inevitably fall short of what we thought was reasonably required.

We are COLLECTORS AND CONSERVATORS of books and a growing array of nonprint media. We try to have the materials required by our clientele before they develop the need. Thus, we must have a good feel for the directions the law in general and our parent institution in particular are heading. The materials themselves must be ready for use with a minimal degree of effort.

We are MOTIVATORS AND COUNSELLORS. We each work for, over or with people. Ours is to encourage our colleagues, motivate our staffs, meet or exceed expectations of our deans, senior partners, chief judges or justices.

We must be all things to all peoples; we are law librarians. I hope that each of you has a successful and satisfying year.

Sincerely,
Edwin M. Schroeder
President

BULLETIN

Don't let your acquisitions department be caught without the new Special Issue Vol. 7 of the PUBLICATIONS CLEARING HOUSE BULLETIN. This issue contains profiles of 32 law book publishing companies and divisions including information on the history of the companies, corporate structure, product line, marketing philosophy, future plans, consumer policies and contact sources. It was distributed at no additional charge to BULLETIN SUBSCRIBERS in JUNE 1984, but single copies are available for purchase at \$10.00

Please send your orders to Mary S. Bourget, A.S.S., P. O. Box 231, Orlando, FL 32802. Prepayment should accompany all orders and checks should be made payable to PCBH.

Minutes Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries

July 2, 1984, San Diego, California

The meeting of Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries was called to order by President Kay Todd, Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker, Atlanta, Georgia, at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, July 2, 1984, at the Sheraton East Hotel in San Diego, California.

A motion was made and passed to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

Margarette Dye, Powell, Goldstein, Frazer & Murphy, Atlanta, Georgia, gave the financial report as submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Ed Edmonds, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia. The starting balance at the time of the last report was \$3,990.94. The amount of additional dues is \$110.00 and convention proceeds from the Nashville Meeting was \$9,532.05. The list of debits totalled \$8,005.86. This left a current balance as of June 27, 1984, of \$5,627.13.

The election report as submitted by Ed Edmonds was read by Margarette Dye. There were a total of 165 votes cast. One vote was declared invalid due to a postmark date beyond the stated time. Richard Danner, Duke University Law Library, is the Vice-President/President-Elect and Margarette Dye is the Secretary/Treasurer.

Mary Bourget, Akerman, Senterfitt & Eidson, the newsletter editor, gave the Newsletter Committee Report. She discussed the cost of doing the newsletter and also the possibility of having a publisher help with the cost. The deadline for the next issue is August 15, 1984.

Margarette Dye read the proposed amendment to the SEALL Constitution and to the By-laws that would allow associate member status to anyone living outside the Southeastern region. After discussion, the amendments were passed.

Edwin Schroeder, Florida State University College of Law Library, announced that the 1985 meeting would be held in New Orleans, Louisiana on March 8 through 10. He also introduced the Local Arrangements Committee to be chaired by Betty Kern, Law Library of Louisiana. Dick Danner will be in charge of the program to be held in New Orleans. Larry Wenger, University of Virginia Law Library, will be the Local Arrangements Chairman for the 1986 SEALL meeting to be held in Charlottesville, Virginia. Ed asked for volunteers for the following committees: Membership, Newsletter, Nominations, Placement, Program and Scholarship.

Mary Bourget brought up the idea of ways to make money for the 1988 convention to be held in Atlanta. One possibility would be to compile and sell a cookbook. Carol Billings, Law Library of Louisiana, advised that the Chapters will not be allowed to sell at future AALL meetings due to the tax status of AALL.

Dick Danner requested ideas for articles in the LAW LIBRARY JOURNAL. He also discussed new methods of printing the journal, such as electronic transmission.

Ed Schroeder expressed thanks on the part of SEALL to Kay Todd during her term as President of SEALL. He also expressed thanks to the SEALL Local Arrangements Committee for the meeting held in April in Nashville, Tennessee, to Ed Edmonds, the outgoing Secretary/Treasurer and to Carol Billings and her staff on the newsletter.

A motion to adjourn was made and carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Margarette M. Dye

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With CONELL behind me, I felt more comfortable about what was coming, but I was still unsure as to what role I wanted to play in the general scheme of things. With that in mind, I tended to play it safe by attending meetings where I could sit back and observe. I discovered that most of the meetings I attended did not require a person to be functioning at peak efficiency. Next time around I suppose I will be a more active participant. I was impressed with the organizers' attempts to provide people with the opportunity to participate on whatever level they felt was appropriate for them, with the same basic topic of several meetings being presented in both panel and group discussion forms. They obviously were sensitive to the needs of different personalities, and were trying to broaden the appeal of their meetings as much as possible.

As for the content of the meetings, I had hoped for more "practical applications" oriented presentations. I found that a couple of the meetings I attended were of a more practical nature, but many of them were more philosophical or theory oriented, which is just as easily presented in the journals, (which you don't have to pay \$500.00 to get). Perhaps there was a more practical orientation in the discussion groups but I heard more than one complaint about how a number of the programs read like how-to's, but were not presented effectively in that fashion.

I think the biggest benefit I derived from attending my first AALL Annual Meeting was in making contact with other librarians and comparing notes with them. I heard problems, solutions to problems, and discussed management related topics with numerous people. I was introduced to scores of people, whose names are now long lost in the black hole that serves as my name memory, but I have a feeling that I am part of a broad group of people with largely common goals, and that feeling is valuable.

On the whole the convention was a good place for scholarship, recrea-

FINANCIAL REPORT

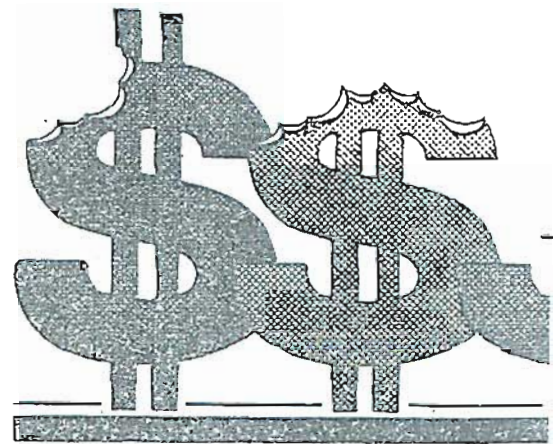
Beginning Balance (April 13, 1984):	\$3,990.94
Deposits:	
Convention Proceeds (Nashville Meeting)	9,532.05
Dues	110.00
Total Deposits:	9,642.05
Debits:	
Honorariums for Nashville Meeting	300.00
Printing Costs — Newsletters (Volume 9, Numbers 3 & 4)	732.16
Opryland Hotel (Nashville Meeting)	5,407.67
Bus Transportation (Nashville Meeting)	329.50
Registration Returns (Nashville Meeting)	267.00
Airfare — Speakers (Nashville Meeting)	287.40
Postage and Copying of Ballots and Constitution and By-laws and Amendments	251.05
Miscellaneous Convention Expenses	78.26
Miscellaneous Administrative Expenses	16.75
Coffee and Danish at Annual Meeting (San Diego)	299.48
Postage — Newsletter (Volume 9, Number 4)	36.59
Total Debits	8,005.86
Ending Balance (June 27, 1984)	\$5,627.13

Respectfully Submitted,

Ed Edmonds
Secretary/Treasurer

tion, and sharing the company with people who have career interests similar to my own. Now that I know better what to expect, I will go into my next experience with more plans for personal involvement in meetings and other functions, trying to gain the benefits that will justify the costs from wherever I can get them, and perhaps trying to influence the direction of meetings to come.

What it comes down to is, "You get out of it what you put into it," so I suppose I will put more into it so that I and people like myself won't have to work so hard to get what they want out of it.



Law Library Publication Award (Nancy Johnson, Chairperson)

Who would have thought that the inaugural winner of the AALL's new award honoring in-house library publications would be titled D.U. L.L. NEWS? Nevertheless, it is true, as the Awards Committee under the chairmanship of Nancy Johnson has saluted the work of the Reference Staff of the Duke University School of Law Library by presenting them with the Law Library Publication Award of 1984.

The award winning materials were produced by Michael G. Chiorazzi (Reference Librarian), Kathryn M. Christie (Reference and Research Librarian), and Claire Germain (Assistant Librarian for Information Services).

They submitted three types of publications: research guides, a newsletter, and user guides. The "Research Guide Series" covers federal administrative law, federal legislative history, foreign and comparative law, labor law, securities law, commercial investment, British law, and federal tax. The aforementioned D.U.L.L. NEWS is a very informative newsletter for students and faculty. The Library and Faculty Guides cover library information thoroughly yet concisely. All of these materials are excellent examples of how a library staff can present information to the public on a low budget.

This new award was established to honor achievement in creating in-house user oriented library materials. The award was conceived in 1981 in a proposal for the formal recognition of such publications drafted by Reynold Kosek, Chair of the Academic Law Libraries SIS. In creating the Award this past year, the Executive Board hoped to encourage law libraries in the creation of outstanding in-house publications which perform such valuable informational and public relation functions.

If you are interested in finding out how to obtain copies of this year's award winning publications, contact the Duke University School of Law Library, Reference Department, ATTN. Claire Germain.

ONLINE UPDATE

Correspondents:

DIALOG - Kathy S. Heberer, Akerman, Senterfitt & Eidson

LEXIS — Frances D. Pughsley, Hansell & Post

WESTLAW - Jo Ellen McComb, University of Kentucky Law Library

DIALOG

New Files:

ACADEMIC AMERICAN ENCYCLOPEDIA - is a full-text database of more than 30,000 general encyclopedia articles. The articles are more current than those in most encyclopedias because the print version itself is only a few years old. The availability of this file on DIALOG helps usher in a trend toward online ready-reference services. File 180.

THE WASHINGTON POST INDEX - is now available for searching. Newspaper articles from 1979 to the present are indexed. File 184.

CENDATA - includes statistical information from the Bureau of the Census on such topics as foreign trade, construction and housing, and population estimates. Have your attorneys ever needed population figures for their revenue bond work, or expected lifetime earnings figures for wrongful death damages? CENDATA will help. File 580

SEARCH TIP: Did you know? When indicating word adjacency in a search you may type () instead of (w). This saves time and is much easier to type.

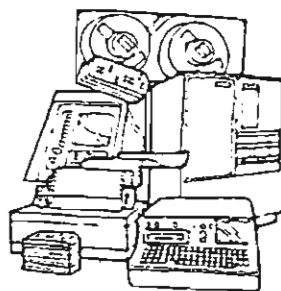
WESTLAW

THE NATIONAL TEXT AND PERIODICALS database is expanding in scope. As of August 12, 1984, 149 law journals were listed, with only one or two articles selected from each title since 1982 or 1983. The HARVARD LAW REVIEW, YALE LAW JOURNAL, and texts are not yet included. This database is of limited use at present due to shallow coverage, but as it grows and the selection policy is firmed up, it could be a handy companion to hard copy periodical indexes and online legal research.

WESTLAW's list of Digest Topics and Numbers is online and non-chargeable. See the Services section of the WESTLAW Directory for page number.

SEARCH TIPS: Did you know? After entering your password you may follow with a comma and your database identifier, none of which will show up on the screen. After identifying the research session on the next screen you will proceed directly to the database you have requested. This is a real time saver.

Also plurals formed by the addition of an "s," "es," or changing a "y" to an "ies" are generated automatically. The number (#) symbol typed immediately preceding a term suppresses the automatic pluralizer.



ANTHROPOMORPHISM AND THE WESTLAW CUSTOM TERMINAL OR "HI MARGIE, THIS IS TOM. IT'S ABOUT WALT..."

by Tom Wozland
University of Minnesota Law School Library

ABSTRACT. This is a short story about a computer terminal named WALT.

People often ascribe human characteristics to powers that they don't understand; this is called anthropomorphism. It makes the power seem less remote, more familiar and approachable. The greater the power, the greater the tendency to humanize it. Deities are the most obvious example. The Judeo-Christian God is traditionally given gender—male—and other human qualities—love, knowledge, patience, even occasional anger. God is a strong, wise and stern white-maned grandfather. He looks like Burl Ives.

Computers, like deities, are mysterious and—some of us even believe—omnipotent. We humanize them by giving them names. Stanley Kubrick started it all with HAL (a nice name and three letters ahead of IBM). Apple calls its latest personal computer LISA. Coleco has ADAM. And West Publishing named its new Westlaw Custom terminal WALT.

When I first heard it, I thought that WALT was a lousy name for a computer. It was such a plain and ordinary name, not clever like Lexis' UBIQ (short for ubiquitous). I was wrong. A plain and ordinary name was perfect. WALT connotes a warm avuncular figure, graying, pipe-smoking, dressed in rumpled tweeds with leather elbow patches. Favorite uncles are frequently named Walt. Mine is. My Uncle Walt is a part-time historian, a part-time Mr. Fixit and a full-time good fellow. Uncle Walt remembers everything, repairs anything and helps everyone. And each year he wears the Santa suit at Christmas-time. West chose well: WALT sounds like someone we'd all like to know; it is a fine name for a computer.

WALT came to our library on the second Thursday in September. It was a cold and rainy day (in Min-

nesota early September can sometimes seem like late autumn anywhere else). John, the Westlaw computer technician sent to install it, was soaked to the skin as he trudged with his baggage between the parking lot and the building. Drenched but not disconsolate, he unboxed our terminal.

WALT, once assembled, looked splendid. With his racy ergonomic design, detachable color-coded keyboard and the ever-lit Westlaw Access Menu shining from his screen he was an immediate hit. We were excited; the library staff wore phosphorescent green buttons proclaiming "WALT's here."

Two days later the problems started. A student had tried to sign on and WALT, in mid-sequence, stopped responding. Most of us took off our buttons; someone changed his to read "WALT's sick." I called West. A cheery voice answered, "Westlaw Customer Service, this is Margie." "Hi Margie," I said, "this is Tom at the University of Minnesota Law School Library. It's about WALT, something is wrong with him." This was the first of what could be several such calls during the next four weeks.

The first concern of the law student whose research session had ended so abruptly was whether she had done something upsetting to WALT. (Law students are always afraid that if they inadvertently push the wrong button or the wrong combination of commands an explosive pulse will be dispatched to the Westlaw mainframes and the City of St. Paul will disappear from the earth. The leaders of the super-powers should exhibit such caution.) Margie assured us that there was nothing we could have done that would so disable WALT. Blowing up St. Paul was beyond all possibility.

Once she determined that there was nothing that we could do to help WALT from our end, she dialed into

his memory from hers. Several crucial bits of it were missing; there were gaps in his programmed sign-on protocols. Curing the symptoms, if not the disease, she reloaded his memory and he seemed healed.

Not for long. Over the next few days the sequence was repeated: WALT would suddenly forget things, important things like how to dial Tymnet or Telenet, and, although he immediately responded to the treatment, reloading his memory didn't last. Two hours later he would start forgetting again.

For days, WALT alternated between lucidity and befuddlement. It almost seemed like senility, but that didn't make any sense at all. WALT was not exactly in his sunset years. Even counting his R & D youth, he was only a couple years old. Of course we are talking about computer years. Converting them into human years is more difficult than it is for dogs. We know that a computer generation is less than the standard twenty years, but how much less? And each generation keeps getting shorter. It could only be a guess, but WALT—in human terms—could not have been more than a teenager, much too young for senility. Could his condition be a kind of presenile dementia? Or selective amnesia?

He survived until mid-week. Then he forgot again and, when Margie tried to reload, he couldn't be made to remember. If this was amnesia, it was total, not selective. Repeatedly WALT told us that he had "0[zero] files." He retained a few basic motor functions, his involuntary nervous system was intact, but all of the memory centers on his cerebral cortex were either destroyed or permanently suppressed. On another cold, wet afternoon John brought us a replacement terminal; our first one would be sent to the lab for an autopsy.

(A short aside: West Publishing
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"HI MARGIE, THIS IS..."

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has always had a strong reputation for service and the Westlaw Division carries that tradition well. Customer Service—not only Margie, but also Valerie, Dean and others—was more helpful to me than AAA is to a Minnesota motorist during a mid-winter blizzard. Although they may have been mentally saying "No, not him again," they always seemed glad to hear from me, there was a smile in their voices. It was an attitude that pervaded not just the Customer Service department, but the technical side of Westlaw as well. John, its most regular representative to us, has the foul weather credo of a postman and his appointed rounds seemed to include a weekly WALT delivery to the University of Minnesota, invariably in the rain. They all did their best.)

Our second WALT, like the first, remained healthy for only a short while. Then, also like the first, he stopped responding. The difference with this one was that his memory was completely unimpaired; he was simply being uncommunicative. He knew what to do, but refused to do it. What was the problem? We at the library had several explanations—a childish tantrum, mulish stubbornness, even autism.

One of the West computer people did his best to give me his explanation in fairly jargon-free language. This is what my anthropomorphizing mind heard: Deep inside WALT's brain there is one ever-vigilant neuronal cluster whose sole function is to wake up all the other neuronal clusters whenever their attention is required. The trouble seemed to be that this sentry ganglion kept falling asleep. WALT was narcoleptic.

We attempted to roust him using several suggested remedies: I repeatedly flipped his power switch, tried the "rtsoff" maneuver, performed a four-finger reset, a five-finger reset, and a variety of other digital acrobatics. All my nudging tactics failed. WALT slept on.

In the early stages of his narcolepsy, WALT could still be awakened by Customer Service. Margie or one of her colleagues would jar his somnolence by ringing his phone. Once aroused, he remained alert for several hours. Finally, even phone calls failed. WALT, like a brown bear in January, had fallen deeply into an imperturbable sleep. The

terminal was terminal. It was time for John to come again.

Though separated from each other by a century, Eli Whitney and Henry Ford conspired to rob machines of all individuality. Interchangeable parts and assembly line production have made modern machines as fungible as grains of sand or drops of oil. Once craftsmen and artisans made machines that had unique characteristics, each different, each with a personality of its own. That's past. Now precision machine tools make machines of bland uniformity. That's progress.

WALT is a product of that progress. We had three identical terminals, each of identical keyboard configuration and coloration, each of identical screen shape and display graphics, each even of an identical on-line hum. If to be alive is to be unique, WALT was as lifeless as a grain of sand or a drop of oil.

Ironically, WALT came alive as an individual only in death. When functioning well each terminal was the same; in illness each asserted his uniqueness. There may have been a common cause for the illnesses (as we were soon to find out, there was), but the symptoms were widely diverse. And it was in illness that they will be most remembered: WALT I had amnesia, Walt II had narcolepsy, WALT III had epilepsy.

That last WALT, like his clone predecessors, functioned fine for a few days. His end, however, was especially unique. It was immediate—not lingering, dramatic—not insidious, and it had a witness—me.

One Monday morning I saw WALT in mid-trauma, a most visible and violent trauma. I sat down at the terminal to look at the Westlaw Case Highlights and almost as soon as I began the log-on procedure, all hell broke loose. WALT's screen suddenly came ablaze with spectacular monochromatic fireworks. The ordinarily innocuous sign-on sequence convulsed outrageously. "WESTLAW access in progress" was now in banner headlines, ponderously enlarged, at first filling the whole screen, then inverted, finally blasted into jumbled bits and pieces interspersed with random snatches of system language: LIST...LOAD...SAVE...CHECKSUM ERROR...CHECKSUM ERROR...MODEM FAILURE...NETWORK FAILURE...DISCONNECTED...DISCONNECTED...SYSTEM DROPPED. WALT was having a seizure—a full blown grand mal fit. In a panic, I called West, "Hi Margie,

this is Tom. WALT is sick again, very sick." Outside it was raining hard.

Something, of course, was enormously wrong. John would soon risk pneumonia to bring us our fourth WALT in as many weeks.

During the three years prior to WALT's arrival we had used an IBM 3101 to access Westlaw. It wasn't as friendly or as elegant as WALT but it was healthy. Aside from an occasional modern hiccup or network sneeze, the 3101 was always in fine fettle. Along comes WALT and suddenly we are facing not hiccups or sneezes, or even mild childhood diseases, but major neurological disorders.

It was time to question our basic presupposition. Until now, we had assumed that WALT's problems were of his own making. West's computer people spoke of glitches or gremlins or bugs in the system; I talked in terms of psychological dysfunction. Whatever the diagnosis, all of us were willing to expect a few problems. WALT, after all, was brand-new. He had been built by a small high-tech company out in Silicon Valley and, as with any new system, no one expected him to be perfect. Even NASA doesn't achieve zero-defects. But three defective WALTs sent to the same site was beyond all anticipation. It was time to stop reflexively blaming him; it was time to look for other answers.

Cockroaches, it is said, would survive a nuclear holocaust, perhaps even flourish in the rubble. They are impervious to radiation. More sophisticated life-forms—especially the primates—are not. In fact, even without a nuclear war, many of the higher primates are not doing too well. The most intelligent of the non-human ones—the mountain gorilla and the orangutan are floundering toward extinction as their habitats are increasingly degraded. It seems that the more intelligent the creature, the more susceptible it is to environmental change.

Our 3101 was—IBM should pardon the expression—a cockroach. You could probably have dropped a bomb on the thing and it wouldn't have known the difference. It was a "dumb" terminal, merely a keyboard, a video screen and a modem. WALT is some thing more, another rung up the old evolutionary ladder, so to speak. WALT has a memory and a hint of intelligence. He is, of course, a long way from being an orangutan, but like a higher pri-

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"HI MARGIE, THIS IS..."

(Continued from Page 7)

mate, WALT is sensitive to his environment. At last we realized that WALT's problems weren't gliches and gremlins, psychic disorders or personality flaws; the problems were with his habitat.

In the old days, computer habitat was critically important. The early mainframes survived only in sterile environments, dust-free and climate-controlled. Computer technicians dressed like brain surgeons. Times and technology have changed. Computers, especially microcomputers, can go most anywhere. They are resistant to normal changes in temperature and humidity. They can tolerate a bit of dust or lint or pollen—almost anything short of Coca-Cola poured over their central processing units. In Darwinian terms they have adapted to new circumstances. They have evolved and the strongest of them—IBM, Apple, Digital, Wang—will survive.

There remains, however, one aspect of their habitat to which intelligent terminals are sensitive. Voltage fluctuations—usually called "spikes"—do all sorts of bad things to them. In fact, the same kinds of bad things that had been happening to our WALT. Perhaps it had been our fault all along. We had put WALT in a hostile environment.

We checked electrical blueprints of the Law Library and as we suspected WALT was not alone on his circuit. It was a very busy line; next door was another terminal—an impervious "dumb" one; down the hall was a photocopier, a microfiche reader and two electric typewriters; and at the end of the line, the real culprit—the library staff's refrigerator. Every time its compressor started there was a surging power demand. A "spike" ran down the line and amok through WALT's memory. Refrigeration, which had saved the world from botulism and warm beer, caused in WALT a host of psycho-neurological ailments—everything from amnesia to epilepsy.

We temporarily moved the refrigerator and called the electricians. Two days later they rewired the Westlaw

room. WALT was given a circuit of his own; he now had a "clean" line. His problems were solved.

That was three months ago and WALT hasn't had so much as a snuffle since. Getting back in the pink has made him popular again. Many Westlaw users had become angry and unsympathetic during his illness. Now they were coming back in droves. The Westlaw room is humming with activity. Student use has increased dramatically, many of the faculty now drop by, and even the dean was there one day. Everything is fine. And yet...

Though it lasted too long, it was over too soon. There is a depression that follows the end of a crisis successfully met. Patton felt it when the war was won. Gone is the camaraderie of a common purpose, the united spirit of a shared goal, the urgent assault on new challenges. The return to normalcy is a return to the mundane.

I miss all those anxious calls to the Westlaw Customer Service people. There is no need for us to talk anymore. I miss seeing rain-drenched John each week. He is probably warm and dry in his Westlaw office now. We've all moved on to other business.

"Goodbye Margie, WALT is well."

(Reprinted from the Winter 1983 issue of *LEGAL REFERENCE SERVICES QUARTERLY* with the author's permission.)



The Readers' Services SIS presented a program in San Diego entitled WHO NEEDS A LAW DEGREE? The speakers were ALFRED J. COCO, MARK ESTES and SANDRA J. COLEMAN. Mark, who holds M.L.L. and J.D. degrees from the University of Denver, has provided us with an article which, in the editors' opinions, addresses the heart of the issue.

DOES A LAW LIBRARIAN NEED A LAW DEGREE?

by Mark E. Estes
Holme, Roberts & Owen
Denver, Colorado

Who needs a law degree? Do you? Does anyone? The simple answer: No one has to have one. No standards for law libraries actually require a law degree. The ABA and AALS' standards require library training and recommend legal training; the British and Irish Associations of Law Librarians' standards require legal experience.

The more difficult answer: It depends. Redefine and refine the question: What do you want? Where do you want to live? What are your career goals? Do you want to be an academic library director (there are a few, but not many directors without a JD)? Do you want to work in technical services, reference or administration? How much flexibility do you want in job mobility? What skills do you have now? What skills do you need to possess to fulfill the career goals you have set? What investments in time, energy or money are you willing to make to achieve those career goals?

Answering those questions should be far more productive for yourself than the coarse one of "who needs a law degree?"

Consider for example, after at least three years of law school, several thousand dollars, considerable emotional energy and probable

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NEED A LAW DEGREE? (Continued from Page 8)

strain on interpersonal relationships, what do you have? A juris doctorate degree. And what does that give you? Well, it may give you status as a lawyer, but only a limited status — you are not doing what the rest of the lawyers around you are doing — teaching substantive law or practicing law — in a profession which is not held in especially high esteem by the American public.

Most people desire esteem. Librarians especially often speak of their low status and little respect given to them. Unfortunately, however, respect is earned and only given to those who have self respect.

Therefore, because respect and status are things that others give to you, if you are to make it happily through this world, you cannot be overly concerned about what people think of you. More important in terms of job success than respect and status is access to the information concerning your organization — past, present and future — and participation in the decision-making process for the organization at the appropriate level, i.e. technical services needs one kind of information and participation while directors or sole librarians need other kinds of information and participation.

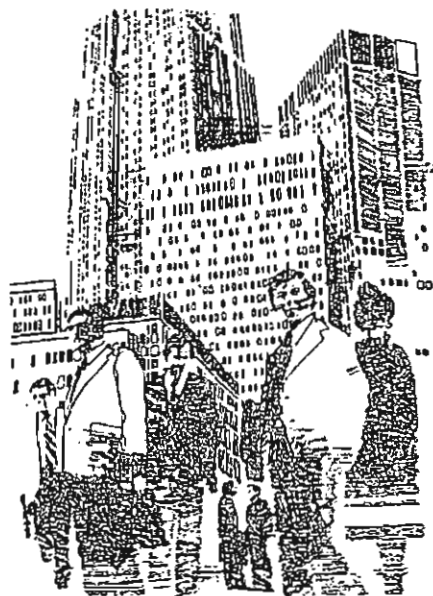
Access to information and involvement with the decision-making process may come easier with degree-conferred status but proving one's ability, reliability and commitment to the institution's goals and objectives are the conditions precedent. Meeting those conditions may very well be as difficult as getting a JD because of its ongoing nature and, of course, has been the subject of numerous articles, workshops, etc. on planning, publicity, transforming the library to an information center, marketing, etc.

Where can you learn the skills needed to make an informed contribution in the decision-making process or to make an informed analysis of the information available? Law school teaches analytical skills, but a business school may

develop those and other analytical skills better, or specialized continuing education seminars may do so as well. In short, a JD degree does not assure good analysis or good thinking, witness the number of malpractice suits against lawyers, the number of complaints dismissed and the number of poorly written judicial opinions. (But then sheepskin, on close reading, contains no guarantees.)

In addition to analytical skills, a JD gives one familiarity with the subject matter — torts, contracts, securities, etc. But earning a JD is not the only way to gain such familiarity — by working in a law library, paralegal training, auditing the first and some second year law school courses, one can learn much about the subject matter. While reference work demand some familiarity with the subject matter, the prerequisites for excellent reference work are interviewing and negotiating skills to identify and focus the reference question.

So, if not every law librarian needs a law degree, is there something else that everyone does need to have? Yes, every law librarian needs a strong personal commitment to the profession of law librarianship, to continuing education regardless of degrees earned and to promote the usefulness of law libraries to all the users.



WHAT A SUCCESS!!

(The editors recently received a report on the 1984 SEALL Nashville meeting from Howard A. Hood, local arrangements coordinator for that meeting. We would like to share with you, in part, Howard's comments.)

I am pleased to report that the 1984 annual meeting was a great success in every respect. This is not only my view; I have a stack of letters as well as many oral comments to support this evaluation. The convention was a complex event and a complex of factors may be given credit for its success. The program topic selected by Ed Schroeder and the other members of the program committee could not have been more timely. And the various presentations developed the subject of library automation in a logical and well-balanced manner. The program topic helped attract an amazingly large turn-out: total attendance was over 130. The meeting was well supported by exhibitors and dealers. They contributed \$2,535.00 toward convention expenses. Because of the good offices of Kay Todd, Lellyett & Rogers of Nashville printed our convention brochure at no charge. Most conventioners seemed delighted with the meeting setting, the beautiful Opryland Hotel. The weather gods favored us because, in the midst of our rainy season, we got three sunny days for the convention.

I want to thank Igor Kavass and the members of the Vanderbilt Law Library staff for their good ideas and hard work. It was a pleasure to work with our Chapter's officers, Kay Todd, Ed Schroeder, and Ed Edmonds. My special thanks go to Mary Bourget, local arrangements chairman for the Orlando meeting last year. She supplied me with full documentation on her work and never lost patience in the face of my endless questions. Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to the members of the Southeastern Chapter for coming to Nashville. I feel fortunate for having had the opportunity to meet you and get to know you better.

PROFESSOR AND LIBRARIAN MARY OLIVER RETIRES

After an association with this law school that spans more than three decades, first as a student, then as assistant librarian, and finally as librarian and faculty member, Professor and Law Librarian Mary W. Oliver retired at the end of the 1983-84 academic year.

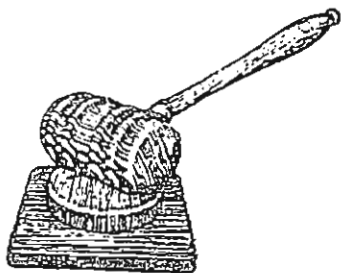
A native of Cumberland, Maryland, Ms. Oliver received her A.B. from Western Maryland College in 1940, a B.S. in L.S. from Drexel Institute of Technology in 1943, and a J.D. from UNC School of Law in 1951.

Ms. Oliver was named assistant librarian in 1952 and then assistant professor of law and law librarian in 1955. She was the first woman on UNC's law faculty. She was made an associate professor in 1969.

She has witnessed and coped with many changes in the library and the school. She contributed to the planning of the new library and oversaw the move from Manning to Van Hecke-Wettach. The library grew in her three decades from a staff of four and a collection of 75,000 to a staff of eighteen and a collection totalling more than 250,000 volumes.

At the law school, she taught courses in legal research and writing and seminars in legal history. In addition, as a member of the faculty of the School of Library Science, she taught seminars in law library administration.

She has served as president of the American Association of Law Libraries, on the executive committee of the Association of American Law Schools, and has been active in the ABA.



Professor Oliver's retirement from the faculty won't constitute a complete break in her career. She will have an office at the law school and plans to continue with her professional organization activities. She also hopes to find time to do some neglected writing.

(Reprinted, in part, from the LAW ALUMNI NEWSLETTER of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Volume 8, Number 3, July, 1984.)

S.E.A.L.L. BRIEFS

Compiled by Timothy Coggins

FLORIDA

WES DANIELS, Associate Librarian at Yale Law Library, has become librarian at the University of Miami Law Library in Coral Gables. Wes has an AB ('68) from Forham University, an MSLS ('74) from Simmons College and JD ('81) from Harvard. He had been at Yale since 1982.

MICHAEL J. LYNCH began as Reference Librarian at Florida State University College of Law Library in mid-August. He has a J.D. from the Univ. of Michigan and an M.L.S. from Emory. His experience includes 5 years in private legal practice as well as 6 years teaching at Emory Law School.

PATRICIA SIMONDS, Reference Librarian at Florida State University College of Law Library, resigned in December, 1983, to pursue a career in computer programming. She is presently working for the Comptroller's office for the State of Florida.

BETTY TAYLOR of the University of Florida College of Law Library finished the 1983-84 year as Chairman of the SOLINET Board of Directors. At the SOLINET annual meeting held in May, Betty was elected to a two year term as a

delegate to the OCLC Users' Council. She has been Nominated to the office of Vice President of the Users' Council.

LOUISIANA

SARAH CHURNEY joined the Catalog Department at the Tulane University School of Law Library. Previously she was Cataloger at the Law Library of Louisiana.

New member, RAY A. LYTTLE joins Loyola University Law Library in New Orleans as the Reference Librarian on September 10, 1984. He received his J.D. degree from The University of Illinois (Urbana) and his M.L.S. degree from Indiana University.

New member, BARBARA ST. SAUVER-REINECKE joined Loyola University Law Library in New Orleans as the Head of Public Services on August 20, 1984. She received her J.D. degree from the University of San Diego and her M.L.S. degree from the University of Hawaii.

NEW ORLEANS

CRIME SPECIALIST. His domain: The law library at the Louisiana Supreme Court building. His specialty. Wallets. Eight times in the past five months, "the wallet thief" - as he is known to the library staff - has taken wallets out of purses, desk drawers and once from a man's jacket on a coat tree, police and building officials said. He has never gotten much money. One wallet contained less than a dollar. He later returns the victims' wallets and credit cards, sans cash. Police theory. One person may not be responsible for all the thefts.

(Reprinted from THE ORLANDO SENTINEL, 5/17/84)

MISSISSIPPI

ANN T. FESSENDEN, Technical Services Librarian at the University of Mississippi School of Law Library, has resigned to attend law school full-time. Good Luck, Ann!

(Continued on Page 11)

S.E.A.L.L. BRIEFS

(Continued from Page 10)

PENCIE LATHAM is the new Technical Services Librarian at the University of Mississippi College of Law Library. Pencie was formerly the Circulation/Catalog Librarian at Ole Miss.

And, last but not least, BARBARA VON BRIMMER joined the Ole Miss Law Library staff in early August as the Circulation/Catalog Librarian. Barbara received her M.L.S. from the University of Mississippi and has spent the last ten years working in Ohio libraries.

NORTH CAROLINA

HOPE BREEZE has been promoted to Cataloger at the Duke University School of Law Library. She has been at Duke as Assistant Cataloger since 1982.

MARY LOUISE COBB became Technical Services Librarian at Wake Forest University on September 1, 1984. Cobb has a library science degree from Vanderbilt University.

TIMOTHY COGGINS is currently Acting Law Librarian at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Law Library.

SALLY IRVIN has joined the Law Library staff at Wake Forest University as Media Services Librarian, effective August 1, 1984. Irvin has a law degree from Stetson University and a master's degree in library science from the University of South Florida.

JAMES LEONARD has been named Acting Director of the Law Library at Wake Forest. Leonard assumed the responsibilities of Director on August 1, 1984. Leonard worked at the Law Library at Wake Forest for 2½ years before his first year of law school at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. He will return to UNC-CH to complete his law degree. Leonard replaces KENNETH ZICK, who was named Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Wake Forest on July 1, 1984.

EDWARD M. (TED) WALLER has been named head of Technical Services at the Duke Law Library. Ted was formerly the Head of Technical Services at the Wake Forest University Law Library and is a graduate of the library school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

VIRGINIA

MR. R. LEE WARTHEN has accepted a position as Associate Law Librarian at Washington and Lee University Law School Library. He received his M.L.S. and J.D. degrees from Brigham Young University where he worked as Reference Librarian for a number of years. Lee replaces TERRY BECKWITH and will begin his duties on August 1, 1984.

PLACEMENT

FLORIDA

ACQUISITIONS AND SERIALS LIBRARIAN. Requirements: MLS, JD or relevant experience desirable. Duties: Responsible for ordering, receiving and authorizing payment for library materials. Oversees the serial check-in, shelisting and binding operations. Supported by a staff of 4 clerical assistants. Salary: negotiable. Available: July 1, 1984. Send Resume to: Carol A. Roehrenbeck, Director, Nova University Law Library, 3100 S.W. 9th Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33315.

NORTH CAROLINA

ASSOCIATE LAW LIBRARIAN. Requirements: JD and MLS degrees or the equivalent from accredited institutions. Ability to serve in a multi-ethnic setting. Knowledge of WESTLAW is desirable. Duties: Responsible for the library's evening operation, especially reader services, including circulation; teaching a one-quarter load; community service and scholarship. Also, assist the Law Librarian in the hiring, training and supervision of librarians, support staff and student aides.

Candidate will teach legal research and writing and will be closely involved in all aspects of planning and development. Although small, the library is experiencing a period of growth and serves 22 faculty, 300 day and evening students, members of the local bar, and the public. The Associate Law Librarian can expect a challenging position in a library committed to automation and collection development. Position reports to the Law Librarian and Dean and carries full faculty status on tenure track. Salary: Competitive, commensurate with qualifications and experience. Available: Immediately. Send cover letter, resume, two references and a salary history to the Office of the Dean, School of Law, North Carolina Central University, Durham, N.C. 27707. Applications will be received until the final selection is made.

DIRECTOR OF LAW LIBRARY — Wake Forest University Law School. Requirements: JD; MLS. Experience in academic law library administration and knowledge of computer applications in the law library setting desirable. Duties: The Director is responsible for the administration of all aspects of library operations including the supervision of a staff of four professional librarians. Faculty status will depend on teaching experience or willingness to teach in legal writing and research program. Salary: Competitive depending on qualifications and experience. Application: Send resume to Associate Dean Kenneth A. Zick, Wake Forest University Law School, P.O. Box 7206 Reynolda Station, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27109.

TENNESSEE

ASSISTANT LAW LIBRARIAN. The University of Tennessee College of Law is seeking applicants for Assistant Law Librarian for Reference and Public Service. Both a basic law degree and a library science degree are required. Public service, administrative, and supervisory experience are also required. Duties include responsibility for teaching legal research and super-

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PLACEMENT

(Continued from Page 11)

vision of public services including circulation, reserve, reference, and WESTLAW. The Assistant Librarian supervises three full-time and approximately twenty part-time staff members. The position is tenure track at the rank of Assistant Professor. The University of Tennessee is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer. Interested candidates should contact Chairman, Faculty Appointment Committee, The University of Tennessee College of Law, 1505 W. Cumberland Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37996-1800.

LIBRARIAN. To perform finance, acquisitions, and business functions of a medium-sized law library with strong research support responsibilities. Requirements: MLS and/or business degree or equivalent experience. Salary: Minimum \$16,000, negotiable on experience. Available: Immediately. Contact: Professor

Igor I Kavass, Director Alyne Queener Massey Law Library, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 37240, (615) 322-2726.

SEALL INSTALLS OFFICERS AND PLANS MEETING

During a luncheon on June 8, 1984, the newly elected officers for the SOUTH FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES, INC. were installed for the 1984-1985 organizational year. Chief Judge

Gerald Wetherington of the 11th Judicial Circuit installed the officers and addressed the meeting on the operation of the court system in Dade County.

The new officers for SFALL are as follows: President, Robert Wallace; Vice-President and President Elect, Muriel Efron; Secretary, Barbara Hunt; and, Treasurer, Meg Stevens.

President Robert Wallace announced that SFALL would be holding a joint meeting with Florida State Court and County Law Libraries, Inc., at Fort Lauderdale in October.

The joint meeting, to be held October 11-13, 1984, at the Riverside Hotel in Fort Lauderdale, will feature a varied program. The theme of PLANNING FOR CHANGE IN THE NEXT DECADE will allow the flexibility to cover such topics as: What is Planning?, Development of Disaster Plans, and Planning for New Technologies.

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Jacksonville, FL 32202

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