



Official newsletter of the Southeastern Chapter of A.A.L.L.

REMOTE ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS: SCANNING THE FIELD

by

**Teresa Pritchard, Helen Laurence and Susan Hutchens
Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart**

In the past, public records have been notoriously difficult to obtain. If a researcher needed basic business or financial information about a company, or its legal status, a written or telephone request would usually have to be made directly to the governmental agency in possession of the records. The lucky researcher would have a telephone source or, when time was of the essence, a document delivery service might have been hired to do the legwork.

Today, there are several information services competing to meet the needs of researchers looking for public records filed with many state or county administrative offices. The three national-level competitors are Information America ("IA"); Mead Data Central, with the LEXIS Public Records Online Service ("LEXIS PROS"); and Prentice-Hall Online Public Information Services ("PH Online"). Each offers two main categories of service: online research and document delivery.

COMPARATIVE COVERAGE

Each information service differs in degree of usefulness depend-

ing on the number of states and/or counties included in its database and the types of information available. For example, if a searcher typically needs Florida public records, the LEXIS PROS service will not be useful for online searching because it contains no Florida public records in its LIENS or INCORP online libraries. On the other hand, IA and PH Online offer access to Florida corporate and limited partnership records, and Uniform Commercial Code filings.¹ Figure 1 shows the various public records available in the various jurisdictions for LEXIS PROS, IA and PH Online. Regardless of the online availability of individual state or local files, all three services offer access to copies of public records documents from any jurisdiction in the nation through their document delivery services.

PRICING

The pricing structure is based on the type of search performed or the type of document ordered. For example, a search of Florida corporate records conducted by a user located in Florida (an in-state search) would cost \$7 on
(Continued on Page 11)

DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT OF DUES

In accordance with our bylaws, the treasurer shall suspend the membership of any person who has not paid annual dues within three months after the due date appearing on the dues notice. This means that unpaid members will not receive notices or newsletters after this issue. Please mail your dues now. If your institution's budget has not been finalized, the treasurer will accept your name now and your money when it becomes available.

DEADLINES FOR VOLUME 16 SOUTHEASTERN LAW LIBRARIAN

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Vol. 16, #3 - Feb. 1, 1991
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EDITORS' CORNER

As new editors of Southeastern Law Librarian, we don't want to write a regular column; we don't want to write at all. Our function is to motivate all members to share experiences, ideas, and Chapter news. To that end we hope to publish letters to the editors, surveys, and point/counterpoint articles in addition to the regular columns we all enjoy reading. Please let us know what topics you'd like to see covered in the newsletter. Wish us luck, keep a critical eye on each issue, and write, write, write.

We'd like to thank Michael Petit, the previous editor, for his encouragement and support, and Jo Ann Fults, Word Processing Coordinator at Rumberger, Kirk for the production of this issue.

Russell Gebet
Kathy Heberer

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FLORIDA'S PRACTICAL LAW BOOKS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the 1990-1991 President of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries, it is my pleasure to welcome you to a new and exciting year and to ask that each of you consider participation in the Chapter's committees, programs, institutes, and other activities. The Chapter's meeting and social gathering at the AALL Annual Meeting in Minneapolis were both fun and productive. Thanks go to Wes Cochran for making the meeting and the social very enjoyable. Special thanks should be extended to Dick Danner for the use of his hospitality suite. But, of course, Betty Kern was the hit of the show; ask her about the "present" from Wes Cochran when you see her. Your 1990-91 officers and I want to make 1990-91 even better than last year, but we will need your help. The other officers for the coming year are Peggy Martin, Vice-President/ President-Elect; Diana Osbaldiston, Treasurer; and Alva Stone, Secretary. Each of us is here to help you.

The summer has been busy with Chapter activities already. Committee chairs and members were named prior to the Minneapolis meeting and many have begun their year's work. A list of the committee members appears elsewhere in this issue of the Southeastern Law Librarian. If you are not currently a member of a committee and are interested, please contact me about your interests.

Kathy Heberer and Russell Gebet graciously agreed to serve as co-editors of the Southeastern Law Librarian and have made wonderful plans for the newsletter. Look for some new columns and an expanded "News Briefs" section. The

Publicity/Public Relations Committee with Sue Burch of the University of Kentucky as Chair is continuing the efforts of last year's committee. She has named contacts in each southeastern state to help with contacts at the various southeastern libraries and information sciences schools. The Membership Committee, chaired by Sue Roach, is planning a recruitment program for new members through a systematic comparison of the AALL Directory and the Southeastern Directory to locate librarians in the Southeast who are not members of our Chapter. She is also planning a revision of the membership brochure.

The Publications Committee Chair, Ed Edmonds, plans to complete the Chapter Procedures Manual, as well as to resurrect the state practice series in an enlarged annotated format. Ed is interested also in pursuing the publication of the Southeastern Chapter Membership Directory and Law Library Directory on a more regular basis. The Chapter needs volunteers to help Ed with these projects; volunteer now, please! Jim Heller and the Education Committee have taken the first steps toward a second educational institute to be held prior to the Chapter meeting in March. Hazel Johnson, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, plans an extensive review of the scholarship process and applications.

The Local Arrangements and Program Committees are busily planning activities and meetings for the March 14-16, 1991, Chapter meeting. Cherry Thomas (Local Arrangements Committee Chair) and Peggy Martin

(Program Committee Chair) started early with their respective duties. We can expect interesting and exciting programs in a beautiful environment. Look for details about Chapter meeting plans elsewhere in the newsletter.

I have several other requests. The Chapter needs to form a Government Relations Committee to assist the AALL Government Relations Committee with its work. The AALL Government Relations Committee monitors legislation dealing with various issues affecting law libraries and information policy. The committee has found that it stays very busy dealing with Federal information policy revisions, OMB information policies, Federal permanent paper policy, the Paperwork Reduction Act reauthorization, etc. The committee has no time to deal with any state legislation that might affect libraries and information policies. The Chapter could be very useful to the Association by assuming the task of monitoring and reporting state legislative and administrative information policy developments through a Chapter committee. M. Kathleen Reis of Smith, Currie & Hancock in Atlanta has agreed to coordinate the development of a Chapter Government Relations Committee. If you have contacts in your state legislative or administrative bodies (or if you have an interest in this area and read local newspapers), contact Kathleen or me and help us organize this committee. Complete the form on page 20 of this newsletter if you are interested.

Final request ... this issue! My overall goal for the coming year is to continue the fine tradition of the Southeastern Chapter and its involvement and leadership in the national association. We must have your help to do this. If you have ideas or

suggestions for Chapter activities, call me (919-962-6202). If you would like to work on a Chapter committee, call or write me. We want each of you involved in the Chapter activities and will certainly follow through on your suggestions. I look forward to working with you during the coming year.

Timothy L. Coggins

SEAALL ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

President:	Tim Coggins University of North Carolina
Vice President/ President Elect:	Peggy Martin Paul Hastings Janofsky & Walker
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A BIBLIOGRAPHY ON LIBRARIAN MALPRACTICE

By
Michael J. Lynch
Florida State University

Information professionals are waiting eagerly for the final confirmation of professional status: liability. We can hardly be professionals without malpractice; and the sorts of mistakes that result only in harsh words from a patron or a negative annual evaluation will not do. We are anticipating liability. Maybe not an ATLA litigation group, or even an ALR Annotation, but at least one case, somewhere, in a court of record, preferably at the appellate level, rendering judgment, with or without punitive damages, against a librarian or other information broker who failed to consult an obvious source, and thus missed a key reference, a reference containing information so important, yet so obscure, that without that information her or his client suffered losses, or missed gains, for which justice requires the librarian to be liable.

When that case finally comes, the library literature will trumpet it, headline it, digest it, praise it, condemn it, attack it, defend it, bemoan it, parse it, analyze it, distinguish it, dissect it, caress it; but for now we can only await it. While waiting for practice to catch up, we can watch the literature burgeon. The following short bibliography lists articles concerned with or touching on the potential for malpractice liability of information professionals. Included among the authors may be noted a striking number of law librarians from the southeast, a number which would have been higher

by one but for Carol Allred's inexplicable decision to omit this ominous possibility from her article "Negligence Law for Libraries," which appeared in Law Library Journal in 1985.

Though annotations are not included, I may suggest that anyone who is nervous about the possibility of personal liability first consult John A. Gray's 1988 article for reasons why suits are unlikely. Perhaps an "L.A. Law" fantasy on the subject is the best we can hope for -- no librarian stereotypes, please. And so, without much further ado:

Martha J. Dragich, "Information Malpractice: Some Thoughts on the Professional Liability of Information Professionals." Information Technology and Libraries 8:265-272 (1989).

Teresa Pritchard and Michelle Quigley, "The Information Specialist: A Malpractice Risk Analysis." ONLINE 13:57-62 (May 1989).

John H. Everett, "Independent Information Professionals and the Question of Malpractice Liability." ONLINE 13:65-70 (May 1989).

John A. Gray, "Personal Malpractice Liability of Reference Librarians and Information Brokers." Journal of Library Administration 9:71-83 (1988).

Thomas Steele, "The Liability of Librarians for Negligence." Public Libraries 26:127-128 (Fall 1987).

Blodwen Tarter, "Liability: New Interpretations For Electronic Publishing." ONLINE 10:61-67 (Sept. 1986).

Anne P. Mintz, "Information Practice and Malpractice." Library Journal 38 (Sept. 15, 1985).

Anne P. Mintz, "Information Practice and Malpractice ... Do We Need Malpractice Insurance?" ONLINE 8:20-26 (July 1984).

Joan C. Durrance, "The Generic Librarian: Anonymity versus

Accountability. RO 22:278 (Spring, 1983).

William Nasri, "Malpractice Liability: Myth or Reality?" Journal of Library Administration 1:3 (1981).

Gerome Leone, "Malpractice Liability of a Law Librarian?" Law Library Journal 73:44-65 (1980).

Alan Angoff, "Library Malpractice Suit: Could It Happen to You?" American Libraries 7:489 (Sept. 1976).

Calling All CDROM Users

Please respond to this survey and mail to: Russell Gebel, 355 S. Orange Ave., Suite 1600, Orlando, FL 32801. Results will be published (we promise) in a forthcoming issue.

1. *What materials do you have on CDROM?*
2. *How many copies do you have of each disc?*
3. *Do you have the materials in hard copy as well as CDROM?*
4. *If you have both formats, do users still tend to use the hard copy?*
5. *How many CDROM players are available for patron usage?*
6. *What are the brand(s) and model numbers?*
7. *How many patrons does the library serve?*
8. *If you are with a law firm, how many patrons can benefit from using the CDROM materials? (i.e., litigators would not use tax materials.)*
9. *Do you train users or does the publisher provide this service?*
10. *Are the CDROM publications used solely by the librarian?*
11. *Have you had any problems implementing a CDROM program in your environment?*
12. *Do you have any advice to share with members who may be thinking of converting to CDROM?*

SEAALL BRIEFS

*Compiled by
Jack Bissett*

Please send news items about members and law libraries to Jack at this address: John P. Bissett, SEAALL Briefs Editor, Law Library, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia 24450.

FLORIDA

The theme of West Publishing Company's party in Minneapolis was "home-coming," highlighted by a drawing for a trip "home" to anywhere in the world. One of the two grand prize winners was Richard Gibson from Nova University in Fort Lauderdale. Richard initially thought of going to Boca Raton, but immediately expanded his horizon to Paris!

Florida law librarians, former staff, and friends of both the Florida State University College of Law Library and the University of Florida Legal Information Center gathered once again at this summer's AALL convention. A special event was the surprise celebration of Betty Taylor's forty years at the University of Florida!

GEORGIA

Shirley McDonald has left Kilpatrick & Cody after five years as their Galleria Branch Librarian. She is now Reference Librarian at Alston & Bird's Galleria Branch.

LOUISIANA

Kathy Austin, a Reference Librarian at Tulane Law Library, is leaving to become an Associate at Barham and Associates in New Orleans.

Sarah Churney, formerly Cataloger at Tulane Law Library, has left to pursue a career as a C.P.A. She is working at Latter and Blum in New Orleans.

Cassandra Dover has returned to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals from Lafayette, La., where she has, for the last two years, been setting up a satellite library for the Court. Her replacement in Lafayette is Jan Shaw, who has worked at both Lafayette and Memphis Public Libraries.

Ed Edmonds, Law Librarian at Loyola University Law Library, has been appointed to the Mead Data Central Pricing Advisory Board. The Board will represent the law school community in working with Mead to establish an equitable pricing structure. Carol Roehrenbeck, Director of the Nova University Law Library, is serving as Chair of the Pricing Advisory Board.

Julia Overstreet became Librarian last November for Sessions & Fishman in New Orleans. She was formerly at the Legislative Research Library in Baton Rouge.

Isabel Wingerter, Media Librarian at the Louisiana State University Law Center Library, received her Juris Doctor in May, 1990. She will join the Tarlton Law Library Staff at the University of Texas in October.

Debbie Wynot, Librarian for Gordon, Arata, McCollan & Duplantis in New Orleans.

(Continued on Page 9)

1991 SEAALL MEETING

Make your plans to attend the 1991 SEAALL meeting in T-town, (Tuscaloosa) Alabama, March 14-16. The Alabama Law Librarians are looking forward to providing an informative as well as entertaining program.

Since former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo L. Black is a famous alumnus, the University of Alabama will have the Hugo Black Room open for viewing. This room is a replica of his Alexandria, Virginia office during his tenure on the court and contains his books and other memorabilia.

The Sheraton Capstone Inn is a lovely new hotel located on the University of Alabama campus. Most of the programs will be held right next door in the new conference center. Among the topics for this year's program are: Sports, Environmental, and Space Law; Records Preservation and Management, Cataloging Services, Desktop Publishing and many others. Start saving your desktop published items such as newsletters to bring to the conference and share with other librarians.

Plan to tour the exciting new computer facility at University of Alabama's Library School and the Book Art Department. Football fans can wander through the Bear Bryant Museum located between the Sheraton and the Conference Center, or a short drive in the country will take you to the Mounds Indian home. Come and visit the antebellum buildings among the azaleas at the SEAALL meeting in March, before the heat of summer.

If you have any questions about the conference, please contact Peggy Martin at (404) 527-8250 (Program Chair) or Cherry Thomas at (205) 348-5927 (Local Arrangements Chair).

LUCILE ELLIOT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Lucile Elliot Scholarships will again be available this year to assist Southeastern Chapter members in attending educational programs.

According to the scholarship guidelines, the award may be used for any purpose reasonably designed to improve one's career in law librarianship. Preference will be given for attending any activity sponsored by the Southeastern Chapter or an AALL Institute. All members who have not received an award in the past three years are eligible. Awards will be given in a ratio of 70:30 newer members (three years or less) to older members (more than three years) when the applicant pool permits.

The Executive Board has indicated that \$3,000 will be available for the award program. This year the amount of individual awards will be made based upon need rather than having a set amount for each award. Due to the early March date of the SEAALL meeting, the Scholarship Committee anticipates mailing applications to chapter members this fall.

COPYRIGHT INSTITUTE

The Education Committee is sponsoring a one-day institute on copyright in libraries to be held immediately prior to the 1991 SEAALL Annual Meeting. The institute is scheduled for March 14, 1991 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. For details contact Jim Heller, Marshall-Wythe Law Library, College of William and Mary.

SEAALL BRIEFS *(Continued from Page 7)*

Orleans, has been in that position since October 1989. She was formerly a Cataloger at Xavier University.

MISSISSIPPI

Kenneth Raigins has joined the staff of Mississippi College Law Library as Evening Reference Librarian. Ken is a member of the Mississippi State Bar and holds the J.D. from the University of Mississippi. He was formerly head of Mississippi's Legislative Reference Bureau. Ken is currently enrolled in the School of Library Service at the University of Southern Mississippi.

NORTH CAROLINA

Julia Best was the recipient of a Matthew Bender Scholarship which she used to attend AALL in Minneapolis. Julia is the Serials Librarian at the University of North Carolina Law Library.

VIRGINIA

Regent University Law Library

Donna Bausch was recently appointed Acting Law Librarian at Regent University Law Library in Virginia Beach. Jack Kotvas, a 1989 graduate of the University of Richmond Law School, joins the Regent staff as Law Reference Librarian.

University of Richmond Law Library

Steven Hinckley, who has been Assistant Law Librarian for Public Services at Georgetown University Law Library for the past year, will return to the University of Richmond Law Library on September 1 as its new Director, replacing Susan English, who is now Director of the Library at

Wolf, Block, Schorr & Solis-Cohen, in Philadelphia.

The law library has implemented the Dynix Automated Library System, in partnership with the University Library, Technical Services modules came up last spring and the public catalog and circulation/reserve in June. Barcoding is complete and student ID's will be coded this fall.

All this and construction too! Construction has finally begun on the Law School addition and renovation, with the library work to be completed within about a year and a half. The whole job will take two to three years.

Allen Moye, a recent graduate of the Law School, will be a temporary, full-time Reference Librarian, also teaching Legal Research, while Joyce Janto is on maternity leave. Her baby is due around August 20.

Washington and Lee University Law Library

John Jacob is the new Archivist at the Law Library. He began work on July 1, merely transferring across town from the George C. Marshall Research Foundation, where he was Archivist. John's major responsibility will be to organize and manage the Lewis F. Powell Archives; he will also serve at the Reference desk and share the load of teaching Lexis and Westlaw.

The Powell Archives will be housed in a new extension to the Law School, now under construction,
(Continued on Page 17)

**SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER OF AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES
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REMOTE ACCESS *(Continued from Page 1)*

PH Online, \$15 on IA, and \$17 on LEXIS PROS. A search of Florida corporate records conducted by user located out-of-state would cost \$15 on PH Online, \$19 on IA, and \$20 on LEXIS PROS. Prices correspondingly vary for document delivery. Figure 2 (see page 18) illustrates the comparative pricing structure for the three services. If a number of searches are to be performed, LEXIS PROS provides a substantial savings by allowing stack searching; i.e., several names can be retrieved with only one search charge.²

SEARCH TECHNIQUES

-Information America

For the novice searcher, IA is virtually painless. The search is menu driven and leaves little to guesswork. IA's summary menus provide concise information about the currency of records, the sources from which records are derived, and further clarifying details. For instance, when a corporate name search is performed, the search result summary screen contains the current corporate status and the date of incorporation of each company listed.

In addition, IA provides access to specialized databases which can be very useful to a researcher. With a simple selection from the main menu, the searcher can access IA's Dun & Bradstreet database and search by corporate or executive name. Similarly, IA's People Finder and Business Finder databases

can be helpful investigative sources.

-LEXIS PROS

The LEXIS PROS search is done in the same manner as any LEXIS/NEXIS search, which an experienced searcher recognizes as extremely sophisticated and friendly software. The inexperienced searcher will probably need to spend a short time with the user manual. LEXIS offers the flexibility of entering multiple search terms using boolean logic, and modifying and saving searches. Search results may be viewed in full text, by key word or in citation formats.

-Prentice Hall Online

PH Online is primitive, requiring a lot more time and patience. Options for viewing documents are limited and cumbersome. For example, certain records (e.g., bankruptcy and judgments) must be retrieved using a "Basic" search which displays up to 300 records which match the name being searched. For other record types (e.g., corporate records), it is advisable to use a "Scan" or "Summary" search. In Scan search, a summary directory of up to 99 "hits" is displayed; however, the summary screens leave much to be desired. For example, the corporate summary screen provides a list of company names and the valid thru date, but gives no indication of the active/dissolved status of the companies listed. Thus, the searcher must page through the

respective records, which can be a tiresome task when numerous like "hits" are retrieved. Furthermore, the distinction between "Basic" and "Scan" searching can initially cause confusion and seems to provide little benefit.

A convenient feature when performing corporate due diligence research is global searching, by which all available databases are searched at once. Global record searching is available through IA (\$75 per search) and PH Online (\$15 minimum; then regular search rates apply for the individual databases entered after viewing the universal search summary). Currently, LEXIS PROS does not provide global search capability.

To illustrate the strengths and weaknesses of each service, a corporate record search was performed in each database using an actual research request received by our research services department. The request was for information about a California corporation named "Quick Silver, Inc." Additionally, we were given the names of three principal officers (an unexpected treat). As the experienced business researcher knows, the initial research request often contains inaccurate information and unfortunately (or perhaps fortunately for the sake of illustration), that was the case here.

On PH Online and IA, California corporate records were searched by business name, entering the abbreviated search "Quick Silv." Both databases provided lists of

over 35 corporate names which contained some variation of "Quick Silver" or "Quicksilver." However, after reviewing the most likely records, we found that none contained the officer names which we had been given. Obviously at this point a second search by officer name could have been performed, but before incurring the cost of an additional search, we would have opted to sign off and verify our information elsewhere. (Actually, in most circumstances we would have attempted to verify our information before signing on to either database.)

The LEXIS PROS search proved to be the most effective in this case because we were able to enter multiple search terms, while paying only for a single search. Our LEXIS PROS search included the corporate name entered as "Quick Silver" and "Quicksilver," and the names of the three principals. We reviewed a cite list of our search results and easily discovered the correct spelling of the company name in question: "Quiksilver, Inc" (spelled without the "c"). The LEXIS PROS search retrieved the record because it permitted us to search multiple fields, including the names of the officers by which the record was finally pulled up. We were also able economically to obtain additional information about the principals' other business affiliations. Finally, unlike the other two services, LEXIS PROS allows the user confronted with confusing search results to modify the search or to save it, log off and obtain further clarifying information.

Granted, we could have used a broader search in PH Online and IA to compensate for the potential error (which the competent researcher always tries to do), but in this case we would have had to limit our search to "Qui" and then review over 400 corporate names before discovering the error. In this case, or when a name is so unique that anticipating potential errors is difficult, the flexibility of entering a variety of search terms is clearly superior to the hit-or-miss search techniques of the menu driven systems.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

All three companies have toll-free numbers for Customer Service. The hours of operation are listed in the user manuals for IA and LEXIS, but not for PH Online. A call to PH Online's toll-free number established that their customer service lines are available M-F, 9AM-8:30PM, EST. IA Customer Service is open M-F, 8AM-9PM, EST and help from LEXIS is available 24 hours a day, except for the hours between 10PM Saturday and 6AM Sunday.

Each service's customer service department was called to request the most current information about pricing and services for the purpose of writing this article. All representatives were extremely pleasant. LEXIS indicated that the most current information about their service could be found online by entering the page number of the Library in question from the Library directory. (Information in LEXIS is arranged in "Libraries" -- subject groupings

of related files; INCORP and LIENS are the Libraries which contain public records; LEXDOC is the document ordering Library). IA agreed to send the most recent information on their services, which was received within 4 days. They also followed up with a phone call to make sure the information had been received. After waiting two weeks for information relating to PH Online, another telephone request was made to PH Online's Customer Service. This time, the representative explained that updated geographic coverage could be found online by typing "HELP, REGIONS," and offered to send or fax the current price list.

As described above, identical searches were performed using all three services. Problems requiring the assistance of Customer Service did not occur in IA or LEXIS PROS; however, several calls had to be made to PH Online because of difficulties with the search process. For example, after entering the name of a company for a Basic Search, the results scrolled so rapidly that they were illegible. No prompts (other than "Hang up") appeared during this process, so the researcher had to wait for the list to end before making another choice. A very polite and helpful representative explained that the line scroll was set too fast and accordingly had the rate corrected to a 24 line scroll. At the same time, two rather basic prompts were added to the display to facilitate use: "Press enter to continue" and "Q to Quit."

PH Customer Service was called three times to resolve search-related problems; three different representatives were reached and all were good-natured and responsive.

MANUALS

-Information America

The IA manual is a compilation of reference sheets describing the IA services, geographic coverage and contents of each type of record. There is a "Quick Reference Guide," including basic information such as keyboard instructions, a step-by-step "Getting Started" checklist and a "Services at a Glance" chart. A useful section entitled "Miscellaneous" includes individual reference tables in the subject areas of Banking, Corporate Law, Litigation and Real Estate, saying "If you need this" (type of information)... "Find it Here" (the appropriate records database to search). There is no index, and pages are unnumbered.

-PH Online

A handy feature of this loose-leaf binder is a clear plastic three-hole-punched folder, holding a listing of services and corresponding fees for searches and online document ordering, as well as a laminated card labelled "PH Quick Reference Guide" listing steps to take for online corporate document ordering, official state UCC searching, and scan search options. There is no index. Pages are numbered with chapter numbers hyphenated to page numbers within each chapter. A discrepancy was noted between the Table of Contents ("Thru Date" section, listed as being on page 12-3)

and the actual location of the section in question (p. 12-4). A number of other small editorial glitches were also noted.

-LEXIS PROS

The professionalism, format and depth of the LEXIS manual reflect the relatively greater complexity and power of the product, of which the LIENS and INCORP libraries are a comparatively small part. There is a detailed index.

All three manuals were examined for the presence of four items of information considered to be important to the public records research process: 1) Source(s) of data; 2) Format(s) in which received; 3) Frequency of receipt; and 4) Frequency of updates.

In the IA manual, the source of information was found only on a chart describing the "People Finder" service. None of the other items of information listed above were found.

In the PH Online manual, the section on "Corporate Databases" states that "The information contained in the database is derived from magnetic tape provided by each state jurisdiction;" and "Due to the fact that the states provide the data via magnetic tape there will always be a delay between the date that a document is filed and the date that the filing is reflected by PH Online. Please refer to the THRU DATES portion of this manual for more information." (page 9-1) Turning to the THRU DATES section, we find for corporate and UCC records only, a chart
(Continued on Page 16)

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE - STATE PRACTICE MATERIALS PROJECT

A major Publications Committee project for 1990-92 is the creation of an annotated bibliography of state practice oriented materials for all states in the Chapter. Committee chair Ed Edmonds is seeking a state coordinator or coordinators for each state. The coordinator will be responsible for updating the listing of state practice materials that was published in Southeastern Law Librarian between 1982 to 1985 and establishing a committee to write the annotations. Cynthia Jones of Chaffe, McCall, Phillips, Toler & Sarpy, New Orleans, and Lisa Williams of Parker, Poe, Adams & Bernstein, Raleigh, have already agreed to coordinate activities for their states. If you are interested in participating in the project please contact Ed at Loyola University Law Library, 7214 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118, 504-861-5543.

ARCHIVES

If you are a past officer or committee chair with correspondence, reports, or other Chapter documents, please send materials from your files to the Southeastern Chapter Archives, c/o Ed Edmonds, Law Librarian, Loyola University Law Library, 7214 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118. Ed is especially interested in information on each committee for the Southeastern Chapter Handbook and materials related to SEAALL's history. Furthermore, complete files allow the Archives to function as a better clearinghouse of information for current officers and committee chairs.

EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES

The Executive Committee approved expense reimbursement guidelines in Minneapolis.

- The Chapter will reimburse reasonable expenses for non-members who speak at Institutes and Annual Meetings.
- The Chapter will waive registration fees for members who speak at Institutes and Annual Meetings. Any other reimbursement must be approved by the Executive Committee.
- The Chapter will reimburse officers and other Chapter members attending AALL sponsored functions directly connected to official duties. The Executive Committee must approve in advance all such expenditures.

For a complete copy of the Expense Reimbursement Guidelines please contact one of the Chapter officers or the editors.

TREND SETTERS

- SEAALL members held their annual meeting on a cruise in 1989. Now the Law Librarians of New England have planned a cruise to Nova Scotia....

- SEAALL members visited Square Books in Oxford during the Annual Meeting last April. Now Square Books has been written up in Newsweek.... (See the July 16 issue of Newsweek pages 56-57.)

REMOTE ACCESS (Continued from Page 14)

showing the format in which the data is received (microfilm, computer tape) and the frequency of receipt (daily, weekly, sporadic). The manual does not mention here that the THRU DATES information (reflecting information valid through a certain date) is available from the HELP menu (HELP, THRU DATE), although elsewhere in the manual (in the "HELP SCREENS" section) this information does appear.

Of the three manuals examined, the LEXIS manual provides the most intensive tutorial on search techniques. However, it does not mention the structural or organizational issues of source and format of data, or frequency of receipt and/or updates. By calling Customer Service and using the Help Screens in all services, we determined that:

- the source of the vast majority of state records is the Secretary of State's office or corresponding agency in each state;

- the format in which most information is received from the Secretary of State's offices is computer tape. In only one instance (PH's UCC records from NY) was information received on microfilm. In addition, several products are received via computer "gateways," and accordingly, are continuously updated. These include Florida and Georgia Secretary of State records on PH Online; and California Real Property, Florida Secretary of State and

Delaware Secretary of State records on IA.

- the frequency of updates varies from state to state, but most State records are updated weekly. The exceptions are records updated daily, including:

- Illinois corporate and UCC on IA and LEXIS PROS;

- Indiana corporate and LP on LEXIS PROS;

- Pennsylvania corporate, LP and UCC records on IA, LEXIS PROS and PH Online; and

- Texas corporate, LP and UCC records on IA and LEXIS PROS.

CONCLUSION

Due to the differences in the current contents of the three services, it is necessary to have all three available in-house. However, depending upon the type of search, the geographic scope, and the amount of information you have on the subject, one service will provide either better results or the same results at less cost. Familiarization with the features of each system will lead to the ability to make the most economic and effective call for the client.

¹Florida's records are also available directly through Compuserve.

²Each of the services considered in this article offers various pricing options based on contractual agreements with users. As a result, pricing arrangements vary and accordingly, are discussed only in a very general fashion herein.

Figure 1. AVAILABILITY OF PUBLIC RECORDS: SUMMARY CHART¹

STATE	INFORMATION AMERICA	LEXIS	P-H ONLINE ²
AZ	C, LP		B
CA	C, LP, UCC, B	C, LP, UCC	C, LP, UCC, B
CO	C, LP, UCC	C, LP	
CT	C, LP	C	
DE	C, LP		C, LP
FL	C, LP, UCC		C, LP, UCC
GA	C, LP, B	C, LP	
IL	C, LP, UCC	C, UCC	C, UCC, B
IN	C, LP	C, LP	B
IA	C, LP, UCC		
MD	C, LP, UCC	C, LP, UCC	B
MA	C, LP, UCC	C, LP	C, UCC
MI	C, LP	C, LP	
MO	C, LP, UCC	C	C, LP, UCC
NE	C, LP, UCC		
NV	C, LP	C, LP	C, LP, B
NY			UCC
NC	C, LP, UCC		B
OK	C, LP		
OR	C, LP		B
PA	C, LP, UCC, B	C, LP, UCC	C, LP, UCC, B
TX	C, LP, UCC, B	C, LP, UCC	C, LP, UCC, B
WI	C, LP	C, LP	

¹Each database offers such diverse Court records that, in the interest of brevity, these have been omitted.

Abbreviations are as follows:

C=CORPORATE RECORDS;

LP=LIMITED PARTNERSHIP;

UCC=UNIFORM

COMMERCIAL CODE;

B=BANKRUPTCY FILINGS.

²Prentice-Hall also offers Bankruptcy filing records from Hawaii, Idaho, Minnesota, Ohio, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and the District of Columbia.

SEAALL BRIEFS (Continued from Page 9)

that will also create new faculty and clinical offices. The construction is expected to take 18 months.

Thomas A. Williams, for over ten years the Media Coordinator at Washington and Lee, has completed his MLS at the University of Kentucky. On September 1 he will become Media/Reference Librarian.

The Law Library, in cooperation with the Washington and Lee University Library, has issued a new acid free book mark in the University's traditional colors, white on blue. The book mark carries reminders about book care, along with a quote from Ralph W. Emerson:

"Books are the best things,
Well used;
Abused,
Among the worst."

Finally, the Law Library happily announces the arrival of a FAX machine. LSCA funds granted by the Virginia State Library have provided FAX machines to each member of Rockbridge Area Participants for Information Delivery (RAPID), a local group of six academic and public libraries. W & L Law Library's FAX number is 703-463-8967.

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Figure 2. COST COMPARISON FOR ONLINE SEARCHING

SERVICE	INFORMATION AMERICA		LEXIS		P-H ONLINE	
	IN-STATE A/1 B/2	OUT/STATE A/ B/	IN-STATE OUT/STATE	IN-STATE OUT/STATE	IN-STATE OUT/STATE	IN-STATE OUT/STATE
Corporate Records						
	-All States	\$75 \$49	\$75 \$49	N/A	N/A	N/A N/A N/A N/A
	-One State	15 9	19 11	\$17-20	\$17-20	\$7 \$7 \$15 \$15
Limited Partnership						
	-All States	75 49	75 49	N/A	N/A	N/A N/A N/A N/A
	-One State	15 9	19 11	\$17-20	\$17-20	7 7 15 15
UCC						
	-All States	75 49	75 49	N/A	N/A	N/A N/A N/A N/A
	-One State	15 9	19 11	17	17	10 10 15 15

'Standard fee.

'After-hours fee for searches conducted between the hours of 6 p.m. and midnight.

'Basic search: Provides access to local public records, corporate and state UCC records. Detailed search results are displayed. Up to 300 "hits" are presented. Document ordering is not allowed in Basic Search mode.

PLACEMENT

The SEALL Placement Committee is chaired by Donna Bausch. Should you wish to place a job ad in Southeastern Law Librarian, please contact Donna at Regent University Law Library, 1000 Centerville Turnpike, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23464, (804) 523-7463.

In addition, the Placement Committee maintains a resume file of job seekers. If you'd like to put a resume on file, or review those currently on file, please contact Donna or a member of the Committee.

FLORIDA

Reference Librarian: Requirements: JD and MLS (substantial relevant experience may be substituted for one of the degrees); strong service orientation, high degree of energy, strong commitment to responding to needs of active faculty, students and attorneys and to initiating programs, doing outreach and contributing to the Law Library's active writing program. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills in individual and group situations. Computer background desirable. To apply: Please send resume and names of three references to: University of Miami Law Library, P.O. Box 248087, Coral Gables, Florida 33124, Attn: Warren Rosmarin, Associate Librarian and Head of Public Services. Position is available September 1, 1990. University of Miami is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer.

GEORGIA

Large Atlanta law firm seeks motivated individual for position

of chief law librarian and records manager for 10,000 volume library. Responsibilities include supervision of 2 professional and 4 clerical staff, budgeting, space planning, acquisitions, reference, knowledge of legal and nonlegal databases -- excellent written and verbal communication skills -- M.L.S. and law library experience required, records management experience desirable. Send resume to Patricia L. Yarham; Human Resources Manager; Long, Aldridge & Norman; 285 Peachtree Center Avenue, Suite 1500; Atlanta, GA 30303.

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Due to some complications some people may not have received the last issue of Southeastern Law Librarian (Volume 15; No. 4). Please call the current editors if you did not receive that issue.

YES, I would like to serve as a member of the Chapter's Government Relations Committee.

(If you want additional information, contact M. Kathleen Reis at 404-521-3800 or Timothy L. Coggins at 919-962-6202).

Name: _____

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