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Presidential Ponderings

SEAALL President

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Hope everyone has gotten the sand shaken off and that the fanciful memories of our time at Clearwater Beach are not distracting you from work. Over 165 librarians and vendors from across the region attended the 2012 meeting where we enjoyed educational programs, great social occasions, and wonderful views of the Gulf.

The theme of the meeting was “In Step with the Future.” Dr. Susie Pontiff-Stringer, the Director of Academic Technology, Florida Coastal School of Law, provided a keynote speech ‘The Future is Now: Prepare for Take-off’ emphasizing the technology available to current students who have known no different. A second keynote address was given by Professor Ellen Podgor, Associate Dean of Faculty Development at the Stetson University College of Law, titled ‘Get Social; Thinking Outside the Box.’ The Program Committee continued the prior year’s experiment of offering programs in a variety of formats. The Ignite presentations were once again a hit among attendees. There were programs on a variety of topics such as library leadership, patron driven acquisitions, reference interviews, and tax collection development.

This year’s pre-conference institute, “Going Mobile in a Mobile World” was well-attended. After a skyped keynote address ‘Transforming Our Vision to Enhance Library Services’ by Chad Mairn, librarians presented their efforts to use mobile devices in their provision of services to faculty and students.

The theme “In Step With the Future” was a clear reminder that we often spend too much time looking ahead not realizing the future is already present. Rephrasing a popular expression, “Our professional life is what is happening now as we are often busy planning for the future.” While it is good to look ahead, it is nearly as important to look around you to make sure you are not losing sight of where you came from and where you are at. On behalf of the chapter membership, and my own behalf, I extend a huge thank you to all those who contributed to the 2012 annual meeting. Rebecca Trammell and Pamela Burdett and the Local Arrangements Committee did a wonderful effort with local arrangements. Members of the Program Committee selected and guided an excellent range of presentations. To the presenters, thank you for sharing your ideas so that we your colleagues may learn from your efforts.

The chapter committee assignments for 2012-13 were made in time for the committees to meet in Clearwater. You can visit the chapter’s website to view the appointments. I did make some changes in the committee structures. For the Newsletter & Public Relations Committee I appointed Kevin Baggett chair and asked our newsletter editor Brian Barnes to become an ex officio member of the committee along with our new webmasters Sharon Bradley and Tina Brooks. For the Government Relations Committee, I strived to find a volunteer from each state covered by the chapter. This should make the dissemination of information from national to state and

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the reverse easier. I am still seeking someone from Maryland to serve on the committee.

Looking ahead, in Boston for AALL 2012, please plan to join us for the Chapter meeting and reception. Both are taking place Monday evening, 23 July, in the Sheraton Independence Ballroom starting at 5:45 for the meeting followed by the reception at 6:45.

And even further ahead, please note our 2013 meeting will be 18-20 April in Decatur, Georgia.

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Destination .Gov: Using Online Federal Government Information in Legal Research Courses and Reference Work

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As the recipient of a Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries Student Scholarship 2011-12, I am honored and delighted to write this article about an aspect of my LIS education. Thank you SEAALL members for this generous scholarship.

When I went to law school, first-year students were taught how to find the law and make sure it was current using only print sources. Freely available online federal government documents were not part of the required legal research curriculum. Students invariably conducted most legal research on Lexis and Westlaw.

More than 10 years later, in an online course offered in FSU's LIS program titled Information Needs & Services in Government Information, I was impressed by the wealth of federal government resources freely available online. As deep and wide as the class traveled in the .gov world over the course of the semester, it was clear that we had only skimmed the surface.

Good information

Taught by Professor Lorri Mon, the course was an online tour of the US Government, with excursions into subscription databases and the Federal Depository Library Program's print sources, cross-country trips through state and local government websites, and virtual flights to international information hotspots. The primary focus though was on online federal government sources, and locating very specific information on a .gov site, or on non-governmental websites featuring digital collections of government sources.

To provide a brief example, we explored the current and historical presidential documents that can be found on the Web, including (this is a short list) those available from

- the US Government Printing Office on the Federal Digital System, or FDsys (Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=PPP>)
- the White House (Briefing Room, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room>),
- the US National Archives and Records Administration (Executive Orders, <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/index.html>),
- the digital collections of Presidential Libraries (via links from Contacting the Presidential Libraries, <http://www.archives.gov/presidential-libraries/contact/libraries.html>),
- the University of California, Santa Barbara (The American Presidency Project, <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/index.php>), and
- the Federation of American Scientists (Presidential Directives and Executive Orders, <http://www.fas.org/irp/offdocs/direct.htm>).

For legislative, statutory, judicial, regulatory, statistical, analytical, scientific, technical, geographical, historical (... gulp), international, declassified, graphical, intellectual-property-related, and agency-specific information (whew!), we explored a host of websites in each category. The class sharpened my research skills by expanding the universe of resources now known to me.

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Good research

Good researchers are aware of, and use, a variety of sources appropriate to a research problem (Cordon 2011, 401). This includes knowing what online government information is out there, including information that may not be available on subscription databases. Some sources that come to mind are statistics, manuals, guidances, press releases, and budget reports published on federal agency websites; some Congressional Research Service reports; or digital gems like The Oyez Project of the Chicago-Kent College of Law (<http://www.oyez.org/>). Good researchers also evaluate the reliability and currency of online government information, and decide when a more cost-effective, free resource would be suitable. Good researchers can effectively reference their sources to opposing counsel and the court (particularly those courts with mandatory electronic filing requirements), to clients or patrons (virtual and other), and to online readers. This includes providing convenient links to pertinent government information not available on subscription databases, or not available to those without access to such databases.

Good research assignments

To achieve these ends, legal research instructors can compel discovery and evaluation of online government sources through universe-limited assignments like those I encountered in my Government Information course. One assignment required students to tell a story using government documents. I chose the legislative history and administrative aftermath of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, and was able to write my paper exclusively using online sources. In another assignment, students were asked to listen to or observe a legislative proceeding, and to locate any government documents that were mentioned. I chose a February 2011 US House of Representatives floor debate about increased regulatory oversight by standing committees. The single hour that I watched on C-Span was rife with vague references to federal statutes, legislation and legislative materials, House Rules, proposed rules and promulgated regulations, agency reports, executive orders, state of the union addresses, Secretary Paulson's famed three-page plan, and a newspaper article. Nearly all of the documents could be found by jogging around on the Web. Great exercise!

Conclusion

It is hard enough for some law students to learn the basics of legal research, particularly if they are just getting acquainted with the three branches of the federal government. All the more reason, then, for first-year legal research assignments to incorporate online federal government information. These resources teach about the organization and operation of the federal government via each sector's self-described online presence, and via the genres of information each produces and their explanations as to how, why, and when the information was created. To the extent these sources are being overlooked in the first year and beyond, I highly recommend a tour of online government information with Professor Mon through FSU's distance learning program. FSU offers online certificate programs and specialist degrees for this very purpose (Masters and Specialists, <http://slis.fsu.edu/Graduate-Program>). Bon voyage!

References

Cordon, Matthew C. 2011. "Task Mastery in Legal Research Instruction." *Law Library Journal* 103(3): 395-413.

*Nina Rose is an attorney who is completing her library degree at Florida State University. She plans to work in an academic law library after she graduates in 2014. Her government documents story on the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 was recently published in *DttP: Documents to the People*, a quarterly journal of the American Library Association Government Documents Round Table (DttP, Winter 2011, <http://bit.ly/ICDEvc>).

UELMA:

Coming Soon to a Legislature Near You

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As a SEAALL Scholarship winner for 2011-2012, I have been asked to write an article concerning a topic that we have discussed in library school and how it applies to law librarianship. One of the few topics that has been consistent across all of my classes so far has been the importance of libraries fulfilling their mandate to serve those in need of assistance. In many ways, law librarians are fortunate in having a largely defined group of users, whether members of a particular law firm, the students and faculty of a university or practicing attorneys doing research. There is, however, another group of users, who may not be receiving the attention that they need: pro se researchers.

While many academic and public law libraries are accustomed to assisting pro se researchers in the course of their reference services, there is very little outreach to the greater community to encourage them to engage in pro se research. There are many reasons for this, such as insufficient staff to handle the extra load, librarians are reluctant to encourage people to engage in pro se representation, or a simple lack of contact with community organizations that would help promote the law library. None of these reasons, though, should be expected to nullify the fact that our mandate is to serve all members of the community who need access to the law.

In the absence of research assistance from law librarians, many people will go to their public libraries for legal help. Having worked in both a law library and a public library, I have seen this personally. Public librarians though are not equipped to give the level of guidance that a law librarian can provide. At a public library, even reference librarians may not fully understand the difference between a statute and a regulation nor where to find them. In failing to reach out to the community at large, law librarians have created a situation where we are not fulfilling our mandate, and instead placing that burden on the shoulders of people who are not equipped to bear its weight.

Seeking legal information is difficult enough for English speaking people, but for persons of Limited English proficiency, the problem is greatly exacerbated. Many immigrants to this country come from code based systems. And therefore lack an understanding of the common law. Public librarians are not sufficiently versed in the differences in foreign legal systems to explain how to begin researching a legal problem to someone who does not understand our system. Community groups who assist LEPs do not have the resources for legal research, beyond perhaps a few pamphlets.

Law libraries are the best possible resource for these people to use, but many of us have not adequately. Many states offer free online access to their legal materials, and both the ease of access by the user and cost savings for the states are big pluses. However, as law librarians, we understand that in addition to easy access it is crucial to ensure the accuracy, authenticity and preservation of these electronic legal materials. [AALL's State-by-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Resources](#) reveals that most states do not have mechanisms for authenticating or preserving their online legal materials. Over the past several years, AALL and SEAALL members have worked hard to support the drafting, approval and promulgation of a uniform act addressing many of these concerns.

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The Uniform Law Commission drafted the **Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act (UELMA)** in a process ending with the Commission's approval in November 2011 ([final text of the act](#)). The last step before UELMA could be introduced in the state legislatures required approval by the ABA House of Delegates. A big shout out goes to the members of SEAALL's Government Relations Committee who swung into action and contacted the delegates from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, D.C., West Virginia, and Puerto Rico, urging approval of UELMA. The ABA issued its resolution approving UELMA in February 2012 and its introduction in the states commenced shortly thereafter. Colorado has already enacted UELMA, and it was also introduced this year in the California, Connecticut, Minnesota, Rhode Island, and Tennessee legislatures. Two additional SEAALL states, Kentucky and Louisiana, are among other states currently interested in moving forward with UELMA.

In a nutshell, UELMA requires that official electronic legal materials be:

- Authenticated, by providing a method to determine that it is unaltered;
- Preserved, either in electronic or print form; and
- Accessible, for use by the public on a permanent basis.

The Act specifically names four categories of state primary legal materials:

- constitutions
- session laws
- codified laws
- agency regulations which have the effect of law

The act provides the states with the discretion to include other publications and it also leaves it up to the individual states to decide which technology to use.

What can you do to support UELMA?

- familiarize yourself with UELMA by visiting the [FAQ](#) prepared and frequently updated by AALL Government Relations Office
- if you know of a state legislator who might be interested in sponsoring the act in your state, please contact AALL Director of Government Relations Emily Feltren at efeltren@aall.org or a member of the SEAALL Government Relations Committee
- prepare yourself to lobby your state legislators for UELMA enactment with [AALL's Advocacy Toolkit](#) and by attending [AALL's Advocacy Training workshop](#) at the AALL Annual Meeting in Boston
- discuss UELMA's importance with the attorneys, judges and law professors you know
- promote UELMA on your library's blog

The Uniform Law Commission provides access to [more information about UELMA](#), including a page tracking the legislation as it makes its way through the states. An additional helpful resource is the [white paper on "The Authentication of Primary Legal Materials and Pricing Options"](#) prepared by California's Office of Legislative Counsel with law librarian Dragomir Cosanici serving as a primary contributor.

This Newsletter is provided in a paperless format.

Testing Lexis Advance's Legal Issue Trail Feature

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The legal issue trail sounded like a great idea when I first heard it. It is designed to follow a legal issue backward and forward in time, even if that issue is not part of a headnote. In the Faculty FAQs collection of PDFs on Lexis Advance Law Schools BETA, it says:

The Legal Issue Trail allows the user to pick out the legal passage that is most important to his/her research and then find other cases that cite to that legal passage, thus building authority not just around a case, but for a specific point of law within a case. It is done through linguistic analysis as well as the underlying intelligence of Shephard's. The Legal Issue Trail is a patented product that is original and unique to LexisNexis.

This new feature is only available on Lexis Advance. After pulling up a case, there is an option to the right of the case that says "activate passages." When this option is clicked on, dashed boxes appear around each issue in the case that the Legal Issue Trail is available for. Upon clicking on an issue, the user is taken to a list of all cases that have suggested legal issues that match the one in the original case. When a case in the list is clicked on, the case comes up and the appropriate legal issue dashed box is highlighted in yellow.

Because this feature sounded so good, I decided to try it with Judge Posner's infamous ostrich quote, which just happens to be inside one of the legal issue trail dashed boxes in *Gonzalez-Servin v. Ford Motor Co.* 662 F.3d 931, 934 (7th Cir, 2011):

The ostrich is a noble animal, but not a proper model for an appellate advocate. (Not that ostriches *really* bury their heads in the sand when threatened; don't be fooled by the picture below.) **HN2** The "ostrich-like tactic of pretending that potentially dispositive authority against a litigant's contention does not exist is as unprofessional as it is pointless." *Mannheim Video, Inc. v. County of Cook*, 884 F.2d 1043, 1047 (7th Cir. 1989), quoting *Hill v. Norfolk & Western Ry.*, 814 F.2d 1192, 1198 (7th Cir. 1987).

Personally, I would identify the possible important themes in the passage as appellate advocacy, ostriches, and dispositive authority. I would not expect that the algorithms in the product understand the metaphor, but based on linguistic analysis, I would expect that the returns would have any of those three elements that were specifically mentioned. A less good, but still understandable, result might include something about sand, or threats, or even litigants or contentions.

The first issue trail that comes up is from *Mannheim Video, Inc. v. County of Cook*, 884 F.2d 1043, 1047 (7th Cir. 1989):

Although we decline to hold that Judge Marshall abused his discretion, this should in no way be interpreted as condoning the conduct of Mannheim's counsel. They argue that under our adversary system they are not required to make the County's argument. That may well be true, but the "ostrich-like tactic of pretending that potentially dispositive authority against a litigant's contention does not exist is as unprofessional as it is pointless." *Hill v. Norfolk and Western Ry.*, 814 F.2d 1192, 1198 (7th Cir. 1987), citing *Bonds v. Coca-Cola Co.*, 806 F.2d 1324, 1328 (7th Cir. 1986).

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Looking at this quote, we can quickly tell that it is literally true that our original Posner's issue cited this case for the issue. In fact, this is the exact same quote. I characterize this as an example of the product functioning, yet not giving me anything that I couldn't have very easily gotten without the product.

Moving on to the second issue that is brought up by running the Legal Issue Trail on Posner's quote, we reach further outside the box with this passage from *Hill v. Norfolk & Western Ry.*, 814 F.2d 1192, 1198 (7th Cir. 1987):

Hill claims that the board refused to do this, but he muddies his argument by repeated references to "procedural due process," as if he were trying to raise an issue of constitutional law. We held in *Elmore v. Chicago & Illinois Midland Ry.*, 782 F.2d 94, 96-97 (7th Cir. 1986), that *HNS* for purposes of the Fifth Amendment a private railroad is not the United States, and therefore a denial by the railroad of due process of law is not a violation of the due process clause of that amendment.

Here we see that once again, it is literally true that Posner cited to this case in the sense that *Hill v. Norfolk* was an actual citation within our original quote. However, I do not think that the specific passage that came up was the passage that the citation was referring to. On the one hand, I can almost see where the quoted passage might follow the first in a metaphorical sense, in that, the original quote was a denial of the idea that one party to the litigation is separate from the other party and therefore shouldn't have to help the other party cite authority and here we have the idea that the railroad is not the U.S. and therefore different rules might apply. But other than the possible metaphorical connection I do not see that this passage directly matches up with the passage we started with. I personally wouldn't cite the second quote when discussing the first quote. Therefore, since I believe the main purpose of the tool is to find authority to cite to in legal writing, I do not believe the product worked in this instance.

Moving on to the third issue that was generated by running the legal issue trail on Posner's quote, we find ourselves outside of the box and far out in left field with this passage from *First Comics, Inc. v. World Color Press, Inc.*, 884 F.2d 1033 (7th Cir. 1989):

Because of the functional overlap, the distinction between goods and services is not always clear. Many transactions are of a hybrid nature, contemplating both goods and services; even the transfer of an intangible or service can rarely be accomplished without the incidental involvement of documents or other tangibles. *HN2* To distinguish between goods and services the dominant nature of the transaction governs whether the activity is subject to the Act. ⁴ See Rowe, Price Discrimination Under the Robinson-Patman Act 60-61 (1962) ("price quotations fusing physical elements with *dominant* intangible factors cannot beget price discrimination in commodity sales") (emphasis in original); *Freeman v. Chicago Title & Trust Co.*, 505 F.2d 527, 531 (7th Cir. 1974).

I don't understand this passage at all. It has nothing to do with ostriches, appellate advocacy or dispositive authority, or even sand, threats, or litigant contentions. This passage appears to be a statement about goods and services under the Robinson-Patman Act.

Believing that it was reasonable to expect the occasional bad result from a new algorithm, I moved on to the fourth passage that was generated from Posner's ostrich quote. That passage was from *Purdy Co. of Illinois v. United States*, 814 F.2d 1183:

HN4 The "key to liability" under [section 6672](#) is "control of finances within the employer corporation: the power to control the decision-making process by which the employer corporation allocates funds to other creditors in preference to its withholding tax obligations." [Haffa v. United States, 516 F.2d 931, 936 \(7th Cir. 1975\)](#). It is sufficient that the person involved have significant control over the disbursal of corporate funds. [Adams v. United States, 504 F.2d 73, 75 \(7th Cir. 1974\)](#).

Again, I have no idea how this passage relates to Posner's ostrich quote. It appears to be a quote about liability for corporate taxes and has nothing to do with appellate advocacy, ostriches, dispositive authority, sand, threats, or litigant contentions. Since this was the very last passage generated from Posner's quote under the heading "Gonzalez-Servin v. Ford Motor Co., 662 F.3d 931 cited the following cases for this issue" I have concluded that this tool, in this instance, did not find me any authority that I couldn't have easily found with an alternative product and it did find me authority that was irrelevant.

I therefore conclude that the idea behind the product is wonderful, but that the algorithms that make up the product need some more tweaking before they will be functional. I will not be recommending this feature as part of an elevator speech to convince attorneys why they should learn the new Lexis Advance platform. I will not be incorporating this feature into my workflow.

Instead, for our firm, the main advantage of Lexis Advance continues to be that the initial federated search and Shepardizing is free to the client and that our contract price did not increase based on adding the Advance platform to our list of options. These are both major advantages and allow our attorneys to see what authority might be out there without running up a bill. This is also important for brand new attorneys who might be less experienced with formulating searches and can now run as many searches as they want without charge.

SEAALL Publicity Committee Annoucement

The Publicity Committee would like to announce the creation of the new SEAALL Twitter account. The new feed will be used to disseminate official organization news, law library job postings, professional development opportunities, and other general items of interest to the law library community. The Publicity Committee is responsible for posting in the account, but if you have a suggestion or something you would like SEAALL to pass along, just mention @SEAALL1 or send a direct message to the account. The handle is @SEAALL1 as just regular old SEAALL was not available. Please follow us today!

-- Kevin Baggett, Chairman

Librarian during the Week, Warrior during the Weekend

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We Law Librarians have plenty to deal with throughout the typical work week. We have law students to contend with on a daily basis. Faculty requests for the mundane and the obscure never cease. The occasional pro-se patron wanders into the library every now and then wanting every spare minute we have to offer. With all of this thrown our way what are we law librarians to do to decompress? Run three miles covered in mud and complete 12 challenging obstacles of course!

Billed as the “craziest frickin’ day of your life,” the Warrior Dash is a three mile run through mud and various obstacles depending on the race’s location. With locations throughout the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom, the Warrior Dash will most likely make a stop near each member of SEAALL at some point during the year.

The Warrior Dash recently made a stop in Jackson, Mississippi, and this law librarian braved the challenging race along with 2L Jay Liles, an assistant to the Law Library on certain special projects. Also participating in the day’s festivities were library student workers Lindsay Glasner and Frankie White. Obstacles on the Mississippi trail included a rubber tire jungle, tangled nets, warrior wall, barbed wire, cargo net climbs, and many more obstacles. All obstacles led to the amazing finale by which each Warrior had to leap over fire and crawl through a muddy mayhem to the finish line.

Fellow SEAALL members, consider the Warrior Dash as a great excursion away from the stresses of the law library. The organization now holds at least one Dash in each state comprising SEAALL so there is no excuse not to join in on the fun. At the very least you will get a great mud bath and an awesome picture to remember the occasion. Plans are already underway here in Jackson to get our library’s very own resident curmudgeon Thomas Walter out in the mud at next year’s Dash. Hope to see you all out on the course!



Should Libraries Spend Money Sending Librarians to Conferences?

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I recently attended my first SEAALL Annual Meeting held this year in Clearwater Beach, Florida. It was fun, refreshing, informative, and inspiring. Last year, I attended my first AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and my feelings about that conference were very similar—I loved it as well. Conferences can be expensive and with many libraries constrained by tight budgets, one might ask if libraries should be spending money sending librarians to conferences? My answer to that question is unequivocally, yes! As a newer librarian, it is great that I feel this way. However, you may wonder why should I listen to him, or why it is such a good idea to send librarians to conferences when libraries have so many other pressing budget issues? The short answer is that conferences have therapeutic and educational benefits that will reenergize your librarians, which in-turn will improve the working environment and overall services of your library. In the following paragraphs, I will explain some of these benefits, starting with the therapeutic benefits.

As we all know, librarians are hardworking individuals, part of it is the nature of our job and part of it is the nature of librarians themselves—our customer service mindset makes it difficult for us to stop working on things because we want to fix things and help people solve problems. While this is great for getting things done, the long-term effect on librarians can be adverse, if they do not get or take the necessary breaks to refresh themselves. After a long semester of working with students and faculty or the continuous grind of law firm activities, librarians need a break from their daily routine, or I should say, not so much a break as a change of routine. Providing a librarian a few days away from their daily routine, by sending them to a conference such as the SEAALL Annual Meeting or the AALL Annual Meeting, can reenergize a tiring librarian. The change of routine provides librarians the opportunity to get recharged, refreshed, and re-motivated.

One of the greatest therapeutic benefits of conferences is that librarians get to meet other librarians and library vendors. There are numerous benefits to meeting other librarians. When librarians get to meet other librarians who they do not work with daily, they can share ideas and thoughts about librarianship without feeling any fear of possible work related biases or consequences. Librarians also get to hear about other librarians' experiences and learn about what activities other librarians are doing. It is also a great opportunity for newer librarians to mingle with more experienced librarians. When librarians see so many other librarians who love librarianship as much as they do, it increases their self-esteem, their perceived value of their profession, and their inspiration to contribute to librarianship. Another benefit is the opportunity to meet other librarians in more casual settings, such as at cocktail and dinner events, which help them to build bonds with one another and can even strengthen the bonds between co-workers. Finally, meeting the vendors reminds librarians that they are important decision makers within their organizations and that their input is valuable.

In addition to the more therapeutic benefits of conferences, librarians also benefit from the traditionally recognized purpose and value of conferences—education. Conferences always have more break-out sessions and programs than can be attended by any one librarian, so librarians can pick and choose the several topics that interest them or benefit their library the most. In these sessions and programs, librarians benefit from the opportunity to learn about new technologies and trends in the field of librarianship. Librarians also get the opportunity to participate in committees, which have an impact in librarianship beyond the individual librarian's current employer. Vendors play a part in the educational aspect of conferences as well. Vendors often provide instruction and hands-on training for librarians on how to use their databases or technology. Even when vendors are

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only providing refresher trainings, they can be helpful to librarians. Finally, one of the greatest benefits related to the educational aspect of conferences is that it inspires librarians to begin their own research in the field of librarianship and spurs the development of their own presentation ideas.

With so many benefits from sending librarians to conferences for both the librarian and the library, libraries should ensure that the necessary funds are allocated to send librarians to at least one conference each year. For those who may have doubts about the benefits of sending librarians to conferences, I would ask them to observe librarians when they come back from a conference and see if those librarians are not more excited and motivated about their work. Library directors often have a difficult time deciding which budget items to trim in order to stay within budget limitations, but one budget item they should ensure remains is funding for conferences. It is understandable that libraries may not be able to send their librarians to multiple conferences each year, but libraries should make every effort to send their librarians to at least one conference a year. This needed change of routine for librarians will be well worth the expense to the library.

Jason Murray is currently an interim reference librarian and will be accepting the reference librarian fellow position in the fall at the Florida Coastal School of Law. He is a Graduate of The Ohio State University (B.A., 2006) and the Florida Coastal School of Law (J.D., 2010). He is currently enrolled in the Master of Science in Library Science program at Clarion University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Murray was a recipient of the 2011-2012 SEAALL Student Scholarship and, most recently, was awarded the John R. Johnson LexisNexis AALL Scholarship.

Going to school? Need money? Apply here...

Did you know the American Association of Law Libraries has several important scholarships to assist present and future members of our profession to achieve their goals? These scholarships provide valuable assistance to present and future law librarians across all types of member libraries.

Educational scholarships to help those working towards various types of degrees and for continuing education courses

The **George A. Strait Minority Scholarship** provides valuable assistance to members of recognized minority groups intending to pursue a career in law librarianship.

The **LexisNexis John R. Johnson Memorial Scholarship** is open to any candidate who applies for any of the AALL Educational Scholarships.

The **Marcia J. Koslov Scholarship**, jointly established by AALL and member Marcia J. Koslov, assists librarians in state, court or county libraries who wish to pursue a continuing education course or a professional development opportunity.

For more information about our scholarships and to see a list of past recipients please visit <http://www.aallnet.org/main-menu/Member-Resources/scholarships>

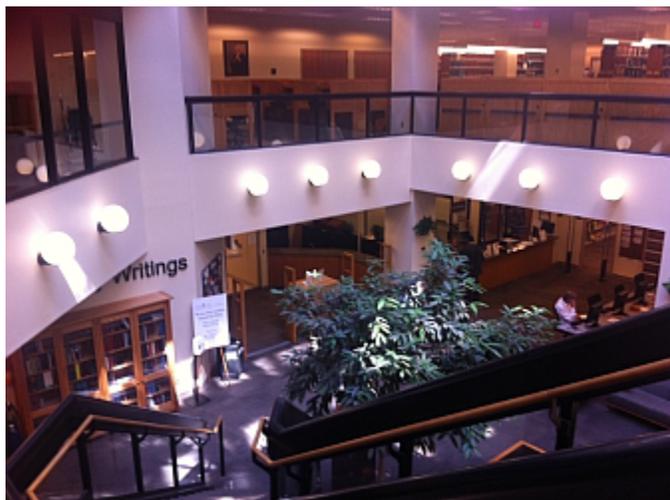
For applications visit <http://www.aallnet.org/main-menu/Member-Resources/scholarships/Scholarship-Applications>

Pence Law Library

American University's Washington College of Law

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Evening Circulation Manager
Pence Law Library, Washington College of Law
roddy@wcl.american.edu

The Pence Law Library is the central hub of American University's Washington College of Law. Located on the first and second floors of the law school, the library is an inviting space for students to gather. The physical space is open and bright, with numerous skylights that flood the library with natural light and an atrium on the second floor overlooking the law school lobby. The library is both a place for serious scholarship and a haven for students to decompress between classes or after a difficult exam.



The Pence Law Library is open to all users, except during reading and exam periods when access is limited to WCL faculty, staff, students, and alumni. The library's primary mission is to ensure that members of the Washington College of Law community have the collections, services, and space they need for curricular and scholarship efforts. Library staff members are attuned to the requests of their patrons and strive to cultivate a culture of "yes."

The library is very involved with student organizations, student publications and research instruction.

We provide in-depth training to each student publication on research and cite-checking. We also conduct many research workshops and individual meetings on the topics of preemption checking, legal and non-legal research and steps to publication. We regularly present to seminar classes on research topics. We also teach research in the first-year legal rhetoric program and courses in advanced legal research and legal research in intellectual property law. We provide ExpressO access to any student who wishes to submit a manuscript for publication, and we host an annual reception honoring published students.



Because the library is such a popular place for students to congregate, it is configured to meet many diverse needs. On the first floor of the library, there are comfortable couches and chairs beneath the skylights for students to quietly collaborate or simply relax and read the newspaper. For students seeking a quieter environment, there is also a quiet study room that is separate from the rest of the space. The first floor also houses the library's reserve collection, reference librarians' offices, and the library's extensive legal fiction collection. The librarians have an open door policy, and patrons are encouraged to drop in with questions.

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SEAALL Profile - From Previous Page

The second floor contains much of the library's general collection as well as group study rooms and study carrels. The thirteen group study rooms are equipped with whiteboards, electrical outlets and Internet connections. In an effort to best serve the needs of upper level students, sixty-two carrels on the second floor of the library are available for reservation by any WCL student who is currently enrolled in and pursuing an upper level writing credit or any member of a WCL law review or publication who is writing an article, comment or note due in the current semester. The second floor is also home to an office shared by several law school publications.

With more than 600,000 volumes, the library collection includes the basic core collection of legal research materials, as well as specialized collections in Human Rights, International Law, and Administrative Law. The library celebrated its 25th year as a Federal Government Depository Selective Collection in 2008.



While the library's collection is impressive, law library staff members recognize that students rely on the library for more than traditional library resources. In addition to books and multimedia, the library loans headphones, book stands, computer chargers and mice, podiums, seat cushions, foot rests, cameras, and video cameras. Students may also borrow a PC or Mac laptop computer from the library for a period of one week. Over the past several years, these loan services have proven immensely popular.

Additionally, the library recently initiated a casebook reserve pilot project. Several reserve copies of each 1L

casebook are available for the convenience of students and can be checked out for a non-renewable period of 3 hours.

The library also maintains a student convenience center on each floor. The convenience centers are stocked with office supplies and equipment, including photocopiers, printers, and fax machines. Student computer labs are located on both floors, and there are four public computers available for alumni, visiting researchers, and public patrons. One public computer is also equipped with free WestlawNext access.

The Pence Law Library continues to grow and develop its print and electronic collections, faculty and student services, and partnerships with area law schools, law libraries, and other organizations. The librarians and staff are committed to providing first-rate services and collections, and we welcome input from students, faculty, alumni, and public patrons alike.

Current SEAALL Placement Opportunities

Assistant Law Librarian for Access Services

Emory University

Atlanta, GA

Contact: Search Committee (lawcirch@mail.library.emory.edu)

Deadline: July 3, 2012 (priority consideration)

http://library.law.emory.edu/fileadmin/library/Announcement/Access_Services_Librarian_Description.pdf

Part-Time Reference Librarian

Charlotte School of Law

Charlotte, NC

Contact: Brian Trippodo (btrippodo@charlottelaw.edu)

Deadline: (not specified)

http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/seaall/documents/employment/charlotte_law_ref.pdf

Reference & Instructional Services Librarian

West Virginia Court System

Charleston, WV

Contact: (no email specified)

Deadline: Open until filled

http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/seaall/documents/employment/wv_reference_lib.pdf

Assistant Law Librarian for Cataloging & Metadata

Emory University

Atlanta, GA

Contact: Search Committee (emorylawlibrarysearchcommittee@gmail.com)

Deadline: June 1, 2012 (priority consideration)

http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/seaall/documents/employment/emory_metadata_lib.pdf

Cataloging & Metadata Librarian

College of William & Mary

Williamsburg, VA

Contact: Linda K. Tesar (lktesar@wm.edu)

Deadline: Open until filled (review began April 18)

http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/seaall/documents/employment/wm_cat_lib.pdf

Librarian

Williams Mullen

Norfolk, VA

Contact: (not specified)

Deadline: Open until filled

http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/seaall/documents/employment/wms_mul_lib.pdf

Foreign & International Law Librarian

University of Miami

Miami, FL

Contact: Pam Lucken (plucken@law.miami.edu)

Deadline: Open until filled (review began March 31)

http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/seaall/documents/employment/miami_foreign.pdf

Reference/Instructional Services Librarian

University of Miami

Miami, FL

Contact: Pam Lucken (plucken@law.miami.edu)

Deadline: Open until filled (review began March 31)

http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/seaall/documents/employment/miami_ref.pdf

Reference/Internal Instructional Services Librarian

University of Miami

Miami, FL

Contact: Pam Lucken (plucken@law.miami.edu)

Deadline: Open until filled (review began March 31)

http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/seaall/documents/employment/miami_ref2.pdf



AALL Program Announcement

James W. Hart

Associate Senior Reference Librarian

University of Cincinnati

James.Hart@uc.edu

At FCIL's program, *Piercing the Veil of Sovereignty: The Sources of International Human Rights Law*, you'll learn how the major human rights institutions work, how to analyze human rights issues, and where relevant legal sources are most likely to be found. In the first part Marci Hoffman and Mary Rumsey will describe the charter-based and treaty-based bodies of the UN. In the second part Gloria Orrego Hoyos of Argentina will cover the OAS, Inter-American Commission, and Inter-American Court's activities; and James Hart will describe the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights.

The program is co-sponsored by ALL and RIPS. Both parts will be on Sunday, July 22nd ; the first will be from 1:15 to 2:45 in HCC room 312 and the second will be from 3:45 to 5:00 in the same room. Ms. Hoffman and Ms. Rumsey are the authors of *INTERNATIONAL AND FOREIGN LEGAL RESEARCH* (Martinus Nijhoff 2nd ed. 2012). Ms. Orrego Hoyos was the winner of the Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians last year and Mr. Hart is the author of *The European Human Rights System*, 102 *Law Libr. J.* 533 (2010).

For additional information please contact James W. Hart - james.hart@uc.edu

By-Law Amendment

DRAFT -- Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries, Inc. (SEAALL), a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries.

Article II. Object

Section 1:

The Chapter is established for educational and scientific purposes. It shall be conducted as a nonprofit corporation to promote librarianship, to develop and increase the usefulness of law libraries, to cultivate the science of law librarianship and to foster a spirit of cooperation among the members of the profession, particularly those in the Southeastern United States.

Section 2:

The chapter shall conduct its affairs in conformity with the Bylaws of the American Association of Law Libraries.

Article III. Geographic Designations

The Southeastern Chapter of AALL includes the following states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. The District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands also belong to this chapter.

Article IV. Anti-Discrimination

Membership in SEAALL or participation in any activity of SEAALL shall not be denied or abridged to any individual on account of race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation.

Article V. Membership

Section 1. Membership Categories

A. Individual Members

Any person officially connected with a law library, or with a separately maintained law section in any library, and currently or within the last seven years, employed at least 30 percent full-time may become an active individual member upon determination of eligibility by the Membership Committee and payment of annual dues. The Membership Committee's ruling may be appealed to the Executive Board.

B. Student Members

Any person officially enrolled at least half-time in a degree program related to law librarianship shall become a student member upon payment of annual dues provided that membership in this category is limited to five consecutive years. The Executive Board is empowered to adopt procedures for verifying student status.

Continued on next page

C. Institutional Members

Any law library may become an institutional member upon payment of annual dues. The Executive Board is empowered to determine whether the institution applying for membership is a law library. Such persons on the staff of an institutional member as are designated by the librarian and for whom the institutional member has paid its annual dues in accordance with Article IV bylaws Section 2B, shall be entitled to individual membership in the Chapter without the payment of additional dues.

D. Associate Members

Persons, companies, and institutions not connected with law libraries, residing in or outside of the Southeastern region, or connected with law libraries but residing outside the region may be selected to associate membership by the Executive Board and shall pay annual dues.

E. Life Members

The Chapter may at any regular meeting by a vote of two-thirds of those present elect to life membership librarians retired from full-time active library work who have been members of the Chapter for at least 10 years, who have reached the age of 55 years, unless retirement was earlier due to health reasons, and have a record of substantial service to the chapter.

F. Honorary Members

The Chapter may at any regular meeting by a vote of two-thirds of those present elect nonmembers as honorary members.

Section 2. Attributes of Membership

A. Rights and Privileges

1. All members have the right to vote.
2. The right to hold office shall be restricted to active members in the following membership categories: individual, institutional, and life.
3. The right to access the Chapter Newsletter and the Chapter Membership Directory shall be shared by all members.

B. Dues

1. The dues structure shall be set by the Executive Board or as specified in the current Chapter Handbook. Life members and honorary members shall not be assessed dues.
2. All individual, associate, and institutional dues shall be paid no later than three months after the due date appearing on the dues notice. The treasurer shall suspend the membership of any person who has not paid within the time allotted. A suspended membership shall be restored upon payment of dues for the current year.
3. The fiscal year of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries shall be April 1 - March 31.

Article VI. Meetings

Section 1. Annual Meeting

An annual meeting of the chapter shall be held at such time and place to be determined by the Executive Board. A chapter meeting shall also be held at AALL National Conferences, when the conference schedule permits, for the purpose of discussing future programs, projects and submitting progress reports on chapter activities. The Executive Board shall be charged with the duty of scheduling and making arrangements for such meetings. Attendance at these meetings shall not be limited to the Executive Board, but will be extended to the entire mem-

Continued on next page

bership.

Section 2. Other Meetings

The President may call other meetings of the chapter as deemed necessary or when requested to do so by the Executive Board. The President shall provide reasonable notice of such meetings to each member of the chapter. In the event of the absence of the President and Vice President/President-Elect from any chapter meeting, one of the other members of the Executive Board shall be selected to preside.

Section 3. Quorum

A majority of members attending a meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4. Rules of Procedure

Meetings of the Chapter and Executive Board shall be conducted in accordance with the current edition of the *AIP Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure* except as otherwise specified by the chapter Articles or Bylaws.

Article VII. Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Nominations

A. Nominating Committee

The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee who shall submit the names of the candidate or candidates for each of the following offices by December 1 of the fiscal year in which the election is to be held: Vice President/President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and Member-at-Large. The Nominating Committee shall not submit for election to the office of Vice President/President-Elect the name of any member who is not in good standing with the American Association of Law Libraries and SEAALL.

B. Additional Nominations

Additional nominations may be made by any member by communicating in writing such nomination to the President.

Section 2. Method of Election

The Vice President/President-Elect shall be elected by electronic ballot in February of each year. The Secretary and a Member-at-Large shall be elected by electronic ballot in February of each even numbered year. The Treasurer and a Member-at-Large shall be elected by electronic ballot in February of each odd-numbered year. The candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected. The membership is to be notified by the Secretary of the outcome of the election by electronic means or at a meeting of the Chapter.

Section 3. Special Elections

A. Rationale

In the event that the office of the Vice President/President-Elect becomes vacant, a special election shall be held to fill that office for the remainder of the unexpired term.

B. Nominations for Special Elections

Candidates for this special election will be selected by the Executive Board.

C. Method of Election

Continued on next page

At the discretion of the Executive Board, the special election may be held by electronic vote or by voice vote at a Chapter meeting. The candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected.

Article VIII. Officers

Section 1. Officers

The officers of the Chapter shall consist of a President, Vice President/President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Members-at-Large.

Section 2. Duties of Officers

These officers shall perform the duties usually pertaining to their offices and such other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Board or as specified in the current Chapter Handbook.

Section 3. Terms of Office

The Vice President/President-Elect shall serve a two-year term, the first year as Vice President, and the second year as President. A new Vice President/President-Elect shall be elected each year. The Secretary and Treasurer shall each serve a two-year term, and shall be elected every other year. The Members-at-large shall serve two-year terms, with the terms staggered so that one new Member-at-large assumes office each year. Officers shall serve until the adjournment of the annual business meeting.

Article IX. Executive Board

There shall be an Executive Board consisting of the officers named above and the immediate past President.

Article X. Committees

There shall be such standing or special committees as the Executive Board or the membership, shall create.

Article XI . Amendments to Bylaws

Section 1. Filing and Notice

Any proposed amendments to the Articles or the Bylaws shall be filed with the Secretary. Notice shall be given to members in one of the following ways:

- A. Notice shall be provided or published in the Chapter Newsletter at least 30 days prior to balloting.
- B. Or, notice shall be sent by the secretary to all members by electronic means at least 30 days prior to balloting.

Section 2. Balloting

A. Ballots

Electronic ballots may be used for the purpose of changing the Articles or Bylaws provided that ballots shall be made available by the Secretary to the membership immediately following a meeting where the amendments were discussed or 30 days after notice of the proposed amendments has been distributed to the membership. The Executive Board must specify the time for closing the balloting, but in no case shall it be less than 30 days after the sending of the ballots.

B. Voice Ballots

Voice ballots may be used for the purpose of changing the Articles or Bylaws at any regularly scheduled meeting of the chapter, provided that the proposed amendments and a summary of the changes have been:

Continued on next page

Proposed By-Law Amendments - From Previous Page

1. Provided by the Secretary to the membership at least 30 days prior to the meeting
2. Or published in the Chapter Newsletter at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

Section 3. Approval of Amendments

Proposed amendments of these Bylaws shall be submitted to the AALL Bylaws committee for approval before a vote is taken by members of the chapter.

Section 4. Successful Election

If two-thirds of the members present and voting at a meeting or two-thirds of the members casting valid electronic ballots are in favor of such amendment, it shall stand adopted.

Article XII. Tax Exempt Status and Dissolution

Section 1. Restrictions

No part of the Chapter's earnings or assets shall inure to the benefit of any member or officer except as reasonable compensation for services rendered. In addition, the Chapter shall not attempt to influence legislation as a substantial part of its activities and it shall not participate in any campaign activity for or against political candidates.

Section 2. Dissolution

Upon dissolution of the Chapter, any assets remaining after payment of or provision for its debts and liabilities shall be disposed of by the Executive Board exclusively for the purposes of the Chapter or distributed to organizations that are qualified as tax-exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3). Any assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of jurisdiction in the county in which the Chapter is registered. The court shall dispose of the assets as required of the Chapter.

Submission Guidelines

The Southeastern Law Librarian (ISSN 0272-7560) is the official publication of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries. It is published quarterly and is distributed free to all SEAALL members. Editorial comments or submissions should be sent to:

Brian C. Barnes -- Deputy Law Library Director -- Loyola New Orleans -- bcbarnes@loyno.edu

Submissions are preferred to be sent electronically in MS Word format.

Newsletter Deadlines are:

Spring -- May 31, 2012

Summer -- August 31, 2012

Fall -- November 30, 2012

Winter -- February 28, 2013

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SEAALL Financial Report

Period of December 1, 2011 - May 31, 2012

OPENING WORKING BALANCE \$53,731.12

INCOME

2012 SEAALL ANNUAL MEETING 44,059.95

MEMBERSHIP DUES 790.00

 Student 30.00

 Individual 180.00

 Institutional 580.00

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RETURNED 500.00

TOTAL INCOME 45,349.95

TOTAL WORKING BALANCE \$99,081.07

EXPENSES

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONAL REPORT FEE 61.25

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS 5444.20

 AALL Registration Grant 1,620.00

 CONNELL Grant 724.00

 Lucile Elliott Scholarship 1,600.00

 Mattox Scholarship 1,500.00

SEAALL 2012 ANNUAL MEETING 58,310.38

 Caterers 8,600.13

 Conference Hotel Expenses 45,716.75

 Entertainment 1,197.16

 Friday Reception 1,460.00

 Registration Refund 200.00

 Service to SEAALL Award 92.08

 Speaker Fee 250.00

 Speaker Gifts 75.00

 Transportation Expenses 719.26

SEAALL 2013 ANNUAL MEETING 200.00

 Friday Reception Deposit 200.00

SEAALL ELECTIONS 374.60

 Online Election Fee 374.60

TOTAL EXPENSES \$64,390.43

CLOSING WORKING BALANCE \$34,690.64

Continued on next page

INVESTMENTS

Fidelity

6,391.73

TOTAL INVESTMENTS AS OF Mar. 31, 2012

\$6,391.73

TOTAL ASSETS

\$41,082.63

Submitted by Billie Blaine, SEAALL Treasurer

Take Time

Brian Barnes

Deputy Law Library Director

Loyola University New Orleans - College of Law Library

bcbarnes@loyno.edu

I sincerely hope that every single librarian that reads this is having as peaceful of a summer as I have so far experienced (famous last words I am sure). I currently find a spacious library that I call my second home to be quite barren as a vast majority of the students have taken the opportunity to find a job or simply complain about not having a job yet avoid getting ahead by taking summer school classes. This is not to say that we have not had to assist the law review track down weird articles, deal with standard issue Pro Se's, or do massive amounts of covering other positions due to well deserved vacations but to say it is not strangely slow would be a lie.

This brings me to the point of this editorial and an idea of how you can fill that "slow" time in a manner that is fulfilling both professionally and personally. This is the perfect time to reflect, to consider, to imagine, to **think**. The very observant caught that I attempted to say that we should **think** about the past, **think** about the current, and **think** about the future with regards to every thing we do while as a librarian. Questions such as:

Why am I doing this, and should I be doing it this way? What could make this have a better outcome or be more efficient, and why aren't we doing that now?

I'll admit this sounds a little hokey (no offense Virginia folks) on some level but it could help when applied to some of our daily tasks that we do without ever thinking. For example:

Why is acquisitions making a new order record on these format changes before it goes to cataloging when it just comes back to her later after someone else downloads the bib?

Why don't we include the circulation staff on that email that tech services gets since when someone asks why the slowdown is occurring they are asking a circ person and not the technical services folks who are actually dealing with our odd European vendor?

I vaguely remember a statement from my youth something like "you have to plan your work before you work your plan", maybe a slow summer can allow us to **think** and not just work and as a result when things are no longer slow we are better equipped and streamlined to handle the normal pressures we each face.

SEAALL Officers 2012 - 2013

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