

Southeastern Law Librarian

Summer 2013

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Presidential Ponderings

SEAALL President

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While I am always sad when summer ends, I can't help but feel a frisson of anticipation with the start of a new school year. Fall has always seemed to me more like a time of new beginnings than spring has. This year several major transitions have me contemplating new frontiers.

My youngest child has graduated from college and is currently driving across the country with a friend. The friend is relocating to Portland, Oregon and asked my son to go along. What a great adventure! But there is also the possibility that he may decide to stay as well. That would be a huge step for him. He has also convinced that he no longer needs some of his possessions - like his car, which is for sale. (Anyone want a classic 1987 Mazda RX-7?).

The University of South Carolina School of Law is planning a new building. We certainly need a new facility and the opportunity to help plan a library from scratch and organize a move is exciting. However, the library will have a smaller footprint and so we are conducting a thorough review of our collection. We are evaluating what we want to move with us and what is not essential to our mission. Book carts full of material to be discarded are getting to be a common sight. How will the new building work? Have we thought of everything? Will we find that we regret some of the choices we made?

Several of my colleagues are downsizing and moving to new homes. In some cases, the move is by choice and, in some cases, the move is necessitated by changes in circumstance. In all cases, careful choices are being made about what to keep and what to take. Happy or sad, the decisions have to be made.

In a way, all of these - my son's transition to independent adulthood, the Law Library's move to a new home, and my colleagues' relocations - remind me of the pioneers in the early years of our country, many of whom moved west through the Cumberland Gap near Knoxville, the location of our 2014 Annual Meeting. Most of the pioneers were probably excited and optimistic about their journey. They saw it as a remarkable opportunity to start fresh, remake themselves, or acquire wealth. Some were, no doubt, unhappy and reluctant to leave familiar people and places. All of them chose what to take and what to leave behind. Many packed up their most prized possessions, only to discover that the long, arduous trip caused them to discard those items along the way. Sometimes it's necessary to make hard choices and unburden yourself when making a new start.

Is there a point to all this? Well, shortly you will receive a call for program proposals for the 2014 SEAALL Annual Meeting. The theme of the meeting is "New Frontiers." The focus will be on change - good or bad, voluntary or involuntary - and how to deal creatively with it. What skills do you have that can help you in a new or restructured position with your current employer? What skills do you need to find the next job or

make your current job recession-proof? What time honored methods and attitudes can you keep and which need to be discarded? The 2014 Annual Meeting will engage us all in this discussion. Please consider submitting a proposal. The Program Committee looks forward to hearing from you.

Regards, PRM

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Reader Feedback

If you have suggestions of articles or features you would like to see in the Southeastern Law Librarian please contact Brian Barnes, bcbarnes@loyno.edu.

5 Questions ... with Jason Sowards

featuring Jason Soward,
Assistant Director for Public Services & Lecturer in Law @ Vanderbilt Law

What is your favorite legal book and why?

And it's not because I work with Mary Miles Prince (though that's a bonus): Prince's Beiber Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations. I cannot count the times this book has saved me, and law review students who discover it always walk away in awe that such a book even exists. If you meant something in the fiction realm, classic Grisham is always great.

Who has had the biggest impact on your law librarian career?

I wouldn't be a law librarian if Robin Harris at the University of Louisville's Law Library hadn't hired me to work there as a law student.

If you could have a law library animal mascot and danger was not an issue what would you choose and why?

A library Saint Bernard that carries around adult liquid sustenance in its barrel for librarians to enjoy.

What is the coolest thing you've seen another library do that I wish I had at my library?

My first employer, Florida Coastal, has an entire wall in all of their study rooms that is a dry-erase board (with markers to check out at circulation). What an incredible way to foster collaborative learning. I wish my library had that in its study rooms (and I wish I had had that as a law student!).

Where is Waldo?

I don't care where Waldo is—I'm more interested where in the world Carmen Sandiego is. I bet she has some stories best told over drinks in a bar in Morocco. :)

The Importance of the MLS Degree for Academic Law Librarians

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Job postings for academic law librarians frequently include the dual degree requirement. Because both degrees are often required, I presumed that each degree was of equal value. However, I have recently heard experienced law librarians express the opinion that the law degree is more important. Law librarians are expected to straddle two worlds: law and librarianship. Although knowledge of the American legal system and frequently used legal resources is essential for satisfactory job performance, awareness of cataloging standards and collection development principles are equally important. Law librarians are not merely subject specialists, but they also need to be prepared to address shrinking budgets, changing cataloging standards, and a generational shift in the user population. Library science theory can help law librarians find solutions to today's problems.

Imagine if law librarians needed only the JD. Reference librarians in an academic law library help patrons use resources. A JD is beneficial for this type of work because the librarian has taken legal research and

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is familiar with the resources. However, reference librarians are expected to contribute more to the library than just conducting reference interviews and providing training. They need to be familiar with a wide array of areas including technology and social media, collection development, marketing and promotion, and assessment and evaluation. My MLS core curriculum included courses in information tools, management, reference, organization of information, collection development, and information seeking behavior. A law librarian's daily work centers on understanding and applying these principles.

The general library science principles taught in core courses are so broad that professors teach them to school media specialists and archivists side-by-side. Students are able to take electives to learn more about their chosen specialties. By selecting certain courses as the basis of the core curriculum, my School has expressed its belief in the importance of this body of knowledge. The School implies that the theories learned in core courses are essential to career success for all librarians no matter their specialty.

Often, the electives have a core course as a prerequisite, indicating that the instructor expects the students to have an understanding of the basic principles of librarianship before pursuing more specific interests. Early in my curriculum, I took classes that formed a solid foundation of library science principles. Later, I took an academic library seminar and a legal information course. These classes built upon the library science principles I had previously learned. I was then able to discuss core principles in the law library context.

I greatly benefitted from learning about other library environments while in school. Students in my program had a wide range of career interests. Learning about initiatives in other environments can be beneficial in addressing similar issues in law libraries. All libraries are facing similar difficulties. Examining other environments may help law librarians discover solutions.

I enjoyed the academic seminar course. Students in this course were interested in aspects of academic libraries; however, we differed in the type of library we wished to work in and the type of work we wished to perform. For example, I want to work in an academic law library in reference. Some of my classmates wanted to work in reference in a medical library or work on digitizing projects in a liberal arts college.

We had discussions about the user population of academic libraries and the future of academic libraries. These in-depth conversations on academic libraries combined with reading assignments, guest lectures, field trips, and student presentations over a period of five months only exist in an academic environment. We could not have studied this topic as thoroughly by having a casual conversation with co-workers or even at a week-long conference. The thorough examination of this topic took several months. Master's programs inspire high-level thinking and discussion. Thought and discussion drives discovery of solutions to practical problems that may arise in our professional work.

One concern about working in an academic law library is the isolation from other librarians. Law libraries are located within the law school and are geographically separated from the main campus libraries. Sometimes, law schools affiliated with universities may be located off the main campus. This limits the librarian's ability to interact with other librarians. Additionally, law schools have frequent special events and social events that librarians may choose to attend. While these events enable the librarian to interact with their primary user population, they limit the amount of time that the librarian can interact with main campus librarians.

Proponents of the dual degree for law librarians emphasize the importance of understanding how to think like a lawyer. Similarly, the MLS is as important in learning how to think like a librarian. The MLS degree provides the necessary core theoretical foundation on which librarianship is based. Without this core foundation, librarianship principles are not understood and, therefore, cannot be implemented. I benefitted greatly from my MLS education and look forward to incorporating these principles into my work as a law librarian.

SEAALL Business Meeting Minutes

Seattle, WA - July 15, 2013

Pamela Melton called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. Pamela asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the last business meeting, held in Decatur, Georgia, on April 20, 2013. Ismael Gullon made the motion, and it was seconded. All voted aye and the minutes from the April business meeting were approved.

Pamela asked those in attendance if anyone had knowledge of SEAALL ever having a strategic plan. No one did. She pointed out that this was one of the recommendations at a workshop she attended for nonprofits. Pamela said that SEAALL has a general aim of educating its membership, and that she would look into the issue of SEAALL having a strategic plan.

Treasurer Kate Irwin-Smiler submitted a report that showed that SEAALL had an opening working balance of \$34,690.64, and after income and expenses the chapter's total assets are now \$33,550.87. Ed Hart added that SEAALL did not lose money on its Decatur meeting.

Pamela then asked the committee chairs to give their reports.

Fran Norton, chair of the 2014 Program Committee, reported that the theme for the 2014 meeting will be transitioning from one type of law librarianship or one type of position to another. Pamela suggested that members consider proposing programs for both SEAALL and AALL.

Scott Childs, speaking on behalf of the Local Arrangements Committee, said that everyone in Knoxville was looking forward to hosting SEAALL there, and that they had found hotels with reasonable rates.

Pamela informed everyone that our SEAALL VIP, Jim Lehmann, had returned to South Carolina. She said that the program in which he spoke was an interesting one, and that it was unusual for a managing partner of a law firm to appear at AALL's annual conference.

Pamela gave the report for the Community Services Committee. The committee is having a T-shirt quilt made by Shawn Friend. The quilt will be auctioned off to raise funds for a local charity, which has not yet been determined. Donations of law school and law firm T-shirts for the quilt were encouraged.

Sarah Mauldin reported on the Decatur meeting. She said that it was a very good meeting and that the DeKalb County Public Library was very thankful for the financial help SEAALL gave them.

Thomas Striepe, chair of the Education and Publications Committee, said that ideas from the membership are welcome.

Ryan Valentin gave the report for the Membership Committee. SEAALL added 62 new members between July 2012 and June 2013, for a total membership of 643. The third annual SEAALLSUCKER took place after the business meeting, and the hope is that it will continue to be an annual tradition for the conference. A SEAALL table was hosted at the CONELL marketplace and the AALL exhibit hall. Giveaways at the table included pens, Post-Its, candy, and a beverage coaster with the SEAALL magnolia and year of the chapter's establishment pressed into it.

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Business Meeting Minutes - From Previous Page

The Placement Committee sent a report that said it continues to post vacancies on the SEAALL website and it offered its thanks to webmasters Tina Brooks and Sharon Bradley. Since the meeting in April, four new positions have been posted.

Heather Casey, chair of the Newsletter and Public Relations Committee, had nothing new to report.

Scott Childs, chair of the Nominations Committee, had nothing new to report.

Louis Rosen gave the report for the Scholarship Committee. Louis informed everyone that almost \$13,000 in scholarships has been awarded.

Pamela said that Beth Williams, the chair of the Government Relations Committee, had nothing new to report.

Pamela acknowledged the work done by webmasters, Tina Brooks and Sharon Bradley, and thanked them for agreeing to continue.

There was a motion to adjourn, which was seconded. All voted aye. The meeting ended at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nick Sexton
SEAALL Secretary

SEAALL Library Profile

University of Miami Law Library

Information by Nick Harrell; Photo Credit: Bianca Anderson; Layout by Brian Barnes



The University of Miami Law Library is situated on the Coral Gables Campus of the University of Miami in beautiful South Florida. The four-story building houses a collection of over 620,000 volumes and volume equivalents, faculty offices, law school administrators, a research training classroom, offices for Law School publications, and myriad study spaces. Due to the presence of faculty offices, student spaces, and its inviting atmosphere, the Law Library serves as the research and collaboration hub of the Law School.

To meet the varied study space needs of our 1300 J.D. students, the Law Library has 10 study rooms, a reading room restricted to law students, and many study carrels and open tables. Additionally, in response to input from the Student Bar Association, the Law Library has a relaxation area outfitted with recliners and scenic landscape artwork.

With 28 full-time staff members, including 13 professional librarians, the Law Library staff works to provide outstanding service to the faculty, staff, and students of the Law School and University, the bar, and the public. With our Circulation and Reference desks at the entrance of the central building at the Law School, our staff is highly visible, well utilized, and wholly integrated into the Law School. In furtherance of the academic goals and mission of the Law School, Librarians provide instruction in first-year Legal Communication classes, lunchtime research workshops, and as guest lecturers in substantive classes. Librarians also teach for-credit, substantive Advanced and Florida Legal Research classes throughout the year.

In support of the research and academic goals of the faculty and students, the Law Library maintains a first-class collection of primary and secondary U.S. and Foreign and International Materials. Specifically, the Law Library includes sizable holdings in the areas of taxation, estate planning, labor law, ocean law, and arbitration and robust Latin American and Caribbean collections. The Law Library also houses the Mayer Simcha Leiter Judaic Collection & Research Area, which includes English language materials concerning Jewish Law, comfortable seating, and a chess set. A thorough research guide complementing the



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collection can be found at <http://www.law.miami.edu/library/judaicguide.php>. The Law Library also regularly collaborates with the University Library to share services and collections.

In addition to supporting the Law School faculty, staff, and students, the Law Library provides invaluable access to legal information to the local bar and public. Local attorneys have come to rely on our collection of treatises and complimentary wireless Internet access.

With top-notch staff, services, and collections, the University of Miami Law Library continues to support the Law School in producing graduates and scholarship of the highest caliber. For more information about the University of Miami Law Library please visit our website www.law.miami.edu/library or stop by for a visit in sunny South Florida.

Have an idea to share?

**Need publications to help with achieving
promotion or tenure?**

**Want to promote a project you have done at
your library?**

**Become an author in the Southeastern
Law Librarian !!!**

Contact Brian Barnes, bcbarnes@loyno.edu.

Finance Report

Period of June 1, 2012 - July 15, 2013

OPENING WORKING BALANCE		\$34,690.54
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INCOME

2013 SEAALL ANNUAL MEETING	\$40,365.39
MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$10,830.00
Associate	\$320.00
Student	\$50.00
Individual	\$620.00
Institutional	\$9,840.00
MATTOX SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS	\$1,500.00
UNCATEGORIZED INCOME	\$22.99
COSELL BALANCE AFTER DISSOLUTION	\$4,288.04

TOTAL INCOME	\$57,006.42
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TOTAL WORKING BALANCE	\$91,697.06
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EXPENSES

NON-PROFIT ORG. REPORT FEE	\$61.25
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS	\$13,815.72
AALL Registration Grant	\$549.00
CONNELL Grant	\$366.72
Lucille Elliott Scholarship	\$1,500.00
Mattox Scholarship	\$1,500.00
Student Scholarships	\$9,000.00
Reg. fees for scholarship workshop	\$900.00
AALL 2012 ANNUAL MEETING	\$8,699.91
Handouts for SEAALL table	\$935.53
SEAALL VIP travel expenses	\$1,564.72
SEAALL reception and meeting	\$6,199.66
SEAALL 2012 ANNUAL MEETING	\$1,000.00
CASA charitable donation	\$1,000.00
SEAALL 2013 ANNUAL MEETING	\$39,182.27
Conference Hotel Expenses	\$28,279.69
Entertainment	\$1,200.00
Friday Reception	\$8,071.23
Conference Tote Bags	\$961.00
Service to SEAALL Award	\$69.55
Speaker Fee	\$450.00
Logo Design Fee	\$150.00
LIABILITY INSURANCE	\$531.00
BANK SERVICE CHARGE FOR DEPOSIT SLIPS	\$33.00
SEAALL ONLINE ELECTION FEE	\$367.20
FEE FOR TAX RETURN PREPARATION	\$535.00
FEE FOR SEAALL DOMAIN NAME	\$23.38
REFUND FOR OVERPAYMENT OF DUES	\$40.00
DONATION TO AM. LUNG ASSOC. (Sharon Sowards)	\$250.00

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TOTAL EXPENSES	\$64,538.73
CLOSING WORKING BALANCE	\$27,158.33
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS	\$6,392.54
TOTAL ASSETS	\$33,550.87

Books versus Databases

Brian Barnes
Interim Law Library Director
Loyola University New Orleans - College of Law Library
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This past Friday I had an experience that renews the books versus databases conversation in my mind. About 7:30 on Friday morning one of our elevators decided it had done enough and fried itself along about 1/3 of the law school building's power supply. Of course the 1/3 of the building killed involved the IT switches so internet and network printing was gone and most library staff and librarian offices were dark. As interim director the question was posed to me of what do we do regarding staying open? My response was quick in that as long as we have lights and air conditioning we stay open.

After putting up signs about the computer issues we started doing some of our daily tasks. Now I'm not saying everything was working as normal, there was no Millennium, none of my cherished excel spreadsheets, no answering of emails; however, there was still work to be done. We still had students studying in the lit parts of the library, a few papers and outlines were being typed, and law review students were still making copies of citations. Additionally, we still had a couple of reference questions pop up and they were answered without too much difficulty. These last two sentences are the key to my thought process as I sit here writing this today. Work was being done because we provide valuable space. Work was being done because we house materials that students and faculty need. Reference work was done even without the online catalog or databases because of the expertise and experience of our librarians.

Now, I realize I may be making a mountain out of the proverbial molehill. We have internet access and all of our tools at our fingertips 98% of the time the library is working. However, working is not an impossibility when we hit a glitch for a day or two. Those materials we keep debating keeping in print or going electronic may not always be available for whatever reasons. Maybe it is lack of internet, or lack of power, or lack of budgetary ability to maintain a database. If the budget makes a database disappear then what is left? Unless you have purchased perpetual access than probably nothing. At least with print if you hit a terrible budgetary glitch you still have the set, let's say Williston on Contracts, on the shelf and it is just a year out of date and the researcher can work from that point forward. The point is that it is not like you don't have anything anymore. I love electronic resources but instances like the outage reminds me that there is a benefit of tangible. Is it enough to make or not make a change?

SEAALL Officers 2013 - 2014

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Submission Guidelines

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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:

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Summer -- August 31, 2013

Fall -- November 30, 2013

Winter -- February 28, 2014

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