

From the Bench: President's Letter

Kathleen Bransford
Law Librarian
Denton County, TX



In my first President's letter published in the last Southwestern Association of Law Libraries (SWALL) Bulletin, I mentioned that I would be attending the Council of Chapter President's Meeting on Friday, July 11th at the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) in San Antonio, Texas. I was able to attend along with Jennifer Laws, our current Vice-President-President Elect and Programming Chairman for our next SWALL Annual Meeting in Boulder, Colorado April 9-11, 2015. This was the first ever Chapter Summit to be held by AALL, chaired by Holly M. Riccio, now the newly elected President of AALL. Both the Chapter Summit and luncheon were generously sponsored by Wm. S. Hein & Co., Inc. How fortunate for me that I was able to attend as Chapter President!

Since becoming a County Law Librarian, I have often wondered how the disparities among State, County and Court Law Librarians, Academic Law Librarians and Firm Law Librarians could be focalized. This all day gathering of Chapter Presidents representing all of the above was able to address our similarities. Mark Levin, Program Facilitator, led a spirited discussion of the following topics: The Legacy of Leadership (Why we're here), Communicating our Value – Strategic Alliances (Why we matter), Mentoring Our Future (Why we'll thrive), Member Recruitment, Retention and Engagement (Why we're in this together) and What Keeps Us Up at Night (Why change is our opportunity). He also led a fascinating discussion over generational differences amongst the Baby Boomers (1946-1964), Generation X (1965-1981) and the Millennial Generation (1982-2000).

Law Librarians are a diverse group but this conference proved again that despite our differences, our goals and challenges are the same. I want

In This Issue:

From the Bench: President's Letter	1
AALL Travel Grant Reports	3
LexisNexis Call for Papers	6
Pictures from AALL	7
Report of the Grants Committee	8
Membership News	9
Digitizing History	10
SWALL Officers and Committee Chairs	13



to thank all members for this opportunity to serve as your 2014/15 SWALL President, allowing me to attend this special first-ever assembly.

As a member of a Special Interest Section of AALL, the State, Court and County Law Librarians, I attended the SCCLL-SIS Breakfast, Business Meeting and Silent Auction sponsored by LexisNexis July 13th, at 7 a.m. Sunday Morning. During the Business Meeting, Lawrence R. Meyer, Chairman, presented The Connie E. Bolden Publication Award to Virginia Eldridge, Law Librarian at the Grayson County Law Library in Sherman, Texas. Virginia accepted the award for Laurie Selwyn, retired Law Librarian, and for herself for their co-authorship of Public Law Librarianship: Objectives, Challenges and Solutions. <http://www.igi-global.com/book/public-law-librarianship/67411>

I am honored to know and work with Virginia so upon hearing of Elizabeth Caulfield's promotion causing her to leave SWALL and the yeoman's job she had accomplished with the SWALL Bulletin, I asked Virginia if she would be willing to take on the chair and publication of the Bulletin. I breathed a sigh of relief when she accepted this responsibility. Speaking for all SWALL members, thank you Virginia! And thank you to the following members who have agreed to be on the committee: Richard Guajardo and Emily Lawson are veterans having worked with Elizabeth: added were Stephanie Bassinger, Sara Campbell and Wilhelmina Randtke.

In that regard, I have been working to fill Committee Chairs and provide those Chairs with members. This is a fluid process so please do not hesitate to contact me (Kathleen.bransford@dentoncounty.com) if you still would like to serve or if for some reason you had already sent me your preferences, but got overlooked, please let me know.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming SWALL Conference to be held in Boulder, Colorado, April 9-11, 2015. We all need to thank Nickholas F. Harrell, Chairman of Local Arrangements, when we see him in Boulder for his hard work on coordinating this meeting. I thank him for providing SWALL with lots of Stress Mountains to hand out at our SWALL table in San Antonio advertising this meeting. I have mine at my desk and reach for it throughout the day. There will be more Stress Mountains handed out in Boulder so come on up!

For those of you that cannot come to Boulder, please mark your calendar for our 2016 meeting in Dallas at the University of North Texas, Dallas College of Law. This is a joint meeting of SWALL and SEALL – Southeastern Association of Law Libraries – April 13 through the 16th. Edward Hart, Assistant Dean for Law Library and Assistant Professor at the Dallas College of Law is coordinating this meeting. Thank you Ed!

Finally, thanks to all SWALL members who are volunteering their time and efforts as Chairs and as committee members. I hope to see you all in Boulder!

Headnotes: AALL San Antonio Travel Grant Reports

Tamsen L. Conner
Public Service Coordinator
State Law Library
Austin TX

SWALL Grant Recipient: 2014 AALL Annual Meeting Report

I would like to thank SWALL for making it possible for me to attend my first AALL annual meeting. My main goals for the conference were to promote the Texas State Law Library's (TSLL) remote access to electronic databases program, talk to vendors about additional remote resources, and discuss with other librarians ways to improve the service as well as new services to offer. To help with the promotional goal, I created a poster about our remote access program to display at the meeting's poster session.

I was anxious to hang up my poster, so as soon as I arrived in San Antonio I checked in at the convention center. I had some free time after I successfully wrestled the giant 4' x 8' poster onto its board, so I rented a bike from B-cycle and rode down the San Antonio River to visit the four historic missions: Mission Concepción, Mission San Jose, Mission San Juan, and Mission Espada. I was amazed at these historic buildings, the beautiful river, and the variety of water birds and turtles I saw.

That evening the exhibit hall opening reception kicked off a conference that was busier than I could imagine: filled with great ideas, delicious food, engaging people, and fascinating workshops. On Sunday, I attended Hot Topics in Law Library Technology, in which different groups discussed various technologies. My group discussed free legal information online, which gave me the opportunity to promote the TSLL's remote access program and learn about other online resources to investigate. I also attended LibGuide Guidance: Innovative Uses for LibGuides, where I was excited to see the TSLL's guides mentioned. There were several new uses for LibGuides discussed that I am hoping to implement in my library, such as creating guides to instruct in the use of databases and embedding videos in guides.

On Monday, I attended Click and Go: Ensuring Smooth Access to Online Resources, where I learned about tools for checking catalog links. In the last month, we have started using one of the programs they recommended, Xenu, to search our public website for broken links. I also enjoyed the Cool Tools Café, which offered a wide range of great tools. I particularly enjoyed learning more about LibGuides 2.0 and Legal Research Apps. Information and handouts for all the tools are available online: <http://cssis.org/education/annual-meeting/2014/d4-cool-tools-caf%C3%A9>.

I also attended vendor presentations on What's New in HeinOnline and Thomson Reuters Print & ProView eBooks. I am excited for some of HeinOnline's new features, such as ABA periodicals and the FastCase integration. I had previously attended a LexisNexis presentation about their e-books, so it was interesting to see what Thomson Reuters is developing.

Of course, AALL wasn't all workshops, there were receptions as well! The SWALL/HALL/DALL/UNT reception was on the beautiful patio overlooking the River Walk. It was great to chat with and meet people I had previously only interacted with over email. I also enjoyed the wonderful Tarlton/UT iSchool reception hosted by Barbara Bintliff and the SCCLL-SIS reception at the historical La Villita Historic Arts Village, where I had a very interesting conversation with a law librarian from the U.S. Supreme Court Law Library. Learning about other libraries was definitely one my favorite aspects of the whole experience. Finally, there was the Thomson Reuters Member Appreciation Event and, having never attended AALL, I did not know what to expect, but they threw quite a party complete with dancing, fireworks, BBQ, and a rodeo!

On Tuesday, I attended Access to Justice: Crossing Borders Together. I loved the ideas for collaboration with public libraries, legal aid clinics, and bar associations. I also attended Just in Time: Models of Demand-Driven Acquisitions for E-Books, which gave me some things to think about as the TSLC considers adding e-books. Then there was a great talk by Davita Vance-Cooks, U.S. Public Printer, at the Association Luncheon. And finally there was the poster session, where I spoke with vendors, public law librarians, and academic law librarians about the remote access program at the TSLC. Several of the public librarians were very interested in the project and hoped to start similar programs in their states, which was exciting to hear!

I came back to work on Wednesday exhausted but energized and ready to start new and exciting projects. Thank you, SWALL, for making this experience possible!

Joseph D. Lawson
Deputy Director
Harris County Law Library
Houston, TX

SWALL Grant Recipient: 2014 AALL Annual Meeting Report

With the generous support of SWALL, I was able to attend the 107th AALL Annual Meeting and Conference in San Antonio, Texas. I would like to thank David Gay and the Grants Committee for selecting me for this honor. Additionally, I would like to thank all SWALL members who make these grants possible through their continued membership and commitment to professional development.

As one might expect, San Antonio greeted this year's AALL attendees with a heat that can only be felt in Texas in July. However, the equally-impressive air-conditioning in the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center made it easier to keep one's cool and the beautiful San Antonio Riverwalk offered plenty of tree-covered sidewalks to make the jaunts to and from the conference shaded and brief.

Inside the convention center, I found myself somewhat busier than in previous years. For one, I served as a speaker on Conference Day 2, which required some preparation. As a result, there was less time for accumulating points at the large vendor booths.

Additionally, there was plenty of great programming for state, court, and county law librarians. Each year, I look forward to the LISP/SCCLL/SR Joint Roundtable on Services to Pro Se Patrons and Prisoners, and this year's panel did not disappoint. Speakers included representatives from the SRL Network – an organization of legal professionals who tackle issues facing self-represented litigants – and the National Center for State Courts – an information clearinghouse for state judges. As a county law librarian who spends a significant amount of time interfacing with self-represented litigants and local courts, it was very encouraging for me to see these individuals involved in a SCCLL program. There were also law librarians from large county law libraries sharing their wins and setbacks for programs we are interested in trying at the Harris County Law Library. It is extremely helpful to “talk shop” in this setting so we can get an idea of how many work-hours are needed to implement new programs as well as budgetary concerns that have to be thought through months before the program start date. The ability to learn from others and to follow in successful footsteps makes the conference worthwhile each and every year.

Another noteworthy program was Monday's Access to Justice: Crossing Borders Together, a Report of the Special Committee on Access to Justice. Committee members presented their findings that were recently reported in the whitepaper, Law Libraries and Access to Justice: A Report of the American Association of Law Libraries Special Committee on Access to Justice. They also offered suggestions on how law librarians in all practice settings can get involved in the access to justice movement. Attendees then broke into small groups to discuss efforts they have implemented in their own law libraries. The experience of engaging with leaders within the SCCLL community has they described their favorite programs was invaluable. I am grateful to SWALL for helping me find my seat at the table.

Now, it would be misleading to say the conference was all work and no fun. The HALL/DALL/SWALL/UNT Reception was a great event where I enjoyed seeing many of my SWALL friends – and the Jicama Tacos at Acenar were fantastic! It was also great to see my fellow SWALL members at the Knibbe Ranch for the annual Thomson Reuters and AALL Member Appreciation

Event (f/k/a the West Party), listening to lively country/western music, and enjoying some tasty barbeque.

Between the programs, vendor booths, networking opportunities, and excellent barbeque, the 107th AALL Annual Meeting and Conference was a great professional experience. Again, I would like to thank SWALL for the generous support and I hope to see everyone in Boulder, CO in April for the 2015 SWALL Annual Meeting.

REPORT FROM AALL: LexisNexis Call For Papers

We are proud to share the following abstracts from the LexisNexis Call For Papers.
Congratulations Joe and Elizabeth!

What About the Majority? Considering the Legal Research Practices of Solo and Small Firm Attorneys

Joseph D. Lawson, *Harris County Law Library*

Abstract

Solo and small firm practitioners account for the majority of attorneys practicing in the United States. However, they are regularly underrepresented in studies of attorney research practices, which tend to focus on attorneys in larger practice settings. This article reports the results of a local survey in which more than 80% of respondents fell into this forgotten demographic. Comparison of the local study with a recent national survey demonstrates that more representative consideration of smaller firms could lead to a different understanding of fee-based, online resource usage among the demographic, which may have widespread implications for public and academic law libraries, access to justice, and implementation of research competency standards. As such, the research practices of solo and small firm attorneys, as well as the conditions leading to such practices, warrant further study.

Find Joe's paper at this link <http://works.bepress.com/aallcallforpapers/82/>

Is This a Profession? Establishing Educational Criteria for Law Librarians

Elizabeth Caulfield, *Texas Tech University* (formerly)

Abstract

The goal of this article is to encourage discussion leading to the standardization of educational criteria for law librarians. The article recounts the history of the debate regarding educational standards for law librarians, summarizes the reasons why some law librarians historically had law degrees, and proposes formal educational requirements for law librarians to facilitate the professionalization of law librarianship.

Find Elizabeth's paper at: <http://works.bepress.com/aallcallforpapers/81/>

Pictures from AALL SWALL/HALL/DALL reception Thanks Katy Badeaux!



More Pictures from AALL—San Antonio



Headnotes: Report of the SWALL Grants Committee

News From Grants 2015

Considering SWALL in Boulder in April? The SWALL Board has authorized three (3) grants of \$500 for SWALL members to attend the Annual Meeting. The Board also approved one (1) grant for \$500 for SWALL members to attend the AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. Also, it is SWALL's turn (every 3 years) for a chapter registration grant for AALL. More information and deadlines for applications will be posted on the SWALL Listserv and homepage later in the Fall.

BIG NEWS: Mon Yin is funding the Lung Student Scholarship again this Spring and has increased it to \$1000. Stay tuned for details.

Thanks to Christopher Dykes, Reference Librarian at the University of Houston O'Quinn Law Library; Kasia Solon Cristobal, Student Services Librarian at the University of Texas Jamail Center for Legal Research; and Cassie Dubey, Faculty and Research Services Librarian at Southern Methodist University Underwood law library for their service on the Grants Committee. —David W. Gay, Chair, Grants Committee, Reference Librarian Ross-Blakley Law Library, Arizona State University

Hearsay: Membership News

§ UNT Dallas College of Law Library opened its doors to the incoming class on August 12 with a ribbon cutting that included UNT System Chancellor Lee Jackson. Working for the college is Edward Hart, Assistant Dean for Law Library; Jennifer Wondracek, Senior Law Librarian and Associate Director of Instructional Technology; Jessica Haseltine, Law Librarian; Faria Matin, Library Specialists; and Lewis Giles, Library Specialists.

Edward T. Hart
Assistant Dean for Law Library and Assistant Professor of Law
UNT Dallas College of Law

§ Several folks have left/retired from South Texas College of Law:
David Cowan, former SWALL President, Vice Pres. and Director of Library Services (retired)
Jessica Alexander, Reference Librarian (retired)
Heather Waltman, Government Documents & Reference Librarian—left law librarianship
Susan Spillman, (retired)
Mary Lippold, retiring Jan. 2015

Monica Ortale
Associate Director of Reference & Public Services
South Texas College of Law

§ Fort Bend County Law Library staff changes:
Joseph D. Lawson, Law Librarian- last day May 23, 2014
Andrew Bennett, Law Librarian- began July 7, 2014

Shanna Prichett
Law Library Paraprofessional
Fort Bend County Law Library (TX)

Outside Counsel—AALL2go

AALL2go has so much to offer!

Did you know you can get FREE handouts and purchase more than 50 recordings from the 2014 AALL annual conference?

-
<http://aall.sclivelearningcenter.com/index.aspx?PID=6277>



Briefing the Case: Digitizing Law School History

Digitizing Law School History through a DPLA Hub, Our Experiences with a Rescuing Texas History Mini-Grant
Wilhelmina Randtke
Electronic Services Librarian, St. Mary's University School of Law
San Antonio, TX

UNT has for years run the Portal to Texas History, which includes a significant collection of digitized newspapers from Texas. In the past two years, UNT has offered annual Rescuing Texas History Mini-Grants. In fall 2013, the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library received a Rescuing Texas History Mini-Grant to digitize student newspapers from the 1950s up to the 1980s. This article describes how the process worked and the law library's experiences.

The St. Mary's law library has a collection of old student newspapers going back to 1954. Issues were collected and bound annually. There are other oddities, such as duplicate issues being bound together and a handful of issues that are unbound and stored loose in folders. The content in the old student newspapers is worthwhile. Papers include political cartoons by students, a humorous April Fools Day issues, and snapshots into the history of the law school and of the San Antonio legal community. St. Mary's law has had a law journal since 1969. Older student papers published before and around that time include scholarly material by students, faculty, past bar presidents, and local attorneys. Serious scholarly work was included with ephemera. The total size of the collection is relatively small. All bound volumes could easily fit in a tote bag.

The value of the collection screamed for digitization, but the scale of the project was too small to justify purchase of dedicated equipment.

I had already investigated outsourcing. Hein Online and other vendors provide reliable and affordable outsourced digitization services, including non destructive digitization of bound pages. However, some of the student papers were printed on very large pages, and this limited outsourcing options to vendors who can do nondestructive scanning of large format pages.

UNT's focus on newspapers, where large format pages are common, and the small size of the project made the St. Mary's law student papers an excellent fit to the Rescuing Texas History Mini-Grants. The grants are not grants in the sense of money. Instead, mini-grants provide up to \$1,000 of digitization services to digitize either historic newspapers or archival materials. Grant recipients mail the archival material to UNT, then UNT mails the originals back along with files, and UNT uploads a copy to the Portal to Texas History. UNT values digitization services at \$1.03 per paper newspaper page, \$3.75 per photo, \$5.00 per slide or film negative, etc.

So, a participating organization can apply for digitization of up to about 970 pages of newspaper. The St. Mary's law student papers were two pages under the limit. A perfect fit!

The application process was simple and easy. The application and appendix was 4 pages long. The most time consuming part of preparation is preparing a good description of what is to be digitized. For example, you need to say what format the papers are in (bound print, unbound print, microfilm, etc), and you need to know how many pages total you have. In order to get outsourcing quotes, I had already made a listing of newspaper issues and number of pages in each issue and size of the pages for that issue. With my notes in hand, the form was quick and easy to fill out for the St. Mary's collection. But, when I'd made that list months before, it had taken almost a full day to determine what newspaper issues existed, what size pages I was dealing with, and how many pages of each size there were. In general, counting how many pages, or photos, or items are in a collection is probably the most time consuming part of the grant application.

The law library received the grant award in September 2013. Because digitized items will be included in the Portal to Texas History, your library director or someone who can grant a rights permission must sign off on acceptance. After getting the acceptance form signed, my colleague Fang Wang and I packed the materials to be mailed. In the paranoia of sending one-of-a-kind law school history out of the building, we made a packing list listing each item, included our contact info, and attached this to each of the 6 bound volumes and the folder of unbound issues. Then we mailed the newspapers off to UNT.

Then we waited. And waited. And waited. UNT is a beast. The Portal to Texas History digitizes tens of thousands of items a year. It's a Digital Public Library of America hub. It's huge and it does a lot. Our papers were in the queue waiting to be digitized. Finally, in July of 2014, we got the newspapers back along with a hard drive containing digitized files. One small snag was that the binding had been cut off of two of the bound volumes.

Once I had the files, I was excited to add to the St. Mary's law institutional repository. The computer files we got were easy to work with, and it took about one day total to convert them to PDF and load them to the repository. Most of that time was in doing the metadata. UNT gives you metadata, but UNT is working with a system that stores newspapers at the page level. I was working with a system that stores each newspaper issue as a single multi-page PDF file. What repository platform you are using will determine whether or not it is possible to automatically load the files to your repository.

The best part of the experience was the excellent quality of digitization provided and the fact that the law library did not have to purchase equipment or use significant staffing to complete the project. Inclusion in the Portal to Texas History is an additional benefit to a small institution, like

St. Mary's, because the portal is resourced to ensure digital preservation. While St. Mary's law school runs an institutional repository, it is also good that student papers are included in a big central archive where people can stumble onto them.

Participation in the Rescuing Texas History Mini-Grant program was an excellent experience. The process was no fuss, no hassle, and effective.

Student papers, the Barrister News, and The Witan can be viewed in St. Mary's law's digital repository at <http://lawspace.stmarytx.edu/> and in the [Portal to Texas History](#).



At less than 1,000 pages, all the old student newspapers fit together in a conference bag, with room to spare for a hard drive. A perfect fit for a mini-grant!

SWALL Officers and Committee Chairs

President

Kathleen Bransford
Law Librarian
Denton County Law Library
kathleen.bransford@dentoncounty.com

Vice-President/President-Elect

Jennifer L. Laws
Law Librarian
University of New Mexico Law Library
laws@law.unm.edu

Secretary

Stacy Fowler
Technical Services Librarian and
Assistant Professor
Sarita Kenedy East Law Library
St. Mary's University School of Law
sfowler@stmarytx.edu

Treasurer

Katy Stein Badeaux
Reference/Research Librarian
O'Quinn Law Library
University of Houston Law Center
kastein@central.uh.edu

Immediate Past President

Caren Luckie
Houston Library Manager
Jackson Walker L.L.P.
cluckie@jw.com

Archives Co-Chair

Heather Kushnerick
South Texas College of Law Fred Parks Law Library
hkushnerick@stcl.edu

Archives Co-Chair

Karin Strohbeck
TX A&M University School of Law Library
kstrohbeck@law.tamu.edu

Constitution & Bylaws Chair

Kris Heige
University of North Texas Library
Kris.helge@unt.edu

Finance Chair

Katy Stein Badeaux
University of Houston O'Quinn Law Library
kastein@central.uh.edu

Grants Chair

W. David Gay
Arizona State University Ross-Blakley Law Library
William.Gay@asu.edu

Legal Information Services to the Public Co-Chair

Jill Henderson
Taylor County Law Library
hendersj@taylorcountytexas.org

Legal Information Services to the Public Co-Chair

Mike Martinez
St. Mary's University Law Sarita Kenedy East Law Library
mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu

Life Membership/Memorials Chair

Karin Strohbeck
Texas A&M University School of Law Library
kstrohbeck@law.tamu.edu

Local Arrangements Chair

Nickolas Harrell
University of Colorado School of Law Library
Nickholas.harrell@colorado.edu

Location for Future Meetings Chair

Elizabeth Schneider
eksphx@yahoo.com

Membership Chair

Mon Yin Lung
University of Houston O'Quinn Law Library
mlung@central.uh.edu

Nominations Committee

Michelle Rigual
University of New Mexico Law Library
rigual@law.unm.edu

Private Law Libraries Chair

Saskia Mehlhorn
Norton Rose Fulbright
mehlhorn@nortonrosefulbright.com

Program Chair

Jennifer Laws
University of New Mexico Law Library
laws@law.unm.edu

Public Relations Chair

Robert Clark
University of Houston, O'Quinn Law Library
rnclark@central.UH.edu

Publications Chair

Virginia Eldridge
Grayson County Law Library
eldridgev@co.grayson.tx.us

Recruitment Chair

G. Patrick Flanagan II
Texas A&M University School of Law Library
gpflanagan@law.tamu.edu

Special Government Relations Chair

Chair pending

Special Handbook Chair

Wendy Law
Texas A&M University School of Law Library
wlaw@law.tamu.edu

State, Court, County Law Libraries Chair

Joseph Lawson
Harris County Law Library
joseph.lawson@cao.hctx.net

Webmaster

Emily Lawson
University of Houston O'Quinn Law Library
ewoolard@central.uh.edu

If you are interested in writing for the SWALL Bulletin, please contact Publications Chair, Virginia Eldridge at eldridgev@co.grayson.tx.us