



Law Library Lights

Creative Ways to Promote Your Law Library—19 Years Later

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In its November/December 1988 issue, *Law Library Lights'* theme was "Creative Ways to Promote Your Law Library." Several librarians in various settings discussed some of the reasons library marketing or promotion is so important and shared some ways that their libraries were creatively promoting themselves. Although some of the details have changed over the years, most of the concepts and approaches have not, and library marketing remains even more important to spend some time planning and practicing.

In "Creative Promotion of the Law Library - Know Your Clientele and Be Visible" by Roy M. Mersky and Gary R. Hartman, the authors talk about the substantial expenses required to maintain a law library. Though some of the particulars may have changed as expenses shift from serials, shelving, and space to electronic databases and resources, it still isn't cheap to have a law library. It is crucial that we establish our value and promote ourselves so that people actually know about and use all of the great information and services we provide.

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So how do we do that? Well, in the late 80s, a lot of law library marketing was done in ways we still employ, particularly being visible: participating in events and other activities that let us get to know our users and their needs while raising awareness of what services the library can provide; producing newsletters to keep users apprised of acquisitions, events, and library services; and creating bibliographies, pathfinders, and research guides to help meet users' information needs.

Today, we can take these to new levels, thanks mostly to the rapid expansion of growth in technologies. We can attend practice group or faculty meetings to get to know our users and their information needs, but today it is also quite likely we could be included on listservs or email groups that keep us up to date with what people are working on, and participate in some events via Webex or video conference, particularly if our organization is spread out over the country or globally. Law libraries can produce and distribute newsletters in print, but it is more likely that we are going to send it out electronically, and create a website that is updated regularly for users to reference. That's where we can post our bibliographies, pathfinders, and research guides for easy access from anywhere, at any time.

Branding was not as much of a "thing" for law libraries in the 1980s, but it certainly can be now, and can increase a library's visibility and presence tremendously. Developing a great logo and placing it everywhere—including on research guides and bibliographies—will help develop users' perception of the law library as a provider of information and services. It can be included on emails from the library, email signatures, and anything we produce, written or visual. Taking it a step further, libraries can develop a tagline—a short, general idea of what the library is and what it can do for users.

The law library can also develop marketing materials, using a color scheme, the logo, and

creating a consistent look and feel throughout anything and everything we create and distribute. No one needs to be a marketing expert or make the most beautiful logo ever created—consistency remains the key, and with today's information deluge, it is more important than ever to let our users know that we exist and that we can provide efficient, effective help meeting their information needs. Patrons' impression of the law library as a reliable source of information is important, and consistent branding can help with that.

As far as newsletters go, law libraries can often get greater visibility with a social media presence, maintaining Facebook and Tumblr pages, Instagram, FourSquare, YouTube, and Twitter accounts, and so many other formats to reach our users, who are increasingly accessing information on mobile devices—something law librarians did not have access to in 1988.

The November/December 1988 *Law Library Lights* issue mentions some excellent technologies law librarians were using then; some "remarkably sophisticated desktop publishing capabilities of today's personal computer software" such as PFS: First Publisher and graphics programs such as Harvard Print Graphics are included. John Moore, Librarian at the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit,¹ wrote an excellent article devoted to using Harvard Graphics for library promotion. It cost \$265 to purchase by mail, and the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit library used it on IBM AT

"Patrons' impression of the law library as a reliable source of information is important, and consistent branding can help with that."



clones and Hewlett Packard LaserJet printers to produce “attractive promotional and instructional materials” for the library.

Well, the magic of technology has only improved programs like Harvard Print Graphics. We now have so many programs to choose from, including free web-based solutions for the design or promotional materials, databases of beautiful free images and fonts and colors, all sorts of templates, and excellent resources like [Canva](#), a visual content creation resource that makes it incredibly easy for libraries to create marketing materials that look professional. It is easy and free: two great qualities.

As in 1988, it’s a great idea for a library to create physical reminders with our logos, colors, tagline, etc., such as office supplies, sticky notes, coffee mugs, and other things our users see and use regularly. In “Grabbing the Spotlight: Promotion Ideas for your Law Library,” Christine A. Olson cites some of these as examples and also includes stickers, point of purchase displays, inter- and intra-office mail, samples, and Rolodex cards—all great ideas in 1988, and potentially still great ideas in 2017.

Most law libraries use some kind of electronic database/Outlook contacts instead of Rolodexes (though we still maintain our Rolodexes at the Department of Interior Library!), but one idea for using this to promote your library and services is to create a library Outlook contact (or other contact format) and send it to users. This can be particularly useful for mobile users who may not remember the library’s email address or yours—sending them a contact you’ve created makes it quick and easy for them to reach out to you and having the library as a contact reminds them that you’re there to help.

Ms. Olson also makes an incredibly important point in her article that remains quite true today: Promoting your law library can be fun

and rewarding! With so many research projects, administrative tasks, and other things keeping us busy, marketing the library can feel like an afterthought and maybe even an unwelcome task. In his 1988 article “Public Relations in the Law Library,” Tom Fleming takes it so far as to say that most law librarians respond to the idea of using “flashy public relations techniques” by saying “Over my dead body!”

But library promotion doesn’t have to be flashy, or take a lot of time, and we have the freedom to do so many things. It will be most effective if we figure out how to make it fun, both for us and for our users. It could be as simple as having coffee with people in practice groups or sending an article to someone related to their area of interest. Mr. Fleming also recommends giving library tours, which is still a great idea. In 2017, we can also use technology to create virtual tours of the law library and post a video or screencast on the library’s website. These virtual tours could give an overview of a library resource or database, a collection highlight, an event promotion... anything you want, because you’re making it. It doesn’t have to take much time to produce and can be done at very little expense. Videos can be fun to make and help create an image of the library for users that is perhaps different from what they imagine.

The *Law Library Lights* issue from November/

“But library promotion doesn’t have to be flashy, or take a lot of time, and we have the freedom to do so many things. It will be most effective if we figure out how to make it fun, both for us and for our users. ”



December 1988 includes two great articles focusing on using technology to promote your law library: “Public Relations – An Electronic Angle” by Cynthia Richards Plisch, US Department of Justice Library System, Land and Natural Resources Branch Library; and “MAC Attack – Uses of Macintosh Software in the Law Firm Library” by George Kirlin, Van Ness, Feldman & Sutcliffe. Although most of the actual hardware and software described in these articles is obsolete, the concept of using technology is obviously quite relevant today—and instead of writing an article about what my library uses, I might discuss it with all of you on a listserv or some other web-based resource that lets me get a wide range of extremely current information.

“Building personal relationships is just as powerful now as it was in 1988 and perhaps even more so; after all, emails are easily skimmed or deleted and busy attorneys may not have time to visit a library’s website or attend library events.”

Along with technology, engaging with library users was and is the most powerful form of library marketing and promotion. Technology has only increased the number of ways that we can engage with patrons, though it can lead us to more virtual interaction and less in-person interaction. Building personal relationships is just as powerful now as it was in 1988 and perhaps even more so; after all, emails are easily skimmed or deleted and busy attorneys may not have time to visit a library’s website or attend library events. People are busier than ever, and we want to meet them where they are. Inserting ourselves into staff meetings and other events, or just talking about library databases

and services with folks in the elevator, has been very effective for us at the Department of Interior.

Another way we’ve tried to engage with our users is by starting a book club, DOI Reads. We meet every six weeks and discuss a book that relates in some way to the Department of Interior. We email calendar invites to regular readers on an email list and put up fliers all over the building (of 1,500 employees). We also have a page about it on our website and include details in a bimonthly newsletter we send out to attorneys nationwide, as well as including it in the library’s section of an administrative newsletter distributed to the Solicitor’s Office. It draws people in, increases awareness of the library’s existence, and lets people engage with us in a different way, leading to more library visibility and involvement. Best of all for us, it’s free and does not require much time to market or host the book club.

We also present a number of training sessions each year and a monthly series wherein a National Park Service Ranger speaks about the background and history of NPS sites in the Washington, D.C., region and the U.S. This draws in many community members, other federal employees, and people around the country, who participate via Webex.

Law libraries today do so many different things to engage with our communities, ranging from bringing in dogs for law students to spend time with during stressful exam periods, to creating places for patrons to color and play with Legos, to creating contests and scavenger hunts—and of course providing free food of some sort, which always works best. The opportunities really are endless and a quick Internet search away (Pinterest is *full* of excellent ideas). Just have fun! ■

Notes

¹ [Editor’s Note: We are grateful to note that John Moore has also contributed an excellent article to this issue of *Law Library Lights*.]



From the Editor

Looking Forward and Looking Back

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Autumn is my favorite season in D.C.—and not just because we finally get some relief from the summer humidity. For law librarians, D.C. acquires new life in the fall, shaking off the sleepy doldrums of summer. Congress is back from the August recess, the Supreme Court starts its October term, academic classrooms are packed with new and returning law students, and the firms—well, the firms are just as busy as they always are.

This issue marks the sixtieth year that *Law Library Lights* has been in continuous publication, after its first appearance in September of 1957. If you've never explored the back catalog of issues indexed in HeinOnline, you are missing out on a fascinating—and occasionally amusing¹—record of what D.C.'s law librarians have been up to for all these years.

Notes

¹ There is some particularly entertaining commentary in that very first issue:

Wading through the flood of bills each Congress swamps us with has some compensation. We learn that S. Con. Res. 49, after saying some nice things about libraries, proposes March 16 – 22, 1958, be designated National Library Week. It will probably fall between Phone Home to Mother Week and Eat More Turnips Week, but still it's nice to have a week of our own.

Richard C. Dahl, ed., *Notes & Quotes*, 1 L. LIBR. LIGHTS 2 (1957). It would seem that our profession has always been blessed with a sense of humor.



Submission Information

If you would like to write for *Law Library Lights*, contact Andrew Lang at awl20@georgetown.edu. For information regarding submission deadlines and issue themes, visit the LLSDC website at www.llsdc.org.



From the Editor

Joking aside, it's interesting to see where we've been. In *Lights's* second issue (1957), a short summary was provided of the 50th AALL annual conference: "The meeting was one of the largest in the history of the Association with 315 from the United States, Canada, England and Hawaii [still a few years away from statehood] registering."² Today, AALL boasts about 5,000 members, and LLSDC alone has nearly 600. Back in 1957, LLSDC was also getting ready to host the AALL annual meeting—another task many of us are already starting to think about for 2019.

It's also interesting to think about where we're going. In this issue, we asked our authors to reflect on both the history and the future of LLSDC.

- After doing a deep dive into the *Lights* back catalog, Shannon Lynch reflects on Law Library marketing strategies, comparing tips from our 1988 volumes to the present day.
- John Moore provides a richly detailed history of D.C.'s Interlibrary Users Association union list and reflects on the continued value of these interdependent networks, even after our reliance on them has declined.
- In recent years the legal profession has started to come to terms with the particular demands that practicing law places on mental and emotional well-being. Cameron Gowan has provided an interview with Cameron Vann, who works for the Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program providing support for attorneys and legal professionals who face mental health and wellness challenges.
- SLA's 2017 Hall of Fame inductees, LLSDC's Larry Guthrie and New York's Leigh Hallingby provide companion articles. Larry reflects on experiences in LLSDC, while Leigh focuses on the ways interlibrary loan has changed while retaining the same spirit of cross-library collaboration.

For our regular columns, Matt Zimmerman returns for Volume 61 as our Tech Talk Columnist. In her LLSDC President's Column, Liz Schiller offers thoughts on learning from our history and outlines some of LLSDC's exciting new initiatives for the coming year. As the new editor, I'm grateful for the support of new Assistant Editor Anne Guha, and for the guidance of Immediate Past Editor Shannon Roddy. We hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

In our next issue, we will be exploring career pivots and the transferable skills that make these transitions possible. If you have survived crossing the academic-government-firm law library divides and would be interested in sharing your experience, we would love to hear from you! ■

Notes

² Madeleine Losee, *50th Annual Convention American Association of Law Libraries*, 2 L. LIBR. LIGHTS 2 (1957).



President's Column

Janus as Law Librarian

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Disclaimer: The views expressed herein are those of the author and are not presented as those of the Congressional Research Service or the Library of Congress.

As a former amateur historian,¹ I was giddy when I saw the theme Andy chose for this issue. I always preferred to study the philosophy of history to the collection of dates and anecdotes about any particular time period or place. I can happily pass an afternoon contemplating questions like: How does the past inform how we understand the present? Does relying on lessons from our past risk imposing limiting expectations on the future? How can we distinguish between worthwhile long-held principles and backward superstitions that persist only because of our collective aversion to change?

Perhaps as an example of being bound by my own past, I reflexively asked myself these questions about stepping into my role as President of LLSDC. At the AALL Annual Meeting, while the exhibit hall and educational sessions encouraged attendees to “Forgo the Status Quo,” I was in Chapter Leadership



No, this isn't an "after" photo of what a few years in the Madison Building of the Library of Congress will do to a young librarian. In lieu of the traditional chapter president photo, this is a picture of the Roman god Janus. His two faces—one looking forward and one looking back—allow him to serve simultaneously as the patron deity of both beginnings and endings.

Notes

¹ CV on file with author and available upon request.



President's Column, Continued

Training where I was reminded that LLSDC is the oldest chapter of our national organization. I came away from the Annual Meeting with lots of ideas for innovative projects (not to mention a wish list of new and exciting resources), but also aware that I was taking on responsibility for an organization with a past I wasn't yet part of and needed to understand.

I started by reading past issues of *Law Library Lights*, our esteemed publication currently in its 60th year. I initially focused on immediate practical concerns: What would I write about in the President's Column?² How many footnotes can I use?³ How many events constitute a successful year?⁴ Happily, *Lights* provided insight into these questions, as well as some of the more challenging ones I posed earlier. As I read about day-to-day challenges law librarians faced in their jobs, their hopes for and reservations about then-impending changes, and glimpsed into past members' personal lives in acknowledgements of the types of life events that can impact a career, several themes emerged, revealing what I believe are among the enduring core principles of our chapter.

First, change has been a constant theme in *Lights*, as it is in our profession. Numerous articles throughout *Lights'* 60 years expressed mixed feelings about change. There was no shortage of anxiety in response to change, especially as it relates to the implications of technological change on librarians' roles and perceived value. However, if you take the long view, you notice that what may have been anxiety-inducing changes in one season quickly becomes innovation, unlocking exciting new opportunities, and eventually even becomes the comfortable status quo.

While the specifics of changes we face may be unique, we are not the first to feel we are in the midst of a transformation. I propose that any reasonable understanding of our chapter's history doesn't merely permit us to adapt to our current circumstances, it compels us to do so. Our strongest tradition is one of reflection, resilience, and continued improvement. How lucky we are to inherit this legacy!

Notes

² Whatever I want, because I'm the President!

³ However many I want; I'm still the President! [editor's Note: While I love a good footnote as much as any other former student Law Review editor, see, e.g. Andrew W. Lang, *From the Editor*, 61 L. LIBR. LIGHTS 5, 5 n.1 (2017), this is technically not true; we do have some publishing limits].

⁴ It's entirely up to our involved members. If you have an idea for an event or would like to participate as a host or sponsor, please reach out to me or a relevant committee contact.



President's Column, Continued

The second theme that stuck out to me is a commitment to service. *Lights* contains countless examples of LLSDC members' commitment to serving their clients, our profession, and the communities we live and work in. We benefit from this thriving organization only because so many past members took advantage of their present moments to ensure the organization would continue into the future. It's important we don't take that for granted. I encourage you all to seek out the many opportunities LLSDC provides for you to participate in service activities, whether it's getting involved in service to the chapter or through the chapter.

With those principles in mind, here are some current association activities capturing our past, centering us in the present, and working to improve our shared future:

Archives Committee

Alicia Pappas is working on plans to digitize our chapter archives. This ambitious project is an important part of our commitment to be good stewards of our chapter's history. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Alicia Pappas at apappas@kpmg.com.

Mindfulness Training

Hannah Miller and Mitos Parabot, who have experience leading mindfulness programs at the Georgetown Law Library, generously offered to lead a mindfulness training event for LLSDC members. Keep a lookout for a forthcoming announcement from the Education Committee about what is sure to be a worthwhile event.

Social Responsibility Committee

While being responsible citizens is not new for our members, the Social Responsibility Committee is a new way we are formalizing and organizing these efforts. My most sincere thanks to the Executive Board for supporting me in setting up this new committee, as well as the members who have already reached out to volunteer their time. We are currently working on getting this committee staffed and running. Members who would like to get involved should contact Committee Chair Cameron Gowan at cgowan@jonesday.com. ■



A Collaborative Retrospective from DC and New York

Larry Guthrie and Leigh Hallingby comprise the 2017 Class of Inductees into the Hall of Fame of the Special Libraries Association. Larry has been a DC law librarian with Covington and Burling for 23 years and previously with George Washington University Law Library for 5 years.

Leigh was with the Open Society Foundations in New York for twenty years as well as other organizations advancing social causes for fifteen years previously. She continues to participate in SLA New York Chapter social events and leads walking tours of New York City neighborhoods.

LLSDC Recollections

Larry Guthrie

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For a yoga moment, if you stand up and hold your arm straight out ahead, then your fingertips are one step into the future and behind you is what the Beatles described as "the long and winding road" that leads to the here and now.

I became a librarian by the inspiration of my Tulsa neighbor, Joseph Mark Lauinger, who died in Vietnam and became the namesake of Georgetown's library,¹ and also Charles Boyd, a Green Beret in Vietnam, who "traded a rifle for a reference book" and became a librarian. To paraphrase Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., this "arc of [history which] bends towards justice" spans the peace protest in DC on November 15, 1969, of half a million to the Women's March of January 21, 2017 of comparable size.

Words of wisdom would be nice but perhaps recollections will suffice. Looking back at some of that long and winding road in LLSDC, of which I can speak back to 1989, I can say the legal material has changed somewhat, but the delivery systems have changed a lot. Law librarians navigate the

content regardless of the delivery system whether print or electronic.

Recalling those days in Interlibrary Loan (ILL) when most requesting was done by phone using the LLSDC Directory after consulting the print Union List of law reviews and state codes, it was an advance when everyone had voicemail to leave a message request. Some may recall using the pink message pads with the heading "While You Were Out" for writing down phone messages which ultimately evolved into emails.

Many of the requests back then were for the bound print volumes of law reviews. For general academic texts, OCLC (now WorldCat) has been a staple over the years but then had a rather clunky searching mechanism of 3,2,2,1 (three letters of the first word of the book title, two letters of the second word. etc.).² Other now virtually obsolete technologies of those days were typewriters, some remaining carbon paper forms, and rubber stamps for "rush" items. Just as the Eskimos proverbially have 50 different words for snow, so law librarians



have to interpret varied definitions of “rush”: ASAP; need it now; next few hours; nowish; as fast as humanly possible; etc. The speed of turnaround in academia and law firms have become comparable.

Back then, the epitome of legal research was an attorney seated at a library table with about 25 volumes of law reviews, codes, and secondary materials surrounding and a sign that said, “Do Not Reshelve for 3 Days.” Even though much research can be done remotely now, a surprising number of texts are still in print only, especially in international law, patent law, and insurance law.

When I started at the GW Law Library, Roberta Shaffer, who later became Law Librarian of Congress, displayed her artist's rendition of “Shreddie,” a volume of *Shepard's Citations* (still in print) once used to Shepardize cases and statutes for current status which was adeptly partially shredded so as to cascade from ceiling to floor like a waterfall.

Librarians have some of the most interesting avocations such as auxiliary policing, skeet shooting, equestrian sports, and performing arts; all of which are useful background in the practice of librarianship. Also, librarians are the most helpful professionals and willing to go the extra mile to assist fellow librarians. Interlibrary Loan with

organizations such as Open Society Foundations founded by George Soros where Leigh Hallingby was librarian are essential to law libraries.

Being with Covington for 23 years and following in the esteemed law librarian footsteps of Elizabeth Finley and Jack Ellenberger, both Inductees in the AALL Hall of Fame 2010 and immortalized in Howard Westwood's Covington & Burling 1919-1984.³ I have observed one of the most admirable qualities of law firm culture is the respect for senior partners. As lawyers attain senior status, the respect shown by their juniors is exemplary; and a quality which society at large could emulate. LLSDC provides wisdom, collegiality, opportunity, and good times and is a shining star to sister organizations such as Law Library Association of Greater New York (LLAGNY) and Special Libraries Association (SLA) and to its parent association, the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL). ■

Notes

¹ See *History of the Georgetown University Library*: Joseph Mark Lauinger, GEORGETOWN.EDU, <http://www.library.georgetown.edu/about/history/jm-lauinger>.

² See my article on OCLC Programmable Keys, Lawrence S. Guthrie II, *An Interlibrary Loan System Using OCLC Programmable Keys*, 1 J. INTERLIBRARY LOAN & INFO. SUPPLY 59 (1991).

³ HOWARD WESTWOOD, *COVINGTON & BURLING 1919-1984* at 93 (1986).

ILL: Inside and Outside the Box

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“Neither a borrower nor a lender be.”
—Polonius to Laertes in *Hamlet*

A bit of context for my ILL experiences and observations: I had a most interesting and

rewarding career for 35 years (1979-2014) as a non-profit librarian. The first three organizations for which I served as librarian dealt with single issues in the U.S.: human sexuality; children in poverty; and drug use and abuse. The nonprofit where I



spent the last twenty years of my career was the large international foundation of the financier and philanthropist George Soros, the Open Society Foundations (OSF). It awards grants on a huge range of issues which fall under the umbrella of “the open society;” including rights of minorities, promotion of democracy, and freedom of the press.

As soon as I became a librarian, I decided that I loved how the profession is based on sharing resources and on professionals helping one another. I was impressed right away by how many ILL organizations there were: Docline for medical journal articles; OCLC/First Search/WorldShare for everything, mainly from academic libraries; and Metro for ILL among New York metro area libraries. In addition to these wonderful and varied resources, I found that interlibrary loan took other forms too.

From the beginning of my career, I belonged to what might be called “micro interest” information professional associations. The first was APLIC, the Association of Population/Family Planning Libraries and Information Centers. That was the closest I could come to the human sexuality topic of the first library I managed. Later, when I was employed at libraries dealing with substance use and abuse, I was a member of SALIS (Substance Abuse Libraries and Information Centers). Members of APLIC and SALIS occasionally used these organizations’ email lists for what might be called “ILL of the last resort.” If there was a document or report that one of us could not come up with, we could always put out an electronic plea asking if any of our colleagues in the association might have it. And if no one did, then we knew that the reference to that document was probably faulty. The same was true later when I belonged to the Consortium of Foundation Libraries.

In the last twenty years of my career, at the Open Society Foundations, I actually used, in addition

to the established resources, what could best be called “shoe leather” for ILL. It happened that the OSF was located a few blocks from Fordham University at Lincoln Center; John Jay College of Criminal Justice (JJC); and Roosevelt Hospital, which all have libraries. In fact Fordham has two, both a general and a law library. If I had planned it, I could not possibly have come up with a more ideal set of local libraries, given that some of the foundation’s major initiatives include criminal justice reform as well as public health issues such as AIDS/HIV and drug use and abuse. It occurred to me that we OSF librarians might provide excellent ILL services to our staff by making photocopies at and borrowing books from those libraries. Fortunately my colleague, Wei Chang, and I were able to establish relationships with all of those libraries. JJC and Roosevelt Hospital did not charge us. We paid Fordham, the resource we used the most, a reasonable annual fee. Wei or I was at one of those libraries every week, and sometimes we were at one of them every day. Our relationships with the local libraries often enabled us to make an item available to a staff member within minutes or hours, rather than the days or even weeks that can be involved in ILL through WorldShare. When Wei and I got our library degrees, we might not have imagined a future of being messengers and of standing over copy machines in neighboring libraries, but we were always proud that our willingness to do these tasks enabled us to provide our customers with significantly better service.

One of the most important phrases I learned in my graduate library program (Columbia University 1979) was “access not ownership.” Those three little words are oh so true! We librarians can never collect everything we might need. Thus we need to be able to obtain many of the items our users request from other libraries. So let’s rephrase that famous quote from Hamlet to say: “BOTH a borrower and a lender be!” ■



A Conversation with Cameron Vann, Senior Staff Attorney, Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program

Cameron Gowan

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Can you tell us a little about yourself and how this conversation came about?

After a wonderful luncheon in Austin, Texas, after the Private Law Librarians & Information Professionals Annual Business Meeting, it occurred to me that some of the education I provide as an attorney at Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program (TLAP) might be helpful to law librarians nationwide. There is a lot of current research on the poor state of mental health in the legal community and just knowing what wellness strategies the research suggests helps each of us make a commitment to wellness—helping others in the legal community and ourselves. My name is Cameron Vann, and I attended the luncheon to enjoy my daughter, Cameron Gowan, then serving as Chair of the Private Law Librarians & Information Professionals Special Interest Section of the American Association, preside at the Annual

Business meeting, and I brought with me her one-month-old son Cameron. Believe me, this was a thrill for me!

Can you tell us a little about your path to working for the Texas Lawyer's Assistance Program and what you find particularly interesting or rewarding about this kind of work?

In most philosophies, religions, and professional development programs, the idea of helping others as a part of personal happiness is always recommended. If a law librarian asked me for wellness tips, I would be honored to share and feel positive about giving evidence-based research suggestions; hopefully the law librarian would feel positive about gaining information to take action. We both benefit. Every day I get to talk to law students, lawyers, judges, and other professionals



in the legal community—either by phone or in person—about solutions. At least weekly I receive invitations and get to make presentations to legal groups, lawyers, and related groups of legal administrators, paralegals, and legal service providers. I love doing all of it and my previous jobs trained me to do it well.

What are some of the most common challenges that you see attorneys facing with respect to their mental health and well-being? What kinds of services does TLAP provide for attorneys in Texas?

There is significant research about the poor state of mental health in the legal community. In the recent survey done by the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation and the American Bar Association, lawyers have reported suffering from the following issues: 21% alcohol, 28% depression, 19% anxiety, and 23% stress. This means the profession is barely sustainable and provides a loud wake up call. Research and brain science studies agree on the following strategies which The State Bar of Texas, Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program and most other bar associations recommend: (1) peer support, TLAP has 800 volunteers statewide; (2) group support, TLAP has Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers groups and Wellness groups in major cities, tlaphelps.org; (3) therapists who have helped lawyers statewide; (4) psychiatrists who have helped lawyers and assess medical needs. In summary, if an impaired lawyer practices these strategies consistently and daily, over time, recovery happens. One alone does not work, and impairment untreated can lead to suicide, which the legal profession has experienced more than most professions.

For many people it can feel uncomfortable to voice concern about another's mental wellness. What advice do you have for determining when and how it is appropriate to encourage a colleague to seek help?

As a result of this article it is hoped that law librarians everywhere and all legal professionals will feel safe about seeking self-help and making referrals of impaired lawyers, judges, and law students to each state's lawyer assistance program. Most programs (check your local bar association) are CONFIDENTIAL, CONFIDENTIAL, CONFIDENTIAL. Speaking as a former teacher, confidentiality must be emphasized as concerns about anonymity are the main deterrent to seeking help.

Another reason is concern that "someone might know there is a problem." Usually everyone already knows and lawyers do have a professional duty to report those unfit to practice under local statutes. Since assistance programs show care and concern for others and do not get anyone in trouble, at TLAP if you make a referral or want self-help, you do not have to give your name. Getting help with mental health issues—stress, anxiety, depression and alcohol/drug abuse—is our goal. TLAP is also voluntary; so if help is offered to an impaired lawyer who does not want help, that lawyer will know how to find confidential help when needed at a later time.

It is hard to ask for help and the thinking in the legal culture often is "it's none of my business." But it can be life-saving to ask for help and to refer others for help. In the practice of law our primary focus is helping clients, and for a lawyer to provide peak performance, mental wellness is the foundation. It is clear many times when a client is harmed by an impaired lawyer, but—as a



group—mental wellness is so important for top performance legal representation for every client and for everyone associated with the practice. The only wrong thing to do is to do nothing or say nothing. With a trusted colleague, speak up with care and concern, confidentially, observing their behavior that is different, and expressing willingness to do something, even if it is scary.

What do law librarians need to know about personal mental health?

Law librarians are vital to all parts of law practice and have the unique opportunity to see and know who needs help. First of all, help yourself to bring more serenity to a daily chaotic life. If you are practicing wellness, you can help others. Symptoms that something is wrong include: isolation, irritability, dramatic mood change, reckless behavior, insomnia, words of hopelessness, agitation, among many others.

What kinds of steps can we take to promote our own mental wellness?

A thumb-nail sketch of favorite tips for personal wellness in homework form (no grade, no test, but a promise you will be happier) includes the following:

1. Do something just for you, fun, enjoyable, spontaneous
2. Ask for help now; it can be hard to do, but you will feel better
3. You are good enough, and you cannot be perfect; strive for excellence instead
4. Set boundaries so you will not get overwhelmed; simplify

5. Make connections; being with people 1-on-1 and in groups causes a positive brain chemistry effect
6. Practice gratitude daily, antidote to negative thinking
7. Learn to relax, meditate, practice mindfulness (your mind being where you are)
8. Help others
9. Expand your consciousness, spirituality, or purpose of life
10. Laugh, don't take yourself or other things so seriously; funny books, movies, people

*Pick at least one, take small steps, but take action

Do you feel like the legal profession has changed with respect to how we handle mental health and wellness concerns?

Over the last three decades the mental health of legal professionals has declined proportional to the stress increase in law practice today. There is greater stress, more anxiety and depression, and an increase in alcohol abuse, prescription drug misuse, and use of illegal drugs. This change negatively affects the work of law librarians daily. There is a change, to a small degree, of lawyers speaking out about recovery, as seen in the Hazelden survey and recently published American Bar Path to Wellness. Now that you are reminded of a confidential, voluntary, never-cause-harm setting that welcomes any request for help, know there is a solution for everyone in the legal community so . . . help someone else; and help yourself!

Should any reader have any other questions, I invite you to contact me at my confidential direct work number 512-427-1457. ■



Birth, Life and Death of a Union List

John D. Moore

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Union lists combine the idea of a union catalog, which allows libraries to cooperatively share cataloging, with the sharing of holdings information. This greatly facilitates and eases interlibrary lending. In the early 1980s, I was a library technician in a special library which didn't subscribe to any union lists. I would cold call local libraries if I even thought they might have a book or journal. Usually this was the poor, beleaguered Brookings Institution. Union lists have been around for a long time, and their fortunes have risen and fallen with the fortunes of the libraries that support them. This is the story of the Interlibrary Users Association (IUA) union list. Its origin and growth was tied to the growth of computing technology, and its production and distribution changed as computers grew smaller and more nimble. Finally, with the rise of document delivery services, and the shuttering of many large special libraries, it passed from existence.

In 1964, the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab (APL) joined with three other libraries to create a union list of periodical literature in the burgeoning engineering and technology fields. This was one year after LLSDC's first union list, and three years before the founding of OCLC in 1967. The list was called Journal Holdings in the Washington-Baltimore Area. Within two years, 34 more libraries had joined.

During this period, large research institutions had big collections of periodical literature, access

to computing technology, and the recognition by researchers and librarians that the latter would be the only way to get control of the former. In the DC metropolitan area, the National Library of Medicine was leading the way in computer indexing of medical literature, and the presence of government contractors, academic research libraries and others with access to mainframe computers meant they would harness the power of the machines in pursuit of bibliographic ends.

Special libraries made up most of the IUA members. However there were also some larger academic, public, and federal agency libraries, such as the National Bureau of Standards, the University of Maryland Engineering and Physical Sciences Library, and Montgomery County Public Library.

APL continued to publish the union list, but a non-profit corporation was formed in 1972 to accomplish its production. The Interlibrary Users Corporation was chartered in the state of Maryland with a board of directors, articles of incorporation, a constitution and bylaws. For legal reasons, the corporation morphed into the Interlibrary Users Association, consisting of the member libraries, and with the same board of directors. Members were charged \$10 a year, and new members were charged a \$40 processing fee upon initiation. A new edition of the list was published in 1973. It was available only to members of the association.



By 1974, the association had grown to 59 members, and raised \$2,000 in dues. The union list had grown so large that a new publisher was sought to handle the large amount of data represented by the number of titles and holdings. The association contracted with Sigma Data Computing Corporation. A large amount of work was required to key the data and massage it to be useful on the new system. A member of the board was hired to do editing and enter each library's bibliographic information and holdings. The association continued to hire employees to produce the list during the rest of its existence. A staff person from each member library would bring their holdings and sit down with the data entry person to update the information. There was no remote login, no telecommunications link, and no Internet then. A year later, LLSDC would also have the third edition of their union list published by Sigma Data, the Union List of Legal Periodicals: Washington, D.C.

The membership of IUA had grown to 65 libraries by 1976, and the edition of Journal Holdings that year contained over 7,500 titles and 27,000 different entries. The list cost \$100 to members and \$150 to non-members. This cost compared very favorably with the cost of OCLC, and made interlibrary loans much easier. On the other hand, libraries had to do a great deal of work to gather their periodical titles and holdings information to submit to the association for each edition. In 1976 the association hired a law firm and acquired tax-exempt status.

The association had an annual meeting, where members could pick up the current edition, learn how to submit title and holding information for the new edition, and talk about matters of mutual interest. Guest speakers were sometimes invited to lecture on topics such as copyright law, for example. The editors of the 1977 edition included

librarians from National Institutes of Health, National Bureau of Standards, Goddard Space Flight Center, COMSAT, Mitre Corp., and Consumer Products Safety Commission. The fact that production of the union list was a team effort, that members were invited to attend meetings, and that interlibrary lending was a personal transaction usually conducted by telephone, meant that bonds of familiarity and friendship would be established. This in turn would contribute to the health and vitality of the association.

In a 1982 IUA newsletter, member libraries responding to a survey were using the following online services: Dialog (75%), ORBIT (53%), DTIC (43%), MEDLINE (24%), BRS (24%) and OCLC (22%). Does anyone remember who or what ORBIT or BRS were? The curious thing is how, compared to how Wikipedia treats other early tech firms, few articles describe these pioneering bibliographic databases, and even the article on Dialog includes references with broken links.

By 1985, IUA was having its union list distributed by the Metropolitan Washington Library Council and selling so many copies it was going into a second print run. It began looking for a new vendor to produce its next union list. In 1986 by way of contrast, LLSDC came out with Counsel:

“The fact that production of the union list was a team effort, that members were invited to attend meetings, and that interlibrary lending was a personal transaction usually conducted by telephone, meant that bonds of familiarity and friendship would be established.”



Consolidated Union Serials List, produced in a cooperative venture with CAPCON, the local OCLC regional network. CAPCON took bibliographic and holdings information from LLSDC member libraries who were part of both LLSDC and OCLC. Libraries which were not members of OCLC could have their holdings attached to OCLC records for purposes of production of the print union list. IUA, in the same vein, chose to partner with Faxon and to use Faxon's serials MARC records for the creation of their next list in 1988. IUA also won a proposal to take over production of MAGS: Metropolitan Area Guide to Serials, a union list of DC area public library periodicals holdings.

By 1994, the relationship between IUA and Faxon had terminated, and it was decided to end sales to non-member libraries, probably to avoid exposure to state sales tax. The departure from Faxon led to the end of the era of the IUA database running on a mainframe computer. Meanwhile, LLSDC's publication of Counsel ended with the publication of the 1992-1993 edition.

IUA continued to have occasional workshops and issue new editions. In 1996, IUA entered into a contract to port the database into Inmagic software, which would run on a Windows 95 microcomputer. Microcomputer is the term used to denote what in these days we call a personal computer. Inmagic continued to be the software used to maintain the database from that time forward. The Board also entered into a contract with a private individual to edit submissions of new titles and holdings, and wrangle the database into print pages capable of being inserted in a 3-ring binder. This may have been the high water mark for IUA in some respects. It had 57 member libraries, and the list had 16,657 serial titles, 34,782 holdings statements, and 1,458 cross-references. On the other hand, LLSDC during this time was moving away from a print union list and finding a way to provide web access to its data, the care and feeding of which had been contracted out to SIMA, Inc.

My association with the inner workings of the IUA began in 2000, when a board member asked if I would be interested in taking her place. Working with the board was fun, and we would share tasks like inputting a new member library's holdings and titles. IUA continued happily on for another ten years, but several trends in the library universe began to untie the cooperative of interlibrary lending that had supported its growth and nourishment. The first was the rise of document delivery services. The second was the cost of serials. Third was the pressure from sponsoring organizations to cut library ILL staff. Another may be that researchers, especially in the scientific and technical fields that formed the backbone of IUA membership, were finding new ways to conduct research and carry out scholastic communication. Faced with the alternatives, librarians decided to stop putting energy into updating their holdings, and eventually then chose not to renew their memberships. By the publication of the 2009-2010 edition, the membership had dropped to 36 institutions, and by 2011-2012, it was down to 31 institutions. The situation had become unsustainable. In 2013, the Executive Board decided to pull the plug on the organization.

The voluntary institutions that support library professional activities are like libraries themselves. They are organic beings, requiring funding and human energy to stay vigorous, useful and alive. Union lists are still relevant tools to librarianship, but require your support to survive. I suggest you continue to support LLSDC's General Legal Publications Union List by subscribing and keeping your holdings current, and by upholding the principle of library cooperation generally. ■

Author's Note: This article may have fudged a little bit of the history of LLSDC union listing. I would encourage someone with more complete experience or access to the relevant archives undertake to tell that story in the pages of Lights.



Member Spotlight

Have you recently changed positions? Received a promotion? Participated in any professional events, conferences, or symposiums? Retired? Published? Been elected to serve in a professional organization? Anything else? Let LLSDC know by submitting your news and announcements to our editorial team. Photos are always welcome!

Jorge Juarez

In September, Jorge Juarez started a new position as Reference Librarian & Instructional Services Coordinator at Georgetown University Law Library.

Yasmin Morais

In June, Yasmin Morais was appointed Chair of the Latin American Law Interest Group of FCIL for the two-year term 2017-2019. Also, as a member of the Latin American Law Interest Group, she has written a chapter entitled "Cuban Legal Materials in U.S. and Canadian Libraries", as a part of the *FCIL Guide to Cuban Law and Legal Research*, to be published shortly by Cambridge University Press.

Savanna Nolan

In September, Savanna Nolan started a new position as a Reference Librarian at the Georgetown University Law Library.



Member Spotlight, Continued

Department of the Interior Library Reopening

The Department of the Interior Library staff is pleased to announce the reopening of our modernized library space on Wednesday, October 4, 2017. The Interior Library has been closed for the past three years while the modernization of wing 1 of the building was underway, and operating from a temporary location, with most materials in offsite storage.

The modernized Library features a renovated Reading Room restored to the original historic appearance as when the Main Interior Building opened in 1937, and over 23,000 linear feet of high-density shelving on two reconstructed basement floors and on the main level. A meeting room on the main level has also been added. Books and other library materials have been returned from offsite storage and are ready for use once again by the Library's patrons. In addition, a portion of the main floor as well as the entire upper floor have been transformed into usable office space.



For more information about the Library, its events, and available services, please call the Library's Reference Desk at (202) 208-5815 or visit the Library's website at: <http://www.doi.gov/library>. Our catalog can be found [here](#); ILL requests have no cost but must be submitted through OCLC.

We invite you to come visit the Library, enjoy our renovated Reading Room and explore our newly added features. The Library is open Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays) from 7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Library can be accessed via the C Street lobby entrance, at [1849 C Street NW Washington DC 20240](#). Visitors must have photo ID and go through a security screening.

We will also host a grand reopening party—stay tuned for details! ■



Alma: A New ILS on the Horizon for WRLC and Georgetown Law

Matt Zimmerman

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Big change is coming for our region's academic law libraries. The Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC) is adopting a new integrated library system (ILS). Here's a quick timeline to get you up to speed:

- ▶ In 2016 WRLC chose [Ex Libris Alma](#) to replace Voyager. A number of our region's academic law libraries are joining the implementation.
- ▶ The implementation will officially get started in November 2017.
- ▶ By July 2018, WRLC should be up-and-running on Alma and Primo, Alma's catalog and discovery interface.

This is a milestone for my institution, Georgetown Law. We've been using Innovative Interface's ILS products for decades. It's mind-boggling to think about the work needed to prepare our data, merge our information into WRLC, revise related policies and procedures, retrain staff, configure Primo, and more. And then there's the emotional and psychological toll on library personnel. Some people are excited by change, others not so much. Neither attitude is right or wrong. A successful implementation will balance the drive to deliver something new and better with appropriate deliberation and attention to detail.

Tech Talk, Continued

WRLC seems to get this. In addition to various committees, task forces, and project management efforts focused on the Alma implementation, they're offering webinars on living with change. [The first one was in August](#) and another is coming up in October. One takeaway from the August webinar is especially relevant to a technological change like the Alma implementation. The webinar debunks the idea that "small, gradual changes are easier to make and sustain." Instead, "[r]adical changes are often easier because they remove 'backsliding' opportunities and quickly yield benefits."

This is consistent with my experience in development and system administration. I want my users to be happy. The temptation to compromise in the course of technological change is very strong, but you can end up in a hole supporting competing systems. Costs and frustration levels escalate quickly.

So I'm okay with making a clean break and switching to Alma by next summer. But I have a pretty open attitude to change. The August webinar told me that I am an "initiator," which means that I like variety and quick results. My usual reaction to dramatic change is excitement rather than anxiety. For example, I am super excited about Alma's application programming interfaces (APIs). Its robust APIs should give us more opportunities to write code that interacts with catalog data to automate library process and generally do cool stuff.

However, a lot of hard work needs to happen before we get to that point. My perspective is balanced by colleagues who are well-aware of the impact of merging our metadata records into the WRLC catalog, and the complexities of reworking our access policies, interlibrary loan services, and more for this new infrastructure.

Managing a change of this scope requires communication and outreach to the affected people. It's a lot easier to tolerate and support change if you feel like your voice and values are represented. This is my first real engagement with WRLC on a project of this kind, and it's been a reassuring one. They seem like experienced hands at working with their membership in a transparent, organized way. Alma implementation information is open to all staff at member institutions. Anybody can subscribe to [the newsletter](#). Staff at WRLC libraries are well-represented on Alma and Primo implementation teams, and all library personnel can speak up in an Alma discussion forum. Nevertheless, it's up to each institution to take the information and resources available through WRLC and E Libris and develop a change strategy that works for its own staff and patrons.

So, yes, it's going to be an interesting year for many of us. I'm looking forward to the official kickoff in November. I'm hoping to get into the Alma sandbox environment so I can really kick the tires and see what we're in for. Good luck, colleagues! Please get in touch if you have any questions or comments. ■



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