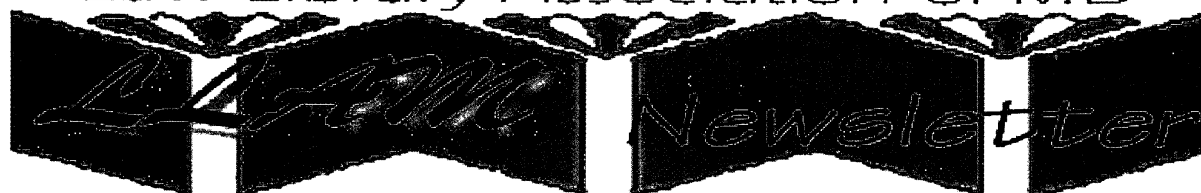


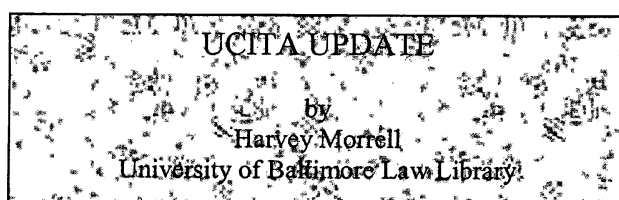
# Law Library Association of MD



Volume 19, Number 1

September 2000

A Chapter of the American Association of Law Librarians



As most of you know by now, Maryland enacted the Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act (UCITA) this past legislative session; it will become law on October 1, 2000. UCITA is a draft model law developed by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) that originally intended to be a revision to the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) (a body of law adopted in almost all of the states and territories of the United States to ensure consistent rules governing law from state-to-state). UCITA extends the UCC to regulate transactions involving intangible goods (such as computer software, online databases and other information products in digital form), which are not sold per se, but are based on "licenses" or licensing agreements that govern the "use" of the product.

UCITA was opposed by the American Law Institute, the Federal Trade Commission, the Attorneys General of 24 states (including Maryland), consumer groups, software customers, the entertainment industry and the education and library community. These groups were concerned about UCITA's shift in emphasis toward licensing of information and away from the sale of copies, as had traditionally been the case. Licensing enables a vendor of computer information to wield much more control of subsequent use of the product, control that has the potential to constrain the use of information for important public purposes, such as democratic speech, education, scientific research, and cultural exchange.

Another objectionable provision of UCITA was the notorious electronic self-help provision that allowed vendors to remotely disable software they sell to users if the vendor deemed the user had violated any of the licensing provisions. Of particular concern to libraries and the educational community was the transfer restriction provision of section 21-503, which has the potential chilling effect on the fair use and the first sale doctrine.

At the urging of the Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's office and 4CITE (<http://www.4cite.org/>), an anti-UCITA coalition to which AALL and LLAM belonged, the General Assembly did make some cosmetic changes on UCITA, but the act is far from perfect. This has been noticed (belatedly) by the Governor's Information Technology Board, which has recently reconvened the UCITA Committee Workgroup to measure the impact of UCITA on small businesses, software publishing vendors, Maryland retailers and libraries and universities. Over the next several months this workgroup will be collecting data before presenting recommendations to the full Technology Board. As a member of the workgroup, I will be collecting data from libraries once we have decided what information to collect. You may want to get a head start by looking over some of your licensing agreements and making notes of any egregious provisions. With your help we may be able to convince the legislature to make an amendment to allay our copyright concerns.

# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

**Ginger J. Gerton**  
Ober, Kaler, Grimes  
& Shriver Library

Late summer to early fall is always a time of transition. Students return to school, summer associates have departed, new fall associates are arriving, people are coming back from vacation and getting ready to gear back up. I hope that this upcoming year can be the start of a season of transition for our own organization as well. One of the goals this year is to continue to assess our ever-changing membership needs. The library profession has been in constant transition. We are not the "book dusters" we once were. Our staffs must be well educated in computer, research and service skills. Our roles as librarians and library staff have changed. We must constantly be assessing new approaches to gathering and delivering information services to our patrons. As a group we will be working on a strategic plan for LLAM. I have outlined below excerpts from the draft version of the LLAM Strategic Plan. The plan is available in full-text on the LLAM web page at <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/llam/plan.htm>.

## Vision:

Our vision is for LLAM to play a leading role in the development of law libraries and law librarians. Our diverse membership has the skills and experience to evolve in a constantly changing legal environment.

## Membership Needs:

### Administrative Goals

- Clarify relationship with AALL
- Strengthen financial status
- Prepare Chapter Operating Manual to define specific functions of the committees and their relationship to the board
- Review of by-laws

### Professional Goals

Ensure effective ongoing communication among members, the Board and committees

- Advance the cause of law libraries/librarianship as professionals whose members are central to their institutions
- Promote involvement with professional associations in the library and legal communities
- Provide opportunities for ongoing education, skill development and professional development among members
- Promote role of librarians as legal research experts and trainers
- Develop and promote use of core competencies for law libraries
- Participate in ensuring access to electronic legal and government records
- Participate in advocacy process and develop support for government relations activity to increase awareness of legislative issues
- Work in conjunction with CRIV to encourage fair business practices in the legal publishing industry
- Preserve access to historical materials

## Social Networking Goals:

- Provide a variety of topical meetings for all levels of membership in a variety of locations
- Facilitate interactions with other chapters and local library organizations
- Provide opportunities for all members to meet and express mutual concerns

As members of our library community, please take the time to review the document and make any suggestions. What are your goals for the library you work in? What are your professional goals for the upcoming year? Do you want to brush up existing skills or learn new skills; do you want to publish an article in your area of expertise; do you want more opportunities to network? Please send any comments or additions to [gigerton@ober.com](mailto:gigerton@ober.com) or to any member of the LLAM board.

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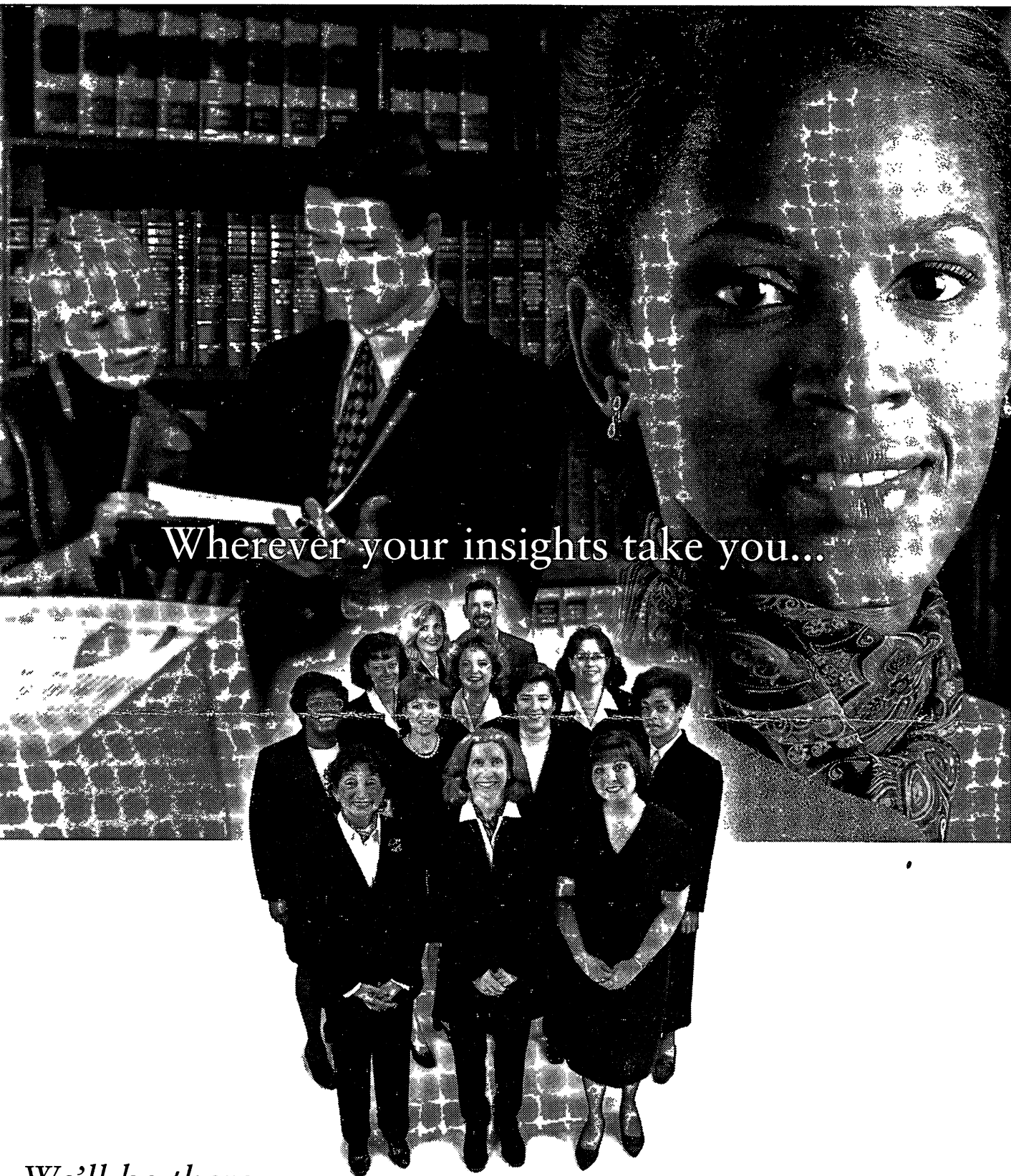
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## A Visit to the 2000 Special Libraries Association Conference

Steve Anderson  
Gordon Feinblatt Rothman  
Hoffberger and Hollander Library

This June I was fortunate to attend this year's SLA Conference, which, like AALL's Annual Meeting a month later, was held in Philadelphia. I enjoy SLA's conference programs because they emphasize technology development and management, and the offerings at the 2000 Conference certainly did not disappoint.

The first speaker I heard was Carol Kinsey Gorman at the luncheon for Sunday's "Leadership Development Institute." Gorman discussed the concept of "change management" – how WE librarians should be controlling and planning for technology changes, rather than letting technology overwhelm and control us.

Many other programs highlighted technology innovation. Monday's "High Tech vs. High Touch: The Outlook for Human-Based Information Support in the Digital Age" demonstrated that human intermediaries will always be an integral component of the research process. Therefore, even if corporations purchase expensive new "knowledge management" software, there will be a continuing need for corporate librarians.

Another Monday program on "Hot Technologies" presented speakers from Northern Light, Microsoft and Westlaw. All of them predicted that in the near future information would be accessible anywhere, from wireless Palms to Rocket E-Books.

Wednesday's "Hot Technology for Information Transfer," co-starring formerly Piper Marbury Rudnick & Wolfe librarian **Tom Fleming**, detailed similar themes.

However, Fleming emphasized many futuristic technology theories, such as "molecular" computing, online videoconferencing and the rise of "knowledge engineers." These ideas – and many others he mentioned – are sure to arrive faster than we can now imagine.

There were plenty of practical, "hands-on" internet programs, too. Mary Ellen Bates, an independent business researcher who spoke at a LLAM program two years ago, gave an excellent program on how to find basic business information on the web. An outline of her presentation is available at <http://www.batesinfo.com/sla-super-searcher.pdf>. Her approach is to look for corporate information in company websites, search engines, Edgar filings and business meta-sites, such as <http://www.corporateinformation.com>.

"60 Sites in 60 Minutes" (available at <http://insurance.pro2net.com/x15251.xml>) also provided plenty of information about some of the handiest websites, including one (<http://www.guidestar.org>) which an attorney happened to ask me about the very day I returned to the office! It certainly was a help to rely on the expert analysis of fellow librarians – it enabled me to add this link to our intranet within minutes.

There were too many other excellent programs to mention here, let alone attend in person. Although it's always great to listen to colleagues from other law libraries, it's also worthwhile to hear the need of – and find ideas from – librarians working in many other fields: news organizations, hospitals and industrial corporations, to name just a few. It's especially interesting to keep track of all the rapid changes in information technology, too. I'm looking forward to next year's SLA Conference already.

## WEB BUZZ

Kevin Otten  
Ober, Kaler, Grimes and Shriver  
Library

From time to time, new, self proclaimed, "next generation, innovation, necessitation, salvation" websites come along to stir commotion and "change the way we see the world online." This section is intended to review and evaluate these sites to find out just how useful they may be.

The latest buzz comes from a new site called TheLaw.net, which has been heavily promoted and flaunted around law firms. The new site, claiming to save hours of research time and tons of money for all practitioners, depends on the lack of our researching skills as professionals. This is not to take anything away from the site. It sounds very useful for those who would prefer to pay out for these services. At such an inexpensive price, claimed to be in the vicinity of \$295 per year for a single user<sup>1</sup>, I'm sure many companies will find it beats using their employees' valuable time. Plus the fact that it would obviously provide many more links than most intranets could provide, considering TheLaw.net probably has a few more people doing research than most law libraries can boast; sarcasm intended. But most libraries, contrary to even our own belief, have kept up with the trend to try to do it all online and can already say that we have intranet pages capable of satisfying attorneys, paralegal's and even ourselves, minus a handful of updates and additions per month.

In addition, it's a more comfortable environment when you see an organized list of links in front of you and remember where it was you found a similar answer last week. Having quality sites we trust are far more important than the pride in saying that you know 500 different ways to find the same answer. The best sites can be found by a good researcher and by word of mouth, which is what companies depend upon. As long as good communication is kept up and you let others know about that great new site you found the other day, finding the answer isn't as frustrating as searching under the word "statute" and finding yourself looking at some poor spelling sculptors' rendition of Michaelangelo's David.

In summary, TheLaw.net can be of excellent use to those companies who may not have any way to separate the good from the bad. However, to those who have already spent time doing research and evaluation of sources, it's just another program with a vast amount of information which could be deemed unnecessary depending on the quality of their own intranet help page.

<sup>1</sup><http://www.thelaw.net/subscribe.html>, (8/24/00)

Three LLAM members were in the spotlight as speakers at the annual meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries in Philadelphia. On Monday, July 17, 2000, Steve Anderson was the moderator of a double session entitled "Librarians Taking the Lead in Copyright Reform in the New Millennium." Unfortunately, I had a conflict and missed Part I, but Part II, which focused on the new federal Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) and the Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act (UCITA) efforts in the states, two subjects of much interest in the Attorney General's Office, provided much valuable information on a difficult subject.

By this time, all of us know better than to circulate multiple photocopies of newsletters but the new digital world in which we live has made many changes to the concept of copyright. (Just look at the recent litigation involving Napster.) Laura Gasaway, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Law Library, began by giving a brief history of copyright in the United States. In 1909, the term copyright was 56 years; in 1976, it went to life of the author plus 50 years; in 1998, life plus 70 years. The DMCA made changes to section 108 of the Copyright Act (the section that affects libraries) in order to cover works in digital format. Among the changes: libraries can make up to three copies for preservation; works to be reproduced must currently be in the collection; a notice of copyright must be on the copy; if reproduced in digital format, the copy cannot be made available outside the premises of the library (ambiguous); and preservation copying formerly limited to damaged, deteriorating, lost or stolen works where a replacement copy was not available at a fair price now can be done if the copy's format has become obsolete.

Steve Anderson spoke on UCITA, of special interest to Marylanders because Virginia and Maryland were the first states to pass it. This statute contains many disadvantages to libraries and other consumers: it replaces the public law of copyright with the private law of contracts; terms of the contract become binding when the user clicks on the software; if the user violates the contract, the provider can immediately shut down access; and there are problems with the duration of the license. Steve suggested keeping a link to the license, printing out and dating a copy of the license, printing out and dating a confirmation and educating library users. He also spoke about a recent problem with the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) which has sent out letters to law firms threatening litigation to those who make copies without permission. The CCC did not mention fair use; i.e., there are conditions under which libraries may make one copy. Bob Oakley, incoming president of AALL, contacted the CCC asking them to stop sending this kind of letter and to cut down on the number of phone calls. Steve also reminded the audience to be sure that firms have a copyright policy in place.

The third speaker, Carol Billings, Law Library of Louisiana, spoke of the necessity of educating staff and library users, spelling out the library's rules and policies and explaining restrictions on licensing. She also emphasized the importance of driving a hard bargain with providers, insisting that license agreements should not restrict the rights of users but should recognize the rights of both licensor and licensee and that the library should not be held liable for unauthorized use by patrons. Librarians also have a responsibility to advocate good public policy.

On Wednesday, July 19, 2000, Ginger Gerton and Tom Fleming spoke at a program entitled "Unlocking the Gates: Why and How the Library Should Be Involved in the Firm's Conflict-Checking Process". The first speaker, Rochelle Cheifetz from a New York law firm, provided an introduction to conflicts-checking, why it is necessary and why it should be a library function – libraries have the resources to do the checking and librarians understand how to do research and how to ask questions. Ginger provided the nuts and bolts: how information is gathered, procedures for conflicts determination and resolution and skills and attitudes needed by those doing the checking. Unfortunately, as the final speaker, Tom was a victim of time. His subject was conflicts-checking when two firms merged. He spoke briefly on the importance of developing a plan and putting everything in writing. Both he and Ginger had good handouts that can be used as checklists by anyone taking on this function.

In the AALL annual meeting program, the prerequisite for attending this program was as follows "Participants should have a basic understanding of the conflicts-checking process." With that as the criterion, I had no right to be in the room. However, by the end of the program, I had a good understanding of what was involved. Although it is extremely unlikely that I will ever be called on to organize such a program, I am always interested in hearing about what other librarians do.

The Maryland law library community can be very proud of their excellent speakers who shared their expertise with the attendees at this year's annual meeting.

## LLAM Members Shine At AALL Annual Meeting

**Beverly Rubenstein**  
*Attorney General's Office*

### DEADLINE

The deadline for the December 2000 issue of the LLAM Newsletter is November 22, 2000. For submissions, call Sheri Ripley at (410) 230-7123 or e-mail [saripley@ober.com](mailto:saripley@ober.com).

# LLAM NEWS

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Elizabeth Rhodes  
University of Baltimore Law  
Library

**September 14, 2000:** What We Wish They Knew  
Summer associates, brand new lawyers, and law students descend upon libraries with pesky gaps in practical knowledge. What can we do? Bring your gripes and ideas to a brown bag open discussion between firm, government and academic librarians.

**October 2000:** Harvey Morrell, Esq., Past President of LLAM and Circulation/Reference Librarian at the University of Baltimore will discuss UCITA.

**November 2000:** W. Miles Cole, Esq. of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce will give a presentation on lobbying.

**December 2000:** LLAM Annual Holiday Party. Keep your eye out for more information as it becomes available.

All questions, comments and RSVP's should be made to Elizabeth Rhodes at (410) 837-4595 or e-mail [erhodes@ubmail.ubalt.edu](mailto:erhodes@ubmail.ubalt.edu)

## COMINGS & GOINGS

- The library staff at Piper, Marbury, Rudnick and Wolf would like to say so long and farewell to Head Librarian **Tom Fleming**. Tom left us in mid-July to develop his Internet consulting business. Good luck Tom, we will miss you.
- The library staff at Piper, Marbury, Rudnick and Wolf would like to welcome **Monica Luciano** to our library staff. Monica has an MLS degree and recently left a teaching position with Howard County schools to join us. Monica has an extensive background in legal research. Please join us in welcoming Monica to the Baltimore Law Library Community.
- Greetings from Florida!!! Just a quick note to thank you all so much for your professional support and more importantly your friendship. The two years that I worked for LEXIS Publishing as a Regional Information Manager, Library Liaison were certainly the most rewarding. Working in the Baltimore community really allowed me to grow professionally. I really appreciate your willingness to share your professional knowledge with me while allowing me to share with you as well. Librarianship is alive and well in Maryland! Thank you all again for your support and friendship. I wish you all continued success with your careers. Please e-mail me if time permits. I would love to hear from you all! ([suzannehbailey@aol.com](mailto:suzannehbailey@aol.com)). Your Friend,  
**Suzanne Bailey**
- We want to welcome **John Fries** back to the Baltimore library community. He is now at Whiteford Taylor. Welcome Back!

## UPDATE

To Members of the Maryland Library Community:

This letter is to inform you about our progress in correcting a current situation with our Maryland databases. As you may be aware, the LEXIS-NEXIS search engine currently recognizes the word "my" as an equivalent for the word "Maryland." As a result, our search engine will retrieve any document containing the word "my" when a search is performed using the word "Maryland." Obviously, these documents are not always on point.

To correct the situation, we must remove the equivalency from our search engine, and reload the majority of our data. Although this may sound like a simple task, in fact, it is a huge undertaking. However, we are pleased to inform you that this process is currently underway, and we expect it to be completed by September 30, 2000. We appreciate the efforts of the Maryland Library Community in bringing this problem to our attention, and we apologize for any inconvenience caused by this error.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 1-800-227-9597 X4897, or [elizabeth.mason@lexis-nexis.com](mailto:elizabeth.mason@lexis-nexis.com).

**The Baltimore Bar Library** recently went on-line with its web-site ([www.barlib.org](http://www.barlib.org)). The site includes a brief history of the Library as well as its hours of operation, holiday closings and member services. A complete listing of the Library's law reviews (including scope of coverage); bar association newsletters; videotapes; and CD-ROMs may be linked to. Visitors to the site may also access the last several months of the Library's Subject Index to Recent Law Reviews/Journals received by the Bar Library. A list of the Library's board of directors and staff is set forth along with a calendar of events. At this point, the Library's catalog is not electronically available, but preliminary discussions are underway concerning the conversion of the catalog to an on-line public access catalog. Anyone who visits the web site and has suggestions of comments on how it could be improved is asked to e-mail us at [baltimorebarlibrary@barlib.org](mailto:baltimorebarlibrary@barlib.org)

## CONGRATULATIONS

At the annual staff meeting of the Attorney General's Office, Beverly Rubenstein received an Exceptional Service Award and a standing ovation. The citation reads, "for diligent service and outstanding commitment to the State of Maryland and of Office of the Attorney General."



## PERSPECTIVE OF A BROKEN FOOT

Ruth Hodgson

Just five days before the start of the AALL convention in Philadelphia, I stepped out of my car onto a rock and broke that small protruding bone on the outside edge of my left foot in two places. In no time at all, I was in a hard cast up to my knee. Little did I know that this temporary disability would cause me to see the convention and life in an entirely new light.

At first, I was inclined to stay home and forgo the convention, but my husband, who enjoys the convention as much as I, convinced me to give it a try. Sure, what did he care. He wasn't the one walking like Long John Silver in a cast. My husband walked around the city, toured Independence Hall, saw the Liberty Bell and experienced other local attractions. Not me!!! I was lucky to make it to the hotel bar. Of course, the real reason my husband likes the convention is because of the West party. He likes to call it the highlight of his social season. Well, thanks a lot hon. Have you tried dancing without bending your ankle, and on one leg that's two inches longer than the other is? But really, "hubby's" not all that bad. He never walked so far ahead of me that I lost sight of him.

There were advantages, too. My forlorn, laboring gait provided me with a great conversation piece. Many people, both friends and strangers, would approach and ask what I had done. This was very kind of them and I didn't mind. But after a while, I felt I should make my life sound a bit more interesting. I thought of all kinds of ways I could have broken my foot. I did it rollerblading. My parachute didn't open. You shoulda seen the other guy.

It also brought home to me the everyday difficulties that confront those of us with permanent disabilities. The halls become very long and a stairway is a terrible barrier. I found myself choosing agenda programs, not for their content, but for their proximity to my present location. I was also moving at a slower speed than the rest of the world. Walking down a hallway, all others speed away at their normal pace. It was like being on the bridge of the Starship Enterprise when it kicked into warp speed and the stars became streaks of light into the distance. Beam me up, Scotty! Please!

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As Publications Chairperson, Anne Morrison-Low, Assistant Librarian at Venable, Baetjer & Howard, will be taking on the daunting task of updating the LLAM Union List of Periodicals. We expect the new edition to be available at the LLAM web site.

Bill Grady, who orchestrated, edited and produced the 1992 edition, has warned that a comprehensive update will not be possible without the full cooperation and contribution of all LLAM members.

Before embarking on this task, Anne would like to hear from any members who might have suggestions and ideas relating to this project, including comments as to its feasibility in the light of vastly increased access to library holdings via the internet. Please forward comments to Anne via e-mail at [damorrison-low@venable.com](mailto:damorrison-low@venable.com).

**LLAM has a new website.** As the technology committee chair, Kevin Otten's goal was to add a brand new look and feel. He has added some resources to the page to make it work checking out regularly. First, he hoped to achieve a more professional layout starting with a subtler feel, softer colors and adjusted fonts. Next, new graphics were created site-wide, as well as a logo that he hopes catches the eye.

On the homepage, you'll find a jump menu, which remains there throughout navigation for quick access anywhere. Important contacts are listed on the sidebar. Please let him know if he's missed any heavily used addresses that may be necessary to include on the front page.

A few new sections have been added thus far. The "News Sources" section has been added to provide a list of useful sites you might visit if you are interested in the latest news concerning all types of libraries nationwide, covering issues ranging from library developments to technology updates and even library humor. The "Listserv" section includes information on subscribing to our own listserv as well as a list of others you may be interested in joining. "Professional Development" contains links to sources covering the topic. Finally, there will be a "Member Comments" section where responses and comments to any issues, current events, LLAM newsletter articles, or LLAM functions will be posted.

Also, the "Newsletter" section has been renamed "Publications". The new section still houses the old newsletters, as well as the downloadable *Maryland County Publications Checklist* in PDF format.

Please spare a few minutes to look over the site. Kevin is very interested in your thoughts and suggestions. He can be reached at (410) 230-7182 or email [kdotten@ober.com](mailto:kdotten@ober.com). Thank you for your time.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## AALL to Sponsor a Professional Development Program

When : Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Where : Washington DC

What : Functional Space Planning/Evaluation for  
Law Firm and Corporate Law Libraries : Maximize  
Your Library Space

This full-day program will assist the law firm and corporate law librarian to meet the challenges of making sure that they have just the right amount of well-designed space to provide stellar information services. Whether designing totally new space, or expanding or contracting an existing facility, the librarian must be prepared. The accent will be on up-front analysis of services, collections and, of course, technology. What do you have, and what do you need to support the modern information center? How do you present your findings to management, facilities, the architect/space planner and whomever else may be involved in this ongoing exercise? While design elements will be discussed, the main emphasis is on project preparation and assisting the librarian in balancing the functional needs against aesthetic/architectural and budget realities during the process.

Participants will learn to :

- Identify the full spectrum of issues that they will face in preparation for and implementation of a library redesign, or just the daily need to justify space;
- Prepare legitimate space needs assessment, by reviewing the many areas of concern prior to planning for the actual space;
- Identify areas within the library that are ripe for interim adjustment;
- Identify the various types of shelving, workstations, and specialized library furniture;
- Recognize the importance of the level of infrastructure needed to support the required electronic dissemination of information;
- Read a floor plan, review shop drawings, and millwork drawings;
- Identify "Things To Look For" in construction phases of the library design; and
- Prioritize requirements for actually relocating into the new space.

Registration: For registration information, contact Mary Jawgiel, AALL Education Manager, at (312) 939-4764

## New Edition Printed "Blue Book - Bible of the Legal Researcher"

The 17<sup>th</sup> Edition of "The Blue Book - A Uniform System of Citation" is now available from the Harvard Law Review Association. The cost is \$12.00 per copy and can be obtained from Gannett House; 1511 Massachusetts Avenue; Cambridge, MA 02137.

## AALL Partners With LEXIS Publishing to Establish Research Fund

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) is pleased to announce formation of the AALL Research Fund, an endowment established with a \$100,000 pledge from LEXIS Publishing. The fund will provide a secure financial base, enabling the AALL Research Committee to carry out the Association's Research Agenda. That Agenda encompasses research in the major topic areas of Provision of Legal Information Services, Law Library Collections, Legal Research, the Profession of Law Librarianship and Law Library Administration. (For a copy of the Research Committee's complete agenda, see [www.aallnet.org/committee/research/agenda.html](http://www.aallnet.org/committee/research/agenda.html))

The Research Fund will provide grants to library professionals who seek to conduct research that is critical to the profession. Eligibility requirements for the grants will be based on criteria established by AALL.

## New Scholarship Announced

A new scholarship, created with a donation from AALL member Marcia Koslov, was established in 2000 to encourage law librarians to attend the Institute for Court Management, the premier educational program for court administrators sponsored by the National Center for state Courts, Williamsburg, Virginia.

This program will award scholarships each year and is jointly administered by the Scholarship Committee and the State, Court & County SIS.

## A Note From the Editor

I want to take the opportunity to publicly thank Anne Morrison for her support and help with this issue of the LLAM Newsletter. Having had lots of support and help with this issue, and I am not sure how you ever did this all by yourself!!! Thank you.

With this issue, I have made several changes to the format of the newsletter. I am interested in hearing from you. Did you like or dislike this format? What would you like to see included or excluded? Do you have any suggestions for changing the newsletter? Also, suggestions for articles or articles that you have written are greatly appreciated. The deadline for the December issue is November 22, 2000. I can be contacted at (410) 230-7123 or via email [saripley@ober.com](mailto:saripley@ober.com). Thank You!

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Kevin Otten  
*Ober, Kaler, Grimes and Shriver  
Library*

## Replacement Copies?

As some burst and others are dragged across the threshold of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we find two sides to the divisional split between those checking our books, and those who download them.

Is this really where we're heading? Marquette University<sup>i</sup> has already decided to cut the transitional state and move full speed ahead with its new "cyber-library", containing CDs, computer presentations, live videoconferences and of course plenty of old-fashioned ... old? That word just doesn't fit. So that's the plan, leave the books in the old building; the new one doesn't need them. Are books just "unwelcome interlopers(s)" in tomorrow's library?

Most traditional librarians would gasp at this prospect. For that matter, most *people* would be offended at the thought. Should we actually be expected to browse through the hundreds of search engines and websites to find our answers?

E-books are becoming popular; especially most recently with Stephen King's heavily promoted attempt at his online self-publication<sup>ii</sup>. Also along with almost every newspaper and magazine offering issues online, libraries across the country seem to be inching towards the point where our idea of a librarian becomes an advanced "411" information line or computer automated support. And to sway those who refuse to read a book from a bright screen, companies are rushing to get products on the market that make e-books online look exactly how they would in print.

Honestly, I think even the most far-fetched cyber-dreamer would have to agree that readers are far too stubborn to give up their dusty bound gems just yet. But what about future generations who will grow up using their home PCs to pull everything from research notes for an exam to the latest his song from some pop queen? Even then, books are probably too much of a cornerstone in civilization for us to ignore altogether. As Michael Fragnito, VP of e-Books for barnesandnoble.com says, "I see people in the future treating e-books like they do the microwave. It's great for certain applications, but we don't cook our Thanksgiving dinner in them. Electronic books simply offer another alternative."<sup>iii</sup>

Although it is still highly debatable as to which direction we are being taken by the "World's Wild Web", as usual, it will still be a slow transition for most, and maybe a big risk for others.

Let's go back and look at the pros and cons. What can we get out of this new "online library"? Well, for starters, libraries could soon allow 24-hour access.<sup>iv</sup> Books can be checked out by downloading, then deleted automatically upon their due date. That means no more late fees or hassles with irresponsible patrons and no more wasted trips to find something that isn't available. Also, if you know what you're doing, it can be much quicker to go to the Internet to find answers rather than searching through book after book.

And there we pick up on the cons. You absolutely *must* know what you're doing. There is such a vast amount of information available online that you really must decide which sites you trust. It can be dangerous to just type a word in a search engine and go to the first hit. You should be sure that you get information from a reliable source. That's the beauty of keeping beloved human librarians around. A librarian is a researcher's bus driver on the information superhighway. A real person you can actually hug and thank with wonderful gifts when they pull your frustrated head off a keyboard or find that elusive answer you needed in the book you were using as a footrest. And of course, the one thought in everyone's mind ... Why fix something that isn't broken? Nobody seems upset with books. Nobody thinks using books is just for those who are not familiar with computers. You could argue that it's just another way for software companies to make more money off brand new products, but it seems that it is as simple as this - books are just the next obstacle standing in the path of our beloved "Digital World".

It is not necessary to take a stand. It is not necessary to reject these innovations. It's as easy as sitting back and watching what happens. Do things how you are comfortable doing them and when a new way presents itself and it looks good, take advantage.

(All research for this article was done online)

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<sup>i</sup><http://www.chicagotribune.com/leisure/tempo/printedition/article/0,2669,SAV-0007260142.html>, 7/27/2000

<sup>ii</sup><http://www.stephenking.com>, 8/8/2000

<sup>iii</sup><http://www.libraryhq.com/News/article2.html>, 8/1/2000

<sup>iv</sup><http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/lib25.html>, 7/28/00

## BEVERLY'S CORNER

Beverly Rubenstein  
Maryland Attorney General's  
Office

## TRIPLE PLAY: BLISS TO MALL TO LLAM

In 1980, sixteen law librarians from the Baltimore area met to form a group called BLISS for the purpose of exchanging information and ideas, planning cooperative projects and getting acquainted with one another. During their first year, they adopted a Statement of Purpose, held educational programs, published a newsletter and compiled a union list of periodicals. In 1981, BLISS continued to hold monthly meetings: a tour of the Baltimore Police Department Library; a meeting focusing on the Government Reference Service at the Enoch Pratt Free Library; a tour of the new University of Maryland Law School Library with a demonstration of DIALOG; and a tour of the Army Corps of Engineers Library. Yvonne Harris came to Semmes, Bowen and Semmes, Ann Van Hassel came to the University of Baltimore Law School Library and Maureen Walsh David (now and Assistant Attorney General) became the new librarian at Whiteford, Taylor and Preston. Anna Cole, Barbara Gontrum and Loretta Yaller all had babies that year. On a more professional note, BLISS, which lost out on its bid to host the 1981 annual AALL pre-conference institute, had a booth at the conference and handed out little red crabs to bring attention to Maryland and Maryland law libraries.

By the beginning of 1982, with all these accomplishments under their belts, BLISS members felt the need for a more formalized structure, with officers and by-laws. Some wanted BLISS to become a chapter of AALL. Today, with so many LLAM members active in AALL, its SISs and committees and with LLAM's recent hosting of the AALL annual meeting, this idea seems like a no-brainer, but, at the time, it proved controversial. The controversy seemed to swirl around the issue of the relationship between the new Maryland chapter and the established Law Librarians' Society of Washington D.C., to which many Maryland law librarians belonged. In the May, 1982 (v.25, no.4) issues of *Law Library Lights*, Pam Gregory, then president of the D.C. chapter, wrote, "A group within our group is contemplating becoming a chapter. Jim Rouse has made Baltimore such a beautiful city that some of our colleagues there don't want to commute to Washington for meetings ... Those librarians in favor of immediate chapter formation comprise mostly private law firm librarians who have met informally in the past two years ... the academic community wished to take part in the decision making and participate in meetings ... Regardless of their organizational structure, our chapter looks forward to many happy years of professional contact and achievement, resource sharing, and better Baltimore law libraries."

### REMINDER

Don't forget to **RENEW** your membership the LLAM. Please send the renewal form and dues to Barbara Karpel, Baltimore Bar Library, 100 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore MD 21202

In reply, Kai-Yun Chiu wrote a letter to the editor of *Law Library Lights* explaining the reasons behind this desire for affiliation with AALL and reassuring LLSDC members that Maryland law librarians would continue membership in the D.C. chapter. "In the years to come, I am certain that members from this newly formed group, singularly and as a group, will continue to work closely with and within the Law Librarians' Society. There is much to learn from a well-established organization such as the Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C. I am sure that members of this new group will join me in looking forward to a congenial and long lasting working relationship with the Society in a truly professional spirit," she wrote diplomatically.

A packet of information, along with a ballot was sent to all BLISS members. The packet included a history of BLISS, position papers for and against organizing the new chapter and a proposed constitution and by-laws modeled after those of other AALL chapters. A position paper in support of becoming an AALL chapter was written by Nina Ogden, then librarian at Frank, Bernstein, Conaway and Goldman. (We know what happened to Frank, Bernstein; does anyone know where Nina is now?) In it, she wrote about "an active and mature group ready to strengthen the American Association of Law Libraries by becoming a new and even more active Chapter ... We wish to provide more support to our fellow Maryland law Librarians or any other persons having a professional interest in our group ... We want to retain our close professional and friendly ties to one another. The best way to further there goals is by becoming a growing part of a national network of law libraries."

A position paper in support of option #2 "to study the issue for one year" was written by Barbara Gontrum. She argued that there were many details to be worked out and that more time was needed to do so. "... it would be a gracious gesture for us to give reasonable notice to the D.C. chapter and allow time for response. This is not to timely that the group would not proceed if given a negative answer but merely that we should try to avoid any possible hard feelings. The risks involved in postponing the question are small or non-existent; the risks of proceeding without a well-constructed plan are high. The reputations of all Baltimore law librarians are involved. It is strongly recommended that we take the time to develop a plan which will show the national chapter (sic) that this group is a serious organization."

On April 5, 1982, the vote was announced: twenty-nine member voted in favor of option #1 and fourteen in favor of option #2. In accordance with procedure, thirty Maryland librarians then petitioned the Executive Board of AALL to establish the Maryland Association of Law Libraries as an official chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries.

There was only one snag: the Minnesota Association of Law Libraries already owned the acronym MALL. Maryland reversed the letters to become LLAM. At the 1982 annual meeting in Detroit, AALL granted chapter status to the Dallas Association of Law Libraries, the Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin and the Law Library Association of Maryland.

**August 15, 2000**

**PRESENT:** Ginger Gerton, Sheri Ripley, Ruth Hodgson, Ruth Watson, Jim Gernert, Beverly Rubenstein, Barbara Karpel, Elizabeth Rhodes, Anne Morrison-Low.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President Gerton at 9:40 am.

**MINUTES:** The motion to accept the April 7, 2000 minutes as corrected carried.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. There was a discussion on the Chapter Operating Manual. Each committee and officer will have their procedures and responsibilities included in this manual. Former or previous committee chairs and officers are requested to write a draft outlining their duties.
- B. There will be a Unified Calendar of Events that will appear on the LLAM web page. That page will have a link to the Maryland Library Association calendar and we will input our scheduled events on this calendar.
- C. It was approved by the Board that the Government and Vendor Relations Special Committee should be converted to a Standing Committee.
- D. The subject of submitting articles to the "Bar Bulletin" and other professional journals was discussed. It was the consensus of the Board that there is a need to expand our image in this area. There will be a list of potential professional publications created for LLAM members for possible submissions of articles.

#### **COMMITTEE UPDATES/REPORTS**

- A. Archives – Beverly Rubenstein shared her Draft LLAM Archives Collection/Retention Policy. It contained suggestions for items to be retained and items not to be retained. Questions were posed such as who is responsible for submitting items to the Archives and when and should there be an official photographer appointed. There will be a general call to all members present and former to submit and/all items they may have in their possession such as photographs, minutes, election information, biographies, etc.
- B. Membership – Barbara Karpel is the new chairman of this committee. She reported that membership renewal forms will be mailed out in the LLAM Newsletter to save on postage. There will be a call back made to members that don't respond to these renewals. It was suggested that our brochure be sent out as a marketing tool to possible increase membership. Beverly Rubenstein also suggested that the Membership Directory include, under the Institutional Listings, phone numbers for library departments. This would expedite locating specific areas such as ILL, Reference, etc.
- C. Newsletter – Sheri Ripley made a call for articles for the September issue. Also needed for the newsletter is Comings and Goings or any announcements. There is a need for more advertisers. Sheri is also working on reformatting the newsletter so it will be available in PDF format.

D. Placement – Ruth Watson reported that she is continuing to forward job openings to the LLAM List serve.

E. Programs – Elizabeth Rhodes canvassed the membership for suggestions for these years' programs. Field trips were the hands down winner. So a trip to Annapolis is a strong possibility. It was also proposed that LLAM conduct a half day program on "How to Lobby" in association with MLA or SLA. This program would need to be in the fall. Other suggestions for programs were "Unauthorized practice of Law" and "Pro-se patrons". The September program will be "What We Wish They Knew", a dialogue between firm, government and academic librarians concerning interns, law students, new lawyers and what we can do to help them. Lexis has offered to have a Maryland Code editor meet with LLAM to discuss editorial issues. The Holiday party will be held this year at the Maryland Historical Society. It was discussed that the Spring Fling be held at the Camden Club possibly during an Orioles game. It was acknowledged that the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of LLAM will be in 2002 and that we should organize a planning committee by May 2001. The Peabody Library was one suggestion for that function.

F. Publications – Anne Morrison-Low is the new chairman of this committee. She stated that the project for this year would be the "Union List of Periodicals". It was conceded that this might be a 2-year process. It is imperative that all member libraries cooperate for this project to be successful.

G. Technology – Kevin Otten was not present but had submitted a written report. The redesigned LLAM web page will be up in September and he hopes that the County Code Checklist will be on the web page in Adobe format soon.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Ginger distributed a Draft Strategic Plan for LLAM. She would like all Board members to review this plan and make suggestions by the next Board meeting.
- B. The AALL chapter visit this year will be from their "A" list which includes Robert L. Oakley, President; Margaret Maes Axtman, Immediate Past President; and Barbara A. Bintliff, Vice President. This visit is traditionally made during the Spring Fling.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 26, 2000 at 9:30 a.m. at Ober, Kaler, Grimes and Shriver; 120 East Baltimore Street; Baltimore; 9<sup>th</sup> floor.

## **LLAM BOARD MEETING SUMMARY**

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