



MichALL NEWSLETTER

The Official Publication of The Michigan Association of Law Libraries

Volume 24, Number 1

April/May 2004

IN THIS ISSUE:

Features	1
President's Corner	6
MichALL Officers	7
Announcements	8
Member News	13
Treasurer's Report	13
AALL News	14
SLA Michigan	19
Technology	
Corner	20
Editor's Note	21

MichALL NEWSLETTER

MichALL Newsletter is the official publication of the Michigan Association of Law Libraries. Send contributions, comments, news, items, or advertising inquiries to:

Christopher T. Bloodworth, Editor, or Michael Samson, Co-Editor and MichALL Vice-President,
 Arthur Neef Law Library
 Wayne State University
 474 Ferry Mall
 Detroit, MI 48202-3698
 Phone: 313-577-6173
 Fax: 313-577-5498
 Email: ab2998@wayne.edu

www.michigan.gov

The Official Portal of the State Of Michigan

FEATURES

WSU Law Library to host 2004 MichALL Annual Meeting

For the first time in 5 years, the MichALL Annual Meeting will be held in southeast Michigan.

The Wayne State University (WSU) Law Library will host the MichALL Annual Meeting, Friday, May 21, 2004. It will take place at the Partrich Auditorium in the WSU Law School. The 250-seat facility serves as a focal point of the Law School's connection to Detroit's legal and scholarly communities.

The program for the 2004 Annual Meeting is "From ICLE to LLMC: Digital Legal Resource Initiatives in Michigan and Beyond." The meeting will feature presentations on trends and developments in digitization and information technology by Mary Hiniker, ICLE Publications Director; Jerry DuPont, LLMC Executive Director; Richard Lucas, Law Library of Michigan Digitization Project Coordinator; Jeff Trecziak, WSU Libraries Computing & Media Services Director; and Michael Samson, MichALL Vice-President and Government Documents Librarian at the WSU Law Library.

Michael Samson, coordinator of the 2004 Annual Meeting, said "This should be a timely, substantive, and interest-capturing program for all Michigan law librarians. This is why the MichALL Program Committee recommended to offer it free to all its longstanding and loyal members."

In addition to the presentations, the 2004 Annual Meeting will also include a breakfast, lunch, business meeting, coffee time and tours of the WSU Law School and Law Library.

"I am very excited about this year's meeting. Michael has designed an interesting program that will introduce us to, and update us on, some important initiatives that will impact the way we are able to serve our clients," said Jeanne Stuart, MichALL President.

The 2004 Annual Meeting is open to both members and non-members. The program, mail and online registration forms and directions to the WSU Law Library are re-printed on the following pages.

2004 MichALL ANNUAL MEETING

FROM ICLE TO LLMC: DIGITAL LEGAL RESOURCE INITIATIVES IN MICHIGAN AND BEYOND

Date: Friday, May 21, 2004

Location: WSU Law School Auditorium

Program:

8:30 - 9:30 Registration & breakfast

9:30 - 9:50 Welcome & introductions

10:00 -10:50 State Bar of Michigan (SBM) & Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE): Michigan Law Online

- Presenter: Mary Hiniker, ICLE Publications Director
 - Digitization of retrospective Michigan case law & ICLE practitioner products

11:00 - 11:50 Law Library Microform Consortium (LLMC) - Digital

- Presenter: Jerry Dupont, LLMC Executive Director
 - Digitization of the LLMC microfiche collection

Noon - 2:00 pm Lunch & business meeting (Law School Atrium)

2:00 - 2:40 Michigan Legal Digitization Projects

- Presenter: Richard Lucas, Law Library of Michigan Digitization Project Coordinator
 - Digitization of Michigan Legislative History analysis documents

2:40 - 3:20 Detroit News photo archives

- Presenter: Jeff Trecziak, WSU Libraries Computing & Media Services Director
 - Legal content in the Detroit News digital photo archives

3:30 – 4:10 e-Government Printing Office (e-GPO) & legacy documents

- Presenter: Michael Samson, WSU Law Library
 - New digital initiatives at GPO

4:15 Coffee & dessert / Tour of Law School & Law Library

2004 MichALL ANNUAL MEETING

Mail Registration Form

Name:

Institution:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Registration Fee is \$25.00. Please make check payable to MichALL and mail check along with completed registration form to:

Michael Samson
Wayne State University
Arthur Neef Law Library
474 Ferry, Detroit, MI 48202
Detroit, MI 48243

Please register by Friday, May 07, 2004

NOTE: free parking in front of the Law School will be provided to the first 40 registrants and overflow parking will be provided in the student's structure at \$3.00/car.

2004 MichALL ANNUAL MEETING

Online Registration Form

The 2004 MichALL annual meeting is free for paid members. This form should be used only by MichALL members with membership paid as of February 29, 2004. Non-members or members with expired membership please click [here](#).

Registration deadline is Friday, May 07, 2004.

Please fill in all the fields below. If any fields are left blank, the form will not process properly.

Name:

Organization:

Mailing Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Library tour: YES NO Law school tour: YES NO

Carpooling is strongly recommended. Do you need parking? YES NO

NOTE: free parking in front of the Law School will be provided to the first 40 registrants and overflow parking will be provided in the student's structure at \$ 3.00/car.

2004 MichALL ANNUAL MEETING

Directions to the WSU Law Library

The WSU Law Library is located at 474 Ferry Mall, off of Palmer, between Second and Cass. It is five blocks South of the Fisher Building, and two blocks North of the Detroit Public Library and the Detroit Institute of Art.

Coming from the EAST

If you are traveling from the East, which includes the communities of Sterling Heights, Warren, the Pointes, and Port Huron, take I-94 West to Exit 215 C. This will take you onto the service drive, which will cross Brush, then John R, then Woodward Avenue. Proceed along the service drive until it meets Cass. Make a left turn onto Cass, crossing the overpass of I-94. The next light is Palmer. The Law Library is in this block.

Coming from the WEST

If you are traveling from the West, which includes the communities of Inkster, Canton, Livonia, Novi and Ann Arbor, take I-96 East to I-94 East (there is a ramp over the freeway). Take I-94 to the Trumbull Exit, which is Exit 214 B. Make a right on Trumbull, and proceed 1/5 mile to Warren. Turn left on Warren, and proceed east. At the third light on Warren is Anthony Wayne Drive. Turn left here, and proceed 1/2 mile north to Palmer. Turn right at Palmer. The Law Library is in this block.

Coming from the NORTH

If you are traveling from the North, which includes the communities of Southfield, Birmingham, West Bloomfield, Pontiac, Lake Orion and Lapeer, take I-75 South to Exit 53 A, the Warren Exit. Turn right, and proceed West on Warren to Woodward Avenue. Cross Woodward and travel one block to Cass. Turn right at Cass, and proceed North on Cass about 1/2 mile to Palmer. There is a traffic light there. Turn left onto Palmer. The Law Library is in this block.

An alternate route from the North is the Lodge Freeway. Take Lodge south to the Grand Blvd. exit, go east (left) for three blocks to Cass. Turn right on Cass, go five blocks to Palmer. Turn right -Law School/Law Library will be on your left.

Coming from the SOUTH

If you traveling from the South, which includes the Downriver communities, Monroe, and Toledo, take I-75 North to the Warren Exit, which is numbered 53 A. Turn left on Warren, and proceed

West on Warren to Woodward Avenue. Cross Woodward, and travel one block to Cass. Turn right on Cass, and proceed North about 1/2 mile to Palmer. There is a traffic light there. Turn left onto Palmer. The Law Library is in this block.

Parking

Parking is available Monday through Friday at the visitors Parking Structure 1 on Palmer across the street from the Law School. Parking cards are available for purchase at the structure and in the Law Library for \$3.00. On Saturday and Sunday, parking is available in Parking Structure 5, two blocks from the Library, on Anthony Wayne Drive. Please bring \$1.00 bills for parking and copying, as the Law Library carries no change.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jeanne Stuart, Bodman, Longley & Dahling LLP

It's been a long and crazy year. And just when it was getting really tough to get out of bed in the morning, along came an opportunity to get out of town for a long weekend. You wouldn't think that spending the weekend with 30 other librarians would work such wonders, but it put things into perspective. Maybe it was the sunshine and warm weather, or maybe it was three days to get away from phones, homework, grocery shopping and doctors, but I came back with a whole new lease on life. It was a great experience meeting such a variety of individuals who all deal with the same frustrations and barriers. What I find most interesting though, upon reflection, is that no matter how much each individual might be frustrated with certain parts of their job, or their location, none of them wanted to leave law librarianship. It made me realize what a great career we have chosen. Think about it, in spite of the stereotypes, our jobs are rarely dull. We may do the same tasks every day, but the questions and challenges are always changing. Each day we are called upon to find out new information, to learn new things. How cool is that?

I think this variety and the love of learning keeps us sane. To that end, I am very excited about the program that Michael Samson has developed for the Annual Meeting on May 21. The program will introduce us to some of the new and exciting resources that are available to us: ICLE's Michigan Law Online, LLMC Digital, the Detroit News photo archives at Wayne State, and digital initiatives in Michigan and at the GPO. As an added incentive, the meeting is free this year to all members of record as of February 29, 2004. I hope you all can attend. It should be a fun and informative day.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Michael Samson, Wayne State University Law Library

Maximize your return on membership investment!

Did you know that this year MichALL is rewarding loyal members with a free annual meeting program?

In an effort to surprise members, rekindle their spirits and rejuvenate membership, the Education Committee put together a great program and the Executive Board agreed to offer it free for members with paid dues as of Feb. 29, 2004.

Even the registration process is new and improved! Simply go to the MichALL web site and use the on-line form to register:
<http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/michall/2004annual/registration.htm>. All we ask is that you do this by May 07, 2004. The deadline is firm.

Did we mention free parking to the first 40 vehicles?

Hope to see you all joining us for a full day of interesting legal digital projects, visiting with fellow librarians and enjoying vegetarian friendly food.

MichALL OFFICERS 2003-2005

- President: Jeanne Stuart
- Past-President: Duane Strojny
- Vice-President: Michael Samson
- Secretary: Christopher Bloodworth (2003-05)
- Treasurer: Barbara McDowell Bonge (2002-04)
- Member at Large: Pat Parker (2003-05)
- Member at Large: Larissa Sullivant (2002-04)

MichALL committees are composed of a liaison from the Executive Board, the chairperson, and individuals who have designated their interest in committee activity on the annual membership renewal form. If you are interested in getting involved in one of the committees, please contact the designated chairperson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dues are Due for 2004-05 Membership Year

Just a reminder to send in your dues for July 2004-June 2005 (still only \$15). If you cannot find the form or did not receive one, there's a copy at <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/michall/> (click on either .doc or .pdf following Join MichALL). If you have already sent your dues, thank you. If not, maximize your return on membership investment: pay your dues while attending the 2004 MichALL Annual Meeting.

MichALL Nominations for Officers!

The Nominations Committee is seeking candidates for the following executive board positions to serve during the 2004-06 term: Vice-President/President-Elect, Treasurer and Member-at-Large.

All positions are two-year terms with the vice-president becoming president during the second year. Please consider running for one of these positions and becoming more involved in MichALL. There is a relatively low time commitment and executive board meetings may be attended via conference phone. For more detailed information on duties and responsibilities of officers, check out the MichALL Nominations web page at <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/michall/nominations/index-nominations.htm>. If you would like to nominate someone or would consider running yourself, contact Duane Strojny at strojnyd@cooley.edu.

State Law Library Reduces Hours of Operation

The State Law Library of Michigan has reduced its hours of operation. As of January 12, 2004, the State Law Library is open 1:00-5:00 P.M., Monday-Friday. This reduction in hours is a direct result of budget constraints and staffing shortages. Previously, the State Law Library was open 9AM-5PM, Monday-Friday. On February 19, the Law Librarians of Metropolitan Detroit (LLMD) sent the following letter to Gov. Granholm, the State Librarian and the State House and Senate Appropriations Committees to address concerns over the reduction of the State Law Library's hours and its impact on services to the legal community.

Dear Governor Granholm and Committee Members:

We are members of a professional organization of law librarians from the Detroit metropolitan area. We are employed by firms, courts, universities and public law libraries. The purpose of this letter is to let you know how disheartened we all are by the recent decision to radically curtail the State Law Library's service hours.

As many of you are probably aware, the State Law Library is an important legal research resource for attorneys, students, judges, business persons, members of the public, and the legislature itself. It is a depository of public records not available elsewhere in the state or in electronic format via the Internet. Its staff is known for its excellence in research assistance and instruction.

We understand the grave financial situation that the State of Michigan finds itself in, and know that our representatives are working diligently to pass a responsible budget and find ways to improve the overall economic climate in the state. It is important to note that improving the state's economic outlook and furthering business and job growth is affected by more than just tax rates. Services matter too! In a society based on law, access to materials on which the laws are based or which help to interpret the law is a fundamental necessity for those in the legal profession, policy analysts, legislators, government administrators, and many more individuals.

Failure to provide access to the State Law Library and its staff for more than 20 hours per week comes close to violating the spirit, if not the letter, of the Library of Michigan Act. We urge all of you to commit yourselves in the current budgeting process to restoring the State Law Library to full service hours and staffing levels.

Yours Very Truly,

*Law Librarians of Metro Detroit
Kathleen Gamache, President
CLARK HILL, P.L.C.
500 Woodward - Suite 3500
Detroit, MI 48226-3435
Ph: 313-965-8277
Email: kgamache@clarkhill.com*

*CC: Christie Brandau, State Librarian
Sue Adamczak, Law Library Administrator*

Law Librarians of Metropolitan Detroit (LLMD)

The Law Librarians of Metropolitan Detroit (LLMD) had a productive 2003 and is on its way to having a productive 2004.

LLMD members gathered at Dickinson Wright PLLC's Detroit office in September 2003 for their initial meeting of the season. Jan Bissett and Kathleen Gamache shared "Chairperson" duties – mainly consisting of encouraging a member to host a meeting as well as coordinate the Holiday and Spring luncheons. September's meeting was primarily a social gathering with discussions of summer happenings both inside and outside

our respective work places.

The October 2003 meeting, hosted by Honigman Miller, was a lively discussion led by Trish Webster concerning librarians' salaries and status with specific emphasis on the current SLA Salary Survey.

At the November 2003 meeting, hosted by Butzel Long's Candace Goss, LLMD members discussed websites whose content had been especially helpful in recent reference/research requests. Courthouse News, Google™ News and Google™ News Alert were among those identified by attendees. A tour of the newly opened Butzel Long conference and media center followed the meeting.

West sponsored the Holiday Luncheon at the December 2003 meeting, which was hosted by Pepper Hamilton and Elizabeth Stajniak. Sponsorship insures a captive audience and attendees viewed a brief presentation by Megan Butman, Manager, Librarian Relations, Midwest Division. Pictures of this event are available on the MichALL web site at <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/michall/pictures/index-pictures.htm>.

At January 2004 meeting, hosted by Dickinson Wright, Sylvia Arakelian from Jaffe Raitt led a discussion of the partial closing of the State Law Library and copyright policies. Trish Webster from Honigman Miller was appointed to draft a letter addressing LLMD's concerns over a reduction of the State Law Library's hours. Copyright discussion was lively but issues remain clouded at most firms.

The topic of the February 2004 meeting, hosted by Dykema Gossett and Patricia Orr, was "Marketing Our Services to Our Clients [the lawyers]." During the discussion, LLMD members addressed the following questions: How do we inform of our services and resources? What works really well? What did we try that didn't work? Any tips for marketing to the summer and new associates? There was also discussion of annual reports, web research pages and Introduction to Library/Research – packets for new arrivals. The letter regarding the partial closing of the State Law Library was approved. It was addressed to Michigan policymakers including, the Governor, legislative committee members, and the Director of the History, Arts and Libraries Department.

In March 2004 two meetings were held: the first one was hosted by Butzel Long's Candace Goss and featured a LexisNexis update presented by Matt Wagner; the second was hosted by Clark Hill and Kathleen Gamache and featured a Westlaw update presented by Megan Butman. The April/May meetings will be a luncheon soon to be scheduled. The topic will be nominations for 2004-2005 meeting coordinator.

New Staff @ Cooley!

During the past 9 months, the Thomas M. Cooley Law School Libraries have made the following hires, promotions and transfers:

Grand Rapids Campus:

Richard Divozzo, Circulation Team Leader
Aletha Honsowitz, Head of Public Services
Kori Kasara, Head of Circulation
Eugene Samson, Circulation Team Leader

Rochester/Oakland University Campus:

Marlene Coir, Reference Librarian
Mike Kulkakia, Circulation Team Leader
Helen Levenson, Head of Public Services
Jei Li, Circulation Team Leader

Lansing Campus/Brennan Law Library:

Nicole Edwards, Acquisitions Assistant
Lori Fortino-Franklin, Serials/Processor for Remote Campuses
Clare Membiela, Associate Director
Ron Reynolds, Head of Circulation
Julia Swaggert, Serials Assistant

Oakland County Law Library Receives Donation and Plaque to Honor Dick Beer

In June 2003, the Adams – Pratt Oakland County Law Library received a \$25,000 donation from the Royal Oak High School Class of 1950. The class made the donation in honor of classmate and MichALL member Dick Beer. Despite failing health, Dick attended the presentation. He passed away on October 20, 2003 at the age of 73.

On February 2, 2004, a plaque honoring Dick Beer's lifetime achievements was dedicated in the Law Library. The plaque reads, "In memory of Richard L. Beer. For his 34 years of service to the legal profession of Oakland County as the first director of the Oakland County Law Library. The library and those who have worked with him have been greatly enriched by Richard's knowledge, dignity, integrity and dedication to public service. In a world which places high honor and success on those endowed with great physical ability, Richard has been remarkable for his transcendence of his physical limitations. Presented by the Royal Oak High School class of 1950 in recognition of their friend and classmate."

Brown v. Board of Education Commemorative Web Site

In conjunction with AALL's observation of the landmark 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, The Seattle University School of Law Library has created an online exhibit commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the *Brown* decision. It features a timeline, photos, documents, news clippings and recent works on Brown and the civil rights movement. For more information on the creation of the exhibit please see the Seattle University Law Library web site (<http://www.law.useattleu.edu>).



JOIN MichALL!

Membership Forms:

<http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/michall/organization/join-michall.doc>

<http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/michall/organization/join-michall.pdf>

Check out the MichALL web site @

<http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/michall/>

LOOK HERE FOR:

- **Annual Meetings
 - **Job Postings
 - **Membership Forms
 - **Travel Grants
 - **News
 - **Newsletters
 - **Officers & Committees
 - **Pictures
-

MEMBER NEWS

Marla Major recently retired from her position as Director of Library and Information Services at Varnum Riddering Schmidt & Howlett in Grand Rapids. Marla has worked at the firm since June, 1990. Mary Karpinski will assume Marla's duties effective April 1. Mary has been with Varnum since 1999.

Carol A. Parker, Assistant Director of the Wayne State University Law Library, is moving to Albuquerque, New Mexico. Carol has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Law and Director of the Law Library at the University of New Mexico School of Law, effective July 1, 2004. Her last day at Wayne State will be Thursday, June 3rd. Her new email is cparker@law.unm.edu.

MichALL TREASURER'S REPORT

As of Sep 15, 2003, MichALL has \$3304.28 in the bank. The May 16, 2003 Treasurer's report stated assets of \$4734.23.

Expenditures after May 16 were:

AALL Travel Grant	\$1000.00
Catering for spring meeting	\$853.26
Postage for renewal forms	25.90
Paper & envelopes for mailing	11.85
Michigan Nonprofit corp filing fee	\$10.00
Bank Service Charges (May – Aug)	\$68.94
<i>Total of expenditures</i>	\$1969.95

Deposits after May 16 were:

Annual meeting registrations	\$390.00
Membership renewal	150.00
<i>Total of deposits</i>	\$540.00

Present balance in treasury \$3304.28

AALL NEWS

MichALL Chapter @ 2004 AALL Annual Meeting

There are several AALL Chapter Council activities scheduled for the 2004 AALL Annual Meeting in Boston. They are designed to assist chapter Presidents/Vice Presidents (P/VP) during their tenure in office. Michael Samson, MichALL Vice-President/President-Elect (VP/PE), will participate in most of these activities. MichALL Executive Board members (new ones to be announced at the May 21st annual meeting) are also encouraged to participate in these activities as appropriate.

The following is a schedule of chapter-oriented activities:

Sat., July 10

- Chapter Leadership Workshop: Professional Development
 - 8:00 am - 11:15 am
- Chapter/SIS Leadership Lunch
 - 11:30 am - 1:00 pm (chapter P/VP only)
- Chapter Leadership Training
 - 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm (chapter P/VP only)
- Council of Chapter Presidents Business Meeting
 - 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm

Mon., July 12

- Chapter Leadership Roundtable: Membership Development
 - 7:45 am - 8:45 am
- Chapter Leadership Roundtable: Treasurer Training
 - 10:15 am - 11:30 am

Tues., July 13

- Chapter Leadership Roundtable: Meeting Management
 - 7:00 am - 8:00 am
- Chapter Leadership Roundtable: Public Relations
 - 7:45 am - 8:45 am
- Chapter Leadership Roundtable: Government Relations
 - 5:15 pm - 6:16 pm

Michael Samson, MichALL VP/PE, will be a conference presenter during the 2004 AALL Annual Meeting. His presentation "Creating Powerful Web Presentations Without an Internet Connection," July 13, will introduce the audience to Internet agents that allow presenters to grab single or multiple pages from the web and store them for off-line use. An outline of the presentation will be soon posted on the MichALL web site.

Newer Law Librarians: Register for CONELL Now!

What is CONELL?

The Conference of Newer Law Librarians (CONELL) is held every year at the American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting and Conference. CONELL welcomes newer members of the profession to the organization, introduces them to the Association and its leaders, and provides a setting for newer members to become acquainted with each other. Participants have an opportunity to talk with representatives from AALL's many Committees and Special Interest Sections to find out firsthand how to get involved and enjoy the benefits of Association membership. CONELL offers a chance to learn about the Association while meeting new people and having some fun.

The 2004 CONELL Program:

This year, CONELL will be held on *Saturday, July 10 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.*

The morning features presentations from experienced AALL members, and open sessions with AALL experts from various areas of law librarianship and with chapter, SIS and committee representatives.

After lunch in the Sheraton Boston Hotel, the afternoon will be devoted to a guided tour of Boston, including Beacon Hill, Back Bay, and the Waterfront. Participants will be able to walk into the North End, Boston's famous Italian neighborhood, and visit the Old North Church, where the lanterns were hung to signal the beginning of Paul Revere's ride.

For the first time this year, CONELL will sponsor "Dutch Treat Dinners" at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, July 9. These dinners will give CONELL participants a chance to meet each other and members of the Mentoring Committee before the beginning of the official conference.

How to Register for CONELL:

Be sure to register for CONELL when you submit your AALL Annual Meeting and Conference registration:

http://www.aallnet.org/events/04_registration.asp

Pre-registration is required by June 4, 2004: \$100.00

Learn More about CONELL:

To learn more about CONELL, visit the Mentoring Committee's website:

<http://www.aallnet.org/committee/mentoring/>

The Association gratefully acknowledges West for its support of this program.

The AALL Mentor Project Wants You!

The AALL Mentor Project:

Provides an informal, personal source of information for newer members
Provides an avenue by which experienced law librarians may meet promising new members of the profession
Provides a network for members who are contemplating a move to another type of library.

Who should participate?

All experienced law librarians willing to share their time and wisdom
All enthusiastic newer members
AALL members considering a move to another type of library

2003 mentees benefit from guidance and support:

While I have yet to meet a law librarian who was not willing to offer advice when asked, it is great to have someone who specifically wants to be asked. My mentor was also great fun to be around at the conference. She has continued to help me since, providing local introductions when I moved to San Francisco. *Monica Donovan, Information Specialist, Jackson Lewis LLP.*

My experience with my mentor has been great. We are both in similar situations and I know that I can always turn to her for advice and encouragement. *Sarah Mauldin, Director of Library Services, Lionel Sawyer & Collins*

2003 mentors recommend the experience:

For the past two years, I have had wonderful mentee who are interested in foreign, comparative and international law librarianship. As many times a newer FCIL librarian is the only subject specialist at his or her workplace, a mentor and professional connections are vital. *Stephanie Burke, Senior Reference and International Law Librarian, Pappas Law Library, Boston University School of Law*

I volunteered as a mentor because I learned the value of advice and support from more experienced colleagues. *Mary Rumsey, Foreign, Comparative & International Law Librarian, University of Minnesota Law Library*

Working as a mentor provides an opportunity for reflection and analysis about what is going on in law libraries and it makes you appreciate how much you have learned in your own career path. *Suzanne Thorpe, Associate Director for Faculty, Research, and Instructional Services, University of Minnesota Law Library*

In addition to sharing my knowledge and experience with others, I believe that I can always learn something new by listening to my colleagues, regardless of their level of experience. I find it refreshing to hear how other libraries approach common issues. *Barbara Traub, Head of Reference Services, Rittenberg Law Library, St. John University School of Law*

How can you join the Mentor Project?

To learn more about the AALL Mentor Project and to become a mentor or mentee, visit our website at

http://www.aallnet.org/committee/mentoring/mentor_project.html

Mentors and mentees will be matched as closely as possible based on submitted applications.

Contributions needed for the George A. Strait Minority Scholarship

Dear Friends:

Our fundraising effort on behalf of the George A. Strait Minority Scholarship is building to a successful conclusion. To date we have raised \$75,000 and I am asking for your support to help reach our fundraising goal of \$100,000.

I am pleased to announce that the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section has again issued a \$1,000 challenge to each SIS and the Private Law Libraries Special Interest Section has pledged \$1,000 per year for five years! I urge you to meet this challenge. Of course the Association will accept with great appreciation any contribution that your SIS can make, appropriate to your circumstances. It would be wonderful to have 100% participation.

AALL Special Interest Sections are well aware of the need to ensure that our profession reflects the diversity in our society. It is apparent in your efforts to recruit new members, volunteers and leaders at the SIS level, and as your members strive to meet the needs of their various constituencies. On behalf of the Executive Board and the George Strait Scholarship Committee, I wish to express our gratitude to the Special Interest Sections listed below for their demonstration of leadership and support to date.

We still need your support for the George Strait Scholarship Endowment. Again, your SIS may contribute by providing AALL with a written directive for the amount of the contribution, signed by the SIS Chair and one other officer. This directive may be either faxed or mailed to headquarters to the attention of Steve Ligda, Director of Finance and Administration.

Steve will then transfer the funds from the respective SIS account to the Strait Fund.

All new SIS contributions received by May 1, 2004 will be included in the Awards & Acknowledgements brochure at the Boston Annual Meeting. We need your help and I know we can count on it. .

Thank you in advance for rising to the challenge of this request!

Sincerely,

Carol Avery Nicholson

Carol Avery Nicholson
Immediate Past President
American Association of Law Libraries

2003 SIS Contributors:

Donor (\$1,000 or more)
Academic Law Libraries
Private Law Libraries
Libraries
Technical Services

Patron (\$251-\$500)
Foreign, Comparative & International Law
Services
Research Instruction & Patron Services

Benefactor (\$501-\$999)
Government Documents
State, Court & County Law

Sponsor (\$101-\$250)
Online Bibliographic



Michigan Chapter SLA
75-Year Anniversary
Multifaceted professionals
cutting through information overload

SAVE THIS DATE FOR A SPARKLING CELEBRATION!

***** Thursday, May 13, 2004 *****

Please join the Michigan Chapter of the Special Libraries Association (SLA) May 13 as we celebrate our Diamond 75th Anniversary with a gala reception and dinner in Dearborn.

The festivities will start with an afternoon reception at the Henry Ford (Dearborn) Centennial Library where **Stephen Abram** will read our fortune. Abram looks for trends and predicts the future of library information products for Sirsi, an information technology company, which he recently joined as vice president of innovation. He is incoming president of the Canadian Library Association, and 2003 recipient of SLA's John Cotton Dana Award. Abram is known for his rapid-fire delivery of new ideas and his vision of unlimited opportunities for librarians. We asked Abram to read our fortune and he chose the theme: **Survivor Library: Outwit, Outplay, Outlast.**

Dinner will be at the famous and fabulous Dearborn Inn. **Cynthia Hill**, President of SLA, and director of SunLibrary and Learning Technology at Sun Microsystems, will join us as we continue our diamond anniversary party. We will be showing off our "facets" -- applauding the contributions of our Chapter officers, past and present; praising our colleagues for their dedication, resourcefulness, and teamwork; and reminding our bosses that the "instant" delivery of quality information requires a commitment to our professional development and membership in information associations.

It's time to shine! Please mark your calendars and join us for this special event.

For more information and sponsorship opportunities, please contact
Kathy Irwin, kmirwin@umd.umich.edu, 313.593.5598

TECHNOLOGY CORNER

Internet Legal Research Workshop held at Wayne State Law School

Twenty members of the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys attended a day-long workshop on the topic, "*Legal Resources on the Web: Inexpensive Ways to Meet a Newly Emerging Research Standard of Competence*," at the Wayne State University Law School on January 9, 2004. The workshop was taught by Carol Parker, Assistant Director of the Wayne State Law Library. Photographs of the event are available at:
<http://www.lib.wayne.edu/lawlibrary/mama/index-mama.htm>.

The workshop participants made use of WSU's mobile wireless classroom technology—portable carts that store, secure and recharge laptop computers, as well as house access points that connect to the network and broadcast an internet connection to the laptops. For more information about the wireless laptop carts please see:
<http://www.lib.wayne.edu/lawlibrary/services/faculty/laptops.php>.

RSS, Internet Agents, Web Services and the Library Catalog *Michael Samson, Wayne State University Law Library*

Since January 2004, the MichALL web site has been syndicating its news via RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feeds. To read more about syndication and aggregation please go to the MichALL web page posted at <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/michall/rss/rss.htm>. On this page you will find basic information regarding real time Internet content, syndication and aggregation. A link to a small database of Internet articles on RSS is also provided on this page. This database is provided in the Internet Explorer 'mht' proprietary format. You can download it by clicking on its link from within Internet Explorer. As it is 2.3 MB in size, please allow some time for it to download (at least 30 seconds for a high speed connection; never tried it over dial-up!). Once downloaded, the RSS webliography database will display in your Internet Explorer browser in two windows: an index in the left window/frame, and article content in the right window/frame. Navigation through it is done in a PowerPoint-like fashion using the left side window (clicking on individual titles or using the 'Previous' and 'Next' text icons).

The new Microsoft OS, Longhorn, to be released in 2006, will incorporate RSS technology and Instant Messaging (IM) within the desktop. Its new file system will be based on relational data, relational databases and XML.

Now you wonder why we should care about all this!

The ILS should be the heart and only tool for our institutional Internet presence, supplanting the current redundancy seen in developing separate web pages for accessing data. Why do we pay hundreds of thousands of dollars for ILS systems, and then underutilize and undermine them with separate web pages?

For years now we've been hearing, seeing, and learning about a myriad of 'cool' things happening on the Internet and taking aim at the core of what libraries do and exist for. The Internet is the biggest database in the world. XML provides a collocation feature for all web services and information. All devices, platforms, and languages will talk to each other through XML. And XML is

nothing more than the MARC X-peranto of the Internet age. It is time to look at these technologies through the perspective of our ILS systems and find ways to integrate all these advanced web services in our catalogs. We should learn what these new technologies are and do, so that we can apply them through our public catalogs and also maximize the use of the latest ILS metadata modules. After we understand and use these new Internet agents, we can make the ILS the 'Google' news aggregator for our institutions, and the primary information hub and portal for all the library resources and services.

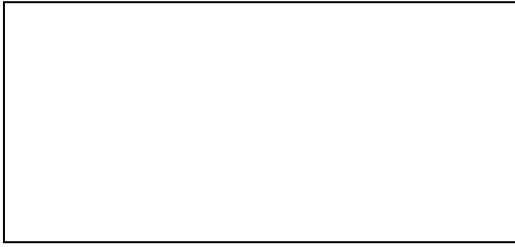
EDITOR'S NOTE

Christopher T. Bloodworth, Wayne State University Law Library

Happy belated new year to my fellow MichALL members!

I hope all of you are having a happy and prosperous 2004 thus far. 2004 is another year full of challenges and opportunities for the Michigan law library community. Law libraries, public and private, are contending with budget constraints, staff reductions/shortages and hiring freezes. They are also facing continuous dynamic changes in information technology. In wake of these challenges, law libraries are rising to the occasion and working together to provide and maintain high levels of service to their customers.

The April/May 2004 issue of the *MichALL Newsletter* includes news of exciting trends and developments in the Michigan law library community and abroad. The focal point of this issue is the 2004 MichALL Annual Meeting. I hope that all of you will be able to attend and participate in this wonderful event.



MichALL Newsletter is the official publication of the Michigan Association of Law Libraries. Send contributions, comments, news, items, or advertising inquiries to Christopher T. Bloodworth, Editor, or Michael Samson, MichALL Vice-President and Co-Editor.
