



Inside this issue:

President's Column	1
Editor's Note	2
Join MichALL	2
Meet Our New Board Members	2
2008 Annual Spring Meeting	3-4
MichALL Listserv Information	4
AALL News	5
Library Updates	6-8
MichALL Board Minutes	9
Treasurer's Report	10
Officers/Contact Information	10
Newsletter and Website Notes	11

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Michigan Chapter American Association of Law Libraries

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

April, 2008

Volume 26, Issue 2

Dear Members:

The AALL Conference is scheduled for July 12-15th in Portland, Oregon. MichALL will be well presented by the MichALL Board. The theme for this year's Conference is Energize, Explore, Evolve.

MichALL will have a table in the Activities area with information about our Chapter and a gift basket of Michigan-related products.

After a hard winter, Spring is now here in Michigan. MichALL's Spring Meeting is rapidly approaching. The meeting is scheduled for May 16th at Thomas M. Cooley Law School's Grand Rapids Campus. The morning program features the AALL Authentication Project. Mary Alice Baish, AALL Acting Washington Affairs Representative, will discuss permanent access to electronic information.

In the afternoon, Barbara Bintliff, Director of the Law Library and the Nicholas Rosenbaum Professor of Law at the University of Colorado Law School will discuss how to effect change in the workplace.

Darcy Kirk, AALL Secretary and Associate Dean for Library & Technology and Professor of Law at the University of Connecticut, will provide an update on what is happening at AALL. The registration deadline is May 7th. Many thanks go to Aletha Honsowitz and the Education Committee for their hard work planning this meeting.

On behalf of MichALL, the Board sent a letter to Senator Carl Levin requesting his co-sponsorship of the "Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2007" (H.R. 1255; S. 886), which would re-establish procedures to ensure the timely release of presidential records that Congress intended with the Presidential Records Act of 1978. This Act addresses issues central to AALL's core values- specifically, our commitment to transparency in government, openness and accountability - which are crucial to democracy. In this case, presidential records facilitate important historical research, foster government accountability by the public, and provide access to important textual records necessary for a stable and civil society.

As previously announced, the new Vice President/President-Elect is Clare Membiela. Anne Cottongim is the new Treasurer. Elise Keller is the Member-at-Large. A special Thank You to Barbara Bonge, who has served as MichALL Treasurer for several terms. Your service is much appreciated, Barbara!

June VanWingen, MichALL President (2007-2008)



Editor's Note: Calling Out To You!!

Welcome to your MichALL Newsletter. This is your newsletter - so let me hear from you. Have an idea for an article - send it to me. Did you just attend a great conference or workshop - write it up for our next issue. Has your library gone through any new changes in terms of staff, collection, or the building itself - share it with other MichALL members. Have some great pictures that show how Michigan librarians provide great service - send them to me.



While we can't promise we will be able to publish everything, we will do our best to include your submissions if we get them by the publication deadlines. The deadline for our next newsletter is August 20, 2008. Get your creative juices going and send your submission to hedinj@law.msu.edu.

Janet Ann Hedin, Editor

How To Join MichALL:

If you haven't renewed or if you know someone who would like to join, you can print a copy of our membership form from the website:

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

The dues are still very modest at \$15.00.

The Michigan Association of Law Libraries has a 100 year history of providing Michigan law librarians a sense of community and an opportunity to get involved.



Meet The New MichALL Board Members:

Vice President/President-Elect - Clare Membiela

Taking on this enormous position is Clare Membiela. As she is the Associate Director of the Thomas M. Colley Law School Library, the MichALL Board knows that she has all the tools, energy, and drive to lead MichALL in the right direction. We are all looking forward to working with Clare.

Treasurer - Anne Cottongim Hudson

Joining us as Treasurer is Anne Cottongim Hudson. Anne is coming back to the MichALL board, having served as Secretary from 2005-2007. While Anne was away, she was promoted to Librarian II at the Arthur Neef Law Library at Wayne State University in Detroit, served as the co-team leader of the library system's research support group, and, completed the two year Michigan Library Association Leadership Academy. Anne will be taking on the Treasurer role with much hesitation after the wonderful job that Barb Bonge has done for so many years. Welcome back Anne.

Member At Large - Elise Keller

Elise is a newcomer to Michigan and to the 6th Circuit Court but not to the library world. She has been a librarian for 17 years. She has worked in private law firms as a solo librarian, a team member, and a manager. Elise states: "Like most, I've also done a little bit of everything along the way: reference, tech services, and electronic resources. Something that's not new to me: being an active participant in my local chapter. I look forward to meeting everyone!" Welcome Elise.

FEATURES - 2008 MichALL Spring Meeting

Permanent Access and Change:

Theme for the Spring Meeting

Thomas M. Cooley Law School (Grand Rapids)



The MichALL Spring Meeting will be held Friday, May 16, 2008 at the Cooley Law School in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The MichALL Education Committee chaired by Vice-President Aletha Honoswitz worked very hard to come up with interesting and thought provoking themes and speakers for the Spring Meeting. The themes for this year's meeting are permanent access to electronic information and how to promote change in your library.



Mary Alice Baish, Acting Washington Affairs Representative will be our keynote speaker for the morning session. Mary Alice has been at the Washington Affairs Office since 1995. She works closely with AALL's Government Relations, Copyright and Access to Electronic Legal Information Committees on policy issues, and she has initiated a strong grassroots advocacy program for the Association. She is a past member of the Federal Depository Library Council, and has written and spoken extensively about e-government information policy issues. Ms. Baish was the Executive Editor of AALL's *State-by-State Report on Permanent Public Access to Electronic Government Information* (2003) and *State-by-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Resources* (2007). Mary Alice also serves as AALL's representative to a number of federal agencies and to the National Information Standards Organization and the ABA Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress. In addition to her daily activities managing the work of the Washington Affairs Office, she serves as a member of a number of groups, including: the GLIN Advisory Council, the GLIN Foundation Board of Trustees, the Friends of the Law Library of Congress, the Steering Committee of "OpenTheGovernment.org" and the Board of "Americans for Fair Electronic Commerce Transactions."



For the afternoon session, participants will have a chance to hear the humor and wit of **Barbara Bintliff**, Director of the Law Library and Professor of Law; Nicholas Rosenbaum Professor of Law University of Colorado School of Law. Barbara is a prolific author of many articles such as *Four Mentors and a Role Model; So You Think You Want to be an Academic Law Library Director*; and recently *Starting on the Right Track in Your First Library Job*. She is also an entertaining speaker with such presentations as AALL Your Driver's License for the Fast Lane; Ready or Not, Here It Comes:

The Future is Here; and just in February, Leadership Opportunities Beyond Your Department. Barbara will be keying us on how we can effect change in our workplace. ➤

Online Information Links:

- ◆ [2008 Meeting Home](#)
- ◆ [Program/Registration](#)
- ◆ [Directions/Parking](#)

FEATURES - 2008 MichALL Spring Meeting (cont.)



To help keep us up-to-date on everything that is happening at AALL is **Darcy Kirk**, Associate Dean for Library and Technology and Professor of Law at the University of Connecticut School of Law, and the current Secretary of AALL. Darcy has been active professionally as a law librarian since joining AALL in 1980. She has served on many AALL committees including chairing the Government Relations Committee. She has also chaired the RIPS-SIS. At the chapter level, she has been a member of Law Librarians of New England (LLNE) and served as its President. She has also been a member of Law Librarians of Maryland (LLAM), Virginia Association of Law Libraries (VALL) and Law Librarians Society of D C (LLSDC). She is also an active member of the New England Law Library Consortium (NELLCO) and currently serves as its Treasurer.

Darcy also wants to hear from us about what we want and need from AALL - so everyone come with your questions and great ideas for Darcy to take back to AALL with her.

Cost of the conference is \$20.00 which includes lunch, parking and snacks. Registration form was sent out by e-mail but you can also find the form at <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/michall/>.

Deadline for registration is May 7, 2008. ■

LISTSERV Information

michall@aallnet.org is the official discussion list of the Michigan Association of Law Libraries (MichALL). All those interested in law libraries may join the list for discussion of topics directly of interest to this group. The MichALL listserv is hosted by the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL). Below you will find information on how to set and configure your initial profile. You will only have to do this once.

- 1) First, visit <http://share.aallnet.org/read/>
- 2) Enter your email address (twice if asked). Click OK.
- 3) Next you will be brought to the 'Essentials' tab. BE SURE TO CLICK "SAVE CHANGES" or your name will not be saved.
- 4) Click the 'Advanced' tab.
- 5) Enter the password of your choice. BE SURE TO CLICK "SAVE CHANGES" or your password will not be saved.
- 6) You're done!

You can post to the MichALL forum (listserv) using the AALL graphical user interface at:

<http://share.aallnet.org/read/?forum=michall>

or by email to michall@aallnet.org

FEATURES - AALL 2008 Meeting Updates

AALL Executive Board Meeting (April, 2008)

AALL Annual Meeting (July, 2008)



The spring **AALL Executive Board** meeting was held in Chicago, April 3-5, 2008.

The first day of the meeting was entirely devoted to planning and was facilitated by Maureen Sullivan. The Board spent the day developing goals and projects based on the AALL Strategic Directions 2005-2010. The next day and a half of the meeting was the formal part of the meeting with a packed agenda for the Board to review and discuss. An important part of that agenda included discussions of AALL's approaches to vendor relations and communications. Last November, Ann Fessenden, President of AALL, had appointed a working group of Executive Board members (including Darcy Kirk), plus the chair of the Committee on Relations with Information Vendors (CRIV), to consider possible changes to vendor relations. At the April meeting, the Board approved several recommendations of the working group:

- ⇒ Strengthened Principle Two, Disclosure, of the *Guide to Fair Business Practices for Legal Publishers*
- ⇒ Adopted a new Sponsorship Policy, which specifies situations in which AALL may decline to accept a vendor sponsorship
- ⇒ Created a Consortium Review Task Force, which will investigate the feasibility of developing an AALL consortium to operate as a "buying cooperative" for members
- ⇒ Approved hiring a consultant to conduct an in-depth exploration of the possibility of establishing an AALL vendor relations representative.

Also at its April 2008 meeting, the Executive Board approved bylaws amendments for recommendation to and adoption by the membership. The amendments are necessary to implement the Association's new committee structure, which was recommended by the AALL Committee Structure Special Committee and approved by the Executive Board at its November 2007 meeting. In addition to the changes necessary for adoption of the new committee structure, the bylaws committee has also recommended changes that will allow for the membership to vote on future bylaws amendments by electronic or other means, instead of by mail ballot. Ballots will be mailed to the membership in late April.

Other topics discussed at the Board meeting included the results of the Member Survey, the AALL budget and budget guidelines and the creation of a new process for member-submitted resolutions.

In addition to the Board meeting, plans for the **2008 Annual Meeting** of AALL are being finalized. This is the first west coast annual meeting in 5 years and enthusiasm is high -- member registrations and exhibitor/booth registrations are ahead of last year. The AALL Executive Board is looking forward to a busy and fun meeting in Portland, Oregon in July where members will all *Energize, Explore and Evolve!* ■

FEATURES - Law Library Updates (Academic Law Libraries)

University of Michigan Law Library

Margaret Leary, Director and Librarian

What's New At UM Law Library?

We're engaged in many projects and changes, which may explain an unintended consequence: our weak presence at MichALL meetings the last year or two.

Our major activities over the last year include:

- **Reclassification:** Continuing the project of reclassifying our 25 miles of printed material into the Library of Congress classification system.
- **Reorganization:** Changing from a three department plus administration model, to an eight units, two assistant directors, and director model.
- **Reduction:** We committed to reducing the cost of the Library by \$900,000 (16%) and have so far cut \$320,000 from staff costs and \$300,000 from collection costs.
- **Revamping:** We have redesigned our public website, and the new one should go public in July. We are working on adjusting our staff intranet to reflect the organizational changes.
- **Rethinking:** Our new organization, and our application of more and more technology, has enabled us to engage in continuous process review.

Here are more details about each:

Reclassification: About three years ago we asked for, and received, money to reclassify the collection. I persuaded the Dean by bringing photos of the "alphabetical by author" system we were using (until 2000 when we began using LC for new books) to a section of KF4550 (he's a constitutional law guy). ➤

University of Michigan Law Library (cont.)

We sent our records to Backstage Library Works to get class numbers in the bib records and have now begun the process of putting new labels on the books and moving them to their new location. Both of these last two sentences are sickeningly simplified. The work involved years of planning and months/years of execution. Our collection is split between two buildings and 13 floors and was crowded to start with, so weeding was an essential first step that we've been doing for many years. We also got about 4500 sq ft of new space filled with compact movable shelving.

Reorganization: A year ago we had three departments: Technical Services (20 people); Circulation (11 people), Reference (6 people) and Administration (3 people). When the Head of Technical Services left in September, I decided to end that organization and start over. I named Barbara Garavaglia and Bobbie Snow (who had headed Reference and Circulation respectively) to be Assistant Directors, and charged them with recommending to me a reorganization plan that would meet the goals of our long-term plan and our more immediate annual work plan.

I accepted their recommendation for eight units, each of whose name ends with "services." They, and the person leading the unit, are: Administrative (Mary Clemence), Acquisitions (Diane Fichter), Cataloging (Freda Baum), Circulation (Jane Handley), Collection Maintenance (Diane Lawther), Continuations & Serials (Gail Treece), Electronic & Systems (Kincaid Brown), and Reference and Faculty (Jenny Selby). Each unit shares "overlap" staff with one or more other units to ensure that, library-wide, the most important work gets done regardless of illness, vacations, and shifts in the amount of work, which we can't control.

Barbara and Bobbie are jointly responsible for the daily operation of the Library. They, Mary Clemence and I form the Management Team which leads the whole effort. A new group, the eight unit leaders plus the Management Team, handles library-wide decision making and meets monthly. The intent is to push decision making down to the level of ➤

FEATURES - Law Library Updates (Academic Law Libraries)

University of Michigan Law Library (cont.)

those doing the work, especially for operational activities; but to retain in the Management Team overall responsibility for strategic and long term planning and budgeting.

None of this affects who you should call here, or the fundamentals of who does what.

Reducing: To help the Law School do more with a budget that wasn't growing as fast as the needs (for more Faculty, more financial aid, new space), the Library agreed to reduce its budget by \$900,000. We've done this only with a great deal of hard work, and it's possible only because the Law School has provided this Library with whatever it needed for the last 150 years. We are reducing staff only by attrition, never layoff. We are reducing the cost of the collection with careful title by title reviews, so that we don't lessen its comprehensiveness. We've reduced duplicate copies, duplicate coverage by topic, and tightened criteria for serials, looseleaves, and other continuations.

Revamping: After we conducted focus groups with students a year ago, we decided to revamp our website, which was already filled with great information, pretty well integrated with our catalog, and possessed of a handsome if conservative very "Michigan" design. The major change was to focus on U of M law students as our target audience. Originally our audience had been more general, but over the years we found that Faculty used us directly, that we librarians could figure out any website, and that it was our students who could most benefit from being able to get at the huge number of resources encompassed by our website. The redesign covered look and feel and organization. ➤

University of Michigan Law Library (cont.)

The new Electronic & Systems unit has had primary responsibility, after it did the redesign, for implementing the changes. By the way, do you know the one message the student focus groups gave us? "Simplify".

Rethinking: You can see from the above that a whole lot has changed. We have fewer staff. We have many many fewer print subscriptions, fewer volumes to bind. We have many more electronic subscriptions. So we can use electronic tools to manage the information on our website and in our catalog: Serials Solutions, Innovative's ERM, bulk loads of bib records such as OCLC's LLMC digital and Gale's Making of Modern Law cataloging; bulk loads of enhancements to bib records such as Blackwell's tables of contents. These changes combined with our reorganization and the reclassification process of created a situation in which process-improvement just jumps out at us.

Here are examples of the questions we've raised: Can we get rid of the remaining paper records for continuations, so we can take away the cardexes and tables and gain space? Do we have to continue the practice of waiting for, and binding in, indexes produced for individual law reviews and other journals? Can the person who orders and receives a book also do the cataloging, if there is good copy? Can the person who checks in a bound volume also create the item record? Can we rearrange staff to improve work flow?

This description only scratches the surface, and is deeply deficient in crediting all the people who have taken on increased responsibility, adjusted to having a different supervisor, or more than one supervisor, and having to move from space they occupied for decades. That statement means literally everyone who works here. They are a remarkable group of dedicated professionals, and with Barbara and Bobbie as their leaders, I know they will finish what we've started. ■

FEATURES - Law Library Updates (Academic Law Libraries)

MSU College of Law Library

Janet Ann Hedin, Reference Librarian

What's New At MSU College of Law Library?

MSU College of Law altered their library to provide more seating for law students on their first floor. By moving several stacks to the second floor and bringing down seating to the first floor, the library was able to accommodate more students who like to use the library as their home away from home.

Our staff is also growing: Jane Edwards recently gave birth to a beautiful baby daughter named Caroline Marie on January 20, 2008. Jane was the Secretary to the MichALL Board but gladly gave it up for her daughter. While Jane is on maternity leave, MSU College of Law Library was able to bring in Lara Leaf to help provide superb service and support to their faculty, staff, and students.



MichALL is glad to see a new future librarian in Caroline Marie and also welcomes Lara Leaf to MSU College of Law Library. ■

Thomas M. Cooley Law School

Aletha Honsowitz, Head of Public Services,

New Employees At Cooley Law School

Thomas E. Brennan Law Library, Thomas M. Cooley Law School has two new reference librarians to help provide their patrons with excellent service and support at all three locations. Welcome to:

Michael Bird, a new Reference Librarian at the Auburn Hills Campus of the Thomas M. Cooley Law School on March 24, 2008 and to Julianne Claydon, who began as a new Reference Librarian at the Grand Rapids Campus of the Thomas M. Cooley Law School on April 18, 2008.

MichALL gladly welcomes Michael and Julianne and hopes to see them - not only at the Spring Meeting but also as new members of MichALL. ■



MichALL BOARD MINUTES (March '08)

Janet Ann Hedin, Secretary

(March 26, 2008)

Janet Ann Hedin, Aletha Honsowitz, Kori Kasara, Helen Levenson, Larissa Sullivant, and June VanWingen met via conference call. Barbara Bonge was absent.

June VanWingen opened the meeting at approximately 2:40 p.m. due to some problems with the conference calling.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - No report from June.

Minutes: The minutes from the February 29, 2008 meeting were reviewed. There were a few corrections in the minutes due to misspellings. Otherwise, Aletha Honsowitz moved to approve the minutes with corrections; June seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - No report from Janet Ann Hedin.

TREASURER'S REPORT

June reported for Barbara Bonge. MichALL's current balance is \$7,669.83 due to the fact that we paid \$500 to our webmaster, Steve Sullivant, for the webpage.

OLD BUSINESS

Spring Meeting: Aletha reported that the planning for the Spring Meeting is coming along. Aletha asked for any changes to the menu planned for lunch; she reported that the suggestion was made to be sure that there would be vegetarian sandwiches. Also June and Aletha will be taking our speakers out to dinner the night before. The committee is still working on getting speakers for the panel. The registration form has been posted on both the listserv and the webpage.

MichALL Table at AALL: June will register us to have a table at AALL. It was decided that we would raffle off a basket of Michigan goodies. Everyone will buy something for the basket and bring it to the Spring meeting. Janet will take the basket to AALL and be responsible for the raffle. It was ➤

decided that the winner need not to be present to win and if necessary, Janet will mail the prize to the winner. Everyone will be reimbursed for the items for the basket and if we have to mail the prize. People should post to the Board when they buy something so we do not duplicate the goods. The Board unanimously agreed to these decisions.

Mentoring New Law Librarians: This will be put on the agenda for Spring Meeting to see what the membership would like to do in terms of mentoring new law librarians.

Pat Parker Scholarship: The committee still has not been able to meet to discuss this scholarship. The Committee will try e-mailing one another to start the discussion and see how other chapters and SISs handle these types of scholarships.

MichALL Newsletter: Janet has been discussing the newsletter with Steve Sullivant in order to determine what would be a feasible deadline date for articles especially since Steve will not be around the last week of April. As soon as she can set a specific date, she will put it on the listserv and on the web.

Elections: The election results were posted to the listserv.

NEW BUSINESS

Scholarships to AALL: It was mentioned that there are several scholarships and grants being offered by AALL and the SISs to attend AALL. Also June mentioned that there was also Chapter leadership training and needed to know if Aletha and Clare Membiela, our new Vice-President/President Elect, were going to go. The training would be free and we would cover the hotel room for the extra night.

AALL Council of Chapter President Ballot: Three people had been nominated for this position; Kevin Butterfield from Virginian Association of Law Libraries; Jennifer Murrary from Arizona Association of Law Libraries, and Karen Selden from the Colorado Association of Law Libraries. After some discussion, the Board decided to vote for Kevin Butterfield.

June concluded the meeting at 3:20 p.m. The next Board meeting will be a conference call on Friday, April 25th at 11:00 a.m. ■

TREASURER'S REPORT

Barbara Bonge, Treasurer



As of April 15, 2008, MichALL has \$8284.83 in its treasury. The Sep 21, 2007 Treasurer's report stated assets of \$8511.55.

Expenditures after the Sep 21 treasurer's report were:

State of Michigan nonprofit corp registration	\$20.00
Gilbert & Blakes fall dinner	\$846.92
Barb Bonge reimbursement for name badges	\$40.80
Liability Insurance Payment	\$84.00
Susan G Komen for the Cure, Pat Parker memorial	\$100.00
Stephen Sullivant, for website services	\$500.00
Total of expenditures	\$1591.72

Deposits and receipts after the Sep 21 treasurer's report were:

2008 dues	\$285.00
Fall dinner reservations	\$480.00
LexisNexis sponsorship of speaker expenses for Spring meeting	\$600.00
Total of deposits and receipts	\$1365.00

Present balance in treasury: \$8284.83

MichALL Website Updates by RSS Feed:

To subscribe: <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/michall/rss/rss.htm>

MICHALL OFFICERS AND HOW TO CONTACT THEM:

The MichALL officers are always available to hear your ideas for annual meetings and additional programming. Have a good idea for a social or educational get together? Send it on! Email addresses for all officers are listed below.

President: June VanWingen,
june.vanwingen@usdoj.gov

Past-President: Larissa Sullivant,
lvullivant@avemarialaw.edu

Vice-President: Aletha Honsowitz,
honsowia@cooley.edu

Secretary: Janet Ann Hedin,
hedinj@law.msu.edu

Treasurer: Barbara McDowell Bonge,
bbonge@courts.mi.us

Member at Large: Kori Kasara,
kasarak@cooley.edu

Member at Large: Helen Levenson,
levensoh@cooley.edu





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MichALL Newsletter

The MichAll Newsletter is the official publication of the Michigan Association of Law Libraries. Please send contributions, comments, news, announcements or advertising inquiries to:

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Check out our official MichALL website at:
<http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/michall/>

Annual Meetings	Event Calendar
Membership Forms	Organization and History
Newsletters	Multimedia
Officers and Committees	Contact Information