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Michigan Association of Law Libraries

sounds cliché, but I think it's very easy to let the important things in our lives

President's Column

By Mary Karpinski, MichALL President and Electronic Services Librarian, Varnum Riddering Schmidt & Howlett

I hope this final issue of the 2001 MichALL Newsletter finds you all well this Holiday Season. For me, this is generally a time to reflect upon the previous year, and a time to think about what the new year will bring.

The events of September 11 will stand out in our memories for years to come. It will reside in my memory in the same folder as some of the remarkable news events in my past—the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Neil Armstrong's moonwalk, Viet Nam and Watergate. On that tragic day, our country lost a major work of architecture and business center, and thousands of its people. I think many of us feel a loss that is beyond the tangible.

The future seems much less certain than we may have previously envisioned it to be. We don't view our environment the same as we did before September 11. Who would have thought then that people would die from opening mail, or that you would be asked not to carry nail clippers on your next flight? On the other hand, some things that seemed so important then (West peel-off labels!!) seem very unimportant now. Our perspective has shifted –our center has been moved. No matter how hard we try, we cannot go about our business as usual. Usual no longer exists.

I will not try to offer words of wisdom as to how we should face the New Year and the future. Personally, I hope to focus more on what is important. It

get pushed off balance by all the unimportant noise and clutter that is there. Occasionally reminding ourselves of what's really important about our work-- the information needs of our library users and the goals of our respective institutions--could help us get through the more challenging days at our desks. And when we are not at work, the important things in our personal lives may be reading a good book, petting the dog, or having lunch with friends.

We are all very busy people heading into a very busy time of year. Enjoy the season, focus on what's important and Happy New Year!



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MichALL's 2001 Fall Meeting is a success!

By Ann Lucas, serials librarian, Thomas M. Cooley School of Law Library

On Thursday, October 25, 2001 a small but select group of law librarians and guests met for dinner in the Willy Room of Kellogg Center on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing. The occasion was the fall meeting of the Michigan Association of Law Libraries.

Our special guest was Anne Matthewman from Toronto, the current treasurer of the American Association of Law Libraries. We enjoyed a very nice dinner of spinach salad with fruit vinaigrette and almonds, rolls, baked chicken with dark fruit compote, rice and vegetable sides, and a lovely tiramisu for dessert.

Old and new MichALL business was conducted after dinner, then Anne was introduced as our guest speaker. She told us something of her earlier history including the fact that she took a master's degree in Windsor and had originally planned to go to Wayne State University for her library degree. Circumstances changed, however, and she finished her education in Canada.

After scholarly pursuits Anne worked in a variety of libraries in Canada; since 1987 she has been Librarian Manager/ Executive Director of the Metropolitan Toronto Lawyers Association. Her numerous accomplishments, positions held, and writings are detailed in the December 2000 issue of the AALL Spectrum. She is a worthy successor to Janis Johnston as treasurer of AALL, in addition to being a charming and interesting speaker.

The get-together adjourned with reminders of the Spring 2002 meeting, that will take place in the Lansing area.

(Editor's Note: Anne Matthewman wrote MichALL president Mary Karpinski, thanking the organization for the invitation to the MichALL fall meeting).

Dear Mary,

Thank you so much for including me in your meeting on Thursday. I enjoyed my visit of Lansing, particularly the library visits. MichALL has many of the same concerns about law librarianship as other law librarians. I appreciated attending your executive meeting. Thanks again for including Peter in the dinner and thanks for the MichALL pen.

Sincerely,
Anne

And ... don't forget to take a look at an article about the **Spring MichALL 25th Anniversary Celebration** that appears in the November 2001 issue of *Spectrum*, on page 22. A picture of the past presidents who attended the meeting accompanies the article.

MichALL News Announcements

MichALL needs you!!!

These groups need your help:

Education Committee. Chair, Duane Strojny, is looking for a few good MichALL members to help plan the 2001 Annual Meeting. If you are interested in helping to make the 2002 meeting a success, please contact Duane at 517-334-5715 ext. 3401 or strojnyd@cooley.edu.

The Public Relations Committee is ready to be revitalized. The purpose of the committee is to publicize the activities of the Association, to explore relations with the State Bar Association, the Michigan Library Association, the Government Documents Round Table-Michigan, and any other organizations concerned with law or librarianship in Michigan.

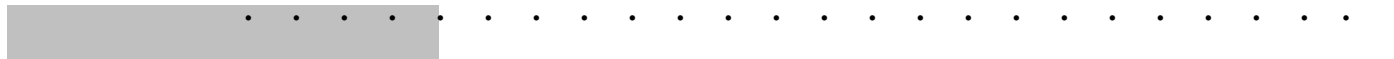
In addition, the committee will explore methods of improving public access to legal information, recommend to the Executive Board programs, workshops, and projects that will improve such access and recommend to the Vice President or the Education Committee any programs on public access to legal information that might be incorporated in the Annual meeting(s) of the Association.

Volunteer to help Joan Byerly develop a MichALL brochure that could be used to attract new members. One of the first areas to explore for new membership is the library schools. If anyone is interested in working with Joan, please contact her at 616-456-2068 or jbyerly@ck6.uscourts.gov.

IMPORTANT AALL 2002 ANNUAL MEETING DATE:

ORALL/MichALL Joint Luncheon at AALL in Orlando, July 23, from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Michigan Law Librarian News & Moves ...



Michele Howard and husband Scott are the proud new parents of Maya Christine Howard, who was born August 6th at 6:05am weighing a whopping 9lbs 12 oz!!!

Janice Selberg is the new head of Public Service at Ave Maria Law School Library.

Penny Turner is the new Director of Library & Research Services at Smith, Haughey, Rice & Roegge, in Grand Rapids. Penny's work experience includes Corporate Librarian for the WBDC Group (an architectural firm), Production Manager, Indexing Editor/Coordinator, Product Analyst for The McGraw-Hill Companies, Construction Information Group (publisher of on-line/ CD-ROM mfr. information), and Manager of Content Production for Cephren, Inc. (e-commerce start up construction products company). She has a B.A. in American History from Michigan State University and lives with her husband in Grand Haven.

Library, appears in the October 15, 2001 *Features* section of the LLRX.com website. at <http://www.llrx.com/features/wesdigest.htm>.

Reference from Coast to Coast: Sources and Strategies, a monthly column by **Jan Bisett**, Reference Librarian at Dickinson Wright PLLC, and **Margi Heinen**, Librarian at Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss, appears in the LLRX.com on-line newsletter. The November topic is "Judgements and Interest Rates", and may be viewed at: <http://www.llrx.com/columns/reference31.htm>

Joan Byerly, U. S. Courts Librarian and **Mary Lou Calvin**, Director of Library Services at Warner, Norcross & Judd, presented "Internet Strategies for the Paralegal in Michigan" on September 11, 2001 in Grand Rapids. The Institute for Paralegal Education sponsored the program.

Lana Ahumada, Librarian at Mika, Meyers, Beckett & Jones in Grand Rapids, reports that the move to their new offices in the former Berkey Gay furniture building on North Monroe is nearly complete. The new office location will open its doors on December 26, 2001.

Eric Kennedy is a new Reference Librarian at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School Library.



www.Michigan.gov: Michigan's New Portal

Michigan.gov was launched on July 10, 2001 and provides a portal – or window – to all Michigan government services and information. It serves as the platform for delivering all of the State's electronic government initiatives that provide citizens, businesses, and state employees with Michigan government services at Internet speed and efficiency.

Accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, Michigan.gov ensures service delivery to customers online, so they do not have to wait in line. As the single gateway to State services, Michigan.gov provides customers with multiple ways to find and access the information and services they need – within just three mouse clicks.

Examples of ways to find information include: a statewide web Search Engine, a directory of all agencies, quick links to commonly used services, and theme pages. Content is organized by customer need or "theme", not State agency, relieving visitors of the need to know what State agency provides a particular service or type of information. Customers can opt to personalize their visits to Michigan.gov if they would like the State to send information to them or provide them with updates on their requests each time they make a return visit to the State's website.

Key features of Michigan.gov include: customer-designed "look and feel" throughout most State web sites; statewide web search engine; voluntary site personalization; theme pages; and new Governor's home page. Since launch, e-Michigan's focus has been on assisting agency web developers in migrating their websites to the State's new standard content management tool – Vignette, which facilitates the application of the common look-and-feel to all web sites and improves the speed and efficiency with which the State can update and maintain web sites.

----From the e-michigan website at <http://www.michigan.gov/e-michigan/1,1607,7-112----,00.html>

**MINUTES FROM
MichALL Executive Board Meeting
25 October 2001
MSU Kellogg Center**

Present: Mary Karpinski, Joan Byerly, Duane Strojny, Hildur Hanna, Rita Marsala, and guest Anne C. Matthewman, AALL treasurer

Absent: Michele Howard, Michael Samson.

I. Minutes from the last meeting were not available.

II. Treasury Report was not available.

III. Education Committee

Duane is serving as a pro-tem chair of this committee and has scouted location. He recommends - initially - Kellogg. The next task is to assemble a committee. Lana (from Grand Rapids) may be a volunteer, per Mary. General discussion about recruiting members from Ave Maria.

IV. Website

Report not available. General discussion as to how there were more subscribe on the MichAll Listserv than were paid members of MichAll. Ninety percent of our paid members have email addresses.

V. Old Business.

1. Annual meeting articles were sent out and may appear in the next issue of Spectrum. We included a picture, and the editors indicated "pictures are good."
2. Committee Assignments: we do not have a chair for the Publicity/Marketing committee. Michael may have students. Joan is willing to work with someone. She recommends we recruit MLS students. Mary wants to share with GODORT. Joan is willing to work on a marketing piece - brochure - for Library science students.
3. UCITA Conference Payment: Has the invoice been paid? Duane has a query out to Michele. Joan does not remember it on the treasurers report.

VI. New Business.

1. Newsletter to be discussed more fully at a later date. Andrea as agreed to do this but has changed jobs. Mary is concerned we may need a newsletter editor and there was a general discussion about how to handle the next issue. Mary indicated she would act as interim and produce one in late November.

VII. Announcements

1. 2002 - Packets went out. Mary received email from Nancy Clark at ORALL. (We don't have to plan the lunch this year. It is ORAll's turn)
2. Chapter Insurance. The deadline for liability insurance is November 11th. Mary is trying to get it paid. The policy is \$1.40 per member.

VII. Next Meeting Date

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MichALL Executive Board Meeting

21 August 2001

Thomas M. Cooley Law School Library

Meeting began 1:00 pm.

Present: Mary Karpinski; Joan Byerly; Kathleen Gamache; Eric Kennedy; Rita Marsala; Duane Strojny; Hildur Hanna; Michael Sampson

Absent: Michele Howard

I. Minutes

Minutes approved as corrected for October 11, 2000.

Duane Strojny distributed minutes from February 20, 2001 and April 4, 2001. The minutes from February 20, 2001 were approved as corrected: the location was changed from Cooley Law School Library to Clark, Hill, in Okemos.

II. Treasurer ' s report.

There was some discussion over the reimbursement to MichAll for the AALL scholarship, since the recipient did not attend because of health problems. Kathleen Gamache quoted the terms of the letter indicating that if the recipient did not attend, the funds were to be refunded. Mary is to confirm whether funds were reimbursed.

There was a general discussion for the MichALL ORALL breakfast expenditures and the relative size of the organizations. At the last breakfast there were 14 MichALL members, and 50 ORALL members. Next year ORALL will arrange the joint meeting at AALL.

III. Education Committee Report

Mary has a query from a doctoral student who would like to observe/study work place institutions. The Board is not interested in pursuing this offer.

The target date for the MichALL meeting is 5/3/01. Duane is hoping to receive suggestions for program topics.

IV. WebSite Report

Michael reported on a number of issues. There was a general discussion over listserv maintenance. Wayne is moving the web server to a spam/virus free web server. Currently Michael receives Atons of garbage.@ Michael sought permission to post problem emails, post clean up notices and give confirmatory reports. He would like a new look for the web page and proposed it look like our newsletter. He also suggested that we could use the Michigan Government page as a portal. He offered to format a digital newsletter. The future of the print newsletter is unsure. At least two members rely on print. There was a discussion over archiving the web material. Michael indicated he has imbedded code for future programming/archiving. There was a discussion over the technical issues and pros/cons for moving to on-line only publication, and the Board members discussed the possibility of scanning historical MichALL documents into electronic format. Wayne State has a copy of all past newsletters.

V. Old Business

1. Annual Meeting article for AALL Spectrum and Chapter Leadership Bulletin

Duane will send information to Spectrum concerning our 25th anniversary celebration along with a copy of the past presidents picture. October is the next publication deadline for our newsletter and Andrea is looking for submissions.

December 2001

VI. New Business

1. Committee assignment suggestions

Discussion took place concerning committee memberships. Kathleen volunteered to work with our Membership Committee. Nominations generally consists of the past president plus two other members. Education and Pro Bono also need members to help out.

2. Fall Dinner

The members of the board agreed that it would be a good idea to hold a fall dinner similar to last year. Some possible sites were a location in Howell or Lansing since they are more central to most members. Duane will fill out the form requesting a AALL Board Member visit us on the date of our dinner. The visitor could make a brief presentation as part of the dinner. In addition, the executive board could meet prior to the meeting so we could ask questions and our meeting could be observed by our visitor.

VII. Announcements

The Library of Michigan has a new electronic calendar for library related items. It can be accessed via <http://www.libofmich.lib.mi.us/welcome/calendar.html>.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Hildur Hanna and Duane Strojny.

AALL Announcements

Creating Connections 95th AALL Annual Meeting and Conference July 20-24, 2002, Orlando Florida

Law librarians continue to keep up with technology, globalization and the impact of business practices on law firms. But in the process of staying ahead of these developments, law librarians may have forgotten the vital role they play in the legal community and the very reason they became law librarians in the first place. Thus the 2002 AALL Annual Meeting and Conference will focus on the theme of "Creating Connections." Armed with this new goal of bolstering the professional bonds of law librarianship, AALL will reinvigorate our dedication to and excitement for the profession.

The AALL newly developed Competencies of Law Librarianship will serve as the basis of the Annual Meeting and Conference education program. By focusing on both the specialized competencies and core competencies that form the foundation of our shared knowledge and values, law librarians can forge even stronger connections among employers, institutions, the workplace, colleagues and the profession itself.

Revitalize yourself professionally and reconnect with friends and fellow law librarians by taking advantage of the upcoming AALL learning opportunities. AALL looks forward to seeing you in Orlando at the AALL Annual Meeting and Conference as well as future AALL events.

New Workshop Provides Fundamentals of Law Cataloging

Do you need to build a foundation in the fundamentals of law cataloging? Then you'll want to register for the AALL Professional Development Program Workshop Basic Law Cataloging taking place March 1, 2 and 3, 2002, in Chicago. (This program was



rescheduled from September 2001.)

During this 2-1/2-day workshop, participants will learn the basics of law cataloging. A combination of presentations, group exercises and breakout sessions will focus on descriptive cataloging, choice of main entry and access points, LC subject headings, LC classification for U.S. legal materials, serials/loose-leaf cataloging, MARC tagging, cataloging of electronic materials, and authority work.

Register online at http://www.aallnet.org/prodev/event_cataloging.asp. The registration deadline is Feb. 15, 2002. For more information about the workshop, please contact AALL Education Manager Mary Jawgiel at mjawgiel@aall.org.

Basic Law Cataloging addresses Specialized Competency 5: Collection Care and Management in the AALL Competencies of Law Librarianship. The complete AALL Statement of Competencies can be found at <http://www.aallnet.org/prodev/competencies.asp>.

Calling All Writers--Enter the AALL/LexisNexis™ Call for Papers Awards

It's not too early to start drafting your entry for the AALL/LexisNexis™ Call for Papers Competition. The AALL Call for Papers Committee is seeking submissions of scholarly articles until **March 1, 2002**.

The annual competition awards three authors with a cash prize of \$750 each, donated by LexisNexis™. (Co-authors of winning papers will share the award.) Winners will have the opportunity to present their papers to their colleagues at the AALL Annual Meeting and will be recognized at the Association Luncheon during the meeting. The winning papers will also be considered for publication in *Law Library Journal*.

Prizes are awarded in three categories:

- Open Division (members of AALL for five or more years)
- New Member Division (members of AALL for fewer than five years)
- Student Division (enrolled in library or law school)

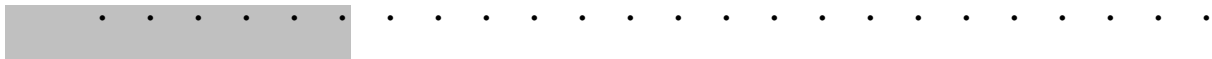
For more information about the competition, including selection criteria and an application form, please visit http://www.aallnet.org/about/award_call_for_papers.asp.

PLL-SIS Announcing Librarians' Website for WTC/Pentagon Attacks and Aftermath.

A new web site focusing on the WTC/Pentagon attacks and aftermath. For the convenience of researchers may be accessed at <http://www1.law.umkc.edu/9-11-01-Library/> as well as on SLA CNY's web site, at <http://www.sla.org/chapter/cny/jun01/index.htm> (click on the Resources' link). Copies of bibliographies and articles have also been published on LLRX.com, at <http://www.llrx.com>. The site provides the following information:

- *Middle East and Islamic Books
- *Middle East Experts
- *NY State Disaster and Terrorism Legislation
- *Articles for Librarians
- *Responses from Librarians
- *Cartoons
- *Daily updates to 9-11 related news, legislation, and resources for researchers

Ideas for future topics as well as new articles are welcome. Please send your ideas to any of the coordinators listed on the website.



Editor's Notes . . . by Andrea Muto.

Please exercise your right to write for the MichALL's Feb/March newsletter issue!

Deadline for that issue will be Friday, Feb. 15. Please send your newsletter submissions to Andrea Muto, andrea.muto@lexis-nexis.com or MichALL president Mary Karpinski at mekarpinski@varnumlaw.com. Thanks to all MichALL members who submitted articles for our 2001 issues.

Happy Holidays to all, and have a very pleasant start to 2002!!

The tracks offered different perspectives on similar information. The overriding focus of all sessions was the end user and how we, as information professionals, can increase their experience with the Internet. The quality of the sessions was generally high and while it reinforced much of what I already knew, I did learn some new things and it encouraged me to rethink some of my previous knowledge.

I attended sessions the first day on designing/redesigning websites all concentrating on refining the message and placing the end users needs, including accessibility, first. Building on that, the second day the sessions focused on usability testing, how to test, when to test, who to test and why testing is essential to good web design and enhancing political position within an organization. The final day featured how to work with new tools and how to incorporate them into your designs.

The specific topics that I found particularly interesting were:

Conducting usability studies while designing/redesigning a site can increase its usage. User input provides invaluable information to make the site not only more pleasing to the eye but easier to navigate. If a site has great content but is difficult to navigate or gives a negative visual image it is unlikely that users will respond to it. If users do not respond the work involved in producing and maintaining the site is pointless. Several sessions focused on the specifics of testing and gave good examples of the process. For an example of the sessions available on this topic see Session C240 **Usability Testing and Library Sites — Doing It In-House or with an External Consultant** by Janet Tait, Head, Software Engineering Department, & Director, InfoPath, University of California, San Diego
<http://libraries.ucsd.edu/about/usaweb.html>

Building Interactive Websites with Zope by Lillian Woon Gassie was extremely thought provoking. Ms. Gassie, stated Zope, an integrated open source program that includes a webserver, an ftp server, an object-oriented database, content management services and modules that allow integration to existing data sources and services, is relatively easy to use, free, and has a large user group active in developing and sharing tools. This makes Zope is a good way for libraries with static HTML based websites to move to a database driven approach which is good for knowledge management and allows posting of documents, by those given permissions, without the intervention of the webmaster.

Virtual Reference software from LSSI allows libraries to provide live, real-time reference services on the Web. This software allows the librarian to co-browse Web sites with the end user and search proprietary databases while communicating during the online session via chat. At the end of the session a complete transcript can be e-mailed to both the librarian and the end user as well as live links to Web pages visited and documents sent. This is a very interesting way to provide remote assistance to end users, which is easy, requires nothing other than the Internet browser for the user and is interactive. Demonstrations of the software and presentations by those all ready making use of it were extremely impressive.

Many of the PowerPoint slides from the various sessions are available at:

<http://infoday.com/il2001/presentations/default.htm> Further information about the conference can be found at <http://infoday.com>.